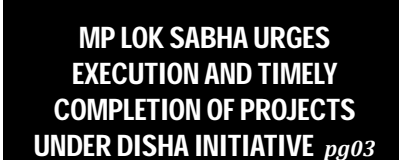




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# SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 182 | Gangtok | Wednesday | 11 July 2018

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5



## UP BJP president, MN Pandey, to be the next Governor of the State

VISHNU NEOPANEY

GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

With Governor Srinivas Dadasahib Patil's tenure as the Governor of Sikkim to end soon, there is a high speculation of getting new Governor within this week as the concurrence from Ministry of Home has finalised the name of new incumbent and is expected to be assigned by President within this week.

The name of Uttar Pradesh BJP President, Mahendra Nath Pandey, who is also the sitting Member of Parliament, has been finalised for next Governor of Sikkim, sources in Ministry of Home Affairs has informed Summittimes.

The Ministry has completed its all formalities and has

forwarded the file for appointment of new Governor of Sikkim to Rastrapati Bhawan for Memorandum of Appointment, it is informed.

The tenure of Srinivas Patil will be ending on 13 Jul after completing his term of successful five years as Governor of Sikkim. He had taken charge as the 15th Governor of Sikkim on 20 Jul, 2013.

Mr Patil [78] was a veteran Parliamentarian and civil servant and is closely associated with Nationalist Congress headed by Sarad Pawar. He was in a cordial relation with all the political parties of Sikkim except Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee due to political reasons.

## Two boys missing since 30 Jun rescued from Bakcha Forest

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 10 JUL:

Two boys hailing from Naga in North Sikkim, who had gone missing since 30 Jun, 2018 from Naga, have been rescued from Bakcha Forest in North Sikkim today.

The rescue team was led by Senior Superintendent of

Police, North, KD Sangdarpa, Sub Divisional Police Officer, Mangan, Station House Officer, Mangan Police Station, staff of Phodong Police Station and Kabi Police Out Post along with Panchyat, Bakcha and villagers.

As per information, the two missing boys namely

Navin Rai [18] and Lakpa Sonam Sherpa [15] had set out for four-daylong trekking trip towards Tosha Lake, North Sikkim and had been missing since then.

The family members along with the villagers had tried to trace them in the forest for six days but could not trace the

out following which they had approached the Police for help.

The search for the missing boys led to one cow herder who further informed that one of the boys had managed to reach his cow shed located in the forest. Furthermore, the other missing boy had been stranded on the other side of a

stream in the forest unable to cross it.

The boys were found in unhealthy conditions and were provided first aid by a medical team from Phodong Primary Health Centre on a priority basis. They have been referred to STNM Hospital in Gangtok.



## DC North visits Kabyer Kyong to take stock of damages caused by massive landslide

SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 10 JUL:

District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo, accompanied by Chairman, Transport Department, Pintso Lepcha, Additional District Collector [Development], Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dzongu, officials from Agriculture & Horticulture Department, Pan-

chayats and land owners today visited Kabyer Kyong in Ruklue Ward under Lingthem/Lingdem, Upper Dzongu to take stock of the damages caused by massive landslide that had occurred in the area due to incessant rainfall.

No casualties have been reported yet. However, cardamom fields belonging to seven

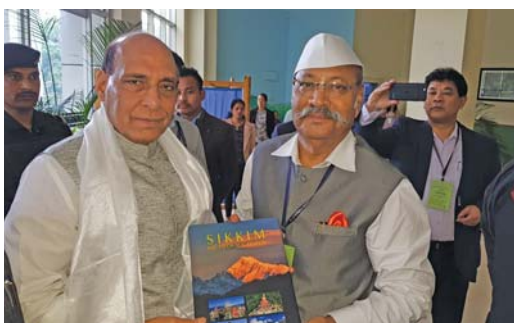
residents have been severely damaged by the landslide.

It is informed that the ex-gratia amount for damages as per norms will be handed over to the beneficiaries immediately after necessary verification and report from the concerned Panchayat.

Further, the DC

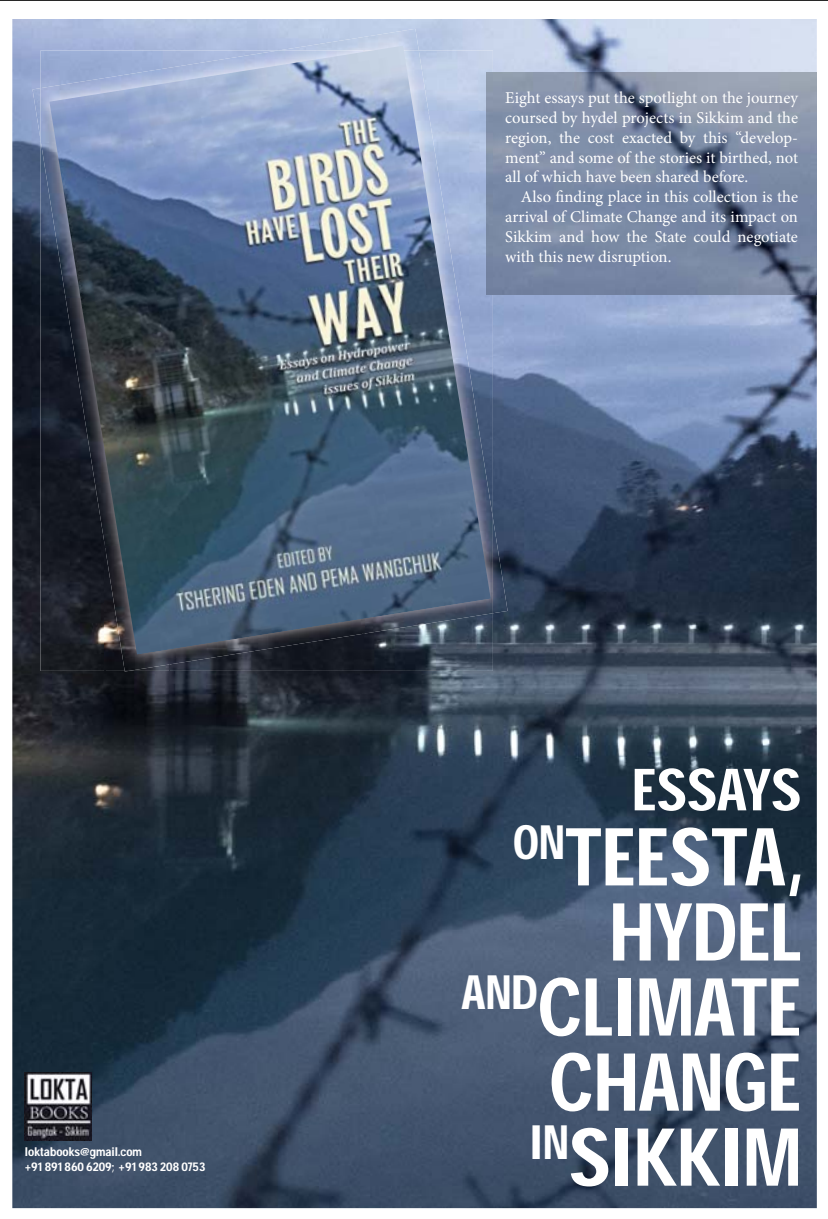
North has requested the public of the area to remain alert and vigilant and has urged all to inform the District Administration in case of any emergencies.

The DC North along with the team inspected the ongoing 4.5 kms PMGSY road from Lingdem School to Laven, Upper Dzongu.



## Governor wishes Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on his birthday

GANGTOK, 10 JUL: Governor Shrinivas Patil today greeted Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, on his birthday and wished him good health and long life.



Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

ESSAYS  
ON TEESTA,  
HYDEL  
AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
IN SIKKIM

LOKTA  
BOOKS

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## DSA submits Sherpa Land Protection resolution to MLA DN Sherpa

### SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 JUL

Denzong Sherpa Association [DSA] has submitted a resolution of Sherpa Land Protection under Revenue Order No 1 adopted during the State level meeting of Sherpas on 06 July to Member of Legislative Assembly, DN Sherpa.

A DSA press release states that the association has submitted the resolution to Mr Sherpa as the association holds that it is his fundamental duty to protect the rights and interests of Sherpa community being its sole representative in SLA.

"We have made it clear to our representative that the land protection of Sherpa should be within the ambit of Revenue Order No 1 and we have out rightly rejected the cabinet resolution to accommodate Sherpa by amending the Sikkim Regulation of Transfer of Land [amendment] Bill 2018.

The historical facts and documents are proof enough that Sherpas are defined within the definition of Bhutia much earlier than the introduction of Land Revenue Order No 1 in 1917. Therefore, we are hopeful that our representative will certainly stand in solidarity with Sherpas of Sikkim. Failing to put forward the justified argument in upcoming legislative session will be taken as betrayal to Sherpa Community by its representative," the DSA release adds.

The association has appealed to the legislators of Sikkim Democratic Front, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha and Sikkim Rajya Manch to place the demand of Sherpa's land protection under Revenue Order No 1 to liberate Sherpas of Sikkim from oppression, suppression and injustice of more than 100 years.

