



**TRAINING ON EVMS & VVPATS  
FOR SOUTH OFFICIALS**  
pg02

**HIDDEN WOMEN OF HISTORY:  
LYDIA CHUKOVSKAYA,  
EDITOR, WRITER, HEROIC FRIEND**  
pg04

**SUSAKURTOT FOOTBALL  
TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF**  
pg02



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Pages 8 | ₹ 5

## Sikkim State Univ receives UGC recognition

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Sikkim State University [SSU] has been recognised by the University Grants Commission [UGC] and empowered to award degrees.

This confirmation arrived through an official letter dated 01 January 2019 from UGC to the SSU Vice-Chancellor.

SSU, established by the Government of Sikkim as a State University, is empowered to award degrees as specified by the UGC under section 22 of the UGC Act 1965 by conducting courses through its own departments, its constituent colleges and/

or through its affiliated colleges in regular mode, the letter from UGC conveys.

It is further informed that name of the university has been included in the list maintained by the UGC on its website.

A press release from the university states that SSU Vice-Chancellor, Prof GK Niroula, has welcomed the UGC recognition as a big achievement and a development which has opened the doors for the university to carry out its activities in the state with renewed pace and energy.

He also gave credit to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for

his work towards providing quality education to students of Sikkim up to the higher levels.

He added that the university will fulfill the vision of the CM to provide quality education to students from the poor financial backgrounds and expressed that the university has arrived at a new milestone due to the farsightedness and encouragement of the CM.

The VC has also thanked the HRDD Minister RB Subba and Additional Chief Secretary GP Upadhyaya for making the UGC recognition possible for SSU.

The release further men-

tions that the HRD Minister has congratulated the VC on the recognition and further urged that the university now work with diligence to provide quality higher education to students.

Likewise, Mr Upadhyaya remarked that this was a new chapter in the story of higher education in the State and assured to provide all possible help and support to the university.

The release informs that Sikkim State University was established under the Sikkim University Act 2003 and amendment Act of 2017 in the year 2008. It is added that

teaching in two departments - of Sanskrit and Nepali - started on 24 August earlier this year.

As per the VC, ten new departments will be started from the coming session - English, History, Economics, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Political Science and Sociology.

Prof GK Niroula took charge as the VC of SSU on 06 July this year and immediately started the administrative and educational activities at the university. Work on the logo and website design and other infrastructural works are currently underway.

## Ghatani takes stock of Jorethang Mela prep and shifting of STNM Hospital



**GANGTOK, 04 JAN (IPR):** Minister for Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare, Information and Public Relations and Printing departments, Arjun Kumar Ghatani chaired a coordination meeting to take stock on work progress of upcoming Jorethang Maghey Sakranti Mela Celebration 2019 and shifting of STNM Hospital to newly established Multi Speciality Hospital at Sichey, at his chamber at Tashiling Secretariat, today.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, Secretary IPR, Dr. S. Shenga, Secretary Printing Department, KP Sharma, Commissioner RMDD, P. Senthil Kumar, Directors from Commerce and Industry Deptt and Sports and Youth Affairs Deptts., representatives from Cultural Affairs and Heritage, Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt. and other health officials and HoDs from STNM Hospital.

At the outset, Secretary IPR proposed welcome address and briefed about the state level meeting of Jorethang Maghey Sakranti Mela that was held at the conference hall of the Chief Secretary on 05 December 2018 and said that the minutes of the meeting circulated to various line departments has clearly reflected the responsibilities assigned to various respective departments.

She also updated on the work progress made by the IPR Deptt.

The Health Minister interacted with the secretaries, officials and sought out the updates on work progress assigned to their respective department in previous meetings. He briefed on overview of Jorethang Maghey Sakranti Mela and urged to highlight achievements made by the state government for last 25 years under the leadership of Pawan Chamling during Maghey Sakranti Mela 2019.

The Minister directed IPR department to coordinate with health department for wide publicity of the health care Camp being set up at the mela where ENT screening, Eye screening, Dental screening, Blood camp, HIV testing and distribution of disability certificate would be conducted. Likewise, Commerce and Industry Department will be setting camp at the mela which would facilitate applications of the CMSS from around the region.

The three-day mela should highlight and make people aware of all the achievements, schemes and policies implemented by government, in this regard all the departments should coordinate with mela committee for a grand success said, Mr Ghatani.

The Minister urged the Sports Department to

**turn to pg02**

## Activists protest against purification ritual after women's entry into Sabarimala temple

**NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI):** A group of human rights activist protested outside the Parliament House complex on Friday to express their strong objection to the "purification" rituals carried out by priests at Kerala's Sabarimala temple after two women of menstruating age entered it on Wednesday.

All India Democratic Women's Association, Students' Federation of India and Democratic Youth Federation of India assembled on Rafi Marg and marched towards Parliament, according to a joint statement.

They were holding the protest to express their objection to the purification rituals carried out by priests at the Sabarimala temple after two women entered it, it said.

The women had stepped into the temple of Lord Ayyappa, breaking a centuries-old tradition and defying threats from the Hindu right.

Kanakadurga, 44, and Bindu, 42, had entered the hallowed precincts guarded by police three months after the Supreme Court's historic judgement lifting the ban on entry of girls and women between 10 and 50 years of age into the hilltop shrine of Lord Ayyappa, its "eternally celibate" deity.

Following the entry of the women, the chief priest had decided to close the sanctum sanctorum of the temple to perform the "purification" ceremony.

The protesters strongly condemned the attempts of right-wing groups to create a communal frenzy and subvert the implementation of the orders of the Supreme Court in the Sabarimala case.

Despite the apex court's ruling on September 28 last year, no children or young women in the 'barred' age group were able to offer prayers at the shrine because of frenzied protests by devotees and right-wing outfits.

## Golay makes courtesy visit to Lachen, attends Chaam



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party president, PS Tamang [Golay], visited Lachen in North Sikkim today.

He was accompanied by acting president, Syari MLA Kunga Nima Lepcha, chief coordinator, Sangha MLA Sonam Lama, secretary general Arun Upreti and other senior leaders and members of the party's North district unit.

An SKM press release mentions that this was the second visit of the party president to Lachen.

Mr Tamang was ac-

corded warm receptions at Mangshila, Mangan and Pegong by party supporters and then went on to attend the Ningyama Chaam, an annual ritual, at Lachen Monastery.

"This auspicious ritual is performed at the beginning of the year for the well being of the entire universe and seeking divine blessings for the coming year. This is one of the major religious and social events of the valley where all residents of Lachen as well as surrounding areas gather," the release details.

The Ningyama Chaam is part a five-day long rit-

ual which includes two days of Chaam. Today was the concluding day of the event.

The release mentions that the SKM president was invited by the local organisers to attend the celebrations and Mr Tamang expressed his happiness over the hospitality accorded to him by the people of Lachen.

"Today's visit was purely spiritual and not for political mileage but to keep my prayers in Holy Lachen Monastery as well as to meet the people of North District. North Sikkim has huge potential for eco-tour-

ism, nature tourism, religious tourism and adventure tourism which needs utmost priority. There are many infrastructural projects which need to be developed. The SKM government will give prime priority on development of North Sikkim," Mr Tamang said. The release informs that the day's tour ended with the chaam. Later, the SKM president offered prayers at the Lachen monastery. The release highlights that this was for the first time that an opposition leader was warmly welcomed to the ritual.

## Poor planning and rampant corruption leading to erratic power supply: Khaling

**SAGAR CHHETRI  
GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, today lambasted the State government for the regular power cuts being reported from across the State.

He questioned the State government's claims of development when the people are made to suffer through the current spate of irregular power supply. On the same, he stressed that the government be serious and responsible on this issue.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr Khaling informed that some parts of the State have been facing power



cuts for entire days and nights, something was inexcusable given the extreme cold that has enveloped the region.

He saw these disruptions as evidence of slack administration and irresponsible planning.

He pointed out the

Chief Minister's recent statements that Sikkim was already generating 3,200 MW of electricity. He went on to mention that Sikkim was receiving 12% - 400 MW - of this generation free of cost.

