



**BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO
WEEK IN NORTH SIKKIM**

pg02

**GILLETTE HAS IT RIGHT: ADVERTISERS
CAN'T JUST CELEBRATE MASCULINITY
AND IGNORE THE #METOO MOVEMENT**

pg04

**SKM COORDINATION
MEETING HELD AT RUMTEK S**

pg02



SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 21 | Gangtok | Tuesday | 22 January 2019

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

BJP to contest Sikkim elections with help from regional parties

Lotus will bloom in Sikkim in 2019: BJP in-charge for Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
SINGTAM, 21 JAN:**

Bharatiya Janata Party is all the set to contest the 2019 election in Sikkim with the help of regional parties. BJP election in-charge for Sikkim, Nitin Nabin today claimed that the lotus will bloom in Sikkim in 2019 as they have completed the first round of talks with regional parties in last two days. The decision on alliance with the regional parties will be made public within 10 days, he added.

Mr Nabin along with the state unit president, DB Chauhan addressed a press conference at the party headquarter in Singtam, East Sikkim today wherein Mr Nabin stated that he is not just

looking after the functioning of his party but is also here to talk with the regional parties of Sikkim and to understand what they want for the state.

"We want to hear their heart out as well as understand the situation of Sikkim," he said.

When asked about an alliance, he said that the party is open to alliances and has spoken with all regional opposition political parties.

On Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's allegations that the opposition is selling out to Delhi, Mr Nabin said that it is the mentality of the regional party and Chief Minister whereas BJP is an ideology based political party. Such comments do



not affect BJP, he added.

The Chief Minister had made the comment on Sunday at Mangan, North Sikkim while addressing the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

He said that BJP is

holding a meeting of the booth level committee on 11 Feb followed by a meeting with party intellectuals on 17 Feb and a youth convention on 19 Feb.

On 25 Feb, a meeting with likeminded politi-

cal parties will be held where national leaders are also expected to attend and guide the election campaign, he informed.

He further said that on 26 Feb, BJP will come

up with details of list of beneficiaries of 125 schemes launched by the Modi government to uplift the rural people's living standard where national leaders are expected to address the gathering.

A bike rally will also be held on 02 March across the State to show the BJP strength in upcoming elections.

While replying to queries on party's strength in terms of organization, Mr Nabin said that undermining the BJP's strength would be wrong and election results will prove that. He said that BJP is all the set to retain power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

turn to pg02

Social Media messages announcing elections dates fake: Chief Electoral Officer

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 21 JAN:**

Apervasive rumour about dates for general and assembly elections 2019 has begun circulating on social media platforms across the country and is being shared widely in Sikkim as well. While these messages are obviously unsubstantiated and potentially mischievous, they appear to have gained embarrassing traction, and today the State Election Commission also refuted these rumours and called on people not to give them any credence.

"All the dates and rumors regarding the upcoming assembly election are false and are not reliable information," said R. Telang, the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim.

The Election Commission of India has not issued

any official announcement on dates and has not released the calendar regarding the same, he added. The ECI is the only authority which can decide dates for parliamentary and assembly elections.

Speaking to Summit-Times, Mr. Telang urged people not to believe such false information and not circulate them further. He suggested that people contact the concerned office for any kind of information related to elections in the State. "Don't believe any dates until an official statement is released by the Election Commission of India," he stressed.

The rumour, he said, was an example of false information that can surface before elections.

He further informed that ECI may announce the election dates by the end of February or March first week.

CM chairs opening ceremony of NE Youth Festival at Dentam

*Stay updated to
reap benefits,
CM tells youth
Stay updated to
reap benefits,
CM tells youth*



DENTAM, 21 JAN (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling chaired the opening ceremony of the North East Youth Festival 2019 organized by the Sports Youth Development Board, Government of Sikkim at Dentam as the chief guest today.

The CM was accompanied by UD&HD Minister, NK Subba; HRDD Minister, RB Subba; Roads and Bridges Minister, GM Gurung; RMDD Minister, SB Subedi; Health Minister, AK Ghatani; MLAs, Chairpersons, HODs and other guest and dignitaries.

In his address to the gathering at Dentam, the CM spoke exclusively to the youth present in the North East Youth Festival. He urged the youth to be updated with cur-

rent technology in order to reap the full benefits of opportunities available to them in today's times.

He advised the youth to interact with each other during the festival

which could be useful for all participants to understand each other's culture and ways of life. He mentioned that the festival is a chance for the North Eastern States to mingle with each other which would be beneficial to all.

The CM mentioned that the youth have it in them to shape the future of their state. He advised the youth to never lose hope and work hard. He added that the State has done everything in its power to help the youth in every way possible by introducing various governmental schemes and policies which benefit the youth of Sikkim.

Lastly, he extended his best wishes to all the participants of the North East Youth Festival.

turn to pg02

3-day Susakurtot organic festival gets underway



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA
DZONGU, 21 JAN:**

The three-day Susakurtot organic festival at Gor in Lower Dzongu, North Sikkim started today. The inauguration was attended by Chairperson SNT Division, Pintso Namgyal Lepcha as a chief guest in the presence of Panchayat President, Phurmit Lepcha, CDPO Dzongu,

Netuk Lepcha and the panchayat members.

The president organising committee, Bhujong Lepcha highlighted about the Susakurtot organic festival. The chief guest in his speech highlighted that this festival should be continued in order to boost organic mission. He appreciated the organising committee for

taking this initiative and also urged all to make organic farming a lucrative profession for healthy and wealthy living.

The chief guest and other guests visited the organic stalls. The festival had display of organic products which will conclude on 23 Jan. A colourful cultural program was presented by students.

India's richest 1% get richer by 39 pc in 2018; just 3 pc rise for bottom-half: Oxfam

BARUN JHA

DAVOS, JAN 21 (PTI): Indian billionaires saw their fortunes swell by Rs 2,200 crore a day last year, with the top 1 per cent of the country's richest getting richer by 39 per cent as against just 3 per cent increase in wealth for the bottom-half of the population, an Oxfam study said Monday.

Globally, billionaires' fortunes rose by 12 per cent or USD 2.5 billion a day in 2018, whereas the poorest half of the world's population saw their wealth decline by 11 per cent, the international rights group said in its annual study released before the start of the five-day World Economic Forum (WEF)

Annual Meeting in this Swiss ski resort town.

Oxfam further said that 13.6 crore Indians, who make up the poorest 10 per cent of the country, continued to remain in debt since 2004.

Asking the political and business leaders who have gathered in Davos for the annual jamboree of the rich and powerful of the world to take urgent steps to tackle the growing rich-poor divide, Oxfam said this increasing inequality is undermining the fight against poverty, damaging economies and fuelling public anger across the globe.

Oxfam International Executive Director Winnie Byanyima, one of the key participants at

the WEF summit, said it is "morally outrageous" that a few wealthy individuals are amassing a growing share of India's wealth, while the poor are struggling to eat their next meal or pay for their child's medicines.

"If this obscene inequality between the top 1 percent and the rest of India continues then it will lead to a complete collapse of the social and democratic structure of this country," she added.

Noting that wealth is becoming even more concentrated, Oxfam said 26 people now own the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity, down from 44 people last year.

Sikkim's Edu T Bhutia sets world record in women's inclined bench press

All Sikkimese lifters in India team bag medals in Int'l Championship

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 21 JAN:**

Sikkimese strength lifters have bagged 21 medals for the country in the 7th International Strength Lifting & Incline Bench Press Championship 2019 held from 17 to 20 Jan at Karmazari, Pench in Madhya Pradesh. Sikkim's Edu Tshering Bhutia has also set the world record in the women's inclined bench press by lifting a weight of 75.5 kgs and Pema Dorjee Bhutia also set the world record in master's inclined bench press by lifting a weight of 135.5 kgs.

Interestingly, all eleven lifters from Sikkim in the India team



have bagged medals for the country, which includes 10 gold medals, 5 silver medals and 6 bronze medals.

All three women strength lifters from Sikkim, Edu Tshering Bhutia, Ranju Sundas and Kalpana Chettri bagged

two gold medals each for the country. Likewise, Pema Dorjee Bhutia also bagged two gold medals, Thinley Wangdi Bhutia won 1 gold medal and 1 silver medal, Homnath Siwakoti clinched 1 gold medal and 1 bronze medal, Ganesh Kumar Subba

won 1 silver medal and 1 bronze medal, Ongdup Tamang bagged 2 silver medals, Palden Tamang won 1 silver medal and 1 bronze medal, Santosh Gupta won 2 bronze medals and Pempa Tamang won 1 bronze medal for the country.

Kinnar Akhara, a group of transgender saints, to build ashram in Allahabad

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 (PTI): Kinnar Akhara, a group of transgender saints in Prayagraj Kumbh announced on Monday that it will set up an ashram in the city, according to a statement issued here by the Ministry of Culture.

The group, which had attended the Ujjain Kumbh in 2016, have been taking part in the holy baths at the Kumbh Mela this year along with the other akharas.

"Transgenders were badly exploited in the society and even their parents were forced to live a disgraceful life. Transgenders have been part of Sanatan Dharm and they have been given respectful status in religious epics and books of Hindu mythology. The Akhara has provided a forum to transgenders to pursue a dignified life with religious rituals. We will build an ashram at Prayagraj," Acharya Mahamandaleswar Lakshmi Narayanan Tripathi, the chief of the Kinnar Akhara has been quoted as saying in the statement.

He said the Juna Akhara, a traditional and powerful akhara, has given the recognition to Kinnar Akhara and has allowed it to be a part of the Shahi Snan.

Tripathi expressed gratitude towards the chiefs of Juna Akhara.

Kinnar Akhara has set up a huge camp in Sector 12 at Prayagraj Kumbh and it attracts hundreds of thousand devotees daily, according to the statement.

Cong in talks with “likeminded” parties in Sikkim for pre-poll alliance

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

The Congress leadership is in touch with “likeminded parties” in Sikkim and will be in Gangtok from Tuesday for another two days to hold talks with regional parties here to explore pre-poll alliances, Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee president, Bharat Basnett, informed media persons here in Gangtok today.

Mr Basnett stressed that the Congress sees post-poll alliances as an

eye wash and too opportunistic and will hence go for pre-poll alliance with likeminded political parties with whom it is already in touch.

Mr Basnett said that the Congress was committed to respecting the unique status Sikkim enjoys within the Indian union and past Congress governments at the Centre have given Sikkim weightage at par with larger states like UP and Madhya Pradesh even though Sikkim has only one representative each

in the two houses of parliament.

