

YOUR BANK IS NOW 50 YEARS YOUNG..

VENUE : CHINTAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK
TIME : 10.00 AM ONWARDS.

CHIEF GUEST
SHRI PAWAN CHAMLING
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF SIKKIM

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YEARS OF TRUST
YEARS OF SERVICE
YEARS OF GROWTH

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATION

STATE BANK OF SIKKIM
YOUR STATE YOUR BANK



Sikkim Women's Council holds 37th Annual General Meeting

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [IPR]: The 37th Annual General Meeting of Sikkim Women's Council [SWC] was held at a local hotel in the capital today in the presence of Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Sarala Rai, as chief guest.

In her address, she praised the services rendered and initiated by SWC and requested them to carry out their activities in the same robust manner in the future. She said that SJEWD has and will always extend and provide necessary help in reaching out to the vulnerable sections of the society i.e., children, women and senior citizens. She



also informed about the various schemes that cater to these particular vulnerable groups which has been undertaken by the department.

She spoke on serious social issues and measures taken by the government to tackle the menace namely child abuse & trafficking, destitute wom-

en & children, victims of domestic abuse, working women and senior citizens. She requested the SWC to look into these matters thoroughly and stressed on the importance of infrastructures for Working Women's Hostel, Old Age Home and One Stop Centres in all four districts.

She also informed that the department is trying to establish Old Age Homes in all the four districts of the State and also informed about the construction at Namchi which is 50% completed. She also talked about the numerous unique initiatives undertaken by the state government and said that these

policies for the welfare of women can be found nowhere in the world.

General Secretary, SWC, Mandala Pradhan, updated the gathering about the administrative functions of the SWC and also spoke on Adult Education Programme and the National Council Level Meetings. She also said that staff and those involved in arduous assignments under various schemes would be encouraged with enhancement of salaries.

During the programme, SWC also handed over sewing machines to Mamtalaya, Association for Social Health in India [ASHI], National Associ-

ation for the Blind [NAB] Sikkim and Bojoghari Child Care Institute.

Further, Dil Maya Rai of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Institute [JNMI], Namchi was awarded the Best Student Award which was presented by Ratna Pradhan Memorial Trust.

Earlier in the programme, SWC President, Paroo Lama, spoke on the history of the body and the responsibilities and duties. She also presented an achievement report of the SWC from 1981-2018. She thanked everyone involved in the operations and functioning of the SWC for their selfless social acts and spirit.

SCA senior players to attend Vijay Hazare Trophy camp



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

A meeting cum short orientation programme was conducted by Sikkim Cricket Association today at Hotel Sonam Delek in Gangtok for 25 selected senior men's players and support staff who will be attending a weeklong camp scheduled to be held at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology [KITIT] Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

The meeting was presided over by SCA president, Lobzang G Tenzing, and general secretary, Sonam Palden Bhutia, an SCA press release informs.

General secretary, SCA, Mr Bhutia gave briefing regarding the schedule of the camp, plan of travel and handed over air tickets to Topden Lepcha who has been appointed as the manager of the team.

President, SCA, Mr

Tenzing shared his experience and extended best wishes to the outgoing team members.

It may be mentioned here, the 25 selected players and 02 support staff including physio-therapist and manager will be leaving from Gangtok for the camp on 09 Sept.

During the weeklong camp, 15 players will be selected out of the 25 players under the guidance of coach of the team, Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, who is a former Indian international cricketer and has been earlier appointed as the coach of the Sikkim men's senior team by BCCI.

The selected 15 players plus 04 support staff will be heading towards Baroda to participate in the prestigious Vijay Hazare Trophy starting from 19 Sept, 2018.

Matru Vandana Saptah concludes in Mangan

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 07 SEPT:**

The valedictory function of weeklong Matru Vandana Saptah was held today at Mangan in North Sikkim. Organized by Social Justice, Welfare & Empowerment Department, the function had Zilla Adhyaksha, North, Namdey Lepcha, as chief guest who was accompanied by Chairperson, SNT Division, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Mangan, PW Lepcha.

Child Development Project Officer, Mangan, LD Bhutia, highlighted on Pardhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna [PMMVY] scheme while CDPO, Chungthang, Sonam Lachen Lachungpa, spoke on

infant mortality and various other schemes for pregnant and nursing mothers.

Likewise, CDPO, Dzongu, Netuk Lepcha, informed about Pradhan Mantri Jiwan Jyoti Bima Yojana [PMJJBY] and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana [PMSY].

The SDM, Mangan urged all ASHA and Anganwadi workers to work diligently towards making schemes of the Social Welfare Department successful.

Zilla Adhyaksha, North, Ms Lepcha, requested Anganwadi and ASHA workers to conduct proper survey so that no beneficiaries are left out from availing schemes of the department.

Health talk organised by Teesta V Power Station



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

NHPC Teesta V Power Station in association with Neotia Getwell Healthcare Center, Siliguri organized 'Health Talk' programme on 04 Sept at its headquarters in Balutar, East Sikkim. Dr Smita Das Ghose [Gynaecologist & Obstetrician] and Dr Rajeev Trehan [Cardiothoracic Surgeon] from Neotia Getwell Healthcare Center were the key speakers for the health talk, a press release informs.

In the first session, Dr Ghose spoke on gynaec-related issues and described various diseases, its symptoms and

prevention.

Likewise, the second session was conducted by Dr Trehan who spoke on cardio-related problems and its prevention. He elaborated on healthy life style that can keep the heart safe from ailments.

The programme was attended by the employees of Teesta V Power Station, their family members along with contractual staff of the power station and local people.

Chief Engineer In-charge, Teesta V Power Station, Sahadev Khatua, extended gratitude to the doctors and their team for delivering informative lectures to the employees and family members.

Uttarakhand Tourism Minister tours West Sikkim



Gyalshing, 07 Sept [IPR]: Minister for Tourism, Irrigation, India-Nepal Uttarakhand River Projects, Government of Uttarakhand, Satpalji Maharaj, along with nine other delegates from the Government of Uttara-

khand concluded their daylong official visit to West Sikkim today.

Yangthang MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Gyalshing and Block Development Officer, Yuksom, and other

officials accompanied the Minister during the tour to various places of West district.

The Minister visited Bhaluthang where the Organic Farmers Producers Group showcased their products to the officials. He along with the other officials from the Government of Uttarakhand met and interacted with the North East Rural Livelihood Project [NERLP] officials to discuss the farming procedures and techniques related to organic farming and how it can help them in their respective states.

The Minister also visited the Lamthang Retreat Homestay at Chumbong where he interacted with the owners and took an overview of how the homestays are run by the locals and how the government has aided them. He then visited the Khecheopalri Lake and the Tashi Choling Dharma Center at Khecheopalri where he was briefed by Captain Yongda about the lake's history and the monastery in detail.

The Minister along with his officials who had arrived on 03 Sept in the State will be leaving on 08 Sept.

Code of Conduct enforced for Anethang Ward

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

Returning Officer, District Magistrate [South], has issued notice for conduct of Bye-Election of 03-Anethang Ward of 46-Barfung Zarung Gram Panchayat Unit [OBC[C][W] in South Sikkim in pursuance of notification issued by State Election Commission.

In a press release, the DM informs that the election is to be held to elect member of 3-Anethang Ward of 46-Barfung Zarung GPU [OBC[C][W].

Nomination papers may be delivered by the candidate or his proposer to the Returning Officer/

Assistant Returning Officer at the office of the Additional District Collector [South], District Administrative Centre in Namchi between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on any day [other than a public holiday] and not later than 11 Sept, 2018. Form of Nomination Paper may be obtained at the aforementioned place and time.

He further informs that the nomination paper will be taken up for scrutiny at the office of the Returning Officer, DAC, Namchi on 12 Sept, 2018 at 11.00 a.m.

Further, notice of withdrawal of candidature may be delivered by a candidate or his election agent

to the Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning Officer at the office of the ADC [South], Namchi before 3.00 p.m. on 14 Sept, 2018. In the event of the election being contested, the poll will be taken on 06 Oct, 2018 between 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., the release adds.

For conduct of free and fair Panchayat Bye-Election, the Model Code of the Conduct is enforced with effect from 04 Sept, 2018 till the election process is completed and is applicable to the concerned GPUUnit vide State Election Commission, Sikkim Circular No.181/SEC/2018 dated 04/09/2018.

ITBP Mussoorie officer trainees call on Governor

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

Governor Ganga Prasad today met a group of 15 officer trainees and one instructor from 24th Assistant Commandant [General Duty] Basic Course, Indo Tibetan Border Police Academy, Mussoorie [Dehradun] at New Raj Bhavan in the capital. Commandant, ITBP 13th Battalion, Anil Kumar Phool, Commanding Officer, ITBP Sector Headquarter, Gangtok, Angad P Yadav, and other officers and personnel of ITBP were present on the occasion.

A press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs that it was a courtesy call by the group that arrived in Sikkim on 06 Sept for nine-daylong Border Tour Programme along Indo-Tibetan Border as a part of their training module. The group will be visiting forward posts in North and East Sikkim as a mandatory exercise of their training schedule.

One of the accompa-



nying instructors, Assistant Commandant, Shri Tikam Negi, who is also the course director, provided a brief outline of the training module and activities to the Governor through a PowerPoint presentation.

During a brief interaction with the trainee officers, the Governor exhorted the trainee officers to feel proud to be chosen to carry forward the legacy of selfless service and sacrifice of freedom fighters to live and die for the nation. He called upon them to take the responsibility to take the country to the

next pedestal of global leadership that India deserves in the 21st century.

He added that the country will ever remain indebted to the valiant efforts and sacrifices put forward by the armed forces and our paramilitary forces to ensure safety and security of motherland.

The Governor also conveyed his best wishes for their new assignments and postings on the completion of their training course. He also called upon them to utilise their learning in best possible way in the service of the country and countrymen.

SDF condoles demise of Cheli Morcha member

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

Sikkim Democratic Front Cheli Morcha, East District convened a condolence meeting on the sudden demise of one of its dedicated and active workers and Central Executive member of the party, Tika Maya Chhetri. She passed away at the age of 83 on 06 Sept in Siliguri while under medical treatment and has left behind 11 children.

An SDF press release issued by Cheli Morcha vice-president, Manita

Mangar, mentions that the condolence meeting observed a two-minute silence for peace to the departed soul.

The release states that her immense contribution towards SDF and Cheli Morcha will always be remembered. She was born in Alley ward in Upper Samlik-Marchak constituency and actively supported the party throughout her life.

