



**WELFARE DEPT
CONDUCTS AWARENESS
ON CHILD CARE
INSTITUTIONS IN
SIKKIM** *pg03*

**SKM CO-
ORDINATION MEET
AT TEMI NAMPHING**
PG02



**NEW PHSC CENTERS
INAUGURATED AT
LACHUNG AND LACHEN**
pg03

SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 194 | Gangtok | Tuesday | 24 July 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Bill providing for stringent punishment in rape cases in LS

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI): The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018, which provides for stringent punishment including death penalty for those convicted of raping girls below the age of 12 years, was today introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The amendment bill, once approved by Parliament, will replace the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on April 21, following an outcry over the rape and murder of a minor girl in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir and the rape of another woman in Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.

Introducing the bill, Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said the recent incidents of rape and gangrape of

turn to pg02



HC overturns POCSO conviction by trial court

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 23 JUL:**

High Court of Sikkim has acquitted one Anish Rai, who had been convicted for rigorous imprisonment of 10 years under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, with a fine of Rs 5,000 by the Session Court at Namchi while setting aside the sentence and offences charged against him.

The division bench of Sikkim High Court headed by Acting Chief Justice, Meenakshi Madan Rai, and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan observed that besides the failure of the prosecution to establish the minority of the victim either by document or expert evidence, an adverse inference can be drawn by this Court under Section 114(g) of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872,

since the Investigating Officer despite knowledge failed to collect the Birth Certificate of the victim from her sister.

The court further observed that the Birth Certificate issued by the school having held no evidentiary value, the prosecution ought to have furnished the Birth Certificate given by a corporation, municipal authority, or a panchayat, failing which resort can

be taken to bone age estimation, which in any event in the instant matter would be futile.

Legal Aid Counsel for the appellant, Gulshan Lama, raised that the age of the victim was not proved as the parameters laid out for the purposes of arriving at the age of the victim in terms of the Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Rules, 2007, were not complied with. He also argued

that the ratio laid down by the Supreme Court of India and stated that the evidence of the victim's father, pertaining to the age of the victim as likely to have been above 18 years was disregarded by the Trial Court.

However, the State Additional Prosecutor, Karma Thinlay, opposed the argument and said that the findings of the trial court suffered from no illegality and the

appeal deserves a dismissal adding that that the consent of a minor is no consent in the eyes of law.

While writing the judgment, the division bench heard the rival arguments put forth by Counsel for the parties and examining the evidence and documents meticulously for determination of the Court and put forth three questions *turn to pg02*

Landslide blocks Mangan-Gangtok route

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 23 JUL:**

Traffic along Mangan-Gangtok route has remained still since 21 Jul after heavy rainfall triggered a massive landslide that has washed away the road at Takchu-Thungsa, near Namshim forest nursery, in North Sikkim.

Mangan-Gangtok vehicles have been plying via Dikchu-Rakdong road while commuters heading to Kabi and Phensong villages are being transhipped over the landslide taking an extra one and a half hour.

The road clearing and restoration work has already been started by Border Roads Organisation [BRO]. For early restoration, a private earthmover has also been pressed into service.

Traffic is expected to resume by Tuesday evening, it is informed.



Governor offers prayers to Lord Shiva at Chardham

NAMCHI, 23 JUL [IPR]: On the occasion of Shravan, Governor Shrinivas Patil offered prayers at Solophok Siddeshwara Chardham in Namchi, South Sikkim today. The Governor was accompanied by District Collector, South, Prabhakar Verma, Senior Superintendent of Police, South, Shami Rai, members from Chardham Management Committee and public from in and outside the State.

Mr Patil also attended the 'Rudrabhisek' puja service where in he offered prayers and sacred items seeking divine grace and blessings from Lord Shiva.

It is informed that similar offerings will be held all through the month-long ritual of Shravan at Chardham.



Sikkim to host North East Riders Meet for first time this year

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 23 JUL:**

Sikkim will host the 10th edition of North East Riders Meet 2018 from 26-28 Oct this year for the first time at Barfung in Rabongla, South Sikkim. Open Road Wanderers Motorcycle Club of Sikkim [ORWMCS] is gearing up to host the decadal edition of this mega event in the State in a grand manner.

This was informed by the ORWMCS president, Naresh Chettri, during a press conference here today.

It may be mentioned here, ORWMCS was formed on 18 Dec, 2013 with the motto 'Take a Ride, Get a Life'. The club has won the bid to host this popular and mega event in the State this year.

North East Riders Meet is

an annual event hosted by Royal Enfield Riding community from the North Eastern States of India. Every year one of the NE State hosts this event with its motto 'When We Meet, We Grow'. The event is not restricted to members of Royal Enfield Clubs from NE States but is rather open to all solo Royal Enfield Riders and all Clubs Pan India.

Addressing the press conference, Mr Chettri mentioned that ORWMCS was born out of passion for riding on open roads and the brotherhood bond that has helped it grow to become the biggest Royal Enfield Riding Club in the State. He informed that the club has a strong group of 68 riding members from all walks of life with a common passion and strong brotherhood bond.

He mentioned that right after the club's inception in 2013, the club members have been participating in all riding events across India and neighbouring countries. He added that apart from rides, the club members have also been frequently organising charity events, blood donation camps and social awareness programmes.

"ORWMCS has been running a strong campaign to promote Sikkim as the ultimate riding destination since 2015. We ride with this message to every riding event across the Country," Mr Chettri stated.

He added that with the start of this campaign, the social media team of the club has been busy posting itineraries to all other clubs and riding communities across the country.

Tremendous increase in biking tourism in the State has been the fruit of this campaign. He expressed that North East Riders Meet was one such event which will take biking tourism in the State to new heights.

Speaking at the event, Mr Chettri informed that the first edition of the meet was held in Assam in 2009 and the decadal edition of NERM is being organised by the ORWMCS in the State from 26-28 Oct at Mangkhim Barfung in Rabongla.

He added that the meet was 'Bring Your Own Tent [BYOT]' event which is a common format of the NERM.

"This is an opportunity for us to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the State. This event is also an opportunity for

turn to pg02



KAZIRANGA UNIVERSITY
KNOWLEDGE & BEYOND



100 % SCHOLARSHIP
to SC, ST & OBC Students*
Empanelled with Government of Sikkim



ADMISSIONS OPEN 2018
Apply Online @
www.kazirangauniversity.in

LOCAL COORDINATOR : +91 97333 36681
ADMISSION HELPLINE : +91 91270 56383

UNDERGRADUATE : B.Tech | B.Tech (Lateral) | B.Com | BBA | BBA (THM) | BSW | Int. BBA/B.com - MBA | Int. B.Sc - M.sc (P, C, M) | Int. B.Sc - M.sc (IT) | Int. BSW - MSW

POSTGRADUATE : M.Tech | MBA | M.Com | MSW | MCA | M.Sc (IT) | M.Sc (P, C, M)

OUR KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



PARTIAL LIST OF PLACEMENTS



HELPLINE



+91 84860 34360 | +91 98540 34352
+91 98540 34359 | +91 98540 34354

CAMPUS: KORAIKHOWA, NH 37, JORHAT - 785006, ASSAM

www.summittimes.com | news@summittimes.com | advertise@summittimes.com | letters@summittimes.com | Summit TIMES Daily



Tiger Shroff extends best wishes to Bhaichung & HSP

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 23 JUL:

In a short video clip uploaded on the social media page of Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP], Bollywood star, Tiger Shroff, his seen extending best wishes to Bhaichung Bhutia and HSP for their future endeavours.

Bhaichung informed that he had met Tiger Shroff in Mumbai during his recent trip to the city and had discussions over the sport of football, films and Sikkim. "He is a good footballer himself," added Bhaichung.

HC overturns POCSO conviction by trial...

contd from pg01

for judicial review: (i) Whether the Prosecution was able to establish that the Victim was a minor? (ii) Whether the act of the Victim was consensual or was she under coercion? (iii) Whether the learned Trial Court was in error in convicting the Appellant?

The court observed that on the direction of the Gynaecologist who examined the victim, she was sent to a Radiologist in order to determine her age. This radiologist was not authorised by the investigating agency to verify the age of the victim, the bench said further adding that, "In the instant matter, it was incumbent on the medical witness to have first demonstrated her expertise in the field by way of evidence and thereafter,

to testify as to how she had formed her opinion regarding the age of the victim."

The court also observed that the evidence on record is clearly indicative of the free will of the victim in accompanying the accused and consenting to the acts between them.

While finding the conclusions of these three questions put forth for court determination, the bench arrived at the conclusion stating that while summing up the entire gamut of facts and evidence on record, for the reasons discussed succinctly, "we have no qualms in arriving at the finding that the learned Trial Court was in error in convicting the appellant, which thereby sets to rest all the three questions".

Sikkim to host North East Riders Meet for first...

contd from pg01

the Royal Enfield Riders of Sikkim to come and experience the cultural side of the riding community and understand the strong brotherhood bond," he expressed.

He mentioned that as the event is a State level programme, the State Tourism has been guiding and helping the club for its success. He added that Sikkim Alliance of Riders, the alliance of all riding clubs in the State, will also provide support to the club during the event.

