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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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A day after legislators endorsed rollback, CM hints that policy to regularize adhoc teachers will stay

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang hinted today that the policy to regularize services of adhoc teachers might not be rolled back. This issue has jumped through many confusions and politicking and only yesterday, Ministers emerging from a Legislators meet of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha had informed that the meeting had resolved that in light of the demand by a section of former adhoc teachers that their services be extended some more months until fresh interviews were held and results declared the said policy, which has not yet been implemented, will be rolled back.

The Ministers had informed that the formal announcement of this would be made by the CM at a function today.

The CM today informed that this policy for adhoc teachers was still under consideration with the government and that 98% of the



adhoc teachers are in its favour; and the government will go with the majority.

He added that the state govern-

ment wants to go ahead with the new rules as it is in the interest of the adhoc teachers of Sikkim.

While speaking to media per-

sons during a programme here at Samman Bhawan on Sunday, the CM said that the stand of the government was "very clear" as it has brought the new policy in the interest of all adhoc teachers of Sikkim.

He pointed out that as per the earlier policy, services of adhoc teachers would get terminated in December and they would have to approach the department seeking fresh appointment orders with the new academic session.

He added that this practise was very unjust towards adhoc teachers as many of them had been working under this regime for more than 15 years with some having served 22 years on adhoc basis.

He accused the previous state government of having ignored the issue.

"Immediately after forming the government, we initiated moves to give justice to adhoc teachers of Sikkim by regular-

izing services of those who met NCT norms immediately upon completing eight years of service. So, we adopt this new education policy to give justice to adhoc teachers of Sikkim," he said.

He explained that adhoc teachers appointed under this new policy will not have to go through the tedium of applying every year and after eight years of service, "like in a probation period," they will be regularized.

He also added that the government may also consider reducing the eight year condition to five years in the near future.

The CM also alleged that the protest seeking extension till the interview process was completed were misguided and instigated by some individuals to gain political mileage. He argued that extension was in the old policy and if this section goes through the new policy, they will understand the benefits although they may not get two months extension.

He asserted that the government cannot adopt both practices of extension and regularisation simultaneously. "They have to either go with the extension or with the new policy by going through the interview process," he said.

The CM added that 98% of the adhoc teachers were in favour of the new policy and had even submitted a memorandum to the Education Department in support of the new policy and requested the government not to roll it back. The government will always go with the majority in a democracy, he said.

He explained that the government has conducted interviews of Headmasters, AEO and other posts before the interview of adhoc teachers to create more vacancies for accommodating more adhoc teachers. He also mentioned that weightage will be given to teachers as per their experience.

As vaccination continues in strength, Covid infections remain low in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Sikkim administered Covishield shots to 15,540 people on Saturday. Of these, while 587 people received their first dose of the Covid vaccine, 14,953 completed their vaccination schedule with the second dose.

In category-wise break-up, six healthcare workers and two frontline workers completed their vaccination schedule while 693 persons in 45 years & above age-group [67 first dose & 626 second dose] and 14,839 in the 18 to 44 years age-group were also vaccinated.

It is informed that the state has administered a total of 7,45,327 vaccine jabs so far covering 5,13,597 people out

of whom 2,32,187 people have been fully vaccinated.

Meanwhile, as per the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department, 59 people tested positive for COVID-19 from the testing of 689 samples on Saturday giving Sikkim a daily test positivity rate of 8.5%.

While 35 of the new cases were picked up in RT-PCR testing of 426 samples, 23 tested positive in rapid antigen testing of 257 samples and one more case was detected in TruNat testing of six samples.

Of the 59 new cases, 23 were registered in East District, 26 in West District and 10 in

South District. Sikkim's tally of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 has now reached 30,624.

On the other hand, the state's figure of recovered cases further improved to 29,113 with 86 Covid patients making full recoveries and getting discharged from home and facility isolation here.

Sikkim's count of active Covid cases has slipped further to 836, of whom eight are currently admitted in ICU facilities at STNM Hospital and Central Referral Hospital.

Sikkim's COVID-19 related death toll continued to hold at 377 with no new COVID deaths reported for the second straight day in the State in the past 24 hours.

ASTTEA rally today to endorse policy proposed to regularize services of adhoc teachers



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

All Sikkim Adhoc Teachers & Temporary Employees Association [ASTTEA] today announced plans to take out a "peaceful rally" on Monday to extend support to new policy of the government which proposes to regularize services of adhoc teachers.

The rally is scheduled to start from Deorali and end at Titanic Park after walking along the national highway.

Addressing a press conference here this evening, ASTTEA executive member, Archana Subedi, appealed to all adhoc teachers to join the rally and register their support for the

proposed policy.

She said that the rally will be followed by a signature campaign in favour of the policy which will then be submitted to the Education Department along with a memorandum from the ASTTEA.

Another ASTTEA executive member, Yogesh Sharma, in turn endorsed

that the new policy as an amicable solution for all issues related to adhoc teachers of Sikkim.

He thanked the protesting teachers for calling off their dharna by understanding that the new education policy was an amicable solution and also appealed to all adhoc teachers to be part of the rally.

Teachers demanding extension wind up dharna at DAC



GANGTOK, 12 SEPT: Adhoc teachers sitting on a dharna in front of the East District Administrative Centre here called-off their sit-in on Sunday morning. They had begun their dharna on 02 September and started a hunger strike on 03 September with a single-point demand seeking extension of their services till the results of walk-in interviews currently slated for 03 October. They were highlighting that

government schools in the State were currently short by more than 800 teachers after their contracts ended in June and this was affecting the education of students. The venue had seen some tense moments yesterday when, after the government's decision to rollback a new policy on appointment of adhoc teachers brought adhoc teachers opposed to the dharna to the venue with a counter-protest against their junior colleagues.

SKM thanks committed party workers with vehicles; CM assures ONORC does not affect Sikkim's safeguards

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, Chief Minister PS Tamang, handed over 28 vehicles to party workers in recognition of their service to the party, especially during its time in the opposition.

These vehicles were provided from the Youth Development Fund of the party, it is informed.

He handed over keys for 12 Scorpions, five Boleros, five Wagon Rs, two Altos, two Utility Vehicles and two Royal Enfield motorcycles to party workers from different constituencies and urged them to use these vehicles commercially to earn livelihoods.

On the occasion, the CM also handed over appointment orders for government jobs in different departments to 400 unemployed youth along with scholarships to 29 students and grants to different organisations.

In his address, the CM mentioned that vehicles were provided to unemployed youth under the Youth Development Fund of the SKM party to give them the opportunity to earn livelihoods.

The two motorcycles, he added,



were provided for use in party works.

He also informed that appointment letters were provided to those unemployed youth who did not have any family members in government service.

He mentioned that the SKM government has been working to give justice to economically backward people by providing government jobs to at least one member of the family.

The CM highlighted that these all jobs were being provided with proper approval of the government.

He alleged that jobs provided under the One Family-One Job in the SDF government did not have the approval of the government or Cabinet and were plots to deceive the people coming as it did close to the elections.

He further alleged that the previous

government had used different programmes and policies as vote-grabbing tricks. On the same, he urged the newly appointed government employees to work earnestly and deliver on their duties and responsibilities with sincerity to the people and the government.

The CM mentioned that the government has been working hard in the interest of the people of Sikkim even in this time of a global pandemic and funds constraints. He added that SKM government believes in inclusive politics and working equally for all sections of the society irrespective of their political affiliations.

He added that SKM government has resumed work on all projects and works held up by the pandemic and stressed that the people should see the work done by the SKM government in the past two years to realize that they were in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

CM mentioned that the present government has been working to streamline the system by making proper laws and rules in the State. He added that no one will suffer or face any problem once proper system were in place.

turn to pg02

Check out how MG Marg can be designed to make space for children!

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Visit the interactive play space and exhibit at MG Marg here to check out the installation put together after an online public consultation process with Gangtokians, a first in the State, to explore how design and architectural inputs can be deployed to make Gangtok a smarter, more welcoming city.

The exhibition, which had opened on Saturday, will continue till Monday, 13 September and is the result of the Smart City Gangtok, Streets for People Challenge, a press release from Progressive Learning Foundation explains.

The winners of the

challenge, Studio Interweave and Team Hishey Bhutia, collaborated with Smart City Gangtok and PLF to host Sikkim's first Public Online Consultation where citizens were invited to give their inputs on the challenges and solutions for MG Marg.

The interactive play space is a direct result of these consultations with the public, the release underlines.

The online consultation, held on the 07, 08 and 14 August on Zoom, was attended by more than 181 citizens, designers, government officials and thought-leaders including Mayor

Nell Bahadur Chettri, and councillors Sandeep Malu and Ashok Kumar Prasad. Invitations for the POC were sent out via local news outlets, social media, the Smart City Gangtok FB account, by nominations from Councillors and other NGOs including the Council for Democratic Civic Engagement (CDCE) and through a wide range of Alumni and Professional Associations, the release adds.

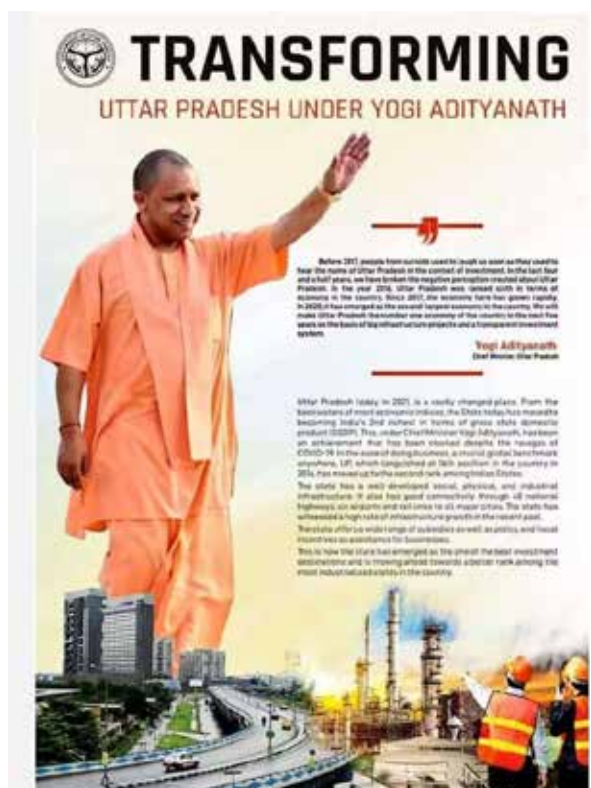
Chief among many challenges identified were drainage issues and the lack of play spaces for children.