SDF has extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Fresh bridge collapse in West Bengal, one injured

SILIGURI (WB), SEP 7 (PTI): An old bridge collapsed near Siliguri in north Bengal on Friday, leaving a truck driver injured, a state minister said.

This is the second incident of bridge collapse in West Bengal in three days. The Majerhat bridge had collapsed in south Kolkata on September 4, killing three persons and injuring 24.

The middle part of the bridge collapsed on a canal below at around 9.30 am when a truck was crossing it and the vehicle was stuck in the broken portion, officials said.

The bridge connects

the Manganj and Phansidewa areas to Siliguri, a major city in north Bengal. Phansidewa is around 22 kms from Siliguri.

"Let the matter be inquired into," Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi told reporters in Kolkata when asked about the back-to-back collapse of the Majerhat bridge and the one today.

North Bengal Development Minister Rabin-dratan Ghosh said movement of loaded trucks was banned on the bridge but many such vehicles bound for the north-eastern states continued to take it.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR DIGNITY EVENING

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:07/09/18

1st Prize Rs.26.04 Lakhs/- 67H 86439
Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 86439 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
08674 11016 26239 26970 32805
38765 55744 75922 87915 92483
3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2645 2690 2875 3749 4257 5729 6641 6720 7161 9902
4th Prize Rs.250/- 0900 1453 1584 3463 3595 4502 5260 7705 8755 9687
5th Prize Rs.120/-
0096 0118 0202 0236 0303 0387 0972 1193 1240 1261
1276 1330 1340 1360 1371 1617 1872 2358 2376 2470
2611 2618 2624 2679 2768 2820 2972 3007 3195 3587
3647 3669 3770 3915 4116 4124 4153 4172 4307 4324
4330 4334 4512 4587 4629 4698 4919 4927 4954 5032
5044 5090 5118 5137 5177 5583 5635 5636 5706 5910
5976 5998 6094 6217 6219 6314 6385 6510 6755 6758
6844 6949 6968 6995 7002 7025 7054 7106 7456 7503
7685 7695 7863 7948 7973 8196 8249 8367 8473 8611
8695 8697 8779 8842 8955 9208 9210 9260 9283 9579

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Engineer having qualification of B. Tech (Mech) with 3 years experience or Diploma (Mech) with 5 years experience in Pharma Industry having knowledge in Production and Documentation.
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Anthyesti Kriya



The Anthyesti Kriya of **Late Raju Rai** son of Man Bdr. Rai who left for his heavenly abode on 02.09.2018 falls on **11.09.2018**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us is offering prayers

for departed soul at **Chowtaro Hotel, Deorali Bazaar, Gangtok, East Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

**Mrs. Manju Rai (wife)- 7407181907,
Milan Rai- 9733110850 &
Navin Rai- 9609867614 (sons).**

Gangtok on Saturday, 08 Sept

Temp: 26°C/17°C
Forecast: A blend of sun and clouds, a thundershower in parts of the area; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:17 AM
Sunset: 5:49 PM

SMIMS condoles death of MBBS student

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 SEPT:

Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences (SMIMS) and Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) family have condoled the death of one of its 3rd Year MBBS students, Barnali Pathak [23] at SMIMS in Tadong under tragic circumstances on 05 Sept.

An SMU press release informs that the police was informed about the incident immediately and are investigating the matter. The parents of the deceased students were also informed immediately and reached the campus last night.

The SMIMS is fully co-operating with the police investigation while extending support to the bereaved family, and official press communiqué informs.

Dean, SMIMS, Air Marshal Dr GS Joneja, has extended deepest condolences to late Ms Pathak's family, friends and mentors on behalf of SMIMS and SMU.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us
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Doc casts shadow of doubt over potency of medicines supplied to govt hospitals

Deptt assures follow-up if complaint is made

OP CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 07 SEPT:

Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare Department continues to face challenges in delivering quality health services across the State as it confronts several incidents high-

lighting inadequate facilities and lack of other basic amenities. The Department has yet again come under the scanner for poor quality medicines and drugs supplied in government hospitals.

This was informed by one of the doctors of Namchi District Hospital in South during the coordination meeting held at the hospital on 06 Sept which was also attended by Health Minister,

AK Ghatani, along with Health Commissioner/Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, and other officers.

During the meeting, the doctor in question informed that medicines supplied to the hospitals do not work as effectively as medicines bought in the market.

"If it takes 4-10 days to bring down a patient's fever with medicine like Paracetamol supplied for government hospitals, the same medicine when

brought from pharmacies outside bring down the patient's fever in just one day," the doctor is reported to have told the meeting.

Health Secretary, Mr Chauhan, in turn remarked that although it is taking more time, the patients are still recovering and urged the doctors and staff to present written complaints to the head office in such cases so that the medicines can be retested.

The Health Minister, however, did not make any comments on the issue during the meeting.

Speaking to hospital authorities today, it was informed that incidents of slow-acting medicines or poor quality have not been reported to the head office till date.

The authorities also informed that the hospital is receiving both generic medicines as well as branded medicines.

However, this matter has been taken up seriously now and information will immediately be forwarded to higher authorities, it was informed.

On the same, Health Secretary, Mr Chauhan, confirmed that a doctor of Namchi District Hospital had made such an observation during the coordination meeting.

He added that all medicines supplied for Health Department are

received only after test reports of the medicine have been placed by the concerned company.

"Only after the test reports, the payment is made to the suppliers from the department. No such cases have been reported from any hospital or PHC in the State till date and if any such complaint is received by the department, the medicine will be sent for retests," said Mr Chauhan.

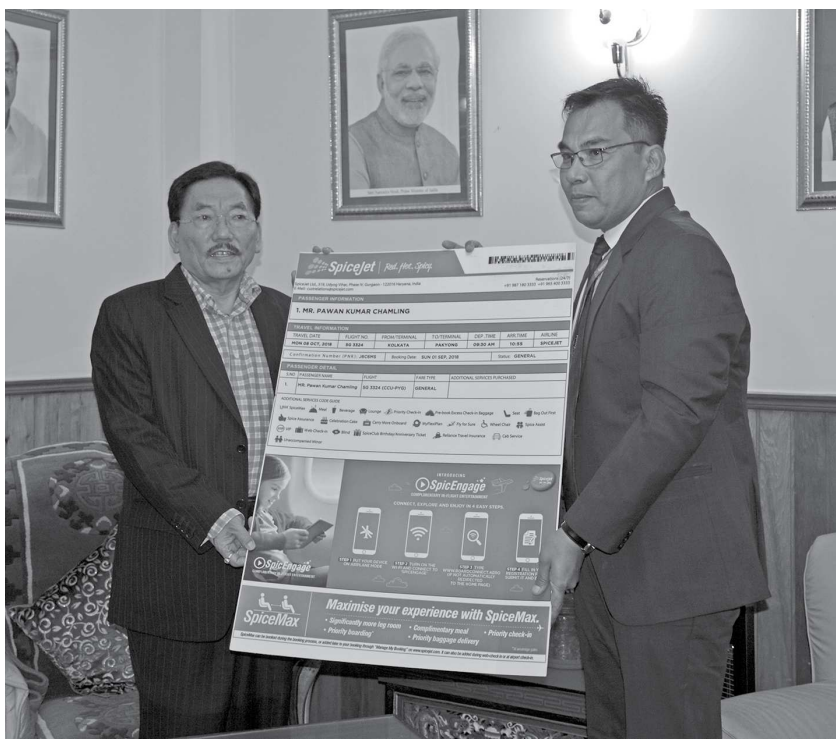
SpiceJet presents memento marking first Pakyong Airport flight to CM

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [IPR]:

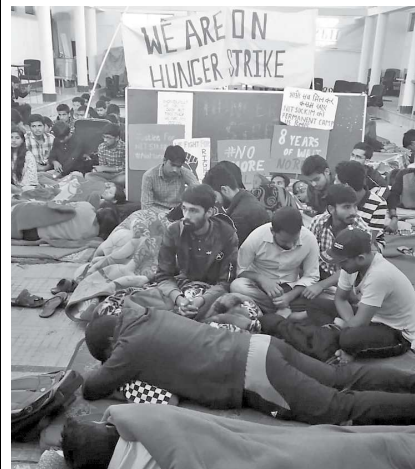
A memento of the first flight ticket and boarding pass was presented to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling by representatives of SpiceJet airlines at Mintokgang today.

Regional Manager [East], Bhaskar Borgohain, and his team handed over the ticket for the first commercial flight from Pakyong Greenfield Airport which is scheduled to be launched on 08 Oct, 2018 by SpiceJet. The first flight is scheduled from Kolkata-Pakyong and Pakyong-Kolkata.

The CM voiced his interest in connecting the State to Bangkok and later furthering the connectivity to Nepal and Bhutan for the benefit of Sikkimese people. He congratulated SpiceJet for the new beginning in the State and stated that he looked forward to a long journey in taking the State to great heights of pinnacle.



NIT-Sikkim students' indefinite hunger strike enters third day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

The indefinite hunger strike started by students of National Institute of Technology, Sikkim demanding a permanent campus for the institute has entered its third day.

It is reported that officials from the State

or Central Government have not shown any interest on the issue yet.

A press release informs that the health condition of two students has worsened.

Meanwhile, the number of participants in the hunger strike has increased from 12 to 25 out of which four are girls.

Warm welcome for Ntn'l U-15 football team coach Suren Chettri

BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 07 SEPT:

Sikkimese football coach, Suren Chettri, was accorded a warm welcome at Melli check-post today on his return to the State after coaching the U-15 Indian football team. Mr Chettri had been deputed as assistant coach of Indian Under-15 team by All India Football Federation (AIFF) in Aug earlier this year.

Members of Siniolchu Football Club, Namchi along with Namchi Volleyball Association, Namchi Sports Hostel, officers and coaches of Sports and Youth Affairs Department, South district welcomed Mr Chettri in a grand manner today.

Mr Chettri is an assistant coach with Sports and Youth Affairs Department and had been deputed as assistant coach at Namchi Sports Hostel in the year 2000. Sikkimese footballers who have achieved name and fame in Indian professional football are all



groomed by Mr Chettri at Namchi Sports Hostel. Renowned football players like Sanju Pradhan, Nirmal Chettri, Komal Thatal and many other young players who have entered professional football have been mentored by Mr Chettri.

Speaking with this correspondent, Mr Chettri thanked the State Government and SYA Department for supporting him in taking his career forward. He also thanked his family,



friends, SYA officers and coaches for supporting him in the entire journey.

In a formal programme organized in Namchi, Mr Chettri said, "Sikkim is known as a powerhouse of football and many professional football clubs and academies are always expecting good players from Sikkim. Now another door for footballers of the State has opened for Sikkim."