Mr Chettri informed that registration for the event will be done online only through the website northeastridersmeet.in and the link will also be provided on their FB page North East Riders Meet. He added that the registration will be in phase wise manner and will be announced on 24 Jul on the website and FB Page.

"The participant

turnout for this event is expected to be huge but due to geographically challenging terrains and lack of big open space, we have planned to restrict the registration to 1200 including the organising club," he added.

The press conference was also attended by general secretary, Vincent Targain, and executive members, Kailash Thapa, Amrit Raj Koirala and Moses Rai.

Responding to media queries, they stated that the three-day meet will have different biking activities, ride to nearby cultural and tourism interest sites of the venue, performances by bands and other activities. They mentioned that the meet will have Royal Enfield riders from different parts of the country and from six other countries. They added that the event will also have participation of many women riders from different parts of the country.



LANDSLIDE AT LANTHEY KHOLA WASHES AWAY CAR

MANGAN, 23 JUL: The notorious Lanthey Khola along Mangan-Chungthang stretch has been blocked since last night owing to landslide caused by continuous rainfall. One car [SK01/P 0876] driven by Sukraj Chettri was also swept away by the landslide while negotiating the stretch around 8 p.m. on 22 Jul on his way back to Mangan from Chungthang. However, no casualty was reported. The stretch was cleared this afternoon by GREF staff and workers. [Wangchuk Bhutia]

SKM co-ordination meet at Temi Namphing

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha led by its general secretary in-charge, South, Lalit Adhikari, held a co-ordination meeting at Aifaal Taar under Temi Namphing Constituency in South Sikkim today in the presence of general secretary [cultural affairs], Tashi Tshering Bhutia, youth co-ordinator [South], Gopal Chhetri, Nari co-ordinator, Sancha Maya Tamang, and others.

An SKM press release informs that the main objective of the meet was to focus on future party activities in the constitu-



ency while strengthening youth organization and focusing on potential voters likely to cast their first vote in favour of SKM in the upcoming 2019 elec-

tion for the betterment of Sikkim and its people.

It has been decided that door-to-door campaign will be conducted in each Ward of the

Constituency with active participation of party workers in membership drives and spreading the party's policies among the masses.

SLYA forms its 22nd 'kyong' branch in Patuk

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 JUL:

Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association [SLYA] held a meeting with the Lepcha community of Patuk village, under Tumin-Lingee Constituency in East Sikkim, at Patuk on 21 Jul with the objective of establishing new kyong [village] branch of SLYA at Patuk. The meeting was attended by members of more than 150 Lepcha families residing in the village, a press release informs.

During the meet, the 22nd branch of SLYA was constituted for Patuk with Palchen Lepcha as its president, Chuni Lepcha as vice president, Loden Lepcha as general secretary and Rinzing Lepcha as its treasurer.

Talking about the historical background of the organization, SLYA general secretary, Lobsang Chopel Lepcha, stressed on the rights and privileges of the new executive members besides their



duties and responsibilities as members of SLYA.

In an interactive session held with the village community, it was learnt that Patuk already had a non-registered Lepcha organisation that has been functioning for past five years and has been working for the upliftment of the village community.

The village members especially the youth expressed their long felt desire to get affiliated

with SLYA and work for the community in a much organized manner with a larger reach.

Apart from education, health, culture and heritage preservation, the meeting gave special emphasis on Organic Farming as a poverty alleviating programme and an income generating component.

President, SLYA, Ongden Tshering Lepcha, congratulated the nominated executive members of the newly formed

body and encouraged them to work selflessly and diligently for uplifting the Lepcha society.

He expressed gratitude to the village community for supporting SLYA programmes and ensured every possible support. He further thanked the village elders and the members of each family for supporting the aspirations of the village youth to be organised under the banner of SLYA.

SBJM welcomes State Government's recent trade license criteria



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 JUL:

A section of Sikkim Bihari Jagaran Manch [SBJM] has expressed that the recent notification of the State Government with regard to criteria for obtaining new trade license was historic and significant for the business community of the State. As per the notification, a biological son and daughter of a father, who does not possess Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certification of Identification or Residential Certificate but has a valid trade licence, are also entitled to obtain new trade licence.

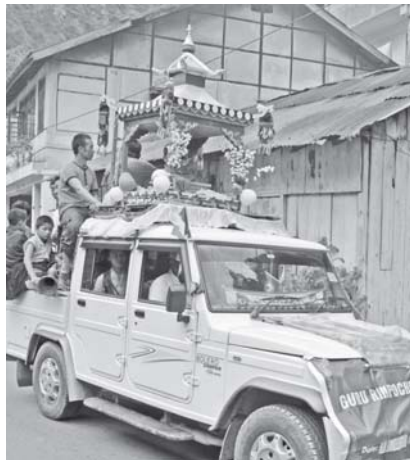
Addressing a press conference here today, SBJM executive member, Birendra Prasad, has extended gratitude to the State Government on behalf of the entire business community for issuing such important

notification.

However, he mentioned that due to shutting down of shops by the administration in rural parts to curb the sub-letting of license, many old businessmen of these areas have been facing problems at present. He added that these families have been running their business in these areas since more than 35 years.

"We are aware of the problem of influx in the State but at the same time we are also concerned for these businessmen who have been working since many years. So we would like to request the government to come up with some amicable way out for these genuine businessmen," Mr Prasad expressed.

He further requested the government to also provide old age pension to elderly people of the business community.



Guru Rinpoche's Trungkar Tsechu in Dikchu

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 23 JUL:

Devotees from all walks of life carried out a huge procession from Samdong Monastery to Dikchu in East Sikkim amidst chanting of "Om Ah Hung Vajra

Guru Padma Sidhi Hung Rhi" on 22 Jul to mark the birth anniversary of patron saint of Sikkim, Lord Guru Padma Sambhava, on the auspicious occasion of Guru Rinpoche's Trungkar Tsechu.

Bill providing for stringent punishment in rape cases in LS

contd from pg01

women under the age of 16 years and 12 years have shaken the conscience of the entire nation.

Therefore, the offences of rape and gangrape of women under the age of 16 years and 12

years required effective deterrence through legal provisions of more stringent punishment, he said.

"Some of the incidents in recent years have been marked by increased brutality and violence perpetrated on minor girls. This has fuelled demands from various sections of the society to make penal provisions more stringent and effective, immediate arrest of the

accused and ensure speedy trial in such cases," he said.

The bill stipulates stringent punishment for perpetrators of rape, particularly of girls below 12 years. Death sentence has been provided for rapists of girls under 12 years.

The minimum punishment in case of rape of women has been increased from rigorous imprisonment of seven years to 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment.

According to the bill, in case of rape of a girl under 16 years, the minimum punishment has been increased from 10 years to 20 years, extendable to imprisonment for rest of life, which means

jail term till the convicts' "natural life".

The punishment for gangrape of a girl below 16 years will invariably be imprisonment for the rest of life of the convict.

Stringent punishment for rape of a girl under 12 years has been provided with the minimum jail term being 20 years which may go up to life in prison or death sentence. Gangrape of a girl under 12 years of age will invite punishment of jail term for the rest of life or death.

The measure also provides for speedy investigations and trial. The time limit for investigation of all cases of rape has been prescribed, which has

to be mandatorily completed within two months.

The deadline for the completion of trial in all rape cases will be two months. A six-month time limit for the disposal of appeals in rape cases has also been prescribed.

There will also be no provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of rape or gangrape of a girl under 16 years.

It has also been prescribed that a court has to give notice of 15 days to a public prosecutor and the representative of the victim before deciding bail applications in case of rape of a girl under 16 years of age.

Welfare Dept conducts awareness on Child Care Institutions in Sikkim

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 23 JUL:

Department of Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare, Government of Sikkim organised daylong awareness programme at the conference hall of Kalyan Bhawan in Lumsey today. The special awareness programme was organised for the parents of children staying at Child Care Institutions [CCIs] sponsored by the SJE&W Department under Integrated Child Protection Scheme [ICPS].

Chairperson, Child Welfare Commission, Phurba Sherpa, attended the event as chief guest.

Deputy Secretary cum Programme Manager, ICPS, Bandana Rai, highlighted various issues related to CCIs in the State and briefed the gathering about the main objectives of organising such awareness pro-



grammes for the parents and guardians.

She also informed that the centrally sponsored scheme of establishing CCIs under ICPS was started in Sikkim in the year 2013. A total of 27 CCIs

are functional in the State as of now that have been providing shelter to more than 780 POCSO victims and others, she added.

"The CCIs basically provide facilities to homeless, abandoned,

mentally/physically ill, abused-exploited children, POCSO victims and under privileged children," said Ms Rai.

The awareness programme was conducted to encourage parents

and guardians capable enough of taking care of their children to take their wards back home in order to provide them love, support, care and most importantly a homely environment which is much

needed for nurturing the children, she added.

"Children need the presence of their parents, guardians and family members. To provide the same, parents who can provide them with facilities can take their wards home which will not only help them to grow in a positive manner but will also provide a chance to many other needy children to stay at these CCIs," Ms Rai informed.

