



**SPRINGSTEEN'S POPULAR
ARTIFACTS TO FEATURE
IN GRAMMY MUSEUM**
pg 08

**PERILOUS SITUATION FOR AFGHAN
ALLIES LEFT BEHIND SHOWS A REFUGEE
SYSTEM THAT'S NOT UP TO THE JOB**
pg 04

**'JEOPARDY!' BEGINS SEASON WITH
ALREADY-OUTSED RICHARDS**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

Vol 06 | Issue 236 | Gangtok | Wednesday 15 September 2021

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | Rs. 5

Three-day Green Film Festival & Forum to begin in Gangtok today

**SAGARCHETTRI
GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:**

A three-day long Unique Green Film Festival & Forum on Environment and Wildlife is set to begin here on Wednesday. The festival is scheduled to be inaugurated by Minister to Forest, Environment & Wildlife Department, KarmaLoday Bhutia here at SidkeongTulku conference hall of Forest Department at Deorali.

The event is being organized by SECURE Himalaya Project of UNDP with the support of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Department, Government of Sikkim and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India and CMS Vatavaran. The festival and forum is part of the 9th CMS Vatavaran Travelling Film Festival and Forum in four Himalayan cities of Uttarkashi, Gangtok, Key-long and Leh.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, CMS Vatavaran



Deputy Director, Sabye-sachiBharti mentioned that the main idea behind the event is to encourage conservation through films, festivals and forums. He added that the festival also aims to reach and engage a cross-section of stakeholders in environment conservation and also provide a platform to showcase initiatives and

activities of SECURE Himalayas.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only 35 participants, including college students and NGO members, have registered for this three-day long event.

Mr Bharti informed that the event will include a two-day long capacity building workshop on 15 and 16 September on En-

vironmental Filmmaking and Mobile Journalism, which will have a faculty member of SKIFT at Film & Television Institute of India, Mojo Educator, Film & Photography Educator, RiteshTaksande.

The event will also screen national and international nominated and awarded films on environment & wildlife issues at the venue

along with spot quiz and drawing competition on environment for students during film screening. The closing and award ceremony of the festival will be held on 17 September.

He said that the idea behind the event was to support the unique green movements for environment conservation through films, festivals and forums. Such a festival would give ideas to youths in filmmaking and mobile journalism and ultimately encourage them to know the importance of biodiversity and its conservation, he added.

It is informed that CMS Vatavaran is India's premier and Asia's largest environment and wildlife film festival and forum and it is aimed towards enhancing understanding, appreciation and shift in attitudes towards the natural world and to increase space for environmental issues in mass media and evolve a nationwide environment outreach framework.

Covid claims one more, Sikkim's toll reaches 378

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:**

With the virus claiming a life in the past 24 hours, Sikkim's Covid death toll climbed to 378 today after having held at 377 for three consecutive days. This was the first COVID-death recorded in the State this week. The new fatality was reported from Namchi District Hospital in South District, the Daily Report of COVID-19 in Sikkim released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department this morning informs.

Meanwhile, Sikkim count of active Covid cases has come down to 777 with the discharge of 77 more people from home and facility isolation on Monday after making full recoveries. With this, the state's figure of recovered cases has further improved to 29,242.

Infections meanwhile remained low over the same period with 46 people testing positive for COVID-19 from the screening of 695 samples yesterday giving the state a daily test

positivity rate to 6.6%.

While 28 of these new cases picked up in rapid antigen testing of 400 samples and 18 were detected in RT-PCR testing of 293 samples.

Of the 46 new cases, 22 were registered in East District, 11 in West District, 12 in South District and 01 in North District. Sikkim's tally of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 has reached 30,696.

In the past 24 hours, only ten more COVID patients were hospitalized in the State, taking the number of Covid patients in hospital to 60 [out of the 777 active cases]. Of the patients in hospital, eight are admitted in ICU facilities at STNM Hospital and CRH.

Of the 60 Covid patients in hospital, only four are under 18 years of age none of whom are in ICU.

On the vaccination front, 2,567 more received their Covishield shots on Monday, of whom 152 received the first dose and 2,415 completed their vaccine schedules with the second dose.

Stalled 15 times by BJP from visiting constituency: Ex-Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

[PTI]: Former Tripura Chief Minister and CPI(M) leader Manik Sarkar on Tuesday alleged that he was prevented from visiting several areas of the state and his constituency by the ruling BJP multiple times. Manik Sarkar served as chief minister of Tripura from 1998 to 2018.

This comes days after CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging violence against the Left party's cadre by the BJP in the state.

Sitaram Yechury and Manik Sarkar lashed out at the BJP over violence in Tripura at a press conference today.

"In Tripura, the Constitution of India doesn't work. CPI(M) MLAs, including me, aren't being allowed to visit their constituency. In the 42 months that the BJP has



been in power, I have been stalled 15 times from visiting various parts of the state and my Constituency," Manik Sarkar alleged.

The two Left leaders claimed that there is a "huge discontent" against the BJP government in Tripura.

"The CPI(M) is spearheading efforts to galvanise people's protest. They (BJP) do not want to allow this process and are

unleashing violence," Mr Yechury alleged.

A few days ago, in his letter to the prime minister, Mr Yechury had alleged that the party's offices in Tripura were attacked by "mobs of BJP men" in a "pre-planned fashion" on September 8.

In the letter, the leader has alleged that the "impunity" with which the attackers operated shows the "connivance of the state government".

What kind of a Yogi propagates hate: Rahul

NEW DELHI, SEP 14 (PTI): In an apparent reference to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'abba jaan' remarks, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said what kind of a Yogi propagates hate.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister's office hit back at Gandhi, saying in a tweet, "If bulldozing the empire of criminals and miscreants is hate, then this hatred will continue unabated."

Earlier, taking to Twitter, Gandhi posted, "Jo nafrat kare, woh yogi kaisa! (What kind of a Yogi propagates hate)."

Addressing a programme in Kushinagar on Sunday, Adityanath had alleged that people did not get rations before 2017 like they do now.

"Because then, people

who say 'abba jaan' used to digest the rations. The rations of Kushinagar used to go to Nepal and Bangladesh. Today, if anybody tries to swallow the rations meant for poor people, he will land in jail," the chief minister had said.

'Abba jaan' is the Urdu term for father. In a Facebook post, Gandhi also recalled the horrific Hathras incident which took place a year ago.

"The wait for justice continues. Daughter of Hathras, daughter of the country," Gandhi said.

The horrific Hathras incident took place a year ago in which a young Dalit woman was allegedly raped by four men. The woman died on September 29 at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital during treatment.

Bidding for new IPL teams planned on Oct 17

MUMBAI, SEP 14 (PTI): The BCCI is planning to have a closed bidding for the two new IPL teams on October 17 and the bids to buy the sides can be made till October 5.

"The Board is planning to have the bidding on 17th October and it will be a closed bidding," sources in the know of things told PTI on Tuesday.

The BCCI had on August 31 invited bids to own an IPL franchise with "Invitation to Tender" available for purchase till October 5.

"The Governing Council of the IPL in-

vites bids to acquire the right to own and operate 1 (one) of the 2 (two) new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the Indian Premier League from the IPL 2022 season, through a tender process," the BCCI had said in a statement.

"Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT.

"However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid. It is clarified that merely purchasing

this ITT does not entitle any person to bid," the cricket body had said.

Among the venues where the teams could be based include Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Pune. The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad and Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, with bigger capacities, could be the choice for the franchises.

Some of the business houses doing the rounds include the Adani group, RPG Sanjeev Goenka group, noted pharma company Torrent and a prominent banker who has shown active interest in buying teams.

Dzongri-Goechala trekking route opens for tourists

**PRITAM LAMA
YUKSAM, 14 SEPT:**

The popular Dzongri-Goechala trekking route inside the UNESCO World Heritage site, Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP), in West Sikkim has opened for trekking and tourism after the Central and State Government removed restrictions on national parks and zoos recently.

Khangchendzonga National Park, covering an area of 1,784 sq kms in northern and western part of Sikkim, is famous for the Dzongri-Goechala trekking route.

The Dzongri-Goechala trekking route starts from Yuksam, the first capital of Sikkim.

Now tourists, international and domestic, are again allowed to take the trek inside KNP.

The Chief Wildlife Warden signaled the lifting of restrictions by issuing an order on 10 September.

Following the Ministry of Environment's order shutting down all nation-



al parks and sanctuaries in the country due to Covid, the State Government had closed down Khangchendzonga National Park along with other sanctuar-

ies in the first week of May this year.

Along with trekking inside KNP, trekking and hiking to Barsey Rhododendron sanctuary, along the Indo-

Nepal border at Chewa Bhanjyang, through the Singalila range from Uttarey in West Sikkim is also open for hiking, trekking and tourism activities.

Meanwhile, nearly 90 percent of tourism stakeholders such as tour operators, trekking guide, trekking cook, porters, yak and horse man (pack animal operators), tourist vehicle drivers have completed their vaccination schedule and are eligible to operate following COVID-19 protocols and safety measures.

After the announcement of reopening of tourism activities inside Khangchendzonga National Park, KNP division under the state Forest Department convened a meeting with local tourism stakeholders and pack animal operators to oversee the conditions of trekking route and trekkers huts inside the KNP.

KNP-Range Officer, Tenzing W Bhutia informed that trekking trail inside the KNP is blocked at several stretches due to landslides during this monsoon.

turn to pg02

Use of data analytics to pick tax evaders

AMARAVATI, SEP 14 (PTI):

The Commercial Taxes Department of Andhra Pradesh will use data analytics to pick out tax evaders in the state, a top official said. The state Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has been tasked with the exercise of carrying out a sector-wise analysis to determine tax collection, plug the gaps and widen the tax base so as to meet the revenue targets.

Special Chief Secretary (Revenue-Commercial Taxes) Rajat

Bhargava on Tuesday directed the DRI to work in tandem with the enforcement wing of the CT Department and use data analytics to identify tax evaders.

At a review meeting, the Special CS asked the authorities of the CT Department to strengthen the audit wing to check the compliance levels in the case of large taxpayers.

"We need to ramp up efforts to widen and deepen the state tax base by moving forward in a systematic manner.

UNION HEALTH MINISTER ON INDIA'S HANDLING OF COVID

World's largest adult vaccination program prepares India for grand leap forward in Atma-Nirbharta

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA
[PIB]

Seventy-five years after attaining freedom from foreign rule, our search for freedom of a different kind continues—this time the country is seeking freedom from an invisible invader—the SARS-CoV-2, which has been ravaging the country for the past 20 months. From what we know about this deadly virus, it can be tamed by following Test-Track-Treat and vaccination strategy at administrative level and encouraging adherence to Covid-Appropriate Behavior through community participation.

