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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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## Guru Rinpoche Thrungkar Tshechu in Gangtok

**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 22 JUL:**

Guru Rinpoche Thrungkar Tshechu was observed in grand manner in Gangtok, today with a peace rally taken out through town.

The procession started from the Dotapu Chorten Monastery, Deorali, and received the participation of thousands of devotees from across different faiths.

Organised by Sikkim Buddhist Duechen Organisation and Sikkim Buddhist Association, Gangtok, with support from various other religious organizations, NGOs, social organization and associations, the rally carrying a statue of Guru Padmasambhava was taken out from Chorten Gumpa and taken till the White Hall complex in Gangtok where Governor Shrinivas Patil offered prayers.



The statue of Guru Padmasambhava was kept there for some time for devotees to offer prayers.

Special prayers were performed by monks of the Chorten monastery with the rituals starting at 3 AM, it is informed.

The statue of Guru Rinpoche, was today carried in a procession with the chanting of Vajra Guru mantra to mark Guru Rinpoche's Trunkar Tsechu.

Led by the monks playing ritual musical instruments and fol-

lowed by devotees and students of different schools of Gangtok and the surrounding areas, the procession followed the route from D ADeorali, Metro Point, Zero Point to White Hall and back through Dukhit Pan Dokan, Sonam Tsher-

ing Marg, Nam Nang and Deorali returning to Chorten Gumpa where it ended.

Speaking to SummitTimes, the general secretary of the organizing committee, KM Tamang, extended gratitude to all the devotees for making

the celebration a grand success.

The special prayers preceding the procession were for world peace and well being of all living beings and for the safety and protection of all, he further informed.

A complete reading of 108 volumes of Kujur texts was also performed over the past few days to generate blessings for harmony, peace and happiness for all beings, he added.

It may be mentioned here that one of the most significant Buddhist festivals, Guru Rinpoche Trunkar Tsechu marks the birth anniversary of Guru Rinpoche (Guru Padmasambhava), the founder of Tibetan Buddhism in Sikkim and other neighbouring Himalayan regions in the 8th century.

## BRO completes strategic road in Bhutan

**NEW DELHI, JULY 22 (PTI):** India's Border Roads Organisation has completed construction of a strategically key road in Bhutan, linking the neighbouring country's border town of Phuentsholing with its capital city of Thimphu.

The nearly 30-km long Damchu Chukha road, which crisscrosses rugged and difficult terrain, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 287 crore under India-assisted development projects in the Himalayan nation, military officials said.

Several India-funded infrastructure projects, including in the power sector, are being implemented in Bhutan, in sync with close bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Let this road be a reminder to celebrate our friendship. Let's showcase the world how beautiful the relationship between Bhutan and India is, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said after inaugurating the road last week, according to a senior military official.

Bhutan is a strategically important country for India due to its location, and both sides have been ramping up overall

cooperation, including in areas of defence and security, over the past a few years.

During the Doklam standoff between the troops of India and China last year, Bhutan had extended support to New Delhi.

Tobgay had visited India earlier this month during which both the countries resolved to take the "exemplary" bilateral partnership between to "new heights".

The new road is expected to reduce the travel time between Southern Bhutanese city of Phuntsholing to Thimphu by one hour and reduce the journey by around 19.5 km of steep uphill driving, the official said.

He said the road was laid after removing over 2,500 meters of hard rock and it crisscrossed difficult terrains which

turn to pg02



## Sikkim Cricket Assn welcomes BCCI nod for Sikkim to be represented in national level tournaments

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 22 JUL:**

The BCCI has approved the long-pending demand of the Sikkim Cricket Association and cricket lovers of the State seeking representation of Sikkim in national level cricketing events like the prestigious Ranji Trophy.

"Sikkim can now be represented in 14 national level cricketing events in the country," informed Sonam Palden Bhutia, the SCA general secretary, while addressing a press conference here today.

He also thanked the Chief Minister for his consistent support to development of sports in the State.

This approval from BCCI, he underlined,



was a proud moment for sports in Sikkim.

With regards to the Mining Ground, he stated that the ground can be upgraded further and international level stadium is now possible in Sikkim.

"BCCI has started providing us with directions," he shared.

He further informed that Rs 2 crore will be provided by BCCI towards the stadium project, and in consultation with the State govern-

ment, work will be taken forward to take the Mining ground to another level.

"Cricket tourism can be encouraged in Sikkim on the lines of the Dharamsala stadium," he said.

He further commented that with the Pakyong Airport scheduled to come on line soon and with quality hotels coming up in the area, all the criteria required to host international cricket

et matches will be met by Sikkim with the Mining Ground being developed.

The crucial 70 yards from the centre of the ground criteria is also fulfilled, it was further informed.

The members of the association also stated that the unemployment issue of the state can also be addressed to some extent with logistics that entail for a national representative team.

"The opportunities are huge and it requires support from all quarters. We are preparing the action plan," he said.

They also expressed hope that the state government will increase the lease period of the

ground which is slated to expire in 2022.

Availability of more grounds was also requested by the members.

When asked about the cricketing stars of Sikkim, the members pointed out that Sikkim has many cricketing heroes including Amos Rai, Anwesh Kumar Sharma and also good female cricketers like Noor Pandi and Songkit Lepcha.

Further when the media asked about corruption cases that frequently appear in media with regards to cricketing associations, the members stated that BCCI now has strict guidelines and an anti corruption unit with clear and systematic transfer of money.

A Rs 5 crore DPR has also been prepared for

Mining ground, it was informed.

The press conference was attended by Nayan Tshering Bhutia, Joint Secretary, Rinzing Namgyal, Joint Secretary, Gopal Sharma, Vice President and Prakash Lama, President, East district.

## Home Ministry procures 5000 rape investigation kits to distribute to police stations: WCD

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** The Home Ministry has purchased 5,000 rape investigation kits which would be given to police stations across the country for speedy probe in sexual harassment cases, according to a senior Women and Child Development official.

The official said that for now, five kits each would be provided to randomly-selected police stations and states have also been asked to chip in with their contribution.

The kits are designed to carry out immediate medical investigation and aid the evidence-gathering exercise in sexual assault and rape cases.

"The Home Ministry has procured 5,000 rape investigation kits that would be distributed to randomly selected police stations across the country for

speedy probes in sexual harassment cases," he said.

Each kit comes with a set of test tubes and bottles and costs Rs 200 to Rs 300, the official said.

Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi last week urged states to buy such kits and arm their police station with them.

The official said the states have responded positively and the Haryana government has even approved their procurement.

"It is often seen that compromised evidence reach forensic laboratories in such cases. So in a bid to overcome that, rape investigation kits would be distributed to all police stations," the official said.

Explaining the functioning of these kits, he said it would

be used to collect various samples -- such as blood, semen and sweat -- of the victim which will be locked and sent to the forensic laboratory. It will carry the time of sealing of the samples and also the names of the police officer and the doctor involved.

Gandhi had said there was no forensic analysis in 13,000 rape cases every year as the country's laboratories lacked the capacity. She had also said her ministry has been looking to plug loopholes in the system to ensure rape cases are investigated expeditiously.

"The first ones we found were in the forensic department. We just have the forensic ability for 1,500 people. We used the Nirbhaya fund and with the help of the Ministry of Home Affairs, we are building five new forensic laboratories that will

increase the capacity from 1,500 to 20,000," she said.

"At times the forensic laboratories receive compromised evidence, that is why there is a need to distribute the rape investigation kits in every police station," she had said.

As many as 1,10,333 cases of rape were registered in the country between 2014-16, according to government figures.

The figures say that 38,947 cases of rape were registered in 2016, 34,651 in 2015 and 36,735 in 2014.

Altogether 3,38,954 cases of crime against women were registered in 2016, while 3,29,243 such cases were registered in 2015 and 3,39,457 in 2014, according to the government figures.

Rape accounts for about 12 per cent of all crimes against women, according to the figures.



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## Guru Rinpoche's Throngkar Tshechu at Upper Rakdong

**SUMMIT REPORT  
DIKCHU, 22 JUL:**

Guru Rinpoche's Throngkar Tshechu was observed in monasteries across the State today to mark the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. The Dzog-Chen Tensung Monastery of Upper Rak-

dong in East Sikkim also observed the auspicious day today with "Rikzing Sokdup" prayers offered by around 100 monks of the monastery led by the Omje and Dorjee Lopon.

This prayers were organised jointly by the Gumpa committee,

well wishers and zindas.

Devotees from all walks of life attended the prayers.

TS Lepcha, the president of the Gumpa committee, conveyed his gratitude to all the devotees and well wishers for their wholehearted support for the prayers.

## Nupling Gumpa inaugurated at Rupsang Soreng

**SOREONG, JUL 22:** Nupling Gumpa of Rupsang Soreng, West Sikkim, was inaugurated today on the auspicious occasion of Guru Rinpoche Throngkar Tshechu with Ku-Rabney (Pranpratishtha) and Tshe-Wang (Aayu Abishek).

The inaugural ceremony was the culmination of rituals which had begun on 19 July with Tulku Sangay Yonten Gyatsho Rinpoche of Rinchenpong Meghi-Dara Gumpa overseeing the Ku-Rabney rituals. The function was also attended by HRDD Minister RB Subba and devotees.

The monastery has been constructed by native resident Lama Kar-



ma Tshering Lepcha and his family.

After the Ku-Rabney, Tulku Rinpoche distributed Tshe-wang and

blessings to the around 500 devotees in attendance today.

Lama Karma also expressed gratitude to-

wards the HRDD Minister for donating three statues to the gumpa and also thanked devotees for their presence.

## SKM completes youth registration drive

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 22 JUL:**

The youth wing of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has concluded its drive to recruit 50 active youth in each constituency of the State.

An SKM press release issued by Abhishek Sharma, secretary (Press and Publicity), goes on to inform that while the initial idea was to rope in 50 active youth in each constituency, the response has been tremendous and an average of 150 active youth have been registered in the constituencies with some



seeing between 300-400 youth sign up with the party.

In culmination of the drive, a youth coordination meeting was held at Duga under West Pandam constituency today

chaired by SKM secretary general Arun Upreti, the release adds.

All CLC executive and youth executive committee members were present for the meeting which reiterated commitment

to SKM's call for change.