She further added that the Ministry has now been encouraging restoration of children staying at CCIs and de-institutionalization. Addressing the gathering, Special Secretary, Dhan Jyoti Mukhia, requested all to have a clear idea of various schemes especially the CCI and urged the concerned department to work as per certain norms.

"Parental support and guidance is important for

overall development of a child," expressed Ms Mukhia.

Chairperson, CWC, Mr Sherpa, in his address said the programme has been organised to understand any grievances and forward the matter to the State Government in order to find better solutions.

Stressing on a child's overall development, he stressed on the importance of a child's friends circle and home environment. He urged all to be responsible for the better future of children.

The programme also featured an open discussion and interactive session wherein parents and representatives of CCIs placed various queries which were addressed by the concerned officials. It is informed that similar awareness programmes will be initiated in all four districts of the State.

Gangtok on Tuesday, 24 July
Temp: 24°C/17°C
Forecast: Cloudy, a couple of thunder showers; not as warm.
Sunrise: 04:55 AM
Sunset: 6:29 PM

JNU gets Japanese language teachers' training centre

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI): Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) will now be providing training to those aiming to become Japanese language teachers with the setting up of a new centre at the varsity.

India and Japan today signed a memorandum of cooperation in the field of Japanese language promotion in the country.

Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India and Ashok Kumar Chawla, Advisor (Japan), Ministry of External Affairs, shared the agreement and announced the launch of the first Japanese course.

"The language is very different from other foreign languages and it is very important to have trained teachers for the purpose. Hence, the centre has been set up," Hiramatsu said.

Cannot be complete ban on protests at Jantar Mantar: SC

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI): The Supreme Court today said there cannot be a "complete ban" on holding protests and sit-ins at places like Jantar Mantar and Boat Club here and asked the Centre to frame guidelines for according sanctions to such events.

A bench comprising justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan said there was a need to strike a balance between conflicting rights such as the right to protest and the right of citizens to live peacefully.

"There cannot be a complete ban on holding protests at places like Jantar Mantar and Boat Club (near India Gate)," the bench said, while directing the Centre to frame guidelines on the matter.

The verdict came on a batch of petitions, including one filed by the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, challenging the decision of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to ban all kinds of protests at the said places.

The NGT had, on October 5 last year, banned all protests and dharnas around the historic Jantar Mantar here, which has been a hotspot of many agitations over the past decades, saying such activities violated environmental laws. The green panel had said the State had totally failed to protect the right of a citizen to enjoy a pollution-free environment at the Jantar Mantar Road area, which is located close to Connaught Place at the heart of the national capital.

New PHSC centers inaugurated at Lachung and Lachen

MANGAN, 23 JUL [IPR]:

On a two-day tour to Lachen and Lachung in North Sikkim, Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, AK Ghatani, today inaugurated the newly constructed Primary Health Sub Centers [PHSCs] at Lachung and Lachen.

The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner cum Secretary, HCHS&FWD, Vishal Chauhan, Director, Dr Uttam Pradhan, Additional Chief Engineer, District Collector, North, SDM, CMO and SDPO Chungthang.

Health Secretary, Mr Chauhan, presented a brief technical report of both the infrastructures.

The Lachung PHSC is a 2500 sq ft well equipped center and has a separate two-unit quarter constructed at a total cost of Rs 1 crore 29 lakhs. The Lachen PHSC is a 5000sq ft building with guest rooms and well equipped facilities constructed at a cost of Rs 1 crore 29 lakhs.

During the inauguration of the centers, Pিপন from Lachen and Lachung Dzumsa requested the department to depute a doctor and a nurse along with an ambulance for the said PHSCs.

They stated that due to high inflow of tourists,



there is tremendous demand for proper health services. They added that owing to the topography of the areas, high number of accidents occurred in the area.

The Minister in his keynote address said that the State Government has not left any stone unturned to provide quality health care facilities to the people. He added that though the Government of India norms does not provide for a doctor in a PHSC, taking into consideration the difficult terrain and remoteness of the area, he assured that certain arrangements will be worked out.

"The PHSCs can be converted into health and wellness centers with provision of one doctor and a staff nurse. The centers will have all medicines and will also manage non-communicable diseases like BP, altitude sickness, diabetes, etc," he added.

He also declared that

ambulance will be provided through CSR to these PHSCs since they are far-flung areas. He added that the State Government has provided best possible infrastructures for all PHCs and PHSCs in North district to have their own premises and that it is the responsibility of the people to provide social fencing.

Highlighting on the CATCH programme in the State, Mr Ghatani said, "According to a GOI survey, the average life span of the people here has increased by 10 years. During the screening programme of CATCH, it was revealed that most people suffer from lifestyle diseases and to manage this, the State Government is also giving much impetus to holistic medicine."

He also said that since North district is prone to natural calamities, the Health Department has established a Trauma Center at the District

Hospital in Mangan along with provision of a new Blood Bank.

"Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had expressed concern over the safety of the District Hospital building after it was damaged by the 2011 earthquake. A new hospital building was immediately sanctioned and works are in progress on a war footing basis," said Mr Ghatani.

The Minister also highlighted the policy the State Government to eliminate Tuberculosis by 2022.

He further congratulated all the stakeholders for 0% Maternal Mortality rate in the district and achieving 100% Institutional Delivery.



Boys Club beats Pakyong United FC in SFA Premier Div League

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 23 JUL:

Boys Club, Gangtok has started Sikkim Football Association Premier Division Sikkim-League 2018 with a victory here at Paljor Stadium today.

In its first match in the league, Boys Club defeated Pakyong United Football Club 3-0. Rahul, Ritik Rai and Ram Chhetri scored a goal each for Boys Club.

Likewise, the State Sports Academy

outplayed Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club 3-1 in the Premier Division Sikkim-League 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on 22 Jul. Kevin Sherpa, Amom Lepcha and Sanjay Rai contributed a goal each in the State Sports Academy victory while the lone goal for Sikkim Himalayan SC was scored by Nikes Gurung.

The fourth match of the league will be played between United Sikkim Football Club and SAI Namchi on 24 Jul.

To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at

GANGTOK:
For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Ad-
vertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698.
Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com
SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor, Opp. Ganga Hotel, Hill Cart Road, Siliguri - 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

KOLKATA OFFICE:
Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad_ali123@rediffmail.com



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

Memo No. 622/SD IV/R&B/2018-19/02 Date: 23.07.2018

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to Notice Inviting Tender No: 622/SD IV/R&B/18-19/01, dated 19.07.2018, R.O. No: 210/iplr/PUB/Classi./18-19, dated 20.07.2018.

TIME SCHEDULE:-
The time schedule for opening of tender may read as follows:-

4. Date and Time for opening of Tender:

i) SI.No. 1 to 07	29 th Aug 2018 (2.30 pm).
ii) SI.No. 08 to 16	30 th Aug 2018 (11.00 am).

Sd/-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
NIRMAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK.**

R.O. No. 222/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 23.7.2018



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT PARYATAN BHAWAN TADONG, EAST SIKKIM www.sikkimtourism.gov.in.

Phone No: 232218, Fax: 232216. Email: secy_tourism@yahoo.com
No: 285 DoT & CAVI. Dated: 21/07/2018.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Quotations are invited from interested parties and local educated unemployed youth(s) for taking on lease " the following property/assets and additional information can be obtained from the Office of Under Secretary (Assests), Paryatan Bhawan Tadong, East Sikkim during office hours.

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE PROPERTY	RENT PER MONTH	TDR (SECURITY DEPOSIT)	COST OF TENDER FORM
1.	Cafeteria at Bakthang Falls Bojoghari, East Sikkim.	Rs.26,000/-pm	Rs.1,56,000/-	1,300/-

TIME SCHEDULE:-

i. Sale of Tender:	01.08.2018 to 10.08.2018 during office hours.
ii. Receipt of Tender form alongwith the relevant documents:	11.08.2018, till 1.00 pm.
iii. Opening of Tender Documents in the Office of Additional Secretary, Paryatan Bhawan Tadong, East Sikkim:	11.08.2018 from 2.00 pm.

The intending contractors/bidders may visit the website of Tourism & CAV Department **www.sikkim-tourism.gov.in** for information and further details or contact office of the Under Secretary (Assests) in Paryatan Bhawan, Tadong, East Sikkim.

Sd/-

**ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,
TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT.**

R.O. No. 216/iplr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 23.7.2018.

SummitTIMES

Change Approach to Addressing Climate Change

Sikkim needs to accept Climate Change as the challenge that it is

A study by a team of geographers and glaciologists has projected that over 70% of the glacial volume in the Everest region could be lost by 2100! And that is the lower end of their estimate!! If greenhouse-gas emissions continue to rise and global warming comes true to predictions, even up to 99% of the glacier volume of the Everest region could be lost by 2100!!

