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SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 170 | Gangtok | Friday | 29 June 2018

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Janta Mela for monks & urban poor to be held at Khel Gaon

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 28 JUN:

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's Janta Mela-cum-Jan Sampark Abhiyan for residents of urban areas and monks from all four districts of Sikkim is scheduled to be held at Khel Gaon in Reshithang on 29 Jun.

The Janta Mela will be organised by Urban Development & Housing Department, and will see the CM handing over government benefits to monks and the urban poor of Sikkim.

Minister of UDHD, NK Subba, has informed that GCI roof sheets, pressure cookers and rural housing schemes will be presented to the monks.

Similarly, GCI sheets, electric rice cookers, PMAY and housing schemes will be granted to the urban poor.

The urban poor from Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Namchi Municipal Council, Jorethang-Nayabazaar Municipal Council, Gyalshing Municipal Council, Mangan Nagar Panchayat and Rangpo Nagar Panchayat will be eligible for the government benefits provided they are registered voters in Sikkim.

"Janta Mela for monks and urban poor is being held for the first time in the State of Sikkim and the country as well," said Mr Subba.

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FOOTBALL, EVERYWHERE: With the World Cup fever having gripped the world strong, youth of Lingchom village in West Sikkim indulge in some slush football tournament moment with full fervor. [foto: Nirmal Mangar]

EPIC 17K Mountain Biking Race reaches Thangu

ISSAC RAI WINS
KING OF THE
MOUNTAIN TITLE

MANGAN, 28 JUN [IPR]: The third stage of EPIC 17K Mountain Biking Race covering a distance of 83 kilometers from Lachung to Thangu was flagged off earlier today from Lachung in North Sikkim by District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo. Titled as the King of the Mountain, the winner of this stage will receive a separate cash prize of Rs 20,000 after completing the stage in a total time of 8 hours.

The King of the Mountain stage was won by Issac Rai from SSB who completed the distance of 83 kms from Lachung to Thangu in a record time of 04 hours 47 minutes and 56 seconds. Shiven came in second by covering the course in 05



Pic: IPR Mangan

hours 04 minute and 07 seconds. The third rider to complete the course in 05 hours 04 minutes and 49 seconds was Tenzing Wongchuk from Bhutan. Out of 66 participating riders, 31 riders completed the course and reached Thangu today. The rest of the participants who could not complete within the stipulated time of eight hours were carried by a

sweep vehicle to Thangu. The successful riders will be halting at Thangu for the night and will compete for the ultimate ride to Gurudongmar on 29 Jun.

Hailing from various backgrounds, the riders include elite professional riders, doctors, bureaucrats, amateurs, armed personnel. The final race of EPIC 17K MTB on 29 Jun will be witnessed by

representatives from Red Bull, it is informed.

On 27 Jun, the Lachung Dzumsa organised a cultural show for the participants and a thanksgiving ceremony for the various hotels of Lachung that had sponsored a total of 75 hotel rooms.

The Pipons and youth of Lachung provided full co-operation and support for the organization

WB Govt to evacuate non-starters from industrial parks

KOLKATA, JUN 28 (PTI): The West Bengal government is working out a strategy to evacuate those who were allotted plots at industrial parks but have not started operations, the state MSME Director Vijay Bharti said here today.

"Some such cases are as old as 15 years. The state government is set to show such companies the door," he said speaking at the MSME FinFest 2018.

Bharti said that the state government was counting on MSMEs to become the driver of a "spectacular growth" of the state and a steady and sustainable source of jobs for thousands of young men and women.

The programme was organised organized by the CII as part of an exercise to create a comprehensive platform for stakeholders to ensure easy and hassle-free capital for MSMEs in the state.

Bharti said that focusing on the betterment of MSMEs the state government is trying to provide them with innovations in strategy, help from the private sector and facilitation by the industry associations and chambers.

It would also host a two-day mega MSME

Conclave here on August 20 to promote the MSMEs in the state to the next level of growth and excellence and help them get finance, technologies and wider markets.

The Conclave would focus on lean manufacturing, rural entrepreneurship, SME listing (Initial Public Offering), export orientation for MSMEs, industrial infrastructure and institutional strengthening, he added.

Tojo Banerjee, NSE vice-president, said the stock exchange has created a platform 'Emerge' for small and medium enterprise listing and IPO.

The platform was started in 2012 and till now more than 160 companies, including six from West Bengal, have raised capital on the it, he added.

Siva Kumaravel, General Manager, Syndicate Bank, stressed the need for an open and fair relationship between banks and businesses, while Pankaj Bajaj, CII Eastern Region MSME Sub-committee cp-chairman called for robust support structure relating to mentoring, financing, quality standards, marketing inputs and technology acquisition for MSMEs.

Climate change could shave off 2.8 pc of India's GDP by 2050: World Bank

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 (PTI): Climate change could cost India 2.8 per cent of GDP, and depress living standards of nearly half of its population by 2050, as average annual temperatures are expected to rise by 1-2 per cent over three decades, a World Bank report today said.

If no measures are taken, average temperatures in India are predicted to increase by 1.5-3 degrees, said the World Bank report titled 'South Asia's Hotspots: The Impact of Temperature and Precipitation Changes on Living Standards'.

"Rising temperatures and changing monsoon rainfall patterns from climate change could cost India 2.8 per cent of GDP and depress the living standards of nearly half the country's population by 2050," the report said.

Even if preventive measures are taken along the lines of those recommended by the Paris climate change agreement of 2015, India's average annual temperatures are expected to rise by 1-2 degrees celsius by 2050, the report said.

According to it, almost half of South Asia's population, including India, now lives in the "vulnerable areas" and will suffer from declining living standards that could be attributed to falling agricultural yields, lower labour productivity or related health impacts.

About 600 million people in India today live in locations that could either become moderate or severe hotspots of climate change by 2050 under a business-as-usual scenario.

States in the central, northern and north-western parts of

India emerge as most vulnerable to changes in average temperature and precipitation.

By 2050, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are predicted to be the top two climate hotspot states and are likely to experience a decline of more than 9 per cent in their living standards, followed by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, the report said.

Seven out of the top 10 most-affected hotspot districts will belong to the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

"These weather changes will result in lower per capita consumption levels that could further increase poverty and inequality in one of the poorest regions of the world, South Asia," said Muthukumara Mani, Lead Economist World Bank while

presenting the report here.

He said identifying hotspots will help policymakers in finding specific locations and household types where the resources are needed the most to address the rising risk to living standards.

The report provides options to prioritise investments and strategies to build local resilience to climate change.

To offset the negative economic impact in India, the report suggests enhancing educational attainment, reducing water stress, and improving job opportunities in the non-agricultural sectors.

It also predicts that a 30 per cent improvement on these measures could halt the decline in living standards by almost 1 per cent from 2.8 per cent to 1.9 per cent.

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JAC files fresh petition for disqualification of 7 SKM MLAs

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 JUN:**

The Joint Action Committee [JAC] has filed a fresh petition to the Speaker of Sikkim Legislative Assembly for the disqualification of seven former Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MLAs who later defected to Sikkim Democratic Front in 2015. The petition has been signed by Pahalman Subba, Nawin Kiran Pradhan and Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha and was submitted to the Secretary of SLA today.

It may be mentioned that the previous petition had been rejected by the Speaker on the basis of some technical errors like the lack of signatures of all petitioners.

Addressing a press conference after submitting the memorandum, Mr Pradhan said that the recent judgment of the High Court was historic and now any person can file a memorandum for disqualification under the anti-defection law while earlier only MLAs could file this memorandum.

"We have submitted the memorandum along with all relevant documents through the Secretary of the State Assembly. It was clear defection and we have faith that the Speaker will disqualify them at the earliest. It is a constitutional matter so we hope that the Speaker will take the right decision without any bias," he expressed.

Mr Pradhan mentioned that the JAC will wait for a month and submit a reminder in case no response from the Speaker is received.

"In case of dissatisfactory decision the legal doors are still open for us. But we will pursue this case till the end even after the completion of the tenure of these seven MLAs to set an example so that others do not breach the trust of the people," he said.

He also urged political parties to be active on such matters in the interest of the people of Sikkim.

EPIC 17K Mountain Biking...

contd from pg01

the conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity and forest resource of Himalayan ecosystem along with promotion of the message of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

Mangan Nagar Panchayat reiterates need to segregate waste at source

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 28 JUN:

Mangan Nagar Panchayat [MNP] organized an awareness programme on source segregation and distributed Green and Blue dustbins to registered card holders at Nagar Panchayat Hall here on 27 June.

The programme was attended by Municipal Executive Officer, MNP, Bhaichung Chenga, MNP President, Zangmoo Bhutia, Office Superintendent, Tempo Bhutia, MNP Councillors, safai karmacharis and the general public.

Delivering the welcome address, MNP OS, Mr Bhutia, informed that the MNP was collecting Rs 50 per month from each household in the MNP area for garbage collection service and that it was from the same collection that MNP safai karmacharis are being paid.

"Every household should understand the matter and utilize the green and blue bins to segregated waste properly," Mr Bhutia



stated.

Municipal Executive Officer, Mr Chenga, urged people to keep their households and surroundings clean to ensure a healthy and disease-free environment and cooperate with the MNP staff.

President, MNP, Ms Bhutia, in her address said, "From now onwards, if households and business community do not

use the green and blue dustbins as per segregation directions, the MNP staff will not lift their garbage as the staff has already been facing several problems in managing and dumping the garbage following complaints from the people of Chandey which is the dumping yard of Dzongu and its surrounding areas. The complainants have approached the District Collector, North, inform-

ing his office that they will not allow dumping of garbage from Mangan Bazaar at Chandey. The MNP has to manage the garbage at some other suitable area at the earliest. So people should understand these problems."

