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SummitTIMES

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

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SC grants 8 weeks for completion of Old Settlers of Sikkim verification

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

The Supreme Court today granted 8 weeks' time to the State Government to complete the verification of Old Settlers of Sikkim, the names and number of such persons who claim the Income Tax exemption benefit at par with Sikkim Subject holders and their descendants.

The State Government had sought time of six weeks from the top

court to complete the verification as the process is under process.

While granting the time as sought by the State Government today, the division bench of Apex Court headed by Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman and Indu Malhotra also directed the registry to list the matter after eight weeks on 19 Sept for further hearing.

The 400 odd families under the banner of As-

sociation of Old Settlers of Sikkim had filed a writ petition seeking Income Tax exemption at par with Sikkimese people who are exempted under the provision of section 10 [26AAA] introduced in the Income Tax Act 1961 in the year 2008.

In 04 Apr, while hearing the petition, the Apex court had directed the State of Sikkim to verify and cooperate with the Central Government so

that the claim of the Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim can be considered by the Central Government in accordance with law.

The Apex Court has made it clear that all the contentions of the parties are left open to be considered on the next date of hearing adding that the State respondent may furnish such other information as may be sought by the Central Government while considering the

claim of the petitioners in accordance with law.

The Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim have challenged the Clause 26 AAA of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, saying that the clause was discriminatory and violated Articles 14 and 15 as 95% of the State's population that was exempted from paying tax "includes about 70% people of Nepalese origin, and the entire ex-

emption has come about to appease the electorate." The remaining 05% of the population including the old shelters was to pay the taxes.

The Centre had exempted Sikkim Subject Certificate holders, about 95% of Sikkim's population, from paying income tax in 2008 after an amendment in the Finance Act by the Parliament based on the State's request.



Sikkimese footballer

Anju Tamang to play for India at COTIF Cup

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

Senior footballer from Sikkim, Anju Tamang, has been selected to be a member of senior women's Indian national football team for the COTIF Cup 2018 scheduled to be held at Valencia in Spain from 26 Jul to 09 Aug. At present, she is at Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education [LNPIE] in Gwalior attending a coaching camp from 08-24 Jul.

Likewise, another Sikkimese footballer, Karishma Rai, is at present representing the country in the second edition of the BRICS Games at Johannesburg

in South Africa, a press release issued by Sikkim Football Association [SFA] informs.

Senior footballer, Ms Tamang while speaking from Gwalior expressed her happiness over her selection and has thanked SFA for extending all support.

President, SFA, Menla Ethenpa, has congratulated Ms Tamang and has expressed hopes that she will give her 100% to make the State and Country proud.

He further urged other Sikkimese girl footballers to look up to Ms Tamang and Ms Rai as inspirations and play the game of football seriously with full dedication.

State boxing champs Sarathi and Muskan have eyes set on Olympics 2024

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

A six-member team of Sports & Youth Affairs Department, East district has shown outstanding performance in the recently concluded 16th State Boxing Championship 2018 for sub-junior and junior girls and boys here at Paljor Stadium.

In the three-day championship held from 20-22 Jul, the SYA East team bagged five medals including 02 gold and 03 silver medals along with the team championship trophy in sub-junior girls' category.

Gold medalists are Sarathi Mukhia and Muskan Khatoon while silver medals were bagged by Prabhat Sewa, Anee Lepcha and Sunaina Tamang. These pugilists have been practicing under State Boxing coach, Pratima Gooorong. She has also been assisted voluntarily by national pugilist, Tenzing Sherpa, who is also a North East bronze medalist.



Sharing their experiences with SummitTimes today, gold medalists, Sarathi Mukhia and Muskan Khatoon, informed that the duo had started formal boxing training in the year 2016 and since then they have been undergoing rigorous training under the State boxing coach, Ms Gooorong.

Interestingly, these two talented pugilists had won a gold

medal each in their respective category of sub-junior in the State boxing championship held at MG Marg in their first year of boxing in 2016 itself.

Their second gold medal in the State championship this year has further motivated them to practice harder for their future competitions. Both have been practicing hard for nearly three-hours daily under the State

coach with the target to qualify for the upcoming 2024 Olympics. Mary Kom is the inspiration for these young pugilists of the State, they express.

15-year-old Sarathi is the daughter of Sushil Mukhia and Saraswati Mukhia of Arithang in East Sikkim. She is a class IX student of Modern Senior Secondary School. She expressed her immense happiness and satisfaction on winning the second consecutive gold medal in her category in the State championship.

"I have been interested in boxing since my childhood and I loved watching boxing matches on television. I started my formal boxing training from 2016. The immense support and encouragement of my parents and family has been helping me to go ahead in this field," Sarathi said.

She expressed her deep desire to win medals for the State in the national championship

turn to pg02

Customary, religious practices should conform to constitutional principles: SC

NEW DELHI, JUL 24 (PTI): The Supreme Court today said that all the customary or religious practices, like banning entry of women in the age group of 10-50 years into the famous Sabarimala temple, will have to conform to constitutional principles.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra referred to articles 25 and 26 (Freedom to practice religion) of the Constitution and said that a person can only be restrained on the grounds of "public health, public order and morality".

"After 1950 (when the Constitution came into being) everything is subject to Constitution," said the bench, also comprising justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra.

The observation came when senior advocate A M Singhvi, appearing for Travancore Devaswom Board which runs the over 800-year-old Lord Ayyappa temple, said that the court has to test as to whether the practice is based on "bona fide belief" which is being practised for centuries by a community.

He then said that women are not allowed in mosques across the country and testing these practices based on belief would open "pandora's box".

The bench told Singhvi that it was the

duty of the Devaswom Board to establish that the practice of banning women of a certain age group was the essential and integral part of the religious practice.

The bench also pointed out the contradictions in the submissions made by the Board before the Kerala High Court and said that it was the accepted position that women of all age group had been allowed to enter the Sabarimala temple during the first five days of the pilgrimage and after that there entry were barred only on the ground that the crowd used to swell.

In the earlier hearing of July 19, the apex court had questioned the rationale behind banning the entry of women in the 10-50 age group into the temple in Kerala, saying menstruation may begin before the age of 10 and menopause may hit women much earlier.

The court was was apparently not in agreement with the plea of the Devaswom Board that women of that age group were barred as they cannot observe purity and "penance" for a period of 41 days, a condition for undertaking the pilgrimage.

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae, had said that the exclusion of women of that particular age group was akin to untouchability which

was prohibited under Article 17 of the Constitution.

The bench, however, was not in agreement with the plea and said that Article 17 (abolition of untouchability) of the Constitution may not be applicable as the women, who are barred from entering, can also belong to upper castes and the provision relates to Scheduled Castes only.

The Kerala government had earlier told the court that it supported the entry of women of all age groups into the shrine.

The apex court had observed that the fundamental right of freedom to practice religion is provided to "all persons" by the Constitution and women have the right to enter and pray like men at the shrine.

The bench had also termed as "absurd" the notification of the board banning entry of women in the 10-50 age group.

The plea challenging the ban has been filed by petitioners Indian Young Lawyers Association and others.

The apex court had on October 13 last year referred the issue to a Constitution bench after framing five "significant" questions including whether the practice of banning entry of women of that particular age group into the temple amounted to discrimination and violated their fundamental rights under the Constitution.

Mob lynching: WhatsApp COO apprises govt of steps taken to curb fake news

NEW DELHI, JUL 24

(PTI): Top WhatsApp executives, including COO Matthew Idema, have met IT Secretary and other Indian government officials to outline steps the company has initiated to combat circulation of fake messages on the platform that have even incited mob lynching incidents.

According to government sources, Idema met IT Secretary Ajay

turn to pg02



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Spices Board Gangtok conducts training for cardamom farmers of Kalimpong

KALIMPONG, 23 JUL [PIB]: Office of the Deputy Director, Regional Office, Spices Board [Gangtok], conducted daylong interactive hands on training for farmers at Tode Tangta Village in Kalimpong on 23 Jul.

The programme was organised in coordination with Tode Tangta Gram Panchayat Sahakari Unayan Samity and Tode Tangta Jaldhaka entrepreneurship hub with the aim to assist large cardamom growers in addressing issues related to large cardamom cultivation in the area while providing support in all aspects, ranging from cultivation, post harvest and marketing.

The module of interaction on extension, marketing and technical issue was addressed by Deputy Director, Spices Board [Gangtok], NAD Shenoy, Assistant Director, Spices Board [Kalim-

pong], Ravi Kumar P, and Senior Field Officer, Dr Kuldeep Rai.

Likewise, issues of diseases and its management, packaging practices under large cardamom scientific cultivation were covered by Bharat Gudade and Dr Ashutosh Gautam from Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Spices Board.

During the training, farmers were informed about the need to adopt scientific system of cultivation and undertake recommended measures to boost plant health of most of the plantation in the area.

The Deputy Director on behalf of Spices Board assured assistance at an end-to-end basis to the large cardamom farmers through linkage, exposure visits, empowerment training and technical support within the approved limits of the Board.



Azolla cultivation training for Upper Thambong farmers

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

Mevedir conducted 'Ward level farmers' training at Anden Ward, under Upper Thambong GPU, West Sikkim in the presence of Ward Panchayat, Dawa Lhamu Sherpa. The training programme was coordinated by Mevedir master trainers, Chuten Sherpa and Mangal Moti Limboo, a press release informs.