Mr Khaling further in-

formed that as per Power Department officials, Sikkim's peak requirement was barely 90 MW, of which 35 MW is consumed by Gangtok and its surrounding areas. He then went on to question how, when Sikkim as

**turn to pg02**

# NEW FRIENDS SNOOKER CLUB

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Date : 5th to 9th January 2019

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**Gangtok on  
Saturday,  
05 Jan**

**Temp:** 014°C/06°C  
**Forecast:** Sunny  
to partly cloudy  
with a little rain in  
the evening, then  
a shower in spots

**Sunrise:** 07:01 AM  
**Sunset:** 03:49 PM

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## Nepal's new law requires children to deposit money in parents' bank account

**SHIRISH B PRADHAN**

**KATHMANDU, JAN 4 (PTI):** The Nepal government is set to introduce a law which makes it mandatory for the children to deposit 5 to 10 per of their income into the bank accounts of parents to ensure their wellbeing, a spokesperson said Friday.

According to Prime Minister's press advisor Kundan Aryal, a Cabinet meeting has decided to present a bill on amendment to the Senior Citizen Act-2006 with such a provision at the Parliament.

"The main objective of the proposed bill is to ensure the security of senior citizens," Aryal told PTI.

As per the new regulation, children are required to deposit 5 to 10 per cent of their income into the bank accounts of their elderly parents.

"There have been re-

ports that people who are rich have been neglecting their parents. We are introducing the law to discourage the practice and ensure security for elderly people," Aryal said.

According to the current Senior Citizen Act-2006, people aged above 60 years have been defined as senior citizens.

It talks about the responsibility of the children to take care of their elderly parents. But the law is being formulated to make it mandatory for the children to make a financial contribution to the care of their parents.

Once Parliament endorses the bill, it will come into force, he said.

Those failing to adhere to these provisions will face a penalty.

"The penalty amount will be deposited in the accounts of the parents concerned," he said.

## Manipur projects 'lying in ditch' expedited after 2014: PM

**IMPHAL, JAN 4 (PTI):**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that key development projects for Manipur were "lying in a ditch" during the tenures of previous governments and said the NDA government was tracking and implementing them expeditiously.

Addressing a rally in Imphal, Modi alleged that during previous governments, projects worth Rs 100 crore would be completed at an escalated cost of Rs 200-250 crore, and

said this "misuse" of national wealth made him impatient. He alleged that projects worth Rs 12 lakh crore were "lying in a ditch" and "remained in files" during the tenures of previous governments.

Considering this, PM Modi said he developed a system in the Prime Minister's Office. Under it, discussions were held with officials of the Centre and the state on the pending projects, impediments were removed and the implementation was expedited.

## Tripura to seek Rs 8390 cr central package for tribal welfare

**AGARTALA, JAN 4 (PTI):** The Tripura government would seek a special package of Rs 8389.71 crore from the Centre for development of the state's indigenous people, who constitute one third of its population, a minister said Friday.

The tribal people of the state remained backward as no previous government had taken any initiative for their development, Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath, also the cabinet spokesperson, told reporters here.

"Our government asked all the state departments to make an overall estimate for tribal development. We have com-

puted the estimates made by the departments and decided to put forward the demand to the central government," Nath said.

"We made a comprehensive package amounting to Rs 8389.71 crore for tribal welfare. The council of ministers passed the package and the same will be sent to the Centre for final approval. The package would be used for socio-economic, cultural and linguistic development of the indigenous people," the minister said.

The council of ministers in the BJP-IPFT government has made the decision to seek the package

# Training on EVMs & VVPATs for South officials



**NAMCHI 04 JAN (IPR):** District Collector (South), Prabhakar Verma inaugurated the hands-on training on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) for Electoral Registration Officer (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AEROs) along with the Supervisors of South District at the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Center, Namchi today.

The training was conducted by National Level Trainer cum SDM (Kab), Mahesh Sharma. The programme included hands on training for the district officials on EVM and VVPAT they were also

informed about the nuances and workings of the EVM / VVPATs machines.

Speaking, during the training DC, Mr Verma urged all the officials to take full advantage of the training session, to clear any doubts and practice the demonstration EVM machines so that the officials are well prepared for conducting the ensu-

ing general elections to be held this year.

During the course of the training, all the officials were also given a set of Demo machines to practice with and familiarize themselves.

It may be mentioned here that similar training shall be imparted to the Booth Level Officers (BLO) of all Assembly

constituencies by the ERO/AEROs during this month in order for the BLOs to be equipped and can in detail transmit similar kinds of hands on training at the BAC level/PS in their jurisdiction as part of Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities of South District.

## Susakurtot Football Tournament kicks off



**WANGCHUK BHUTIA**

**MANGAN, 04 JAN:**

Susakurtot Football Tournament started here at Gor Secondary School in Dzongu North Sikkim on 03 Jan 2019. The tournament kicked off in the presence of Panchayat Presi-

dent (Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU), Phurmit Lepcha who was also accompanied by Ward Panchayat (Gor), Norje Lepcha and organising committee members. The first match was held between Brothers 7 and Tarward Sa Punol "A".

## SKM Chalak Morcha to hold state-level meet for drivers & vehicle owners

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Chalak Morcha [Driver's Front] of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha is holding a state-level meeting on 07 January here at Chokasum hall in Namnang. The meeting will be attended by SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay] along with drivers and vehicle owners from different parts of the State.

The party has mentioned that the main objective of the meeting is to take note of issues and grievances and suggestions from driver's community, and to explain programmes and welfare schemes of SKM party for

the driver's community.

Addressing a press conference here today, Chalak Morcha vice-president, Rajani Gurung stated that drivers have made huge contributions towards the State and especially in the tourism sector. She added that the meeting will take note and discuss issues and problems faced by the drivers of the State. She informed that the party president would also announce the date for 'Chalak Diwas' of the party to be observed annually in the State to recognise the contribution of drivers to the State.

Likewise, Chalak

Morcha vice-president, Chung Chung Bhutia mentioned that it is the first time in the State that a political party is organising a state-level meeting to discuss issues and grievances of drivers. On behalf of the party, he invited all drivers and vehicle owners from across the State to participate in the meeting to discuss various issues for their welfare and betterment.

SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, reiterated the contributions made by drivers in the development of Sikkim.

"But the SDF government has never evaluated the contribution of

## DC East chairs meeting of Childline Advisory Board



**GANGTOK, 04 JAN (IPR):**

District Collector East, Kapil Meena chaired a meeting of the Childline Advisory Board in his chamber on Thursday. The meeting was convened to take stock of the activities being carried out by the Childline Col-lab Centre and Sub Centres under the two NGOs namely YODESS and ASHI, in coordination with concerned Departments of the State Government.

The meeting began with welcome address by M.B. Gurung, who is president YODESS, an NGO based in Rongli, East Sikkim working actively in the field of child protection and care for several years. He gave a brief background of the activities carried out by the two sub centres in Rangpo and Rongli and also placed some of the issues faced by these Centres. The Coordinators of these two sub-centres also highlighted some of their activities and achievements.

DC East, Kapil Meena emphasized on raising awareness about the national Childline number 1098 especially among school students. He suggested that school prin-

cipals and teachers could carry out surveys to gauge the level of awareness. He added that this exercise could be made mandatory by the HRDD. He further stated that apart from 1098 child line number, adequate information should be raised about other response bodies such as the police and the District Child Protection Unit.

The District Collector further emphasised on the need to appoint a nodal teacher each in all schools specifically for issues related to child protection. The teacher would also be trained to counsel the students from time to time. The teacher could also act as the point person to coordinate with Childline for regular counselling and interventions in the school. He further called for multipronged approach to ensure that children staying in child protection homes are rehabilitated and are brought to normalcy.

The meeting discussed in detail the responsibilities of each concerned Department and deliberated on some pending issues. It was decided that Child Line officers and coordinators will continue to organize awareness

programs in Government Schools in coordination with the nodal teacher. It was decided that the permission to the NGOs to intervene in schools will be renewed once a year as has been the usual practice. Further, it was decided that the Childline logo and Komal Short Film will be uploaded in the official websites of HRDD, IPR and IT Department websites. Further, it was decided that social media would be used extensively to raise adequate awareness about Child Line.

During the meeting, Police Department was requested to provide an escort and a vehicle to assist the Child line workers during rescue. Likewise, the Department of Social Justice would be approached to work out provision for a child-friendly room in all police stations.

It was also decided during the meeting that Childline would be made a member of the Sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee.

The meeting had the presence and participation of officers of concerned Departments, ADC East, and members of Childline and ASHI.

## Ghatani takes stock...

expedite preparation process for organising "Sikkim Run" in coordination with ZEST NGO. He informed that the event has attractive cash prize for the winners in different categories to be held at Jorethang on 13 January 2019.

He urged Industries Department to coordinate with banking authority to ensure distribution of loan under Start Up scheme during Maghey Mela Celebration.