A team of researchers in Nepal, France and the Netherlands have found that Everest glaciers could be very sensitive to future warming, and that sustained ice loss through the 21st century is likely. The research has been published in "The Cryosphere", an open access journal of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) some years ago, but the message still resonates. "The signal of future glacier change in the region is clear: continued and possibly accelerated mass loss from glaciers is likely given the projected increase in temperatures," says Joseph Shea, a glacier hydrologist at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal, and leader of the study. The glacier model used by Shea and his team shows that glacier volume could reduce between 70% and 99% by 2100. The results depend on how much greenhouse-gas emissions continue to rise, and on how this will affect temperature, snowfall and rainfall in the area. Just to drive home a point – it is not as if the loss will manifest suddenly in the year 2100, it will play out through the years, obviously accelerating the already noticeable trend in the merely eighty-five years left till it is 2100.

The lead scientist has underlined that the results indicate that these glaciers may be highly sensitive to changes in temperature, and that increases in precipitation are not enough to offset the increased melt. Increased temperatures will not only increase the rates of snow and ice melt, but can also result in a change of precipitation from snow to rain at critical elevations, where glaciers are concentrated. Together, these act to reduce glacier growth and increase the area exposed to melt.

Reflect these findings and projections against Sikkim and talk to stakeholders here and even they will vouch that parts of North Sikkim which used to receive only snow [and no rain] have been inundated by sleet and rain in the recent years. Global warming is a reality for Sikkim as well and reports of rain in formerly only snowed regions and the advance of lower hill plants into the higher reaches provide the more obvious evidence. The report mentioned here speaks exclusively of glaciers in the Everest region, but that zone is not very far or separated from the Sikkim Himalaya and if anything, Sikkim's glacial areas are even closer to the tropics, hence more affected by warming, than the ice of Everest. It becomes necessary then that Sikkim work on its preparedness for climate change with more seriousness than just adding "climate change" to the name of one of its departments, or putting out an action plan without any real plan of action.

A study of Sikkim's glaciers had been commissioned some years ago which had reported that the glaciers here were in good health. Welcome as this update was, given the rather short duration of the study and the general lack of adequately reliable base-data, future projections could not have been very detailed. It is learnt that the study of Sikkim's glaciers, including observations of glacial lakes is being undertaken in earnest and there is already a very real GLOF fear here as well. This study should be expanded to academics beyond the jurisdiction of government departments not only so that their analysis is based only on hard data and not influenced by other considerations, but also so that more minds are applied to aspects which could have a very telling effect on how the Sikkimese live in the very near future. And the study needs to be expanded to features beyond glaciers and made to include the mountain springs, catchment areas and lakes of the State as well. Changes in the hydrology of the State, whether induced by climate change or direct human interference, will impact the availability of water for drinking [think Ratey Chu for Gangtok], will bear consequences on agriculture and also hydropower.

GLOFs have struck Sikkim even in the recent past but have gone largely under-reported because they were born in remote valleys and did not cause too much damage. That will however not always be the case. Glacial retreat will further aggravate the situation as it will result in the formation and growth of more lakes dammed by glacial debris and landslides. This level of reasoning even casual online browsing can inform, which is why when experts are marshalled to prep Sikkim for climate change, more specifics and more clearly spelled out plans of action should result.

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

Bloody uprising in Nicaragua could trigger the next Central American refugee crisis

JOSE MIGUEL CRUZ
theconversation.com

Central American migrants have long been at the center of what consecutive U.S. administrations have called the immigration "crisis."

Each year, thousands of Central Americans are caught attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border unlawfully. According to the Migration Policy Institute, the vast majority are asylum-seekers from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, fleeing the region's brutal gang violence and societal chaos.

Typically, only a tiny fraction of migrants come to the U.S. from the neighboring Central American nation of Nicaragua. Their numbers are so small that Nicaraguans are rarely even mentioned in Customs and Border Protection reports.

But Nicaragua has been in turmoil for months, as an uprising against the authoritarian regime of Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista party grows ever bloodier. Last weekend, three college students were killed during a 15-hour clash at a church on the campus of the National University of Nicaragua, in Managua, which had been occupied by anti-government protesters since April.

At least 350 people have been killed so far, most at the hands of pro-government forces.

This violence may prompt many Nicaraguans to start fleeing their country soon, too.

CENTRAL AMERICA'S 'SAFEST COUNTRY'

Nicaragua, home to approximately 6.2 million people, is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere.

But it has largely avoided the widespread crime and instability that for decades has dogged this corner of the world. Nicaragua's 2017 homicide rate of seven killings per 100,000 was the lowest in Central America.

Neighboring El Salvador's murder rate was 60 per 100,000 in 2017, and Honduras's was 43 per 100,000.

When Nicaraguans migrate, typically they are seeking better-paying jobs.

Rather than travel all the way to the United States, economic migrants from Nicaragua mostly head to neighboring Costa Rica, the stablest and most prosperous country in Central America. An estimated 500,000 Nicaraguans currently live and work in Costa Rica.

NICARAGUA IN FLAMES

This migration pattern may soon change.

My research on violence in Central America reveals that the destabilizing conditions that have historically prompted many Guatemalans, Salvadorans and Hondurans to flee are now taking root in Nicaragua.

Since April, the government of



Daniel Ortega has been trying to crush a nationwide protest movement that demands his resignation.

Demonstrations first erupted in Nicaragua on April 16, 2018, after the government announced social security reforms that would raise costs for retirees and workers. Police soon cracked down on protesters. Students took to the streets.

Within days, tens of thousands of Nicaraguans were protesting in cities and towns nationwide.

In response, the regime dispatched police clad in riot gear, hired henchmen and state-sponsored paramilitary groups to put down the protests. So far, these pro-Ortega forces have killed hundreds of people and wounded more than 2,100, according to the nonprofit Human Rights Watch.

OUTSOURCING VIOLENCE

In its attempt to suppress the uprising, Ortega's government has supplemented its police forces with groups of armed partisans, vigilantes and death squads.

According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which visited the country in May, the regime outsourced protest-repression duties to informal armed groups associated with the state. These so-called "para-police" – formed by citizens allied with Ortega's Sandinista Party – work in coordination with the police.

Outsourcing state violence is not a novel tactic. In Venezuela, the authoritarian government of Nicolás Maduro has also armed militant supporters and supported criminal gangs willing to "defend" the regime.

During Central America's civil war period, in the 1980s, the governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador also used paramilitaries, vigilantes and groups of sympathizers to suppress protests and punish dissidence.

In Guatemala, the army mobilized hundreds of thousands of people in civilian "self-defense" patrols to fight guerrillas who opposed the country's military dictatorship. El Salvador's

government built wartime death squads responsible for bloody massacres against civilians, or anyone assumed to support the anti-regime insurgency.

As the post-war truth and justice commissions in both countries would later document, many of these armed factions survived the end of the conflicts.

By the late 1990s, death squads and paramilitaries were using their government connections and expertise to prey on the Central American population and infiltrate these countries' new criminal justice institutions.

People often associated crime in Central America with gangs like MS-13. But my research shows that the foundations for the region's current criminal violence were laid decades ago, when Central American governments armed thugs and deployed them against their own people.

Outsourcing state violence may temporarily quash popular dissent. But it creates the conditions for more violence – not just political violence but criminal violence, too.

CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR RAMPANT CRIME

Nicaragua managed to avoid such post-war chaos in large part because of institutional reforms undertaken in the 1990s after the Sandinista revolution.

The Sandinista rebels overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979 and dismantled the country's infamously brutal National Guard. However, they emerged from the revolution with firm control over the new police and army.

After the Sandinistas lost power in the 1990 presidential election, the new government of Violeta Chamorro undertook a complex set of reforms that, among other changes, established clear boundaries between law enforcement, the army and political parties in Nicaragua.

Those reforms strengthened the Nicaraguan state such that non-state forces could no longer violently confront – or substitute – government

institutions.

The separation between politics and security forces began to erode when Daniel Ortega – who had previously ruled the country during the revolutionary 1980s – was re-elected in 2006.

As he accumulated power, ultimately abolishing term limits to run for a third term, Ortega and his Sandinista party systematically undermined Nicaragua's independent law enforcement institutions.

DISMANTLING NICARAGUA'S STRONG STATE

Those institutions had kept Nicaraguans relatively safe for over a decade.

Even as criminal organizations, death squads and, increasingly, street gangs were fueling record levels of violence elsewhere in Central America, Nicaragua's murder rate in the early 2010s was similar to Costa Rica's.

Evidence suggests that organized crime groups and drug cartels are now operating in Nicaragua, too, taking advantage of the ongoing chaos there to deepen and expand their networks.

This also follows a pattern I've seen before in the region. After Honduras' 2009 coup, political unrest laid the groundwork for collusion between the state and organized crime groups.

Already, many Nicaraguan youths have begun flocking to the Costa Rican border, fleeing the paramilitary onslaught.

But Costa Rica has long wanted to close its borders to Nicaraguan economic migrants. As Nicaragua's crisis deepens, it will surely tighten border security.

Soon enough, it is likely that many more Nicaraguans will join other Central Americans on their long northward trek, seeking refuge over the U.S. border from unrelenting violence in their home.

[the writer is Director of Research, Florida International University]

Curious Kids: Why do volcanoes erupt?

HEATHER HANDLEY
theconversation.com

The rock inside the planet we live on can melt to form molten rock called magma. This magma is lighter than the rocks around it and so it rises upwards. Where the magma eventually reaches the surface we get an eruption and volcanoes form.