Basnett said that if Congress is voted back to power at the Centre, all political demands of the State will be solved.

He also took a dig the SDF-BJP alliance at the Centre to point out that SDF, despite being an NDA partner, made no noise about the removal of Khangehndzonga from the Rs 100 note with a structure from Gujarat.

This disregard for Sikkim’s sentiments was



representative of how casual the BJP was when it comes to looking out for the States.

He said that if Con-

gress comes back to power with the 2019 general election, the pride of Sikkim will be reclaimed and maintained.

SKM coordination meeting held at Rumtek



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Martam Rumtek Constituency conducted ward level coordination meeting at Rumtek today. The meeting was chaired by acting president Cum MLA, Kunga Nima Lepcha. Senior advisor of the party, TM Rai and spokesperson, Jacob Khaling were amongst many other central and constituency level executive members along with huge number of party workers who attended the meeting.

Appointment letters were handed over to all post holders of the constituency and ward. All who received appointment letters pledged their sincerity and assured full dedication to-

wards party programs.

J Khaling appealed to all members who received the appointment letters to work with full dedication for the benefit of the society. He also slammed the Chief Minister for referring to the opposition as “goondas” stating that SDF came to power using violence and hatred. He recalled numerous incidents of violence during the tenure of SDF Government.

Rumtek Constituency president, DR Giri gave full report regarding the activities going on in the constituency, where he stated that ward level committee at all wards has been formed and are fully functional. He also expressed his concern about how SKM women

workers were picked up by male police personnel on a general dairy filed by the local panchayat regarding an altercation they had on discrepancies in distribution of benefits in the Janta Mela.

In the end, KN Lepcha assured that SKM will form the Government in 2019. He also said that the flame of democracy that Chamling had come forward with has been doused with the flood of corruption and autocracy. Further he said that “Bikash” is not about torch light, cooker, GCI Sheet, etc, but to provide basics like water, health, education and total social security to all regardless of their political affiliation.

Buying and selling is Chamling’s specialty: HSP

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) has strongly condemned the Chief Minister’s statement on opposition parties selling out to a Delhi buyer, in reference to the parties meeting with a BJP delegation from Delhi.

The party would like to stress that buying and selling is Mr Chamling’s specialty and he is basically saying what he thinks and does, HSP has said.

Even today, he boasts of superior strength in the assembly based on members which he has ‘bought’ from another opposition party, the party adds.

HSP has asserted that it will talk and negotiate with everyone but shall never sell out on Sikkimese interests as guaranteed under article 371F of the constitution

which the Chief Minister has blatantly violated countless times for personal gains over the last 25 years.

Every term he comes to power, the very next day he sells himself to the Government in Delhi and has always got away till now, so instead of accusing the opposition of selling out, he should be answering the people about the many promises he made over decades, including the sensitive social demands of the people of Sikkim, the party has further alleged.

HSP has asked the Chief Minister to prepare for investigations to come, stating that he already has a prima facie case of massive corruption prepared by the CBI which he has managed to evade by misusing every democratic institution in the state.

CM chairs opening ceremony...

During the event, the Chief Minister also released the ‘Sikkim State Youth Policy Book’ and ‘Tales of Transformation: A Compilation of Articles by HCMMSS Recipients’ during the inaugural ceremony of the North East Youth Festival 2019.

Participating states for the Youth Festival are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

BJP to contest Sikkim elections...

He refused to elaborate on the meetings with regional political parties and some active NGOs adding that the talks are on and the party will inform all the people about the outcomes of the meeting only after the central leadership’s nod.

On Bhaichung Bhutia of Hamro Sikkim Party, he said Bhaichung is a national icon and has floated a political party to serve the State and its public. However, he denied claims of the ruling party that Bhaichung has floated his political party in close coordination with BJP.

On pending demands of Sikkim, he said that the State BJP president will come up with details of what the BJP government have delivered so far and is committed to resolve the political demands of Limboo and Tamang communities in a short span of time.

Over 1 crore devotees take dip in Ganga on Paus Purnima

ALLAHABAD, JAN 21

(PTI): Braving intense chill, over 1.07 crore devotees took a dip in the Ganga river here on Monday on the occasion of Paus Purnima – the second auspicious bathing day of the Kumbh Mela. From Sunday night itself, the Sangam area was buzzing with activity as devotees started arriving even as security forces maintained a close watch on the movement of pilgrims and visitors at the mela venue.

Even before the sunrise, devotees were seen coming out from the ghats after taking the dip.

“Over 1.07 crore devotees have taken a dip so far on the occasion of Paus Purnima. Drone cameras are being used to keep a watch and maintain vigil over the mela area,” Mela

adhikaari Vijay Anand told reporters here.

Officials repeatedly made announcements requesting devotees not to venture into deep waters and also keep an eye over suspicious elements in their vicinity and report it to the police.

The full moon was at its splendid best over Sangam before the break of dawn and devotional songs greeted visitors in the area.

Fog too was seen before the sunrise at various places in the Sangam area. However, it failed to dampen the mood of devotees, who turned up in large numbers for the Paus Purnima bath.

As the day progressed, the number of devotees coming to take the holy dip increased.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Week in North Sikkim



MANGAN, 21 JAN (IPR):

The “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week” – Empowering Girls for a Better Tomorrow - is being observed in North Sikkim from 21 to 26 Jan 2019. The event is being coordinated by the District Collector, North, who is the chairperson of the District Task Force for BBBP.

Today, three awareness and sensitization meetings were held at Sukurtok Organic Festival and Singhik ICDS center. People were sen-

sitized about gender equality, health and hygiene management and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Aganwadi workers undertook a door-to-door sensitization campaign in their respective areas to generate wider awareness on the scheme. BBBP stickers were also pasted on PHSCs, schools and vehicles.

The BBBP scheme is currently being implementing in 405 districts across the country to

create an enabling environment for girls and promotion of gender equality.

The District Collector informed that as per the directions of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI, various activities will be undertaken throughout the district.

The National Girl Child Day will be celebrated on 24 Jan in the district where the best performing schools in academics of girls in the district will be felicitated.

MGNREGA employees demand regularization



BIKASH CHETTRI

NAMCHI, 21 JAN:

MGNREGA Employee Association Sikkim has requested the Rural Management and Development Department to consider the regularization of 255 employees working under the scheme.

In a press conference held today at Namchi, members of the association said that these

employees have worked for 10 years and as per the government policy of regularizing employees who have worked for 5 years and above, they also deserve permanent employment with the government.

The 255 employees hold posts like Programme Officer, Gram Rozgar Sahayak, etc. They also informed that

on the recommendation of the Chief Minister, the RMDD had moved a file on 21 July 2018 regarding regularization of all MGNREGA staff.

“We have dedicated our precious time for the department [RMDD] with utter dedication and sincerity, therefore, we hope that the CM Sir will regularize us,” the MGNREGA employees have said.

Cyber expert claims India’s 2014 general election was ‘rigged’

HS RAO

LONDON, JAN 21 (PTI):

An Indian cyber expert, seeking political asylum in the US, Monday claimed that the 2014 general election was “rigged” through the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which, he says, can be hacked.

Addressing a press conference in London via Skype, the man, identified as Syed Shuja, said he fled India in 2014 because he felt threatened in the country after the killing of some of his team members.

Shuja claimed the telecom giant Reliance Jio helped the BJP to get low frequency signals to hack the EVMs. However, he provided no proof to back up his claim.

He said the BJP would have won Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh elections if his team hadn’t intercepted the BJP attempts to hack the transmissions in these states.

The outlandish and explosive claims, made in a cloak and dagger manner, could not be immediately confirmed. He

claimed he was part of a team at the public sector Electronic Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), which designed and developed the EVMs. He was presented at a press conference organised by the Indian Journalists’ Association (Europe). Although he appeared on screen through Skype, his face was masked.

In New Delhi, the Election Commission asserted that it firmly stands by the ‘foolproof nature’ of its machines even as it said it is examining as to what legal action “can and should” be taken in the matter.

In a statement, the poll panel said it firmly stands by the “empirical facts about foolproof nature of ECI EVMs” used in elections in India.

The poll panel reiterated that the EVMs used by it are manufactured by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) under “very strict” supervisory and security conditions.

It said there are rigorous standard operating procedures “meticulous-

ly observed” at all stages under the supervision of a committee of technical experts constituted in 2010.

Several political parties in the past have alleged that the EVMs are prone to tampering and demanded reintroduction of the ballot papers.

Speaking at the event in London, Shuja claimed that he worked for the ECIL from 2009-2014.

Shuja said that he was part of a team which designed the EVMs used in the 2014 elections. He said that he and his team were instructed by the ECIL to find out if EVMs could be hacked, and find out how to do this.

“The 2014 general elections were rigged,” he claimed.

He also alleged that the Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Delhi election results were rigged during the elections.

The cyber expert claimed that the EVMs were hacked by the BJP using a modulator which transmits military-grade frequency.

Volleyball Coaching Camp in Namchi



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Volleyball Association is hosting a month-long winter volleyball coaching camp for under 13 and U-19

boys at Namchi Senior Secondary School ground.

The camp started on 04 Jan and is scheduled to conclude on 04 Feb, 2019.

This is the third camp organised since 2017. A total of 25 students are attending the camp, informs National Volleyball Coach, Zeati Rai.

5.84 lakh new names added to Odisha voters’ list

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 21

(PTI): The number of voters in Odisha has increased to 3.18 crore after the addition of 5.84 lakh new electors, according to the final electoral roll released on Monday ahead of Lok Sabha and assembly elections due this year.

“The number of voters as per the draft E-roll published on September 1 last year was 3,12,52,333. (In the final roll) it has gone up to 3,18,00,787 with the

addition of 5,84,454 new voters,” Chief Electoral Officer Surendra Kumar told reporters.

Out of the total voters, 1,63,37,310 are male, 1,54,60,545 female and 2932 are transgenders, he said. The number of young electors (in the age group of 18-19) has increased from 1,33,896 to 5,45,401, Kumar said adding that 1,80,391 voters have been deleted.

The CEO said the Electoral Registration Offi-

cers (ERO) had identified 9,02,792 Demographically Similar Entries after analysis of the database of the ERONET, a software that links all the EROs of the country. Out of these, 2,97,323 electors were noticed as doubtful.

For the first time, special provisions are being made for 1,90,037 voters with disabilities so that they could exercise their franchise.