Master trainer, Mr Sherpa, demonstrated on

the preparation of Azolla water bed. He explained that the importance of Azolla and its properties of fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere for better growth and crop production. Azolla can also be directly fed to livestock like cattle, sheep, goat, pigs, chicken and rabbit as it is rich in protein, he added.

The training programme had the attendance of more than 25 farmers of the GPU.

State boxing champs Sarathi and Muskan...

contd from pg01

and to get qualified in the national camp so as to represent the country in the near future.

"With the support of our coaches, we have been practicing hard with dedication to qualify for Olympics 2024," she expressed.

Likewise, another promising pugilist, 15-year-old Muskan Khatoon is the daughter of Mainudin Ansari and Sabana Khatoon of Diesel Power House area. She is also a student of Class IX of Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School. She has also expressed satisfaction on winning the second consecutive gold medal in her category in the State championship.

"I had no idea about boxing until the day, coach, Ms Gooroong, came to our school and motivated us to join the free coaching camp in boxing in 2016 which generated some interest in boxing and then I joined boxing training," Muskan said.

Initially, her parents

were against her boxing training but seeing her dedication, improvement and achievement, they started supporting her.

"Initially my parents did not support me in boxing but I have slowly convinced them with my dedication and passion in boxing. They started fully supporting me when I won my first gold medal in the State championship in 2016," she expressed.

Muskan is also preparing hard under her coaches to win medals for the State in the national championship and then to represent the country in international championships. She has set her eyes on the 2024 Olympics.

State boxing coach, Pratima Gooroong, stated that both have full potential to do well in national and international levels of boxing.

"They are very serious and dedicated and have been practicing hard since the beginning with consistent progress," she said.



SKM holds workshops for its youth and publicity wing

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

A meeting of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's South district working committee was held at Namchi in South Sikkim today. On the occasion, separate workshops for youth workers

and media persons of the party of all constituencies were also conducted, an SKM press release informs.

The meeting has allotted various responsibilities and role to the party's youth wing in preparation for the release of the party presi-

dent, PS Golay, on 10 Aug.

In the workshop for press and publicity and social media wing of the party, media persons were appointed from different constituencies followed by handing over of appointment orders.

China, Bhutan discuss boundary dispute post-Doklam

BEIJING, JUL 24 (PTI): Post-Doklam, China and Bhutan have discussed their boundary dispute, reviewed bilateral ties and reached many agreements during the visit of a senior Chinese minister to the Himalayan kingdom, the Chinese foreign ministry said today.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou accompanied by a high-level delegation paid a two-day visit to Bhutan which ended today.

Kong also invited Bhutan to take part in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China and Bhutan do not have diplomatic relations but maintain contacts through periodic visits by officials. This is the first time a Chinese official visited Thimphu since last year's 73-day-long Doklam military standoff with India.

Bhutan had objected to China building a road in the area claimed by it. India had also objected to the road which is too close to the strategic and narrow Chicken's Neck corridor linking India's northeast.

During the visit of Kong said the two sides exchanged views on China-Bhutan ties, and also the boundary issue, and reached many agreements, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at media briefing here.

A press release issued by the Chinese foreign ministry



on the visit of Kong said he had stated during his talks that the two sides should continue to push forward the border negotiations, abide by the principled consensus reached, jointly maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas, and create positive conditions for the final settlement of the border issue.

Significantly, China also sought to rope in Bhutan into the BRI of which the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a flagship project. India had protested to Beijing as the CPEC traverses through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

(PoK).

China welcomes Bhutan's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative to share China's development dividends, said Kong.

He called on the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and also met Bhutanese Foreign Minister Damcho Dorji.

For its part the Bhutanese side stated that it admired China's development achievements, welcomed the positive progress made by President Xi Jinping's "One Belt, One Road", the press release said.

Besides appreciating China's contribution to promoting world peace, prosperity and development, Bhutan said it welcomed China to play a greater role in the international arena, the press release said.

The Chinese delegation included the Chinese Ambassador to India Luo Zhaohui.

In his talks with the Bhutanese officials, Kong said China and Bhutan have maintained a sound momentum of development in recent years and made new progress in exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

China attaches great importance to the traditional friendly

relations with Bhutan and will as always respect Bhutan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, respect its political system and development path chosen according to its own national conditions, and Bhutan's independent foreign policy of peace, the press release quoted him as saying.

China is willing to work with Bhutan to maintain high-level contacts, expand pragmatic cooperation, strengthen multilateral communication and coordination, and achieve common development on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit, Kong said.

Bhutan said although diplomatic relations between the two countries have not been established, the traditional friendship between the two is a good example for countries large and small to get along with each other, the Chinese press release said.

Bhutan firmly adheres to the 'One-China' policy concerning Taiwan and Tibet and is committed to deepening exchanges and cooperation with China and it is willing to maintain communication with China on bilateral relations and border issues, it said.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern, it said.

Mob lynching: WhatsApp COO apprises govt of steps taken to curb fake news

contd from pg01

Prakash Sawhney yesterday to discuss steps being taken by the Facebook-owned company to tackle fake news.

The company's proposed payments service -- that is allowing government nod -- also came up for discussion, they added.

When contacted, a WhatsApp spokesperson said:

"Over the past week, WhatsApp has met with a broad range of digital literacy experts, business leaders, and government representatives to discuss India's growing connected society and the importance of private end-to-end encrypted messaging".

The spokesperson added that the "challenge of misinformation requires action from government, civil society, and technology companies" and that the company would engage with various stakeholders to tackle these problems.

WhatsApp had previously stated that it had launched new safety features, including a label that clearly identifies forwarded messages and con-

trols for group conversations in the last few weeks.

WhatsApp has already been slapped with two notices from the Indian government, asking it to come out with effective solutions to curb the menace of fake news beyond just labelling forwards.

It also warned the company that mediums used for propagation of rumours are liable to be treated as 'abettors' and can face legal consequences if they remain "mute spectators".

WhatsApp had responded to the first notice but is yet to

send in a response to the second one.

The company had expressed its inability to prevent spam because it cannot see the content of private, encrypted messages. Blocking, therefore, can be done only based on user reports, it had said.

WhatsApp is also working with over half a dozen partners in India to design a digital literacy programme for educating users on spotting false news and staying safe on the popular messaging platform.

It has also brought out full-

page advertisements in leading newspapers, first in the series of its user awareness campaign, giving "easy tips" to decide if the information received is indeed true.

WhatsApp officials have also engaged with the Election Commission (EC) and assured them that it will take various steps ahead of polls to prevent the misuse of its platform, and bring to India its fake news verification model 'Verificado' that has been used in other markets like Brazil and Mexico.

Singtam preps for I-Day celebration

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 24 JUL:

A preparedness meeting for the upcoming 72nd Independence Day celebration was conducted today at the community hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat in East Sikkim in the presence of Chairperson, Cultural Board, Uttam Pradhan, and other officials.

The meeting discussed various events to be conducted for I-Day and an organising committee has been formed to ensure smooth management of the event.

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**Gangtok on
Wednesday,
25 July**

Temp: 26°C/17°C
Forecast: Some
sun, then turning
cloudy, showers.
Sunrise: 04:55 AM
Sunset: 6:29 PM

Sadar PS personnel crack 2 burglary cases

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

Sadar Police Station, Gangtok has cracked two burglary cases and arrested the accused in both cases, as per a press release.

In one of the cases, on 21 July one Karma Choden Bhutia's rented room near Defence Hall in Tadong had been broken into by unknown person who made away with 6/7 tolas of gold, cash amount of Rs 15,000-20,000 and two mobile phones [iPhone & Samsung].

On 23 Jul, plain-clothes police personnel, Constable Dhan Raj Biswakarma and Home Guard Prem Giri, intercepted one Sonam Sherpa [27] hailing from Bhusuk in East Sikkim at Main-line Taxi Stop in Deorali as the police had received information about his involvement in the theft. The complainant's stolen iPhone was recovered from the accused following which he was arrested and investigation to recover the other items is still under process.

The release adds that the accused Sonam Sherpa was earlier involved in a robbery case registered at Sadar PS and had been convicted by the Court. He was released from jail only a week back after completion of his jail term.

In another case, one Loden Sherpa's residence above TNA School Gate was burgled in the intervening period of 16-18 Jul while he was away visiting his village. The unknown persons reportedly made away with Rs. 1,10,000.

The Sadar Police personnel yet again made an extensive effort to find the culprit and received information about the involvement of one Che-wang Bhutia [27] hailing from Chongyek. The accused was tracked down at a hotel in Siliguri on 23 Jul by plain-clothes police personnel, Naik Wangyal Bhutia and Constables, Karma Bhutia and Sonam Topden Bhutia. A sum of Rs. 64,000 along with USD 124 and Euro 110 was recovered from his possession. He was arrested immediately and the case is under investigation.



United Sikkim FC beats SAI Namchi by lone goal

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

A goal by Sonam Zangpo in the dying minutes has helped United Sikkim Football Club get full three points from its first match in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Premier Division

Sikkim-League 2018 here at Paljor Stadium today. In a very contesting match, United Sikkim FC edged past SAI, Namchi by a lone goal.

With an attacking game, both the teams put constant pressure on each other throughout

the match. The first half was filled with attacks and counter attacks but both the teams failed to convert some good opportunities into a lead.