Mr Chettri informed that the shift in his career

from being a footballer to a coach happened when he was appointed as a coach in St Xavier's School, Pakyong in 1998. After working as the school coach for two years, he was appointed as assistant coach in SYA Department under Government of Sikkim in the year 2000, he added.

"I was given the charge to train young boys of Namchi Sports Hostel. During the course of time, I took coaching

trainings and courses in professional football coaching. In 2016, I successfully qualified for A license professional football coaching and became the first coach holding A certificate license for football coaching in the State," said Mr Chettri.

He informed that AIFF had notified him on taking charge as the coach of the Indian U-15 team on 03 Aug this year.

"Following the direction, I took charge of the

national team on 05 Aug. We were also invited to play invitational matches in Shanghai, China where eight countries of the world had participated. Our Indian team received good remarks in all the matches played there," added Mr Chettri.

He has further extended special thanks to football coaches, Milan Subba and Mayal Lepcha, for supporting him throughout his good and bad days.

SKM Nari Morcha felicitates party prez in Rabongla



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

A coordination meeting of Nari Morcha [South] of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party was held at Rabongla Bazaar in South Sikkim today. Nari Morcha, South district also felicitated party president, PS Tamang [Golay], during the meeting.

An SKM press release informs that along with Sada Ward Panchayat, Dhan Bahadur Rai, a total of 151 families, 131 families from Barfung constituency and 21 from Rangang-Yangyang constituency, quit Sikkim Democratic Front to join SKM.

Mr Golay, in his address, expressed that SKM is a people's party and Parivartan is its brand name. He stressed upon

the need for sacrifice from leaders in the interest of the people. He added that women can work effectively in running the State and SKM has given responsibilities to women to lead the party.

SDF party has failed in all sectors in the State, he alleged while mentioning that SKM will always work in the interest of women and government employees of Sikkim, and protect the old laws of Sikkim.

Nari Morcha general secretary, Pabitra Bhandari, alleged that the SDF government has failed to protect women of Sikkim in its 25 years of governance and stated that only SKM can provide protection to women.

Nepal wants to 'revive' SAARC; keep good relations with India as well as China: Prachanda

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI):

Nepal wants to "revive" the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and get its stalled summit convened at the earliest, former Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" said Friday,

asserting that SAARC and BIMSTEC groupings do not substitute but complement each other.

Prachanda, who is here on a three-day visit, also said Nepal's monarchs earlier used to play the China and India "cards",

but that was not the case now and his country wants close relations with both the countries.

He said India's multi-dimensional progress has not only inspired Nepal, but also provided a "solid lesson that things are doable".

Delivering the Sapru House Lecture here, Prachanda said India is cruising on its development journey with the slogan of 'sabka saath sabka vikaas', while Nepal's development vision was captured in 'samridhdha Nepal sukhi Nepali'.

TNSSS raises funds for Kerala

NITESH PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

SAATHI club of Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School organised a fund raising drive to help the flood victims in Kerala. The drive managed to collect Rs 12090 for Kerala. The Club has extended gratitude to the staff and students for their support and contribution.



SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

To Protect and to Promote

To secure the future, think beyond protection and quotas

Local protection is an important issue. It could also be argued that it is of more emotional significance than constructive intervention, but because people and their leaders feel so strongly about the issue, it becomes very important. Even the West, with its enviable unemployment rate despite the economic downturn, is passionately debating the pros and cons of outsourcing which, in its mind is taking jobs away to cheaper human resource destinations even though benefits of such cost cuts benefit cash-strapped consumers at home the most.

So yes, local protection evokes a passionate and emotional response from the people, and governments have to continuously appear to be prioritising it. There are, however, practical and logistical implications that should never be lost sight of and quality never allowed to be compromised. Opportunities that progressive and positive attitudes create should not be allowed to get drowned by the din of rhetoric. In a world growing increasingly 'flat' [to borrow the now dated term from Thomas L. Friedman], digging trenches only manages to keep opportunities out, shrinks the horizon and constricts development. The present times demand competitive edge, and prioritizing protectionism dulls this pre-requisite of making it in the world.

Protect, yes, but also trust the inherent skills and potential of the young. The young have proven that they have what it takes to succeed and survive. Take for example the many young entrepreneurs that Sikkim can boast of now. They happened when the easier option of landing employment with the government became scarce and also less appealing. They applied themselves to enterprises, something that the 'local' talent pool was not considered very adept at till even a decade back. But look around now, the youth, who while in school, were being groomed for cushy bureaucracy or technical professions, have grown up quite well as hoteliers, restaurateurs, travel operators, small scale industrialists, respected professionals with national media, sportspersons... achievers.

Such successes probably happened because they grew up before obsessive protectionism invaded the public domain and made the young lazy. This of course does not go to say that job opportunities should not be protected for the people of the land, they should; but the policy makers have to strike the right balance where it is done in a way that does not lull future generations into a false sense of security and stops them from developing skills which make them world beaters. It is not easy, but a good beginning can be made by devising ways which reward healthy business practices. Investors who set up shop in Sikkim should conduct themselves better, encourage and invite more local employment on their own instead of being made to do so by way of legislations. They enjoy tax breaks and many other sops when they opt for Sikkim, not because Sikkim needs more factories, but because it rewards job creation. They have to understand and appreciate this fact.

The young on the other hand should be groomed as competitors, not as beneficiaries-in-waiting. In times to come, it should be their skills that attract and retain investments and not lavish industrial policies alone. Various arms of the government will have to collaborate to make this possible. It is possible and the generation controlling the present owes it to the future.

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

GARY MARCHIONINI
theconversation.com

As millions of people came online in the late 1990s they needed help figuring out what each webpage was about, and how to find what they were looking for. Web indexes and search engines sprang up. When Google was founded in September 1998, it had to compete with the information retrieval algorithms and techniques – nicknamed “secret sauce” – used by Lycos, Yahoo and other companies.

Technically speaking, Google added two innovations: highly efficient processes for crawling webpages to index their text, and a new way of ranking a page's relevance based on the number and quality of pages that linked to it. In addition, its interface was refreshingly clean: In an internet then pervaded by pages with lists of lists, Google offered a spare alternative, with just a box to type search terms and a “Search” button.

Even more startling was Google's confidence in its abilities. The company offered a second button, whimsically labeled “I'm feeling lucky,” which would take users directly to the webpage that was the top result – skipping the step of listing possible search results for a user to choose from. It also sought to be a different kind of technology company, early on adopting a straightforward corporate motto: “Don't be evil.” Two decades into Google's history, the power of search is still paramount: Entire businesses and professions are built around crafting internet content that will rise to the top of its search results.

But there are signs of trouble. The company's role in providing misleading information to U.S. voters is under scrutiny. More than 3,100 Google employees signed a public letter protesting the use of their work in warfare technologies – and about a dozen of them resigned in protest. Even more recently, 1,600 Googlers signed a petition to stop their employer from opening a government-restricted search service in China. Additionally, President Donald Trump has questioned whether its rankings for news stories are fair. What might the next 20 years of Google bring?

RAPID GROWTH

Google is used to being under scrutiny. In late July 2004 in Sheffield, England, I recall the buzz the company created at the 27th Annual Association of Computing Machinery Special Interest Group in Information Retrieval Research Conference. There were betting pools about when Google would offer its stock for public purchase, and at what price. The Google employees were easy to spot, only using their laptops while sitting with their backs to a wall, so nobody could see what they were reading or typing.

The company founded by two Stanford graduate students in 1998, which went public on Aug. 19, 2004, at US\$85 a share, still gets the vast majority

LIZA BARBOUR & JULIA MCCARTAN
theconversation.com

Globally, one-third of food produced for human consumption is wasted. Food waste costs Australia A\$20 billion each year and is damaging our planet's resources by contributing to climate change and inefficient land, fertiliser and freshwater use.

And it's estimated if no further action is taken to slow rising obesity rates, it will cost Australia A\$87.7 billion over the next ten years. Preventable chronic diseases are Australia's leading cause of ill health, and conditions such as coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, some forms of cancer and type 2 diabetes are linked to obesity and unhealthy diets.

But we can tackle these two major issues of obesity and food waste together.

AVOID OVER-CONSUMPTION OF FOOD

Described as metabolic food waste, the consumption of food in excess of nutritional requirements uses valuable food system resources and manifests as overweight and obesity.

The first of the Australian dietary guidelines is:

“To achieve and maintain a healthy weight, be physically active and choose amounts of nutritious food and drinks to meet your energy needs.”

In 2013, researchers defined three principles for a healthy and sustainable diet. The first was:

“Any food that is consumed above a person's energy requirement represents an avoidable environmental burden in the form of greenhouse gas

emissions, use of natural resources and pressure on biodiversity.”

REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF PROCESSED, PACKAGED FOODS

Ultra-processed foods are not only promoting obesity, they pose a great threat to our environment. The damage to our planet not only lies in the manufacture and distribution of these foods but also in their disposal. Food packaging (bottles, containers, wrappers) accounts for almost two-thirds of total packaging waste by volume.

Ultra-processed foods are high in calories, refined sugar, saturated fat and salt, and they're dominating Australia's food supply. These products are formulated and marketed to promote over-consumption, contributing to our obesity epidemic.

Healthy and sustainable dietary recommendations promote the consumption of fewer processed foods, which are energy-dense, highly processed and packaged. This ultimately reduces both the risk of dietary imbalances and the unnecessary use of environmental resources.



How will Google's innovation continue beyond its 20th year?



of its annual revenue from selling search-related advertising.

Yet Google has grown too, in part thanks to a policy giving employees the freedom to work one day a week on side projects that catch their fancy. Now reorganized into an umbrella company called Alphabet, the company has expanded into industries as diverse as smartphone operating systems, mapping apps and self-driving vehicles.

DIVERSIFICATION

Many of the company's efforts to diversify build on strengths it has developed providing search, such as cloud computing systems that take advantage of Google engineers' experience managing massive data centers and huge amounts of traffic from – and to – sites all around the world.

The company's massive index of information in many languages is what enabled Google to build a machine-translation system between any of 100 languages. That will help Google remain globally valuable even as Baidu dominates Chinese-language searches.

Google's future depends on continuing to create and leverage indexes on features beyond the words on webpages. Combining the ability to identify a user performing the search with its knowledge of that person's search history and their current location, Google can already provide finely tuned personalized results. A new company effort is already planning to use health devices people wear, implant or carry on their bodies to provide useful nutrition and fitness tips.