Sikkim to host NE States FIDE Rating Chess c'ship

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Chess Association [SCA] is all set to host the 19th North Eastern States FIDE Rating Chess Championship from 29 January to 03 February here at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences complex, 5th Mile, Tadong.

Sikkim is hosting this prestigious championship for the second time. Around 250 chess players from all over the north-east are expected to compete.

Addressing a press conference here today, SCA general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal, mentioned that Sikkim had hosted this championship for the first time in 2012. This year, Sikkim will have the largest contingent of around 120 players, followed by Assam which has around 55 players in this championship.

The championship will be played on Swiss League



System of 10 rounds and carries a total cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh sponsored by the All India Chess Federation [AICF].

The championship will have open and different age-group categories. AICF general secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan from Delhi is scheduled to attend the competition to encourage participants.

About the ongoing preparations of the Sikkim team, Mr Dhakal informed that the team was in the good form and all set to give a tough contest. SCA has organised a month-long camp for the State team at SCA office.

He mentioned that Rahul Gurung was the youngest and the current North East Champion-ship. He added that an-

other Sikkimese player, Thendup Tamang, was the second runner-up in the last edition of the championship held in Shillong.

Rahul Gurung shared that preparation has been going well and assured to give his best to defend his title.

Likewise, Thendup Tamang said, "I will go for the champion's tro-

phy this time. The preparation has been going very well and I will give my best to become the champion."

Likewise, other top-rated players of Sikkim, Sushmita Lama, Rakesh Gurung, Rohit Gurung and Suraj Gupta expressed confidence of doing well in the championship and further improve their FIDE rating.

SKM submits memorandum to CS on Soreng dharna



SUMMIT REPORT

SORENG, 21 JAN:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has submitted a memorandum to the Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim seeking

immediate resolution to the matter raised by public of Soreng in regards to unfair practices while selecting beneficiaries for Janta Mela. The public have been on a dharna

for two days to protest the selection process. An SKM team headed by MLA/Chief Coordinator, Sonam Lama met the Chief Secretary to seek his intervention on this matter.

Shiloh Christian Church gets new president



SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 21 JAN:

Shiloh Christian Church of Singtam has chosen a new pres-

ident following the demise of president, Rev. Dr. Samuel Lepcha. The executive committee of the Church handed

over the post to Rev Dr Samuel Lepcha's wife, Dina Merry Rai today at its headquarters in Singtam.

Skill Development Programme by SSB concludes at Rongli



GANGTOK, 21 JAN

(IPR):

Sashastra Seema Bal under its Civic Action Programme organised a 30-day Skill Development programme at Rongli on different subjects to train youth of different caliber of border villages which began on 11 Dec, 2018 concluded. Dy. Inspector General SSB Gangtok Sector, BK Pal, was the Chief Guest during function in which prominent local people, professionals and SDM Rongli, SDPO Rongli, Panchayat President ChujaChen and S.K.Dogra Commandant 69th Bn SSB

Rongli were present.

The 69th Battalion SSB Rhenock selected the youths from different villages and organised the training at Rongli of which 20 girls for Beauty Parlour Course, 08 boys for Motor Driving Course and 10 boys for Computer Course. The trainee who belongs to 18 border villages of the area received intensive & professional training to earn their livelihood. While addressing the concluding programme Dy. Inspector General SSB, BK Pal, conveyed his best wishes to the trainees and said that

these youths will become asset for their society & family in future.

The training programme was held under the Professional Training Centers at Rongli. These centres will also provide technical assistance even after training to these trainees. Besides, the 69th Battalion SSB will also help & guide them to use their skill in self-reliance. Other battalions of SSB at Geyzing and Yuksom are also conducting various developmental programmes for the welfare of youths and villagers of border areas.

Pakistani PM's party seeks disqualification of ex-president Zardari

ISLAMABAD, JAN 21

(PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party on Monday filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking the disqualification of former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chief Asif Ali Zardari.

Khurram Sher Zaman, a Member of Sindh Assembly from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, filed the disqualification petition against 63-year-old Zardari in the apex court, Geo TV reported.

Zardari, the husband of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was elected to parliament from the southern Sindh province in the elections in July last.

"We hope that the court will hear the petition soon and I am confident I will win this case," Zaman said while speaking to the media outside the court.

"Zardari owns assets worth billions which he concealed. This is a very big case and we have a lot of evidence," he said. "We will apprise the media when there is any headway in the case."

On December 20, Zaman had filed a reference in the Election Commission of Paki-

stan (ECP) seeking the disqualification of the former president for allegedly concealing his New York apartment in his tax returns.

However, earlier this month, the PTI leader withdrew the disqualification reference stating that he would move the apex court against Zardari.

Zardari served as the 11th President of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013.

On December 27, the Pakistan government placed Zardari and his sister Faryal Talpur on the Exit Control List (ECL) to prevent them from flying abroad after they were named in a Supreme Court-appointed joint investigative team probing fake bank accounts.

The JIT probe, constituted by the apex court on September 5, focused on "32 fake accounts" which were allegedly used to give massive financial benefits to Zardari, Talpur and several others.

However, the Supreme Court on December 31 expressed anger over the government's move placing the names of 172 suspects on the ECL and ordered it to review the decision.


SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 21 JAN:

Shiloh Christian Church of Singtam has chosen a new pres-

ident following the demise of president, Rev. Dr. Samuel Lepcha. The executive committee of the Church handed

over the post to Rev Dr Samuel Lepcha's wife, Dina Merry Rai today at its headquarters in Singtam.



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

No. 674/IPR/18-19 Dated. 21.01.2019


PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Celebration of Republic Day, 2019 will be held at Paljor Stadium on 26th January, 2019. Being a national function, the programme will be attended by Honourable Governor of Sikkim and Honourable Chief Minister of Sikkim along with Honourable other high ranking dignitaries.

Due to security reasons, carrying of water bottles are strictly forbidden at the venue and all Government employees, PSUs and members of public representatives are requested to carry with them respective identity card to gain access to the venue.

R.O.No.: 609/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19
Date: 21/01/2019

IPR DEPARTMENT
Government of Sikkim



ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

Anthyesthi Kriya of Lt. Bal Bdr. Lamichaney who left for his heavenly abode on 11/01/2019 falls on 22/01/2019. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our residence at Gale Tea Garden, Kharka Dhura, Rangli Rangliot, Dist. Darjeeling. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during the time of bereavement.

Pranjay Lamichaney (Senior Journalist) 8918852813

70 per cent votes polled in Assam autonomous councils polls

GUWAHATI, JAN 21

(PTI):

About 70 per cent votes were cast in the election for three autonomous councils in Assam and passed off peacefully, a statement by Assam State Election Commission (ASEC) said Monday.

The elections were held at the Rabha-Hasong, Mising and Sonowal-Kachari autonomous councils on Sunday.

The highest polling was witnessed for Mising Autonomous Council with 75 per cent votes cast, the statement said.

The Rabha-Hasong autonomous council has 36 seats, Mising autonomous council 35 and Sonowal-Kachari autonomous council 26 seats.

The counting in all the three autonomous councils will take place on January 28, ASEC informed.








NEW YEAR CALLS FOR A NEW DRIVE.

Avail exciting offers and get ready to start the New Year in your favourite Maruti Suzuki car with AGS technology.



Special Offer

- * Rs. 5000/-* Gift cheque for Govt. Employees for VITARA BREEZZA
- * Rs. 3000/-* additions offers for Drivers cum Owner on OMNI
- * Gift Cheque Rs. 10000/-* on DZIRE purchase



AUTO K10 CELERIO SWIFT BREZZA DZIRE WAGONR CELERIOX

Bumper offer

Gift cheque Rs. 50,000 valid upto 28 Jan. 2019

DISCOUNT UPTO Rs. 60000/- on CELERIO

DISCOUNT UPTO Rs. 33000/- on ALTO 800



ERTIGA

NO CLUTCH PEDAL
Enjoy the ease and comfort of driving, even in heavy traffic.

THE BEST OF TECHNOLOGY
The revolutionary Auto-Start-Stop technology lets you switch between automatic and manual mode on the drive.

UNCOMPROMISED MILEAGE
Experience unparalleled performance with great fuel efficiency.

EXCLUSIVE EXCHANGE DEALS & AUTHENTIC PRE-OWNED CAR - SALESOUTLET



ENTEL MOTORS (P) LTD.
GANGTOK | JORETHANG | MANGAN

JUST DIAL: 9933009930 / 9933009943 / 9933009926

Email: entelb901@yahoo.co.in

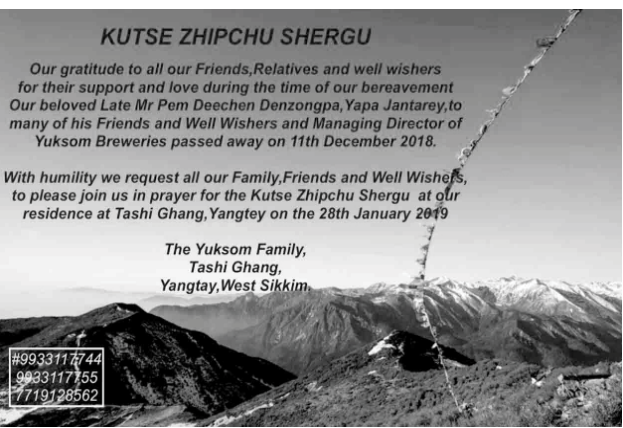
#9933117744
9933117755
7719128562

KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU

Our gratitude to all our Friends,Relatives and well wishers for their support and love during the time of our bereavement Our beloved Late Mr Pem Deechen Denzongpa, Yapa Jantarey, to many of his Friends and Well Wishers and Managing Director of Yuksom Breweries passed away on 11th December 2018.

With humility we request all our Family, Friends and Well Wishers, to please join us in prayer for the Kutse Zhipchu Shergu at our residence at Tashi Ghang, Yangtsey on the 28th January 2019

The Yuksom Family,
Tashi Ghang,
Yangtsey, West Sikkim



SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Don't Camouflage Male Chauvinism

The #MeToo campaign is important because the deck was always been loaded against women

The #MeToo campaign has ripped the fig leaf off the ugly preying that women across the world have been subjected to for far too long. The momentum, some might argue, is already flagging, but the ripples remain and occasional tsunamis will keep rising. Why? Because this is an important conversation to have.

