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SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 243 | Gangtok | Thursday | 13 September 2018

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Govt planning to relax height limit for Nepalese in paramilitary forces: Rijiju

NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI): The Home Ministry is planning to relax the minimum height requirement for people from the Nepalese community residing in India to join the paramilitary forces, Minister of States for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said Wednesday.

He was speaking at Haritalika Teej Mahotsav organised by Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust and Bharat Swabhimana Trust.

Rijiju praised the contribution of the Nepalese community in developing the Indian culture.

"The Nepalese community has played a very important role in saving and making the Indian culture and because of their enormous contribution, we are proposing relaxation of height for the Nepalese community residing in India in paramilitary forces," he said.

The minister said the relaxation in the height limit would be same as given to Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the paramilitary forces.

The Scheduled Tribes get a relaxation of a few centimetres in paramilitary forces. The minimum height for all candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes is 162.5 centimetres for males and 150 centimetres for females.

The minimum height for General Category candidates is 170 centimetres for males and 157 centimetres for females.

"We keep hearing about OBC unity, SC/ST unity. National unity should be above all," Ramdev said.

State preps for PM's Sikkim visit on 23 Sept

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT [IPR]: A high-level meeting was convened by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, today to discuss and allocate responsibilities to various departments of the State Government and Central Government agencies for the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sikkim.

The CS informed that he has been intimated by the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding the visit of the PM on 23 Sept, 2018.

It is informed that the PM will inaugurate Pakyong Greenfield Airport in East Sikkim after which he will address a public meeting at St Xavier's School ground in Pakyong and return the same day.



The CS added that the detailed tour programme of the PM is awaited. He informed that Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, RN Choubey, will be in Sikkim on 13 Sept to oversee preparations for the visit.

"I am very happy to share that the PM is visiting Sikkim for the second time and this time he will be inaugurating the Pakyong Airport which is ready and has undergone trial on two occasions in the month of March this

year," stated the CS.

He said that the visit will lay to rest all the speculation surrounding the actual date of commercial operation of flights from the airport.

He said that after formal inauguration of the air-

port on 23 Sept, the commercial operations will commence from the first week of Oct.

The CS shared the tentative programme of the PM's visit and took department-wise stock of preparations to be made.

Among the points discussed, he stressed on the urgency to repair and upgrade roads along Rangpo to Ranipool by the NHIDCL and the stretch from Ranipool to Pakyong Airport by the Roads & Bridges Department. He called for taking adequate measures in case of any exigency.

Issues that were discussed threadbare were security, upgradation of roads, immediate repair of retention wall below the airport, list of guests and passes, continuous power supply, medical team, dais plan and beautification and upkeep of Airport and Pakyong town.

The CS further stated that there will be severe restriction on the number of officials attending the inauguration program at Pakyong Airport

and urged all the heads of departments to keep a note of this.

In conclusion, he urged all the heads of departments and concerned officers to put their best foot forward to make the high-level visit a success.

The meeting had the presence and participation of ADGP, DIG and SPs of Sikkim Police, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, and senior officers of Departments namely Forest, Health, Home Department, IPR, Buildings & Housing, UD&HD, PHE, Energy & Power, Horticulture, Tourism, Additional Secretary to the Governor, District Collector [East], SDM [Pakyong], Chief Engineer [NHIDCL], senior officials of Airport Authority of India [Pakyong Airport], and DGM [BSNL].



Calculating arrears without final basic pay structure is confounding: HSP

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP] spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari, and vice president, Bhaichung Bhutia, today addressed a press meet following announcements on the new pay revision structure made by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on 11 Sept.

Questioning the CM's announcements, HSP spokesperson, Mr Adhikari, said, "The CM said the government has

formed a sub-committee 'to examine and sort out the anomalies [if any] in the Pay Committee recommendations'. Why is that, after almost three years, the government feels that there may be 'anomalies [if any]' in implementing the pay scales for the remaining employees as recommended in the 5th Pay Commission when a large section of the employees like the IAS and IPS officers are already receiving the benefits?"

He further questioned on the calculation of the arrears and allowances to be disbursed without a basic pay structure.

"We demand clarification from the State Government on this. The government should fix basic pay for government employees at the earliest," he added.

He accused that the State Government of beating around the bush by announcing arrears

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CM releases coffee table book on birds of Sikkim

ARPAN PRADHAN GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

"WE SHOULD WORK seriously for the protection and preservation of nature, and the youth should come forward for such initiatives. A lot of research needs to be undertaken to preserve and protect the birds and animals of Sikkim," said Chief Minister Pawan Chamling during the release of coffee table book titled, 'Birds of Sikkim', at his official residence, Mintokgang, here today.

'Birds of Sikkim' is 105-page coffee table book published by the Sikkim Ornithological Society [SOS] with a foreword from Spanish author of Hand Book of the Birds of the World, Joseph Del Hoyo.

The CM congratulated SOS and applauded its members for their compilation documenting such an important section of the fauna.

Stressing on the need to protect nature and all its elements, he said that the book will serve as a good research material for all.

"People often take nature for granted but the government has to work very hard to maintain peace and harmony and a healthy environment. Sikkim, with some more effort, can become the country's



first Carbon Neutral State. If the State can successfully reduce carbon emission by just 1%, Sikkim will be successful in achieving the status of Carbon Neutral State," said Mr Chamling.

Adding that many birds are still left in the State that can be included in the list, the CM suggested even more intensive research on the subject and also including the various migrating birds which course through Sikkim.

He assured them all help and support in their future projects involving the flora and fauna of the State.

SOS members provided brief information on the book during the programme.

Speaking to SummitTimes, SOS president, Nosang M Limboo, said that the main objective behind the book was to generate wider awareness among people about various birds found in Sikkim.

"The objective is also to provide information about the various species of birds found in the State," added general secretary, Sonam Paljor Bhutia.

SOS appreciated the welcoming nature of the CM and extended gratitude for his support. They requested all concerned and technical persons to come forward for such projects and extend support. The coffee table book will be made available at various local book stores soon, it was informed.

LTVC to hold meet with reps of all political parties on LT seat issue

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] is organising a meeting of representatives from all political parties and different organisations of Sikkim in a bid to secure a concrete outcome on the Limboo-Tamang seat reservation issue. The meet is scheduled for 16 Sept here at Chokasum in Nam Nang.

An LTVC team recently called on representatives of all political parties and different organisations to invite their representation for the meet, it is informed.

Addressing a press conference here today, LTVC president, Yehang Tshong, mentioned that LTVC has taken the initiative to unite all political parties and



organisations of Sikkim to build consensus on the LT seat reservation issue in the Legislative Assembly SLA and for the protection of Article 371F of the Constitution.

He informed that the organisation has approached all political parties, including the Sikkim Democratic Front, and different organisations and all have assured to attend the meeting.

He added that any political party failing to attend the meeting will be

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SKM thumbs down Govt decision to release salary arrears in 3 instalments

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has again criticised the State Government for providing arrears to the government employees in three installments instead of releasing in one installment as has been demanded by the Opposition parties. The State Government, it may be recalled, has announced salary arrears to be payable wef 01 Jan 2016 as against the earlier announced date of 01 Jan 2017.

SKM has now asserted that the announcement of the Chief Minister on Tuesday to provide arrears in three installments has broken "all hopes and aspirations" especially of the Group C & D employees.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, stated that with the government employees suffering due to delay in implementation of the Pay Commission, the announcement of the CM to provide arrears in three installments was like rubbing salt on a wound.

He asserted that this will greatly affect Grade C & D employees as the payment of arrears in a single go would have been much more beneficial for them.

Mr Khaling has also criticised the economic policies of the government. He stated that payment of arrears of Rs 354 crores in three installments highlight the failure of economic policy of the CM despite holding the portfolio of Finance Minister for last 25 years.

He questioned on the accounts of revenues received by the State Government from hydel projects and private companies in the State, casinos, online gaming, playwin and revenue and taxes received from other

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Calculating arrears without final basic pay...

contd from pg01

and allowances in order to entice voters for the upcoming election.

Addressing the press, HSP vice president, Mr Bhutia, alleged that Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] was supporting the third front proposed by West Bengal CM and TMC president, Mamata Banerjee while maintaining its alliance with BJP through NEDA and NDA.

"It has been reported in national newspapers that the CM is also supporting the third front and West Bengal CM, Mamata Banerjee. The SDF party is also with BJP through NEDA and NDA. Can Chamling clarify which party is he supporting? He is supporting outside parties and accuses HSP of being a party of outsiders," said Mr Bhutia.

Fielding media queries, Mr Bhutia said that HSP cannot comment on the possibility of alliance with BJP in the forthcoming elections.

"The BJP is already in alliance with SDF through

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 12 SEPT:

Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso, inaugurated the new administrative building of Temi Tea Estate in South Sikkim today.

The two-storeyed office building has been constructed under North East Council [NEC] Fund for modernization of the tea estate.

The building was completed in June earlier this year with a fund outlay of approximately Rs 60 lacs while the overall



modernisation has been to the tune of Rs 290.06 lakh with 90:10 ratio of the NEC and the State re-

spectively.

During the function, Mr Gyatso urged the tea estate to continue to

command its reputation of quality tea.

He further extended support of the State Gov-

ernment towards its goal of quality organic Himalayan tea from Sikkim.

"Temi has managed to remain number one in tea wellness so let us come forward to preserve the beauty of our tea garden to attract tourists because Temi tea plays a big role in alluring tourists throughout the year. We all know that Red Panda Winter Carnival will be held in Nov-Dec. This year, many celebrities and tourists are expected to visit our tea garden," said Mr Gyatso.

CS discusses preparedness for events lined up for next month

Gangtok, 12 Sept [IPR]: Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, chaired a meeting to discuss the preparedness for three important events lined up for the month of Oct 2018.

The first event is the State level Gandhi Jayanti celebration to be held at Chintan Bhawan on 02 Oct in the presence of Governor Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

The Governor and the CM will be garlanding the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at MG Marg before arriving at Chintan Bhawan.