During the course of the programme, registered garbage card holders were handed over green and blue dustbins for household use.

DLSA conducts training for law teachers of South & West

NAMCHI, 28 JUN [IPR]: Two-day training programme for teachers teaching lessons in law for South and West districts commenced at Community Hall in Namchi, South Sikkim today. The programme organized by District Legal Service Authority [South & West] in co-ordination with Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [SSLSA] had the presence of Chairperson, DLSA [South], Jyoti Kharka, Secretary, DLSA [South], Sonam Denka Wangdi, along with teachers from various schools.

Secretary, DLSA [South], Ms Wangdi, spoke in-depth about the aims and objectives of the training and added that this training will assist in instilling appropriate knowledge and sensitization about law as an integral part of school curriculum.

Resource person, Bhupendra Giri [Ld Panel Advocate], spoke in detail about the training programme which is to equip the teachers to be well-versed with the various facets of law which they can then propagate amongst the students. He emphasized that teachers should encourage a variety of activities and interaction in disseminating awareness regarding laws rather than a one-way transmission of information. He also talked about the different kinds of rights, duties and restrictions



provided under the Constitution of India while highlighting easy access to justice for everyone.

Mr Giri underlined that teachers should be legally well-informed and capable in responding to the problems concerning the pupils. Additionally, he elaborated that the teachers need to sharpen their familiarity regarding Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act [PC-PNDT Act] and Sikkim Anti Drugs Act [SADA Act].

Another resource person, Anjan Sharma [Ld Panel Advoca-

te], urged the teachers to gain extensive understanding about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act [POCSO Act]. He explained the imperative need of students, teachers and staff to be trained about child protection policies in schools. He added that the teachers are required to give the details of POCSO Act to the students for their knowledge and also for the children to exercise their rights.

Mr Sharma added that the law mandatorily requires the educators of school institutions to re-

port child abuse. He spoke briefly on the importance of awareness pertaining to such issues which will go a long way in securing the safety of children and effective prosecution of offenders. He also touched upon various other Acts and elucidated on the legal aid accompanied with these Acts in order to protect the victims.

The programme also held an interactive session between the teachers and the resource persons pertaining to the diverse laws governing the students and laymen.

Inter-school scholastic competition held at Sudunglakha School

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 JUN:**

Zilla Panchayat of Bering Sudunglakha Territorial Constituency, East Sikkim in collaboration with State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and Youth Development Society of Sikkim [YODESS], Rongli conducted an inter-school scholastic competition at Government Secondary School, Sudunglakha on 27 Jun.

Powered by Wandering Souls of Sikkim, the event was organized with the aim to provide a platform for students to showcase their talents, a press release informs.

Sixty students from 11 government and private schools from in and around Bering Sudunglakha participated in 06 different competitions organized during the daylong event.

Tareythang Secondary School secured first position in the senior level quiz followed by Mulukey Junior High School in second position.

In the junior level quiz competition, Takshang Kaijale School bagged the first position with Bering Junior High School coming in second.

Likewise, Anjali Giri of Sudunglakha Secondary School secured



first position in the elocution competition with Ashika Kafley of Tareythang Secondary School in the second position.

Pratistha Sharma of Blooming Buds Academy secured the first position in the spelling-bee competition followed by Prerna Gurung of Mulukey Junior High School taking the second position.

In the senior level essay writing competition, Prajambika Sharma of Sudunglakha Secondary School and Bibek Subba of Bering Junior High School secured the first and second positions respectively with Upasana Rai of Sudunglakha Secondary School and Bishaka Subba of Mulukey Junior High School winning the junior level essay writing competition in the first

and second positions respectively.

The Wandering Souls of Sikkim has extended gratitude to Bering Sudunglakha TC Zilla Panchayat for organizing the event and for inviting them to be a part of it. They have also thanked Assistant Professor of English, Sikkim Manipal University, Prayash Gupta, for evaluating the essay papers and being a constant source of support and encouragement during the course of the event.

They have also expressed gratitude to all the sponsors, guests, participating schools, participants and all others for their effort and dedicated support in making the event successful and AS Presentations for providing coverage of the event.

Chinese military delegation to shortly visit India: official

BEIJING, JUN 28 (PTI):

A Chinese military delegation will shortly visit India, as a major follow up to the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping, a defence ministry spokesman said here today.

The delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) will be headed by Major General Liu Xiaowu, Deputy Commander of China's Western military region, Defence spokesman Colonel Wu Qian said.

He said both sides were currently finalising the dates for the visit, adding that General Liu would also be visiting Pakistan.

"During the visit, he will have meetings with military leaders of both the countries and relevant leaders concerning border defence and controls and as well as cooperation at the theatre level," he said.



SKM forms Ward level committee for Mangsari-Mangarjum

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha conducted Ward level committee formation cum joining programme at Mangsari-Mangarjum block under Soreng Chakung Constituency in West Sikkim today. Former Sikkim Democratic Front member, Buddha Ta-

mang, joined SKM in the presence of SKM CLC president, Binod Basnet, Nari Convenor, Louis Gurung, district member, Ganesh Subba, and other CLC executives. During the programme, a 34-member Ward level committee was also formed for the block with Amit Tamang as its Ward president, an SKM press release informs.

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Anmol KC
to begin
shooting for
'Captain'
in Sikkim
next month

NIRMAL MANGAR
GANGTOK, 28 JUN:
Popular Nepali actor, Anmol KC, will be shooting for his upcoming movie 'Captain' in Sikkim.

According to line producer, Tikam Sharma, the cast also includes Bhuwan KC, Sunil Thapa, Wilson Bikram Rai and others.

The shooting for 'Captain' will commence from 05-06 Jul at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok and will venture on to other popular locations like Tsomgo Lake and MG Marg.

Directed by Diwakar Bhattarai, the film is based on football and is the home production of Bhuwan KC.

Thirty football players from Sikkim will be featured along with the cast in 'Captain'.

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Bhawan inaugurated in
Malbasey Namphing

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 JUN:
Sarala Devi Khetan Bhawan, a recently constructed building of the Sarsawati Vidhya Niketan under Vidhya Bharati, Sikkim, was inaugurated today by Minister for Roads & Buildings, area MLA GM Gurung, at Malbasey Namphing in South Sikkim in the presence of Vidhya Bharati National Organisation joint secretary, Govind Chandra Mahant, a press release informs.

I&B Ministry's Director General for NE calls on IPR Minister

GANGTOK, 28 JUN (IPR): The Director General (North East Zone), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia, called on Minister, Information & Public Relations Department, AK Ghatani at his office here at Soochna Bhawan, Tadong today. The DG was accompanied by Regional Outreach Bureau (Itanagar) Director, Dr. HR Keshavmurthy.

The Director General apprised the Minister about their meetings and engagements during their three-day visit to the State. He informed that the primary objective of his visit was to de-



liberate on how there can be better coordination between the DIPR and the media agencies and information outlets of the Central Government to publicize and high-

light the development programmes and welfare schemes so that the public benefit from them.

The DG also placed before the Minister the proposal to establish a

media centre in Gangtok which can accommodate the offices of the Press Information Bureau, and the Field Outreach Bureaus (FOBs) and Regional Outreach Bureau

(ROB) which are presently scattered in various parts of the State.

IPR Minister Mr Ghatani welcomed the visiting officials and expressed satisfaction at the positive feedback gathered by them on their visit to the State. While impressing upon the various unique initiatives of the Government in the past two decades, the Minister stressed that these initiatives should be adequately highlighted at the national and international level. He called for the need to focus more on the developmental stories and exchanges of good practices through various

media.

The Minister also welcomed the suggestion by the DG to empanel local artists of Sikkim in the Song and Drama Unit of the I&B, presently having their troupes in Guwahati and Imphal. He urged the DG to consider recruiting local people having proficiency in journalism and media and command over the local language in various capacities in the PIB and its units.

The Minister reiterated that the State of Sikkim has gained international repute as the first fully organic farming State, eco-friendly State and a sought-after tourist

destination, and numerous path-breaking initiatives which still need to be highlighted. He urged the officials to work in close coordination with the media in the State and the Department of IPR to take the schemes and programmes to the public and foster development. The Minister concluded by assuring all possible support to the PIB and allied agencies to establish themselves in the State and render their services.

The meeting had the presence of Director, IPR, Tashi Chopel, officers of the Department and representatives from PIB Gangtok.



Governing Council of Sikkim National
Law University meets

GANGTOK, 28 JUN [IPR]: The first meeting of the Governing Council of Sikkim National Law University [SNLU] held at the conference hall of High Court of Sikkim in Gangtok today discussed the future course of action for the establishment of SNLU.

Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Satish K Agnihotri, who is also the Chancellor of SNLU, in his opening remarks described all the basic aspects of the establishment of the Law University and advised to develop and produce advocates as social engineers who are not just confined to book-based written syllabus.

Justice Agnihotri led the coordination of the interactive session and discussed and advised on various components of Sikkim National Law University Act 2018 including recruitment of Vice Chancellor of the University, Constitution of the Executive Council, Statutes of Regulations, establishment of Bar Coun-

cil of Sikkim, framing of policies and faculties, infrastructures, etc.