In the second half of the match, both the teams continued their attacking game but were not able

to score any goal. However, United Sikkim FC stopper, Sonam Zangpo, scored the winning goal for the team in the dying minutes of the match.

Unicorn Football Club will be playing its second match against the State Sports Academy on 25 Jul.



Health Minister inspects under-construction Health Acclimatization Centre in Thangu

MANGAN, 24 JUL [IPR]: Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, AK Ghatani, who is on a two-day visit to North Sikkim, inspected the ongoing construction works of the Health Acclimatization Centre at Thangu in North Sikkim today.

The centre has been funded under Border Area Development Fund and will function as an emergency relief centre for tourists and pilgrims proceeding towards Gurudongmar which is at an elevation of 17800ft.

Later, Mr Ghatani also visited the construction site of the newly

sanctioned 100-bedded District Hospital, newly constructed Trauma and Emergency Centre and Blood Bank in Mangan. It is informed that the Blood Bank will be the first of its kind in the State and will provide all modern amenities.

The Minister also visited the newly constructed TB Hospital which is now functioning as a temporary hospital and reviewed its staff position. He appreciated the efforts of the staff in keeping the hospital well maintained. Shortage of medical specialists will be addressed soon, he added.

"Since the hospital has all the

amenities and infrastructure, medical specialists will be posted soon for providing services to the public," assured Mr Ghatani.

Later in the evening, he also interacted with the patients admitted at the hospital. Around 30 patients were being treated at the hospital.

The Minister was accompanied by Commissioner cum Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, Director, Uttam Pradhan, Additional Chief Engineer, District Collector [North] and District Information Officer [North].

Sikkim's inclusion in Ranji Trophy a golden opportunity: SCA



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

Sikkim Cricket Association [SCA] called an emergency meeting with its office bearers, support staff and senior players in Gangtok on 22 Jul with regard to the recent inclusion of Sikkim in the upcoming Ranji Trophy 2018-19 and other national level tournaments. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of SCA vice president, Karma Gelek Bhutia, an SCA press release informs.

During the meet, SCA general secretary, Sonam Palden Bhutia, stressed that this was the right time to showcase individual talents of Sikkim Cricket in the national arena.

"Players along with the support staff

and office bearers should now work for the betterment of cricket in Sikkim with full dedication. The inclusion in Ranji Trophy is a golden opportunity to prove oneself at higher level," he added while urging all to take the opportunity seriously.

Joint secretary, SCA, Rinzing Namgyal Bhutia, further requested the support staff taking up different roles and attending trainings organized by Board of Control for Cricket in India [BCCI] to be available for SCA when required and take their respective roles seriously.

He also mentioned that "One Person One Role" should be applied in SCA and asked the support staff to choose their roles as per their qualifications and interests.

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No. 161/POL/SRL/ADM/1989/05

Dated: 24/07/2018

SIKKIM POLICE RECRUITMENT 2018 vide EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

No. 161/POL/SRL/ADM/1989/05 Date: 23rd Jan. 2018 : VIVA-VOCE Exam

The viva voce examination for the post of GD Constable (Armed Police), GD Constable (women) and Constable (Technical) in Sikkim Police has been fixed w.e.f 1st August 2018 to 12th August 2018 at Police Headquarters, Gangtok. The candidates are requested to contact the offices of Ss.P/ North, West, South and Dy. Inspector General of Police/ Special Branch, Tadong or they may visit Sikkim Police website (www.sikkimpolice.nic.in) for other details.

**DY. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH, TADONG.**

R.O. No. 224/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 24.7.2018

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ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

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

Date: 23.07.2018

CORRIGENDUM

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

TIME SCHEDULE:-

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

4. Date and Time for opening of Tender:

i) SI.No. 1 to 07

29th Aug 2018 (2.30 pm).

ii) SI.No. 08 to 16

30th Aug 2018 (11.00 am).

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

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



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

Phone No: 232218, Fax: 232216. Email: secy_tourism@yahoo.com
No: 285 DoT & CAVI.

Dated: 21/07/2018.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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

TIME SCHEDULE:-

i. Sale of Tender:

01.08.2018 to 10.08.2018 during office hours.

ii. Receipt of Tender form alongwith the relevant documents: 11.08.2018, till 1.00 pm.

iii. Opening of Tender Documents in the Office of Additional Secretary, Paryatan Bhawan Tadong, East Sikkim: 11.08.2018 from 2.00 pm.

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

Sd/-
**ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,
TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT.**

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

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Still Not Cast Away

Much to Sikkim's shame, caste discrimination remains illegally in practice

The Constitution of India rejected the concept of an untouchable caste in 1950. Caste discrimination was outlawed the day the Constitution, the supreme law of India, was adopted, and yet, even though no longer officially sanctioned, the idea of untouchability remains alive in our country. What remains a continuing challenge is that caste consciousness is not just a privately held prejudice, but continues to manifest in dastardly acts of violence running the entire spectrum from physical to emotional and societal. One would have hoped that more than six decades of having been seen as a criminal offence would have dulled the propensity of caste discrimination from expressing itself publicly, but that remains wishful thinking in a society that continues to shame itself by refusing to accept all people as same. Thousands of attacks on Dalits because of the caste they belong to occur every year, and hundreds of people are killed because of it. Newspapers continue to report reprehensible acts of violence from across the country directed against people only because they belong to the scheduled castes. And of late, these attacks have grown even bolder and more brazen because it ties in well with the more reprehensible traits of the dispensation with too much power in the country. And it is not as if Sikkim is untouched by this vileness. Even here is a society which allows such depravity as targeted cruelty against some castes despite it being not only illegal, but also offensively immoral.

Some years ago, a 68-year-old was arrested on charges of murder in West Sikkim after he allegedly bludgeoned a 24 year old to death with a wooden beam. This was a hate crime – the youth was attacked because he belonged to a caste which the suspected murderer did not want crossing his hearth! This was no mob lynching, but that should make it any less disturbing even four years since the incident occurred. Disturbing not only for the worry that it occurred, but also because it did not result in any soul-searching.

Murder, after all, is rarely the first crime of a demented mind and in most cases builds up to such inevitability after the perpetrator gets away with smaller acts of violence and his hate remains ignored by the society at large and the law & order agencies. It will not come as a surprise if one were told that this was not the accused person's first hate crime or learn that he has a history of caste discrimination. Every time his hate was not admonished by the society he lives in and every time the law compromised the cases, he was emboldened. And then a youth died in his hands, as much because of the madness of caste, as due to the society's continuing condoning of those who discriminate on the grounds of caste.

And before anyone jumps up claiming that caste discrimination is essentially an upper-caste Hindu turpitude, one needs to point out that the practice is as disturbingly observed by other communities as was codified by those who promulgated it. Notwithstanding anything that the Constitution of India or the laws of the land might say, caste, as institutionalised inequality, oppression and discrimination characterises Indian society itself, practiced as much by those who benefit from it as even by those whose religions have no place for it. Social get-togethers in most parts of rural Sikkim continue to observe caste segregation and although no one gets beaten up for not observing the code, the fact that people continue to peddle caste divisions in the name of culture or tradition makes a mockery of all the tenets of equality that the Constitution strives to deliver.

It is important to realize that it is from a series of soft peddling on such issues that shockers like the fore-mentioned murder manifest. A hate crime might not result in a death every time, but it remains a possibility so long as casteism is allowed to express itself in public, even if in physically nonviolent gestures like segregation [for everyone at social events] or in private interactions of individuals. More importantly, it is when people see nothing wrong in mediating on behalf of the perpetrator of hate when he/ she is officially charged with such crimes that chances of real equality and ending discrimination get compromised. The society's elders, instead of trying to convince victims into "settling" their differences, should be encouraging the young [and others] to report instances of discrimination the moment they notice it. Laws can only go so far, the move towards reform will have to come from the society itself...

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

SD TSHERING

The recent spate of legislation preventing sale of land by Tamang, Sherpa, Limboo to other communities to protect the small landowners from being landless seems to be done for political purposes rather than tackling the causes of land alienation among the tribes in Sikkim. Tamang, Limboo and Sherpa are recognized Tribal communities in Sikkim and as such under Schedule 5 of the Constitution of India and other state laws prohibit any transfer of property belonging to tribal communities or the land which is being cultivated by these communities. Land alienation of tribal land in Sikkim is similar to other tribes in the country. Scheduled tribes largely depend upon non-tribals to meet their credit requirements. The socio-economic survey of tribals, reveals that tribals alienate their lands mainly for meeting their domestic expenses and for clearing their past debts. The main causes of land alienation and landlessness among the tribals are poor economic conditions, drinking habit, indebtedness, urbanization, industrialization, lack of land records, administrative inefficiency, delay in getting judgment, mortgage of lands in the hands of non-tribals.

The recent legislation to protect Tamang and Sherpa land seems unnecessary since they are already covered by a central legislation and the real cause leading to the alienation of land has not been tackled. Land holding data reveals that majority of land under different uses are less than 2.5 acres. The present legislation does not allow transfer of land of OBC having less than 10 acre land which in real terms means a complete ban on any land transfer since only a minuscule households have land over ten acres. In case of Sherpa, Tamang and Limboo the ceiling is 2.5 acre but this will also affect the majority of this community since most lands in Sikkim are below 2.5 acres. The restriction further narrows the central law which only disallows transfer to non-tribal. The effect of this restriction will not allow sale of land among tribal community which brings the market value of the land down drastically and will further encourage the wealthy persons in the community to corner land at very cheap rate. Taking permission from the government to sell land will add another big obstacle to a person who is selling land for emergency purpose since getting such permission is a tedious task which will add distress to an already desperate person.

