

SDF'S 27th FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATED

Opp wants to divide, we want youth to power new phase of development: Chamling

H CHETTRI

04 MAR:

President, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, while addressing the 27th foundation day celebration of the Sikkim Democratic Front, here at Namchi-Singthang constituency, stressed that the party should prioritise the people and the community and society as a whole and move towards development while maintaining peace and harmony for all. Opposition parties in Sikkim, however indulging in political and self-centred politics and trying to create uncertainty and

he said. Sikkim Democratic Front celebrated its foundation day at the constituency level across the state today with the president's address shared live across the state. An SDF press conference informed that over 1,00,000 people were present at the state-wide celebration today.

The central function at Namchi was relayed to all the 31 constituencies through LED



set-ups and more than 1.5 lakh people are reported to have tuned into the celebrations via social media.

The build-up was provided by SDF's #MyFirstVote4Chamling campaign through which the youth could pledge their vote for Pawan Chamling, connect di-

rectly with the CM and share their ideas for Sikkim's future through the official website.

The CM stated that agent provocateurs in the State were trying to import the politics of bandhs and disruptions from the neighboring State and pointed out how such a scenario

would prove detrimental to the development and progress registered by Sikkim in the past 25 years.

He added that Opposition parties, in order to distract people from the benefits of peace and progress, were trying to sow insularity and suspicions. If such plans were

allowed to take root, the society itself would get divided in Sikkim, he rued.

Also today, the official slogan for SDF's campaign was released. "Hija dekhhi aaja samma, aaja dekhhi bholi samma, aagi badau Chamling sangha," the party's appeal for Election 2019 calls on

people to march on forward with Mr Chamling.

The CM lashed out strongly against the Opposition parties and reiterated his allegations against them of being directionless, selfish and lacking of vision for the State and its people.

He stressed that the SDF Government has consistently been fair to all communities and resolutely supported the rights, privileges and need for security of every section of the society whereas the Opposition was nefariously obstructing these efforts.

He reminded the party supporters that, "We founded SDF to re-establish democracy in Sikkim. We wanted to give constitutional rights, human rights to all. Protect Sikkimese language, culture, tradition and give recognition to all communities."

He also renewed the party's commitment to protecting these rights in the times to come. "We will protect Nepali and Residential Certificate holder businessmen and women in Sikkim. We

will not let anyone encroach on the rights of Sikkimese people."

Coming to the youth, Mr Chamling announced that the next SDF government will be youth-centric where all frontline programmes of the government will be from and for the youth. The youth of Sikkim, he said, will be invited to partner all government policies and programmes.

He urged the youth of the state to change their mindsets and step forward to power the next phase of development in Sikkim. He also urged the youth not get drawn into the divisive and bitter politics of the Opposition and instead retain their optimism and take Sikkim to still higher levels.

He stressed that the unity enjoyed in Sikkim needs to be nurtured carefully especially in the present times when efforts are afoot to break it.

Mr Chamling also announced today that the election will see the party field a progressive mix of youth, women and senior candidates.

SKM protests use of Namthang school ground for SDF function on working day

REPORT

04 MAR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morchha today marched in protest against Sikkim Democratic Front's foundation day celebration at Namthang-Ratong constituency. Sikkim Krantikari Morchha Senior Secondary School played a role in the protest. SKM party workers blocked the road and the permission given by SDF to hold its public



gathering at the school

in contravention of rules which disallow the use of school grounds on working days.

It protested this violation of rules for when the South District administration Election department have themselves issued notices that the school play area is not to be used for any programmes

"We are demanding a clarification from the district administration

as to how they allotted the ground for a political function on a school working day and our protest will continue till the department clarifies," he said.

Meanwhile, District Collector [South], Ragul K., informed that the district administration had handled the situation and that things were brought under control.

"We reached the spot

and spoke with the supporters and leaders of SKM after which they dispersed from the spot. Similarly, district administration has called an all-party meeting for Thursday when the matter will be discussed," he said.

Sikkim Police had deployed police force and IRBN personnel to the spot to contain the situation and stop matters from getting out of hand.

Cong unhappy with restrictions on PA systems and public meetings



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 MAR:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has expressed reservations over the stipulations announced by the State administration on use of public address systems and public meetings.

An SPCC press release issued today informs that the administration has notified political parties that permission to use PA systems and loudspeakers will be granted only

in certain designated locations for public meetings.

The release adds that while this might have been done for ease of regulation by the authorities or to minimize perceived inconvenience to the general public, such restrictions hamper and limit options for political parties and individual candidates, restricting their right to campaign freely and reach out to as many people as possible.

The release points out while holding public meetings in grounds away from market places may be feasible for political parties with "ample resources at their disposal," it was not practical for smaller political parties and independent candidates with limited resources.

"When the system does not ensure a mechanism where every political party

turn to pg02

Modi indicates more action to follow air strike in Pakistan

DABAD, MAR 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday indicated that last week's air strike in Pakistan won't be his last such action against terrorism emanating from the neighbouring

February 26 air strike on a terror camp in Pakistan.

The remark elicited a loud roar of approval from the crowd. "We won't lag behind when it comes to taking big and bitter decisions," he said.

per today," Modi said.

Taking a tough stance on terrorism, the PM asserted that he will find out those responsible for such acts in India "even if they hide in the bowels of the earth."

5-day workshop on preventive conservation of manuscripts begins

GANGTOK, 04 MAR (IPR):

The Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi and Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Dehradun is organising a five-day workshop on 'Preventive

was held today at Police Conference Hall and it was informed that the workshop is aimed at imparting training through lectures and practical demonstration to equip the participants/custodians of manuscripts with necessary expertise and knowledge

Coordinator, Dr DK Kar, NMM, Coordinator documentation, Dr Kirti Srivastava, NMM, conservation expert, Parul Gosh, students from various colleges, representatives from NGO's, monks and local gentry.

Ambika Pradhan in

themselves as a better and learned individual for the state and the Nation.

She further briefed about the importance and benefits of preventive conservation of manuscripts and how it can help each individual to know their history.

Later, Coordinator, Dr

SKM observed Diwas to mark birth of SDF

Dhikkaar

Diwas to mark birth of SDF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 MAR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morchha observed 'Diwas' at Maza in South Sikkim on the foundation day of Sikkim Democratic Front. The function was chaired by SKM president and MLA Nima Lepcha.

Dhikkaar Diwas was observed today. SDF was formed 27 years ago by the darkness over Sikkim. SKM spokesman Jacob Khaling in a release.

He accused SDF of destroying Sikkim and the party responsible for unemployment, social debt for Sikkim, money, suppression of workers, etc.

SKM acting president mentioned that the party would observe 'Diwas' every year as 'Diwas'. It is informed that 37 families joined on the occasion.