Terming the program a huge success, Mr Upreti informed that the party will now carry forward this momentum to the next level.

## Karek Church of God youth celebrate their day

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**NAMTHANG, 22 JUL:**

Youth of Karek Church of God, South Sikkim, celebrated their 14th Youth Day at the church today with a special programme attended the senior women of the Church, Rebika Subba as chief guest, and Mon Maya Tamang as special guest and also with Pastor Dhan Bahadur Subba, Pastor Neema Chandra Tamang, and Pastor of Believers Church Rinchenpong West Sikkim, Santa Bahadur Rai, in attendance.

The programme included a cultural programme by the youth and students of the Sunday School of the church.

During the programme, social worker Som Bahadur Rai, a



resident of Karek, was felicitated with a letter of appreciation for his social contributions and for guiding the youth towards the nation-building process and setting them on a positive path.

Also felicitated today

was former president of the youth wing of the Church, Dil Kumar Limboo, and Sunday School teachers and founder-members of the Youth wing, Jyoti Subba and Alivica Chettri.

Pastor Dhan Bahadur

Subba delivered a sermon, while Pastor Nima Chandra Tamang and the president of Youth Wing Karek Church of God, Dawathen Lepcha, spoke about youth and their role in society and the church.

## Proposed RTI changes aimed at usurping power from Parl, state legislatures: Info Commission

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** A voice of dissent has emerged from within the Central Information Commission against the proposed changes in the RTI Act, which many argue would "weaken" information commissions, with a Commissioner urging the panel to write to the government for withdrawing the controversial amendment bill.

With Chief Information Commissioner R K Mathur on leave, Information Commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu on July 19 wrote to seniormost Commissioner Yashovardhan Azad to convene a meeting of all Information Commissioners on the subject, sources in the know of developments have said.

The PTI has a copy of the letter that also says the proposed Bill intends to defeat the very purpose of RTI Act 2005, besides being an affront to federalism enshrined as basic feature of Indian Constitution.

A call on Acharyulu's demand is yet to be taken by the Commissioners, sources said.

In the letter marked to all his fellow commissioners, Acharyulu has requested the CIC to send an official communication to the government asking for withdrawal of the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2018, the sources said.

"The central government considered CIC as less in status than the CEC (Chief Election Commissioner). The RTI Act says it is 'constitutional right', while the Bill 2018 considers it is not. If CEC that enforces a right under Article 324 (1) is Constitutional institution, how CIC that enforces a fundamen-

tal right under Article 19(1)(a) becomes a non-constitutional body?," the letter asks.

Acharyulu says it is not known how the government ignored the fact that Article 19(1)(a) includes in its rubric both the 'right to express choice through voting and also right to information'.

"The Supreme Court time and again said that the right to vote and RTI are fundamental rights. Hence the CIC and CEC stand on equal footing and rightly placed at par by RTI Act 2005 after thorough debate and consultations," he wrote.

The Commissioner wrote that Parliament ensured certainty and continuity of CIC as a norm through the RTI Act, 2005, which says that a Commissioner will hold office for five years or up to his age of 65 years (whichever is earlier) for sure.

Acharyulu said that through the Bill, the executive attempts to usurp that power from the hands of the Parliament and state legislatures also.

Noting that though the provisions will not affect the service conditions of the sitting Commissioners, he said, "It is our responsibility to inform the government and the people of the possible consequences of these changes, and its effect on the working of the RTI Act, especially regarding the independence of the Central and State Information Commissions and Commissioners."

"As per the Constitutional scheme of distribution of powers between the Centre and States, the

Centre cannot make law for states on subject of access to records under the control of States. But the Centre took shelter under the profound aim of effectuating fundamental right under Article 19(1) (a) saying the Right to Information is its intrinsic part," he said.

He said the RTI Act 2005 recognises sovereign authority of states to select their SICs, the Bill of 2018 strangely does not allow states to decide their term, status and salary as it proposes the Centre will prescribe it from time to time.

"The RTI is the only legislation after the Constitution of India, which had broad base of peoples' representation, consultation and discussion. It is a truly democratic piece of legislation that can empower people to challenge the misgovernance. While Centre intends to affect Central and State ICs, it did not consult them," he said.

The government had on July 18 said it was considering a proposal to amend the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 to frame rules on salaries and services of Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Information Commissioners (ICs).

The proposed amendments, circulated among Members of Parliament, seek to do away with the parity given to information commissions with the Election Commission in terms of salary, allowances and conditions of service.

The proposal has been opposed by several opposition parties and leaders including Congress president Rahul Gandhi who has said these changes will render the law useless.

## BRO completes strategic road in Bhutan...

*contd from pg01*

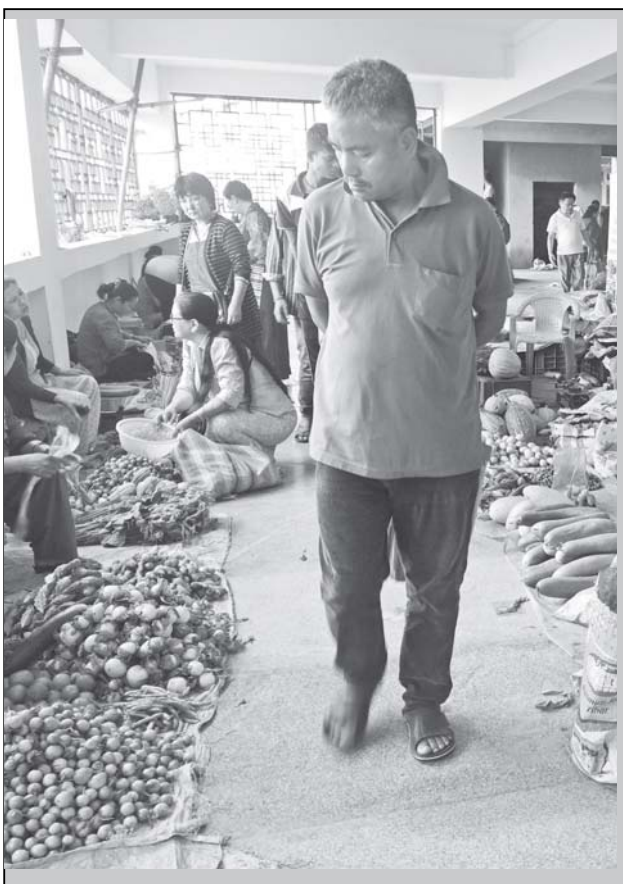
did not have any access.

"These challenges demanded innovative efforts for construction to keep pace. Cutting the last 900 metres of hard rock stretch and benching it down to 106 metres at Chukha was the most challenging aspect," the official said.

Another official said the road is of strategic importance for Bhutan.

The road has been constructed by Dantak, which is part of the BRO.

Dantak has been working in Bhutan since 1961.



KISAN BAZAR, GANGTOK, EARLY SUNDAY MORNING [REBYNA RANA]

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Gangtok on Monday, 23 July

Temp: 26°C/17°C  
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness, a couple of thundershowers; not as warm.  
Sunrise: 04:53 AM  
Sunset: 6:30 PM

KASS to beautify Shanti Nagar

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**SINGTAM, 22 JUL:** After successfully completing painting and beautification drives at various schools around here, the Krypton Arts Society Sikkim of Singtam is all set to undertake a beautification drive at Shanti Nagar.

The drive will be carried out under the banner of Shanti Nagar Gaon Sudhar Samity and will focus on the wall below the monastery at Shanti Nagar.

The initiative is to promote their art and tourism in the state, inform Samity members.

Meanwhile, KASS is also looking forward to conduct a daylong workshop at Bardang Secondary School, East Sikkim, which will be guided by Kripesh Singh, working president of KASS who is also a teacher at the school.

The announcement was during a general meeting which was attended by all the executive and working members of the society here today.

Till date, more than seven schools have been painted and beautified by KASS while there are many more in the list to receive their brush in the coming days.

NCERT introducing QR code in textbooks

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has initiated the process of introducing QR code in their textbooks, a move aimed at helping students understand chapters better by watching a film or reading additional content on laptops and digital boards.

Quick Response (QR) Code is a machine-readable code consisting of an array of black and white squares, typically used for storing web-links or other information for reading by the camera on a smart-phone.

We have started the process of identifying relevant supplementary material including videos, animations, power point presentations, maps and e-content, a senior NCERT official said.

These will be mapped with the content of each textbook from class 1 to 12 and will be linked with QR code, which will be printed in the textbooks, the official added.

The codes are likely to be introduced from the 2019 academic session by when the required content would have been generated.



7th batch of Kailash Mansarovar Yatris leave Gangtok

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 22 JUL:** The seventh batch of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatris for the year via Nathula left for the first point of their acclimatization from Gangtok today.

A special briefing was organised for them by the Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation here this morning.

Senior Manager STDC, Tejpal Pradhan,

briefed the yatris regarding the do's and don'ts of the yatra.

The security-related issues and information were detailed by Deputy Commandant, Indo Tibet Border Police, ITBP, Ramesh Rautela, who explained the various aspects that need to be taken care of by the yatris during the course of the KMY.

The seventh batch

includes 46 yatris and 2 Liaison Officers and moved today to the first point of acclimatization at 15th and 17th Mile.

The briefing programme was also addressed by Medical Specialist Dr DR Sherpa, other resource persons and a past yatri from Gangtok, Hari Maya Sharma.

STDC, as a good will gesture, also organised a surprise birthday party

for one of the yatris, Rajesh, whose birthday happened to be today.

Sharing his experience Mr. Rajesh said that he was surprised and happy to have a surprise birthday cake and thanked the STDC team for the celebration.

This time, one of the Liaisoning Officers with the team is a lady DIG rank police officer from Andhra Pradesh.

The seventh batch had arrived in Gangtok on 21 July from Delhi.

Meanwhile, the fourth batch has already completed the yatra and has returned to their respective home states and the 5th and 6th batches of the KMY via Nathula are still on the pilgrimage.

The fifth batch is expected back in Gangtok on 25 July.

The eighth batch is currently completing the official formalities in Delhi and will be arriving next week, it is further informed.

25-day long I-Day celebrations begin in Assam Lingzey

**RANGPO, 22 JUL:** The 25-day long Independence Day celebrations began today at Assam Lingzey with the official declaration by Severine Rai, Zilla Panchayat, Assam Lingzey.