But to eliminate it, we needed a lasting immunity against it. Indian scientists and agencies have pushed the physical and technical boundaries to develop COVID-19 vaccines within a record period and on 16 Jan, 2021, our Prime Minister launched the world's largest adult vaccination program by introducing two "made in India" COVID-19 vaccines. The introduction of India-made vaccines within weeks of the global introduction of COVID-19 vaccines was also the beginning of an exciting period in the public health history of India.

Perhaps, this is one of the very few upsides of the COVID crisis—we have had the rare opportunity to build a healthcare infrastructure on mission mode that will do much more than just leave us stronger for future onslaughts

of the kind we are currently facing.

Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the country has been investing a great deal of its resources in strengthening the healthcare system since March 2020 when the first few COVID cases were detected. Alongside, an entrepreneurial ecosystem for vaccine research and development, developing new diagnostics techniques as well as treatment modalities were put in place. Mission COVID Suraksha made special and proactive efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to the established vaccine manufacturers for ramping up the manufacturing capacity and start-up biotech units for exploring the new vaccine platforms and product development.

As a result, in less than a year, vaccines were developed, tested, approved and a nationwide immunization program was rolled out. Within couple of months, the country became self-reliant in the production of masks, PPE kits, testing devices, etc. that were critical to our fight against COVID-19. These COVID sensitive interventions created an enabling environment in fight against COVID-19 virus.

To further accelerate vaccination coverage, the Prime Minister's decision to make vaccine free for all eligible beneficiaries at public health facilities across India demonstrated a strong political commitment at the highest level towards public health.

It is remarkable that in a matter of few months, India has administered over 750

million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, among the highest globally. Currently, over 1.1 million beneficiaries are receiving the COVID vaccines in a single day. I strongly believe that it is the people's whole-hearted participation in the vaccination program that has made it such a success.

The Covid-19 vaccination drive, which aims to vaccinate the entire population of the country by the end of this year, is also yielding valuable lessons for further refining our universal immunization program and other health initiatives. Our ever-expanding Covid-19 vaccination program can become an effective entry point for delivering primary healthcare, nutrition, water, and sanitation related services to our citizens. The rapid augmentation of our healthcare facilities across the country will help us ensure that everyone has equitable access to quality healthcare.

Our healthcare and frontline workers have worked with great commitment and dedication to achieve this momentous feat of having administered 75 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines—a fitting tribute to our 75 years of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".

The world's largest adult vaccination program is also strengthening India's resolve toward Atmanirbharta. The Atmanirbharta has to be inclusive and embrace complementary collaborations for essential technology and leverage the essential interdependence across the sectors and countries. Vaccine research

and development and manufacturing are similar to rocket science and nuclear program. A lot of scientific, manufacturing, technology and quality assurance pro-

ViewPoint

cesses are involved in this. There is therefore a need to create an ecosystem that encourages enterprise and domestic production of vaccines, including required raw material, using advanced technologies. For this to happen, sustained strategic investments have been made in research and development, enabling collaborations and policy support to achieve the goal and sustain them.

The revolutionary vaccine program (both development and implementation aspects) and disease surveillance measures for COVID-19 will have a long-term impact on India's immunization program.

The pandemic has forced us to experience the fragility of life and to pay urgent attention to healthcare. It has also taught us that we no longer have the luxury of time to wait, experiment, and take small steps to build our healthcare ecosystem. The moment has come for the great leap forward—and the country is prepared to do that.

[The writer is Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical & Fertilizers]

NGO opens public library in Upper Sadam



**BIKASHCHETTRI
NAMCHI, 14 SEPT:**

HamroEkta Youth Federation has started a public library in Upper Sadam with 400 donated books on the federation's first year anniversary on 10 Sept.

HamroEkta Youth Federation works with the principle of lighting the spark of unity in the society, and has already organized sports events, cleanliness drives, food distribution during Covid pandemic, COVID-19 sanitation programs and other programs within a year of its establishment. The organization is also planning to organize health camps in the future.

"We are trying to reach all sections of society to bring them together," said Sumiran Rai, the librarian and an active member of the Federation.

The book donation drive took place for a month, starting from 12 Aug in South Sikkim. People from Sadam, Meli, Ghurpisey, Namchi, Asangthang and Mikhola in South Sikkim and a few from Mumbai, Maharashtra, donated books

for the library.

HamroEkta Youth Federation collected the books and arranged them into different categories in the library. The books have been categorized into children's section, vernacular, general knowledge, academics, nobles and fictions, information technology, planning and management, health and wellness, Sikkim history and culture and environment, magazines, encyclopedias, arts, religion and few others.

The library is currently established in a rented house of a teacher of Mungrang Primary School, Mani Rai, which is near the road to Gupti from Sadam in Upper Sadam.

The library has one librarian and is open to everybody while borrowing books is limited to members only.

HamroEkta Youth Federation is grateful to all the book donors as well as the ward panchayat, Panchayat President and Zilla Panchayat of Sandam-Suntaley GPU, under Melli Constituency, South Sikkim, who helped them in making their project a success.

India for early start of FTA review with ASEAN

NEW DELHI, SEP 14 (PTI):

India and the 10-member ASEAN bloc should strive to announce the review of the free trade agreement (FTA) between them before the year-end, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel suggested on Tuesday.

The issue came up for discussion during the 18th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations.

The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed on August 13, 2009. It came into force on January 1, 2010.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members are -- Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos.

Patel resolved to complete the scoping process expeditiously to make the agreement trade facilitative, user-friendly with contemporary and streamlined customs and regulatory procedures, the commerce ministry said in a statement.

She stated that the trade arrangement has to be reciprocal, mutually beneficial and should balance the aspirations of all the partners.

Patel emphasised on the need for securing the FTA provisions to prevent misuse of preferential treatment and also highlighted the non-tariff measures faced by Indian exporters in accessing ASEAN market, especially in agriculture and auto sectors.

"Patel suggested that both sides should make earnest efforts to finalize the scoping paper before the ASEAN-India Leaders' Summit scheduled in October, 2021 and to announce the review before the end of this year," it said.

Agri tools distributed over 100 beneficiaries from Namcheybong constituency

GANGTOK, SEPT 14 [IPR]:

An awareness programme which included a token distribution session of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Departments for beneficiaries from Namcheybong constituency was held at the Gram Prashasan Kendra at Assam Lingzey, today.

Agriculture Minister Lok Nath Sharma was present as chief guest accompanied by Namcheybong MLA, Em Prasad Sharma.

The programme also had the presence of Chairman, Cooperation Department, BB Chettri, Chairman, Excise Department, Ganza Bhutia, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Horticulture, Smt Yashoda Bhandari, Secretary Agriculture Rinzing C Bhutia, PD cum Secretary, Animal Husbandry Dr. Sangey D. Bhutia, Directors, Panchayats, Officials, OSD Agriculture P.K. Subba, field functionaries including ADOs, HDOs, VO, ROs, BOs, VLWs, FAs and others.

Over 100 farming households from Namcheybong constituency received various agricultural machinery tools and tokens, including Power Tiller, Power Weeder, Chaff Cutter, Mini Rice Mill, Brush Cutter, Spices Grinder, Rice Thresher, Garden Hand Tools, HDPE Pipe, Naturally Ventilated Tubular Structure GreenHouse, Bamboo Structure GreenHouse, On Farm Handling Unit/Collection Unit, Genap Tank, Flour Mill Pulverizer, Sheep Farming, Goat Farming, Silage bag, Intensive Carp Fish Farming under Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services and Directorate of Fisheries.

Addressing the farming community, Minister



Agriculture, explained the significance of the life saving profession of agriculture and livestock farming and dependence of human society on farming and allied sectors.

He touched upon the newly conceptualized policy of "Future is Farming" and underlined long term sustainability of farming profession and further motivated farmers to enhance productivity for earning sustainable livelihood and economic upliftment.

He also mentioned that the farming community is notably elevated in terms of dignity of profession with the launching of various initiatives like Gwala Diwas, prestigious award of Milk Man of the Year and other numerous farmer-friendly schemes.

He also informed about the newly initiated policies framed by the union government to provide loan with 50% subsidy in agriculture, horticulture, livestock farming and allied sectors at central level and provision of subsidised loan under Chief Minister Start up Scheme in the state as well.

He also urged field functionaries to practice seed trail production in

the government farm and educate farmers. He also directed the concerned officials to carry out necessary exercises pertaining to the proposal of terrace gardens in urban areas.

Minister Sharma also informed that over ten thousand farmers have benefited under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMKISAN) within the last two years in Sikkim, whereas the number of beneficiaries was in single digit during the previous regime, he added.

He also announced plans to provide Five On-Farm Handling Unit / Collection Unit for Namcheybong constituency and advised to award Self Help Groups from respective areas.

He also elaborated provision of production financial incentives under Mukhya Mantri Krishi Atmanirbhar Yojana and piggery farming incentives under Pashudhan Samridhi Yojana and further encouraged for increase in production. He also encouraged the SHGs for marketing and informed that an amount of 2% of incentive value will be granted as handling charges to all marketing agencies engaged in aggregating and mar-

keting farmers produce.

He also motivated farmers to acquire insurance and compensate for loss of production in case of any crop damaging incident.

The Minister also touched upon the historic initiative of Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana envisioned by the Chief Minister and the beginning of inauguration programme within the stipulated time period.

Area MLA Em Prasad Sharma expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister, Minister Agriculture, departmental officials for providing various facilities and token to the farmers of Namcheybong constituency.

He also shared about the natural potential for fisheries farming at Bashilakha, Rai Gaon and further urged to promote fisheries in the peripheral areas.

He also applauded the government's decision of declaring Pakyong a new district and touched upon ongoing preliminary exercise in this regard.

The MLA also shared ongoing developmental works in his constituency. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Horticulture Department, Smt. Yasodha Bhandari, stated that

the state government is working tirelessly to benefit the farmers with renewed vigour and energy under the enthusiastic leadership and strong willpower of the ruling government. She also informed that the seeds are distributed based on the suitability of the climate of particular areas. She also touched upon the newly initiated financial incentives under Mukhya Mantri Krishi Atmanirbhar Yojana.