Google is no doubt planning to add to its special sauce indexes of social media posts, data from sensors in the environment – including cameras, microphones and all sorts of connected “internet of things” devices.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

Google is already applying its expertise to its line of smart speakers and personal assistants, offering its well-regarded search results through voice recognition and spoken responses. One day typing text onto a screen may seem as quaint as rotary phones.

A next category of features might be called anticipatory search, providing information or suggesting action without a user even specifying a query. For instance, some cars already go beyond alerting the driver to low fuel levels, locating and providing directions to nearby gas stations. One day a personal fitness tracker might note that a user's resting heart rate is 15 percent higher this week than the average over the past six months. From there, it might offer up research or doctors' advice about cardiovascular health.

Google may even ramp up its efforts to distinguish people from machines – such as “captcha” challenges and multi-factor authentication processes. From there, it may work to eliminate the increasing efforts from both humans and computers – such as Russian government agents and Twitter bots – to secretly influence search results for malicious purposes.

These features may sound exciting and useful, but they also carry important ethical concerns, about who can access people's personal data, and for what purposes. It will be interesting to see whether the concerns Google employees are currently expressing about political uses of their work will extend to personal privacy, and whether – and how – any objections might influence searches in the future.

[the writer is Professor of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill]

Reducing food waste can protect our health, as well as our planet's

Author Michael Pollan put it best when he said, “Don't eat anything your great-grandmother wouldn't recognise as food.”

SO WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

In response to the financial and environmental burden of food waste, the federal government's National Food Waste Strategy aims to halve food waste in Australia by 2030. A\$133 million has been allocated over the next decade to a research centre which can assist the environment, public health and economic sectors to work together to address both food waste and obesity.

Other countries, including Brazil and the United Kingdom acknowledge the link between health and environmental sustainability prominently in their dietary guidelines.

One of Brazil's five guiding principles states that dietary recommendations must take into account the impact of the means of production and distribution on social justice and the environment. The Qatar national dietary guidelines explicitly state “re-

duce leftovers and waste”.

Many would be surprised to learn Australia's dietary guidelines include tips to minimise food waste:

“store food appropriately, dispose of food waste appropriately (e.g. compost, worm farms), keep food safely and select foods with appropriate packaging and recycle.”

These recommendations are hidden in Appendix G of our guidelines, despite efforts from leading advocates to give them a more prominent position. To follow international precedence, these recommendations should be moved to a prominent location in our guidelines.

At a local government level, councils can encourage responsible practices to minimise food waste by subsidising worm farms and compost bins, arranging kerbside collection of food scraps and enabling better access to soft plastic recycling programs such as Red Cycle.

Portion and serving sizes should be considered by commercial food settings. Every year Australians eat 2.5 billion meals out and waste 2.2 million tonnes of food via the commercial and industrial sectors. Evidence shows reducing portion sizes in food service settings leads to a reduction in both plate waste and over-consumption.

Given the cost of food waste and obesity to the economy, and the impact on the health of our people and our planet, reducing food waste can address two major problems facing humanity today.

[Liza Barbour is Lecturer, Monash University; Julia McCartan is Research Officer, Monash University]

Sea plane in Chilika likely to cause irrevocable damage: CDA

BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 7 (PTI): The Chilika Development Authority (CDA) is opposed to the proposed water aerodrome and sea plane operation in the lagoon as it is likely to cause irrevocable damage to the eco-system and livelihood of the population dependent on it.

"The cost involved from operation of sea plane seems far outweigh the benefits likely to accrue. Legally it is also not feasible," the CDA said in a report to the state government.

Earlier, Odisha government had asked the CDA to study the proposal of the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for setting up a water aerodrome and sea plane operation from the lagoon.

Stating that the lake is a highly productive eco-system with rich



fishery resources sustaining the livelihood of more than two lakh fishermen who live in and around the lake, the report, available with the media, said based on its rich biodiversity and socio-economic importance, Chilika lake is designated as a Ramsar Site in 1981 as wetland of international importance.

In the Lake, there are 335 species of fish, 230 species of birds and 399 phytoplanktons, 729 plants, 30 reptiles making it a unique aquatic eco-system in the world.

Though the exact area and location of the water aerodrome has not been shared with the CDA, the report said operation of sea plane at any location of the lake may have serious and far reaching consequences on the eco-system of the lake.

"This is turn, will affect directly the livelihood of fishermen of 151 villages around Chilika in the three districts of Khurda, Puri and Ganjam," the report said.

Noting that the bird congregation during winter season is nearly one

million and almost the entire area of the lake is used by birds as habitat, particularly the shallow regions of the wetland, the CDA said the Lake houses 230 bird species out of which 97 are from the Arctic and Eurasian region. The most common among them are the ducks and geese along with 9 threatened bird species.

The birds migrate along the central Asian flyway as depicted in the map. "With sea planes playing in the region, these migratory paths and their habitat inside the Lake are going to be seriously jeopardised from the movement and sound that the sea plane is likely to generate," the report said.

The most enchanting feature of Chilika for the tourist because of its fascinating avifauna, might be lost for ever if the sea plane

is allowed to ply in the lake, the CDA report said adding that irrawaddy dolphin is the flagship species inhabiting the Chilika.

The Chilika lake is one of the two known lagoons in the world that supports Irrawaddy dolphin population and at present has the distinction of having the largest population of the threatened species in the world.

The entire tourism in Satapada and central sector of the Lake is dependent on the endangered 157 dolphins, now seen in all parts, it said. "The dolphins are highly sensitive to the sound and their breeding suffers due to high decibel sound around their habitat," it said.

The impact of sea plane landing and take off will endanger the population of this flagship species, breeding of

fish and sound the death knell for the tourism industry and affect the livelihood of nearly 5000 families dependent on tourism, it said.

The legal provisions under Wetland Conservation and Management Rule, 2017 applicable to this Ramsar site, vide Section 4(2) prohibits conversion for non wetland uses.

Construction of aerodrome is therefore prohibited under the said rules. Section 8.3 of operation and air-worthiness requirements for sea plane operation issued by office of the Director General of Civil Aviation, Government of India vide its letter dated June 17, 2008 stipulates that floating platform will not be selected in the fishing ground and bird hazards will be taken into consideration.

Women's body unhappy at reinstatement of tainted tax official

ITANAGAR, SEP 7 (PTI): A women's organization in Arunachal Pradesh has expressed disappointment at the reinstatement of a tainted official at a top post in the state's tax and excise department.

Tani Jongkey, who was booked by police under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, has been reinstated as tax & excise joint commissioner recently as per court orders.

The Arunachal Pradesh Womens Welfare Society (APWWS) said in a statement today that Jongkey was able to rejoin the department because of non-submission of the inquiry report on time.

Jongkey was booked for alleged sexual assault on an 11-year-old school-girl on June 2, 2017 and put under suspension on November 22 last year.

He had faced charges under sections 341, 354 and section 8 of the POCSO Act for alleged sexual assault on the minor girl.

The Itanagar Permanent Bench of Gauhati High Court on March 7 this year had noted that even after the expiry of 90 days, the suspension order of Jongkey was not

revoked or modified by the review committee of the department as per the provision of the Central Services Rules.

The court had directed the state authorities to revoke the suspension order and reinstate Jongkey in service from November 22 2017, the day he was suspended.

The court further directed the government to pay all consequential service benefits, including arrears of pay and allowances, due to the officer.

In an order issued on August 6, Tax & Excise Commissioner Anirudh Singh said that the officer had been reinstated because of serious lapses on the part of the officers and officials of the department as the file and the proposal for extending the suspension order were not submitted on time to the competent authority.

Tax & Excise Deputy Commissioner Ando Pangkam has been appointed to ascertain the procedural lapses that led to the delay in review of suspension order and fixation of responsibility against the negligent officer."

GSI to use remote sensing tech to locate mineral deposits

KOLKATA, SEPT 7 (PTI): The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is set to use advanced remote sensing technology developed by NASA to locate mineral deposits in the country, a senior official said Friday.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the organization will employ "Advanced Visible Infra-Red Imaging Spectrometer-Next Generation (AVIRIS-NG)" to explore mineral ores in 14 different locations, Dinesh Gupta, the institute's director general, told reporters here.

The sensor is an "engineering marvel" and has proved effective for mapping surface mineralogy in different parts of the world, he observed.

"The AVIRIS-NG sensor was recently mounted onboard ISRO aircraft for acquiring the hyper-spectral images for mineral blocks in fourteen locations, including Jhagadia and Ambaji in Gujarat, Tundi in Jharkhand and Wajrakarur of Andhra Pradesh," Gupta said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed Friday between the GSI and the National Remote Sensing Centre-Indian Space Research Organisation for the use of the hyper-spectral data to trace surface signatures of mineralization over the next three years, the director general said.

The technology is also used to map mineral deposits on Moon and Mars. "The GSI has been using advance technologies for mineral mapping over the years to ensure resource security for our country. The MoU is an effort towards achieving that objective," Gupta added.

Upper age limit of appointment of teachers raised in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, SEPT 7 (PTI): The Meghalaya cabinet Friday approved a proposal to increase the upper age limit for appointment of teachers in schools and colleges from 27 to 32, state education minister said.

Candidates of ST category five years relax-

ation, Education Minister L Rymbui told reporters. "We need to have quality teachers. The more qualified teachers we have the more quality education will be provided to our children," he said.

The cabinet also approved a proposal to hike the merit scholarship for

lower primary school and upper primary school students from Rs 100 per month to Rs 600 and Rs 40 per month to Rs 600 respectively.

Rymbui also said that the cabinet had also approved filling up of 16 lecturer posts in two colleges in the Garo Hills

- 13 posts in Tura government college and 3 in Williamnagar government college.

Home Minister James K Sangma said that the

cabinet approved recommendations of the high powered expert committee on implementation of 5th Meghalaya pay commission.

Kerala flood takes toll on natural rubber production, price

KOLKATA, SEPT 7 (PTI): The Rs 45,000 crore non-tyre rubber products market is facing the heat of flooding in Kerala as price of the commodity has shot up by 20 per cent and may soar further impacting the SMEs most, officials said Friday.

"Kerala contributes about 80 per cent to the country's natural rubber production. The flood will affect the (natural rubber) production by about 15 per cent. Natural rubber production in India is around 6 lakh tonnes, while our consumption is around 10

lakh tonnes," All India Rubber Industries Association president Kamal Kishore Chowdhury said.

The shooting prices of natural rubber will impact profitability owing to rising input costs, said Vikram Makar, senior member of the association and chairman of India Rubber Expo 2019.

The expo will be held in January next year in Mumbai.

The yield for natural rubber has been stagnant while consumption has been growing by around 10 per cent annually, they said.