Sikkim has undergone a sea change from the pre-Chogyal days when Kazis and Thekidars use to rule the roost and exploit the poor by forcefully taking their land. In those days landlords used to give loans at very high interest to the villagers

Land protection for Votes

HOUSEHOLD POSSESSING BARREN LANDS						
SOCIAL GROUP	LESS THAN 1 ACRE	MORE THAN 1 LESS THAN 2.5	MORE THAN 2.5 LESS THAN 5	MORE THAN 5 LESS THAN 10	MORE THAN 10 LESS THAN 25	MORE THAN 25
ST	2973	801	217	85	27	14
SC	271	39	4	3	0	0
MBC	1965	515	161	50	13	2
OBC	1921	367	102	31	12	6
Others	22	3	1	1	0	0
Total	7152	1725	485	170	52	22

Source: socio economic census 2006

HOUSEHOLDS POSSESSING PADDY FIELDS						
SOCIAL GROUP	LESS THAN 1 ACRE	MORE THAN 1 LESS THAN 2.5	MORE THAN 2.5 LESS THAN 5	MORE THAN 5 LESS THAN 10	MORE THAN 10 LESS THAN 25	MORE THAN 25
ST	6676	2146	386	132	68	33
SC	622	200	28	6	3	0
MBC	2499	766	140	25	18	2
OBC	5329	1968	395	108	48	12
Others	44	20	4	0	0	3
Total	15170	5100	953	271	137	50

Source: socio economic census 2006

HOUSEHOLD POSSESSING CARDAMOM FIELDS						
SOCIAL GROUP	LESS THAN 1 ACRE	MORE THAN 1 LESS THAN 2.5	MORE THAN 2.5 LESS THAN 5	MORE THAN 5 LESS THAN 10	MORE THAN 10 LESS THAN 25	MORE THAN 25
ST	6087	2217	695	226	95	31
SC	186	20	7	1	1	0
MBC	2627	743	215	52	23	4
OBC	2066	520	143	42	24	2
Others	9	1	0	0	0	0
Total	10975	3501	1060	321	143	37

Source: socio economic census 2006

mortgaging their land and confiscate their land if they defaulted on their payment. The same scenario prevailed in India where money lenders and landlords charged high interest on loans to villagers and grabbed their land when they defaulted. Tribals were the most exploited of the lot which after independence law was made to safeguard their land. Tribal land alienation continues in the country due to various economic reasons. The chief cause of land alienation is lack of money to meet emergencies like illness, accidents, etc where in desperation tribal's tend to sell land at very cheap rates.

Tribals of Sikkim are much better off than other tribals in the country and are better educated and smarter. Land alienation of tribals in Sikkim is also due to lack of funds in times of need. Though land alienation due to drinking habits, addiction, gambling has gone down the main reason is emergencies due to illness and other unforeseen events like death in family. However, the biggest cause of land alienation among both tribal and non tribal is related to development. After the merger, development of roads has been the most prominent cause of land alienation by the government. Mass land acquirement by the government which started with land acquisition at Bhusuk for the army saw large number of households turn landless within a short period. This trend of mass acquisition by the government has further expedited with implementation of large hydel projects, university, airport, office buildings, tourist and cultural projects.

HOUSEHOLDS POSSESSING DRY FIELDS						
SOCIAL GROUP	LESS THAN 1 ACRE	MORE THAN 1 LESS THAN 2.5	MORE THAN 2.5 LESS THAN 5	MORE THAN 5 LESS THAN 10	MORE THAN 10 LESS THAN 25	MORE THAN 25
ST	16894	6336	1765	563	175	41
SC	2534	519	97	22	11	2
MBC	10928	4439	1419	407	109	17
OBC	10833	3272	802	233	62	18
Others	153	18	2	2	3	2
Total	41342	14584	4085	1227	360	80

Source: socio economic census 2006

HOUSEHOLDS POSSESSING ORCHARDS						
SOCIAL GROUP	LESS THAN 1 ACRE	MORE THAN 1 LESS THAN 2.5	MORE THAN 2.5 LESS THAN 5	MORE THAN 5 LESS THAN 10	MORE THAN 10 LESS THAN 25	MORE THAN 25
ST	464	53	14	9	8	1
SC	38	4	0	0	0	0
MBC	371	34	7	2	0	0
OBC	308	40	5	1	1	1
Others	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1184	131	26	12	9	2

Source: socio economic census 2006

Since the government has the right to acquire land for public purposes hardly any opposition stands in the way of these acquisitions. Tribals have been the most affected community by these large scale land acquisitions. The meager compensation is not enough for the affected families to resettle elsewhere. The government has no clear resettlement plan leaving the affected families to fend for themselves. The so-called large compensation received by tribals due to hydel projects have been squandered by them as they lack any financial knowledge of investing their money. The areas taken for hydel projects and for airport have seen people become homeless with no further aid from the government other than the compensation.

The present legislation to pro-

tect tribals from being landless is a big eyewash by the government with its only motive to draw the community votes in the coming election. If the government is really serious of land alienation they need to tackle the causes leading to these land alienations. Health care has to be made better and more affordable so that the poorest of the poor receive health care at his doorstep. Cheap loans should be available so that the poor can get money in times of emergencies. Land acquisitions should be made after proper social and economic impact studies to lessen the brunt of the acquisition. Fair market related price for land acquired should be given and proper resettlement plan should be in place. The present legislation does not solve the problem of land alienation since the government can still acquire land if they need for their own purpose. The new law only restricts the tribals from getting a better price for their land and adds more hurdles in times of emergencies from getting funds. The new law will not prevent Banks and other financial institutions from auctioning tribal land to non tribals in case of default in loan payment.

The other cause of worry is the demand by some political parties to include Sherpa in Bhutia by amending Land Revenue order number one which falls under old laws protected under 371F; dilution of old laws will be extremely harmful for all Sikkimese and any amendment must be thwarted. The latest frenzy for land protection for votes shows how political parties and the government give scant attention to details of the effect of the laws they pass for political benefit which in the long run may prove more harmful than beneficial for the specific community and the state.

[The writer is former Secretary, Department of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation [DESME], Government of Sikkim]

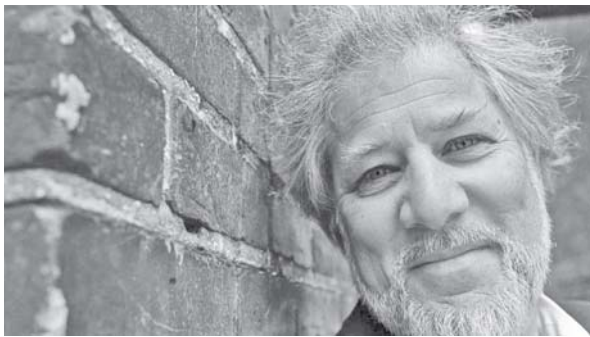
Ondaatje's win of the Golden Man Booker Prize is complicated

JODY MASON & DESSA BAYROCK

"AMERICAN MOVIES, ENGLISH BOOKS — remember how they all end?...The American or the Englishman gets on a plane and leaves. That's it. The camera leaves with him. He looks out of the window at Mom-basa or Vietnam or Jakarta, someplace now he can look at through the clouds. The tired hero. A couple of words to the girl beside him. He's going home. So the war, to all purposes, is over. That's enough reality for the West. It's probably the history of the last two hundred years of Western political writing. Go home. Write a book. Hit the circuit." - Michael Ondaatje, Anil's Ghost.

Michael Ondaatje recently won the Golden Man Booker Prize for his novel The English Patient. Honoured with a Booker when it was published in 1992, the book has now been "crowned as the best work of fiction from the last five decades of the Man Booker Prize."

The Golden Man Booker was created to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Man Booker, now one of the world's best-known literary awards. A panel of writers and journalists



were each assigned a decade in the prize's history, and each was asked to choose one novel.

British novelist, Kamila Shamsie — whose 2017 novel Home Fire was longlisted for a Booker — championed Ondaatje's The English Patient as the winner of the 1990s. The public was then invited to select the winner from the five books in an online poll, and Ondaatje came out on top.

Ondaatje's Booker wins are complicated. More than anything, Ondaatje's Golden Booker win showcases

the contradictions of literary value in the current context of the global commodifications of creative goods. His 1992 success can be examined within the broader context of the prize, its relation to postcolonial fiction and the globalization of Can Lit.

THE SYMBOLIC CAPITAL OF LEGITIMATION

In his 2001 study, The Postcolonial Exotic, literary critic Graham Huggan argues that the Man Booker Prize has deep connections to a history of slave labour and indentureship. A multi-

national agribusiness with roots in the Caribbean sugar industry created the prize. Despite its colonial history, the Booker has frequently praised postcolonial novels that critique the structures of imperialism from which the Booker was born.

In Huggan's opinion, this pattern deserves examination: does the Booker fold resistant postcolonial novels into a "shared" British culture that is authorized, once again, by a metropolitan centre?

