

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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BACK TO SCHOOL: As classes resume in schools all over the State after the winter break, parents from villages of Rimbik, Lodhama and Bansbotay hustle their children across a bamboo bridge to Pratap International School at Puretyar in West Sikkim.

[from LAKPA SHERPA]

'Darwin Week' kicks off in Kolkata

KOLKATA, FEB 12 (PTI): Science organisations in the city came together to observe 'Darwin Week' from today to effectively put to rest any "confusion" regarding his 'theory of evolution'.

The 'Darwin Week' was being observed by the India March for Science Organising Committee, Kolkata and Break-through Science Society, West Bengal Chapter.

The event will look to generate awareness among the public, including students, about Darwin's contributions to the science of evolution, and "to dispel any confusion in this regard among the young minds," Prof Nilesh Maity said on behalf of the organisers.

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was recently challenged by Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development Satyapal Singh, at a function in Aurangabad.

Singh had claimed

turn to pg02

Vajra Hall to be back soon as Sikkim's first multiplex



REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

There is finally some good news for cine-magoers as Sikkim will soon have its very first multiplex. Yes! Vajra Cinema Hall is on its way to becoming a multiplex. Not only that, a shopping complex along with the hall is also part of the

plan.

Vajra Cinema Hall has been shut down for about a month now and cinema lovers have been lining up outside the only other theatre in town, Denzong Cinema Hall.

Speaking to SummitTimes, proprietor of Vajra Hall, Pema Ladakhi,

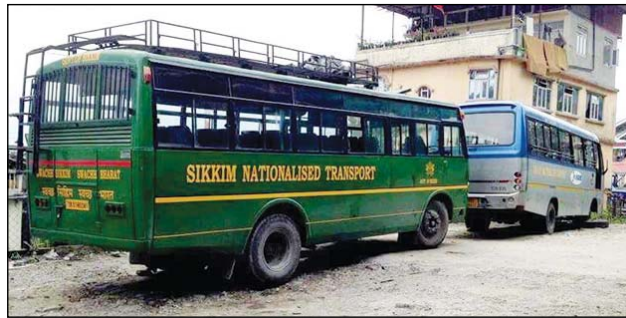
informed that another screen is being added to the theatre thus making it the first multiplex in Gangtok and the state along with the inclusion of a shopping complex within the premises.

He has further informed that the renovation work will take another six months to

complete after which the multiplex will open to the public with added services besides just watching a movie and relishing the hall's famous 'koftas'.

Mr Ladakhi hopes that the public takes advantage of the perks being added to the theatre after it reopens.

Panic buttons and CCTVs to be installed in all Govt buses



NIRMAL MANGAR GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

General Manager of State Transport Department, ST Bhutia, today informed that the department will soon begin the installation of panic buttons and CCTVs in all government buses.

While speaking to SummitTimes, Mr Bhutia said, "As per the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, the work on installing panic button in the buses will begin soon. This has been

done to ensure the safety of the passengers."

There are around 129 buses operating under Sikkim Nationalized Transport.

"If there is some threat or SOS calls to be made by the passengers while travelling they can push the panic button installed in the bus. This will send an alert to the control room for prompt action," added Mr Bhutia.

It is informed that the mechanism will operate through GPRS system.

"We have allocated a separate budget for the installation. We are now taking technical inputs from experts on this," said a senior Transport Department official.

The Transport Department has also installed speed monitoring devices in 20 buses.

"The speed monitoring device is to control over speeding of the vehicle. This will also be installed in other vehicles too," said the General Manager.

Indian Army chief arrives on three-day visit to Nepal

KATHMANDU, FEB 12 (PTI):

Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat arrived here today on a three-day visit to Nepal to attend its Army Day, which coincides with the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Himalayan nation's unification.

Gen Rawat is visiting Nepal at the invitation of Nepal Army chief Rajendra Chhetri.

"Gen Rawat was supposed to arrive in the morning, but due to inclement weather the Indian Army chief reached Kathmandu in the afternoon," Nepal Army spokesman said.

The Indian Army chief will attend as special guest a function organised by the Nepal



Army to mark the Army Day, which coincides with the 250th anniversary of establishment of the country's unification.

The late King of Gorkha Prithvi Narayan Shah united dozens of smaller states into a

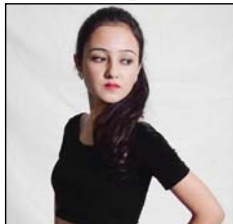
greater Nepal in 1769, when he conquered the Kathmandu valley.

"There has been close and cordial relations between the Nepal Army and Indian Army for a long time and there is a tradition of inviting chiefs of Nepalese and Indian Army during special occasions," said a statement issued by the Nepal Army.

Such high-level visits between the two armies will further strengthen bilateral relations and promote mutual interests, the statement said.

Last year, Gen Rawat was conferred the title of honorary general of the Nepal Army by Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

Six girls from Sikkim in Miss India 2018 zonal round



YOGAN TAMANG GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

Screening for the prestigious national beauty pageant Miss India 2018 zonal round was held at Burp Restaurant in Gangtok on 03 Feb. Project Head, Times of India, Bennet Nathan, had come to Gangtok to conduct a screening session.

Sixteen girls, comprising of contestants and title holders of the Miss Sikkim contest of the previous years, participated in the screening session. Out of 16, six have been selected for the zonal round to be held in Guwahati on 11 Mar and only one will be selected to represent Sikkim in the Miss India 2018 finale to be held later this year.

The selected contestants are Raksha Shanker from Gangtok [2nd Runners-up, Miss Sikkim 2017], Parmila Chhetri from Sang Khola [Finalist, Miss Sikkim 2017],

Shabnam Sherpa from Namchi [Finalist, Miss Sikkim 2017], Maheshwori Khatiwora from Central Pandam [Finalist, Miss Sikkim 2017], Karishma Niroula from Khamdong [Finalist, Miss Sikkim 2016] and Pempa Doma Bhutia from Gangtok [Finalist, Miss Sikkim 2015].

The screening was conducted in the capital by the event management firm 'Positude' which has been holding the annual beauty pageant Miss Sikkim since 2014. Positude has also been officially associated with the Times of India group/ Miss India Organisation since 2016 and has been selecting and sending girls from Sikkim for the prestigious Miss India pageant.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Chief Executive Officer, Positude, Gyurmila Bhutia, has expressed happiness over the selection of six girls from Sikkim for the Miss

India 2018 zonal round.

"There are many talented girls in Sikkim yet only a few opt for venturing into fashion and modeling industry because of the limited platform or space in Sikkim. Positude, since it started organising Miss Sikkim, has always been positive about sending our girls to various national beauty pageants. After we officially got associated with the Times Group we have been sending our girls to Miss India and have provided our girls the prestigious platform to rise and shine and prove their potential. We are glad that even this year we are sending our girls for the same," said Ms Bhutia.

It may be mentioned here, Miss Sikkim 2017, Peden Ongmu Namgyal, went on to bag the prestigious title of Miss India Diva Supranational 2017.

Grand SDF Day celebration to mark Chamling's 24th year as CM



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

Sikkim Democratic Front is all set to celebrate its 26th Foundation Day on 04 Mar at Mining ground near Rangpo in East Sikkim.

"This year the event is more special as our Chief Minister will set a new record of being the longest serving CM in the country. It is a moment to rejoice and celebrate," said Tourism Minister, Ugen Gyatso Bhutia, while talking with reporters during a coordination meeting at Mining ground today.

Mr Bhutia informed that

around 70-80 thousand people from all across the State are expected to attend the grand celebration.

"It is the love and trust of the people which has given SDF an opportunity to serve people of Sikkim. The event will be grand, one which Sikkim has never witnessed before," he added.

The Minister further added that other events to celebrate the CM's commendable feat will be held after April this year.

It may be mentioned here, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling

will break the record of former Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu as the longest serving CM of the country. Late Basu was the CM of West Bengal for little more than 23 years from 1977-2000 while Mr Chamling will be entering his 24th year as CM.

The coordination meeting today was attended by all senior party functionaries and workers.

According to sources, MLAs of all the constituencies have been directed to invite people to participate in the Foundation Day event.

'Darwin Week' kicks off in Kolkata

contd from pg01

that Darwin's theory was "scientifically wrong" and proposed to drop it from the school and college curriculum.

As his comments triggered a row, Singh's senior Cabinet colleague Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said he had asked the MoS to refrain from making comments on issues such as Darwin's Evolution theory.

Eminent academicians from different institutions, students and researchers will be taking part in seminars and popular talks in educational institutions in the city from February 12-18 during the 'Darwin Week'.

Theft at Sirwani Secondary School

YOGEN THATAL
SINGTAM, 12 FEB:

Principal of Sirwani Government Secondary School in East Sikkim lodged an FIR at Singtam Police Station today against some unknown miscreant/s for allegedly breaking into his office at the school premises during the winter break.

It is reported that the miscreant/s broke into the office through a window and made away with one digital camera.

While speaking to SummitTimes, the Principal said, "The digital camera was the only item missing since there was no cash stored in the office. Minor damages have been made to some office accessories."

Sahitya Akademi Award presented to twenty three authors

NEW DELHI, FEB 12 (PTI): Sahitya Akademi, the National Academy of Letters, today presented its annual awards to 23 eminent authors writing in as many Indian languages.

The recipients were awarded an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and a cheque of Rs 1 lakh on the opening day of Akademi's annual event 'Festival of Letters' here.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Chandrashekar Kambar, who was appointed the new president of Sahitya Akademi through election on Monday, said that the Akademi will continue to bring together "all the rich and diverse literatures, and cultures of the country here".

"The Akademi believes that Indian literature is an all encompass-

ing idea... This occasion highlights and defines for us what we see as Indian literature today. Besides we also need to look at this idea of Indian literature in a global context," he said.

Written in 23 languages including English, Bodo, Telugu, Hindi and Punjabi, most of the awarded books found society and social issues as the central theme.

While Afsar Ahmad's 'Sei Nikhonj Manushta', written in Bengali, shows the crisis of people losing their land, Assamese author Jayanta Madhab Bora's 'Moriahola' deals with issues of displaced people, their aspirations and conflicts.

Kambar also noted that despite the influence of "Euro- American modernism" Indian writers have continued to stay in

touch with their native traditions.

"No doubt that our colonial past and access to English education, literature led to new trends in Indian literature, we adopted them to our own context and creative base. On the other hand, native trends still did not die out completely...

Through popular culture, and cinema they are still connected to their earlier orality and myth," he said.

While English author Mamang Dai's 'The Black Hill' talks about life in the lesser-known world of the Indo-Tibetan border of Arunachal Pradesh, Autar Krishen Rahbar's book 'Yeli Parda Woth' in Kashmiri covers various aspects of the facets of life in Kashmir.

