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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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NIT-Sikkim students suspend protest following written assurance from HRDD Secy

BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 09 SEPT:

Students of National Institute of Technology (NIT) here at Rabongla, today called off their more than a month long protest strike after a written assurance arrived from Additional Chief Secretary, the HRDD Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, to find an immediate solution for the delayed permanent campus requirement of the institute.

More than 800 students of the institute, it may be recalled, have been on a strike since 25 July against the NIT administration to protest inadequate facilities and infrastructure at the institute and demanding a permanent campus for the institute.

Frustrated by the NIT-Rabongla management's and the State Government silence on



their demands, on 04 September, the students had begun a hunger strike on 04 September.

Today, on the fifth day of the hunger strike, the HRD Secretary met with the students and

reportedly assured to make immediate arrangements for a permanent campus for NIT. He also appealed to the students to end their strike and resume classes while their demands

were being addressed.

NIT-Sikkim has been functioning from a temporary campus here near Rabongla for eight years now.

The temporary facilities

are clearly inadequate even as enrolment in the institution has been increasing every year. At present, more than 230 local students and 600 students from outside Sikkim are taking courses at the institute. The enrolment numbers are also falling every year due to the poor facilities.

Similar protests by students for the same set of demands have been held in previous years as well but the demands and aspirations of the students remain undressed.

Speaking to SummitTimes, students confirmed that the HRDD Secretary met with them today and gave a written assurance that the department and the state government will find suitable land for a permanent NIT campus.

With the assurance from turn to pg03



Retd govt employees resolve to leverage experience and continue working for society

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 09 SEPT:

A general meeting of Retired Government Employee Welfare Association, Singtam branch, was held here at the Nepali Dharamsala today.

The meeting thanked the Chief Minister for increasing medical allowance for retired employees from Rs 1,000 per month to Rs 2,000.

Focusing on their responsibilities and the need to make the association even more effective, various plans, initiatives and concerns were discussed in detail today.

"Despite the long speeches and introductions, the meeting was

clearly about finding new ways to approach, encourage involvement and of course take more responsibility and that we should not delay," TB Pradhan, president of the association, said.

Members of the association need to leverage their experience to continue working for the larger interest of society as they did when they were in service, the meeting resolved.

It was also decided that at every meeting of the association a senior government employee will be felicitated in recognition of their work, Mr Pradhan informed.

Meghalaya to seek Centre's help to boost border trade

SHILLONG, SEP 9 (PTI):

The Meghalaya government is planning to appeal to the Centre to facilitate the increase of trading points along the India-Bangladesh border for the benefit of the people living at the eastern edge of the country, an official said.

Currently, there are 10 land custom stations in the state for import and export of commodities with the neighbouring country.

"The state's Commerce and Industries Department is preparing a draft proposal addressed to the central government, seeking parleys between the officials of the two countries for increase of trade channels along the border," a senior official of the in-

turn to pg02

A Teej with a difference in Gangtok

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

Teej celebrations kicked off in the capital today with a group of young people organising an open-for-all Teej, a festival which has traditionally involved only women. Many independent women converged today to give a strong message of empowering each other by sharing their experiences.

This program was held in aid of Lee Al old age home at Tintek.

The event had the participation of Rhena Rai, Chairperson, Sikkim State Women's Commission, who congratulated the organisers for a "different kind" of Teej program.

She highlighted that women in Sikkim were now independent and have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with men in the task of nation-building and were truly equal in Sikkim now.



She added that the Commission has been working actively to help women in distress and also appealed to women to approach the Commission for any help.

Entrepreneurs Shova Rai and Rajshree Subba, social workers Sunita Sirohia and Srijana Thapa Chettri were present as judges for Miss/Mrs

Teej competition held as part of the event.

The judges also shared their experiences with the audience.

Rajshree Subba stated that being a woman was a blessing and that it required a lot of guts and gumption to become a successful person in life.

She applauded women for being the torch-

bearers of love and kindness.

Similarly Shova Rai also shared details of her life struggles and held that women need to help each other to empower not just themselves but their families and society.

Meanwhile, Monalisa Bhutia was declared Mrs Teej, while best make up went to Sangeeta Sunar

and with best dress to Sandhya Gurung.

One of the organizers, Sushmita Pakhrin, stated that the main idea behind the event was to raise awareness and funds for Lee Al old age home.

The organisers have also appealed to the general public to donate and pay due attention to the old age home.



Arpinder becomes first Indian to win medal in IAAF Continental Cup

OSTRAVA (CZECH REPUBLIC), SEP 9 (PTI): Triple jumper Arpinder Singh Sunday created history

by becoming the first Indian to win a medal in the IAAF Continental Cup turn to pg03

World Suicide Prevention Day: It's okay for men to cry

MANISH SAIN

NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): Following an episode of sexual harassment at school by a senior, a sobbing Vikas Aggarwal, then a boy of 14, expressed his anguish to his parents, only to be thrashed by his father.

Unable to cope with the trauma, he decided to put an end to his misery by jumping into a nearby lake.

"Their son getting assaulted seemed like a matter of shame to my parents. They asked me to forget the incident and move on. When I had no one to talk to, ending my life seemed like the only option," Vikas told PTI on the eve of World Suicide Prevention Day.

Although he was saved in the nick of time, his assault was never raised with the school authorities. Instead, his parents decided to hush up the matter, and he was moved to a new school.

According to Johnson Thomas, director of Aasra - a Mumbai-based mental health NGO, Indian men grow up in households that teach them to present a "macho" image, that often entails hid-

ing away their vulnerabilities.

"Indian men have been conditioned to hide away their emotions and build up a macho image lest they be considered wimpy and unmanly," Thomas said.

According to NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) data, a total of 1,33,623 incidents of suicide were reported in 2015, out of which 68 per cent (91,528) were men.

Vyom Sharma, had decided to end his life in 2010, over a failed relationship.

Then a 3rd year engineering student, he sat on the edge of his hostel terrace, ready to jump off, hoping the fall would bring an end to all the "pain".

"I felt helpless. I did have my friends, but I felt nobody could understand what I was going through, and suicide seemed like the only solution," Vyom, who was saved by a friend, said.

Factors inducing suicidal thoughts remain almost the same for men and women -- stress, distress, and prolonged depression, said Delhi-based

turn to pg02

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Meghalaya to seek Centre's help to boost border trade

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dustries department told PTI.

The proposal will be in line with the state's 'Look South' policy, which is aimed at boosting Meghalaya's economy through trade with Bangladesh, he said.

"Last week, Meghalaya Commerce and Industries Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar met a group of traders to solicit their opinions and inform them about the proposal, which is still under consideration of the state," the official stated.

Dhar said the plan, if realized, will adequately improve the livelihood of people living in the border areas.

"We are keen to open more import-export points along the India-Bangladesh border," he said.

The state had earlier proposed setting up of 22 border haats during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17).

"The slow progress of paper works on both sides is a reason why the border haat plan was never executed," the commerce and industries department official said.

The state, endowed with natural resources, also offers excellent potential for export for agro-horticulture products, handloom and handicrafts, he said.

"As the state faces location disadvantages and infrastructure at many levels is not up to the mark, bilateral trade has always suffered a setback," he maintained.

Echoing similar sentiments, M Lyngdoh, a limestone exporter, said all 10 land custom stations in the state are in bad shape.

"If measures are not taken to improve the infrastructure at these custom stations, international trade will suffer in the days to come," he added.

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Protsahan-2018 held in Kpg to inspire people towards philately and numismatics

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 09 SEPT:

Protsahan-2018, a philatelic and numismatic exhibition organized by the Alpine Philatelic and Numismatic Society (APNS), Darjeeling, and supported by Glenn Foundation Family and SIP Abacus (Kalimpong) here on Saturday proved a grand success.

The daylong program included the display of more than 10,000 postal stamps, coins of different eras, the First Postage stamp of the World – The Penny Black, National Award winning Exhibit – 'Elements of Music' of Vivek Yonzon and many more Philatelic and Numismatic materials.

Two post cards featuring photographs taken by Praveen Chettri featuring Kalimpong were also released at the event.

The post cards were made available to the attendees, who could post them through the Vintage Post Box placed at the venue. The otherwise neglected and unnoticed Vintage Postbox taken all the way from Darjeeling Head Post Office received a lot of attention and love at the event with many people clicking selfies and photographs with it.

A sit & draw competition on the theme, 'Kalimpong on a Stamp,' and a Letter Writing Competition on the topic 'Importance of a Hobby' were also organized for the students of schools from Kalimpong.

More than 120 students participated in the two competitions.



"We are amazed and happy with the response and turn out for these competitions," said Vivek Yonzon, secretary, APNS, adding, "the motive of the event was to motivate and encourage the students, youth and all people into two intellectual hobbies- Philately and Numismatics, and I am sure the students who attended and

participated learnt a lot and will surely get inspired to take up these hobbies."

The Sit and Draw competition as won by students from Vrindavan School, the second prize went to Glenn Family Foundation and the third prize was won by a student from Saptashri Gyanpeeth. Both the First and the Second prize for the

Letter Writing Competition were bagged by students of Saptashri Gyanpeeth and the third prize was won by St. Augustine's School.

A 'My Stamp' counter was also installed at the event through which visitors could customize their own stamps. Palzer Sherpa and Padam Parajuli placed Dealer Booths for the

students. The participants exhibiting at the event were Vikrant Yonzon, Dr. Ranjana Yonzon, Palzer Sherpa, Anand Yonone, Sushil Karthak, Nilema Yonzon, Shital Pradhan and Padam Parajuli.

Workshops on both Philately and Numismatics were organized by Vivek and Vikrant Yonzon respectively. The students gained a lot of knowledge through the workshops and also received a lot of Postal Stamp Packets, Philatelic and Numismatic materials.