The Culture Department also assured to present cultural programme at their level best.

Interacting with the Tourism Department, the Minister urged to provide arrangement for Rock Climbing at Zoom Rock Garden from 11 January 2019.

Health Minister also interacted with the schemes heads under Health Department and instructed to conduct screening of ENT, Dental and to avail required health supporting aid to the beneficiaries. He stressed to create massive awareness on Mental Health/SADA, Governmental Health Schemes like MMJRK.

Health Secretary also informed that the department will prepare a strategy to identify drug users who have been declared as patient by the government and further, they will be given medical treatment. Minister advised concerned officials to enlighten ASHAs about their role in identifying those patients and to report to the concerned Health Centre.

During the meeting, the Minister interacted with the HoDs of STNM Hospital individually and took stock on the progress of work of each wards and their ongoing preparation for shifting to the newly established 1000 bedded Multi Speciality Hospital at Sichey scheduled to be inaugurated on 15 January 2019.

Health Minister is scheduled to visit 1000 bedded Multi Speciality Hospital on Saturday along with all concerned heads for final preparation.

## Poor planning and...

receiving more than four-times of its peak electricity requirement for free, was the government explaining the extremely erratic power supply in parts of the State.

Mr Khaling explained this to rampant corruption in that he contended that this free electricity was being sold to companies from outside while people were made to suffer and offered only misleading explanations.

He further claimed that ample funds were provided by the Centre for upgradation of distribution networks, as was revealed by the Prime Minister in his speech at Pakyong, which has not been used for its intended purpose and has led to the present situation.

Lack of upgradation and maintenance have led to the old transformers and transmitters not being able to take any load, he claimed. He further rued at the irony that despite such poor supply, power consumers in Sikkim were being served increased power bills.

## Dawa Sangpo Dorji reiterates claim to Karmapa's seat

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Dawa Sangpo Dorji, a claimant to the throne of the 17th Karmapa, has once again staked his claim to the Karmapa's seat. Referring to the recent notification of the Home Ministry issued on 28 Dec, he stated that the Indian government has not officially recognized Ogyen Trinley Dorje as the Karmapa. Addressing a press conference here today, Dawa Sangpo Dorji stated that even the UPA Government had refused to recognize Ogyen Trinley Dorje as the

Karmapa through a notification on 12 Nov in 2009.

On the basis of these two notifications of the Centre, he has claimed that he is the Karmapa reincarnate. He has alleged that a section of influential people have been using money and power to forcefully place Ogyen Trinley Dorje on the 17th Karmapa's seat.

According to Dawa Sangpo Dorji, his claims are not being taken seriously because he belongs to a minority community and that there is a conspiracy to place only Tibetans on the Karmapa's seat. Re-

incarnation of a religious leader in Buddhism can be from any community and section, he said further questioning the rule of only Tibetans being recognized as reincarnations of the Karmapa.

Dawa Sangpo stated that the meeting between the other two claimants, Ogyen Trinley Dorje and Thaye Trinley Dorje have created confusion among the followers. He claimed that Ogyen Trinley Dorje and Thaye Trinley Dorje have already given up their claims to the Karmapa's seat.



# Awareness prog on EVM & VVPAT for public at MG Marg

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:** District Election Officer-cum D.C, East Sikkim is organizing a five-day awareness camp on Electronic Voting Machine [EVM] & Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail [VVPAT] from 07 to 11 Jan 2019 at District Control Room, MG Marg to create awareness among the

public on the EVM & VVPAT, informs a press release.

The ECI has introduced VVPAT, which is to be used along with EVM from the upcoming elections 2019 across the country. The VVPAT ensures additional secure, reliable and transparent voting system. It allows voters to see a printed slip for 7 seconds show-

ing the Serial Number, Name & Symbol of your chosen candidate. It allows voters to verify & confirm that the vote has gone to the candidate of his choice, the release mentions.

ADC/HQ, Jamyang Chong Namgyal will be in-charge of the entire awareness program, while Tashi Bhutia, UDC will be monitoring

the machines. During the camp two set of EVMs & VVPATs will be available for display and demonstration. The general public may come in the camp & experience a voting process with VVPAT.

Also, a lot of voter awareness activities are being conducted in the east district for upcoming General elections

with an objective of ensuring greater voter participation and accessible election process for all.

Requisition for manpower has been sent to all government departments in preparation of upcoming General Election. Voters can also apply for any change, modification in their voter cards through online i.e <https://www.nvsp.in>.

## Menla Ethenpa is new MD of STCS



Additional Managing Director of STCS.

The State Government had appointed him as the new MD through an office order dated 3rd Jan 2019.

Mr Ethenpa also served STCS, Kolkata during 1980s for about 16 years. He is also the president of Sikkim Football Association.

While interacting with the media, Mr Ethenpa said that he is thankful to the government for having reposed such a responsibility upon him. He said he will try his best to bring back the lost glory of STCS.

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Menla Ethenpa today took charge as the new Managing Director of State Trading Corporation, (A Govt. of Sikkim Enterprise), Deorali, Gangtok. He was earlier

## SDF Namthang general secretary joins HSP



**REBYNA RANA**  
**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

Sikkim Democratic Front general secretary of Namthang ba-zaar, SB Tamang, today joined Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP] along with several of his supporters at the HSP office here at Gangtok.

It is informed that SB Tamang was a government employee earlier and had also contested the 2009 Assembly election as a Congress candidate from Namthang Ratepani constituency.

Vice president HSP, Bhaichung Bhutia, along with spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari and other party

portfolio holders welcomed SB Tamang and his supporters in a grand manner by presenting all the newly joined members with party symbol and khadas.

Mr Tamang stated that the state is in pathetic condition on all fronts whether political, social or economic. He said that the state has no future and the major concern is for the future generation.

HSP has a great vision and principles which we need to support for the development of the state and to create opportunity for the youth of the state, he said.

Vice president, Bhai-

chung Bhutia after welcoming Mr Tamang and his supporters stated that Mr Tamang is a person with a clean image and has been working for the welfare of the youth and the people of Namthang Ratepani.

'It is a proud moment for HSP to have such a clean person join the party. We are sure in days to come more will join us,' he said.

Mr Tamang has also been given the post of vice president. There are nine vice presidents in HSP and the president will be declared by mid Jan 2019, it was informed.

## BJP meeting discusses upcoming elections

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

The Sikkim unit of Bharatiya Janata Party convened a meeting at the party office here at Singtam on Friday to discuss various issues related to the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. The meeting had the presence of the newly-appointed Lok Sabha and Assembly election in-charge for Sikkim, Nitin Navin, who is also a member of Bihar Assembly, and was also attended by BJP-Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, and other senior leaders and workers of the party.

A BJP press release informs that the meeting deliberated upon the various works and initiatives of the Narendra Modi government and

asserted that the Modi wave cannot be stopped even in Sikkim in the upcoming elections.

The release mentions that the party's election in-charge for Sikkim stressed the need to expand the party organisation in Sikkim and urged party workers to work tirelessly and sincerely. He mentioned that the upcoming election in Sikkim will be contested under the leadership of the BJP-Sikkim president DB Chauhan.

The release further informs that a delegation of the State unit led by Mr Chauhan will proceed to New Delhi to participate in the national level meeting of the BJP on 11 and 12 January and talk with the central leadership about the upcoming elections.

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## Teacher Training Programme on Developing Vocational Teaching Skills



## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 JAN:**

A five-day Teacher Training Programme (Induction cum In-Service Teachers' Training) on Developing Vocational Teaching Skills for the vocational teachers is being organized by SIBIN Group in collaboration with the Samagra Shiksha, Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, for teachers under Vocational Education Programme as per National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF), a press release informs.

Training is being attended by 101 teachers from 184 Government Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools, and will be held at Modern

Govt. Sr. Sec. School and West Point Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Gangtok from 04 Jan to 08 Jan 2019.

The programme was inaugurated by State Project Director (SPD), Bhim Thatal, Human Resource Development Department, Samagra Shiksha. Officials from Samagra Shiksha HRDD were present at the event. Ananta Rai from SIBIN Group welcomed the distinguished delegates and participants.

Trade professionals from various industries of the state will be participating as resource persons during the training for the entire five days.

Resource person from PSSCIVE and SCERT will be speaking to the trainees on the objective of

Vocational Education along with methodology of teaching. Such training will be beneficial to the trainees and more focus would be on the skill based activity taking place at the schools.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Thatal emphasized that each year more and more students are opting for vocational courses, so all the faculty members were asked to prepare themselves to shoulder more responsibilities in preparing and shaping a meaningful career for all the vocational students. He stressed on the need to create interest among the students so that the learning can be fun along with the need for providing more practical oriented class room sessions.