The poets who were awarded are Udaya Narayana Singh (Maithi-

li), Shrikant Deshmukh (Marathi), Bhujanga Tudu (Santali), Niranjan Mishra (Sanskrit) and T Devipriya (Telugu).

The writers awarded for their short stories are Shiv Mehta (Dogri), Gajanan Jog (Konkani), Gayatri Saraf (Odia), and Mohammed Baig Ehsas (Urdu).

Rita Baro (Bodo), KP Ramanunni (Malayalam), and Nachhatar (Punjabi) were awarded for their respective novels.

Ramesh Kuntal Megh (Hindi), TP Ashoka (Kannada), Urmi Ghanshyam Desai (Gujarati), Bina Hangkhim (Nepali), and Neeraj Daiya (Rajasthani) have been recognised for their literary criticism.

Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi) for his essays and Rajen Toijamba (Manipuri) for his play were also awarded.



BJP warns Zydu to resolve workers' issues

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

A delegation of Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh's youth front led by youth president, Laten Sherpa, visited the Zydu pharmaceutical unit at Kumrek in East Sikkim and interacted with workers there.

A BJP press release informs that during the

interaction, the workers placed various issues and problems and urged the party to help them find solutions. Mr Sherpa assured that BJP will take up all issues of the workers seriously and warned the company to resolve all the issues of their workers within 10 days failing which the party will launch a strong movement.



50 NSS volunteers complete Life Skills training

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

Fifty National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from different schools of the State have successfully completed a training programme on Life Skills, Personality Development and Leadership here at Paljor Stadium conference hall.

The five-day training programme which had commenced on 08 Feb was organised by NSS Cell of Sports & Youth Affairs Department funded by Regional Office [Guwahati] of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

The valedictory function of the training programme conducted by participating NSS volunteers was held here at Paljor Stadium conference hall today. The function was chaired by Secretary to Sports & Youth Affairs Department, SD Dhakal, as chief guest and former president of Sikkim Chamber of Commerce, SK Sarda, as special guest.

The chief guest and the special

guest handed over certificates to all participants.

On the occasion, two NSS volunteers from Burtuk Government College, Deepak Darnal and Tenzing Norzum Lachenpa, were also felicitated for participating in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi.

In his address, Secretary, Mr Dhakal, expressed happiness on the valedictory event being hosted by participants of the training programme. He stated that knowledge gained in life skills, personality development and leadership during the training programme will help the trainees to face challenges in life and to be a successful person.

"The youth have lots of potential to do better in their desired fields. I would like to urge you all to further hone your talents and skills to do better in the national and international levels," he said.

Sikkim Chamber of Commerce's former president, Mr Sarda, encouraged young students to

use their knowledge and skills in building the State and Nation. He also congratulated the department for organising such fruitful training programmes for students.

State Nodal Officer, NSS, Doma Tshering, urged all participants to pass the knowledge gained during the training to other students of their schools and people of their respective areas. While congratulating NSS volunteers for successfully completing the training, she assured to organise such training programmes in the future as well.

Earlier, NSS volunteer, Reema Gurung, presented a brief report of this five-day programme. She informed that experts and representatives from different organisations took sessions on their respective topics. She added that the training also included yoga and meditation sessions for participants and a cleanliness drive at Paljor Stadium complex along with other activities.

Ghatani sends off students selected for job training in Assam

MELLI, 12 FEB [IPR]: Minister for Health, IPR and Printing Departments, Arjun Kumar Ghatani, sent off the students selected to undergo job training at Don Bosco Institute of Assam from Melli check post in South Sikkim today.

These unemployed youth were selected under the Career Counseling Programme/Job Mela which was organized during Jorethang Maghey Sakranti Mela 2018.

Altogether, 17 unemployed youth were selected for job oriented training programme in Civil Aviation & Hotel Management, Office Management and Beauty & Spa under North East Regional Livelihood Project at Don Bosco Institute of Assam.

Mr Ghatani offered khadas and congratulated all the selected youth.



In his brief address, he shed light on the various youth oriented schemes of the state government. He said that the government has been working relentlessly to create a conducive atmosphere for creating opportunities and career building platform for unemployed youth as envisioned by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling who dedicated NERLP in 2013 under Rural Management & Development Department for the development of Sikkim's youth.

He advised the selected candidates to undergo the assigned training programme properly and

to take maximum benefits out of the training.

He also congratulated the 20 youths who got placement in renowned institutions throughout the country during the Jorethang Job Mela 2017.

Earlier, District Project Manager, NERLP, South, Bishal Mukhia, gave an overview on NERLP and thanked Mr Ghatani for his effort and his concept of adding Job Mela as one of the components of the Jorethang Maghey Mela from last year. This move has helped large number of youths from rural parts of South and West districts in securing employment, he added.

The students and parents have expressed their gratitude to the state government for providing such a platform like Job Mela in Jorethang Maghey Mela.

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Gangtok on Tuesday, 13 Feb

Temp: 18°C / 06°C
Forecast: Cloudy with a shower in the area in the afternoon.
Sunrise: 06:14AM
Sunset: 5:25 PM

Police arrest three sons accused of murdering father

SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 12 FEB: Karsted three persons on charges of murdering their father. As per reports, Kuber Rai [70] was allegedly murdered by his sons namely Mani Kumar Rai [38], Sunil Rai [36] and Puran Rai [26] at Lower Dun in Lolay Gram Panchayat, Kalimpong Block 1 on 19 Jan.

According to information received from Police sources, the incident occurred on 19 Jan when the sons attacked the father who was in an inebriated state and killed him. However, the next morning the sons told a different story to the villagers.

The three sons, two carpenters by profession and one labourer, said that their father had died after falling from a height at night.

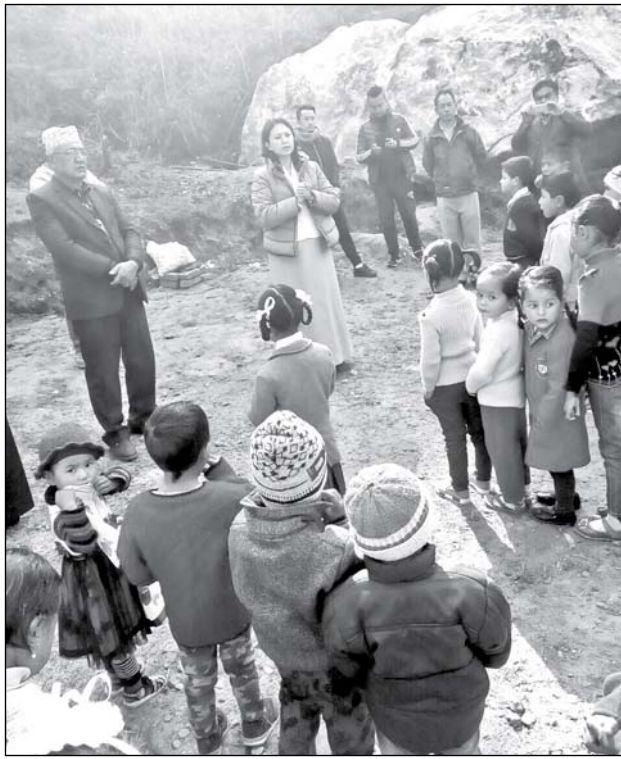
In the presence of villagers, the last rites of the deceased were performed on 20 Jan morning and the final rites were completed after five days.

However, villagers suspected foul play and one of them shared a photo of the deceased's body on a Whatsapp group which got widely shared in the area. Following this, local Morcha leader, Yuden Lepcha filed a police complaint against the sons on 10 Feb.

Kalimpong Police arrested all three on the same day and produced them before the Kalimpong District ACJM court on 11 Feb following which the court sent them under 03 days of police remand.

Meanwhile, the dead body of the deceased was dug out by Kalimpong Police today in the presence of Deputy Magistrate. The body has been sent for post mortem at Kalimpong District Hospital.

Selep Tank Primary School reopens after hiatus of several years



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

Selep Tank Primary School in East Sikkim has reopened today after remaining closed for many years due to insufficient student enrolment. The school is all set to provide qualitative education to the students of primary level of Selep Tank, under Nandok Block in East Sikkim, a press release informs.

With the initiative of the local public to reconstruct the school, in coordination with the School Management Committee and Human Resource Development Department, the school has started operating again.

It may be mentioned here, the inaugural programme was earlier held on 04 Feb wherein the school was officially handed over by the School Management Committee to Additional Chief Secretary, GP Upadhyaya. Also in attendance were State Project

Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan cum Director, Primary Education, Bhim Thatal, and Joint Director, East, Tsheringkee Chingapa.

Ms Chingapa along with Assistant Director, Nandok BAC, Durga P Sharma, officially reopened the school today.

While addressing the gathering, Ms Chingapa congratulated the SMC for their efforts in bringing the institution back to life and urged the school team to impart the best education. She also interacted with the students and encouraged them to make the best use of the school.

Text books, uniforms, shoes, socks, etc., were also distributed to the children through HRDD.

As of now, the school has 38 students. Further, HRDD officials also met the teachers of the school and discussed manpower requirement as per RTE Act.

All new Swift arrives in Gangtok

SANDEEP PRASAD GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

The all-new Swift was launched here at Entel Motors in Gangtok, simultaneously with its national unveiling by Maruti Suzuki today and is all set to impress its customers with its sporty design, enhanced performance and advanced passenger, pedestrian and child safety.

The launch at Entel Motors had Regional Manager of State Bank of India, Sandeep K Chaubey, as chief guest, accompanied by Chief Executive Officer, Entel, Guru T Ladakhi, General Manager, Rashmi Jhulka, and Sales Manager, Devasish Sarkar.

While offering acclaimed auto gear shift technology, the all new Swift comes in diesel and petrol variants and claims to be a superior fuel efficient car.



In its newest form, the all-new Swift is built on Suzuki's new and innovative 5th generation HEARTECT platform for more

strength, peppier performance and advanced safety.

The petrol variant of the all-new Swift starts from Rs

5,06,043 [ex-showroom] while the diesel variant starts from Rs 6,06,042 [ex-showroom], it is informed.

Nam Nang Bhir on fire again

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

An incident of forest fire at Nam Nang Bhir has been reported here this afternoon. However, prompt action taken by Gangtok Fire Station helped to bring the fire under control.

After receiving the fire call at around 2:45 p.m., a team of Gangtok Fire Station led by Fire Station Officer, Matthew Rai, immediately rushed to the spot and started its operation to extinguish the fire in its confined area.

Mr Rai informed that the fire had already spread to around 12 acres of land on the Nam Nang Bhir when the team reached the spot.

Considering the extent of the fire, FSO called another fire tender and more personnel. It is informed that after continuous fire fighting for two hours with 2 fire tenders and 13 fire personnel going deep into the area, the fire was finally brought under control.