The event had Samsher Ali, ex-bureaucrat, social worker and writer as the chief guest, accompanied by Saom Tshring Namchu, Project Director, Glenn Family Foundation as guest of honour and Manohar Thapa (Writer), Roshni Rai (Advocate and Founder of Run with Rohsni Foundation), Nisha Chettri (Journalist / Correspondent to The Statesman), Devashish Mothey (Varnamala Pariwar), N Chettri (Postmaster, Kalimpong Postal Dept), Shital Pradhan (Sec, Sikkim Philatelic and Numismatic Society), Narapin Sipani and members of the iCreate team.

The Secretary thanked Lochan Gurung (SIP Abacus), Saom Tsh. Namchu (Glenn Family, Anand Yonzon (Director, North Point Academy), T Padhi (Superintendent of Post), the judges of the competitions, heads of Schools, Teachers, participants, Volunteers and all those who helped APNS in making the event a success.

Lingdok-Namping GPU celebrates Teej with felicitations

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

The Lingdok Nampung Gram Panchayat today felicitated 22 former Panchayats as part of Teej celebrations held here at Lingdok today.

A citation and shawl each were handover by the area MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, in the presence of North Zilla Adhakhya, Namdey Lepcha, and Sumitra Subba, Chairperson Sikkim Co-operative Society.

The area MLA, while addressing the Teej function said that he was duty-bound to deliver all possible assistance towards the development of the area. He said that he was trying his best to deliver the needs of the society.

He informed that projects worth more than Rs. 50 crore, includ-



ing six link roads in the village, have been sanctioned and that drinking water supply line was being restored for Lingdok and that Mining to Kabi Lungtsok was a new connectivity in the pipeline.

He stressed on community development, adding that he is delivering a supporting role to

fulfill the demands of the public. He also urged not to involve politics in social and public function.

The North Zilla Adhakhya, in turn, stressed on the preservation of culture, tradition adding that it was the paramount duty of the people to showcase their culture to young minds.

The area MLA also felicitated senior citizens of the area today.

The Zilla Panchayat spoke on the importance of Teej.

The Lingdok Nampung Gram Panchayat organised this function to motivate the young to learn more about their culture and traditions.



SWACHATA FORTNIGHT AT LINGI PAIYONG SCHOOL

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT: Various activities under Swachata Pakhwada are underway at Govt. Secondary School, Lingi Paiyong, South Sikkim, a press release informs. Over the past weeks, a skit based on cleanliness, lessons on hand washing techniques and health, personal hygiene and debate and essay writing competitions were held at the school. The skit was directed by Yogita Giri and Goma Sharma on a script written by Changzot Lepcha. Goma Sharma and Prakash Limboo demonstrated hand-washing techniques while the debate and essay competitions were based on the theme and topic of Swachcha Bharat Abhiyaan. Teachers designated for each activity delved on the importance of observation. Swachata Pakhwada is being observed from 01 to 15 September at all schools and colleges under the guidelines of MHRD.



Bethesda Church members visit Lee Aal Old Age Home

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 09 SEPT:

Members of the Bethesda Church, Mangan (Pakshap), visited Lee Aal Old Age Home here at Tintek, East Sikkim, on Saturday and offered garlands, gifts and some ration to senior citizens living there.

"We prayed for their eternal life and

healing. We found 14 senior citizens housed there and five hardworking NGO workers who are providing them good service," a member of the visiting team shared.

The idea behind sharing this update is to let other people know that senior citizens at the old age home need our support, he added.

World Suicide Prevention Day: It's okay for men to cry

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psychologist Nimesh Desai.

The director of the Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS) added that while more number of women attempted to take their own lives, it was the men's choice of suicidal methods that resulted in higher incidents of male deaths.

The number (of suicide deaths) is higher for men because of their modes of attempt. The means women choose -- consuming medicines, slashing wrists -- are not immediately likely to succeed, and the chance of being rescued are much more," Desai said.

Men, he said, resorted to methods like guns, or jumping on railway tracks, which were most likely to be fatal.

Empathising with the victims, supporting them

emotionally and psychologically, and most importantly, encouraging a "gender neutral emotional expression", was the way forward, both Thomas and Desai agreed.

"Young boys and girls must be trained to not hesitate and have false pride in expressing distress. And whenever you see someone disturbed, never make fun and never challenge. Instead, offer help in a supportive manner," Desai said.

Eight years on, Vyom is now pursuing his dream of "understanding and teaching about language" as a PhD student of linguistics at IIT Delhi.

Although, he had recurring suicidal thoughts in the years that followed the attempt, but conscious efforts to get over the problems and a circle of supportive family and friends helped him cope with his bouts of depression.



Rotary Club Gangtok felicitates 10 teachers

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

Rotary Club Gangtok, South has felicitated 10 teachers with National Builder Award here on Saturday. The award function was chaired by Harkamaya College of Education founder and director, Dr Hari Chettri as the chief guest, who gave away the awards

comprising of memento and certificate.

A press release from the club informs that the award has been presented under the Rotary India Literacy Mission.

The chief guest appreciated the initiative of the club and assured to provide all help to the club. He also appreciated the contributions and ef-

forts of teachers towards society.

The release informs that earlier, president of the club, Sunila Verma highlighted activities of the club and Rotary India Literacy Mission. The programme was also addressed by a member of the club, PK Dong and ITBP Commandant, Angat Kumar Yadav.

**Gangtok on
Monday,
10 Sept**

Temp: 25°C/17°C
Forecast: Cooler; a morning thunder-shower in parts of the area, then a couple of thundershowers.
Sunrise: 05:18 AM
Sunset: 5:48 PM

Nepali man found dead in Jammu; accused held

JAMMU, SEP 9 (PTI): A 60-year-old Nepali man was found dead Sunday in the Akhnoor area here, police said.

Police claimed to have solved the "blind murder" case by arresting the accused.

Lal Bahadur, a resident of Garam Bashi village of Lamjum (Nepal), was found dead by his employer at his poultry farm at Bharda Kalan this morning, Superintendent of Police, rural Jammu, Dushyant Sharma said.

Acting on the information, the officer said a murder case was registered and an investigation was underway.

A local suspect, Shiv Kumar, was picked up and during questioning he confessed to have committed the killing, Sharma said, adding that the weapon of offence, a wooden log, was recovered at the disclosure of the accused.

Quoting preliminary investigation, he said Kumar had an argument with the deceased over some issue and in a fit of rage hit his head with the wooden log, causing his death.

Arpinder becomes first Indian to win medal...

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as he clinched a bronze but star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished sixth with a below-par show here.

Arpinder, who had won a gold in the Asian Games in Jakarta, cleared a modest 16.59m in the first of his three jumps to be in the four-man semifinals. He could only clear a 16.33m jump in his next attempt to miss out on the two-man final jump. Nonetheless, he collected a bronze.

The 25-year-old Arpinder was representing the Asia-Pacific team in the meet, held once every four years. He had jumped 16.77m in Jakarta and has a personal best of 17.17m which he recorded in 2014.

No Indian has ever won a medal in the Continental Cup which was known as the IAAF World Cup before 2010. Two top athletes from the four regions of Europe, Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific were taking part in each of the 36 events in men and women sections taken together.

Reigning Olympic and world champion Christian Taylor of the United States easily took the gold with a jump of 17.59m, which is one metre more than the best effort of Arpinder.

Remanti Sangeet Academy opens new campus, Legend Shanti Thatal blesses event

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

Living legend of Nepali music, Shanti Thatal, inaugurated the new annexure building of Remanti Sangeet Academy here at Tadong today.

Also on the day, Remanti Sangeet Academy celebrated Teacher's Day today with a function joined by students, parents and music teachers of the academy.

RSA, opened in 2017 at Deorali, has a student strength of more than 200 at present.

Blessing the function, Ms Thatal congratulated the RSA founder, Remanti Rai, for spreading the love of music throughout the state.



"I am deeply touched by her thoughts and initiatives towards music. She has worked hard to educate the students in the field of music," she shared.

said, while urging parents to support the interest for music among their children.

She also advised the students to continue learning music, "because without music, life can be miserable".

Remanti, in turn, expressed gratitude towards the people for their love and support throughout her life.

The main purpose of opening a new campus of RSA was to provide a very wider environment as well as to meet the requirements of the increased enrolments, she said.

"Hopefully, RSA will have its own premises within one or two years," she shared.

DFSMEC for East Sikkim with Zilla Adhakshya as chairperson

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 SEPT:

SS Rai, Zilla Adhakshya, East, was unanimously appointed Chairperson of the District Food Security Mission Executive Committee [DFSMEC], at a meeting held here on Friday at the office of the Zilla Adhakshya.

A press release issued by Sushma Pradhan, District Agriculture Officer [East], Food Security and Agriculture Development Department [FS&ADD], informs that the committee has been formed under the National Food Security Mission [NFSM] for project formulation, implementation and monitoring of the scheme components at the district level.

Earlier, Bina Rai, Joint Director [East], FS&ADD briefed on the activities of NFSM as well as the role and responsibilities of DFSMEC.

She informed that the committee will work in close coordination with ICAR to achieve the main objective



of the mission which is to increase the production of rice, cereals and pulses in the state through area expansion and productivity in a sustainable manner in an identified area and restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level.

It also aims at creation of employment opportunities and enhancing farm economy, the

release adds.

The newly-appointed chairperson of the committee, Mr. Rai, in his address, welcomed all the newly-inducted members of the committee and lauded the effort put in by the Agriculture Department for the socio-economic upliftment of farmers in the state.