Secretary Agriculture Rinzing C Bhutia expressed happiness on the active participation of youth in the programme of Agriculture, Horticulture and Allied Sector. He spoke on the provision of various schemes including Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMKISAN), Fasal Bima Yojana and urged farmers to acquire benefits from the implemented schemes.

PD-cum-Secretary, AH & VS Dr Sangey D Bhutia, also highlighted various schemes and livestock friendly policies of the department. He also informed that the financial incentives of Rupees thirteen crore were distributed to the dairy farmers in the previous financial year. The daily production of Milk has increased substantially to fifty-eight thousand litres which was around thirty-five thousand litres per day before the launching of dairy incentives. He also informed on the detailed provision and criteria to be entitled for the piggery financial incentives under Mukhya Mantri Pashudhan Samridhi Yojana.

Thereafter, Minister Lok Nath Sharma along with the dignitaries and officials visited Orchid Farm Assam Lingzey and Pig Breeding Farm in Assam Lingzey Gaucharan.

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Dzongri-Goechala...

One large portion of trail has been washed away by the landslide at Nalung enroute Dzongri-Goechala trek in between Yuksam and Tshoka and it will take at least one week to restore the Dzongri-Goechala trekking trail, he informed further adding that restoration work was initiated from Monday.

KNP division has started restoration work on the Dzongri-Goechala trekking trail with the help of local pack animal operators, it is informed and may take a week to completely restore it.

Pregnant women, visitors aged less than 10 years and above 65 years with comorbidities are not allowed to enter the park. Complete vaccination and fresh RTPCR negative report is compulsory to enter the KNP. Wearing masks, social distancing and COVID protocol will be in place and body temperature checkup will be done at checkpoints before entering the park.

KUTSE SHEGU

The KutseShegu of Karma Choden Bhutia, who left for her heavenly abode on 30th July, 2021, falls on 16th September, 2021. We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to join us in prayers for the departed soul at our residence in Dalapchand, Aritar, East Sikkim.



We would also like to thank all those who have been with us in our time of bereavement.

Dorjee Dadul Bhutia [father] 9932351351
Denden Bhutia [mother] 9593833603
Karma Gelay Bhutia [elder brother] 9593637069
Sonam Ongmu Bhutia [sister in law] 9564544180
Rinzing Thendup Bhutia [younger brother] 9775923050
Tshering Donka Bhutia [younger sister] 7797880770
Dorjee Layden Bhutia [younger sister] 9903218446
Sonam Ongdi Bhutia [brother in law] 9733084945

SJA organizes session on Criminal Trial and Art of Cross Examination

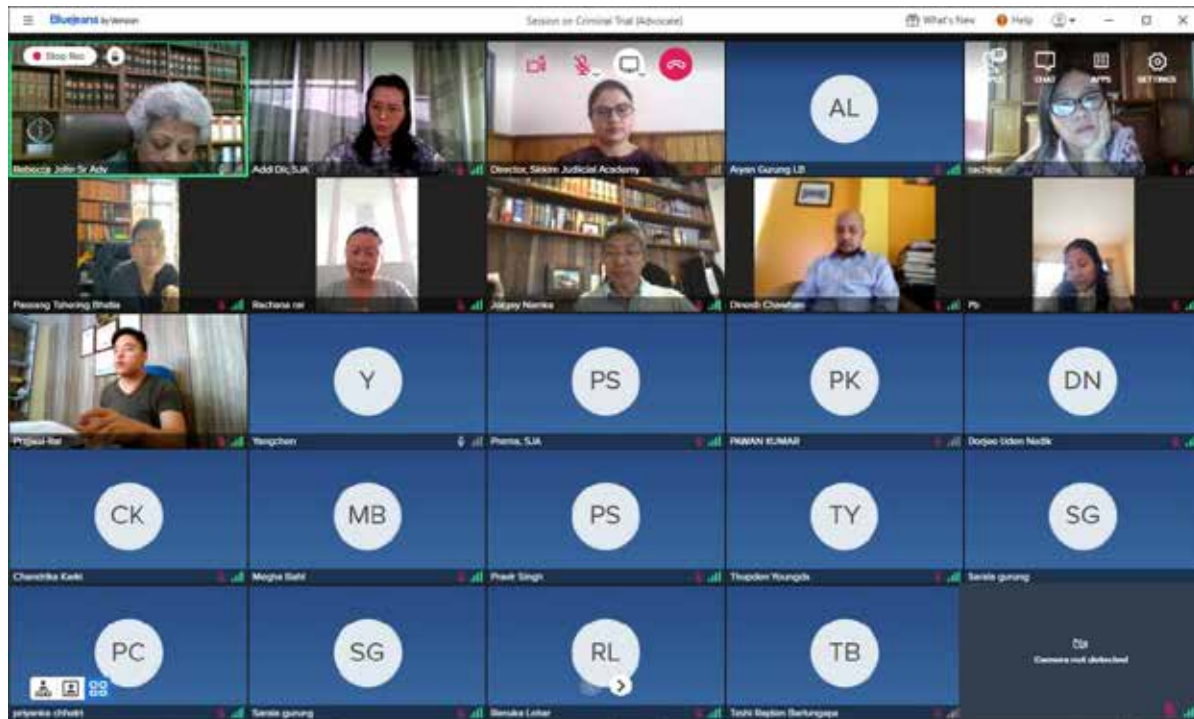
SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

Sikkim Judicial Academy (SJA) organised a Session on Criminal Trial and Art of Cross Examination for Advocates on 11 Sept, 2021 via video conference, a press release informs. The Resource Person for the programme was Learned Senior Advocate, Rebecca Mammen John, Delhi High Court.

The Resource Person emphasised on understanding of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, to understand cross-examination. She discussed the important provisions of the Evidence Act to be borne in mind at the time of cross examination.

She impressed upon the presence of mind of the cross examiner during the procedure. She



asked the participants to raise objections during the examination of a witness/victim and the same to be noted by the Court. The types of objec-

tions were also discussed in detail.

The significance of cross examination as well as the scope of the questions to be asked as well

as tools of cross examination was discussed. The type of questions which cannot be asked was also covered.

The session ended

with interaction between the Resource Person and the participants. The entire session was highly engaging and informative.

NHPC journal wins Rajbhasha Kirti Puruskar



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

NHPC's Rajbhasha Kirti Puruskar (Griha Patrika) in Region 'A' by Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India for the year 2019-20 under 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puruskar' scheme, a press release informs. Besides this, NHPC has also been awarded Second Prize for commendable work in implementation of Rajbhasha under Rajbhasha Kirti Puruskar scheme.

The award was received from Union Home Minister, Amit Shah by CMD, AK Singh, NHPC during Hindi Diwas ceremony organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 14 Sept, 2021. Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar Mishra and Nisith Pramanik were also present on the occasion. General Manager (Rajbhasha), Dr Rajbir Singh, NHPC was also awarded for his article 'Vedon mein Paryavaran Chetna' under the 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar', the highest award given

to writers for outstanding articles for the year 2019-20.

Rajbhasha Kirti Puruskar is the highest award given by the Govt. of India in the field of implementation of Official Language. NHPC has won this prestigious award for the ninth time for outstanding implementation of Rajbhasha amongst Public Sector Undertakings. Previously, NHPC has received First Prize for the years 2008-09, 2009-10, 2011-12, 2014-15 and 2016-17 and Second Prize for the years 2010-11, 2012-13 and 2015-16. NHPC's Official Language Magazine 'Rajbhasha Jyoti' has received this award for the second time. Earlier, Rajbhasha Jyoti had been awarded Second Prize for the year 2016-17.

Along with the development and generation of Hydropower, NHPC has also made remarkable progress in the field of Rajbhasha Hindi. Keeping in view the commendable achievements of NHPC in implementation of Rajbhasha, it has been conferred with several Rajbhasha awards at national level.

Strength Lifting Championship held at Martam



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

An Open Strength Lifting & Incline Bench Press Championship 2021 was organized by Martam-based Pema's Gym & Health Club at Martam in East District on Sunday. More than 20 people participated in the championship.

Advisor to Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Megnath Subba, was present as the chief guest, while SKM party secretary, RK Waling,

was the guest of honour of the championship. Sikkim Strength Lifting Association (SSLA) working president, Allen Targain was also present among other special guests.

Gold medalists in men's category are Kamal Rasaily in junior 52 kgs, Namgyal Dorjee Bhutia in sub-junior 60 kgs, Emmanuel Dorjee in sub-junior 68 kgs, Sonam Namgyal Bhutia in junior 68 kgs, Karma Topden Bhutia in senior 60 kgs, Sonam Gyatso Bhutia in

senior 68 kgs, Bimal Subba in sub-junior 76 kgs, Thinlay Dorjee Bhutia in senior 76 kgs, Bishal Rai in junior 80 kgs, Roshan Pradhan in senior 80 kgs and Ayush Losang Bhutia in sub-junior 80 kgs plus.

Atiksha Pradhan in sub-junior 52 kgs, Srijan Subba in junior 52 kgs clinched gold medals in women's category.

On the occasion, athletic coach, RB Subba and social worker, Sonam Gyatso Bhutia were also felicitated by the organizers.

Meeting reviews SGAY progress in Ranka



GANGTOK, 14 SEPT (IPR): A review meeting of Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana was conducted at Ranka BAC, where Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Area In-charge, NB Gurung, attended the occasion as chief guest.

The meeting was also attended by SNT, Advisor, ST Bhutia, ADC Development, Gangtok, Radha Pradhan, Confidential Assistant to CM, Bhoj Gautam and few dignitaries.

There are 100 beneficiaries from Burtuk constituency and 36 beneficiaries under the Rumtek constituency under Ranka BAC, out of which 9 in Burtuk and 5 houses in Martam-Rumtek have not been started yet.

The beneficiaries present expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang for the SGAY scheme for the welfare of genuine and basic needs for the poor. Those beneficiaries whose houses were not started yet pointed out the reasons for the delay to which ADC Development asked

the representatives of the project to submit a report within 3 days.

The Engineers on behalf of the Mungpa trade link informed the gathering on the SGAY scheme and its main characteristic.

NB Gurung addressed the gathering and requested the beneficiaries to be vigilant and asked the main contractors to complete the work in time if beneficiaries are facing trouble to construct on their own.

The meeting was attended by Panchayat members, Shriman Gurung, Pem Tshering Lepcha, Meera Rai, Rekha Rai, Datta Ram Pandey (Panchayat President), NP Bhattarai (Zilla Panchayat, Rey Rumtek), Tirtha Bdr Chettri (Luings Ranka, Zilla Panchayat), Chokey Doma Bhutia (Panchayat President).