The FSO informed that Gangtok Fire Station has already attended to many forest fire calls at Nam Nang Bhir during the dry spell of this year. He has appealed to people to stay vigilant and prevent any act of mischief or accident during this dry spell. He has also urged the people to avoid any activity which can cause forest fires in the area.



Sikkim students bag 4th position in PCRA National Quiz Competition

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 12 FEB:

A team from Holy Cross School, Tadong represented by Rishal Pandey Chettri (present Class X) and Saurav Kumar (Class 10, appearing for boards) stood 4th at PCRA Saksham National Level Quiz Competition held at Doordarshan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The team was not only representing their schools but Sikkim and Eastern India in the na-

tional quiz competition where more than 2 lakh teams participated, informs a press release.

The team was previously crowned as the champions of Zonal level quiz by defeating 12 other states of the Eastern Region.

The students have won an Acer laptop each worth Rs 40,000. The quiz competition will also be televised on Doordarshan Channel in the last week of Feb, the release mentions.

WCD to recommend lifting time bar on reporting child sexual abuse

NEW DELHI, FEB 12 (PTI): The Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry will seek a change in the CrPC to allow filing of complaints of child sexual abuse many years after the crime.

The development came after a meeting last month between WCD minister Maneka Gandhi and a 53-year-old Indian-origin scientist from Canada, a survivor of child sexual abuse, who asked for legislative amendments to allow victims to report such crimes even years later.

"We are in the process of writing to the Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA) asking them to amend Section 473 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). So, time limitation will go away," Secretary, WCD, R K Shrivastava, today said at a press meet.

He said that the ministry will pursue the matter with the MHA as it has been receiving "several complaints of incidents that have occurred many years ago".

While officials did not comment on the exact amendment being suggested, Gandhi told reporters, "The substance of it will be that if you

have been molested at some point in time when you were a minor, then you are still entitled to get justice."

She, however, said that there could be a problem revisiting old cases of crime.

"Only problem I envisage is that how do you prove it? (But) The best we can hope is that people get frightened that they could land in trouble," Gandhi said.

The WCD ministry has also instructed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to look into the issue.

Section 468 of the CrPC lays down time limitations for filing a complaint after an offence has taken place, also called the Statute of Limitations.

If the offence is punishable with a fine then it needs to be reported within six months. A crime carrying a term not exceeding one year has a period of limitation of a year.

If a crime is punishable between one and three years, then it has to be reported within three years and for anything beyond a three-year jail term, there is no time restriction for reporting the crime.

Section 473 of the CrPC, to which the ministry has sought changes, allows a court to take cognisance of an offence even after the expiry of the period of limitation provided "the delay has been properly explained or that it is necessary to do so in the interests of justice."

The 53-year-old scientist was subjected to sexual abuse for seven years between the age of six and 13 years.

The Prevention of Child Sexual Offence Act (POCSO), 2012, is unclear on whether a survivor of child sexual abuse

can report the crime after the age of 18 years.

Moreover, the POCSO cannot be applied retrospectively to cases prior to its enactment in 2012 and such cases fall under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). When it comes to punishment for rape (IPC's section 376), there is no statute of limitations.

However, it was only after the Criminal Amendment Act of 2013, that the definition of rape was expanded to include forced digital penetration and oral sex (both common in child sexual abuse).

China differs with Nepal over height of Mt Everest: Report

KJM VARMA BEIJING, FEB 12 (PTI): China continues to differ with Nepal over the height of Mount Everest and sticks to its own calculation of the world's highest peak which is four meters less than the Kathmandu's measurement, a media report said today.

China's response came after reports said that Beijing had agreed to accept Nepal's measurement of the mountain, which is almost four meters taller.

The Chinese official media has contradicted the recent 'The New York Times' report that China had recognised the mountain's



height as 8,848 meters, quoting Ang Tshering Sherpa, the former head of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

China has not changed its measurement of the height of

Mount Qomolangma, the Chinese name of the Mt Everest, which stands at 8844.43 meters, state-run Global Times reported.

China recognises Mount Qomolangma as the world's

tallest, measuring 8,844.43 meters above sea level, the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information (NASG) told the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

The peak of Mt Everest played a significant role in the settlement of boundary between Nepal and China, which earlier claimed the whole mountain as part of its territory after it took control of Tibet.

But it was finally settled in 1961 after the intervention of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) founder Mao Zedong, who suggested that the bound-

ary line should pass through the summit of the Mt Everest, which was agreed by Nepal.

More and more international climbers are reportedly using the Tibetan side of the Mt Everest as China has improved facilities compared to Nepal.

In 2005, the NASG measured Mt Everest's rock base at 8844.43 meters above sea level. The depth of the snow on the mountain top was measured at 3.5 meters.

The NASG said that China had never in any form said it has changed the 2005 result, which has been authorised by the central cabinet and

released to the public in accordance with relevant regulations.

According to the NASG, the standard height of the mountain is important data for China and international research on mapping, geosciences, environment and climate change and it also showcases comprehensive national strength.

"Each country's surveyors have the intention of making others recognise their own measurements and their own outcome.

But the different heights come from different measurement methods," Zhao Kangning, former deputy di-

rector of China's National Administration of Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Applications, told the Global Times.

"The different measurements of Mount Qomolangma's height between China and Nepal is a competition over the mountain," Xu Jinyang, a research fellow of Research Centre for Chinese Borderland History and Geography at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) said.

However, Li Guoqiang, another expert at CASS, said that "the dispute over the height of Mt Qomolangma should not be politicised".

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Back to School

Let's make this year genuinely about students, learning and schools

Government schools across the State opened their gates to welcome students back to a new academic session on Monday, 12 February. Even as some schools will begin a new year in upgraded avatars, there is at least one that will be reopening with a people-funded new facility after having remained shut for some years. There will also be a clutch of primary schools which will not reopen this year because the low enrolment numbers just don't justify their continuation and the human resource could be much better deployed elsewhere. The closure of anything is a difficult moment, especially when it is a place of learning and holds so many memories and significance for so many lives. But some closures are a practical necessity, and it makes sense for the HRDD to focus on the schools which still retain students and staff them with the best of faculty and facilities. Sikkim's falling fertility rate and growing awareness among the youth could prove a boon for the coming generations. If Sikkim can manage its resources well, then the young can now be lavished with infrastructure, resources and access much in excess of what their numbers require. It is simple. There might be fewer students coming into schools, and maybe some schools will even shut down, but the number of books, libraries, laboratories, and most importantly, teachers, will not go down and if anything, will only increase. What this means is that if Sikkim's planners can, well, plan, then this abundance of learning resources can be assigned in ways that every child in a government school gets focused and dedicated attention. This is an opportunity which is pregnant with immense possibilities if it is taken as an opportunity and not rued as a downturn.

Meanwhile, the rather long winter break is over, and thankfully, a new holiday scheduled will also be attempted this year to ensure that academic breaks are not so long that too much time is wasted every new session just repairing the academic connections for students. There is also a new transfer policy in place for the teachers and the promising EQUIP initiative is looking to expand its footprint. All of these make the start of a new academic year exciting and one hopes that the mood sustains and pushes learning to a level here. And the excitement is palpable in more obvious terms as well, as for instance, in the preparatory rush at stores dealing in uniforms and books (a crowding that will continue for at least a week more) and in the number of laundry-fresh uniforms all over the state as students and teachers return to class.

In the coming weeks, Sikkim will also learn whether the Department responsible for education in the State has done any learning while the students and teachers were away. The good news is that education has received heartening attention over the winter holidays with a slew of teacher training workshops, several teacher transfers (hopefully to staff schools better) and most recently with the Chief Minister announcing that primary education will now receive primary attention.

And what is it that schools, whether primary, secondary or senior secondary, should deliver? If nothing else, then at least a generation that is better lettered, less parochial and more inquisitive. Look at it this way, Sikkim always had among the best per capita distribution of schools and the most enviable teacher-student ratios. It also now arguably has the highest per capita density of universities and children now have more options to explore by way of higher education. Without getting into the "quality" or reliability of the institutions of higher education, imagine a scenario where the schools here fostered a real thirst for knowledge that universities could help quench and expand. For far too long, schools have been about regimented teaching, and that has clearly not worked too well. How about the State started getting more liberal with the learning process? Open more minds, and they will not only take care of themselves, but also carry the state along. Now that there are fewer students in the classrooms and more options in the staff room, wider explorations are possible if the teachers were freed from clerical chores and inspired to work more with the students. With fewer schools to look after, the finances could also be invested more keenly on improving the learning environments at schools and making classrooms more student and learning friendly. One hopes that fewer teachers are borrowed out of classrooms to stand-in for tasks they are neither trained nor appointed for. One hopes that education-related problems will receive immediate attention and are not kept pending for the next winter holidays. One hopes that the process begins to make school interesting so that fewer students dropout. One hopes that there are fewer schools this year which are short-staffed and more teachers who motivate learning. Wishful thinking? We wish the same every February and still continue hoping...

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How to use the power of urban planning to tackle inequality

SONIA ROITMAN
theconversation.com

Income inequality creates both spatial and social divides and shows itself within cities in many ways. Gated communities in Indonesia have become a glaring example. However, legislation and urban planning can help bridge these divides and reduce inequality.

"Inclusionary planning instruments" are designed to do just that. But to be effective they need to be strongly enforced.

In Indonesia, there are two instruments that have the potential to create more inclusive societies. But power differences between rich developers and the urban poor, lack of expertise in how to implement inclusionary planning, and even insufficient awareness of relevant instruments, have hindered enforcement.

RIISING INEQUALITY GLOBALLY

A rise in inequality globally has been pointed out over the last five years by several organisations. Oxfam International has just published a report on inequality that highlights a significant difference in wages.

Between 1980 and 2016, the top 1% of the world population captured 27% of the total world income growth. The bottom 50% received only 12% of the income growth, according to the World Inequality Report 2018.

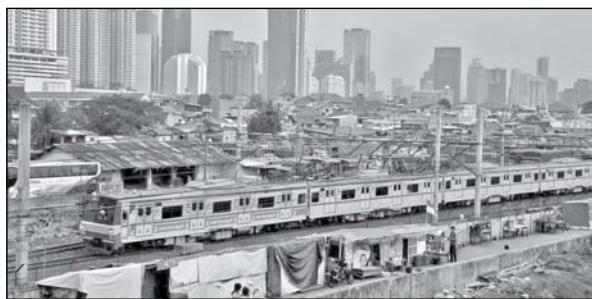
Indonesia is not immune to these global trends; both income and wealth inequality are rising in the country. The Gini index for Indonesia (a coefficient between 0-1 used to measure income inequality – the closer to 1, the more unequal) increased from 0.31 in 1990 (UNDP, 1990) to 0.41 in 2015.

