



PEHCHAN CARDS DISTRIBUTED TO ARTISANS AT DHANBARI AND TUMIN
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PHE DEPTT OBSERVES PARYAVARAN MAHOTSAV AT NAMCHI
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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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I can empathise with the poor: Chamling

CM'S JAN SAMMAN YATRA REACHES PAKYONG

NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today invoked his own poor family background to connect with the poor and middle class during his ongoing Jan Sewa-Jan Samman Yatra at Pakyong, under Nathang-Machong constituency, in East Sikkim.

"No one looks after the poor but I can empathise with being born in a poor, humble family," said the CM.

He reiterated that the poor realised that even their votes can form a good government for Sikkim only after voting Sikkim Democratic Front to power in 1994. He alleged that all previous governments were dominated by the rich and feudal class which always deprived the poor.

"Ours is pro-poor, pro-environment, pro-sustainable development, all inclusive, secular, humanitarian and above all pro-Sikkim government," he added.

Adding further, the CM said that those who reaped benefits in his 24 years of government and "have built massive homes, bigger than the Sikkim palace" are now unhappy.



He also appealed to the youth to take charge of their destiny and urged them to work hard in order to reap all the benefits the State now offers.

Cautioning those applying for loans, the CM said that these loans are credited by banks and loans cannot be waived by the State Government.

The CM also appealed to contractors to make good and strong homes for the public in accordance with the rules of law so that each Sikkimese gets a home they deserve.

Highlighting the area's Greenfield Airport project, the CM stated that the State Government now awaits Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approval for the opening which is slated

to make Pakyong a national and international destination.

He also asked locals to make use of the opportunity that the airport will now offer rather than focusing on jobs at the airport which is not under the State Government but under Airports Authority of India.

Addressing the Nepali upper caste communities of Bahun, Chhettri and Newar directly, the CM stated that in spite of the Central Government denying them the OBC status, the State Government in 2003 made the three communities OBC under the State list so that the Sikkimese of these three communities always share equal rights with other communities

who have been granted BL, ST, SC and OBC [Central list] status.

The CM added that such social justice policy is meant to give equal rights and opportunities to all sections of Sikkimese people.

Addressing the Scheduled Caste community, he requested them to come forward and actively take part in the developmental journey of the State.

"Scheduled Castes have left their traditional jobs due to the society not respecting them and the prevailing varna system," he said.

Adding further, he said that these communities were skilled and knowledgeable and today's world requires such people's contributions.

The CM then announced that his government is ready to provide assistance to those interested in pursuing higher studies like diploma or masters in cutting/tailoring.

"Dignity of work should be upheld by all," he expressed.

Strongly advising bureaucrats and politicians to avoid being "protocol conscious" and "post conscious", he asked them to be "duty conscious" and provide service to citizens diligently.

Comparing his government with the opposition, the CM held that his government has "Sikkimised" the State with democracy and development while the opposition has polarised the state on outdated caste, religion and communal lines.

Strongly countering the charges of him running a dictatorial government, the CM said that the opposition and sections of media have also spoken out against him and his government irresponsibly and the ability to say that Chamling is a dictator is in fact testimony to the flourishing democracy in the State.

"It's we who have democratised the Sikkimese society," added the CM.

Countering allegations of bad roads in Sikkim, the CM said that it is under his tenure that Sikkim has witnessed such a record construction of roads along with various added works like widening.

Sikkim secures two golds at Yoga Olympiad in New Delhi

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

In the Yoga Olympiad organized by Ministry of Human Resource Development [Government of India] and National Council of Educational Research & Training [NCERT] at the NCERT complex in New Delhi, Sikkim was adjudged winner in two categories among 26 participating States and seven Union Territories.

Sikkim bagged two gold medals in the Upper Primary level girls' category and Secondary level girls' category.

The team comprising of 16 participants had two escorts - Laxuman Adhikari [State Yoga Coordinator, HRDD/HQ] and Bindhya Subba [Headmistress, Ramidham Primary School, West Sikkim], a press release informs.

Sikkim has been participating in national-level Yoga events since the year 2016. This is the third participation of the State in the Olympiad.

The participants selected for the Yoga Olympiad had to compete at School, Block and State levels. The entire procedure of selection was conducted in Sikkim as per the schedule and guidelines framed by

NCERT and MHRD, GoI.

This year, the number of participants at the Yoga Olympiad in all four categories were - three from East district, ten from West, two from North and one from South district. In each category, a team comprising of four students competed in the event.

The opening ceremony, held at Central Institute of Educational Technology [CIET] complex was attended by Director of Educational Technology [CIET] and UNESCO representative of the New Delhi cluster office for India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka, Eric Falt, Director, NCERT, Dr Hrisikesh Senapaty, Dean/Secretary, NCERT, Dr Saroj Yadav, other dignitaries along with teachers and students.

The closing ceremony today also had the presence of Mr Falt and other officials.

State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, and Director, Primary Education met the four teams at the NCERT complex today and congratulated the girls' teams for having secured two golds for Sikkim.

Additional Chief Secretary/HRDD, GP Upadhyaya, also congratulated the winning teams, the

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Sikkim to host first Bhutan Film Festival

GANGTOK, 20 JUN [IPR]: A two-day film festival titled "Bhutan Film Festival" will be held from 23-24 Jun in Gangtok as part of the celebration commemorating the golden jubilee of formal diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India.

A press conference was held in this regard at the mini conference hall of the Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department at Manan Kendra today. The conference was chaired by Secretary, Ambika Pradhan, Special Secretary, Vidya Subba, Additional Director, ST Gyatso, and other officials.

Also present were Director of Department of Information & turn to pg02



Traditional yoga vs 'fun' yoga: Make your pick

DAMINI MEHTA

NEW DELHI, JUN 19 (PTI): Traditionally, yoga as a form of exercise involves physical and spiritual disciplines to promote wellness.

With quiet ambience, clean air and perhaps some meditative chants, yoga is practised almost like a ritual.

However, in the four years since June 21 began to be celebrated as the International Day of Yoga, the form of exercise has been reinterpreted time and again to make the erstwhile meditative experience more contemporary and "fun".

Alternative forms of yoga -- beer yoga,

dog yoga or 'Doga', artistic yoga, aerial yoga, goat yoga and acroyoga among others have caught on since 2015.

Kavita Das Vasak, who owns Delhi-based 'The Yoga Chakra', says people's curiosity has contributed significantly to the growing popularity of aerial yoga.

"Aerial Yoga adds a fun aspect to yoga. People are apprehensive because it is different but they are also curious," she said.

Aerial yoga involves defying gravity and practising the postures in air with supporting equipments.

"It is more challenging because you are


off the ground. The benefit is that all your muscles are engaged and your entire body is working out, so weight loss is quicker," Vasak told PTI.




Dog Yoga lets you work out with your favourite pal -- your pet.

Nandita Sikka, head psychologist at Paw-some Pet Wellness that offers Doga sessions in Delhi said the exercise allows people to bond with their pets while working out.

AcroYoga, or acrobatic yoga brings to the table a combination of acrobatics, yoga and thai massage.

turn to pg02

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SDF counters SKM allegations of intimidation and violence

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly refuted and condemned allegations of violence and intimidation leveled by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha on SDF workers. The ruling party contends that SKM has used an unrelated incident which happened at Melli checkpoint to level allegations on the 'justice-loving' workers of SDF party.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity secretary, Chudamani Mishra, states that SKM has forgotten its own history of murders and violence and mentions how Arun Rai and Nanda Kumar Gurung of SDF were killed in political violence in the run up to the last elections.

The release further mentions that if the workers and panchayats of SDF were involved in bringing in non-organic vegetables from Melli checkpoint then the police would have taken strict action by now.

SKM had alleged that SDF functionaries unleashed violence and intimidation at Melli Check-Post recently to facilitate smuggling of non-organic vegetables into the State.

HSP proving its immaturity: SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

Sikkim Democratic Front, in a press release issued today, has said that Bhaichung Bhutia's Hamro Sikkim Party has once again proved that it lacks knowledge and maturity by taking up the issue of security measures for VIPs of the State.

HSP has submitted a memorandum to the office of the Chief Secretary regarding police escorts for Ministers stating that they only cause inconvenience to the general public, it is learnt.

An SDF press release issued by its publicity secretary, Chudamani Mishra, mentions that HSP should know that there should not be any political interference in the security of High Court Judges and Cabinet Ministers. The Police administration makes security arrangements and provides police escorts and security as per the law and the situation, the party has said.

Further, SDF has said that there is no need for Bhaichung's party to educate the SDF government, in power for last 24 years, on how to provide salaries and allowances to government employees.



KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRIS SUCCESSFULLY CROSS NATHULA BORDER

GANGTOK, 20 JUN [IPR]: The first batch of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra comprising of 33 yatri along with 02 liaison officers successfully crossed the Nathula border this morning. The yatri will be returning to Gangtok on 01 Jul and leave from the capital towards their respective places on 02 Jul. Special Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Namrata Thapa, and Additional Secretary were also present during the crossover of the yatri.

BJP accused SDF Panchayats of obstructing its Sampark-se-Samarthan programme

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit submitted a memorandum to Governor Shrinivas Patil today demanding justice over the alleged obstruction caused by Sikkim Democratic Front Panchayats and workers during the nationwide 'Sampark Se Samarthan' programme of BJP in rural parts of the State.

The BJP memorandum mentions that its leaders and workers were being attacked by SDF Panchayats and workers while conducting the 'Sampark Se Samarthan' in villages and towns of the State.

The memorandum informed that national journalists, Mitra Lal Sharma and Ganga

Prasad Sharma, were also attacked by the ruling party workers at NHPC Baluwatar on 19 June and are presently undergoing treatment at Central Referral Hospital in Tadong.

It is further mentioned that a BJP delegation, led by South district president, LB Chauhan, was again obstructed by SDF Panchayats and workers in South Sikkim and threatened into leaving the village.

While alleging "murder of democracy" by ruling party workers, the memorandum has urged the Governor to direct the administration to create a safe environment for BJP to take its programme to the people without any hindrance.

Traditional yoga vs 'fun' yoga...

contd from pg01

A young alternative format that emerged about 10 years ago, AcroYoga has become a trend among Delhiites in the last couple of years, Anuraag Tiwari from The Delhi Rock, a city-based institution, said.

According to Allena Humtsoe, a certified Level 1 AcroVinyasa instructor in the city, the emergence of these alternative forms can be credited to the "static" nature of the conventional practice. AcroVinyasa combines the traditional vinyasa yoga and the modern inversion training.

"Yoga might seem static, so you try other ways and do it as long as you benefit from it. It is not dilution of yoga but a union by adding more things to it," Humtsoe said.

However, institutions and instructors imparting classical yoga lessons see the alternative forms as merely a fad, and warned against the negative health impacts they might have.

Harshit Mann from the Isha foundation said these trends were a bounce-off from the west, often practised without an understanding of the body and energy.

"There are ways of doing yoga wrong...they only take the physical element... the spiritual element is missing. It has become a fashion and it lacks the essence of yoga," he said.

Mann who is going to preside over a hatha-yoga session at The Rose-acre here tomorrow, also added that yoga done wrong could lead to severe health problems like nerve damage and brain haemorrhage.

Nivedita Joshi from the Indian Heritage Society, who also conducts yoga classes at the Iyengar Yoga Centre Yogakshema here, feels the newer practises are a result of a "lack of knowledge".

"The new ways are diluting Yoga. They are a misinterpretation... which makes them a joke that can have disastrous results," she said.

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SKM welcomes new members



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has said that five families from Tadong constituency, East Sikkim, have left Sikkim Democratic Front and joined SKM. They were welcomed by Zonal vice president [In charge], Anand Lama, and party functionaries in a function held at its party headquarter in Gangtok today, an SKM press release informs.

Likewise, 19 youth members from Namchi Singithang constituency, South Sikkim, joined SKM in a function held at Salebung Ward in Namchi. Chief Coordinator, Sonam Lama, welcomed the new members.

CLC advisor of SDF from Chakhung, West Sikkim, Ramesh Pradhan, along with his supporters also joined SKM at Rai Gaon in Chakung, the release mentions.



PHE Deptt observes Paryavaran Mahotsav at Namchi

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 20 JUN:

Department of Water Security and Public Health Engineering today organized a mass plantation drive with the theme 'Go Green, Save Water, Save Life, Organic Sikkim' as part of Paryavaran Mahotsav 2018 here at Namchi water supply system premises at Dew Damthang in South Sikkim.

The drive was led by Assistant Engineer [PHE], Tara Rai, along with Namchi Municipal Corporation Chairperson, Udai Chandra

Rai and vice-president, Dikila Bhutia councilors and the officers from the department.

More than 200 saplings of rhododendron were planted by the officers and PHE Department staff during the drive.

Addressing the occasion, NMC chairperson, Udai Chandra Rai appreciated the initiative of the Department to celebrate the occasion which he said is the key programme of the State Government to protect and conserve environment.

He also said that Paryavaran Mahotsav

has been observed in a successful and efficient manner with enthusiastic and active participation from government employees, officials, NGOs, school children, panchayats and the civil society in South District.

He also informed about several programmes of the State Government for the protection and conservation of environment and urged the participants to plant maximum trees during the occasion.

AE PHE (South), Tara Rai, laid down the objective behind celebrating the occasion.

SKM forms women's wing coordination committee for Khamdong-Singtam constituency

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 JUN:

In continuation of its Nari Ekikaran Yatra, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a meeting at Singtam under Khamdong-Singtam constituency today.

Various issues related to women's empowerment were discussed during the programme followed by formation of a women's coordination committee for the constituency with the aim to strengthen the condition of women in the constituency, informs an SKM press release.

The release informs that the committee has Tika Rai as convener and has eight women included in sub-committees.

Nari Morcha general secretary, Pavitra Bhandari, encouraged women to deliver on their responsibilities sincerely towards the society-building process.



PLANTATION DRIVE HELD AT STATE ARCHIVE PREMISES

GANGTOK, 20 JUN [IPR]: The staff of Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department led by Secretary, Ambika Pradhan, and Special Secretary, Vidya Subba, undertook a plantation drive at State Archive premises in Gangtok this morning. The CA&H Department team planted saplings of flowering plants in and around the Archive's premises. This was carried out in line with the State Government's policy of environmental conservation.

Sikkim to host first Bhutan Film Festival

contd from pg01

Media, Ministry of Information and Communications, Thimpu, Rinchen Dorji and president of Film Association of Bhutan, Karma Tshering.

Secretary, Ms Pradhan, stated that it was an honor for the State to be hosting the first ever Bhutan Film Festival and added that this will strengthen the bond between the two countries while boosting tourism and business exchanges between the two nations. She also extended her assurances that the CA&H

Department will be extending all possible support towards the success of the film festival.

President of Film Association of Bhutan, Mr Tshering, expressed his gratitude to the State for helping make the event a reality and expressed positivity on its success. He said that it will greatly promote and encourage ties between the two nations and extended invitation to all to be a part of the festival.

It may be mentioned here, the event is being organized by the Ministry of Information &

Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan in collaboration with the Film Association of Bhutan with facilitation support from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan and the CA&H Department, Government of Sikkim.

Six popular Bhutanese films will be screened at the auditorium of the CA&H Department and Hotel Rendezvous, Gangtok. The film screenings will be followed by panel discussions with film professionals, producers and directors. The film festival intends

to bring together citizens of the two countries, strengthen the friendly relationship and showcase Bhutan's efforts towards the preservation and promotion of distinctive culture, tradition and language. It also aims to promote tourism and establish collaboration to develop the film industry.

Organized for the first time, the "Bhutan Film Festival" in Sikkim will mark the commencement of Bhutanese Film Festivals abroad, it is informed.

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*Gangtok on
Thursday,
21 June*

Temp: 26°C/17°C
Forecast: Considerable cloudiness; heavy shower, then showers.
Sunrise: 04:41 AM
Sunset: 6:33 PM

Greetings from Governor on International Yoga Day

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 JUN:**

On the occasion of the fourth International Day of Yoga, Governor Shrinivas Patil has extended warm greetings to the people of Sikkim

In a press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan, the Governor has said, "International Yoga Day is a reminder that we must keep our mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health before anything else and take some time out to nourish and nurture it with Yoga. Yoga is about creating balance in our life, our senses, our body and soul in our quest to live a happy and fulfilling life.

The world today has embraced Yoga as an important medium towards a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Today Yoga has truly transcended beyond the boundary of nationality, faith and economy, and has inspired billions to incorporate Yoga in their daily life.

As the citizens of this great country, we feel proud to join the world community in this global celebration of health and well being. However, it must be our endeavour to remain consistent in our effort to promote, propagate and disseminate the spirit of Yoga and ensure that every human gets benefitted. Yoga has the power to ensure holistic health to every individual at no expense.

On this special occasion of 4th International Day of Yoga, let us all make Yoga a mass medium towards attainment of our physical and mental well being."

Sikkim secures two golds at Yoga...

contd from pg01

coordinator and trainers for their achievement. The State HRDD Minister, RB Subba, has also expressed his happiness and congratulated the teams.