The CS took stock of the responsibilities to be taken by each department and discussed all the activities lined up.



Likewise, the CS set the task and the responsibility of each department for the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the birth anniversary of Late

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Rashtriya Sankalp Diwas, death anniversary of Late Indira Gandhi, both of which fall on 31 Oct, 2018.

The CS informed that

the two events will be clubbed together and held at the mini hall of Manan Kendra in Gangtok for all the officers and staff of Manan Kendra

Secretariat. He discussed the agenda of both the events and exhorted all the departments concerned to take the responsibilities set aside.

Apart from the programmes at Manan Kendra, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and Rashtriya Sankalp Diwas will also be observed at all the departmental headquarters and district headquarters.

The meeting had the presence and participation of Additional Director General of Police, Sudhakar Rao, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, senior officers of various departments and officers of Home Department led by Secretary, Protocol, Pratap Pradhan.

Orientation programme concludes for Primary School heads of West Sikkim

GYALSHING, 12 SEPT [IPR]: The valedictory programme of 'Orientation-cum-Refreshers Training for the Heads of Primary School of West District' was organized today at the premises of District Institute of Education and Training [DIET] in Gyalshing, West Sikkim in the presence of District Collector [West], Dr AB Karki, as chief guest accompanied by Deputy Director, Human Resource Development Department, KD Bhutia, as guest of honor.

The three-daylong orientation programme organized by DIET, West had commenced on 10 Sept wherein various training modules and impartation of various teaching methods were given by resource persons from DIET, Gyalshing.

District Collector [West], Dr Karki, encouraged the trainees to be well-equipped and make a difference in their respective schools irrespective of the challenges they may face. He urged the

heads of Primary Schools of West Sikkim to be an example for the society and to do exemplary work in order to achieve greatness.

He mentioned that with regard to Aspirational District, West Sikkim has become the second best aspirational district in India and education has been given a major priority along with health. He stated that the State has always given priority to education and hence the responsibility lies on the shoulders of the teachers to achieve greatness and make West Sikkim number one in the sector.

Dr Karki expressed desire to visit different schools of West Sikkim in the coming days along with District Information Officer [IPR], West.

Certificate of Excellence along with cash prize of Rs 5000 sponsored by Lecturer, DIET Gangtok, Aruna Pradhan, was awarded to Bhim Raj Pradhan.

Annual Tenchi puja at Tashi Choling Dharma Centre from 24 Sept

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Tashi Choling Dharma Centre at Khecheopalri in West Sikkim with the active support of devotees and well wishers from five Panchayat Blocks under Khecheopalri will be organizing the annual Tenchi Puja, prayer recitation of 'Yiggya Dhungyur' [Vazra Satu 100 million times] and Riwo Sangcheod Dhungyur [fire incense offering recitation 100 million times], from 24 Sept under the guidance

of Kyabje Suktse Rinpoche, a press release informs.

It may be mentioned here, Tashi Choling Dharma Centre has been established by Kyabje Suktse Rinpoche, one of the oldest living disciples of Dudjom Rinpoche and an imminent Dudjom Tersar lineage holder.

The Yiggya or the 100 syllable mantra of Vajrasattva is a power purification prayer that invokes the mind streams of all the Bud-

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SKM circulating fabricated news of new joinings: SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Sikkim Democratic Front has stressed that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is facing a paucity of political principles, pro-people programmes and farsighted ideologies and has once again criticised and condemned SKM for circulating fabricated news of SDF families joining SKM.

An SDF press release issued by its general secretary [press & publicity], Kavita Subba, states that SKM, led by a president who recently completed a one year jailterm on corruption charges, has crossed all limits of politics of rumours and propaganda.

"After getting convicted by the courts in a corruption case, he [SKM president PS Tamang] has no moral claim to level allegations of corruption on the State Government. It is important for him to remember his own acts before making such allegations," the SDF party adds in the release.

The release states that people of Sikkim are aware of the unprecedented development that has taken place under SDF government and the popularity of SDF will remain same even in upcoming 2019 election.

The ruling party stated that the claim of SKM party on the numbers of new joining at different places of the State has been repeatedly proven wrong.

Youths accuse Pabyuk Naitam Ward Panchayat of favouritism

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Two youth from Pabyuk-Naitam Ward under Bhusuk-Naitam GPU in Upper Shyari constituency have accused their Ward Panchayat, Rinzing Ongmu Lepcha, of favouritism and foisting injustice on the people of the area. They have alleged that the Ward Panchayat has been distributing government benefits only to family members.

A group of people from the same Ward, it may be mentioned here, had leveled similar allegations against the Ward Panchayat in a press conference some months back.

Addressing a press conference here today, Anup Lachenpa alleged that the Ward Panchayat has been releasing various government benefits exclusively to her family members and relatives including herself and her husband.

He added that recently she even allotted a housing scheme of Rs 12 lakh to her husband and that the construction is underway at present.

He added that due to this attitude, the area has not been witnessing any development.

"We are also mem-

bers of SDF party but due to such acts of the Ward Panchayat, our party members in the area have been joining other parties. So we would like to request the Chief Minister to take action at the earliest and to send concerned government officials to investigate the matter," Mr Lachenpa urged.

He mentioned that the people of the area have been taking this issue to the concerned BDO and RDA and even to the ruling party leaders but no action has been taken thus far.

"We are thankful to the CM for constantly providing various benefits to the Ward for the welfare of the people, but unfortunately due to partiality at the distribution level, genuine beneficiaries have been deprived of the benefits," Mr Lachenpa said.

Likewise, another youth, Suraj Rai, mentioned that the Panchayat has not been following the list of beneficiaries passed by the Gram Sabha.

They added that if any action is not taken at the earliest then people of the area will be compelled to pursue the matter legally.



Governor calls on Vice President and Union Home Minister

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 SEPT:

Continuing with his series of engagements in Delhi, Governor Ganga Prasad today called on Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, at North Block in New Delhi.

A press communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs that the Governor and the Union Minister discussed various issues concerning Sikkim with

special reference to peace, stability and border management along its Eastern and Northern frontiers.

Later in the evening, the Governor called on Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, at his official residence.

It also was a courtesy call by the Governor wherein he has also extended invitation to the VP to visit the State at a convenient date.

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LTVC to hold meet with reps of all political parties on LT...

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considered anti-LT.

He asserted that the time has come for the government to consult with all political parties and concerned stakeholders on this issue to bring out a solution at the earliest.

Likewise, LTVC secretary, Sancha Kurumbang, mentioned that the two-month deadline of the Chief Minister has passed and still no seats have been reserved for LT in the State Assembly.

He mentioned that on 07 July earlier this year, the CM had announced that the LT seats will be provided within

one or two months for the coming 2019 Assembly elections.

He also mentioned about a news report published in a national daily, The Hindu, on 11 Aug this year and by a local daily which mentioned that a senior Ministry Official of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will soon decide on the proposal.

He informed that the report also stated that if approved, it will be the first expansion of the Assembly since Sikkim merged with India in 1975. It has also stated that the Home Ministry has moved the Union

Cabinet to increase the number of seats in the Sikkim assembly from 32 to 40 and seats are being increased to accommodate the LT communities.

On the same, Mr Kurumbang informed that on 10 Aug this year, LTVC president, Yehang Tshong, received a letter from Ministry of Home Affairs, NE Division, Government of India vide Order No. 9/6/2018-NE.II, dated 03.08.2018, addressed to Yehang Tshong and Deputy Secretary & CPIO, Legislative Department, ML&J, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, SK Chitkara. The letter was related to latest status of LT seat res-

ervation issue in SLA at Centre.

He informed that the RTI order states that "The issue of reservation issue of seats for Limboo-Tamang community is 'Under Examination' in this Ministry [MHA]."

"Conclusion before us is that either the said RTI reply of MHA is wrong or the news article is false and paid news statement made by the State Government to mislead and fool the innocent members of the L&T communities," he said.

LTVC questioned if the State Government and SILTAC could share the latest LT seat status report in written documen-

tation form received from the Centre to support their claims. The LTVC has requested the CM, the State Government and SILTAC to stop misguiding L&T communities by giving fake news as such types of assurances and promises are being heard since past 15 years from the CM and past three years from SILTAC. On the same, Mr Kurumbang stated that the issue of Limbu-Tamang political seats reservation in SLA has not been solved by the SDF government as both the State and Central political parties were playing with the sentiments of LT communities of Sikkim.

Gangtok on Thursday, 13 Sept

Temp: 25°C/16°C
Forecast: Mostly cloudy, heavy showers; watch for flooding.
Sunrise: 05:19 AM
Sunset: 5:44 PM

Annual Tenchi puja at Tashi Choling Dharma Centre from 24 Sept
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dhas while the Riwo sangchheed is the most famous practice of Sang offering in Tibetan Buddhism. It is a terma that was hidden by Guru Rinpoche and revealed in the seventeenth century by the great yogin and Terton Lhatsun Namkha Jigme who brought the Dharma to Sikkim as part of the profound Dharma cycle of Ridzin Sokdrup. The organizing committee has invited all interested devotees and well wishers in the State to join and contribute for the success of the annual event dedicated for the welfare, peace and prosperity of all sentient beings and Sikkim in particular.

For queries and details, following members of the organizing committee can be contacted: Panchayat Chodzo, Karma Lhundrop [8348127342], Ex Panchayat Tsojo, Agya Wangda [8327043566], Trustee, KC Denzongpa [9434486188].