# SDF Government committed to provide political justice to Limboo-Tamang community: Bhim Dahal

GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

Sikkim Democratic Front party spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, has lashed out on the opposition parties in the State for making fabricated and baseless allegations on the ruling party and its government. He stressed that opposition parties in that State including newly formed parties have no any vision, programme, policies and responsibility towards the people but their only agenda is to make false and baseless allegations and personal attacks on the ruling party and its leader.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Dahal strongly criticised and condemned baseless and fabricated allegations of opposition parties on Sikkim Organic Mission. He also suggested them to do a thorough research and study before making any statement on any matter. He stated that local farmers and producers of the State have increased the production and have been getting good prices of their organic produces.

Mr Dahal expressed his confidence that the State will soon become self-sufficient and self-reliant in all areas.



While strongly condemning the allegations of opposition parties, he expressed that Sikkim Organic Mission has been successful so far and more success will come in days to come.

Responding to media queries, he stated that opposition parties should speak on their policies and programmes instead of making false and irresponsible statements to mislead people, especially youths of Sikkim.

On the Limboo-Tamang seat reservation issue, Mr Dahal informed that after clearance from the Ministry of Law & Justice Union, Ministry

of Home Affairs is expected to come up with Ordinance to accommodate the Limboo and Tamang community of Sikkim for provision of seat reservation in Sikkim Legislative Assembly within next two months.

He said that MHA has given a green signal and same was hinted by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in his public meeting at Gyalshing in West Sikkim recently.

The Home Ministry has proposed an increase in the number of seats in the Sikkim Assembly from 32 to 40. The expansion will be the first since the State merged with

India in 1975, he added.

"The seats are being increased to accommodate people from the Limboo and Tamang communities notified as the Scheduled Tribes in Sikkim in Jan 2003. Of the eight seats proposed to be increased, five will be reserved for Limboo and Tamangs. Now, Sikkim has 12 seats reserved for Bhutias and Lepchas, two for the Scheduled Castes, one seat for the Sanghas and 17 general seats. As per constitutional provisions, the total number of seats for STs should be in proportion to the population," Mr Dahal added.

The seats for Bhutia

and Lepchas are reserved not on the basis of them being a Scheduled Tribe but as a sequel to a political agreement in 1973 between the Government of India, the then Chogyal of Sikkim and political parties, he added.

A petition was moved in the Supreme Court demanding seat reservation for Limboo and Tamangs in the Assembly and the apex court on January 4, 2016 directed the Home Ministry to take necessary action to accommodate them for their political right, it was informed.

Mr Dahal said, "SDF government is committed to provide political justice to these community with the expansion of the house from existing 32 to 40 adding that there will be amendments to the Second Schedule to the RP Act, 1950, reserving five seats for Limboo and Tamang, without disturbing the existing reservations of 12 seats of Bhutias-Lepchas, Scheduled Castes and Sangha seat."

As per the proposal mooted by the Ministry of Home Affairs said that Section 5A of the RP Act, 1951 will be amended to provide "that in case of a seat reserved for

Limboo and Tamang tribe, he is to be a member of Limboo and Tamang tribe specified in the Representation of Sikkim Subjects Act, 1974 and elector or an assembly constituency in the State."

Responding on the recent withdrawn notification regulating the rates of organic produces by the Agriculture & Horticulture Department, SDF publicity secretary, Avinash Yakha, stated that the concerned department should be able to stand by its decision instead of withdrawing the notification and should take action against those who tore down the rate board.

"We still doubt if people who turned out to protest the decision of the department were real farmers. It was totally politically motivated and pre-planned in which some people gets mislead," he expressed.

He stated that this initiative of the department to regulate the rates should be observed at least for a week and to increase rates of required items if necessary. He stated that some anti-people and irresponsible elements have been working against farmers and Sikkim Organic Mission.

## Sikkimese women enjoy equal participation in the State: SDF

GANGTOK, 10 JUL: Sikkim Democratic Front party general secretary [press & publicity], Kavita Subba, asserted that opposition parties and leaders in the State have not been able to tolerate the equality, rights and privileges and respect enjoyed by women in Sikkim.

She mentioned that Sikkimese women were presently ahead in all areas due to women empowerment and women-centric policies, programmes and initiatives of SDF government.

Addressing a press conference here today, Ms Subba expressed, "Due to women empowerment, Sikkimese women now have equal participation in the development and progress of the State. They have also been successfully serving people as their representatives in the present government."

While strongly criticising the act of opposition parties and leaders, she asked them to make their stand clear on their programme for women empowerment and welfare.

She also pointed out that opposition parties have been trying to mislead and deceive the people in unemployment issues.

"SDF government has created immense opportunities in the government and private sectors for the youths of Sikkim to make them self-reliant and self-employed," she expressed.

Ms Subba urged local youths to take full advantage of these opportunities to become self-reliant. She also mentioned that SDF

government has been working with youth-centric programmes and policies since its inception to make them self-reliant and self-employed.

She also mentioned that SDF party and its government has also worked a lot in social justice sector in the State since its inception. She added that the SDF government has launched lots of welfare programmes and humanitarian initiatives for all sections of the society.



## SKM's L-T Seat Arakshan Yatra rallies through Poklok-Kamrang & Barfung constituencies

GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

The third phase of Limboo-Tamang Seat Arakshan Yatra of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party commenced today from Convoy Ground in Gangtok and concluded in Ravongla under Barfung Constituency in South Sikkim.

The rally was led by SKM chief coordinator, Sonam Lama, and toured

through Poklok-Kamrang and Barfung constituencies today, inform an SKM press release.

The party in the release has demanded the State Government to issue white paper of its works and efforts on Limboo-Tamang seat reservation issues and has further threatened to go to any extend on the issue.



## Rangpo gears up for I-Day celebration

GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

A high level organising committee for the 72nd Independence Day celebration in Rangpo, East Sikkim has been formed in a meeting held at Rangpo Tourism Information Centre today. Area MLA, Gopal Baraily, has been nominated as the chief patron of the Independence Day Celebration Committee [IDCC] 2018, a press release informs.

With Sub Divisional Police Officer, Rangpo, SR Senga, as patron of the committee, U Narayan Sharma has been appointed as

president of IDCC 2018 and CB Gurung as its vice president.

The committee also has Suren Pradhan, Rajen Gurung & Chitramani Khawas as general secretaries, Himmat Rai [Municipal Executive Officer, Rangpo] & Mani Subba as joint secretaries, and Keshang D Bhutia & Pinku Prasad as cashiers.

Members in charge of publicity are Sanjay Agarwal, Pokhraj Rai & Mani Kumar Pradhan while Kishore Pradhan & Mohammad Khalid have been nominated as auditors of accounts for

this year.

Likewise, a 12-member advisory committee has also been formed with members Maya Cintury [President, Rangpo Nagar Panchayat], Swaminath Prasad, Mangil Jain, Milan Silwal, LN Pradhan, GM Gurung, Bhushan Pradhan, Beena Rai, KK Pradhan, Kalyani Pradhan and Arjun Chettri.

President, IDCC 2018, Mr Sharma has informed that more than 20 schools from the area will be participating in various events and competitions.

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## SRLM conducts training for SHG members on mushroom cultivation

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 JUL:

Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission [SRLM], under Rural Management & Development Department, in partnership with Rural Self Employment Training Institute [RSETI] is conducting a training programme on mushroom cultivation from 06-11 Jul at RSETI in Development Area, Gangtok.

A press release informs that the training is being conducted with the aim to facilitate Sikkimese people in acquiring and stabilizing their livelihood options in an

economically sustainable manner to reduce poverty in rural areas.

The training programme is being attended by selected 30 Self Help Group members from Khamdong and Pakyong Blocks of East Sikkimalong with livelihood team and other officials and staff of SRLM.

In his inaugural address on 06 Jul, State Mission Director, SRLM, P Senthil Kumar, encouraged the SHG members to thoroughly understand the practice of mushroom cultivation and adopt it for earning income at home.

He also stressed on the need for complete involvement of the participants in the training and clarifying doubts if any with the resource persons.

It may be mentioned here, SRLM is supporting community investment funds through Ward development societies and the same can be utilized for funding the trained SHG members. The SRLM team will also be providing support to seek credit from Banks through its Bank Sakhis according to need and interest.



**Gangtok on  
Wednesday,  
11 July**

**Temp:** 27°C/18°C  
**Forecast:** Dull abd  
dreary followed  
by a couple of  
thundershowers  
in the evening.  
**Sunrise:** 04:48 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:34 PM



## State Karate-Do Association constitutes its executive committee

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

Sikkim State Karate-Do Association [SSKDA] has constituted its new executive committee during the recently held annual general meeting of the association in Gangtok.

The new executive committee has been headed by Bijoy Gurung as president and has Bhim Bahadur Subba as working president, BS Chettri and Geeta Karki as vice-presidents, Bidhan Ballav Subba as general secretary cum chief technical director, Ganga Rai and Hem Kumari Rai as joint secretaries, Bishnu Kumar Rai as treasurer and Binam Gurung and Neemu Lepcha as publicity secretaries.

The meeting also unanimously appointed YK Megi as the chief patron of the association.

An SSKDA press release informed that the annual general meeting also discussed on various agendas to conduct the 16th edition of the State Karate-Do Championship from 24-26 Aug in Namchi among other future activities of the association. The release informed that Sikkim has received the opportunity to host the prestigious 1st All India Karate Championship 2018 in Oct later this year in Gangtok. It is informed that the meeting also discussed on related issues to conduct the championship in a successful and grand manner.