They also said domestic rubber products like tube and tyre for bicycles and rickshaws, conveyor belt and footwear could face threat of losing market to imported finished products.

"We urge the government to rationalise import duty on raw materials in order to make domestic manufacturing competitive. Imported raw materials including natural rubber, attract 20-25 per cent duty while up to 10 per cent duty is imposed on imported finished products, the association said.

Eight arrested for Palamu lynching, sent to jail

MEDININAGAR (JHARKHAND), SEPT 7 (PTI): Eight people, including a woman were arrested Friday and sent to jail in connection with the lynching of a man in Palamu and injuring two others on the suspicion of being thieves and obstructing police from rescuing them, the police said.

They were produced before a local court which remanded to 14 days in judicial custody, Superintendent of Police, Indrajit Mahatha said.

Stating that more ar-

rests were likely in the incident, he said six persons including the woman were arrested in connection with the lynching and the rest two for obstructing the police.

Three men had gone to the house of a prospective bride at Tisibar village, about 200 km from Ranchi, for marriage negotiations on Wednesday evening. They were dragged out the house and beaten up by the mob after a member of the woman's family apparently spread a rumour that that they

were thieves, Mahatha had said.

The deputy SP had reached the spot with a police team and rescued the three men but not before firing four rounds in the air to disperse the mob which stiffly opposed the force, he said.

The three men, all in their twenties, were rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors referred them to another one, about 15 km away. One of them succumbed to injuries after arriving at the hospital, he added.

Young entrepreneurs showcase ideas at American Centre

KOLKATA, SEPT 7 (PTI): Budding entrepreneurs from eastern and north-eastern states converged at the American Center here Friday to showcase their ideas to investors as part of an initiative by US consulate and social enterprise Contact Base.

Welcoming the participants, US Consul General in Kolkata Patti Hoffman said the programme will empower youth and wom-

en leaders and strengthen links between entrepreneurs of the two countries.

"The Y4BIZ (Youth for Business) initiative will stimulate local economic growth, open new markets for US companies and increase global prosperity," the envoy said.

The 15 participating start-ups included 'Techprolabz' - The School of Robotics' from Bihar, 'The Layman's Lawyer' of West

Bengal, 'Wonda Box' of West Bengal and 'Techno Works' of Assam among others.

Tanushree Nandan of 'The Layman's Lawyer' said, "Our online law firm provides global-standard legal services through mail, tele-conferencing, video-conferencing. Such meets will help people learn about the different legal services on offer while providing visibility to start-ups."

Tanumoy Sarkar of 'Wonda Box', a firm providing tiffin meals to children, said nearly 200 students have been benefiting from their services.

"Instead of depending on canteens or carrying food from home, which may get stale after a few hours, it is better to subscribe to Wonda Box, which provides fresh and healthy options for children," Sarkar claimed.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER (T) NAMCHI ,
SOUTH SIKKIM

Ref. No 835 /FEWMD/DFO (T) South

Dt 06/09/2018

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department to grant license for temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone from the following sites for the period of **1st.Oct.2018 to 31st December 2018**. Interested parties may collect the tender forms from**15th Sept. to 22nd Sept. 2018 within the office hours**, from the Office of the Div. Forest Office (Territorial) South, Namchi. The last date of submission of the form is **25th Sept 2018 before 12noon** to the concern Div. Forest Office (T). Tender shall be opened at **2 pm on 25th Sept** by the committee constituted for the purpose in the office of the DFO (T) South, Namchi.

Sl No	Range	Location	Area	Unit	Type produce available	Earnest money to be deposited by TDR	Proportionate Offset Price for Tender
1	Namchi	Tokal -Dong	600'x150'= 90000 sqft.	Sqft.	Sand and Stone	6,750/-	67,500/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS proposed for the tender process are as follows:-

- Tender forms should be collected from the office of the DFO (T) South, Namchi after depositing State Bank of Sikkim BR (in favour of 0406-01-800-04 Forest Revenue) forRs.500 which is non refundable.
- Proportionate offset price for Tender for temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone is calculated @75% of Rs 4/- per sqft (i.e. offset tender price= 0.75x4xtotal area of the site in square feet)
- 10% of the offset tender amount shall be the Earnest money payable by TDR of the State Bank of Sikkim in favour of Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial). The TDR of the unsuccessful bidders shall be return to the respective participants.
- The highest bid for each temporary collection site of loose boulders, sand and stone shall be accepted as the successful bid and the license for the period from **1st Oct.2018 to 31st Dec.2018** would be granted to the party offering it on payment of the bid amount in full, as detailed in SI no 11 below.
- No tender shall be accepted after **12 noon of 25th Sept.2018**.
- Tender form should be supported with residential certificate from Panchayat (to prove his/her nativity in the particular panchayat unit falling under Forest Range), TDR and Sikkim Subject/COI.
- The area earmarked for auction open for inspection if anybody is desires. For this he/she needs to contact the respective Range Officer within whose jurisdiction the area falls.
- Department is not responsible for the approach road for any temporary collection loose boulders, sand and stone. Any complication in it should be sorted out by the successful tenderer.
- No subletting of the license will be allowed.
- Furnishing of any wrong information or documents shall be liable to the cancellation of license and the amount paid will not be refunded.
- Successful bidders shall make the payment in full to the office of the DFO (T) concern latest by29.09.2018 vide Demand Draft, Bank Challan and collect his/ her license, failing which his/her tender acceptance shall be cancelled without any notice thereof and earnest money will be forfeited.
- Applicant should be the resident of the same Territorial Range and the Gram Panchayat where the site for the temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone for which the tender is being submitted, is located.
- He/she should be a domiciled of Sikkim and possess a relevant Sikkim Subject Certificate/COI.
- He/she should not be employed in any Government of other Public Sector OR Private Enterprises.
- He/she should abide by the provision of Labour laws with regard to the engagement of labour in his/her site.
- He/she shall compensate any loss suffered by any person or the Government as a consequence of collection related activities, in a manner as may be fixed by Government.
- He/she shall ensure that full quantity of produce commensurate with the cost charges shall be supplied to the consumers.
- He She shall not operate temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone after expiry of his/her license.
- License holder has to maintain the sale proceeding register, pay the applicable taxes to the Government.
- The Government shall call tender immediately and issue a fresh license in respect of any temporary collection of loose boulder, sand and stone that may be discontinued by a license holder for any reason during the validity period of his license and the tender shall be accepted only for the expired term of the original License.
- The successful tenderer, after obtaining the license from the concern DFO (T) shall print and issue challan of the produce which will be carried by the driver of the vehicle. This is necessary to avoid illegal operation of collection site.
- The use of excavation and practice of dredging for collection of produces has been prohibited, as one of the condition in the Environmental Clearance.
- The Government shall reserve the right to stop the operation of any temporary collection of loose boulders, sand and stone if it deems its continue operation to be detrimental to the public interest.
- Tender committee reserve to right to cancel or reject any of the tender, if the committee its satisfied second person shall be consider in case of failure of actual successor instead or calling fresh tender.
- License holder should not sell the materials more than the price notified by the department.
- Any other conditions as may be imposed by the government from time to time.
- The PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary, Forest Env. And Wildlife Management Deptt. shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- For tender notice interested persons/parties may visit the following website;
www.sikkimforest.gov.in or www.sikenvis.nic.in/dfosouth01@gmail.com

R.O. No. 333/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
dt. 7.9.2018

Divisional Forest Officer (T)
South Division Namchi

sd/-

Junior shooters deliver 2 gold, 1 silver for India at world championships

CHANGWON (SOUTH KOREA), SEP 7 (PTI): There was no stopping the golden run of India's junior shooters with Hriday Hazarika claiming the 10m air rifle top honours before the women's team combined for a new world record and gold at the ISSF World Championships here Friday.

Elavenil Valarivan also won the individual silver in women's 10m air rifle, going down narrowly to China's double senior World Cup gold-medallist Shi Mengyao, in the final.

Elavenil shot 249.8 to Shi's 250.5. The 17-year old Shreya Agrawal won the bronze with an effort of 228.4 in the final. This is the tournament's 52nd edition.

Four podium finishes on the sixth day of competition took India's tally to 18, their best-ever showing in the Inter-



national Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) premier tournament. The country's previous best was the six medals won during the 49th edition in Zagreb, Croatia.

Hazarika, the lone Indian to qualify for the men's final with a score of 627.3, was tied with Iran's Mohammed Amir Nekounam on 250.1 once

the field was pruned to the regulation top eight.

But the 17-year-old Indian clinched the yellow metal after prevailing in a shoot-off at the prestigious tournament.

The bronze went to Russia's Grigori Shmakov, who managed a score of 228.6 in the final.

As the individual shots began, Hazarika

strung together a fantastic series of high 10s and by the end of the 20th shot, he was leading the field by 0.5.

He held on to the lead till the 22nd shot from Nekounam. Then a 9.4 for his 23rd shot meant that at the end of the allotted 24 shots, both Hazarika and Nekounam found themselves tied at

250.1 points each.

In the shoot-off, Hazarika had the last laugh with a 10.3 to the Iranian's 10.2.

In the women's 10m air rifle, the team of Elavenil (631), Shreya Agarwal (628.5) and Manini Kaushik (621.2) then produced a sensational performance to total 1880.7 for a gold with a world record to boot.

The score by Elavenil, a junior world cup gold-medallist, was also a new junior world record.

The men's team, comprising Hazarika, Divyansh Panwar and Arjun Babuta, finished fourth with a combined total of 1872.3.

There was disappointment for the country in the senior men's 50m rifle three position competition as none of the Indians in fray man-

aged to make the cut for the finals.

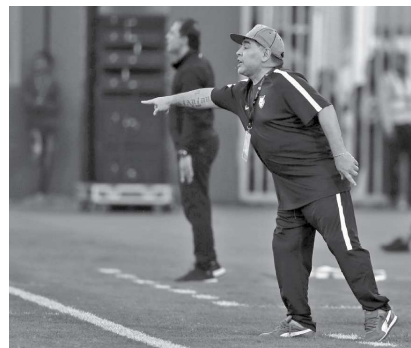
Asian Games silver-medallist Sanjeev Rajput was the lowest placed Indian at 58th with a score of 1158.

Swapnil Kusale was 55th with a score of 1161 while Akhil Sheoran took the 44th position with 1167.

The Indian team, comprising the trio, ended 11th with a total of 3503.

In women's 25m pistol, teenager Manu Bhaker was the best-placed Indian after the first precision stage of qualification, shooting an impressive 294 out of 300 to be among the joint top four scores.

Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat was lying 27th with 289 while Asiad bronze medallist Heena Sidhu shot 284 to be in 61st position.



Diego Maradona to coach second-division side Dorados in Mexico

CULIACAN (MEXICO), SEP 7 (AFP): Argentine legend Diego Maradona has been hired to coach Mexican second-division football club Dorados, the team announced on Thursday, the retired great's latest foray into managing.

Maradona's colorful career has included stints coaching the Argentine national team and a series of clubs around the world, and he had just started a stint as president of Belarus side Dinamo Brest last month.

But after parting ways with coach Francisco Ramirez Gamez, Dorados managed to convince Maradona to sign up for a spell in Mexico.

"Dorados of Sinaloa is pleased to announce Diego Armando Maradona is its new manager of the 'Big Fish,'" the club said in a statement.

"Considered by many to be the best footballer of all time, Diego was known in his playing career for leading teams with guts and fight to carry them to successes that few believed possible," it said.

The club wants Maradona, 57, to stay for the remainder of the 2018 season and all of next season, Dorados president Jorgealberto Hank Inzunza told ESPN.

"In my conversations with him he's been very excited to come coach here. Honestly, it was easier to convince him than I thought," he said, shortly after the club confirmed rumors of Maradona's hiring with a video posted online.

"Diego, welcome to the Big Fish!" said a message accompanying the video.

SC asks states to comply with its order to deal with cow vigilantism, mob lynchings

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): The Supreme Court Friday took exception to the fact that only 11 of the 29 states and seven union territories have filed reports regarding compliance of its order directing them to take steps to deal with mob lynchings and cow vigilantism.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khawilkar and D Y Chandrachud granted the last opportunity to the defaulting states and UTs, warning if they did not file their reports within a week, then their home secretaries will have to appear in person before court.

During the hearing, the Centre informed the court that an empowered Group of Ministers has been set up to consider framing a law on mob violence following the cow vigilantism verdict.

The bench was hearing a plea by Congress leader Tejinder Poonawala seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against Rajasthan officials including the Chief Secretary and the police chief for alleged violation of the top court's verdict in the alleged lynching of dairy farmer Rakbar Khan on July 20.

On July 17, the top court had said that "horrendous acts of mobocracy" cannot be allowed to overrun the law of the land and issued a slew of guidelines to deal with mob lynching and cow vigilantism.

It had then also asked the Centre to consider enacting a new law to sternly deal with such incidents.

Cook gets guard of honour from Indian team, Oval applauds

LONDON, SEP 7 (PTI): Alastair Cook received a guard of honour from the Indian team, a handshake from Virat Kohli and a standing ovation from the Oval crowd as he walked out to bat in his final Test Friday.

The 33-year-old Cook is playing his final Test for England after which he will retire from international cricket, a decision which he took earlier this week following a prolonged lean patch.

England skipper Joe Root won the toss and elected to bat against India in the last Test of the five-match series. The hosts have taken an unassailable 3-1 lead in the rubber.

As the batting great walked out to bat, he got a guard of honour from the visiting side, at the end of which he shook hands with captain Kohli.

In 161 Tests, the country's highest run-getter has so far scored 12,254 runs at an average of 44.88 with 32 hundreds and 56 half centuries.

His highest Test score of 294 came against India at Birmingham during



the 2011 series.

He led his side to a famous 2-1 Test series win in India in 2012, one of the highlights of his captaincy. Not just captaincy, Cook also excelled

with the bat during that series, scoring 176 at Motera, 122 at Mumbai and 190 at Kolkata.

However, he has had a poor series against India this time around, scoring

only 109 runs in seven innings across four Test matches, and his place was under the scanner.

"After much thought and deliberation over the last few months I have

decided to announce my retirement from international cricket at the end of this Test series against India," Cook had said in an ECB statement.

Hima returns home to rousing reception

GUWAHATI, SEP 7 (PTI): Sprint sensation Hima Das returned to her home state Assam Friday to a rousing reception, following her exploits at the Asian Games.

After scripting history by becoming the first Indian woman athlete to clinch a gold medal in the IAAF World U-20 Athletics Championships in Finland earlier this year, Hima followed it up by bagging a gold and a silver in the Asian Games in Jakarta.

The 18-year-old sprinter, fondly called 'Dhing Express' after her village, had gone to the Indonesian capital after training in Europe.

Hima was received at the LPGB airport here by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and many of his cabinet colleagues with a traditional Assamese 'gamosa' (scarf of honour) around her neck.



Her farmer parents Ronjit and Jonali Das were also present at the airport.

Escorted out by 25 Assam Police special women commandos 'Birangona', the athlete walked on a specially laid out red carpet designed like a running track with number markings.

'Amar ghoror suwali' (girl from our place), shouted students, sports lovers, political leaders,

people from her village Dhing, who were waiting outside the terminal building.

To the beats of drum and Bihu dances, the sprinter, wearing a red track suit jacket with blue jeans, was taken in a white luxury car. The vehicle with Hima standing through its sun roof was part of procession of cars.

Hima waved at people lining the road as the cavalcade was led by members of the All Assam Stu-

dents Union (AASU) on motorcycles. Hima is the sports and culture secretary of the AASU unit in her home village Dhing.

The cavalcade had to stop several times as the people and various socio-cultural organisations wanted to felicitate Hima who clinched the top spot in the women's 400m race in the World U-20 Athletics Championships in July.

At the Asian Games, she set a national record

by clocking 51.00 to qualify for the 400 metre final and bettered it with 50.79 to clinch silver. She went on to win another silver in the mixed 4x400m relay and bagged a gold in the women's 4x400m relay.

On arriving at the Sarasajai Stadium, Hima kissed the track.

"I trained here and I always thought that it is from this track that I will go forward. I thank all for making me achieve what I have done so far. I will continue to go forward," she said.

"People from Dhing have come all the way here. Because of their love for me, they walked the route from the airport even under the scorching sun while I was inside the car," the athlete said.

The Assam government was to felicitate Hima at the Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra.

Depay bags double in Dutch win as Sneijder bows out



AMSTERDAM, SEP 7 (AFP): Wesley Sneijder turned out for the Netherlands for the 134th and final time on Thursday as Memphis Depay's brace secured a 2-1 friendly win over Peru here.

On an emotional night at the Johan Cruyff Arena, Dutch coach Ronald Koeman handed over the captain's armband to Sneijder, who is now 34.

Sneijder, the former Real Madrid and Inter Milan playmaker who moved to Al Gharafa of Qatar earlier this year, took the microphone and encouraged fans to join him for a beer on their way out of the stadium.

A star of the Dutch team that got to the 2010 World Cup final, Sneijder received a warm ovation from the 50,000 fans at the home of Ajax, the club where he began his career. The most-capped

Dutch player of all time, who won his first cap in 2003, leaves behind a team trying to rebuild after failing to qualify for Euro 2016 or the last World Cup.

Koeman is trying to build a side capable of making it to Euro 2020 built around Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk and also featuring young Ajax starlet Matthijs de Ligt.

They fell behind against the Peruvians through a Pedro Aquino goal early on, but Lyon forward Depay equalised on the hour mark before netting the winner seven minutes from time.

Koeman later confirmed he would make "several changes" for Sunday's trip to face World Cup winners France in their first match in the new UEFA Nations League.

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India's decision to decriminalise gay sex sparks debate in Singapore

GURDIP SINGH
SINGAPORE, SEP 7 (PTI): The Supreme Court's decision to decriminalise gay sex in India has sparked a debate in Singapore with the Minister for Law and Home Affairs K Shanmugam saying the society has to decide which direction it wants to go on an issue related to social values.

The Supreme Court on Thursday decriminalised part of the Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that criminalises consensual gay sex, saying it was irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary.

The apex court unanimously held that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community possess the same constitutional rights as other citizens of the country.

When asked about the ruling by the Indian Supreme Court, Shanmugam said: "(In Singapore) if you look at this issue, it is a deeply split society. The majority are opposed to any change to section 377A, they are opposed to removing it," Shanmugam, an Indian-origin senior minister was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper.

However, he said that a "growing minority" wants to have it repealed. "The Government is in the middle".

The minister said that the subject is related to social values.

"Can you impose viewpoints on a majority when (the issue is) so closely related to social value systems?," asked Shanmugam, adding that in his personal opinion care has to be taken against criminalising lifestyles and sexual attitudes, and treating people involved as criminals.

"(But) it would be wrong for me to impose my personal views on society or as a policymaker," he said.

"So really, I think society has got to decide which direction it wants to go. And the laws will have to keep pace with changes in society and how society sees these issues," said Shanmugam.

Meanwhile, veteran Singapore diplomat Tommy Koh called for challenging section 377A following India scrapping the same British colonial-era legislation.

"I would encourage our gay community to bring a class action to challenge the constitutionality of Section 377A," the paper quoted Koh, also Singapore's Ambassador-at-large, as saying.

Koh's comments were in response to a Facebook post by Professor Simon Chesterman, dean of the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore.

When a Facebook user reminded him that previous legal challenges in 2014 on the constitutionality of the law failed, Koh replied: "Try again."

In 2014, Singapore's highest court dismissed a constitutional challenge to the law and stated that it was up to parliament to repeal it.

Despite the challenges, support for gay rights has been growing in recent years in the city-state of 5.6 million.

The rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgenders have been discussed in recent years in Singapore which many still consider a fundamentally conservative society.

Japan quake toll rises to 18 as hopes fade for survivors

TOKYO, SEP 7 (AFP): Japanese rescue workers with bulldozers and sniffer dogs scrambled through the mud Friday to find survivors from a landslide that buried houses after a powerful quake, as the death toll rose to 18.

Around 22 people are still unaccounted for in the small northern countryside town of Atsuma, where a cluster of dwellings were wrecked when a hillside collapsed with the force of the 6.6-magnitude quake, causing deep brown scars in the landscape.

"We've heard there are people still stuck under the mud, so we've been working around the clock but it's been difficult to rescue them," a Self-Defense Forces serviceman in Atsuma told public broadcaster NHK.

"We will take measures to find them quickly," An elderly woman in Atsuma told NHK: "My relative is still buried under the mud and has not been found yet, so I couldn't sleep at all last night. There were also several aftershocks so it was a restless night."

Around 1.6 million households in the sparsely populated northern island of Hokkaido were still without power after the quake damaged a thermal plant supplying electricity to the region.

Industry minister Hiroshige Seko said that number should be reduced to 550,000 households on Friday. "It will take about a week" before the largest thermal power plant recovers, "so during that period, we are sending power-generating vehicles to hospitals," Seko told reporters.