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Finale for Himali Pratibha Ko Khoj scheduled for 15 Sept

SUMMIT REPORT
Gangtok, 12 Sept: The grand finale of Himali Pratibha Ko Khoj Season-2 is scheduled to be held on 15 Sept here at Manan Kendra. The event is being organised by Sikkim Sanskritik Manch under the cultural front of Sikkim Democratic Front party. The finale of the event will have SDF president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, as chief guest, it is informed. Ten finalists in singing and dance categories

have been preparing hard for the final fight for the title. The five finalists in dance category are Amrit Rai from Gyalshing, Soni Hang Subba from Namchi, Sameer Tamang from Namthang-Rateypani, Vinisha Rai from Namchi and Emanshi Gurung from Gangtok, while Anju Tamang from Namchi, Nehal Ramudamu from Melli, Babita Thapa from Singtam, Yogesh Giri from Rabongla and Rewas Gurung from Soreng are top five contestants under singing category. SDF cultural front vice-president, Chandra Khaling, informs that around 1,600 artists had participated in the second season of the event and after State-level selection process which went on for around three months, the final five each in singing and dance, have been shortlisted for the grand finale. He informed that the jury for the grand finale will have international

level artists. The jury for singing will have Sheela Bahadur Moktan, Thupden Bhutia and Remanti Rai, while senior dancer, Sushma Yonjan, Panu Gazmer and Biku Darnal will be in jury for dance competition. Finalists have been undergoing training under Nikita Cintury and Srijana Silwal for singing and Dilu Tamang, Ashna Pradhan and Binay Gazmer for dance. The winner of the event will receive cash prizes and certificates.

Rotary Club Gangtok confers Nation Builder Award on 30 govt school teachers

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 SEPT: Under the Teachers Support Programme of Rotary India Literacy Mission [RILM], Rotary Club of Gangtok conferred 'Nation Builder's Award' on 30 teachers from different government schools of the State. The awards were presented by Secretary, Human Resource Development Department, GP Upadhyay, at a function held here today. A press release informs that each award is given at club level. After the selection of the Government Schools, 10 students were taken at random from the school to name the best teacher in



the school without the knowledge of the teachers. The principal of the school was also contacted for views on the teacher. A teacher was then selected from the school for the award.

SKM thumbs down Govt decision to release salary arrears in 3 instalments

contd from pg02 sources. On the same, Mr Khaling alleged that due to rampant corruption, the government does not have the money to pay Rs 354 crores arrears. He informed that the State Government has taken loans of Rs 900 crores from NABARD and Rs 300 crores from HUDCO just to pay the dues of 10 contractors. On the same, he demanded that the government should

pay arrears from these loans amount to the employees instead of paying bills of big contractors of the State. On declaration of holiday on every second Saturday, Mr Khaling stated that the cabinet meeting on 08 Jul 1975 has passed the holiday on every second Saturday in the interest of the government employees and that this was not given by the present CM who had

in fact revoked this holiday earlier during the present term. He also mentioned that after cancelling the holiday on second Saturday, government employees worked an extra 52 days so far. On the same, he demanded that the government provide salary of these 52 extra days to the employees. He added that if the SDF government does not provide it then SKM will provide the same after forming its government. Likewise, SKM vice-president, Birendra Tamling, and general secretary, Bikash Bas-

net, stated that when the State has been facing price rise and inflation, the government has decreased the HRA and other allowances of the employees. They demanded that the government keep the allowance as it was and should pay from 01 Jan 2016 itself.

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India U-15 trials conducted at Paljor Stadium

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 SEPT: Around 100 young footballers from different parts of Sikkim reported at Paljor Stadium here this morning to try out for the India U-15 football team trials conducted by Chief Scout of All India Football Federation, Vikram Nanivadekar, and AIFF coach, Suren Chettri. President, Sikkim Football Association, Menla Ethenpa, along with other SFA officials were also present on the field. The trials will continue till 13 Sept, it is informed. On behalf of SFA, Mr Ethenpa has extended gratitude to AIFF for selecting

Gangtok as one of the venues for the trials and expressed hope of Sikkimese boys getting an opportunity to showcase their talent as part of the national team in the coming days. He further mentioned that Kusang Subba from Gangtok is already in the India U-15 team. He was a member of the India team which toured Shanghai in China last month. "SFA feels that it is yet another feather in its cap that not only Sikkimese players are playing for the country. Now we have a Sikkimese coach also in the form of Suren Chettri in Indian team," added Mr Ethenpa.



SINK & SLIDE BLOCKS NH 31: Repairs underway on National Highway 31, traffic on which was closed for almost 20 hours on 11 September shortly ahead of Coronation Bridge towards Duars. On Wednesday as well, a portion of road sank in the afternoon, stalling traffic for nearly three hours. The Kalimpong district administration is keeping track of the road situation, informed DM Kalimpong Dr Viswanath

Teej celebrated in Singtam

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 12 SEPT: Decked up in red sarees, women of Singtam gathered at Nepali Dharmasala here on 10 Sept to celebrate the festival of Teej primarily dedicated to Goddess Parvati and her union with Lord Shiva. Married women keep fast for long and healthy life of their husband while unmarried girls observe fast on this day for a good husband. Former SLA Speaker, Kalawati Subba, attended the event as chief guest.



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Applications are invited from local candidates for the posts as detailed below under the NeGP-A-Project at FS&AD Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

| Sl. No. | Post | Number of Posts | Qualification | Age | Consolidated pay/month | Mode of appointment |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|--|-------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Computer Operator | 1 | Minimum of one year Diploma in Computer Science. Candidate with work experience to similar field will be preferred | 18-35 | Rs. 15000/- | Contract for a period of six month |

- The post is purely temporary. The initial appointment will be for six months only w.e.f. date of joining to be extended subject to continuation of the fund under the scheme by Govt. of India and work performance of the candidate.
- The candidates will be selected through walk-in-interview. Eligible candidates may apply with attested copies of the following documents:
i) Educational Qualification Certificate from class x onwards including one year computer diploma certificate.
ii) Valid Employment Card.
iii) Age Certificate
iv) Experience Certificate
v) C.O.I.
vi) Resume (with contact No. and e-mail ID)
- Interested candidate may apply to Deputy Director (IT), Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim within a period of ten (10) days from the date of advertisement.

NOTE: No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.
Sd/- UNDER SECRETARY (ADM.)
F.S. & AGRI. DEV. DEPARTMENT
R.O. No: 341/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 Date: 12/09/2018

SHEGU



The 21st Day Shegu of Late Norbu Sherpa son of Late Pemba Sherpa resident of Bhanu Gram near Paljor Stadium who left for his heavenly abode on 27/08/2018 falls in 16/09/2018 [Sunday]. All the family members, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at Limbu Bhawan, DPH Road. We would also like take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Doma Sherpa (Mother),
Passang Sherpa (Sister), Ongyal Sherpa, Lakpa Sherpa and Mingyur Sherpa (Brother).

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Let's Find Other VIPs

Not everything should be about politics, always

Commenting on the content of newspapers, particularly this one, a reader who wants to like the paper but cannot, complained that politics was not covered enough. In fact, politics is rarely front-paged here, she complained. Relax, what follows is not a soliloquy on the editorial policy of the paper, but, for now, let's continue with the premise that this piece opened with.

Sure, political parties and politicians say something every day, but that is not politics because there are rarely any real ideologies at play or even political commentary. There is a lot of name-calling, endless allegations and many a times, mind-bafflingly philosophical gobbledegook in response to even the most pedantic of allegations. And there are claims. Coming mostly by way of press releases, this is a one-way communication in which clarifications and details are controlled. So, while it is necessary for people to know what their parties are saying, just because they said it does not mean it is important. At the end of the day, none of this is really politics, because none of this is of any long-term significance or even of sustaining interest. At best, it is a lot of politicking in its purest, dictionary-definition of "activity directed towards acquiring power and influence, achieving one's own goals".

But we are nation obsessed with politicians and politicking – switch on TV news or open any newspaper or news-magazine and you will receive affirmation of this. But why are we so obsessed with politicians. Some years ago, a senior TV news anchor who spends more time anchoring stories about politicians exchanging barbs than deliberating on politics, explained that in the absence of any other heroes [the definition probably limited to 'celebrities'], journalists had no option but to zero in on the politicians, who were easily recognizable, always in the public domain and always willing to offer quotes and interviews. He was not wrong. Who does India have apart from politicians when it comes to celebrities who can feed news cycles on a regular basis? Some cricketers, Bollywood stars, erratic flickers in other sports, tennis for a while, and now wrestling and badminton as well. Because of our culture which does not allow our "famous people" to speak their minds or take a stand, the non-political celebrities make for boring copy because they clam up the moment they are invited to speak of anything beyond their individual performance. And let's also accept it. We are not a very sporty population and our "passion" for sports is in fact just media-managed hyperbole. How else does one explain the fact that we suddenly discovered Deepa Karmakar on the eve of the Olympics. Rio was when she peaked. If we had been a sports-loving people, we would have seen her grow as a gymnast. In fact, if the media had not played up her Olympian feat, being media-fed spectators, we would probably not have bothered with feting her either. Ditto for the stars who dazzled in the recent Asian Games.

With news channels running on 24x7 cycles, and newspapers adding more pages hoping to win more readers, politicking ends up gaining primacy because it offers ready masala. But politicians can be extremely fickle, changing their stands often or being too predictable. As a result, what the media feeds the audience when it plays up "politics" ends up being too superficial. And that delivers us the chicken-and-egg quandary. Will people pursue real role models or will media seek them out? People need to patronise real heroes who are consistent in their pursuits and reliable as icons. The media will scent the mood the people and start giving these personalities more media-time and that will hopefully leave the politicians with the time and space to debate at an ideological level and comment on policy initiatives rather than remain obsessed with corny jingoism which makes for sensational headlines but does nothing for to deliver better governance or more responsible opposition.

Even Sikkim needs to find role-models outside the political and bureaucratic domain. Apart from the fact that such personalities are available but under-appreciated, there is also the need to introduce the young to more versions of what being successful means. Such exposure will also cushion some of the contradictions the young grow up with when they seek out inspiration. Sikkim seems to keep forgetting that it takes more than politicians to make a society and more than political gossip to make a conversation. Every society and every generation needs heroes and role models and it would be unfair to suggest that Sikkim has not produced enough variety. What is unfortunate is that the people don't seem to recognize these achievers beyond the occasional expressions of drummed up celebration.