## Clarion Home Bakery founder conducts baking training for empowerment of women

**NITESH R PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

When it comes to women entrepreneurs, Sikkim has been taking tall strides with women coming forward not just to help their businesses but also to help the women community towards being self sustaining and vibrant section of the Sikkimese population.

Keeping the mission of empowering women of the State in view,

founder of Clarion Home Bakery, Gangtok, Sujata Gurung, has initiated a move to train local women in what they do best, baking.

"With capacity comes guiding comes empowerment and no skill is small or big," states Sujata.

Hailing from the capital, she started her bakery venture in Siliguri, West Bengal and later went on to open a branch in Gangtok.

Her bakery workshop conducted in the capital includes training women from across the State in baking skills.

"This is our second workshop in Sikkim," she says.

Today, she has successfully concluded her training programme for 27 women from the capital.

She has also conducted many such workshops in neighbouring West

Bengal and is tied up with State Government sponsored projects.

"I would like to thank Ms Gurung for making us capable of baking as empowerment comes with skills," said a housewife who has successfully completed her training.

Women from the State have been breaking all stereotypes and have not just started to contribute at their homes but also to society.

## Health Minister holds meet with CE, SE of Water Dept over Jorethang's water crisis

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL  
[IPR]:**

A meeting with regard to water supply problems in Jorethang was held between Health & IPR Minister, AK Ghatani, who is also the Area MLA of Salghari-Zoom Constituency, and Chief Engineer and Superintending Engineer [South/West], Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department, at his chamber today.

The issue of water crisis in Jorethang was discussed at length wherein the CE explained that out of town sources of water for Jorethang, the main source of Rothak is non functional owing to landscaping of the Nayabazaar-Legship Road due to the ongoing repair work. The three water sources namely Rungdung source, Rinzey source and Chharchharey source were functioning well but due to the monsoon season and occurrence of landslides on the upper lying areas of the three sources, there were instances of murky water being delivered to the Water Treatment Plant [WTP].

He said that the department is treating the water before supplying



it to the consumers and the water shortage faced by the public is mostly due to the breakage of the supply due to landslides at the raw water mains. The issue of installing a transformer to the WTP for pumping treated water to Gairi Gaon was also discussed whereby the Minister assured to provide all the support for installation.

The CE said that pipes for establishment at the Rothak Source have already reached the field but due to the landscaping of the road being repaired, there will be some delay till the completion of back cutting and repair work to move further about 5 kms. Till then temporarily inflow of water in the mornings and evenings for 1-2 hrs to meet the needs of the public has been provided. He also mentioned that additional man power will be deployed especially for Jorethang town.

Another issue discussed was

about the repair and rehabilitation of old existing pressure filter at RMDD area supplying water to the east bazaar area and part of Mazigaon area. The CE informed that once the old pressure filter is repaired the issue of water to the above mentioned areas would also be solved. The estimate of which has already been procured for approval.

The Minister directed the department and the contractor to complete these tasks as soon as possible and to enhance manpower of the department while repairing WTP and installing the transformer at the earliest. He also demanded for the map comprising the details of impacted area and directed for immediate action.

The Minister also contacted the PHE Minister and Secretary who in turn deputed the officials to coordinate on the matter immediately.

The meeting concluded with assurances of expediting necessary solutions for the water issue prevalent in Jorethang.

## MP Lok Sabha urges execution and timely completion of projects under DISHA initiative

**GANGTOK, 10 JUL [IPR]:**

Member Parliament [Lok Sabha], PD Rai, chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee [DISHA] meeting at the conference hall of East District Zilla Panchayat in Gangtok today.

The meeting reviewed the progress of centrally sponsored projects, schemes, flagship programmes and social security schemes in terms of physical and financial achievements.

The meeting was attended by District Collector [East], Kapil Meena, Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Choudary, Adyakshya, EDZP, Samsher Bokhim, Syari MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha, District Planning Officer, Yadav K Sharma, Zilla and Gram Panchayats members and members of DISHA.

Addressing the gathering, MP [Lok Sabha], Mr Rai, spoke on the significance of smooth and effective co-ordination between stakeholders and the



State Government departments concerning the execution and timely completion of various schemes and projects formulated by the State Government in order to uplift the public.

He also inquired about the implementation and outcome of the respective Central and State flagship programmes which are currently being carried out in the East district.

Mr Rai also highlighted the need to document the outcome of these flagship programmes. He also acknowledged the substantial work carried out by the concerned governmental departments in collaboration with the Panchayats and Municipal Councils of

East districts.

During the meeting, a brief presentation was presented by the concerned nodal officers of DISHA wherein various issues and queries on schemes like Smart City Mission, PMGSY, AMRUT, BRO, HRDD [Samagra Siksha Abhiyan] and Health were raised and discussed.

Earlier, the keynote address was given by the DC [East]-cum-Member Secretary who stressed on the objectives of the meeting and highlighted on the issues regarding DISHA and its improvisation. He also urged the committee to organize meeting every quarterly and to be more aware of all the flagship schemes under Central schemes.



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Date: 10.7.18

### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The SNT Division of Transport Department, Government of Sikkim invites application from local candidates for filling up of post of 45 (forty five) drivers (heavy Vehicle) purely on contract basis for a period of two years of a consolidated pay of Rs.11,000/- (rupees Eleven thousand) per month. Further extension of the contract service shall be subject to satisfactory performance.

The selection process shall be based on the following:-

- Written examination of 15 marks (General Knowledge)
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- General aptitude. 15 marks.

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- Aadhar Card.
- Proof of Date of Birth (birth certificate/ school certificate).
- Educational Qualification class IV passed.
- Valid Heavy Vehicle Driving License.
- Should possess valid Employment Card.
- Should be physically and medically fit.

The application in its prescribed form can be obtained from the office of the Under Secretary (Adm), SNT, Transport Department, Yatayat Bhawan, Gangtok upon production of a Bank Receipt for Rs.150/- (Rupees one hundred fifty) only deposited as cost of form under revenue head: 1055-Road Transport, 201, SNT 04-Other Miscellaneous items. The schedule for distribution of Form etc. shall be as follows:-

- Date of issue of form - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to 13 August 2018 during office hours and working days.
- Last date for submission of completed forms - 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- Distribution of admit cards - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

Dates for written examination and interview shall be intimated separately later on.

#### Other Conditions:-

- The contract appointment shall be on the terms and conditions of Notification No. J (14)/67/Gen/Est. Dated 18.01.1991.
- The applicants shall have no right to claim for regular appointment for which and undertaking to this effect will have to be signed before taking up the contract appointment.
- The further extension of contract appointment shall be purely based on the performance of the applicant during the contract period.
- The Secretary, Transport Department reserves the right to accept or reject incomplete forms without any assigning any reason, thereof.

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## Football association formed for and by football players of Sikkim

**REBYNA RANA  
GANGTOK, 10 JUL:**

Football Players Association of Sikkim [FPAS] has been formed in a meeting held here at Paljor Stadium on 08 Jul with the participation of prominent ISL footballers namely Sanju Pradhan, Nirmal Chettri, Bikash Jaiu, Robin Gurung, Kunzang Lachungpa and Uttam Rai along with footballers from different clubs from in and around the State.

Speaking to media today, Nirmal Chettri informed that FPAS has been formed for and by the football players of Sikkim.

"We discussed on the need for players to maintain a professional culture and discipline in and outside the



field. We also urged the players to avoid jumping from one club to another club during a single playing season. We also deliberated on clubs giving professional contracts to the players. The need for insurance for the players has also been discussed as there are high chances of injuries in the sport," said Nirmal.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the turnout of players attending the meet, Nirmal said, "We were expecting a large number of footballers from all districts of the State. The association is for the players who are playing in Sikkim. We discussed on many things but could not take any concrete resolutions as the turnout was

poor," he added.

It is informed that FPAS will be holding another meeting on 12 Jul at Guards Ground in Tathangchen.

"We are inviting all footballers including women footballers for the meeting. The association is for the footballers of Sikkim and a larger participation will encourage the initiative. We appeal all to attend the 12 Jul meet, especially senior players who can lead and guide the association," said Nirmal.

The ad-hoc committee of the FPAS will be formed during the meeting on 12 Jul, it is informed.



# SummitTIMES

## Contribute to Social Capital

*Engage, get involved and develop*

Writing in 1958, influential political scientist and thinker, Edward Banfield, presented what he saw as the reason for backwardness – communities which cannot work together.

In his seminal book, “The Moral Basis of a Backward Society”, he studied the reasons behind the underdevelopment of a village in the southern tip of Italy. His conclusion: “The extreme poverty and backwardness is to be explained largely by the inability of villagers to act together for their common good.” His work was followed up thirty-five years later by a Harvard professor Robert Putnam who returned to the same theme and villages in 1993. In his book “Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy”, he concluded that local governments work in northern Italy and fail in south Italy because northern Italians are more likely to get involved in neighbourhood activities like singing groups, football clubs, cooperatives and networks of small entrepreneurs, while the southern Italians remain aloof and uninvolved, and also backward. Both tips of Italy were governed by the same government and subject to the same policies, and yet, while one region progressed, the other refused to develop. Banfield’s central thesis was that social capital was a key ingredient to high institutional performance and the maintenance of democracy.

Surf the net or search Wikipedia and you will find gigabytes of more details on the findings encapsulated in the two tomes, but even the condensed essence presented above is convincing enough. Putnam set out to understand the conditions required for developing “strong, responsive, effective representative institutions,” each, a necessary building block for effective democratic expression.