What's more, according to Oxfam, wealth inequality has increased to a level where the four richest men in the country have more wealth than the poorest 100 million people.

Inequality is one of our main concerns if we want to have harmonious and just societies. The mainstream international development agenda recognises this and the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals include a goal (SDG10) to "reduce inequality within and among countries".

INEQUALITY IN CITIES

Income inequality manifests itself in cities. We can see clear differences between different social groups in terms of access to housing and basic



services.

Houses for upper-middle-class families in Indonesia are spacious, built with good-quality materials and located in neighbourhoods with good services and infrastructure. In the case of gated communities, there are also security devices in place.

Conversely, poor housing lacks appropriate structural conditions. There is overcrowding, often with one family living in a single room. And there is no sanitation and access to basic services.

Gated communities are, especially in the Global South, the main housing option for upper-income groups. The rich justify living in gated communities to reduce insecurity and fear of crime. However, belonging and exclusion of the "unwanted" people are strong reasons behind living in closed enclaves.

Even when poor and rich groups might co-exist in the same territory they do not interact with each other, except for some formal work exchange between employer and employee, where there are strong power relations at play.

Residents' access to services and infrastructure is also divided along lines of wealth. This creates patterns of "splintering urbanism", reflecting the unequal distribution of services and infrastructure in the territory.

INDONESIA'S PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

Inclusionary planning regulations can serve to reduce the gap between rich and poor, including disparities in the services and infrastructure available to them. These instruments require private developers to incorporate social housing or/and services and infrastructure for less advantaged groups when building housing for upper-income groups.

Indonesia has two potentially inclusionary planning instruments

for new private residential developments. The first is the "1.2.3 Ratio" scheme and is included in national regulation. It says that for each house built for high-income residents, private developers should also build two houses for middle-income families and three for low-income families.

The second instrument is called "socialisation", included as a stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment. The assessment is required when seeking planning permission for a new housing project. The "socialisation stage" requires developers that plan to build a project in an already urbanised area to obtain permission from existing residents for the project to go ahead.

Both instruments represent attempts by the government to reduce inequalities in the cities and to enforce some sort of "planning gain". These could be seen as a positive step towards redistribution, with incredible potential to create positive change in Indonesian cities.

However, our research data from Jakarta and Yogyakarta show that "Ratio 1.2.3" is hardly being enforced. Land is scarce in many Indonesian cities and it is not profitable for the private sector to build houses for middle- and lower-income families. Additionally, many government officers responsible for the "Ratio 1.2.3" application are unclear on the enforcement mechanism.

In the case of "socialisation", it has become a very limited process. It has turned into economic negotiations between powerful private developers and less powerful local residents who live close to the proposed project. The latter are usually represented by the neighbourhood association leaders.

In the best situations, the local communities manage to obtain a few new sources of employment, as security guards, cleaners, gardeners or

builders.

They may also receive some funding for annual community events, such as the Independence Day celebration. The local roads and mosque might get spruced up.

But these benefits are not enough to reduce the gap between the two groups, nor will they encourage any sort of social interactions between new and old residents.

The lack of enforcement of "Ratio 1.2.3" and the limited scope of the "socialisation" process are missed opportunities for Indonesian cities. These instruments have the potential to decrease urban income inequality by "forcing" those who have more money to contribute to the public good for the benefit of poorer families.

HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF INCLUSIONARY PLANNING

To improve the benefits from these inclusionary planning instruments, the government should:

- develop clearer and realistic guidelines and instruments that can be applied
- establish clearer mechanisms for public officers to enforce these instruments
- make society more aware of these instruments and, in particular, of the potential benefits of more harmonious and just cities.

RIISING INEQUALITY GLOBALLY

How to combat the inequality gap is often a heated topic for governments. International organisations say that while world leaders now acknowledge inequality, not enough is being done to efficiently reduce it.

Other measures to reduce inequality include more progressive tax systems, as suggested in the latest World Inequality Report. Under this system, people who earn more also contribute more towards public services and higher public. This covers spending to provide education, health care and social protection for all. Policies for equal salaries between female and male workers are also promoted as key to reducing inequality.

Considering the scale of inequality, and the urgency of the problem, inclusionary planning instruments are valuable mechanisms. These should be revisited to ensure the full benefits are realised.

[the writer is Senior lecturer in Development Planning, The University of Queensland]

'Talking' killer whale reveals orcas can learn to mimic human speech

LUKE RENDELL
theconversation.com

History will record that in the second decade of the third millennium, a killer whale uttered the word "hello" to a human. After eons of existential wandering in the forest of cosmic loneliness, has humanity finally made contact with another consciousness, not from another world but, astonishingly, the oceans of our own?

Although scientists have reported an Orcinus orca at a marine park in Antibes, France, making noises that sound like human speech, the whale was not talking, any more than Hoover the seal or Koshik the elephant or uncountable parrots were when they produced recognisable copies of human words.

Nevertheless the study, from researchers led by José Abramson at the Complutense University of Madrid and including my St Andrews colleague Josep Call, is still important. Not because it means whales can speak English, but that they are capable of one of the core building blocks of language development in humans: vocal learning, the ability to copy novel sounds.

The astonishing thing about a whale saying "hello" is not what it means to us, but what it means to them – absolutely nothing. It was specifically chosen, along with some other words, phrases and nonsense sounds, as being something completely outside the normal sound repertoire of the whales. So when the whale produced reasonable copies of the sounds when instructed to, often on the very first attempt, it was pretty conclusive evidence that these animals have the capability to learn new sounds by copying.

Abramson and his colleagues did more than this, as they tested multiple sounds in three situations. In one, the whale was instructed using gestures to produce a sound to copy. In another, the target sound was played back through a loudspeaker. And in a third, a human produced the target sound. Each time, the whale's responses were subjected to forensic acoustic analysis to measure just how good the copies were. The answer? Pretty



darn good.

The evidence that killer whales can show vocal learning provides us with a missing piece of understanding about their lives in the wild. We've long known that killer whales have group specific dialects, collections of distinctive calls that are unique to single pods, or sets of pods. For decades scientists have suggested that these dialects are the result of learning, and many clues have supported this view.

We have tracked parallel changes in the calls of wild pods over time, we know that captive killer whales moved to different locations have changed their calls to fit in with the other whales at their new home. The genetic data is also consistent with this idea. And we have circumstantial evidence of an individual copying the sound of another species (a sea-lion). But now we have gold-standard controlled experimental evidence. Now, any explanation of these vocal dialects that doesn't involve learning looks pretty outlandish.

Killer whales live in a society organised around females. The vocal traditions that these animals learn as they grow up are crucial components of their behaviour. But they are only part of a suite of knowledge and behaviour that they acquire, largely from their mothers, aunts, and grandmothers.

My colleague Hal Whitehead and I have argued that this cultural inheritance is vital to whales' lives. Without it, they are incomplete. So it is somewhat ironic that this study, performed on captive animals, adds to a growing picture of the impor-

ance of cultural inheritance in their lives and to the case that these animals should never be kept captive. It is impossible for the whales in captivity to develop and express their cultures in anything like the richness we see in the wild.

Of course, killer whales are not alone in their ability to mimic human speech. We've known for centuries that some birds can do it, as can a select other few species of mammal including bats, seals, elephants, and other cetaceans such as bottlenose dolphins. Notably absent on this list are our closest living relatives, the chimpanzees and bonobos. True, chimps can subtly modify an existing call to match their group mates, but they have never been shown to be able to copy a completely novel sound.

While vocal learning underpins something only humans do – communicate via spoken language – it is intriguing that our closest primate relatives can't do it. It tells us something crucial happened in human evolution after our ancestors separated from the other apes some 5m years ago.

We don't know why this is, but studying the surprising distribution of vocal learning across the animal kingdom is one way to look for clues. Was it, for example, a result of a more mobile lifestyle? Birds, bats, and cetaceans are all highly mobile, but elephants less so. No current answer completely explains all the data, but then our picture is still far from complete.

What's next for the science of "talking" whales? It is clear that there is a lot of complex communication going on in whale and dolphin societies, much of which we still don't understand. We are facing a vast ocean of ignorance. To rectify this, in my view, we need to drop our stifling and frankly navel-gazing, human-centric focus on asking "can whales talk?". Instead, we should learn more about how each cetacean species has ways of communicating that are specific to their environment and how they have evolved. Only then will we be able to appreciate their true wonder.

[the writer is MASTS Lecturer in Biology, University of St Andrews]



17 lakh people visit Book fair, Rs 16 cr sale recorded

KOLKATA, FEB 11 (PTI): An estimated 17 lakh people visited the 42nd International Kolkata Book Fair, the largest of its kind in the world in terms of visitors, in 12 days with Rs 16 crore sale of books registered till yesterday, the organisers said.

Despite the change in venue from more centrally located Milan Mela ground to the Central Park in Salt Lake this year, the sales figure was encouraging, the General Secretary of Publishers and Booksellers Guild, Tridib Chatterjee told a press meet here, on the last day of the Book Fair.

While last year Rs 20 crore sale was registered in the 12-day book fair, "We are hopeful of reaching last year's target or near the target in the next few hours which can be calculated tomorrow," Chatterjee said.

The 17 lakh people count was made possible by the digital sensor installed at every entrance of the fair by Bidhanagar Police.

He said the name of the theme country for the 43rd edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair, 2019 has not been decided yet.

PM to launch DD Arun Prabha on Feb 15

ITANAGAR, FEB 12 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch DD Arun Prabha, a new 24x7 satellite television channel of Doordarshan for the north-eastern region during his day-long visit to the state on February 15, officials said.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to inaugurate the state Civil Secretariat complex here, officials at the Chief Minister Office said.

DD Arun Prabha will showcase programmes on the diverse culture of the north eastern states. This will be Doordarshan's second channel for the north-eastern region.

The state-owned broadcaster already runs DD North-East, which telecasts entertainment and information-based programmes in Assamese, Bengali, English and other languages of the region.

Besides laying the foundation stone of the Film and Television Institute in the state capital, Modi would also address a public rally at Indira Gandhi Park here, sources said. Modi had last visited the state in February, 2015 and attended the Statehood Day function here.

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Something 'terribly wrong' with SIT probe on Manipur killings: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, FEB 12 (PTI): The Supreme Court today expressed its displeasure over the progress of CBI's SIT in probing alleged extra-judicial killings and fake encounters by the Army, Assam Rifles and police in Manipur and said something was "terribly wrong".

The apex court, which said it had given the probe to the CBI so the truth would come out, asked the National Human Rights Commission to depute three persons to associate with the Special Investigation Team to carry out investigations in 17 of the 42 cases lodged by the SIT.

The SIT told a bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and U U Lalit that they have registered 42 cases and investigations were going on in accordance with the court's direction.