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

GEORGE NICHOLAS
theconversation.com

Technological advancements in archaeology in recent decades have produced amazing insights into the lives of ancient peoples. These range from uncovering lost Mayan cities in Guatemala to identifying Neanderthal-Denisovan offspring to recovering early Native American DNA.

Discoveries continue to reveal unexpected details about our shared human past. But the new information also brings new responsibilities and concerns about the political, ethical and social dimensions of archaeological research and heritage management. This is especially true for Indigenous peoples for whom heritage is about more than objects of scientific study or items to preserve in museum displays.

Western ways of thinking about heritage seek universal truths about human behaviour and tend to focus on the material manifestations of the past. Indigenous conceptions of heritage, in contrast, are inclusive and include not only objects and places, but also customs, practices, relationships, stories, songs and designs. These are passed between generations and contribute to a person's or group's identity, history, worldview and well-being.

One Yukon elder defined heritage this way: "It is everything that makes us who we are."

Indigenous perspectives of heritage have become widely known over the past 30 years, and are being integrated into research projects and management practices. In some cases, divisive relationships between Indigenous and Native American communities and archaeologists, (sometimes labelled grave robbers), have been transformed into collaborative, mutually beneficial relationships.

More importantly, a growing number of Indigenous archaeologists and anthropologists are discovering, interpreting and protecting their own ancestral sites. And there is a growing recognition of the legitimacy of Indigenous traditional knowledge. For example, the Nyungar Cultural Rangers program in Western Australia is a community-driven program, in which Indigenous men and women train others in the traditional ways of caring for their own lands.

Despite these incremental changes, Indigenous peoples continue to press for meaningful engagement with those controlling their heritage. Current policies in settler countries like Australia, Canada and the United States still provide only limited room for Indigenous input into decision-making on issues of heritage.

THE INFLUENCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development projects are claiming ancestral sites at alarming rates. This ineffective protection of Indigenous heritage is a violation of human rights, while the continued destruction of ancient sites, burial grounds and sacred places can be considered a form of violence.

While heritage is essential to all peoples, Indigenous peoples in colonized lands have historically had the least control over theirs. State-controlled heritage policies are a source of regular conflict, with substantial social, political and economic consequences.

Protecting heritage is a human right



Fundamental differences in how heritage is valued raise tremendous challenges to establishing respectful, ethical and effective policies to protect objects, practices and places of local significance.

In the U.S., there is extensive federal legislation, but archaeological sites on private land receive little protection. This is not the case in Canada, where most heritage legislation is provincial but no less problematic.

Economic pressures strongly influence heritage policies. Today, heritage site protection is largely the domain of professional cultural resource management, a \$1-billion-a-year industry. Some critics say this profession helps commercial projects comply with heritage laws and effectively facilitates development more than it protects heritage.

Furthermore, protecting heritage sites may pit Indigenous peoples against private landowners and other interest groups.

In British Columbia, private landowners wishing to build are responsible for the cost of archaeological testing, as required by provincial legislation, raising loud complaints about protecting "a bunch of stones and bones."

At the same time, the public sees tax dollars being spent to rectify poor, ad hoc decisions regarding heritage preservation, for example, when threatened Indigenous burial grounds or sacred sites, such as Grace Islet in B.C., slated for destruction and development, are eventually purchased by the province.

In South Dakota in 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe led the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline not only over lack of adequate consultation, but also failure to recognize the impact of the pipeline on the cultural, spiritual and environmental dimensions of the land and water.

ANCESTORS VS. SCIENTIFIC SPECIMENS

The unequal protection under the law for settler vs. Indigenous human remains is especially problematic, with the latter often considered to be scientific specimens.

In B.C., human remains dating before 1846 (the date of Confederation) — predominantly ancestral First Nations — are considered part of the archaeological record, which is protected by the Heritage Conservation Act. Those dating after 1846 — predominantly white — are protected under the much stronger Cemeteries Act.

Not surprisingly, it has proven very difficult to redress the types of inequalities faced by Indigenous peoples because of Western notions of heritage and the guiding principle of stewardship. There is a lack of neutrality, with heritage management policies operating from a privileged, largely Western-centric position.

There is now some accommodation of Indigenous knowledge, but with limited credence given to oral histories, except when it concurs with archaeological sources. Some scientists have concerns of relinquishing any significant control over decisions about archaeological projects and policy development — lest the integrity of the archaeological record be diminished.

These concerns include fear of an "anything goes" non-scientific approach to heritage. The idea is that if we protect Indigenous heritage we will only operate from a stance of political correctness and will no longer engage in science. Yet this is challenged by recent studies that demonstrate the complementarity of Western science and Traditional Knowledge.

WORKING TOGETHER

Despite these hurdles, there is increasing acknowledgement worldwide that protection of everyone's heritage needs to be a fundamental human right.

Government agencies and NGO's are increasingly joining with universities and Indigenous organizations to develop solutions. Protecting Indigenous cultural heritage is more than an issue of academic interest, however.

We urgently need a set of practical guidelines for addressing and preventing heritage loss by Indigenous peoples.

Significant strides have been made. The United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007. In Australia, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation was established in 2001.

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created in 2008. The U.S. established its commission in 1998 but with a much broader mandate and has yet to address specific Native American concerns.

It is another matter to transition these ideas from theory to practice to policy. There is uncertainty about what the acceptance of UNDRIP means and what the steps are for implementation, especially for Canada, the U.S.

and New Zealand, the three countries that initially voted against it.

Only months after Canada officially removed its objection status to the UNDRIP Declaration, Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould said, while speaking to the Assembly of First Nations, that its adaptation into Canadian law was "unworkable." In the U.S., there is much uncertainty about what will happen under the Trump administration.

The various initiatives launched in recent years offer at least nominal restitution for past harms suffered by Indigenous peoples, including the loss of land, language, cultural traditions and sovereignty due to colonialism.

But no matter how well-meaning "sorry" may be, reconciliation needs to involve changing how things are done. That change must extend to how heritage sites, especially burial grounds and sacred sites, are protected.

BEING HOPEFUL, NOT FEARFUL

The passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act in the U.S. in 1990 sent shock waves through the discipline of archaeology, but the world did not end as some archaeologists feared.

Instead it has contributed to new and productive relationships with Native Americans. It created opportunities for scientific research on the ancestors that has revealed their life histories, as well as connections between past and present-day communities.

Some Indigenous Elders believe the ancestors let themselves be found so they can teach today's Native youth about their history.

Herb Joe, a member of the Stó:lō House of Respect Caretaking Committee, said:

"What comes to mind for me is the gift of knowledge [and] awareness that is happening for us [in working] with the ancestors. The amount of knowledge that we're acquiring and will continue to acquire with the DNA samples and all that, that's going to be a gift to the Stó:lō people ... our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, they're going to be healthier people with the gift of this knowledge about who they are and where they came from."

There can be no argument that colonialism robbed First Nations of much of their heritage. As a society today, we must support the restoration and protection of their cultural heritage beyond lip service.

[the writer is Professor of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University]

The myth of a vegetarian India



TANI KHARA
theconversation.com

India has a reputation as a vegetarian nation, and Indians certainly consume far less meat than the global average. But the view of India as a predominantly vegetarian nation may not be quite accurate.

India, whose population is predicted to overtake China's, is rapidly changing from an agricultural society to an industrial economy with a surging urban population. This is driving the fastest-growing poultry market in the world, as cultural norms change and eating meat becomes a status symbol.

TOTAL VEGETARIANISM IS RARE Vegetarianism in India has been

gradually becoming less strict over the past 30 years. Only about three in ten Indians now claim to be vegetarian, and a 2016 national survey found that more than half of people aged between 15 and 34 eat meat.

A recent National Family Health Survey found that only 30% of women and 22% of men describe themselves as vegetarian. Other studies have similarly found that a relatively small minority practise vegetarianism.

Even these numbers may well be underestimates. Indians are said to underreport their meat consumption due to religious and cultural stigmas associated with it.

turn to 05

UN teams given first access to Myanmar’s Rakhine

YANGON, SEPT 12 (AFP): The UN began work Wednesday inside Myanmar’s violence-torn northern Rakhine state, the first time its agencies have been granted permission to operate there since more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled the area last year.

The UN has been waiting for access to the epicentre of the military’s “clearance operations” against the Rohingya minority since June when its refugee and development agencies signed a deal with the government.

Its work is highly sensitive inside Rakhine, a state cut deep with ethnic and religious hatred and where Buddhist locals stand accused of helping the army chase out their Muslim neighbours.

Many Rakhine accuse international aid groups, including the UN, of a pro-Rohingya bias and foreign aid groups have been granted very limited access to the state.

The task is complicated further as the UN’s rights arm is expected to heavily censure Myanmar again



in the coming days when it publishes in full the findings of its investigation into atrocities against the Rohingya.

On Friday, specialists from the UNHCR and UNDP agencies were

finally given permission to enter northern Rakhine before work began on Wednesday to assess local conditions.

“The team is on the ground and commenced with the first assessments today,” UNHCR spokeswoman Aoife McDonnell told AFP.

This first step of the UN’s “confidence-building measures” is expected to take two weeks and will cover 23 villages and three additional clusters of hamlets.

It was not immediately clear which villages they will visit or which communities the UN teams will consult.

The expectation is this “very initial and small step in terms of access will be expanded rapidly to all areas covered” by the agreement, McDonnell said.

The stateless Rohingya are widely seen as illegal immigrants by Myanmar’s majority-Buddhist population, complicating the repatriation of those who fled to Bangladesh.

Last August’s crackdown by Myanmar’s army pushed hundreds

of thousands of Rohingya across the border.

Refugees have carried accounts of rape, murder, arson and torture perpetrated by the military and buttressed by Rakhine mobs.