Additional Political Secretary to CM [East], Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha extended his gratitude to Ranka BDO, Priscilla Rai and her entire team for organising a well-coordinated program.

SKM coordination meet held at Mamring Gaushala



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 SEPT:

A coordination meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party was held at Mamring Gaushala under Amba GPU of Rhenock constituency on Tuesday, a press release informs.

The meeting was chaired by SKM general secretary and Minister, Arun Upreti as the chief guest who was accompanied by Rhenock MLA, Bishnu Khatiwada as the guest of honour.

The release mentions that 172 families of the SDF party joined SKM during the coordination

meeting.

In his address, the chief guest said that the ongoing coordination meeting of the party on the direction of the party president was to strengthen the organization of the party by meeting the constituency-level committees of the party.

He stated that the SKM government has done more work in two years than SDF did in the last 25 years in the State. Stating that SKM has been serving the people right from the grassroot level, he appealed to the party workers to continuous-

ly work for the people.

Likewise, the area MLA said that SKM exists for the development of Sikkim while SDF worked for the destruction of the State. He added that SKM would not betray the people but work for the overall development of the State.

The CM has adopted Amba GPU and announced to build 20 houses of Rs 10 lakhs each under Sikkim Garib Awas Yojana in the GPU but now these houses would be built at the cost of Rs 17 lakhs each, he stated.

Child Empowerment Centre established at Hee-Gyathang

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 14 SEPT:

Dzongu MLA, Advisor to the Power Department Pintso Namgyal Lepcha, inaugurated a Child Empowerment Centre at Hee-Gyathang in Dzongu, today.

The project is supported by the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD-PR), Rural Development Department.

The Centre has been funded under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and aims to provide a safe space to children to express their views. The Centre will also provide



education and empower children to be able to select the right path.

The inauguration was also attended by Chairperson CWC, Mingma Doma Bhutia, District Child Protection Officer North, Wendy Lepcha, Field Facilitator, Dorjee

Tshering Bhutia, BDO Dzongu, Sagar Rai, Child Development Project Officer Dzongu, Netuk Lepcha, AD Education, SL Giri, Principal Hee-Gyathang Sr Sec School, Teachers, public and the Gram Panchayats of Dzongu.



STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD SIKKIM FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

F.No. 351/SPCB/3181

Dated: 8.9.2021

NOTICE

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

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

Email: spcbsikkim@gmail.com

Member Secretary

State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim
Department of Forest & Environment,

Government of Sikkim
Deorali, East Sikkim.

R.O. No. 192/IPR/Pub/Classi./21-22
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Embrace Plurality of Opinions

...even if mass media would have you shun them

Prime-Time on Indian TV news channels makes for stressful viewing with the shallow-jingoism and mock-conscientiousness of frowning celebrity anchors who have become caricatures of themselves or poor imitations of the bigger stars and the finger-pointing self-righteousness of party spokespersons who fulminate only to earn brownie points with their respective masters. While very little is achieved by way of informing the audience, the hypnotic spell of real-time quarrels entering homes gets the TRPs soaring, urgently dramatic music completing the experience and convincing people that something important was playing on TV. Since the suggestion of sensationalism can fool only for so long, occasionally, newsrooms manufacture sensational situations as well and almost always, they pander to the lowest common denominator of the ideology in power because they command the most brainwashed of lumpen elements to unleash and sustain another news cycle. The superficial nationalism of TV news crews was earlier focused on Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Arundhati Roy, and then moved to the likes of Kanhaiya and other left-leaning youth and now just rails against anyone who calls out the dangerous pontification that has come to define national discourse.

Most times, the media instigation plays circles around its own hyperbole, and occasionally they muddy the waters enough for pressing concerns to swim out of the public domain. Unfortunately, we have also become a nation where agenda is set by the belligerence of 24x7 TV news channels and the slew of soundbytes and studio fulmination often lead to ill-advised action and almost always succeed in distracting people from the core issues facing the nation. Every time that happens is a sad day for democracy, because the only attitudes being increasingly reinforced are intolerance, insensitivity and the impassivity of the mainstream which instigates so many mutinies in our country.

The idea of India was always to embrace plurality, not only of people and communities, but also views and opinions, increasingly however, the focus has been more on homogenising everything, starting from defining what is Indian to heckling multiplicity out of public discourse. For a long while it was the government which engaged in this exercise of compartmentalisation, but of late, mass media has joined the bandwagon as well, allowing vocabulary like “splittist, extremist, hardline, controversial, inflammatory” to infiltrate their reportage without adequate attention paid to how such identifiers can bias audiences towards a particular opinion. Has anyone noticed how the brainwashing efficacy of noise on TV has made even “liberal” a character flaw?

Responsible professionalism has fallen victim to the demands for sensationalism which is why the basic tenets of freedom and democracy need to be reiterated often. No one should have an issue with the fact that free citizens have a right to hold independent opinions and broadcast them. Even if one were to ignore the principles of democracy, it follows for civil people to realise that while everyone has the right to hold opinions and share them, none has the right to foist or force these opinions on anyone or instigate violence.

WRITE US:

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



Perilous Situation for Afghan Allies Left Behind Shows a Refugee System That's Not Up to the Job

SHELLEY INGLIS
theconversation.com

President Joe Biden has hailed the end of the U.S. engagement in Afghanistan as a historic achievement, with 120,000 people evacuated by air. Behind the widely viewed scenes of chaos at the Hamid Karzai International Airport, a massive effort of volunteers and nongovernmental organizations used social media to help identify, locate and advocate for Afghans desperate to leave the country, using social media. It has been characterized as a “digital Dunkirk” – in reference to the mass evacuation of Allied soldiers by sea during World War II.

Nonetheless, the president and his administration have weathered considerable criticism about the execution of the long-planned withdrawal, much of it focused on the complex and frustrating process for Afghan allies who needed visas in order to leave the country and head to the U.S.

In mid-July, U.S. Embassy staff in Kabul raised the alarm about the Taliban's advances, recommending that the administration take action to speed up the protection of Afghan allies by granting them what's called a “special immigrant visa,” also known as the SIV.

Had the visa process worked better, more Afghan allies might have been able to flee possible deadly retaliation by the Taliban.

“The SIV program is obviously not designed to accommodate what we just did, in evacuating over 100,000 people,” U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin explicitly acknowledged in a press conference at the end of the airlift.

And the perilous situation of Afghans who want to flee now, but can't, is a reminder that populations face terrible danger in conflict zones across the globe – but aren't able to make their way to safety in other countries.

REFUGEE PROTECTION

SIVs allow Afghan and Iraqi interpreters and translators for the U.S. military whose work “placed a target on their backs” to come live in America.

In 2009, a distinct Afghan SIV program was established by the U.S. and was originally designed to provide 7,500 visas over five years. The quota does not include family members who are entitled to come to the U.S.

For years, advocates have raised concerns about serious delays with processing visas – up to 3 ½ years at one point. Some advocacy groups even sued the federal government to break the logjam.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration slowed the review process even more. That move was part of a larger policy to allow fewer refugees into the country.

A QUESTION OF PLANNING

A backlog of 17,000 cases in the Afghan SIV program faced the Biden administration in January 2021. Throughout the spring, advocates urged the administration to take more urgent steps to expand the program's focus and get Afghan allies to the U.S. faster and in greater numbers.

It was not until mid-July 2021 that Operation Allies Refuge was launched by President Biden to evacuate SIV applicants who were in later stages of the process.

By the end of July, Congress authorized the approval of 8,000 additional visas for the applicants, waived the onerous pre-approval medical examination requirements and removed other restrictions. In early August, the administration expanded protection to a larger category of people – known as “P2” – such as those who worked for nongovernmental organizations and media outlets in Afghanistan supported by the U.S.

But by Aug. 13, evacuation of SIV applicants was deemphasized to make way for U.S. citizen evacuation from Afghanistan. Government insiders and advocates criticized the U.S. State Department at that time for delays in processing SIV applications and failure to coordinate with the Pentagon to get applicants into the Kabul airport.

OTHER OPTIONS

Defense Secretary Austin also acknowledged that the SIV program was “designed to be a slow process.”

Immigration experts have pointed out that the Biden administration had a number of other options, based on prior experiences with Haitians and Cubans as well as Vietnamese, Iraqi Kurd and Kosovar Albanian refugees, to expand and speed up refugee protection.

Afghans are eligible, for example, for quicker forms of refugee protection, such as humanitarian parole, which allows individuals who face dangerous conditions in their home country to gain emergency entry into the U.S., though the status is temporary and without benefits. Using the regular U.S. Refugee Admissions Program would have required raising the quotas and dealing with its own backlog.

In the end, many of the 100,000 or so Afghans who were trying to get SIVs or other forms of protection were evacuated to other countries, to

what's called “lily pad sites,” for further security screenings before entry into the U.S.

LEFT BEHIND

The estimates of individuals remaining in Afghanistan who are at risk for Taliban persecution are staggering and difficult to confirm.

Before the evacuation ended, advocates claimed that 65,000 SIV-eligible applicants and their families remained, while eligible P2 applicants and their families were estimated in a range from almost 200,000 to, potentially, millions.

These numbers do not account for Afghans who worked at the forefront of nation building, including for the government, women's and human rights organizations, the media and the United Nations mission. Even before the fall of Kabul, Afghans were the second-largest refugee population globally, after Syrians.

And what these people – especially women and girls – face is currently extremely precarious. A new government is taking shape that represents the hard-line Taliban leadership of the past.

While the Taliban have sought to reassure the international community that they will allow Afghans to leave the country and respect human rights, recent violence against women's rights protesters and reports of human rights abuses belie the posturing. The ISIS-K attack on the Kabul airport indicates how fragile Taliban security could be. Law and security scholars have warned against global recognition of a terrorist-controlled government.

Amid a growing humanitarian disaster involving hunger and extreme poverty, the United Nations estimates that half a million more Afghans might seek refugee status by the end of 2021.

While declaring an end to U.S. military deployments to support nation building, President Biden has asserted his commitment to make human rights central to his foreign policy.

Minimizing the military's role should be welcome to experts who contend that it is the U.S.-led war on terror that failed in Afghanistan, not nation building.

How exactly this helps Afghans who want to flee but haven't been able to yet isn't clear. And how to ensure the wide-scale protection of populations facing mass atrocity and human rights violations without the threat of U.S.-led coalition military power also remains uncertain – in Afghanistan and anywhere else across the globe.