The other members inducted in the committee include Ms

Pradhan [Member Secretary], Lila Dhar Dahal [Progressive farmer, Tumin], BS Subba, Self Help Group representative from Assam Lingzey, Chabi Maya Sharma, NGO representative from Saku, R Singh, Sr. Scientist, KVK, ICAR, Ms. Bina Rai, Jt. Dir. [East], FS&ADD and DK Rai, representative from the Horticulture Department as members.

NIT-Sikkim students suspend protest following written assurance from HRDD Secy

contd from pg01

the State Government, the students decided to call off their strike and will resume their classes from Monday.

Meanwhile, they have also appealed to the state government to take up this matter seriously and in earnest and recognize that the present temporary campus lacks the space to undertake the required improvement in facilities and infrastructure and that a permanent campus was the only way the institute could provide proper learning.

"We have been in the

protest for more than 35 days and know that we have to face huge challenges to cover our courses. We now hope that both, the State and Central governments will listen to our long-pending demands and problems and find a complete solution," one of the protesting students said.

"We are happy the HRD Secretary has given a written assurance for our problems and we also hope that this assurance and meeting does not end up like past meetings and assurances," he added.

Centre increased excise duty 12 times on petrol, diesel: Cong

AHMEDABAD/RAJKOT, SEP 9 (PTI): Congress leaders Sunday urged the people of Gujarat to make Monday's Bharat bandh a success and accused the Centre of revising excise duty on petrol and diesel twelve times leading to a sharp spike in their prices.

The BJP-led Union government pocketed Rs 11 lakh crore from the public by raising taxes on fuel and not including petrol and diesel under GST, Congress leaders Sushil Kumar Shinde, Rajiv Satav and Amit Chavda claimed in two separate press conferences in Rajkot and Ahmedabad.

Talking to reporters in Rajkot, former union minister Sushil Kumar Shinde slammed the NDA government over rise in fuel prices and blamed its "stubborn" stand for this.

"Fuel prices can be reduced if the government includes it under GST. The government has earned over Rs 11 lakh crore through taxation on fuel," Shinde said.

He said that twelve countries were importing petrol and diesel at cheaper rates from India, while people here were made to suffer due to constant price rise.

"The government has power to reduce prices. It

appears the government lacks co-ordination with oil companies which has resulted in the rise in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas on a daily basis," Shinde claimed.

Calling people in the state to join in large numbers to support the shutdown, Congress' Gujarat in charge Rajiv Satav and state president Amit Chavda, in a joint press conference, said that despite a drop in international crude oil prices, the Narendra Modi government continued to impose excise duty leading to rise in their prices domestically.

"Since May 2014, excise duty on petrol has gone up by 211.7 per cent, on diesel by 443.06 per cent. Central excise duty was revised upwards 12 times," Satav said.

"Congress president Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly demanded that petrol and diesel be included in GST as this could reduce the price by Rs 10-15 per litre," he said.

Chavda asked party workers to ensure that the bandh remained peaceful while requesting all sections of society to support it.

He also urged small businessmen and shopkeepers to down shutters till 3 pm Monday to make the bandh a success.

'Per capita spending on legal aid in India is Rs 0.75'

NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): Legal aid lawyers are defenders of human rights and there is a need for them to be paid at the same level as public prosecutors, Delhi High Court judge Justice S Muralidhar said Sunday, during the launch of a national report on legal aid for persons in custody.

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative's (CHRI) report -- Hope Behind Bars? -- highlighted that per capita spending on legal aid in India is just Rs 0.75.

The report also stated that there is 14 per cent under-

utilisation of funds allocated to state legal services authorities.

While states like Bihar, Sikkim and Uttarakhand have utilised less than 50 per cent of allocated funds, only 339 of the 520 district legal service authorities (DLSAs) have full-time secretaries to manage delivery of legal aid services.

"Delhi High Court Justice S Muralidhar today defined legal aid lawyers as human rights defenders, and spoke on the need for legal aid lawyers to be paid at the same level as public prosecutors," a statement quoting Muralidhar said.

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Anthyesti Kriya



The Anthyesti Kriya of **Late Raju Rai** son of Man Bdr. Rai who left for his heavenly abode on 02.09.2018 falls on **11.09.2018**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us is offering prayers for departed soul at **Chowtaro Hotel, Deorali Bazaar, Gangtok, East Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

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

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Working Together to Prevent Suicides *If only it was so simple. And maybe it is*

Today, 10 September is World Suicide Prevention Day and this section returns to this frequently visited theme again. As per the World Health Organisation, as many as 8 lakh people commit suicide every year [that's one suicide every 40 seconds around the world] and around 25-times more attempt suicide.

The numbers paint a scary picture and make this a challenge requiring the world's attention. Remember, apart from the 8,00,000 lives lost to avoidable reasons, there are 2 crore others who have tied a noose for themselves or attempted some other form of ending their lives! If their triggers are left unattended, they will be among the statistics of those who 'successfully' self-destructed in the coming years. They are also clearly grappling with serious issues and even if those around them do not notice (or choose to ignore) the suicidal tendencies, they cannot be left untouched by the deep trauma of such conditions. When one takes this aspect also into consideration, then the impact of suicides and suicidal tendencies multiplies many times over because each victim and person at risk is part of a family, belongs to a circle of friends, goes to school, college or office and touches many lives on a daily basis and no matter how consciously one tries to camouflage the condition, it does get out and affect others; and with every death to a suicide, everyone associated with the person is hit by a sense of guilt at not having intervened in time. Hence, as much for the lives that can be saved through some timely intervention as also to save those left behind from wracking guilt, the theme for WSPD this year needs to be taken to heart. World Suicide Prevention Day is being observed across the world today reflecting the sentiment - 'Working together to prevent suicide.'

What is being underlined through this theme is our collective responsibility as a community to look out for those struggling with suicidal thoughts, notice their condition and engage with them in a non-judgmental way, hear them out, offer sound counsel if we can and help them access professional assistance. Suicide is a vexed problem facing Sikkim which is why more people here need to spare a minute to muster the resolve to get engaged. Studies across the world have borne out that most times, all that it takes to pull a person back from the brink is a gentle word of support, even a gesture conveying that they need not suffer in isolation.

This section has spoken often about how Sikkim is seeking to address the challenge of suicides without having figured out why so many here ending their own lives. That is an important data analysis to undertake and should be done soon, but today, let's also focus on the need to remove the stigma still associated with suicides and suicide attempts, not just on the victims but also on their families. This stigma stops many from seeking help and also denies the community the opportunity to learn and prepare for the challenge. It is important that people who have lived through a suicide attempt to be able to share their experience more widely and teach others about the value of human engagement. Societies which have sought the assistance of survivors to inform the suicide prevention programmes have learned that words and actions of others are important mediums of saving lives. Those who have overcome suicidal tendencies have often spoken movingly about reaching the point where they could see no alternative but to take their own life, and about the days, hours and minutes leading up to this. They often describe realising that they did not want to die but instead wanted someone to intervene and stop them. Many say that they actively sought someone who would sense their despair and ask them whether they were okay. That is where the investment of a minute to notice these signals becomes important. The agencies engaged in addressing the problem of suicides can help by informing people at large about how they should respond and act when they notice someone around them struggling with such dark thoughts, because, let's also accept that most of us do not know how to face such situations. And because we do not know, we choose to ignore.

As the WHO message for the day shares, "Joining together is critical to preventing suicide. Preventing suicide requires the efforts of many. It takes family, friends, co-workers, community members, educators, religious leaders, healthcare professionals, political officials and governments. Suicide prevention requires integrative strategies that encompass work at the individual, systems and community level."

Data reveals that in the wake of every suicide, 135 people suffer intense grief or are otherwise affected. Given the number of suicides Sikkim has suffered, it would be safe to vouch that just everyone here has been affected by a death due to suicide. That, in itself, should be reason enough for everyone here to work together to prevent suicides. The theme for this day has been carefully chosen. After all, it highlights the most essential ingredient for effective suicide prevention - collaboration. We all have a role to play and together we can collectively address the challenges presented by suicidal behaviour in society today.

Censorship through the millennia. And trying to locate it in the 21st Century

PETER D. MCDONALD
theconversation.com

Once upon a time we all knew what censorship was, who the good and bad guys were, and what could be done to make the world a better place. Look up the noun "censor" in the Oxford English Dictionary and you'll find an outline of a much-told story under definition 2 (b):

"An official in some countries whose duty it is to inspect all books, journals, dramatic pieces, etc, before publication, to secure that they shall contain nothing immoral, heretical, or offensive to the government."

Attributing the first instance of this usage to the English poet John Milton, the lexicographers illustrated it with a quotation from his anti-censorship pamphlet, *Areopagitica* (1644):

"He (the author) ... must appear in print like a punie (i.e. a new schoolboy) with his guardian, and his censors hand on the back of his title, to be his bayl and suretye that he is no idiot, or seducer."

Following Milton's gendered rendering, the story, therefore, went something like this: the censor was the bad guy (Milton's "temporising and extemporising licencer" with his "cursory eyes"). The writer was the good guy (Milton's "learned" champion of "free writing and free speaking"). And the plot involved the struggle of the latter against the former not just in his own interests, as a member of the "Republic of Letters", but in the interests of creating a freer and more grown-up commonwealth for all.

True, the odds were stacked in favour of the all-powerful, infantilising state. Yet no matter how often the struggle played out, the outcome was assured: the seemingly puny champions of freedom and truth would prevail in the end.

There wasn't much room for us so-called "ordinary readers" in all this. We were either the innocents the paternalistic-repressive state was supposedly trying to protect, or the voiceless fellow citizens on whose behalf the writers were supposedly fighting. But, if we wanted to make the world a better place, it was clear who we needed to support.

MESSINESS OF HISTORY

For about three centuries, that is, for the greater part of what we could call the "age of print", this story had some currency and even some plausibility. I'll gloss over the messiness of the actual history that all too often throws up inconvenient facts. It reveals in some cases, for example, censors who were not cursory or paranoid state bureaucrats but "learned men" in Milton's sense who believed they were making the world a better place.