The northern part of Rakhine has been locked down since then, with journalists and observers only allowed to visit on short, chaperoned trips.

The deployment of the two UN agencies comes as Myanmar faces growing demands for accountability over its treatment of the Rohingya.

A UN-led report last week two weeks ago called for the prosecution of army chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and five other top-ranking generals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

That was swiftly followed by a ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC) that it has jurisdiction to open a probe into “deportations” of the Rohingya, saying it was a cross-border crime.

Banks need to take 40-60% haircut to get RP4 rating: Report

MUMBAI, SEP 12 (PTI): With bad loans worth over Rs 50,000 crore under RBI’s independent credit evaluation (ICE) framework, a report said Wednesday that banks need to take a haircut of 40-60 per cent to have a rating of RP4 for implementation of any resolution plan.

According to the Reserve Bank of India’s February 12 circular, all resolution plans with an opinion or rating of RP4 are considered to have moderate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations.

RBI in its revised framework had said all resolution plans involving restructuring or change in ownership for large accounts where the aggregate exposure of lenders is Rs 100 crore and above would require ICE of the residual debt by credit rating agencies (CRAs).

All stressed accounts with an exposure of Rs 500 crore and above will require two

such ICEs, while others will need one ICE.

Only such resolution plans which receive a credit opinion of RP4 or better for the residual debt from one or two CRAs shall be considered for implementation, RBI had said.

“With stressed debt of over Rs 50,000 crore under ICE framework, banks have to take a haircut in the range of 40-60 per cent to achieve a rating of RP4,” according to a joint report by industry body Assocham and rating agency Crisil.

It said the average sustainable debt for these assets is around 50 per cent.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had approved resolution plan for 32 stressed assets under the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) as on June 30, with resolution to the tune of Rs 50,000 crore against total claims of Rs 89,400 crore admitted by financial and operational creditors.

The average resolution timeline for these

32 accounts were 260 days vis--vis the stipulated 270 days, the report said.

It said an improvement in the recovery rate and reduction in timeline for resolution will increase investor confidence in the domestic corporate bond market.

The report further said that the IBC is expected to promote a market for unsecured financing.

“That is because the distribution waterfall of recoveries following liquidation gives unsecured financial creditors (apart from all secured creditors) precedence over government dues,” it said.

According to the report, some of the challenges in effective implementation of IBC are infrastructure issues, adherence to resolution timelines, liquidation impact, criticality of the role of the committee of creditors (CoC), and limited development of the secondary market.

Book explores lives of Bastar’s Abujhmad tribals

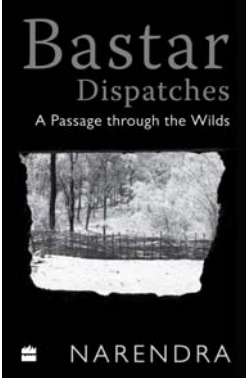
NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI): Abujhmad in the deep interiors of Chhattisgarh’s Naxal-invested Bastar district is inhabited by a primitive hunter-gatherer tribe and a new book provides a narrative of these people at peace with themselves and nature, their dialect, their festivities, their delightful interactions.

“Bastar Dispatches: A Passage Through the Wilds” by Narendra brings out how forests and the wilds, humans and animals, distances, spaces and the skies, the known and unknown together make up societies and intimacies.

Abujhmad stands today as one of the few mirrors left the world over wherein modernity can view itself - its calamities and collapses.

The book is based on the author’s over 30 years of association with Abujhmad under a field research programme and its contiguous areas in the Bastar division of Chhattisgarh.

Narendra went to Abujhmad in 1980 on a field study project of the Centre for the Study of



Developing Societies (CSDS). His stay there continued for the next five years. With an estimated population of about 13,000 and spread over 4,000 sq km (the core area being about 1,500 sq km) of, at places, impenetrable vegetation, Abujhmad lies in the deep interiors of Bastar.

Till the coming of Maoists in the late 1980s, it has had little or no contact with the outside world. The more interior villages like Ehnar and Nelnar had not

known the impact of the wheel.

The small Abujhmadia community lived on food gathering and hunting, with shifting cultivation as a supplement. Shifting cultivation was not practised every year or by each family. Still in a somewhat primeval stage, the region had no trade, industry, commerce, occupation or other modern apparatus.

“But neither was there hunger, starvation, beggary or lingering disease. Whereas an average village consisted of three-four scattered huts, an average family had four-five members. Amid the primeval silence of dense wilds, the Abujhmadias continued to live in their tiny bamboo-and-thatch huts,” the book, published by HarperCollins India, says.

According to the author, even though Abujhmad remained outside its reach, modernity has marginalised the rest of Bastar by working against its own referents or by taking virtually no notice of them.

Bastar now draws its signification and sustenance from

the outside world, which reinforce the modern world view in its land. Neither the land, nor self-image nor legitimacy is now its own, he says.

“Though now spoken of differently by the Maoists and others, in the 1980s, Abujhmad meant dense wilds, human sacrifice, witchcraft, man-eating tigers, aggressive loin-clothed men and bare-breasted women. It was used as a synonym for savage and uncivilized. The Abujhmadias on the contrary are a very generous people; very shy, timid and extremely graceful,” he writes.

Narendra’s writings are based on his field notes, observations, memory and reflections of the period 1980-85 and partly on his experience of the surrounding areas of Bastar till he moved away in 2013.

“I have tried to keep fluid the temporal ‘boundaries’ between primitive Abujhmad and relatively developed Bastar. There is a to-and-fro movement, a fluidity without which the region could not be,” he says.

The myth of a vegetarian India

contd from pg04

TASTES LIKE CHICKEN

Poultry is India’s most popular type of meat, and India is projected to be one of the world’s largest growth markets for poultry consumption.

The rise in meat consumption is predominantly driven by urban India, and the highest percentages of non-vegetarians come from southern states such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Another reason may be that chicken can be considered a universally acceptable meat, given the religious taboos associated with beef among Hindus and pork among Muslims. Although 80% of Indians are Hindus, India is home to several other major religions and sub-faiths, each with its own strictures about

food and eating. Vegetarianism is less common among Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Bahais, Parsis and Jews who collectively make up 15% of India’s population.

UPWARDLY MOBILE URBANITES

In addition to religious and cultural variations, several key factors have influenced India’s shift, overall, towards meat consumption. These include rising urbanisation, increasing disposable incomes, globalisation and cross-cultural influences. Many urban Indians are embracing consumerism as a sign of upward social mobility and meat is widely considered to be a status symbol.

Despite this, others still consider meat-eating to be socially and culturally unacceptable. A 2015 study found young people

felt “you eat [meat] in secret, away from your family”.

This appears to reflect differences in front-stage and backstage behaviours, a trait mainly found in collectivist cultures. “Front-stage behaviours”, which is how we act in public, may have more role-playing elements than backstage behaviours, which tend to be carried out in private.

It seems urban Indians today face a dissonance. On one hand, increasing exposure to new lifestyles is creating cultural change, but there is still pressure to adhere to traditions that have prevailed for centuries.

This contradiction is reflected in some of the urban Indian attitudes from the 2015 study on meat consumption. On one hand, some felt:

“...in our Bhagavad Gita, Ramayan (in reference to the Hindu holy books) there are old teachings that non-veg is impure. It is the food of demons/monsters.”

On the other hand, it was also claimed:

“[When it comes to] holy men and Brahmins, it’s not like they don’t like eggs or meat. In front of people they will behave, but on the quiet/sly, they will smoke and drink and eat everything else.”

Meat eating in India is a complex issue, with many facets. However, recent trends and figures certainly seem to indicate one thing: it is a mistake to label India as a vegetarian nation.

[the writer is PhD student in Sustainability, University of Technology Sydney]

China mooting rail link between Kolkata and Kunming: Envoy

KOLKATA, SEP 12 (PTI): Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Ma Zhanwu said Wednesday his country was mooting a bullet train service between Kunming and Kolkata, traversing through Myanmar and Bangladesh.

With joint efforts of India and China, a high-speed rail link could be estab-

lished between the two cities, Zhanwu said at a conference here. “It will only take a few hours to reach Kolkata from Kunming if the rail link becomes a reality,” he asserted. The envoy also said that Myanmar and Bangladesh would benefit from the project. “We may have a cluster of industries along the route.

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|--|-------------------------|
|  | |
| GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM | |
| SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD | |
| UPPER SHYARI, GANGTOK | |
| Ref. No. 14/SSTRB | Date: 11/09/2018 |
| On the basis of the Written Examination, Classroom Demonstration and Viva-voce (interview) the following candidates bearing roll nos. in order of merit are declared selected and recommended for the appointment to the post of Graduate Teacher (Mathematics) under Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim. | |
| SL. NO. | ROLL NO. |
| NAME | |
| 45 | 20200004 |
| 46 | 20200037 |
| 47 | 20200032 |
| 48 | 20200007 |
| 49 | 20200077 |
| 50 | 20200042 |
| 51 | 20200025 |
| 52 | 20200061 |
| 53 | 20200019 |
| 54 | 20200080 |
| 55 | 20200062 |
| 56 | 20200058 |
| 57 | 20200009 |
| 58 | 20200047 |
| 59 | 20200034 |
| 60 | 20200068 |
| 61 | 20200045 |
| 62 | 20200090 |
| 63 | 20200013 |
| 64 | 20200043 |
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| 67 | 20200085 |
| 68 | 20200064 |
| 69 | 20200041 |
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| 72 | 20200050 |
| 73 | 20200027 |
| 74 | 20200094 |
| 75 | 20200084 |
| 76 | 20200036 |
| 77 | 20200017 |
| 78 | 20200093 |
| 79 | 20200005 |
| 80 | 20200091 |
| 81 | 20200048 |
| 82 | 20200026 |
| 83 | 20200092 |
| 84 | 20200030 |
| 85 | 20200031 |
| 86 | 20200083 |
| 87 | 20200087 |
| (MS. ANNAPURNA ALLEY, SCS) | |
| SECRETARY CUM CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATION | |
| SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD | |
| R.O. No: 340/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 Date: 11/09/2018 | |



