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Summit TIMES

HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Jeevan Raksha Padak for Chandra Kumar Gurung of Sikkim

NEW DELHI, 25 JAN [PIB]: The President of India has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak 2018 on 48 persons, including Chandra Kumar Gurung of Sikkim.

Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to a person for meritorious act of human nature in saving a life.

The award is given in three categories, namely, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. Persons of all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred posthumously.

The decoration of the award (medal, certificate signed by the Union Home Minister and lump sum monetary allowance) is presented to the awardee in due course by the respective Union Ministries/ Organizations/ State Governments to which the awardee belongs.

The 48 awards include Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 08, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 15 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 25 persons.

Women's empowerment to theme SKM's foundation day

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 JAN: Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is celebrating its seventh anniversary as 'Nari Samman Ani Shasastikaran' on 04 February at Mining Ground, Rangpo in East Sikkim. An SKM press release informed that a huge number of supporters of Sikkim Democratic Front from all four districts were joining SKM during the celebration. The central executive committee of SKM has invited all to be the part of anniversary celebrations.

Sikkim tableau selected for R-Day parade in New Delhi

GANGTOK, 25 JAN (IPR): Every year, a select number of states participate in the Republic Day celebration held at Raj Path, New Delhi. The states are picked after a rigorous selection process by an Expert Selection Committee. It is with great pride that the Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department announces the selection of Sikkim by the Expert Selection Committee to participate in the Republic Day parade to be held in 2019, an official press communiqué conveys.

Moreover, this year Sikkim's tableaux, "Organic and Swachh Sikkim," will be the first

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NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY CELEBRATED AT CHINTAN BHAWAN

7,533 new voters registered in recent enrolment process



GANGTOK, 25 JAN (IPR): The 9th National Voters' Day was celebrated at Chintan Bhawan today with the theme "No Voter to be Left Behind". The programme was organized by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Election Commission which was graced by Chief Secretary, A.K. Srivastava

as the chief guest.

National Voters' Day is celebrated to encourage more and more people to participate in the election process and increase voter enrolment.

The program also had the presence of Additional Chief Secretary cum Development Commissioner, Finance Department, V.B. Pathak, Additional Chief Secretary, Human Resource Development Department, G.P. Upadhyaya, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), R. Telang, and District Collector (East), Kapil Meena.

The programme commenced with lighting of ceremonial lamp by the chief guest followed by administration of pledge to vote.

District Collector, (E) Kapil Meena in his well-come address highlighted the importance of

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AWARDS PRESENTED ON NATIONAL VOTERS DAY

Best AERO award:

BDO, Namchi, Bimal Rai

BDO Martam, Deepak Rai

Best BLO:

Rabin Pradhan (East district)

Bhim Raj Rai (West district)

Mahendrra Kharel (South district)

Subash Rai (North district)

Best Campus Ambassador:

Priyanka Thapa, Assam Linzey Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim

Best Election Literary Club (ELC):

Rhenock Government College, East Sikkim

Best Performing Election Literary Club:

Sonamati Memorial Senior Secondary School Khamdong, East Sikkim

Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School, South Sikkim

Special Category Award:

Zangpo Gyalsten (AD, IT)

Tashi Bhutia (LDC)

Nakul Rai (RDA, Assam Linzey)

Sikkim parties to ally as SSC-proposed United Sikkimese Forum



RN Chamling nominated chief coordinator of common Opposition platform

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 25 JAN: Sikkim Subject Committee today organised a meeting of all opposition parties of the State to discuss the possibility of presenting a united front and work in coordination in view of the upcoming Lok

Shaba and Assembly elections in the State.

The meeting was attended by leaders and representatives of all regional parties, including Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Hamro Sikkim Party, Sikkim Rajya Manch, Sikkim National People's Party, Sikkim Republican Party, Sikkim United Party and Sikkim Sangram Parishad.

Representatives of two national parties - Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress - were however absent from the meeting.

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Truck mows down biker in Namchi



BIKASH CHETTRI NAMCHI, 25 JAN:

A 28-year-old biker from Assangthang, Namchi lost his life while his co-rider was grievously injured after being mowed down by a truck this afternoon near the

SDF party office at Gangtok road in Namchi.

The deceased Sagar Thapa and his friend Karma Chopel Bhutia (28) of Ravangla were preparing to move towards Ravangla on a Bajaj motorcycle bearing registration

number SK/05/P/0765. When they reached Gangtok road, the truck bearing registration number SK/04/D0631 moving towards Namchi mowed down the two.

Sagar Thapa died on

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70TH REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM

"Goal is to make Sikkim self-sufficient"

Summit Report



GANGTOK, 25 JAN: Governor Ganga Prasad, in his Republic Day address to the people of Sikkim, states that "the only goal of the State is to make the State self-sufficient and self-reliant with more progress and prosperity".

To make this goal a reality, participation and contribution of all the Sikkimese people is expected, he stresses.

This is Governor Prasad's first Republic Day address to Sikkim, and apart from highlighting the State Government's recent achievements, successes and accolades, also delves into the positive prospects ahead.

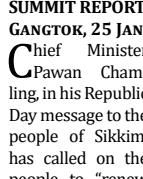
Drawing attention to the Pakyong Airport which was inaugurated last year, the Governor mentions, "There is no doubt in my travel will accelerate the tourism and economic development of the State."

He goes on to share that the State Government is now working towards extending Sikkim's air connectivity to New Delhi, Paro in Bhutan and Kathmandu in Nepal.

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70TH REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE OF CHIEF MINISTER OF SIKKIM

"Let us work to make Sikkim the best in the world"



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 25 JAN: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, in his Republic Day message to the people of Sikkim, has called on the people to "renew our pledge to march further ahead based on our sustainable development policies to benefit the people of the State."

"We are already one of the best States in the country, let us now work together to make Sikkim the best State in the world," he exhorts.

He also takes the opportunity to remind the people about the significance of the day.

"A nation is what its people want it to be. We should be grateful that our forefathers struggled hard and sacrificed their lives to earn independence. Today India is the largest democratic country and this has been made possible because many decades back our leaders spent sleepless nights to draft and adopt a Constitution. It is now our duty to take it forward and work towards making India a fully developed Nation," the CM conveys.

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Happy Republic Day

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JV Football Club to organize fundraising Tambola event

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 25 JAN:

JV Football Club cum Academy is organizing a Tambola event on 27 Jan at Singtam to raise funds for the club.

"The revenue collected from a Tambola event will be used for the maintenance and development of JV Football Club cum Academy. Also, the organisers are looking forward to purchase football boots and kits because there are some students who cannot afford these," informed founder of JV FC, Sanghey Bhutia, who works as an Assistant Manager at SBS, Singtam branch.

Established in 2017, the Academy has been playing in Second Division Sikkim League organised by Sikkim Football Association and also played outside Sikkim in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Singtam bazaar JV FC cum Academy is the only such organization which has its own Academy.

It is to be mentioned that, this academy does not charge admission fee and also has a Gym which is available to students for free.

Further, Trishala Gurung, a renowned singer from Nepal will also be performing in the grand finale of the Tambola in the evening. The prize money (Houseful) is Rs 1.2 lakh, a certain percentage of which will be used to provide packed lunch and fruits to patients of the District hospital, informed Mr Bhutia.



SSB observes National Voters Day

GANGTOK, 25 JAN (IPR): The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Sector Headquarter, Gangtok observed "National Voters Day" at its Marchak campus today. Dy. Inspector General SSB, Gangtok, BK Pal administered the oath to all officers and personnel.