The HRDD team, in a press release, has extended gratitude towards Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for inclusion of Yoga in the school curriculum and sending 525 teachers to Haridwar for basic yoga training.

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Missing girl's family thanks CM and Sikkim Police for rescuing daughter

**BIKASH CHETTRI
NAMCHI, 20 JUN:**

The family of a missing girl, who was later rescued from Bihar, has thanked Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Sikkim Police for helping them reunite with their daughter.

The minor girl from Kitam, South Sikkim,

who had gone missing on 23 Apr, was rescued from Katihar Railway Station in Bihar on 07 June by Jorethang Police and its sources.

Addressing the media today, father of the victim, Bupendra Sharma said that Sikkim Police's dedication and hard work brought their

daughter back home.

Mr Sharma also thanked Mr Chamling for speeding up the process and supporting the family. According to Mr Sharma, he had met the CM during the Jorethang stop of his State-wide tour where he informed him about his missing daughter.

"The CM assured to help us and supported us through the tough time," he added.

Mr Sharma further thanked Police Inspector [Jorethang], Kunga Bhutia, Sub Inspectors, Roshan Gurung and Prashant Rai and all the police personnel involved in making the

mission successful.

He also thanked CCCT Principal, District Child Protection Officer, Roshnita Gurung, Child Welfare Centre, Namchi, Child Line, Dristi NGO and NGOs from other States and Bihar Police for their efforts in tracing his daughter.

Governor's rule imposed in J-K

NEW DELHI/ SRINAGAR, JUN 20 (PTI): Jammu and Kashmir was today placed under Governor's rule for the fourth time in the last one decade after the BJP withdrew support to its alliance partner PDP, prompting Mehbooba Mufti to resign as the chief minister.

A Home Ministry spokesman said, "The President has approved imposition of Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect."

The political developments of Jammu and Kashmir continued to dominate the night as President Ram Nath Kovind was in mid air when Governor N N Vohra sent his report to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Book on Pawan Chamling out on bookstands

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 JUN:**

A book about Chief Minister Pawan Chamling titled "Pawan Chamling: Champion of Social Justice", by Howard A Barnes and Jiwan Rai is now available for readers in the market. The book was officially released by Governor Shrinivas Patil on 26 January this year and was launched recently in the market.

Speaking about the book in a press conference here today, co-author of the book, Mr Rai mentioned that the book mainly covers the politics of redistribution, politics of identity and inclusive approaches of the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his government. He

mentioned that based on these themes the book has explained the politics of redistribution for poverty reduction and transformation in Sikkim after 1994. The book also covers the policies, initiatives and achievements in the education and health sectors.

Mr Rai said that the book also includes cultural and linguistic development that has taken place under the present government. It took one and a half years to research and write the book, he added.

Howard A Barnes is a scientist based in the north-west of England and is currently an honorary professor at the University of Chester, England. He has authored nearly

eighty scientific publications and is the co-author of a bestselling science textbook. He has been honoured by the Queen of England with the OBE and has been the recipient of a number of scientific prizes. He is also a fellow of the British Royal Academy of Engineering.

Jiwan Rai is a social and political commentator from Sikkim and has been writing columns and articles in various regional English dailies and magazines for more than a decade. He started his career as a teacher in 1996 and resigned in 2014. He is also a recipient of the National BOLT Award for 2006-07, which was presented by the then President, APJ Abdul Kalam.

Farmer's training held at Upper Barfok



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 JUN:**

Mavedir in collaboration with Agriculture Department jointly organized a daylong ward level farmer's training on ICS management and Tracenet ID details – an online web por-

tal of APEDA- which monitors all the organic transactions and business between different stakeholder groups at Upper Barfok ward under Chingthang Gram Panchayat Unit in West Sikkim, a press release informs. Soya bean seeds were also distributed to the farmers.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

CORRIGENDUM TO

Reference R.O. No. 137/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 Dated 13/06/2018 pertaining to the issue of Expression of Interest for the work "Construction of 404.0 mtr span Sakyong Pentok Suspended Foot bridge over Ringyang Khola at Dzongu, North Sikkim, wherein it is wrongly mentioned as "Extension of Interest". Hence the "Extension of Interest" may kindly be read as "Expression of Interest".

Sd/-
**ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (N/E)
RM&DD.**

R.O. No. 147/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 18.6.2018



SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION) SAMAJ KALAYAN BHAWAN, 5TH MILE, LUMSEY TADONG, GANGTOK - 737101(SIKKIM)

PRESS RELEASE Gangtok: 18th June 2018.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be observed on 26th June 2018.

A meeting was convened in the Office of the Chairman, Steering Committee for Anti Drug Campaign and Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D. Rai on 18.6.2018 to discuss the preparation for celebration of International Day Against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June, 2018. The meeting was attended by the Officers of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department and Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim and members of the NGOs working in the field of prevention of Substance (Drugs) Abuse and Alcoholism. During the meeting, it was unanimously decided to host the programme jointly by the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare, Department and Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare (Mental Health and SSACS), Gangtok Municipal Corporation and other NGOs working in this field.

It was further decided that a rally will be taken out as a part of Awareness Generation and Publicity to make the public at large aware about the ill effects associated with Substance (Drugs) Abuse and Alcoholism. The main event will be organised at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok where difficult aspects of the problems including Law & Order will be discussed. The program will be further organised at MG Marg, where skit, play and other functions shall be showcased by various NGOs including addressing of public queries with regards to substance (drugs) abuse and Mental Health.

R.O. No. 150/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 19.6.2018

STP Pharma celebrates 20th anniversary

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 JUN:**

STP Pharmaceuticals Private Limited celebrated its 20th anniversary as the first pharmaceutical industry in Sikkim with a programme today, a press release informs.

President, Taga



Khampa attended the occasion with all the executives and staff of the company.

The company also

granted special allowance to staff members as a token of appreciation.

With over 250 employees, the company is

WHO-GMP certified and has also received National Award for Outstanding Entrepreneurship in the entire North East Region.



Pehchan Cards distributed to artisans at Dhanbari and Tumin

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 JUN:**

Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Marketing and Service Extension Centre Gangtok, Government of India, organized handicrafts artisans identity card distribution camp at Dhanbari and Tumin in East Sikkim today, a press release informs.

Handicrafts Promotion Officer, Shashikant Gupta distributed Pehchan Identity cards to 24 artisans, experts in cane and bamboo crafts, dolls, toys and carpet crafts.

Pehchan Card scheme is a part of the initiative of Union Textiles Ministry to register and provide

identity cards to handicrafts artisans and link them to the national database.

The Pehchan Card is a new upgraded ID card for artisans that will be linked with their Aadhaar numbers and bank details so that they can receive direct cash transfer benefits, reads the release.

SummitTIMES

Make Corruption a Dirty Word Again

Let's stop finding excuses to justify it

Corruption is clearly not a dirty word any more. In fact, it is now routine, and even expected. Almost everyone has been at either the receiving or the bribing end of this social exchange, and this dilutes the disdain one would expect for this permanent feature of "official work". The supporters of corruption assume that it is in fact beneficial. This goes with "greasing the squeaky wheel" or simply "grease money" argument. As a 20th century thinker put it: "Had corruption not been beneficial it would never have been so common."

On a more serious note though, the problem with the "beneficial" argument of corruption is that the benefit is limited to a few, and what is worse, this comes at the cost of the larger community. Moreover, corruption aggravates the issue of haves and have-nots and hurts the poorest of the poor, since, once bribing becomes routine, they get cut off from even the due processes because they do not have "show money". And it is not us who say this. A study by the World Bank has revealed that "grease money" does not speed up the bureaucratic delays to iron which out most people offer bribes; instead it creates more hurdles on the way.

The firms that pay more bribes are not necessarily more efficient, rather they are more likely to spend more, not less, management time with bureaucrats negotiating regulations, and face higher, not lower, cost of capital, the World Bank report details.

The reason behind this is simple to understand. Bribes are designed by the bureaucrats to extract rents [for the rules they sit on]; therefore, more bribes call for more regulations so that more rent can be extracted. This is also the reason why we say corruption breeds corruption. This, perhaps, also explains why governments are keener on enacting rules and regulations and not as excited about the prospect of facilitating or even governing.

No matter how much we play around with words, fact remains that corruption has an element of perverse incentive. It not only rewards the cheater but also penalises the honest, thereby decaying the whole system. While there are those who might still argue that the problem of corruption is "too big" or "too pervasive" to be solved by the effort of an individual or an individual agency, the society has tackled many bigger problems to let this one continue without a fight. It is time the people started priming themselves to deliver this malaise the knock-out punch. Once they are so convinced, they could also brainstorm the ways and means to achieve that goal as well.