Turn the mirror on Sikkim in this light and it becomes apparent that societal engagement and community participation has not achieved the spontaneity required for expressions to become free and assertions more frank and forthright. There will always be those who try and secure positions and berths for themselves, and while these aspirations are not always conspiratorial, they are never healthy either. When people distance themselves from public engagement and shy away from collective action, they end up building distrust even in an environment of democracy which should have inspired confidence.

One has often rued the absence of an active civil society in Sikkim, and if one looks at how people, by and large, have refused to engage voluntarily even in local area issues and have instead waited for someone to claim leadership role, the hollowed out building blocks of a civil society explain the absence. Even the Chief Minister has spoken often about the civil society’s reluctance to engage in Sikkim, but one must realise that third-party enforcements cannot fabricate a civil society. Social capital is of value only when it is voluntary and cooperative; it is worthless when it is stage-managed. Take the Bhanu Jayanti celebrations which will be held across the State later this week. At one level, they involve a wide swathe of people, but take away the organising committees [which remain same for this celebration as well as plantation drives] and the event will flounder. How many members of the Sikkimese community will be moved to make private contributions to sustain something they have grown up with if State patronage is withdrawn? There might be many who will be willing to, but few will step forward and do so. And therein lies the engagement-deficit.

# Is Indonesia retreating from democracy?

TIM LINDSEY  
*theconversation.com*

For much of the past 20 years, Indonesia has been held up as a model of democratic transition for other countries, particularly those with significant Muslim populations.

Indonesia’s leaders like to present their nation as embodying an exemplary path away from authoritarianism. Their form of government, they say, is tolerant yet enshrines religious practice, offering a political alternative for Muslim communities that is more palatable to the West than the failed Arab Spring and the extremist catastrophes that have engulfed the Middle East since the US intervened in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This view of Indonesia now needs rethinking. The country’s hard-won advances towards liberalism and tolerance may be under threat. This nation of more than 260 million people – over 85% of them Muslim – has often been called the “smiling face of Islam”, but that label may no longer apply.

Indonesia’s recent questioning of its own liberal-democratic aspirations has been accompanied by growing expressions of intolerance, including violence towards vulnerable minorities. As next year’s presidential election approaches, the temptation to resort to regressive identity politics and opportunistic populism will increase, and Indonesia’s departure from its post-1998 progressive tilt is likely to become more pronounced.

## SLIDING TOWARDS A ‘NEO NEW ORDER’?

In Indonesia today, reform has stagnated. Although the democratic transition in 1998 was presented as a national consensus, this was never entirely true. It always had opponents, some of whom felt politically constrained to accept democratisation as a necessary evil but never accepted it as a final settlement.

As well as the hardliners, today these include enormously wealthy oligarchs, tenacious survivors of former dictator Suharto’s regime and elements of the armed forces. These disparate forces that together form Indonesia’s revisionist and populist right have little in common and often compete with one another. However, they also create expedient alliances from time to time, motivated by a common desire to roll back at least some of the democratic system initiated by Reformasi, the reform era.

Together they can sometimes intimidate or outflank progressive civil-society leaders. Governments, local and national, seem uncertain about how to respond to these challenges, and vacillate between inaction, opacity or endorsement of reactionary policies. As a result, 20 years on from Reformasi, the spirit of reform that drove democratisation seems distant.

Most Indonesian champions of civil society would agree that Reformasi ended long ago – maybe well over a decade ago – but a new label



to define what replaced it has not yet emerged. This reflects an uncertainty among many Indonesians about where their country is heading. Many prominent critics of the government believe that while electoral democracy seems entrenched, liberal democracy is under threat from populism, Islamism and renewed conservatism.

For them, Indonesia seems to be sliding towards what some call the “Neo New Order”. Others say this is too harsh, arguing that electoral democracy is now firmly entrenched and the critical change that marked the end of Suharto’s system, the retreat of the military from government, has not been reversed.

However, it is increasingly difficult to argue that all is well with Indonesian democracy. The forthcoming elections aside, rampant corruption is perhaps Indonesia’s single biggest political issue. The courageous Corruption Eradication Commission is under continual attack from politicians and police. The human rights courts are virtually defunct and rarely hear cases.

The National Commission on Human Rights is ineffective; the Constitutional Court has faced its own corruption scandals; the press is confronting increasingly prohibitive defamation laws that assist politicians and oligarchs; and civil society is under pressure from elite push-back and Islamist provocation.

## INDONESIA’S ALT-RIGHT: TROLLS, HACKERS AND VIGILANTES

The tensions over Islam are part of a much older struggle in Indonesia to determine who controls the interpretation of the religion, and thus religious power. However, the recent rise of conservative Islamist hardliners also resembles the rise of populism and conservative politics elsewhere in the world. Islamist conservatives

are in many ways the local equivalent of America’s alt-right – and they are just as adept at online disruption and manipulation.

Research by State Islamic University Jakarta links the rise of religious intolerance among young Muslims to their increased access to the internet and social media. Indeed, Jakarta tweets more than any other city in the world, and Indonesians are very big users of Facebook, as well as WhatsApp, Instagram and Telegram, an encrypted-messaging service.

One of the best-known examples of online disruption involves the so-called Muslim Cyber Army, the most prominent of a number of tags adopted by Islamist trolls in Indonesia. Active across all platforms popular in Indonesia, Muslim Cyber Army members enjoy building an atmosphere of mystery, threat and self-importance, sometimes using the Guy Fawkes mask, popularised by the graphic novel and film V for Vendetta, of the hacktivist group Anonymous in their postings.

This is deeply ironic, given the distance between their ideological objectives and the libertarian ambitions of most Western hacktivist groups. The Muslim Cyber Army does, however, share a willingness to exploit online anonymity to enable criminal activity – for example, by hijacking the social media accounts of the dead.

An Indonesian researcher, Damar Juniarto, has shown that Muslim Cyber Army trolls are highly effective, working collectively and using tools such as Twitbots to flood Twitter with coordinated messages. They target their more liberal opponents by “doxing”: publishing their personal information and contact details. This often triggers physical attacks from groups such as the notorious vigilante organisation Islamic Defenders Front,

or Front Pembela Islam (FPI), within a few days and, in some cases, police attention on suspicion of blasphemy.

A list of such targets went viral in a video produced by the “Blasphemer Hunter Team”. These groups have attacked President Joko Widodo (“Jokowi”), former Jakarta governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (known as “Ahok”), foreigners and LGBTI Indonesians – targets they share with some prominent hardliner “buzzers”, or social media opinion leaders, many of whom are keyboards for hire.

Juniarto also suggests that many of these groups have close ties to politicians and senior military figures. Certainly, social media manipulation and “fake news” hoaxes produced by Islamist groups were powerful factors in the campaign that led to Ahok’s defeat in last year’s Jakarta gubernatorial elections. The winner was Anies Baswedan, a protégé of former general Prabowo Subianto, Jokowi’s possible rival in the 2019 presidential election.

It would be naive to think this won’t happen again in next April’s crucial legislative and presidential races. During the 2014 presidential campaign, Jokowi, a Muslim, endured claims he was a closet Christian and ethnic Chinese (his detractors chose to ignore the fact that his opponent, also a Muslim, has a Christian mother and siblings).

The upcoming presidential election – which may well be a rematch between Jokowi and Prabowo, but for the first time held simultaneously with legislative elections – is expected to see the most vicious cyber campaigning yet.

*[the writer is Malcolm Smith Professor of Asian Law and Director of the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society, University of Melbourne]*

# Why roads and trains may be key to bringing peace to the Korean peninsula

HUSSEIN DIA  
*theconversation.com*

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un left his historic Singapore summit with US President Donald Trump last month with a massive political victory in hand, but questions remain how this will help his isolated country in pragmatic terms.

A Japanese newspaper reported Sunday that Kim has asked Chinese President Xi Jinping for his help in lifting the sanctions that have crippled the North Korean economy. But even if sanctions are lifted, will this be enough to improve the standard of living for North Korea’s impoverished citizens?

In recent years, Pyongyang has focused on twin policy objectives: achieving global political legitimacy, and embarking on a program of economic modernisation. The Singapore summit has arguably helped in reaching the first objective. North Korea will now be looking to achieve the second.

## A POSSIBLE HIGH-SPEED FUTURE

Compared to neighbouring China and South Korea, North Korea’s infrastructure is crumbling and in dire need of expansion and modernisation. For decades, the government emphasised investment in heavy industry and weapons programs, allowing its roads, ports, rail lines and airports to fall into disrepair. North Korea’s energy, water and communications systems lag



behind the rest of the world, as well.

When Kim met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April, Moon said he would like to travel through North Korea to climb Mt. Paektu – a site of great importance in Korean folklore. Kim responded with a revealing admission that

he would be “embarrassed” by his country’s railways.

Kim also told Moon how the North Korean athletes who took part in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang were impressed by the South’s high-speed rail network. This was seen by many as a likely

signal that North Korea was motivated to bring its own rail network – and the rest of its infrastructure – into the 21st century.

And South Korea evidently wants to help. At the summit between the two leaders, Moon gave Kim a USB drive that laid out a vision for connecting the two Koreas through new infrastructure projects and special economic zones.

At the heart of Moon’s plan would be a US\$35 billion upgrade of North Korea’s rail network, including high-speed rail lines connecting Seoul, Pyongyang and other industrial zones and a retrofit of other rail lines in the North.