The bench, after going through the status report filed by the SIT, wondered how FIRs were registered against persons who were allegedly killed in fake encounters in Manipur. "We wanted the CBI to investi-

gate the matter so that you can find out the truth," the bench said.

"What kind of investigation is this?" it asked.

"We wanted something to be done expeditiously. We do not want you (SIT) to be in any inconvenience. All we want is to expedite the process," the bench told the SIT.

CBI's DIG Sharad Aggarwal, who is in-charge of the SIT, said all these FIRs, lodged earlier by the Manipur police, have been re-registered by the probe team.

"We are not satisfied by the progress made by the SIT," the bench said and asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Maninder Singh, appearing for the SIT, why the status report did not have the CBI director's approval.

Singh, who initially told the bench that the status report was approved by the CBI director, said he would file an affidavit in this regard.

"Your next status report will have approval of the CBI director specifically," the bench said and posted the

matter for further hearing on March 12.

It said three persons, to be deputed by the NHRC, would be associated with the SIT and the investigation should be carried out on a "priority basis".

"We make it clear that the association of the NHRC is for the time being in respect of these 17 cases," it said.

At the outset, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, argued that except two cases, the other FIRs have been lodged against victims who had died.

The bench asked the SIT about it and referred to reports of a commission of inquiry, another commission headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Santosh Hegde, the NHRC and findings of the Gauhati High Court in these matters.

"The allegations are that some persons were killed in fake encounters due to excessive use of force. The commission of inquiry, Hegde commission, high court and NHRC

said that there was excess use of force. The persons who have used that excessive force are the accused," the bench observed.

"Why you have just re-registered the FIRs? I am sorry but there is something terribly wrong," Justice Lokur said, adding that the status report does not even say that FIRs have been lodged against "unknown uniformed people".

The CBI's DIG told the bench that FIRs were lodged in accordance with the court's direction and they would investigate the matter and file charge sheets before the competent court.

"You will have to examine and investigate all facets," the bench said. It referred to the FIRs and investigation conducted by the SIT and observed, "We are again back to square one."

Gonsalves said that despite specific orders of the court, there was resistance on the part of the SIT in lodging FIRs.

The ASG told the bench that the

same "confidence" needed to be shown in the SIT as the probe was going on.

The bench, while making it clear that it has confidence in the SIT, said, "CBI has not understood us correctly. Please correct it and do it immediately. Enough is enough".

"You have to proceed with the investigation in accordance with our judgement," the bench said, adding, "Our judgement is very clear. We do not want explanation. You just follow our judgement".

The apex court had on January 16 pulled up the CBI's SIT for not registering the required number of FIRs as directed by it earlier.

The apex court is hearing a PIL seeking a probe into as many as 1,528 cases of extra-judicial killings in Manipur.

The court had on July 14 last year constituted the SIT comprising five CBI officers and ordered registration of FIRs and probe into the alleged extra-judicial killings in Manipur.

Siliguri school students condemn Khap leader's statement

SMRITA KHAWAS

SILIGURI, 12 FEB:

Students of a private school in Siliguri have demanded a ban on Balyan Khap and an apology from its leader, Naresh Tikait over a statement he made recently regarding girl children.

After the Supreme Court adopted a tough

line against khaps that show extreme intolerance towards inter-caste and interfaith marriages, Naresh Tikait had stated that if the apex court meddles in age-old traditions of the khaps, it would not allow girls to be born at all.

A class IX student, Nidhi Agrawal said, "We

demand stern action to be taken against the Khap leader, Naresh Tikait over the statement he has made."

"At a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has enlisted schemes under girl child prosperity schemes under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' programs, how can he say

'not to give birth to girls at all?', said Nidhi.

Another student of class XI, Ridhi Agrawal said, "We demand stringent actions against the concerned leader and the ban of such political outfit moreover Mr Tikait should apologize before the media for making such statement."

Facebook drive to encourage voters' participation in Meghalaya polls

SHILLONG, FEB 12 (PTI): Social media giant Facebook has expressed its desire to collaborate with the Meghalaya election office and launch a drive on the polling day to encourage greater electoral participation, Chief Electoral Officer of the north-eastern state, F R Kharkongor said today.

Meghalaya is set to go to the polls on February 27 and the results will be announced on March 3.

As a part of the collaboration, Kharkongor said, Facebook will set a reminder in its Meghalaya users' newsfeed on February 27, asking

them to exercise their franchise.

"In continuation to Facebook's civic engagement efforts, we would now like to collaborate with Meghalaya's Chief Electoral Officer to increase engagement and participation in the upcoming election," Facebook's public policy head for India, South and Central Asia, Nitin Saluja said in a communication to the state election office yesterday.

The drive will follow a similar format to the ones used during the UK, US, Canada elections as well as the recent polls in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, Kharkongor said.

"This hill state in India's north-east has always registered a high voter turnout. With this reminder, we expect the voting percentage to improve further," the CEO added.

In the 2013 Meghalaya Assembly polls, 86.8 per cent voters had exercised their franchise. This year, the number of registered voters in the state has increased from 15.03 lakh to 18.3 lakh, according to the election office records.

The number of polling stations has also gone up from 2,485 in 2013 to 3,082 this year, an increase of about 24 per cent.

BJP looking forward to expand base in North East: Rudy

SHILLONG, FEB 12 (PTI): The BJP today said it will add Meghalaya, Tripura, Karnataka and Nagaland to the list of states where the party is in power.

From nine states in 2009, the saffron party has now formed government in 19 states, senior BJP leader Rajiv Pratap Rudy told journalists here.

"We are going to add more states to that list it will start from Meghalaya, Tripura, Karnataka and Nagaland," Rudy said.

Meghalaya is set to go to polls on February 27 and the results will be announced on March 3.

The BJP has fielded candidates in 47 of the 60 seats in Meghalaya, while its ally at the Centre, the National Peoples' Party (NPP), is contesting alone in 53 seats.



Rudy expressed confidence that the saffron party will get a majority in the coming elections.

"We don't believe in fractured mandate. Do not get surprised by my confidence, I have been handling elections for last 30 years. We are confident of forming government in Meghalaya," he said.

The former Union minister also promised

"the best of infrastructure" in the state, once its party comes to power.

"When it (BJP) forms the government, it will take all stakeholders on board and seek a consensus to find an outright solution (to the various contentious issues in the state)," he said.

Taking a dig at the ruling Congress, Rudy said he was "shocked" to see the party deviat-

ing from its agenda of development and trying to play the "secularism card" to garner votes.

"They (Congress) did not have a vote bank, they created one by splitting the society and they want to play that trick in Meghalaya," he said.

The BJP has always been "sensitive" towards the needs of the people in different parts of the North East, BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli said.

"In fact we have always raised questions over the change in demographic profile of states like Assam and Tripura, where the influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh is on the rise," he noted.

The BJP will do everything to protect the identity of indigenous tribes in the North East, Kohli added.

Rhymes to teach about 'good touch', 'bad touch' to children

KOLKATA, FEB

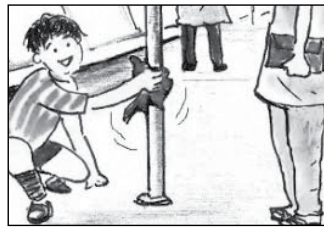
12 (PTI): A child

rights body of the West Bengal government has brought out a book of poems in Bengali to spread awareness among the children about 'good touch' and 'bad touch'.

The book of poems, titled "Chenchye Para Maat Karo" (Shout at the top of your voice), has been distributed free of cost among children of both genders who visited the West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBSCPCR) stall at the International Kolkata Book Fair.

"We thought such poems can be used as tools in houses and schools to alert children about sexual misconduct," WBSCPCR Chairperson Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti said.

One of the poems, when loosely



translated, reads: If someone touches you improperly/ Cuddles you unfairly/ Never keep that a secret as these are wrong acts/ Share everything with your parents, your elder

sister.

Abuse of children in some schools has been reported in the state since December.

The book was launched on Thursday at the Book Fair which concluded yesterday.

She said the book got a great response from the children who visited the stall accompanied by their family.

Now, the WBSCPCR plans to send the book to schools all over the state.

"We will chalk out a detailed programme and modalities in this regard," Chatterjee Chakraborti said.

SIKKIM CRICKET ASSOCIATION

This is to inform all the members of SCA that a AGM and Election of Executive Body will be held at Hotel Sonam Delek, Tibet Road, Gangtok on **25th February 2018 at 11.00 AM sharp.**

MR. SONAM PALDEN BHUTIA, GENERAL SECRETARY, SIKKIM CRICKET ASSOCIATION.



**STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
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NOTICE

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Whereas no person can establish or operate any enterprise, individual units without obtaining prior Consent under the provision of Section 25 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, which are liable for causing Environment pollution. The unit includes any type of enterprises e.g. Health Care Establishment (Hospital, Clinics, Clinical Labs, Blood Bank etc.), Pharmaceutical units, Fabrication units, Vehicle cleaning facility (Car Spa), Automobile Workshop / Garages, Hydro-electric Projects and industrial units including Hotel, Resorts, Restaurant, Hot mix plant, DG sets, Mobile towers, Petrol pumps, Photo studios, Dairy, Bakery, Laundry and Jewellery shops etc.

All above mentioned units are hereby directed to establish and operate their unit after obtaining mandatory Consent of the State Pollution Control Board - Sikkim failing which legal action will be initiated.

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Contact No.: 03592-281015/281913.

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT,
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R.O. No. 547/tp/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 6.2.2018

India renew pursuit of history, S Africa hope rally continues

CHETAN NARULA

PORT ELIZABETH, FEB 12 (PTI): Knocked back in the previous match, India will look to crush a South African revival before it becomes a threat to their pursuit of a maiden ODI series triumph here when the two sides clash in the fifth one-dayer, on Tuesday.

The Men in Blue still have a two-match cushion in the six-ODI series. They lead 3-1 after winning the first in Durban by six wickets, the second in Centurion by nine wickets and the third in Cape Town by 124 runs.

The Proteas bounced back by winning the rain-affected and lightning-struck Pink ODI in Johannesburg by five wickets.

India's wrist-spinners versus South Africa's batting line-up is still the key contest going ahead in this series.

At Johannesburg, the dual rain intervention affected India's momentum with both the bat and ball.

More importantly, it reduced the target sufficiently that, despite AB de Villiers' relative early dismissal, the home batsmen didn't have much trouble getting past.

The T20-mode of that second innings, coupled with the best batting surface of the series, allowed David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen to attack the wrist spinners and take the game away.

Ofcourse, the dropped catch and bowling Miller off a no ball didn't help India's cause either. Yet, a rain-truncated innings is hardly enough evidence that South Africa have learnt how to contend with the wrist spin of Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav.

Additionally, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah were not used to great effect as Virat Kohli chose to rely on the spinners, even when they were unable to respond to the Proteas' concentrated attack.