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM,
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT,
NAMCHI SUB DIVISION,
SOUTH SIKKIM**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

N.I.T No.:- 01/R&B/Nam/2018-19

Dated:-07/09/2018

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Namchi Sub Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12/06/2018 and subsequently vide notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 28/08/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban local bodies where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

| Sl No | Name of work | Value put to tender (Rs) | Completion time, (in months) | Cost of tender documents (Rs) | Amount of Earnest Money @ 2.5% For issue of tender form (Rs) | Grade of contractor | Name of G.P.U | Name of Constituency |
|-------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | Construction of road from Solokhop via Middle Mikhola to Upper Sorak PMGSY Road | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 0.00-1.50 | 63,57,744.00 | 12months | 5,000.00 | 1,58,943.00 | Grade IV | Mikhola-Singithang | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| b. | KM 1.5-3.0 | 63,57,744.00 | 12months | 5,000.00 | 1,58,943.00 | Grade IV | Mikhola-Singithang | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| c. | KM 3.0-4.0 | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Mikhola-Singithang | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| 2. | Construction of link road from PWD road to Lower Mikhola Primary School area. | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Mikhola-Singithang | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| b. | KM 1.0-1.5 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Mikhola-Singithang | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| 3. | Construction of road from Maniram Bhanjyang to Bul via Bhutia Gaon to Niz Tanak Sumbuk Road. | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Maniram Phalidara | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| b. | KM 2 nd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Maniram Phalidara | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| c. | KM 3 rd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Maniram Phalidara | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| d. | KM 4 th | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Maniram Phalidara | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| e. | KM 5 th | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Maniram Phalidara | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| 4. | Construction of link road from Maniram Bhanjyang to Bul Allay Sherpa Gaon | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 0.0-0.5 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Maniram Phalidara | Namchi Singithang Constituency |
| 5. | Construction of road from Lower Assangthang PWD road to Aiselugaon. | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 0.0-0.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Assangthang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| b. | KM 0.5-1.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Assangthang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| c. | KM 1.0-1.5 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Assangthang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| d. | KM 1.5-2.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Assangthang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| 6. | Construction of road from Lower Kamrang to Situng Gaon. | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 0.0-0.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Mamley Kamrang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| b. | KM 0.5-1.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Mamley Kamrang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| c. | KM 1.0-1.5 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Mamley Kamrang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| d. | KM 1.5-2.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Mamley Kamrang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| 7. | Construction of road from Pabong Panchayat Bhawan to Pabong Samtheling Gumpa | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 0.0-0.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Tingrithang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| b. | KM 0.5-1.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Tingrithang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| c. | KM 1.0-1.5 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Tingrithang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| d. | KM 1.5-2.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Tingrithang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| e. | KM 2.0-2.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Tingrithang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| f. | KM 2.50-3.0 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Tingrithang | Poklok Kamrang Constituency |
| 8. | Construction of Raod from Kaijaley to Samardung via Jogidara | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Nagi Karek | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| b. | KM 2 nd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Nagi Karek | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| c. | KM 3 rd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Nagi Karek | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| g. | Construction of Road from Lower Kabrey to LANCO Road | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Nagi Karek | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| 10 | Construction of Road from Topjung to Upper Kabrey | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Nagi Karek | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| b. | KM 2 nd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Nagi Karek | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| 11 | Construction of road from Perbing Khop to Dong | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Perbing Dovan | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| b. | KM 2 nd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Perbing Dovan | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| 12 | Construction of road from Chuba to Thumki Gumpa | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Chuba Phong | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| b. | KM 2 nd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Chuba Phong | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| c. | KM 3 rd | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Chuba Phong | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| 13 | Construction of road from Phongla to Upper Jobari Dara | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Chuba Phong | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| b. | KM 1.0-1.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Chuba Phong | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| 14 | Construction of road from Harreybotey to Middle Aalely | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 0.0-0.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Namthang Maneydara | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| 15 | Construction of road from Zero Point Pamphok to Lower Pamphok Suntaley | | | | | | | |
| a. | KM 1 st | 42,38,496.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 1,05,962.00 | Grade IV | Kateng Pamphok | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |
| b. | KM 1.0-1.50 | 21,19,248.00 | 12months | 1,500.00 | 52,981.00 | Grade IV | Kateng Pamphok | Namthang Rateypani Constituency |

TIME SCHEDULE:-

- Date of submission of application with bank Receipt : **10th October 2018**
For issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form) at respective GPK : **(From 10.00am to 4.00pm)**
- Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money) : **11th October 2018**
at respective GPK : **(From 10.00am to 4.00pm)**
- Last Date and Time of submission of Tender at respective GPK : **12th October 2018 (From 10.00 am to 12.30 pm)**
- Date and Time of Opening of Bid : **12th October 2018 (1.30 pm at respective GPK)**

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applicants should enclose attested copies of the Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification. Selected bidder should produce No objection certificate/ Tax clearance certificate from the commercial taxes Division, Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department prior to the issue of Work Order.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, Cost of tender form shall be deposited to the revenue of respective GPU.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts(TDR) in favor of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi. Tender form shall be issued from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposited receipts to that contractors/firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. 3 above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box at respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, 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 tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the general Direction and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract 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 contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
a. Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines. Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
b. The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period. i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors' bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/- ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT,
NAMCHI SUB-DIVISION, SOUTH SIKKIM.

R.O. No: 338/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19 Date: 10/09/2018

**CONTACT SUMMIT
TIMES
REPORTERS**

**NAMCHI
9832048410,
9775736596**

**SINGTAM
7699771651**

**MANGAN/ DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213**

**GANGTOK
9832082664
8016270440,**

**9832082664,
9832424750,
8768664251**

English summer: Virat the batsman wins, Virat the captain loses

KUSHAN SARKAR
NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI): Virat Kohli the batsman exorcised the ghosts of a horrendous 2014 series but his captaincy left a lot to be desired in the just-concluded series against England which again turned out to be a case of ‘what it could have been’.

Kohli is, in fact, right when he says that barring Lord’s Test, they were not totally outplayed but England played better cricket during key moments during the 1-4 loss.

The series was testimony that batsman Kohli is heads and shoulders above his peers not just in India but in world cricket.

The 593 runs, with two hundreds and two half centuries, and his battle of attrition with old nemesis Jimmy Anderson will remain stuff of legends.

The difference was stark with the second-highest scorer being KL Rahul -- 299 runs, 149 of those coming in a dead rubber when the pressure was off.

Where Kohli erred was not realising that his teammates were not as prepared for testing English conditions as he was. The Indian team reduced the duration of its lone practice game against County Champions Essex, a move that was criticised by none other than Sunil Gavaskar.

Kohli, however, differed stating that practice matches are worth it only if there is a good opposition to compete against and pitches of Test quality.

‘Kohli should understand that if he doesn’t play for a month, he would still come out and score runs. But others need practice. And in practice games you won’t get Test quality attacks. But the batsmen and bowlers in match situation add miles to their legs. It’s better than taking throw-downs,” Gavaskar had said on air for the series broadcasters.

The biggest problem that plagued In-



dia was dodgy team selection.

Cheteshwar Pujara, who played a significant role in the Trent Bridge victory and scored a determined hundred was dropped from the first Test based on his poor county form.

The Test specialist ended with 278 runs in the series.

Kohli’s over-dependence on Hardik Pandya’s all-round abilities in red ball cricket can also be questioned. A total of 164 runs including a half century at a time when India was about to declare and a five-wicket haul in Trent Bridge were his only tangible contributions across four Tests.

That he never possessed the defensive technique to bat at No 6 was evident and he was ill at ease against the swinging deliveries.

His opposite number Sam Curran became an x-factor in the series with two match winning all round performances -- at Edgbaston (1st Test) and the series-clinching fourth game at Southampton.

The skipper’s persistence with Shikhar Dhawan, who has been a walking wicket outside the sub-continent, also created problems at the top of the order.

Since the 2013 South Africa tour, Dhawan has shown both lack of technique and temperament in top Test playing nations.

A total of 162 runs in eight innings probably will shut doors on his Test career for the time being as Prithvi Shaw and Mayank Agarwal are waiting in the wings for their opportunity.

While Kohli was unlucky to lose all five tosses but his reading of the pitches and the team combinations left a lot to be desired.

Not picking a second spinner in Edgbaston, where the pitch offered turn and bounce, was an error. It was compounded by the choice of a second spinner at the Lord’s where conditions aided seamers.

While India inarguably have the best set of fast bowlers who used the conditions well, they were often guilty of not being able to get rid of the England lower order that showed depth and character.

It happened in second innings at Edgbaston, both innings at Southampton and also at the Oval.

But it was nonetheless a decent performance from Ishant Sharma (18), Jasprit Bumrah (16) and Mohammed Shami (14) who gave it their all during the series.

Ravichandran Ashwin lacked the bite when he had the most helpful conditions in

Southampton, a pitch that could have been ideal for someone like Ravindra Jadeja.

Just that Broad and Anderson were a bit more relentless with fine support from Curran, Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali.

The communication regarding where individuals stood also came under scanner after Karun Nair, an original selection was made to warm the benches even as Hanuma Vihari pipped him in playing eleven.

Vihari scored a gutsy 56 but would have bagged a pair had Stuart Broad appealed for DRS for a plumb leg before decision in the first innings.

The silver lining will certainly be KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant’s hundreds in the fourth innings chase.

But Pant’s glove-work was par and Rahul finally got his mojo back after nine consecutive failures.

Sanjay Manjrekar put it aptly on Twitter. ‘While applauding KL Rahul and Pant, might be best in the interest of Indian cricket to not attach great importance to the last Test result, even if India had won. Assessment and lessons learnt should be on the basis of What happened till the series was alive,’ Manjrekar tweeted.