## Human Resource Development Department Government of Sikkim

Tashiling Secretariat  
Gangtok

Ref. No. GoS/HRDD/Adm/2018/678/02

Date: 03/01/19

## NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

For & on behalf of Governor of Sikkim, Deputy Director/IT, Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, seeks proposals from reputed and experienced registered Company /Proprietorship firm in India to participate in competitive bidding for implementation of "Smart Classrooms (including Supply and Installation of software solution, IT and non-IT equipment (Site preparation, electrical / UPS with required wiring etc), commissioning, integration and maintenance" for a period of 03 (three) years in the border areas of Sikkim.

The RFP document is available on the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in). Interested Bidders, who qualify as per the criteria mentioned in the RFP document, may submit their bids online as per calendar of events. Bidders are required to submit tender document fee of Rs. 30,000.00 in form of Demand draft from a Nationalized/ Scheduled bank/ State Bank of Sikkim in favour of Additional Chief Secretary/HRDD, payable at Gangtok.

Sd/-

**Dy. Director/IT**  
Human Resource

R.O. No. 572/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 Development Department  
Date: 04.01.19 Government of Sikkim.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
GANGTOK - 737101

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Health Care, Human Service & Family welfare Department, Govt. of Sikkim invites tender from interested implementation Support Agencies for the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, Sikkim. Tender reference No. 10/PMJAY/2018.

Tender fees: Rs.5000/-

EMD : Rs. 1,50,000/-

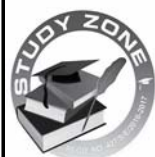
Kindly visit the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in/inc-gp/app](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in/inc-gp/app) for more details.

Contact No for any queries: +919434869939/  
+919434022919.

Sd/-

R.O. No. 568/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19  
Dated: 02.01.2019

**Dr. Rinzing Dorjee**  
Pr. Director (II)



## ADMISSION OPEN

STUDY ZONE  
Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)

## OUR COURSE OUTLINES:

1. Winter Crash Courses running successfully for classes X, XII (CBSE, ICSE, ISC)
2. Study Materials provided according to the standards of the board.
3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations for the students
4. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective
5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers
6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.

## OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To give clear concept of the chapters
2. To give the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations
3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently
4. Greater emphasis would be to excel.
5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651  
Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press, Gangtok



# SummitTIMES

## Addiction Remains Because We Won't Engage

***Cops should not be the only ones bothered by substances abuse***

This section has often railed against the police, policing and the force's clearly askew priorities especially when it comes to addressing the problem of substance abuse. And yet, they also remain the only defence that Sikkim has cobbled together to address the problem. Sikkim Police appears to be the only agency consistently bothered by the proliferation of substances of abuse in the State and the increasing number of youth who appear to be developing the habit. It thus keeps busy; making arrests and carrying out drug busts in a desperate bid to keep the streets free of easy accessibility of substances of abuse. At least someone is doing their bit about the disturbing prevalence of substance abuse in the State, because the society sure is not doing much. And even the policing now appears to be focused primarily at the interstate check-posts and traditional "hot-spots". There is, after all, only so much that a solitary agency can do to address what is essentially a societal challenge.

The State Government did its part by giving Sikkim's youth the Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act which penalizes the peddling of prescription drugs of abuse, hoarding and peddling of which used to earlier not even earn a rap on the knuckles. Sikkim Police has patrolled the streets to confiscate as much of this contraband as appears possible, and the process has now become so frequent and routine that even addicts are being picked up on "source" information and are being processed as dealers. A clutch, a very small clutch, of organisations also remain steadfast in their commitment to work among addicts and those wishing to kick the habit. But where is the society at large? Substance abuse is a social challenge, a societal failing and policing and enabling laws can only assist a society on a mission to keep the young safe and cannot and should not be the only protection against substance abuse. Societal engagement is not expected in the form of street processions or community policing and should instead manifest as parent-groups, youth organizations and social associations and NGOs across all platforms recognizing that chemical dependence is ruining an entire generation and then collaborating to first figure out what makes addiction such an easy recourse for the youth and then addressing that problem. These social groups should engage the youth more actively and even invite them to decision-making positions and shoulder them more responsibility. Doing so would communicate respect and that would win over their trust, then efforts can begin to work with the youth to take on the challenge that their age faces in Sikkim. This is an important first step to take because we appear to have lost the trust of the young with our constant failures in looking out for them.

Make no mistake, substance abuse demands mission-level engagement of everyone in Sikkim because too many lives are being wasted in their prime here. No state-initiated or sponsored intervention to address the situation will be enough unless the society at large steps up and gets involved.

### WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

JUDITH ARMSTRONG  
*theconversation.com*

The Russian poet Anna Akhmatova is too tragic and striking a figure ever to be forgotten. A famous portrait depicts her in a midnight blue dress and brilliant yellow shawl beside an objectivist arrangement of lighter blue hydrangeas. Nose aquiline and eyes contemplative under the signature black fringe, she is utterly transfixing. Yet much of our knowledge of Akhmatova is due to the self-effacing journals of a less remembered woman, Lydia Chukovskaya, who brought her friendship, food and unfailing support.

Lydia was a literary editor and a significant poet, novella-writer and memoirist, born in 1907. Her father was Kornei Chukovsky, a prolific and highly regarded writer of much-loved children's books – a kind of Russian Dr Seuss.

In cultured St Petersburg, young Lydia developed a passion for literature, but soon after the outbreak of the 1917 Revolution she was briefly exiled to the city of Saratov because one of her friends had used her father's typewriter to produce an anti-Bolshevik pamphlet.

Permitted to return to newly-named Leningrad, she got a job editing children's books in the state publishing house, began to write stories, and married a brilliant young physicist, Matvei (Mitya) Bronstein.

Their marriage took place shortly before the outbreak of the Great Terror of 1936-38, one of the most brutal periods in the history of the Soviet Union. Both Mitya Bronstein and Akhmatova's son Lev were arrested. By the time Chukovskaya was informed that Mitya had been sentenced to ten years in a labour camp, he had in fact been executed. Lev was held in a Leningrad prison for 17 months.

The frantic wife and devastated mother met each other while desperately seeking information about their loved ones. Lydia fled briefly to Kiev, but soon returned to their looted flat in St Petersburg to remake a home with her baby daughter Lyusha. Mitya's room was occupied by a government surveillant.

Lydia kept a diary, but she now omitted from it everything that was "really important", including her friendship with Akhmatova, whose intransigence invited arrest at any moment. She knew that to write down their conversations endangered both their lives; yet not to record them, she felt, would be "criminal". She compromised by waiting until much later to fill in names.

Akhmatova was in the process of writing a long

poem, her now-famous Requiem. An extended elegy for all who suffered under the Terror, it was obviously far too dangerous to commit to paper.

When visiting Lydia she would whisper parts of it for Lydia to retain, but in her own bugged apartment she would gesture at the ceiling and say in a



loud voice, "Will you have some tea?" while passing over a handwritten page.

Lydia would memorise the poems on it and give it back. "How early autumn has come this year," Anna would then muse, striking a match and burning the paper over the ashtray.

**'HANDS, MATCH, ASHTRAY'**

Lydia wrote of this act of rebellion: "It was a ritual: hands, match, ashtray – a beautiful and mournful ritual." She would then use her nightly walk home to recall what she had memorised, oblivious to her route. "Poems guided me instead of the moon," she wrote. "The world was absent".

Leningrad was yet to experience the extreme shortages of the Siege (1941–1944), but food was far from plentiful. Lydia brought sugar, eggs or rissoles to the impractical Anna, but also lilacs, "so it would seem more like a present".

During those years she described herself as feeling "less and less alive", reviving only when she was with Anna, "a certainty amidst all those wavering uncertainties... her words, deeds, head, shoulders and hand-movements possessed of [the] perfection which, in this world, usually be-

longs only to great works of art."

But writing also sustained Lydia's own spirit. In 1938 she'd been allowed a stint in a writers' colony where she completed a novella, Sofia Petrovna – naturally unpublishable given that it described the realities of living under the Terror. Sofia is a typist whose son Kolya, a promising engineering student, is arrested.

Sofia embarks on the existence so familiar to Chukovskaya and Akhmatova: frozen hours standing in queues, the lack of news, the attempt to sneak food into the prison. Falling foul of the authorities. When a letter from Kolya finally arrives, Sofia is so terrified of compromising him she forces herself to burn the precious scrap.