In this light, India's team selection will come into focus in Port Elizabeth. There are still question-marks about



the fitness of Kedar Jadhav, who suffered a hamstring injury in Cape Town and missed the previous game.

Albeit a part-timer, in his absence, India lose a reliable bowling alternative particularly if Hardik Pandya takes some stick and cannot complete his quota of overs.

Jadhav is adept at bowling slow spin, and mixing it up well with Chahal and Yadav. India do not have many fall-back options in Jadhav's absence -- Rohit Sharma last bowled an ODI over at Perth in January 2016.

Shreyas Iyer is known to practice leg break and had bowled an over against Sri Lanka in his debut series.

Neither of them provides a reliable option like Jadhav does. Kohli himself is the other contender, but he bowls seam-up.

In summation, Jadhav's bowling is being missed more than his batting ability despite a troublesome middle-order and it indicates India's team balance is still not optimal.

Ajinkya Rahane has scored 11 and 8 since making a comeback 79 at no.4. Pandya's forgettable tour with the bat (since the first Test in early January) continues, with scores of 14 and 9 in

his last two outings.

MS Dhoni's 42 not out (off 43 balls) was the only saving grace for this shaky middle-order as India struggled to finish well at Johannesburg.

The series' score-line has conveniently hid the fact that India have a top-heavy batting order, despite the poor form of Rohit Sharma, who has scored 40 runs in the first four ODIs and boasts a gradually sinking ODI average of 11.45 in 12 matches on South African soil.

Kohli (393 runs) and Shikhar Dhawan (271 runs) have scored nearly thrice the number of runs put together by the remaining batsmen (239) and it ought to be a cause of major worry for the Indian think-tank.

This fact will not go overlooked and South Africa will be keen to exploit the Indian line-up's frailty and dismiss Kohli and Dhawan cheaply to gain an early advantage.

It remains to be seen what bowling combination the hosts will go in with. On a hard and bouncy Wanderers' wicket, they had dropped a full-time spinner altogether, relying solely on JP Duminy to do that job.

St. George's Park though has a history of aiding spinners and in the last two ODIs played

here, the Proteas' spinners have been in prominence. In January 2017, Imran Tahir took 3- 26 against Sri Lanka.

In October 2016, Tabraiz Shamsi picked up 3-36 against Australia while South Africa also picked a second spinner in Aaron Phangiso who took 2-17.

South Africa have lost 11 out of 32 matches played at this ground. Six of those losses have come in the last decade as Port Elizabeth hosts at least one ODI every home summer.

India's record here is nothing to write about either.

They have lost all 5 ODIs played here since 1992.

Four of those defeats came against South Africa, while the Men in Blue even managed to lose to Kenya here during the one-day triangular as part of their 2001-02 tour.

In fact, in five previous ODI outings in Port Elizabeth, India have never scored 200 runs here as 176 against South Africa in October 2001 is their highest total yet.

Once again on this trip, India will have to fight dubious past performances and erase a lop-sided record, only this time in a bid to carve out a fresh piece of history.

‘India must create more jobs to become a global force’

G SUDHAKAR NAIR

DUBAI, FEB 12 (PTI): India needs to create more jobs for youth by encouraging entrepreneurship to become a global economic force, a plenary panel session at the sixth World Government Summit here has concluded.

The session debated whether this year's guest nation India could ever lead the global economy in the future, and discussed the issues that could hold up any progress.

According to the World Economic Forum, India is the seventh largest economy in the world and is expected to be the second largest by 2050.

Shobana Kamineni, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), was joined on the panel by Chairman Hero Enterprises Sunil Kant Munjal, Dr Rajiv Modi, Chairman and Managing Director of Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited and C P Gurnani, Managing Director and CEO of Tech Mahindra Ltd, for the session.

The panel discussed India's current economic position, and what needs to be done in the future to improve the lives of a population of over one billion.

When discussing the prospect of becoming a global leader, Gurnani said: "It depends what you mean by being a global leader, and how far into the future you are talking about.

There are certain sectors where India is already becoming a global leader infrastructure, healthcare and education. Much work still needs to be done to help small and mid-sized companies."

Munjal supported Gurnani's stance and said that India had already taken on some of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in the world, notably in the agricultural, manufacturing and education sectors.

He also explained how the government was working on a cluster approach in infrastructure development to promote manufactur-

ing and economic activity, stating that this had demonstrated a great multiplier effect.

Kamineni raised a issue facing India in the future securing growth and providing jobs for the forthcoming generations.

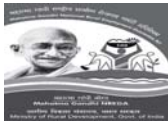
"India will continue to grow for at least another decade when populations in most other countries will have stabilised.

At that stage, 40 per cent of people in the world below the age of 30 will be Indians," she said.

"We need to continue to provide jobs for them. This is an urgent need for us. The pace of change is a concern. The sheer size of the country means that sometimes change takes a generation to be felt," she warned.

Munjal said the biggest challenges often offer the biggest opportunities.

"India needs to become more global, and that we need to create jobs for our youth by encouraging entrepreneurship," Gurnani said.



RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM Gangtok – 737101

No: 53/RM&DD/MGNREGA

Dated: 5/02/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotation of rates are invited from interested firms having valid MGNREGA empanelment with RM&DD, Government of Sikkim for supply of the following Block Administrative Centres:
1) Jorethang 2) Sumbuk 3) Namchi 4) Namthang 5) Ravangla 6) Temi Tarku 7) Sikkip 8) Yangang 9) Gangtok 10)Ranka 11) Regu 12) Rhenock 13) Parakha 14) Pakyong 15) Martam 16) Duga 17) Khamdong 18) Rakdong-Tintek 19) Passingdong 20) Kabi Tingda 21) Mangan 22) Chungthang 23) Chongrang 24) Chumbong 25) Daramdin 26) Gyalshing 27) Hee-Martam 28) Kaluk 29) Mangalbarey 30) Soreng 31) Dentam 21) Yuksom.

LIST OF ITEMS

Sl. No.	ITEMS	SPECIFICATION	UNIT
1	Cement	50 kg Birla Gold, Ambuja, Birla Samrat, Ultratech, Star, Lafarge, ACC, Pentent.	Per bag.
2.	TMT Rod (6mm to 18 mm)	Durgapur or equivalent	Per kg.
3.	Angle Iron (various sizes)	Durgapur or equivalent	Per kg.
4.	Plywood Waterproof (sizes 6mm to 32 mm) & non- waterproof	Waterproof / Local	Per sq.ft.
5.	Nail (various sizes)	ISO certified	Per kg.
6.	Chinese Nail	-	Per kg.
7.	Sand	-	Per cft.
8.	Stones	-	Per cft.
9.	Signboard (3x4)	Angle iron	Per piece.
10.	First Aid Box	Box consisting of Dettol, Gauge, Bandage, Cotton, files of Paracetamal, Maftal Spas, Enteroquinal tablets etc.	Per piece.
11.	Hammer (Big & Small)	ISO certified	Per piece.
12.	Kata	ISO certified	Per piece.
13.	Ramba – Big & Small	ISO certified	Per piece.
14.	Doko per piece	Local made	Per piece.
15.	Namlo per piece	Local made	Per piece.
16.	Farua	ISO certified	Per piece.
17.	Karai	ISO certified	Per piece.
18.	Karni	ISO certified	Per piece.
19.	Belcha	ISO certified	Per piece.
20.	Sickle	ISO certified	Per piece.
21.	Chino	ISO certified	Per piece.
22.	Chisel	ISO certified	Per piece.
23.	Raite (File)	ISO certified	Per piece.
24.	Saw medium size	ISO certified	Per piece.
25.	Bucket	Unbreakable plastic 10 ltrs ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
26.	Jug	Unbreakable plastic	Per piece.
27.	Mug	Unbreakable plastic	Per piece.
28.	Line Suta	-	Per roll.
29.	Measuring Tape 50 feet	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
30.	Belcha Dori	-	Per kg.
31.	Jute rope	-	Per kg.
32.	Bending Wire	ISO certified	Per kg.
33.	GI Wire	ISO certified	Per kg.
34.	GI Wire Mesh	ISO certified	Per ft.
35.	Barbed Wire	ISO certified	Per kg.
36.	Wire cutter	ISO certified	Per piece.
37.	Giti Martol	ISO certified	Per piece.
38.	Raj Martol	ISO certified	Per piece.
39.	Jamara Martol	ISO certified	Per piece.
40.	Pliers	ISO certified	Per piece.
41.	Polypipe ½ inch	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per kg.
42.	Polypipe ½ flexible	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per kg.
43.	GI Pipe (20 ft various sizes)	Tata Brand or equivalent	Per piece.
44.	GI fitting (sizes 15 mm to 32 mm dia.)	Union, Socket, Tee, Elbow, Short piece, Plug, ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
45.	PVC Pipe (20 ft various sizes)	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
46.	PVC fittings (sizes 15 mm to 32 mm dia.)	Union, Socket, Tee, Elbow, Short piece, Plug, ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
47.	Hacksaw Blade (single & double)	ISO certified	Per piece.
48.	Hacksaw Frame	ISO certified	Per piece.
49.	Plain sheet (various sizes)	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per sqft.
50.	Sand Net	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per metre.
51.	PVC tank/drum	Capacity of 100 Ltrs.	Per piece.
52.	Plastic Tarpaulin 24' x18'	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
53.	Hume Pipe (various sizes)	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	Per piece.
54.	GCI Sheet (0.35, 0.4,0.5 mm)	ISO certified (various sizes)	Per foot.
55.	Bricks	First class	Per piece.
56.	MS Pipe (various sizes)	-	Per piece.
57.	Dhibri Nail	-	Per kg.
58.	GI Washer	-	Per packet.
59.	Bitumen Washer	-	Per packet.
60.	Enamel Paint (yellow, white & black) for signboard.	Asian Paints	Per litre.
61.	Paint Brush (various sizes)	-	Per piece.
62.	Rate of transportation for cement, Rod, Bricks, Sand & Stone.	Cement- per bag Sand/Stone – per cft. Road – per Qtl. Bricks – per piece.	Per km.
63.	Stone Chips	Machine crushed	Cft.
64.	Local Wood	Local	Cft.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Materials to be supplied should be as per the standard size and norms/specifications of Govt. of Sikkim issued from time to time.
2. The supply is subject to various laboratories test in the State.
3. Firms shall ensure that ordered materials will be supplied within the stipulated time. Failing which they will be liable to pay the liquidity damage of an equal amount of the damaged caused to the Department. The intending supplier should be prepared to supply all the items in the worksite and the transportation cost shall be paid as per the prevailing notification of the SNT Division of Transport Department.
4. Firms should have dealership certificate of all or any of the above specified brands of cement.
5. The empanelled firm or cooperative should preferably register with STCS/SIMFED.
6. The quotation received without empanelment document will not be accepted.
7. All firms previously empanelled under MGNREGA before 29-3-2016 may kindly contact the Sr. AO-MGNREGA before submission of tender forms since the guidelines for empanelment under MGNREGA has been revised as per notification no. 01/5/Adm./MGNREGA/RM&DD, dated 29-3-2016.
8. The rate being quoted shall be EXCLUSIVE of any TAXES and should be duly signed by the proprietor of the firms.
9. The quotation must be quoted by the empanelled supplier and Cooperative Society preferably based within the administrative jurisdiction of concerned BAC only. The intending suppliers should enclose copies of valid trade license and other tax clearance along with quotations. At the time of approval of rates the DPC shall compare the quoted rates with the rates obtained from STCS with due regards to the prevailing market rates.
10. The quotation should accompany with Xerox attested copies of valid empanelment certificate issued by Rural Management and Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim for the Supplier and firms and a copy of certified registration of cooperative society from concerned department for the cooperative societies and Trade license and clearance certificate of GST and Professional Tax by the both the supplier/firms and cooperative societies.
11. The Cooperative Society registered in the concerned block who is experienced in supply works only are eligible for quoting the rate. However the society should submit bank statements for last 3 years (25-30 lakhs transaction). Only on vetting of financial capability of cooperative Society, rates quoted would be accepted.
12. In case of failure in regular supply or not matching up of the quality standard as laid down by the Department, the supply order would be cancelled immediately.
13. The empanelled supplier or MPSC quoting the quotation must also have the store facility and transportation facility within the concerned block.
14. In failure of compliance of the above mentioned terms & conditions for the supply of materials under MGNREGA, the tender committee can summarily reject the quotations at the time of scrutiny.
15. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.
16. The Authorities shall draw an agreement with the selected supplier.
17. The quotation should be addressed to the BDO/ Programme Officer of the respective BAC and should reach them by 5th March 2018 and will be opened on 6th March 2018 at 2 pm in the presence of the committee formed for the purpose of the chamber of concerned BDO cum PO.