To sum it up, India have lost six away Test matches this year at a time when the chief coach Ravi Shastri says that this is the best travelling team.

Facts are sacrosanct and they tell a different story even though skipper Kohli was a touch irritated when a scribe asked him a question about the supposed tall claims made by the coach.

Come December, Kohli’s India will have a shot at Australia, a team that won’t have David Warner and Steve Smith, the two game changers.

Kohli would be hoping for a merry Christmas Down Under.

India regrets UN human rights chief’s remarks on Kashmir

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 12 (PTI): India has voiced regret over the issue of Jammu and Kashmir being raised in the UNHRC after High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet made a reference to Kashmir during her opening statement to the Council.



Bachelet, the new UN human rights commissioner who succeeded Zeid Raad al-Husseini, in her opening statement to the Council on Monday made a reference to Kashmir, saying the Human Rights Council’s recent report on the human rights situation “has not been followed up with meaningful improvements, or even open and serious discussions on how the grave issues raised could be addressed”.

“The people of Kashmir have exactly the same rights to justice and dignity as people all over the world, and we urge the authorities to respect them. The Office continues to request permission to visit both sides of the Line of Control, and in the meantime, will continue its monitoring and reporting,” she said.

Expressing regret over the remarks, Permanent Representative of India to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Rajiv Chander said India had made its views “abundantly clear” on this matter in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

“Madam High Commissioner, there is no denying that these are challenging times including for this body. It is important, therefore, that human rights

issues are addressed constructively with respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity in a transparent and credible manner.

“We regret that reference has been made to the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. Our views on this matter have been made abundantly clear in the Council,” Chander said.

Speaking at the 39th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday, Chander said terrorism was the biggest scourge and the greatest violator of human rights and expressed hope that Bachelet would address this issue more emphatically in the coming years.

Bachelet also welcomed last week’s decision by India’s Supreme Court to decriminalise same-sex relations.

“Laws that criminalise consensual adult relationships are, as Chief Justice Misra said, manifestly arbitrary and a source of discrimination and harassment. I very much hope other countries around the world will look to India’s example in this respect,” she said, referring to the remarks by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.

Pakistan’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Farukh Amil also raised the Kashmir issue in his statement, saying Islamabad also shared Bachelet’s “anguish” that the report on the human rights situation in Kashmir “has not been followed up”.

Mallya arrives at UK court for extradition hearing

LONDON, SEP 12 (PTI): Vijay Mallya arrived at a London court on Wednesday for a hearing in his extradition case, during which the judge is expected to review a video of the Mumbai jail cell prepared by the Indian authorities for the embattled liquor tycoon.

The 62-year-old former Kingfisher Airline boss reached at the Westminster Magistrates’ Court at around 2 pm IST. Mallya, who has been on bail on an extradition warrant since his arrest in April last year, responded to the swarm of reporters gathered outside the court in his characteristic manner, saying the “courts will decide”.

“As far as I am concerned, I have made a comprehensive settlement offer before the Karnataka High Court. I hope the honourable judges will consider it favourably; everybody gets paid off and I guess that’s the primary objective, said Mallya, who is fighting extradition to India on charges of fraud and money laundering amounting to around Rs 9,000 crores.

At the previous hear-



ing in July in the Westminster Magistrates’ Court in, Judge Emma Arbuthnot had asked the Indian authorities to submit a “step by step video” of the Barrack 12 of Arthur Road Jail for “the avoidance of doubt” over the availability of natural light in the cell where the businessman is expected to be detained pre-trial, during trial and in the event he is convicted by the Indian courts.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), arguing on behalf of the Indian government, had agreed to the request and the video has since been submitted to the court.

Mallya’s defence team had demanded an inspection of the jail cell to ensure it meets the UK’s human rights obligations related to extradition proceedings.

The CPS stressed that the Indian government had provided adequate material which rendered the need for an inspec-

tion unnecessary, leading to the demand for a video recording to be reviewed by the court.

The judge is also expected to hear the final closing arguments in the case, after which a timeline for her ruling is likely to become clearer.

The extradition trial, which opened at the London court on December 4 last year, is aimed at laying out a prima facie case of fraud against Mallya.

It also seeks to prove there are no “bars to extradition” and that the tycoon is assured a fair trial in India over his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines’ alleged default of over Rs 9,000 crores in loans from a consortium of Indian banks.

The CPS has argued that the evidence they have presented establishes “dishonesty” on the part of the businessman and that there are no bars to him being extradited from the UK to face Indian courts.

Mallya’s defence team has deposited a series of expert witnesses to claim he had no “fraudulent” intentions and that he is unlikely to get a fair trial in India.

Putin urges ‘security guarantees’ for NKorea denuclearisation

VLADIVOSTOK, SEP 12 (AFP): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said North Korea must be given security guarantees in exchange for steps towards denuclearisation.

“North Korea, in return for its denuclearisation, was after all promised security guarantees. Clearly it is waiting for some sort of signal in response,” Putin told an economic forum in the far eastern city of Vladivostok.

“It seems to me counterproductive if we demand everything from the North Korean side and in response they are given nothing,” he said at an event with China’s Xi Jinping and Japan’s Shinzo Abe.

He said international guarantees would be “appropriate” along with US offers, following a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June.

Then, Trump and Kim signed a vaguely worded agreement on denuclearisation but little progress has been made since then.

The latest round of diplomatic efforts to curb the North Korean nuclear programme has been high on the agenda in Vladivostok.

On Monday, Japan’s Prime Minister Abe said he was ready to provide financial aid to Pyongyang on condition that it resolves the issues of its nuclear and missile tests and abducted Japanese nationals.

Russia and China both have land borders with North Korea and were its allies in the Korean conflict in the early 1950s.

They support North Korea’s denuclearisation and abide by international sanctions against Pyongyang, but have rejected Trump’s threats of military action made last year.

Aatish Taseer’s new book has Benares setting



NEW DELHI, SEP 12 (PTI): When author Aatish Taseer first came to Benares he was 18, the Westernised child of an Indian journalist and a Pakistani politician raised among the intellectual and cultural elite of New Delhi.

Nearly two decades later, Taseer leaves his life in Manhattan to go in search of the Brahmins, wanting to understand his own estrangement from India through their ties to tradition.

And he comes out with “The Twice-Born - Life and Death on the Ganges”, a deeply individual and acutely perceptive book revolving around questions of culture and politics that are going to define our future as a nation.

“What have I tried to do here is to use the world of the Brahmins of Benares as a prism to capture the deeper tension of our culture wars. Not just in India, but all

those places where town is pitted against country, heartland against coast, tradition against modernity, and where the quest for authenticity is tearing society apart,” Taseer says.

“I felt I needed the reduction in scale: that, counter-intuitively, the closed world of a temple town on the Ganges would allow for a widening of perspective,” he says.

The book, published by HarperCollins India, will release on October 22.

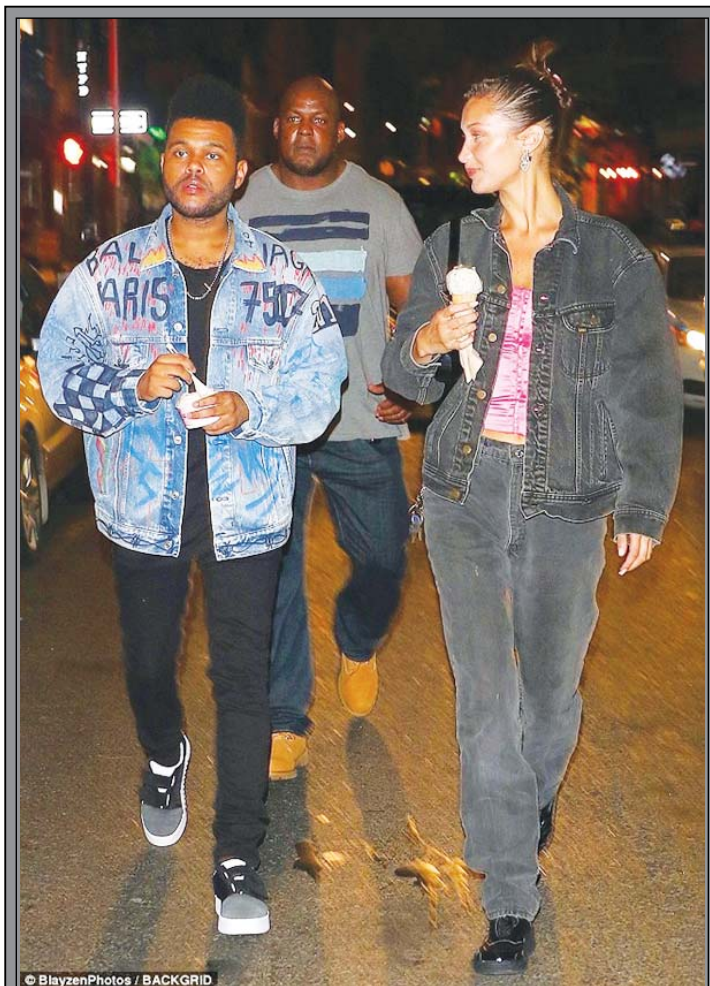
Publisher Udayan Mitra says about the book, “Set in Benares, ‘The Twice-born’ is the remarkable account of a personal journey to understand today’s India, and truly a book for our times.”

Known as the twice-born - first into the flesh, and again when initiated into their vocation - the Brahmins are a caste devoted to sacred learning. But what Taseer finds in Benares, the holy city of death, is a

window on an India as internally fractured as his own continent-bridging identity. At every turn, the seductive, homogenizing force of modernity collides with the insistent presence of the past, the publisher says.

From the narrow streets of the temple town to a rally in Delhi, among the blossoming cotton trees and the bathers and burning corpses of the Ganges, Taseer reconciles magic with reason, faith in tradition with hopes for the future and the brutalities of the caste system, all the while challenging his own myths about himself, his past, and his countries old and new.