After 1956, the year of Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin, Sofia Petrovna was circulated in samizdat (manuscript form), and even, during the thaw of the early 60s, came close to publication, but was ultimately rejected for "ideological distortions". It finally appeared 25 years later, thanks to Gorbachev's glasnost.

### GRIT AND GRIEF

Chukovskaya's "acceptable" work included an Introduction to the Ukrainian anthropologist Macclouho-Maclay's account of life in New Guinea, but her second book, *Going Under*, published in Paris in 1972, describes how in 1949 Akhmatova and the satirical writer, Mikhail Zoshchenko, were thrown out of the Writers' Union. She also wrote letters of support regarding Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and the physicist Andrei Sakharov, harassed by the KGB but later awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

However, her best-known work remains the two volumes recording the almost daily conversations with Akhmatova, an overwhelmingly impressive mix of grit and grief as the two women confronted threats, cold, privation and starvation.

The journals first appeared in Paris in 1976 and 1980, alongside several volumes of autobiographical poetry, *On This Side of Death*, which express the profound sense of loss that afflicted both her and her country. In 1976 Chukovskaya received the first ever PEN Freedom Prize for the journals, and in 1990, the first Sakharov Prize for her life's work.

Akhmatova died in 1966; from then on Lydia lived in Moscow, moving between a central flat and her father's dacha in Peredelkino, the writers' colony outside the city. She died in 1996, not altogether forgotten, but her memory outdazzled, as she would have deemed appropriate, by that of her more splendid friend.

*[the writer is Honorary Fellow of the School of Languages and Linguistics, University of Melbourne]*

## Making New Year's resolutions personal could actually make them stick

BERNICE PLANT  
*theconversation.com*

If you feel you consistently fail at your New Year's resolutions, you are not alone. Despite our good intentions, we're pretty poor at changing our own behaviour. We continue to smoke, eat or drink too much, and exercise too little, all of which affect our health and well-being.

In trying to change behaviour (including our own), we need to reduce resistance. You've likely heard some of the pitfalls of setting unspecific or unrealistic goals. Another contributor to resistance is when our intended action is not something we are personally motivated to do.

Psychological studies show we can overcome resistance by setting goals that tap into what we find meaningful and that reflect our needs.

### WHY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FAIL

Why is it when we set a New Year's resolution our behaviour doesn't change, or it only changes for a limited time? There is a common obstacle that could underlie the failure of changing behaviour: resistance or more particularly inertia.

Inertia is a form of resistance where we can't motivate ourselves to perform a behaviour. We know what we need to do, the intention is there, we just don't do it.

One trap we can fall into is setting goals that aren't really our own – they're not personalised. Instead, we often set generic resolutions, such as to exercise more.

These may have been adopted from someone else's goal or may be based on what we feel we should change, as per social expectations or norms.

Adopting broad, generic goals may be a good starting point for change, but generic goals can also be conducive to resistance because they are low in personal relevance.

Setting goals that draw on personal motivations produces greater confidence in our ability to change and a greater sense of ownership over

the process. These lead to larger and more lasting changes in behaviour.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS?

The importance of ownership for personal motivation is captured nicely



ly in what is known as the self-determination theory of motivation.

This places a high level of importance on doing what we find to be intrinsically motivating or working from what is inherently rewarding or satisfying. It's in contrast to extrinsic or external motivations which can create feelings of coercion when we follow goals imposed by invisible others.

If you choose to exercise more as your New Year's resolution because you think people will find you more attractive or because you feel guilty for not doing it, chances are you are working primarily from external sources of motivation.

If, on the other hand, you find exercise interesting and enjoyable or feel it expresses a personal value to be healthy, you are likely to be working from internal, personal motivations.

So, say your personal goal is to read 50 books in the year because you value knowledge. How do you put this into practice and make sure your resolution sticks?

### HOW TO PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE

One simple behaviour-change technique that can be applied to New Year's resolutions is self-persuasion. This essentially involves generating an argu-

ment for why you would like to change a certain behaviour.

Try to consider what is most salient and personally motivating for you and what a certain change could bring that you value. Perhaps you value knowl-

edge and empathy, and you believe the more books you read about people's struggles, the greater understanding you will have of others. Maybe exercising more, like getting involved in group sports, will help connect you with your friends. Or perhaps you enjoy alone time, and going for long hikes will give you more opportunities for quiet contemplation. Although one of these examples may resonate with you, it's possible these aren't at all relevant to you. This is why it is important to examine what you find personally relevant.

The self-persuasion technique has been successfully applied in a variety of settings, including producing moderate, short-term reductions in smoking and work-related stress, and increases in tipping and intentions to help others. Generating your own arguments is more effective in evoking change than reading multiple arguments generated by other people, even when the quality of the provided arguments is rated as being better than yours.

But when using the self-persuasion technique, remember less may be more. You are better off generating one to two reasons for your intended change than trying to generate a long list of arguments.

Also in studies that have tested this technique, participants have usually had to write their reasons down. This increased involvement may have also helped.

### AND THEN?

This is not the whole story of setting effective New Year's resolutions. Changing behaviour takes time and effort – particularly if you are trying to change a well-established habit.

During the change process, reflect often: consider what is and what isn't working, and how you could overcome obstacles that interfere with you achieving your goals.

This is where you can apply other goal-setting and behaviour-change techniques you may have learned about previously, such as understanding and altering what triggers and maintains your behaviour.

Implementation intentions are particularly helpful in setting goals and overcoming obstacles. This technique requires setting specific if-then plans for how you will respond in a particular situation – such as how you will ensure you get your daily dose of exercise if it is raining.

Five steps to setting personalised New Year's resolutions:

- Generate a broad resolution or goal as a starting point (exercise more)
- reflect on your motivation for this goal: is it driven by internal motivations and aligned with other aspects of your personality? If not, revisit the first step
- write down one or two reasons why the resolution is important for you
- write down plans for achieving your goal, including if-then strategies
- continue to review your progress and modify your personal goal as required.

The most beautifully constructed goals will be ineffective if they aren't personally relevant. Before you consider how to turn over your new leaf, it might be worth examining which leaf you want to turn over, and why.

*[the writer is Assistant Lecturer, Monash University]*



# Facing hurdles in rescuing trapped miners in Meghalaya, Centre tells SC

**NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI):** The Centre told the Supreme Court Thursday that it was facing difficulties in rescuing 15 miners trapped since December 13 in an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya as there was no blueprint of the 355-feet well which has “maze of rat holes”.

The government told a bench comprising Justice A K Sikri and S Abdul Nazeer that the illegal mine was located near a river and seepage of water from the river was hindering the rescue operation.

The bench observed that initially “no serious efforts” were made to rescue these trapped persons but now it seems that the authorities are making efforts.

The court directed the Centre and Meghalaya government to file on January 7 a status report detailing the steps taken and also the progress made in the rescue operation.

The top court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) which has sought urgent steps for rescuing these miners.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, told the court about the steps taken by the authorities, including central government officials, for undertaking swift rescue operation in Meghalaya.

He said that since the mine was illegal, no blueprint was available and they were facing difficulty in rescue operation as “a maze of rat holes have been created and nobody knows where this goes”.

He said the 355-feet well was like having a

20-storeyed building beneath the land.

The rat-hole mine, atop a hillock fully covered with trees in Meghalaya’s East Jaintia Hills district, was flooded when water from the nearby Lytein river gushed into it, trapping 15 miners.

Rat-hole mining involves digging of narrow tunnels, usually three-four feet high, for workers to enter and extract coal. The horizontal tunnels are often termed “rat holes” as each just about fits one person.

Mehta said there were a large number of mines in the 5 sq km and members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), divers and dog squad had reached at the spot immediately after the incident.

Referring to the operation conducted to rescue a football team trapped inside a cave system in Thailand in June-July 2018, in which an Indian firm had offered high-powered pumps, he said blueprint of the cave was available and unlike illegal coal mine, caves have air pockets through which oxygen passes.

“The water is muddy here (in the mine). Divers of NDRF cannot go beyond a particular depth so specialised divers of the Navy were called there,” he said.

Mehta said that suction of water from the mine was being done through high powered water pumps but they were not getting the desired result due to seepage of water from the river.

He said high powered water pumps of Kiro-

skar Brothers Ltd, having a capacity of 1,800 litre water per minute, was already deployed there but the water was not receding due to seepage from river.

The solicitor general informed the bench that a meeting was held on Thursday and joint secretaries of ministries of coal, home and defence, a senior officer of the Navy and officials of Coal India Ltd attended it.