The release forms that after programme, SKM labour front met workers of A Pharmaceutical Company who are on dharna at the factory premises.

demanded justice for aggrieved workers. The meeting, the administration of the company asked for a day's work on the demand of the workers.

The party threatened to continue the protest if the six expelled workers were not taken back immediately.

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SUMMIT REPORT
UK, 03 MAR:
A 10-day training programme on Cane & Bamboo cluster development was organized today by the Pariwar Sumbuk, Sikkim in collaboration with Cane and Bamboo Technology Center (CBTC) Barnihat, Assam.

The training seeks to promote sustainable livelihood in North East India through cane and bamboo cluster development programme which is sponsored by North east Council (NEC), Government of India, a press release informs.

On the day, certificate distribution of 3 month

Donation Camp held at SMIT



SUMMIT REPORT
UK, 04 MAR:
The Society of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department in association with NCC Sikkim Institute of Technology organised 'Sanjeevani' donation camp within college premises today, a release informs.

The staff from the Referral Hospital, Gangtok, arrived under the supervision of Dr NN Bhuyan Tshetij Rai to help the proceedings of the camp.

Over a hundred volunteers turned up to donate their blood for the event and 77 units of blood were collected all through the day, the release mentions.

The campaign started at 10.00 am and lasted till 05.00pm. The event was conducted by the officials from the Blood Bank in the Central Referral Hospital, Gangtok.

The collected blood was deposited at the Central Referral Hospital Blood Bank, Gangtok.

SDF Foundation Day Celebration at Khamdong

SIR PRADHAN
UK, 04 MAR:
The long constituted celebrated the 27th Foundation Day of Sikkim Democratic Front in a manner today.

Agriculture Minister Area MLA, Somnath Poudyal presided over the function along with leaders and workers of the ruling front.

Senior leader of the Manita Mangar was present as the chief of the function. The

Unhappy with restrictions.

Individual candidates get the opportunity to campaign and reach out to as much of the electorate as possible, it interferes with the peoples' constitutional rights to expression and to choose their representatives. These constitutional rights should be guarded by the administration in order to uphold the values and ethics of democracy, especially during election period," the release details further.

The party has also pointed out that PA systems are used widely in Sikkim for political, social and religious functions and even melas, entertainment events and tambola, hence the restrictions on election season amounts to restricting the rights of citizens and political parties to freely participate.

The Congress is insisting that the authorities allow the use of public meetings and the use of loudspeakers at street corners, bazaars and small public places in addition to large open grounds, in order to ensure maximum participation of the citizens in democratic exercise.

In this regard, an SPCC delegation led by its president Sharat Basnet and working president Dr Dipendra met the Chief Electoral Officer of Sikkim

gang-Yangang constituency was celebrated today at Lingmoo. In charge South District senior vice president, Girish Chandra Rai who was present as the chief guest, said that the SDF party has been working hard for the 2019 election, and shall definitely win all 32 seats.

He accused the opposition of trying to divide people on the basis of caste and religion in the last elections. People have understood this strategy of the opposition and will not be fooled, he added.

Former SKM leader, MK Subba, who left SKM and joined SDF recently, said that he tirelessly served SKM



and formed the party in 2012, however the leadership in the party disappointed him.

Forming a party is not enough because a leader needs to be strong, he said.

The function was also attended by former Minister, CB

Say no to fake news, says Election Department

GANGTOK, 04 MAR (IPR):
The Election Department has appealed to all citizens not to believe rumors and fake news related with elections.

Any information pertaining to election statistics/data electoral roll, guidelines of Election Commission of India etc. may be enquired and confirmed either from the office of the District Election Officer or office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim, said the Election Department today in a press statement.

A voter helpline app is available in Google Play store to obtain authentic information on electoral roll, said the

election Department.

"Further, a toll free number: 1950 is also operational on all working days. Recently published information in some newspaper has shown wrong figure of electors' data. As such publishers are also requested to re-confirm the statistics/data before publishing in the print/electronic media."

According to the Election Department, the total number of electors as on 1 Jan, 2018 are 4,01,904 with 206,444 (male) and 195,460 (female). Total electors with 1 Jan, 2019 as qualifying date are 4,23,167 as on date 216,133 (male), 207,032 (female) and 2 transgender.

SDF Foundation Day at Poklok Kamrang

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 04 MAR:
Poklok Kamrang Constituency of South Sikkim also celebrated the 27th Foundation Day of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) here at Borbotey Public Ground.

Area MLA cum Sikkim Legislative Assembly Speaker, KN Rai attended the function as chief guest.

He was accompanied by guest of honor, Kamal Nath Rai, general secretary, South/West, Arjune Rai, publicity secretary, DWC, Thiru Psd. Nepal, Mani Kumar Yonzon, all Zilla Panchayat members, Panchayat

members, vice president for Election Campaigning Committee, Passang Rinzing Sherpa and villagers.

The chief guest hoisted the SDF party flag and lit the ceremonial lamp in the presence of all invited guests. He spoke about the formation of the party in 1993 and achievements of the SDF government so far.

He urged people of Poklok Kamrang Constituency to come forward to support the party. The celebration committee on behalf of all the people of Poklok Kamrang constituency felicitated the chief guest.

Importance of Folk Healers in Primary Health Care: Need for Recognition and Support

DR. SUNITA REDDY & TSHERING LEPCHA
This piece is written out of the project being carried out by Indira Gandhi National Center for Arts in collaboration with Anthropos India Foundation across North Eastern states. Starting with Sikkim, the project presents some of the important findings from a public health perspective. The seed of this research, however, were sown by PhD research Scholar, Tshering Lepcha through his six years of research experience with the folk healers since 2013. The rapport built by the scholar helped to study the healers in-depth.

The traditional knowledge and wisdom have existed for ages where communities have been safeguarding and curing themselves from various illnesses, much before the advent of biomedicine or western medicine. It is important to credit the biomedicine system of medicine for its cutting edge technology, skills, expertise and professional training that can handle emergencies and do sophisticated surgeries. This has led biomedicine to gain state patronage almost in every country, thereby producing state health care service systems from primary health care to secondary and tertiary care. However, modern health care is becoming expensive, and 80% goes out of pocket expenditure leading to household debts.

The traditional knowledge about the folk and tribal healing practices, also called non-codified systems are passed on from one generation to the other, through oral traditions that continue to treat communities

BIODIVERSITY
Sikkim is the first declared organic State in India with a wide variety of bio-resources. Dr. Bharat from Biodiversity Board stated that the Himalayan range in Sikkim varies its altitude from 230 meters to 8500 meters and is an abode of around 700 species of medicinal plants, some of them are now endangered and rare, as classified by Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT, Bangalore) which needs immediate preservation and conservation. Dr. Bharat stated by 'supporting the Baidyas, we can conserve and promote the biodiversity', they are the true custodians of nature. The Biodiversity and the medicinal plant board and forest department are doing their best to conserve and protect the biodiversity. The Biological Diversity Act 2002, with three objectives; conservation, sustainable usage and fair and suitable benefit sharing though came late, is nevertheless necessary to protect, preserve, conserve and propagate different species.