And the canonical story hardly dated overnight.



Even in the early years of the digital revolution, it looked like it had plenty of time to run.

"Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather."

So wrote John Perry Barlow, former lyricist for the American rock band, Grateful Dead, in the opening of his 1996 "Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace", an *Areopagitica* for the digital age.

Barlow wasn't being quixotic. Far from showing any signs of weariness, the old state giants were already gearing up to make the most of the opportunities the new technologies afforded for extending their sovereignty, whether repressively (think of China), defensively (think of the UK) or aggressively (think of Russia).

The complication was that the emerging tech giants of the post-industrial world were themselves poised to become the new disrupters in ways Barlow did not anticipate.

Over the course of the next decade the likes of Google, Facebook and Twitter — the "private superpowers" as historian and commentator Timothy Garton Ash dubs them — turned Barlow's brave new cyber world into a vast profit-making machine effectively run on surveillance algorithms. At the same time they created the conditions for other actors, whether of the state (think of Donald Trump), allied to it (think of India's social media vigilantes), or outside it (think of the worldwide population of trolls), to wield new forms of "temporising and extemporising" power.

Sometimes adding the threat of violence to the mix, these new enemies of free expression act like a novel breed of self-appointed censor, deforming, infantilising or closing down public debate at every opportunity.

FREEDOM TO HOLD OPINIONS

Opening the digital Pandora's Box may have spelt the end of the old story but well before the 1990s developments in international law had already introduced other complications.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

In the aftermath of World War II and amid the gathering shadows of the Cold War, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) represented a major turning point in the long story.

It marked the moment the battle-scarred "giants of flesh and steel" collectively agreed if not to curb their powers, then at least to affirm the freedom of expression as a shared ideal.

Only six years later, however, another key UN instrument, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (drafted 1954, signed 1966), added some significant qualifications. The first was under its own Article 19(3) which covers the "rights and reputations of others" as well as "national security", "public order" and "public health or morals". Then in Article 20 it prohibited "propaganda for war" and "any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence".

As the Oxford English Dictionary notes, the phrase "hate speech", the origins of which it traces to a report about Hitler in the New York Syracuse Herald for 29 September 1938, now encompasses

"hatred or intolerance, esp towards a particular social group on the basis of ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality, etc."

At the same time Article 15(3) of the companion Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights embellished the Universal Declaration. It specifically required states, "to respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity."

Taken together, these legal, cultural and technological developments made the canonical story look less and less tenable in the new millennium. They have also reopened the most basic questions once again: What is censorship? If thinking in simple binaries still makes any sense, then who is on the side of the good and who the bad? And what can we ordinary citizen-netizens do to make the world a better place?

[the writer is Professor of English and Related Literature, University of Oxford]

ENABLING THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

RAJESH VERMA

Every year, the 14th of September is observed as the All India Flag day for the Blind. On this day the society rededicates itself to help the visually challenged integrate with the mainstream. A fund raising campaign is also carried out. As the occasion is round the corner, it prompted me to pen down a few thoughts about the scenario of the visually challenged in the state with particular focus on their education and employment.

The premier organization constituted for the welfare, training and rehabilitation of the visually challenged children of the state is The National Association for the Blind (NAB), Sikkim Branch, that was established in 1983 under the auspices of the NAB, India. Initially, the activity of the association was confined to fund collections which were utilized for the welfare of such children and youth. In 1987, the association established its flagship project the Jawaharal Nehru Memorial Institute (JNMI) for the handicapped also known as the Blind School at Boomtar, Namchi, South Sikkim. This was a major milestone and paved the way for many other development and welfare activities for the visually challenged in the state.

The JNMI has a sprawling campus with Classrooms, hostels for boys' and girls', kitchen and dining hall. It also has a well-stocked Braille library and Vocational Centre for making handicrafts. On an average it has 35 students enrolled and a staff of 18 teaching and nonteaching. Students till Class V attend classes in the JNMI Campus itself. It is here that skills particularly in Braille is imparted to

them by specially trained teachers of the schools many of whom are themselves visually impaired. In fact the Headmaster of the school himself is visually challenged but is highly skilled teaching braille and imparting training in handicraft making.

From Class VI onwards the students go to regular Government Schools at Namchi although they continue to stay in the hostels at JNMI. Even students who go on to pursue graduation at Kamrenge Government College are permitted to stay at JNMI. The extracurricular activities that the children are involved in are: PT and Games in which cricket using balls that lets out sound is particular very popular, Chess, Library, gardening, Handicraft making and Music classes. Our Orchestra is asked to perform during Independence Day and cultural events.

As the students can only read and write in Braille they are allowed the facility of a writer who is nothing but another student junior by a class or two. The writer reads the questions and writes the answers dictated by the blind student taking the examination. The use of various assistive technologies has gone a long way in improving the performance of the students in their examinations. The pass percentage in the Board examinations over the past ten years has been 100 percent.

From 2016 the salary of the staff is being met by the Social Welfare Department which also funds the fooding of the children. The HRDD Department also aids in providing Braille paper etc. NAB also organizes workshops in collaboration with

Saksham an NGO and IIT New Delhi on various assistive technologies to upgrade the skills of the students and the teachers.

Over the past 15 years the following notable measures have been taken at the JNMI for the welfare of the students

CONVERSION OF TEXT BOOKS INTO BRAILLE

A Computer Lab was set up in 2001 with Braille Printers and Duxbury Braille Translator Software for converting Word Documents into Braille. All text books prescribed in the syllabus have been converted into Braille. A powerful screen reader software was procured. It enables the user to navigate on the screen by reading out the details of the icons and the text. It is very useful when browsing the internet. The students now have access to all reading material that a normal student has.

AUDIO BOOKS AND DAISY PLAYERS

One effective way to teach the blind children is to read out the material to them. Keeping this in mind, a rich repository of documents in the audio format is being created. A talking library of audio files in MP 3 format as well as Daisy format has been established. Daisy is reading software that makes printed or electronic text accessible to people who are blind in the audio form. Most of the text books have been converted to the audio format.

What was lacking is local language content and to meet this requirement we have established a facility for recording in which audio content is being created in Nepali. Story books in local languages are to make school

going an interesting experience. Students have been provided with hand-held daisy players which they use to read books and record class lectures.

All these books have been uploaded on the national level digital library Sugamya Pustakalya so that can users can download content that interests them.

SMART CANES

The canes that the visually challenged normally use to feel their way around are akin to walking sticks. Smart canes on the other hand are canes that vibrate if there is an obstruction in front of the user thus enabling him to navigate. 10 smart canes were issued to students last year.

Garden of Senses

In 2016 a Garden containing aromatic and fruit plants was set up in the premises of JNMI. It enables the students to identify the plants through their sense of touch and smell. Each student has been assigned two plants to look after and their name tags have been placed adjacent to each plant.

EXCURSION TRIPS

An excursion trip was organized by Birdwatching Organisation Lakshya to Kitam Bird Century on 13th April 2017 for the students and teachers of JNMI. The students were educated to identify various birds in the Sanctuary by the bird calls. NAB organized an educational tour for the children and staff of JNMI to Rabdentse, the ruins of the second capital of Sikkim in West Sikkim as part of the celebration of Children's Day 14th Nov 2017.

Despite all these proactive steps, the main stumbling block has been providing employment. NAB has

turn to 05

Acid-attack survivors walk the ramp

KOLKATA, SEP 9 (PTI): Five acid-attack survivors walked the ramp as show-stoppers donning outfits of ace fashion designer Agnimitra Paul at an event here, with a galaxy of dignitaries from different walks of life cheering them.

State Women and Child Development and Social Welfare (Independent Charge) minister Sashi Panja, who was present on the occasion on Saturday, commended the efforts put in by the girls to make this turnaround possible.

“They are not acid attack victims, they are survivors,” she said.

To a question, Panja said, the government has always stood by women, who have been subjected to attacks and torture by providing them emergency treatment at state hospitals.

“We are also ready to help them in getting legal assistance if they approach the state government,” she said.

Coming back to the event, Panja said, “What I liked the most is their confidence, none of them are embarrassed of the



scars. Infact they are the most beautiful women as their beauty comes from within.”

Paul, who designed their clothes, said the five women were “show-stoppers” in the truest sense of the term.

“If we consider what they had gone through, the battle

they had waged after such brutal physical attacks on them, these five women will eclipse any celebrity from the world of glamour or sports.”

The show also advocated stringent punishment for perpetrators of acid-attacks, the designer stated.

“If we can carry on protests against rape, we should also be equally vociferous in our protests against acid attack. There should be equally stringent laws to convict acid-attack accused,” she asked.

Recounting the battles of the women, whose names

could not be disclosed, Paul said “One of them had acid thrown at her by in-laws and husband for giving birth to a daughter. She came out and brought up the girl with great difficulty.

“But her daughter, for whom she had faced the brunt of the savage attack, died two years ago. I told the woman not to let the smile on her face go away and face the world and adversities with her head held high.”

The women, dressed in vibrant outfits, were overjoyed to learn they can take these outfits home, Paul said.

“This is just a tiny gesture on my part to tell them how special they are,” she added.

The five acid-attack survivors walked the ramp on the sidelines of a beauty pageant ‘Tanaya’ at ‘Bengal Club’.

Bengali actor Rudranil Ghosh, actress Mimi Chakraborty, Kanchana Moitra, painter Suvaprasanna and danseuse-social activist Alakananda Roy were among those present in the audience to cheer the five women.

Petrol, diesel prices scale new highs

NEW DELHI, SEP 9 (PTI): Petrol and diesel prices set new records Sunday as they continued their upward march on fall in rupee and surge in global crude oil rates.