Does the Man Booker, Huggan asks, permit England, a country that is "no longer a player in the world's economic sweepstakes," to accumulate "symbolic capital as a legitimizing cultural force?"

The English Patient decentres Englishness through the figure of its non-English "English" patient (Almásy). Yet its Booker win harnessed both the novel and Ondaatje to an institution that lauds cultural diversity even as it repeats old structures of power and cultural distinction.

Similar charges have been levelled against the form and function of

turn to 06

Four detained on suspicion of being child lifters

JALPAIGURI (WB), JUL 24 (PTI): A day after four women were assaulted on suspicion of being child lifters in Dhupguri block of the district, four others were today detained after people of a village in the block handed them over to the police on the same suspicion.

The villagers of Paschim Salbari confined the four, including a woman, in her residence and informed the police, Jalpaiguri Superintendent of police Amitabha Maity said here.

They were, however, not beaten up, he said.

The incident occurred a day after four women were assaulted and two of them disrobed by a mob at another village in the same Dhupguri block on suspicion of being child-lifters.

The SP said the four, of whom three were outsiders, were being interrogated in Dhupguri police station.

Police sources said one of the three outsiders came from Assam who had said he and the woman were in love.

However, the villagers found inconsistency in their statements following which they were handed over to the police, the sources said.

On yesterday's assault on four women, the SP said they hailed from New Jalpaiguri area and had committed petty crimes in the past.

Incidents of assault on people following rumours of child lifting has been taking place in the district for sometime.

Last week, a mentally deranged woman was beaten up in the same block on suspicion of being a child-lifter.

The SP said the rumour of child-lifting was spread by people who wished to disturb the law and order in the district.

The police have been asking the people through social media and public address system not to take law into their own hands and contact the police on the helpline if they found anything suspicious.



Embankment, riverbanks repaired to cope with flood-like situation: WB min

KOLKATA, JUL 24 (PTI): The West Bengal irrigation department has completed repairing around 1411 river embankments, riverbanks and different structures damaged during last year's heavy rainfall to cope with any flood-like situation in the state, Irrigation Minister Soumen Kumar Mahapatra told the Assembly today.

Starting on June 1 the state irrigation department has opened two separate flood control rooms in Kolkata and Jalpaiguri and 22 other centres in the districts to keep an eye on the water-level of various river bodies, total rainfall and condition of the drainage canals, Mahapatra said.

The department has also carried out repair works of 11 water pumping stations in and surrounding areas of the city besides, setting up 40 new

pumping stations in the low lying areas in the state, Mahapatra said.

The minister said that around 940 km of drainage canals in the city and at around five districts North and South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, East Medinipore have been brought under the annual maintenance contract to keep them clean.

To ensure that the drainage systems function properly during this year's monsoon, proper dredging has also been carried out at various drainage canals, the minister said. The department had earlier this month held a meeting with the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) authorities on releasing water during the monsoon this year.

Water released by DVC have in the past flooded low lying areas of several south Bengal districts.

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HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Reference No: 1014/GOS/HRDD/(N)/66 Dated: 24/7/18

NOITICE INVTING E-TENDER NO:

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Additional Chief Engineer (N/E), Human Resource & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tendering Bids from the eligible registered contractors of appropriate class for the work listed below:-

Name of Work: "Construction of New Model College at Chakung, West Sikkim".

BID VALUE	Rs.5,83,99,584.00
DATE OF PUBLISHING IN E-TENDERING PORTAL OF SIKKIM GOVERNMENT (www.sikkimtender.gov.in)	25.7.2018 (11.00 AM onwards)

The intending contractors / tenderers may visit the e-procurement portal of Government of Sikkim (www.sikkimtender.gov.in).

Sd/-

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (N/E)
HUMAN RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
R.O. 226/IPR/PUB/Class./18-19 dt. 24.07.2018



HUMAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Reference No: 1014/GOS/HRDD/(N)/67 Dated: 24/7/18

NOITICE INVTING E-TENDER NO:

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Additional Chief Engineer (N/E), Human Resource & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, invites e-tendering Bids from the eligible registered contractors of appropriate class for the work listed below:-

Name of Work: "Construction of New Model College at Mangshila, North Sikkim".

BID VALUE	Rs.5,83,99,584.00
DATE OF PUBLISHING IN E-TENDERING PORTAL OF SIKKIM GOVERNMENT (www.sikkimtender.gov.in)	25.7.2018 (11.00 AM onwards)

The intending contractors / tenderers may visit the e-procurement portal of Government of Sikkim (www.sikkimtender.gov.in).

Sd/-

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (N/E)
HUMAN RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
R.O. 227/IPR/PUB/Class./18-19 dt. 24.07.2018



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Memo No: 97/AES/R&B

Date:- 23/07/2018.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

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

TIME SCHEDULE:-

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

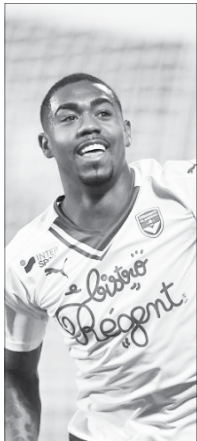
CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

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

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

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

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Bordeaux block Malcom move to Roma after late Barcelona bid

BORDEAUX, JUL 24 (AFP): Bordeaux have blocked the transfer of Brazilian winger Malcom to Roma after a last-minute bid for the player from Barcelona, said a source from the French club on Monday.

"There has been an approach from Barca," the source confirmed, after Bordeaux had reached an agreement earlier in the day to sell Malcom to Italian giants Roma.

The 21-year-old had been expected to arrive in Rome on Monday night for a medical on Tuesday before joining his future teammates on their pre-season tour of the United States the following day, but had his flight cancelled by the Ligue 1 outfit at the last moment.

Barcelona made contact with Bordeaux following the failure to sign Brazil international Wilian from Chelsea and, according to Italian media reports, made a bid larger than the reported fee of 38 million euros (44.4 million) struck with Roma.

Malcom had been a reported target for several European clubs including Premier League sides Arsenal and Tottenham, but English clubs may have been put off from making a bid as he needed a UK work permit to play in the Premier League.

Malcom scored 12 goals in 35 league games for Bordeaux last season.

Roma finished third in Serie A behind champions Juventus and Napoli to qualify for the 2018/19 Champions League group stage, having reached the semi-finals of the competition last term.

Akshay Wadkar in for dope-tainted Abhishek Gupta after BCCI faux pas

NEW DELHI, JUL 24 (PTI): The BCCI has named Akshay Wadkar as the replacement for wicket-keeper batsman Abhishek Gupta in the India Red squad for Duleep Trophy after realising their blunder of picking a player banned for a doping violation till September 14.

The selectors had picked Gupta in the Indian Red squad for Duleep Trophy, scheduled to take place from August 17 to September 8. According to a revised statement by the BCCI, selectors were not even aware of Gupta's suspension.

"It was brought to notice by the BCCI Anti-Doping team that Mr. Abhishek Gupta who was initially added in the India Red squad is serving an 8-month ban for a doping violation. The Senior Selection Committee



has reached a consensus that Mr. Akshay Wadkar will be included in the India Red team as Mr. Gupta's replacement," said the BCCI.

Wadkar is a wicket-keeper batsman from Vidarbha, the reigning Ranji Trophy champions. He has played six first-

class games besides nine List A appearances.

In June, Gupta was handed a retrospective eight-month suspension for an "inadvertent" doping violation. The 27-year-old's suspension started from January 15 and will end on September 14.

Gupta had inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance (terbutaline), which can be commonly found in cough syrups, the BCCI had said back in June, accepting the player's version of the incident.

The selectors met in Kolkata yesterday to pick

the squads for Duleep Trophy. Faiz Fazal will captain India Blue, Abhinav Mukund will lead India Red and Parthiv Patel will skipper India Green. Gupta has played six first-class matches, six List A games and nine T20s.

From IPL contract to 'keeping advice': Pant talks of Dhoni hand in success

LONDON, JULY 24 (PTI): Touted as a potential successor to Mahendra Singh Dhoni behind the stumps, Rishabh Pant says the former India captain has helped shape quite a few things in his still nascent career, ranging from his IPL contract to hand-head coordination while keeping.

"Whenever I needed any support from Mahi bhai, I used to ask him. From my IPL contract to my wicket-keeping, he's advised me on everything," the 20-year-old Pant told 'bcciv.tv'.

"He's always told me that when it comes to wicket-keeping, your hands and head coordination is important, the body balance can come into play later. That (his advice) has helped me a lot," said the southpaw.

Pant says the positivity in the Indian team's dressing room is also quite infectious.

The youngster was not picked for the limited-overs leg of the England tour despite a stellar IPL show but earned his maiden call-up in Tests through his gritty performances with the A team.

"Every time I come to the Indian dressing room, there is one thing that has always stood out for me. It is the positivity in the dressing room. Everyone is supporting and backing each other, which is the most important factor about this Indian dressing room," he said.

Asked about the challenge of switching formats from IPL to the ODI and four-day games in England, Pant said he does not stress over that.

"I reckon there isn't too much difference, but it has got more to do with shot selection. In red ball cricket, with the field placements, you can look around; take your time, because you have five days to play. Whereas in limited overs cricket you have limited number of balls to play and score.

"I have so far enjoyed my preparation with red ball cricket. The duke ball swings

a lot when you're here in England and initially when I started playing here with India A, I realised that the swing will come a lot into play in these conditions." He also received praise from India A coach Rahul Dravid for his performance in England.