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.

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Nicaraguans try to topple a dictator- again

BENJAMIN WADDELL
theconversation.com

After months of near-constant protest in Nicaragua, at least 215 people are dead, 1,000 are injured, and President Daniel Ortega – an authoritarian leader who once seemed invincible – is on his last legs.

Citizens first took to the streets of Managua in early April after Ortega's government was slow to respond to a massive forest fire inside Indio Maiz, the nation's second-largest nature reserve. When the government quietly decided to tax retirees' pension checks and increase employers' insurance costs a week later, nationwide marches gained steam.

Police soon began killing protesters. What started as targeted, loosely organized protests quickly transformed into a movement. The goal: to remove President Daniel Ortega and his family from power.

NICARAGUA VS. GOLIATH
Can Nicaragua, Latin America's second poorest country, bring down its mighty regime by simply refusing to leave the streets? Local history suggests it can.

I am a Latin American scholar currently based in Managua, Nicaragua. My research on the ground suggests that presidents in this region who are challenged by mass protests fall much more frequently than one might suspect.

Most elected leaders in Latin America, a heavily democratic region, finish their terms. According to Christopher Martinez, a political science professor at Chile's Temuco Catholic University, just 16 percent of South American presidents have resigned or been impeached since 1979.

However, that changes when leaders earn the ire of their citizens. Between 1985 and 2011, fully 70 percent of South American leaders who faced mass street protests were ultimately removed from office.

Nicaraguan protesters face a genuine Goliath in Daniel Ortega. In the only country since Cuba to orchestrate a successful armed revolution in Latin America, Ortega – a former Sandinista guerrilla who helped Nicaragua oust dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979 – is a giant.

Ortega has been the most powerful person in Nicaragua for nearly 40 years and president for 16 of them. While out of office, from 1990 to 2006, Ortega effectively controlled the country as a powerful Sandinista delegate in the National Assembly.

Even when the Sandinistas were in the minority, Ortega could still bring the country to a halt by organizing mass protests, as he did countless times between 1990 and 2006. This irony is surely not lost on today's anti-Ortega protesters.

But, as author Malcolm Gladwell writes in his latest book "David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants," "Giants are not what we think they are. The same qualities that appear to give them strength are often the source of great weakness."

In other words, dictators are not toppled, they trip over their own feet. In Ortega's case, his great-

est strength – his sheer audacity – has now fostered dangerous complacency.

HOW TO TOPPLE A DICTATOR

Latin America scholar Kathryn Hochstetler offers a basic formula for predicting whether Latin American presidents will fall to mass protest.

If street protesters have the support of the legislature but there is no bloody crackdown, she says, a president's odds of surviving are high. That's how former Nicaraguan president Enrique Bolaños, who governed Nicaragua from 2002 to 2007, managed to stay in office despite protesters' calls for his resignation.

When leaders opt to use force against peaceful protesters, it seems, they enter a dangerous path. Since the early 1990s, almost every Latin American president who came to power in a free and fair election but later used violence to quell street uprisings was soon ousted.

The exception is in Venezuela. President Hugo Chávez went on to rule for 11 years after using deadly force against protesters during a 2002 coup attempt.

His successor, Nicolas Maduro, has remained in office despite killing 163 protesters in 2017, though I would argue that by the time Maduro came to power Venezuela was no longer a true democracy.

DICTATORS, ¡QUE SE VAYAN!

In a region with a history of violent dictators, state repression sparks citizens' anger.

Nicaragua has seen major political conflict. The Sandinista rebels staged a seven-year insurrection in 1979 to free the country from military rule. An 11-year civil war between the Sandinista government and U.S.-backed Contras followed.

At this point, there's clearly little tolerance for more bloodshed. Protesters' resolve is likely hard-

ened by the fact that most of the dead are young students.

Isolated by decades of power, Ortega seems to have underestimated the degree to which state violence and repression would bring together factions that he had so adeptly divided for so long. Today, students, human rights groups, the business sector and the Catholic Church are united behind the goal of removing the president from office.

The military has publicly said that it will not leave the barracks to repress citizens. If the generals stick to their word, I believe Ortega's days are numbered.

A FAST FALL FROM GRACE

Ortega's fall from grace has come remarkably fast.

At the 27th anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution in 2006, Ortega rode a white horse into frenzied crowds on the Plaza de La Paz in downtown Managua. Later that year he would be narrowly re-elected as Nicaragua's president.

In the years to follow, the government began placing massive billboards and posters featuring Ortega's image around the country. The president centralized power in the executive branch, took control of Nicaragua's National Assembly and Supreme Court, abolished term limits, and in 2017, appointed his wife as Nicaragua's vice president.

Ortega was re-elected in 2016 for his third term with 72 percent of the vote. But only 30 percent of Nicaragua's population voted in that year's presidential election, and opposition parties alleged fraud.

Perhaps his legitimacy was already in question back then. Now, Ortega's demise seems as inevitable as his rise to power once did.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of International Studies, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas]



World Cup VAR: technology is transforming the beautiful game

OLATUNBOSUN OLANIYAN
theconversation.com

You may have noticed something different in the 2018 World Cup. For the first time ever, the Virtual Assistant Referee (VAR) system is being used to help make decisions during games. And already we are seeing it cause controversy.

It's no surprise that VAR has caused debate, considering the furor that surrounded VAR in the English FA Cup and the Bundesliga. But although VAR receives huge attention, we should not forget that it is only the most visible example of the digitalisation of football, where data and technology is used to improve performance and decision-making. And digitalisation is already transforming the game of football. But it is also leading many people to fear that the game is changing too fast and leaving fans behind.

DECISION MAKING ON THE FIELD?

VAR is a form of technology that is supposed to help referees make near-accurate decisions. As the game progresses, assistant referees away from the stadium watch instant replays of incidents. Over wireless headsets, they communicate with the referee, advising them on any game-changing incident. VAR is supposed to only assist referees in four main areas: goals, penalties, red

cards and mistaken identity. But ultimately, the referee still has the final decision.

In 2017, VAR was introduced into the FA Cup for the first time. It was quickly blamed for ruining "the beautiful game", by players and managers alike. Specific matches, especially between Tottenham and Rochdale in the FA Cup quarter final, caused particular ire after a Tottenham goal was reversed by VAR for reasons that were unclear.



There were remarkable scenes in the Bundesliga also. At half time, during a game between Mainz 05 and SC Freiburg, the teams were ordered back onto the pitch so that a retrospective penalty could be given after a VAR decision. Fans and players alike were less than happy.

VAR has already made its mark on this year's World Cup. Although it has received positive feedback by some, it continues to cause intense debate. The technology was

criticised for not flagging a penalty that allowed Switzerland to score against Brazil. And others criticised its role in the awarding of a French penalty against Australia. Many England fans also questioned the technology when the referee did not award a penalty after Harry Kane was wrestled to the ground by Tunisia's Ferjani Sassi twice. Yet Tunisia scored on a penalty given for a similar foul.

THE 'DIGITALISATION' OF FOOTBALL

Over the last few decades, it feels as if every aspect of life has been touched by "digitalisation". And it has had a major impact in nearly every aspect of football. Whether it be TV coverage, ticketing or, perhaps most revolutionary of all, its capacity for teams to analyse and measure performance.

The unprecedented amount of data and information, that is produced through the Internet of Things, objects that are connected to the internet, enables better customised training. Teams can now collect enormous amount of data on how individual sports men and women perform in training and in actual matches. Coaches can use this data to give incredibly personalised feedback. It can also enable managers to make tactical decisions based upon live data, such as how far someone has run, where on the pitch they have been playing, and

how many passes they have made, during the game. The future of football might be one in which teams are picked and play in a certain way "because of what the data says".

Digitalisation is one of the major reasons why sport has transformed from a game played for entertainment and leisure into an industry worth over 1.5 trillion US\$ globally. You only need to look at eSports, now a \$400m industry, to see how digitalised sport has become.

But with VAR, many feel that digitalisation has gone a step too far and made football feel unnatural. There is something strange when fans have to hold off celebrating a goal until they receive confirmation from VAR. Many sports, particularly football, have a rich and symbolic heritage which some see as being under threat due to digitalisation. And it is not going to stop, with the Internet of Things, virtual reality and augmented reality increasingly being used in training grounds.

VAR might be getting the decision right (or not) and digitalisation might be making football more lucrative while improving the performance of players and the tactics of managers. But such "progress" also threatens to hamper the excitement and the spirit of the game. The fear is that as the relentless progress of technology continues, football might just lose the magic that made it so special.