[the writer is Executive Director, University of Dayton Human Rights Center, University of Dayton]

What happens when your foot falls asleep?

ZACHARY GILLEN
theconversation.com

What happens when your foot falls asleep? – Helen E., age 8, Somerville, Massachusetts

Imagine you've just sat down to watch your favorite TV show. You decide to snuggle in with your legs crisscrossed because you find it more comfortable that way.

When the episode ends, you try to stand up and suddenly your right foot isn't working. At first you just can't move it, then it feels like it has pins and needles all over it. For a minute or two it feels uncomfortable and weird, but soon enough you are able to stand up and walk around normally.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

I'm an exercise physiologist – a scientist who studies what happens to our bodies when we move and exercise. The goal of much of my research has been to understand how the brain talks to and controls the

different parts of our bodies. When your foot falls asleep, there is something wrong with the communication between your brain and the muscles in that area.

Every time you decide to move your body, whether it's standing up, walking around or playing sports, your brain sends signals to your muscles to make sure they move correctly. When the brain is unable to talk with a muscle or groups of muscles, some weird things can happen – including that part of your body getting that weird falling-asleep sensation.

It usually starts with a sense of numbness or tingling in that area. This sensation, which people often also call “pins and needles,” is technically known as paresthesia.

Some people mistakenly think a lack of blood flow causes this feeling. They imagine the “asleep” feeling happens when your blood, which carries nutrients all over your body, is unable to get to your foot. But that's

not right.

When your foot falls asleep, it's actually because the nerves that connect the brain to the foot are getting squished thanks to the position you're sitting in. Remember, it's these nerves that carry messages back and forth to let your brain and your foot communicate with each other. If the nerves have been compressed for a little while, you won't have much feeling in your foot because it can't get its normal messages through to your brain about how it feels or if it's moving.

Once you start to move around again, the pressure on the nerves is released. They “wake up” and you'll start to notice a “pins and needles” feeling. Don't worry, that feeling will only last for a few minutes and then everything will feel normal again.

Now comes the important question: Is this dangerous? Most of the time, when your foot, or any other body part, falls asleep, it is temporary and nothing to worry about. In fact,

since it lasts for only a minute or two, you may not even remember it happened by the end of the day.

Even though it's not causing any permanent damage, you might still want to avoid the uncomfortable feeling that comes when your foot falls asleep. Here are a couple of tips that may help:

- Switch your position often.
- Don't cross your legs for very long.
- When you are sitting for a long time, try standing up every so often.

You probably can't 100% prevent your foot from ever falling asleep. So don't worry when it happens every once in a while. It'll go away pretty quickly – and maybe it can remind you of all the important brain messages your nerves are usually transmitting without your even noticing.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Exercise Physiology, Mississippi State University]



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

DATED:- 06/09/2021

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

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

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

TIME SCHEDULE

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

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

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

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

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

Making money in boxing means not saying you're sorry

Making money in boxing means never having to say you're sorry. Not for allowing Evander Holyfield to risk his life at the age of 58 just to make a few bucks. Certainly not for stealing money from gullible fans for a farce of a pay per view show that would have done terrible damage to the sport if only the sport wasn't so badly damaged already.

No one was apologizing — at least loud enough to hear — among the crew at Triller Fight Club, a fledging promotional outfit on the fringe of boxing. They managed to get Holyfield licensed in Florida and moved the entire card there on short notice from California after planned headliner Oscar De La Hoya pulled out with what he said was COVID-19.

Holyfield wasn't apologizing, either, after being credited with landing just one punch before being stopped in the first round by a former MMA fighter. The Real Deal apparently now lives on the edge of reality as he suggested after the fight he wanted another bout — this one against Mike Tyson.

Somewhere else in boxing, though, there was an apology. An apology both rare and heartfelt from a judge who said he messed up. The best thing about it? It came out of nowhere, like a perfect left hook.

Stephen Blea was one of three judges ringside Friday night in Tucson as hometown hero Oscar



Valdez took on Robson Conceicao in a junior lightweight title bout. It was a familiar position for Blea, who estimated he had officiated more than 60 title fights as a judge for referee in rings around the world.

On this night, the sell-out crowd was cheering — and cheering loudly — for Valdez. In his ring-side seat, Blea also had to deal with photographers on one side of him and a camera crew in constant motion on the other.

Still, "I honestly thought I would be able to do my job 100%, no excuses," he said.

But the crowd noise influenced Blea early. He scored some rounds for Valdez that could have been scored even, or for Conceicao.

In the end, Blea got the winner right. But his 117-110 margin stood out in a fight that was extremely close (the other

two judges had it 115-112 Valdez). The predictable online outrage about his scoring started making Blea think maybe he did get it wrong. He watched a replay of the fight and concluded he should have scored the fight 115-112 or 114-113.

So he issued an apology that wasn't just stunning, but unprecedented.

All the horrible decisions over the years. All the controversies over terrible scoring.

No one ever apologized for them.

But a judge in Arizona did.

"The 117-110 score is not accurate and does not represent the actions in the ring and I feel I have let down my federation, the NABF; my organization, the WBC; and most importantly our sport and the fighters inside the ring," Blea wrote.

Hopefully the people at Triller are paying at-

tention because they have some apologizing to do, too. Throwing a man just four years from collecting Social Security into the ring at the last moment wasn't just about making a mockery of a sport that doesn't need any more mockery.

It was also about the callousness of risking a man's life — or scrambling his brain — just so the profit and loss ledger could be balanced.

Triller is hardly alone. Boxing has a long history of promoters and managers who have sacrificed fighters for the better good of their wallets. They've ruined careers, and they've ruined lives in a sport so fraught with danger that any punch can be your last.

It was hard to even watch the clips of Holyfield for the short time he was in the ring. The fighter who gave Tyson a beatdown a quarter cen-

tury ago and then forced him to foul the second time they met looked slow and confused as he desperately tried to find some of the old magic.

Even sadder was Holyfield — who made \$35 million in 1997 for the second Tyson fight — so desperate for cash that he was delusional enough to even enter the ring.

Contrast that with Blea, who was so upset about his judging that he plans to take time off and undergo a thorough re-training program before returning to ringside.

"I am an honorable man with profound love, knowledge and respect to the sport," he said. "I am sorry for having a bad night and having brought unnecessary controversy to such a sensational fight."

A real apology. In boxing, of all places. Imagine that.

Auction for New IPL teams to take place on October 17: report

Bidding for the two new Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises will take place on October 17, sources told ANI.

The bidding for the two new Indian Premier League (IPL) teams is set to take place on October 17. Interestingly, while the last day for queries in regards to bidding for the teams is September 21, the bids can be picked till October 5. Speaking to ANI, sources in the know of developments confirmed the same. "The bidding is set to take place on October 17 while queries regarding the same can be made till September 21," the source said. The Governing Council of the Indian Premier League (IPL) had on August 31 invited bids to acquire the right to own and op-

erate one of the two new teams proposed to be introduced to take part in the tournament from the 2022 season, through a tender process.

"The detailed terms and conditions governing the submission and evaluation of bids including eligibility requirements, process for submissions of bids, proposed new teams' rights, and obligations, etc. are contained in the 'Invitation to Tender (ITT)' which will be made available on receipt of payment of non-refundable fee of INR 10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only) plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax," the BCCI had said in an official release.

The ITT is available for purchase till October 5. Interested parties

have been requested to send an email to BCCI to get further details for purchasing the ITT. The email requesting the ITT should have the subject line "ITT for the Right to Own and Operate One of Two Proposed New IPL Teams".

Any interested party wishing to submit a bid is required to purchase the ITT. However, only those satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in the ITT and subject to the other terms and conditions set out therein, shall be eligible to bid.

It is clarified that merely purchasing this ITT does not entitle any person to bid. BCCI reserves the right to cancel or amend the bidding process at any stage in any manner without providing any reason.

New-Look inter Milan begin Champions League campaign against Real Madrid

Inter Milan will host Real Madrid in their Champions League opener on Wednesday.

Simone Inzaghi is trying to put Inter Milan's rocky recent European past behind him as his side prepare for the visit of Real Madrid and an attempt to finally make it to the Champions league knockouts.

A long, hot summer at the Italian champions seems to be cooling down now that the new season has got underway, as memories of the departed stars Romelu Lukaku, Achraf Hakimi and Antonio Conte -- as well as the financial problems that led to their exits -- are shunted aside in face of a new-look Nerazzurri side which has started the campaign well. Seven points from the first three matches of the season is not a bad haul for new coach Inzaghi, although after missing a host of chances in Sunday's 2-2 draw at Sampdoria the former Lazio boss will be wondering why it isn't a perfect nine.

And after a promising opening few weeks domestically he now he has the chance to go one better than his more illustrious predecessor Conte did in his two years in charge at the San Siro and make it past the group stage.

"I'm not thinking about last season because it's since 2010 (2011, Ed) that Inter haven't get into the last 16. That's not last season, it's the last 10 years," Inzaghi told reporters on Tuesday.

"That's a statistic that we want to change at all costs." Inter also have the chance to get revenge on two of the sides who denied them a place in the knockout rounds last year, with Madrid and Shakhtar Donetsk again paired with Inter, this time in Group D with minnows Sheriff FC.

"I think that what happened with the two matches with Madrid last season is the past. Now we have a great chance to write an exciting new page," said Inzaghi.

"It won't be a very easy group but our hope is that we can get through it."

While Inter obviously miss the firepower of one of the world's best strikers, Inzaghi

still has a strong base from which to attack the competition, with Copa America winner Lautaro Martinez in form up front and one of Italy's Euro 2020 heroes Nicolo Barella shining in midfield.

New signings Edin Dzeko, Hakan Calhanoglu and Joaquin Correa have all settled in well but up to now have only faced modest opposition.

Wednesday's match is a much sterner test against a Madrid side which lead La Liga and have scored 13 times in four matches, with nine of those strikes coming from red-hot Karim Benzema and Vinicius Junior.

Inter will be missing the talented but injury-prone Stefano Sensi, who came on as Inzaghi's fifth substitute in the second-half but almost immediately suffered what Inter later revealed to be a ligament sprain in his right knee.

Madrid meanwhile will be without Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos, Dani Ceballos, Marcelo and Ferland Mendy, with Bale reportedly suffering a hamstring injury that could keep him out for some time.

"Something has to give": Chris Woakeson picking T20 World Cup, ashes over IPL

Chris Woakes said that looking at his potential workload in the upcoming T20 World Cup and Ashes, he decided to withdraw from the IPL 2021.

