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**STRENGTH LIFTING &
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SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 233 | Gangtok | Monday| 03 September 2018

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

CS takes stock of preparedness of Pakyong Airport

**AIRPORT SET
TO BE POSSIBLY
OPERATIONAL
NEXT MONTH**

PAKYONG, 02 SEPT [IPR]:

Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, visited the upcoming Pakyong Greenfield Airport in East Sikkim to take detailed stock of the progress of work as well as the preparedness of the airport in view of the consequent inauguration schedule.

The CS inspected the distressed area of the wall and discussed about its restoration. He was apprised about the status in detail by Director, Operations, Manjunathan R, and General Manager, Engineering-cum-Project Head, Gautam Biswas, who explained that the distress is in the gabion box which has no bearing on the strength and stability of the wall since it acts as only the external look and does not contribute to the structural strength of the RE wall. They also stated that it caused no



immediate danger to the runway and the remedial work was in progress.

Matters regarding water, power and other associated works were also discussed and PCE-cum-Secretary, Energy and Power Department, KB Kunwar, informed that dedicated line for airport supply has already been provided.

Another vital issue discussed was the necessity for

pruning of trees which as informed is an operational requirement. Necessary instruction was given to Sub Divisional Magistrate, Pakyong, Tenzing D Denzongpa, for analyzing number of trees which needed to be pruned while strictly instructing that minimum number of trees should be touched.

Interior beautification and horticulture work was also in-

spected and the CS appreciated the Sikkimese artwork adorning the interiors.

The CS expressed his satisfaction at the outcome and instructed that all the leftover work be completed during the stipulated schedule.

It was also informed that the possibility of inauguration of the airport was most likely to be in the end of this month or during first week of Oct.

Janmashtami celebration commences with religious fervor in the capital

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 02 SEP:**

Celebration of Hindu festival of Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, has commenced today across the State today and will culminate on 03 Sept with religious ceremonies like chariot processions and bhajan signings across temples.

Capital Gangtok has also observed the festival in a grand manner with devotees and priests paying obeisance to baby Krishna or 'Krishna lalla' by observing fasting followed by holding religious rituals which will ultimately culminate in enactment of Krishna's birth through rituals at midnight today.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness [ISKCON] is observing the festival today with a religious programme in the capital with reli-



gious devotion. The programme has attracted devotees from across the country and the world.

"We want to observe this festival here in Gangtok with a message of humanity and oneness," said an ISCKON member, Madhav.

He has also invited members from all communities and religions to converge in the two-day-long celebration starting today.

Many international religious tourists are also in the capital to observe this festival and also to perform religious musi-

cal dances and acts.

A devout lady from Russia states that the ultimate human goal is happiness and she adds that worshipping of Lord Krishna and seeking refuge in him has made her a better person.

Terming her Sikkim visit as beautiful, she said that all the turmoil that the world is now going through can be stopped with pure heart and devotion to God.

Vaishnava sub sect of Hinduism particularly observe this festival with grand fervour in Krishna turn to pg02

SIKKIM

GOVERNMENT **GAZETTE**

**EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

Gangtok Tuesday 28th August, 2018 No. 448

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT
UDYOG BHAWAN, TADONG, GANGTOK**

No. 2/C&I/2018-19

Dated: 21.08.2018

NOTIFICATION

The State Government is pleased to provide Financial Relief to existing loan beneficiaries under Chief Minister's Self Employment Loan Scheme (CMSES) for time bound closure of stressed loan accounts with SIDICO as under:-

- Loan below Rs. 50,000/- given under CMSES shall be borne as subsidy from the Government exempting both principal and the interest.
- Loan amount of Rs.50,000/- and above taken under CMSES shall be provided 50% subsidy by the Government on the principal and the interest will be exempted from repayment and treated as subsidy from the Government if the loan is repaid within two months.
- Loanees under Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme category who later secured Government employment shall also be exempted from payment of interest which will be treated as subsidy from the Government provided the principal amount is paid 100% within a period of two months.
- The period of two months shall be reckoned from the date of publication of Government Notification in Sikkim Herald and other local newspapers.

The SIDICO Board shall adopt the said Government directive for the benefit of existing stressed beneficiaries of CMSES implemented by the SIDICO.

This supersedes Government of Sikkim Gazette notification no. 345 dated 02.07.2018.

BY ORDER

**Dr. Thomas Chandy, IFS
Principal Secretary,
Government of Sikkim
F.No. 8/S40/C&I/399/2018-19**

S.G.P.G – 448/Com.E/Gazette/100 Nos./Dt. 28.08.2018



**SIKKIM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT &
INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.**

(A Government of Sikkim Undertaking)

Udyog Bhawan, Tadong – 737102

Gangtok, Sikkim

SIDICO/2018-19/CMSES/0588

Dated: 01.09.2018

NOTICE

TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER CHIEF MINISTER'S SELF EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (CMSES)

In view of the Sikkim Government Gazette Notification No. 02/C&I/2018-19 dated 21/08/2018, all beneficiaries under Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme (CMSES) who have existing loans are requested to come to Sikkim Industrial Development Corporation (SIDICO) within 2 (two) months from the date of publication of this Notice, in order to settle your outstanding loan account.

You are requested to bring the following:

1. Photo ID
2. Valid Employment Card/ Unemployed Certificate from SDM/ BDO/ Panchayat/ Councillor/ or any other valid document to proof the dame.
3. In case of mortgage of land for the loan, the original parcha will only be handed over to the actual owner of the land.

Details of your loan account will be available at:

- I. Sikkim Industrial Development Corporation (SIDICO)
Udyog Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok, East Sikkim
Phone No. (03592) 2301531
- II. Sikkim Industrial Development Corporation (SIDICO)
Branch Office
Jorethang,
South Sikkim
Phone No. (03595) 257628

Sd/-

**MANAGING DIRECTOR
SIKKIM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT &
INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
GANGTOK.**



State BJP petitions for justice to Governor

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh has called on Governor Ganga Prasad here at Raj Bhawan today. During the meeting, the delegation apprised the Governor about the continuous attacks of the ruling party's Ministers, MLAs, Panchayats and workers on leaders and workers of BJP State unit since few months.

A BJP press release alleged that Zilla Panchayat of Lower Maneydara and Panchayat of Lower Maneydara and ruling party [Sikkim Democratic Front]

workers tried to attack a team of BJP Sikkim at Lower Maneydara-Jholung-e under Namthang-Rateypani Constituency in South Sikkim on 01 Sept and kept them stalked for around five hours. The administration has still not been able to release the vehicle of BJP from the accused.

The release informed that the delegation has submitted a memorandum to the Governor for protection of democracy. It is informed that after a patient hearing on all issues, the Governor has assured to take immediate action.

Janmashtami celebration commences with religious fervor...

contd from pg01

temples and other temples dedicated to Lord Ram, Lord Vishnu and all forms of Vishnu to mark this day as one of the most important days in the calendar.

Krishna Pranami Mandir, Chalamthang, South Sikkim recently completed by the State Government is also observing the festival enthusiastically.

However, Hindus across various sects observe the festival as one of the most important days in the year marking the birth of Lord Krishna also known for his eternal message of the Bhagwad Gita, one of the most revered books in Hinduism explaining the importance of selfless duty.

Krishna worship as a movement has now taken an international shape with devotees from across the globe spanning all continents.

Another lady devotee from Ukraine here in the capital for the observance of Janmashtami said that universal consciousness of oneness is one of the chief tenets of Krishna worship with the Lord as the supreme father for all humanity.

Reports have emerged of Janmashtami festival being marked from across the State and the world with devotees observing all-night fasting, bhajan singing, performing religious ceremonies, organising Bhagwad Purana recitations and carrying out religious processions.

The festival is marked as a Gazetted holiday in the State of Sikkim on 03 Sept.

Likewise, many schools and religious-spiritual education centres like Bal Vikash have also marked the festival with children dressing up as Baby Krishna and Radha.



SINGTAM CELEBRATES KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

SINGTAM, 02 SEPT: The holy Janmashtami, the birth celebration of Sri Krishna and one of the major festivals of the Hindu community, is being observed at Singtam in East Sikkim with due religious fervour and enthusiasm. [Yogen Thatal]

Lok Sabha MP inaugurates IPPB Sikkim branch

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 AUG:

Following the launch of India Post Payments Bank [IPPB] by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, inaugurated IPPB Gangtok Branch here at Gangtok Post Office on 01 Sept.

On the occasion, Mr Rai, who was present as chief guest, mentioned about the dedicated service of India Post to the people of India. He stated that India Post has been serving Sikkim since 1930 and has made outstanding contribution towards Sikkim. He also gave suggestions to preserve the oldest post offices at Rhenock and Rangpo.

Mr Rai stressed that the people should know about bank services extended by State India Post. He expressed that the people of the State will benefit from this new service. He mentioned about various supports for the Centre towards the development of Sikkim. He also urged everyone to work in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

Likewise, Postmaster General, Sikkim, Amitabh Kharkwal, stated that India Post has a long history in serving people in all aspects of communications and allied services. He stated



that with the thrust of financial inclusion, the concept of Payment Bank came into picture and India Post Payment Bank was given a license to operate by the RBI with 100% equity of the Government of India on 17 Aug, 2016.