The Streets for People Challenge was geared

towards low-cost temporary interventions that could be easily scaled up and brought to other parts of the city. Hence, the painting intervention was finally chosen from the top design selected by the stakeholders who attended the Public Online Consultation and also many who were approached and asked in person.

The exhibition is open to all and volunteers are at hand to present to answer questions and collect feedback on how the design can be further improved. All queries can be directed via Whatsapp to 6296 839 866 or 9732039257.

Kolkata flyover in Yogi Adityanath "Development" ad, Trinamool in splits



KOLKATA, 12 SEPT [PTI]:

A full-page newspaper advertisement to boost the image of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has hugely amused the Trinamool Congress, which accused him of showcasing the works of the Bengal government to win elections.

The advertisement -- released by the Uttar Pradesh government -- focuses on the development works done by Yogi Adityanath's government over the last five years in the state, often seen as one of the most underdeveloped in the country. But the photographs meant to highlight the changes landed the party in controversy.

A chunk of the collage below the advertisement appears to be a photo of Kolkata -- a flyover having the trademark blue-white paint and yellow taxis on it. Many social media users have identified the flyover as the 'Ma Flyover' in central Kolkata built by Mamata Banerjee's government.

Two buildings by the same flyover in the ad have also been identified by social media users as

those belonging to a five star hotel chain.

The Trinamool Congress, which beat the BJP overwhelmingly in the recently concluded assembly elections, had a field day. Scores of party leaders, workers and supporters tweeted, mocking the BJP and the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.

Abhishek Banerjee, senior Trinamool leader and the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, posted a scathing comment.

"Transforming UP for Yogi Adityanath means stealing images from infrastructure seen in Bengal under Mamata Banerjee's leadership and using them as his own! Looks like the 'DOUBLE ENGINE MODEL' has MISERABLY FAILED in BJP's strongest state and now stands EXPOSED for all!" read his post, where he tagged both Chief Ministers.

"Lol the image on the bottom left is from Kolkata - of the Maa Flyover. Zoom in & you can also see the iconic Kolkata yellow ambassador taxi on the flyover. "Transforming UP" means spending millions

on newspaper ads around India & stealing pics of development in Kolkata?" tweeted party leader Saket Gokhale.

Senior leader Mukul Roy, who returned to the Trinamool from the BJP after the ruling party's spectacular victory, even targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A senior administration official -- Navneet Sehgal, the Additional Chief Secretary of the state's Information department -- retweeted an apology extended by the publisher.

The BJP pointed to the apology too when the Samajwadi Party ridiculed them over the advertisement. "When a party uses a lie to make accusations against others, it is clear they can see their defeat and like 'children', make mistake in haste. The truth is before you," read a rough translation of the party's tweet.

The Samajwadi Party had tweeted from its official handle, saying, "The Chief Minister's lie exposed again! Those who spend public money like water in advertisements, have no development work to showcase. So they are using photos from Kolkata. This is the BJP government, Number One in lying. And their days are numbered".

Assembly elections are due in Uttar Pradesh early next year, in which the BJP is seeking a second term in power.

But there are suspicions among a section of the state leaders that the Chief Minister's image has taken a beating over the handling of the second wave of Covid.

The thousands of bodies buried on the sandbanks of the river Ganga and others floating down it had made headlines across the world, amid reports of oxygen crisis and lack of health infrastructure in rural areas.

SKM thanks committed...

He announced a Mobile Village Clinic project with ambulances, doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers under the 'Healthcare to Doorsteps' programme to visit every village every week as the pandemic situation normalises.

He also announced a 'Drivers Welfare Board' which will have a chairperson and vice-chairperson in all districts to address various issues related to drivers and support them during times of need.

On the One Nation-One Ration Card issue, the CM stressed that SKM's politics was committed to protection of Sikkim and its people and explained that

ONORC was a facility to ensure that a person can get his/ her quota of ration at any part of the country.

He remarked that ONORC would also check corruption and illegal activities and argued that ONORC does not extend any other rights and does not hamper safeguards enjoyed by the Sikkimese in any way.

He alleged that some organizations and individuals have been trying to play politics by making an issue out of this non-issue and urged them to work in the interest of people of Sikkim instead by keeping their politics aside and not see everything through their political blinkers.

ASGTBA thanks CM for Rodhi Ghar approval

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

The All Sikkim Gurung Tamu Boudha Association has thanked Chief Minister PS Tamang for the recent approval of the construction of a Rodhi Ghar for the Gurung Community.

A press release issued by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's general secretary for press & publicity, BP Bhandari, informs that the ASGTBA interim vice president, Mahindra Gurung, has conveyed sincere gratitude towards the CM for granting this demand which has been pending for 25 years.

Mr Gurung conveys in a statement: "Though the association approached

several times to the then Chief Minister Mr. Pawan Kumar Chamling but it was all in vain. The several assurances had been carried out by him but never turned it into a positive result. But it has been ended up by the noble thoughts of construction of Rodhi ghar through the support of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang on a single approach by All Sikkim Gurung Tamu Boudha Association".

The construction of a Rodhi Ghar each at Chuba in South Sikkim and Sichey in East Sikkim will boost the morale of the Tamu Gurung community and inspire them to work harder to preserve their customs and traditions.

HSP executive-level meet resolves to form advisory committee, chart future plans



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Hamro Sikkim Party convened an executive body meeting under the chairmanship of party president, Dr Bina Basnett, here on Sunday.

An HSP press release issued by the party's spokesperson, Yogen Rai, informs that the meeting decided to constitute a five-member advisory committee to pave the way ahead for the party.

The release adds that

the meeting also decided to appoint a coordinator on a temporary basis for each district by the end of the week to address the media about what the party sees as deteriorating state of politics in Sikkim and to apprise the public about future plans of the party.

The meeting also decided to meet the Governor and other political leaders as well confer with leaders of the civil society, the release adds.

Lachen-Mangan MLA keeps busy with constituency visit



WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 12 SEPT:

Day Six of his constituency visit took Lachen-Mangan MLA, Minister Samdup Lepcha, to Meyong, Naday, Manul and Kimrong wards today where he met with

the residents and heard out their grievances.

The Minister, it is informed, initiated open air discussions with the public to establish consensus for all-round development at the said wards.

CU renovating its Asutosh Museum of Indian Art

KOLKATA, SEP 12 (PTI):

Calcutta University is renovating its Asutosh Museum of Indian Art, a rich treasure trove of sculptures, paintings and manuscripts dating back centuries, to give a better display to its exhibits.

Through the renovation, which is expected to be completed by next year, the university seeks to make the commoners aware of the rich archival contents that have remained unnoticed for long, Vice Chancellor Sonali Chakraborty Banerjee said.

"Most of the terracotta items and the antiques were not stored properly. We will keep the exhibits at a controlled temperature with digital lighting on each item. In consultation with experts, we have undertaken the drive to revamp the infrastructure and facilities of the museum," she told PTI. A major portion of the collection comprises terracotta items unearthed in the 1940s from various archaeo-

logical sites in West Bengal such as Chandraketugarh, Tamluk, Panna, Tilda, Bangarh, Mahasthangarh and Paharpur.

The museum houses paintings by renowned artist Jamini Roy, and also has portraits of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Rabindranath Tagore and Michael Madhusudan Dutt, which had been lying in a state of neglect, she said, adding there are also many valuables donated by royals.

"There are many interesting items in the museum, which is on different floors of the centenary building of the 164-year-old university. Even many people visiting the campus were unaware of the existence of such a museum. We want to make people aware of their heritage," she said.

The vice chancellor said that renovating the museum at par with global standards and showcasing the artefacts would also help in building the brand of Calcutta University.



SIKKIM GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, GYALSHING, WEST SIKKIM. 737111.
(NAAC Accredited)
www.sgccgyalshing.in

email-gyalshingcollege2011@gmail.com

Ref. No.: 40/SGC/GYAL/EDN/W/2021

Dated: 11/09/2021

Applications are invited for admissions for the Post Graduate Course for the Academic Session 2021-2023, in the Extension Center of Sikkim University at Sikkim Government College, Gyalshing, West Sikkim, through ONLINE mode.

Course Name	Seats Available
M.A Political Science	15

Minimum Eligibility Criteria: Before applying for the course, the candidates must ensure that they meet the minimum eligibility criteria of Sikkim University for the relevant course. An applicant must have completed B.A. course from recognized University under 10+2+3 system in the relevant discipline. Application Fee – **Rs 500/-** (to be paid during the submission of filled application form). For further details, please refer the PG Prospectus 2021 which can be downloaded from www.sgccgyalshing.in

Important Dates:

Sl. No	Activity	Dates
1.	Admission Notice in the College Portal/ Newspapers	11 th September 2021
2.	Filling up of Online Application Form starts from: (Forms will be available at college website www.sgccgyalshing.in)	13 th September 2021
3.	Last date of submission of forms	25 th September 2021
4.	Declaration of Result	06 th October 2021
5.	Admission and fee payment of shortlisted students	08 th -09 th October 2021

For further details contact:

+91 8597442093, +918768272889, +91 7430974007 (10am to 5pm)

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email us: news@summittimes.com

MoS External Affairs tours Gangtok

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT [IPR]: Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, visited the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handlooms at Zero Point today as part of his three-day Sikkim visit.

The Minister was received by Deputy Director, DHH, Kumari Chettri, and officials of the Directorate.

The Minister took stock of the handicrafts and handlooms on display.