HILL COMMUNITIES AND HEALERS

Talking to some of the known Baidyas, Titit Gyatcho said that across the hills; the communities are staying at varied heights, are mindful of the Mother Nature in their own culture, tradition and are protecting and conserving it. The hills and forests are their abode and are sacred. They revere sacred mountains, forests, and rivers. The people living a tough and precarious life on these hills have strong faith and beliefs in the Lamas, Bongthing, Dhams, Bhakris, Fedangma, and bhaidyas who

front line treatment service providers in the rural Sikkim.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The 22 healers studied, some of them are very well known traditional Baidyas like Nar Bhadr Limboo, Krishna Prasad Phakurel, Lila Ram Dhakal, P.R. Chettri, Laxman Karki, Yamuna Prasad Bastola, Chandra Prasad Subedi and many more. They have been given letter of appreciation by the state and government departments and have participated in many trainings and workshop, shared their concern of not getting adequate support to continue their knowledge and skills. These healers are vanishing with their abundance of knowledge base as there are no genuine learners. Even though some departments have come and documented their practices, but the healers feel that they are left high and dry. They express that they should have been supported by helping them to grow herbal nurseries, given space and infrastructure to practice, given simple tools and technology and most importantly- credit and recognition by the state to practice.

They also shared the concern of losing some of the genuine medicinal plants since only the commercially viable species getting importance. They have also been restricted to collect medicinal plants, even though they are very mindful and know how to protect, conserve and preserve them. Some of these healers have integrated with modern medicine by reading X rays, use of other simpler tools like bandage, gloves, and scissors.

WAY AHEAD

The Department of Forest, Environ-

to find newer plant medicines, are not in the text. However, the question remains whether these healers get their intellectual property or a new patent emerges or any sharing from it for the state, community and healers?

Even though the promise to support healers has been there for a decade, it is pertinent to 'recognize them, support them and provide basic minimum support to build 'healers hut' in gram panchayat, where they can practice their specialization. The fact that patients go to these healers, instead of ignoring this, it's apposite to recognize the importance they play in giving primary health care in the rural areas. It is a threat to medical practitioners that they are 'barefoot doctors', but at primary level healthcare and rural patients to secondary and tertiary care.

The state can help these healers in growing herbal nurseries, provide simple equipment, space, technology building and some seed for establishing their practices. If elections are due, the healers can use their association and add into their election manifesto of their political party to recognize and value their contribution to the community and live in far-flung areas.

Questions are raised on the effectiveness and validity of their medicine. Isn't the lived and shared experience of people treated by them enough to prove their efficacy? Do we need to do clinical trials on a completely different scale? How can one give them certification and registration? What if they



SUMMIT REPORT RATOMATAY, 04 MAR:

Mavedir, a service provider agency under Organic Sikkim Mission, organized a ward level training on 01 and 02 March 2019.

The training was conducted at Ratomatay and Gairigaon ward under Tharpu GPU, West Sikkim.

Farmers from these two wards attended the training program which was held as part of the

regular Kharif training program held for the farmers of this group.

As part of the norms for organic certification, it is mandatory for the certified farmers to attend training on organic technology to enhance their knowledge and skills and ensure organic integrity of certified farms.

First level checking of EVMs and VVPATs begins in West Sikkim



GYALSHING, 04 MAR (IPR):

The First Level Checking (FLC) for additional Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) was started by Election Department, West, at the EVM and VVPAT Warehouse at Kyongsa here today.

The FLC was presided over by Karma L. Lepcha, ADC (W), Tushar G. Nikhare,

SDM (HQ) and nam Palmu Bhutia (Election).

Authorised representatives from Sikkim Democratic Front and Sikkim Khami Morcha were present.

A total of 78 units (BU), 87 Control Units (CU) and 53 VVPATs were checked, out of which one Control Unit and VVPATs were rejected.

The party has come a long way, and now needs deep introspection

The Sikkim Democratic Front celebrated its 27th foundation day on Monday, 04 March. The party, despite occasional desertions, stands remarkably strong despite inhabiting an environment in which regional parties are not aged with much grace. Of course, it helps that SDF voted into power barely a year after it was formed and managed to remain in office ever since. Even so, until it happened, regional outfits did not weather even years in power too well, struggling with unsteady finances, infirm loyalties and imperfect mergers. In that sense, SDF has remained consistently resolute and politically independent, congratulations are in order and well deserved.

Since 26 is also almost past middle-age for regional parties and one does not speak of just the immediate neighbourhood but also the entire Northeast region and East India, as much as the party celebrates and pats itself on the back, it will do well by itself and its future to step back and invest in some mature introspection, something it should honestly undertake every 4th of March. Such a pause will be well recommended since the party, after the nearly two decades of breakneck advances and vicissitudes, appears to have cuddled up into a plateau. It stays at that on a reasonably comfortable thermal, but needs to realize that competition is always scrambling up and considers flapping strong not just on the wings of local ambitions but also in the face of an increasingly ambitious and powerful BJP. SDF's surge to power and continuing dominance led a lot to the fire-in-the-belly gusto with which it approached its politics – working in earnest in rural Sikkim as it matched wits with veterans and won the game of political stratagem. It was quick on its feet and genuine in its engagements. It should reassess where it stands vis-à-vis its inspired earlier years. The party's leaders – new founders – should return to the original approach that brought them together in 1993 and honestly answer whether it is still the same ideas that keep them together or whether it is just the convenience of being in power that has become reason enough now. Because, accept it, the party appears to lose leaders and supporters the moment they end up on the margins of the inner circle especially in elections come calling.

Should such an introspection be undertaken, some of the answers and facts might embarrass, but there should be no shame in confronting uncomfortable situations. In fact, it is only such soul-searching that can keep further embarrassments at bay. This soul-searching is also necessary because the SDF has had a reasonably easy stay in power, save momentary hiccups in 1997 and in Elections 2014. The occasional bush fires aside, the strength of its connection with the electorate has not been put under any real stress so far. And that can sow lethargy. Competition keeps people sharp and in its absence, lethargy infiltrates. Many signs of luxury-induced lethargy already manifest within the SDF's leadership ranks. Even the hardcore SDF supporter will deny this. It's only retrospection that can identify where this lethargy has collected fat and which limbs need exercising before they start wasting away. And retrospection, even if not significantly threatening at present, is always around. For the party, its leaders and those who believe in it, a mirror that offers the best reflection is the best ally at present because the pressures of delivery that would have kept them humble-ready is not available to them. This mirror they can hold up for themselves.