"By 30 Jan, 2017, two pilot branches at Raipur and Ranchi commenced operations. Today, we are going live with 3250 access points across the country

which included 650 branches," he informed.

Sikkim Postmaster General informed that five locations will formally be made operational at Gangtok, Tadong, Samdur, Lingdum and Dhajey in Sikkim from today. He added that in the next phase, 21 post offices including Raj Bhawan, Singtam, Namchi and Melli and some of their branches will commence operations and are expected to cover

all post offices in Sikkim by the end of 2018.

"Even though India Post has traditionally offered banking services to the people, the IPPB will offer a larger gamut of products and services as also technologically compete with the other players in the market," he said.

He added that the launch of the Mobile app will also go a long way in providing customers efficient services.

Strength Lifting & Incline Bench Press C'ship concludes



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

Two-daylong 3rd State level Strength Lifting and Incline Bench Press Championship 2018 being jointly organised by Jorethang Khambache's Muscle Hut Gym in association with Sikkim Strength Lifting Association [SSLA] concluded today here at Panchaseel

Bhawan in Jorethang, South Sikkim, a press release informs.

Minister for Health & IPR cum area MLA, Arjun K Ghatani, attended the valedictory function as chief guest accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Tshering Bhutia, as guest of honour.

Mr Ghatani was honoured and felicitated for

his contributions by the organizing committee.

The event had the participation of 137 competitors from across the State under Junior, Senior and Master's categories.

Later, Mr Ghatani handed over prizes and certificates to the winning contenders of the championship.



SKM forms Ward level committee for Lower Paiyong

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party conducted co-ordination cum joining programme at Lower Paiyong and Melli Bazaar under Melli Constituency in South Sikkim in the presence of CLC president, Suren Tamang, CLC executives and other senior members.

An SKM press release informs that business community members, Love Gupta and Crish Gupta joined to the party.

Similarly, Pema Bhutia, Uday Pradhan, Damber, Singh Pradhan, Mak Prashad Pradhan and Dhan Pati Sharma from Lower Payong joined SKM.

Later, Ward Level Committee [WLC] for Lower Paiyong was formed with Ratna Sharma as president, Arjun Dhital & Pema Bhutia a vice presidents, Suman Sharma as secretary and Suresh Bishwakarma, Mak Bahadur Pradhan, Bishal Pradhan and Dhana Ratna Niroula as members.

IMI Sikkim holds Apple-Orange Thinkshop

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

Under the aegis of Integrated Mountain Initiative [IMI], IMI Sikkim Chapter facilitated by Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim [ECOSS] organised 'Apple-Orange Thinkshop' at the ECOSS office in Tadong on 01 Sept. The meeting was chaired by Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, and co-chaired by Associate Professor & Head of Horticulture Department, Sikkim University, Dr Laxuman Sharma, a press release informs.

The programme was attended by representatives from Sikkim University, ICAR-NOFRI Sikkim, NABARD, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department, KVK, FS& AD, Zilla and Gram Panchayats, farmers, retired officials and apple & orange growers and farming enthusiasts.

The main objectives of the programme were to share and trace the history of apples and oranges which were previously major cash crops in the State with a view to identify the causes of decline and change in their cultivation and identify the challenges and strategies for their revival.



The meeting discussed the ground realities, issues surrounding their cultivation, current policies and practices and explored various solutions through the findings of

research and academia.

The participants shared their experiences on field as growers and as department officials. The thinkshop brought forth anecdotes and

insights with inputs of best practices from different perspectives of farmers, the Horticulture Department, academia and included experiences from outside the State

such as the NABARD Wadi Project approach.

Retired Chief Secretary, KC Pradhan, shared his knowledge with regard to apple and orange cultivation in Sikkim.

The release informs that apple cultivation had declined from the 1980s with the introduction of weedicides and chemical fertilisers, possible infected new species and the onset of diseases such as apple scab and pests like the woolly aphid. Natural disasters had also contributed to loss of the apple trees in Lachung. With regard to oranges, the factors of decline included lack of moisture during winters, insufficient manuring, bad managerial practices, climate change, hailstorm damage, pests and diseases such as fruit drop, fruit fly, stem borer, citrus die back, citrus psylla, citrus greening, etc.

In his concluding address, Lok Sabha MP, Mr Rai, said, "Today, there is a need to realize that the new-age farmer has growing needs, different expectations and generally smaller landholdings. There is a need to focus the research on local problems while converging on a more natural and holistic growth of the orchards in the State."

He also stressed on taking lessons from history, culture and traditions as these form a basis to build better local solutions.

Gangtok on Monday, 03 Sept

Temp: 26°C/15°C
Forecast: Mostly cloudy; a couple of morning thundershowers, then a thundershower in parts of the area.
Sunrise: 05:15 AM
Sunset: 5:54 PM

Power cut persists at Labargari in North Sikkim, residents demand explanation

WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 02 SEPT:

Labargari village at Lower Tanek, under Lachen-Mangan Constituency, in North Sikkim has been reportedly facing extreme power cut since past 13 days. Residents of the area have remained in complete darkness since 20 Aug.

"We have complained several times with the concerned linemen and Power Department officials regarding the issue but nothing has been done yet to solve the problem. Affected people have not been given any explanation behind the power cut or its restoration work," said one of the residents, Premit Lepcha.

New EPCS church inaugurated at Saramsa

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

The newly constructed church of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim [EPCS], Saramsa was inaugurated by Moderator of Council of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sikkim [CEPCS], Rev RO Malommu, here at Saramsa in East Sikkim today.

The inaugural function commenced with the opening prayer by Rev Bijay Chettri which was followed by dedication prayer and unlocking of the door by Moderator, Rev Molommu, in the presence of Pastors, Elders, leaders and members of EPCS churches from across the State.

The function was followed by church service which was conducted by Rev Shyam Subba wherein special songs and hymns were performed by EPCS youth groups and choir. The



church souvenir was also released during the programme.

On the occasion, EPCS Saramsa church committee felicitated people who have supported and motivated in the church's growth and in the construction during their hardship.

In his church construction report, Jeewan Kharel of EPCS Saramsa expressed his gratitude on behalf of the church to those who have supported in the completion of the construction. The

church was established in the year 1985.

CEPCS secretary, Pemba Lepcha, appreciated the works carried out by the construction committee and their hardship which has resulted to the beautiful church. He also highlighted the works of the Council and motivated them to provide every possible help for the growth of smaller churches of EPCS located at different places of Sikkim.

The intercessory prayer was done by Rev Pemba Nuri Sherpa and the Word of God was shared by CEPCS Deputy Moderator, Rev Malaki Tamang. The service concluded with the presentation of the vote of thanks by Elder TL Tamang.

It is further informed that two CEPCS representatives, Milan Rai and Lawrence Lepcha, will be leaving for Kerala with relief materials on 03 Sept.

Tribeni Rai's film 'Chori' to be screened at Woodpecker Intl Film Fest

NIRMAL MANGAR GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

India's renowned film festival, Woodpecker International Film Festival [WIFF], has announced the lineup of films for its 6th annual edition. Fifty nine films and documentaries from 12 countries are part of the enchanting lineup of screenings for this year's edition scheduled to be held from 23-25 Nov at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.

Tribeni Rai's 10-minute film "Chori" has also been selected for screening in the festival and is among the three films selected from North East India for this year's festival. Other prominent films to be screened in the festival include Oscar winning documentarian Kirk Simon's "The Pulitzer at 100", National Award winning films "Veil Done" and "Eye Test", globally acclaimed documentary "Attenborough's Ant Kingdom" and others.

"Chori is an autobiographical film based on gender discrimination.



I made the film in zero budget under the banner of my production house 'Dalley Khorsani Productions'. I had sent my documentary film 'Sikkim soccer girls' to the festival last year. I am overjoyed that my film is being screened for the second time in the festival. Also this year a lot of filmmakers that I know are screening their films alongside my film, so really looking forward to the festival," says Ms Rai.

Founder-Director of the festival, Rao Narendra Yadav, has said "WIFF will be bringing the best of Indian and global cinema for film lovers. Over the years, WIFF has emerged as a popular and credible platform for independent filmmakers to showcase their work, and it continues to be one of the much awaited film festivals in New Delhi."



Sikkim Newar Guthi extends invite to CM for Indra Jatra '18 celebration

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 SEPT:

Central Executive Committee of Sikkim Newar Guthi and Indra Jatra Celebration Committee 2018 called on Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling at Samman Bhawan in Gangtok on 01 Sept to extend invitation to the CM for Indra Jatra 2018 celebration in Manan

Bhawan on 23 Sept. The CM has accepted the invitation, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, Indra Jatra is eight-daylong event celebrated by Newars at Kathmandu. In Sikkim, the event is concentrated on the day which coincides with the worshiping of Mata Kumari, a living goddess.