Thereafter, the Minister visited the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology at Deorali.

The MoS was welcomed by Deputy Director, NIT, Tashi Chuki, along with Museum Assistant, NIT, Samten Choden, Research Officer, Tsultim Gyatso, and the staff of NIT.

Dr Singh toured the museum and appreciated its showcase of Tibetan iconography and religious art.

He also took a tour of the NIT library where he made various queries about the digitization of the scriptures and expressed his admiration for the Institute for being a house of knowledge.

Later, the Minister visited MG Marg where he was accorded a warm welcome by Deputy Mayor Tshering Palden Bhutia, Councillors Sundeeep Malu, Bindhya Cintury and Diki Lhamu Lepcha.

MoS for Education calls on CM



GANGTOK, 12 SEPT [IPR]: Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, called on Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang at his official residence, Mintokgang, here today.

During the courtesy visit, they discussed ways to strengthen the bond between the North-East Region and collectively work for development.

Additionally, the Chief Minister apprised him about the status of education in Sikkim and added that the State Government is prioritising primary education to build a strong foundation.

Also, he briefed the Minister about the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence, NIT, Khamdong and other upcoming educational institutions in the State.

Further, the Chief Minister also informed the Minister about his proposal to conduct regular meetings in different North-East states to increase the understanding among the region.

Apart from this, they also deliberated on topics including organic farming, health, tourism and the COVID-19 situation in their respective states.


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STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD SIKKIM

FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

F.No. 351/SPCB/3181 Dated: 8.9.2021

NOTICE

As per the provisions of Section 25 of water (Prevention &Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of Air (Prevention & Control of pollution) Act, 1981, no person/s can establish or operate any enterprise, industrial units without obtaining prior Consent to Establish or Operate which are liable for causing environment pollution. The units include any type of enterprises/establishments e.g. Health car Establishment (Hospital, Clinics, Clinical labs, blood bank etc), Pharmaceutical units, Fabrication units, factories, Vehicle cleaning facility (car spa), Automobile workshop/ Garages, Hydro-electric project and industrial units, Hotels , Resorts, restaurants, Hot mix plant, DG Sets, Mobile tower, petrol pumps, photo studios, Dairy, Bakery, Laundry an jewellery shops, poultry farms (5000 birds & above) etc.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to all units to apply for Consent to Establish/Operate online at www.skocmms.nic.in without fail. Failure to obtain Consent may result in legal action in exercise of power vested under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Section 33 A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & under section 31 A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 by the State Pollution Control Board Sikkim for contravention of the relevant provisions of the Acts.

For further enquiry please contact the office of the State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim Deorali Gangtok, East Sikkim.
Email: spcbsikkim@gmail.com

Member Secretary
State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim
Department of Forest & Environment,
Government of Sikkim
Deorali , East Sikkim.

R.O. No. 192/IPr/Pub/Classi./21-22
Date: 10.9.2021

"Extraordinarily Fabulous": Twitter reactions to Emma Raducanu's stunning US Open victory

NEW DELHI, 12 SEPT [NDTV]: Emma Raducanu, the teenage phenomenon from Britain, pulled off one of tennis' great triumphs when she beat Leylah Fernandez of Canada in straight sets (6-4, 6-3) to win the US Open women's singles title. In the process, she created history by becoming the first qualifier - man or woman - to win a Grand Slam title.

The 18-year-old world number 150 is also the first British woman in 44 years to win a Slam crown. Soon after her victory, congratulatory messages flooded social media, celebrating the teenager's triumph. Among those who wished her were Queen Elizabeth II and the Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton.

On the official Twitter handle of the Royal Family, Queen Elizabeth II said that she had "no doubt" that the performances of Raducanu and Fernandez "will inspire the next generation of tennis players".

On the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's official Twitter account, Kate posted a tweet congratulating Raducanu on her "stunning performances and historic Grand Slam victory!", and added "we are all so proud of you."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, too, offered his congratulations.

Former tennis player and legend Martina Navratilova also heaped praise on the British teenager.

She tweeted that a star was born, and added "Emma Raducanu makes history - never has a qualifier won a major - men or women - and she is just getting started. And will never have to qualify again." Martina also applauded Leylah Fernandez, saying that she "will be back".

Former England footballer Gary Lineker said Raducanu's achievement was "extraordinarily fabulous", and added, "First time in my life I've ever tweeted whilst on air but my goodness what a performance, what a triumph, what an amazing young woman. Congratulations Emma Raducanu on a truly staggering achievement. US Open winner at 18 without losing a set."

Suspected Chinese submarine spotted near territorial waters: Japan

TOKYO, 12 SEPT [REUTERS]: Japan's defence ministry said on Sunday that a submarine believed to be from China was spotted in waters near its southern islands, as maritime tensions persist in the Pacific.

Japan's navy on Friday morning identified a submerged vessel sailing northwest just outside territorial waters near Amami Oshima island, part of Kagoshima prefecture, the ministry said in a statement. A Chinese destroyer was also spotted in the vicinity.

Tokyo has complained of numerous intrusions by Chinese vessels of its territorial waters and near disputed islands in recent years. China has often reacted angrily to US ships sailing through disputed areas of the South China Sea in what Washington calls displays of freedom of navigation. Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi, visiting Vietnam during a Southeast Asia trip, said those two countries should refrain from unilateral actions regarding the South China Sea that could complicate and magnify disputes.

Sunday's announcement said Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force identified the vessels in a contiguous zone, which is outside territorial waters where vessels are required to identify themselves. Still, Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi instructed his staff "gather information and maintain vigilant surveillance with a sense of urgency," the statement said.

Officials at the Chinese embassy could not immediately be reached for comment on Sunday.

The submarine continued underwater westward in the ocean near Yokoate Island, the ministry said.

Recent wins boost Bangladesh's T20 World Cup chances: Shakib Al Hasan

HARARE, 12 SEPT [AFP]: All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan says Bangladesh will head to the T20 World Cup later this year full of confidence after series wins against Zimbabwe, Australia and New Zealand. Bangladesh's Twenty20 side defeated hosts Zimbabwe 2-1 in July, beat Australia 4-1 at home in August and completed a 3-2 series victory against New Zealand in Dhaka on Friday.

"I think we have a good chance in the World Cup. We had a good preparation. The big reason for this is that we won our last three series," Shakib told reporters on Saturday. "When a team keep winning, carries a winning mentality, they give it the confidence of a different level." Most matches in the recent series were low-scoring affairs, with Bangladesh's batsmen struggling alongside their visitors on pitches that have come under criticism. "Everyone is out of form, those who played these nine to 10 matches. Here no one (batsman) did very well," he added.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com "We should not count these games to judge our batsmen. I feel a batsman will end his career if he plays 10 to 15 matches here. Everyone is trying, and have the ability to win matches for the country."



Request for Bids (Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

Employer: Gangtok Smart City Development Limited (GSCDL)

Project: SIK-GAN-017 "Construction of Pedestrian Foot-Over Bridges at Various Locations in Gangtok"

RFB No: 008 /GSCDL/2021, Project identification No: SIK-GAN-017.

Issued on: 10th September’ 2021

- The GSCDL is to receive financing under the Smart City Mission, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract "For this contract, the GSCDL shall process the payments as per the Company policy, terms and conditions laid in this Standard Procurement Document, subject to availability of funds.
- The GSCDL now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the work "Construction of Pedestrian Foot-Over Bridges at Various Locations in Gangtok" to be completed within a period of Eighteen Months.
- Bidding will be conducted through competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified herein and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the given criteria.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the office of the Chief Executive Officer, GSCDL; email id – ceosmartcity.gangtok@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours between 11:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs from Date:13/09/2021 to 17/09/2021 at the address indicated below.
- The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders during working days between 11:00 hrs to 15.00hrs 21/09/2021 to 24/09/2021 at the address indicated below, upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee as mentioned in the table below. The method of payment will be through demand draft payable to Gangtok Smart City Development Limited. The DD should be issued by a Nationalized Bank and be payable at Gangtok.
- Bids must be delivered to the address indicated below, on or before 1300 hours on 18/10/2021. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below at 1500 hrs on 19/10/2021. All envelopes marked "FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Employer until the second public Bid opening.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security {2.5% of bid value}in the form of Demand Draft from any scheduled/nationalized bank in favor of Chief Executive Officer, Gangtok Smart City Development Limited, payable at Gangtok.

The details are as follows:-

Sl. No	Project Code	Tender Package	List of Junctions	Cost put to tender	Cost of Tender Form	Bid Security Value	Appropriate Contractor Grade
1	SIK-GAN-017	Pack-age A	1. Holy Cross Junction 2. Saraswati Mandir 3. Manipal Junction 4. Metro Point Junction 5. Convoy Ground	₹5,21,71,190/-	₹50,000/-	₹13,50,000/-	II A
2	SIK-GAN-017	Pack-age B	1.Amdo Golai Junction 2.D.A.C Junction 3. D.P.H Junction 4. Kazi Road Junction 5. Chanmari Junction 6. Bojhogari Junction 7. Rejuvenation and Improvement of Existing Pedestrian Foot-over bridges at Hospital Dara, Metro Point & Lal Bazar junction.	₹7,00,02,667/-	₹50,000/-	₹17,50,000/-	I B

8. The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Chief Executive Officer
Gangtok Smart City Development Limited, Kisan Bazar, Level-5- 737101, Gangtok, Sikkim, India
Email address: ceosmartcity.gangtok@gmail.com
Website: <http://smartcitygangtok.com/>&<https://smartnet.niua.org/>

Sd/-
Chief Technical Officer
Gangtok Smart City Development Ltd

For Education

Figure out why... the how will then follow

The definition of literacy in India is grossly under-achieving. Anyone with an elementary knowledge to read and write is counted as literate; at times, even just being able to write and read their names is considered enough, and that is hardly what literacy should be about. If this were the yardstick to measure literacy, then handing over smartphones to the unlettered will get the job done. It is after all not rare to find preschool toddlers who have figured out how the play and pause commands on video games look different and work their way around it. Without even having learned the alphabet, many can get to their favorite Youtube videos which is stupefying for the elders who took a long time even building up the confidence to switch on their computers when the light-boxes first arrived. So, aiming for literacy is really aiming too low. But that is probably what the babus and mantris here are aiming for given that they are blissfully self-unaware that they can claim without choking with irony that Sikkim schools suddenly losing more than 800 teachers will not affect studies at all!