The main organizer's of the programme, Youth of Assam Lingzey for Development (YAD), has themed the celebrations on 'Afno Gaon, Afai Banau' to steer and sustain Assam Lingzey towards rapid sustainable development, it is informed.

The programme started with the unfurling of YAD's flag, a rendition of the National Anthem and declaration of the programme open by the chief guest.

The programme was also attended by Kunzang Lachungpa, Sikkim's ISL player from Atletico de Kolkata, Robin Seva, Executive Officer SICUN, KP Niroula, Vice Principal Assam Lingzey SSS, Birendra Subba, Gay Tshering Bhutia, Laxmi



Prasad Rai and others.

Deepak Rai, the president of Assam Lingzey School Alumni Association, delivered the keynote address and the chief guest, in his address, appreciated the hardwork, belief and unity of YAD members in putting together an excellent inaugural show.

He also informed people about that the construction of a Rs 110

crore Faith History Centre, which, he said, will create unlimited opportunities for the people of Assam Lingzey and thanked the Chief Minister for deciding to develop the project here.

The programme included a welcome address by Diwas Rai, the YAD Working President, dance performances by Nrityanjali Dance Academy, and a solo dance by

baby Babina Subba.

The opening football match was played between De-Nobile Academy and Tadong FC which the former won 4-2.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Love Mohra, Technical Officer, STNM Hospital, and Manish Rai, Treasurer YAD, for the 1st Phase and 2nd Phase programmes respectively.

[from SANJAY AGARWAL]

USFC thrilled with first tournament win of new season

**REBYNA RANA**  
**GANGTOK, 22 JUL:**

United Sikkim FC senior manager, Arjun Rai, has expressed happiness on the team winning the Akkar Summer Cup football tournament.

USFC had won the tournament yesterday at Jorethang ground outplaying United Brothers Kalimpong 4-3 in tie-breaker after regulation time ended in a 2-2 draw.

Speaking to media-persons today, Mr Rai said the Akkar Summer Cup was the first trophy of the new football season for United Sikkim FC. "It was a successful tournament for us and we are very happy," he said.

He also thanked the tournament organizers Jorethang FC for conducting the tournament in such a well-organised



manner.

Mr Rai said the Akkar Sumer Cup football tournament was also a good preparation for United Sikkim FC for the S-League Premier Division and Independence Day football tournament coming up.

"We need competi-

tive matches so that we can prepare well for the S-League Premier Division and Independence Day football tournament. Taking part and winning at Jorethang has helped us prepare strongly. We want to continue with this good momentum and our

players are ready for the league," he said.

United Sikkim FC plays its first match of the S-League Premier Division on 24 July against SAI Namchi at Paljor Stadium.

Sanjay Chettri captained United Sikkim FC for the Akkar Cup.


Guru Rimpoche Thrungkar Tshechu at Arithang Monastery



**GANGTOK, 22 JUL:** On the auspicious occasion of Guru Rimpoche Thrungkar Tshechu, special prayers were held at Arithang Gumpa by Arithang Gyaltsen Tshogpo. Apart from puja, chanting of prayers

(mani) was also done by the people along with tsho offerings. The Gumpa also plans to start Mani every Sunday for devotees who are interested specially the younger generations so as to upkeep the traditions and cultures alive.

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Memo No. 258/CHSO

Date: 19/7/2018

**CORRIGENDUM**

The following corrigendum are hereby made on the Tender document for "THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS FOR SETTING UP 5 BEDDED HAEMODIALYSIS FACILITY AT DISTRICT HOSPITAL NAMCHI FOR THE YEAR 2018-19" as per advertisement memo no: 205/CHSO/2018 dated 29/06/2018.

- The title may be read as** "THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS FOR SETTING UP 5 BEDDED HAEMODIALYSIS FACILITY EACH FOR DISTRICT HOSPITAL NAMCHI AND GYALSHING FOR THE YEAR 2018-19".
- Non Conviction Certificate. (Clause 7, Page no 5):**  
The Bidders (Manufactures/ Authorised Dealers/ Representative/ Indian Subsidiaries/ Direct Importers) should submit a latest copy of Valid Non-Conviction Certificate, notarized Affidavit as per format in Annexure IV in the technical bid, proving that the firms has not been blacklisted/ debarred by any Tender Inviting Authority or by any State government or Central Government department/ organization.
- Supporting Documents: (Clause 10, Page no 6):**  
All pages of the bid shall be signed by the authorized person or persons signing the bid along with the stamp of the tenderer. Any interlineations, erasures or over writing shall be valid only if initialled by the person (s) signing the offer. In the event of documentary proof as required being not enclosed. The Tender shall be liable to be rejected. In case if any document is found false/ forged at the time of scrutiny or later on times is liable for blacklisting.
- Payment Terms: (Clause 24):**  
The payment shall be made after full execution of the supply, installation and commissioning as ordered and submission of requisite documents and subject to other terms and conditions as laid down under the Terms and Conditions.
- Comparative statement of the technical specifications (Clause 27 to be added):**  
The bidder should submit the Comparative statement of the technical specifications and compliance with the suppliers offered model, deviations and justifications.
- Technical Specifications: (Annexure VIIA):**
  - Hemodialysis Machine:**  
Sl.no. 7 – Variable conductivity between 12-16.  
Sl.no. 21 – Stands deleted.  
Sl.no. 30 – Should have FDA/CE/UL/BIS approved product.  
Sl.no. 38 – Stands deleted.
  - RO PLANT 500 lts. (For Dialysis Unit):**  
To be added Sl.no. 12 – The RO plant loop line will have heat disinfection provisions.  
To be added Sl.no. 13 – The RO plant should be suitable for use in the aforementioned health facilities.
  - Suction Machine – this item stands deleted.**
  - POWER BACK UP System 3 KVA UPS:**
    - Must be of reputed brand and make.
    - Minimum 60 minutes back-up along with voltage regulation and spike protection.
    - Advanced DSP controlled UPS System.
    - IGBT Rectifier, Bypass Facility, Heavy duty charger for long backup.
    - DC Start function, Surge & short circuit protection, LCD Display.
    - Include battery stand, wiring and connection accessories.
  - POWER BACK UP System 10 KVA UPS:**
    - Must be of reputed brand and make.
    - Minimum 60 minutes back-up long with voltage regulation and spike protection. Advanced DSP controlled UPS System.
    - IGBT Rectifier, Bypass facility, Heavy duty charger for long backup.
    - DC Start function, Surge & short circuit protection, LCD Display.
    - Include battery stand, writing and connection accessories.
- Technical Specifications: (Annexure VII B):**
  - Printer – should be laser printer.

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dt. 21.7.2018

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# SummitTIMES

## The Challenges of Being Local

Now that some public interest has been generated on local-nonlocal issues and the issues of belonging to Sikkim, the State should discuss the issue threadbare

The Local-Nonlocal issue is an easy divide to tease; something that lazy politicians and even lazier agent provocateurs are wont to tickle often and whenever they feel the need to be noticed. With an election cycle arrive times of irrationally high aspirations, inflated senses of entitlement and shrinking opportunities, a refusal to share becomes an easy position to adopt. And while one may wish for society to be more open and accommodating, a refusal to be so, while unhealthy, is not necessarily illegal or unconstitutional. What is worrying however is when the public domain becomes occupied by voices which mistake protection to mean an exclusive club put together at the cost of denying others. For them, even some basic courtesies extended to those outside the club tantamount to dilution, and because those who understand the issues better do not speak up, noise routinely blanks out reason whenever such situations arise.

One sees such insular positions taken on a routine basis in locations as diverse as North India and the North East Region where the local-nonlocal argument often collapses into violence. It is disturbing to see what appear to be sane, "educated" and informed voices try and justify expressions of hate, but when appeals are made based on the belongingness of people, such positions become difficult to avoid, even for the sane, educated and the informed. Admittedly, irrational positions and shallow nationalism are not rare outpourings even in Sikkim, but the State has thus far been spared the ugliness of the more aggressive posturing or even sabre-rattling beyond the limited circulation of press conferences or the slightly wider, but socially limited, network of social media.

There is never room for complacency though because issues have a habit of occasionally growing unexpectedly big in Sikkim – the protest by truck drivers, the Rule 4(4) protection movement and the college students' showdown in recent years for instance. Hence, it is advisable that the divisive Frankenstein of local-nonlocal positioning is not allowed to grow any larger in Sikkim. The best way to do this would be to address all related issues in an open manner. To begin with, Sikkim should also realise that in the issues related to Residential Certificates, the groups receiving these documents are nonlocal only as far as their status on official documents in concerned, as far as the social milieu is concerned, they have been part of the local mix for more than forty years now and widely accepted as such. What is also apparent is that they will not be claiming anything which is exclusively protected for the Sikkim Subjects and are essentially being extended gestures which allow them a more dignified access to rights they already enjoy.

But let us leave what privileges accrue to whom and whose share gets compromised for a later debate, for now, let's extend the need for Sikkim to leverage such debates to discuss more issues more extensively and more openly. The quickness with which the Merger happened in 1975 and the short-sightedness with which several rules were drawn up and put into practice have led to situations which extend beyond just the demarcation of locals and non-locals in Sikkim. There is a staggered segregation even among the "locals" with official government notifications drawing up up to five categories of people who can be issued Certificates of Identification and among these five categories are three groups which enjoy different levels of privileges even though they are all "Sikkimese". Complicating matters further are existing ambiguities and nonexistent guidelines for officials on who is to be certified as what in Sikkim. Added to this whole mix is the literal interpretations of the English in rules, something which the grandchildren of non-locals who were in service of the Sikkim Government on or before 31 December, 1961 were shell-shocked by and what will dismay the great grandchildren of Sikkim Subjects in less than a decade.

Too many complications have become rather vexed because they remained unaddressed for too long. Now, a situation has been created which has opened an opportunity to untangle the confusions. All that will be required will be for everyone to seek out transparency, fair-play and open minds. Invest these to the public debate and this will not be a very difficult problem to solve. And the "locals" will have to take the lead in opening such dialogues for it to have any durable results...