This year, other events like Newar Folk Dance Competition, Ethno Achar Making Competition, Talent Hunt Competition, Exhibition of Painting and Photography will precede the main event of traditional puja of goddess Kumari. These programmes are slated to be held on 21-23 Sept at MG Marg and Titanic Park.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

No: 115/GOS/R&B(SGT)/17-18/26 Dated: 31.08.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Additional Chief Engineer (P), Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim invites item rate bids through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

| PACKAGE NO. | NAME OF WORKS | BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS) | BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS) | COST OF TENDER/ BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS) | COMPLETION PERIOD |
|-------------|---|---|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | Construction of new road from Pachak to Padamchey via Kamarey in East Sikkim (Km-1 st to 6 th) | 19.51 | 780.58 | 0.50 | 24 Months |

The date and time of pre-bid meeting, submission of completed bid document is as under:

| | | | |
|------|--|---|--|
| i) | Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal | : | 10 th September 2018 |
| ii) | Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal | : | 11 th September 2018 |
| iii) | Last date & Time of Seeking clarification regarding bids | : | 28 th September 2018 at 1500 Hrs |
| iv) | Last date for online Submission of completed bids | : | 10 th October 2018 up to 1600 Hrs |
| v) | Date of opening of bids | : | 11 th October 2018 at 1100 Hrs |

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

**Sd/-
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (P)
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

R.O. No.: 319/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 Date: 31/08/2018



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT PARYATAN BHAWAN Tadong – 737101, GANGTOK (SIKKIM)

Ph: 03592 – 232218/ FAX: 03592 – 232216; e-mail:

secy_tourism@yahoo.com

Ref No. 155(3041) EC/DoT&CA/17-18/257

Dated: 25.08.18

CORRIGENDUM

In reference of EOI No. 150/TD dated: 23.08.2018 the following para :-

"The details of the mandatory requirements, general conditions, tender guidelines, bid system, selection process, project overview, project completion schedule, tender schedule etc. will be uploaded in the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in on 25th August, 2018" and should be read as:-

"The details of the mandatory requirements, general conditions, tender guidelines, bid system, selection process, project overview, project completion schedule, tender schedule etc. will be uploaded in the website www.sikkimtourism.gov.in on 25th August, 2018".

Sd/-

**PRINCIPAL CHIEF ENGINEER
TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT**

R.O. No. 306/IPR/pub/class/18-19
dt. 25.08.2018



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM WEST SIKKIM CORRIGENDUM

The following correction in Works has been made in the Notice Inviting Tender for various works under Gyalshing Sub-Division, Roads & Bridges Department bearing Publication Memo No. 91/NIT/R&B/GSD dated 09.08.2018.

| SL. NO. | NAME OF WORK | VALUE PUT TO TENDER (RS.) | COMPLETION TIME | COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (IN RS.) | EARNEST MONEY @ 2.5% (IN RS.) |
|---------|--|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of Road from SPWD Rimbik Road Param to Lungang Village under Yangthang Constituency | | | | |
| | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 1(one) year | 1500 | 1,05,970.00 |
| | KM 2 nd | 42,38,496.00 | 1(one) year | 1500 | 1,05,970.00 |
| | KM 3 rd | 42,38,496.00 | 1 (one) year | 1500 | 1,05,970.00 |

The Time Schedule and conditions of contract shall remain same.

Sd/-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
SUB-DIVISION, GYALSHING
WEST SIKKIM.**

R.O. 320/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 dt. 31.8.2018

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR ZEAL EVENING

Draw No:3 DrawDate on:02/09/18

1st Prize Rs.26.06 Lakhs/- 63E 87440
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 87440 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
02792 10109 58585 65878 76256
80620 82238 88107 94938 95566
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0075 0990 3915 4920 5441 7773 8241 8357 8432 9657
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0396 1468 1564 6556 7145 7182 7820 8020 8280 8725
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0037 0110 0165 0181 0204 0211 0243 0423 0550 0678
0757 1001 1008 1313 1316 1418 1538 1694 1922 2221
2290 2295 2323 2353 2368 2431 2453 2553 2703 2729
2960 3219 3404 3491 3592 3762 3887 4026 4421 4457
4684 4916 5014 5111 5136 5288 5313 5401 5534 5558
5644 5703 5735 5792 5930 5944 5955 5974 6062 6301
6305 6374 6418 6530 6684 6694 6860 6934 6965 6982
7013 7104 7479 7591 7817 7874 7951 7954 8131 8142
8147 8149 8333 8525 8627 8649 8839 8856 9020 9051
9124 9200 9253 9392 9414 9490 9497 9615 9792 9908

Issued by :

**The Director ,Sikkim State Lotteries,
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Please Visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com**

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SummitTIMES

Still Blind on Suicides

*But time has come to wake up,
engage, and understand*

When the suicide rate spikes in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra or in southern Andhra Pradesh, the reasons are known – crop failure and mounting debt. When teen suicides climb in June-July across the country every year, experts know the reason – the board exam results and academic pressure. Across the country and the world, the reasons prompting suicides are understood in reasonable detail and it naturally follows that efforts are mounted to suppress the triggers. The massive crores released to waive farmer loans, the grading system introduced for board exam results and the no failures in schools policies (now being unfortunately reconsidered) emerged as corrective measures undertaken to curb suicides in the country.

Suicides, meanwhile, remain a worry in Sikkim but informed corrective measures cannot even be speculated upon because no enquiry has been invested into understanding why so many in Sikkim take their own lives. It does not take an expert to inform us that suicides are born from depression; that much is obvious. Everyone knows that untreated depression festers to manic levels triggering suicidal tendencies. We know that, and if we don't, a simple Google search will tell us so. What we do not know is what triggers are pushing people from teenagers to octogenarians to such levels of depression that they commit suicide when the family thinks they are away at tuition classes or out collecting fodder?

A suicide always makes disturbing news and the psychological health of a State dregs low when a State as small as Sikkim sometimes reports up to 5 suicides on the same day. If official records can be taken seriously, the suicide pattern is already changing in Sikkim. The number of suicides by senior citizens has noticeably fallen even as suicides by the very young [teens and even pre-teens], as also victims in their thirties, are registering disturbingly high numbers. It is no longer enough to be told that psychiatric counselling needs to be reached to more people at more places. That should already have happened by now. Awareness camps will no longer suffice, the concerned agency should start investing more of its training in trying to understand and explain why depression is so pervasive in Sikkim and where Sikkim is failing, as a State and as a society, in trying to contain depression from turning morbid and fatal.

There have been some surveys and some data computation to understand suicides in Sikkim, but nothing comprehensive has been undertaken thus far. It is important for the State Government to commission a team of experts to carry out exhaustive research into suicides in Sikkim to pin down the reasons. Only after such a professional exercise is undertaken, can anything of consequence be explored to arrest the suicide rate in Sikkim and save lives. More agencies, from the social to the religious to sports associations, need to be involved in the remedial measures as and when they are undertaken, and these should be undertaken at a more earnest level than the tokenism which central missions and state events like Beti-Bachao, Beti Padhao initiatives receive. The government should play the role of the facilitator and extend logistical support to civil society organizations which should be invited in to address the issue, understand it and then engage in the task of saving lives.

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

Are we ready for the digital tsunami?

SYLVIE ALBERT

How do we prepare for and manage what's known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution?

A technological metamorphosis is upon us, and we need to do more than look behind and use digital technologies to fix historical problems. We must start thinking more innovatively about how we re-engineer communities, moving from smart (where we use individual tools and technologies to fix problems) to intelligent (where we plan on using disruption to our advantage).

The recent debate over the Google/Sidewalk Labs proposals for the city of Toronto is an example of how quickly digitalization is moving forward — and how unprepared we are to answer some important questions.

OPEN DATA

With more data from the Internet of Things (IoT), how will we make use of the information? Data is an asset that must be managed as a valued resource, not only by companies for use and resale, but for its public good and its opportunity to spur new social and economic innovations.

A recent Smart Cities World article outlined some good examples on improvements we could make. The combination of several sources of data can make a significant difference in bringing about new solutions to a host of problems, from forecasting floods to minimizing medical wait times and preventing crime.

Open data needs management principles and procedures — ownership decisions and intellectual property (IP) rights, safe uses and protection, and compatible systems based on common standards to combine several data sets from different organizations in order to make inferences about that information.

This will force engagement and partnerships among the public sector, private sector, non-profits and citizens to make principled decisions.

Communities are at the centre of this planning, and have resources they can use to help — the European Commission, for example, has published a toolkit for data managers and data holders. And a Canadian public interest law clinic (CIPPIC) provides an FAQ on smart cities that contains valuable legal information.

Ownership and protection of personal information, as well as privacy issues, are key points of contention. But let's remember that not all data are sensitive and require deep contemplation about usage. There are models for dealing with contentious issues, such as those proposed in a playbook provided by Harvard to cities wanting to share data.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS

AI and robots will continue to replace humans. We're already experiencing downsizing in some disciplines and demand for new types of skills, or more of the skills needed for the digital revolution. The ability to use AI to help us make decisions, to serve customers and perform repetitive tasks will continue to dramatically alter the workplace.

Post-secondary programs will need to change — some currently popular programs may have



fewer job offerings, while other fields, or an amalgamation of disciplines, will need to be created or emphasized. Learning more than one discipline and honing up on soft skills (such as in communications, innovation and problem solving) will be key for many graduates.

The shifts in employment could hit some communities harder than others. Therefore it's more important than ever to think ahead and determine how the new digital economy might have an impact on the future of each community, and understand that the lifespan of some companies is now shorter.

Autonomous vehicles are evolving, perhaps slowly in some jurisdictions, but more actively in others. Legislation in the United States on self-driving vehicles is an example of how governments are grappling with the issues raised by driverless cars.