Such an introspection is necessary preparation for another election cycle is upon Sikkim and the party in office needs to figure out what it will approach the people with. It might already be a bit late for the day for that, but things swing fast in Sikkim. So, this time they will have the juggernaut of the BJP to contend with especially since it has been doing rather well by teasing apart the cracks in regional outfits elsewhere in the country. There is also the SKM which has seen a late but passionate surge in activity. Even as SDF prepares its election strategy, it should reinforce its checks against potential leakage and also consider the option of increasing its pool of leaders. The party workers need to be inspired and only then can the electorate be convinced. This last requirement is necessary because the party has not been doing too well that front. It should also study and understand how regional outfits have been crumbling all over

about the (new) Green New Deal. It's an ambitious plan to make America carbon-neutral – as well as more equitable – in a mere 10 years.

Although the Green New Deal resolution that will be voted on in the U.S. Senate is likely to be “soundly defeated,” the broader debate that it has sparked – how best to respond to climate change – is not going to disappear any time soon.

The main champion of the proposal, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, is clearly more than capable of responding to her critics. But experts also need to weigh in, particularly because each of the key elements of the framework – including the core contention that governments must be the primary driver of the transition to a green economy – is backed up by an extensive body of academic research.

Some critics say the Green New Deal is too costly, and others have effectively responded to that argument. But what about the other common critiques?

IT REJECTS MAINSTREAM ECONOMICS

The mainstream economic solution to climate change is to put a price on carbon, for example through a carbon tax or emissions trading scheme. This idea has dominated climate policy discussions at the domestic and international level for years.

The editors of *The Economist* lament that the Green New Deal doesn't emphasize carbon pricing. In their view, climate change is an example of market failure with an uncomplicated solution. To solve the problem, they say “governments need only include the social cost of carbon in the prices people pay.”



Turns out, the solution isn't as straightforward as they would have us believe. For one, the carbon price has to be incredibly high and cover a broad swath of the economy to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Governments haven't shown a willingness to do this and recent research suggests that even steep prices will not produce the deep emissions reductions required to limit global warming to under 2C.

This is not to say that a price on carbon has no role to play in a Green New Deal – and the Ocasio-Cortez proposal doesn't rule it out. The point is that carbon pricing isn't the only game in town and we shouldn't be shackled to it as our sole response just because orthodox economists prefer its “elegance.”

IT LACKS FOCUS

The Ocasio-Cortez resolution lists a number of objectives in addition to carbon neutrality such as universal health care and stronger rights for workers.

Some view this “green intersectionality” as damaging to the fight against climate change. They argue that these other policy goals are irrelevant, costly and will weaken support for the plan. Others suggest, to the contrary, that it is politically savvy to link issues that voters clearly care about to the fight against climate change.

Author and activist Naomi Klein has eloquently argued why both sides miss the point. The prevailing view places issues into silos, and fails to grasp that the crises of inequality and environmental devastation are “inextricably linked” – and can only be overcome with a holistic vision for social and economic transformation.”

Again, research has long identified these links. Take for example, the much discussed job guarantee that provides a social safety net in the form of publicly funded “green jobs,” such as insulating homes or environmental rehabilitation. This idea comes from the work of economists like Pavlina Tcherneva, and it fits with the broader notion of a “just transition” – the idea that the people who lose their jobs in the fossil fuel sector as a result of the transition to a green economy should not be left behind.

IT ISN'T GREEN ENOUGH

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the New Deal in 1933 to tackle the Great Depression, it didn't matter very much what the government invested in, as long as jobs were created. Theoretically, the government could pay people to dig holes and fill them in again. In practice, it aimed for public benefits from its investments, including reforestation and the expansion of the national parks sys-

tem investments under the New Deal actually meet the goal of economic equality and environmental sustainability. The long history of “green” programs failing to live up to expectations, even the Civilian Conservation Corps was derided by many ecologists at the time for building roads in natural areas and planting monocultures, instead of a mix of species, which provided habitat for wildlife and left the forests more susceptible to fire.

The battle lines are clearly being drawn over whether the Green New Deal should include investments in nuclear power and low fossil fuel combustion combined with carbon capture and storage technology.

There are also more subtle issues to be aware of. It's easy to greenwash large infrastructure projects, for example. A “green” electricity program funded by Canada's 2009 stimulus package was designed solely to provide cheap energy to mining companies, rather than access to a remote, previously pristine natural area. In addition, the vast majority of funds from Korea's 2009 New Deal went to a major project vigorously opposed by environmentalists.

Concerns about the greenwashing of the Green New Deal can't be dismissed: the devil will be in the details, and there is much work to be done in this regard. But in the meantime, the broader shift in framing of the climate change debate that the proposal has initiated should be recognized, and welcomed.

[the writer is Canada Research Chair in Economy and Environment, Queen's University, Ontario]

Will terrorism continue to decline in 2019

GARY LAFREE
theconversation.com

Lost in the headlines, rapidly accelerating news cycles and the pervasive fear generated by terrorist threats is the fact that terrorist attacks worldwide have actually been declining – in some areas substantially.

Terrorism researchers like me have long noted that the number of terrorist attacks rises and falls in waves – generally lasting several decades.

I'm the founding director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, or START, and one of the original creators of the Global Terrorism Database. My colleagues Laura Dugan, Erin Miller and I define terrorism as “the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by non-state actors to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation.” The database shows that the world has been gripped by a wave of terrorist attacks that began shortly after the 9/11 attacks.

My research using the START database shows the extent of this spike. From 2002 through 2014, worldwide terrorist attacks increased by 12 times and terrorist fatalities increased by more than eight times. Especially hard hit were Iraq and Afghanistan in the Middle East, India and Pakistan in South Asia, and Nigeria in sub-Saharan Africa.

The most active terrorist organizations driving this worldwide boom were the Taliban, Al-Shabaab, the Islamic State Group (also known as IS), the Communist Party of India-Maoist and Boko Haram.

But since 2014, the picture has changed dramatically – a development that has gone largely unreported in the media.

Let's examine that change.

A DOWNWARD TREND

In 2015 total terrorist attacks decreased by 11.5 percent and total terrorism-related deaths by 12.7 percent.

In 2016, we saw a further 9.2 percent decrease in attacks and 10.2 percent decline in total terrorism-related deaths.

The downward trend continued in 2017, the most recent data available, with a 19.8 percent drop in attacks and a 24.2 percent decline in fatalities.

Taken together, these 36 months have wit-

nessed a decline in worldwide terrorism-related fatalities.

By the end of 2017, all five of these countries had experienced sizable declines in attacks.