Taseer, son of late Pakistani politician Salman Taseer and Delhi journalist Tavleen Singh, is the author of books like “Stranger to History”, “The Way Things Were”, “The Temple-Goers” and “Noon”.



© BlayzenPhotos / BACKGRID

SWEET TREAT! Bella Hadid and her on-again beau The Weeknd indulge their sweet tooth as they step out for an ice cream date during break from NYFW.



Kesari is one release we have all been looking forward to. The battle of Saragarhi has been on everyone's wishlist because every one in the entertainment business wanted to make something out of it. Three films on the same war were announced and then there was a TV show as well. Kesari will thus be the first film to release on this topic and the poster of the same has filled us with pride.

Earlier, Akshay Kumar had revealed his look from the film and now we have the whole poster. It has Akshay leading the pack of turbaned Sikhs in uniforms, ready to rip apart the opponents. The poster

instils a lot of pride and energy in you.

The battle of Saragarhi happened on 12 Sept, 1897, where 21 Sikhs from British India's regiment fought against 10,000 Afghan soldiers who attacked Saragarhi. The story obviously is about valour and grandness. Akshay plays the role of Havildar Ishar Singh who along with his regiment ward off two attacks by Afghan soldiers. But the final one became their undoing. However, they fought enough time for the Britishers to get reinforcements and nail the enemies. Kesari releases on 21 Mar, 2019.

RAJINIKANTH, AKSHAY KUMAR'S 2.0 HAS BEATEN BAAHUBALI EVEN BEFORE RELEASE

The most expensive film in South Indian cinema so far is Baahubali and post release, turned out to be the biggest film in terms of collection in Indian cinema. However, all those records set by Baahubali seem to be in the path of being broken because of another magnum opus in the making Rajinikanth's 2.0. Sequel to the 2010 release Enthiran, 2.0 is gearing up for release in Nov this year and makers are releasing the teaser of the film tomorrow, 13 Sept.

And even before the release, 2.0 has already beaten Baahubali in terms of amount spent on VFX in the film and that amount will blow your mind away.

Director Shankar and his team had more than 100 studios across the globe working on the VFX in 2.0 and have spent a whopping Rs. 540 crore on the graphics in the film. The VFX works



in 2.0 are supervised by Raju Mahalingam who also worked on Baahubali as a VFX Supervisor. And if 2.0 is this big even before release, then Baahubali might be a thing of the past once the sci-fi genre film hits the screens

worldwide.

2.0 also stars Akshay Kumar in a key role and will mark his debut in Tamil cinema. Amy Jackson will be seen playing the leading lady and will be her second movie with director Shankar after

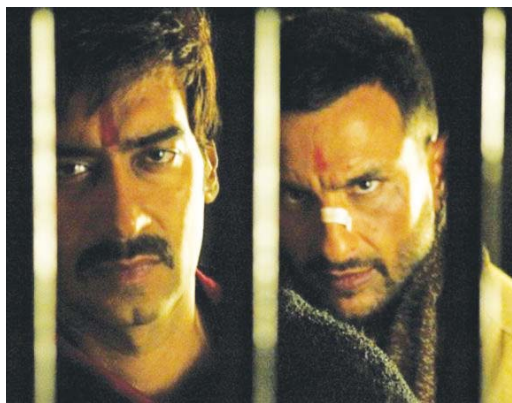
having previously worked on I.A while ago, few pictures from the shooting spot of 2.0 had leaked in which Amy Jackson was seen in the look of a robot hinting she might be playing one such character.

Saif Ali Khan to star in Ajay Devgn's Tanaaji: The Unsung Hero

Ajay Devgn's mega project Tanaaji: The Unsung Hero is in the news for almost a year now. The historical drama has faced a lot of delays due to the hectic schedule of its lead star. Finally, the film has started its pre-production process and is soon expected to go on floors.

Reportedly, Ajay Devgn has approached Saif Ali Khan to play the supporting character but the Nawab of Bollywood was quite sceptical about it, as, after Kal Ho Naa Ho, the actor had decided that he'll not do a two-hero project, where he has a weaker role. Though Ajay convinced him to sign the project and assured him that he has a meaty role in the subject.

As per the Deccan Chronicle re-



port, "It took Saif a long time to agree to be a supporting actor. After Kal Ho Naa Ho, he had vowed to never do a two-hero film in which he would have a weaker role. But Ajay has personally assured him that he will have a strong

author-backed role."

If Saif comes on board, this will be his fourth collaboration with Ajay Devgn after Kachche Dhaage, LOC Kargil and Omkara. Reportedly, Kajol will play Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. The film will be directed by Om Raut, who previously helmed a Marathi film Lokmanya. The film will be made on the lavish budget of Rs 150 crore.

On the professional front, Ajay Devgn will be next seen in Total Dhamaal, which features the ensemble cast of Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Arshad Warsi, Riteish Deshmukh, Sanjai Mishra and Jaaved Jafferi. The film is directed by Indra Kumar and is set to hit the screens on 07 Dec.

SRK bags the 'Game-changer' award at India-UK business summit in London

Shah Rukh Khan needs no introduction. After over two and half decades in the film business, the megastar has not only left a legacy in Bollywood but has enriched the canvas of Indian cinema with his immense contribution as an artist. Not just that he has also left imprints on the showreel all around the world and enjoys a reputation of a global star, and rightly so.

And to honour the same, the actor/producer/activist was recently felicitated with The Economic Times Game Changers of India Hall of Fame award for his unmatched contribution to globalising Indian cinema at the



business summit in London. A coffee table book titled 'Game Changers of India' was also unveiled which features SRK along with other accomplished leaders.

While accepting the honour he said, "I take this opportunity to thank a lot of people, actors, actress, and audiences, for allowing me

to continue unencumbered with any idea that I had, they gave me the ability to just go ahead and give it a shot, try and go wrong if I may, and more often than not they allowed me to go wrong."

He further added, "Business has become about millions, targets and projec-

tions, though I fully respect the managerial capacity of business, I like to think of it as the people who work with me allowed me the imaginarily capacity, they allowed me to imagine and they managed that imagination. So, when you become a game changer you cannot take it upon yourself, there are loads of people involved and the audience as well around the world accepts you doing the stuff you do and think it's entertaining."

On the work front, he will soon be seen in Aanand L Rai's Zero which is all set to release on 21 Dec. It also features Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif in lead roles.

ARIES: A household member might toy with the idea of moving out or going away for a while, Aries. This could stress you out, but don't make yourself crazy. Don't try to talk him or her out of it. Listen sympathetically and let your relative get it out of their system. This person is probably feeling temporarily restricted by forces outside the home and isn't really likely to go anywhere.

TAURUS: Stress could have you feeling uncommunicative today. You probably aren't going to want to talk to anyone, even your dearest friend, Taurus. This might prove difficult, as people around you are going to ask for advice and help. Keep your cool. This feeling will pass and you won't want anyone to think you're upset. Go to lunch alone, and tonight crash on the bed with a good book.

GEMINI: Finances should be going well, Gemini, but your financial affairs aren't something you want to talk about to anyone now. Perhaps you want to make a decision that's yours and not influenced by others. Nonetheless, a close friend or lover is going to find out. Maybe they'll guess or maybe you'll let it slip. Don't panic. This person understands you and won't try to exert undue influence.

CANCER: You're likely to be in a solitary mood today, Cancer, and probably want to spend the evening reading or working on a project of your own. However, it isn't likely to work out that way. Visitors could drop by or some equipment could go on the blink and require repairs. Some unexpected calls could come your way. Take a deep breath and summon your good manners. You can be alone

tomorrow.

LEO: Today you might have a strange feeling that something is wrong, perhaps in the neighborhood or with a friend or relative. This is probably going to bother you all day, Leo, so it might be a good idea to call this person or otherwise look into the matter. There's probably nothing really wrong, but someone close to you may have just experienced a shock of some kind.

VIRGO: An organization with which you're affiliated may be having financial problems, and this fact could come out today. It might be a shock to you and everyone else involved, Virgo, but it's good that it's coming out now. This revelation might have a profound effect on your goals, and may necessitate some reevaluation. Some intense discussion with those around

you is definitely indicated.

LIBRA: Some unexpected changes that have been kept under wraps at the workplace could come out soon. They may involve reorganization or a change of ownership. This is going profoundly affect your attitude toward your job. It could cause you to consider making a change of your own. This isn't the time to make a decision. Take a few days to consider your options before making up your mind.

SCORPIO: Some disconcerting revelations about your past or the past of someone close to you could come out today. This might be a bit of a shock, Scorpio, but it's a positive development nonetheless. It will shed some light on how to deal with current issues in your life or a relationship. Write down your thoughts, meditate, talk to a friend, or otherwise try to

make sense of it.

SAGITTARIUS: Something you might have wanted to keep between you and a few trusted friends could inadvertently be revealed, perhaps to the wrong people. Frustration and a sense of betrayal could plague you, but don't turn against those who knew. Even though this can be disconcerting, you can learn from it. Benjamin Franklin said, "Two people can keep a secret only when one of them is dead."

CAPRICORN: Demands placed on you by work colleagues could have you stressed, Capricorn. You might feel that your co-workers are taking unfair advantage of you. This could start you thinking of perhaps going into business for yourself or with a partner. This could well be a great idea, but today isn't the day to make a decision this monumental. Wait a few

days and give it some serious thought.

AQUARIUS: Stress and job frustration might have you thinking about breaking free, walking out the door, and getting on the first plane somewhere else. Another thought is likely to concern going back to school and training for a career in another field. You might need a vacation, and returning to school could be a great idea, but don't decide today. Wait a few days.

PISCES: A close friend or loved one might drop out of sight today. You may panic when he or she doesn't return your phone calls. Don't jump to conclusions. They're preoccupied with matters that for the moment appear important and will contact you in time. When you do finally connect, you could hear some interesting news. Relax, go about your business, and look forward to the call.