**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](mailto:letters@summittimes.com)

# Who owns the moon? A space lawyer answers

FRANS VON DER DUNK  
*theconversation.com*

Most likely, this is the best-known picture of a flag ever taken: Buzz Aldrin standing next to the first U.S. flag planted on the Moon. For those who knew their world history, it also rang some alarm bells. Only less than a century ago, back on Earth, planting a national flag in another part of the world still amounted to claiming that territory for the fatherland. Did the Stars and Stripes on the moon signify the establishment of an American colony?

When people hear for the first time that I am a lawyer practicing and teaching something called "space law," the question they ask most frequently, often with a big smile or a twinkle in the eye, is: "So tell me, who owns the moon?"

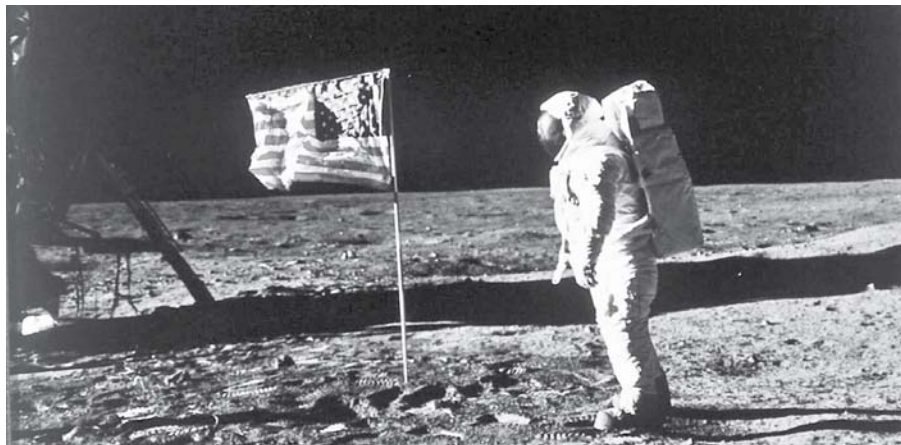
Of course, claiming new national territories had been very much a European habit, applied to non-European parts of the world. In particular the Portuguese, the Spanish, the Dutch, the French and the English created huge colonial empires. But while their attitude was very Europe-centric, the legal notion that planting a flag was an act of establishing sovereignty quickly stuck and became accepted worldwide as part and parcel of the law of nations.

Obviously, the astronauts had more important things on their mind than contemplating the legal meaning and consequences of that planted flag, but luckily the issue had been taken care of prior to the mission. Since the beginning of the space race the United States knew that for many people around the world the sight of a U.S. flag on the Moon would raise major political issues. Any suggestion that the moon might become, legally speaking, part of U.S. backwaters might fuel such concerns, and possibly give rise to international disputes harmful to both the U.S. space program and U.S. interests as a whole.

By 1969, decolonization may have destroyed any notion that non-European parts of the world, though populated, were not civilized and thus justifiably made subject to European sovereignty – however, there was not a single person living on the moon; even life itself was absent.

Still, the simple answer to the question of whether Armstrong and Aldrin by way of their small ceremony did transform the moon, or at least a major part thereof, into U.S. territory turns out to be "no." They, nor NASA, nor the U.S. government intended the U.S. flag to have that effect.

**THE FIRST OUTER SPACE TREATY**  
Most importantly, that answer was enshrined in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, to which both the United States and the Soviet Union as well



as all other space-faring nations, had become a party. Both superpowers agreed that "colonization" on Earth had been responsible for tremendous human suffering and many armed conflicts that had raged over the last centuries. They were determined not to repeat that mistake of the old European colonial powers when it came to decide on the legal status of the moon; at least the possibility of a "land grab" in outer space giving rise to another world war was to be avoided. By that token, the moon became something of a "global commons" – legally accessible to all countries – two years prior to the first actual manned moon landing.

So, the U.S. flag was not a manifestation of claiming sovereignty, but of honoring the U.S. taxpayers and engineers who made Armstrong, Aldrin, and third astronaut Michael Collins' mission possible. The two men carried a plaque that they "came in peace for all mankind," and of course Neil's famous words echoed the same sentiment: his "small step for man" was not a "giant leap" for the United States, but "for mankind." Furthermore, the United States and NASA lived up to their commitment by sharing the moon rocks and other samples of soil from the lunar surface with the rest of the world, whether by giving them away to foreign governments or by allowing scientists from all over the globe to access them for scientific analysis and discussion. In the midst of the Cold War, this even included scientists from the Soviet Union.

Case closed, no need for space lawyers anymore then? No need for me to prepare University of Nebraska-Lincoln's space law students for further discussions and disputes on the lunar law, right?

**NO SPACE LAWYERS NEEDED?**  
Not so fast. While the legal status of the Moon as a "global commons" accessible to all countries on peaceful

missions did not meet any substantial resistance or challenge, the Outer Space Treaty left further details unsettled. Contrary to the very optimistic assumptions made at the time, so far humankind has not returned to the moon since 1972, making lunar land rights largely theoretical.

That is, until a few years ago when several new plans were hatched to go back to the moon. In addition at least two U.S. companies, Planetary Resources and Deep Space Industries, which have serious financial backing, have started targeting asteroids for the purpose of mining their mineral resources. Geek note: Under the aforementioned Outer Space Treaty, the moon and other celestial bodies such as asteroids, legally speaking, belong in the same basket. None of them can become the "territory" of one sovereign state or another.

The very fundamental prohibition under the Outer Space Treaty to acquire new state territory, by planting a flag or by any other means, failed to address the commercial exploitation of natural resources on the moon and other celestial bodies. This is a major debate currently raging in the international community, with no unequivocally accepted solution in sight yet. Roughly, there are two general interpretations possible.

### SO YOU WANT TO MINE AN ASTEROID?

Countries such as the United States and Luxembourg (as the gateway to the European Union) agree that the moon and asteroids are "global commons," which means that each country allows its private entrepreneurs, as long as duly licensed and in compliance with other relevant rules of space law, to go out there and extract what they can, to try and make money with it. It's a bit like the law of the high seas, which are not under the control of an individual country, but completely open to duly licensed

law-abiding fishing operations from any country's citizens and companies. Then, once the fish is in their nets, it is legally theirs to sell.

On the other hand, countries such as Russia and somewhat less explicitly Brazil and Belgium hold that the moon and asteroids belong to humanity as a whole. And therefore the potential benefits from commercial exploitation should somehow accrue for humanity as a whole – or at least should be subjected to a presumably rigorous international regime to guarantee humanity-wide benefits. It's a bit like the regime originally established for harvesting mineral resources from the deep seabed. Here, an international licensing regime was created as well as an international enterprise, which was to mine those resources and generally share the benefits among all countries.

While in my view the former position certainly would make more sense, both legally and practically, the legal battle by no means is over. Meanwhile, the interest in the moon has been renewed as well – at least China, India and Japan have serious plans to go back there, raising the stakes even higher. Therefore, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln we will need to teach our students about these issues for many years to come. While ultimately it is up to the community of states to determine whether common agreement can be reached on either of the two positions or maybe somewhere in between, it is of crucial importance that agreement can be reached one way or another. Such activities developing without any law that is generally applicable and accepted would be a worst-case scenario. While not a matter of colonization anymore, it may have all the same harmful results.

*[The writer is Professor of Space Law, University of Nebraska-Lincoln]*

# Eight ways to keep your kids smart over the summer break

NICOLA YUILL  
*theconversation.com*

The school holidays are looming, and so too is the apparently inevitable summer "learning slide" – where children lose knowledge and academic skills over the long summer break.

This is where parents can help out by helping their offspring carry on that learning during the summer holidays. Of course, learning at home is different from learning at school, but our new findings highlight how parents can act as "scaffolders" for children when learning from home.

The idea is that parents should offer just as much support as children need to complete a task – but not too much. And then crucially, remove that support as the child builds their own knowledge.

So with this in mind, here are eight painless ways for parents to support their children's educational development over the summer – using the "scaffolding" technique.

### 1. MAKE THEM MINI ACCOUNTANTS

Learning doesn't have to be just about facts or memorising times tables. Learning to self regulate is very important for children – from toddler-hood onwards. This can include things such as focusing attention on reading – but also regulating emotion, in terms of coping with changes of plan or dealing with sibling conflict during play.

Children can be helped to take responsibility by



managing "budgets", whether of money, time or activity choices. If your children have a permitted account of daily screen time, or a pocket money budget, help them to manage that themselves. Tangible markers of time or money (such as sand timers or coins) help even younger children see what they have to spend, and what's left.

### 2. BE A PARENT CHEERLEADER

A child can achieve something bigger and more satisfying with a parent's help. And by praising

their contribution, parents can help to develop the child's sense of mastery. This doesn't have to be only about school learning, riding a bike or grasping a new game brings those feelings too. "Autonomy support" looks to be an effective approach – this is the idea that instead of nagging or arguing, show concern and praise effort to help your child achieve self control. Think optimistic, empathetic and encouraging.

turn to 05





# Tourist inflow takes a toll on Meghalaya’s root bridges

**RANGTHYLLIANG (MEGHALAYA), JULY 22 (PTI):** Deep in the tropical forests of Meghalaya, an uncharted territory even two decades ago, the aerial root bridges that bear testimony to the ingenuity of Khasis are dying a slow death, overburdened by tourist inflow.

The living-root bridges, which surfaced in popular imagination only a few years ago, have now become a hotspot for tourist selfies, say local residents.

People come to visit the suspensions bridges regularly, but not much is done to preserve these “botanical architectures”, said Morningstar Khongthaw, a resident of Rangthylliang, who along with a group of local youths, has taken up the task of creating awareness on the issue.

The root bridges were con-

ceived by the Khasis centuries ago for crossing turbulent streams, especially during the monsoons. The locals trained the roots of fig trees on either side of the river to grow laterally, forming a suspension bridge over a period of 10 to 15 years.

Khongthaw, who established Living Roots Foundation here, said mass tourism has greatly affected the bridges as people come here in hordes.

“There are a number of living bridges along the southern slope of the state, especially in the Khasi Hills region, the most photographed among them being the double-decked bridge at Nongriat below Sohra,” he said.

The activist, who dropped out of school a few years ago due to poverty, travels to nearby villages with his team to encourage local people there to build more

such bridges, besides protecting the existing ones.