Three of these countries also experienced a dramatic decline in fatalities: a 53.6 percent drop in Iraq, a 55.4 percent drop in Pakistan, and a 97.1 percent drop in Ukraine. The violence in Ukraine was concentrated in 2014 and 2015 and associated with the rapid rise of the Euromaidan revolution and culminated in the overthrow of the Russian-backed Ukrainian president.

During the same period, fatalities increased by 12.5 percent in Afghanistan and 203 percent in Somalia, but these increases weren't big enough to offset the declines in Iraq, Pakistan and Ukraine.

MAJOR GROUPS LESS ACTIVE

Attacks and fatalities claimed by the world's most active and dangerous terrorist organizations have also declined during the last three years.

In 2014, the five most active terrorist organizations in the world were the Islamic State Group, or IS, the Taliban, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and the Donetsk People's Republic – a separatist organization operating in Ukraine and receiving military backing from Russia.

By the end of 2017, attacks by the Taliban, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and the Donetsk People's Republic had all declined. Total attacks by IS decreased by 2.2 percent from 2014 to 2015 but then increased by 7.7 percent from 2015 to 2017.

In Western Europe and the United States, total terrorist attacks are down sharply from the 1970s. In 2017, Western Europe accounted for only 2.7 percent of worldwide attacks and the United States for less than 1 percent of attacks.

That may seem surprising given the amount of media attention generated by a small number of high profile attacks. In 2015, attacks in Paris took the lives of 130 and injured another 400. In 2016, Western Europe experienced a series of mass casualty attacks carried out by IS and its affiliates in Nice, Brussels and Berlin.

While the total number of attacks in the United States remains extremely low, the public was shocked in 2015 by the 14 victims of the attack by Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik in San Bernardino, California, and the nine people

SOME HOTSPOTS REMAIN

Terrorist attacks and fatalities are declining everywhere and every year.

The START database shows that in 2017, attacks and fatalities increased in India, the Philippines and Nepal. In 2016, attacks and fatalities increased in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Turkey. And in 2015, attacks and fatalities increased in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Egypt.

Also, while worldwide attacks have declined, a large number of countries are seeing targeted. Thus, while terrorist attacks declined in a total of 100 countries in 2017, 10 countries experiencing attacks was 99 in 2016 and 108 in 2015. Countries experiencing attacks in 2016 included Kazakhstan, Panama and Switzerland.

This effect was especially apparent in Iraq and its affiliates, which claimed fewer attacks and deaths in 2017 but at the same time saw a rise in attacks in a larger number of different countries.

Not all reasons for declines in terrorist attacks are positive.

For example, an argument can be made that terrorist attacks have declined in Afghanistan in part because the Taliban in recent years have been so successful in taking back control of the country.

A similar outcome – but with the opposite result – is that the terrorist perpetrators are in control of the situation – no doubt explaining declining terrorist attacks and fatalities in Syria.

While we have observed major declines in terrorist attacks and fatalities from 2014 to 2017, both attacks and fatalities remain at historically high levels.

The number of attacks in 2017 is 27 percent higher than in 2012, and deaths 70 percent higher.

Even more strikingly, attacks were more than twice as common in 2017 as they were during 1992 – the peak year for an earlier wave of terrorism.

AN END TO CHAOS?

One thing is certain: The number of terrorist attacks in a particular region of the world will eventually peak and then decline.

It seems logical to conclude that the end of terrorism is in sight. The end of terrorism and disorder that follow in the wake of terrorist attacks provide strong incentives for

MAR 4 (PTI): Bangladesh has executed a man who murdered a diplomat in an Embassy official in Dhaka's high security area in 2012. The Islamic Mamun hanged on Sunday at 10.01 pm at the high security Central Jail. The convict Saiful Islam was hanged at 10 PM yesterday at

Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur," Shahjahan Ahmed, a senior official of the prison was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

Khalaf Al Ali, 45, was shot dead near his residence in Dhaka's posh Gulshan area on March 6, 2012.

The subsequent investigations found it to be a case of mugging when miscreants demanded

resistance led to a bloody confrontation when Mamun shot him dead.

A fast track Dhaka court in December the same year handed down the death penalty to five Bangladeshis for the murder but four of them were acquitted as the verdict was later referred to the High Court for mandatory review of capital punishments.

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on November 10 last year approved ways for Mamun's execution for murdering Ali, rejecting his plea for reviewing his sentence.

Jail's official Ahmed said that doctors subsequently declared Mamun dead while the body was later handed over to his brother on behalf of the family.

Killed in coal mine mishap in Nagaland



MAR 4 (PTI): Miners have been following mudslides at an illegal coal mine at a village in Longleng district of Nagaland, said Monday.

The incident happened on Saturday when 10 victims, all from the village, had gone to the mine to collect

their belongings.

They reportedly got stuck inside the open-cast mine on the Assam-Nagaland border following mudslides, police said.

The mine was recently shut down following a state government order banning illegal coal mining and a provisional ban on licensed mining activity, police said.

The victims, hailing from upper Assam, have been identified as Jiten Tanti (40), Krishna Gogoi (32), Tutu Deka (28) and Shushan Phukon (37).

Post-mortem was not done on the bodies at the request of the victims' families. The bodies were delivered to the families after an undertaking.

The Nagaland incident has occurred within three months of the Meghalaya mine tragedy in which 15 miners were trapped in an illegal rat-hole mine in East Jaintia Hills district. Rescuers have been able to retrieve only two highly decomposed bodies from the quarry.

Cardiac surgeon examines Bangladesh minister in Dhaka after special request from PM Hasina

MAR 4 (PTI): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought the help of a leading Indian cardiac surgeon in dealing with the treatment of a senior Cabinet member.

Dr Shetty on Sunday came to Dhaka to examine the health of Bangladesh Minister for Road, Transport and Bridge, Obaidul

his coronary artery.

He was taken to the Intensive Care Unit at first and then moved to Critical Care Unit as his condition deteriorated, the Daily Star reported.

He had also uncontrolled diabetes and electrolyte imbalance.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Hasina and Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and many Cabinet members and lawmakers visited him at the hospital, the paper said.

Shetty, who is the chairman of Narayana group of hospitals, arrived at the Dhaka airport on Monday afternoon from where he directly went to the BSMU, where Quader was on life support.

"I received call from the Bangladesh Prime Minister last evening and was requested to examine the health of the minister. I was told that the condition of the minister was serious," Shetty told PTI over the phone.

He examined the Awami League leader and spoke with the other doctors.

Shetty said that the minister will get a better treatment in Singapore.

"I examined Quader's health closely and have asked BSMU doctors to shift him to Singapore where he will get better medical facility," Shetty.

The decision to transfer him to Singapore was made shortly afterwards, the bdnews24.com reported.