While addressing the gathering on the occasion, BK Pal said that as a law abiding citizen of the coun-

try and upholding the tradition of democracy we should vote in every election and also encourage people to participate in voting fearlessly.

On the occasion, Staff Officer, SS Thakur, AC, Satyendra, AC, Yogender Sharma, AC, Pratap Singh, AE, Nabajit Das, and Publicity Officer of SSB, GD Saklani, Gangtok Sector were present.

West Sikkim celebrates 9th National Voters Day

GYALSHING 25 JAN (IPR):

The 9th National Voters Day was celebrated in a grand manner at the Bhanu Salig, Gyalshing. DC West, Dr. AB Karki, chaired the programme as the chief guest accompanied by SP West, Tenzing Loden Lepcha as the special guest along with SDMs, BDOs and other officials and dignitaries.

Dr. Karki in his address congratulated the young voters who were handed EPIC Cards. He stated that this day was specifically dedicated to voters for being a part of one of the largest democracies of the world. He encouraged the young voters to be ambassadors who can educate and inform other locals about how and why voting is important.



Loden Lepcha also encouraged the first time voters to exercise their right in a responsible way.

During the programme, MO (Dentam), Dr. Kanchan Gurung and Marathon Man, Amar Subba shared a brief message aimed to en-

courage the youth in understanding more about the importance of vote.

SDM Dentam was also felicitated by the Office of the District Collector cum District Election Officer as the 'Best ERO' during the program.

Lastly, Mock Polls

were also conducted by the Election Department for awareness on the VVPAT AND EVMS.

Similarly, the 9th National Voters Day was observed by reading of the pledge at various official establishments of West Sikkim.

9th National Voters Day celebrated in South



NAMCHI, 25 JAN (IPR): 9th National Voters Day themed "no voter to be left behind" was observed at the conference hall of District Administrative Office, Namchi today. The programme was organised by the Office of the District Election South and was chaired by District Collector (South), Prabhakar Verma.

It may be mentioned here that in order to encourage more young voters to take part in the electoral process, the Government of India has decided to celebrate 25 Jan every year as "National Voters' Day" from the year 2011 to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25 Jan, 1950.

At the onset, the newly enrolled voters of Namchi, Singithang constituency who have attained the age of 18 years and above were issued with their Elec-

tors Photo Identity Card (EPIC Card). On the occasion, DC (South) also administered the pledge of National Voters' Day to all the officials, staff and young voters.

Addressing the gathering, the DC (South) spelt out the main objective of celebrating National Voters' Day in order to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrollment, especially for the new voters. In view, of the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections, "No Voter to be Left Behind" has been selected as the theme for the National Voters' Day 2019, he added and informed that it is one's utmost duty to disseminate and make everyone aware about their voting rights in the electoral process.

The DC (South) also appealed to the newly enrolled voters to exercise their voting rights as they have become a direct part of largest democratic setup.

Besides, he also informed that there has been a continuous updation in the electoral roll, thus the left out eligible voters shall update themselves in the electoral roll and also urged everyone for greater participation in the upcoming elections.

During the programme, a video on Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voters Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) for the forth coming general election was also displayed. A hands-on use of EVM and VVPAT was held wherein the officials and the newly enrolled voters participated enthusiastically.

The programme also had the participation of Sr SP (South), Shammi Rai, ADC (South), Satyen Rai, ADC (Development), Milan Subba, SDM Namchi(Hq), Hemant Rai, SDM (Namchi), Choden Gyatso along with heads of department, officials, staff and newly enrolled voters.

7,533 new voters...

National Voters' Day and its significance, which is to encourage more young voters to take part in the democratic process.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Secretary, A.K. Srivastava said that the NVD is being celebrated throughout the country on 25 January, because on this day the Election Commission was set up in India.

"It is a day to celebrate the right to vote to strengthen the democracy and generally the purpose of celebrating voters' day is to increase the enrolment of voters and to encourage more people especially young voters for their effective participations during democratic exercise. The National Voters' Day is a mark of power of every individual vote. Through the consistent efforts of the office of CEO, Sikkim we have achieved the figure of enrolment of 7,533 new voters this time between the ages of 18-19 years in the recently concluded enrolment process," said the Chief Secretary.

He said that due to regular awareness programme, this time the enrolment of new voter has increased, and he congratulated the BLOs for their contribution and playing a decisive role in the electoral enrolment process in the state.

Chief Secretary further said that Election Commission of India (ECI) took to various platforms to spread awareness particularly youngsters to register themselves in electoral process.

Earlier, CEO, R. Telang informed about various features of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and Electronic Voting Machines, its functioning, and how to operate and manage machines in detail.

"Digital platform like Voter Helpline Mobile Number, web portal nvsp.in, PWD app have empowered the voters more. It will help the electorate to get complete information about their electoral roll" said the CEO.

On the occasion, short message video of Chief Election Commissioner, ECI, Sunil Arora was also shown.

The chief guest also launched voters Helpline Number 1950, awareness videos on election and message videos for election. It was informed that the Voters Helpline Number 1950 will start working from 1st of February, 2019.

During the programme, the Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) was given to first time voters by the chief guest.

The programme also saw the presentation of patriotic songs by the artists from Culture Department and awareness song by the students of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School.

The winner for the State Level Indian Quiz contest 2018, Navraj Bastola and Prabal Bhattarai from Maming Senior Secondary School were also felicitated during the programme.

The programme also had presence of Mayor GMC, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, officials of various department, representative of various political parties, school heads, students and proud voters.

Mock voting station was also set up in the premises of Chintan Bhawan where visitors got first-hand experience on VVPAT machine and its functioning during the voting process.

ICRI visits large cardamom plantation at Buriakhop



GANGTOK, 25 JAN

(IPR): Spices Board's research wing Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Tadong has conducted plantation visit and quality improvement training programme (QITP) in large cardamom at Buriakhop, Jorethang, West Sikkim today.

The programme was conducted with collaboration of Divisional Office (Development), Spices Board, Jorethang, BA Gudade, Dy Director (Research) i/c, explained the research and development activities of Spices Board focused toward large cardamom farming. He also discussed

about the market potential, production and market trends, nutrition management, various agricultural operation in large cardamom and their relevance to production, organic approaches in cultivation, in-situ moisture conservation practices.

Discussing the technical side of large cardamom cultivation, scientist (Crop Improvement), Ashutosh Gautam explained the characteristics of different cultivars, their growing habit and adaptation to different altitude, pollinators and biology of pollination, diseases and pests of crop, their characteris-

tics and management.

Dinesh Mandal from development wing informed about the various schemes of Spices Board like replanting, ICRI modified bhatti, nursery establishment as well as procedure of application and availing the subsidy offered.

During the plantation visit, Mr Gudade explained about effects of low temperature on crop, its symptoms and mitigation practices. He also explained the difference between symptoms of chilling and symptoms of disease infection. More than thirty-five participants attended the programme.

SSB sponsored skill development training concludes



GYALSHING, 25 JAN

(IPR): Civic Action Programme under Community Welfare in North East Region, a 20-day Electrician (House wiring) Training for 20 boys of villages of West Sikkim and Darjeeling bordering Nepal, sponsored by the 36th Bn SSB, and 20-day

Food Production Training sponsored by 72 Bn SSB concluded here today at ITI Geyzing.

Chairperson IK Newpaney, Gyalshing Municipal Council, was present as chief guest accompanied by social worker GS Sharma, teacher Tulsi Bhattarai, Principal TN

Sharma and ITI vice-principal Gopal Sharma, teachers and students.

From the SSB, Inspector Basudev Das of 36th Bn, Inspector Subash Kumar Sharma and Mohit Bhargav of 72 Bn other Sub Ordinate Officers and Jawans, Trainees were also in attendance.