Minister for Human Resource Development Department, RB Subba, expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice for his dynamic efforts in expansion of the court to every nook and corner of the State and expressed hope that underprivileged people will benefit from the same in their nearby areas. He also gave his invaluable inputs with regard to the establishment of SNLU.

Minister for Health, IPR and Printings Departments, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, who was representing as nominee of Finance Minister, Government of Sikkim, shared his happiness and congratulated the house for new beginning towards establishment of SNLU.

"The State Government under yir visionary leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling is fully committed to extend all support and cooperation to establish the

university at best level," he added.

Likewise, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, underlined the purpose of establishment of the university as a contribution to nation building and highlighted on the need for the university in the State to give further impetus to education.

Professor Arun Diwaker Nath Bajpai [Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyala, Jabalpur, MP], Professor JP Tamang [Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University], Lieutenant General [Dr] Venkatesh [Vice Chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University], Tej Bahadur Thapa [Senior Advocate] and Vibudhendra Mishra [Advocate, High Court of Jabalpur] also actively participated in an open discussion with their suggestions and inputs.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya, proposed the welcome address and updated on the progress made in the initial stage.

SGJS files PIL against 'immigrant'
tag used for Nepali community



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUN:

Sikkim Gorkha Jagaran Sangh [SGJS] has filed a PIL in the High Court of Sikkim against the tag of 'immigrant' used for the Nepali community of the State and other issues like Assembly seat reservation for all communities on the basis of their population. The PIL was admitted in the High Court on 25 June and hearing is scheduled for 31 July.

Addressing a press conference here today, SGJS spokesperson, Manil Raj Rai, mentioned that the organisation has been consistently raising issues of

injustice being served to the majority community of the State as they have been deprived of their political rights for a long time.

He said that the majority community of the State has not been able to enjoy their political rights completely. He further added that the organisation has been compelled to approach the court for justice and that the movement of SGJS is not against any particular community but is an effort to instill democracy in the State.

Senior advocate, NB Khatiwada, who is also a petitioner in this case, also addressed the press conference.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT & WELFARE DEPARTMENT
(WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION)
GANGTOK, SIKKIM
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sealed quotation are invited from the interested individuals/ groups for providing catering service at Anganwadi Workers Training Centre, situated at Upper Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

Terms and conditions of Contract:

- # The contract for the financial year 2018-19 and can be extended for a period of three years on yearly basis subject to performance of the food vendor.
- # The individual/ party should possess valid license to run the catering business as per the existing norms of the government.
- # The food rate shall be as per the approved financial norms of Government of India under ICDS Training.
- # The cook and kitchen helpers should be managed by the food vendor.
- # Food hygiene and quality must be ensured by the contractor.
- # The cleanliness of kitchen, washing area and dining hall must be ensured by the contractor on regular basis.
- # Food timing to be followed strictly as per the meal Plan*

SL. NO.	PARTICULAR	SCHED- ULE TIME	MENU
i.	Bed Tea	6 - 7 am	Tea
ii.	Breakfast	7.30 - 8.30 am	Bread butter/ Puri sabji / Paratha
iii.	Morning tea	11 - 11.30 am	Tea with biscuits
iv.	Lunch	1 - 2 pm	a. Rice /dal /papad /veg. b. Non veg once only.
v.	Evening tea	3 - 3.30 pm	Tea with biscuits.
vi.	Dinner	7.30 - 8.30 pm	Rice / dal / papad / vegetable.

*Meal Plan to be submitted by the contractor on weekly basis and get it approved by the Principal AWTC.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ICDS

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMP. & WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

R.O. No. 160/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 27.6.2018.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
No: 28/ETENDER/BHD/2018
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated: 26/06/2018

On behalf of Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (N&E), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders' from qualified Class IIB Contractors, within the East District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work listed below.

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORKS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	COST OF TENDER/ BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS)	COMPLETION PERIOD
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Phase IV Building at High Court of Sikkim, Gangtok, East Sikkim	12.32	492.92	0.30	24 Months

IMPORTANT EVENTS

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	26 th June, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	26 th June, 2018
iii)	Documents download/Sale start date and time	:	27 th June, 2018 11.00 am onwards
iv)	Last Date and Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	4 th July, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	30 th July, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	31 st July, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

Sd/-
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (N/E)
BUILDING & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
R.O. No: 159/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Date: 26/06/2018

SummitTIMES

The Value of Translations

In the build-up to Bhanu Jayanti, expand the reach of language

Those who manage to find the time to read even the shorter, routine news-reports, would have noticed that meetings are now underway across the State in preparation for Bhanu Jayanti coming up next month. In some places, Bhanu Jayanti celebrations will also begin in earnest across the State with a string of competitions. With this, it will be the 204th time that Nepali-speakers and readers thank God for sending Bhanu Bhakta Acharya among them, thank Bhanu Bhakta for teaching them about the cohesive power of language and celebrate his memory as the Adi-Kavi, the first people's poet. The focus of the celebrations, like always, will be on language and on Bhanu Bhakta's Nepali rendition of the Ramayana, and rightfully so, but the defining trait of the man is getting increasingly sidelined and needs to be pulled back into focus.

Bhanu Bhakta did not create the Nepali language, but he did make it more relevant by translating the Ramayana from Sanskrit into the language of his people. He flattened the hierarchy of knowledge by making information [in this case, Faith] accessible to the people. When he translated the epic, he made it possible for his people to appreciate their Faith and its stories better. It is heartwarming to see young students recite with confident fluency what Bhanu Bhakta wrote more than a century and half back. Maybe now it is time to take the homage a step further; by providing a fresh impetus to translations, both, from and into the Nepali language.

Since students form the backbone of the Bhanu Jayanti Samarohs, let's speak of them. To share a thought, the Harry Potter series is now 21 years old, two decades through which it created publishing history and was translated into 73 languages. The complete series has still not arrived in a Nepali version to Nepali readers wherever they reside. The first book in the series was reportedly translated by a publisher in Nepal in 2012, but one is yet to see copies in Sikkim or Darjeeling. What is more, only the first book of the series has been translated thus far. The Harry Potter series has seven books. Or, take Arundhati Roy's God of Small Things, which is available even in a bootlegged Mandarin edition, but not yet in Nepali. If a reader in China can appreciate the Booker winning novel, why should a Nepali reader in Tumin not get the same opportunity? In the same vein, why should the Chinese who picked up God of Small Things in Mandarin, not be able to pick up a translation of Indra Bahadur Rai's Jarr or Guru Prasad Mainali's Paral ko Aago? They have already taken a shine to Bollywood blockbusters, why should that massive audience be denied access to the best of Nepali writing?

This is important, and, by not concentrating enough on translations, especially relevant children's literature and the seminal literary works, we are denying an entire block of readers a chance to be part of world events and progressive thoughts.

Language provides a people with their identity and literature is their introduction to the world. Translations bridge the gap between people, and Bhanu Bhakta understood this about two centuries ago... time we did too.

CORRIGENDUM

The headline 'CM inaugurates new Sikkim Judicial Academy complex at Sokeythang' published in the Summit Times issue of 28 June 2018 should be read as 'CJ inaugurates new Sikkim Judicial Academy complex at Sokeythang'. The error is regretted. - *Editor*

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

History teaches us that careful thought must go into planting trees

BRETT M BENNETT
theconversation.com

The idea that forests increase rainfall is an old idea that has inspired scientists and the public for centuries. Over 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus came to believe that the American tropics had heavy, continuous afternoon rain because of its dense vegetation.

In the 1860s to 1890s, the idea inspired foresters in arid places, such as South Africa and Australia, to plant trees in the hope of making rain. These efforts failed and, as a result, foresters largely abandoned the idea that trees created rainfall. In fact, it seemed that planted forests actually lowered the water available from rivers and streams; this was a major problem in areas that lacked adequate water before trees were planted.

A change in understanding about the impact of trees on rain and water supplies played out 80 years ago in South Africa when farmers became so concerned that planted trees were leading to the loss of water in rivers that they forced the government to investigate the relationship between trees and water.

The subsequent research showed unequivocally that tree planting had an adverse impact on water supply in South African catchments.

The scientific idea that forests influence rainfall fell into decline during the middle of the twentieth century. But it has regained popularity, particularly during the past two decades.

Evidence from various parts of the world now emphasises the link between forests and rainfall. Maps showing where the world's rainfall originates highlight this.

A group of scientists have increasingly begun to describe trees as "pumps", "generators", and "makers" of rain. They want policies revised to account for forests' water-giving properties.

If successful, these ideas have the potential to revise environmental policy, ecosystems and water cycles in far reaching ways. But they also have the potential to cause significant problems if history is not heeded.

Research suggests we should be wary of planting trees in places where none exist, or where there are



There should be caution in jumping on the "forests are always better" bandwagon.

significant water constraints. The fact is that planting trees indiscriminately has in the past had harmful effects.

RETHINKING EARLIER THEORIES

There is strong evidence to suggest that atmospheric recycling - the transpiration of water from trees into the air as precipitation - plays an important role in rainfall in rainforests as well as deserts. A huge percentage of rainfall - sometimes over 50% in west and central Africa and the Amazon - is recycled from forests. In parts of Western China an amazing 80-90% of rain occurs because of recycling.

Despite having an uncertain future, the connection between forests and rain is now being explored with new vigour.

Some scholars are calling for forests to be protected for their role in generating rainfall and maintaining climatic stability. These scholars challenge the dominance of water policies that have been devised based on the idea that forests limit water in rivers and streams. Rather, they argue that trees are necessary to generate rain downwind. Existing policies tend to prioritise catchments, such as rivers, rather than valuing forests for their cooling and rainmaking effects.