**HAVE
A STORY TO
SHARE?**
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summitimes.com**

Will take measures to eradicate poverty in state: Manipur CM

MAR 4 (PTI): Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has said the government would take steps to eradicate poverty in the state and toward ensuring the beneficiaries of the schemes receive the dues on time.

Addressing people inaugurating a new school in the West district, Singh asserted the "prevailing system of governance and



grievances of the people living in the hills and the valley," the chief minister said.

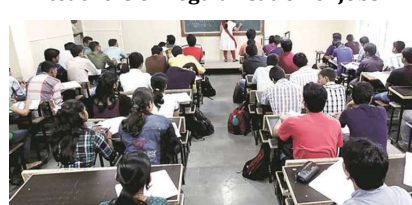
Singh also said that the schemes will be re-

that people get electricity and gas connections without having to wait in queues outside government offices," he maintained.

Stressing on the importance of imparting quality education in schools, the CM said the BJP government in the state will launch a new mission to provide better facilities in government-run institutes.

"Education plays a

Partha assures part-time college, varsity teachers of regularisation of jobs



KOLKATA, MAR 3 (PTI): West Bengal government will ask the state College Service Commission to take into account the years of experience of part-time college and university teachers while considering their demand for regularisation of service, Education minister Partha Chatterjee said Sunday.

Chatterjee, however, stressed that the eligibility criteria would always be followed while regularising jobs of part-time teachers.

The minister was talking to reporters on the sidelines of the convention of Bengal Eligible College & University



SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, MAR 4 (PTI): Over one million devotees from India and Nepal on Monday thronged the Pashupatinath temple here to observe Maha Shivaratri festival at the famous 5th century temple situated on the banks of Bagmati river.

This year's Mahashivaratri is considered more auspicious as it has fallen on Monday, a day dedicated specially to worship Lord Shiva.

All four doors of the temple, regarded as the most sacred and oldest temple of Shiva in Nepal, remained open since 3 am.

The entire temple premises was decorated with colourful lights, flags and banners. The temple authorities have allocated Rs 5.4 million budget for the Maha Shivaratri festival.

The devotees observed fast before offering prayers to the Lord Shiva. Hundreds of Naga

Sadhus mostly from India performed special rituals in the temple premises.

In the vicinity of the temple, devotional programmes were presented and vegetarian meals were served by different charity organisations to the devotees.

In view of massive number of devotees thronging the temple, more than 6,000 security personnel along with 5,000 volunteers were

deployed for maintaining law and order and smooth functioning of the celebrations.

Vehicles were restricted few kilometers away from the temple premises to ease arrangements.

The Pashupatinath Development Trust made special arrangements including temporary shelter, water, complementary meals, medicines etc for the convenience of the devotees.

India collaborates with four nations to protect Asian rhinos

NEW DELHI, MAR 4 (PTI): India will collaborate with Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia to increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos, including the Greater one-horned rhinoceros found in the Indian sub-continent.

The five rhino range nations signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species at the recently held Second Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting here.

During the meet, Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan affirmed India's commitment towards rhino conservation.

The declaration was signed to conserve and review the population of the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos every four years to



reassess the need for joint actions to secure their future.

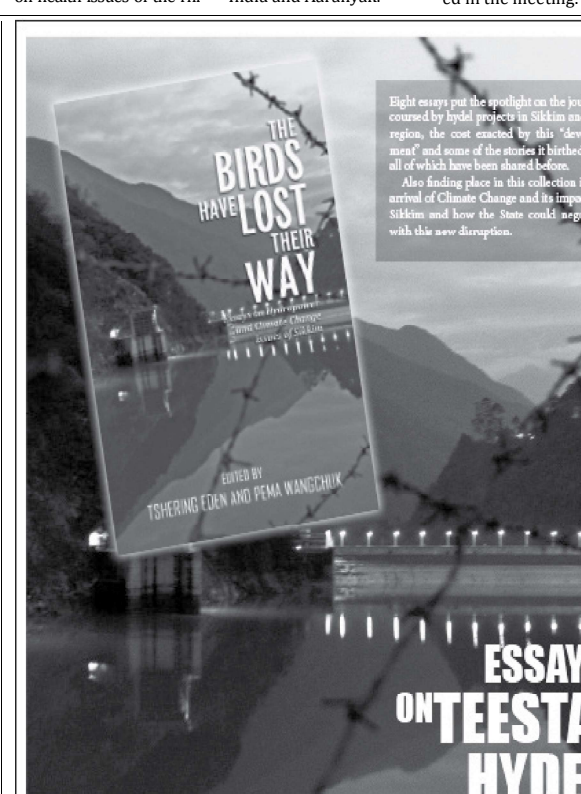
"The national strategy will pave the path for long term conservation of the Greater one-horned rhinos in India. I also wish the range country of critically endangered Javan and Sumatran rhinos success in their endeavour to secure the future of the two critically endangered rhinos in Asia," Vardhan said.

The declaration includes undertaking studies on health issues of the rhinos, their potential diseases and taking necessary steps; collaborating and strengthening wildlife forensics for the purpose of investigation and strengthening of transboundary collaboration among India, Nepal and Bhutan for the conservation and protection of the Greater one-horned rhino.

The meet was organised by the environment, forest and climate change ministry in collaboration with IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, WWF-India and Aaranyak.

It was attended by NGOs such as US International Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society, London Nepal and the WWF's India, Indonesia and chapters.

The Wildlife Conservation Trust for Nature Conservation of Nepal, Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Freeland Foundation Thailand also participated in the meeting.



MAR 4 (PTI): Indian cricket's acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary washed his hands off the BCCI letter that urged the ICC and its member nations to sever ties with countries which are a terror, side-step-teries on whether prudent to raise the

BCCI's request returned down by the national Cricket (ICC), saying it has to play in matters se.

Choudhary, asked at a press conference here to announce Tata Motors' as the IPL's official partner, whether it is a mistake not to have Pakistan specifically the letter, said, "I did not written the let-

ter to the ICC, in the aftermath of the death or attack in Pulwama killed more than 30 personnel and for the Pakistan-based group Mohammed took responsibility, was framed by CEO Rahul Johri



in consultation with the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

"The chairman of the ICC (Shashank Manohar) has made a statement to address the issue and he has simply said that it is a matter which is beyond ICC's domain," said Choudhary.

"I would like to put everything to rest that there is no difference of opinion. There was a written communication by the BCCI CEO with the ICC. There were two points in that communication the first point related to the security and well being

of the players and of the fans also," he said when asked whether the BCCI had erred in making this proposal.

Citing contents of the letter, Choudhary said the BCCI's primary concern ahead of the World Cup is players' security.

"The second matter related to suggesting that India and other members of the ICC take no part with teams which comes from areas where certain phenomenon emanate from, but the letter didn't mention which areas.