It causes some rethinking on insurance, new forms of ownership and entrepreneurship and a reassessment of planning for parking and land use. Vehicle manufacturers have been including more technologies in cars, inching our way to autonomous systems.

According to Deloitte, consumers may not be willing to pay for more technology in cars, but new ownership systems and ride-hailing services offer cost savings), cut down accidents by as much as 90 per cent and provide efficiencies that may accelerate consumer adoption.

More than 33 industries will be affected by the advent of driverless cars, according to CB Insights. Communities need to envision how they plan for the resulting opportunities and disruptions.

ENVISIONING THE SMART CITY

Regarding smart cities, we need more active community engagement in debating the pros and cons, in thinking about the impediments to change and how to implement what we believe will benefit citizens. These kinds of disruptions cannot be managed

by governments alone; they require a wide variety of stakeholders at the table planning for change.

There are several interesting ideas floating around on future cities. We have an opportunity to think about doing things differently, and correctly, rather than repeating the same patterns.

In Barcelona, for example, community activists are working on a fabrication city concept. They describe it as:

"A step away from importing most things into the city and exporting our waste, and instead introducing a circular model, where all resources flow in a closed-loop system within the city itself."

3D printing shops will be able to fabricate refrigerators and cars with designs uploaded from the cloud. The question that must be answered: What changes would we need to make locally to allow this to happen?

Other examples are cities that focus on food production to improve their own food security; cities that are reducing CO2 and improving quality of life by becoming more walkable or more attractive for telecommuters.

This is only the start. There are many other ways that digitalization will impact sectors that affect where and how we live. Health care, for example, will undergo tremendous change as we self-manage, choose implantable technologies and cell and tissue regenerative technologies, and live longer lives.

We must think about the impact of these changes before we start building infrastructure that may no longer be needed in a few years.

Technology is already changing how we live our lives and go about our days. Are we ready with collaborative planning processes so we are not taken by surprise?

Professor and past Dean, Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Winnipeg

It's time to address the hidden agenda of school dress codes

DIANNE GERELUK

Dress code policies have always been prevalent in schools. Normally, what children can and cannot wear in schools is explicitly noted in school policies or implicitly implied by broader cultural and societal norms.

The issue of the vast and sometimes exhaustive list of dress code policies of what cannot be worn has not had any resolution across localities and countries.

The problem with trying to develop a set of guidelines for school dress code policies is that the implementation or restriction of dress is just not about the clothes that kids wear. Dress code policies are mired in larger contested debates that have to do with gender identity, race and sexuality, reflective of a broader public discourse.

How school educators and policymakers set parameters of dress in schools creates a highly emotional and volatile debate with little consensus or resolution.

Most obviously, the nature of many dress code violations interconnects to issues of gender and sexual identity. The vast majority of cases have targeted girls and LGBTQ youth on the basis that what one might wear reveals too much — that it's sexually suggestive, distracting for other students or offensive to the local and cultural norms of the community.

SHAMING

Those who are not part of the "norm," particularly those children whose self-identity goes beyond traditional gender types, are more susceptible to stricter dress code infractions than

those policies that privilege the status quo. Similarly, girls have taken the brunt of dress codes.

Tank tops, spaghetti straps, bare shoulders, cleavage or no cleavage, shorts that are too short, midriff, shirts/pants regulations are indicative of the multiple infractions that shame girls. The list is exhaustive.

The infractions for noncompliance exacerbate the shaming of girls' self-perception of their worth. And yet it points to the basic assumption that girls' bodies are shameful — something that is to be covered, evaluated or objectified.

And when their bodies are not covered, it supposedly sends a clear message that girls are at fault should something wrongful be done to them; they somehow deserved such a fate.

This narrative, whether intended or not, plays to the broader social movements beyond simply that of dress codes. Dress code policies mask broader issues such as one's right to their own bodies.

Dress codes minimize the increasing public outcries over sexual harassment and assault that have been made so public with the explosion of the #MeToo movement. Conversations around issues of systemic racism or discrimination are also further cloaked.

Forms of dress may be curtailed in schools when they challenge dominant religious views. When schools or boards ban particular types of religious dress, a clear and real danger of undermining religious minorities exists. They may feel a broader form

of systemic discrimination lurking behind this ban.

CREATING INCLUSIVE, BODY-POSITIVE DRESS CODES

If schools are going to remove this shackle of the perpetual dress code wars in schools, let educators and policymakers call it for what it is — a diversion behind the more significant public issues that remain intensely contested and vociferous.

If educators and policymakers are genuinely worried about the safety of their students or the decorum of dress codes, schools could simply follow the steps of one school administrator from Evanston Township High School in Illinois. The high school's fundamental "rule" mandated that certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Specifically, students must wear their clothes in a way that fully covers their genitals, buttocks, breasts and nipples with opaque fabric.

Such a simple yet inevitably provocative dress code policy removes the broader contested aspects of gender, sexual identity, faith or systemic discrimination.

If society is concerned about cultivating students' attentiveness regarding etiquette and decorum in light of our community values, let's make space in schools to discuss the root of these issues through meaningful political dialogue rather than using dress codes to obscure and cloak the more pressing and substantive issues.

Professor and Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs in Education, University of Calgary





Plane skids off runway in Nepal; close shave for 21 on board

KATHMANDU, SEP 2 (PTI): All 21 people on board a Nepalese passenger plane had a miraculous escape when the aircraft skidded off the recently repaired runway of the Nepal's international airport here and got stuck in a grassy field nearby, officials said Sunday.

The Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) was closed for some 12-hours that left thousands of people stranded after a Yeti Airlines aircraft skidded off its runway on Saturday night.

All passengers and

crew members on board were safe in the incident that brought the airport services to a halt, forcing inbound aircraft to be diverted to New Delhi, Dhaka and Lucknow, the Himalayan Times reported.

The Jetstream 41 was carrying 21 passengers from Nepalgunj to Kathmandu.

Normal operation of domestic and international flights has resumed at 8:25 am Sunday after almost 12 hours, according to a TIA duty officer. The Yeti airlines aircraft that slipped to the grassy field adjoining

the runaway has been removed to the parking lot.

After skidding off the runway, the aircraft had reached the grassy field nearby.

The incident comes amid mounting safety concerns over cracks on the runway's surface, which was repaired only recently.

The latest incident is one of the many plane accidents that Nepal's airport has witnessed in recent years.

In March, a Dhaka to Kathmandu US-Bangla Airlines flight, with 67 passengers and four

crew members on board, caught fire after it careened off the runway and ploughed into a football ground near the airport, killing 51 people.

In April, all 139 people on board a Malaysian passenger plane had a miraculous escape when the Kuala Lumpur-bound flight skidded off the runway and got stuck in mud while attempting to take off from the airport.

Nepal's only international airport lies in a narrow bowl-shaped valley with the Himalayas to the north, making it a challenging place to land.

Fresh wave of flood hits Assam



GUWAHATI, SEP 2 (PTI) Another wave of flood has hit Assam inundating four districts affecting over 12,000 people while the Brahmaputra and its tributaries are flowing above the danger level, an official report said here Sunday.

A total of 676 hectares of farm land in Dhemaji, Biswanath, Golaghat and Sivasagar

districts has also been submerged in the third wave of flood this season, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report said.

No death was reported during the fresh wave of floods, though the previous two waves together had claimed 50 lives, the ASDMA said.

The deluge affected 12,428 people in 48 vil-

lages of these four districts.

In worst affected Dhemaji district, 11,355 are reeling under the impact of the floods, followed by 390 in Biswanath, 350 in Sivasagar and 333 in Golaghat, the report said.

Two relief camps have been set up in Biswanath and Golaghat districts, it said.

At least 525 big, 753

small and 977 poultry were affected by the floods, it said.

According to a Central Water Commission (CWC) report on Sunday, the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger level at Nimatighat in Jorhat, Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat and Jia Bharali at N T Road Crossing in Sonitpur district.

Odisha Police issues advisory on deadly 'Momo Challenge' game

BHUBANESWAR, SEP 2 (PTI): Odisha Police has issued an advisory to parents and teachers to guard children against the deadly 'Momo Challenge' game.

The crime branch advisory issued on Saturday night has also urged the media not to publish any unverified news and connect any death or suicide to the game without proper verification, a senior police official said on Sunday.

The online game, featuring a grotesque image of a girl with her dis-

torted face and bulging eyes, has made headway in several countries and is similar to last year's killer 'Blue Whale Challenge'.

"On social media, a game with the name 'Momo Challenge' is being circulated by some mischievous and criminal minded people.

"This game instigates people, especially children to commit suicide as final task. Some innocent people around the world have fallen prey to this game," the advisory said.

There is need for parents and teachers to be aware of this threat and save children from it. Unknown links appearing on WhatsApp should be deleted immediately, it said.

Asking parents to keep a close watch on the behaviour of children, the advisory said they should monitor the child's online and social media activity, and if need be, install a cyber or mobile parenting software.

Regarding the signs and symptoms of victims of the game, it said

they become withdrawn from friends and family, appear unhappy and worried, and show sudden outbursts of anger and loss of interest in activities that they used to enjoy.

Indian Museum Kolkata exhibits rare objects online

KOLKATA, SEP 2 (PTI): The Indian Museum here has put for online display of some rare ornaments, including a bow ring studded with emerald of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, its Director Rajesh Purohit said.