England all-rounder Chris Woakes has opened up on his decision to withdraw from the remainder of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 which gets underway on Sunday. The all-rounder who was set to represent Delhi Capitals, has said that looking at his potential workload in the upcoming T20 World Cup and Ashes, he decided to withdraw from the cash-rich league. "With the World Cup and the Ashes, it would have been too much in a short space of time. I would have loved

to have been part of the IPL but something has to give," the Guardian quoted Woakes as saying.

The Delhi Capitals players who were part of the Indian squad for the Test series against England landed in Dubai safely on Sunday for the second half of the IPL 2021.

The players, including Rishabh Pant, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ajinkya Rahane, Ishant Sharma, Axar Patel, Prithvi Shaw and Umesh Yadav, underwent Covid tests upon arrival in Dubai.

"The players will be serving a 6-day hard quarantine, as per IPL protocols, during which they will be tested thrice. Thereafter, the players will join the rest of the

Delhi Capitals squad, who are already part of the bio-bubble," said Delhi Capitals in its official statement.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had informed all franchises that every player coming in from the UK would have to undergo six days of hard quarantine before they join the existing team bubbles in UAE for the resumption of the 2021 edition of the IPL.

The 14th season, which was postponed in May this year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, will resume on September 19 in Dubai with a blockbuster clash between Chennai Super Kings and defending champions Mumbai Indians.

Virat Kohli sent letters to BCCI at Midnight, day before 5th Test: David Gower



Former England captain David Gower has said the events that led to the cancellation of the Manchester Test need better explanation, while claiming that skipper Virat Kohli sent letters to the Indian board at midnight, a day before the match.

Former England captain David Gower has said the events that led to the cancellation of the Manchester Test need better explanation, while claiming that skipper Virat Kohli sent letters to the Indian board at midnight, a day before the match. Gower made the claim in an interview with Cricket.com. The fifth Test was cancelled following a Covid outbreak in the Indian contingent. "Wow! No one, least of all I, saw that coming. It leads us into unprecedented territories," Gower told the portal.

"I mean I know other matches have been abandoned... sometimes a few balls bowled and various other circumstances but to have the thing called off at the last moment - Virat Kohli sending letters to the BCCI at midnight, the day before - the whole sequence of events needs explaining a little bit better," he added.

After the match at Old Trafford was called

off, many speculated that the resumption of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 had played a part in it.

Gower said that if the IPL is linked to the cancellation, then it is very disappointing for the fans.

"The worrying thing for me is this: If the IPL was so very closely linked to this, then that to me is very disappointing because... I mean sound old, crusty, but for all those people like me and dare I say, Virat... the last time he was in England, he made a big point about how important Test match cricket is to him," Gower said.

Virat Kohli, in his first comments on the cancelled Test, told the RCB website after arriving in Dubai: "Unfortunately how we ended up being here early but with Covid in place, things are very uncertain, so anything can happen at any time. Hopefully, we are able to maintain a good strong, secure environment here and have a quality IPL and then onto the World Cup. So now, heading into the T20 phase, I think it is going to be an exciting phase and a very important one for us at RCB and for the Indian team at the World Cup as well."

Meanwhile, rubbish claims that IPL played a part in the cancellation of the 5th Test, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Monday had said that players were afraid to take the field after second physio Yogesh Parmar tested positive.

"No, no, the BCCI will never be an irresponsible board. We value other boards too," Ganguly said when asked whether IPL played a role in the calling off of the fifth Test.

"The players refused to play but you can't blame them. Physio Yogesh Parmar was such a close contact of the players. Being the only one available after Nitin Patel isolated himself, he mixed freely with the players and even performed their COVID-19 tests," Ganguly added.

Following the cancellation, the BCCI had offered the England board to reschedule the cancelled Test at a later date.

"In lieu of the strong relationship between BCCI and ECB, the BCCI has offered to ECB a rescheduling of the cancelled Test match. Both the Boards will work towards finding a window to reschedule this Test match," the BCCI said in a statement.

Founder of South Korea's biggest church, Cho Yong-gi, dies

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AP): The Rev. Cho Yong-gi, whose founding of South Korea's biggest church was a symbol of the postwar growth of Christianity in the country before that achievement was tainted by corruption and other scandals, died Tuesday. He was 85.

Cho, an emeritus pastor at Seoul's Yoido Full Gospel Church, died at a Seoul hospital where he had been treated since he collapsed due to a cerebral hemorrhage in July 2020, the church said.

"He conveyed the gospel of hope to the Korean people who fell into despair after the Korean War," the church said in a statement. "He was instrumental in growing the Korean church, particularly developing Yoido Full Gospel Church as the world's largest church."

Better known as David Yonggi Cho or Paul Yonggi Cho abroad, the late pastor started his church in Seoul with five worshippers in 1958, when South Korea was still struggling to rebuild itself from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War. Under his leadership, the church achieved explosive growth and become a symbol of the rapid growth of Christianity in what was then a deep-



ly Confucian country.

In 1993, the church had more than 700,000 members, making it the world's biggest church congregation according to Guinness World Records, the church said. Church officials said its membership has since declined to about 600,000 and that they cannot confirm whether their church remains the world's largest.

It's still the largest Protestant church in South Korea. Church officials said it has 400 pastors and evangelists in South Korea and 500 missionaries abroad.

Despite his achievement, Cho and his family have been embroiled in scandals in recent years.

In 2017, he was convicted of breach of trust and causing

financial losses to the church but avoided jail as he received a suspended prison term. In 2013, a female politician filed a paternity suit against one of his sons. His family has also faced long-running criticism that they dominated key posts at the church and other church-related organizations.

In 2008, Cho stepped down as the church's top pas-

tor and a non-family member succeeded him in what the church called "an unprecedented, democratic" power transition. In South Korea, many church founders hand over their leadership positions to their children.

Lee Hunjoo, secretary-general of the Christian Alliance For Church Reform, a Seoul-based NGO, said the fast rise of Cho's church led other churches in South Korea to push excessively to expand their own congregations.

"It's true that the Rev. Cho did meaningful work for Korean churches," Lee said. "But in some sense, megachurches in South Korea began with Cho's Yoido Full Gospel Church."

According to a 2015 government census, Protestantism was the biggest religion in South Korea, followed by Buddhism and Catholicism. There were about 9.7 million Protestants at the time, accounting for nearly 20% of the country's then 49 million people.

Cho is survived by three sons. His funeral is set for Saturday, and the church will receive mourners from Wednesday, according to the church.

Egypt team identifies fossil of land-roaming whale species

CAIRO (AP): Egyptian scientists say the fossil of a four-legged prehistoric whale, unearthed over a decade ago in the country's Western Desert, is that of a previously unknown species. The creature, an ancestor of the modern-day whale, is believed to have lived 43 million years ago.

The prehistoric whale, known as semi-aquatic because it lived both on land and sea, sported features of an accomplished hunter, the team's leading paleontologist, Hesham Sallam, told The Associated Press — features that make it stand out among other whale fossils.

The fossil was first found by a team of Egyptian environmentalists in 2008 in an area that was covered by seas in prehistoric times, but researchers only published their findings confirming a new species last month.

Sallam said that his team did not start examining the fossil until 2017 because he wanted to assemble the best and the most talented Egyptian paleontologists for the study.

"This is the first time in the history of Egyptian vertebrate paleontology to have an Egyptian team leading a documentation of a new genus and species of four-legged whale," said Sallam.

The fossil sheds light on the evolution of whales from herbivore land mammals into carnivorous species that today live exclusively in water. The transition took place over roughly 10 million years, according to an article published on the discovery in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Egypt's Western Desert region is already known for the so-called Whale Valley, or Wadi Al-Hitan, a tourist attraction and the country's only natural World Heritage site that contains fossil remains of another type of prehistoric whales.

The newly discovered creature belongs to

the family of Protecetids, extinct semi-aquatic whales that lived from 59 to 34 million years ago, Sallam said. It would have walked on land but also hunted in the water.

"This is yet another new species of early whales from the time when they retained four functional limbs," said Jonathan Geisler, an expert on the evolutionary history of mammals with New York Institute of Technology. He said that the location of the discovery in Egypt is also a clue as to when and how they spread around the globe. Geisler was not involved in the find.

The oldest fossil whales are about 50 million years old and are believed to have originated in modern-day Pakistan and India. However, scientists have not been able to reach a conclusive answer as to when whales moved out of their point of origin to all the world's oceans.

"This new species by itself cannot answer that question, but when viewed in the context of other fossil discoveries, suggests that this dispersal occurred 43 million years ago," said Geisler, adding the new find could possibly serve as a link between Indo-Pakistan and North American regions. The fossil whale has been named Phiomictus Anubis, after the god of death in ancient Egypt.

"We chose the name Anubis because it had a strong and deadly bite," said Sallam, professor of paleontology at Mansoura University in Egypt. "It could kill any creature it crossed paths with."

The new species stands out for its elongated skull and snout that suggest it was an efficient carnivore capable of grasping and chewing its prey, he said. It was about 3 meters (9 feet long) and weighed around 600 kilograms, according to researchers. It is also believed to have had sharp hearing and sense of smell.

Myanmar court moves venue for secrets trial of Australian

BANGKOK (AP): A court in Myanmar has agreed to change the venue for the trial of an Australian economist and adviser to ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi on charges of violating the nation's official secrets law, lawyers said Tuesday.

Sean Turnell was charged along with Suu Kyi and three former Cabinet ministers under the law in March, a month after the military ousted Suu Kyi's elected government and seized power.

The decision by the country's Supreme Court will move the trial from Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city where Turnell was arrested, to the capital, Naypyitaw, said one of Suu Kyi's lawyers, Kyi Win.

That will consolidate most of the legal cases against Suu Kyi in a single location. The cases, lodged at the behest of the military-installed government, are widely seen as an effort to discredit Suu Kyi and prevent her from returning to politics.

Violating the official secrets law carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. The colonial-era statute criminalizes the possession, collection, recording, publishing, or sharing of state information that is "directly or indirectly, useful to an enemy."

The exact details of Turnell's alleged offense and those of the others have not been made public, though state television, citing government statements, has said the Australian academic had access to "secret state financial information" and had tried to flee the country.

Turnell has been confined in Yangon's Insein Prison, known for decades for holding political prisoners.

Meanwhile, the trial

of Suu Kyi, 76, and two colleagues continued Tuesday at a special court in Naypyitaw, a day after she had to cancel her participation because of illness. The court on Monday allowed her to return to her place of detention -- which is kept secret by the authorities -- after she explained that she was suffering from cold symptoms and felt dizzy on the ride to the court.