Moon’s proposal is shrewd. The rail lines would also connect North Korea to its northern neighbours, China and Russia, and ultimately serve as a vital link between the entire Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia and Europe.

## THE PROMISE OF MINERAL WEALTH

More importantly, the South Korean proposal goes well beyond infrastructure. It would be a catalyst for unlocking the potential of the North’s untapped mineral reserves, which have been valued at somewhere between US\$6-10 trillion.

These reserves consist of iron, gold, copper and graphite, as well as large amounts of rare earth deposits needed for production of smart phones and other high-tech gadgets made in the South.

There are also unconfirmed reports of oil and gas deposits in North Korean waters.

However, modernising North Korea’s neglected infrastructure won’t come cheaply. The cost is estimated at several trillion dollars, similar to what West Germany spent to develop the East after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The technical know-how and capacities of North Korea’s labour forces will also pose huge challenges.

Already, Samsung, Hyundai, Daewoo and other corporations provide training for the North Koreans they’ve employed in special economic zones along the border. These giants are well-placed to rebuild the North’s deteriorating infrastructure, but would need to invest much more time and money to train the local workforce.

Whether the North accepts the South’s help remains to be seen. This could prove to be a major stumbling block.

Of course, China could step in and play a major role. The country has built the world’s longest high-speed rail network, extending some 22,000kms, in a remarkably short span of time.

Beijing has strategic interests in developing the North’s rail network, as well. A future inter-Korean railway could serve as an extension of its ambitious “One Belt, One Road” infrastructure development initiative

turn to 05



## Deb urges north east CMs for steps to make region drugs-free

**AGARTALA, JULY 10 (PTI):** Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb today urged chief ministers of north-eastern states to work towards making the region free of drugs.

During the second day of the 67th North East Council Plenary Meeting at Shillong, Deb discussed the need of expanding the vision of 'Drugs Free Tripura' into 'Drugs Free North East', an official release said.

He called upon the chief ministers of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur to take "corrective measures" and check cross-border movement of drugs, it said.

Deb also made a request to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh for strengthening Central forces in the north-eastern region.

"BSF has been playing a proactive role in checking illicit drug trade in Tripura. It can pro-actively ensure the prevention of illegal drug trade in the NE region," he said.

Deb, on the first day of the meeting yesterday, spoke on the need of creating "iconic students", while speaking about "iconic institutes".

"It will take time for iconic institutes to come up in the north-east, but our students must be given an opportunity to witness the best educational institutes in India by undertaking regular tours," he said.

# Assam bans fish imports from other states on formalin content

**GUWAHATI, JUL 10 (PTI):** The Assam government today banned import and sale of fish from other states for a period of 10 days following tests on samples that showed presence of cancer causing chemical formalin.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Pijush Hazarika told reporters here that samples of fish imported from other states he had collected on June 29,

after visiting various fish markets in Guwahati, tested to have traces of formalin.

The minister said all fish imported from Andhra Pradesh and other states were banned for 10 days beginning today.

Imports would be allowed only after it was found that they do not have any formalin content or the importers themselves give assurance that the

practice of using the dangerous chemical has been stopped, he said.

The district magistrates and food safety officers have been asked to ensure such fish with formalin are not sold in the markets from tomorrow while the ban is in force, he said.

Anyone violating the ban or found using formalin to preserve the fish for longer period would face punitive legal action with arrests and

jail terms ranging from two to seven years and fines of up to Rs 10 lakh, Hazarika warned.

The samples collected by the minister were sent for laboratory tests following reports of fish traders using large amounts of formalin to preserve the fish.

Hazarika said that the ban will be revoked only after conducting more lab tests until it showed showed formalin negative.

He also warned traders of punitive action, including arrests and prison terms up to seven years and hefty fines as high as Rs 10 lakh, if they did not desist from using formalin.

Formalin is used for the preservation of biological specimens and embalming, which is a funeral custom of treating human remains to delay their decomposition.

## 25 activists briefly detained for protesting in Nepal

**KATHMANDU, JUN 10 (PTI):** Over two dozen human rights activists were briefly detained today in Nepal for protesting against various government policies and demanding major changes in the country's health and education sectors.

Noted rights activist Krishna Pahadi, Gangadhar Adhikari and Renuka Paudel were among 25 protestors detained from Singhdurbar complex, a restricted area, soon after they started the protest, police said.

They were kept in custody at the Metropolitan Police Circle in Singhadarbar for a few hours and released in the evening, they said.

Before getting detained, the activists holding placards had demanded that the government take initiatives to save the life of senior medical doctor Govinda K C who has been on fast unto death since the last two weeks.

Govinda demands reforms in medical sector and opening of hospitals in remote areas of the country instead of concentrating medical facilities in the capital city Kathmandu.



The activists also demanded an end to exploitation in the education sector and scrap decisions affecting people's right to

freedom.

They accused the government of making decisions that affect the basic rights and free-

dom of people and protecting violent and criminal activities prevailing in the society.

## Kalimpong Craft's Production Centre inaugurated in Suruk

**MUKESH SHARMA**

**KALIMPONG, 10 JUL:**

Chief Executive Officer of West Bengal Khadi & Village Industries Board [WBKVIB], Mritunjay Banerjee, formally inaugurated Kalimpong Craft's Production Centre today at Suruk in Kalimpong. The centre has been started by Mani Trust, Kalimpong in collaboration with WBKVIB.

It may be mentioned here, the centre had opened at Suruk four months ago through the hands of the CEO. It has been today inaugurated officially after training local women for three months.

In the inauguration programme, the CEO, who attended the event as chief guest, said that the main objective of establishing the centre is to encourage people of the Hills towards making themselves self sufficient and help them in improving their economic progress.

"Six craft centres have already been started in

the Hills. Hills' products have huge demand in the plains which is why I urge all to work hard and produce goods," he added.

Mani Trust Chairman, Subash M Singh, in his address, said, "When the agreement was signed by the Board, post training support was in high demand. Due to lack of economy, many did not start their work. We realized this and demanded arrangement for provision of trainings and infrastructure for continuation of the said project. We have plans to construct common facility centres in Kalimpong in an area of 20,000 sq in collaboration with Khadi Board in the future. Trainings will be conducted on a large scale followed by establishment of a museum, ethnic catering and stalls."

The CEO later also visited Dhaka Training Centre at Children's Faith Home located at BL Dikshit road in Kalimpong.

## Anthyesti Kria



The Anthyesthi Kriya of late **Biraj Rai**, S/o late I.B. Rai & Smt. Suk Lachi Rai of Ranka, Rai Gaon, East Sikkim who passed away on 07.07.2018 falls on **12th July 2018 (Thursday)**. All family members, well-wishers and friends are requested to join the family members for the prayer ceremony to be held on above mentioned date at their residence at Ranka Rai Gaon, East Sikkim.

**Bimal Rai (elder brother),  
Sumitra & Niruta (sisters)  
Mob: 9832304740, 7908673616**



## Three districts in Assam remain submerged, death toll rises to 34

**GUWAHATI, JUL 10 (PTI):** Three districts of Assam remained under water today, affecting nearly 20,000 people as the flood situation continued to be grim and one more death was reported, taking the toll to 34.

Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts continued to be flooded even as the waters receded in Biswanath district and Jorhat was hit by the deluge, a report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said.

The number of people affected

in the floods in 24 villages came down from 22,618 yesterday to 19,179 today, it said.

Lakhimpur district continued to be the worst-hit with over 18,416 affected people, followed by 625 in Jorhat and 129 in Dhemaji, it said.

The body of a person who was missing since July 8 in Biswanath district was recovered from Halem revenue circle, the report added.

According to the ASDMA, of the 34 people killed, three lost their lives in landslides.

The report added that 205 acres of crop area remained submerged in four revenue circles of the three affected districts.

The district authorities are running relief camps and distribution centres to provide succour to the affected people, ASDMA said.

Rivers Brahmaputra at Nemstighat in Jorhat and Dhanisiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat are flowing above the danger mark, it said.

## Why roads and trains may be key..

**contd from pg04**

linking China with key markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

### BABY STEPS

Before any progress can be made on grand plans like these, North and South Korea need to take an important first step and reopen the rail

links and roads between the countries. The two neighbours agreed in June to work towards that goal, but any material progress will need to wait until international sanctions against North Korea are lifted.

The two Koreas agreed to start limited

cross-border rail service to an industrial zone just over the North Korean border in 2007, but the fraught relationship between the two countries soon brought the initiative to a halt.

This time around, progress will depend on the cooperation of the

North Korean leader, who has been reluctant to accept help in the past, but might be persuaded to do so now with his country's future in the balance.

**[the writer is Chair, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, Swinburne University of Technology]**





# Diver hails ‘incredibly strong’ Thai cave boys



**MAE SAI (THAILAND), JUL 10 (AFP):** A foreign diver involved in the mission to save 12 boys and their football coach from a flooded Thai cave has hailed the children as “incredibly strong”, and described their treacherous escape journey as unprecedented.

“They are getting forced to do something that no kid has ever done before. It is not in any way normal for kids to go cave diving at age 11,” Ivan Karadzic, who runs a diving business in Thailand, told the BBC in an interview that was published online today.

“They are diving in something considered (an) extremely hazardous environment in zero visibility, the only light that is in there is the torch light we bring ourself.”

The boys, aged from 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach, ventured into the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand on June 23

after football practice and became trapped when heavy rains flooded the cave.