Petrol price was Sunday raised by 12 paise a litre and diesel by 710 paise per litre, according to the price notification issued by state fuel retailers.

The increase pushed the petrol price in Delhi to Rs 80.50 per litre. Diesel rate touched its highest level of Rs 72.61 a litre.

Fuel prices in Delhi are the cheapest among all metros and most state capitals due to lower taxes.

Opposition parties have called for a nation-wide ‘Bharat Bandh’ on Monday (September 10) to protest against the spiralling fuel prices. They blame the government’s unwillingness to cut excise duty for the high fuel prices and consumer burden.

Since mid-August, petrol price has risen by Rs 3.42 a litre and diesel by Rs 3.84 per litre as rupee hit record low against the US dollar, making imports costlier.

Almost half of the retail selling price of the two fuels is made up of central and state taxes. According to oil companies, petrol at refinery gate costs around Rs 40.50 a litre and diesel Rs 43.

The Centre currently levies a total excise duty of Rs 19.48 per litre of petrol and Rs 15.33 per litre on diesel. On top of this, states levy Value Added Tax (VAT) -- the lowest being in Andaman and Nicobar Islands where 6 per cent sales tax is charged on both the fuels.

Mumbai has the highest VAT of 39.12 per cent on petrol, while Telangana levies the highest VAT of 26 per cent on diesel. Delhi charges a VAT of 27 per cent on petrol and 17.24 per cent on diesel.

Tribal couple killed in Odisha on suspicion of practising witchcraft

BARIPADA (ODISHA), SEP 9 (PTI): A tribal couple was allegedly killed in their sleep for practising witchcraft in Odisha’s Mayurbhanj district, police said Sunday.

The incident took place at Kukudajodi village under Baripada Sadar Police Station area on Saturday, the police said adding that the deceased couple has been identified as Purna Hembram (56) and Singha Hembram (50).

The police have arrested one person in this connection, said Swarnalata Minz, IIC Baripada Sadar Police Station.

While the mutilated body of Purna was found in a pool of blood outside their house, his wife’s body with throat slit, had been recovered from the bedroom.

The incident took place when the couple was sleeping, police said.

The villagers said that the couple was staying alone as their daughters were married and stayed elsewhere. Their son, who also works outside the state, had returned to the village but had gone to his father-in-law’s house yesterday.

Bangladeshi researchers claim to have decoded hilsa genome

DHAKA, SEP 9 (PTI): Researchers in Bangladesh claimed to have successfully mapped the genome sequence of the popular hilsa fish.

The research was conducted separately by two teams, but they announced their results to media nearly simultaneously, the bd-news reported.

Scientists believe that discovering the genome sequence of the hilsa fish will provide a holistic understanding of the organism’s biology and can be used to increase the fish’s production and ensure its conservation.

A genome is the complete set of genes or genetic material present in an organism. The genome sequence is the order of DNA nucleotides that make up the organism’s DNA. The particular sequence of these nucleotides determines many of an organism’s characteristics.

Nearly 75 per cent of the world’s hilsa comes from Bangladesh. However, hilsa production is nearly 10 per cent of the country’s total fish production.

Bangladesh produces nearly 387,000 tonnes of hilsa a year, with a total market value of Tk 158.7 billion. Hilsa production composes nearly 1 per cent of Bangladesh’s GDP.

Last year the hilsa was internationally recognised as a geographical indication (GI) product of Bangladesh.

Prof Dr Samsul Alam of the Department of Fisheries Biology and Genetics at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) led one of the research teams investigating the hilsa genome, the daily said.

The Agricultural University group says it began its research in December 2015. It collected DNA samples from adult hilsa in the Bay of Bengal and the Meghna River and successfully mapped the gnome within two years, the re-



search team said.

According to Prof Alam, the hilsa genome has 7.68 million nucleotides, nearly a quarter of the number found in humans. The complete sequence will help answer numerous questions about the species, he said.

“Hilsa breeds twice a year. We can now investigate whether different types of hilsa breed in different times, whether the stock of hilsa in the Padma and Meghna are different, whether those hilsa spawn that are born in certain rivers return to them for breeding after they have grown in the sea we can find an answer to all these questions through the genome.”

The other research team was led by Dhaka University Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology’s Prof Haseena Khan, though the project was initiated by Bangladeshi-born biotechnologist Dr Mong Sano Marma.

The research was conducted in the US, Australia and at Dhaka University after Dr Marma submitted the proposal, said Prof Khan.

His discoveries have yet to be sent to any international forum, she said.

The team collected DNA and RNA samples from hilsa fish at several locations including rivers, estuaries and the sea. Research was then conducted separately in Dhaka, the US and Australia.

The full results were arranged by Dr Marma in the US. The DNA assembly work was done in Australia. The other members of the research team in Dhaka are working on decoding the RNA of the hilsa.

ENABLING THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

contd from pg04

been supporting the students in pursuing higher studies outside the state in terms of admission and even a little financial help in case of economically backward students. Less than 50 percent of the pass outs manage to get regular employment as Clerks, Physiotherapists, telephone operators etc from the reservation quota for the disabled. A product of JNMI is a regular PGT teacher since 2002 at Namchi Sr Secondary School who teaches history to sighted children.


However others, even the ones who do graduation languish at home. The situation is aggravated as some students drop out midway as they are not able to cope with their studies. We have initiated some income generation programmes for the visually challenged using a cottage industry

model. As a pilot proof of project two school drop-out girls are being supplied unpasted envelopes at their homes. After they paste them, we collect the envelopes and supply to the Government Departments. The profit that accrues from this venture is deposited into the bank accounts of the girls. Besides imbibing in them a sense of self-esteem, it also enables them to support and supplement their family income. Depending on its success, we will think of replicating and scaling the venture to other visually challenged individuals. The idea is to make them self-reliant and not dependent on compassion and charity. The Government is also in the process of issuing a circular advising all Departments to procure their requirements of brown envelopes from us. Vermicomposting is another venture we

have just begun. Leaves, decaying vegetation and kitchen waste are being collected from the JNMI and converted to manure which we intend to packet and sell in the local market. We are also exploring the possibility of setting up two greenhouses in the premises to grow vegetables that can supplement the diet of the students.

It is heartening to note that the strength of the school over the years is steadily decreasing: 45 a decade ago to only 32 students now. Ironically, we are happy: it is an indication that the number of visually challenged in the state is dwindling rapidly. Perhaps the Government driven health schemes like CATCH have a role to play in this positive development.

(The writer is president, National Association for the Blind, Sikkim Branch)



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Memo No: 590/SD IV/R&B/17-18/143

Date: 05.09.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (East-I), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class III Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and 556/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 28.08.2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:-

Sl. no.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1	Construction of Link road from NH 10 (near India Press, Burtuk) towards ICDS & Gurung Gaon, Burtuk via Gurung Crematorium in East Sikkim (Part -I).	19827575.00	495689.00	30000.00	18 months.
2.	Construction of Link road from NH 10 (near India Press, Burtuk) towards ICDS & Gurung Gaon, Burtuk via Gurung Crematorium in East Sikkim (Part -II).	16102327.00	402558.00	30000.00	18 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form) from the Office of the Divisional Engineer (East-I), Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.	8 th Oct. 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
2.	Date of issue of tender Forms on submission of TDR (as Earnest money) from the Office of the Divisional Engineer (East-I), Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.	10 th Oct 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
3.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender in the Office of the Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Deorali, Gangtok.	12 th Oct 2018 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
4.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender in the Office of the Gangtok Muncipal Corpora-tion, Deorali, Gangtok	12 th Oct 2018 (2.30pm)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applicants should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Services Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in as above from the office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Gangtok, on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (non-refundable) under the receipt the **Head “1501101” sell of tender papers (Gangtok Municipal Corporation).**
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl.No 3(a &b) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box in the office of the Councillor, Ward No: 1, Upper Burtuk, Gangtok Mincipal Corporation, Deorali, Gangtok on the date and within the time indicated above.**
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other applicable Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labours at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of the work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in the analysis of rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
 - Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period. i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors’ bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.**

R.O. No. 331/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
dt. 6.9.2018

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Divisional Engineer (East –I),
Roads & Bridges Department,
Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok

Sweat, friends and bagels: The making of Naomi Osaka

NEW YORK, SEPT 9 (AFP): In an age of robotic press conferences where players are staying focussed and taking it one match at a time, Naomi Osaka breezes in, confesses to being fond of sweating, eating 500 bagels a day and having only one friend.

It's all peppered with liberal doses of 'likes', 'you knows' and 'stuff'.

And it made her the breakout star of the 2018 US Open where on Saturday she became first Japanese to win a Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 6-4 win over childhood idol Serena Williams in a controversial final.

"It was always my dream to play Serena in the US Open finals," she said before turning to the American on the trophy podium.

"I'm really grateful I was able to play with you, thank you."

Osaka wasn't even two years old when Williams won the first of her six US Opens in 1999.

Born on October 16, 1997 in -- appropriately -- Osaka, Japan, she was still a year away from moving to the United States on a permanent basis.



Her Haitian father Leonard met and married her mother Tamaki having decamped to Japan from New York where he had studied.

Now based in Boca Raton, Florida, Osaka has dual Japanese-American citizenship.

It's a status that could help explain what her coach Sascha Bajin describes as her innocence.

When Osaka performs me-

dia duties with her own national press, she takes questions in Japanese but replies in English, apologising for not knowing the appropriate word when she does resort to her mother tongue.

Despite that she is careful not to be seen as disrespectful.

-- 'SUPER-AWESOME' JAPAN --

"When you go to Japan, everything is totally awesome and you're hav-

ing the time of your life," she says.

"Every day you go out and you eat good food and stuff."