But one has to work with what one has, so here goes anyways. The aim has to be to deliver learning even if it does not include reading and writing so that quality of human resource is improved. Governments choose the easier option of literacy when the more productive and necessary approach should be to create better educated citizens. But even that is not desirable for those who call the shots and pocket the proceeds, but for the rest, it is still a necessary aspiration. Prepare better educated citizens, and one need not even worry too much about employable skills, because if education does its job well, it will infuse an inquisitiveness and a confidence which will make the “educated” ready for every job and every challenge. And this has to be approach with which the education policy is approached. Sikkim keeps returning to that track until work-orders and grand-sounding empty projects and schemes derail everything. It is however important that deep meditations and consultations are undertaken often to understand what is missing from its schools, what works and what needs to be done to inject quality into the school system here.

Education has been held up as a thrust area of governmental engagement, with ‘quality’ as the watch word. It is heartening for Sikkim to learn that education is receiving a relook and it is thus important that people and their organizations ensure that myopic egos do not sabotage things. The density of schools in Sikkim leaves no room for complaint and the free textbooks and uniform scheme ensure that at least the tools required to remain in school are in place. Schemes like the mid-day meal are pegged as incentives to keep students in school, but the only effective incentive long-term will be the quality of education that is imparted in the classrooms, not the quality of food served during breaks or the quality of uniforms. That said, enrolment is handsome in Sikkim’s schools and kids here can complete education if they so desire. But what also needs to be accepted is that nowadays, most kids are in school because their parents don’t know what else to do with them... because sending children to school is the done thing. Worryingly, most enroll in colleges for much the same reason (or rather, the lack of one). Not too many of us have really figured out why we really send children to school. There are vague notions of “a better future” and employment, but come on, we should not be signing off the first two decades or more of our lives for pursuits without any clear idea of why. Hence, the first task for any enquiry into how schools can be improved should be to build consensus on why we have schools, and let’s scratch employment from the reasons because imparting “employable skills” does not require such a long time – you can prepare people for most jobs with a basic 3-month course and the rest they can learn on the job. Once Sikkim has figured out “why”, the how will be easy to work out.

WRITE US:

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



China is on course to build the best cars in the world

TOM STACEY
theconversation.com

Europeans and other western nations have dominated automotive excellence for over a century. Whether it is the satisfying thud of the door closing on a Volkswagen from Wolfsburg, or the beauty of a Ferrari from Modena, these brands are iconic – and very lucrative for their manufacturers. When we think of reliability, the Germans, and latterly the Japanese, have had it sewn up. But if you rest on your laurels, an upstart will soon be chasing at your heels.

The Chinese are not exactly upstarts in the traditional sense: it’s more than a decade since they surpassed America to become the most prolific car-makers in the world. But despite reaching that milestone in 2008, China’s cars were still mostly clones of cheap western vehicles.

Now, however, China is arguably producing the best cars in the world, and on track to dominate auto manufacturing. How did this happen, and will the west be able to regain its crown?

ADVANTAGE, BEIJING

The centre of excellence in car manufacturing moved from Europe at the turn of the 1900s to the US with the growth of Detroit as the world’s auto powerhouse. The 1980s and 1990s saw Japan and South Korea surge ahead, only for Europe to rise again in the early noughties as Volkswagen duelled Toyota to be number-one manufacturer by output.

Each continent has added its own flavour along the way, from innovation in safety in Europe to volume production in the US to lean manufacturing in Japan. It was Toyota’s manufacturing systems that saved German-owned Porsche when it was facing dire business conditions in the 1990s, for instance.

China has gradually built its auto-making capabilities during these different eras. It originally began making Soviet-designed utility vehicles under licence in the 1950s, before its state-owned companies reached similar arrangements in joint ventures with western manufacturers like General Motors and Volkswagen in the 1980s. This produced cars that were far better designed and more sophisticated, and soon China’s roads were becoming choked with western clones.

But if that steadily elevated China to number-one world carmaker by output, it can now go one better. The goal for any automotive nation is to produce vehicles of outstanding quality at the lowest possible price, simultaneously delighting the owner with innovative features and good design.

Vehicle quality is both about simple reliability and also what we would describe as build quality: how well the vehicle is finished, the uniformity of the paint finish, how well the different panels on the body align, and even – as Volkswagen made famous – the sound the doors make when they close.

Japanese and Korean vehicles have dominated reliability, while build quality has been the preserve of the Germans for mass-manufactured cars, and British names like Rolls-Royce and Bentley at the luxury end (ironically both are owned by the Germans).

China is now a major threat on both fronts, having had the advantage of maturing most recently: as each new nation learns to produce vehicles at scale, they benefit from all the learning and technical developments that have gone before. Incumbent nations would have to start from the ground up to unlock these benefits, which is an enormous upheaval and expense. Many US car plants were built in the 1950s or even before, for instance.

China is also well placed to build cars for the right price. It still pays relatively low wages and has millions of skilled workers steeped in the nation’s strong manufacturing culture. Skilled workers are vital to reducing automotive costs because they make vehicles that need fewer adjustments or rebuilds.

China also has excellent shipping links, with many auto factories close to Shanghai, the world’s largest shipping port. This includes Tesla’s gigafactory, one of the largest facilities in the world, capable of producing around 2,000 cars daily. Getting the product out, shipped and with the customer quickly reduces costs because manufacturers get paid sooner. Also crucially important is China’s huge components supply-chain, which is already a large exporter of car parts to other nations. This all adds up to huge economies of scale that don’t exist anywhere else, and are difficult to replicate.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Admittedly, some Chinese vehicles in the past decade have not had the design or performance expected by western buyers, so have not sold in enough volumes in Europe to worry the establishment. Yet this is changing rapidly. Start-ups like Polestar (owned by Volvo) are building vehicles that combine excellent build quality and the safety features, design and performance that western buyers demand. Sales of the Polestar 2 electric SUV have actually outpaced the Tesla Model 3 in Sweden and Norway at times, albeit the Model 3 is still the bigger seller overall.

Comparing vehicles that are built both in the west and China is particularly illuminating. Tesla’s Model 3 and Model Y cars are both built in the US and China, and owners in Europe have reported that the Chinese versions are better. I hear that their all-important panel gaps are tighter, and fewer trips to the repair shop are required.

Polestar and Tesla both have very modern factories and are fully electric. Both are designed in the west, as is BMW’s iX3, another fully electric SUV built in China for export back to Europe. Like Polestar and Tesla, the iX3 is taking advantage of China’s supply chain in EV batteries, among other things.

Yet Chinese-designed and built vehicles are not far behind in their design (if not equal), and starting to invade European markets. Xpeng is one Chinese start-up that only produces electric vehicles. Having sold well in China, it is making its first moves into Europe via Norway with its G3 model. Reviews of this compact SUV by the established auto press have been good. Meanwhile, Nio is another Chinese manufacturer making great strides in becoming a global name in pure electric vehicles.

It is early days for these entirely Chinese-designed cars to take on the establishment, and there is always the possibility that geopolitics upsets progress, but it finally seems that all the ingredients are there. The next revolution in automotive is replacing petrol and diesel vehicles with electric. With all of China’s advantages, it could yet lead this shift, and finally become the home of the best cars in the world.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Operations and Supply Chain Management, Anglia Ruskin University]

Mercury Prize – a prize for an album in a time when no one listens to them

RICHARD OSBORNE
theconversation.com

Sometimes the result feels obvious. Arlo Parks, the bookies’ favourite, was always going to win the Mercury Prize for the best British and Irish album of the year. This is not, in my view, because Collapsed in Sunbeams is the most worthy album musically. Each of the short-listed records could have made a claim in this respect. Instead, it is because the prize tends to be awarded to artists who capture the zeitgeist. Parks typifies 2021 in a way that escapes the other nominees.

Outlining their decision at the award ceremony last night, the judges commended “just how much she represents a generation of people and talks about themes that are so timely to now”. Collapsed in Sunbeams provides succour for our pandemic lives. Announcing the award at the ceremony, DJ Annie Mac stated: “We need Arlo Parks’ music: it’s healing, it’s comforting, it’s uplifting.”

It would be going too far to suggest that artists create albums with the Mercury Prize in mind, but the award does form part of promotional strategies. Above all else, it is regarded as providing a sales boost.

Unlike the Booker Prize for fiction, with which it is often compared, this boost forms part of the media coverage. The shortlisting of Collapsed in Sunbeams resulted in a sales increase of 16.7%. Another of the nominees, Laura Mvula’s Pink Noise, witnessed a 50% rise.

Yet there is a tension in this prize. It attempts to capture the pulse of the nation, but in many ways the long-playing record is a thing of the past.

NO ONE LISTENS TO ALBUMS

Some commentators believe that albums reached their peak as an art-form half a century ago. In the current century, this format can be viewed as irrelevant.

Rather than listening to the whole of albums, consumers are now more likely to stream individual tracks. In 2019, the British research company MIDiA found that just 16% of consumers listened to physical albums, and only 10% listened to albums in full on streaming services. The preference, instead, is the algorithms of playlists.

Artists have responded in kind. Some, such as Calvin Harris, no longer make albums. There is divergence between singles and albums acts. Statistically, singles can be viewed as being more representative of the public.

This week’s number one, Bad Habits by Ed Sheeran, has been streamed over 400 million times on Spotify alone. In contrast, prior to last night’s award, Collapsed in Sunbeams had just 43,311 UK sales.