Six per cent of 14,383 objects in the arts section of the museum, one of the oldest and largest museums in south west Asia, have been on online display, Purohit told PTI.

Some archaeological and anthropological objects are also on display, he said.

The ornaments include an 18th century necklace with exquisite floral design of Myanmar, one 18th century musical instrument 'Mahakachhapi Vina', one 18th century crown of goddess Lakshmi studded with rubies, emeralds, turquoises, corals, pearls of Nepal and a goblet studded with emerald and gold and ruby belonging to the Mughal period, a museum official said.

In the archaeological section,



17 objects dating back to the 4th millennium BC to 7th century AD are on display. The art objects include pottery, earthen vase and female figures.

In the anthropology section, the New Guinea Mask of 1890 figures among the collections.

One relic casket of Goutam Buddha with inscriptions is also

on display.

The online exhibition was launched on August 31.

"This will be an experience where you will be sitting at home with your mobile and see those artefacts often not seen by people because of security reasons and space constraints," the director said.

Digital archive of Tagore poems launched

KOLKATA, SEP 2 (PTI): A digital archive of 3,500 poems of Rabindranath Tagore was launched here in a private initiative with 15 recitations by the poet himself and the rest by 245 elocutionists.

Besides the recitals, 110 Rabindra Sangeets (Tagore songs) and 103 English recitations have also been included in the 'Rabindra Kobita Archive', said its maker Purnendu Bikash Sarkar, a physician by profession.

Sixty most popular poems of Tagore have also been put separately in a gallery - 'most popular poems', Sarkar, who collected and digitally compiled the poems during a research spanning over five years, told PTI.

Details like at what age the poem was written by Tagore and the place where it was penned - are also available in the archive.



"I found during research that apart from 150 popular poems by Tagore, others are not very much known. And the number of such poems is much higher than the known ones," he said hoping the digital initiative will now help the younger generation to know the lesser known works of the Nobel laureate.

Visva Bharati university Vice-chancellor Sabujkalyan Sen, present at the launch of the archive

at Rabindra Sadan early this week, said "Purnendu Bikash Sarkar accomplished a task which ideally should have been done by the Visva Bharati university. It is undoubtedly a complete archive of Tagore poems and will guide future generations and initiate them with Tagore's works."

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner Toufique Hasan said the archive would enable 25 crore Bengalis, living across the world, hear

both the known and not-so-well known works of Tagore.

Poet Sankha Ghosh said the archive was an important and unique initiative.

Sarkar said the archive, which also contains brief notes of 52 books of poem by Tagore, is compatible on Android and Mac.

The archive was available for download from an online App launched on August 28 or can be bought as DVDs.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

Indonesia bids spectacular farewell to Asian Games

BHARAT SHARMA
JAKARTA, SEP 1 (PTI): Indonesia bid an emotional farewell to the 18th Asian Games, displaying the same gritty spirit with which it organised the 15-day sporting extravaganza as thousands braved heavy rain to turn up for a spectacular closing ceremony here on Sunday.

The 76,000 capacity Gelora Bung Karno stadium did not attract many people when the track and field events were on but they made a beeline to watch the two-hour long closing ceremony that was high on entertainment.

Indonesia's love for Bollywood was also on full display as singer Siddharth Slathia and Denada sang popular numbers 'Koi Mil Gaya', 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hain' and 'Jai Ho'.

As expected, the closing ceremony was not as spectacular as the opening when Indonesian President Joko Widodo made headlines with his bike stunt to enter the venue. But it was fun nonetheless with a heady mix of song, dance and fireworks.

Widodo's video message to his countrymen and the entire Asian continent also added to the excitement.

For the organisers, it was the end of an intense and successful campaign, having got four years to prepare for the second biggest multi-sporting event in the world following Vietnam's withdrawal. Having two cities -- Jakarta and Palembang -- as co-hosts was a first in Games' history, making the herculean task all the more chal-



lenging. Hosting more than 11,000 athletes from 45 countries across two contrasting cities was no mean feat but a determined Indonesia pulled it off, overcoming the triple threat posed by terrorism, crime and its notorious traffic.

"Everyone supported, that's the key. The whole of Indonesia became one and supported the

Games. We had a plan since March, 2016. As an organisation we made sure we implemented that plan. We also got the best Indonesian talent to support the Games. Did everything work? Not 100 percent. But we tried to solve the issues and did not run away from them," said Erick Thohir, chief of organizing committee INASGOC.

The successful staging of the

Games, happening for the first time in Indonesia since 1962, has also given the country the confidence to bid for the 2032 Olympics.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, who was at the VIP area alongside OCA chief Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah and Indonesian Vice-President, has also given a thumbs up to the country's Olympic bid.

While the grand opening ceremony showcased Indonesia's rich cultural heritage, the closing of the Games was a modest affair but still scored high on liveliness. The spectators revelled in the united spirit of Asia as artists from India, China and Korea performed.

India's Slathia, one among the six singers who sang the Games anthem in their local language, en-

thralled the spectators alongside the reputed Ikon and Super Junior from Korea besides Indonesia's very own like Isyana Saraswati, Dira Sugandi, RAN and Bunga Citra Lestari.

For the physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted athletes, the ceremony gave them an opportunity to let their hair down. Forgetting the intense competition for the moment, the sporting champions mingled to celebrate the occasion rather than parading separately.

China and Japan, who finished an expected first and second in the medals tally, were welcomed vociferously but the roar got louder when the Indonesian contingent marched in. Indonesia finished fourth in the medals tally, a drastic improvement from a top-20 finish in Incheon four years ago.

The Indian contingent was led by women hockey team's captain and flag-bearer Rani Rampal. It was also a memorable Games for India as it produced the best ever performance with 69 medals including 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze.

The loudest cheer, however, was reserved for the 13,000 volunteers who worked tirelessly to contribute to the Games' success.

The ceremony culminated with Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah calling on the athletes to meet in four years in Hangzhou, the host for the 2022 Asian Games, before the symbolic handing over of the OCA flag to the Mayor of the Chinese city, Xu Li Yi.

Kohli survives dubious DRS call as India reach 46/3 at lunch

SOUTHAMPTON, SEP 2 (PTI): Skipper Virat Kohli got a lucky reprieve after another howler from third umpire Joel Wilson as India reached 46 for 3 against England at lunch on the fourth day, chasing a tricky victory target of 245.

TV umpire Joel Wilson ruled not out when replays showed that Kohli did not edge the ball off Moeen Ali (0-8) in the 17th over and it was crashing onto the leg stump.

Kohli (10 batting) and Ajinkya Rahane (13 batting) duo added 24 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket after another top order collapse reduced India to 22 for 3.

The Indian top order flopped once again as Shikhar Dhawan (17), KL Rahul (0) and Cheteshwar Pujara (5) were dismissed cheaply.

James Anderson (2-15) had Dhawan caught at slip and trapped Pujara lbw, as the Indian top-order struggled against lateral



movement generated by the new ball.

KL Rahul's (0) struggles against the incoming delivery continues as well, bowled off Stuart Broad (1-14) in the fourth over, albeit he was unlucky to get a low toe-edge that deflected onto his stumps.

Pujara did use up one DRS referral for his lbw call, but replays showed the ball hitting bails and the decision stood on umpire's call.

Kohli and Rahane negotiated the tough

passage of play until lunch thereafter, with the latter surviving a close lbw appeal right on the marker with DRS referral showing that the ball had impact outside off stump.

Earlier, Mohammed Shami (4-57) made sure that England didn't get too ahead with their lead. Starting from over-night 260-8, their innings lasted only 4.2 overs with the hosts losing their last two wickets for just 11 runs and were bowled out for 271 runs (96.1 overs) in their second innings.

Shami had Stuart Broad (0) caught behind off the very first ball of the day, and then Sam Curran (46) was run-out shortly afterwards going for a non-existent second run in pursuit of quick scoring.

England lead the five-match series 2-1, after winning the first two Tests at Birmingham and Lord's, with India pulling one back with victory in Nottingham.

Tamil Nadu govt announces cash reward for Asiad medal winners

CHENNAI, SEP 2 (PTI): The Tamil Nadu government today announced cash incentives of Rs 30 lakh each to three squash players from the state who won silver medals in the Asian games in Indonesia.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami also announced cash prize of Rs 20 lakh each to two members of the bronze-medal winning Indian hockey team from the state.

The squash players who got the incentive are Dipika Pal-likal Karthik, Joshna Chinappa and Sunayna Kuruvilla.

He also congratulated Dipika and Chinappa for winning their second

medals. They had earlier won the bronze in the individual events.

In a letter to the three players, the chief minister said "It is my pleasure to extend my hearty congratulations to you for your remarkable achievement in winning a silver medal in the womens squash team event."

Hockey team captain Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran and member Rupinder Pal Singh would get Rs 20 lakh each for winning bronze medal.

Palaniswami recalled that the late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa had enhanced the high cash incentive to sportspersons bagging medals in international events.

Summer of 69: India's top show in Asiad promises bright future

JAKARTA, SEP 2 (PTI): Achievements over the past two weeks, in the world's second biggest multi-sport event, matched India's aspirations and set the country on a road that appears far more promising than the path it has been on for decades.