[the writer is PhD Candidate in Business and Management Studies, University of Huddersfield]

56,584 families living below poverty line in Mizoram: Survey

AIZAWL, JUN 20 (PTI): Mizoram has 56,584 families living below poverty line, according to a survey released by state Planning and Programme Implementation Minister Lalsawta here today.

The BPL Baseline Survey said five villages in Champhai district - Pamchung, Rabung, Tlangmawi, Chawngtlai and Riangtlei were BPL free villages.

The state has a population of 11 lakh.

Champhai district has the lowest percentage of BPL families at 9.35 per cent while Mamit district has the highest percentage of 35.64 BPL families in the state, the survey said.

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First batch of Mansoravar pilgrims cross over to Tibet



PITHORAGARH, JUNE 20 (PTI): The first batch of Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrims crossed over to Tibet through the 17,500 feet high Lipulekh pass this morning, an official said.

The first batch had reached Gunji Base camp by trekking 33 km from Mangti, the last motorable station in two days.

Dharchula SDM RK Pandey said one member of the 58-member batch

Ram Dayal Mali from Rajasthan had to return from Gunji after he was found unfit by ITBP doctors at the medical camp there on June 18.

According to ITBP sources, the batch left for Lipulekh pass at 3 am and crossed over at 7.50 am.

The second batch of pilgrims that has reached Gunji by IAF helicopters is on way to Nabhi Dhang, the official said.

China to boost cooperation with Nepal in infrastructure connectivity: Xi

BEIJING, JUN 20 (PTI): China is ready to strengthen cooperation with landlocked Nepal in infrastructure connectivity and trade and investment under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping said here today while meeting with Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

China and Nepal signed eight agreements for developing major infrastructure projects in the Himalayan nation to further deepen bilateral ties, media reports said.

China has been investing heavily in Nepal in the last few years to enhance connectivity and infrastructure.

"China stands ready to strengthen cooperation with Nepal in infrastructure connectivity, post-disaster reconstruction, trade and investment under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," Xi was quoted as saying by state-run Xinhua news agency.

Xi said China is committed to keep intact the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nepal, the Kathmandu Post reported.

During the meeting, Xi expressed gratitude towards Nepal for maintaining the 'One



China' policy and not allowing anti-China activities on Nepalese territory, it said.

Oli, who arrived here yesterday on his first official visit to China since his re-election, witnessed the signing of the agreements at the Nepal Embassy.

The agreements were signed between the governments and private companies of Nepal and China to develop hydropower projects, cement industries, and establish highland food parks, the Himalayan Times reported in Kathmandu.

An agreement was signed between the Investment Board of Government of Nepal and Huaxin Cement Narayani Pvt Ltd under which the Chinese firm has pledged Nepalese Rs 14.4 billion (USD 130 million) of FDI to generate 3,000 metric tonnes of cement per day, the report said.

Another MoU was signed to prepare a detailed feasibility study on Eastern Tarai Irrigation System in the Birring, Kamala and Kankai rivers, it said adding the two coun-

tries agreed on establishing the highland food park for varieties of fruits and vegetables with an investment of over USD 46 million, it said.

They also agreed for the development of 164 MW Nepal Kaligandaki Gorge Hydropower Project which would be developed on BOOT (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer) model.

Furthermore, an agreement was signed for the construction of 40.27 MW Siuri Nyadi Hydropower Plant Project in EPCF (Engineering-Procurement-Construction-Finance) model, the report said.

An agreement between Nepal Pashmina Industries Association and One Belt One Road International Trade Platform of CIC Mutual Trade Investment Company was signed for the sale of Nepali pashmina in China, it

said, adding the purchase order from China would be between 200,000 to 500,000 pieces every year.

A separate MoU on Framework Agreement for Cooperation in Marsyangdi Cascade Hydropower Project of 600 MW was also signed.

The two sides also agreed for the Construction of 75 MW Trishuli Galchhi Hydropower Project in EPCF Model, the report added.

During his six-day visit, Oli is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang and address a Nepal-China Business Forum and think-tanks in Beijing.

Oli's visit comes after his trip to India soon after his reelection as prime minister which was followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's return visit to Kathmandu.

During his brief tenure in 2016, Oli widened China-Nepal ties by signing the transit trade treaty with China to reduce the dependence of his landlocked country on India at the height of the Madhesi agitation and had sought expansion of road links through Tibet besides extension of China's railway to Nepal through the Himalayas.



20-30 houses for flood-hit people per constituency in Manipur

IMPHAL, JUN 20 (PTI): The Manipur government will build at least 20 houses in each of the 60 Assembly constituencies for people whose homes were destroyed in the recent flood, Chief Minister N Biren Singh has said.

Twenty to 30 houses will be built in each Assembly constituency from the Local Area Development Fund of the legislators, the chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of a programme here yesterday.

He was interacting with the representatives of Indian Oil Corporation who had come to donate 500 cylinders to the flood-affected people as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

More than 1.8 lakh people have been affected due to the flash floods in the state triggered by torrential rain, he said while interacting with Indian Oil Distributors'.

The flood has claimed eight lives so far, rendered 59,689 people homeless since 23,456 houses across 304 villages were affected during the pre-monsoon flood.

Describing the flash floods as "one of the worst since 1989" with the state receiving the highest rainfall rate, the chief minister said, it had also led to massive inundation, and damaged properties.

Many people were put up at 200 relief camps across the state, he said.

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Rats nibble Rs 12.38 lakh cash inside ATM in Assam

GUWAHATI, JUNE 20 (PTI): A sum of Rs 12.38 lakh at an ATM in Assam's Tinsukia district, has been found in tatters and the culprits are reportedly a colony of rats which nibbled away the currency notes.

The bizarre incident came to light at a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM in Laipuli area of the Tinsukia town last week.

The ATM had developed some technical problems and was lying unused for three weeks. When technicians came to repair the machine last Thursday, they found shredded notes of different denominations, including Rs 2,000 and Rs 500, inside it.

Following a formal complaint by the bank authorities, the police launched an investigation and found rats in the ATM.

Today, police ruled out any foul play in the damage of currency notes worth Rs 12.38 lakh in the ATM, and said that a colony of rats was responsible for the shredding of the banknotes.

Pointing out that currency notes worth Rs 17.10 lakh at the ATM was untouched, the police ruled out any foul play or sabotage and asked the bank authorities to take suitable measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

An SBI spokesperson said an internal inquiry into the incident has been. Among other things, it would be probed, how the ATM, managed by a Guwahati-based third-party vendor, was laying unrepaired for over three weeks.

The inquiry will also look into how the cash, usually kept in sealed cabinet, were exposed to rats, the spokesperson said.





GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM LAND REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT MANAN BHAWAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) refers to assessing broad range of impacts and analysing the processes of both intended and unintended social consequences primarily aiming at understanding the socio-cultural and economic ramifications of land acquisition for any kind of development project. In India, SIA has become mandatory by Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013, which was further amended in 2015. In the state of Sikkim, SIA has been made mandatory for land acquisition of any kind by publicly or privately funded development projects in compliance to Sikkim Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Sikkim) Rules, 2015.

The present Social Impact Assessment study has been undertaken regarding Land Acquisition by the Police Department, Government of Sikkim for construction of 2nd and 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion (IRBn) Headquarters at Manglay in the Ben Block of Tarku Revenue Circle under Namchi Sub-Division of South District of Sikkim. The proposed land for acquisition measures 2.35 hectares, which are distributed in seven plots of land bearing No(s). 1277(P), 1278, 1279, 1280(P), 1281(P), 1272 1301/1441. The seven plots of land belong to two land owners, namely, Late Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal (1277(P), 1278, 1279, 1280(P), 1281(P)) and the remaining two plots (1271, and 1301/1441) belongs to Mrs. Wang Gyamtso Bhutia.

The impact assessment study was carried out with the objectives of assessing the potential social, cultural, economic ramifications of the land acquisition and the project in the locality, to assess whether there will be any displacement of families. The study also attempts to profile the social – economic background of the affected families, their livelihood pattern and strategies and impact of the project in their socio-economic life. The study also to understand stakeholder's perception on the project and incorporating their viewpoints in Social Impact Management Plan.

The assessment is based on the information gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The secondary information provided by Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department (LR&DMD), Government of Sikkim, and Office of Village Level Officer (VLO), Tarku Revenue Circle guided the framework for collection of the primary information, which were drawn profoundly from the several field visits and interviews with the affected families, both the land owners as well as the tenants. Interview with the affected families were undertaken using both the structured as well informal interviews depending on the situation of the interview. Telephonic interviews were also undertaken for those who were not accessible directly for face to face interview. Further information was collected through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with the local population. For the secondary sources, various literatures related to SIA were consulted and reviewed. Official secondary information was collected from the DESM&E, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, 2nd and 3rd IRBn Offices of Police Department, and from the officials working at the gram Panchayat level and office of VLO and other stakeholders.