While sexual assault and abuse are clearly criminal offences, the current campaign seeks to address not just the obvious instances of such abuse but also the more complicated situations and assaults in which centuries of internalizing convinces even the victims that they might have hinted consent or led the perpetrator on. But now that even such grey zones have been more clearly defined, and a clearer understanding established about what constitutes abuse, why consent in necessary, and most importantly, that even the Mighty will fall if they are called out, the serial abusers, who have traditionally been protected by their positions or social and financial standing, have much to fear. They now stare at a situation where they could not only lose their "reputation" but also the positions which brought them the courage and entitlement to force themselves on women. The #MeToo campaign was desperately needed because there is a dangerous regression underway across the world and misogyny and patriarchy are on the ascendant. The society at large needs to thank the women who started the process of calling out their pigs and forcing people to address the problem and confronting the madness manifesting in men in positions of power, influence and privilege.

This was one of the reasons why the Trump victory in USA was so deplorable. Given the American dominance of mass media, even if one does not understand the American electoral processes, the elections there are closely followed. When a man who brags about grabbing women by their pussies gets elected President of the US of A, every entitled male chauvinist pig out their gains strength and mutates into an even uglier version of himself. And not just in USA, because the US elections tend to set off a trend. So, while the eight years before Trump were about an inspirational pursuit of change and inclusiveness, now it is about regression and paranoia. When a person with the obnoxious sexism of The Donald manages to win, apart from imperiling the rights of all the women in USA, he also delivers the packaging within which disgusting worldviews and offensive sexism can not only be packaged and peddled, but also consumed without guilt. Invoke nationalism, paint a threat to an old/ imagine way of life and anything, no matter how false or patently disagreeable, can be circulated and sold. Think Padmaavat here. The movie, an obnoxiously jingoistic celebration of stereotyping and misogyny gets protested by the most stereotypically misogynist of groups for being, let's say, too liberal and permissive. The alleged distortions and the claimed ode to Rajput valour and womanhood - everything ended up just being in head. But noise was made and noise was heard. And when the sham - of the movie - was called out for the patriarchy it celebrated, the club slapped down hard. That is what we have become and that is what we needed to be saved from, which is why #MeToo is important.

Once the language of insular patriarchy becomes commonplace, there will be enough of us with regressive streaks to lend our shoulders to it and lower the bar for the new normal. It goes without saying that women's rights, even the basic ones which will secure them equality, have been compromised and sabotaged so effectively over the centuries that we have internalized the denigration to such an extent that every step forward has to be struggle, battled for, argued and defended. It was already an uphill battle until regression received its new packaging in traditions and identity politics. When the laws refuse to see women as equals, social conduct cannot be expected to do any better than feed them to sexual predators and look away. But #MeToo is forcing us to notice how widespread this malaise has become, how too many have been traumatized. May be now we can effect some change...

Gillette has it right: advertisers can't just celebrate masculinity and ignore the #metoo movement

LAUREN GURRIERI
theconversation.com

The controversy over Gillette's new advertisement focused on toxic masculinity highlights the differences between challenging stereotypes of women and men in advertising.

Viewed more than 23 million times on YouTube, the advert has so far attracted more than 330,000 comments, about 650,000 likes and 1.1 million dislikes. No advertising campaign challenging stereotypes about girls and women has ever been this controversial.

Perhaps that is because those adverts have tended to celebrate an "empowered" view of girls and women. There is even a term to describe this type of advertising with pro-female messages - femvertising - that has its own dedicated awards.

Challenging gender stereotypes of men, on the other hand, is proving less straightforward.

Other campaigns that have explored modern versions of masculinity have taken a similar approach to femvertising. But Gillette's new advertisement is different. It uncompromisingly confronts problems such as sexism, bullying and harassment associated with toxic masculinity. As a result some perceive it as negative - a denunciation as opposed to a celebration of boys and men.

It exemplifies a significant creative challenge for advertisers at a watershed moment in the movement for gender equality. How do you celebrate masculinity without acknowledging toxic masculinity in this time of #metoo?

GENDER STEREOTYPES IN ADVERTISING

My research examines sexist advertising practice and how this more broadly contributes to gendered inequalities. For example, how advertisements that glorify the violent exploitation of women work to normalise violence against women.

Gender stereotypes are another form of sexist advertising practice.

Because advertisements must simply and persuasively communicate a message that can be understood by a relatively broad audience, the industry has long been susceptible to perpetuating stereotypes - oversimplified ideas of the way people should be.

Recall how television program Masterchef promoted its 2013 series as a "battle of the sexes". The women wore pink and men blue. They trash-talked one another with a litany of stereotypes: "men are more experimental!", "women can multitask!".

Critically, most creative work in agencies has historically been led and shaped by men using hypermasculinity as a model for creativity. One study has likened agency cultures to lock-

er rooms - intensely competitive, structured by male bonding and rife with sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination. As a result few women have been able to break into and succeed as creatives in advertising.

But this has begun to change, and the industry has started to face up to the problematic way in which advertising has reinforced gender stereotypes. There is increasing resistance to portrayals suggesting a single way to be a man or woman.

Last year the World Federation of Advertisers launched guidelines for progressive gender portrayals in advertising, namely unsterotyping ads, that highlights the importance of diverse teams and gender aware cultures. The Australian Association of National Advertisers (AANA) updated its Code of Ethics to state that gender-stereotypical roles and characteristics, such as a man doing DIY, must not suggest these are always associated with or carried out by that gender.

Gillette's parent company Procter & Gamble, along with other multinationals heavily invested in gender-based marketing, has joined the Unstereotype Alliance, a United Nations-backed initiative to eradicate harmful gender-based stereotypes in advertising. Alliance members commit to creating content that depicts people as empowered actors, refraining from objectifying people and portraying progressive and multi-dimensional personalities.

CHALLENGING TOXIC MASCULINITY

Toxic masculinity refers to norms and ideals of manhood that are both constraining and harmful. It fosters rigid expectations that boys and men should be dominant, aggressive, stoic and devoid of emotion. It is instilled by telling boys to "toughen up" because "boys don't cry". It is contemptuous of men "acting like girls". It is harmful to both men and women.

The director of Gillette's new advertisement, Australian-born Kim Gehrig, is no stranger to this territory. Her short film You Think You're a Man explores the cultural expectations of what it means to "be a man" in Australia.

But the backlash against her work for Procter & Gamble highlights the challenge of addressing masculine stereotypes. A core criticism is that it lacks the positivity of femvertising, such as the 2014 #LikeAGirl campaign for Procter & Gamble's brand Always, which turned a phrase used to insult boys into an empowering message.

Other brands marketed to male customers have managed to avoid criticism while dumping the toxic stereotypes they have previously peddled.

Unilever's brand Lynx (also known as Axe) is a good example. It had a history of using sexual objectification in its advertising for men's personal

grooming products. In 2011 the British Advertising Standards Authority banned six of its adverts for being demeaning and offensive.

In 2016 it reformed its image with the #Find-YourMagic campaign, which challenged narrow notions of masculinity.

It followed up in 2017 with its #IsItokforGuys campaign that aired the private struggles men experience with the pressure to "be a man".

The Australian soft-drink brand Solo, owned by Schweppes, is another example of marketers dropping their reliance on aggressively hyper-masculine stereotypes without backlash. In its recent A Thirsty Worthy Effort campaign, a man is no longer engaging in extreme sports to get an extreme thirst; he's making a costume for his daughter's school play.

UNCOMFORTABLE DIALOGUE

Lynx celebrated men being themselves and unpacked unhealthy and narrow expressions of masculinity. Solo used humour to celebrate men taking an active role in domestic life. Where Gillette has dared to be different is in how the advertisement speaks to its male audience.

It directly and unflinchingly tells men how they should behave: do not bully, patronise, speak over, humiliate or sexually harass women. It tells men how they should treat one another. It challenges men to hold one another to account and set better role models for the "men of tomorrow", cautioning that "the actions of the few can taint the reputation of the many".

It shows the huge creative challenge the #metoo revolution poses to advertisers. How can you celebrate masculinity without addressing the toxic behaviours exposed by #metoo revelations?

Gillette's commercial appropriation of #metoo may sit uncomfortably with some, but advertising is often at its most powerful when it captures the zeitgeist.

Encouraging men to call out how others behave around, speak about and treat women is critical in affecting change and advancing gender equality. Gillette's statement reinforces this: "If we get people to pause, reflect and to challenge themselves and others to ensure that their actions reflect who they really are, then this campaign will be a success".

Its approach to challenging male stereotypes and expectations has raised an uncomfortable and provoking dialogue. Representing men as vulnerable, kind, empathetic and modest in advertising is imperative if we are to move beyond the limited cultural portrayals that we often see of men. It is a step forward for an industry with a very chequered past.

[the writers is Senior Lecturer in Marketing, RMIT University]



Ganges: sewers could be making water quality of India's great river worse

DAVID MILLEDGE & JOSH BUNCE
theconversation.com

The Ganges is a lifeline for millions of people who live within its catchment as a source of water, transport and food. During the Hindu pilgrimage known as Kumbh Mela the Ganges plays host to the largest human gathering on Earth as 120m people arrive to bathe in the river over 49 days.

Despite its tremendous spiritual significance, the Ganges is also notorious for having some of the most polluted water in the world. For 79% of the population of the Ganges catchment, their nearest river fails sewage pollution standards for crop irrigation. Some 85% of the population live near water that isn't safe for bathing and Allahabad - where Kumbh Mela takes place in 2019 - is one of those places.

Our own research suggests that as the number of people living in nearby cities increases, the problem with water quality in the Ganges worsens. Urban

populations in the Ganges catchment contribute around 100 times more microbial pollution per head to the river than their rural counterparts. This means that untreated sewage discharged from a sewer appears worse for river water quality than sewage discharge where there are no sewers at all.

When we examined 10 years of water quality data we found that the concentration of faecal coliforms - a common pollution indicator found in human faeces - increased when the density of people living upstream increased. This makes sense: more people means more poo.

But we also found that people living in cities in India contribute more pollution per person than those in rural areas - how much more depends on the population density. A person living in an area in India with 1,000 people per km², a density similar to central London, contributes on average 100 times more pollution to the nearest river than they would in an area with 100 people per km² - say,

rural Devon in the UK.

So why does it appear that a person living in an Indian city produces more sewage pollution than someone living in the countryside?

Of course, people in the cities are unlikely to actually contribute significantly more faeces than those in rural communities. Instead, it's probably sewers that are to blame. In cities, extensive sewage networks efficiently flush sewage to the river, whereas in rural areas more people defecate in the open or in pit latrines. This means faeces in rural areas are less likely to be washed into the river and the bacteria and viruses they carry are more likely to die in situ.