Two British divers found them nine days later huddled on a muddy ledge in pitch darkness more than four kilometres inside the cave system.

Authorities then gathered 90 divers, 50 of them foreigners, to help extract the boys out of a claustrophobic tunnel network that in some places was completely filled with water and so narrow that they could only be squeezed through.

Conditions were so dangerous that a retired Thai Navy SEAL died on Friday while trying to lay out oxygen tanks underwater in a tunnel, and the rescue chief at one point dubbed the operation “Mission Impossible”.

Adding to the dangers, most of the boys could not swim, and none had scuba diving

experience.

However the divers escorted eight of the boys out on Sunday and Monday, and authorities said they were aiming to extract the remaining members of the group today.

Karadzic, who the BBC reported was stationed near a difficult stretch of the cave about half-way along the escape route to replace oxygen tanks and help guide people through, said the rescue workers had feared the worst.

“We were obviously very afraid of any kind of panic from the divers,” he said, adding he was in awe of the boys’ ability to stay calm. “I cannot understand how cool these small kids are, you know? Thinking about how they’ve been kept in a small cave for two weeks, they haven’t seen their mums. Incredibly strong kids. Unbelievable almost.”

## UN urges probe into N. Korea waitress ‘defectors’

**SEOUL, JUL 10 (AFP):** A dozen North Korean waitresses involved in a high-profile “defection” case two years ago did not know where they were going, the top UN human rights official on North Korea said today.

The issue has long been controversial, with Pyongyang saying the women were kidnapped from a North Korean state-run restaurant in China while Seoul insists they defected of their own free will.

In a bombshell revelation in May, the manager of the 12 waitresses said that he had lied about their final destination and blackmailed them into following him to the South.

Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on human rights in the North, told reporters he had interviewed “some” of the 12 waitresses after arriving in Seoul last week. They told him that “they were taken to the South without knowing they were coming here”, he said.

## Nishikori predicts Wimbledon ‘war’ with Djokovic

**LONDON, JUL 10 (AFP):** Kei Nishikori became the first Japanese man in 23 years to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals and then predicted a “war” with Novak Djokovic to get to the last four.

Nishikori, 28, overcame an arm injury to reach his first All England Club quarter-final with a 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (12/10), 6-1 win over Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis.

But having become the first Japanese man to reach the quarter-finals since Shuzo Matsuoka in 1995, Nishikori must now overturn a 13-2 career losing record against three-time champion Djokovic on Wednesday.

“He’s always like a big war for me. I always enjoy playing against him. It’s always big challenge,” said Nishikori.

The Japanese player has already lost twice to the former world number one this year -- on clay in Madrid and Rome.

Although the two have never met on grass, Nishikori is still hamstrung by the knowledge that the last of his two wins against the Serb was in 2014 in a memorable semi-final victory at the US Open.

“Maybe I don’t have good results or good record with him, but I always enjoy playing him. He’s one of the best players on the tour.”

Adding to Nishikori’s problems is a worrying right arm injury which required extensive treatment and a medical time-out in his win over world 130



Gulbis, the man who had put out fourth seed Alezander Zverev in the third round.

“My elbow was bothering me little bit,” admitted Nishikori.

“From the second, it got better and I just tried to stay calm and fight every game.” Djokovic, meanwhile, reached the quarter-finals for the 10th time with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 win over Russia’s Karen Khachanov.

Seeded 12, Wednesday will Djokovic’s 41st appearance in a Grand Slam quarter-final.

His match against Nishikori will fall on the first anniversary of him having to retire from his 2017 quarter-final against Tomas Berdych with an elbow injury.

That precipitated a lengthy absence from the tour and a worrying dip in form and confidence.

However, the 31-year-old has looked back to something approaching his best at Wimbledon.

“I like my chances against Nishikori,” said Djokovic.

He added: “I played very well in Queen’s (where he finished runner-up) coming into Wimbledon. I haven’t spent too much time on the court. I feel physically, mentally ready, fit, positive.”

Djokovic’s run to the Queen’s final on the eve of Wimbledon was his first appearance in a championship match since Eastbourne almost 12 months earlier.

That was a boost after a

shock quarter-final exit at the French Open to world number 72 Marco Cecchinato of Italy.

“I didn’t feel comfortable on the court for long time. Indian Wells, Miami, most of the clay court season,” added Djokovic. “I just had to go back to basics and hit as many balls as I can on the practice courts, just get that feel.”

“Also psychologically obviously, I was so fortunate to have so much success on the tour over the course of 10-plus years. I was top 3 player for so many years in a row, it was quite a strange feeling for me not to be able to deliver my game. But things are looking much better in the last month and a half.”

## Degree row: Dy SP Harmanpreet may be demoted to constable’s post

**CHANDIGARH, JUL 10 (PTI):** Indian Women’s T-20 Captain and vice-captain of women’s national team Harmanpreet Kaur, who was appointed as a deputy superintendent of police (DySP) in March this year on the basis of her sporting credentials, may be demoted to the rank of constable after her graduation degree was found to be “fake” by Punjab Police.

“As her graduation degree was found to be fake, Harmanpreet’s qualification can now be treated as Class XII. So she can be given the post of constable which matches her educational qualification,” said a senior government official.

The government, however, is yet to take a final decision as the home department has sought comments from the director general of police on this matter.

“The file (pertaining to Harmanpreet) has been sent to the DGP office for his comments,” a senior official of the Home Department said.

According to the service rules, a candidate has to be a graduate for the post of DSP in Punjab.

The Punjab police during verification of Harmanpreet’s testimonials had found her graduation degree from Chaudhary Charan

Singh University (CCSU), Meerut, as “fake”.

Harmanpreet who had come to Mohali on July 3 for an event had told media, “I am aware of it (controversy), the government is taking care of that. I am hoping for a positive response.”

Harmanpreet’s father Harmandar Singh had earlier claimed that the testimonials of his daughter were “genuine”.

He had claimed that his daughter got the job of office superintendent at the Western Railway on the basis of the graduation degree.

Indian women’s T20 captain was appointed a DySP Punjab police in March this year. The Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh had offered the post of DySP to Harmanpreet in July last year, following her scintillating performance in the Women’s World Cup 2017.

Harmanpreet was earlier employed with the Indian Railways but was relieved from her duties earlier this year after she put in a request to join Punjab police.

The Punjab government had also taken up the matter with the Railway Ministry to waive the bond condition and allow Harmanpreet, who is a native of Moga, to join as a DySP in Punjab Police from March 1.

# India says disappointed at UN chief’s report on children and armed conflict

**UNITED NATIONS, JUL 10 (PTI):** India has voiced disappointment over UN chief Antonio Guterres’ report on children and armed conflict, saying it includes situations that do not meet the definition of armed conflict or of threat to international peace and security.

The Secretary General’s report on Children and Armed Conflict said children continued to be affected by incidents of violence between armed groups and the government, particularly in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and during tensions in Jammu and Kashmir.

The report added that the United Nations also continued to receive reports of the recruitment and use of children, including by the Naxalites, particularly in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

India’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tanmaya Lal, participating at the Security Council debate on Children and Armed Conflict here yesterday, said that the UNSC Resolution 1379 requests the Secretary General to report on situations that are on the agenda of the Security Council or that may be brought to the attention of the Security Council by the Secretary General, which in his opinion threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.

“In spite of the clear mandate provided under the UNSC Resolution 1379, we are disappointed that the report of the Secretary General



includes situations, which do not meet the definition of armed conflict or of threat to maintenance of international peace and security,” Lal said.

He asserted that such distraction from situations that are under the mandate of the Security Council needs to be rectified and the mandate strictly adhered to.

Lal said that a lot more remains to be done especially in keeping with the changing nature of armed conflicts that involves a range of non-state actors.

Terrorist entities, including those designated by the Security Council continue to exploit children as part of their terror activities,

with impunity. Despite considerable international efforts, children are increasingly victimized both as targets as well as perpetrators of violence, he said.

He said killing, maiming, abductions as well as rape and other forms of sexual violence against children and attacks on schools and hospitals continue to be used as tactic of terror, making resolution of conflicts more challenging.

India called for constructive engagement with national governments concerned, especially in formulation and effective implementation of action plans for durable peace and security.

“We need to strengthen our commitment to socioeconomic reintegration of children who have been released from armed groups, greater integration of child protection provisions in peace processes as well as greater accountability for all violations against children by state and non-state actors,” he said.

Lal also voiced concern about lack of resources to implement provisions of the UNSC mandate, including the deployment of more Child Protection Advisors and to comprehensively address the connection between conflict prevention and the protection of children.

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# Trump nominates conservative judge Brett Kavanaugh for US Supreme Court

**LALIT K JHA**  
**WASHINGTON, JUL 10 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump today nominated conservative Brett Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court Judge, a decision that could have far-reaching implications on everything from abortion to guns to immigration and alter the balance of the ideologically divided apex court.

President Trump picked Justice Kavanaugh, a conservative stalwart who has deep ties to the Republican establishment, from an original list of 25 judges, which also included prominent Indian-American judge Amul Thapar.

Justice Kavanaugh's nomination has set the stage for a bruising confirmation battle as Democrats immediately vowed to oppose the President's choice of the vacancy created by 81-year-old Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement.

Announcing Justice Kavanaugh's nomination in a prime-time event at the East Room of the White House, Trump described the 53-year-old from Maryland, currently a judge in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, as one with "impeccable credentials and one of the finest legal minds of our times".