This new line of thinking, which will undoubtedly reshape future policy, should not lead people to simply assume that all trees are good everywhere and all the time. The reality is that trees are very capable of being heavy water consumers that take water away from downstream users.

Striking a balance between the need to create rainfall and to conserve water in catchments should be a key to formulating any new policies.

A group of hydrological experts writing from The International Union for Conservation of Nature, the global authority on the status of the natural world, argue that the best approach is to protect areas where forests play a key role in generating rain locally or downwind, and to be sensitive to the potential decline of downstream water quantities.

Scholars who want to turn science into policy could create a detailed breakdown of world regions that may benefit from tree planting and those that are less likely to benefit. It makes sense that rainforests should be protected. What about arid regions or regions with highly variable rainfall cycles?

WHY HISTORY IS IMPORTANT

When devising policy, scientists should read more history to understand the social implications of changing policies. It is important not to repeat the same mistakes of the past, which have included planting alien trees in the middle of diverse grasslands, marginalising the voices of people who do not benefit from these efforts, and reforesting highly diverse regions with species that aren't indigenous.

And people may be more biased towards pro-forestry policies, so there should be caution about not encouraging governments to just jump on the "more forests are always better" bandwagon.

Finally, researchers on all sides might think about getting together to design an ethical protocol for forest policy. For instance, should policies for rainfall generation be limited only to existing native forests or their previous ranges? What about the planting of alien trees, or trees in areas that were not formerly forests?

If the right balance is struck, the result will be resilient forests and water regimes that work.

[The writer is Associate Professor of History, University of Johannesburg]

How tech companies are successfully disrupting terrorist social media activity

STUART MACDONALD
theconversation.com

In June 2017, Google, Facebook, Twitter and Microsoft announced the formation of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). The aim of this industry-led initiative is to disrupt the terrorist exploitation of its services. Recently, GIFCT members hailed the achievements of its first year of operations. But, while this progress must be acknowledged, significant challenges remain.

Every single minute there are on average 510,000 comments and 136,000 photos shared on Facebook, 350,000 tweets posted on Twitter and 300 hours of video uploaded to YouTube.

Given this, the biggest companies extensively rely on artificial intelligence (AI). Facebook's uses of AI include image matching. This prevents users from uploading a photo or video that matches another photo or video that has previously been identified as terrorist. Similarly, YouTube reported that 98% of the videos that it removes for violent extremism are also flagged by machine learning algorithms.

PROGRESS SO FAR

One difficulty the social media companies face is that, if a terrorist group is blocked from one platform, it might simply move to a different one. In response to this, GIFCT members have created a shared industry database of "hashes". A hash is a unique digital fingerprint that can be used to track digital activity. When pro-terrorist content is removed by one GIFCT member, its hash is shared with the other participating companies to enable them to block the content on their own platforms.

At its recent meeting, the GIFCT announced that to date 88,000 hashes have been added to the database. So the consortium is on track to meet its target of 100,000 hashes by the end of 2018. Especially so, now that another nine companies have joined the consortium, including Instagram, Justpaste.it and LinkedIn.

These efforts have undoubtedly disrupted terrorists' use of social media platforms. For example, in the 23 months since August 1, 2015, Twitter has suspended almost a million accounts for promot-

ing terrorism. In the second half of 2017, YouTube removed 150,000 videos for violent extremism. Nearly half of these were removed within two hours of upload.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

Yet much further work remains. In response to the disruption of their use of Twitter, supporters of the so-called Islamic State (IS) have tried to circumvent content blocking technology by what is known as outlinking, using links to other platforms. Interestingly, the sites that are most commonly outlinked to include justpaste.it, sendvid.com and archive.org. This appears to be a deliberate strategy to exploit smaller companies' lack of resources and expertise.

IS supporters have also moved their community-building activities to other platforms, in particular Telegram. Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging service that provides optional end-to-end encrypted messaging. This encryption stops messages being read by third parties. And it has been used extensively to share content produced by official IS channels.

This forms part of a wider movement towards more covert methods. Other encrypted messaging services, including WhatsApp, have been used by jihadists for communication and attack-planning. Websites have also been relocated to the Darknet. The Darknet is a hidden part of the internet that is anonymous in nature and only accessed using specialist encryption software. A 2018 report warned that Darknet platforms have the potential to function as a jihadist "virtual safe-haven."

In addition, recent research has found that supporters of jihadist groups other than IS experience significantly less disruption on Twitter. Supporters of these other groups were able to post six times as many tweets, follow four times as many accounts and gain 13 times as many followers as pro-IS accounts.

It is also important to respond to other forms of violent extremism. Extreme right-wing groups also have a significant presence on platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. While steps have been

taken to disrupt their presence online, such as Facebook's decision to ban Britain First from its platform, it appears that these groups are also beginning to migrate to the Darknet.

OVERREACH

Just as there is an issue of reaching terrorist social media, there are also challenges relating to potential overreach. Machine learning algorithms cannot be expected to identify terrorist content with 100% accuracy. Some content will be wrongly identified as terrorist or blocked or removed. But the challenges here go further than just applying the threshold correctly. They also concern where the threshold should be drawn in the first place.

The difficulties in defining terrorism are well known. Summed up by the slogan "One person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter", one of the most controversial definitional issues is that of just cause. Should a definition of terrorism exclude those such as pro-democracy activists in a country ruled by an oppressive and tyrannical regime? According to many countries, including the UK, the answer is no. As one Court of Appeal judge put it: "Terrorism is terrorism, whatever the motives of the perpetrators."

If social media companies take a similar approach, this could have some significant ramifications. Indeed, there are already worrying examples. In 2017, thousands of videos documenting atrocities in Syria were removed from YouTube by new technology aimed at extremist propaganda. These videos provided important evidence of human rights violations. Some existed only on YouTube, since not all Syrian activists and media can afford an offline archive. Yet the alternative - to seek to distinguish between just and unjust causes - is fraught with difficulties of its own.

At a time when social media companies face increasing pressure to do more to tackle terrorist exploitation of their platforms, the progress made during the GIFCT's first year is welcome. But it is only the first step.

[The writer is Professor of Law, Swansea University]

Call for CBI probe into student's death case in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, JUN 28 (PTI): The recent incidents of lynching in different parts of the country have redirected attention to a nine-month-old case in Arunachal Pradesh, in which an 18-year-old boy allegedly fell victim to mob assault.

Demanding a CBI probe into the case, various students' organizations here have served a 15-day ultimatum to the government to ensure justice for the teenager.

Toko Yame, a Class XII student of a government-run school in Tawang, went missing under mysterious circumstances following a scuffle between two groups of boys on September 16.

His semi-decomposed body was found a week later on September 23 near Biga waterfall in the district.

Over 20 people were detained for interrogation and

later arrested in connection with the case. They were, however, granted bail by the court.

A Special Investigating Team (SIT), formed to probe the case, is yet to file a charge sheet in the investigation.

Sources close to the SIT team said 35 persons have been named as accused in the charge sheet and among them, some are adults, some juveniles.

Chakang Yangda, the president of All East Kameng District Students' Union (AEKDSU), said if the government failed to address their demand within 15 days, the AEKDSU would impose economic blockade on Tawang district.

"We want the government to hand over Toko's case from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), arrest the culprits at the earliest and terminate the police personnel who were

deployed on control room duty during the incident," he said.

A peace march, organised here on Monday by AEKDSU to seek justice for Yame, was attended by several organizations, including All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, North East Students' Organisation and All Nyishi Students' Union.

Yangda vowed that the union would continue its stir till justice is delivered in the case.

AEKDSU general secretary Nera Gumro, who is also chairman of Toko Yame Justice Movement, said there seemed to be no headway in the case.

"We have been crying for justice for the past nine months, but it yielded no results. Several officers investigating the matter have been transferred," he claimed.

Condemning the Septem-

ber 16 incident, AAPSU general secretary Tobom Dai said they would intensify their protests if the case was not solved over the next two weeks.

He held Chief Minister Pema Khandu, who also hails from Tawang, and Home Minister Kumar Waii responsible for failing to deliver justice to the aggrieved family.

At a press meet here on May 15, Toko's father Koya Yame said that his son was abducted and tortured to death. He alleged that the district police have been trying to protect the accused.

"It seems that there is no law in Arunachal Pradesh.

Nine months have passed since my son's death, but justice has not been delivered," he added.

The Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee, too, pinned blame on the BJP gov-

ernment for delay in solving the case.

APCC president Takam Sanjoy said the government was trying to "shield the culprits" involved in the murder.

"The Tawang district administration and police have succumbed to the dictum of Chief Minister Pema Khandu," APCC president Takam Sanjoy said.

A senior police officer, however, denied allegations of "political interference" in the matter.

The investigation team is doing its best to solve the case, the officer said on the condition of anonymity.

Chief Secretary Satyagopal, too, rubbished the charge leveled by the opposition party.

"There was no question of shielding any criminal, whatever be the case. The law will take its own course," he added.

Final draft of NRC not to be released on June 30

GUWAHATI, JUN 28 (PTI): The final draft of Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC) will not be released on June 30, as scheduled, due to the heavy floods in the Barak Valley, NRC state coordinator Prateek Hajela said here today.

He added that a petition was filed in the Supreme Court last week, seeking more time to prepare the draft and the apex court had fixed the date of hearing on July 2. The NRC is being updated under the Supreme Court's supervision.

It would not be possible to publish the draft on the scheduled date of June 30 due to the flood situation in Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts in the Barak Valley, parts of Karbi Anglong and Hojai, Hajela said.