As the population density of a place increases, sewers become more common. Sewage removal is essential for the protection of public health, but without effective treatment, as is typically the case in the Ganges catchment, it comes at the cost of increased river pollution and waterborne diseases for people living downstream.

It's therefore clear that water

quality in the Ganges is a more complex and widespread problem than previously thought. We'd expected that cities, with their more advanced sewage management, would be better for the river. What we found was the opposite - more sewers without sewage treatment makes river pollution worse.

The urgency to invest, not only in sewers, but in the treatment of sewage has never been greater - especially in the most densely populated areas. However, the Western approach of taking all waste to a central treatment plant is expensive and so may not be the best solution.

Onsite treatment technologies such as off-grid toilets or decentralised treatment plants are rapidly developing and may help improve river water quality sooner, enabling more and more people to celebrate Kumbh Mela safely.

[David Milledge is Research Fellow, Newcastle University; Josh Bunce is Researcher in Environmental Engineering, Newcastle University]

‘Centre not keen on safeguarding indigenous people in Assam’

GUWAHATI, JAN 21 (PTI): Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) chief Akhil Gogoi on Monday alleged that the Centre is not keen on safeguarding interests of the indigenous population of Assam, and appealed to people to step up the agitation against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma’s claims that the indigenous population will be safeguarded is simply an attempt to “fool the people”, Gogoi told reporters here.

“The bill was introduced in the last session (Lok Sabha) and a Committee has also been set up for the purpose which is scheduled to submit its recommendations within six months, but the term of the Lower House ends much before that,” he said.

It is a fact the BJP and the RSS, along with Sonowal and Sarma are “simply not interested” in safeguarding the indigenous people, but want to “finish them off by dividing the society along religious lines,” he alleged.

“We are in support of providing ST status to six communities, but it cannot be in exchange of the bill, which, if passed, will ensure that the identity of the Assamese is wiped out,” Gogoi asserted.

Religion cannot save the identity of a race but it is the language, social and cultural rights, economy and the political structure that can safe-

guard the identity and culture of the indigenous population, he said.

He appealed to the people of Assam to protest against the bill so that it is not passed in the Rajya Sabha or in a Joint Session of Parliament.

“The time from January 31 to February 13 is very crucial for the survival of the Assamese, as the BJP and the RSS are hell bent to get the Bill passed in the Rajya Sabha.

“Therefore, I appeal to all to come out and protest or else the indigenous population will become a minority in their own state as has happened in Tripura,” the KMSS leader said.

He also alleged that both Sonowal and Sarma are keen to get the Bill passed as they are in “competition with each other to score more points and be in the good books of the RSS, even if it is at the cost of the Assamese race”.

Seventy organisations, led by the KMSS, will step up their agitation from Tuesday, and as a first step, set out to meet leaders of national opposition parties to ensure that the bill is opposed in the Upper House.

The organisation will take out a torchlight procession on January 23 and organise a 12-hour National Highway and Rail Blockade from 5 am on January 27, while on the first two days of the Budget Session of the Assam assembly, a dharna will be held near the House.

After Navy, Meghalaya suspends operation to retrieve dead miner’s body

SHILLONG, JAN 21 (PTI): Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma Monday suspended the operation to retrieve the body of a dead miner trapped inside a 370-foot-deep coal mine to avoid disintegration of the decomposed corpse.

The state government’s order came a day after the Navy on Sunday suspended the operation to pull the body out after it was found by the unmanned ROV last week during a routine search mission inside the main shaft where the 15 miners are trapped since December 13.

The state government has given the order of suspending the operation to pull out the body of the miner as it is becoming an impossible task, Sangma told mediapersons at the sidelines of a programme here.

We decided that we will suspend the operation because it is really not working out, he added.

We have asked the medical department, Navy, administration and forensic department for their advice and observation, he said.

Asked if the state government will call off

Undertook own selection process for national children’s awards: Govt amid row with NGO over its organisation

NEW DELHI, JAN 20 (PTI): The government has undertaken its own selection process for national children’s awards and is fully prepared for it, sources said, amid its decision to dissociate itself from an NGO involved in organising the function since 1957.

In the past, the Bravery Awards were organised by an NGO, named Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), but recently, the financial integrity of the ICCW was questioned by the Delhi High Court during the hearings of a writ petition.

In view of this, the government dissociated itself from the NGO and revamped the scheme of the National Awards for children last year to include bravery as an additional component in the Pradhan Mantri National Children Awards.

The government has undertaken its own selection for national children’s awards, senior officials said, adding that it had advertised in August itself for the award and is fully prepared for it.

The ICCW, in its response, said it has been doing its job with full integrity and honesty.

“We are an organisation of 60 years and we have done our job with full integrity. It saddens me a lot that this is happening to our organisation,” ICCW president Gita Siddhartha told PTI.

The ICCW has been handling the National Bravery Awards since 1957 and over 900 children have so far been presented with the awards. The Women and Child Development Ministry has said an FIR has also been filed against the ICCW over alleged embezzlement of funds.

The FIR has been registered by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which was funding the ICCW for the National Creche Scheme as well as the National Bravery Awards.

“On examination of audited accounts of the ICCW, it has been ascertained that the ICCW has not refunded the unspent balance of Rs 5,44,002 for the year 2015-16 and Rs 83,99,852 and Rs 2,19,70,197 for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively,” the WCD Ministry said Thursday.

“In view of the findings of the internal inquiry committee and the fact that the ICCW has failed to refund the unspent balance available with them and their downstream entities on accounts of grants under the National Creche Scheme, the ministry was forced to file an FIR against the ICCW for embezzlement of funds,” it said.

The ministry, meanwhile, reinvented the national children’s awards for this year and included bravery as one of the categories under the awards now called the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, 2019. The different categories of award this time is innovation (six awards), scholastic (three awards), social service (three awards), art and culture (five awards), sports (six awards) and a bravery (3 awards).



Energy & Power Department
Gangtok

VEHICLE AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed tender are invited from interested person(s)/parties for purchase of 14(fourteen) nos. of Condemned Government Vehicle of E&P Department of the Government of Sikkim on “as is where basis is” with the detailed specifications tabulated as under:

Sl. No.	Vehicle No. Type/Make	Department Attached	Vehicle Location	Government Valuation	T.D.R. towards Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees)
01	SK-01-G-0918 Bolero GLX	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	60,331.00	3017.00
02	SK-01-G-0972 Bolano	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	1,06,681.00	5334.00
03	SK-01-G-0925 Rhino	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	2,45,241.00	12262.00
04	SK-01-G-0959 Gypsy (ST)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	59,200.00	2960.00
05	SK-01-G-0914 Gypsy (ST)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	73,541.00	3677.00
06	SK-01-G-0942 Bolero GLX	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	68,999.00	345.00
07	SK-01-G-0949 Bolero GLX	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	61,575.00	3079.00
08	SK-04-G-0280 Gypsy (HT)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	48,816.00	2441.00
09	SK-01-G-2229 Gypsy (HT)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	48,816.00	2441.00
10	SK-01-G-2301 Gypsy (HT)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	62,510.00	3126.00
11	SK-01-G-0937 Gypsy (ST)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	60,716.00	3036.00
12	SK-01-G-0928 Gypsy (HT)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	49,189.00	2459.00
13	SK-01-G-0929 Spark	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	68,456.00	3423.00
14	SK-01-G-0932 Gypsy (HT)	Energy & Power	Auto Workshop, DPH	58,425.00	2921.00

Terms and Conditions:

- Cost of tender form is Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) only for each vehicle, payable in any branch of the State Bank of Sikkim obtaining Receipt (B/R) under the Revenue Head “0801-Power-80-General 800-Other receipts”.
- Tender Forms can be obtained from the office of the Assistant Engineer (Mech.) AWS, DPH, GTK during the working hours from 10am to 4pm.
- Interested bidder(s) shall deposit “Earnest Money in the form of TDR the amount indicated in the Column 6 of the above table for each vehicle to be drawn from any branch of State Bank of Sikkim in favour of the Assistant Engineer (Mech.) E&P Deptt. DHP, GTK.
- The Tender Form(s) with quote offer(s) must be placed in a sealed cover/envelope and duly accompanied by the relevant TDR(s) of the Earnest Money(s) should reach the office of the undersigned and deposited in a sealed Tender Box before on 15 days from the date of publication.
- The tender(s) shall be opened 16th or 17th day in the presence of the tenders or their representatives by the “Tender Opening Committee” formed by the Government for the purpose Incomplete/conditional tender(s) as well as Tender(s) without the TDR(s) shall be rejected.
- Ambiguous offer(s) quoted by the bidder(s) in his/her Tender form (s) is also liable to be rejected by the Tender Opening Committee. So, the offer(s) quoted for each vehicle in each Tender Form should be correctly written down both in numerical and figure as in words. Over-writing or making corrections should be avoided and in case if any error should be authenticated forthwith by the bidder(s) before sealing his/her Tender Form(s).
- The first highest successful bidder(s) will have to lift/remove the above mentioned Govt.
- GST % as applicable shall be charged on the vehicle allotted.
- In case any inline unsuccessful lower bidder(s) desires, their Earnest Money deposit TDR(s) shall be refunded soon after tender process. Consequently, such bidder(s) will cease to be a competitor and shall have no any rights of claim whatsoever in the current bid process.
- The above vehicle can be physically inspected during the working days from 11am to 3p, with the permission of the Assistant Engineer (Mech.).
- Some vehicle which are 20yrs or old are declared on the basis of “Salvage Value” and or “Scrap Value” and or “Half of Salvage Value” (see above table column No.5). the successful bidder(s)/parties who are ultimately issued the “Lifting Order” for such make/model of order vehicles shall have no any monetary claim towards updating of the Motor Vehicle Token Tax (R.C. Book/Blue Book) from the Government.
- The Government reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Mech.)
Energy & Power Department
Gangtok

R.O. No.: 610/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19
Date: 21/01/2019

Tata Steel Chess: Anand beats Mamedyarov; shares lead with Carlsen

WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS), JAN 21 (PTI): Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand scored a crushing victory over Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the eighth round to share the lead with Norway's Magnus Carlsen in the Tata Steel chess tournament here. Having out-classed Vladimir Kramnik of Russia as black in the previous round, Anand, a five times winner here, continued his demolition act and grounded Mamaedyarov who currently holds the third position in the world rankings. The Indian ace took his tally to 5.5 points out of a possible eight and is matched only by reigning world champion Carlsen who himself played a fine game to beat Richard Rapport of Hungary.