SELF-EVIDENT LUNACY

The record business still clings to the idea of the album, nonetheless. The Mercury Prize is organised by the UK’s trade body, the British Phonographic Industry (BPI). Rather than accept the dominance of streaming, the recording industry converts its activity into “album equivalent sales”. Figures are reported on the basis that 1,000 streams across all tracks of an album is equal to the sale of one physical album. Music business analyst Tim Ingham has described this formula as “self-evident lunacy”.

It is based on the notion that the two tallies will generate similar royalties. This is economically false. The calculation has been in place for ten years, a period in which the average per-stream pay rate has halved, while the average price of a physical album has increased. In addition, it provides a false equivalence across different methods of consumption. In reaching the 1,000 streams total, there is no need for listeners to experience the music as an album. The figures are

instead compiled from their atomised activities.

The Mercury Prize has been in existence since 1992. Ostensibly, its 30 winners have fulfilled the same function: they have captured the spirit of the times to create the best album of the year.

Since the turn to online services, however, the award has undertaken an additional role. It is upholding the idea of the album in the face of technological change. Even the televised event is structured like a record. There are 12 shortlisted nominees, matching the average number of tracks on album. They perform their hit tracks in turn, mirroring the pattern of a compilation LP.

This might feel anachronistic, but it is a worthwhile task. Many artists do still think in terms of collections of songs. The album continues to provide a great resource with which to outline a musical vision. The prize also does an effective job of introducing audiences to these albums and increasing their “sales”. And really, would any of us prefer a Mercury Prize for the playlist of the year rather than album?

[the writer is Associate Professor in Music and the Creative Industries, Middlesex University]



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

DATED:- 06/09/2021

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

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

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

TIME SCHEDULE

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

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

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

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

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

Robert Lewandowski strikes again as Bayern Munich sweep aside RB Leipzig

LEIPZIG, 12 SEPT [REUTERS]: Robert Lewandowski chalked up his sixth goal in just four Bundesliga games as Bayern Munich swept aside RB Leipzig 4-1 on Saturday to go second in the table behind early leaders Wolfsburg.

Lewandowski netted a first-half penalty before 18-year-old Jamal Musiala and Leroy Sane added quick-fire goals just after the break in front of 34,000 fans at Leipzig's Red Bull Arena. The hosts clawed back a stunning goal when midfielder Konrad Laimer hit the top corner before Lewandowski's replacement Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scored Bayern's late fourth.

Bayern head coach Julian Nagelsmann, who quit Leipzig after two years to take charge in Munich this season, said the result flattered his side, who face Barcelona away on Tuesday in the Champions League.

"I've always felt well here, today as well," a grinning Nagelsmann told Sky.

"Basically it was good, but we can definitely play better."

Leipzig's American coach Jesse Marsch said they must bounce back fast ahead of their away Champions League game at Manchester City.

"The group gave their all, it's always hard playing against Bayern. We have to learn and quickly with Man City coming up on Wednesday," said Marsch.

Leipzig have lost three of their first four league games.



"We haven't had the start we wanted, we have to stay calm and stick together," added Marsch.

"The daily work with the group is really strong, but we need the results to validate it and we have to fight."

The Bavarians were ahead after just 12 minutes when Lewandowski slotted home a penalty after the ball had clipped the upper arm of Leipzig midfielder Kevin Kampl. Bayern landed a blow directly after half-time when Musiala, on for Serge Gnabry, snapped up Alphonso Davies' pass and curled his shot around inside

the far post on 47 minutes. Andre Silva had a goal disallowed, just before Musiala whipped in a cross which Germany teammate Sane volleyed home on 54 minutes.

Laimer's thunderbolt long-range shot gave Leipzig some hope on 58 minutes only for Choupo-Moting to grab Bayern's fourth goal just before the final whistle.

There were near-deafening whistles when Marcel Sabitzer, who started the season as Leipzig captain before last week's transfer to Munich, came on for his Bayern debut and headed over the

bar late on. Lewandowski is the league's top-scorer on six goals, one more than Erling Braut Haaland, who earlier scored a brace to seal thrilling 4-3 win for Borussia Dortmund at Bayer Leverkusen.

Dortmund came from behind three times and only took the lead 13 minutes from the final whistle when Haaland converted a penalty which leaves his club third in the table on goal difference.

"You can't defend against everything and Dortmund have a world-class striker," admitted Leverkusen coach Gerardo Seoane. Haaland's brace in

Leverkusen means the Norway striker has now scored eight goals in his last five games for club and country.

Haaland has scored 13 goals this season -- five for Norway and eight for Dortmund.

Teenage Germany international Florian Wirtz put Leverkusen ahead, then set up team-mate Patrik Schick for their side's second to make it 2-1 at the break after Haaland had earlier headed Dortmund level.

Haaland then set up Julian Brandt to equalise early in the second half only for Leverkusen's French winger Moussa Diaby to put the hosts 3-2 up with 35 minutes left.

Dortmund levelled for a third time through Raphael Guerreiro before Haaland coolly slotted the winning penalty into the bottom corner 13 minutes from time after Leverkusen defender Odilon Kossounou fouled Marco Reus.

The win was a welcome 45th birthday present for Dortmund head coach Marco Rose ahead of their opening Champions League group game at Besiktas on Wednesday.

Wolfsburg stayed top with a 2-0 win at newly-promoted Greuther Fuerth.

Wout Weghorst and Lukas Nmecha scored to leave them as the only team in Germany's top flight with a 100 percent record -- the first time Wolfsburg have started a Bundesliga season with four straight wins.

Teary Messi delights fans and breaks Pelé's record

MARCELA MORA

Y ARAUJO

BUENOS AIRES, 12 SEPT

[THEGUARDIAN]:

Lionel Messi broke down in tears of joy after scoring three goals against Bolivia in a World Cup qualifier played in Buenos Aires's Monumental stadium. The nation wept with him, in a communion of devotees relishing their favourite game, finally, the way it is meant to be. Argentina won three times in one night, Andres Burgo wrote in *diario.ar*: "With the 3-0, with the return of the fans to the stadium, and with Lionel Messi's tears."

Bolivia may not be as epic an adversary as, say, Brazil but the triple delight proffered by Messi was an emotional ride the nation's football lovers yielded to in full. The first goal, a masterclass in precision nutmegging just under 15 minutes into the game, drew a smile on the captain's face which mirrored the curve he had etched in the air with the ball, and stayed put for the remainder of the match.

It is always a pleasure to watch players enjoying their craft, but particularly so in the case of Messi wearing the Argentina strip. For so long it has seemingly weighed him down; the transformation into magic cloak is adorable. The way he gently strokes and kisses it at chest height after scoring is fast becoming an iconic insignia.

The second goal, perhaps more opportunistic than beautiful artistry, was his 78th for Argentina, positioning him ahead of Pelé as the top scorer in men's South American international football history. Pelé's last match for Brazil was in the early 70s. The smiling Messi was celebrated with cheers and bows.

The third goal was a quick flick close to the goalkeeper on the rebound. Because he could. A detail, a nice final touch. He celebrated with his arms outstretched, gliding over the pitch.

There was something close to perfection in the triangle. The 3-0 scoreline felt just right, enough to pave the road to Qatar with a happy start.

Brazil are top of the qualifying group and virtually guaranteed a spot at the 2022 finals in Qatar. Argentina, six points adrift in second, are a good team at the moment, the players working well together: Ángel Di María was on fire, but this was not a World Cup match. It felt at times like an exhibition friendly with the sole purpose of giving Messi a platform on home soil, to delight the fans who have adored him at a distance for so long.

The significance of the presence of fans cannot be overestimated. In a nation of football lovers, pandemic restrictions have kept the public at bay since March 2020. Around 20,000 tickets sold out in less than an hour, in a chaotic and sometimes desperate way. From the press seats to the VIP boxes, everyone who managed to be there hit a historic jackpot.

Argentina won the Copa America in Brazil in July, also without spectators. This triumph unequivocally established Messi in the hearts of even those critics who had been demanding that he deliver for the country as he had for Barcelona. The eerie silence of the empty stadium left a craving for the roar of the crowds that finally came home, a tearful Messi clutching the trophy amid the ecstatic chanting of his teammates and the public.

The hope had always been that the Copa would be won like this since the tournament was originally scheduled to be co-hosted by Argentina and Colombia. The latter pulled out due to social unrest, so Argentina was to be the sole host. But a surge in Covid-19 cases led the government scrapping those plans. Conmebol, the organisers, was left with no option but to move the event and Brazil jumped in, seemingly oblivious to its own pandemic curves and social protests.

The frailty of football's institutional structures had come to the fore in a scandalous comedy of misunderstandings when Brazil's qualifier against Argentina kicked off only to be interrupted less than five minutes into the game, as sanitation officials invaded the pitch to request the deportation of four Argentina players playing in the Premier League who should have been quarantined.

No doubt we shall hear more about the obligatory fields of immigration forms, the agreed protocols signed by the various federations and Conmebol, and the clubs' and Fifa's face-off over releasing players. The issue may well end up with CAS, but as Santiago Segura wrote in *El País*: "This pandemic has exposed football to almost unbearable tensions. In these two inclement years football has staged a very ugly plot of ambitions, disloyalties, offensives and rallies."

Still, Messi emerged with dignity from the fiasco. Led to the dressing room by a Conmebol official with the rest of the squad, he re-emerged wearing a photographer's bib to discuss the situation. Tite, Neymar, Lionel Scaloni and various officials held a meeting that achieved little to eclipse the circus. South American football, the world pronounced, is a shambles. The finals of the World Cup qualifying rounds held every four years in the middle of the calendar year may soon become a thing of the past. Messi may not win a World Cup for Argentina.

Perhaps it does not matter. His deed is done. He won the Copa America, which to us South Americans is prestigious enough. And he has now sealed that triumph with his show of emotion. On the touchline, he simply broke down. "I've wanted this for so long," he said, masked up, his eyes full of tears, "that it's here, now, with my mother, my siblings, the terraces ...". He could not go on. And I think I do not exaggerate when I say Argentina wept with him.