The nomination battle will likely ignite a firestorm on Capitol Hill as it comes just a year after Republicans changed the rules of the Senate in order to push through the nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch, the first nominee of Trump's presidency.

Justice Kavanaugh's nomination is President Trump's second appointment to the highest court, potentially allowing him to shape the US for a generation after he demits the White House.

Each of the nine apex court justices



holds a lifetime appointment. Judge Kavanaugh is relatively young, meaning he could serve for decades to come.

His appointment will not change the ideological tilt of a court that already has a 5-4 conservative majority, but he could nevertheless shift the bench further right, media reports said.

Trump's decision will have far-reaching implications for America on everything from abortion to guns to immigration.

Trump said Kavanaugh was an incredibly qualified nominee who deserved a swift confirmation and robust bipartisan support.

"Judge Kavanaugh has impeccable credentials, unsurpassed qualifications, and a proven commitment to equal justice under the law. Throughout legal circles, he is considered a judge's judge, a true thought leader among his peers," he said.

Prior to becoming a judge, he served

in the George W Bush administration, first as an associate counsel and then senior associate counsel, and subsequently as assistant to the president and the staff secretary.

Replacing Justice Kennedy with a committed conservative will fundamentally alter the balance of the Supreme Court, The New York Times commented.

If confirmed, it would create a bloc of five conservative justices who could move the apex court further to the right.

While the Republican leadership hailed Trump's choice, Democrats vowed to oppose his nomination.

"Judge Kavanaugh should not be allowed anywhere near our nation's highest bench. Let's be clear: a vote for Kavanaugh would be a vote to rip health care from American families and deny women their constitutional right to make their own health care decisions," Democratic Nation-

al Committee chair Tom Perez said.

"Brett Kavanaugh represents a fundamental threat to the promise of justice and equality, which is why I am announcing that I will oppose his nomination to the Supreme Court," said Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris.

House Judiciary Committee Member Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said Trump was taking "swipes at vulnerable communities and hardworking families with every chance he gets".

"Brett Kavanaugh comes from a roster of extremists approved by right-wing organisations that are committed to pushing a regressive agenda. This appointment is the most momentous in a generation and it will affect historic decisions made for the next half century we can't let that time be defined by partisan rulings that hurt our communities and strip away our rights," Jayapal said.

On the other hand, almost the entire Republican leadership stood solidly behind Trump on his nomination, including his bitter critic Senator John McCain.

"In selecting Judge Brett Kavanaugh to fill the vacancy left by Justice Kennedy, President Trump has chosen a nominee with impeccable credentials and a strong record of upholding the Constitution," McCain said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Trump has made a superb choice.

Republican leaders firmly believe that Kavanaugh could be instrumental in pitching the ideological makeup of the court to the right and leaving a conservative imprint on the law for a generation. They also see the coming confirmation fight as a chance to galvanise their voters ahead of this year's mid-term elections, where the Republican party's 51-seat Senate majority is at risk.

A graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, Kavanaugh clerked on the Supreme Court for Justice Kennedy, and for judges on the Third and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals.

"I am deeply honoured to fill his seat in the Supreme Court," said Judge Kavanaugh.

"My judicial philosophy is straightforward. A judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law. A judge must interpret statutes as written and must interpret the Constitution as written, informed by history and tradition and precedent," he said.

Praising Trump, he said that throughout the process, he witnessed firsthand the President's appreciation for the vital role of the American judiciary.



Thai rescuers brought a ninth boy out from the Tham Luang cave this afternoon, police and navy sources said, after 18 days trapped underground. "The ninth boy is out," the police source told AFP, requesting anonymity, while a Thai navy source confirmed the boy "has been transferred from the cave entrance to the field hospital". Rescuers will today extract the remaining young footballers who have been trapped deep inside a flooded Thai cave for 18 days, the mission chief said, as heavy rains threatened their perilous escape route. The hoped-for final chapter in an ordeal that has gripped the world comes after elite foreign divers and Thai Navy SEALs escorted eight members of the "Wild Boars" football team out of the claustrophobic network of tunnels on Sunday and Monday. The boys, aged from 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach, ventured into the Tham Luang cave on June 23 after football practice and got caught deep inside when heavy rains caused flooding that trapped them on a muddy ledge. With rain again pounding the cave site in a mountainous region in northern Thailand on Tuesday morning, rescuers said they were aiming to bring out the remaining four boys and their coach by the evening.

## UN urges probe into N. Korea waitress 'defectors'

**SEOUL, JUL 10 (AFP):** A dozen North Korean waitresses involved in a high-profile "defection" case two years ago did not know where they were going, the top UN human rights official on North Korea said today.

The issue has long been controversial, with Pyongyang saying the women were kidnapped from a North Korean state-run restaurant in China while Seoul insists they defected of their own free will.

In a bombshell revelation in May, the manager of the 12 waitresses said that he had lied about their final destination and blackmailed them into following him to the South.

Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on human rights

in the North, told reporters he had interviewed "some" of the 12 waitresses after arriving in Seoul last week.

They told him that "they were taken to the South without knowing they were coming here", he said.

He urged the South Korean government to carry out a "thorough and independent investigation" to establish the truth of the incident as soon as possible and to "hold to account those who are responsible".

Heo Gang-il, the manager of the North Korean restaurant in Ningbo where the waitresses worked, said he had been recruited by Seoul's National Intelligence Service (NIS) in China in 2014.

Fearing exposure in 2016, he asked his

NIS handler to arrange his defection. At the last minute the minder told him to bring his staff too.

Ojea Quintana did not say whether the women he spoke to had expressed a desire to return to the North, but said their wishes should be respected, whatever they were.

"My stance as UN Human Rights rapporteur is to respect decisions of the victims," he said.

"When I say victims, I'm implying they were subject to some kind of deceit with regard to where they were going," he added.

The South's Unification Ministry has previously said it is looking into the allegations.



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (N/E)**  
**TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**PARYATAN BHAWAN, 5<sup>TH</sup> MILE, TADONG**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

For and on behalf of the Government of Sikkim, the Superintending Engineer (N/E), Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim, invites online E-Tendering Bids from the eligible registered contractors of appropriate class for the work listed under:


Name of work: Construction of Tourist Walkways, Yak Trails, View Point, Landscaping Development of Changu Lake in East Sikkim

SL. NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	Date of Publication in E-Tendering Portal of Sikkim Government.( <a href="http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in">www.sikkimtender.gov.in</a> )	17.07.2018

The intending contractors / tenderers may visit the website of Government of Sikkim [www.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.sikkim.gov.in).

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (N/E),**  
**TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT**

R.O. No: 194/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Date: 10.07.2018




**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**CENTRAL HEALTH STORES ORGANIZATION**  
**HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES AND F.W. DEPARTMENT**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The H.C. H.S. & F.W. Department, Government of Sikkim invites Tenders from Manufacturers or their authorized dealers/ Indian subsidiaries/ direct importers having a place of business in any of the States of India for the "**Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of Digital X-Ray Machine (Philips) at STNM Hospital, Gangtok.**"

Details of the RFP can be obtained from the Sikkim Government website [www.sikkim.gov.in](http://www.sikkim.gov.in).

sd/-  
**JOINT DIRECTOR (CHSO).**

R.O. No. 188/ipr/pub/classi/18-19 dt. 9.7.2018



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**HEALTH CARE HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**  
**GANGTOK.**  
**CORRIGENDUM REGARDING - NIT**

The Calendar of events for the e-tender for the work "Construction of Additional Infrastructure at Jorethang CHC, South Sikkim" as indicated below.

Submission of hard copy on 10/07/18. Time 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m..  
Opening of online bid and hard copy on 11/07/18. Time 11.00 am to onwards.

The above tender process has been rescheduled as under:-

Submission of hard copy on 27/07/18	Time 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 pm.
Opening of online bid and hard copy on 28/07/18	Time 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

For further details, kindly visit the website [www.sikkimtenders.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtenders.gov.in).

sd/- **Additional Chief Engineer**  
**HC, HS & FW Department**  
**Government of Sikkim.**

R.O. No. 193/ipr/pub/classi/18-19 dt. 10.7.2018.

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**CASUAL CUTIE!** Bella Hadid, 21, put her stunning curves and bikinis away for a more casual black and white ensemble while out and about solo in Paris.

## Want to earn same kind of love as mom, says Janhvi Kapoor

Gearing up for her debut in "Dhadak", Janhvi Kapoor says she does not feel the weight of expectations as Sridevi's daughter and hopes to earn the same amount of love from the audience like the veteran actor received. Her foray in films comes a few months after Sridevi's death this February.

The actor, who stars opposite Ishaan Khatter in the Hindi adaptation of Marathi blockbuster "Sairat", says she is aware of the late actor's legacy and wishes to honour it.

"I'm aware of it (the legacy) but I don't think there's a fear. I feel like mom has earned and got so much love, gratitude and adulation from people. There's a lot of gratitude I feel towards that, which even she felt. I want to make them happy. I want to earn the same kind of love."

"I know I've to work for it, I want to. I feel there's a responsibility towards them (audience). I want to make them happy. They've given my mom so much, my mom has given them so much, I want to earn it. I will, hope-



fully," Janhvi told PTI in an interview.

The actor says Sridevi never interfered in her acting process and wanted her to experience things on her own.