Sikkim tableau...

tableaux leading the parade.

Among 31 states and UTs vying for a spot in the Republic Day parade in the capital in 2019 to showcase a tableaux, Sikkim is among 14 States that made it after five rounds of selection.

The upcoming Republic Day 2019 will be unique as all state tableaux will showcase a theme commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Sikkim tableaux will portray the transformation of Sikkim into total organic farming State in the country and achieving the first Nirmal Rajiya status in the country.

Sikkim has steadfastly worked towards achieving grassroot empowerment supporting local businesses organic produce and products and has endeavoured to save the integrity of soil and nature by practicing non-violence in agriculture and environment, the release adds.

Truck mows down...

the spot while Karma Chopel Bhutia of Ravangla sustained serious injuries. The truck also damaged several other vehicles.

The driver of the out-of-control truck is suspected to have been in an inebriated condition.

On receiving information of the incident, police personnel from Namchi PS rushed towards the spot following which injured Karma Chopel Bhutia was immediately taken to the District Hospital Namchi after which he was referred to Siliguri.

Namchi police has also arrested the driver of the truck, Krishna Pradhan (38) and registered a case of rash driving, culpable homicide amongst others under the Indian Penal Code.

"Goal is to ...

At present, Sikkim is connected only to Guwahati and Kolkata by air.

The Governor also registers satisfaction "that the people of this State have received many benefits through development schemes."

"It has been possible due to the Government's positive policies, people's participation, continuous peace, sustainability, security and good governance," he adds. Hailing the peace, harmony and stability enjoyed by Sikkim, the Governor records that "roots of democracy have been strengthened" and congratulates the Sikkimese for the same.

"I urge everyone to make their positive contribution to strengthen this healthy environment of peace and harmony for the all-round development and prosperity of the State," he reiterates.

The Governor also details the achievements of the State Government in his address, focusing on the Organic Mission, improvements in the road network, the CM-RHM scheme and the focus of health and education sectors.

National Girl Child Day activities conclude in Chungthang



SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 25 JAN: National Girl Child week observed at ICDS centres under Chungthang Tribal Project on the theme "Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow" concluded today.

The programme commenced on 21 January and includes awareness events on health and hygiene, door-to-door campaign by Anganwadi and ASHA workers on girl child development, review of the achievements and targets of the BBBP Scheme, and discussions

with stakeholders. Rallies, signature campaigns, self-defence training for students, painting and poster-making competitions, tree plantations, felicitation of parents and distribution of birth certificates were part of the activities. The programme is being conducted under the aegis of CDPO Chungthang, Sonam Lachen Lachungpa. Awareness on POC SO Act was also held during the programme. All the activities were undertaken by the Block Task Force, Chungthang.

Nepal-India relations need to be nurtured, updated: Nepali leaders

SHIRISH PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JAN 25 (PTI): Nepal and India should be sensitive towards each others' concerns and they should cooperate with each other to move forward on the path of mutual interest, senior Nepali leaders said on Friday. Talking to reporters here on the eve of India's Republic Day, the leaders also called for the early adoption and implementation of the Eminent Persons' Group's report (EPG) on Nepal-India relations to further strengthen the ties. Senior leader of Nepali Congress and former Finance Minister Ramsharan Mahat said the bilateral relations should contribute towards attaining economic prosperity for Nepal.

"Nepal has a huge trade deficit with India and to reduce the deficit Nepal should increase its export to India which requires favourable laws and agreements," Mahat said. "India's Republic Day is an important event for those countries that have gained freedom from colonialism," said Mahat. The report prepared by the EPG of the two

countries is an important step taken towards making bilateral relations updated and timely, he pointed out, adding there is a need to implement the report at the earliest. The EPG was formed in 2016 by the governments of Nepal and India for reviewing the entire gamut of Nepal-India relations and update bilateral agreements and treaties, including the Nepal-India Friendship Treaty 1950. "I congratulate the government and people of India on this occasion and also extend best wishes that India could move forward as a prosperous nation," he said. Nepal and India enjoy close people-to-people relations since time immemorial that needs to be updated and consolidated from time to time and the EPG report was prepared towards fulfilling the objective, said former Nepal' ambassador to India Bahadur Thapa. "We are eagerly waiting for early adoption and implementation of the EPG report which will certainly add new dimension in existing bilateral relations," he remarked.

Sikkim parties to...

An SSC press release issued by its vice-convenor, Navin Kiran, informs that the meeting concluded with the decision to work in coordination to fight on common issues on a common platform of 'United Sikkimese Forum' [USF]. RN Chamling of Sikkim Rajya Manch has been nominated the chief coordinator of USF and one member from each party nominated as members. The USF members are Biraj Adhikari, Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha, Bhupal Subba, Chakrapani Bhattacharj, Ramesh Khana, Jaganath Pandey, IP Rai and Anita Gurung. The release informed that the forum has decided to meet within two days to discuss further programmes. "Let us work to..." "In Sikkim, we have also contributed our mite in our own special way towards nation building. The Sikkimese people have offered a rare example of patriotism to merge the erstwhile independent Kingdom into the Indian mainstream in 1975, a unique case nowhere to be found anywhere else in the world," he further highlights. The CM goes on to state that in the last 24 years, the State Government has "transformed Sikkim into the best State in the Country undertaking many innovative programs and policies which have been the first-of-their-kinds in the Country and also in the World" and goes on to enumerate 52 major achievements of the government.

SDF Upper Tadong party office inaugurated

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 JAN: The constituency-level party office of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front party for Upper Tadong constituency was inaugurated by vice-president and chairperson of the election monitoring and campaign committee of SDF, Menlom Lepcha at the residence of SDF general secretary, Bharat Basnet here at Daragaon on Thursday. The inauguration function was followed by a meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Upper Tadong MLA, Timothy William Basnet stated that Upper Tadong has witnessed lots of developmental activities in the SDF government. He stated that many other plans and projects for the further development of the constituency have been submitted to the government. SDF general secretary, Kiran Chettri stated that alliance of op-



position parties reveals their fear of the ruling party and will not make any difference. Likewise, former councilor of the area, Bhaskar Basnet has criticized the act of opposition parties of obstructing developmental works and Janta Mela of SDF government. In his address, Menlom Lepcha stated that Sikkim has become the

most developed, peaceful and secure State of the country in 25 years of SDF government led by the visionary Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling. He informed that SDF is staring public interactions and meetings in all wards of Upper Tadong constituency from 27 Jan onwards. He also lashed out against opposition parties for spreading misinforma-

tion on the One Family One Job scheme of the SDF government. Mr Lepcha also stated that the opposition should be happy about the initiative of the government to provide government jobs to the youth of Sikkim. He expressed his belief that the people will continue to support the ruling party looking at the work it has done.