The top part of the Earth is made up of a number of hard pieces called tectonic plates. Magma and volcanoes often form where the plates are pulled apart or pushed together but we also find some volcanoes in the middle of tectonic plates.

Volcanoes have many different shapes and sizes, some look like steep mountains (stratovolcanoes), others look like bumps (shield volcanoes) and some are flat with a hole (a crater or caldera) in the centre that is often filled with water.

The shape of the volcano and how explosively it erupts depend largely on how "sticky" and how "fizzy" (how much gas) the magma is that is erupted.

For example, if you try to blow bubbles in cooking oil through a straw, the bubbles can escape quite easily because the cooking oil is runny.

If you try to blow bubbles in jam or peanut butter you would find it very difficult because the jam and peanut butter are very sticky, they wouldn't



move much at all if you tried to pour them out of the jar.

It is the same with volcanoes. When magma rises towards the surface gas bubbles start to form. Whether or not they can escape as the magma is rising affects how explosive the eruption will be.

Where the magma is runny like cooking oil and doesn't have much bubbly gas mixed in it, such as places like Hawaii, then we see lots of slow-moving lava flows and shield volcanoes. Lava is what we call magma when it reaches the surface.

However, where the magma is very sticky, like jam or peanut butter, and if it contains a lot of bubbly gas then the gas can get stuck and eruptions can be very powerful and explosive, like the recent eruptions at Fuego volcano in Guatemala.

DAMAGE CAUSED BY ERUPTIONS

In explosive eruptions the frothy, bubbly magma can be ripped apart into tiny bits called volcanic ash. This is not ash like you get after a barbecue or fire, it does not crumble away in your fingers. It is very sharp and is dangerous to breathe in.

Some explosive volcanoes can send ash high up into the sky and it can travel around the world over different countries. If aeroplanes travel through an ash cloud from a volcano it can cause a lot of

damage to the engine.

Other explosive eruptions create fast-moving, hot clouds of volcanic ash, gas and rocks that travel down the sides of the volcanoes and destroy pretty much everything in their path.

THE BENEFITS OF VOLCANOES

Despite the great damage they can cause, volcanoes also help us to live. Volcanic ash provides food for the soil around volcanoes which helps us grow plants to eat. The heat from some volcanoes is used to make energy to power lights, fridges, televisions and computers in people's houses.

[the writer is Associate Professor in Volcanology and Geochemistry, Macquarie University]

Exclusion from NRC does not mean declaration as foreigners: MHA

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI): Those not part of the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC), a list of Assam's residents, will not automatically be declared foreigners, but will get a one-month window to file claims and objections, besides subsequent judicial recourse, a senior Home Ministry official said today.

The NRC, to be published on July 30, is only a draft and after its publication, adequate opportunities for filing claims and objections will be available to those whose names are excluded from it, he added.

"All claims and objections will be duly examined. The NRC authorities will give a one-month window, when all objections and complaints will be examined after giving a proper hearing to the complainants. Only thereafter, the final NRC will be published," the official said.

Exclusion from the final NRC does not mean automatic declaration of anyone as foreigner and once the final document is published, if someone is dissatisfied,

he or she can always go to a foreigners' tribunal in the state to get justice, he added.

There are around 300 foreigners' tribunals in Assam.

The official said no one should have any apprehension about the exercise and added that adequate central paramilitary forces were dispatched to Assam to assist the state administration to deal with any law-and-order situation.

Yesterday, Home Minister Rajnath Singh had said there was no need to panic and all bona fide Indians will be given adequate opportunities to prove their citizenship.

He had also said the NRC was being updated in accordance with the "Assam Accord" signed on August 15, 1985 and the process was being carried out as per the directions of the Supreme Court, which was monitoring it continuously.

The home minister had asserted that the NRC exercise was being carried out in a totally impartial, transparent and meticulous manner and will continue so.

The part draft of the NRC was published on the intervening night

of December 31 and January 1, wherein the names of 1.9 crore of the 3.29 crore applicants were incorporated.

On July 30, the fate of all 3.29 crore applicants will be decided.

The massive exercise, aimed at identifying the illegal immigrants in the north-eastern state bordering Bangladesh, is being carried out following a decision in 2005 after a series of meetings involving the central and state governments and the influential All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

When the NRC was first prepared in Assam in 1951, the state had 80 lakh citizens.

The process of identification of illegal immigrants in Assam has been debated and has become a contentious issue in the state's politics. A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the AASU in 1979.

It had culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord on August 15, 1985, in the presence of the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

1,883 small and big quakes hit India since 2015: Govt

NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (PTI): More than 1,880 earthquakes of varying magnitudes, including three measuring above 7M, jolted India during the past three years until this July, Minister of Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan said in Lok Sabha today.

All the three major earthquakes occurred in 2015. On April 26 that year, a 7.9M quake struck between Nepal's capital city Kathmandu and another city, Pokhara. On May 12, a second earthquake of 7.3M hit the country's eastern part, near Mount Everest. Nearly 9,000 people died in Nepal. The third major earthquake hit the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan.

Although these earthquakes did not have their epicentres in India, tremors were felt in several parts of the country and led to losses to property and claimed lives.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Vardhan gave a break-up of the earthquakes that hit India between 2015 and July 12 this year. He said the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) recorded 1,739 quakes with magnitudes between 3 and 5, while 121 quakes had magnitudes between 5.1 and 6.

Twenty quakes were in 6.1-7 magnitude range and three were more than seven (Nepal and Afghanistan).

NCS head Vineet Kumar Gahalaut said that anything in the range of 3-5 M is considered small earthquakes. Quakes that fall in the magnitude range of 5-6 and 6-7 are considered moderate and strong respectively. Anything beyond 7-8 M is considered major, he explained.

In response to another question, Vardhan said the government plans to use Aerosol Optical Depth to estimate ground-based fine particulate matter (PM) 2.5.

The PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health.



BJP leader, senior cop arrested in APSC scam

GUWAHATI, JUL 23 (PTI): Assam Police have arrested three persons, including a BJP leader and a senior police official for trying to influence the probe into the cash-for-job scam which has rocked the state, an official said today.

Vice-president of ruling BJP's Darrang unit Sailen Sarma Barua, deputy superintendent of police (DSP) of Duliajan Kabita Das and businessman Surajit Chaudhury were held last night, Dibrugarh district superintendent of police Gautam Bora said.

"We have arrested DSP Kabita Das last night. She has already been taken to Guwahati and is being interrogated," Bora said.

"Two more persons

were arrested from Darrang and Guwahati. One is Sailen Sarma Barua who is the vice-president of ruling BJP's Darrang unit and an advocate from Mangaldoi and the other is a businessman named Surajit Chaudhury," he added.

According to official sources, the duo was trying to influence the probe by meeting judges at the Guwahati High Court.

The Dibrugarh Police is investigating the scam at the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) in which a total 67 people including the former APSC chairman Rakesh Kumar Paul and over 55 civil services officials have been arrested.

On July 18, another 19 officers of Assam Civil Services (ACS), Assam

Police Services (APS) and other allied services of the 2016 batch were held. APS officer Pallavi Sharma, the daughter of BJP MP R P Sharma, was among them.

In November last year, former Congress Minister Nilamani Sen Dekha's son Rajarshi Sen Dekha was also arrested for allegedly landing a job through unfair means. Dibrugarh police had earlier arrested 35 government officials in the scam, including the prime accused Paul, Commission member Samedur Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley and Assistant Controller of Examinations Pabitra Kaibarta. All of them have been accused of bribing Paul, who is also currently in jail.

CMCH students withdraw indefinite hunger strike

KOLKATA, JUL 23 (PTI): The agitating Calcutta Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) students lifted their indefinite hunger strike on the 14th day today after a college council meeting decided to give in to their demands and accomodate senior students in two floors of the new 11-storied hostel.

The college council meeting decided that students of second to fourth years will be allotted rooms in the two floors of the new hostel building, a CMCH spokesman said.


The indefinite fast was launched by six students of the premier institute, on July 10 and were joined by 15 others on July 19. The agitation was withdrawn at 2 pm this noon, he said. Three of the protesting students fell ill during the indefinite hunger strike and one of them had been admitted to the hospital. He was discharged today and the condition of the other two is stable. They were seen celebrating with their friends after the fast

was withdrawn.

Sayantan Mukuty, a student supporting the stir, said the authorities have assured to accomodate the senior students in the new hostel building soon and make public the list of the allotted seats. The strike over hostel rooms was launched after the authorities at the state-run college notified that the new 11-storey building would be allotted only to freshers and refused to relent to the requests of the senior students .

The old hostel, the protesters alleged, was in a "dilapidated" condition and did not have sufficient space to accomodate all senior students.