NOTE: FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND CLARIFICATION, IF ANY, CONCERNED BDO MAY BE CONTACTED.

Sd/-

**DY. SECRETARY – III (MGNREGA)
RM&DD, GANGTOK.**

Investigators brave snow in hunt for clues over Russian plane crash

STEPANOVSKOYE (RUSSIA), FEB 12 (AFP): Investigators scoured the scene today after a passenger plane crashed near Moscow minutes after take-off, killing all 71 people on board, in one of Russia's worst-ever plane crashes.

The site of the crash was enveloped in heavy snow that was waist-high in places, making it difficult to access, with emergency workers forced to reach the wreckage by foot and use snowmobiles.

Russia's Investigative Committee said it would consider explanations for the crash including human error, technical failure and weather conditions, as the country has experienced record snowfall in recent weeks. It did not mention the possibility of terrorism.

The Antonov An-148 plane went down in the Ramensky district around 70 kms southeast of Moscow after taking off from Domodedovo airport in the Russian capital and disappearing off the radar at 2:28 pm (1128 GMT) yesterday.

"Sixty-five passengers and six crew members were on board, and all of them died," Russia's office of transport investigations said in a statement.

A Swiss citizen and a citizen of Azerbaijan were among the fatalities on a list released by the emergency services ministry. Three children also died including a five-year-old girl. The flight was operated by the domestic Saratov Airlines and was headed for Orsk, a city in the Ural mountains.

Around one hundred investigators and criminologists were working at the scene, the Investigative Committee, which investigates major incidents, said today.

The emergency services ministry said at least one of the two black boxes had been found.

MUSCAT, FEB 12 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said his visit to Oman and talks with the oil-rich Gulf nation's top leadership will impart a "substantial momentum" to all spheres of bilateral ties.

"This Oman visit is one I will cherish for a long time to come," Modi tweeted before concluding his two-day visit to Oman during which the two countries signed eight agreements, including one on enhancing defence cooperation.

"This visit has helped in building upon the centuries-old ties between our enterprising people, and will impart a substantial momentum to our relations in all spheres, including trade and investment relations," Modi said.

"Thank you Your Majesty Sultan Qaboos (bin Said al Said) for your exceptional warmth, hospitality and friendship, as also your personal attention to details, that made my visit to Oman one of the most memorable visits I have undertaken anywhere, the prime minister said.

Modi also expressed gratitude to the Sultan and the people of Oman for the tremendous support, goodwill and affection.

"We are deeply honoured and we look forward to the forthcoming 50th anniversary of your stewardship of Oman," he said as he concluded his three-nation visit to the Palestine, the UAE and Oman.



Modi, who arrived here from Dubai on the final leg of his three-nation tour, led talks with Sultan Qaboos last night on a wide range of issues.

During the meeting, several aspects of the existing cooperation between the two countries and means of promoting the good relations between them were discussed, the official Oman News Agency reported.

"Charting out new frontiers in our bilateral relationship, PM @narendramodi led delegation-level talks with Sultan Qaboos of Oman. The two strategic partners discussed to strengthen cooperation in trade & investment, energy, defence & security, food security and region-

al issues," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Sultan Qaboos appreciated the contribution of "honest and hard working" Indian nationals in the development of Oman.

After their talks, the two sides signed eight agreements, including an MoU on legal and judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

They also signed an agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, special, service and official passports and an MoU on cooperation in the field of health, tourism and peaceful uses of outer space.

The two sides also signed annex-

ure to the MoU on military cooperation. According to Oman News Agency, it envisages the services of Duqm Port and dry-dock for maintenance for Indian military vessels.

Secretary-General of Oman's Ministry of Defence Mohammed bin Nasser al Rasbi said there are many areas of cooperation with the Indian side, whether in the field of joint exercises, training or courses, as well as exchange of experiences between the two sides and some defence purchases and projects.

India's Ambassador Indra Man Pandey said that signing the MoUs will promote cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He said that the Indian companies have a strong presence in Oman and have significant investments in the Omani free zones and ports in Suhar and Salalah. He said Indian investments are estimated at USD 1.8 billion in two projects in Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZD).

The volume of trade exchange during this year is expected to reach USD 5.5 billion, Pandey was quoted as saying.

The two countries also signed an agreement on cooperation between

Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of External Affairs, India and Oman's Diplomatic Institute.

An MoU on academic and scholarly cooperation between National Defence College, Sultanate of Oman and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

Modi today met Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said and Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tariq Al Said.

Modi and the two leaders exchanged views on intensifying ties in the areas of energy, trade and investment, food security, defence and security, mining and other sectors.

He also had a meeting with leading business leaders and investors.

Modi also offered prayers at the 125-year-old Shiva Temple, one of the oldest in the region. He also visited the iconic Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the main mosque in Oman.

In Oman, there are over eight lakh Indians and they constitute the largest expatriate community. The prime minister had also addressed the Indian community last night.

On the first leg of his trip, Modi had travelled to Ramallah, becoming the first Indian prime minister to make an official visit to Palestine. From there he visited the UAE, before arriving in Oman.



London City Airport has been closed after a World War Two bomb was found nearby in the River Thames. The airport will be shut all day and all flights cancelled, affecting up to 16,000 passengers, a spokeswoman said. The bomb was discovered on Sunday at George V Dock during pre-planned work at the airport in east London, the Met Police said. The airport was shut at 22:00 and the Met said it was working with the Royal Navy to remove the device. According to the airport's website, a total of 261 arrivals and departures were scheduled for Monday - with 130 flights having been cancelled earlier. Passengers have been told not to travel to the airport as the terminal is closed and to contact their airline. Airlines using London City Airport include British Airways, Flybe, Cityjet, KLM and Lufthansa, with flights to domestic and European city destinations.

Pak decides to get tough on UN-banned outfits

ISLAMABAD, FEB 12 (PTI): Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain has signed an ordinance aimed at reigning in individuals and organisations like the Let, Al-Qaeda and Taliban, which have been banned by the UN Security Council, a media report said today.

The ordinance amends a section of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), enabling the authorities to take action against the UNSC-proscribed individuals and terror outfits, like sealing their offices and freezing their bank accounts, The Express Tribune reported.

The sources in the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) confirmed the new move, saying the ministries of Interior, Finance and Foreign Affairs as well as NACTA's Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) wing are working together on the matter.

An official in the Presidency familiar with the development confirmed the said legislation but refused to share details, saying the Ministry of Defence was the notifying authority.

"The relevant ministry will notify and comment on it," the official said.

Trump to unveil \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan

WASHINGTON, FEB 12 (AP): President Donald Trump today will unveil his long-awaited infrastructure plan, a 1.5 trillion proposal that fulfills a number of campaign goals, but relies heavily on state and local governments to produce much of the funding.

The administration's plan is centered on using 200 billion in federal money to leverage local and state tax dollars to fix America's infrastructure, such as roads, highways, ports and airports.

"Every federal dollar should

be leveraged by partnering with state and local governments and where appropriate tapping into private sector investment to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit," Trump said at last month's State of the Union address.

Trump has repeatedly blamed the "crumbling" state of the nation's roads and highways for preventing the American economy from reaching its full potential.

Many in Washington believe that Trump should have begun his term a year ago with

an infrastructure push, one that could have garnered bipartisan support or, at minimum, placed Democrats in a bind for opposing a popular political measure.

But the administration chose to begin with health care and relations with Democrats have only grown more strained during a turbulent, contentious year. The White House, now grappling with the fallout from the departure of a senior aide after spousal abuse allegations, may not have an easy time navigating a massive infrastructure plan through a polarised Con-

gress. It just grappled with two federal government shutdowns and will soon turns its attention to immigration.

Administration officials previewing the plan said it would feature two key components: an injection of funding for new investments and help speed up repairs of crumbling roads and airports, as well as a streamlined permitting process that would truncate the wait time to get projects underway.

Officials said the 200 billion in federal support would come from cuts to existing programs.

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5th Prize Rs.200/-	
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Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 80804 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 72031 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Cons. Prize Rs.9494/- 31482 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
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The Sex And The City actress branded SJP "cruel"!

To the uninformed observer, it was a compassionate message of warmth and support for an old friend at a dreadful time of loss. The post from actress Sarah Jessica Parker on social media read: 'Dearest Kim, my love and condolences to you and yours and Godspeed to your beloved brother. Xx'

She was responding to the announcement by Kim Cattrall, her former Sex And The City co-star, that Kim's brother, Chris, 55, had been found dead on his farm in Canada.

What it unleashed in return has shocked much of Hollywood and millions of Sex And The City fans worldwide. Kim responded with a furious attack that seemed, if not irrational, then certainly out of proportion.