England Board Writes To ICC On Outcome Of Cancelled 5th Test Against India: Report



NEW DELHI, 12 SEPT [PTI]:

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has officially written to the ICC to decide the fate of the cancelled fifth Test against India at Old Trafford, indicating that the two boards are far from reaching a settlement.

The series-deciding fifth and final Test in Manchester was called off after a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp forced its senior players to express their apprehensions to both the BCCI and ECB on going ahead with the match. "Yes we have written to the ICC," an ECB spokesperson told PTI when asked if they want the global body to decide on the fifth Test.

Heading into game, India led the rubber 2-1. The standalone Test will not be part of this series.

The ECB wants the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee to address the issue and expect that a forfeiture would be granted so that they can claim insurance as they are going to lose 40 million pound if the match is declared abandoned due to Covid.

Covid is an acceptable non compliance and the Indian camp has stated that it was unable to field a team for the match.

However, the ECB's contention could be that the Indian players re-

turned two negative RT-PCR results and were still reluctant to play.

Seniors such as skipper Virat Kohli didn't budge from their stance that there was risk involved during the incubation period, which overlapped with Test dates as most players were treated by physio Yogesh Parmar, who is in isolation after contracting the virus.

If the ICC rules the Test as abandoned, then India will win the series 2-1 but if England get a forfeiture as per the DRC ruling, it will be a 2-2 verdict and the host nation can also claim insurance.

The ECB going to the ICC proves that there hasn't been an amicable settlement yet on the issue as the host board stares at losses.

If it is ruled in favour of India, ECB stands to incur huge losses as most of the 40 million pound is not covered under COVID-19 insurance.

The Indian cricketers have already left UK and most of them have touched base in the UAE with their respective IPL franchises.

It goes without saying that the BCCI's apprehension was the IPL schedule going haywire in case any of the top players tested positive during the course of the now-cancelled Test.

Romelu Lukaku's double downs Aston Villa and keeps Chelsea flying high

LONDON, 12 SEPT [THE-GUARDIAN]: There was a sense of inevitability about the way it ended, even though Aston Villa never stopped trying to grab the goal their performance deserved. Everybody inside Stamford Bridge knew what to expect when César Azpilicueta charged down Chelsea's right flank in stoppage time and slipped a pass inside to Romelu Lukaku, who only had one thing on his mind when he received the ball on the edge of the area.

If the footwork from Lukaku was impressive, the strike was even better: a rising, snorting, left-footed screamer that left Villa's goalkeeper, Jed Steer, hopelessly grasping at thin air. It was a masterful piece of forward play from one of the deadliest strikers in the world and, as the ball soared into the net, it was not hard to see why Chelsea made prising the Belgian away from Internazionale their top priority during the summer.

After all this was the kind of game that Thomas Tuchel's side made a habit of bungling last season. Three-nil was extremely harsh on Villa, who made all of the running during the first half. It was simply their misfortune to run into a rampant Lukaku, whose hunger for goals has given Chelsea the look of genuine title contenders.

"He was the difference," Tuchel said. "He wants to score and he wants to help the team with his goals. He has composure and confidence. He was super important. He adds something to the group that



we did not have in this capacity before now."

A feeling of serenity tends to fall over a team who have a lethal finisher leading the line. Somehow, despite being inferior to Villa in almost every aspect of the game, Chelsea were ahead when the interval arrived. Dean Smith's side had barely done anything wrong and still they trailed, their frustration immense as they reflected on a series of missed chances and the one moment when they lost sight of Lukaku.

Chelsea had struggled to convince before Lukaku's splendid opener in the 15th minute, with Saúl Ñíguez blown away by the intensity of the play after being handed his debut alongside Mateo Kovacic in midfield. The Spaniard was out of sorts from the start and Villa's midfielders quickly identified him as a weak link, repeatedly hustling him off the ball before looking to link with Danny Ings and Ollie Watkins.

It was an effective ploy from the visitors,

who matched Chelsea's 3-4-3 system, and it should have yielded a reward when Saúl dithered near his own box in the 23rd minute. John McGinn released Watkins and the striker looked certain to equalise after rounding Édouard Mendy, only for Thiago Silva to deny him with a magnificent block.

There were more near misses for Villa. Watkins threatened with a low drive and Chelsea were indebted to a heroic piece of goalkeeping from Mendy, who repelled a powerful shot from Tyrone Mings before springing to his feet to claw the rebound from Ezri Konsa wide.

Yet while they were lethargic, Chelsea held firm. And as with all the top strikers, Lukaku patiently waited for an opening to arrive, then suddenly sprang into life when Kovacic brilliantly burst through midfield and cut Villa open with a sweeping pass. There was no stopping Lukaku as he sped down the left, evaded Axel Tuanzebe's lunge and easily beat

Steer.

"I'm frustrated with the scoreline," Smith said. "But we didn't take our moments. We don't have to come to Chelsea like we would have done two years ago and sit with a deep block. We can now go and ask questions. We did that in the first half. Unfortunately the second goal, a big mistake, took the wind out of our sails."

Villa, who were without the isolating duo of Emi Buendía and Emiliano Martínez, took little satisfaction from forcing Tuchel to replace Saúl with Jorginho at half-time. The game was over as a contest four minutes into the second half, a dreadful backpass from Mings allowing Kovacic to score for the first time since December 2019.

In the end Chelsea cruised to a win that lifts them level with Manchester United at the top of the league. Callum Hudson-Odoi, making his first appearance of the season, acquitted himself well at right wing-back and it was no surprise when the final word went to Lukaku.

12 Afghan women brave fears to return to work at Kabul airport

KABUL, 12 SEPT [AFP]: Less than a month after the Taliban rolled into the Afghan capital, Rabia Jamal made a tough decision -- she would brave the hardliners and return to work at the airport.

With the Islamists saying women should stay at home for their own security the risks were all too clear, but the 35-year-old mother of three felt she had little choice.

"I need money to support my family," said Rabia, wearing a navy-blue suit and make-up.

"I felt tension at home... I felt very bad," she told AFP. "Now I feel better."

Of the more than 80 women working at the airport before Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15, just 12 have returned to their jobs.

But they are among very few women in the capital allowed to return to work. The Taliban have told most not to go back until further notice.

Six of the women airport workers were standing at the main entrance on Saturday, chatting and laughing while waiting to scan and search female passengers taking a domestic flight.

Rabia's sister, 49-year-old Qudsiya Jamal, told AFP the Taliban



takeover had "shocked" her.

"I was very afraid," said the mother of five, who is also her family's sole provider.

"My family was scared for me -- they told me not to go back -- but I am happy now, relaxed... no prob-

lems so far."

Women's rights in Afghanistan were sharply curtailed under the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule, but since returning to power the group claims they will be less extreme.

Women will be allowed to at-

tend university as long as classes are segregated by sex or at least divided by a curtain, the Taliban's education authority has said, but females must also wear an abaya, an all-covering robe, and face-covering niqab veil.

Still, Alison Davidian, a representative for UN Women in Afghanistan, warned on Wednesday that the Taliban were already neglecting their promise to respect Afghan women's rights.

At the airport, which is returning to action after the hurried US withdrawal left it unusable, Rabia says she will keep working unless she is forced to stop.

Under new rules, women may work "in accordance with the principles of Islam", the Taliban have decreed, but few details have yet been given as to what exactly that might mean.

"My dream is to be the richest girl in Afghanistan, and I feel I am always the luckiest," said Rabia, who has worked since 2010 at the terminal for GAAC, a UAE-based company providing ground and security handling.

"I will do what I love until I am not lucky anymore."

Rabia's colleague, who gave her name as Zala, dreams of something completely different.

The 30-year-old was learning French in Kabul before she was forced to stop and stay at home for three weeks after the takeover.

"Good morning, take me to Paris," she said in broken French, as her five colleagues burst into laughter.

"But not now. Today I am one of the last women of the airport."

Israeli blockade on Gaza eases, but residents are not hopeful

Fernanda Seavon Al-Mina, Gaza, 12 Sept [alJazeera]: "It really changes nothing for us," says Palestinian fisherman Khaled al-Habil. "Since we don't have the spare parts we need for maintenance and repair, most boats can't even go that far."

Khaled was referring to the expansion of Gaza's fishing zone announced by COGAT, an Israeli military unit responsible for civilian matters in the occupied territories, last Wednesday.

Among other measures, the fishing zone was expanded to 15 nautical miles (28km). Although the Oslo Accords signed in the early 1990s obligate Israel to allow boats to go as far as 20 nautical miles (37 km), the maximum it has ever permitted, up until last week, was 12 nautical miles (22km).

The atmosphere in al-Mina, Gaza's main port, is a good indicator of political tensions. Israel frequently restrains the zone to Gaza's fishermen in retaliation to Hamas decisions or anti-occupation protests. This instability affects the livelihoods of about 4,000 fishermen, their families, and thousands more people involved in the industry.

Khaled's family is directly affected. Khaled, 55, inherited the fisherman profession from his father when he was just 10 years old and passed it along to his five sons. "Fishing is all that we know, but the occupation does not allow us to practise our profession in peace and comfort," he says.

The al-Habil family owns a trawler – a large fishing boat capable of going long distances – that has been inactive for more than two years.

According to Khaled, the trawler supported more than 20 families, but it is no longer working because of an engine problem – the mechanical parts that could fix the issue cannot be found

in Gaza because of the Israeli-Egyptian blockade.

"The severe shortage of equipment and the prevention of their entry into the Strip is what they [Israeli authorities] should be actually addressing," argues Khaled.

Currently, the al-Habil family is spread out and working on different boats that belong to fellow fishermen. When asked about their demands, all six agree that, for the fishermen of Gaza to thrive, it is not enough to grant nautical miles, the siege must be completely lifted.

For the past couple of weeks, Palestinians have been protesting against Israel's crippling blockade of Gaza. In response to the building tension, COGAT announced not only the expansion of the fishing zone, but also three other measures.