North celebrates National Voters Day



MANGAN, 25 JAN [IPR]: National Voters Day was celebrated in North Sikkim amidst a large number of young voters. The program was chaired by District Collector cum District Electoral Officer North, Karma R. Bonpo. The program started with the lighting of ceremonial lamp by the chairperson and the video message of Chief Election Commissioner of India, Sunil Arorra. Present on the occasion was Joint Director HRDD, Delak Pradhan, DIO/N, Under Secretary

Elections, BLOs and staff from the district Election Cell. A Pledge was administered by the District Collector to resolve to protect the rich democratic traditions and uphold the sanctity of free and fair elections. The EPIC Cards were then handed over to the new voters. The DC while congratulating the new voters stated that the voters have to be responsible citizens and exercise their right to vote without inducement of race, caste, religion. He

stated that a massive exercise to enroll all voters has taken place and the final electoral roll will be published on 31 Jan. He also informed about the voter helpline number 1950 and the android application for voters. Hands-on EVM and VVPAT awareness was also held for the young voters to familiarize them with the process of voting with VVPATS. The program ended with vote of thanks by Under Secretary Election Cell North District.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
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EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Application are invited from the eligible local candidates for filling up of 14 (fourteen) posts of Kennel Hand/ Humane Animal Handler/ Kennel Hand/ Vet-Aide on temporary regular basis in the pre-revised PB-I of 5200-20200 plus Grade Pay of Rs. 2200/- plus other admissible allowances as per the rules under AH,LF&VS Department through direct recruitment. However, during the period of Probation/ Apprenticeship/ Training, pay shall be governed by Notification No. 489/ GEN/DOP dated: 31.10.2011.

CONDITONS OF ELIGIBILITY:

1. Minimum Educational Qualification

3. Duties of the post.

4. Age.

5. Reservation

(a) Class-V passed from a recognized Board.

: (b) The applicant should possess a valid Certificate in Humane Animal Handling Course accredited by Animal Board of India (AWBI).

: (c) Preference will be given to person with 5 (five) years of experience in animal birth control and stray dog population control programme.

: (d) Candidates must be in possession of either Sikkim Subject Certificate or COI issued by the competent authority under relevant orders of the State Government.

: (e) Should have knowledge of any of the State Language viz. Nepali/Sikkimese/ Bhutia/Lepcha/Limboo.

: (f) Should have valid Local Employment Card.

: (g) Should be conversant with the customs and usages of Sikkim.

: As per Appendix-I given on website. www.sikkim.ahvs.gov.in

: Should have attained the age of 18 years, but should not have exceeded 40 years as on 31.01.2019 vide Notification No. M(3) / /GEN/DOP PT-III, dated 03.07.2017.

14(fourteen) posts of Kennel Hand/ Humane Animal Handler/ Kennel Hand/ Vet-Aide.

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Posts.
1.	Unreserved	02
2.	Bhutia Lepcha	01
3.	Bhutia Lepcha (Women)	01
4.	Other Backward Classes-Central List	02
5.	Other Backward Classes- State List	01
6.	Other Backward Classes- State List (Women)	01
7.	Schedule Tribe	02
8.	Schedule Caste	01
9.	Primitive Tribe	01.
10.	Most Backward Classes-State List	01.
11.	Wealer Section of the Society	01
	Total	14

Candidates should bring all attested copy of documents while submitting the application forms and ensure that they are qualified on the date of application in all respect. Candidate will not be informed by the AH,LF&VS Department for any discrepancy or disqualification at personal level. However, those candidates whose forms are found to be incomplete in any manner will be summarily rejected, so all candidates are advised to ensure that they are qualified for the post.

The application form should be obtained from the Head Office, AH,LF&VS Department, Krishi Bhawan Building, Room No. 104 along with original Bank Receipt of Rs.150 in favour of Secretary, AH,LF&VS Department w.e.f 01.02.2019 to 15.02.2019 on any working day between 10.30 AM to 3.00 PM under charge Head 0403-AH-800. Admit Card will be issued accordingly on the day of submission of application form i.e. from 01.02.2019 to 15.02.2019.

Those candidates fulfilling the above prescribed criteria will be called for interview. No TA/ DA admissible for attending the examination/ interview.

Admission at all the stages of examination for which candidates are admitted by the AH,LF&VS Department viz. Part-I & Part-II. The scheme and syllabus of examination for the purpose of filling up the post of Kennel Hand/ Humane Animal Handler/ Kennel Hand/ Vet-Aide is given on website at Appendix II.

Name of the candidates eligible for appearing interview will be displayed in the notice board of Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, and SARA Division, Deorali, East Sikkim, AH,LF&VS Department. **The date for interview shall be on 18.02.2019.** If any changes regarding date shall be notified on the Notice Board of AH,LF&VS Department.

Test will be purely provisional and is subject to satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions. If, on verification at any stage of examination process, it is found that candidates do not fulfill any of the eligibility conditions, their candidates for the post will be cancelled by the AH,LF&VS Department, Government of Sikkim without notice.

The AH,LF&VS Department will not entertain any application on review or RTI/ Correspondence till the entire process of recruitment is completed.

R.O. No. 626/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 24.01.19

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary
AH,LF&VS Department

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

An Article of Faith

Understand the Constitution better to appreciate Article 371F and its true potential

The Constitution of India is one of the most comprehensive documents ever codified to ensure equality for all citizens. It is however no secret that equality still evades the citizens and that disparities still mar the land. While this is true, it is not a failing of the Constitution; the blame rests in the limited ability of those responsible to uphold the Constitution. Those approaching the Constitution with 'limited ability' are not only the politicians as many would have naturally inferred, but also the lay citizens for whom the document was drafted and the intellectuals who are expected in any society to refine the people's understanding of rights, issues and situations.

As a people, we have failed in internalizing and understanding the document that makes us free, equal and empowered. Take Sikkim's example, it must have been the promise that the Constitution of India holds that convinced the Sikkimese to end a monarchy and become a part of India. Sure, there is this almost fashionable debate over what is the correct term to use – merger or annexation, and much as that is an interesting discussion to get into, we leave that for a later date. It is the sensitivity of the Constitution of India which made Article 371F possible. Remember, there was no Article 371F when 1975 happened, nor any demand or understanding of such an arrangement when the Merger was effected, and yet the Article was inserted into the Constitution to set the ground rules for India on how Sikkim's incorporation into the Union was to be handled. Article 371F did not flow from the magnanimity or farsightedness of the leaders of the time, but was conditioned by the principles espoused by the Constitution. Article 371F is a powerful tool providing Sikkim with its special status within the Indian Union. Unfortunately however, it has been reduced to convenient dodge to continue living in the past. The Act was inserted into the Constitution to guide Sikkim's future, not to keep it stuck in the past. It provides Sikkim with the unique privilege of cherry-picking what it likes and wants of the Indian democracy and allows it the space to adapt and grow at its own pace. Clearly, the idea was to cushion the shock of sudden change and it would be a disservice to the Constitution of India to allow its provisions to get reduced to a one-dimensional understanding perpetuating status quo forever.

Since Article 371F is so important for Sikkim and for the political rhetoric of lazy politics, one wonders why the public space here, in the more than four decades that the Article has been a part of the Constitution, never received an informed discussion or deliberation on this clause which makes Sikkim a part of India? There has been a lot of jingoism and many half-truths are routinely thrown around, but Article 371F has not received the honest discussion it deserves. For whatever many groups might say about it, 371F is a progressive Act and that is how it should be used; not as a political slogan to confuse people and keep them stuck with one leg in the distant past. The exemption from Income Tax being enjoyed by Sikkim Subjects becomes possible due to this Article and some better informed interpretations and tactful arguments can win the State even more special arrangements. That will require reasoned positions and appraisals which will benefit if they have an emotional core, but will prove harmful if approached only emotionally.

What is safeguarded by Article 371F will always be safe, the Constitution is strong enough to guarantee that, but the real aspirations which moved the people so strongly in 1975 will be achieved only when the true potential of the Constitution trickles down to every corner of the State. For that, a more confident understanding of what this document is all about has to be promoted. For that, Sikkim's engagement with Article 371F will have to move beyond the lazy chauvinism which blinkers a more complete understanding. Article 371F cannot be understood in isolation of what the rest of the Constitution holds. This Republic Day, maybe acquiring a deeper appreciation of this document is a promise the people can make themselves and keep.