The best-ever medal haul at the 2018 Asian Games is a leap forward for Indian sport after the Commonwealth Games medal spurt.

In pursuit of excellence in the sporting arena and creating a niche for itself, India never had it so good in the continental showpiece that is considered next only to the Olympic Games.

Even as the medalists come back with a feeling of accomplishment from Jakarta and Palembang, the surge in podium finishes could trigger new passion for Olympic sports in a country so obsessed with cricket.

From teenager Saurabh Chaudhary to 60-year-old Pranab Bardhan, an assortment of athletes combined to produce a top show even as the country endured shocking results in kabaddi and hockey.

With 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze, India's medal tally stood at 69, a step up from Incheon four years ago when they won 65.

India equalled the 15-gold tal-



ly of the 1951 inaugural Games but the country had never won 24 silvers before. Overall, India maintained its top-10 rank by finishing eighth yet again.

Every multi-sporting event has witnessed controversies and it was no different this time too.

However, once the action began, it was only the athletes and their performances that took centre stage.

The track and field remained the most productive area for India as seven of the 15 gold came from the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium.

It was the burly Tejinder Pal Singh Toor, who delivered the first athletics gold with a record-break-

ing throw of 20.75m and later 12-toed Swapna Barman entered the history books by becoming the country's first heptathlete to grab a yellow metal at the Games.

Dutee Chand returned to the track with a bang. Running as if there was no tomorrow, she ended up blazing the track for two silver medals, the one in 100m being India's first in 20 years.

If it was not for superior Africa-origin athletes, representing countries such as Qatar and Bahrain on track, India's gold count would have been bigger.

It was purely for this reason that Hima Das had to be content with a silver in the 200m as she

ran alongside Nigerian-born Salwa Eid Naser.

Neeraj Chopra expectedly achieved a super result by becoming the first Indian to win a gold in javelin throw and sprinters Manjit Singh and Jinson Johnson too changed a few statistics with their courageous show.

India's badminton queens Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu continued to deliver the goods and ensured that the country's 36-year-old wait for an individual medal ends.

Sindhu's silver and Saina's bronze were among the highlights of India's campaign along with the table tennis players' two historic

bronze in team events.

Manika Batra was without doubt the biggest star of India's CWG show at the Gold Coast but in Jakarta, winning two bronze in team events by competing against powerhouses like China and Japan is no mean feat. Batra, Sharath Kamal, G Sathian and Harmeet Desai deserve an applause for their effort.

In Palembang, 16-year-old Chaudhary and 15-year old Shardul Vihan showed that India has no dearth of talent even as the other youngsters Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala must be disappointed for not winning a medal.

Saurabh was one of the two gold medalists along with Rani Sarnobat while Shardul won a silver.

Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat performed as if they owned the mat, winning gold medals with sheer domination. But veteran Sushil Kumar and Salshi Malik suffered disappointments.

While there were many moments to rejoice, India's performance in kabaddi and hockey disappointed the fans.

Bridge buddies Bardhan and Shibnath Dey Sarkar won gold in men's pairs and urged fans to not equate their sport with gambling, saying it's a game of intellect.

A gritty Amit Panghal ensured that a medal -- gold -- came from the boxing arena too, the Army

man swelling India's tally with a stunning win over reigning Olympic champion on the last penultimate day of the competition.

The recurve archers disappointed with their lacklustre show but their compound teammates made sure that the contingent does not return empty-handed.

In kabaddi, Iran jolted India twice by taking both men's and women's top prize. It came as a rude shock as India went into the Games as the continent's powerhouse, having all nine gold medals in the past.

The men's and women's hockey teams being the top-ranked in Asia were also expected to stand on top of the podium but a silver and bronze was all they could manage.

By scoring more than 70 goals in the pool games, India's men's hockey team looked unstoppable before they were halted by Malaysia. The defence choked in the crucial last two minutes and they eventually lost it in sudden death. The team took a bronze by beating Pakistan.

The women's team lost in the final to Japan, who claimed both the gold medals.

The positives far outweigh the disappointments in few events, and the many firsts and many national records that were broken during the Games provide hope for a bright future.

PM Imran Khan ropes in foreign experts to rebuild Pak's debt-ridden economy

ISLAMABAD, SEP 2 (PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has roped in some renowned foreign economists in the newly-constituted economic advisory panel to provide the best possible professional advice to his cash-strapped government on prudent economic policies, media reported on Sunday.

The immediate challenge for the Khan-led government is to arrange finances to fill about a USD 10 billion gap that is arising due to higher outflows than estimated inflows.

Pakistan's current account deficit stands at USD 18 billion, while its foreign currency reserves are just over USD 10 billion, enough to cover two months of imports, according to figures released before the cricket-turned-politician was sworn-in as prime minister.

One of the first tests facing Khan's government is whether to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund or to turn to China with a plea for more economic aid.

Unlike past practices, the new 18-member Economic Advisory Council (EAC) will be headed by the prime minister himself to ensure that the best possible professional advice is available to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government to inform, optimise and synergise the formulation and implementation of its economic and financial policies.

The first meeting of the council will be convened soon, Dawn newspaper reported.



In the past, EACs were headed by finance ministers with no definite agenda for regular meetings. It was observed that EAC met even once in four months and its advice was not considered seriously. Consequently, EACs have become mere debating forums, the report said.

According to the terms of reference, the ministry of finance will be the nodal government agency for the EAC, which will function in an entirely non-partisan manner and is expected to strengthen existing state institutions in a collaborative and concerted manner.

The ultimate goal of the EAC is to promote analytically sound and evidence-based reforms and initiatives for the progress and development of Pakistan.

Out of the EAC's 18 members, seven belong to government and 11 are from the private sector.

From the private sector, three leading international academics made EAC members are Atif R Mian of Princeton University (Department of Member Economics) and Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy), Asim Ijaz Khawaja, Sumitomo-FASID Professor of Member International Finance and Development at the Harvard Kennedy School, and Imran Rasul, Professor of Economics, Department of Member Economics, University College, London.

The council is expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening the government's capacity to design and in-

troduce sound and effective policies for rapid and continued social and economic advancement, human resource development, improvement of business processes, and strengthening of data services.

The council will also facilitate capacity building of the government in conducting policy analysis and will assist the government in reaching out to the international network of recognised economists to invite them to contribute to Pakistan's development.

Prime Minister Khan has asked the committee to give its recommendations in two weeks for possible steps to be taken for expedient return of unlawful acquired assets from abroad.

McCain ends 81-year journey with burial at Naval Academy

WASHINGTON, SEP 2 (AP):John McCain is being laid to rest at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The private burial Sunday next to Adm Chuck Larson brings to a close the six-term senator's cross-country farewell after he died of brain cancer August 25 in Arizona.

The procession was carefully designed by McCain as a final call to arms to a nation he feared was at risk of losing its civility and sense of shared purpose.

To illustrate the warning, McCain asked former Presidents Barack Obama and George W Bush to eulogize him at Washington National Cathedral. The service Saturday was a rebuke of President Donald Trump's divisive politics.

Trump had mocked McCain for getting captured in Vietnam and was not invited to any events. The president spent the day tweeting and golfing.

US to cancel USD 300m military aid to Pakistan over its inaction against terror groups

WASHINGTON, SEP 2 (PTI): The US will cancel USD 300 million in military aid to Pakistan over its failure to take "decisive actions" to support President Donald Trump's new South Asia policy and act against terror groups like the Haqqani network and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pentagon has announced, a fresh blow to the deteriorating ties between the two nations.

The announcement comes just days before US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is due to visit Pakistan to meet the country's new prime minister Imran Khan. The US and others have long complained that Pakistan provides safe haven to militant networks, allowing them to carry out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon's move, which needs to be approved by the US Congress, is part of a broader suspension of aid announced in January.

US President Donald Trump since assuming office has been tough on Pakistan over its inaction against terror groups, saying Washington has got "nothing but lies & deceit" in return for millions of dollars in aid



over the years.

Trump in August last year unveiled his new South Asia policy and asked Pakistan to do more against such groups.

The US in January this year suspended more than USD 1.15 billion security assistance to Pakistan, accusing it of harbouring terror groups like the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network within its borders and showing unwillingness to take "decisive actions" against them, a move that affected bilateral ties.

The Pentagon has now sought Congressional determination to reprogramme USD 300 million of its Coalition Support Fund (CSF) for Pakistan "due to a lack of Pakistani decisive ac-

tions in support of the South Asia Strategy", Pentagon Spokesman Kone Faulkner told PTI.

He said the US military would aim to spend the money on other "urgent priorities" before the funds expire on September 30, 2018.

With the latest move, the Department of Defence (DoD) has reprogrammed USD 800 million CSF destined for Pakistan as US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis did not give the necessary certification to Congress that the country has taken strong steps against terrorist groups like the Haqqani network and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"This is not a new decision or a new announcement," Faulkner told PTI

in response to a question.

"We continue to press Pakistan to indiscriminately target all terrorist groups, including the Haqqani Network and LeT in the region," Faulkner said, adding that the USD 300 million aid - which had earlier been suspended - should be used elsewhere.

Pakistan-based LeT is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people.

Pentagon will have a congressional response before September 30, to allow it to implement the reprogramming actions, he said.