As of last Wednesday, the water supply to Gaza has increased by an additional 5 million cubic metres (1.3 billion gallons), the quota of Gazan merchants allowed to pass through the Beit Hanoun crossing, known as Erez to Israelis, amounts to 7,000 (up from 2,000), and the Karem Abu Salem crossing, Kerem Shalom to Israelis, is completely open for the passage of equipment and goods.

Located at the southernmost point of the border between Gaza and Israel, Karem Abu Salem is Gaza's main commercial crossing. Farmers, manufacturers and suppliers, who employ thousands of people, depend on the crossing to advance their businesses. However, even with the complete opening, it is Israel that determines what can cross, how much of it, and when.

"It seems that nothing will change because it's operating the same capacity as before the war," Rabeh Morrar, director of research at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), told Al Jazeera.

Norway votes – but is Europe's biggest oil giant ready to go green?



OSLO, 12 SEPT [THE GUARDIAN]: Norway goes to the polls on Monday in parliamentary elections that are forcing western Europe's largest oil and gas producer to confront its environmental contradictions.

Climate issues have dominated the campaigning since August, when the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its starkest warning yet that global heating is dangerously close to spiralling out of control.

The report gave an instant boost to parties calling for curbs on drilling: the country's Green party – which wants an immediate halt to oil and gas exploration, and no further production at all after 2035 – saw membership surge by nearly a third.

"The International Energy Agency's Net Zero report in May had already made it plain that there was no room for oil and gas, and so the IPCC report really hit home," said Arild Hermstad, the Greens' deputy leader. "This really is the climate election."

But while polls predict the centre-left opposition will oust the Conservative-led coalition that has ruled Norway for eight years, the fate of the industry that

has made Norway one of Europe's most prosperous nations is far from sealed.

The country may be a leading proponent of green energy, but fossil fuels still account for 40% of its exports. The oil and gas industry employs more than 200,000 people – about 7% of the total workforce – and through it the country has built up the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, worth £1tn.

Pressure is mounting on Norway to change by emulating neighbouring Denmark, which is ending fossil fuel exploration and aims to halt all production by 2050.

A UN human rights council report on Norway last year was explicit, calling on the country to "prohibit further exploration for fossil fuels, reject further expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, and develop a just transition strategy for workers and communities".

But the message is a hard one to sell. "It will be a massive job to move Norway out of the oil industry," Hermstad said. "People worry for their work, for their standard of living. As long as the Conservatives are guaranteeing that oil jobs will continue, those calling for an end to drilling

look like the threat."

Norway's main centre-right and centre-left parties, the Conservatives and opposition Labour, are in broad agreement that production should continue past 2050, arguing that the green transition will take time, and oil revenues can help fund it.

Wrecking Norway's economy will not help, they argue, and if Norway stops producing, other countries will step into the gap. "They actually argue that because we produce cleanly, it will be better for the environment for Norway to continue," Hermstad said. "It's not true. But people like to hear it."

Nonetheless, the Greens could find themselves in government: the rightwing coalition of prime minister Erna Solberg is forecast to lose, but the margin of the left's predicted victory is unsure, and a Labour-led coalition could need the support of one or more smaller parties to reach a majority of 85 seats.

Labour, led by former foreign minister Jonas Gahr Støre, is tipped to be the largest party with a projected 46 MPs, but it too is set to lose seats – leaving its preferred coalition, with the middle-of-the-road Centre party and

the social democrat Socialist Left party with only the slimmest possible majority.

That could see the Greens, on target for eight seats, or the far-left Red party enter government, potentially giving the environmentalists crucial leverage in a left-leaning coalition that would be deeply divided over fossil fuel policy.

Labour has said it would not form a coalition with any party demanding a halt to all exploration or production. But its key allies disagree on the issue, with the Centre party backing continued exploration and the Socialist Left opposing it. Some kind of deal, the Greens hope, will have to be brokered.

Much will depend on whether the smaller parties pass Norway's so-called vote-levelling threshold, which rewards parties that win more than 4% of the vote nationwide but not many seats outright.

But it will be hard for Norway to give up its oil and gas addiction. Hermstad said: "In a debate last week, I asked the Conservative candidate when would be their preferred date to end production. He said: 'In about 300 years' time.'"

IAEA and Iran reach agreement to avert nuclear deal crisis

Tehran, 12 Sept [alJazeera]: The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog and Iran's nuclear chief have reached an agreement that will prevent another crisis looming over the prospect of restoring Iran's 2015 nuclear deal.

Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), landed in Tehran late on Saturday and met Mohammad Eslami, the newly appointed head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, on Sunday morning.

It was Grossi's first trip to Tehran during the new administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, who appointed Eslami as the new nuclear chief on August 29.

Both sides called the

meeting "constructive" and agreed they will continue discussions on the sidelines of the agency's general conference in Vienna later this month.

They also agreed that Grossi would travel to Tehran again soon to replace the agency's monitoring cameras' memory cards, which will still be kept in Iran in line with a law passed by the hard-line Iranian parliament in December.

Iran has since February said it will only hand over the tapes to the agency after an agreement is reached in Vienna that will lift unilateral United States sanctions.

"What matters to us, and the agency also emphasises upon, is to build trust," Eslami said following the meeting.

CORONAVIRUS

PRECAUTIONS & SAFETY TIPS

DON'T LOWER THE GUARD

LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE THREAT OF COVID-19 HAS NOT YET SUBSIDED.

As we adapt to the new normal, here is a reminder of the precautions you must take-

WEAR A MASK

Always wear a mask to prevent droplets from going outside

GET A FLU VACCINATION

Get your flu shot to develop an immune response before flu season begins, particularly if you have comorbidities

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands often, for about 20 seconds each with soap & carry a sanitizer

MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people

GET TESTED

Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19, stay at home until you get the result.

COVER YOUR MOUTH & NOSE WHILE SNEEZING, OR COUGHING

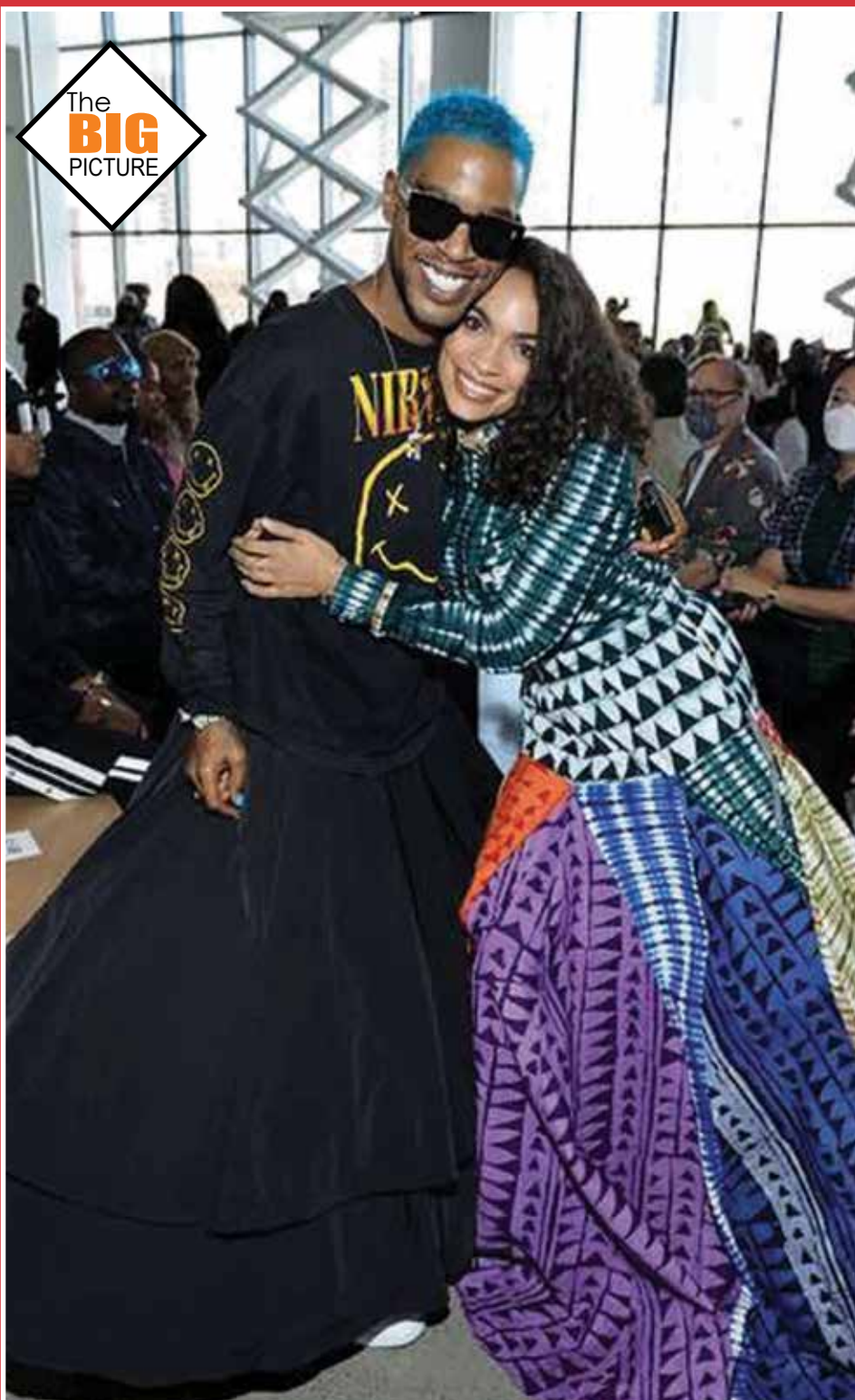
Before stepping outside, make sure to carry a handkerchief or a packet of tissues.

FOLLOW PRECAUTIONS BEFORE STEPPING OUT

Carry your sanitizer, water bottle and, most importantly, avoid crowded areas.

CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE

Monitor your temperature on regular basis.



ALL LOVE! Kid Cudi & Rosario Dawson, the rapper and the actress, hug during New York Fashion Week.

Ellen DeGeneres kicks off final season with a crying Jennifer Aniston

Jennifer Aniston really loves Ellen DeGeneres.