"When I go to Japan, I don't feel like I'm at home. I feel like it's a super-awesome extended vacation that I don't want to leave."

Despite being a relative rookie on tour, Osaka has developed into a big-stage player.

Standing an impressive 1.80m

(5ft 11in), she made her Grand Slam debut at the 2016 Australian Open, coming through qualifying to make the third round where it took former champion Victoria Azarenka to stop her.

Current number one Simona Halep halted her progress at the French Open in the third round that year while at the US Open, she gave up a 5-1 lead in the final set to lose to Madison Keys, the player she beat to make Saturday's final.

Before this year's trip to New York, she registered her best Slam run at the Australian Open in January where she made the last 16 and where Halep again proved her downfall.

So, it wasn't a surprise when her first WTA title came at one of the non-Slam's grandest stages, the prestigious Indian Wells event.

Out in the southern Californian desert, she knocked out Maria Sharapova in the first round, Halep in the semi-finals before lifting the title with victory over Daria Kasatkina.

In seven matches, she dropped only one set.

The following week, she de-

feated Williams in her opening match in Miami.

Like Williams, Osaka has enjoyed a sibling rivalry although nowhere near as intense and barrier-breaking as Serena and her sister Venus.

Big sister Mari Osaka is also a professional who this week was playing on the second-tier circuit in Switzerland, losing in the quarter-finals of a USD 60,000 event.

Victory on Saturday earned Naomi USD 3,800,000 but she remembers the days when her older sister was the best player in the Osaka household.

"When I was practicing with my dad, if my sister wasn't there, I don't think I would have made it," she said.

"She beat me 6-0 until I was 15, and then I don't know what happened but one day I beat her 6-2. I'm not sure if you call that a rivalry if someone beats you every day 6-0 for 15 years."

After Saturday, there will be no more arguments in the Osaka household as a new star was born on the WTA circuit.



Bolt takes break from Australia football training

SYDNEY, SEPT 9 (AFP): Sprint legend Usain Bolt's football training has been put on hold after he flew out of Australia for a "previously planned commitment", his A-League club has said.

The Jamaican superstar is pursuing his long-held dream of playing professional football and arrived in Gosford, 75 kilometres (47 miles) north of Sydney, last month for training with the Central Coast Mariners.

The 32-year-old has been with the A-League side for three weeks and in late August made a 20-minute cameo for the club in a pre-season game.

"Usain Bolt will be abroad from Sunday, 9 September to Sunday, 16 September for a previ-

ously planned commitment," the Mariners said on Saturday.

"This commitment was agreed between Usain Bolt and the Central Coast Mariners before his training period commenced with the club."

The team did not say where Bolt was travelling to, but Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported that he was going to France for an event.

Bolt's arrival has generated excitement on the Central Coast, with some 10,000 people packing the local stadium for his football debut.

The world's fastest man has struggled with his fitness since arriving, but said last month that he hoped to be ready to go by the start of the A-League season in mid-October.

We couldn't execute our plans to tailenders: Bumrah

LONDON, SEPT 9 (PTI): An extra bowler would have allowed the rest of the attack more time to recuperate, feels Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who conceded they failed to execute their plans against England's tailenders on the second day of the final Test.

India had opted to drop allrounder Hardik Pandya and play debutante Hanuma Vihari, who bowled only one over on the opening day.

Asked if India missed a fifth bowler, Bumrah said: "I don't know about team selection. That's a question for the management."

"When you have an extra bowler, that gives you some cushion while bowling. With four bowlers you tend to bowl more overs because then you have to come back quickly (to bowl)."

"That was the only difference I felt, otherwise we tried our best, we bowled our hearts out, we bowled a lot of overs. An extra bowler sometimes gives you enough rest," he said.

England were placed at 198-7 after



day one but they escaped to 332, thanks to Jos Buttler's 89.

At end of day two, India were placed at 174-6.

Bumrah said: "We were in a good position at 190-odd for seven, but they batted well and we couldn't capitalize. So it is a combination of both. We tried hard to bowl in the right areas but we couldn't bowl that well today and they

also applied well."

England's lower order has been a problem for India throughout this series, and it was once again the case on Saturday as Buttler put on 33 runs with Adil Rashid and then 98 runs with Stuart Broad.

Asked about any specific plans for the lower-order batsmen, Bumrah said, "There has been no specific planning

for lower order batsmen. You plan for each batsman, even if they are lower-order, we respect them. We tried to execute plans today but it didn't work."

Talking about Buttler, Bumrah said that the batsman took his chances and it paid off.

"Just because Buttler scored runs, doesn't mean we found it difficult to bowl against him. As a bowling unit, we never say if we get him early that we found it easy. He played well today and was taking his chances," he said.

"When you are batting with the tail, you can take your chances, take your freedom and our batsmen have done that as well before in the first Test when Virat (Kohli) was playing with the tail."

"So you have a lot of freedom and you can express yourself you have nothing to lose. Nobody would say anything if you get out, so a batsman has win-win situation in that position. If it doesn't pay off, it's okay; if it does pay off it's a bonus for the team," he added.

Will continue to improve my timing: Hima Das

GUWAHATI, SEP 8 (PTI): Asian Games gold medallist Hima Das said Saturday that she will continue to improve her timing and try to qualify for the Olympics in 2020.

"There is only two years for the Olympics and I do not know whether I will qualify or not but I will continue trying to improve my timing," Das told reporters here.

The ace sprinter from Assam, popularly called 'Dhing Express', further said that the Athletics Federation of India and Indian Olympic Association along with her coach will discuss and decide where she will train.

"Wherever they send us to practice, we will go," she said.

The athlete further said that she would concentrate equally on 400 m



and 200 m.

Hima, who has been appointed as Assam's sports ambassador, said she would take up the responsibility seri-

ously and remain committed to sports.

She also thanked the Assam government for support in her endeavour, particularly its sports policy which she

said will help in bringing more players to the forefront.

"Hopefully, at least 10-15 sportspersons will get medals in the next Asiad," she added.

Rigorous training, good nutrition and practice in suitable weather are the key to success, she said and hoped the players will follow this regime to achieve it.

Hima arrived here yesterday to a rousing welcome after winning three medals, including a gold, at the recently concluded Asian Games at Jakarta and also won the gold medal in the World Under-20 Championships at Finland in July.

The Assam government felicitated Hima at a function yesterday and presented a cheque of Rs 1.6 crore.

Osaka's US Open win: rare good news in disaster-hit Japan

TOKYO, SEPT 9 (AFP): Japan on Sunday hailed Naomi Osaka's stunning upset against the legendary Serena Williams to win the US Open, giving the nation some rare good news after a summer of deadly natural disasters.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led the praise, taking to Twitter to congratulate Osaka after her 6-2, 6-4 win in New York.

"Congratulations on your victory at the US Open. The first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam title. Thank you for giving energy and inspiration to the whole of Japan," the premier tweeted.

Abe was on his way to the northern island of Hokkaido where a massive earthquake last week sparked landslides that buried houses in a rural town, killing at least 35 people and injuring hundreds of others.

Osaka's grandfather Tetsuo Osaka, 73, lives in Hokkaido and said he wept watching his granddaughter on television.

"It still hasn't sunk in for me yet. The moment she won, my wife and I rejoiced together. I was so happy, I cried," he told public broadcaster NHK.



"I hope she stays healthy and continues her good work. I also hope she wins at the Tokyo Olympics (in 2020)," he said.

Fellow tennis star Kei Nishikori flooded Twitter with emojis of trophies, thumbs up and Japanese flags, followed by a simple tweet of "proud" alongside a Japanese flag.

And Tsuyoshi Fukui, a former top

Japanese player and now senior official at the Japanese Tennis Association, said Osaka's performance would help to cheer the country up after typhoons, floods and earthquakes dominated the headlines this summer.

Osaka's "tenacious and patient performance ... must have been a great show of encouragement to those Japanese people

who saw damage from such things as typhoons and earthquakes," Fukui told Japanese media.

Meanwhile, NHK took a break from its round-the-clock coverage of the disaster to turn to happier news.

"Osaka wins women's US Open, becomes first Japanese to win Grand Slam," blared the broadcaster's top headline.

Sports Nippon newspaper said Osaka had achieved a "complete victory" against an "irritated Serena who broke her racket".

The Asahi Shimbun daily said on Twitter it would be printing an extra edition and distributing it in Tokyo.

- 'PRIDE OF JAPAN' -

The final will probably be remembered for a meltdown from Williams who called the chair umpire a "thief" as much as for the 20-year-old's historic win.

Williams's tantrum overshadowed an outstanding performance from Osaka, who made her second career title a Grand Slam after winning her first at Indian Wells in March.

Osaka has dual Japanese-American citizenship and often replies to questions

from Japan's media in English, apologising for not knowing the appropriate word when she speaks Japanese.

After earning 3.8 million (3.29 million Euros) for the victory, Osaka said her next goal was a simple one: to win her next tournament in Tokyo.

Asked if she was prepared for the reception she'll receive as the country's first Grand Slam winner, Osaka said: "Apparently not, because people keep asking me that."

Japan remains a fairly homogenous country and mixed race children -- especially those with black heritage -- can often face prejudice, although attitudes among younger generations are changing.

And Japanese fans on social media were happy to claim her as one of their own on the day of her greatest triumph.

"Her interview showed that she is clearly Japanese -- regardless of where she was born, where she grew up, the colour of her skin and the language that she speaks," said one fan on Twitter.

"You are the pride of Japan."

Watergate memories spring to life with Trump's troubles

WASHINGTON, SEP 9 (AP): The White House seethes with intrigue and backstabbing as aides hunt for the anonymous Deep (state) Throat among them.