"The only thing he tells me is that you need to be patient about everything, be it on the field or off it. Also, how I need to work harder on my game when it comes to red ball cricket since I'm a positive batsman, but at times you need to play to the situation. See the pace of the game and change your game accordingly."

The fact that he has been playing in England for a while has prepared him well for the Test series. Dinesh Karthik is the first-choice keeper in the absence of Wriddhiman Saha, so it remains to be seen if Pant will get his big break.

Former India wicket-keeper Kiran More recently went to the extent of saying that Pant could be the next Adam Gilchrist.

"I always see everything as an opportunity coming my way. Especially as a wicket-keeper batsman in India, wherein, there aren't too many options for the spot. Therefore, whatever opportunity I get, I try and optimise it.

"Adam Gilchrist has been my idol when it comes to keeping wickets and I used to watch him all the time as a youngster. But, at this moment, I'm learning a lot from people around me like Rahul Dravid Sir, Ajinkya Rahane, Virat Kohli and I try and improve my game every day," he said.

How did he react when he found out about his Test selection, especially after the disappointment of not making the one-day team?

"I always wanted to be a part of the Indian Test squad and it was more like a dream come true for me. It was an amazing feeling, not only for me but also for my family and my coach Tarek Sinha sir, who helped me understand the game very early in my life.



WADA Report: NADA records 71 positive tests but less samples collected

NEW DELHI, JUL 24 (PTI): Athletics continued to be India's achilles' heel in its anti-doping campaign, accounting for 21 of the 71 positive tests recorded by the National Anti-Doping Agency in the last one year, according to the latest WADA report.

According to the report, NADA tested 3174 urine and blood samples during the last year which showed 71 Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF), which indicates the number of positive tests.

There were 9 Atypical Findings (ATF), samples that were found suspicious and possibly required further investigations, as per the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

While the number of dope cheats has reduced from 110 in 2015 to 71 in 2017, it needs to be factored in that NADA tested a bigger pool of 4734 players back then.

A break up of the NADA testing reveals that in athletics, 815 Tests were conducted in 2017 with 502 being In-Competition (IC) and 229 being OOF (Out Of Competition). Of these

84 were blood samples.

The second highest number of dope offenders came from Power Lifting, which made up for 14 positive tests out of the 50 IC samples collected.

Weightlifters also predictably remained in the top bracket of dope offenders with 11 positive tests out of 359 collected samples.

The most startling revelation is the sport of Bodybuilding where NADA collected only 18 samples and 9 turned out to be positive.

Popular sports like football and hockey had one positive report each from the 318 and 156 samples respectively.

Wrestling had four dope cheats among the 199 tested.

Volleyball and Judo had two positive reports each while boxing had four such results.

Interestingly, Indian boxers had the highest number of Out Of Competition (OOC) testing -- 270 which is more than always-under-the-scanner athletics (229).

The next highest OOF is that of weightlifting with 177 Tests.

Ondaatje's win of the Golden Man Booker Prize is complicated

contd from pg04

official multiculturalism in Canada, particularly as it is leveraged in the literary prize industry.

A Sri-Lankan-born writer who emerged as a poet in the 1960s and whose creative work began to explore his South Asian roots in the 1980s, Ondaatje has come to represent a liberal multiculturalism that the Canadian government has been happy to promote on the international stage.

CAN LIT GOES GLOBAL

The Canadian literary community had already celebrated Ondaatje with two Governor General's Literary Awards for his poetry collections *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* (1970) and *There's a Trick With a Knife I'm Learning To Do* (1979).

His 1992 Booker win, however, turned Can Lit global: it single-handedly shaped the international image of both Canada and Canadian writing.

Ondaatje's 1992 Booker win is also a

constitutive part of a global era of "blockbuster" fiction that changed literary publishing in English Canada.

Ondaatje's rise to international fame in the 1990s coincided with the aggressive consolidation of publishing in Canada to a handful of multinational corporations. These changes included the eventual partial and then total sale of Ondaatje's publisher, McClelland & Stewart, to Random House of Canada (now Penguin Random House).

These changes nurtured a publishing environment in which authors' futures are snapped up by the multinationals in increasingly competitive bids that are driven, to a large extent, by literary prizes.

THE LITERARY PRIZE AND THE CONTRADICTIONS OF LITERARY VALUE It is tempting to argue that the Golden Man Booker for *The English Patient* can be explained because the novel was made into a blockbuster film. This recycling of content to produce a maximum of profit in an un-

predictable market for creative products is now very familiar to fiction readers.

Indeed, Ondaatje is probably best-known as the "author of the novel that was adapted into the multiple Academy Award-winning film of the same title." The film is sensuous, offering a lush visual tour of the globe while heightening the novel's love story at the expense of its political critique — notably the critique of western power and the racism that subtends it.

In his Golden Booker acceptance speech, Ondaatje acknowledged that Anthony Minghella's wildly successful 1996 film adaptation of his novel "probably had something to do with the results of this vote."

We think the consecration of *The English Patient* with the Golden Booker is more complex than this. The very existence of the Man Booker Prize and other prestigious literary prizes, such as Canada's Scotiabank Giller Prize, offer evidence of the continuing distinctiveness of a value

construed as "literary."

Ironically, such value continues to be produced by longstanding historical distinctions between literary value and the market, particularly those that emerged in the Romantic period's emphasis on spontaneous and natural processes of creation.

Such distinctions are the bread and butter of literary prizes, which consecrate not the skill of editing or the genius of marketing but literary excellence and authorial inspiration.

In such a context, writers' gestures to their autonomy from the market are significant. In his acceptance speech, Ondaatje thanked "small presses everywhere — they were the first to publish me." Indeed, Ondaatje is a long-time supporter of small publishers such as Toronto's Coach House Books and small-press undertakings such as Brick magazine. These are genuine commitments.

It is also apparent that such commitments, like so much that attends the

production of specifically literary celebrity, have meanings that extend beyond Ondaatje's framing.

Despite, or, more accurately, because of the relentless corporatization of literary publishing across the English-speaking world, small-press affiliations lend Ondaatje a non-instrumentalized and uncommercial literary credibility that writers still need. The search for such credibility is what drives our insatiable interest in literary prizes, Golden and otherwise.

In an age when literature's commodification has never been so apparent and flagrant, appeals to the writer's autonomy — established through small-press roots and the authenticating consecration of the literary prize — are more critical than ever.

[Jody Mason is Associate Professor, Department of English, Carleton University; Dessa Bayrock is PhD Student, Department of English, Carleton University]



Asian Games will be tougher than Commonwealth Games: Popat

MUMBAI, JUL 24 (PTI): Former badminton player Aparna Popat said today the upcoming Asian Games will be tougher than the Commonwealth Games and it was important the players struck form ahead of the continental multi-sport event.

The former nine-time badminton national champion said Indian shuttlers are capable of beating any of the current top players and if they strike form, they will definitely come back with medals from the Asian Games.

The 18th edition of the Asian Games will be held in Indonesia from August 18 to September 2. "See it's tough, we know that the Asian Games are going to be definitely tougher than the Commonwealth Games.

But we also know that a lot of it is dictated by the form of players themselves," the 40-year-old told reporters here.

She was speaking on sidelines of a panel discussion organised by the Rotary Club of Bombay.

"By speculating now and saying yes and looking at ranking and saying yes they might or might not come with a medal, it really depends on the form that they carry into the tournament.

"Because they (Indian shuttlers) are capable of beating any of the top players today, if they strike form, then they will definitely come back with medals," added Popat, who won senior national championships from 1997 to 2006.

Popat believes that every round will be "challenging" for the Indian players in the Asian Games. Asked why she thought the Asian Games are difficult than the Commonwealth Games (CWG), she said "Because badminton is dominated mostly by Asians.

"You look at the Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Thais, name it, Chinese Taipei today, everybody, each and every country pretty much is quite tough and that's why (in the) Asian Games, every round is going to be challenging (for the Indian players)."

The Commonwealth Games are held for the countries that were once under the British rule and only a handful of Asian nations take part in this international multi-sport event.

The CWG were held at Gold Coast, Australia, in April this year. India won a total of 66 medals, six of which came from badminton.

The Indian contingent at the upcoming continental showpiece is headlined by the star badminton trio of K Srikanth, P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal.

Popat stressed that it was important that Saina and Sindhu struck form at the right time.

"They are experienced enough, they are champions enough to know what is required to be done at such a big event, they just have to stick to it," Popat said when asked what would she advice Saina and Sindhu before the Asiad.

"And as I said, if they remain mentally sound and at ease and motivated enough and if they strike form, basically it is very important that they strike form at the right time," Popat said.

And the former badminton player signed off by saying that young shuttler Laksya Sen's real test will begin now.

Sen (16) recently won the gold medal at the Asia Junior Badminton Championships in men's singles, defeating top-seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand 21-19, 21-18 in the final.

"Well similarly I did face a sort of hurdle because after winning my silver medal at the World Junior Championships, the transition to seniors is very different.

"He is mentored by Prakash uncle (Prakash Padukone), Vimal uncle (Vimal Kumar) and trained with them. So he is in the best hands, (and should) take cognisance of the fact that your real test starts now. Much larger world is out there when it comes to seniors," she said.