When he said that the mine was illegal, the bench said, “The problem is why these poor miners should suffer. Unless the water is taken out (from the mine), it will be difficult to do rescue operation. Can’t the seepage from river be stopped?”

Mehta said the authorities were unable to locate the seepage in the mine.

After he apprised the court in detail about the steps taken so far for rescue of the trapped miners, the bench observed, “It seems they are making efforts.”

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for petitioner Aditya N Prasad, said authorities had not taken appropriate steps at the outset for rescuing these persons.

He said that according to a news report, high powered water pumps were not working there and only one generator was being used at the spot. To this, Justice Sikri observed, “What we can supervise or oversee is whether all genuine efforts were being made or not. A journalist who is there (at the spot) may not know the technical aspects. We cannot

go on what a journalist understands.”

Grover referred to a January 1 letter from the office of Deputy Commissioner of Meghalaya and said it was mentioned in the communication that situation was not good there and they were facing financial crunch as well in the rescue operation.

He urged the court to send an independent commissioner at the spot to see the ground reality and verify the claims of the authorities.

“Joint effort of all of us is to see that if they (miners) are alive, they must be taken out from there,” the bench said, adding, “Initially, there was no serious efforts which is normally the problem.”

Grover said authorities can take assistance of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as they can provide satellite thermal imagery of inside the mine.

The bench, while posting the case for hearing on January 7, asked the Centre and the Meghalaya government to address in their status report the issues raised by Grover regarding the January 1 letter and also on the media report referred by him.

The apex court on Thursday had expressed dissatisfaction over the steps taken by the Meghalaya government to rescue 15 miners trapped in the illegal coal mine and had said “prompt, immediate and effective” operation was needed to rescue them as it was a matter of life and death.

# AAPSU hails Union Cabinet decision to modify Arunachal ST list

**ITANAGAR, JAN 4 (PTI):** The All Arunachal Pradesh Students’ Union (AAPSU) Friday lauded the union cabinet’s decision to introduce a bill in Parliament to modify the list of scheduled tribes of the state.

The cabinet on Wednesday approved introduction of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2018, in Parliament for certain amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, to modify the list of STs of

Arunachal Pradesh.

“The amendment if duly approved will be beneficial, especially for the numerous indigenous tribes of eastern districts of Arunachal Pradesh who were until today classified under the vague and ambiguous terminology of ‘Any Other Naga Tribes,’” AAPSU general secretary Tobom Dai said in a statement here.

The bill proposes deletion of the Abor tribe from the state’s ST list “as it is the same as Adi”

tribe. As there is no tribe called “Khampti”, the bill replaces it with “Tai Khamti” on the list.

The state government has also wrote to the Centre to amend the list of STs of the state to the Centre to do away with the category “any Naga” tribe and replace it with the names of the tribes - Nocte, Tangsa, Tutsa and Wancho.


Now, the Bill seeks inclusion of the four tribes in lieu of “Any Naga Tribes”.

“Such improper clas-

sification of these tribes was a historical blunder which resulted in numerous hardships and a sort of identity crisis for them,” Dai said.

Numerous representations in this regard have been submitted to the union home ministry and one to President Ram Nath Kovind when he visited Arunachal Pradesh, he said.

The Bill also seeks to include the “Monpa, Memba, Sartang, Sajolong in lieu of the Momba” tribe.



## ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

### GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

### SINGTAM

Memo No:282/ AES/ R&B

Date: 26/12/2018

### NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018for the construction of **fair weather roads**, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **CONCERNED Ward of the Gram Panchayat Unit of West Pendum Constituency** where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Construction of Fair weather Road from Sardarey Dara to Patang Road in East Sikkim				
	Km 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	09 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt and TDR for issue of Tender Documents.	9 <sup>th</sup> January, 2019 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 (1.30 pm) at respective Gram PrashashanKendra where work is to be executed.

**CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.**

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods& Service Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the office of the Assistant Engineer- Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank receipt towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) in the Head of GPU where the work is to be executed.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at SL.No. (a)& (b) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his/herown risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicted in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
  - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
  - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills us per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED GRAM Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.**

Sd/-  
Assistant Engineer  
Roads & Bridges Department.  
Singtam Sub Division

R.O. No. 561/ipr/pub/classi./18-19  
Dated: 29.12.2018.

**Luxmi Tea keen to sell Makaibari brand through e-tailers**

**KOLKATA, JAN 4 (PTI):** Luxmi Tea, owner of the prestigious Makaibari orthodox variety, is keen to tap the vast online market through major e-tailers such as Amazon and Flipkart. “We are already selling online through ‘Makaibari.com’ to the subscribers. We are considering a tie-up with Flipkart and Amazon”, Director of Luxmi Tea Rudra Chatterjee told PTI.

He said that the tea was being sold in packets sizing at 250 gm and 500 gm through online, adding that the total production volume of Makaibari variety annually was one lakh kg. Chatterjee said that Luxmi Tea was having a total production volume of 20 mkg per annum, with an average yield at 25 quintals per hectare.

The group had also acquired gardens in Rwanda and producing eight mkg, Chatterjee said. Luxmi Tea had also acquired four gardens in Assam from William-Magor group. The group, which was having business interests in carpet weaving under the ‘Obeteetee’ brand, also acquired a cabinet maker company in UK namely Masons and Mews Plc.

“The products will be sold in UK and US”, he said, adding that gradually these would be manufactured in India at Jaipur where a state-of-the-art unit had been set up by the group.

# Country’s first short course on outsourcing at IIT-KGP



**KOLKATA, JAN 4 (PTI):** The IIT Kharagpur is conducting a multi-disciplinary short course on outsourcing practices in India, the first of its kind course introduced in the country on the advice of the Union government, the institute said in a statement Friday.

The one-week course, run by the Department of Mining Engineering at the institute campus in Kharagpur, included deliberations on how outsourcing of work can be made ethically and within legally justified parameters and how the best practices can be encouraged in the labour market.

The course started Thursday and will continue for seven days, the statement said.

Such courses will be run from time to time in the institute throughout the year, each having one week duration. The first

batch undertaking the course has been drawn predominantly from the power and coal sectors.

The initiative witnessed resource cooperation from the ministries of Labour and Employment, Rural Development, IBM, pollution control boards and other regulatory bodies, the statement said.

The move is aimed at sensitising both the public and private sectors and show the way for best practices in outsourcing, it said.

Convenor of the course, Prof Jayanta Bhattacharya, Department of Mining Engineering and School of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, said, “The companies are thinking short term. They are creating work practices that are not sustainable....”

It was time to create a situation sticking to the

best practices used in the world, where efficiency was assured, so that there can be a win-win situation for both parties, he said.

“Funding or technology is not the problem, but employing people in legal and ethical terms is. The people who draw up notice inviting tenders or NITs, often from accounts or engineering backgrounds, have no understanding of the law or even, actual engineering practice,” Bhattacharya pointed out.

The course also involved the faculty of Mining Engineering, Intellectual Property Law and the Vinod Gupta School of Management who have a long experience in dealing with regulations related to industry such as environmental clearance, land acquisition, outsourcing standards and other burning issues.



# Biggest-ever Asian Cup kicks off Saturday, India begin campaign on Day 2

**ABU DHABI, JAN 4 (PTI):** India enter the biggest ever Asian Cup, starting here Saturday, hoping to exorcise the ghosts of a disastrous outing in 2011 and using it as a stepping stone to realise the dream of making the 2026 World Cup.

The Asian Football Confederation's continental showpiece, which has seen an increase in the number of finalists from 16 to 24, kicks off with hosts United Arab Emirates taking on Bahrain in a Group A fixture at the Zayed Sports City Stadium.

India, placed in the same group as the host nation, will begin their campaign with a game against Thailand at the Al Nahyan Stadium, the home ground of Al Wahda club, on Sunday.

The Blue Tigers last participated in the tournament eight years ago, which ended with a forgettable group stage exit following heavy defeats at the hands regional powerhouses Australia, South Korea and Bahrain.

The 17th edition of the quadrennial event will be India's fourth-ever appearance. While they brought to an end a 24-year wait by making the 2011 edition, India



missed qualification to the 2015 tournament, which was won by hosts Australia. Though not as dominant as the Koreans or the Australians, India will still have their task cut out against well-oiled teams such as Bahrain, Thailand and UAE.