A president feels besieged by tormentors Bob Woodward is driving him crazy so he tends his version of an enemies list, wondering aloud if he should rid himself of his attorney general or the special prosecutor or both.

For months, the Trump administration and its scandals have carried whiffs of Watergate and drawn comparisons to the characters and crimes of the Nixon era.

But this week, history did not just repeat itself, it climbed out of the dustbin and returned in the flesh.

There was John Dean again, testifying on the Hill, warning anew about a cancer on the presidency. Nearly every element in President Donald Trump's trouble has a Watergate parallel.

Special prosecutor Robert Mueller is leading an independent investigation sparked by a break-in at the Democratic National Committee, the same target that opened the Watergate can of worms, though this time the burglary was digital and linked to Moscow, not the



Oval Office.

President Richard Nixon first ordered his attorney general, and then the deputy, to fire the Watergate special prosecutor; they refused and quit on a convulsive weekend that gave history the Saturday Night Massacre but did not derail the independent investigation or Nixon's collapse for long.

Trump, for his part, fired the acting attorney general as well as FBI Director James

Comey, triggering the Mueller investigation that has dogged him for more than a year.

Some of the same reporters are causing the president's pique.

It was Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the reporters who uncovered the Watergate break-in, getting under the president's skin once again.

"Dem operative," Trump fumed about Woodward. "Degenerate fool," he said of

Bernstein, who helped report a CNN Russia-probe related story that Trump contends is "a major lie."

"Everybody's trying to get me," Trump told an aide, according to the new Woodward book, "Fear." The book describes a tragi-comedy inside the White House with top aides dismissing the president as an "idiot."

In Nixon's time, top lieutenant Henry Kissinger called his boss "meatball mind" be-

hind his back.

But in those days, the world did not have Twitter or a US president who would have been publicly airing his visceral feelings on it even if he could.

"This is a president who says things publicly that we know from the tapes that Nixon said privately," says Timothy Naftali, a New York University historian who directed the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

"It's as if Trump is wrestling with the history of Watergate openly. It's the president who is inviting these parallels."

Trump's list of those he considers enemies is obvious on his Twitter feed. It includes former political opponents, his own attorney general, his predecessor and former national security officials, whose security clearances he's threatened.

Now he's added an anonymous senior official who authored a New York Times op-ed describing the president as amoral.

The aide described a "steady state" within the administration working to temper Trump's erratic impulses a portrait just a degree away from the "deep state" Trump

says is resisting his policies. Trump said Friday he thinks the Justice Department should investigate the unnamed official's identity.

In Nixon's time, on August 16, 1971, a White House memo laid out thoughts about "how we can use the available federal machinery to screw our political enemies."

Prosecution, litigation and the withholding of grants and contracts were considered and Nixon loyalists were asked to contribute names to the list.

Nixon's enemies list was written by Dean, the lawyer-fixer who abandoned loyalty to Nixon and helped bring down his presidency. Democrats asked Dean to appear at the Senate's Supreme Court hearings as an expert of executive power. He presented himself as an older and wiser man.

"There is much to fear from an unchecked president who is inclined to abuse his powers," Dean told senators. "That is a fact I can attest to from personal experience."

As counsel to the president, Dean arranged hush money to the Watergate burglars who tried to find material helpful to Nixon's 1972 re-election at Democratic offices in the Watergate complex.

Dean participated broadly in the cover-up of Nixon's culpability before breaking with the president and delivering devastating testimony to the Senate Watergate committee. He served four months for obstruction of justice; Nixon resigned from office under threat of being removed by impeachment.

Dean's loose counterpart today: Michael Cohen, who as Trump's personal lawyer arranged hush money to women alleged to have had affairs with Trump.

Cohen pleaded guilty to eight criminal charges and said in federal court he broke campaign finance laws as part of a cover-up that Trump had directed, an accusation the president denies.

Or perhaps Dean's equivalent is Don McGahn, the White House counsel who has cooperated with investigators and sat for hours of interviews. It's not yet clear whether McGahn gave up material damaging to the president.

Trump is not accused of any crime and the series of convictions Mueller has achieved against Trump campaign aides has not unearthed collusion between Moscow and the campaign. There's no smoking gun.

Arif Alvi sworn in as Pakistan's new president

ISLAMABAD, SEP 9

(PTI): Arif Alvi, a close ally of Prime Minister Imran Khan and one of the founding members of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, was sworn in as Pakistan's new president Sunday.

The 69-year-old dentist was administered the oath of office as Pakistan's 13th President by Chief Justice Saqib Nisar at a simple ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr (the President House) here.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by top civil-military brass including Prime Minister Khan and Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Saudi Information Minister Awwad Bin Saleh Al Awwad were also present at the event.

Dr Alvi had defeated Pakistan Peoples Party candidate Aitzaz Ahsan and the Pakistan Muslim League-N nominee Maulana Fazlur Rehman in a three-way presidential contest.

In Pakistan, the President is considered as a symbol of the federation and head of the state and exercises all powers on the recommendations of the prime minister.

Alvi belongs to Karachi and comes from a family that migrated to Pakistan after partition. His predecessors Mamnoon Hussain's



family came from Agra and Pervez Musharraf's parents migrated from New Delhi.

He shares an interesting connection with India as his father Dr Habib ur Rehman Elahi Alvi was a dentist to India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, according to the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

Alvi started his political career about five decades ago when he was a student of de'Montmorny College of Dentistry, an affiliate of University of Punjab in Lahore. He was part of the students' wing of Jamaat-i-Islami (JIH) and protested against military ruler Ayub Khan.

"During one of the protests on the Mall Road in Lahore, he was shot at and wounded, and still proudly carries a bullet embedded in his right arm as a mark of his struggle for democracy in Pakistan," according to the PTI website.

He participated in elections from the JIH in 1979 but lost. Later he became disillusioned with the politics of the JIH and joined the PTI as one of its founding mem-

bers in 1996. He also helped in writing the Constitution of the new party.

Alvi contested his first election for the PTI in 1997 but lost. His affiliation with the party continued and he steadily rose in its ranks.

He was the Secretary-General of the party from 2006 till 2013. In 2013 he was

elected as a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan from Constituency NA-250 Karachi and was re-elected in July 2018.

Apart from his political struggle, Alvi is also a professional dentist.

He acquired his dental degree BDS (Dentistry) from de'Montmorny College of Dentistry and Master of Science degree in Prosthodontics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1975 and Master of Science in Orthodontics in 1984 from University of the Pacific, San Francisco.

In 1997, Alvi was declared a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthodontics. He was the primary author of the constitution of the Pakistan Dental Association and has been elected the President of the Pakistan Dental Association.

The new President is married with Samina Alvi and the couple have four children.

With his close ally Alvi as President, Prime Minister Khan can smoothly implement his agenda, according to observers.

Boris Johnson under fire over personal life, latest Brexit jibe

LONDON, SEP 9 (PTI):

Britain's former foreign secretary Boris Johnson Sunday came under fire from different sides of his Conservative party in the wake of a controversial dossier on his personal life and his fresh attack on British Prime Minister Theresa May by comparing her Brexit plans with a "suicide vest".

The Tories were rocked by revelations that May's aides drew



up a dossier on the former Cabinet minister's flamboyant sex life in an apparent effort to prevent him from becoming Prime Minister.

The document, leaked to the 'The Sunday Times' by a Conservative party source, contains

a catalogue of explosive allegations about Johnson's sexual liaisons and damning assessments of his character.

The 4,000-word so-called "war book" emerged as Johnson and his Indian-origin wife Marina Wheeler announced earlier this week that they were to divorce and was allegedly prepared during the post-Brexit referendum Conservative party lead-

ership election in 2016 but shelved as Johnson withdrew from the race to make way for Theresa May as party leader.

The dossier accuses Johnson of "lying" about his affair with the socialite Petronella Wyatt, who had to abort his child, and claims he had an affair with the journalist Anna Fazackerley "on one occasion visiting both her and Petronella Wyatt on the same night".

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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N Korea stages huge parade, holds back on advanced missiles

PYONGYANG, SEP 9 (AP):

North Korea staged a huge military parade on Sunday to mark its 70th anniversary as a nation but held back its most advanced missiles and devoted nearly half of the parade to civilian efforts to build the domestic economy.

The strong emphasis on the economy underscores leader Kim Jong Un's new strategy of putting economic development front and center.

Kim attended the morning parade but did not address the assembled crowd, which included the head of the Chinese parliament and high-level delegations from countries that have friendly ties with the North.

Senior statesman Kim Yong Nam, the head of North Korea's parliament, set the relatively softer tone for the event with an opening speech that emphasised the

economic goals of the regime, not its nuclear might.

After a truncated parade featuring tanks, fewer than the usual number of missiles and lots of goose-stepping units from all branches of the military, along with some students and others, the focus switched to civilian groups, ranging from nurses to construction workers, many with colourful floats beside them.

Although North Korea stages military parades almost every year, and held one just before the Olympics began in South Korea in February this year, Sunday's parade came at a particularly sensitive time.

Kim's effort to ease tensions with President Donald Trump have stalled since their June summit in Singapore. Both sides are now insisting on a different starting point.



THAT'S HOT! The OG selfie queen, Paris Hilton, snaps a pic at the Jasmine runway show during New York Fashion Week.

It is illogical to keep taking risks: Shahid Kapoor

MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI): It's his passion for acting that makes Shahid Kapoor push himself as a performer, but he is also aware of the fact that taking too many risks as an actor is "illogical".

Shahid made his way into the hearts of the audience with his charming looks in films like "Ishq Vishk", "Vivah" and startled everyone with his performance in "Kaminey", "Haider" and "Udta Punjab".

"It is illogical to keep taking risks and doing different things but there is a need to rediscover yourself every time. Today, audience wants different things," he told PTI.