"To which the ICC chairman, after discussing

it with the Board which is the only policy making body of the ICC, stated that it is not within the domain of the ICC to make a comment or make a decision.

"The BCCI's concerns were, as I said, primarily, according to the letter, security concerns relating to players and fans which the ICC has wholeheartedly agreed to address. And the ECB representative Colin Graves was of the same view," he added.

The acting secretary said resolving the conflict between BCCI and the World Anti Doping Agency was an urgent matter to ensure that the ICC is not declared non-compliant by WADA.

"That is an issue. The world body (WADA) has been in dialogue with ICC for some time and the issue is that all participating nations in the ICC must align with the national testing authority.

"The only member of the ICC which has so far resisted it, and for reasons well known, is the BCCI and therefore there is a slight urgency on that matter. The ICC has been

informed and the ICC chairman is of the view that he will soon have a dialogue with the BCCI itself considering the urgency of the matter lest the ICC be declared non compliant."

He said the selectors are working on the workload schedule of key Indian ODI players in view of the World Cup that immediately follows IPL from May 30.

"At this stage, it is not proper to divulge but we also have the selectors working on this," he said when asked whether the IPL franchises had agreed to the plan in principle.

The issue of advancing the IPL match timings are also a work in progress, he said.

IPL CEO, Hemang Amin, said the issue was under evaluation.

"Last year we had advanced the timings for the play-offs to start at 7pm. We are still considering whether to advance it a bit or keep it at 8pm because it also affects the afternoon game. For the last so many years we have been playing 12 to 15 afternoon games so it impacts that.

looks to fire his team into the Champions League quarter-finals against Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday.

In the space of seven days, Tottenham's hopes of winning the Premier League have been shattered by defeats at Burnley and Chelsea and Saturday's north London derby draw against Arsenal.

It was just the latest Tottenham failure when the stakes have been at their highest since Mauricio Pochettino took charge five years ago.

Only a last-minute Hugo Lloris penalty save from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang prevented Arsenal inflicting Tottenham's third successive loss.

But Kane is convinced Tottenham are capable of recovering from a painful week and he challenged his team to use their Champions League last-16 second leg in Dortmund as fuel to speed up their revival.

"Two disappointing results in a week, this was the perfect game, a north London derby to

and a penalty against Arsenal.

"It's a point, we wanted three but it stops the losing streak and we can focus on Dortmund and then Southampton.

"Over the last week we have put ourselves under pressure but we have done it in the past and every game is a big game."

Tottenham have one foot in the last eight after a 3-0 first-leg win at Wembley.

Now they must finish the job against Dortmund to book their first Champions League quarter-final appearance since 2011.

That would leave Tottenham within touching distance of their first European semi-final since winning the UEFA Cup in 1984.

- BARREN SPELL -

Progressing in Europe's elite club competition could be essential for Tottenham to convince Kane that they can provide him with the platform to win major honours.

Without a top trophy since the 2008 League Cup, Tottenham's barren

sea on Wednesday.

Ironically, Tottenham has dipped at that moment Kane reformed from an ankle injury.

The 25-year-old back ahead of schedule prompting some suggest he has rushed too soon.

But Kane has in two of his three over the last week, his goal tally for the son to 22.

To claim the World Cup top-scorer an impediment to ham in any way would meet with derision Pochettino.

The Argentine's amant Kane is one of the world's best strikers his Champions League record supports that.

Kane, who missed Dortmund first league 13 goals in 16 appearances in the competition.

His confidence in his own ability is so that earlier this season he made aim to even score more European goals than Barcelona end Lionel Messi.



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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.- 06/R&B/Nam/2018-19

Dated:-01/03/2019

and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Namchi Sub Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV grade enlisted with Public Works Department vide notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12/06/2018 and subsequently with notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 28/08/2018 and 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 08/10/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of concerned ward of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

Name of work	Value put to tender (Rs)	Completion time (in months)	Cost of tender documents (Rs)	Amount of Earnest Money @ 2.5% For issue of tender form (Rs)	Grade of contractor	Name of G.P.U	Name of Constituency
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Construction of link road from Palden Tamang House near Boomtar Jali to Tangsang near Lower Boomtar Primary School.							
KM-1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Boomtar Sailayhong	Namchi Singithang
Construction of Road from Maniram PWD Road to Maniram School via ICDS and Lower Maniram							
KM-1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Maniram Phalidara	Namchi Singithang
KM-2 nd	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Maniram Phalidara	Namchi Singithang
Construction of Road from SPWD Road near Roadside Park to Panchayat Bhawan.	21,19,248.00	6 months	1,500.00	\$2,981.00	Grade IV	Mundley Kamrang	Polok Kamrang
Construction of Road from Namchi Donathang Road to Punjitar (Additional length 1.0Km)	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Polok Kamrang
Construction of road from Barbotey to Samardung (1.0 Km)	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Xagi Kerek	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
Construction of Lower Khip Ganchung Road to Lower Perbing PWD Road.							
KM-1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Perbing Dovan	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
KM-2 nd	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Perbing Dovan	Namthang Rateypani Constituency

Time Schedule:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents, (excluding Tender Form)	18 th March, 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPIC).
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form and submission of TDR (As Earnest Money)	19 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPIC).
3.	Last Date and Time of submission of Tender	20 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective GPIC).
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Bid.	20 th March 2019 (1.30 pm at respective GPIC).

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.

the period specified in (As above from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, Cost of tender form shall be deposited to the revenue of respective GPU.

- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of State Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts (TDR) in favor of the Sr. Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi. Tender form shall be issued from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposited receipts to that contractors/firm who has obtained tender documents, on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed envelope with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, Supporting documents shall be at Sl. No. 3 above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box at respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the general Directives and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the schedule the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If a claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered into by the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor. 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction of rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be accepted.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of work as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
 - Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and approved by the competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives and shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period. i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road material etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractor's bill.

...can for re-
...tion with Italy fol-
...a diplomatic spat
...w Paris briefly re-
...ambassador.
...ations between
...o countries have
...ed due to repeat-
...hes between Cen-
...acron and Italy's
...st coalition gov-
...nt.
...February, Paris re-
...ambassador Chris-
...asset for a week
...est at "unfounded
...and outlandish
...by the Italian
...ment.



"with French and Italian youth".

"We will talk about the future and Europe," he added.

The two presidents intend to go "beyond the misunderstandings that can sometimes arise in political or economic life and which are, for me, secondary," Macron said, without mentioning Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte or other Italian leaders.

With the exception of a question about the

planned Lyon-Turin rail link -- which he stressed the importance of -- Macron did not mention other divisive subjects such as Italian populist leaders' support of the "yellow vest" protestors in France or the merger between French ship-builder Chantiers de l'Atlantique (formerly STX France) and Italy's Fincantieri.