Today's college council meeting had been convened by the new officiating principal Ashok Bhadra and was attended by heads of departments and other officials. It decided that the modalities of allotment of seats in the new hostel building will be chalked out in consultation with the students soon.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

SINGTAM

Memo No: 97/AES/R&B

Date:- 23/07/2018.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy. Dated 12.06.2018 for the construction of **fair weather roads**, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **TuminLingee** Constituency where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (In Rs.)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (In Rs)	Completion Time.
1.	Construction of Road from SingtamDikchu Highway to Lower KharkaGaoon (Raley) in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2nd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 3rd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
2	Construction of Road from Tumin Sec. School to Forest Check Post at Middle Tumin in East Sikkim				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
3.	Construction of Road from Tungtar to Singtam-Dikchu Highway to Kokoley in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 3rd	Rs.21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
4.	Construction of Road from DikchuSingtam Highway to 6 th Mile ChukunThasa (Saleybong/Singbel) KM 1 st to Km 8 th in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 3rd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 4th	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 5th	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 6th	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 7th	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 8th	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
5.	Construction of Road from Bhulkey to Phalaic-hidara JHS.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs.12,71,548.00	Rs. 31,789.00	Rs. 500.00	12 months.
6.	Construction of Road from DikchuSingtam Highway to Lower Singbel.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 3rd	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
7.	Construction of Road from Dhargaon to PWD Guest House.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs.25,43,098.00	Rs. 63,577.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
8.	Construction of Road from Dhanbari to PMGSY Road.				
	Km 1st	Rs.42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs.12,71,549.00	Rs. 31,789.00	Rs. 500.00	12 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form)	27 th Aug 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
2.	Date of issue of tender Forms on submission of TDR (as Earnest money)	28 th Aug 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm).
3.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:-	29 th Aug 2018 (10.00am to 1.00pm).
4.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	29 th Aug 2018 (2.00 pm).

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

1. Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.

2. The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing of issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.

3. The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate b) Validated/ Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/updated Enlistment Certificate during the sale/issue of the Tender Documents for verification.

4. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents [excluding the Tender Form can be obtain during the period specified in [As above from the office of the Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents [Non-Refundable] under the Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form [Roads & Bridges].

5. Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be the in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt [TDR] in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.50% earnest money.

6. The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No: [a] & [b] above should be enclosed with the offer.

7. Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, on the date and within the time indicated above.

8. Tenders shall be opened by the Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.

9. The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

10. In case of any discrepancy in rate[s] printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rate as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates [SOR], the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimates/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final and in the regard.

11. The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.

12. The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificate are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages [if any], including.

14. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 [Ninety] days. The work should commence within 15 [fifteen] days form the issue of Work Order.

15. All the conditions are mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.

16. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

17. The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

18. Subletting of contractor work is against the norms and it come to the notice, the original contractor shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

19. The Department also reserves the right to increase decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.

20. In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.

21. Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:

[a] Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosive [if necessary] shall be in accordance with the provision of the Indian Explosives Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities as per the subject from time to time.

[b] The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.

22. The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.

23. Damages of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.

24. It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.

25. The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.

26. The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/- ASSISTANT ENGINEER

SINGTAM SUB DIVISION

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

R.O. No. 220/IPR/PUB/Class./18-19 dt. 23.7.2018



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SINGTAM

Memo No. 96/AES/R&B

Date: 23/07/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018,for the construction of **fair weather roads**, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **Singtam-khamdong constituency** where the work is to be executed

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
1	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM LINGZEY PMGSY ROAD TO PENGGRING VIA CHANDEY JHS				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
2	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM KHAMDONG LINGZEY ROAD TO BENG VIA BHIRKUNA				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 4th	Rs. 29,66,947.00	Rs. 74,174.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
3	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM 4TH MILE CHURCH VIA BENG – THANGSING SCHOOL TO RAMITEY GAON, UPPER KHAMDONG				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
4	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM SINGTAM MAKHA ROAD NEAR PANCHAYAT OFFICE RANGTU TO SIBAKOTHI GAON,EAST				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
5	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM GANESH MANDIR TO SANSKRIT PATSHALA/MILK COLLECTION CENTRE AT ARITAR,EAST				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
6	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM DANGEYTHANG TO CHUKHIM (TOURIST SPOT)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
7	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM MANEY GUMPA TO THANGSING				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 4th	Rs. 12,71,549.00	Rs. 31,789.00	Rs. 500.00	12 months
8	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM SINGTAM DIKCHU ROAD TO LINKHO AT RALAP				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 4th	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
9	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM BADANG TO SUMIK LINGZEY GPK				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	Km 3rd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
10	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM RANGDU TO NAMGAYTHANG VIA BEECH GAON				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months

	Km 3rd	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
11	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM GANESH MANDIR TO UPPER THASA VIA SUBEDI GAON				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
12	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM DOKEY CHISOPANEY ROAD TO 16TH MILE KHAPPARAY				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
13	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM RAMITEY DUNGUNG TO PARDHAN GAON				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 21,19,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
14	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM KLT ROAD TO NEOPANEY GAON VIA PMGSY ROAD AT PATUK				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months
	KM 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	12 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender	17th Aug 2018 for sl. No 1 to sl. No. 7 (10.00am to 4.00pm)	22nd Aug 2018 for sl. No. 8 to sl. No. 14 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
2	Date of issue of tender Forms on submission of TDR (as Earnest money).	18thAug 2018 for sl. No 1 to sl. No. 7 (10.00am to 4.00pm)	23rd Aug 2018 for sl. No. 8 to sl. No. 14 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
3	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	20 thAug 2018 for sl. No 1 to sl. No. 7 (10.00am to 12.30pm)	24 thAug 2018 for sl. No. 8 to sl. No. 14 (10.00am to 12.30pm)
4	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	20 thAug 2018 for sl. No 1 to sl. No. 7 (2.00pm)	24 thAug 2018 for sl. No. 8 to sl. No. 14 (2.00pm)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing of issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.
- The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate b) Validated/ Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/updated Enlistment Certificate during the sale/issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents [excluding the Tender Form can be obtain during the period specified in [As above from the office of the Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents [Non-Refundable] under the Head “0059-80-800” cost of Tender Form [Roads & Bridges].
- Earnest money deposit @ **2.50%** in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be the in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt [TDR] in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.50% earnest money.
- The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No: [a] & [b] above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by the Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate[s] printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rate as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates [SOR], the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimates/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final and in the regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificate are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages [if any], including.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 [Ninety] days. The work should commence within 15 [fifteen] days form the issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions are mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contractor work is against the norms and it come to the notice, the original contractor shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
[a] Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosive [if necessary] shall be in accordance with the provision of the Indian Explosives Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities as per the subject from time to time.
[b] The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.
- Damages of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.**

Sd/- ASSISTANT ENGINEER
SINGTAM SUB DIVISION
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

R.O. No. 219/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 23.7.2018

British Sikhs to get ethnicity status in 2021 census: Report

LONDON, JUL 23 (PTI): Britain's strong Sikh community is all set to be listed in the 2021 census as a distinct ethnicity rather than only as a religion, the UK Statistics Authority has said, a major step that will give the community a fair access to all public services in the country.

Last year, over 100 British MPs, including Indian-origin lawmakers, had asked the authority to include Sikh as a separate ethnic box for the 2021 census.

The 2021 census is set to list Sikhism as a distinct ethnicity rather than only as a religion, The Sunday Times reported.

In the most recent census in 2011, more than 83,000 Sikhs refused to tick any of the choices in the question on ethnicity, rejecting options such as Indian in order to write "Sikh" in the space for "any other ethnic group", it said.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is considering the inclusion of Sikhism as an ethnicity on the 2021 form, but had raised concerns over the issue of "public acceptability" and whether the move would have backing across Britain's 430,000-strong Sikh community, the report said.

The all-party parliamentary group for British Sikhs offered to write to Gurdwaras to assist the ONS with its public consultation, it added.

Sikhs are a legally recognised ethnic group under the UK's Race Relations Act 1976 and campaigners for the change believe this gives them a right to be able to identify themselves separately from current census options, such as Indian or British Indian.

Sikhs are already recognised as a separate religion within an optional religious question introduced in the 2001 Census.

In preparation for the 2021 census, which is expected to be conducted largely online, the ONS ran a test version of the census in 2017 with "Sikh" included as an option under ethnicity in areas with large Sikh populations - Hounslow in west London and Wolverhampton in the West Midlands region of England. It found that almost a quarter of those who specified Sikhism as their religion also chose Sikh as their ethnicity.

to book advertisements in SummitTimes call 03592-208698, 9734152541 9647102692

Trump fires off explosive threat to Iran's leader

WASHINGTON, JUL 23 (AP): President Donald Trump has warned Iranian President Hassan Rouhani that he will face dire consequences for threatening the United States.

Trump tweeted late yesterday about the dangers to Iran of making hostile threats after Rouhani said "America must understand well that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace and war with Iran is the mother of all wars."

Trump responded with a tweet that warned: "Never ever threaten the united states again or you will suffer consequences the like of which few throughout history have ever suffered before."

Within hours, Iranian state-owned news agency IRNA dismissed Trump's tweet, describing it as a "passive reaction" to Rouhani's remarks.

The agency, a government mouthpiece, also said Monday that Trump's comment was only mimicking and copying Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who had in the past warned the West to "never threaten an Iranian."

Trump earlier this year pulled the United States out of the international deal meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon and ordered increased American sanctions.



Rouhani had warned Trump yesterday to stop "playing with the lion's tail" and threatening Iran, "or else you will regret it."