Nepal's menstrual huts: what can be done about this practice of confining women to cow sheds?

SARA PARKER & KAY STANDING
theconversation.com

The tragic recent deaths of a mother and her two sons in a chhaupadi hut in Nepal has again brought the issue of this exclusionary practice to the forefront of international human rights and media attention.

Despite being illegal, chhaupadi, the practice of exiling menstruating women and girls from their home – often to a cow shed – is still practised in some areas of Western Nepal. Chhaupadi is an extreme example of the stigmas and restrictions around menstruation that exist not only in Nepal, but also globally. The recent protests at the Sabarimala temple in India, which women of menstruating age are not allowed to enter, is another example of menstrual pollution beliefs.

The image of menstruating women and girls being forced to leave their homes and be confined to a cow shed dominates media coverage of the issue in Nepal. But this view oversimplifies what is a much more complex issue. Chhaupadi is not only limited to the physical practice of sleeping in a shed – it goes beyond this to include deeply rooted cultural beliefs about impurity, which see women and girls as inferior, and lead girls to internalise these feelings. Girls are told they are impure from a young age, which can have a damaging effect on their psyche and sense of self-worth.

Many NGOs and activists are destroying the sheds – and the Nepalese government has introduced new penalties and sanctions, such as removing state food support and other services. While this might seem like a welcome move, in some areas there are reports that this can make it more dangerous for women and girls as instead they sleep outside in caves or the jungle without shelter or mosquito nets. These practices are deeply ingrained in culture and society, so many women may leave their homes despite sanctions for fear of bringing harm if they don't.

Tham Maya Thapa, Nepal's minister for women, children and senior citizens, believes it will take time to end chhaupadi. This is a custom that has been deeply entrenched in Nepalese society for hundreds of years.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Nepal is an exceptionally diverse country of 125 ethnic groups. To tackle chhaupadi, a nuanced

understanding of how menstrual practices and beliefs differ among varied religious and ethnic backgrounds is required. Although chhaupadi hits the headlines, there is no one all-encompassing single narrative on menstruation in Nepal.

We have been researching gender, education and gender-based violence in Nepal over the past 25 years and are working on a project on the origins of menstrual beliefs and practices which ex-

plains the diverse range of beliefs, practices and historical and cultural roots which underpin menstrual health customs in all seven provinces of Nepal.

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5G: What will it offer and why does it matter?

NIGEL LINGE
theconversation.com

Never in the history of the mobile phone has there been so much hype about a new technology ahead of its launch than there is with 5G. It seems that the mobile phone operators, handset manufacturers and equipment vendors are locked into a massive global game of one-upmanship, seeking to claim to be the first to achieve something groundbreaking with the technology. But the stakes are high – the mobile industry also desperately needs 5G, whether for new revenue sources, market share or to drive growth.

Since mobile phones first appeared in the mid-1980s, the industry has launched several new "generations" of network and technology. Those early analogue "brick" phones of the 1980s were replaced by the 2G (1990s) GSM, digital and international roaming service. 3G (2000s) offered improved internet connectivity before 4G (2010s) delivered a truly broadband experience into our hands.

5G is now the fifth generation, but despite considerable media attention and focus on its massively enhanced data capability (downloading a HD movie in less than a minute), focusing on its speed alone is to miss the point of its significance.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Ultimately, it is simply not sustainable to keep launching a new technology every ten years or so. There are licence fees to pay for new radio frequency spectrum bands, new network infrastructure to build, and an increase in the management costs associated with integrating new technology with existing infrastructure – while keeping all of the other previous generations of network operational. UK operators, for example, continue to support 2G, 3G and 4G while preparing to launch 5G.

So, what's so special about 5G? Capacity and coverage won't be immediately there at launch but more of both is expected in due course. For the user, 5G speeds will be a big draw,

with quoted figures ranging from 100Mbps to 20Gbps (that's up to a thousand times faster than 4G).

Naturally, this is being delivered in direct response to our seemingly insatiable appetite for more and more online content and, especially, video. But 5G won't only revolutionise mobile handsets; it could also be an alternative way of providing broadband internet access to homes via

the functioning of the Internet of Things whereby a massive number of sensors, embedded systems and devices will need to be wirelessly interconnected for data sharing.

Technology supported by 5G will also allow operators to offer different types of service to different groups over the same network but in a better and more managed way. This future-proofs the infrastructure by creating a service orientated

tag for the industry. In April 2018, UK mobile operators spent £1.1 billion on licence fees for access to the newly released 3.4GHz radio frequencies and each is pledging several billions of investment to build the new 5G service. And all of this before any revenue starts to flow back into the industry.

So how can the service effectively be monetised? Ultimately, the problem is that 4G is good enough for



Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) (which employs wireless mobile network technology rather than fixed lines).

Then there is the delay, or latency, which defines the responsiveness of the network. For 4G, this is currently around 40 milliseconds. 5G, however, could reduce the latency to 10 milliseconds for enhanced Mobile Broadband (eMBB) applications. This won't mean much to most people, but it could be critical for the useful development of specialist applications such as virtual reality and connected and self-driving vehicles, where even small delays can make a big difference.

WHAT ABOUT THE OPERATORS?

For the operators, the benefits are numerous. Higher frequencies and new MIMO antenna technology will enable better coverage and more capacity. This will ensure a consistent user experience, even as demand grows in densely populated areas.

Improved coverage is also critical for

network which can evolve rather than having to be continually replaced with a new one, eliminating the need for a 6G and allowing previous network generations to be decommissioned.

Progress towards 5G has been rapid. Originally intended for commercial launch in 2020, 5G is already a year ahead of schedule. The first formal standards were approved in December 2017, handsets are set to emerge in the first quarter of 2019 (with pricing predicted to be around £600), and UK operators have announced commercial launch dates for mid-2019 onwards.

But the pace of roll-out will be driven primarily by demand, and given the huge investments in 4G and earlier generation networks, 5G has to be paid for with real revenue.

MAKING IT PAY

This is a huge challenge. The benefits of 5G come with a hefty price

most mobile customers. And given that most of the benefits of 5G to the operators are either hidden or of little direct benefit to everyday users, what value can be placed on simply having even higher download speeds?

The success of 5G is therefore going to be dependent on operators and their wholesale partners developing new markets that look beyond traditional consumers of mobile services. It may start with higher capacity for today's services such as video, or improved functionality for tailored networks for campuses or business sites.

Ultimately, however, the investors will have to think big – and look to industries behind connected vehicles, the Internet of Things and the other major technologies of the future.

[The writer is Professor, Computer Networking and Telecommunications, University of Salford]

Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Sikkim



*Happy Republic Day
2019*



“That foresight, vision and the secular ethos enshrined in the Constitution have unfailingly guided our country in its steady march to freedom, progress and prosperity”

- Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister of Sikkim

Monaco coach Thierry Henry suspended, faces axe

MONACO, JAN 25 (AFP): Thierry Henry was suspended from his role as coach of struggling Ligue 1 side Monaco with the former French international striker expected to be quickly axed.

"Henry has been suspended until a definitive decision is made," Monaco said in a statement on Thursday, adding assistant coach Franck Passi would oversee training on Friday ahead of their trip to fellow strugglers Dijon. Henry, 41, was suspended by Monaco, who are second-from-bottom in the French top division with 15 points, after the former Arsenal and France striker earned the Principality club just two league wins since his arrival in October.

He took up the post with the 2017 French champions in October following the sacking of title-winner Leonardo Jardim but failed to improve on the poor start to the campaign by his predecessor.

Ironically, Jardim was already being tipped on Thursday as Henry's successor as Monaco battle to beat the drop.