"We tried our best to complete (the draft) within the deadline and recover the time lost due to the floods, but were not able to do so," he told reporters here.

"We have made considerable progress in the last few days and will most likely be in a position to publish the draft on the next date fixed by the Supreme Court," Hajela added.

Replying to query, he said adequate precautions were being taken to ensure the safety of the documents in the flood-affected areas.

Meanwhile, security across the state has been stepped up ahead of the

publication of the draft and the state government has sought more security forces from the Centre to prevent any untoward incident.

A team of senior government and police officials, led by Chief Secretary T Y Das and Director General of Police (DGP) Kuladhar Saikia, has held four meetings in the lower and central Assam districts to review the law-and-order situation.

Deputy commissioners, superintendents of police, other senior officers of the police, army and paramilitary forces attended those meetings.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the names of all "genuine Indians" would be incorporated in the list of the state's citizens.

He also ruled out any possibility of violence after the publication of the NRC, saying adequate forces were deployed across the state to deal with any situation.

The first draft of the NRC was released on the intervening night of December 31 and January 1, in which the names of 1.9 crore of the 3.29 crore applicants were incorporated. The verification of the second draft was completed by May 31.

Assam, which faced an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state that has an NRC, which was first prepared in 1951.

Mizoram Assembly adopts resolution against Citizenship Bill

AIZAWL, JUN 28 (PTI): The Mizoram Assembly today unanimously adopted an official resolution, expressing opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

The bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Citizenship Act 1955, proposes to make illegal migrants of six communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- eligible for Indian citizenship after six years of residence in the country.

The official resolution, moved by state home minister R Lalzirlana, impressed upon the Centre that the Bill, if enacted, would be harmful to states like Mizoram where a large number of illegal Buddhist migrants from Bangladesh resided.

Lalzirlana said the Bill, seeking to make illegal migrants eligible for Indian citizenship on the basis of religion, was against the principles of secularism and "amounted to patronage of some religions".

Pakistani children recruited for suicide attacks: UN report

UNITED NATIONS, JUN 28 (PTI): Armed groups in Pakistan continue to recruit children, including those from madrassas, and allegedly use them for suicide attacks, according to a UN report released today.

The annual report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict said the Pakistan-based terror outfits have released videos of children being taught how to carry out suicide attacks.

"In Pakistan, the United Nations continued to receive reports of the recruitment and use of children, including from madrassas, and allegations of the use of children by armed groups for suicide attacks," said the report covering the January-December 2017 period.

"In January, Tehrike Taliban Pakistan released a video showing children, including girls, being instructed how to perpetrate suicide attacks," it said.

UN Secretary General An-



tonio Guterres said he was "concerned" by the continued attacks on schools by armed groups, particularly the targeting of girls' education.

He called on the Pakistan government to prioritise mea-

sures to deter future attacks on schools.

The report also said while the age-disaggregated data on civilian casualties were limited, incidents of children killed and injured in attacks in Pakistan by armed

groups continued to be reported.

It cited the February suicide attack in Sehwan in the Sindh Province in which at least 75 people, including 20 children, were reportedly killed.

Eight attacks on educational facilities and students were also reported, four targeting girls' education, it said.

In March, unidentified individuals vandalised the Oxford Public School in Ghizer Valley of the Gilgit-Baltistan, and threatened to bomb the school if female teachers did not cover themselves.

In the same month, a girls' school located in Qila Abdullah in the restive Balochistan Province was damaged in an attack through the use of improvised explosive devices, it said.

Taliban militants stormed military-run Army Public School in the northwestern city of Peshawar in December 2014, killing at least 150 people, mostly children.

TMC hits back, asks Shah to pay attention to BJP-led central govt

KOLKATA, JUN 28 (PTI): Trinamool Congress leader Partha Chatterjee today advised Amit Shah to pay more attention to his party's government at the Centre, after the BJP chief slammed the TMC dispensation in West Bengal for "unleashing violence" on political rivals.

Chatterjee said Shah should be "more worried" about the BJP-led government at the Centre

and in states where assembly polls are due, instead of "looking at" West Bengal. "There is a saying that empty vessels sound much. Amit Shah's speech in Purulia is also a reflection of that saying," the TMC leader said.

He said the people of West Bengal must dethrone the TMC government if they want to stop illegal immigration from Bangladesh.

Food Fest celebrates flavours of Bengal

NEW DELHI, JUN 28 (PTI): Exquisite Bengali delicacies including 'pur pora bhekti', 'chicken dak bangla', 'kosha mangsho' and many more are up for grabs at an ongoing food festival here.

'Amar Shonar Bangla' is part of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group's 'Chef's Pop-Up' campaign, a unique culinary exchange program that seeks to take the regional cuisines of one Indian city to another.

The Delhi leg of the campaign is celebrating the many gastronomical flavours of the city of joy at The Lalit here. Chef Madhumita Mohanta of The Lalit Great Eastern Kolkata has curated an extravagant platter of almost forgotten cuisines of erstwhile Bengal to tantalise the Delhi taste buds.

"This festival is a celebration of a bygone era and I am serving dishes from both East and West Bengal. It is a celebration of oneness," Chef Mohanta said.

One can begin the sumptuous festi-



val with a 'gondhoraj mangsher chop' (crumb fried lamb croquettes scented with lime) or 'peyaj postor bora' (pan fried poppy seed and onion patty), and move on to main course delectables like 'dhoka' (deep fried Bengal gram cake simmered in tomato and garam masala gravy), 'elish barishali' (Hilsa cooked in mustard and coconut gravy) and 'chingri mali curry' (prawns simmered in coconut milk and local spices).

End the meal with 'Rajbhog' (stuffed cottage cheese dumpling simmered in light sugar syrup) and the iconic 'mishti doi'.

The festival that began on June 20 will come to a close on June 30.

SummitTIMES
ON TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

Adityanath refuses to wear cap at Kabir mausoleum

SANT KABIRNAGAR (UP), JUN 28 (PTI): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath refused to wear a cap offered to him at the mausoleum of Sant Kabir Das here.

The chief minister was here yesterday evening to oversee preparations for the prime minister's visit to the mausoleum of the mystic poet and was offered a fur cap by Khadim Hussain, the caretaker, which he politely refused.

"As per tradition I offered the cap to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath when he visited the mausoleum of Kabir saheb but he politely refused," he said.

However, he agreed to keep the cap, he said.

In 2011, then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi had refused to wear a skullcap offered to him by a cleric during a fast for social harmony in Ahmedabad.

Argentina, France hope to reach potential in World Cup clash

KAZAN, JUN 28 (AP): France and Argentina took different paths to the knockout stage but have much in common at this World Cup.

Both teams are filled with big-name players, both like to play an entertaining style and both have failed to impress so far.

Forty years after their last meeting at soccer's biggest tournament, the former champions meet on Saturday in Kazan for a spot in the quarterfinals, needing their best players to come to the fore.

With its armada of star players, France qualified unbeaten from its group but has yet to find the right rhythm in Russia. In three matches, coach Didier Deschamps' team has lacked ambition and intensity. The poor form of striker Antoine Griezmann has been a major concern.

Argentina had a shakier path to the knockout stage, and coach Jorge Sampaoli has been heavily criticized.

Portugal-Uruguay more than Ronaldo v Suarez, says Alves

KRATOVO, JUN 28 (AFP): Portugal defender Bruno Alves said Saturday's World Cup last-16 clash with Uruguay will be more than simply a battle between Cristiano Ronaldo and Luis Suarez.

The European champions will face Uruguay in Sochi for a place in the quarter-finals after finishing as runners-up behind Spain in Group B.

Uruguay won all three of their group matches, beating hosts Russia 3-0 in their last outing, and are the only team yet to concede a goal at the tournament.

Real Madrid forward Ronaldo has scored four of Portugal's five goals so far, while Barcelona star Suarez netted against Saudi Arabia and Russia.

"I don't think it will be a duel between Suarez and Ronaldo," Alves



said on Thursday.

"It's a match between the two

teams, Portugal and Uruguay, and we'll do everything we can to win."

Portugal survived a late scare against Iran on Monday, as Ronaldo missed a penalty and was fortunate to escape a red card for an elbow.

"At this stage we still believe we have room for improvement," Alves said.

"I think we will win, but you can't forget you can only win if you play well and I think we'll play well." The 36-year-old Alves is at his third World Cup, although the Rangers centre-back has yet to make an appearance in Russia.

"I feel that we're always highly motivated. I think all of us have come here to play and when our moment comes we will be ready for it to help Portugal win," he said.

"I think this Portugal team is ready for everything. We've shown we have the chance to win and if we

keep it up this way I think we'll be successful. There are difficult games in store for us though."

Portugal have not lost a competitive match with Ronaldo in the side since the 2014 World Cup, although they were beaten on penalties by Chile at last year's Confederations Cup.

Alves sounded a note of caution following the departure of defending champions Germany.

"Everybody can see that in this World Cup there are no easy games," Alves said.

"Germany's fate made it clear what can happen to any strong team." Uruguay are hopeful Jose Maria Gimenez will return from injury to resume his centre-back partnership with Atletico Madrid team-mate Diego Godin.



Kumar SC earns first victory, beats Sikkim Police 2-1

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 28 JUN:

Kumar Sporting Club has recorded its first victory in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Second Division Sikkim League 2018 here

at Paljor Stadium. In a contesting match played today, Kumar Sporting Club edged past Sikkim Police 2-1.