“The double-decked bridges at Nongriat and Nohwet villages have come under threat as there is no mechanism to control the number of visitors. Also, the bridges are badly in need of maintenance,” he asserted.

Last month, a drive was initiated on World Environment Day to build at least five new living bridges in the Khasi Hills region, Khongthaw, who is in this early 20s, said.

“There are about 50 root bridges that we have identified for preservation. We are working closely with the stakeholders at these villages to give them an idea about controlling crowd on the bridges. Besides, they would also guide the tourists about the place, its history and significance,” he added.

Lauding the initiative, Tourism Department officer B Nongkynrih said the present government’s objective is to harness the untapped rural tourism prospects of the state.

“The Tourism Department is focusing on rural tourism to generate employment opportunities and promote sustainable livelihoods in villages. In such a scenario, organizations, such as Living Roots Foundation, would go a long way in sustaining environment,” he claimed.

Satyajit Rao, a scientist at the North Eastern Hill University told PTI that some of the bridges in these tropical forests of southern Meghalaya are believed to be hundreds of years old.

“A proper study is yet to be conducted on the bridges to determine their exact age,” he added.

# Assamese film ‘Xhoixobote Dhemalite’ set for US release

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** Assamese film “Xhoihobote Dhemalite”, which portrays children growing up in violent times and witnessing brutality around them, is set for commercial release in the US this Friday.

Semi-autobiographical in nature, “Xhoihobote Dhemalite” (Rainbow Fields) is inspired by true incidents from director Bidyut Kotoky’s life and features among others actors like Victor Banerjee, Dipannita Sharma, Nakul Vaid, Naved Aslam, Nipon Goswami and Nikumoni Barua.

The film will release at Cine Grand Cinema Fremont (California) on



July 27 and at Cine Grand New Jersey on August 3.

“This is perhaps for the first time that an Assamese film is releasing commercially in US,” says Kotoky.

The movie has also bagged five nominations at the Treasure Coast In-

ternational Film Festival (TCIFF), Florida - best film, best director and best screenplay, best editing (Pallavi Kotoky) and best cinematography (Satya Prakash Rath).

Besides, it is also nominated in the best feature category at Aus-

tralia’s World Film Festival an event of independent films and in eight categories in the prestigious Love International Film Festival, the award ceremony for which is scheduled to be held on July 27 in Los Angeles.

According to Kotoky, though his film is based on the lives of children growing up in the Assam in the 1980s, the story can be of children in

Last year, the film won the best foreign film award at the Hollywood International CineFest and was premiered in the Indian Panorama of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa.

The film is produced by ‘India Stories’, a Mumbai-based production house and co-produced by Kotoky’s Dhruv Creative Productions and US-based Kurmasana Kreates.

Kotoky says while he was struggling for funds for the film’s completion, philanthropist Jani Viswanath came on board as an executive producer and also pledged her earning from the film back to Assam via her NGO Healing Lives.

# Eight ways to keep your kids smart...

contd from pg04

**3. BUT KNOW WHEN TO STAND BACK**

Sensitive parenting is also about helping your child to gauge when they can achieve something independently. Children need to develop a sense of their own capabilities and know when to ask for help – and problem solving can be really motivating if it’s part of a creative endeavour. Set them a task, such as how deep has the hole got to be to bury dad in the sand or get them to keep score in a family game of beach volleyball.

**4. CHANNEL GOLDILOCKS**

Give just as much help as is needed, and not too much. A child who works out how to divide up a blackberry haul with a few well-placed hints – or manages to put their own shoes on – learns something important about mastery as well as about

numbers or laces. Holidays can be good for this because there’s often less of the everyday pressure to get somewhere on time, avoiding the temptation to be quick and take over from your child.

**5. SHARE STORIES**

Reading still underlies so much of our learning and summer can provide opportunities to read every day – whether it’s a slightly less time-pressured bedtime story, magazine or comics on a long journey or keeping and sharing diaries.

Your child doesn’t have to do all the reading either – shared stories really helps academic progress and gives your child access to more challenging material. It can also be a lovely cosy wind down at the end of the day. You can also provide a good role model if your child sees you enjoying your own holiday reading.

**6. TECHNOLOGY RULES**

The right technology can provide all sorts of learning opportunities for children – from creating holiday diary vlogs to share with relatives, to YouTube videos for DIY art and crafts ideas. Just make sure you keep screens for the daytime – there is solid evidence that shows the sleep disrupting effects of blue light. Switching off a couple of hours before bedtime is a good rule of thumb.

**7. IT’S NOT A RACE**

Every family and child is different. A child’s developmental timetable really varies – especially in young children. Your child might not be at the same level of self regulation as their cousin, but every child needs to develop in their own time – with your help and support. It’s all about starting from where the child is, rather than where

someone tells you the child should be.

**8. TUNE IN TO YOUR CHILD**

Listening and being interested in what your child is doing really helps you support their discovery of the world. And this can be much easier at holiday time if you are somewhere new. But even walking round the local park with a magnifying glass and a bug spotting app or chart, works. The Wildlife Trust has some great ideas – both low cost and free.

Most importantly, have fun together – summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity to share learning experiences that will stay with a child for years to come and will help you bond as a family.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Sussex]

# Aadhaar-based biometric attendance at Tripura Secretariat

**AGARTALA, JUL 22 (PTI):** The Tripura government has introduced Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system at the state secretariat aiming to bring in more discipline among staff and encourage minimal use of paper for official work.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said his government was working on reducing “unnecessary workload” and increase efficiency and accountability among employees.

We have 996 employees working in the state secretariat. All of them are very enthusiastic about the new system, the chief minister said.

He also said the central government pays huge sums to buy paper used in official work. Judicious use of the commodity can save a lot of money, he said.

The biometric attendance system would go



a long way in curbing unnecessary use of paper, he said.

Earlier this month, the BJP-IPFT (Indigenous People’s Front of Tripura) government imposed a set of restrictions on use of paper in government offices.

In an office memorandum issued by the Department of General Administration (Secretariat Administration) on July 16, Secretary TK Chakma said the state government has adopted a decision to give stress on importance of economic use of paper in government offices.

Deb said attendance log books were things of the past as nobody needed to keep record of employees attending the of-

fice and store them in secure lockers, which makes the entire process lengthy.


The new system will be robust, self-dependent and easy to use.

Depending on others for attendance and other regular chores were done in old days. Now, everyone has to take responsibility. Tripura has to be made a model state in the next three years, Deb said, reiterating his aim to develop Tripura well ahead of the end of his tenure as chief minister.

Deb became the Chief Minister of Tripura in March this year.

Deb also said digital attendance and other digitized services would be good for everyone and would put an end to babu culture.

The state government hopes to extend digital attendance services to other offices in a phased manner.



**CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANIZATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & F.W. DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

Memo No. 257/CHSO

Date: 19/7/2018.

**CORRIGENDUM**

The following corrigendum are hereby made on the Tender document for “THE SUPPLY OF DENTAL CHAIR/ UNIT/ INSTRUMENT/ EQUIPMENTS FOR DISTRICT HOSPITAL NAMCHI AND SINGTAM FOR THE YEAR 2018-19” as per advertisement memo no: 209/CHSO/2018, dated 29/06/2018.

1. **Non Conviction Certificate. (Clause 7, Page no 5):**  
The Bidders (Manufactures/ Authorised Dealers/ representative/ Indian Subsidiaries/ Direct Importers) should submit a latest copy of Valid Non-Conviction Certificate, notarized Affidavit as per format in Annexure IV in the technical bid, proving that the firms has not been blacklisted/ debarred by any Tender Inviting Authority or by any State Government or Central Government department/ organization.

2. **Supporting Documents : (Clause 10, Page no. 6):**  
All pages of the bid shall be signed by the authorized person or persons signing the bid along with the stamp of the tenderer. Any interlineations, erasures or over writing shall be valid only if initialled by the person (s) signing the offer. In the event of shall be valid only if initialled by the person (s) signing the offer. In the event of documentary proof as required being not enclosed, the Tender shall be liable to be rejected. In case if any document is found false/ forged at the time of scrutiny or later on times is liable for blacklisting.

3. **Payment Terms: (Clause 24):**  
The payment shall be made after full execution of the supply, installation and commissioning as ordered and submission of requisite documents and subject to other terms and conditions as laid down under the Terms and Conditions.

4. **Comparative statement of the technical specifications (Clause 27 to be added):**  
The bidder should submit the Comparative statement of the technical specifications and compliance with the suppliers offered model, deviations and justifications.

5. **Technical Specifications: (Annexure VII, page no. 20 and 21):**  
(3) Upholstery: should be of soft form, with seamless, leather lite cover for patient comfort, antibacterial, and soft and easy to clean.

Body covering Movements:-

1. Body of the chair should be automatic with motorized up and down smooth movement. The Right side arm of the Chair to have lateral rotation for easy access to the Patient.  
Chair Mount unit fitted with –  
a) LED light with 3 Axis movement, maximum 25,000 – 40,000 LUX, at 80 cm distance +/- 5% On/Off by sensor switch non-touch. Variable Intensity control by non-touch sensor.  
e) Should have to provide motorized suction with a flow 250 lts + per minute 10% high and low vacuum with flow control and with automatic start, with fluid container having automatic drain. There should be amalgam collection filter.

Modular delivery should be over the patient filled with

1. a) High speed airtorator handpiece fiber optic standard head size, autoclavable with internal spray spred of 3,50,000 to 4,00,000 rpm.

4. One 3 way syringe to provide Hot and Cold air, water and spray.  
Should be FDA/CE/BIS/ISO approved product.

1. **DC X Ray with Remote Control (Wall Bracket)**

2. **Infection Control Package:**  
Autoclave “B Class” – (17 liters).  
(Line 4) Screw Type Handle/ Mechanical lock is provided for the door locking, to prevent sudden opening of the door.

**The X Ray machine should be type approved.**

6. **BOQ (Annexure I):**

Items	Qty required
1. Dental Chair & Unit	2 set
2. Dental X- ray machine 70 KV	2 set.
3. Infection Control Package	2 set
4. Compressor	2 set.