He urged citizens to conserve energy by having fewer lights on in shops and restaurants and "for example family members staying together in one room".

Some 22,000 rescue workers including troops called up from the Self-Defense Forces handed out emergency water supplies and long lines formed at petrol stations and supermarkets, as people stocked up fearing further quakes.

"Please give your sympathy to people who spent a dark night in fear, and do everything you can to restore electricity as soon as possible," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a cabinet meeting to discuss the quake.

The earthquake, which scored the maximum on a Japanese scale measuring the power of a quake's shaking, also collapsed a handful of houses and walls in the main city of Sapporo.

However, considering the strength of the quake, the death toll was relatively light, with the majority of victims coming from the landslide in Atsuma.

Transport services were gradually coming back on line with bullet trains resuming operations late Friday morning and the main airport in Sapporo operating a partial service after cancelling all flights the day before.

But a football friendly between Japan and Chile in Sapporo planned on Friday was scrapped due to the transport and power chaos in Hokkaido.

The quake was the latest in a string of natural disasters to batter the country. Western parts of the country are still recovering from the most powerful typhoon to strike Japan in a quarter of a century, which claimed 11 lives and shut down the main regional airport.

And officials warned of the danger of fresh quakes.

"Large quakes often occur, especially within



two to three days (of a big one)," said Toshiyuki Matsumori, in charge of monitoring earthquakes and tsunamis at the meteorological agency.

The risk of housing collapses and landslides had increased, he said, urging residents "to pay full attention to seismic activity and rainfall and not to go into dangerous areas".

Japan sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where many of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded.

In June, a deadly tremor rocked the Osaka region, killing five people and injuring over 350.

On March 11, 2011, a devastating 9.0-magnitude quake struck under the Pacific Ocean, and the resulting tsunami caused widespread damage and claimed thousands of lives.

erbate the sense of injustice among the occupied and the oppressed."

"Nowhere is this more apparent than in the pain and suffering" of the people in Kashmir and Palestine, she said, citing the recent report on Kashmir issued by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

Minister in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Srinivas Prasad said that a culture of peace is not just an abstract value or principle to be discussed and extolled in conferences, but needs to be actively built into global relationships between and among nation states.

"It rests on good neighborliness and a respect for the territory and the governing systems and principles of other states," he said.

In a stern response, Prasad said it is ironic that Pakistan, "whose focus over the decades has been the undermining of India's territorial integrity through the explicit use of terrorism as a state policy has chosen to use this platform to yet again claim Indian territory under the guise of a supposed concern for 'justice and self-determination' by quoting a report that not a single member state had asked for or has supported".

He asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is and will remain an integral part of India.

"As a democracy, India has always abided by the choices of the people and will not allow this freedom to be undermined by terrorism and extremism," he said.

Prasad further said that one of India's enduring principles has been Vasudheva Kutumbakam' or the concept that the world is one family'.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he said a "non-violent revolution is not a programme of seizure of power. It is a programme of transformation of relationships".

"From the Vedic age in the distant past to the great teachers Mahavira

Pakistan focussed to undermine India's territorial integrity through terrorism: India at UN

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, SEP 6 (PTI): Pakistan's focus for decades has been to undermine India's territorial integrity through the "explicit use of terrorism" as a state policy, New Delhi said in a stern response after Islamabad raked up the Kashmir issue at the UN.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Maleeha Lodhi yet again raised the issue of Kashmir while addressing the High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace in the UN General Assembly Wednesday.

She said "foreign occupation and the denial of fundamental rights including the right to self-determination exacer-

bad the sense of injustice among the occupied and the oppressed."

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"From the Vedic age in the distant past to the great teachers Mahavira

British Airways travellers' credit card details hacked

LONDON, SEPT 7 (AP): Hackers obtained the credit card details of some 380,000 British Airways travellers during a two-week data breach this summer that leaves the customers vulnerable to financial fraud, the airline says.

BA's CEO, Alex Cruz, said Friday that enough data was stolen to allow criminals to use credit card information for illicit purposes, and that police are investigating.

"We know that the information that has been stolen is name, address, email address, credit card information; that would be credit card number, expiration date and the three-letter code in the back of the credit card," he told the BBC.

He added that no passport data had been obtained in what he called a "very sophisticated, malicious criminal attack," but that British Airways is "100 per cent committed" to compensating customers.

Consumer advice website MoneySavingExpert says customers who were swept up in the data breach should first seek advice from their bank, then monitor bank and credit card statements closely for signs of possible fraudulent activity.

It also warns of possible "phishing scams" in which hackers would try to trick affected consumers into revealing personal information like pin codes or banking passwords.

Some angry travelers complained to Britain's Press Association that they had already noted bogus activity on credit cards that had been used to make British Airways bookings

British Airways travellers' credit card details hacked

during the time when the breach was undetected.

The hack once again puts the spotlight on the strength of the IT systems at major companies as they expand their digital services.

British Airways experienced an IT-related crisis in May last year when roughly 75,000 passengers were stranded after the airline cancelled more than 700 flights over three days because of system problems.

In the US, Delta Airlines said in April that payment-card information for several hundred thousand customers could have been exposed by a malware breach months earlier. The same breach also hit Sears Holdings Corp, which operates Kmart stores.

British Airways revealed the new hack Thursday evening and began notifying customers. Travelers who booked on the company website or mobile app from August 21 until September 5 may have been affected.

"British Airways is communicating with affected customers and we advise any customers who believe they may have been affected by this incident to contact their banks or credit card providers and follow their recommended advice," the company said in its statement.

The hack was not discovered until September 5 and has now been resolved, officials said.

Britain's National Crime Agency says it is investigating.

Shares in BA's parent company, IAG, were down 3 per cent on Friday.

Pak govt succumbs to hardliners, withdraws minority economist's nomination to top advisory panel

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, SEPT 7 (PTI): Succumbing to pressure from the hardliners, the Pakistan government on Friday withdrew the nomination of noted economist Atif Mian, a member of the minority Ahmadi community, from a newly-constituted economic panel, according to media reports.

The move came three days after the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government defended the academic's nomination to the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying in categorical terms that it will "not bow to extremists".

Ahmadis are designated non-Muslims in Pakistan's Constitution and their beliefs are considered blasphemous in most mainstream Islamic

schools of thought. They are often targeted by the extremists and their places of worship vandalised.

Mian, an Massachusetts Institute of Technology-educated Pakistani-American economics professor at the prestigious Princeton University, was recently named member of the 18-member EAC to advise the government on economic policy. He is the only Pakistani to be considered among International Monetary Fund's list of "Top 25 brightest young economists".

His appointment embroiled in a controversy after it was opposed by several individuals and groups, including the hardline Islamist party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), who objected to his Ahmadi faith.

Confirming the development, Minister of Information Fawad Chaudhary said the government has decided to withdraw the nomination of Mian from the EAC because it wants to avoid division.

"The government wants to move forward alongside scholars and all social groups, and it is inappropriate if a single nomination creates an impression to the contrary," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn.

Chaudhry said the ideal state, according to Prime Minister Khan, is of Medina and that the premier and members of his cabinet hold Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in high esteem.

"Khatm-i-Nabuwat (belief in the finality of the prophethood) is a part of our faith and the recent

success achieved by the government in the matter of blasphemous sketches is reflective of the same connection," he said.

PTI Senator Faisal Javed said Mian has agreed to give up his position on the council and a replacement will be announced later, the Geo TV reported.

Earlier on Tuesday, the government had defended Mian's nomination, saying "Pakistan belongs as much to minorities as it does to the majority".

"I don't think anyone should have objections (to Mian's appointment), and those who do, they are basically extremists and we will not bow to extremists," Chaudhary had told a press conference here.

"This is the person everyone is saying will be the recipient of the Nobel Prize in the next five

years. Why should we not appoint him? It is not like we have appointed him as a member of the Islamic Council," he had said.

He had also tweeted that PTI followed the vision of Jinnah who had appointed Zafrullah Khan, an Ahmadi, as foreign minister of Pakistan. "We'll follow (the) principles of Mr Jinnah, not of extremists," Chaudhary had said.

His thoughts were echoed by Minister of Human Rights Shireen Mazari, who had tweeted: "Exactly. Well put indeed. Time to reclaim space for the Quaid's Pakistan!".

Another Ahmadi community member Dr Abdus Salam, who was the first Pakistani to win Nobel prize in Physics, has remained a neglected figure in his own country.

US to probe Big Tech on 'stifling' free speech

WASHINGTON, SEP 6 (AFP): President Donald Trump's administration warned Wednesday of a possible legal crackdown on big technology companies over competition or political bias, in a bombshell announcement that came as social media executives were defending their policies before lawmakers.

The Justice Department statement appeared to escalate a war between the administration and Silicon Valley after a series of attacks by Trump claiming tech firms were biased against conservatives.

According to the state-

ment, Attorney General Jeff Sessions will convene a meeting of state attorneys general later this month "to discuss a growing concern that these companies may be hurting competition and intentionally stifling the free exchange of ideas on their platforms."

The suggestions of legal or regulatory action caught many tech industry observers by surprise and came as lawmakers were holding hearings on foreign influence campaigns on social media and "transparency," Daniel Castro, of the

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, said the intent of the statement was not clear, but that it was worrisome.

"Social media platforms have the right to determine what types of legal speech they will permit on their platforms," Castro told AFP.

"The federal government should not use the threat of law enforcement to limit companies from exercising this right. In particular, law enforcement should not threaten social media companies with unfounded investigations."

Legal analysts have

noted the government would have little recourse against any political bias even if proven because of constitutional free speech guarantees.

While antitrust concerns against Google and Facebook are to be expected, Eric Goldman of the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University said it would be troublesome to use antitrust law as a guise for regulating speech.

"This (statement) makes me think antitrust is not the real goal, that the real goal is censorship," Goldman said.

"This could be broad

action by the government to try to subvert the First Amendment." Matt Schruers of the Computer and Communications Industry Association, a trade group that includes Google and Facebook, said tech firms "compete aggressively with one another as well as those outside of the technology sector" and that "consumers have many choices for information services and news sources online."

The administration statement came at the conclusion of a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing at which Twitter

chief executive Jack Dorsey and Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg testified.

The hearing offered a largely collegial atmosphere in which the executives and senators spoke of the need for further efforts to thwart foreign influence campaigns on social media.

Dorsey said the messaging service was set up to function as a "public square" but had failed to deal with "abuse, harassment, troll armies, propaganda through bots." "We aren't proud of how that free and open exchange

has been weaponized and used to distract and divide people, and our nation," he told senators.