"I want to grow and reach out to a wider audience. I want to tell stories that are new, different and exciting without having to sacrifice on



any creative cravings that the team might have. It is a tough combination," he added.

The actor said the continuous media glare and scrutiny does not bother or scare him.

"These days you get noticed a lot, it has all changed. I think the kids who are starting out and who are new should worry about it. I don't get scared by over exposure, I have been here since 15 years."

The actor added he is aware about the pros and

cons of the paparazzi culture.

"If I don't post the pictures of Misha, somebody will click her and that is my reality. I wish I could draw a line... I would have drawn it long back. People should draw a line.

"Children when they are in natural spaces they should not be made so conscious of themselves. It is part of my job and I know what comes with it. I am doing my best to find comfort with it."

Shahid and his wife Mira have been blessed with their second child a baby boy.

On the professional front, Shahid is looking forward to the release of "Batti Gul Meter Chalu" and will soon start working on the Hindi remake of "Arjun Reddy" and a film with "Airlift" fame director Raja Krishna Menon.

Best filmmakers are always unsure of their films: Anurag Kashyap

JUSTIN RAO

MUMBAI, SEP 9 (PTI): More than a decade and over a dozen films later, Anurag Kashyap's filmmaking process remains the same -- start a movie "blindly" and find it's voice along the way being unsure of the outcome.

Kashyap says he has always tried to find his films in the process.

"I know a lot of filmmaker friends of mine who have figured their film out before they go to shoot. Shooting is execution for them. For me, shooting is the process of finding my film, my voice, articulating what I am trying to say," Kashyap told PTI.

The director, who has helmed several award winning features like "Gangs of Wasseypur" series, "Gulaal", "Dev D" says he always get his films "only at the end of it."

"I feel 'oh, this is done! And then I move on. I always start blind. The only film that I haven't started blind was 'Bombay Velvet'. Everything was too prepared. First time I worked with an organised AD system and there were



proper shoot hours," he adds.

Working in a set up like this might make filmmakers constantly question if they're getting it right, but the "Mukabaaaz" director says, there is no such fear.

"There's no fear of not getting it right. It's actually what drives us. It's the fuel. The best filmmakers across the world are unsure of their films. Even after its release they think if they got it right

or not. It's only the filmmakers that I don't look up to who are sure of their film," he says.

Kashyap believes being a director is akin to being a batsman on a pitch who is required to hit every ball to the boundary.

"The idea is to get all the shots right. Every time, they throw a ball at you, you have to hit. Like 'we don't have budget', you tackle it. 'We

can't shoot at a particular location', you hit it, or 'an actor is not available' you hit it again. You have to play every ball thrown at you."

The director is currently awaiting the release of his next "Manmarziyaan". Written by Kanika Dhillon, the romantic-drama features Tapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal and Abhishek Bachchan. It is set to be released on September 14.



Ryan makes me feel strong and independent: Blake Lively

LOS ANGELES, SEP 9 (PTI): Actor Blake Lively has credited her husband Ryan Reynolds for making her feel 'strong and independent'.

The 31-year-old actor, who has children James, three, and Ines, 23 months, with Reynolds, believes the 'mutual trust and respect' they share has given their relationship a solid foundation.

"Ryan makes me feel very strong and independent. He's someone who has a great spirit and we have a very healthy relationship, which is both very profound and also light-hearted. And we also have that kind of mutual trust and respect, which is the basis of every good partnership," Lively told Closer magazine.

The actor said for her and Reynolds, 41, family comes first.

"Wherever we go in the world on our adventure together, our family is our first priority. Work comes and goes but we value our private time together more than anything.

'Enjoying our time as a couple and being good parents to our children makes us happier and more confident, which allows us to do our best work without worrying about spending long hours on a film set,' she said.

DON'T THINK I'LL GET MARRIED AGAIN: KALKI KOECHLIN

NEW DELHI, SEP 8 (PTI):

Actor Kalki Koechlin believes society has built the institution of marriage in a way where women are still looked at as the weaker sex.

In an interview published in a recently launched book, "Feminist Rani", penned by Shaili Chopra and Meghna Pant, the actor said the "biggest problem" with marriage, especially for a woman, is the idea of "ownership".

Kalki and filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who got married in 2011, went through a divorce in 2015 after being separated for two years.

"Once I got married, I was only invited to the things that Anurag was invited to. People would say, 'Call Anurag's wife'. They wouldn't say, 'call Kalki' or 'call Kalki's husband'.

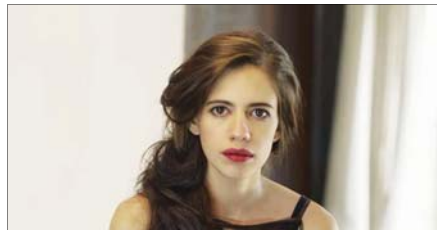
"In marriage, a woman becomes the weaker sex, even if her husband doesn't want her to be. This happens because of the way society has built the institution," she said.

Stating that "honesty" and "independence" are a must in a relationship, Kalki also shared how she went about the process of coming out of her marriage after the divorce.

"... I found myself alone after a very long time. I had to fill up that empty space somehow. I didn't want to fill it up by going crazy and getting drunk, or by surrounding myself with the people.

"I chose the introverted version of filling up myself by spending more time at home, with the family... I'm happy I went through that journey," she said.

In a free-wheeling conversation, she also talked about her movie career and



feminism, which she said simply means "all humans being equal and respecting one another".

"It's only that we live in a patriarchal society, and therefore, the word feminism has to be used as a counter to patriarchy. But feminism is about being equal. The word used should be 'equalist', as it is about all humans being equal and respecting each other for that," she added.

Far from the female prototype deeply set in the Indian psyche, the actor, widely known for her unconventional roles in movies like "Margarita with Straw", "That Girl in Yellow Boots" or "Waiting", said she never had to pay a heavy price for her off-beat choices-- both in real life as well as in cinema.

"I have retained my freedom and my ability to pick and choose. Of course, people have tried to stereotype me... But it's very short-lived if you realise that you're only as new as your newest film... You have to look beyond the period of initial reactions and recognise that there's a bigger body of work and an effort to do something bigger," she added.

Published by Penguin Books, the 197-page book "Feminist Rani" is a collection of interviews with path-breaking people -- from Kalki Koechlin, Gul Panag to Aditi Mittal and Shree gauri Sawant -- who have advocated gender equality and women's rights through their work.

ARIES: If someone you know is going through a rough time, Aries, they could come to you for support or advice. People see you as genuinely concerned and a good friend, especially when times are tough. You've probably earned their respect through your caring and helpfulness. By being such a good friend, you're surrounded by people who will be there for you when you need them.

TAURUS: With some leisure time on your hands, you'll find an opportunity to start fresh in some area that has challenged you, Taurus. Find the courage to examine your attitudes toward adverse situations. Armed with your new knowledge, you might have a new insight that allows you to approach an old problem in a different way. You'll discover that you have more power than you thought.

GEMINI: Today you might want to try something completely new, Gemini. If you've never done this before, why not try expressing yourself through dance? Even if you're convinced you have two left feet, you might be surprised. Whatever your style, there's a type of dance you can do, whether it's as simple as the twist or as flamboyant as flamenco. You'll feel great, and it's good exercise.

CANCER: If you're not already so inclined, Cancer, why not try expressing yourself through song? Even if you're convinced you have a tin ear, you might be surprised at what happens if you just let yourself go. Do you feel silly singing out loud? Then be silly. Ham it up and have some fun. Even if you're tone deaf, you'll have a great time, and that sort of feeling is infectious.

LEO: Leo, you may discover today that you have a talent for something you've never even thought about before. If you always stick to what you know, how will you ever experience anything new? Trying this unexplored area doesn't mean you have to excel in it. As long as you're completely absorbed and having fun, you'll enjoy a positive experience. Don't shy away from this. Go with it!

VIRGO: It's a new day, Virgo, a good day to let your caring side show. Take the time to smile and chat with as many people as you can. They will be drawn to your friendly personality and you'll all enjoy your time together. If someone is having a rough day, let him or her know you care. Spend a few minutes listening to the problem and show you really understand.

LIBRA: Today brings the opportunity to see things as they are and not as you'd like them to be. It's easy to fool yourself sometimes, but you can only get away with that for so long before the truth comes out. There comes a time when you need to face things. Any time is an excellent time to start fresh. Take your time and trust in yourself.

SCORPIO: Today your creativity might be stimulated by some free time, Scorpio. You can try and save it for later, but you may not feel the same way then. Try to apply your creativity to a faster or more efficient way to do a particular job or make a dull job more exciting. If you can't give in to that urge now, write down your ideas and plan to return to them soon.

SAGITTARIUS: You probably

have a knack for listening to other people and noticing when they need help or a shoulder to cry on, Sagittarius. Today may be excellent for you to help another person out. Consider going the extra mile by lending a hand to those around you who are in need. Show your extraordinary caring ability and be a true friend. Make someone smile.

CAPRICORN: It's possible that someone will question your motives or wonder whether or not you're genuine, Capricorn. Don't take it the wrong way. You don't take everything at face value either. Show your sincerity by following through and sticking by your word. If you can't avoid going back on your word, explain the situation to the person involved. This will show that you're sincere.

AQUARIUS: Today's a good day to work toward the goals you've set, Aquarius. The aspect of the day influences your ability to focus on the necessary steps to achieve what you want. No goal is too big! Each step you take toward it will give you focus and improve your life. As time goes by, you'll discover that what previously seemed out of reach is now within your grasp.

PISCES: You may watch the clock today, Pisces. It can be hard to focus on tasks when you're thinking about relaxing, but do your best. You won't get through your tasks any faster if you're unfocused. You might even sabotage what you're doing if you're distracted. You don't want to make more work for yourself than what you started with.