The US State Department has previously criticised Pakistan, a key ally, for failing to deal with terrorist networks oper-

ating on its soil, including the Haqqani network and the Afghan Taliban.

The issue of combating terrorism is expected to be raised by Secretary of State Pompeo during his talks with Khan in Islamabad on September 5.

The Haqqani network is a militant group that focuses most of its activities on neighbouring Afghanistan, which has complained for years that Pakistan allows it to operate unimpeded from its soil across the border.

Both the Haqqani Network and the Afghan Taliban have launched attacks in Afghanistan that have killed US forces, and US officials have long argued that Pakistan, and specifically its powerful ISI intelligence service, provides safe havens to them.

A row erupted between the two nations following a telephone call by Pompeo to Khan on August 23, as Islamabad took exception to the American version of the conversation that the issue of terrorism was discussed during the call. While Washington insists that Pompeo raised the issue of terrorism Islamabad says the issue did not figure in the telephonic talk.



President Kovind arrives in Cyprus

LARNACA (CYPRUS), SEP 2 (PTI): President Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Cyprus on Sunday on the first leg of his three-nation visit to Europe to continue India's high-level engagements with European countries.

The president and his wife arrived at the Larnaca International Airport here. They were received by Georgios Lakotrypīs, Cyprus' Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism. "Happy to begin my visit to Cyprus, one of

our closest and most steadfast partners in the international community. My delegation and I bring warm and friendly currents from the Indian Ocean to the waters of the Mediterranean. Looking forward to a productive visit," Kovind tweeted.

Apart from Cyprus, Kovind will also visit Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

This is his first overseas state visit in the second year of his presidency.



S. Korea team to fly North to discuss summit details

SEOUL, SEP 2 (AFP): A high-level South Korean delegation will fly to North Korea this week to discuss arrangements for an inter-Korean summit there this month, as relations grow cooler between Washington and Pyongyang.

The South's President Moon Jae-in Sunday named his top security adviser as a special envoy to the North to discuss details before Moon's planned meeting in Pyongyang with Kim Jong-Un.

Chung Eui-yong, head of the presidential National Security Office, will lead a five-member delegation to the North's capital on Wednesday, Moon's spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters.

The delegation, which also includes South Korea's spy chief Suh Hoon, will fly to Pyongyang via a rare direct route across the inter-Korean border for their day trip.

It will be Chung's second visit to the North since March, when he headed the same five-member team to arrange the first summit between Moon and Kim and met Kim Jong-Un.

The spokesman said it was unclear whether the delegation would meet the North's leader this time around.

Moon and Kim have met face-to-face twice now, the first during a historic summit at the border truce village of Panmunjom in April. It was the first time a

North Korean leader had crossed into the South since the 1950-53 war sealed the division of the Korean peninsula.

They met a second time in Panmunjom in May as they scrambled to salvage plans for a summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Singapore, which eventually went ahead on June 12.

Moon and Kim have since agreed to hold a third summit in Pyongyang at an unspecified date in September.

The rapid rapprochement on the Korean peninsula led to the landmark meeting between Kim and Trump in June, which the US leader touted as a historic breakthrough.

At the summit the pair reached a vague agreement to work towards the "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula", but there has been little movement since.

Pyongyang has slammed the US for its "gangster-like" demands for complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament, and the UN's International Atomic Energy

Agency reported there was no indication that the North had stopped its nuclear activities.

Last month Trump ordered Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to abruptly cancel a planned trip to Pyongyang, citing lack of progress on denuclearisation.

30 Nigerian soldiers killed in Boko Haram raid: military sources

KANO, SEP 1 (AFP): At least 30 Nigerian soldiers died in combat with Boko Haram jihadists who overran a military base in the northeast near the border with Niger, two military sources told AFP on Saturday.

Scores of jihadists in trucks stormed the base at Zari village in northern Borno state late Thursday and briefly seized it after a fierce battle, they said.

"They came in large numbers in trucks and carrying heavy weapons and engaged soldiers in a battle that lasted for an hour," a military officer said.

"We lost at least 30 men," the officer said, adding that the attack took place at around 4:00 pm.

"They overwhelmed the troops who were forced to temporarily with-

draw before reinforcements arrived," said the officer who asked not to be named because he was not authorised to speak.

Boko Haram has intensified attacks on military targets in recent months.

The attacks appear to undermine repeated claims by the military that Boko Haram had been defeated.

The militants took weapons and military equipment before they were pushed out of the base by troops with aerial support, said a second military source who gave a similar death toll.

The militants were pursued and bombarded by a fighter jet, said the military sources.

"The terrorists also suffered heavy casualty from the bombardment", one

of the military officers said.

Zari is located 30 kilometres from the town of Damasak on the border with Niger.

The jihadists are thought to have attacked the base from the nearby Garunda village, where 17 troops were killed and 14 injured in an attack on another military base last month, the sources said.

In a statement late Friday the Nigerian military confirmed troops fought Boko Haram "insurgents...on rampage to loot the community and extort money from villagers".

"Troops...have successfully routed Boko Haram insurgents in an encounter that ensued yesterday evening at Zari village," the military said in the

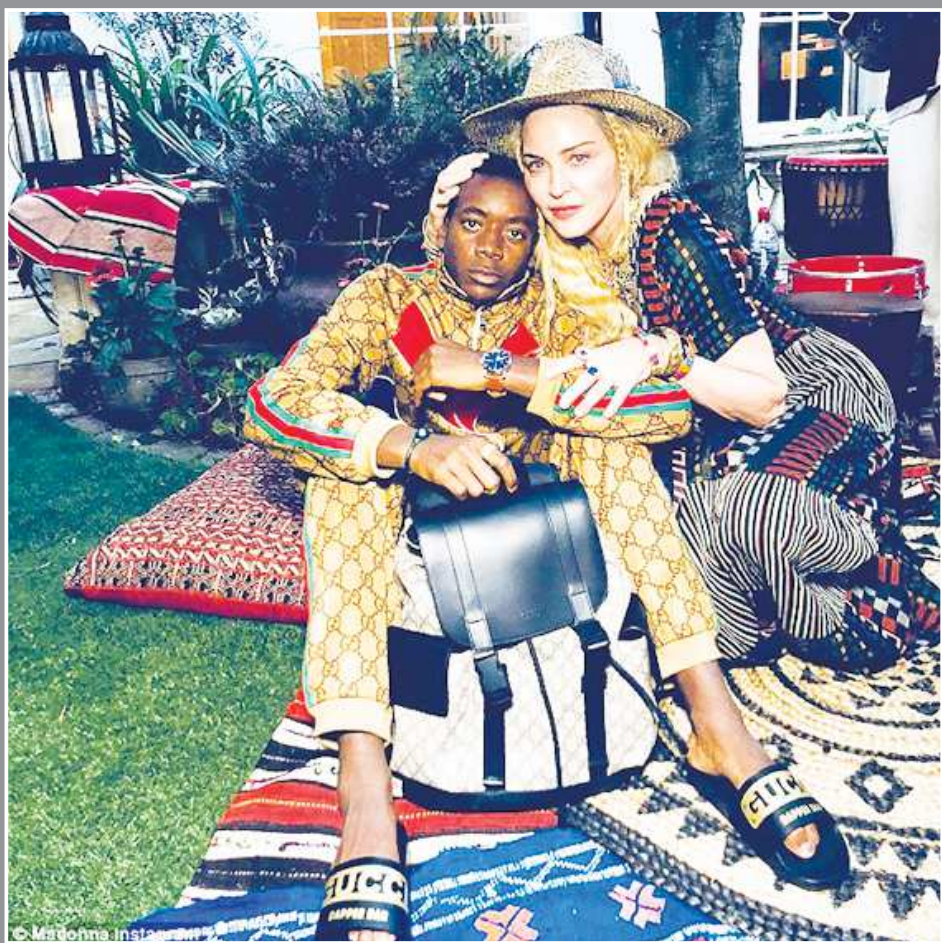
statement.

It did not speak of military casualties and the raid on the base but maintained "several Boko Haram fighters and weapons" were destroyed in the fight.

The Nigerian army has on several occasions disputed reports on losses to Boko Haram and has in some cases played them down.

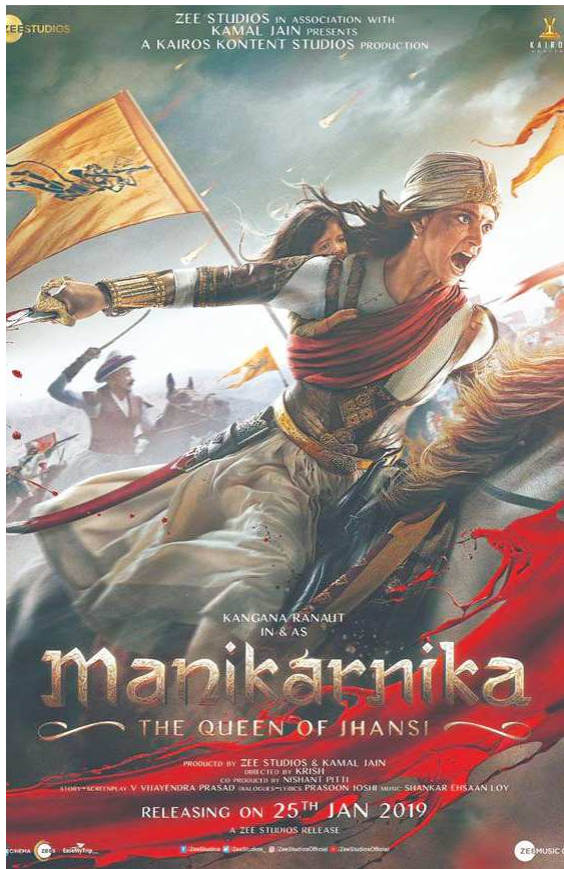
On July 14 Boko Haram militants overran a military base in Jilli village, in neighbouring Yobe state when dozens of troops were said to be killed, wounded or missing.