India to shut down camp office at Biratnagar on 01 Aug

KATHMANDU, JUL 24 (PTI): India today said a camp office of its embassy in Nepal's Biratnagar will be officially closed from August 1 as per the request made by the Nepalese government. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal in May, the decision was conveyed to Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. "All services including issuing of motor vehicle permits, registration certificates for Indian nationals, attestation of documents and miscellaneous services (birth/death registrations) being rendered by Embassy of India Camp Office, Biratnagar will cease with effect from 1st August, 2018," the embassy said in a statement. The embassy has also called concerned persons to contact Indian Embassy, Kathmandu effective from August 1, for these services which were earlier rendered by the camp office in Biratnagar.

China: Tibetan students banned from religious activities

BEIJING, JUL 24 (AP): Children in traditionally Buddhist Tibet have been banned from taking part in religious activities over the summer holidays, an official Chinese Communist Party newspaper has reported. The Global Times quoted an education official in the regional capital of Lhasa as saying that students were required to sign an agreement to "not take part in any form of religious activity" during the break. The policy appears to reflect increasingly harsh restrictions on the Himalayan region's traditional Buddhist culture, largely aimed at reducing the influence of the region's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India. "The students are following the regulation under the guidance of their parents and teachers," the paper said, quoting Choephel, the head of the political education department at Lhasa Middle School, who like many Tibetans uses just



one name. No phone number was available for the department and Chinese authorities severely limit foreign journalists' access to Tibet. The report was viewed on the paper's website today. China claims Tibet has been part of its territory for more than seven centuries and regards the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist. Many Tibetans insist they were essentially independent before the Communist Party's People's Liberation Army's battled its way into the Himalayan region in 1950. The presence of security forces was increased significantly after deadly anti-government rioting broke out in Lhasa in 2008 and spread quickly through Tibetan-inhabited areas in western China. Buddhist religious institutions that form the backbone of the region's culture have become a particular target of the authorities. The overseas-based International Campaign for Tibet reported earlier this month that young Tibetan monks were forced to leave one of the biggest monasteries in a Tibetan region of western China as part of a drive to replace monastic life with secular education.

That threatens to cut the transmission of religious knowledge and monastic tradition between monks of different generations, the organization said. Recent months have also seen sweeping crackdowns on traditional Muslim culture among the Uighur ethnic minority group in the north-western region of Xinjiang and among Christians in eastern China.



Trump may revoke security clearance of six Obama-era officials critical of him

WASHINGTON, JUL 24 (PTI): In an unprecedented move, President Donald Trump is considering revoking the security clearance of some six former top national security officials in the previous Obama administration who have been highly critical of his policies, especially on Russia, the White House has said. These officials are former CIA Director John Brennan, former FBI Director James Comey, former director of National Intelligence James Clapper, former director of the National Security Agency Michael Hayden, former National Security Adviser and UN Ambassador Susan Rice and former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe. "The president is exploring the mechanisms to remove security clearance because they politicise and in some cases monetise their public service and security clearances," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters. "Making baseless accusations of improper contact with Russia or being influenced by Russia against the president is extremely inappropriate, and the fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations with zero evidence," she said. However, Sanders refused to give a time line for revoking the security clearance. When we have further updates on that front, I'll certainly let you know, she said. Every speech he doesn't like and he wants to punish them for it? she was asked. No, I think you are creating your own story there. The President doesn't like the fact that people are politicising agencies and departments that are specifically meant to not be political and not meant to be monetised off of security clearances, the presidential spokesperson said.



Hundreds missing in Laos after hydropower dam collapse


BANGKOK, JUL 24 (AFP): Hundreds of people are missing and an unknown number believed dead after a partly-constructed hydropower dam in southeast Laos collapsed, sending flash floods surging through six villages, state media reported today. Communist Laos is traversed by a vast network of rivers and there are several dams being built or are planned in the impoverished and landlocked country, which exports most of its hydropower energy to neighbouring countries like Thailand. Laos News Agency said the accident happened at a hydropower dam in southeastern Attapeu province's Sanamxay district late Monday, releasing five billion cubic metres of water -- more than two million Olympic swimming pools -- which unleashed flash flooding coursing into nearby villages. The report added that there were "several human lives claimed, and several hundreds of people missing". Images published in the report showed scores of people, some clutching young children, crammed onto low-slung wooden boats and wading through muddy waters. Several houses in the southern part of the district were swept away following the dam's collapse around 8pm (1300 GMT) on Monday evening, the report said, as officials in the province put out a call for relief aid for flood victims. "We do not have any formal information yet about any casualties or how many are missing," an Attapeu official told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that was "no phone signal" in the flooded region. "We sent rescue teams who will help them and provide basic assistance first," the official added. The 1.2 billion dam is part of a project by Vientiane-based Xe Pian Xe Namnoy Power Company, or PNP, a joint venture formed in 2012. Among the companies involved in the project according to the Laos News Agency are Thailand's Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding, South Korea's Korea Western Power and the state-run Lao Holding State Enterprise. The 410 megawatt capacity dam was supposed to start commercial operations by 2019, according to the venture's website. The project consists of a series of dams over the Houay Makchanh, the Xe-Namnoy and the Xe-Pian rivers in neighbouring Champasak Province. It planned to export 90 percent of its electricity to energy hungry Thailand and the remaining amount was to be offered up on the local grid.

Under the terms of construction, PNP said it would operate and manage the power project for 27-years after commercial operations began. When contacted by phone in Laos' capital Vientiane a company official told AFP: "We do not have any official reports about it yet. We are gathering information." Dam projects in Laos, mainly providing power to neighbouring countries, have long been controversial with fears over environmental damage and the impact on communities who are often displaced to make way for the construction. A massive hydroelectric project at Xayaburi, led by Thai group CH Karnchang, is at the heart of Laos' plan to become "the battery of Southeast Asia". The 1,285 megawatt dam -- which will cost 3.5 billion according to state media -- has sharply divided downstream Mekong nations like Vietnam and Cambodia who worry it will disrupt vital ecosystems and their own river systems. Communist authorities in Laos keep tight control information and is often opaque about business deals and development projects. The country has around 10 dams in operation, 10 to 20 under construction, and dozens more in planning stages.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim invites Fresh & Renewal application for the various scholarships schemes under ST/SC/OBC (Central / State) & Minority students for the Academic Year 2018-19. Time line activities are as follows:-

SL. NO.	SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME	CLASS/COURSE	MODE OF APPLICATION	PORTAL	ONLINE OPENING DATE	ONLINE CLOSING DATE
1.	Post Matric Scholarship to ST Students.	From Class XI onwards	ONLINE	www.sikkim-service.in	17 th July, 2018	30 th Sept, 2018.
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to SC students.					
3.	Post Matric Scholarship to OBC (Central OBC) students.					
4.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Post Matric Scholarship for EBC (State OBC) student					
5.	Pre Matric Scholarship tp ST students.	Class IX & X only.	OFFLINE (Manual)	Forms to be collected from concerned Welfare Office (East/West/North/South) Contact Details:- East (7797868622) West (9593240555) North (9609876305) South (9647870224)	23 rd July 2018.	-
6.	Pre Matric Scholarship to SC students.	Class IX & X only.				
7.	Pre Matric Scholarship to OBC (Central OBC) Students.	From Class I to X.	ONLINE (for more details visit www.minorityaffairs.gov.in)	www.scholarships.gov.in	23 rd July 2018.	-
8.	Post Matric Scholarship to Minority Students.	Class XI onwards				
9.	Pre Matric Scholarship to Minority Students.	Class I to X	ONLINE (for more details visit www.tribal.nic.in)	www.scholarships.gov.in	23 rd July 2018.	-
10.	Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarship to Minority Students.	Professional & Technical Courses.				
11.	National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students – Scholarship (Formerly Top Class Education for Schedule Tribe Students)- only for scholarships.	Professional & Technical Courses	ONLINE	www.scholarships.gov.in	23 rd July 2018.	-
12.	Pre Matric Scholarship for students with disabilities	Class I to X				
13.	Post Matric Scholarship for students with disabilities	Class XI onwards	ONLINE	www.scholarships.gov.in	23 rd July 2018.	-
14.	Scholarship for Top Class Education for student with disability.	Professional & Technical Courses				

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Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety actor Kartik Aaryan replaces Farhan Akhtar!

The gen-next star of Bollywood, Kartik Aaryan, has become very popular among the masses, especially the youth, after the mega success of his recent film Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety which crossed Rs 100 crore mark at the box office. And this success is taking him places and bagging him quite a few projects.

The latest is that Kartik has replaced actor-singer Farhan Akhtar as the ambassador of popular deo, Park Avenue. The brand was looking for someone who can easily have a great connect with its target audience and they found a perfect match in the young heartthrob of the nation, Kartik Aaryan. Kartik is not just popular amongst the females but also amidst the males. His bromantic act on screen has always made him crowd favourite.

A DNA report quoted a source as saying, "The team wanted a young, fresh face and they locked the deal with Kartik given the fact that he's



popular among the younger crowd now."

Kartik's commercial which is now on air was shot in Bangkok. A good fragrance is surely a turn on and well, now the girls have now more reasons to be attracted towards him. Well, in the advertising world, Kartik's



brand value has really increased and this young actor is making the most of it.