While speculation can be a futile exercise, an unbeaten run of 13 matches, during which the country qualified for the tournament and achieved its second best ranking in the FIFA chart, gives chief coach Stephen Constantine reasons to be optimistic.

India are currently

ranked 97th, a far cry from the day a few years ago when they slipped to their worst-ever 173rd position. India also endured the humiliation of losing to Guam, a tiny Pacific island with a population of 1.5 lakh, in a World Cup Qualifier.

The revival began after that as India, under Constantine and the talismanic Sunil Chhetri's prolific form in front of the goal, learned to win matches.

India were the first among 23 visiting teams to arrive in the UAE capital on December 20. A 28-member squad had

been practicing in an effort to acclimatise themselves to the conditions.

The Asian Cup will be a different ball game, and the team is aware of that.

"We are looking forward to the massive tournament. We hope these 23 boys will do a good job for us," Constantine said ahead of the tournament.

Bidding to defend the title won on home soil in 2015, Australia come into the tournament as one of the contenders after head coach Graham Arnold put his players through the grind.

They will be enter-

ing a new era without stalwarts Tim Cahill and Mile Jedinak.

Neighbours South Korea and Japan will resume their rivalry with both teams having their eyes trained at the trophy. Led by free-scoring Tottenham forward Son Heung-min, favourites South Korea will fancy their chances of ending more than 50 years of wait.

Japan, having given the 2018 World Cup semifinalists Belgium a run for their money in a Round of 16 game in Russia, have the team to go all the way in the UAE.

Iraq, who won the tournament in 2007 and finished along the last four years ago, will be another to watch out for. Apart from their impressive results in recent times, including against Italy's World Cup winning coach Marcello Lippi's China and Oman, raising India's hopes is the provision of the four best third-placed teams also making it to the next round.

Lippi, who guided Italy to a World Cup triumph in 2006, has put his players through a tough month of training ahead of the tournament.

## AIR to shut down national channel, regional training academies in 5 cities to cut costs

**NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI):** Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has decided to close down All India Radio's national channel and its regional training academies in five cities as part of "cost-cutting measures" and to "rationalise" services.

The programme, technical, ministerial and other staff posted at National Channel in Todapur and Nagpur etc, apart from those working at Regional Academies of Broadcasting and Multimedia (RABMs) in five cities, may be posted as per the requirement of the organisation, said the order issued by the Directorate General, All India Radio (AIR).

In order to "rationalise AIR services and keeping in view of the cost-cutting measures", it has been decided by Prasar Bharati and communicated to DG AIR on December 24, 2018, to close down the national channel of AIR and RABMs located at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Shillong and Thiruvananthapuram with immediate effect, it said.

The order, dated Jan-

uary 3, stated that the programmes of archival value maintained by national channel should be sent to the central archives in Delhi for digitisation and preservation for posterity.

The national channel, which broadcasts from 6PM to 6 AM, came up in 1987 and played an important role in keeping people abreast with national issues, an AIR source said.

"National channel has a huge repository of programmes and the personnel will now be redeployed," the source said.

It is understood that certain sections within AIR are not happy with the decision as they believe that the national channel was an important part of the broadcasts and there were other ways to cut costs than shutting it down altogether.

"These days you can livestream, you can make it an application-based service, there are many other ways of cost cutting. The effort should have been to strengthen national channel and not close it down," a source said.

## Playing with proper batsman helped me bat differently: Pant

**CHETAN NARULA**

**SYDNEY, JAN 4 (PTI):** Rishabh Pant felt the "nervous 90's syndrome" on Friday but said that Ravindra Jadeja's presence at the other end helped him play with freedom unlike previous Test matches, when the young keeper had to bat with the tail.

Pant, who became the first Indian keeper on Australian soil to hit a hundred, added 204 runs with Jadeja (81 no) for the seventh wicket to almost bat the home team out of the contest.

When asked if anything changed as he was getting out in 20's and 30's, Pant replied: "I don't think anything changed from my side. The main thing was that I was playing with a batsman (Jadeja) this time. Most of the time, when I got a start, I was playing with the tail.

"If I am batting with the tail, I have to think differently because most of the time, I have to score the runs. But when you are batting with a batsman, that's a different thing. You have seen it today," Pant said on his superb 159 off 189 balls.

He has been given complete "freedom to express himself" by the team management and that has helped his batting.

"The best part of my batting is that everyone in the team has given me freedom to express myself. Every time when I go to bat, I just enjoy myself, that's the only thing I love to do," said Pant.

He admitted that getting out on 90's against West Indies did work on his mind.

"To be honest, I was a little nervous, because in India when we were playing West Indies, in the last two innings, I got out on 92 and 92. So I was scared slightly but I got through that phase quickly," Pant said.

The obvious question about comparison



between his hundred against England at the Oval and the one at the SCG was asked.

"Every hundred I score in international cricket is special for me because I have just started my career. But the main thing is that I don't think about hundreds. I just always think about only one thing - what the team needs from me. That's the only goal I have."

The youngster said that he is learning new things about his game everyday and the process of improvement will continue till he is playing the sport.

"Obviously, you can learn from anyone when you are going through a bad phase. It's a learning process when you are playing cricket. Till such time that you are playing cricket, the learning process continues. If you use that experience and implement in the match, then the performances flow and you get out of the hard phase," he said.

Pant dropped a sitter given by Usman Khwaja off Mohammed Shami's bowling but he wants to remain positive rather being disappointed.

"As a wicketkeeper, we look forward to only one thing - to be positive because this is not a one-ball game. You have to be on the field till you get the opposition out. So you have to be positive because if the next chance comes and you don't grab that, your morale will go down even more I guess. So you have to positive all the time," he stated.

## 27 economic offenders fled India in last 5 yrs



**NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI):** Twenty-seven defaulting businessmen and economic offenders have fled the country in the last five years, Parliament was informed Friday.

Interpol has been approached to issue red corner notices (RCNs) against 20 persons out of these 27, Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

He further said Interpol has already issued RCN against eight persons who have fled the country and extradition requests have been sent in case of six.

As per the Director-

ate of Enforcement (ED), applications under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 have been filed against seven persons out of these 27, the minister said.

Shukla informed the House that Westminster Magistrates' Court in London has recommended extradition of Vijay Mallya from the UK to India. The government, he said, has also advised the public sector banks to obtain a certified copy of passport of promoters/directors and other authorised signatories of companies availing loan facilities of more than Rs 50 crore.

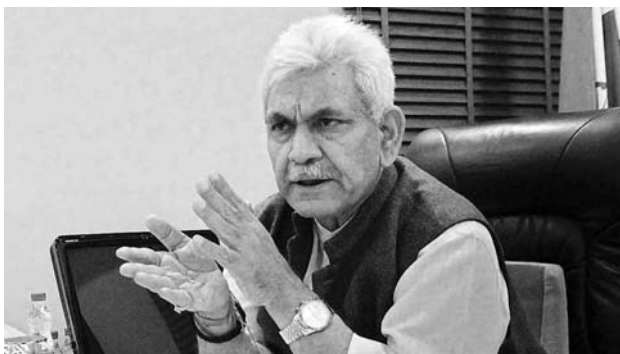
## Penalty of Rs 58 L on telecom service providers for call drop

**NEW DELHI, JAN 4 (PTI):**

The government has initiated steps to check call drops and penalty of Rs 58 lakh crore was imposed on telecom service providers, including Idea and BSNL, Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha said in Rajya Sabha on Friday.

During the Question Hour, he said a penalty of Rs four lakh was imposed on BSNL in the June quarter while Rs 12 lakh was slapped on Idea during the same quarter.

Giving details of financial disincentives imposed by TRAI on non-complaint provider against prescribed benchmarks for drop call rate, he said during the March quarter, Rs 3 lakh penalty was imposed on BSNL, Rs 10.5 lakh on Idea, Rs 22.5 lakh on Tata



and Rs 6 lakh on Telenor.

He said the situation has improved due to augmenting of telecommunication infrastructure and the BTS count has been increased to 20 lakh in four years from eight lakh in 2014.

A mobile tower can house several base sta-

tions (BTS) of different telecom providers.

He said continuous monitoring is on in the matter to improve the situation. He said to tackle the call drop menace, the government has also launched an Integral Voice Response System (IVRS) to obtain direct

feedback from consumers and 2.5 crore people were connected.

Besides, the Minister pointed out that one of the problems before the ministry in augmenting infrastructure was opposition of mobile towers by people apprehending radiation.