Trump has suggested Iranian leaders are "going to call me and say 'let's make a deal'" but Iran has rejected talks.

Rouhani has previously lashed out against Trump for threatening to re-impose the sanctions, as well as for moving the US embassy to Jerusalem and banning travel to the US from certain Muslim-majority countries.

Trump's tweet suggested he

has little patience with the trading of hostile messages with Iran, using exceptionally strong language and writing an all-capitalised tweet.

"we are no longer a country that will stand for your demented words of violence & death. Be cautious!", he wrote.

Trump has a history of firing off heated tweets that seem to quickly escalate long-standing disputes with leaders of nations at odds with the US.

In the case of North Korea, the public war of words cooled quickly

and gradually led to the high profile summit and denuclearisation talks.

Yesterday in California, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was strongly critical of Iran.

He called the religious leaders of Iran "hypocritical holy men" who amassed vast sums of wealth while allowing their people to suffer, part of a highly critical broadside issued as the republic approached the 40th anniversary of its Islamic revolution and the US prepared to reimpose the economic sanctions.

Pompeo talked about increasing

the media outreach to the Iranian people.

He said the US Broadcasting Board of Governors is taking new steps to help Iranians get around internet censorship and is launching a new 24/7 Farsi-language channel across television, radio, digital, and social media formats, "so that ordinary Iranians inside Iran and around the globe can know America stands with them."

In the speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Pompeo castigated Iran's political, judicial and military leaders, too, accusing several by name of participating in widespread corruption.

He also said the government has "heartlessly repressed its own people's human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms." He said despite poor treatment by their leaders, "the proud Iranian people are not staying silent about their government's many abuses," Pompeo said.

"And the United States under President Trump will not stay silent either. In light of these protests and 40 years of regime tyranny, I have a message for the people of Iran: The United States hears you," he said.

"The United States supports you. The United States is with you."

Sharif on verge of kidney failure in jail: Report

ISLAMABAD, JUL 23 (PTI): Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif is on the verge of a kidney failure and doctors have recommended to shift him to a hospital immediately, according to a media report.

Sharif, 68, is serving a 10-year jail term in a corruption case over his family's purchase of luxury apartments in London. He has been lodged in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since July 13.

A team of doctors from Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC), headed by its Chief Executive Major General (retd) Dr Azhar Mehmood Kayani, visited the prison and compiled a report after carrying out a detailed medical check-up. The report



has now been sent to the Punjab Health Secretary.

The findings in the report suggest that Sharif be shifted to a hospital immediately, The Express Tribune reported.

Sharif had complained about his health on Saturday.

Although his personal physician Dr Adnan had

seen him twice in recent days, the jail administration called doctors from RIC to be sure of what had happened. The team spent about one-and-a-half hour inspecting his condition.

According to the medical board, his body's water levels are very low, which has made his

heartbeat erratic now. The amount of urea in his blood has also become very high, which could even lead to kidney failure, the report said.

The board's findings suggested that Sharif be shifted to hospital immediately, it added.

The Punjab Prisons sources told Daily Ex-

press that they are waiting for the Punjab home department's orders about shifting Sharif to the hospital.

Caretaker provincial ministers Shaukat Javed and Ahmed Waqas Riaz said the jail superintendent has been informed in writing about Sharif's health issues and the home department has formed a medical board which will perform another checkup today to decide on whether to shift him to a hospital, the report said.

They confirmed that Sharif's medical tests suggested he had kidney issues. The caretaker government is in touch with jail authorities and Sharif is getting better medical facilities, they added.



Sri Lanka cricketer suspended after friend accused of hotel rape

COLOMBO, JUL 23 (AFP): A Sri Lankan Test cricketer has been suspended after a Norwegian woman accused his friend of raping her in a hotel room where he was present, an official said Monday.

Dhanushka Gunathilaka, 27, and his friend, who cannot be named, took two Norwegian women to the hotel where the player was staying in Colombo in the early hours of Sunday.

One of the women later accused the second man, a British passport-holder of Sri Lankan origin, of raping her and police arrested him.

The 26-year-old "is under arrest and we are continuing our investigations," a police official told AFP. "A Norwegian

tourist made the complaint of rape."

He said there was no allegation against Gunathilaka, who is currently Sri Lanka's best-performing batsman in an ongoing tour by South Africa.

However Sri Lanka Cricket on Sunday night suspended him on a "misconduct" charge, although he is allowed to play in the match that is currently taking place.

The governing body's rules stipulate that during matches players must be back in their hotel rooms by midnight and cannot have guests.

The cricket board will also "withheld Gunathilaka's fee for the ongoing Test match until the outcome of the inquiry," it said.

Gunman kills two in Toronto shooting rampage

TORONTO, JUL 23 (AFP): A 29-year-old gunman opened fire on pedestrians in a bustling Toronto neighborhood, killing two and wounding a dozen others, police in Canada's largest city said today, adding the suspect was found dead in an alley after an exchange of gunfire with police.

A video clip posted by Canadian media appeared to show a dark-clad man walking on the sidewalk in Toronto's Greektown neighborhood Sunday night and then turning to aim and fire a handgun

"At approximately 10 pm on July 22, 2018, a man walking along Danforth Avenue fired shots at groups of people several times. Several people were struck. Two civilians were fatally injured," the Ontario Special Investigations Unit said.

The unit, which investigates police-involved shootings, said officers located the man on a cross street "and an exchange of gunfire took place." "The man fled the area and was located deceased on Danforth Avenue," it said.

Toronto police chief Mark Saunders had said earlier that one of the victims was a young woman, and that a young girl was in critical condition. It put the number of wounded at 13.

The gunman, who police said was 29, was not identified by name and a motive for the shooting in a district of cafes and restaur-



ants was not immediately known.

Officers, some armed with rifles, sealed off Danforth Avenue, Greektown's main street, after getting the call around 10:00 pm (0200 GMT Monday).

Witnesses reported hearing about 20 shots.

"There was a lot of shots. It would shoot, there'd be a pause, we heard more shooting, and then a pause and then more shooting," The Globe and Mail quoted John Tulloch, who was out for a walk at the time, as saying.

"There must've been 20, 30 shots, altogether. It was a lot. We just ran."

Jody Steinhauer told CBC News she was at a neighborhood restaurant with her family when she heard what sounded like 10 to 15 blasts of firecrackers.

She said she was told to run to the back of the restaurant.

"We started to hear people scream out front," Steinhauer told the broadcaster.

firearms violence is "evidence of a gun problem" in Toronto.

"Guns are too readily available to too many people," Tory told a news conference.

Tory added that details of the latest incident remained sketchy and urged people to stay calm.

"We have to figure out what happened here. We don't know," he said.

Toronto Police statistics show that, to July 14, there had been a total of 220 shootings with 27 fatalities so far this year, against 196 with 17 deaths for all of 2017.

Last week, Toronto police started implementing the enforcement component of their "gun violence reduction plan." That includes around 200 additional officers on shift in particular neighborhoods between the hours of 7:00 pm and 3:00 am - when most shootings occur.

BEFORE THE LEARNED OATH COMMISSIONER AT GANGTOK, EAST SIKKIM AFFIDAVIT

I, Mrs Kelsang Diki Bhutia, wife of Mr. Bunit Basnet, aged about 35 years, by Gaith Buddhist, resident of Arithang, Sisa Golai, Gangtok, East Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

That in all mu relevant documents including my Unique Identification (Aadhaar) card vide No. 3270 7477 8760, my name has been recorded as "KELSANG DIKI BHUTIA", which is correct.

That, all my academic certificates, my name has been recorded as "KELSANG DIKI", which is incorrect.

That I hereby swear an oath that the names "KELSANG DIKI BUTIA" and "KELSANG DIKI" are of same and on e person representing me only and henceforth my official name shall be "KELSANG DIKI BHUTIA" for all purpose and purport.

AND WHEREAS, the above mentioned statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom and have signed this affidavit on this the 3rd day of July 2018 at Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Sd/-
DEPONENT.



PREMIERE NIGHT! MISSION: Impossible- Fallout star Tom Cruise looked dapper in a three-piece black suit as he showed up to the latest Mission: Impossible film's premiere and screening at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington DC solo.

YET ANOTHER CONTROVERSY FOR SALMAN KHAN!

Salman Khan's name is synonymous with controversies. After the actor was targeted by the Bishnoi community in the blackbuck poaching case, the recent accusations come from Valmiki community.



An FIR was filed in as many as six states against the Tiger Zinda Hai actor after he was accused of making derogatory comments against the community. Today, the proceedings of the same will continue in Supreme Court today after Salman Khan sought the quashing of these FIRs.

It all started during the promotions of Ali Abbas Zafar's directorial, Tiger Zinda Hai when Salman Khan was a celebrity guest on Shilpa Shetty's reality show. A comment made by the actor and Shilpa offended the Valmiki community and they sought legal help after they found it objectionable.

Post this, numerous FIRs were registered against the duo in different states including Rajasthan and Delhi. Though the issue fizzled out too soon, the actor, along with his legal team now wants to quash all these FIRs.