With two leaders in front, Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia, Ding Liren of China and local star Anish Giri are right on their heels, trailing by half a point. Temour Radjabov of Azerbaijan is in sole sixth spot on 4.5 points while other Indian Vidit Gujrathi shares the seventh spot having four points in all. Five rounds still remain in the first super tournament of the year. Wijk aan Zee has been Anand's favourite hunting ground for over two decades and he seems to be again hitting his top form here. Mamaedyarov was outwitted in all departments of the game.

The Caro Kann defense by the Azerbaijani GM met with the topical advance variation and Anand was in control after a slight inaccuracy by Mamedyarov on 12th move itself. Anand increased his advantage in a flurry thereafter and struck in the centre with a smart pawn sacrifice. Mamedyarov was outdone thereafter as the Indian temporarily left his rook in the middle of the board and some moves later another tactic on the same square ended the game. It was over in 29 moves.

Carlsen was also in his elements as he avenged his defeat against Rapport a couple of years back in the same round of the same tournament. The Norwegian was in control right through in the Sicilian Taimanov game as white and squeezed out black's resources. Gujrathi played out a draw with Anish Giri. The fact these two also work together did not make things exciting as Giri opted for a Queen's Gambit declined and Gujrathi did not do much. The players reached a rook and pawns endgame soon and the draw was a just result.

Vladimir Kramnik suffered another defeat as he lost to Jan Krzysztof Duda of Poland while Vladimir Fedoseev defeated American champion Sam Shankland in the other decisive games of eighth round.

Andrey Esipenko of Russia proved superior to R Praggnanandhaa in the battle of young Grandmasters held in the challengers section being held simultaneously. Mikhail Chigaev of Russia was in front on six points out of eight rounds while Praggnanandhaa was on 3.5 points needing some victories in the final lap.

Don't mind being called arrogant: Vinesh Phogat

AMANPREET SINGH NEW DELHI, JAN 21 (PTI): Stubborn by her own admission, trail-blazing Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat doesn't mind being called arrogant for it since the attitude comes in handy to intimidate rivals on the mat.

Speaking to PTI in an exclusive interview, India's first woman wrestler to claim an Asian Games gold medal dwelled on the perceptions about her, life after marriage to fellow grappler Somvir Rathee and her Olympic dreams.

"I am very stubborn, since childhood. If I feel something is right, even if that is wrong, I will be very stubborn about that and I make sure people agree with me even if I am wrong sometimes," she laughed.

But would she call it a virtue, to be steadfast even if wrong?

"If someone explains with love and proves that my thought process is wrong and I also start to realise that, then I concede and step back," she said.

And what about the perception of being arrogant for being so head-strong?

"Yes people say that (arrogant) but I know what's inside me. And if it helps me on the mat, I don't bother," she said.

"It helps me on the mat. People say it's over-confidence but for me it's belief. I don't get intimidated and your opponent also notices the body language. Some people work on it but for me it's God gift," she added.

The 24-year-old Commonwealth Games champion recently got married and is now de-



termined to end the stereotype of women's career getting affected by their marital status.

"People say that after marriage, we lose spark and fire but I want to break this myth. I want to take this fear out of girls that marriage is a barrier. I want to be an example, so I decided to marry early," Vinesh said.

"Of course you need support of your partner. There are a few in our society who do not believe in (love) relationships (without marriage) so they will ask why don't you get married and some will say why marry so early? Now Olympics is a major competition and I have all the support of Somvir," she said.

Vinesh, the first Indian athlete ever to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Award, also insisted that the mindset of Indian wrestlers has greater self-belief.

"I feel India have 4-5 strong contenders, who can beat any wrestler in the world. I won't take names but we can win 2-3 Olympic medals. The mindset has changed," she asserted.

"Earlier people used to just look for participation or win a round at the

Worlds but now medals are a possibility for all. I know these girls. After Sakshi's bronze, girls are now targeting gold at Olympics. "We have started becoming technically smart while earlier we just played a power game, it's giving results." The significance of getting a nomination for the prestigious Laureus awards has still not dawned on the Haryana grappler.

"Honestly I still don't know what this nomination is about. I just know that my name has been put for voting. I had not even heard of Laureus. And if no Indian athlete has been nominated before, I can only be proud of it.

"...it's definitely huge for wrestling in India because it is still struggling for recognition," said Vinesh, who is competing for the Mumbai Maharathi in the ongoing edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL).

The winner of multiple international medals says her comeback from a career-threatening injury, sometimes has even her amazed.

"I have seen athletes struggling so badly after suffering injuries. Sometimes I get shocked to

see what and how I have achieved this success. It's nothing but God's grace."

Will she not give credit to her own hard work?

"It's not just hard work because innumerable athletes do that. This is something which I don't know. I beat even the formidable Japan wrestlers after injury, it's God's grace only."

Vinesh said Somvir has played a huge role in her success.

"If Somvir was not there, Vinesh would not be what Vinesh is today. He is one person who has contributed to my success more than my family. The way he motivated me, no one did. I believe more in him than myself.

"He has videos of all my opponents in his phone. He knows them all, who attacks better, whose defense is solid. He devises strategies for me. He is more focussed on me than on himself. He has lot of belief in me," she explained.

How did this bond develop? "I don't know," she laughed. "I just know that there is trust."

Vinesh happily noted that there is lot of improvement in system and credits WFI President for that.

Gopichand hopes India will get badminton gold at Tokyo Games

MUMBAI, JAN 21 (PTI): Saying that "every year has been better than the previous one", chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand is hopeful that India would clinch its first ever gold medal in the discipline at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"Well, I think every year, in the last few years, has been better than the previous one.

"In 2008 (Beijing Olympics) -- the quarterfinal results was the biggest result, in 2012 (London Olympics) we had the first-ever bronze (Saina Nehwal), in 2016 (Rio Olympics) we had the first-ever silver (P V Sindhu) and, hopefully, 2020 (Tokyo Olympics) we will have the first-ever gold," Gopichand said here Monday.

The former All England champion was speaking after felicitating the seven winners of the IDBI Federal Quest for Excellence #Young Champ programme who will undergo training at the his academy in Hyderabad.

Gopichand said earlier badminton was remembered for men's singles players like Nandu Natekar, Suresh Goel and Prakash Padukone, among others, but Saina Nehwal changed the perception.

"Well, yes. For a long time before these girls (referring to Saina Ne-

hwal, P V Sindhu) came out, badminton was primarily remembered for men's singles players, whether it is Nandu Natekar, Suresh Goel, Prakash (Padukone) Sir or Syed Modi.

"It is how that whole thing was. The change to that (perception) happened (and for that) Saina (Nehwal) was important.

"We needed somebody with that kind of push, hunger, will to win, because (being) the first person to come out and win is very difficult," the veteran shuttler said.

He heaped praise on Sindhu, saying the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medalist has at least 2 more Olympics left.

"It is great to see what Sindhu has achieved -- World Championship medal, Olympic medal and all other medals - and you can still look at her and say 'she has two Olympics to go at least', and that is something fantastic," he noted.

Gopichand said he was able to pass on the formula for winning to his students at an early age. "I won the All England (Championship) at 27 and all my life I wish I had won All England at 20, then I would have had so many more years of experience.

"When we were starting off (with coaching), it was my mom's statement -- 'if you had won early,

or if you kids (students) will win early, they will have enough chances to stumble, fall down, tie their laces and move'.

"Because when I realised that I knew the formula for winning, my career was finished.

"So I just wanted to pass it (formula) so that my kids (students) can win at a younger age. And I'm sure I have been successful in that because Sindhu won when she was very young.

A lot of my players have won at a young age," he said.

According to Gopichand, the change in Indian badminton over the last 10 years has been "fantastic".

"Fantastic, I would say. The sport has jumped in all parameters. Prakash (Padukone) Sir played leagues in Denmark, Vimal (Kumar) played in UK, I have played in Germany and today we host the biggest league in the world (Premier Badminton League).

"Things have changed. We have (Carolina) Marin coming here to play, Viktor (Axelsson) coming here to play.

Tournaments in those countries are stopped because we have leagues more popular than theirs.

"The earnings of top players have gone up. They are encouraging a whole set of people to take the sport forward," he signed off.

Unpaid work done by women worth 43-times Apple's annual turnover: Oxfam

DAVOS, JAN 21 (PTI): Unpaid work done by women across the globe amounts to a staggering USD 10 trillion a year, which is 43 times the annual turnover of the world's biggest company Apple, an Oxfam study said Monday. In India, the unpaid work done by women looking after their homes and children is worth 3.1 per cent of the country's GDP. Women spend 312 minutes per day in urban areas and 291 minutes per day in rural areas on such unpaid care work, it added.

In comparison, men spend only 29 minutes in urban and 32 minutes in rural areas on unpaid care work.

The report, released by the international rights group before the start of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in this Swiss ski resort town, also said women and girls

are hardest hit by rising economic inequality, including in India.

Oxfam said inequality has a "female face" in India, where women are less likely to have paid work when compared to men, while even among the richest there are only 9 women in the country's 119-member billionaires club. The paid work women do bring them less earnings as compared to men due to the existing wage gap and therefore households that rely primarily on female earners tend to be poorer, it said, referring to the country's gender pay gap at 34 per cent.

It observed that various intersections of caste, class, religion, age and sexual orientation have further implications on women inequality as a process. The Oxfam study also referred to India's

poor 108th ranking on the WEF's Global Gender Gap Index of 2018, saying it was 10 notches less than in 2006 and far below the global average and behind its neighbours China and Bangladesh. Oxfam said India has many laws that deal with violence against women, but their implementation remains a challenge, including due to a deeply patriarchal society.

It said a law to deal with sexual harassment at workplace was passed in 2013 after a struggle by women's rights organisations and group of lawyers for 17 years, but it is the recent #MeToo movement in India that has opened the doors for the organised workforce to ensure that mechanisms are in place and due process is followed.

to book advertisements in

SummitTimes

call: 03592-208698,
9734152541, 9647102692
advertise@summittimes.com

Piercings, incense, drumming: Malaysia marks Thaipusam festival

BATU CAVES, JAN 21 (AFP): Hundreds of thousands of Malaysian Hindus, some piercing their skin with hooks and skewers to show their devotion, gathered in temples across the country on Monday to mark Thaipusam.