The 27-year-old actor currently has two big projects in his kitty, viz, Luka Chuppi and Kirik Party remake. Talking about Luka Chuppi, Kartik will play the character of a star reporter from a local

TV channel while Kriti Sanon will portray a Mathura girl who goes to Delhi for studies and then returns to her hometown.

The desi rom-com will travel from Mathura to Gwalior and Agra. It will be directed by cinematographer Laxman Utekar, who has worked in films like Blue, Dear Zindagi and English Vinglish. It will go on floors in August this year and is expected to release in 2019.

Coming to his second project, Kartik will portray the lead in the official remake of Kannada blockbuster Kirik Party, which enjoyed its theatrical run for 150 days. The untitled venture will mark the Bollywood directorial debut of the National Award winner Abhishek Jain, who is known for delivering hit Gujarati hit films like Wrong Side Raju and Bey Yaar. It will be produced by Dheeraj Wadhawan, Ajay Kapoor of Kyta Productions and Vrithika Laykar.

Selena Gomez' birthday post on Instagram breaks Beyonce's record!



Selena Gomez turned 26 on 22 Jul. The Back To You singer organised an Italian themed birthday bash, on a yacht, for her friends. A private chef to cook Selena's favourite meals and a string quartet were also on board the yacht.

Wow! Well, just like last year, this year, too, her birthday post on Instagram went viral. She garnered 1 million likes on her birthday picture, and that too, in less than 13 minutes. A record in itself. As per Pop Crave, with those numbers, Selena broke Beyonce's record of getting 1 million likes in the least amount of time.

Selena's post on Instagram is an album of beautiful pictures of her celebrating her day with friends. She is wearing a beautiful off shoulder pink dress. There is a joyous picture of her cutting a cake as confetti flies around her, pretty much covering the entire frame.

The caption of the post reads, "Another year down.. Thank you for all the bday

love. I couldn't be more appreciative of you and my best friends for celebrating with me. I love you guys like crazy! God bless!"

The said post was at 7 million likes at the time of writing this story. Will this picture make it to the most liked pictures on Instagram? We would not be surprised! Her last year's birthday post was one of the most liked pictures of 2017. In fact, from this year, her birthday wish post for Justin Bieber is already the 16th highest liked picture of 2018 with over 9 million hearts.

Selena has also recently said that she would love to work with AR Rahman.

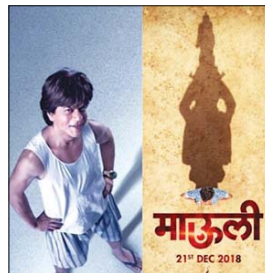
"I have been following a few musicians in India and I believe they are wonderful. I like AR Rahman's work. He is a global figure today. I would love to sing or be part of his compositions. I think it would be beautiful to sing for [a] Bollywood [movie]," said Selena in her recent interaction with Mid-Day.

Riteish Deshmukh's Mauli to CLASH with SRK's Zero on 21 Dec

After the grand success of Lai Bhaari, Riteish Deshmukh is ready for his second Marathi venture Mauli, where he is portraying the titular character in the film. The makers of Mauli have just announced the release date and it seems they are eyeing on festive release to enjoy the maximum footfalls. Mauli is scheduled to release on 21 Dec.

But again there is a twist, as we know Shah Rukh Khan's highly-anticipated film Zero is releasing on the similar date, we will again witness a box office clash between the films.

Considering the box office role, Mauli can affect the business of Zero in Mumbai and other states of Maharashtra due to its appeal and Riteish Deshmukh's fanbase in these circuits. Talking about Mauli, the film marks the Marathi debut of Mirzya fame Saiyami Kher. The film is directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, who previously helmed Faster Fene. It is produced by Riteish's wife Genelia Deshmukh and the music is composed by



National Award winning duo Ajay-Atul.

On the other hand, SRK's Zero is directed by Aanand L Rai and features him in a dwarf avatar. According to Rai, this is a story that celebrates the imperfections in one's life. It also features Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif in pivotal roles. This is the first time that Shah Rukh and Aanand L Rai have collaborated for a project together.

Interestingly, Anupam Kher's The Accidental Prime Minister and James Cameron's Alita: Battle Angel are coming on the same date. So it'll be interesting to see how various genres perform well at the ticket windows.

BRADLEY COOPER AND LADY GAGA STARRER A STAR IS BORN TO PREMIERE AT VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Bradley Cooper's remake of "A Star Is Born," starring himself and Lady Gaga, is to have its world premiere at the 75th Venice Film Festival. The festival announced the 31 Aug debut screening on Monday after it had been rumoured for days, reports variety.com. Warner Bros' new take on the classic tale that first hit the silver screen 81 years ago is scheduled for release in theaters in the U.S. in October.

The film will play out of competition at Venice, which is steadily gaining in prestige as an awards launching pad for Hollywood product. Another crowd-pleasing musically themed movie, "La La Land," as well as "Gravity," "Spotlight," and "The Shape of Water," all launched from the Lido.

The hotly anticipated "A Star Is Born" finds four-time Oscar nominee Cooper ["American Hustle," "Silver Linings Playbook"] directing for the first time, and acting and singing



as musician Jackson Maine, alongside Gaga, who plays struggling artist Ally. With Maine's encouragement, Ally's career ramps up, but their relationship suffers.

The new take on the story features tracks written by Cooper and Gaga together and in collaboration with musicians such as Lukas Nelson, Jason Isbell, and Mark Ronson. Also appearing in the film are Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chappelle, and Sam Elliott.

The festival runs from 29 Aug to 08 Sept.

ARIES: Once your brain gets hooked on something, Aries, you're likely to take it to the extreme. Be careful of overworking yourself in a certain issue that requires a more rational, temperate attitude. You may get into trouble if you insist on going off the deep end. Don't tackle issues you aren't ready to handle. Take things slowly and maintain a moderate, conservative viewpoint. If you go too far, back off and take a break.

TAURUS: Your brain is likely to be working overtime, Taurus. Things were going along just fine until you suddenly ran into an unexpected snag that kept you from where you want to be. It's as if the hamster wheel you've been running on suddenly jammed. Even though you're still working just as hard, the wheel simply won't turn. Perhaps it's time to step off and take a break. Get some perspective.

GEMINI: Try not to get too wrapped up in the mental side of things, Gemini. Perhaps you're trying to work everything through in your mind. You'll find that there are strong forces outside your own trying their hardest to manipulate your thinking. It might be good to step away from the situation and do more processing with your heart. Go with your instincts rather than rely so much on your thoughts.

CANCER: It's possible that you've been so emotional about a certain issue that you've taken it way too far, Cancer. Fortunately, your reasoning has finally caught up with your feelings. Now it's time for a reckoning. Give your brain a chance to sort things out and bring the situation back into equilibrium. Your first tendency may be to overreact and have things swing in the opposite direction. Do your best to resist this temptation.

LEO: You may experience a transformation in your thinking. It's bound to affect every aspect of your life, Leo. By always questioning, you work through difficult issues that require a constant reshuffling of viewpoints. Feel free to open yourself up to new ways of thinking as you dismiss old ways that no longer serve you. Now is a terrific time to consider a fresh wave of thought. You'll be exposed to a new way of truth.

VIRGO: You may be overwhelmed by an onslaught of communication from someone you didn't expect to hear from, Virgo. It could be that this person suddenly puts a monkey wrench in your plans. It's important to adapt and allow for the constant changes that are bound to come your way. Don't get so hung up on a certain way of doing things that you fail to see the wisdom in a new and different approach.

LIBRA: Someone might feel obligated to give you their two cents even if you didn't ask for it, Libra. Be careful not to dismiss this information without giving it proper consideration. This knowledge comes to you for a reason, and it's possible that it's the very piece of information you need now in order to complete the puzzle. Don't disregard anything, regardless of how esoteric it seems.

SCORPIO: It's time to finally apply the knowledge you've accumulated and come to recognize the truth, Scorpio. Perhaps you've been sitting on the facts while contemplating their meaning. It's now time to get this information out into the open. There's no doubt that this action is likely to make waves, but that's OK. A key theme of the day is transformation, so feel free to contribute your part.

SAGITTARIUS: When it comes to issues

that require real thinking, be careful of letting someone else take control. You might have a rather lazy attitude in this department, Sagittarius, and it could be tempting to simply let someone else do the thinking for you. This attitude is apt to lead you down the wrong path for you. Taking responsibility for yourself means thinking for yourself, so do it.

CAPRICORN: There's likely to be a powerful force at work trying to manipulate the way you think about a certain situation, Capricorn. Be conscious of the source of your facts. It could be that someone is giving you tainted information so you'll act in a way that is favorable to his or her plan. Others may not be looking out for your best interests, so it's important that you are. Don't accept things blindly without question.

AQUARIUS: Don't second-guess

yourself today, Aquarius. It could be that you're wavering so much about a decision that even after you make it, you hesitate to follow through with it. Once you make up your mind about something, stick with it. Have confidence in your own mental process. Once you begin to waver, it may be difficult to find the assurance that you need since you'll inevitably slide down the slippery slope of self-doubt.

PISCES: Other people may try to wield their power even when it isn't their place. This is one time when people may try to show off their IQ by offering random facts that don't offer anything useful to the situation at hand but just serve to prove their knowledge of esoteric trivia. Try not to buy into other people's displays of power, Pisces. There's more than likely a great deal of hype and not much substance.

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Assistant General Manager Circle Office Guwahati Date-25.07.2018	