Both the teams played an attacking game but failed to capitalise

on some good chances to take the lead in the match. Finally, Karma Tamang scored the lead for Kumar Sporting Club in the additional time of the first half.

While Sikkim Police

players tried their best to equalise the score, Titus Sewa further extended the lead of Kumar SC to 2-0 in the 62nd minute. A goal by Sangay Bhutia in the 75th minute gave some hope to Sikkim Police but

it was not enough to stop Kumar SC from earning three points from its first victory by 2 goals to 1.

Dzongri Football Club will be playing another match against Howlers Football Club on 29 Jun.

India, Iran firm favourites in Kabaddi semis

DUBAI, JUN 28 (PTI): Reigning world champions India and runners-up Iran will be favourites to make the final when they take on their respective semifinal opponents in the Kabaddi Masters here tomorrow.

Living up to their heavyweights tag, India topped group A with easy wins over Pakistan and Kenya and they will face Korea, who finished behind toppers Iran in group B in what seems to be a one-sided affair for the world champions.

Iran, on the other hand, are likely to face a stiff competition from Pakistan in the first semi-

final of the evening at the Al Wasl Sports Complex.

This will be a repeat of the Asian Championship semifinal for India when they had beaten Korea 45-29 to avenge their World Cup 2016 league stage loss in Ahmedabad.

India have beaten Korea four times from five exchanges and the only loss was in the 2016 World Cup.

To make matters worse for Korea, their top raider Lee Dong Geon is ruled out with a leg injury that he sustained during training.

But India coach Srinivas Reddy is not taking



any team for granted.

"We are focusing on our strengths and looking to put up another improved show," Reddy told reporters on the eve of the match.

The six-nation invitational tournament, or-

ganised by International Kabaddi Federation in association with Star Sports and Dubai Sports Council, is the last tournament before the Asian Games.

"As I've said this is a build-up tournament for

the Asian Games which is our ultimate goal. We don't want to take it easy," he said about their title defence in the Asian Games to be held in August-September.

But Reddy is disappointed with Korean show so far in the tournament and said they have the speed but missing in finishing.

"They are a much better team than the way they played here. They are lacking in preparation, confidence level. I don't see them as the team that had beaten us. They have not yet delivered but we are not taking any team for granted."

This has been a tournament for Indian youngsters as the likes of Rishank Devadiga and Monu Goyat, the most expensive kabaddi player, have been a revelation in their maiden international meet.

Skipper Ajay Thakur spearheads their attack with his top-raiding skills while in defence the likes of Surrender Nada, Girish Maruti and Surjeet have lent a fine balance.

For Korea, Jang Kung Lee will once again be the key man in the squad and he will look to inspire the side.

"We have a strong defensive unit. We have a set of plan in place but we will give them a tough fight for every point," Kun Lee said.

Iran will bank on their strong attacking lineup

when they face Pakistan in the first semifinal.

Despite coming with a depleted side, Iran have easily outpaced their opponents -- Argentina and Korea -- to win four out of four matches.

"This game is like a final for us," Pakistan captain Nasir Ali said.

Pakistan coach Nabeel Ahmed said both teams match in their attacking style of play.

"But we have got more varieties of raider than Iran. We have planned well collectively as per Iran's style of game will target their raiders. We are not taking them lightly. They are fighters but we have prepared well," he said.

Match timings:

Iran v Pakistan (8pm IST); India v Korea (9pm IST).

SBI refused to disclose details of political parties which received donations through electoral bonds, claims RTI

NEW DELHI, JUN 28 (PTI): The State Bank of India (SBI) has refused to disclose details of buyers of electoral bonds, political parties which have redeemed these and the bank's reports sent to the government on their sales, calling it a personal information held by it in fiduciary capacity exempted from disclosure, an RTI response shows.

The details provided by the bank shows that in March 2018, it sold bonds worth over Rs 222 crore while in April the number dipped to Rs 114.9 crore.

Mumbai saw maximum enthusiasm among donors to purchase electoral bonds with Rs 122 crore of bonds being sold from the SBI main branch in the maximum city while in April it saw sales of Rs 53 crore, it said.

Activist Venkatesh Nayak, who filed the RTI application, contested the re-

sponse of the SBI stating that denial of information about buyers of electoral bonds and receiving political parties is "patently erroneous".

"The CPIO is treating both the buyers of EBs and the political parties as being in a "fiduciary relationship" with SBI! This is in complete violation of the Master Circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India regarding the basis of customer confidentiality. Para #25 of the July 2015 Master Circular," he said.

The master circular said scope of the secrecy law in India has generally followed the common law principles based on implied contract.

"The bankers' obligation to maintain secrecy arises out of the contractual relationship between the banker and customer, and as such no information should be divulged to third parties

except under circumstances which are well defined," it said.

Nayak said when the SBI is in a contractual relationship with its customers, according to the RBI Master Circular, its CPIO cannot claim the protection of "fiduciary" relationship which is a trust-based relationship and has nothing to do with the banking business.

"This position has been clearly explained by the Supreme Court of India. More importantly, when the Finance Minister has repeatedly said that EB scheme is 'engineered' to make political party funding more transparent, then, is there not a duty to the public to disclose?

"As the CPIO seems to believe otherwise, it is necessary now to bring the duty of disclosure, 'under compulsion of the law', namely through the procedures of the RTI Act," Nayak said.

Even worse, is the CPIO's claim that all reports sent to the government and the RBI regarding the sale and redemption of the bonds are also covered by "fiduciary" relationship, he said.

The government had notified the Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 on January 2, 2018 which allows a citizen to buy these bonds from the State Bank of India for extending donations to political parties.

The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through a bank account with the authorised bank, the government has said in a statement.

Electoral Bonds shall be valid for fifteen days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee political party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, it said.

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Nepal to enforce strict monitoring of foreigners on its land

KATHMANDU, JUN 28 (PTI): The Nepal government has endorsed a new guideline to enforce strict monitoring of foreigners living in the country, with provisions that those staying illegally or misusing their visa could be arrested.

The Home Ministry has endorsed the Foreign Citizens Monitoring Guideline amid reports that some foreigners on tourist visa have taken up jobs with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations and even opened their own businesses.

One of the major objectives of the guideline is to ensure that foreigners visiting Nepal abide by visa rules and do not indulge in illegal activities, according to Home Ministry sources.

As per the guideline, foreigners who are staying illegally in Nepal, have misused their visa and or have overstayed, will be arrested and handed over to the Department of Immigration, the sources said.

It states that if anybody is found obstructing the government's monitoring, that person can be arrested and action taken against them.

Foreigners will be monitored keeping in mind national security, peace and security, good governance, protection of boundary and the rule of law, it adds.

Another important objective of the guideline is to regulate and control the entry of foreigners. The guideline proposes to set up mechanisms at different levels to monitor activities of foreigners in the country.

Three-tier monitoring committees - District Monitoring Committee, Central Monitoring Directives Committee and Monitoring and Implementation Committee -- will be in place for the work.



A barrage of Russian air strikes on rebel-held areas of southern Syria killed 22 civilians today, most of them in a single battered town. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that at least 35 Russian air strikes hit the town of Al-Mseifra. One of them hit a basement where people were taking shelter, killing 17 civilians, including five children. The Observatory says it determines who carried out particular strikes based on the type of aircraft and munitions used, the locations and the flight patterns. The hospital in Al-Mseifra had been put out of service by Russian strikes yesterday night, the Observatory said. Another five civilians were killed in other rebel-controlled areas of Daraa, the main province in southern Syria. Government forces have been ramping up their bombardment of rebel-held areas of the south since June 19, and allied Russian warplanes carried out their first raids on the region in a year on June 23.

Bloodiest day yet in south Syria offensive

BEIRUT, JUN 28 (AFP): A barrage of Russian strikes on rebel-held towns in southern Syria killed 22 civilians today, the bloodiest day yet of the government's offensive in the strategic region.

With Moscow's help, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's army has battered the south for more than a week with air strikes, rocket fire and crude barrel bombs.

The bombardment has forced more than 45,000 to flee their homes in search of safety, according to the United Nations, while others huddle in the basements to wait out the raids.

Today, air strikes identified as Russian killed 22 civilians, a monitoring group said, most of them in a single town.

"At least 35 Russian air strikes hit the town of Al-Mseifra," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"One of them hit a basement where people were taking shelter, killing 17 civilians, including five children," the Britain-based monitor said.

The hospital in Al-Mseifra had been put out of service by Russian strikes on Tuesday night, the Observatory and relief organisations said.

The Observatory says it determines who carried out particular strikes based on the type of aircraft and munitions used, the locations and the flight patterns.

Another five civilians were killed in other rebel-controlled areas of Daraa, the main province in southern Syria.

"This is the highest toll since the escalation began on June 19," said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman, adding that it brought the overall civilian toll since then to 93.

A doctor in a rural area in the west of Daraa province said his staff was preparing for an influx of critically wounded from Al-Mseifra.

"Because there are no medical services in the eastern countryside and because of the security situation, most of the wounded will be brought to us in the west," said Baha Mahameed, who manages the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations (UOSSM)'s operations in the south.

The government offensive has already forced five hospitals to close in the past week, with three closed in the past 48 hours, the Observatory said.

Syria has become infamous

for attacks on health workers, with more facilities hit so far this year than in all of 2017.

The rebels hold a horse-shoe-shaped band of territory in the south spanning most of Daraa and Quneitra province to west. They also control southern districts of the city of Daraa.

The rest is held by government forces, who also control most of Sweida province to the east.