R.O. No. 213/ipr/pub/classi./18-19  
dt. 21.07.2018

Sd/-  
Joint Director  
Central Health Store Organization





## Neymar: I couldn't look at a football after the World Cup

**PRAIA GRANDE, BRAZIL, JUL 22 (AFP):** Brazil superstar Neymar admits that after his nation's quarter-final defeat to Belgium at the World Cup he couldn't look at a ball and didn't want to see any of the remaining matches.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say I didn't want to play again but, I didn't want to see a ball, or to see any more football played," 26-year-old Neymar told AFP in an exclusive interview on Saturday.

The Paris Saint Germain forward was talking at his Neymar Praia Grande institute where the Red Bull Neymar Jr 5's (five-a-side-soccer) tournament was being played.

Dressed in a sleeveless t-shirt, with his six-year-old son Davi Lucca sat upon his knee, the striker was however in a relaxed mood as he explained his post-World Cup blues.

"I was in mourning, I was really sad about it, but sadness passes, I have my son, my family, my friends and they don't want to see me moping around. I've got more reason to be happy than sad," said Neymar, reflecting on his team's 2-1 quarter-final defeat to Belgium. Asked about reports in Spain linking him with a transfer to Real Madrid the forward said "that's all speculation from the press."

"The guys who come up with these stories seem to know more about my life than I do. I won't respond to this type of question because nothing happened," he scoffed. The Brazilian superstar, who moved to PSG for a world record 222 million euros ( 264 million) last year, insists that the burden of expectation on his shoulders -- whether with his club or country -- does not weigh heavily.

"It's true that when it comes to me, there are double standards. I have been aware of this responsibility, not only for Brazil, but also in club football, since I was 17, 18 years old.

# Lakshya clinches Asia Junior Championship title

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** Rising shuttle Lakshya Sen stunned reigning world junior champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in straight games to become only the third Indian player to clinch a gold medal at the Asia Junior Championships in Jakarta today.

The sixth seeded Indian from Uttarakhand, who had won a bronze medal in the last edition of the competition, notched up 21-19, 21-18 upset win over Vitidsarn in the summit clash that clocked 46 minutes.

"I am happy to win the tournament. It will boost my confidence. I played in the team event and then in the individual event, so it was a long tournament. The focus was on recovering well



after each match and I am happy I could play well and win," Lakshya told PTI.

Late Gautam Thakkar (1965) and Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu (2012) had won the prestigious title earlier. Sindhu had won a bronze as well in 2011, while Sa-

meer Verma won a silver and bronze in 2011 and 2012 and the pair Pranav Chopra/Prajakta Sawant bagged a bronze in 2009.

Lakshya has been sensational in the tournament as he stunned second seed Chinese Li Shifeng, fourth seed Indonesian Ikhsan

Leonardo and Imanuel Rumbay in the semifinals and top seed Vitidsarn in the final.

"It was very hectic. In fact, ahead of the tournament I had to tweak my training a bit as I had suffered a shin split. During the tournament also I had to take pills some-

times to curb the pain," he said.

"Overall, it was a good tournament. I have played all these top players before, so I knew there game."

India's junior national coach Sanjay Mishra also showered praise on Lakshya.

"Winning any tournament is a big thing and he has clinched the gold in a tournament where the best of world compete. We know Asia is the hub of badminton and winning the Asia title will give him a big boost," he said.

"The Thai player was playing more of a rally game and he was getting points, so we decided to change the strategy and finish it quick. It helped as Lakshya started dominating the proceedings."



## Rishabh has temperament and skills to bat differently: Dravid

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** Rishabh Pant has earned plaudits for his flamboyant batting in shorter formats but India A coach Rahul Dravid believes that the talented youngster has the "temperament and skills to bat differently" in longer formats.

Pant has earned his maiden call up to the Indian Test side riding on impressive knocks for India A during the recently concluded tour of UK, where he hit crucial half centuries in four day games against West Indies A and England Lions.

"Rishabh has shown that he could bat differently. He has the temperament and skills to bat differently," Dravid told bcci.tv.

The former India captain was also Pant's coach during his India U-19 days and knows his ward's game inside out.

Pant can score runs at a brisk pace in longer format but what has impressed Dravid is his ability to read match situations.

"He is always going to be an attacking player but reading of the situation when one is playing red ball cricket is required. We are glad that he has been picked in the national team and I hope he takes this maturity and builds from thereon," Dravid said.

"There were three-four innings where he showed that he is willing to bat differently. We all know the way he bats. Even during the 2017-18 (it was 2016-17) Ranji Trophy season, when he got 900 plus runs and his strike rate was 100 plus and we have seen him bat similarly in IPL as well," the legend added.

For Dravid, the heartening part about Pant on the India A trip was

rising up to the different challenges thrown at him.

"On this trip, we challenged him a lot to bat according to the situation. He got a critical 64 not out in the One-Day tri-series final (England Lions), when he was the last recognised batsman.

"And also against West Indies A, he put on a 100 run partnership with Jayant Yadav (in successful fourth innings run chase)."

Dravid is of the opinion that "Shadow Tour" of India A team is brilliant concept developed by BCCI as it can prove to be beneficial for national team.

A shadow tour is a concept where the A team tours a nation where the senior team is going to play and it also prepares the second string side in case of any eventuality.

The likes of Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Krunal Pandya, Karun Nair -- all of whom drafted into the senior team -- got a considerable amount of game time in UK conditions.

"It's great to have shadow tours. It may not always be possible but whenever it's possible it's highly beneficial. A lot of players have joined the national side from the team. It also gave Murali Vijay and Ajinkya Rahane come down and spend time with us and play a practice game that was competitive and tough.

"Having India A team tour before the national side (gets into action) opens up many possibilities in terms of preparation for both the sides. It also serves as motivation for many players for they know when they do well on A tours, they will be picked in the national team," Dravid said.

## SAI selects 734 athletes for Khelo India scholarship

**NEW DELHI, JUL 22 (PTI):** The Sports Authority of India (SAI) today cleared 734 athletes for a scholarship programme under Khelo India Talent Identification Development scheme, through which they will get training at government-accredited residential academies.

An annual stipend of Rs 1.2 lakh will be given to each player on a quarterly basis to meet their out of pocket expenses, treatment of injuries and other expenses. The athletes will be put up at various Khelo India accredited academies which will take care of the training, boarding and tournament expenses of the athletes.

A release from the Sports Ministry said, "For the first time ever, in order to create a strong ecosystem for nurturing talent, various private, state and SAI academies have been accredited. A High Powered Committee accredited 21 non-SAI academies as well. The plan is to develop more such academies so that young athletes can get access to the best training without having to travel long distances."

A Talent Identification Committee (TIC) was formed comprising Arjuna awardees and



Dronacharya awardees to short list and propose the names of the beneficiaries to the High Powered Committee, which cleared the athletes after due diligence.

It said that the talent spotting and age verification of the selected players has been done using scientific and trusted method through TW3.

"The High Powered Committee also decided that a strong performance management system would be in place and performance be rewarded. If athletes are not fulfilling this criterion and coming up to the requisite standards, they may be

weeded out from the academies.

"It was also decided that the academies will be divided into three categories. To encourage excellence, there will be gap analysis which will offer these academies opportunities for upgradation. At the same time there will be a strong review mechanism for academies on a periodical basis. Academies that do not maintain desired standards and fulfill the performance criteria, may be delisted," the release said.

It was also decided that athletes must report injury immediately so that timely rehabilitation can be offered. The High

Powered Committee also decided to put into place a robust performance monitoring system to get the best out of everyone involved in the system.

Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore said that "transformational changes have been introduced into Indian sports".

"Catch them young is no longer a slogan but is visible in our action. We are developing a sports system that connects local potential to global podiums, that encourages every Indian to have sports as a part of their lives for entertainment, education or excellence, he said.

## IIT-K develops online tool to help people deal with mental health issues

**KANPUR, JUL 22 (PTI):** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, has developed an online tool, TreadWill, to help people cope with issues related to their mental health.

TreadWill is a website designed to help people deal with stress, low mood, lethargy

and other depressive symptoms through different online exercises, questionnaires and games, Nitin Gupta, a professor at the Biological Sciences and Bioengineering department of the IIT, said.

People suffering from depressive symptoms such as feeling low and lack of pleasure in usual activities may find the contents of the site helpful, he said.

It will help in overcoming depressive symptoms and becoming more resilient against stressful events in the future, Gupta said. The online tool has been developed by a team with collaborative support from the Computer Science and Engineering and HSS (Psychology) departments,

and Dr Alok Bajpai, a psychiatrist, the professor said.

It is based on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) that helps people with depressive symptoms, Gupta said.

The effectiveness of CBT is well established for many mental illnesses, including mood and anxiety disorders.

Based on the proven methodology of CBT, TreadWill uses simple language to help users to identify involuntary negative thoughts and behaviour, Gupta said, adding that users are subsequently taught techniques to work on modifying their thoughts and actions.

# Protesters march to office of Malayalam weekly over controversial novel



**NEW DELHI, JUL 21 (PTI):** A group of protesters today marched to the office of a Malayalam vernacular magazine here raising slogans, claiming that a novel serialised in the publication defamed Hindu women and the Brahmin community.

Gayathri, which claims to be a socio-cultural organisation of Namboodiri Brahmins, marched to the office of Mathrubhumi, a prominent Malayalam media group, against the novel 'Meesha'.

Author S Hareesh, a 2018 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award winner, had decided to withdraw his novel after the magazine published three chapters following threats allegedly by right-wing elements on social media.

This was confirmed by Kamalram Sanjeev, an editor with the weekly, on Twitter.

"S.Hareesh withdraws his novel meesha', literature is being mob lynched, darkest day in kerala's cultural history,lightless days to

follow," Sanjeev tweeted.

The novel, which deals with the lives of backward communities in southern Kerala, courted controversy soon after its second chapter was published.

Gayathri said the governments in Kerala were giving more space to litterateurs who are defaming Hindus.

"We wonder on what basis the Kerala government gave the state Sahitya Akademi Award to a writer like Hareesh," a protester said.

Controversy erupted over a conversation in the novel in which a male character says that women who dress up to go to temples subconsciously declare readiness for sexual relations.

The character goes on to say that the reason women don't visit temples for four to five days a month is to make it clear that they are not ready for sex on those days.

He adds that Brahmin priests were well

known womanisers.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who himself is under attack from right-wing activists over his Hindu Pakistan' comment, came out in support of Hareesh and said those who didn't believe him might learn from what happened to Hareesh.