The club's decision to dispose off Henry would have come as a shock if his comments at his scheduled weekly news conference earlier in the day were any indication.

"My future is not a problem," Henry told reporters. However, his anticipated departure will not come cheap.

He was reported to be earning an estimated 3.2 million euros a year. With two and a half years still left on his contract, Monaco's owners face having to pay out another eight million as compensation. Henry was also believed to have upset the club hierarchy with some of his public comments.

"When I arrived, the club was in a mess, I tried to do a lot of things which you did not see," he said Thursday. "I am also expecting a striker," he added when discussing his desire to reinforce the squad ahead of next week's closing of the transfer window.

Henry's fate drew some sympathy from other stars. - "Somewhat disrespectful" - "See that @ThierryHenry has been suspended from his coaching duties at Monaco whilst the club decides what to do with him. Seems a tad humiliating and somewhat disrespectful to treat an absolute legend that way. If you're going fire him, then fire him," tweeted former England and Barcelona star Gary Lineker.

Monaco are two points behind Dijon, who are 18th and a further point from safety, after collecting only three wins from 21 matches, and crashed out of Europe early after finishing bottom of Champions League Group A with just a single point.

Their miserable form under Henry culminated in a humiliating 3-1 French Cup defeat to second-tier Metz on Tuesday and a 5-1 home Ligue 1 hammering by Strasbourg last weekend, during which the tension surrounding Henry began to show.

Dortmund, Bayern out to avoid slip ups in title race



they should start Bayern's Champions League last 16 away tie at Anfield on February 19.

Bayern are searching for clues as to why they lag behind Dortmund and midfielder Leon Goretzka has revealed they are attempting to find their weaknesses.

"They (Dortmund) won against us (3-2 last Friday's 3-1 win at Hoffenheim, with Boateng on the bench, because "Mats was just a tiny bit better - we're talking a micron" explained Kovac.

The race is on to see who can convince Kovac

what it was and straighten it out."

- FINE-TUNING BY KOVAC -

Kovac accordingly put his side through their paces in sub-zero temperatures in Munich this week in a series of small training matches which replicated tight situations.

"In the second half, Hoffenheim created some pressure and that made it harder," explained the Bayern boss.

Stuttgart were thumped 3-0 at home by Bayern when the sides last met in September,

but managed a shock 4-1 win at the Allianz Arena in May 2018 after Bayern had already secured last season's title.

Dortmund, who are eager to build on last Saturday's hard-fought 1-0 win at Leipzig thanks to Axel Witsel's strike, are wary of Hanover, a bogey side for Borussia in recent seasons.

Hanover are 17th, with only goal difference keeping them above bottom side Nuremberg, but held Dortmund to a goalless draw when the sides met in August.

After Dortmund

crashed to a shock 4-2 defeat at Hanover in October 2017, the leaders are cautious of a similar repeat.

"In the away match, Hanover caused us problems and we will need the same level of concentration as we had at Leipzig," said Dortmund's director of sport Michael Zorc.

Playmaker and captain Marco Reus is set to return after missing the Leipzig win with a twisted ankle.

"Marco has trained the whole week and he's doing well," said coach Lucien Favre about Reus who has scored 11 goals and set up seven more in 17 games this season.

Julian Weigl is one to watch in Dortmund's defence having been converted to a centre-back to avert an injury crisis.

The 23-year-old, whose chances this season have been restricted by the arrivals of Thomas Delaney and Witsel in the defensive midfield, was magnificent against Leipzig, even out of position.

"Julian struggled with injury, then new people arrived in the summer. Despite that, he behaved professionally and was exceptional in his new role," said Zorc.

Esqueda fit, as East Bengal raring to go vs Mohun Bagan

KOLKATA, JAN 25 (PTI): Bolstered by the return of Mexican striker Enrique Esqueda, East Bengal are ready to make a double on Mohun Bagan in the I-League derby, coach Alejandro Menendez said Friday.

Even though there are no favourites in this particular match, East Bengal are in a slightly better position having beaten them 3-2 in the first leg last month.

The red-and-gold team for the first time in this I-League will take the field with all six foreigners in their squad.

The presence of all the overseas players is definitely an advantage Alejandro Menendez's side has over Khalid

Jamil's. "I think we have played many matches and we are ready for the game. Enrique is fit for the game. The players try to do their best in every match. It is not something different," the Spaniard said in a non-chalant way.

The former Racing Santander coach also gave a lukewarm response when asked about Mohun Bagan star Haitian winger Sony Norde. "We have nothing special planned for Sony Norde. We will see that on Sunday."

He however was quick to add that they can not underestimate their arch-rivals.

"Mohun Bagan is a big club. They have good players. The challenge

is to stop them. In these kind of matches, the small details will make the difference."

Eyeing their maiden I-League title, East Bengal are eight points behind leaders Chennai City but the Kolkata heavyweights have a match in hand.

He hoped Chennai would drop points with difficult matches ahead.

"Many teams are fighting for the title. Chennai have a tough fixture. Teams will drop points and therefore we have to focus on ourselves." "All the teams are difficult who are fighting for the title. But we are focusing only on our next match. We have to get full points to fight for the title.

India eye dominance; New Zealand aim to stay afloat



MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND), JAN 25 (PTI): After a near perfect beginning, India would look to tighten the noose around a struggling New Zealand with a barrage of spin in the second ODI here on Saturday.

New Zealand batsmen looked all at sea against India's spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in their own backyard following a fiery spell from pacer Mohammad Shami in the opening ODI on Wednesday.

The hosts seemed rusty against a team coming off a historic tour of Australia and know beating an in-form India will be steep climb at the Bay Oval here.

Before the sun stopped play for more than 30 minutes in the series-opener, the Indian bowlers made merry with Kuldeep and Chahal sharing six wickets.

Both the wrist-spinners hunt in a pack and would be itching to have another go at the Black Caps.

India are yet to finalise their middle-order ahead of the World Cup but are unlikely to tinker much with the playing eleven after just one game.

Hardik Pandya has left to join the squad in New Zealand after the Committee of Administrators (CoA) revoked the interim suspension on him and K L Rahul but most likely, he will be available only from the third ODI onwards.

The team management played pace all-rounder Vijay Shankar at McClean Park but depending on the conditions, it can bring back Ravindra Jadeja.

Ambati Rayudu, who scored an unbeaten 13 off 23 on Wednesday, is expected to get another opportunity following a not so productive run in the ODIs against Australia.

For India, the biggest plus to come out of the first ODI was Shikhar Dhawan regaining some form with the bat

following a lean run Down Under.

The southpaw scored an unbeaten 75 in the team's comprehensive win and in the circumstances, it was a crucial knock.

"It was a very important innings for Dhawan. We spoke about how he needed to finish games for India, to keep his confidence and if he's in that mindset, he can be a great asset," said skipper Virat Kohli after the eight-wicket win.

More changes can be expected in the eleven after Kohli takes a break following the third ODI on January 28, creating an opening for the likes of Shubman Gill to make their India debut.

New Zealand won the previous home series against India 4-0 but could be heading towards a reverse if they don't up their game.

"We were severely outplayed the other day," said pacer Trent Boult on Friday.

"Batsmen are looking to right a few wrongs, come out and set a good platform and obviously put a good target on the board and see what happens from there," he added. It seemed captain Kane Williamson was battling on another surface as the batsmen struggled at the other end.

Teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik, Vijay Shankar, Shubman Gill, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Siraj, Khaleel Ahmed, Ravindra Jadeja, Hardik Pandya.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham, Martin Guptill, Colin de Grandhomme, Trent Boult, Henry Nicholls, Doug Bracewell, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Colin Munro, Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee.