Despite an internationally brokered ceasefire in place since 2017, the regime began ramping up its bombardment of rebel-held towns in Daraa on June 19.

Russian warplanes began raids on June 23 and on Tuesday the two air forces launched joint bombing operations against rebel-held neighbourhoods of the provincial capital.

At the UN Security Council on Wednesday, Britain, France and the United States condemned Russian involvement in the offensive.

French ambassador Francois Delattre called on "everyone, starting with Russia, to uphold their commitments so that this offensive ceases immediately".

Adopting a divide-and-conquer strategy that has served

them well elsewhere in Syria, troops have already lopped off the northeastern arm of the rebel-held horseshoe.

Today, air strikes were focused on the east of Daraa province.

The White Helmets rescue force said dozens of strikes had hit the towns of Busra al-Sham and Herak, forcing waves of people to flee.

The Observatory said the raids were increasingly targeting urban areas. Rebel-held neighbourhoods of the provincial capital were practically drained of residents.

"All the residents and civilians left. There are no civilians here," said Ahmad Abu Hazem, 26, a rebel fighter inside the city.

Most of the 45,000-plus people who had already fled earlier this week, headed to the sealed border with Jordan.

But Amman has said the border will remain closed. The kingdom already hosts more than 650,000 registered Syrian refugees and estimates the actual number is closer to 1.3 million.

To avoid greater bloodshed, Russia is leading talks involving Syria, Jordan, Israel and the United States, but so far there has been no public progress towards a deal.

'Stay 100 per cent in US, we won't forget': Trump warns Harley Davidson



LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JUN 28 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has asked Harley Davidson motorcycle company to stay "100 per cent" in America, warning that "we won't forget" if it went ahead with its plan to shift some of its manufacturing base offshore in response to European Union's retaliatory tariffs for US duties.

On Monday, Harley-Davidson in its US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filing had said that the new retaliatory tariffs by the European Union (an increase from six per cent to 31 per cent) will result in an incremental cost of approximately USD 2,200 on an average motorcycle exported from the US to the 28-member trading bloc.

"Harley-Davidson should stay 100 per cent in America, with the people that got you your success," Trump tweeted.

The Wisconsin-based manufacturer of iconic motorcycles has said it planned to move some manufacturing abroad in response to European Union tariffs retaliating for US duties.

export duties in India from 100 to 50 per cent.

"To address the substantial cost of this tariff burden long-term, Harley-Davidson will be implementing a plan to shift production of motorcycles for EU destinations from the US to its international facilities to avoid the tariff burden," said the company, without indicating the country it plans to move its production facilities to.

It said that shifting targeted production from the US to international facilities could take at least nine to 18 months to be fully completed.

Soon thereafter Trump, who had battled for Harley-Davidson's case against India over its high tariffs on the iconic motorcycles, had criticised the company for its plan to shift some of its production units overseas.

Trump yesterday said he was surprised by such a decision by the motorcycle manufacturer.

He also cited his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get India to reduce the tariff on the bikes from 100 per cent to 50.

"Harley-Davidson said, they wanted to do that (move some manufacturing base overseas). They announced it earlier this year. Harley-Davidson is using that (tariff on steel and aluminum) as an excuse. I don't like that, because I've been very good with Harley-Davidson," Trump said.

"I've done so much for you, and then this. Other companies are coming back where they belong! We won't forget, and neither will your customers or your now very HAPPY competitors!" Trump said yesterday, in an apparent reference to his effort to help the firm reduce its

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Anthyesthi Kriya



On 25th of June, 2018, **Mr. Rajen Karkidholi**, son of late Arjun Karkidholi left for heavenly abode. We the family members would like to thank everyone who was part of his story. We believe that he responsibly concluded his role as a husband, father, brother, friend and a public servant. While we reminisce about him, we request everyone who cared and wished him well to join us in offering prayers and to bid him a final farewell. The ceremony will be held at our residence at **Maneydara, Lingding, below Indira Bypass [SDF Bhawan], Gangtok on 7th July, 2018 [Saturday].**

Munna Karkidholi [mother], Sonam Yangchen Bhutia [wife], Ravi Karkidholi [brother], Aruna Karkidholi [sister], Anamika Karkidholi [daughter], Menka Karkidholi [sister].

Mob: 9609830032, 9609834107, 9609774878, 90345472, 7407385431

China will not concede an inch of land, Xi tells Mattis

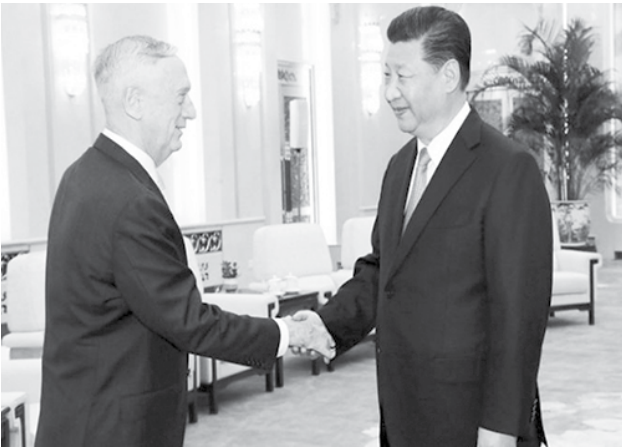
BEIJING, JUN 28 (PTI): President Xi Jinping has told US Defence Secretary James Mattis that China will not concede "even an inch" of its territory passed down from ancestors, in an apparent reference to the disputed South China Sea.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea (SCS) and the East China Sea (ECS). Beijing claims almost all of the SCS. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims over the vital transit route for world trade.

The US views China's militarisation of the SCS a reason of tension in the Sino-US ties. The US has been sending periodic air and naval expeditions to assert its right of the freedom of the navigation in the area most of which is claimed by China.

During his meeting with Mattis here yesterday, Xi said China and the US should promote the development of bilateral ties based on the principle of mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

"When we see common interests between China and the US, we do not shy away from differences. Our stance is steadfast and clear-cut when it comes to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said, adding that "any inch of territory passed down from ancestors cannot be lost, while we want nothing from others."



As an important part of bilateral relations, Xi said, the US and China military relations have maintained a sound development momentum in the recent years.

"It has long been known that the real experts on military affairs do not want to employ military means to solve issues," Xi was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Asserting that Sino-US relation is one of the most important bilateral ties in the world, the Chinese President said, "The history and reality since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties in nearly 40 years have proved that

the sound development of China-US ties can benefit people of both the countries and the world, and is also conducive to world and regional peace, stability and prosperity."

China and the US share common interests in extensive areas and common ground far outweighs differences, he said.

"The Pacific Ocean is vast enough to accommodate China and the US, as well as other countries," he said.

Xi's comments to Mattis was significant as the US Defence Secretary is a strong advocate of proactive US policy in the South China Sea to contain Chi-

na's efforts to consolidate its hold by installing military bases on the reclaimed islands.

Mattis' meeting with Xi also took place amid the spiralling tariff spat between US and China over President Donald Trump's demand to rapidly reduce the USD 375 billion trade deficit between the two countries.

China has also stepped up its military drills in Taiwan straits to pressure Taiwan, which it claims is part of the mainland China.

"There are some issues concerning China's sovereignty and territorial integrity which have become increasingly tense because of the US moves," such as the SCS issues and the Taiwan question, Chinese experts said referring to Xi-Mattis meeting.

"So, through the meeting, China is sending a warning to the US by reaffirming its bottom line," Diao Daming, an American studies expert and associate professor at the Renmin University of China, told the state-run Global Times.

"Mattis has heard the most authoritative voice from China on these issues and questions, and this might indicate that China's legitimate activities in regions like the SCS and the Taiwan Straits won't be affected by military actions from the US," Xu Guangyu, a retired PLA major general and senior adviser to the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association told the daily.



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CHEERLEADER! Alessandra Ambrosio takes a stream of selfies and poses for pal during Brazil's World Cup match but she appears more keen on looking picture perfect than cheering on her countrymen.

Jared Leto Will Play A Vampire In Spider Man Spin-Off 'Morbius'



Jared Leto is clearly keen to add some more Factor 50-craving villains to his IMDB page. Not only is he reprising his role as the Joker, but now he's set to star as a vampire in a Spider-Man spin-off.

According to Variety, Leto will play the titular character Morbius in a film which, similar to Tom Hardy's forthcoming Venom, will feature a Spider-Man villain but no Spider-Man.

Variety reports that, "Leto has been loosely attached to the project for some time, but wouldn't fully commit until he knew the film was headed in the right direction. He asked to meet with several of the filmmakers who were up for the job. Espinosa met with Leto last month in Ger-

many while Leto was touring with his band Thirty Seconds to Mars, which eventually led to him nabbing the job."

They add that, "Morbius was created in 1971 by writer Roy Thomas and artist Gil Kane for "The Amazing Spider-Man #101." The character was a scientist who tried to cure himself of a blood disease, with tragic results. He became afflicted with vampiric traits such as fangs and a thirst for blood — and wound up battling Spider-Man."

There's no confirmed release date but, "the movie will likely be slated soon as production is expected to start sometime this year."

Enough time for Leto to squeeze in some disturbing and much publicised method acting, then.



NCW gets complaint against movie Sanju for 'demeaning' sex workers

The National Commission for Women today received a complaint against the movie Sanju for allegedly making derogatory remarks against sex workers in the film, the Commission chairperson said today.

The complaint, filed just two days before its release, against the film has alleged that actors Ranbir Kapoor, Anushka Sharma and director Rajkumar Hirani used derogatory language against sex workers.