"Those who do not believe my warnings about the emergence of a Hindutva Taliban might learn from what has just happened to Malayalam writer Hareesh (& even more chilling, the threat to chop off his hands, Taliban-style)," Tharoor tweeted.

Renowned Tamil writer Perumal Murugan had earlier announced his decision to give up writing in 2015 after his novel 'Madhorubhagan' faced protests from local Hindu and caste-based organisations.

The website of Gayathri says the organisation was founded in 1985 as a platform for Namboothiri brahmins in Delhi to come together and is now a cultural organisation.

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From gutters and war zones, Pakistan’s colourful election candidates

ISLAMABAD, JUL 22 (AFP): There is the ecologist, the “semi-corrupt”, the opportunist, and the indestructible. Alongside Pakistan’s mainstream politicians a battery of flamboyant candidates are contesting nationwide elections on July 25.

Here are five who each embody the myriad challenges facing the country.

- AYAZ MEMON MOTIWALA, THE ECOLOGIST -

To make his point, Ayaz Memon Motiwala campaigns from the gutters.

Running as an independent in Pakistan’s largest city of Karachi, Motiwala prefers to get his anti-corruption, pro-environment message out as he lies in pools of sewage -- all while draped in Pakistan’s green and white flag.

“If they do not cover the gutters then this is my right to sit inside the gutter and protest,” Motiwala tells AFP.

Motiwala has chosen the water tap as his election symbol.

Water is a highly charged issue, with experts saying Pakistan faces “absolute scarcity” -- less than 500 cubic metres available per person nationwide -- by 2025.

“Vote for me -- but even if you don’t -- please remember that clean water is the need of hour,”



Motiwala tells voters.

- RADESH SINGH TONY, THE BRAVE -

Radesh Singh Tony is the first independent candidate from Pakistan’s Sikh minority to run in conservative, northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The odds are already heavily stacked against Tony in a constituency populated with around

130,000 mostly Muslim registered voters, compared to just 160 Sikhs.

His two opponents come from parties backed by hardline religious organisations with links to militant groups.

The contest comes just months after local Sikh community leader Charanjeet Singh was shot dead, and weeks after an bomb attack killed over 20 people at an election

rally in the provincial capital.

If elected, Tony has vowed to serve all communities equally, but is still wary of simmering threats.

“We are vulnerable targets,” Tony says. “We are campaigning in an atmosphere of fear”

- ALI WAZIR, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE -  
Hailing from militancy-wracked South Waziristan, Ali Wazir’s loss-

es in the country’s long war with insurgents are horrifying.

Wazir has had 10 relatives killed by militants, who have also destroyed his home, orchards and petrol station since the military first took the fight to the Pakistani Taliban more than a decade ago.

But he has never backed down.

As a rare vocal critic of both the Taliban and Pakistan’s powerful security establishment, Wazir has risen to prominence for taking the military to task over heavy-handedness against local civilians during the fight with insurgents.

“I am contesting elections at the demands of my people,” said Wazir in an online video. “I will struggle for their rights.”

- NAWAB AMBER SHAHZADA, 41 TIMES DEFEATED -

Shahzada’s moustache is surmounted by sunglasses and a garnet headdress, while a thin red scarf adorns the neck of a candidate seeking to be the “king of politics”.

But Shahzada is a lonely king at the head of a party of which he is the only member, who in the last 32 years has competed in 41 elections, and never won one.

In 1990 his party was refused registration when he vowed to provide Pakistanis with residential plots on the moon.

In 2013 he won just seven votes.

But he says it’s all satire.

“Politicians are making us fools, they are misleading the public, and I try to make people aware with my funny style,” he told AFP.

His slogan? “Need-based corruption”. If elected, Shahzada vows to be “semi-corrupt”.

That is opposed to the “full-corrupt” politicians currently in power, he says.

- MIR ABDUL KARIM NOUSHERWANI, THE WEATHER VANE -

Opportunism is his ideology. Since 1985, Abdul Karim Nousherwani of southern Balochistan, Pakistan’s poorest and most unstable province, has changed party seven times and been elected twice as an independent.

This time he will compete for the Balochistan Awami Party, a local provincial organisation.

By aligning with the ruling parties that he gets development projects for his territory, he says.

“The moment he feels the power ship is sinking, he will be the first to jump out for another ship,” says another parliamentarian, on condition of anonymity.

Nousherwani, who first worked as a driver, was unable to run in the 2002 and 2008 elections because he did not graduate from school.

18 killed in Boko Haram attack in Chad

N'DJAMENA, JUL 22 (AFP): Eighteen people have been killed in an attack by suspected Boko Haram jihadists in the Lake Chad region, a Chadian military source said today.

“Boko Haram elements attacked a village south of Daboua,” not far from Chad’s border with Niger, at around 9:00 pm (2000 GMT) on Thursday, the military source said.

The assailants “cut the throats of 18 people, wounded two others and kidnapped 10 women”.

Boko Haram’s Islamist insurgency has devastated the region since it took up arms in 2009 in Nigeria, leaving at least 20,000 people dead, displacing more than two million others and triggering a humanitarian crisis.

Chad, Cameroon and Niger have all joined the military effort by Nigeria to crush Boko Haram.

Chad has seen a recent increase in attacks by the group.

In May, six people were killed, including four government officials and a soldier, in a Boko Haram attack on a Chadian army checkpoint on an island in Lake Chad.

Niger’s army said yesterday it killed “ten terrorists” after one of its military positions in the southwest of the country was attacked by Boko Haram.



**WORLD’S LONELIEST MAN:** A viral video of the last surviving man from an Amazonian tribe has started making the rounds on social media of ‘the loneliest man in the world.’ Taken by Brazilian government officials in Rondonia, the video shows a man, who is believed to be in his 50’s, and the last remaining member of a tribe that was massacred to death. In the video, he is seen swinging an axe - as the video is shot from a distance, not much is known about the man except that he chooses to live in isolation. He is occasionally referred to as ‘Man of the Hole.’ Reports from the Brazilian government also add how attempts to contact him have failed, as the man returned their advances with arrows. Only a few people keep track of him, and many state how his existence is almost like a silent sign of protest. That despite the atrocity that was meted out to his tribe, he continues existing - without the help of the outside world.

Indian-origin entrepreneur’s UK start-up set to combat fake news

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, JUL 22 (PTI): An Indian-origin entrepreneur’s UK-based start-up that uses a machine-learning algorithm to sift fact from fiction is set to combat fake news around the world, including plans for a project specifically targeted at India.

Lyric Jain, a Cambridge University engineering student originally from Mysore, set up Logically last year and has since developed the West Yorkshire-based start-up into a machine-learning platform to filter real from fiction.

The platform, which is currently going through technology trials with partners and advisors, will have its full public launch in September for the UK and the US, and hit India by October.

The aim is for the service to work as a news aggregator as well as an indicator of factual accuracy.

“The Logically platform gathers the biggest news stories from over 70,000 domains and determines the credibility of the claims across each article. It does this by using a machine learning algorithm that is designed to detect logical fallacy, political bias, and incorrect statistics,” the 21-year-old techie



explains.

“By illuminating the quality of information across these articles, Logically provides users with a transparent and insightful view that allows them to determine how trustworthy the news they read really is,” he said.

With a growing number of cases of fake news being exchanged over the WhatsApp messaging service in India, his start-up is exploring ways for artificial intelligence (AI) to accurately assess the validity of information faster than any human can.

India has over 200 million WhatsApp users and with the system being encrypted, it be-

comes extremely difficult for law enforcement to intervene and stop fake stories from spreading.

“Because of the highly emotive nature of these stories, people are quick to react. This means the time it takes to disprove compelling fake news stories is often too long to prevent action being taken,” Jain said.

“We are still exploring options such as an instant verification chatbot on WhatsApp and will announce our plans by the end of the year,” he said.

Logically has a board of advisers made up of alumni from both Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US and

being spread, largely via online networks.

“The technology we are developing will equip people with the tools they need in order to navigate a complex and confusing information landscape better than before, but governments still need to do a better job educating people on the real dangers of interacting with misinformation,” he said.

His platform, which combines AI and human intelligence as well as complex analytics, is planned as a first-of-its-kind “intelligent news feed” that he believes may prove to be the future of journalism.

American officials meet former Afghan Taliban leaders: report

WASHINGTON, JUL 22 (PTI): American officials are meeting former Afghan Taliban leaders amid intensifying efforts by the Trump administration to seek a negotiated settlement of the country’s longest war, according to a media report.

The talks have occurred at undisclosed locations in Qatar, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates, the NBC News claimed, citing Taliban sources.

Quoting one negotiator, it said Taliban delegations had been joined by “never more than five” Americans for a series of meetings in hotel suites in Doha, Qatar.

The gatherings were “very friendly” with “tea and cookies” being served, the report said, Quoting the “Doha meeting participant”.

The negotiator said security is “very tight in and outside,” with hotel staff not allowed to enter.

According to the report, the Taliban often use a “network of former commanders and political leaders” as interlocutors. Some of those used as interlocutors have previously been imprisoned by the US or Afghanistan and no longer have active roles.

The Taliban delegates are taking steps to not be identified by the intelligence services of Russia, China and Arab countries.

“We don’t go to the hotel together,” the negotiator said. “We never go to the meeting place first. Once they (the Americans) reach the meeting place, then we go there one by one. We use the elevator for some of the floors and then take the stairs out of security considerations.”

The source said hotels were chosen because the Taliban and US officials initially “didn’t trust each other.”

Quoting an Afghanistans-based Taliban commander, the report said that another gathering happened earlier this month in the United Arab Emirates.

“Americans are meeting with our former members in the UAE and Kabul,” he said. “Those former Taliban then convey to us their messages from the talks with multiple options.”

“Our stance is quite clear and that’s the same old one,” he said. “The US would need to withdraw its military forces from Afghanistan and exchange prisoners and let the Afghan people decide their issues as per their culture and traditions,” the Taliban commander said.

US officials were taking an “unprecedented” interest in the peace process in recent months, the commander added.

A State Department spokesperson did not confirm that any meetings had taken place, but did say the Trump administration was eager to resolve the conflict.

“The US is exploring all avenues to advance a peace process in close consultation with the Afghan government,” the spokesperson said.