The annual Hindu festival sees believers carry offerings to places of worship to the deity Murugan and marks the day when his mother -- the goddess Parvathi -- gave him a powerful lance to fight demons.

It is observed mainly in countries with significant populations of ethnic Tamils -- descended from people who originally came from southern India -- including Malaysia and neighbouring Singapore.

Massive crowds thronged the Batu Caves complex outside Kuala Lumpur as incense and drums filled the air.

Many had trekked for hours to reach the popular pilgrimage site before the final arduous climb up 272 steps to reach the temples set in caves.

A huge variety of offerings,



known as "kavadi", were on show -- from simple pots of milk balanced on pilgrims' heads, to poles slung across shoulders, and large portable altars decorated with feathers and flowers.

With a metal skewer piercing his tongue and a heavy wooden pole hoisted on his back, Kumaraguru Kunalan said he wanted to give thanks to the god Murugan.

"For me, it's about asking for good health, my children's edu-

cation," the 38-year-old father-of-four told AFP.

Prior to Thaipusam, devotees will typically hold daily prayer sessions, abstain from sex, refrain from cutting their hair and stick to a strict vegetarian diet for weeks.

Despite the extreme shows of devotion, the Thaipusam festival is very much a family affair, with elders joining their grandchildren as they make the annual

pilgrimage. There are no rules on what kind of kavadis devotees are required to carry on their pilgrimage, and the choice is a personal preference, Kumaraguru said.

Most of Malaysia's roughly 32 million people are Muslim Malays, but the country is also home to more than two million Indians, most of whom are descendants of labourers brought from southern India during British colonial rule.

China's economy slumps to 28 year low to 6.6 per cent in 2018

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JAN 21 (PTI): China's GDP grew at 6.6 per cent in 2018, its slowest rate since 1990, official figures showed on Monday, stoking fears about the impact of sluggish growth in the world's second largest economy on the world as Beijing grappled with the effects of the trade war with the US. In the three months to December, the economy grew 6.4 per cent from a year earlier, down from 6.5 per cent in the previous quarter, China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

The data was in line with forecasts but underlines recent concern about weakening growth in the world's second largest economy.

The NBS announced on Monday that Chinese economy grew at 6.6 per cent in 2018.

Last year's growth rate was down from 6.8 per cent in 2017 and was the lowest growth rate of 3.9 per cent, recorded in 1990. The 6.6 per cent is above the official target of around 6.5 per cent, according to the data published the NBS.

Growth in the fourth quarter came in at 6.4 per cent, down from 6.5 per cent seen in the third quarter, it said.

China's rate of expansion has raised worries about the potential knock-on effect on the global economy. The trade war with the US has added to the gloomy outlook.

The US and China have been locked in an escalating trade spat since early 2018, raising import tariffs on each other's goods.

Last year, US President Donald Trump im-



posed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods. The move prompted China to increase tariffs on USD 110 billion of US goods. The official figures out Monday showed the weakest quarterly growth rate since the global financial crisis.

China's rate of expansion has raised worries about the potential knock-on effect on the global economy. The trade war with the US has added to the gloomy outlook.

The deteriorating situation in China, a market that businesses around the world rely upon for growth, is having a widespread impact. It has spooked investors and prompted warnings from top companies like Apple.

Indicating the slowdown, China has last week announced a lower base for 2018 GDP by scaling down the GDP growth for 2017 from 6.9 per cent to 6.8 per cent.

The new data lowering the figures was released on Friday after fi-

nal verification pointing to the continued slowdown of China's economy. The GDP was 82.08 trillion yuan (USD 12.13 trillion) in 2017, down 636.7 billion yuan (USD 93.9 billion) from the preliminary calculation, the NBS said on Friday.

Monday's new data confirming the slowdown of the economy came ahead of key talks between top trade officials from the US and China in Washington on January 30 and 31.

The talks will be held between Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and US trade representative Robert Lighthizer to work an agreement before the March 1 deadline failing which President Donald Trump has threatened to slap additional tariffs on all Chinese exports to the US.

The two officials would review the recent official level talks on a host of issues to work out an agreement to end the trade war. Officially China played down the slowdown saying that the country achieved its goal

of around 6.5 per cent GDP growth set for 2018. According to the new figures Chinese economy achieved a 6.2 per cent industrial output growth last year, compared with 6.6 per cent in 2017.

Fixed-asset investment growth was 5.9 per cent last year, 0.5 percentage point higher than the first three quarters of the year.

Retail sales increased by nine percent in 2018 year-on-year, down from 10.2 per cent in 2017, the NBS said.

The number of newly-created jobs in urban areas reached 13.61 million in 2018, one lakh more than the previous year and surpassing the government's annual target. The number in 2018 rose for the sixth year in a row above 13 million.

China's surveyed unemployment rate in urban areas stood at 4.9 per cent in December, 0.1 percentage point lower than that in December of the previous year.

The rate remained below the government's target of controlling the

surveyed urban unemployment rate within 5.5 per cent in 2018, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

China's economy faces downward pressure and there would be targeted solutions to the challenge, the NBS said in a statement.

Trump has been pressing China to bring down the USD 375 billion trade deficit with the US, which he attributes to unfair trade practices by Beijing.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to halt any further tariff increases for 90 days beginning January 1.

Trump had earlier warned that if a deal is not reached by March 1, the end of the 90-day grace period, the US will hike the tariffs on the USD 200 billions of goods from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

Last December China's exports fell to USD 221.5 billion registering biggest plunge in two years amid the trade war with US.

Israel strikes Iranian targets in Syria after rocket attack

Jerusalem, Jan 21 (AFP): Israel struck what it said were Iranian targets in Syria early Monday in response to missile fire it blamed on Iran, sparking concerns of an escalation after a monitor reported 11 fighters killed.

Israel announced the strikes against facilities it said belonged to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force as they were occurring, continuing its recent practice of speaking more openly about such raids.

It said the strikes were in response to a medium-range, surface-to-surface missile the Quds Force fired from Syria at the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Sunday, which Israeli air defences intercepted.

"We saw that as an unacceptable attack by the Iranian troops - not proxies, not Shiite militias, not Syrian forces - Iranian troops firing an Iranian-made missile from the vicinity of Damascus towards sovereign Israel," Israeli military spokesman Jonathan Conricus told journalists.

Israel said targets included munitions stores, a site at Damascus International Airport that was allegedly the Quds Force's main logistics hub in the country, an Iranian intelligence installation and an Iranian military training camp.

It said it also hit Syrian air defence batteries in response to dozens of missiles fired from them.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said at least 11 pro-regime fighters including two Syrians were killed.

Russia, which like Iran is a key backer of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the country's war, said the Israeli

strikes killed four Syrian soldiers and wounded six, while damaging Damascus airport infrastructure. The Observatory said air strikes and ground-to-ground missiles hit targets around the capital including near the Damascus airport, as well as near the Thaala military airport in Sweida province to the south of the capital.

The targets included weapons depots belonging to the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah and Iranian fighters, it added. The chain of events leading to the strikes began Sunday.

Damascus initially accused Israel of carrying out raids in southern Syria. Syrian state news agency SANA quoted a military source saying Syria's air defences went into action after Israel launched the air strikes.

In those strikes, the Russian army said Syrian air defences had destroyed seven Israeli projectiles, after four of the Jewish state's F-16 military planes "fired rockets into Syrian territory".

Shortly afterwards on Sunday afternoon, Israel said it had intercepted what it then called a rocket fired at the Golan Heights from Syria.

Video spread online of skiers on Mt. Hermon in the Israeli-controlled Golan watching air defences fire to intercept the missile. The ski centre was closed on Monday. Israel then early Monday announced it was striking Quds Force targets in Syria while SANA reported that Syrian air defence systems had responded to "enemy" fire.

Israel has pledged to stop its main enemy Iran from entrenching itself militarily in neighbouring Syria. It has car-

ried out hundreds of air strikes there against what it says are Iranian military targets and advanced arms deliveries to Tehran-backed Hezbollah.

Its warplanes have been targeted by anti-aircraft fire during such raids, but it has rarely faced surface-to-surface missile fire in response.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters on Sunday that "we have a permanent policy: to strike at the Iranian entrenchment in Syria and hurt whoever tries to hurt us."

Netanyahu and other Israeli officials have been speaking more openly about the country's strikes in Syria in recent days, which some analysts partly attribute to the premier wanting to burnish his security credentials ahead of April 9 elections.

But others also say it carries a strategic military purpose as well.

"If you want to make clear to the other side that you are determined to prevent something, either you escalate the operation - more targets, more sophisticated - or you say in public I am doing it, meaning I am ready to take the risk," said former Israeli national security adviser Yaakov Amidror.

"Israel, instead of escalating, decided to make it public." But Israel also risks an escalation with Syria and Iran, as well as possibly further angering Russia at a time when the United States is seeking to withdraw its forces from Syria. Military co-ordination between Israel and Russia in Syria took a hit after a friendly fire incident in September that led to a Russian plane being downed by Syrian air defences during an Israeli raid.

China's low birth rate falls for 2nd year, two child policy fails to enthuse couples

BEIJING, JAN 21 (PTI): China's two-child policy implemented in 2016 has failed to make an impact on the country's low birth rate as the number of new-borns dropped by two million last year in the world's most populous nation, according to official figures released Monday. The figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said the low birth rates coupled with the slowdown of the Chinese economy raised concerns as the country faced demographic crisis with the population of above 60 years making 249 million, accounting for almost 18 per cent of the total population.

After China implemented the comprehensive two-child policy that allows all couples to have two children - abandoning its decades-long one-child policy - in 2016, the country's health authority predicted that the fertility rate in 2017 and 2018 would be 1.97 and 2.09. They predicted that the number of new-borns in 2018 would be 7.90 lakh more than 2017.

The steady increase in old age population raised concerns over mounting costs of health care for the elderly and the shortage of labour in the world's second largest economy which is also facing a slowdown.

A total of 15.23 mil-



lion babies were born last year in China, a drop by about two million from that of 2017, the data said. It marks the second-year consecutive decrease since the country relaxed its controversial family planning policy and fully implemented the universal second-child policy since 2016.

The birth rate also dropped from 1,243 to 1,094 per 100,000 population from 2017 to 2018, state-run China Daily reported, quoting the NBS data.

Before the population data was released, Chinese experts forecast that the number of birth for last year would continue to fall due to causes such as rapid decline in the number of women at childbearing age and people's lack of willingness to have more babies.