Match Starts at 7:30 am.

Trump sets eyes on Indian duties on American whisky

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JAN 25 (PTI): US President Donald Trump has set his eyes on the "high" 150 per cent Indian duties on American whisky after he struck what he called a "very fair" deal with India in about two minutes on the 100 per cent tariffs on the iconic motorcycle Harley-Davidson.

India in February last year slashed the customs duty on imported high-end motorcycles like Harley-Davidson to 50 per cent after Trump called it "unfair" and threatened to increase the tariff on import of Indian bikes to the US.

At a White House event on the Reciprocal Trade Act on Thursday, Trump flashed out a green colour board with examples of non-reciprocal tariffs from various countries. Trump alleged



that many countries have taken advantage of the US.

"Look at motorcycles as an example. (In) India, it was 100 per cent. I got them down to 50 per cent, just by talking for about two minutes. It's still 50 per cent vs 2.4 per cent (on imported motorcycles to the US).

Again, other than that, it's a very fair deal," the president said.

Trump, however, pointed out to the high tariff by India on import of wines.

"India has a very high tariff. They charge a lot of tariffs. You look at whisky... India gets 150 per

cent, we get nothing."

In his interaction with lawmakers at the White House, Trump said the Reciprocal Trade Act would give US workers a fair and level-playing field against other countries. The Reciprocal Trade Act, which Trump was expected to highlight

in his now-delayed State of the Union address, would give him authority to levy tariffs equal to those of a foreign country on a particular product if that country's tariffs are determined to be significantly lower than those charged by the United States. It would

also allow Trump to take into account non-tariff barriers when determining such tariffs.

"They charge us tariffs and taxes, the likes of which nobody has any understanding. They are so high and so unfair! They also have barriers where we can't go in. They have trade barriers that make it impossible for us to sell our farm products and our other products.

"Whether they think we're very nice or not so smart, they've been doing it for many, many years and we want to end it. Many of these are friends, many of these are allies... but, sometimes, allies take advantage of us even more so than our non-allies," he said.

Trump said the Reciprocal Trade Act would help to solve the problem once and for all. "Whatever the tariff for a for-

eign country is, we place the same tariff on us."

"What's going to happen, I think, from a practical standpoint, is they won't be charging us tariffs anymore. We'll see. Or we'll charge them a lot. Tremendous amount of money," he said.

The Reciprocal Trade Act will be an incredible tool to bring foreign countries to the negotiating table and to get them to lower tariffs on US products and also to get rid of their trade barriers, the president asserted.

America cannot lose almost USD 800 billion on trade like has been done for many years, he said.

Congressman Sean Duffy, who introduced the Reciprocal Trade Act, has put granite from India in his global list of non-reciprocal tariffs.

Backed by military, Venezuela’s Maduro hits back at rival



CARACAS, JAN 25 (AP): Backed by Venezuela’s military, President Nicolas Maduro went on the offensive against an opposition leader who declared himself interim president and his US supporters, setting up a potentially explosive struggle for power in the crisis-plagued South American nation.

A defiant Maduro called home all Venezuelan diplomats from the United States and closed its embassy on Thursday, a day after ordering all US diplomats out of Venezuela by the weekend because President Donald Trump had supported the presidential claim of Juan Guaido.

Washington has refused to comply, but ordered its non-essential staff to leave the tumultuous country, citing security concerns.

The Trump administration says Maduro’s order isn’t legal because the U.S. no longer recognizes him as Venezuela’s legitimate leader.

“They believe they have a colonial hold in Venezuela, where they decide what they want to do,” Maduro said in an address broadcast live on state TV.

“You must fulfill my order from the government of Venezuela.”

Meanwhile, all eyes were on Guaido whose whereabouts have been a mystery since the 35-year-old was symbolically sworn in Wednesday before tens of thousands of cheering supporters, promising to uphold the constitution and rid Venezuela of Maduro’s dictatorship.

Speaking from an undisclosed location, Guaido told Univision he would consider granting amnesty to Maduro and his allies if they helped return Venezuela to democracy.

“Amnesty is on the table,” said Guaido, who just weeks earlier was named head of the opposition-controlled congress.

“Those guarantees are for all those who are willing to side with the constitution to recover the constitutional order.”

Besides the United States, much of the international community rallied behind Guaido, with Canada and numerous Latin American and European countries announcing that they recognized his claim to the presidency. Trump promised to use the “full weight” of US economic and diplomatic power to push for the restoration of Venezuela’s democracy.

Maduro has been increasingly accused of undemocratic behavior by his opponents, and has presided over skyrocketing inflation, a collapsing economy and widespread shortages of basic goods.

Meanwhile, Russia, China, Iran, Syria, Cuba and Turkey have voiced their backing for Maduro’s government.

China’s Foreign Ministry called on the United States to stay out of the crisis, while Russia’s deputy foreign minister warned the US against any military intervention in Venezuela. Alexei Pushkov, chairman of the information committee at the Russian Federation Council, called Guaido’s declaration “an attempted coup” backed by the US.

Russia has been propping up Maduro with arms deliveries and loans. Maduro visited Moscow in December, seeking Russia’s political and financial support. Over the last decade, China has given Venezuela 65 billion in loans, cash and investment. Venezuela owes more than 20 billion.

Diplomats at the Organization of American States held an emergency meeting Thursday on the Venezuelan crisis, during

which 16 nations recognized Guaido as interim president.

Domestically, attention has been on Venezuela’s military, a traditional arbiter of political disputes in the country, as a critical indicator of whether the opposition will succeed in establishing a new government.

Venezuela’s top military brass pledged their unwavering support to Maduro, delivering vows of loyalty Thursday before rows of green-uniformed officers on state television.

A half-dozen generals belonging largely to district commands and with direct control over thousands of troops joined Maduro in accusing Washington of meddling in Venezuela’s affairs and said they would uphold the socialist leader’s rule.

Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, a key Maduro ally, dismissed efforts to install a “de-facto parallel government” as tantamount to a coup.

“It’s not a war between Venezuelans that will solve our problems,” he said. “It’s dialogue.”

Guaido has said he needs the backing of three critical groups: The people, the international community and the military. While yes-

terday’s protest drew tens of thousands to the streets and over a dozen nations in the region are pledging support, the military’s backing is key.

Though many rank-and-file troops suffer the same hardships as countless other Venezuelans when it comes to meeting basic needs like feeding their families, Maduro has worked to cement their support with bonuses and other special benefits.

In a video addressing the military earlier this week, Guaido said the constitution requires them to disavow Maduro after his May 2018 re-election, which was widely condemned by the international community because his main opponents were banned from running.

But there were no signs that security forces were widely heeding Guaido’s call to go easy on demonstrators.

Gunfire during the protests and looting left 21 dead between Wednesday and early Thursday in the capital of Caracas and throughout the country, reported Marco Ponce, coordinator of the non-profit Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict.

Many Venezuelans were looking for Guaido to re-emerge and provide guidance on the opposition’s next steps.

Guaido, a virtually unknown lawmaker at the start of the year, has reignited the hopes of Venezuela’s often beleaguered opposition by taking a rebellious tack amid Venezuela’s crushing economic crisis.

He escalated his campaign Wednesday by declaring that the constitution gives him, as president of the congress, the authority to take over as interim president and form a transitional government until he calls new elections.

No end to US shutdown as opposing bills to reopen govt fail in Senate



WASHINGTON, JAN 25 (PTI): Two bills to end the US government have been rejected by the Senate, leaving no end in sight to the record-breaking closure of federal agencies over President Donald Trump’s controversial plan to build a border wall along the US-Mexico border.