"We have received such a complaint and we are forwarding it to the Electronic Media Monitoring Centre to take necessary action," said NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma.

The EMMC under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been tasked to monitor the content of television channels and report on violations of the programme and advertising code.

The complaint filed by advocate and social activist Gaurav Gulati was referred to two dialogues where Kapoor allegedly "demeans the status of sex workers in the society."

'JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE' SEQUEL SETS OFFICIAL RELEASE DATE

Dwayne Johnson has unveiled an official release date of 13 Dec, 2019, for Sony's sequel to "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle."

The untitled movie will open a week before Disney-Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: Episode IX" launches. Sony Pictures chairman Tom Rothman revealed in April at Cinemacon that 2017's surprise blockbuster would be getting a sequel to premiere during Christmastime next year.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," starring Johnson and Kevin Hart, earned \$404 million domestically and \$557 million internationally. After coming in second during its premiere weekend to "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," "Jumanji" accomplished the unusual feat of climbing to No. 1 in its fifth weekend, and remaining at the top for the following



three frames.

The sequel will bring back Johnson, Hart, Jack Black, and Karen Gillan to reprise their starring roles, while Jake Kasdan is expected to return to the director's chair. Matt Tolmach will be back to produce along with the Seven

Bucks Productions team of Johnson, Dany Garcia, and Hiram Garcia.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" is a sequel to the 1995 hit "Jumanji," starring Robin Williams. It was set in the present day with four

high school students placed in detention together, much like the premise for "The Breakfast Club." The quartet is assigned the school's basement and then transported into the Jumanji board game after they activate the discarded game.

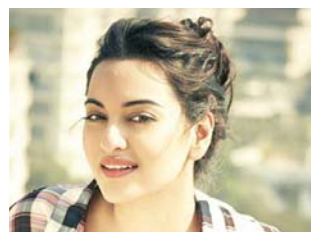
Sonakshi joins UNESCO to promote secure online environment for children

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha has joined forces with UNESCO to promote a safe and secure cyber environment for youngsters to ensure they are not targeted for bullying, abuse, exploitation and more through the internet.

A post on the official Twitter handle of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's New Delhi cluster office read on Thursday: "Sonakshi Sinha joins Unesco to promote safe and secure online environment for children and help empower our future digital citizens."

Sonakshi retweeted it, and shared a video captioned: "I stand for protection of children."

In the video, she says: "Internet use in India is exploding and mobile access has really changed the game. But what does that mean for a country with the world's largest child's population? Is cyberspace safe for the children who are



under 18? All 470 million of them? Do our girls get to lead their internet life with dignity. The truth is that the risks they are facing are shocking.

Children are easy targets for cyber bullying, online sexual abuse and exploitation, enticement to illegal behaviour and many more such horrific things. It is also true that internet and social media play a huge part in influencing the truth today. I am truly con-

cerned, and as an active citizen, I would like to make sure that our boys and girls are protected both online and offline."

Stressing on the importance of education on the safe use of online spaces, the actress said it will equip boys and girls to be prepared to report any type of abuse or exploitation.

"This is something that has been highlighted by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals which I fully and truly support. That's why I am joining forces with Unesco to help find cyber threats to children. I would also urge you to partner with Unesco and other agencies to help promote child safety online and help empower our future digital citizens.

Let's come together to help build a safer cyber space for and with our children."

UNICEF congratulated the Dabangg actress for being a champion of child rights.

Scarlett Johansson denies claim that she auditioned to date Tom Cruise

Scarlett Johansson is making it clear that she never auditioned to be in a relationship with Tom Cruise.

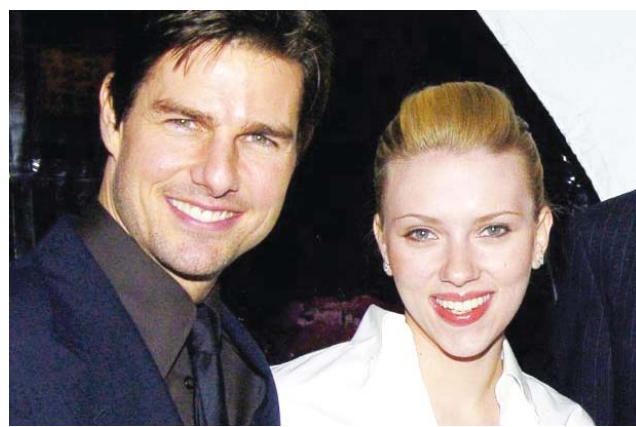
On Wednesday, the "Avengers: Infinity War" actress set the record straight, denying a claim that she auditioned to date the 55-year-old star after he split from Nicole Kidman.

"The very idea of any person auditioning to be in a relationship is so demeaning," Johansson, 33, said in a statement to The Hollywood Reporter.

"I refuse for anyone to spread the idea that I lack the integrity to choose my own relationships," she continued. "Only a man aka Brendan Tighe would come up with a crazy story like that."

According to the outlet, Johansson's denial comes right after Tighe, a former Scientistologist, appeared on NBC's "Megyn Kelly Today" claiming that when he was a part of Cruise's Scientology security unit, he saw reports of women who auditioned to date the "American Made" actor.

Tighe went on to explain that the reports were accidentally sent to his printer, which is how he saw them, and he only remembered Johansson because he recognized her name, the outlet re-



ported.

"Another actress, Erika Christensen, had to disconnect from Scarlett Johansson because it didn't go well. That was in that report," Tighe said.

The Church of Scientology has also denied Tighe's claims regarding his involvement with Cruise.

"Brendan Tighe was a Church of Scientology Flag Service Organization

security guard/night watchman from 2002 to 2009," Karin Pouw, from the Church of Scientology International, told Kelly, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"The 'access' he boasts of having was largely limited to viewing security cameras from a guard booth," she explained. "He was removed from that position for dereliction of duty."

ARIES: The desire for travel might hit you today, perhaps to visit a friend who lives far away, and you could set the wheels in motion to make it happen. Social events could take up your evening, Aries, and you might meet some interesting people. A friend may need a sympathetic ear. As you're especially sensitive to others right now, you're prepared to hear a sad story. Otherwise, your day should go well.

TAURUS: Today you might hear about opportunities to increase your income, Taurus, either through your current employment, a new job, or perhaps a project of your own. You're likely to channel a great deal of energy and inspiration to this end. Others may want to pitch in and help you. You're liable to feel energetic and optimistic. This, in turn, can help you attract more opportunities. Go for it!

GEMINI: All your relationships could

be enhanced today by your increased sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others, Gemini. You may provide a sympathetic ear to melancholy friends, help someone resolve problems, or both. Whatever it is, rest assured that your efforts won't go unappreciated. You'll probably grow closer to the ones who mean the most to you now, including a significant other.

CANCER: Expect to find yourself ministering to the needs of colleagues and family members today, Cancer. People around you might need to draw upon your insights into human nature in order to understand themselves and others. Your common sense could prove valuable to them. In the process of sharing your wisdom with others, you might also shed some light on emotional situations of your own. You could surprise yourself!

LEO: Today you might feel especially

intellectually and creatively inspired, and you could discuss your ideas with others. The process of communication could open new doors in your mind and result in some fascinating insights concerning whatever you're pursuing at this time. Sometime in the course of your conversations, Leo, don't be surprised if you find that one of your friends needs a sympathetic ear. Enjoy your day.

VIRGO: A close friend or member of your household could be having money problems, Virgo, and want to draw on your good business sense in order to understand the situation and find ways to put it right. As you're likely to be feeling especially sensitive to the needs of others today, you could be of valuable help to this person and anyone else who might need some insights.

LIBRA: Heightened intuition and ESP could lead to some interesting

conversations with others who are blown away by your insights into their thoughts, feelings, and desires. You could also be feeling more expressive than usual, Libra. You might want to channel some of that inspiration into writing, speaking, or some other form of self-expression. Reading may also prove especially valuable at this time.

SCORPIO: A higher level of intuition and inspiration than is usual for you could enhance your artistic talents, Scorpio. A powerful drive to express the stories, pictures, or music that may be flooding your mind could result in your spending as much of the day as possible in seclusion, jotting down thoughts and ideas. By day's end, you might have spent most of your free time alone yet be very satisfied with the results.

SAGITTARIUS: Moving ahead is today's key phrase, Sagittarius. You

should be feeling very optimistic and excited about goals that you've set for yourself. You're probably confident that you'll reach them and all will go well. This positive attitude spills over into your relationships. You should be in just the right frame of mind to encourage friends to go for their dreams and give them any assistance they need.

CAPRICORN: Inspiration is the keyword for the day, Capricorn. You may be feeling highly motivated to move on with what others consider impossible dreams. "Impossible" has never stopped you before, and you aren't likely to let it stop you today. You're more likely to consider all contingencies carefully in order to make them work. Friends could be inspired by your vision and determination and follow your example. Go for it.

AQUARIUS: An increased understanding of distant cultures as

well as curiosity about the people who live there could spur you on to further learning about those places, Aquarius. Friends or groups with which you're affiliated could be involved in some way. You're likely to channel a lot of energy into intellectual activities today and inspire others to do the same. Take a walk at some point during the day to clear your head.

PISCES: The opportunity to increase your income could spur you to channel more energy and inspiration into career and business matters, Pisces. Some vivid, intense dreams might reveal a lot about you and your motivations, which could increase your self-awareness and make everything easier for you. The drive to succeed in material and spiritual matters is likely to play a powerful role in everything you do today. Onward and upward!