As per the latest development, the bench headed

by the Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, will take the proceedings forward over Salman Khan's plea. After Salman moved the court for his plea, his lawyers also sought the court's help requesting them to order the state governments as well as police departments to not register any more complaints on the case.

So, in previous court hearings, it had stayed all cases filed against the actor and had even asked the complainants to submit all the necessary documents regarding the case. What needs to be noted here is the verdict may or may not rule in the actor's favour.

ARIES: Realize that you're the one responsible for cleaning up your own mess, Aries. If you've left your dirty clothes on the floor and the dishes unwashed, you will be the one who has to pay the consequences later on. Take responsibility for your actions. Today is an excellent day to do your laundry and clean the mess in the sink. You'll feel better about yourself and your immediate environment after you do.

TAURUS: Things should be going your way right now, Taurus. Feel confident about yourself and your decisions. Let your inner glow radiate outward and show people that you have a great deal of love to offer. Practice what you preach. You lose respect when you act contrary to the way in which you insist the people around you act. Feel your power from within as opposed to trying to get it from others.

GEMINI: Follow through on your promises today, Gemini. You may be generous with your words and advice, but you might fall a bit short when it comes to actually delivering the goods. This is a great time to prove to others that you mean what you say. Do the things that you said you would. You'll be able to accomplish quite a bit as long as you maintain a focused and positive mindset.

CANCER: Don't get discouraged by other people's failures today, Cancer. There may be signs that warn you of potential roadblocks ahead, but this doesn't mean that you should turn your car around or give up on your goal. Perhaps you only need to slow down the pace or select a new route. Either way, you have the perseverance and inner drive to accomplish any task you undertake.

LEO: Don't get thrown off your path, Leo. Focus inward and concentrate on the tasks at hand. This may not be the most lighthearted and jovial day, but one must always take the good with the bad. Use the sober, grounding tone of today's energy to get down to business and stay there. Work now, play later! Remember the story about the ant and the grasshopper. Now is the time to store provisions for the future.

VIRGO: Things should be flowing quite well for you today, Virgo. Take this opportunity and use the energy to its full potential. Center yourself and look at the weeks ahead. Where do you want to be in two months? Where do you want to be in two years? Now is the time to take stock of what you've got and plan for future growth. You have a great deal going for you, so don't waste your time on frivolity.

LIBRA: Today is a great day to gather data for a new project you're working on, Libra. Put your nose to the grindstone and make some major progress on an important job. Find comfort in your work. Make sure, however, that the work you're engaged in is something that feeds your soul as opposed to just put money in your pocket. This is critical to maintaining a healthy mind and spirit.

SCORPIO: It's obvious how much you like to dream, Scorpio. Certainly, this is an important part of your existence. Realize that there comes a time when you must face reality. This is one of those days when you need to bite the bullet and deal with your bills. Take care of annoying errands that you've been putting off. Send the letters that have piled up on your desk for days. Stop making excuses.

SAGITTARIUS: Stop wasting your energy on things that have no real relevance in your life, Sagittarius. This is a day to focus your attention on the tasks at hand and get things done. Don't get distracted by the blinking neon lights. Stay tuned to your own channel. It might not be a bad idea to adopt more of a critical tone so you don't get caught up in issues that don't pertain to you.

CAPRICORN: Delight in all your projects today, Capricorn. You should enjoy a positive mood and pleasurable experiences with others. Let the good times roll. Your ego and emotions should be acting harmoniously. You have every reason to smile, so keep grinning from ear to ear. You're able to get a lot accomplished if you so choose. Adjust your compass, check the prevailing winds, and set sail.

AQUARIUS: Today isn't a great day for inspiring enthusiasm in others, Aquarius. You might find that there's a sober, conservative tone to the day that's stealing the fuel from your fire. Realize that this is just part of the natural cycle of things. Don't feel that you need to be up and active all the time. Give yourself a rest and focus your energy inward. Settle your nerves and get down to business.

PISCES: Today is an excellent day in which you should be able to ground your emotions and find a greater amount of stability in your life. As you walk down the street, be conscious of the Earth below you. Plant your feet firmly on the ground and realize that you're a living part and product of this great planet. Don't separate yourself from Mother Nature - you are her child. Respect her.

Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana break silence over firing of Guardians of the Galaxy director James Gunn!

Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana spoke out on social media on Sunday after their Guardians of the Galaxy franchise director James Gunn was fired. Gunn, 51, was axed on Friday after offensive tweets he posted between 2008 and 2009 resurfaced.

Chris, 39, portrays Peter Quill aka Star-Lord in the Guardians of the Galaxy movies opposite Saldana, 40, who plays Gamora.

"It's been a challenging weekend I'm not gonna lie. I'm pausing myself to take everything in before I speak out of term. I just want everyone to know I love ALL members of my GOTG family. Always will," Zoe wrote for her nearly 840,000 followers on Twitter.

Chriss didn't reference Gunn's firing directly, but he made a biblical reference that fit the issue for his nearly 6 million followers.

"Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters. Let every person be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger," he posted along with the Bible reference James 1:19.

Their co-star Dave Bautista leaped to Gunn's defense on Friday after he was fired by Walt Disney Studios.

In his own tweet on Friday night, Bautista, 49, wrote: "I will have more to say but for right now all I will say is this. James Gunn is one of the most loving, caring, good-natured people I have ever met. He's gentle and kind and cares deeply for people and animals. He's made mistakes. We all have. I'm NOT OK with what's happening to him."

Gunn was fired on Friday after conservative news site The Daily Caller drew attention to several of his controversial tweets. The since-deleted posts featured jokes about sensitive topics including pedophilia, rape, the 9/11 terror attack and the Holocaust.

Among them was one where Gunn wrote: "I like when little boys touch me in my silly place."

In another he says: "The best thing about being raped is when you're done being raped and it's like whew this feels great, not being raped!"

Nearly two dozen other tweets mainly in 2008 and 2009 were captured in



© WireImage

screenshots before he deleted his account.

He defended himself first, saying: "Many people who have followed my career know when I started, I viewed myself as a provocateur, making movies and telling jokes that were outrageous and taboo. As I have discussed publicly many times, as I've developed as a person, so has my work and my humor," he wrote.

"It's not to say I'm better, but I am very, very different than I was a few years ago; today I try to root my work in love and connection and less in anger. My days saying something just because it's shocking and trying to get a reaction are over.

For the record, when I made these shocking jokes, I wasn't living them out. I know this is a weird statement to make, and seems obvious, but, still, here I am, saying it.

Anyway, that's the completely honest truth: I used to make a lot of offensive jokes. I don't anymore. I don't blame my past self for this, but I like myself more and feel like a more full human being and creator today. Love you to you all."

OAN correspondent Jack Posobiec and right-wing commentator Mike Cernovich were reportedly among the con-

servative personalities who unearthed the tweets this week, according to Fox News.

The Daily Caller's expose came after Gunn mocked conservative pundit Ben Shapiro earlier this week while defending liberal actor Mark Duplass, who came under fire for encouraging his fans to follow Shapiro to hear views from the other side of the aisle.

Fox News reports that Gunn's comments motivated the dig through the filmmaker's social media history. All of the tweets were posted before Gunn joined the Marvel Universe in 2014 but executives at Walt Disney Studios have decided to cut ties with him regardless.

"The offensive attitudes and statements discovered on James' Twitter feed are indefensible and inconsistent with our studio's values, and we have severed our business relationship with him," chairman Alan Horn in a statement.

Gunn defended himself on Twitter on Friday before deleting his account. The Missouri native had been writing the script for Guardians 3 and was set to start filming in Atlanta this fall.

The studio has not commented on who may take his place in the movie expected to be released in 2020.

Chris Klein cast as DC super-villain Cicada for upcoming The Flash season 05!

There will be a new super-villain roaming the streets of Central City. Chris Klein, of American Pie fame, has been cast as Cicada in season five of The CW superhero series The Flash.

The announcement along with the first trailer for the new season was unveiled during the show's panel at the 2018 Comic Con in San Diego on Saturday.

The 39-years old actor is best known for his role in the American Pie franchise, but he has also starred in a number of television shows like The Grinder, The Idiot'sitter, How We Live and Wilfred.

In the comic, the Cicada character enters the Flash's life as a mysterious cult leader whose followers are dedicated to the murder of every one that the Flash has ever saved using lightning bolt



shaped daggers.

But Klein's TV version is being described by the network as "a grizzled, blue-collar everyman whose family has been torn apart by meta-humans. Now he seeks to exterminate the epidemic — one metahuman at a time."

In the new trailer, we see Barry Allen's [Flash] reaction when he discovers that the

mystery girl, dubbed XS, that appeared in the season four finale is his daughter from the future.

The trailer then closes with a harrowing, but brief, glimpse of Cicada.

The Flash follows Barry Allen [The Flash], who is played by Grant Gustin, a crime fighting investigator who gains super-human speed and uses it for good.

It is spin-off from Arrow, which exists in the same fictional universe.

The Flash premiered in October 2014 and became the second-most watched premiere in the history of The CW. It won a People's Choice Award for Favorite New TV Drama in 2014.

Season five is set to premiere 09 Oct, 2018.