Trump is demanding USD 5.7 billion of congressional funding to build the wall, but the Democrats have refused. Some 800,000 federal employees have been going unpaid since December 22 due to the shutdown.

In back-to-back votes on Thursday, the Senate first blocked Trump’s proposal to add USD 5.7 billion for his border wall to legislation to resume funding for the government, then turned back a Democratic measure that omitted the wall. Neither side was able to garner the 60 votes needed to advance its bill.

A Republican-backed measure to fund Trump’s border wall failed in a 50-47 vote.

Three senators Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Republicans Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Mike Lee of Utah broke with their parties.

A plan supported by Democrats fared better, but still fell short in a 52-44 vote. Six Republican

senators supported it.

Senate leaders from both parties later briefly discussed a new proposal to reopen federal agencies for three weeks.

Trump was noncommittal, telling reporters at the White House that he would only sign a bill if it included a “down payment” on a border barrier.

“One of the ideas suggested is they open it, they pay sort of a pro-rated down payment for the wall, which I think people would agree that you need the wall,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters that any resolution would work if there is a “large down payment” on the wall.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump’s request was not reasonable.

Later Trump said that he has a lot of alternatives.

“We have a lot of alternatives. Honestly, everybody, for the most part, people agree. When I say everybody, I would say almost everybody agree, we have to have border security. We have to have a wall in order to have border security. You cannot have border security without a wall,” he said.

The failure to advance the bills left Washington with no obvious path out

of the longest shutdown in US history. Neither the president nor Democratic leaders have shown any willingness to back down even in the 34th day of the partial shutdown.

Thousands of government employees have scrambled to pay for meals and cover their bills. The shutdown has affected various services from airports to FBI investigations and food safety inspections.

CNN, meanwhile said the White House was preparing a draft proclamation for Trump to declare a national emergency along the southern border and has identified more than USD 7 billion in potential funds for his signature border wall should he go that route.

Trump has not ruled out using his authority to declare a national emergency and direct the Defense Department to construct a border wall as Congress and the White House fight over a deal to end the government shutdown. But while Trump’s advisers remain divided on the issue, the White House has been moving forward with alternative plans that would bypass Congress.

Trump’s State of the Union address, scheduled for Tuesday, has also been postponed until the end of the shutdown following an acrimonious tit-for-tat with Pelosi.

S Korea in airborne fight against ‘Chinese’ pollution

SEOUL, JAN 25 (AFP): Seoul on Friday sent aircraft over the Yellow Sea to carry out cloud-seeding experiments in an effort to tackle air pollution many South Koreans blame on China.

Air quality in South Korea is generally better than in its giant neighbour, the world’s biggest polluter, which is periodically affected by choking bouts of filthy air and according to the International Energy Agency uses coal to generate around three quarters of its energy.

Beijing has been seeking to tackle the scourge, which causes widespread public anger, and a recent study found urban levels of PM2.5 -- the tiny airborne particles considered most harmful to health -- had been cut by almost a third on average over four years. But they remain far above World Health Organization norms, and pollution levels in Korea sometimes spike as the prevailing winds blow PM2.5 particulates -- referred to as “fine dust” in the South -- across the sea between the two countries.

Kamala Harris seeks ends to shutdown, reopening of federal government



WASHINGTON, JAN 25 (PTI): First Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris, who recently announced her presidential bid for 2020, has sought an end to the unprecedented government shutdown and asked for earliest reopening of the federal government.

The Democratic Party leader from California said that the senate will vote on a clean bill to fund the government.

“It’s been 34 days since the government shutdown. The Senate will vote on a clean bill today (Thursday) to fund the government that we unanimously approved

one month ago. Let’s get this done. 800,000 federal workers are counting on us,” Harris said in a tweet. Trump wants to build a US-Mexico border wall and is seeking a whopping USD 5.7 billion in funding for the physical barrier which according to him is a must to prevent flow of illegal immigrants into the US.

The Democrats assert that such a move is a “waste” of taxpayers’ money.

The partial shutdown has impacted the country hard with more than 800,000 federal government workers out of work across the

key departments.

Three days after announcing her presidential bid, Harris, 54, said that there are FBI employees currently furloughed.

“There are DHS employees working unpaid & stretching their hours. It’s the height of hypocrisy to suggest that a border wall is about securing our nation. If you want our nation secure, you’d pay the folks whose job it is to do that,” she asserted.

Harris officially launched her campaign for the US presidential election in 2020 to take on President Donald

Trump on Monday, saying she was “honoured” to announce her bid on a day when Americans celebrated Martin Luther King Jr who sought inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi.

The first of the straw poll that came after she announced her candidature, Harris has emerged on top of the list of nearly 10 current or prospective Democratic presidential candidates.

According to a report in the Washington Post published Thursday, she was the most searched candidate on the internet after she went public with her bid.

informed, inquisitive, relevant



TWIRLS! Actress Anne Hathaway spins in a gorgeous blue printed skirt at a screening of *Serenity* in NYC.

'Life of Pi' recreated on the Hoogly

ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL

KOLKATA, JAN 25 (PTI): Talking everyone onboard on a jour-

tiger. The novel was later adapted into a movie by Ang Lee and won multiple Oscars.



ney of imagination, Booker Prize winner Yann Martel recreated the story of his magnum opus "Life of Pi" sans the tiger, orang-utan or the hyena on a ferry that set sail on the Hoogly river here. Martel spoke of how he came up with the idea of his novel he published in 2001 and which fetched him the Booker Prize the next year, how he chose the characters and how he did research among other things. In the late 90s, Martel flew to India for research on another book.

"I noticed in India that there was abundance of gods as well as animals. There is a link between the two and there are lots of instances of this in Hindu mythology," he said. These two extremes - gods and animals - struck Martel. "While in Matheran (Maharashtra), I suddenly remembered that premise of a very confined space - with a character and an animal. I found that to be a perfect metaphor for human conditions," he said during a discussion as the ferry cruised along the Hoogly with the majestic Howrah Bridge as the backdrop Thursday night. "The Life of Pi" is about what happened after the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, as a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific Ocean. The only survivors from the wreck are a 16-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Royal Bengal

According to Martel, in "Life of Pi", the life boat crossing the Pacific is the metaphor of the human condition he talks about.

"It is the crossing of a life and living of a life. We are animals and always behave like animals - so that is the tiger. We also have human qualities and one of these qualities is our extraordinary capacity to imagine. One of the things we imagine is god. "So Pi and his gods are one extreme of the human conditions and the tiger is the other - the animal condition. These are brought together in this lifeboat," he said. The main idea conceived, he then spent the next six months in India for research as the country is a "place of marvel and magic".

Another interesting fact he shared during the discussion, organised as part of the ongoing Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet, was why Pi was stranded for 227 days.



"I wanted Pi to be at sea for a time. So I had to have some reason to choose a number. So after some thought, I chose a prime number 227. Prime numbers are indivisible and I wanted to tell a story which is indivisible. You can't have one half of a story, another quarter of one and fabricate another story."

Later, a reader pointed out to him that 22 divided by 7 is close approximation of Pi.

We, The People of India

march together to create a New India which is free from Corruption, Dirt, Poverty, Terrorism, Casteism and Communalism.



Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India

Heartiest Greetings on Republic Day to all Indians

**For A Stronger
Prosperous &
Progressive Republic**

“Today we remember all the great women and men who contributed in the framing of our constitution. Let's reaffirm our unwavering commitment to uphold the ideals of our constitution and strengthen our republic”

-Narendra Modi