Another of her lawyers, KhinMaungZaw, said her condition had visibly improved Tuesday when she returned to court, though she informed her legal team that she still felt some dizziness. Her co-defendants on several charges, former President Win Myint and Naypyitaw ex-Mayor MyoAung, were also in attendance.

Suu Kyi is being tried in Naypyitaw on charges of sedition, defined as spreading information that could cause public alarm or unrest, and sometimes termed incitement; two counts of flouting COVID-19 pandemic restrictions during the 2020 election campaign; illegally importing walkie-talkies for her bodyguards to use; and unlicensed use of the radios.

Suu Kyi's lawyers have argued in court that the sedition case should not be prosecuted, and both her team and the prosecution on Tuesday presented arguments to the court on that matter, KhinMaungZaw said.

Two prosecution witnesses failed to show up to testify about the COVID-19 restrictions case and the testimony of a third was postponed, he said.

KhinMaungZaw also told reporters that the defense lawyers had Suu Kyi sign documents appointing them to represent her in corruption cases filed in the central city of Mandalay.

Military junta to open talks over Guinea's future post-coup



CONAKRY, GUINEA (AP): Guinea's junta is expected to face more pressure Tuesday to set a timeframe for new elections as the military rulers open a four-day series of meetings about the West African nation's future following the coup just over a week ago.

Concerns are growing about how quickly the junta led by Col. Mamady Doumbouya will give up power to a civilian-led transitional government as called for by regional mediators and the international community.

The coup has been cautiously welcomed by other longtime opponents of deposed President Alpha Conde including Guinea's most prominent opposition figure, Cellou Dalein Diallo, who had lost to the ousted leader in the last three presidential elections.

Anger over Conde's quest for a third term last year led to violent street demonstrations, and many in the capital, Conakry, have shown support for the military takeover. How long that lasts could depend on what deals are struck at this week's meetings.

Among those taking part are leaders from Guinea's mining industry, whom the junta leader has sought to reassure in a bid to prevent the destabilization of critical

bauxite and gold exports that hold up the country's economy.

On Tuesday, the junta kicks off talks by meeting with officials from Diallo's party, the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea, and other critics of Conde. Later it will welcome religious leaders to the People's Palace, where earlier it summoned officials from the ousted government and demanded they hand over their passports and keys to government vehicles.

After wrapping up a visit to Conakry on Monday, the head of the U.N. Office for West Africa and the Sahel said he was placing "a lot of hope" on this week's meetings.

"Because whatever the international community will say or do, the fate of Guinea is what the Guineans themselves will decide," Annadi KhatirMahamatSaleh said.

Diallo, the three-time presidential candidate, has made clear he'd like to run if new elections are organized. In an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday he called the ousted president a dictator who brought about his own demise because of his defiance of constitutional term limits.

The West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS already has

threatened sanctions unless the junta releases the deposed president, as it did last year when a military coup took place in neighboring Mali.

"I call on them not to sanction Guinea, but to accompany the new authorities in the rapid return to constitutional order within a reasonable timeframe through the organization of inclusive, free and transparent elections," the longtime Guinean opposition leader told the AP.

After Mali's August 2020 coup, ECOWAS imposed sanctions and proposed a one-year deadline for the political transition. Regional mediators later acquiesced to the junta leaders and accepted an 18-month timeframe that now appears in doubt as February 2022 approaches. After agreeing to a civilian transitional government following the coup, Col. Assimi Goita effectively staged another coup nine months later by firing the president and prime minister and later declaring himself president of the transition.

Both Guinea and Mali had gone years without military coups, leading some to think they might have become a thing of the past. Even if a deal is struck this week in Guinea, observers say the Mali situation un-

derscores the fragility of such agreements with military juntas.

Some fear that if left unchecked, the coups in West Africa could encourage militaries elsewhere to stage takeovers of their own. Earlier this year, the military in Chad also seized power after longtime President Idriss Debyltano was slain, putting his son Mahamat Idriss Deby in charge even though Chad's constitution had called for power to be transferred to the National Assembly president.

Niagale Bagayoko, chair of the African Security Sector Network who focuses her research on West and Central Africa, said the threat extends beyond military coups to include presidents who try to change their country's constitutions to remain in power.

"What it is at stake today is: Do we continue to support democratically elected authorities, and what does it mean to be democratically elected?" she said. "The problems that we do have in the sub-region, not only in countries where a coup happened, is that you have both unconstitutional civilian kinds of coups and military coups. And it's difficult to fight against the latter when there's not been really any condemnation for the former."



Springsteen's popular artifacts to feature in Grammy museum

LOS ANGELES (AP): Bruce Springsteen's most memorable artifacts including his favorite Fender guitar and stage outfits will be on display in a traveling interactive exhibit.

The Grammy Museum announced Tuesday that Bruce Springsteen Live! will open at the Grammy Museum Experience in the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, on Oct. 1. The exhibit will feature Springsteen and the E Street Band's live performance footage, instruments, stage costumes and exclusive interviews.

The exhibit in New Jersey will run until March 20, 2022. It will travel to the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles in the fall next year.

"As we reopen the doors to our museum and so many of us return to the workplace, it only seemed fitting that we would look to 'The Boss' to lead the way," said Mark Conklin, director of artist relations and programming at the Grammy Museum Experience Prudential Center, in a statement. "No musical artist has captured the spirit and resiliency of New Jerseyans in song better than Bruce Springsteen, so we couldn't imagine a more appropriate exhibit at this moment."

Springsteen's modified Fender guitar that was featured on several of his al-

bum covers such as "Human Torch" and "Born to Run" will be displayed. Other items will include stage clothing from Springsteen and members of E Street along with a signed itinerary from his

ask, visitors will be able to view Springsteen's handwritten set lists and create their own encores to compare against the legendary performer's original.

"Few performers embody the soul



Human Rights Tour, a six-week benefit tour in 1988. A ticket booth stage prop from the Tunnel of Love tour will also be highlighted at the exhibit.

A saxophone played by the late Clarence Clemons – who performed alongside Springsteen for 40 years – will be on display. The saxophone was passed on to Clemons' nephew, Jake Clemons, who continues to use the instrument as the newest member of the E Street Band since 2012. Through an interactive ki-

and excitement of live rock and roll like Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band," said co-curator Robert Santelli, founding executive director of the Grammy Museum. "This exhibit will undoubtedly get fans excited about seeing Springsteen again in concert, hopefully soon."

The Grammy Museum partnered with the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University.

'Jeopardy!' begins season with already-ousted Richards



NEW YORK (AP): The very brief Mike Richards era on "Jeopardy!" began on Monday as the beleaguered game show dealt with the embarrassment of opening its 38th season with a host that its fans already know is toast.

Richards stepped down as Alex Trebek's replacement on Aug. 20, and was ousted as the show's executive producer a week and a half later, after it was discovered podcasts he had made in 2013 and 2014 contained demeaning remarks about women and minorities.

His selection as host by Sony Pictures Television after a lengthy run of tryouts by other personalities was already unpopular with fans before the old podcasts surfaced.

His ouster came after he had completed a week's worth of taping shows for the new season, and Sony couldn't redo them without affecting the game's integrity.

Richards was introduced as host Monday by a downcast-sounding announcer, Johnny Gilbert. Not a word was mentioned of his status as Trebek's replacement; if it had been originally, it was cut out.

Before he was introduced, it was

noted that Trebek's widow and children had been on hand for the stage's dedication to its old host, who died of cancer last October.

"For the first time on the Alex Trebek stage, let's play 'Jeopardy!,' Richards said.

In keeping with Trebek's tradition — he considered the game and its players the star — Richards generally took a backseat to the action.

The show is in the midst of an historic run by Matt Amodio, a Ph.D student from New Haven, Connecticut. He won his 19th straight game on Monday, increasing his total winnings to \$642,601, behind only Ken Jennings and James Holzhauer.

Amodio made quick work of competitors AmdeMengistu of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Gabbie Kim, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, winning \$67,800 on Monday.

"Jeopardy!" next week will bring actress Mayim Bialik back as guest host before beginning another series of tryouts for Trebek's permanent replacement.

The Richards era will end after five shows. Trebek, who began in 1984, totaled more than 8,200.

Amazon brings palm-swiping tech to Red Rocks concert venue

NEW YORK (AP): Your palm could soon be your ticket into a concert. Amazon says it is bringing its palm-recognition technology to the Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Denver and it will be available at other venues in the coming months. It's the first time the technology, called Amazon One, will be used outside some of Amazon's stores, where shoppers can pay for groceries and snacks by swiping their palms.