Based on the field visit, the study found that the cultivable plot belonging to Mr. Wang Gyamtso Bhutia has remained unutilised for many years and was not under physical possession of anyone during the site inspection, although Mr. Gobind Prashad Chettri has been officially recorded as kuttiaar in the Kharsa, Ben Block. Therefore, the acquisition of the proposed land does not affect the question of livelihood to the land owner or to any other tenant. Moreover, the land owner owns considerable portion of land in other locations which provides him and his family ample source of sustainable livelihood. Secondly, regarding Late Chogyal's land, the present acquisition of land will not have any advance impact to the Royal family as they are not using the land directly and all concerned members of the family are socially and economically well placed. However, both land owners will be losing valuable land having potential future prospect hence, the landowners except fair and rightful compensation.

In relation to the tenants, out of the total five plots of land, only two plots, i.e. 1277 and 1281 have legal tenants, which were occupied by Late Pancharam Kami and Late Buddhichan Kami respectively, as per the land Survey record, 1978-79. The mentioned two plots are currently occupied by four households who are the descendants of the two tenants. Since, only portion of these two plots of the land will be acquired, therefore, of the four household only one near to the approach road is likely to be dispossessed, as per the concerned Revenue Surveyor. Hence, the question of mass displacement and rehabilitation is not anticipated in the present context. In the case of the displaced single household, the family is already in the process of shifting to the new model house allotted under CMRHM. In relation to the remaining three households, although they are not likely to be disposed from their households, nonetheless, their livelihood strategies which is based on the agricultural land is going to be hampered and affected by the acquisition of the portion of the land.

In relation to social opportunities and benefits of the project, the Panchayat and the local community perceives more in term of economic advantage like expansion of the local market and boosting their local economy through marketing of the locally produced goods, for instance, vegetable, poultry, dairy products, etc. There is also the possibility of expansion and development of housing facilities to accommodate the increasing population in the area including the family members of the stationed police personnel. Other advantages include the scope for development in transport and communication facilities in the area in order to facilitate coordination with the police department of other districts headquarter which can have a positive socio-economic implication to the local populace.

The anticipated social and environmental cost in relation to the present project, as per the Panchayat and local population includes the area of concern like increase threat to the security of local girls an chances of increasing immoral activities in the area. Environmental concerns were also raised by them related to sewage and solid waste management due to the additional population pressure in the area, also managing and tapping water resources to cater the increasing population might create manmade water scarcity in the area.

After evaluating the pros and cons of the impact of the proposed land acquisition and the ongoing project, SIA concludes that since there is no mass displacement and resettlement issues to present land acquisition of 2.3500 hectares by the Police Department, and the social opportunities and benefits compensates the social and environmental cost therefore, the project becomes feasible. Nonetheless, issues and concerns related to the assessment need to be addressed thoroughly through the relevant SIMP and rightful compensatory measures.

APPRAISAL OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In consonance to “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement [Sikkim] Rules, 2015” under Section 112 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 [Act 30 of 2013] vide Notification No. 07/180/LR&DMD/GOS/ACQ, Department of Economics, Statistic, Monitoring and Evaluation [DESME], Government of Sikkim was appointed as the Social Impact Assessment Unit for undertaking Social Impact Assessment of all land acquisition in Sikkim.

Accordingly for the purpose of conducting Impact Assessment of Land Acquisition for Construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB Head Quarters at Manglay in the Ben Block of Tarku Revenue Circle, South District, Sikkim, the Department of Sociology, Sikkim University was entrusted with the responsibility for the same. **The Social Impact Assessment [SIA] team** headed by Dr. Sandhya Thapa, Head of Department, Department of Sociology comprising of members 1] Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva 2] Dr. Indira Khangembam 3] Mr. Yumnam Surjajeevan prepared the Social Impact Assessment[SIA report].

The Multi-disciplinary Expert Group constituted by notification No. 08/LR&DMD/ACQ/GoS dated 26/02/18 under Section 7 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2-13 for evaluation of the Social Impact Assessment report comprising of Chairperson, Shri G.P. Sharma, Retd. Deputy Director, LR&DMD [Expert on Rehabilitation], and members 1] Mrs. Sonam Choden Bhutia, HOD, Department of Sociology, Sikkim Government College, Tadong 2] Ms. Babyla Topden, Assistant Professor Sikkim Government College, Tadong, 3] Shri Dovin Rai, Sr. Architect, Building and Housing Department and 4] Two Panchayat Representatives- Mr. Ram Bahadur Rai and Ms. Man Maya Kami of Ben Namprick GPU, Ben Block, South Sikkim have meticulously gone through the assessment report and have made the following observations.

The report has been classified into five chapters including the conclusion and findings.

Chapter 1 provides a comprehensive backdrop of the study and review of literature related to the emergence of Social Impact Assessment, its significance and finally and finally contextualised in Sikkim.

Chapter 2 provides detailed socio-economic and cultural parameters of Sikkim followed by South District profile and Ben-Namprick Gram Panchayat Unit where the project has been located.

Chapter 3 contains a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment of the project followed by the detailed socio-economic profile of the affected land owners, families and tenants, followed by observations made by the Social Impact Assessment team.

Chapter 4 contains the exhaustive information on expectations, areas of concerns based on Focus Group Discussion [FGD] with Panchayat leaders and other community stakeholders. This chapter further highlights the Social Impact Management Plan [SIMP] with measures and actions suggested for mitigation of the social cost as well as he management of negative social impacts.

Chapter 5 highlights the feasibility of the construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB Headquarter in the proposed land to be acquired by the Police Department, Government of Sikkim in the Ben Namprick GPU. Justifications and precautions have been forwarded on the basis of viability of the project.

EXPERT GROUP'S OBSERVATIONS ON SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Land Acquisition by the Police Department, Government of Sikkim for the construction of 2nd and 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion [IRBn] Headquarters at Manglay in the Ben Block of Tarku Revenue Circle under Namchi Sub-division of the South District of Sikkim.

The proposed land for acquisition measures 2.35 hectares which are distributed in seven plots of land bearing Nos. 1277[P], 1278, 1279, 1280[P], 1281[P], 1272, 1301/1441.

The seven plots of the land belong to two land owners namely, Late Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal [1277[P], 1278, 1279, 1280[P], 1281[P] and the remaining two plots [1271 and 1301/1441] belong to Mr. Wang

Gyamtso Bhutia.

As per the report, plot of lands belonging to Mr. Wang Gyamtso Bhutia seems to have remained unutilized for many years and was not under physical possession of anyone and thus acquisition of the proposed land does not affect the question of livelihood to the land owner and as per the report, the land owner has a considerable amount of operational landholdings in Ravangla sub-division.

Regarding late Chogyal's land, as per the report the present acquisition of land will not have any adverse impact to the Royal family as they are not using the land directly and all concerned members of the family are socially and economically well place.

As per the report SIA team, both landowners will be losing valuable land having potential future prospects.

Out of the five plots of land belonging to late Chogyal, two plots i.e 1277 and 1281 have legal tenants as per the land Survey record, 1978-79.

At present the above stated land are currently occupied by four households as per the report only one household near the approach road is likely to be dispossessed. However the family is already in the process of shifting to the new model house allotted under CMRHM.

As per SIA report [page no. 62] the three households are not displaced from their houses but there is high probability that are likely to dispossess portion of their cultivable land, which might have adverse effect to their livelihood.

EXPERT GROUP'S COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Multi-disciplinary Expert Group constituted by notification No. 08/LR&DMD/GoS dated 20/02/1 under Section 7 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 for evaluation of the Social Impact Assessment report held its meeting on 7th April 2018 and 13th April 2018. The issues of examination and discussions are as follows:

The Social Impact Assessment team has done a meticulous work with immense clarity by identifying the tenants and the affected families.

Both the landowners and the tenants may be given fair and rightful compensation.

The expectations and the concerns of Panchayat leaders and other community stakeholders may be taken into consideration.

The extent of land proposed to be acquired is the absolute bare-minimum extend needed for the project and there is no other less displacing option available.

Therefore, the Expert Group is of the opinion that the project will serve various public purposes, and the potential benefits outweigh the social costs and adverse social impacts, hence the SIA study report pertaining to acquisition of land at Manglay, Simchuthang by Police Department is recommended to go ahead with the provisions of RFCTLARR Act, 2013.