"She supported me a lot but I think both of us were clear that she wanted this to be my own journey. I remember reading lines with her around. But she never said 'Do it like this or that'. She would always say, 'I want you to find this on your own, do it on your own,'" Janhvi says.

"I had even told her that I don't want her to come on sets, ever. That 'I don't want you to see what I am doing till I'm fully done with it, I don't want you to tell me how

I should do it and let me do this on my own," she adds.

Janhvi, 21, says coming from a film family instilled a sense of maturity in her to understand the goings-on of showbiz.

"It has helped me in a way that I understand mom's creative space, how to read situations in movies, what she considered good acting or bad acting. So, that has formed opinions for me as well."

"Dad (Boney Kapoor) is a producer so I know what it's like for producers to deal with actors, be professional and respectful... Everything else that goes into filmmaking. It's made me more aware."

## George Clooney reportedly injured in a car accident!

George Clooney has been reportedly hospitalised after crashing his bike in Sardinia, Italy, according to reports.

The US actor, 57, was said to be riding his motorbike at Costa Corallina, Puntaldia, when he collided with a Mercedes car on Tuesday morning, according to TGR Rai Sardegna.

A picture from La Nuova shows a smashed windscreen, which suggests George hit it during the crash, but despite this, his condition is not thought to be serious.

According to the site, George was said to be hit by a car which suddenly changed direction at a spot close to a hotel.

The actor was reportedly taken to the emergency room of the John Paul II (Giovanni Paolo II) hospital, which is in Olbia, Sardinia.

Amal, 40, and George, along with their one-year-old twins, are currently living in Sardinia for the summer, where he is filming his new TV series, Catch 22. The couple had previously been enjoying their European trip alongside George's parents Nina and Nick Clooney, as well as Amal's mother Baria Alamuddin.

Their outing comes amid reports that the pair are rent-



ing a beautiful two-storey villa from Ezio Maria Simonelli, an accountant and man close to former Italian president Silvio Berlusconi. The stunning abode features two swimming pools, a tennis court and an incredibly colourful landscape.

Sardinia is a large Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea and is over 500 miles from Clooney's villa in Lake Como. George has been working hard in the region for his new project Catch 22, with the star directing, producing and starring in the six episode miniseries based on Joseph Heller's seminal novel.

It was announced in April that the multi-talented star was reducing his role in the Hulu production so he could concentrate on his directing and producing credits.

The two-time Oscar winner has hired Kyle Chandler of Friday Night Lights fame to take over the part of Col. Cathcart (played by Martin Balsam in the 1970 adaptation) originally earmarked for himself while he takes on the less demanding role of Scheisskopf.

The story, set in Italy during World War 2, focuses on Christopher Abbott's character of Yossarian, a US

Air Force bombardier who is furious because the bureaucratic rule known as Catch-22.

The rule specifies that a concern for one's own safety in the face of dangers which are real and immediate is the process of a rational mind; a man is considered insane if he willingly continues to fly dangerous combat missions, but a request to be removed from duty is evidence of sanity and therefore makes him ineligible to be relieved from duty.

Hugh Laurie also stars as Major de Coverley for the series which has a release date of 2019.

## GOT'S ARYA STARK MIGHT BE ONE OF THE LAST CHARACTERS STANDING!

Game of Thrones star Maisie Williams, 21, films final scenes and it looks as if she might have dropped a huge spoiler about the final season of HBO's GoT.

The star posted a poignant picture of bloodied trainers on Saturday, saying goodbye to her character Arya Stark as she filmed the last scenes, with the hashtag "#lastwomanstanding" - hinting that Arya may be one of the last battling for the Iron Throne.

Following the last day of filming the final season, Maisie wrote: "goodbye belfast. goodbye arya. goodbye game of thrones. what a joy i've had. here's to the adventures to come #lastwomanstanding #barely #immasleepforthenextfour-years #justkiddingidontsleep".

Her cryptic post left viewers desperate to know more, with one writing: "Wait so.....does this mean that Arya wins the whole damn thing?!!?! Last woman standing?!!?!?!?"

Maisie's character, Arya Stark, lost her father at the hands of despised King Joffrey, and her brother and mother during the dramatic 'Red Wedding' episode.

In the most recent season, Arya has shown her enemies no mercy, completing a mass killing of Lord Walder Frey's men, after murdering Lord Frey and feeding him his sons in a pie during season six.

The season seven scene at Frey appeared to be a flashback as Arya addressed his followers before the opening credits, but it eventually became clear it was Arya in disguise. The surprise attack ended with Arya striding out of the hall filled with all the men she poisoned in revenge for the Red Wed-



ding massacre.

"It's so f\*\*\*ed up! Even Arya is surprised she has so much power. In that last moment she's staring out at all those men dying, she's turned into a bit more of a monster than she's ever realized. I don't think she's sad about that but she's got it on her mind," Maisie told Entertainment Weekly.

The actress also shared her dream ending for the fantasy series based on books by George R.R. Martin.

"I've always had this fantasy in the back of my head. I don't think it's a good ending and fans might not like it, but that somebody would sit on the Iron Throne at the end and then they whip their face off and it's Arya instead. I've

always had that dream," she said.

Emilia Clarke also took to Instagram last month to bid farewell to the fantasy HBO series as production wrapped on the final season. The actress, 31, thanked the show for letting her live the life she'd 'never dreamed she'd be able to live' and said she would 'never stop missing the GOT family' in the emotional post.

She wrote: "Hopped on a boat to an island to say goodbye to the land that has been my home away from home for almost a decade. It's been a trip @gameofthrones thank you for the life I never dreamed I'd be able to live and the family I'll never stop missing #last-seasonitis".

**ARIES:** A party or meeting of some kind could occur nearby, Aries. You might decide to go. You could feel like you have one foot in this world and one in another. The floodgates of intense communication could open between you and a close friend or love partner. A tight spiritual bond exists between you, and you'll really feel the effects of it now. It will almost be like you can read each other's minds!

**TAURUS:** This is a great day to develop any latent talents you've wanted to explore, Taurus, particularly those involving the arts. You might want to try working with friends who have the same talent. This could not only lead to some good advice but also bring you two closer. However, this isn't a good day to deal with practical paperwork, so let that sort of thing go for a little while. **GEMINI:** Today you might feel espe-

cially artistic, particularly regarding the visual arts. A lot of exalted ideas could come your way, Gemini, perhaps inspired by the masters of the past. This is a great day to attend a concert or play or stroll through a gallery. Friends who share your interest might want to accompany you, so ask. Take time to write down your thoughts since you'll want to remember them. Enjoy!

**CANCER:** You're a deep thinker by nature, Cancer, and today your mind may not be in this world. Books on psychology and metaphysics could be appealing. Churches, meditation centers, and other places with a spiritual orientation could seem especially attractive. You might attend a program or workshop there, but mostly you'll just want to be alone with your thoughts. Write down any insights, as you'll want to remember them later.

**LEO:** Group events taking place at churches, meditation centers, and other places with a spiritual orientation could draw you near, Leo. You might want to attend a service or program at one of them. Don't be surprised if some profound insights come to you that shed some light on a current situation you might be dealing with. Write them down or you might forget them later.

**VIRGO:** It's likely that the previous few days have been especially hectic, Virgo. Today you're apt to entertain a few daydreams about getting away from it all. Perhaps there's another field that you've wanted to pursue. You might actually think seriously about it now. Don't make any plans until you're back in the material world. You might feel too fanciful to be your usual practical self.

**LIBRA:** Today your intellect is likely to be more inclined than usual to ex-

plore fields that seem a bit speculative. Ancient spiritual rites, prehistory, or strange stories could be on your mind, Libra. You might seek books on these subjects. Usually you tend to be skeptical about such things, but now you want to learn about them. Hang onto your logic and learn what you can! You'll enjoy yourself at the very least!

**SCORPIO:** Some intense dreams could visit you tonight. Keep a notebook and pen by your bedside, Scorpio. It's important you remember them. You'll want to visualize every single detail. In the morning, you might want to reflect on their possible meaning. They could give rise to new knowledge about yourself, a new spiritual revelation, or artistic inspiration. Books could be of particular assistance in understanding what your dreams are telling you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Social events involv-

ing the arts or spiritual studies could take place today. New people who share your interests could show up. Love and romance could take on a fairy tale aura, Sagittarius. You might view current and potential love partners through rose-colored glasses, seeing only their endearing traits. This is fine, and you should enjoy it as long as you don't get caught up in unrealistic expectations. They're human just like everyone else.

**CAPRICORN:** Daydreams about your future could take up a lot of time today, Capricorn. Inspiration could give a real boost to projects you've been working on. These might involve artistic endeavors or perhaps some sprucing up that you want to do around the house and yard. Working together might bring you closer to friends, family members, and possibly a love partner. Conversations with them could take an unexpected

turn. **AQUARIUS:** You might find yourself daydreaming about faraway places, Aquarius, perhaps toying with the idea of taking a long vacation by air to a place you've always wanted to visit. This isn't a good day to make definite plans. You aren't likely to be inclined to do that now anyway. Love matters may take an unexpected turn, as a spiritual bond seems to be forming between you and a potential romantic partner.

**PISCES:** You might look around your house and think of some new and exciting ways to spruce it up a little, Pisces. Perhaps some new paint, wallpaper, or carpet, or even a small art object could make a big difference. You may want to try it. A romantic partner could spend a lot of time working on this with you and it might well bring you closer together. Have fun!