On the other hand, he spoke at length about his love of Italy and his travels.

"There are so many

French people who love Italy and Italians who love France and the French. But suddenly, we almost forgot that we have to keep on learning to understand each other," Macron said.

"I do not underestimate any of the difficulties of everyday life and the impatience, but I believe that between our countries there is and always has been a lot of heart, that is to say, friendship, love," he said in a final message to cam-

even before its release as Macron chose to be interviewed by Fabio Fazio, a nemesis of Italy's deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini and nationalists who consider him an archetypal "trendy" journalist.

During his interview, the French president also quoted writer Roberto Saviano, one of Salvini's most virulent critics, and lambasted "the simplification of the message of some nationalists".

"No country, no one in Europe, nor Italy, nor France, will solve its own problems by opposing other European countries and by withdrawing back to the national level," he insisted.

He also felt Europe was like living "on a volcano".

"There are people who think we can continue like sleepwalkers, as if nothing has happened, they will be buried. Me, I'm aware of the tragedy," he said.

"We need some real, complex philosophical thought and to re-inspire our peoples."

largest military spender after the US, defended its massive allocation on security on Monday and hinted at raising it further this year, saying the country did not pose any "threat" to others.

China last year increased its defence budget by 8.1 per cent, taking its declared defence spending to a whopping USD 175 billion which was over three times that of India's.

The details of the exact amount were expected to be announced by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday in his work report to the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC).

However, NPC spokesman Zhang Yesui in his preparatory media conference on Monday put up a staunch defence to China's continued heavy spending on defence, saying it is still less compared to other "major developing countries" military expenditure.

"Whether a country is a military threat to others or not is not determined by its increase

national defence policies it adopts," Zhang said.

China's defence spending remained single digit since 2016 though it had double digit growths in five years preceding to that, he said when asked about apprehensions on China's defence spending.

Compared with other countries, China's defence budget accounted 1.3 per cent of the GDP. Major developing countries spent two per cent GDP on their defence, Zhang said.

"China remains committed as always to peaceful path of development and we pursue a defensive national defence policy. China's limited defence spending is for safeguarding the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the country. It is not a threat to other countries," he said.

The US Congress last year passed a whopping USD 717 billion annual defence spending bill for the fiscal 2019.

India's defence budget this year was increased by 6.87 per cent

tion of Rs 2.98 lakh notwithstanding a major when China and Pa were bolstering military capabilities.

China in recent resorted to major forms of its military which included ing priority to pand its navy air force to en its influence a while cutting three lakh troops the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Even after the PLA is the world's military with two personnel in its range.

As part of the policy, China no one aircraft carrier other undergoing and third one under construction.

State media r ed that China to have five a carriers in the future with pla build nuclear ca like the United S. It is also rapidly ing new naval sh submarines.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM JORETHANG SUB DIVISION SOUTH SIKKIM

No:32/SD/J/R&B/EWR/13-14/521
No: 05/R&B/Jor/2018-19

Date: 27.02.2019
Date: 27.02.2019

and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Jorethang Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade tender with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 & 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, Dt:08/10/2018 high competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban local bodies the work is to be executed.

the works are listed as under:

Name of Work	Value put to Tender (Rs.)	Completion time (in Months)	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)	Amount of Earnest Money @2.5% for issue of tender form	Grade of Contractor	Name of G.P.U	Name of Constituency.
Construction of Jeepable road from Lungchok via Lunkhiya to Rong Km 1 st (0.00-1000) mtrs.	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Sumbuk-Kartikey	Melli

ME SCHEDULE:-

Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents.(excluding Tender Form)	18th March, 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPK).
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Last Date and Time of submission of Tender	20 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective GPK).
Date and Time of Opening of Tender	20 th March 2019 (1.30 pm at respective GPK).

DITIONS OF CONTRACT.

Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area. intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents. The applications should enclose attested copies of the Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment

- respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed envelope with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents should be listed at SL.No. 3e should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the concerned Gram Prasasan Kendra, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the tender notice, on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Conditions and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items not in the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Project Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages(if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days of the issue of work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered into with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction of per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contractor shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring states, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of work as mentioned in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road material etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be some site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/ Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills up to the limit.

**Jinki mehnat desh ka aadhaar,
Unki pension ka sapna saakaar**



Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)

A pension scheme for unorganised workers



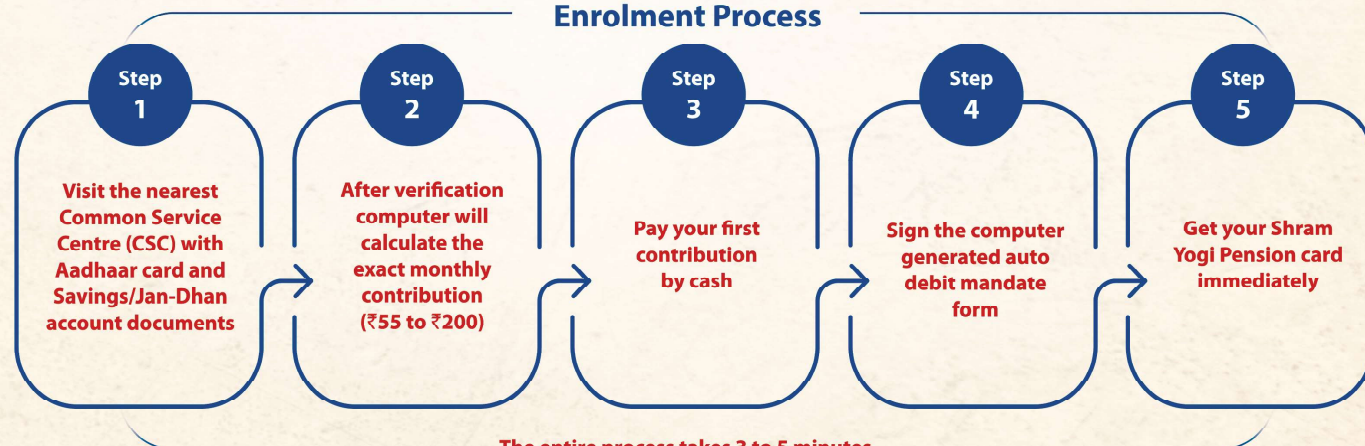
ELIGIBILITY:

- Unorganised workers such as rickshaw pullers, hawkers, labourers, maids, tailors, paan vendors, small shop owners or workers with similar job profiles
- Entry age: 18-40 years
- Monthly income ₹15000 or less

To benefit from this scheme reach out to the nearest common service centres with your

Aadhaar Card and Savings/Jan-Dhan account documents.

Detailed Enrolment Process



Matching equal contribution by the Central Government