CHAIRPERSON-Shri G.P. Sharma, Retd. Deputy Director, LR&DMD

MEMBERS

- 1) Mrs. Sonam Choden Bhutia, HOD, Department of Sociology, Sikkim Government College, Tadong
- 2) Ms. Babyla Topden, Assistant Professor, Sikkim Government College, Tadong
- 3) Shri Doniv Rai, Sr. Architect, Building and Housing Department
- 4) Mr. Ram Bahadur Rai and Ms. Man Maya Kami- Two Panchayat Representatives of Ben Namprick GPU, Ben Block, South Sikkim

Attendance for the Meeting of the Expert Committee members held on 07.04.2018 for the Examination of Social Impact Assessment Report regarding Land Acquisition for the Construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB HQ, Manglay, South Sikkim.

Sl.No	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
01	Ms. Babyla Topden	Asst Professor S.G.C. Tadong	9434188280	Babyla.T
02	Mrs. Sonam Choden Bhutia	Asst. Professor SGC, Tadong	8001765337	Iman
03	Ram Bahadur Rai	Panchayat member Ben	9770914850	Rai
04	Man Maya Kami	Panchayat member Manglay	7797026198	Mani
05	G.P. Sharma		9832033355	G.P.
06	DONIV RAI	SR. ARCHITECT	9434256728	Doniv

Attendance for the Meeting of the Expert Committee members held on 13.04.2018 for the Examination of Social Impact Assessment Report regarding Land Acquisition for the Construction of 2nd and 3rd IRB HQ, Manglay, South Sikkim.

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Contact Number	Signature
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Swaraj calls on Luxembourg PM; discusses bilateral ties

LUXEMBOURG CITY, JUN 20 (PTI): External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj today called on Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel and discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, space, digital India and people-to-people relationship.

Swaraj, who arrived in Luxembourg on the third leg of her four-nation tour yesterday, became the first external affairs minister from India to visit the European country.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted: "Business starts early! EAM @SushmaSwaraj had a warm meeting with the Prime Minister of #Luxembourg Xavier Bettel, a friend of India. Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in trade & investment, space, digital India and people-to-people relationship".

She also made a courtesy call on Grand Duke of Luxembourg Henri Albert Gabriel Felix Marie Guillaume and exchanged views to further strengthen 70 years old diplomatic relationship between India and Luxembourg, and impart an upward trajectory to our bilateral ties, Kumar said.

Swaraj then had a productive meeting with Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn.

The two leaders discussed cooperation in trade and investment, steel and space, and exchanged views on strengthening India-EU relations, Kumar said.

North Korea’s Kim thanks China for support with Trump summit

BEIJING, JUN 20 (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for his support in last week’s groundbreaking summit with President Donald Trump, the North’s official media reported today.

Kim is in Beijing on his third visit to China this year, underscoring the major improvement in relations between the communist neighbors.

A report by the Korean Central News Agency said Kim expressed his gratitude to Xi in a meeting on Tuesday, during which Xi “gave high appreciation and extended heartfelt congratulations” to Kim over the summit.

KCNA said that during a banquet hosted by Xi, Kim also said Pyongyang and Beijing are seeing their ties develop into



“unprecedentedly special relations.” At the summit with Trump in Singapore, Kim pledged to work toward denuclearization in exchange for U.S. security guarantees. The US and South Korea suspended a major joint military exercise that was planned in August in what was seen as a major victory for

North Korea and its chief allies, China and Russia.

There was no official word on Kim’s activities on Wednesday, although South Korea’s Yonhap news agency said his motorcade was seen at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing.

China has pressed North Korea to adopt economic reforms and has touted the prospects of increased trade and investment if Pyongyang makes progress in talks on abandoning its nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs.

That could allow the lifting of U.N. Security Council economic sanctions that have brought about a plunge in the North’s foreign trade, although the U.S. insists easing of sanctions can only come after Pyongyang shows it has ended its nuclear programs.

The U.S. says China is in agreement on that point, although Chinese officials have repeatedly stated that sanctions should not be considered an end to their own.

Chinese media reported that in the Tuesday talks, Xi told Kim that he hopes Pyongyang and Washington can fully implement the summit outcomes and that China would “as always play a constructive role” in that process.

The U.S. has long looked to China to use its influence with North Korea to bring it to negotiations, but the visit comes as ties between Beijing and Washington are being tested by a major trade dispute.

Kim is expected to return to Pyongyang today.



Taliban militants have killed around 30 Afghan security forces in multiple attacks in western Afghanistan, officials have said, days after the group ended its ceasefire. “More than half of the fatalities came from the ambush and roadside bomb blasts that hit a reinforcement convoy,” Badghis provincial governor Abdul Qafoor Malikzai said. Militants also stormed bases overnight killing police officers and soldiers, he added. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks in a WhatsApp message to journalists. Provincial council chief Abdul Aziz Bek said that the Taliban had used the ceasefire to send informants to collect information about the bases in order to plan the attack.

Argentina rally behind Messi ahead of key Croatia clash

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, JUN 20 (AFP): Argentina are rallying around captain Lionel Messi as the South American giants prepare for their crucial Group D clash with Croatia here tomorrow.

Messi made an unhappy start to the World Cup on Saturday, missing what would have been a winning penalty as Argentina were held to a 1-1 draw by minnows Iceland.

It was a result that has renewed doubts about Argentina’s ability to mount a sustained challenge at this World Cup, four years after they reached the final in Brazil.

Another adverse outcome on Thursday and many may even start to consider the unthinkable -- that Argentina could be on their way out at the group stage, mirroring their shock first round exit in 2002.

Legend Diego Maradona called the Iceland result a “disgrace” and warned coach Jorge Sampaoli he would not be able to return to Argentina with similar performances.

Adding to the sense of disappointment, Messi’s missed penalty



was accompanied by 11 unsuccessful shots, the most in a World Cup game without return by a single player since Italy’s Luigi Riva in 1970.

Argentina’s players however have been quick to close ranks around the Barcelona superstar.

“We are all with him, he knows that he can count on the support of all of us more than ever,” said Argentina striker Paulo Dybala.

“We are here to help him every moment, and of course we will be at his side,” Dybala added.

Defender Cristian Ansaldi

meanwhile insisted Messi was in good spirits despite the Iceland setback.

“We all know what Messi represents to our team and to our country,” Ansaldi said.

“Not only is he the best player in the world on the pitch, he is also

best player off the field. He’s in good shape and that’s good for us.”

Despite the solitary point against Iceland, Argentina can take solace from a performance which saw them muster 26 shots and have 72 per cent possession against Iceland.

Sampaoli is reportedly considering several changes for the game, including drafting in young forward Cristian Pavon for Angel Di Maria for more creativity up front.

Similarly in midfield, Paris Saint-Germain’s Giovanni Lo Celso could start as Argentina seek more attacking options, possibly at the expense of Lucas Biglia.

Their jobs would be to supply Messi and goalscorer against Iceland Sergio Aguero with the kind of service on which they would thrive in a potential 3-3-3-1 formation.

Croatia may have secured a vital three points in their 2-0 win against Nigeria in their opening game, but their mood can hardly be described as euphoric.

They came into the tournament under a cloud, with captain Luka Modric charged with perjury in a corruption scandal which has rocked Croatian football.

And striker Nikola Kalinic has left Russia due to a back injury, says coach Zlatko Dalic, but amid reports he refused to come on as a substitute after being left out of the starting line-up.

Off-field problems for now though have not affected them and they are expected to field an unchanged team, which also includes Messi’s Barcelona teammate Ivan Rakitic.

The teams have met only once before in the World Cup, in 1998, when Argentina won 1-0 and were the only team that year to prevent Golden Boot winner Davor Suker from scoring.

One other possible omen for Thursday; when Riva racked up his unwanted record in 1970, the Italian legend promptly scored two goals in his next match.

Argentina will be hoping for the same from Messi.



NEWLYWEDS! Royal couple Prince Harry and Meghan Markle looks happy to be presenting a trophy at the first day of Royal Ascot in the UK.

MANUSHI CHILLAR CROWNS ANUKREETHY VAS AS FEMINA MISS INDIA 2018



The legacy continues with precision and style like every year. Previous year's winner crowned the freshly chosen Miss India on stage amidst several biggies from the glamour world last night. Miss World 2017, who won Miss India last year, Manushi Chhillar crowned 19-year-old Anukreethy Vas from Chennai as Femina Miss India 2018.

Miss United Continents 2017, Sana Dua felicitated the first runner-up Meenakshi Chaudhary at the Femina Miss India 2018 finale, whereas Shreya Rao was crowned as the second runner-up by Priyanka Kumari who was Miss Intercontinental 2017.