The Morning Show star is helping to kick off the final season of The Ellen DeGeneres Show next week, and according to a new sneak peek, she barely makes it to her seat before the tissues come out.

"What the hell?" she says as she sits down. "This isn't supposed to be emotional. God dang it!"

Jennifer, as she explains, hasn't "been out" in two years, and thinks the last time she was on a talk show in person was when she guest hosted in early 2020. And not only that, but Jen was the talk show's first guest ever back in 2003, so clearly the show holds a special place in her heart.

However, she's got a little bone to pick with her friend. When Jen appeared on the first show in 2003, she gifted Ellen with a welcome mat that said "Welcome." Ellen put it on the side of the stage, and promised she'd keep it there forever. Ellen, unfortunately, did not keep the welcome mat there forever, but she tried to pretend she did.

"I've done this show 19 times," Jennifer says, noting the distressed, hole-filled mat

that someone had placed on stage. "That has only been here one time...What department distressed it to look like this?"

"I don't think it's the actual one," Ellen admits. "I think we made a new one. I think the other one's gone." "Oh, well thank you for



your honesty," says Jennifer, still wiping tears out of her eyes.

Ellen's farewell season kicks off on Monday, Sept. 13 with Jimmy Kimmel and NICU nurses from Ochsner Baptist Hospital in New Orleans to talk about Hurricane Ida. Jennifer's interview will air Tuesday, Sept. 14, and the first week will also feature interviews with Kim Kardashian, Tiffany Haddish, Imagine Dragons and Charli and Dixie D'Amelio.

Marvel's Eternals confirmed for theatrical release by Disney



Marvel is committing to a theatrically exclusive release for Eternals. Marvel Studios' latest film, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, broke all expectations and broke the Labor Day box-office weekend record, topping F9 to become the second highest-grossing opening weekend of the Covid-19 pandemic with a three-day total of \$71 million dollars. Despite the pandemic, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings managed to top the opening weekend releases of Thor, Captain America: The First Avenger, and Ant-Man.

The release of Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings also carried a large

number of expectations put upon it, as it was reported the box-office success of the film could determine how Marvel Studios chose to release Eternals.

While both Marvel Studios president, Kevin Feige, and Eternals director, Chloé Zhao, have expressed interest in Eternals releasing in theaters, there was always a chance that the film could release day-and-date on Disney+ Premier Access like Black Widow. Given the legal troubles with Scarlett Johansson surrounding the release of Black Widow and Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings being a bonafide box office hit, it seemed like it was only a matter

of time until Disney and Marvel made an announcement on Eternals.

According to The Wrap, Disney is committing to a theatrical release for Eternals. The combined success of Black Widow and Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings at the box office has given Disney the confidence to release Eternals exclusively in theaters. The film will release in theaters exclusively for 45 days before going to VOD. Kareem Daniel, the chairman of Disney Media & Entertainment Distribution released a statement on Eternals and the rest of the 2021 Disney slate that can be read below:

Kareena Kapoor trolled after claims she demanded Rs 12 cr to play Sita

Kareena Kapoor Khan says that female artistes voicing for equal pay in the film industry should be normalised as pay parity signifies respect for women.

Kareena, in an interview to the Guardian, said she is happy that more female actors have begun raising the unfortunate gender pay disparity in Bollywood. The actor also said that she is aware of her worth and has no qualms in putting it across during negotiations.

"Just a few years ago, no one would talk about a man or woman actually getting equal pay in a movie. Now there are a lot of us being very vocal about it."

Earlier, in an interview to NDTV, she was asked, "What next for Kareena Kapoor Khan? You have a film with Aamir Khan later this year, there was talk that you were getting 12 crore, you were asking for 12 crore, and other actresses came out in support of you, but I think that was fake news."

Kareena had not directly responded, shaking her head and saying, "Yeah, yeah..." Kareena had also received a lot

of support from other leading actresses.

Among the host of things that the actor spoke in the interview was also about breaking age-old stereotypes attached to female artistes. For years, female actors had to bid a forced goodbye to their careers after marriage.

But Kareena, who married Saif Ali Khan in 2012, not only continued working but also gave some of her career's biggest successes and remains relevant irrespective of her marital status or two pregnancies.

Kareena said despite warnings from close people, she simply followed her heart. "When I married Saif, so many people told me that my career would be over because no producer wants to work with a married actress. At that time, no other Bollywood actress got married and then continued to work. But I just thought: OK, well, if it does end my career, then that's fine, that's my destiny. I'm not going to not marry the person that I love."

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Dated Uday Chopra for 5 years, Nargis Fakhri reveals



Actress Nargis Fakhri, in a tell-all interview with ETimes, opened up about having dated Uday Chopra, for the first time ever.

"Uday and I dated for 5 years and he was the most beautiful human I met in India," Nargis Fakhri told the publication.

The 41-year-old actress revealed why she never confirmed her relationship with Uday Chopra when they were dating: "I never have said this to the press as people told me to keep my relationship quiet, but I regret that because I should have shouted from the mountain tops that I was with such a beautiful soul."

Sharing the reason behind her decision of keep-

ing her personal life under wraps, Nargis Fakhri added: "The internet and social media is very fake and the people out there won't know what the truth is. Most often we idolise certain people who are actually bad behind closed doors."

Uday Chopra and Nargis Fakhri often featured in headlines for their then-spectulated romance, which both the actors had continued to deny. In a tweet in 2016, Uday Chopra wrote: "Ok so it had to come to this... Nargis Fakhri and I are close friends and all the rumours that are doing the rounds have no basis in reality." In previous interviews he was recorded saying: "She is just a friend."

Aries:

The trouble is, we waste so much time trying to rationalise our feelings. But, the head has no business in matters of the heart. So, put yourself out there, Aries. Say what you want to say exactly how you want to say it, without editing a word. Don't let the fear of rejection keep you from vibrating at the frequency of love and making that bold move you've been contemplating for a while now.

Tip: Some risks are worth taking, beautiful.

Taurus:

Like every other skill, meditation too requires patience and persistence. So, show up for your practice even when it's hard to. And then, one day, unexpectedly, the portal of divine wisdom will open, bringing forth the guidance that you need to move forward on the path of self-realisation. Those who have been working with the forces consistently will find that they're able to transcend to higher dimensions easily and stay connected to their spirit guides.

Tip: Show up for your meditation practice consistently.

Gemini:

Our words can both heal and hurt, beloved. So, we must exercise the power of speech with caution.

Anything you say from a space of triggers could have long-term repercussions. The cards are also urging you to be mindful of how you communicate with yourself. Let go of the self-judgement, beautiful, as you bring a little more love and a little more kindness into the equation.

Tip: Exercise the power of speech with caution.

Cancer:

The world would be a different place altogether if those around were as sensitive as you. But, the truth is, they haven't mastered the lesson of compassion. They don't know what it's like to look out for others. So, instead of hoping they'll catch your telepathic signals, communicate. Let them know how you would like to be cared for, and trust that they will reciprocate.

Tip: How would you like to be cared for, Cancer?

Leo:

The world will always tell you how you should and shouldn't be. The world will always weigh you down with unrealistic expectations. But, you have a choice, Leo. You always have a choice. So, will you adhere to the script handed down to you or write one that helps you discover the true meaning of freedom? Something tells us you're feeling a little bit risky and a little bit frisky today.

Tip: It's time to discover the true meaning of freedom.

Virgo:

Denial is the easy way out, Virgo. But, it will only get you so far. This chapter of your life is about digging deeper and healing the unhealed trauma. The process of introspection is seldom easy, but it is what will help liberate you from the old cycles. Some of you may be fighting the urge to return to an ex too. They may be a good person, but are they good for "you"? Something to think about as you sip on your morning tea, beautiful.

Tip: Liberate yourself from the old cycles.

Libra:

Libra, you're feeling a little bit risky and a little frisky - a mood that your partner is likely to appreciate very much. So, take a chance, baby! Try that one thing in bed that you've been wanting to try for a while now (with safety measures in place!) What the cards want you to know is that your body is a pleasure portal.

Tip: You're feeling a little bit risky and a little frisky.

Scorpio:

Not every romance will lead to a happily-ever-after. Some people come into our life for merely a season - and you have a feeling that the person you're

connecting with right now is one of them. Instead of pretending like this relationship is any more than it is, have an open and honest conversation with them about where you stand and how you would like to take things forward in the days to come.

Tip: Be honest about where you stand.

Sagittarius:

It's either all-in or all-out, Sagittarius. Lukewarm just doesn't cut it anymore. You're in the mood to take life by the horns and have a love affair with the unknown. What makes this chapter of your life truly special is that you're looking at each and every moment as a gift from the Divine, and actively writing the script for what can only be referred to as 'My Best Life'.

Tip: Each moment is a gift from the Universe.

Capricorn:

You can spend hours replaying what happened in your head and wondering how you can fix it. But, the truth is nobody can go back to the past—not even you. Besides, no matter how much you try, you will never be able to see the full picture here. So, come back to the present moment. Accept what took place as a wake up call that's helping you see your reality for what it is.

Tip: It's better to accept what transpired rather than

letting your thoughts spiral, Capricorn.

Aquarius:

You've been going around in circles for a while now, Aquarius, and this runner-chaser dynamic isn't serving anyone. It's time to do the inner work. To understand the deep-rooted fears that are keeping you from opening the door to love. Working with a therapist or delving into your past lives/Akashic records (under guidance) could help you heal the trauma and liberate yourself from the old cycles.

Tip: It's time to work through those deep-seated fears.

Pisces:

We all come here with a predetermined plan, Pisces. Karmic debt that determines the kind of life we will lead and the relationships we will attract. As a result, the people who are closest to us on a soul level (typically friends and family members) end up playing the role of 'the catalyst' in our lives. This requires them to say or do things that can be perceived as unpleasant or painful from where we are standing. Accept this as a part of the divine play, beautiful. This is the only way to rise above the murky situations that are bringing you down.

Tip: It's all happening for a reason.