Sandberg repeated Facebook's acknowledgements about failing to crack down on influence campaigns stemming from Russia that interfered with the 2016 US presidential election.

"We were too slow to spot this and too slow to act," Sandberg told the panel. "That's on us. This interference was completely unacceptable. It violated the values of our company and of the country we love."

Bryan Adams India Tour!

Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan to host a welcome party for the international singer...

International Rockstar Bryan Adams will soon visit India on a 5-day tour and will be performing Live in Mumbai and Hyderabad. The dates are yet to be confirmed by the organisers but fans of the 90s global star are quite kicked about his trip.

And while all this is happening, reports reveal that Bryan Adams might be welcomed in India with a bash by Bollywood celebrities.

According to reports, Bollywood top star Amitabh Bachchan and newest sensation Prabhas may host a bash for Bryan Adams. The singer will perform in Mumbai and Hyderabad during his tour and Amitabh Bachchan and Prabhas will host the parties in their respective cities, suggest reports.

It is also being reported that top Bollywood stars like Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, Varun Dhawan and many others will be present at the concert and the bash. However, the team of organisers is not keen on any welcome parties for Bryan Adams as he wants to go on sight-seeing because he is visiting India after



a long time.

Bryan Adams is a very popular star in India and his songs like the Summer of 69, Let's make a night and Please Forgive Me among many others.

Bryan Adams visited India seven

years ago in 2011 and fans have been eager about his upcoming visit this year.

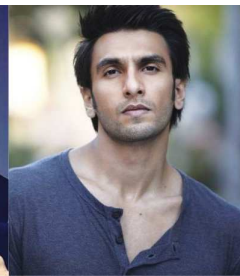
In the year 2015, there was schedule of Bryan Adams tour to India, however, the plan was cancelled due to unknown reasons.

Allu Arjun to make his Bollywood debut with Ranveer Singh starrer '83

The stylish star of the Telugu industry Allu Arjun, who is known for giving blockbusters like Duvvada Jagannadham, Naa Peru Surya Na Illu India, Sarrainodu, Yevadu and many others might enter Bollywood with a huge film.

As per the Deccan Chronicle Report, Allu Arjun might feature Ranveer Singh starrer '83, which is directed by Bajrangi Bhajjaan and Ek Tha Tiger helmer Kabir Khan. Reportedly, Allu Arjun will portray the character of star batsman Krishnamachari Srikkanth in the film.

Talking about '83, the film chronicle India's 1983 Crick-



et World Cup win under Kapil Dev's captainship, when the team defeated West Indies in the final to clinch their first-ever World Cup trophy. Ranveer Singh portrays the character legendary cricketer and former skipper Kapil

Dev, who played a pivotal role in winning the cup.

During the launch event of '83 Ranveer expressed his love for cricket and quoted to HT, "I was born at the time when cricket was big time. When Kabir Sahab had come

to me and said that there will be a film on '83, I was like finally. And when he was narrating it to me, I was like wooh. It is not a story just about cricket but a human story."

As per the latest reports, Nawazuddin Siddiqui has also been approached to play Ranveer Singh's coach in the film. The film was earlier scheduled to release on 30 Aug, 2019, but now has been pushed to 10 Apr, 2020.

On the professional front, Ranveer is shooting for Rohit Shetty's Simmba, which will hit the screens on 28 Dec.

Robbie Williams and Ayda Field welcome baby girl Coco via an 'incredible' surrogate

Robbie Williams and Ayda Field have welcomed a 'very special secret' baby girl via an 'incredible' surrogate.

The X Factor co-judges announced the arrival of Colette Josephine Williams, to be known as Coco, via Ayda's Instagram page on Friday morning, while detailing their 'long and difficult' path to a third child in a heartfelt post.

Sharing a black and white image of the family's hands in one frame, Ayda, 39, and Robbie, 44 - who are parents to daughter Teddy, five, and son Charlie, three - said they will be 'eternally grateful' to their surrogate.

Ayda wrote: "I spy with my little eye an extra little hand. So we have been keeping a very special secret! We are delighted to share with you that we have had a baby girl.... welcome to the world Colette (Coco) Josephine Williams!! It has been a very long and difficult path to get here, which



is why we have kept it on the down low. Family comes in all forms, and this little lady, who is biologically ours, was carried by an incredible surrogate mother, to whom we will be eternally grateful."

She continued: "We are over the moon to have this beautiful baby girl in our lives and so blessed that we live in a world which makes this possible. As with Teddy and Charlie, we ask that you respect Coco's privacy and allow us to

grow into our new team of 5!"

The news comes as a complete surprise as it was unknown that the couple were on this journey.

Ayda and Robbie are already parents to Theodora Rose Williams, five and Charlton Valentine Williams, three. In May, a source told Metro that they wanted more children.

They said: "Ayda and Robbie couldn't be happier with their private life but feel one

more baby would complete their family. They're hoping it will happen for them soon, but it's tough for them to spend lots of time together as sometimes they spend weeks apart. But it's top of their agenda when they do get time off from their hectic schedules."

Robbie famously referred to the experience of watching Ayda give birth to their son Charlie, as being like 'watching his favourite pub burning down.'

Surrogacy is becoming more common in the UK - with legal applications relating to surrogacy having risen sixfold in ten years.

Four years ago Robbie let the whole world share in his wife's labour.

In fact, Robbie tweeted footage of legs in stirrups, feet in red glittering stilettos gyrating as Ayda joked and laughed her way through the birth.

Aquarius: Weariness may have you feeling a bit listless today, Aquarius, and you're likely to want to stay home in bed rather than go anywhere. This goes against your normal inclination, so you could be tempted to bite the bullet and get out in spite of your malaise. Don't fall into this trap. Get some rest so that when you absolutely have to go out, you'll be your old self again.

Pisces: A lover or close friend may seem to have dropped out of the picture, and this could have you worried, confused, and wondering if this person isn't interested in continuing a relationship with you. Don't let your insecurity get the best of you. The person has his or her troubles and will eventually want a strong, sympathetic shoulder to cry on. You're likely to be that person!



VACATION CHIC! Beyonce strolls barefoot alongside Jay-Z as the couple tours Sardinia together after singer's 37th birthday

Rajkummar Rao all set to enter the Rs 100 crore club with Stree!



Rajkummar Rao is undoubtedly one of the finest talents of Bollywood, who has impressed us with his versatility and acting mettle. But unfortunately, the actor has always been considered to be a star of a niche or parallel films, which garner critical acclaim but doesn't make money at the ticket windows. But it seems the tables have turned now, with his latest release, Stree Rajkummar Rao has proved that he is a commercial star and even his

films can become super-hit at the box office.

The horror-comedy has already crossed the Rs 60 crore mark in its opening week and by retaining a good amount of screens in its second week, it looks the film is all set to enter the Rs 100 crore club at the ticket windows.

The film will be Rajkummar's first Rs 100 crore venture of his career. Apparently, many actors like Shahid Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal, Jim

Sarbh, Kartik Aaryan entered the elite club this year. In fact, producer of the film Dinesh Vijan also thinks that the film has a strong to enter the coveted club.

In an exclusive chat with BollywoodLife, he said, "I think so and I hope so because the love it is getting, I won't be surprised if does that. We crossed Rs 50 crore in five days. Let's hope. If you guys keep watching... I have heard people are watching it again and again."

ARIES: Career interests may be short-circuited by gossip, rumor, and office politics. Someone has an agenda and isn't likely to care too much about the effect on others' lives of any underhanded dealings. If you hear about such goings-on, Aries, do what you can to stop them before they get out of hand. That way you can protect your and your colleagues' career interests.

TAURUS: Perhaps you've been planning a trip or a return to school for a long time. However, Taurus, a rather disturbing letter or phone call could jeopardize your plans and leave you teetering on the edge of disappointment. If you look at the situation carefully, you may find that it doesn't set you back that much. You can take care of it without sacrificing what you want.

GEMINI: Seemingly bad news about

your financial situation could throw your usually even-keeled nature off kilter. Look into the matter carefully before panicking. Gemini. There may have been a computer error or other mistake, or perhaps someone confused you with someone else. Take steps to rectify the blunder. It's a drag, but you'll be relieved to know that all was better than it seemed.

CANCER: An unpleasant situation could arise. Your first reaction may be to protect those closest to you from the truth. You could be tempted to lie or at least avoid mentioning the situation. Don't give in to the temptation, Cancer. Your desire to shield loved ones is understandable, but it could cause problems. You can't protect people from everything. Most people prefer to know the facts.

LEO: Your mind may be going a

thousand miles an hour today. You might be inundated with new ideas and information that could cause mental overload. Write it all down if you can. You'll want to refer to it later. It might be advisable to then go out for a walk or other exercise. This intellectual overload could produce excess nervous energy that you'll need to work off.

VIRGO: Worries over the situation of a lover or close friend who seems depressed could plague you today, yet you may hesitate to contact this person and ask what's wrong because you don't want to intrude. Nonetheless, you should. All is not as bad as it seems, and your concern will be appreciated. Tonight get some much-needed rest. You've been working far too hard.

LIBRA: A family member may be

depressed and not up for talking about what's wrong. His or her mood could spread to everyone else, so it might be a good idea to ask what's wrong. Point out that moods are contagious! Don't force the issue, Libra. That would be worse. A number of calls could interrupt your work, which you might find irritating. Don't be afraid to let voicemail get the calls.

SCORPIO: Misinformation might spread through your extended family or neighborhood and cause unnecessary upsets among those involved. Don't accept at face value any gossip or rumor you hear today until you check it out yourself, Scorpio. It could turn out to be a tempest in a teapot. This isn't a good time to plan or take a trip of any kind. Delays or mishaps could result.

SAGITTARIUS: Misinformation

regarding money could come from someone who has a stake in your believing whatever you're told. This could be a banker, creditor, investment counselor, or even a close friend or relative. Whoever it is, Sagittarius, don't accept what this person says at face value. Look into the facts of the situation yourself before making any decisions about what you need to do. **CAPRICORN:** Someone close to you may not be totally honest. This person could be avoiding telling the truth or hiding something from you in order to protect you. Trust your instincts, Capricorn. If someone tells you something important that doesn't ring true, check it out before accepting one person's word. This isn't a vicious deception - only a protective one. But shielding someone from the truth can sometimes backfire!

AQUARIUS: Weariness may have you feeling a bit listless today, Aquarius, and you're likely to want to stay home in bed rather than go anywhere. This goes against your normal inclination, so you could be tempted to bite the bullet and get out in spite of your malaise. Don't fall into this trap. Get some rest so that when you absolutely have to go out, you'll be your old self again.