While Anukreethy hails from Tamil Nadu, Meenakshi is from Haryana and Shreya is from Andhra Pradesh. The three beauty queens went on to get clicked by the shutterbugs on the head ramp with their stunning crowns and were all smiles as they waved and glowed with joy.

Femina Miss India finale this year saw some engaging performances by Madhuri Dixit Nene, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Jacqueline Fernandez. Hosts Ayushmann Khurrana and Karan Johar kept the audience up and lively throughout the night with their antics and wrapped up the grand event on a high.

ARIES: Other responsibilities could force you to postpone work on personal projects that mean a lot to you. This could be frustrating, Aries, and you're likely to want to sequester yourself with whatever you need to do and throw yourself into getting the problem resolved as soon as possible. You'll be able to do this as long as you don't let frustrations get the best of you. Don't sabotage your efforts.

TAURUS: Stress from overwork could have you feeling weaker than usual. You might be tempted to stay at home, get some rest, and recoup your energies. Do this if you can, Taurus. Otherwise, you may not be able to give your project the concentration it needs, and therefore may not accomplish as much as you think you should. If you feel you can't stay home, try to work alone so you won't be distracted.

GEMINI: You might feel a little gloomy today, Gemini, and perhaps have no idea why. It might be a good idea to retrace your steps for the past day or so. Look within to find out if anything you may have seen could have awakened unconscious memories from the past. What a relief if this is the case. Release the traumas from the past and you'll feel like a heavy weight has come off your shoulders.

CANCER: One of your closest friends could be in a rotten mood today, Cancer. This person might be short with everyone and not inclined to communicate why. This could be due more to personal problems and little, if anything, to do with you or anyone else. You'll probably decide to leave him or her alone to work things out and get on with your own business. This is the wisest course of action.

LEO: A project that you're rather excited about could require some intense solitary work today, Leo. You might sometimes feel as if the walls are closing in on you, but you need to concentrate in order to get the best possible results. You'll also need to take occasional breaks to clear your head. Nonetheless, you're likely to be happy with what you've accomplished by the end of the day. Get busy.

VIRGO: Have you been spending a lot of time pushing your body physically, Virgo? If so, you may be feeling the effects today. Muscle aches and exhaustion could be taking their toll on you. Forget about projects and chores and take care of yourself for a while. Try to get some rest. You won't be any good to anyone if you make yourself a martyr. Tomorrow you should be your old self again.

LIBRA: A troubled night with little

sleep could have you feeling out of sorts and not like doing much socializing today. If you can, Libra, work on projects at home alone where you can stop and take a nap if you want. Your concentration may not be what it usually is, but if you isolate yourself from distractions, you should be happy with what you accomplish. In the meantime, take care of yourself.

SCORPIO: Perhaps you invited a lot of visitors over a day or so ago, Scorpio, but today you don't feel like entertaining. Nerve strain and other stresses might leave you more in the mood to be alone. However, since your guests could be connected with your business, you won't want to cancel. The best thing to do is get a friend or family member to host with you. Accomplish what you want as quickly as possible.

SAGITTARIUS: You probably

aren't going to feel very social today, Sagittarius. In fact, you're likely to want to work on projects and tasks alone if you can. This might be good for you, since you probably need to concentrate without being distracted. Still, you should get out among others at some point during the day. You might want to be alone, but you'll still need to feel that you belong.

CAPRICORN: The need to concentrate may necessitate that you isolate yourself in order to fully focus on the task at hand, Capricorn. This is fortunate, because you'll probably accomplish a lot more than you would otherwise and be satisfied with what you've done. Those in authority should be pleased with you, too. Take care not to nibble while you work, though. You could eat too much of the wrong thing and feel the effects later.

AQUARIUS: Research on a subject related to a project could have you heading to a place where you can read without being constantly distracted, Aquarius. Your concentration is high and you're likely to accomplish a lot in this regard. Although you might not find the material as interesting as you'd hoped, the quality of the work you produce is going to get the attention of people in authority. Get going.

PISCES: Today you might spend a lot of time running errands, Pisces. You could run into friends or neighbors, but you probably won't feel like stopping to talk with them. You're apt to be working on something important that you'll want to get back to as soon as possible. Traffic or other delays could get in your way, however. Don't make yourself crazy. Go with the flow and you'll accomplish what you want.

JAMES MCAVOY CONFIRMS IT: CHAPTER 2 HAS STARTED PRODUCTION

James McAvoy confirms production is underway on IT: Chapter 2. One of the biggest hits of 2017 also happened to be one of the bigger surprises at the box office. The big screen adaptation of Stephen King's IT crushed the box office upon its September release. The R-rated coming of age horror flick went on to gross over \$700 million worldwide, giving New Line and Warner Bros. complete confidence in the sequel. Instead of focusing on the kids from the first film, an impressive cast has been assembled for the sequel.

The big get was the much requested casting of Jessica Chastain as the older Beverly, but her Dark Phoenix co-star James McAvoy also joined. He's playing the older Bill, previously portrayed by Jaeden Lieberher. The

flurry of casting announcements over the last month came as the June start date approached.

McAvoy confirmed on Instagram that production is officially underway on IT: Chapter 2. To celebrate the occasion, McAvoy had some fun with puns at the expense of the Loser's Club's hometown of Derry, Maine. No other actors involved have teased their involvement



with the start of production, but they'll likely report to set soon, if they aren't there already.

Although the Loser's Club was successful in IT in defeating Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård), they'll be brought back together in the sequel to once again try and stop him. IT: Chapter 2 will pick up 27 years after the first film, when Pennywise returns to Derry once again to kidnap and feast on the children that live there. It will be up to McAvoy's Bill and the rest of the gang to once again unite

against the demonic clown.

As filming continues in Toronto throughout the summer, McAvoy will be joined by the rest of the cast. Chastain is another headliner, but so is Bill Hader as the older Richie Tozier. There's also Jay Ryan as Ben Hanscom, Isaiah Mustafa as Mike Hanlon, James Ransone as Eddie Kasbrak, and Andy Bean as Stanley Uris. These stars - along with the lovable group of kids from the first movie - give IT: Chapter 2 a cast that can rival just about any other film. With director Andy Muschi-

etti also back, there's more talent now for him to guide and lift to great heights.

Hopefully it won't be too long before some official looks at McAvoy and company are released. Those who have read King's lengthy novel already are in the know as to where the plot could possibly go, but the question remains if Muschietti and screenwriter Gary Dauberman will add some twists to keep even the most die hard fans guessing. Either way, this is just the beginning for IT: Chapter 2.

INSTAGRAM REPORTEDLY LAUNCHING 'IGTV' VIDEO HUB FOR ONLINE CREATORS

According to multiple reports, Instagram is launching a big new video venture: a new hub for longer-form content that's designed to compete with videos from YouTube creators. TechCrunch reports that the hub will be named "IGTV" and will be part of the Instagram app's Explore tab. The videos will be vertically-orientated, full-screen, up to 4K resolution, and as long as 60 minutes (instead of the current limit of 60 seconds).

There's been talk of Instagram allowing longer videos on its platform since the beginning of June, but new reports have fleshed out those rumors. TechCrunch says that Instagram wants to attract "web celebrities" to IGTV, instead of media companies, and has been actively courting individuals to start producing content. This sounds like Instagram is positioning IGTV closer to YouTube than rival social app Snapchat's Discover hub, which has a higher presence of content from traditional outlets like MTV, Vice, and The Daily Mail.

If Instagram can attract some of the followings that figures like Jake Paul have corralled on YouTube, it would be a boon for the app's parent company Facebook, which has so far failed to create a notable video platform. It would also be a significant transition for Instagram, moving from social media to longer and more polished content. The opportunities for monetization would be significant.



SHAWN MENDES PROMISES BTS COLLABORATION IS COMING: 'IT'LL HAPPEN'

Shawn Mendes spoke to a Toronto radio station about a collaboration with Korean boy band BTS, during which he assured listeners: "It'll happen."

"Latest on the collaboration, they're a hard group to get with," Mendes told Kiss 92.5's The Roz & Mocha Show. "They're busy people. I have no lyrics on their collaboration yet. It'll happen. Promise. I can't give you a date because we haven't hung out and wrote a song yet, but it will happen. 'Cause I love them and I think -- their fans too. So I promise."

The group and soloist met at the 2017 American Music Awards, where

they discussed a potential collaboration on camera for BTS' YouTube Channel.

Both BTS and Mendes have continued to address their desire to work together on music in past interviews and are known to be fans of one another.

The two acts recently each released new albums and topped the Billboard 200 in consecutive weeks. BTS' Love Yourself: Tear, the first-ever Korean album to top the chart, hit No. 1 for the chart dated June 2, while Mendes topped the chart dated June 9 with his eponymous album.