Writing on Instagram, she said: "My Mom asked me today 'When will that @sarahjessicaparker, that hypocrite, leave you alone? Your continuous reaching out is a painful reminder of how cruel you really were then and now. Let me make this VERY clear (if I haven't already). You are not my family. You are not my friend. So I'm writing to tell you one last time to stop exploiting our trage-



dy in order to restore your 'nice girl' persona."

Cattrall, who tagged Sarah Jessica Parker in the post, finished by adding a link to an article exploring the 'mean girls culture' behind the scenes of Sex And The City.

The language was such that one has to wonder if, even allowing for her obvious grief, Kim, 61, had rather taken

leave of her senses.

Clearly she felt blind fury that Sarah Jessica, 52 — known to all as SJP — was, in her view, yet again fostering her public image as a 'nice girl' offering support to her 'friend Kim' — and that muscling in on the Cattrall family's grief was a step too far.

Rumours of a rift between Cattrall and Parker have circulated for years. In September, Cattrall stated she wouldn't take part in Sex And The City 3 because her relationship with her co-stars was "toxic."

No one who has followed the relationship between the women was under the illusion it was very good — they are both known to have diva-ish tendencies and have been feuding on and off for years.

But until this weekend the depth of hostility involved, on Cattrall's part at least, was unknown. It would seem the huge resentment she appears to feel towards SJP — over her status on the show, her salary and her influence — boiled over in that one, vitriolic rant.

Parker, who recently confirmed a third movie would not go ahead, has not publicly responded to Cattrall's post.

Karan Johar reveals what happens when actors refuse his films

Despite being one of the biggest directors of India, Karan has to hear a 'no' from the actors.

It won't be wrong to say that Karan Johar has become a brand in himself. While many of you might think that people in the industry, especially actors wouldn't bat an eyelid before accepting the film offer made by him to them, let us tell you that it isn't the case. Even though he is one of the biggest directors in the country, he has to hear a 'no' from the actors. So what happens when his films are refused? In an interview with DNA, KJo revealed that he doesn't take it to heart as he said, "...I think an actor is a creative entity. Whenever you go onto a film set, you need to have complete love for what you're about to do. So, if you're going to succumb to a film because of all the external pressure or strategies, it's going to affect your performance. I've approached many actors a couple of times who have refused, but I would still go back to them if I feel the need. I never take it personally because it's professional."

When asked what's his first reaction when an actor declines his offer, the filmmaker said, "It's disappointment but never anger. I never hold it against anybody. I think most lead actors in the country have said no to me at some point of time, but eventually, I've worked with all of them. When they refused a role, they just didn't connect to the material at that point." Well, it makes sense. Sure Saif Ali Khan would have been good for Fawad Khan's role in Kapoor And Sons (Saif rejected the offer), but the latter brought something different to the table and impressed us. Similarly, Akshay Kumar turned down the biopic on Milkha Singh, which ultimately went to Farhan Akhtar, and personally I feel that no one else could have pulled off what Farhan did in the film.

Coming back to Karan, he is a father now. The director celebrated the first birthday of his twins — Yash and Roohi and the party was attended by quite a few celebs from B-town. Stay tuned to BollywoodLife for all the latest goss from B-town.



GIGI HADID SLAMS BODY SHAMERS: 'I WILL NOT FURTHER EXPLAIN THE WAY MY BODY LOOKS'

She may be one of the industry's smost in-demand models, but Gigi Hadid has shown she isn't immune from hurtful comments as she hit back at body shamers in a passionate series of tweets.

Taking to her social media on Sunday evening, the star had a fair bit to say to those who have commented on her fluctuating weight over the years, after the 22-year-old was diagnosed with Hashimoto's disease. The condition is an autoimmune disorder in which antibodies directed against the thyroid gland lead to chronic inflammation.

She opened her essay with: 'For those of you so determined to come up w why my body has changed over the years, you may not know that when I started @ 17 I was not yet diagnosed w/ Hashimoto's disease; those of u who called me "too big for the industry" were seeing inflammation & water retention due to that.'

The model — who's dating former One Direction star Zayn Malik — continued: 'Over the last few years I've been properly medicated to help symptoms including those, as well as extreme fatigue, metabolism issues, body's ability to retain heat, etc ... I was also part of a holistic medical trial that helped my thyroid levels balance

out.'

Gigi went on to say that while stress and excessive travel — the hallmarks of her career — can affect the body, she's always eaten the same.

She then defiantly added: 'I may be "too skinny" for you, honestly this skinny isn't what I want to be...' She wrapped up her statement with: 'I will not further explain the way my body looks...stop putting me in that box just because u dont understand the way my body has matured.'

The model's followers flocked to the comments section to lend their support, with stars such as Ruby Rose and Chrissy Teigen standing by their star friend, perhaps because both have faced similar online trolling about their figures. Chrissy said: 'Alternate tweet: "fuck off"'

Ruby said: 'Sorry you too have to explain something so ridiculous to people. Love to you. Love to the people who try to tear down others also because they are just people who haven't had the spiritual growth that needs to occur to love and accept one another.'

Fellow model Hailey Baldwin said: 'Annoying and unfortunate that you have to explain your personal matters to the world. You slay, love you Gi.'



FASHION RED-Y! The Orange Is The New Black star, Laverne Cox, takes the plunge in a sophisticated pantsuit as she joins chic La La Anthony at the Prabal Gurung NYFW show.

Bringing Sexy Back!

Justin Timberlake's new album "Man of the Woods" scores No. 1 spot on Billboard 200 chart helping him break records yet again.

His latest studio album climbed to the top of the Billboard 200 chart opening at number one on Sunday.

The hit follows a high energy Super Bowl performance on 04 Feb where he played many of his biggest hits as well as a tribute to Minnesota son Prince.

Justin's other chart-topping albums include both parts of The 20/20 Experience and FutureSex/LoveSounds. His debut album Justified didn't quite make it to the highest spot but it did peak at #2.

Man of the Woods is also the top earning album of 2018 so far following Taylor Swift's lead from December 2nd with Reputation, according to Billboard. It's also the best week for a male since Kendrick Lamar's DAMN.



debuting at No. 1 on 06 May, 2017.

The former boy bander celebrated his big album release over the weekend in New York City with fans at a special Man of the Woods pop-up store. He showed up with pizzas in tow on Friday for fans who were lined up in the freezing temperatures hoping to score a wrist band.

The shop, that was only available this weekend and is now closed, sold custom items that corresponded to each song from his new al-

bum including sneakers, jackets and hoodies.

The 34-year-old featured his wife Jessica Biel in the video for the first single off the album. The Sinner star was lead across the dance floor by her husband of five years who was wearing a plaid shirt and tan beanie.

"I actually hope we get to work together again on more stuff," Timberlake told Beats 1 interviewer Zane Lowe. "You know because having her around, she's such an influence on the album and so in that song being so special it just felt like a great moment for us to share. And I just wanted it to be honest. There are other songs on the album, videos that I feel require a different level of performance but that one was the first song written for the album that was written specifically about her. There's two love letters on the album. Man of the Woods is my love letter to her and Young Man as my love letter to my son."

ARIES: There is a rough stubbornness to the day that you may find hinders your progress, Aries. There may be undercurrents of opposition that are slowly wearing away at your psyche. Make sure that you don't fall into the trap of feeling guilt or regret. These are useless emotions that you simply can do without. If people are being negative or unreasonable, simply walk away from the situation and find a better one.

TAURUS: There are forces working in your favor that you should be sure to latch onto and take advantage of, Taurus. You'll find that your sense of duty and ability to plan are paying off in a very positive way. You'll find that you're able to check quite a few things off your list today. Think before you act and take a time-out

to rest and regroup if you need to. **GEMINI:** Missed connections and unfortunate misunderstandings will happen less frequently if you slow down and focus. Remember that you can do things yourself, Gemini. Don't feel like you absolutely need approval from others before tackling the projects that you wish to complete. Your mind is urging you to take the initiative today, so feel free to do so. Just make sure you aren't too hasty in your actions. You'll be more productive if you think before you act. **CANCER:** Things that require restriction and discipline on your part may be causing tension and opposition in your world today, Cancer. The good news is that your mind is clear and you should feel in tune with the people around you.

Know your allies and take care of them. Remind others of how much they mean to you. The most important aspects of your life are your friends and family, so treat them with unconditional love.

LEO: Your internal fire may be feeling a bit smothered by a fierce reality check today, Leo. Give people the benefit of the doubt. They are more perceptive than you may think. In fact, it may behoove you to get some honest feedback today from some people you trust. It could be difficult for you to sort out the truth in your present situation, since you're the one caught in the middle of the maelstrom. Consider the perspective of another.

VIRGO: Careful planning on your part is starting to pay off, Virgo, but be careful that you don't

alienate others in your quest to be the best. You may not realize how your harsh words affect the people around you. Be more sensitive to the feelings of others. Focus and be brave in your actions. Hesitation may cause you to lose control of the situation. Know your boundaries, but push beyond them. **LIBRA:** A little foreign culture could be the thing you need right now to spice things up a bit, Libra. It could be that you aren't feeling a very strong connection with the environment around you. You could be anxious to spread your wings and explore your freedom. Start small but think big. Get out of your rut and do more exploring on your own. There's a sobering, disciplined feeling to the day that could help you think realistically

about your situation and where you want to go with it. **SCORPIO:** Some days it may be hard for you to get motivated, Scorpio, but if ever there were a day in which it was easier than others, this would be the day. You'll find that your mind is quite attuned to the situation around you and that your sense of grounding is helping you manifest that which you wish to bring to life. There's a sense of time restriction and limitation to the day that is prodding you to act now. **SAGITTARIUS:** You may feel a bit of restriction working to hold you back from your current plans today, Sagittarius. It could be that your mind is feeling restless and that you're anxious to go, but there's a feeling of discipline and caution nagging you and urging

you to slow down. This might not be a bad idea. Discipline and willpower may be exactly the things you need in order to get where you're going. **CAPRICORN:** You'll find that a sensitive mind that's open to everything and every possibility is exactly the thing you need at this time in order to be successful in reaching all the goals you're working toward, Capricorn. You'll find that your sense of duty and need for plans and solid goals are key elements for getting to where you need to be. Gather information and create a plan of attack that is well thought out. **AQUARIUS:** Today is a good day to be receptive to other people's energies, Aquarius. You'll find that a sensitive attitude toward the

people around you, combined with a bit of hard work and willingness to fulfill your responsibilities, will make for an unstoppable winning combination. Use this day to collect data and plan your goals. Take responsibility for your actions and don't be afraid to admit your mistakes. **PISCES:** You'll find that your mind is sharp and penetrating today, Pisces. Make sure you stay focused and organized. You have the power of discipline behind you that will help you manifest quite a bit on a day like today. Keep in mind that your openness to others and your incredible sensitivity are some of your greatest gifts. Use your power to create prosperity for yourself, but do it without hurting or manipulating others.