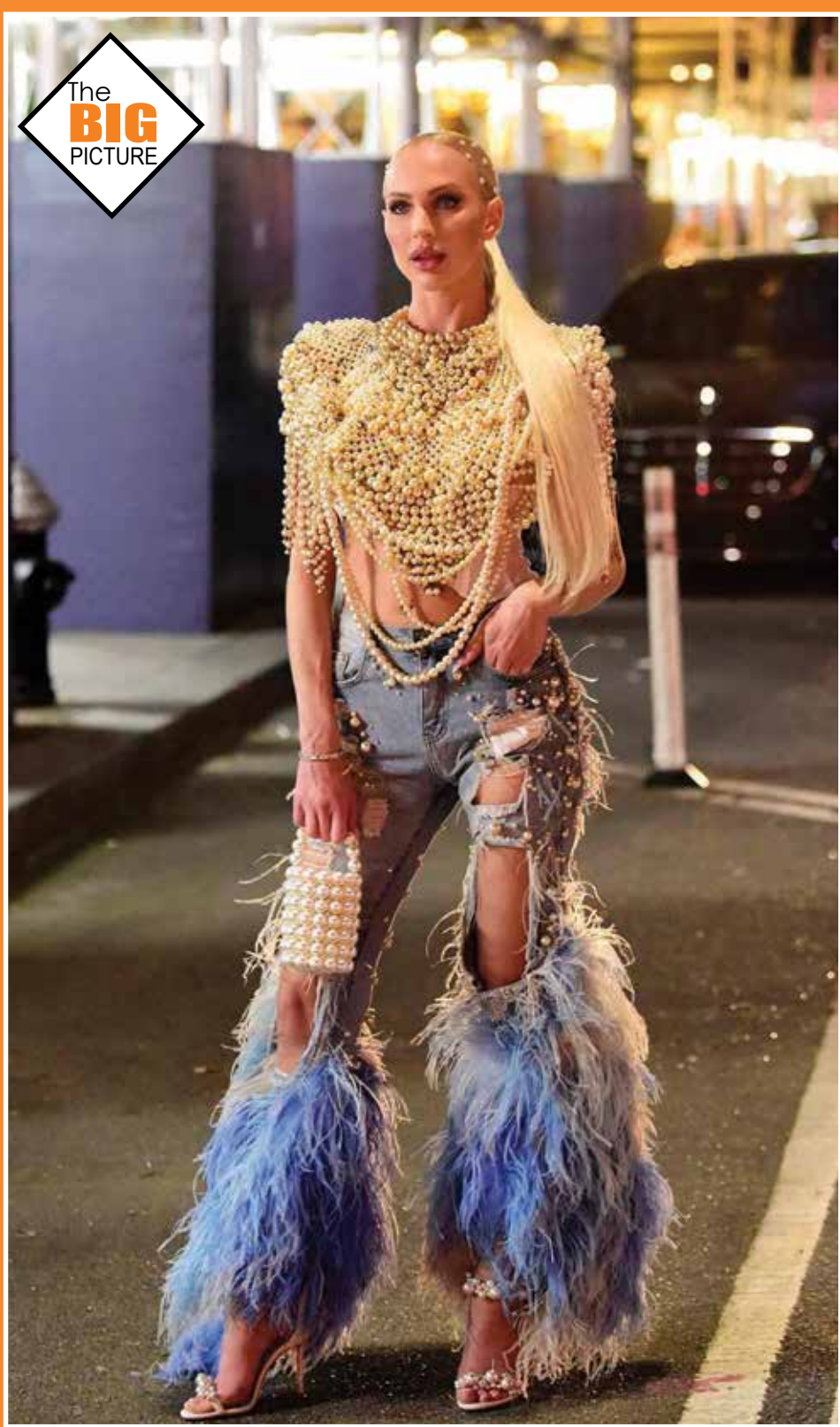
Starting Tuesday, concertgoers at Red Rocks can sign up to connect their palm to a ticketing account by hovering their hand over a device. They only need to sign up once and then can use their palm to get into other shows and events at the venue. An Amazon account is not needed to use it.

Amazon signed a deal with entertainment company AEG to bring the technology to Red Rocks, which sells tickets on AEG's ticketing site, AXS.

Bryan Perez, CEO of AXS, said other venues plan to add the technology in the coming months but he declined to say where or how many. AEG partners with more than 350 stadiums and theaters around the world.

Concertgoers can get to their seats faster with their palm than holding up their phone to an attendant to scan a bar code, Perez said. Those who want to scan their palms will have a separate lane to enter. "You don't have to fumble around with your phone," said Perez. "Your hand is always attached to your body."

Privacy experts have warned against companies using biometric data, such as face or palm scans, because of the risk of it being hacked and stolen. Amazon said it keeps the palm images in a secure part of its cloud and doesn't store the information on the Amazon One device. Users can also ask for their information to be deleted at any time, Amazon said.



OWNING THE STREETS! Actress Christine Quinn turned heads at a NYFW party.

Addison Rae loses her cool as Justin Bieber delivers surprise performance at 2021 Met Gala

Justin Bieber performed an unannounced concert during the 2021 Met Gala, and Addison Rae didn't hold back as she loudly sang along to his hits.

Justin Bieber busted out the classics for the 2021 Met Gala, and a certain Gen Z star in particular was loving every second of it.

Addison Rae was among the A-list attendees at the high-profile New York City bash on Monday, Sept. 13, and she was clearly thrilled that Justin performed a surprise concert during the Metropolitan Museum of Art event.

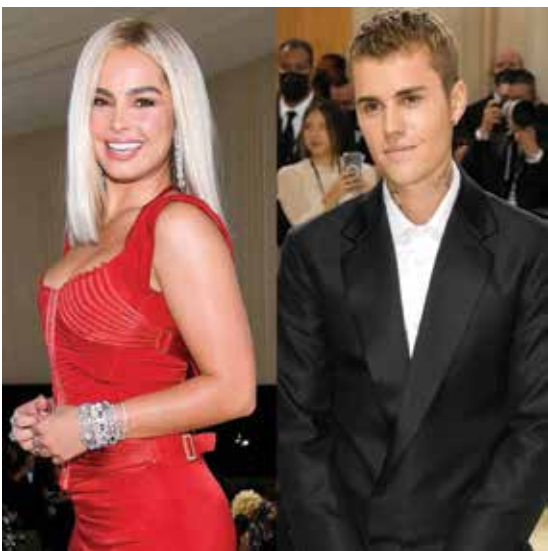
At one point, as Justin performed one of his breakthrough hits, "Baby," social media star Jackie Aina shared footage to her Instagram Story of Addison, 20, having a blast while dancing enthusiastically and singing along to every word.

The other guests in the background appeared to be much more subdued about the performance, but that certainly didn't deter the He's All That actress, as she even made a heart gesture with her hands while loudly belting out the lyrics. Meanwhile, Jackie could be overheard laughing as she filmed the elated Belieber.

This was Addison's very first Met Gala, and she certainly didn't hold back in preparing her look. When she walked the red carpet on her way inside, the TikTok personality was

rocking a platinum bob with a corset-inspired red dress.

Plenty of other Gen Z members made their Met Gala presences known as well. Among the on-the-rise stars who landed the coveted invite were vlogger Emma Chamberlain, Tik-



Tok's Dixie D'Amelio, singer Madison Beer and model Kaia Gerber.

To see how other stars enjoyed their time at the Met Gala, check out our collection of photos taken during this year's festivities within the museum.

Aries:

Love, beauty, and desire are taking centre-stage, Aries. You are honouring the sacred feminine force within and giving your body the nurture it deserves. Remember, everything in our lives works inside out. This means that when we show up for ourselves fully, our interpersonal relationships too move into a space of harmony.

Tip: Honour the sacred feminine force within.

Taurus:

It's not for you to worry about how matters will be resolved. We repeat: It's not for you to worry about how matters will be resolved. Your job is to stay in the energy of what you are manifesting consistently as you leave 'the how' and 'the why' to the Universe. This includes the relationships that are seemingly topsy-turvy at the moment. When you decide to make peace with the past - when you decide to forgive yourself "and" the other - everything around you will heal and transform.

Tip: Leave 'the how' and 'the why' to the Universe.

Gemini:

Your desires are sacred and play an integral in maintaining the harmony of the Divine Matrix. So, continue to believe in what you are calling in consistently despite what your physical reality is showing you. Leave 'the hows' and 'the whys' to the Universe as you do and perfect the art of surrender. Something tells us your patience and

persistence will pay off in the long run. What's more, you will receive a sign today about being on the right track from the mysterious forces above.

Tip: Perfect the art of surrender, beautiful one.

Cancer:

Love, beauty, and fertility are taking centre-stage in the Cancer HQ. You are celebrating yourself and your body like never before - a ritual that is making you alluring the suitor(s) waiting on you. As such, creative pursuits of all kinds are also blessed today. You may find yourself approaching a certain something you began a while ago with a fresh perspective. Honour the ideas coming through from your superconscious as you commit to co-creating magic with the forces above.

Tip: It's all about self-love rituals, baby!

Leo:

Leo, you've always been a bit of a rebel at heart. An artistic soul who believes their sacred mission is to bring a little more joy, a little more play, and a little more madness into this world. So, honour the guidance you are receiving from your higher self in this moment, as you become one with the cosmic rhythm. PS: Always remember that perfection is but an illusion.

Tip: It's time to bring a little more joy and madness into this world.

Virgo:

Virgo, you've been doing and giving. Giving and doing. Pouring unconditionally from your cup and showing up for your fellow warriors in this time of collective grief. Could it be that in holding space for those around you have forgotten to honour the deity who lives within? Just for today, change your approach a little. Allow yourself to be in solitude, to contemplate and to practice sacred self-care rituals. Working on yourself inside-out is the secret to bringing about a magnificent shift.

Tip: It's time to show up for the deity who lives within.

Libra:

You've been exercising your manifesting muscles, Libra, and witnessing miracles unfold all around you. But, what about the blessings that you're still waiting on? The hopes and dreams that are yet to take a physical form? The cards are urging you to be a little more patient with the mysterious forces above. Your prayers will be answered in divine time, and both your needs and wants will be taken care of.

Tip: Your hopes and desires are sacred to the Universe.

Scorpio:

What if we said that your circumstances are neither good nor bad? What if we said it's all unfolding in a

way that's divinely orchestrated? So, witness it all as if it were a play, and know the outcome will ultimately be in your favour. Those of you who are fighting a legal battle at the moment are being guided to practice detachment as well. Take precautions wherever necessary, approach a lawyer you trust and get your paperwork ready. PS: The ancient Egyptian goddess Ma'at, who embodies justice and cosmic order, is working with you closely at this time.

Tip: Watch it all unfold as if it were a play.

Sagittarius:

What if we said you are your own worst enemy, Sagittarius? What if we said it is "you" who has been standing in the way of your progress? It's time to believe in the impossible, beautiful, and it's time to believe in yourself even more. What you are being offered right now is the opportunity to follow your true path. Say yes to the unknown with unyielding faith in the mysterious forces above.

Tip: It's time to believe in the impossible.

Capricorn:

The trouble is, you've been oscillating between the past and the future - fixating on the things you have no control over in the now. So, accept where you are, beautiful. Accept what life is offering you at the moment. As you do, actively ground yourself in the present mo-

ment with the help of yoga, meditation and other techniques that help deepen our awareness. Spending time in nature and digging your feet in the sand (or soil) is another wonderful way to stay in the now.

Tip: Work with grounding techniques.

Aquarius:

When the Universe takes away something that we care about deeply, it's not to punish us or to deprive us of our share of blessings. It is to help us cleanse and purge our space so we can call in what we desire and deserve. Yes, the process of endings will shatter your insides, Aquarius. Yes, you will find yourself bawling your eyes out in the middle of the night. Remind yourself of the light that awaits you at the end of the tunnel and a love that will honour the deity who lives you.

Tip: Cleanse and purge.

Pisces:

The trouble is, we only look at things from our perspective, while discrediting the hurt and the pain of the other person. But, we're all carrying wounds from the past, Pisces, and understanding the wounds of another is a love language. So, bring a little more gentleness and compassion into the relationship as you remember that you are being supported in your endeavors to restore peace, balance, and harmony is already within you.

Tip: A little more love and a little more compassion.