China adopted the universal second-child policy at the beginning of 2016, allowing all couples to have two children, to counter problems such as ageing and dwindling workforce. After the number of birth reached 17.86 million that year, the highest since 2000, the number of birth fell to 17.23 million in 2017.

The latest NBS figures also show that the total population on the Chinese mainland reached 1.395 billion, an increase of 5.3 million year-on-year with the number of people at 60 years old or above exceeded 249 million, accounting for 17.9 per cent of the total population, according to the bureau.

The number of workforce, or those between 16 and 59 years old, stood at around 897 million, accounting for

64.3 per cent of the total population, it said. Yi Fuxian, a research fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Su Jian, director of the National Centre for Economic Research at Peking University, told the state-run Global Times early this month that the figures for the number of new-borns failed to meet the health authority's expectation.

The number of women between the ages of 20 and 39 is expected to drop by more than 39 million over the next decade, said He Yafu, a demographer and author of a book on the impact of China's population policy.

"Without the introduction of measures to encourage fertility, China's population will fall drastically in the future," He said.



DOUBLE COATED: Robert Pattinson gets into the stylish spirit of Paris Fashion Week, sporting a wrapped brown coat over a tan leather jacket, turtleneck shirt, and brown pants.

Justin Timberlake visits children's hospital



LOS ANGELES, JAN 21 (PTI): Singer Justin Timberlake visited a children's hospital after their plea to meet the pop star went viral.

The singer took some time out from his 'Man of the Woods' tour to meet kids at HCA Healthcare's Methodist Children's Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, after they recorded a video dancing to his hit track 'Can't Stop The Feeling' from their hospital beds.

"We want to thank @jtimberlake for visiting with our amazing kids and their families! We also want to say thank you to YOU! for

helping make this possible by sharing and liking their video," the hospital shared on their official Twitter page.

The hospital launched the #JTSeeMe campaign on Twitter, with their earlier tweet reading, 'Help us get Justin Timberlake to come visit our kids at Methodist Children's Hospital this weekend! Please retweet! @jtimberlake,' Timberlake recently returned to his tour after postponing a number of concerts between October and December due to bruised vocal chords.

Lady Gaga calls out Trump and Pence on shutdown

LOS ANGELES, JAN 21 (PTI): Lady Gaga slammed US President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence on the ongoing federal government shutdown during her Las Vegas residency. On January 19, the pop star stopped her gig to say her piece on the current scenario while she was performing "Million Reasons" on the piano. "If the f**king president of the United States could please put our government back... There are people who live paycheck to paycheck and need their money," she said.

Gaga then took aim at Pence, whose wife Karen is facing flak for accepting a job at a school that excludes LGBT and trans candidates.

The "Shallow" hitmaker also called the vice president "the worst representation of what it means to be a Christian". "And to Mike Pence, who thinks it's acceptable that his wife works at a school that bans LGBTQ - you're wrong. You say we should not discriminate against Christianity..."

"I am a Christian woman, and what I do know about Christianity is that we bear no prejudice and everybody is welcome. So you can take all that disgrace, Mr Pence, and you can look your-

self in the mirror and you'll find it right there," she said as the audience applauded in agreement. On Sunday, Trump launched a new "compromise" plan to end the shutdown by offering protec-



tion from deportations for some 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for USD 5.7 billion for constructing a controversial wall on the US-Mexico border. The Democrats, however, rejected it as "non-starter". The shutdown -- the longest in the US history -- entered a month on Sunday.

Have been harassed by actors on sets, says Kangana Ranaut

JUSTIN RAO

MUMBAI, JAN 21 (PTI): Kangana Ranaut says she was harassed several times by actors on film sets and while it wouldn't fall under #MeToo as it wasn't sexual, the experience was daunting and humiliating.

The actor said harassment can happen on several levels and she has faced toxic behaviour from many people in her career.

"Harassment happens on many levels. So many times on sets, I wasn't sexually harassed, but some people had ego issues. I was harassed on many other fronts. It wouldn't come under #MeToo but it was still harassment," Kangana told PTI.

The actor said the harassment ranged from making her wait for long hours to dubbing her voice without her consent.

Talking about her harrowing experiences, Kangana said, "Making me wait on set for six hours, willingly giving me wrong call time to make me stand, always giving me the wrong set of dates so I'm missing



out on opportunities and then cancelling the schedule last minute by these heroes.

"Ganging up on me and not inviting me to film events, launching trailers without me and then someone else dubbed for me without even telling me, which is violating the basic right of taking permission from an actor."

The "Queen" star said because of the #MeToo movement, which hit India last year, men in the industry are scared.

"People are scared, obviously and they should be. Men are scared in the industry. This isn't going to stop. This will continue till we really go into the root cause of it because essentially it's a patriarchal society which is extremely chauvinistic.

"We need to come to a point where they are scared. All the talks of 'what if women lose work' should stop. I believe there's no life without dignity. You shouldn't worry about raising your voice."

The actor had come out in support of the survivor when allegations of sexual harassment were levelled against "Queen" director Vikas Bahl. Kangana, 31, said going forward strict rules and immediate action policy should be implemented to make film sets safer for women. "On film sets there have to be strict rules and strict action should be taken. Things can't be solved on a personal level or behind closed doors. Things should be taken to authority and immediate action is the need of the hour.

"When anyone raises concern, people director, producer or anyone need to solve it. We need to become more sensitive about these things," she said. Kangana will be next seen in "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi". The much ambitious period-drama features her in the titular role and has been directed by Krish and Kangana. The film releases on January 25.

Aaron Sorkin calls on Democrats to be 'the non-stupid party'

Los Angeles, Jan 21 (PTI): Oscar winner Aaron Sorkin urged young Democrats elected to Congress to take up the opportunity of making the party "the non stupid" one.

The screenwriter-director said the onus was on the new "crop" to take charge of the situation and help point the difference between the two parties. "They need to stop acting like young people. I think there's a great opportunity here for Democrats to be the non-stupid party, to point out the difference," Sorkin told CNN's Fareed Zakaria.

The "Molly's Game" helmer also underscored the issues the Democratic Party must focus on.

"It's not just about transgender bathrooms, that's a Republican talking point. They're trying to distract you. "We haven't forgotten the economic anxiety of the working class, but we're going to be smart about this. We're not going to be mean about it," he said.



REQUIRED FOR CANADA

**Nurses,
Caregivers,
Chef-Waiters-Butchers-Bakers,
Driver,
Farm Workers - Meat Packers
IT PROFESSIONAL**



Walk for Interview & Resume Submission



7SEA OVERSEAS CONSULTANCY

Paribahan Nagar, Opp. Webel IT Park, Matigara, Siliguri

Email ID: sevensainfo8@gmail.com

sevensaconsultancy5@gmail.com

Contact No. +9170764 21789 / +9183487 14807

ARIES: If you've been thinking about starting a garden, this is a great day to do it, since anything relating to the land you begin today is likely to thrive. Doubts about your financial security might be on your mind, Aries. They're probably misplaced, because you should continue to do well. However, your doubts can serve a purpose in that they could inspire you to take steps to ensure that your situation continues. Go to it!

TAURUS: Family and friends may gather for an intimate get-together at your home or perhaps at the home of a neighbor. At some point, expect an exciting phone call. You should be feeling pretty secure in relationships of all kinds, Taurus, from business partnerships to close friends to love partners. Information provided by someone else could give you some ideas as to how to fix up your house in a new and different way.

GEMINI: A close friend or lover could share a secret with you today, Gemini. An older person could be in the news, perhaps an author or politician you particularly admire. You, yourself, could feel inspired to

work on a creative project of some kind, although the downside might be that you keep working at it for too long and could well exhaust yourself. Remember to take breaks. You need to relax a little and remember to take time out to eat.

CANCER: Someone you've known for a long time but haven't seen for a while could suddenly come back into the picture, Cancer. He or she could attend a social event of some kind or actually drop in to visit your family. Friendships and group affiliations could prove supportive and satisfying right now and you should feel pretty secure with them. This is a great time to sign up for classes, particularly those involving the arts.

LEO: Today you and your family or a group of friends might spend most of the day out and about, Leo. You might spend the day outdoors, or possibly attend a concert or festival of some kind. This should be a very happy day for you, as you're likely to be feeling especially close to those around you. Your relationships appear to be quite secure, as does your career and financial situation.

Enjoy your day.

VIRGO: A class, lecture, or workshop could prove fascinating and stimulating for you today, Virgo. Plans for travel to a distant state or foreign country, perhaps in the company of friends or family members, could be confirmed, which should make you feel really good! Your relationships seem warm, supportive, and stable, even those with people who live far away from you. Have fun!

LIBRA: If you've been thinking of buying a home or otherwise purchasing real estate, Libra, this is the day to start the ball rolling or finalize the deal, depending on your situation. Investments in property planned at this time should continue to increase steadily in value. However, make sure this is the right investment for you before committing to anything. Otherwise, you might be stuck with something you don't like for a long time.

SCORPIO: A festive social event could either start or consolidate a love relationship, which could last for a long time. New and interesting people could come into your life,

Scorpio, bringing stimulating conversation and useful information. Someone you haven't seen for a while could also appear on the scene, making for a joyful reunion. A project you've been working on, either job related or personal, could finally be completed. Enjoy your day.

SAGITTARIUS: Today you should be experiencing a strong feeling of satisfaction and contentment with your life, Sagittarius. Business and financial matters continue to go well, and your home life especially appears to be secure and stable. You might be considering investing some of your resources in your home. Any new romantic relationships begun at this time could well last for a long time, so make sure you really like the person before committing!

CAPRICORN: Business transactions taking place in your near neighborhood should prove sensible and satisfying today, Capricorn. You should be feeling pretty financially secure right now, as career and money matters continue to go well for you. Contact with friends, neighbors, and relatives should

be open, congenial, and honest. Relationships of all kinds are apt to be pretty stable. In the evening, take a brisk walk near your home.

AQUARIUS: If you're into gardening or in any way working with the land, you're likely to spend a lot of time doing it today, Aquarius. A friend or family member could help. Anything planted today is likely to grow and thrive, so don't worry about seeds that don't sprout. You might spend a bit too much time doing it, however. Work only until you're pleasantly tired, then quit for the day; otherwise, you might burn yourself out.

PISCES: A warm and loving communication could come today from a longtime friend or romantic partner. This could be the high point of your day, Pisces, especially since a letter or delivery you've been waiting on for a while still might not come. An older relative or neighbor might come to your door wanting advice about something. Children could prove particularly inspiring at this time, as you're especially attuned to them now. Enjoy!