The army at the time conceded the base was attacked but said troops mobilised and succeeded in repelling the attackers.



ONLY THE BEST FOR HER BABY! Madonna lavished attention on her son David Banda who was decked out in head-to-toe Gucci for his 13th birthday party.

Kangana Ranaut is best person to take over the mantle to complete patchwork, says Manikarnika producer Kamal Jain



Actress Kangana Ranaut was considered the best person to take over the mantle to complete patchwork and to direct a few additional scenes for "Manikarnika - The Queen of Jhansi" when director Krish moved on to his new film, says producer Kamal Jain. The movie has been in the midst of a controversy ever since the news of Kangana stepping in behind the camera for it emerged.

Clearing speculations about the film, Jain said in a statement: "The additional shoot of the film is presently underway at ND Studios at Karjat, near Mumbai. After the last schedule was over, we saw the line-up of the film. On seeing it, we decided that apart from the patchwork, we also needed a few additional scenes."

Once the scenes were written, we approached Kangana for additional dates. But Krish had moved on to his next project by then. Given how driven and creatively involved Kangana has been on this project since its inception, we realised she would be the best person to take over the mantle. Hence, there is no hijacking of the project. Whatever decisions are being taken are with the full support of the producer and the studio."

Jain said they have an aggressive production schedule planned as they are committed to releasing the film on January 25, 2019.

Actor Sonu Sood has walked out of the film owing to his professional commitment towards "Simmba". However, Kangana hit back at him, claiming he left the movie as he "refused to work under a woman director".

On his part, Sonu has denied this.

Jain explained: "While we managed to get matching dates from Danny Denzongpa, Jishu Sengupta, Ankita Lokhande and others, we got stuck on Sonu's combination dates and continuity look as he has grown a beard for 'Simmba'. Hence, we had to let him go. Zeeshan Ayub now plays the character of Sadashiv."

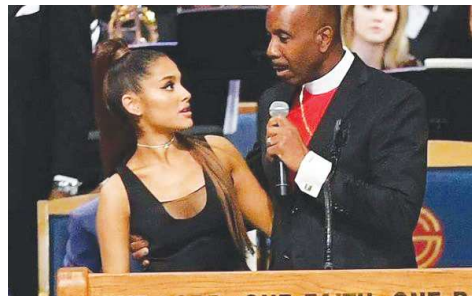
BISHOP CHARLES H. ELLIS III APOLOGIZES FOR GROPING ARIANA GRANDE

Bishop Charles H. Ellis III, who officiated the funeral of Aretha Franklin faced a severe backlash for groping the singer Ariana Grande on stage.

Though today, the Bishop publicly apologized and said, "It would never be my intention to touch any woman's breast. ... I don't know, I guess I put my arm around her," Ellis said in comments to US media confirmed to AFP on Saturday. "Maybe I crossed the border, maybe I was too friendly or familiar, but again, I apologize."

Earlier Singer Ariana Grande, who performed at the funeral of late legendary singer Aretha Franklin, faced criticism from twitteratis for wearing short dress at the funeral.

The 24-year-old, who sang soulful songs like "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman" at the funeral, got accused for disrespecting



Franklin by wearing a black mini dress at her mourning prayer, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Former CNN executive producer, Tenisha Taylor Bell wrote on twitter, "Ariana Grande don't know the below the knee rule for the pulpit in the black church."

Even some of her fans reacted on social-networking site. Here are some of the tweets.

"Ariana grande that dress in front of all the seniors

though.. My grandma would have whooped my ass while the congregation watches."

"Loved Ariana Grande at the same time that dress was very inappropriate I am sorry."

"Someone said Ariana-Grande ponytail longer than her dress."

"Her dress is inappropriate and not fitting for the memorial of Aretha Franklin."

Franklin was laid to rest in a mausoleum on Friday at Woodlawn Cemetery, the final resting place of her father.

Jonas Brothers' father Paul's company files for bankruptcy as children continue to flourish



Three of his sons have become some of the most successful entertainers on the planet. But that success hasn't translated to the Jonas Brothers' father's company, as it has filed for bankruptcy, reported TMZ.

Paul Kevin Jonas Sr., 53, owns a construction and real estate company in New Jersey.

The outlet reported that according to legal docs they obtained, "Paul's New Jersey construction and real estate company has over \$1 million in debt, including a \$268k judgement from a case his company lost."

Adding, "In order to come up with the cash, Paul plans to sell off some of the company's property."

But there is also a possibility that his affluent children might help him out.

Nick Jonas is worth \$25 million according to Celebrity Net Worth, while Kevin has a

staggering \$20 million.

Middle brother Joe may not be quite as well off as the other two, but he still has \$18 million. Even the family's youngest child, Frankie, 17, is worth a reported \$3 million says Married Biography. All three former band members are continuing to have successful careers.

Kevin has a real-estate development, construction company called JonasWerner, and is the co-CEO of The Blu Market company.

Nick just appeared in Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle, and has roles in two movies coming out in 2019.

Joe was a judge on The Voice Australia in 2018, was the voice of Kraken in Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation, and his band DNCE released a new EP in June.

Frankie, meanwhile, has taken a step back from the camera in recent years.

ARIES: Emotional turmoil on the job could stress you out way too much. Headaches or temporary hypertension could plague you if you aren't careful. Don't push too hard. Remember to take breaks, Aries, and go for walk on your lunch hour. Don't be afraid to put off nonessential tasks. You'll be all right. Why make a day's work any more difficult than it needs to be?

TAURUS: This should be a fortunate day for you, Taurus. Everything you try to do should go fairly smoothly. Relations with others are warm, friendly, and congenial. Any chores or other pending work should be completed quickly and efficiently. If you've been planning to start a new project, this is the day to get going. Romance should be intense and passionate now, so make the most of it!

GEMINI: A couple you've known for a long time could visit you at your home today, Gemini. Don't be surprised if they tell you how wonderful the place looks. Conversation should be lively and entertaining, though you should sidestep any discussion of controversial subjects. Debates on such matters could get rather heated. It might be wise to treat your guests to food rather than alcohol!

CANCER: Today, Cancer, you might spend a great deal of time in the car running errands in the neighborhood. You're likely to see people you know who have interesting news. New businesses may open nearby. Doctors, dentists, and other professionals could open new offices, making your daily routine more convenient. Some of them might be your neighbors or relatives.

atives.

LEO: Money that you've been earning for a long time may finally come your way today, Leo, but don't be surprised if you have to do a lot of running around in order to get it. Plans for future moneymaking projects could come up, although it's important to consider everything carefully and not jump in too quickly. This is an excellent time to learn a new moneymaking skill.

VIRGO: The special someone in your life may be having some trouble with colleagues. Don't just comfort him or her, Virgo. It's unlikely that your sweetie wants sympathy. Solutions are needed. If you don't have any, just be a good listener. It's important for you to get out and exercise. If the weather is good, take a walk. If not, attend an

exercise class. You'll feel better.

LIBRA: Today you're likely to be working hard behind the scenes, perhaps preparing a project for others to make public or coaching people for some kind of performance. You'll expend a lot of energy in the course of completing this chore, yet you'll probably feel it was all worth it. Don't expect to go home early, Libra. You'll probably go above and beyond the call of duty.

SCORPIO: Friends could entice you to join them for a short day trip, perhaps to the country. This is a great day to go on such an outing. Scorpio. You've probably been working hard and need to get away for a while. Don't be surprised if there's a delay, however. You or one of your friends could be waiting to meet with someone.

SAGITTARIUS: Emotions could be intense at work today as important projects approach their deadlines, Sagittarius. You may put in more time than usual. Tempers might flare and co-workers clash, so stay calm and keep going. On the positive side, the financial and recognition payoffs for whatever you accomplish today should prove well worth the effort.

CAPRICORN: Today you should feel especially sexy and relationships with romantic partners should go well, Capricorn. Your passions are intense, the lines of communication are open, and appreciation of one another is running high. There might be talk of taking a long trip together in the future. Plan a cozy evening for two. You'll want to do a lot of talking - and more!

AQUARIUS: Money is probably on

your mind now, Aquarius. A desire for increased financial security could force you to look for work or investments that would pay off big. Opportunities for one or both of these are likely to come through friends, perhaps someone with whom you've worked before. You're likely to accomplish what you want for now, but it's uncertain whether you'll continue on this path in the future.

PISCES: Don't expect to spend a lot of time at home today, Pisces. You're more likely to be in the car and away from home. There may be errands and social obligations to fulfill. Try to pace yourself in whatever you do or else you might be exhausted by day's end. Take the time to stop and enjoy yourself. This will ensure a fun rather than tiring day.