The US has lost more than 2,400 soldiers in Afghanistan since late 2001, when it invaded the country after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

President Donald Trump is keen to withdraw the approximately 14,000 American troops who remain in Afghanistan, a promise he made on the campaign trail.

Last month, Pompeo said the US was ready to “support, facilitate and participate” in discussions with the Taliban over the role of international forces in Afghanistan but that the peace process would be Afghan-led.

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**DOUBLE DENIM:** Actress Evangeline Lilly powers up in a dark denim suit with flared pants at a photocall for Ant-Man and the Wasp in London, England.

## LINKIN PARK REFLECTS ON CHESTER BENNINGTON'S DEATH ONE YEAR LATER

Linkin Park paid a special online tribute to frontman Chester Bennington on Friday, the one-year anniversary of his death.

The singer committed suicide at age 41 on July 20, 2017. He is survived by wife Talinda Bennington, their son and twin daughters and his three children from previous relationships.

"To our brother Chester; It has been a year since your passing—a surreal rotation of grief, heartbreak, refusal, and recognition. And yet it still feels like you are close by, surrounding us with your memory and your light," read a message posted on Linkin Park's Instagram page, on behalf of band members Mike Shinoda, Joe Hahn, Dave Farrell, Rob Bourdon and Brad Delson, alongside a photo of Chester in concert.

"Your one-of-a-kind spirit has authored an indelible imprint on our hearts—our jokes, our joy, and our tenderness," the message continued. "Eternally grateful for the love, life, and creative passion you shared with us and the world. We miss you more than words can express. Love, M, J, D, R, B #MakeChesterProud #320ChangesDirection."



**ARIES:** Take a break from the seriousness that has prevailed over the past couple days, Aries. Upbeat conversations are the way to navigate through today's waters. You might notice that others are more actively communicating and that words are especially effective. You talk and people listen. Do your share of listening, too. The conscious exchange of ideas is critical on a day like this.

**TAURUS:** Jump back on stage and say what you have to say, Taurus. Your participation in the conversation is critical to maintaining a healthy energy flow. The things you say will have a profound effect on others, so choose your words carefully. Enjoy a physical activity that involves a group. Make it a social event. Be an active participant in all situations

today.

**GEMINI:** Your solid grounding may become a bit unstable today, Gemini, but don't worry about it. Be a little more flexible and release your tight grip on the situation. Infuse laughter and playfulness into the picture. The exchange of ideas is critical. Get out of the house and into a social arena where you can enjoy lighthearted conversations.

**CANCER:** There's no excuse for laziness today, Cancer. Get out of bed before noon. The more active you are, the happier you will be. Come out of your cave and express your thoughts to others. Get out in the open air and listen to what the wind has to say. Be active and flexible. There's nothing heavy about people's emotions today, so keep things light and active.

**LEO:** Don't let things stagnate, Leo. It's time to take action. See how far rather than deep you can go in everything you do today. Cover a wide range of topics and pick up a magazine or two. Take a break from your usual emotional intensity and enjoy the sunshine and the light conversation. Keep it all energetic and upbeat. Take action when you see that things are lagging.

**VIRGO:** You may feel like you've come into the light today, Virgo. A weight has been lifted, but there is still a great deal of emotional drama that needs to work itself out. Go for a walk or jog this afternoon and work on increasing your lung capacity. Get your heart rate up and feel your blood pumping. The more active you are, the more you will be able to sort through your situation.

**LIBRA:** Take a break from your steady climb today, Libra. Look at things around you. Enjoy a night out with friends and take an active role in the conversation. See a movie or play. Do more socializing and you will be able to release some of the tension that you might not even realize you have inside. Get the energy moving again. Take an active role and keep up with the beat.

**SCORPIO:** Pay attention to the news today, Scorpio, and not just the mainstream news but the offbeat, smaller publications, too. Question what you hear and read. Take an active role to increase your knowledge of the world. Take responsibility for your citizenship by keeping an eye on what's going on. Information is an important part of gaining power.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Today is a great day to jump out of bed and get things done, Sagittarius. You may feel indecisive, but don't sweat it. You don't have to make any great commitments. You will do fine jumping around from task to task. Get out into the open and say what's on your mind. Engage in some sort of physical activity that gets you breathing deeply.

**CAPRICORN:** The name of the game today is action, Capricorn. The air has cleared, and it feels like a weight has been lifted off your shoulders. You might experience a sudden burst of physical energy, pushing you to get out and walk or go for a long bike ride. Enjoy the wind in your hair. Release your pent-up emotions in the open air.

**AQUARIUS:** Take some of that

knowledge you've gathered and processed over the past few weeks and begin to spread it around, Aquarius. It's time to put your communication skills to work. Your emotions are strongly tied to your actions, and things will take on a much lighter tone than they have had in the past couple of days. Take deep breaths and find a way to release your pent-up tension.

**PISCES:** Your physical stamina is apt to be strong today, Pisces. You should consider going to the gym to release some of that pent-up energy. Engage in team sports or something that involves strategy and good coordination. Pick up a tennis racquet or join a basketball game. Your high energy will be the key to coming out on top.

# New Creatures unveiled in Godzilla: King of the Monsters Trailer

The Demogorgon was just the beginning for Millie Bobby Brown.

The 14-year-old actress of Stranger Things fame is gearing up for her silver screen debut and fans got a thrilling first glimpse at what her newest character has in store thanks to a new trailer for Godzilla: King of the Monsters.

Released on Saturday, the preview shows Brown's character, Madison Russell, in the midst of a variety of monsters plaguing the world as they're caught in their own battle. Along with Godzilla, the film also features Japanese monsters Mothra, Rodan, and three-headed King Ghidorah.

Brown is certainly no stranger to a world in peril—her breakout role as Eleven on the popular Netflix series is faced with supernatural forces taking over their small town of Hawkins, Indiana. The star even gives us Eleven vibes when she is shown screaming and covering her ears



This sequel to the 2014 Godzilla reboot marks Brown's first movie in her successful career. She joins a cast of Hollywood greats, including Oscar nominee Vera Farmiga, who plays her mother, Dr. Emma Russell, in the film, as well as Oscar winner Sally Hawkins and Get Out's Bradley Whitford.

Farmiga's character is a scientist working for a

beast-hunting organization called Monarch. As director Michael Dougherty previously told Entertainment Weekly, the mother-daughter duo are kidnapped by "a mysterious organization, with their own plans for the creatures."

As a result, Kyle Chandler, who plays her ex-husband, heads out to rescue her along with two Monarch members, played by Ken Watanabe and

Hawkins. However, we're not so sure Brown's character needs much rescuing—when she puts her finger out to one of the creatures, let's just say it's not torn to shreds.

Still, Madison does not sound so happy with her mother when she calls her the monster.

The monsters will descend onto the big screen in May 2019.

## Now, box office war between Kangana and Hrithik next Jan

Actors Kangana Ranaut and Hrithik Roshan, who have been engaged in a public war of words over their alleged affair, will battle it out at the box office as their films are scheduled to hit the cinema houses in January next year.

Kangana's one of the most ambitious projects "Manikarnika: The Queen Of Jhansi" is set to clash with Hrithik's "Super 30" on January 25, 2019.

"Manikarnika" was apparently set to release this year in April and was later pushed to August 15 and then to September. But today, Zee Studios and the film's producer Kamal Jain took to Twitter that it would release during



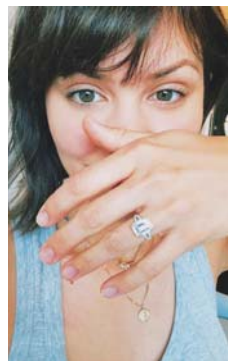
the Republic Day weekend.

Directed by Krish, the film will see the "Queen" star in the role of Rani Laxmibai.

Hrithik's "Super 30", helmed by Vikas Bahl, is a biopic on Patna-based mathematician Anand Kumar, who trains a batch of 30 aspiring

IIT candidates every year.

The two actors have been at loggerheads since the time Kangana hinted at Hrithik being her "silly ex" in an interview in 2016. Their feud turned nasty after they slapped legal notices on each other.

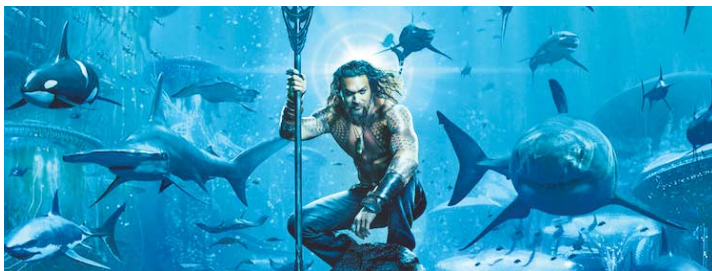


## Katharine McPhee Shares Photo of Her Engagement Ring in Remembrance of Her Dad

Katharine McPhee is celebrating life and love amid loss. The Broadway star faced a heartbreaking moment on Sunday when her father Daniel McPhee died. Making matters even more painful, he passed away two weeks after the star got engaged to her longtime beau, David Foster.

"It's been a hard week," she wrote on Instagram in reflection. "Lots of tears but I want to thank my friends and family for all the love and support. My dad was so happy for me." Along with the appreciative note, the songstress also shared a close-up shot of her engagement sparkler for the first time while explaining the special connection it has to her dad.

"My ring was the last thing I showed my dad before he passed and makes me smile when I look at this as a reminder of our last conversation," she penned. "And now I'm ready to share with all of you what has been my sunshine amongst this painful loss."



## Aquaman Trailer Makes a Splash at Comic-Con 2018

Aquaman looks like one awesome (water) ride. And yes, his hair moves underwater.

The first trailer for the anticipated superhero film, starring Jason Momoa, debuted at a 2018 San Diego Comic-Con panel on Saturday.

In the film, the character, whose alter ego is Arthur Curry, discovers he is the heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis, as he is part human and part Atlantean. He must step forward to lead his people and to stop his evil

half brother, the villain Ocean Master, played by Patrick Wilson, who has assumed the throne and wants to turn Earth into an under water world.

Momoa had first played Aquaman in a cameo role in Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice and reprised the part in Justice League. Aquaman takes place after the events of the latter film, the sixth installment in the DC Extended Universe.