## Pumps idle, little progress in Meghalaya miners' rescue

**SHILLONG, JAN 4 (PTI):**

Efforts to rescue the miners trapped in a Meghalaya mine for 23 days made little progress on Friday as most of the pumps brought in to draw the water out are yet to be installed, officials said. Only three out of the 13 high-powered pumps that were brought to the site could be installed and used so far, operation spokesperson R Susngi told PTI.

Susngi said preparations to install another three pumps are on. "More pumps will be used in the adjacent shafts and we hope that the pumps from Coal India and Kirloskar Brothers are ready at the earliest so that they can also supplement the dewatering process."

Fifteen miners remain trapped inside a illegal 'rat-hole' coal mine in Lumthari village of East Jaintia Hills district since December 13 after water from a nearby river gushed in. Coal India has set up a platform on the old shaft near the mine to install the submersible pump and the operation is expected by Friday. A team from Kirloskar is also preparing to lay the platform to keep their pumps on the main shaft and it will start



functioning whenever the task is completed, Susngi said.

As the rescue operation entered the 23rd day, the efforts to pump out water from the main shaft, where the miners were stuck, and in the nearby abandoned mines have not made any visible impact.

Divers from the Navy and the National Disaster Response Force want the water level at the main shaft to go down from the current 160 feet to about 100 feet in order to resume rescue operation, an official of the diving operations team said. Three pumps brought in by the Odisha Fire and Disaster Service

personnel have been operational since Wednesday. The water level in the nearby mines has remained somewhat stable and the personnel will go down and measure in the evening, the official said.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court had expressed strong dissatisfaction over the rescue efforts to trace the miners and had asked the state government to bring them out dead or alive.

Meanwhile, the district authorities have sought an additional fund of Rs 50 lakh to make payments for the various utilities hired for the rescue effort.

## China largely successful in reversing brain drain in science arena: Noble Laureate

**JALANDHAR, JAN 4 (PTI):**

China has been successful in reversing brain drain in the field of science and it has invested heavily in experimental research, Noble Laureate Duncan Haldane said Friday.

Haldane said on the other hand India has a lot of focus on theoretical science rather than experimental science, which requires a lot of investment.

"China has invested heavily in experimental research like material science," he said in an interaction with reporters here. He also suggested that conditions have to be made attractive by home countries for reversing brain drain in the scientific arena in the developing countries.

"China has been quite successful in reversing brain drain, getting peo-

ple to come home, making it attractive for excellent expatriates to come back and get support to build up a laboratory," Haldane said. India has a large number of people and diaspora around the world, he noted.

"Luckily, some Indians have come back. For cultural reasons they come back home, but is not so easy to come back from the US or Europe," he said. He also rued that in some countries governments initiate programmes to promote brain gain, but change in the regime sometimes affect the mission. This, he said, in turn hampers the programme.

The 2016 Noble Prize winner in Physics said in developing countries it was necessary to identify scientists working abroad to create centres of excellence.



# Pelosi elected Speaker as Democrats take control of US House of Representatives

**LALIT K JHA**  
**WASHINGTON, JAN 4 (PTI):** Veteran Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, an ardent supporter of strong US-India ties, has been elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the second time, becoming the most powerful elected woman in the US.

The 78-year-old California Democrat replaces Republican leader Paul Ryan, in the new Congress. She won the speakership by 220-192 vote on Thursday over Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who is now the House Minority Leader.

Pelosi took the gavel as Democrats regained control of the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress after the mid-term elections in November.

With 235 seats, Democrats now enjoy majority in the 435-member House of Representatives while the Republicans has 199 seats.

The Speaker is second in the US presidential line of succession, after the Vice President and ahead of the President pro tempore of the Senate.

Pelosi also makes history as she reclaims a title she previously held when she served as the first and so far only female House Speaker from 2007 to 2011. She seized the gavel as the House welcomed more women than ever before in the 116th Congress.

As of Thursday, 102 women serve in the House, an all-time high, including 36 newly elected members and a record 43 women of colour.

"We enter this new Congress with a sense of



great hope and confidence for the future, and deep humility and prayerfulness in the face of the challenges ahead," she said accepting the gavel as Speaker of the House.

"I'm particularly proud to be a woman Speaker of the house of this Congress, which marks the 100th year of women having the right to vote," Pelosi said.

"And, that we all have the ability and the privilege to serve with over 100 women members of Congress - the largest number in history," she said.

In 2017, Pelosi leading a bipartisan Congressional delegation visited India and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others for strengthening bilateral economic and security relations.

Pelosi said she had a productive conversation with Prime Minister Modi on the importance of the US-India relationship and the shared val-

ues which bind our two countries.

"We exchanged views on our security cooperation and the terrorist threat, India's leadership addressing the climate crisis, and our mutual priority of respecting the human rights of all people in our countries."

Pelosi, known for advocating the cause of the Tibetans, also visited Dharamshala and met Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

Her victory came as the US government remained partly shut down in a row over funds for President Trump's controversial border wall with Mexico. As House speaker, Pelosi will regularly face off against President Donald Trump.

She said she wants to end the government shutdown but will not support the wall.

Pelosi on Thursday invited President Trump to deliver the annual State of the Union Address to a Joint Session of the Congress on January 29. Trump in an interaction with reporters at the White House congratulated Pelosi on becoming the Speaker.

"I just want to start off by congratulating Nancy Pelosi on being elected Speaker of the House. It's a very, very great achievement, and hopefully we're going to work together and we're going to get lots of things done, like infrastructure and so much more," he said. "I know they want to do that very badly, and so do I. So, hopefully, we're going to have a lot of things that we can get done together."

"I think it's actually going to work out. I think it'll be a little bit different than a lot of people are thinking. So I congratulate Nancy. Tremendous, tremendous achievement," President Trump said.

## China's Chang'e-4 lunar rover leaves first-ever "footprint" on moon's far side

**BEIJING, JAN 4 (PTI):** China's lunar rover has left the first-ever "footprint" on the far side of the moon, officials said Friday, hours after the robotic spacecraft successfully soft-landed on the mysterious and previously unexplored region of the Earth's satellite.

The Chang'e-4 spacecraft scripted history on Thursday when it made the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon. Named after a Chinese moon goddess, the spacecraft comprises a lander and a rover.

"Lunar rover Yutu-2 or Jade Rabbit-2, left the first-ever 'footprint' from a human spacecraft on the far side of the moon late at night on Thursday, after it separated from the lander smoothly," state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The rover touched the lunar surface at 10:22 pm (local time) on Thursday, leaving a trace on the soft, snow-like surface. "The process was recorded by the camera on the lander and the images were sent back to the Earth via the relay satellite 'Queqiao'," the report said, quoting China National Space Administration (CNSA).

After the successful landing, experts verified the conditions of "Queqiao", meaning Magpie Bridge, which was launched in May of 2018 to set up the communi-

cation link between the Earth and the moon's far side. They also verified the environment parameter of the landing area, the conditions of the probe's equipment as well as the angle of incoming sunshine to make preparations for the separation of the lander and rover, the CNSA said in a statement.

The experts then sent the separation order to the spacecraft via "Queqiao". After receiving the order, Yutu-2, atop the spacecraft, extended its solar panel, stretched out its mast and started to drive slowly to the transfer mechanism, according to the Beijing Aerospace Control Center.

The Yutu-2 rover has six wheels that all have power, so it can continue to operate even if one wheel fails. It can climb a 20-degree hill or an obstacle up to 8 inches tall. Its maximum speed is 200 metres per hour.

In Chinese folklore, Yutu is the white pet rabbit of Chang'e, the moon goddess who lent her name to the Chinese lunar mission.

Legend has it that Chang'e, after swallowing a magic pill, took her pet and flew toward the moon where she became a goddess and has lived with the white jade rabbit ever since.

The Chang'e-4 probe which has already sent back its first close-up pictures

from the surface is carrying instruments to analyse the unexplored region's geology and will conduct biological experiments. The pioneering achievement is another demonstration of China's ambitions to be a space power. The country aims to land a crewed flight on the moon in the coming decade.

The successful landing formally inaugurated the world's first expedition to the far side and is expected to fulfil scientists' long-held aspiration to closely observe the enormous region.

Since the moon's revolution cycle is the same as its rotation cycle, the same side always faces the Earth. The other side, most of which cannot be seen from the Earth, is called the far side or dark side because most of it is uncharted.

Chang'e-4 includes two main parts: the main lander weighing about 1,088 pounds and a 136-kilogramme rover. By comparison, NASA's Opportunity rover on Mars weighs about 181 kilogrammes, and the Curiosity rover there is much bigger, at 908 kilogrammes. The spacecraft is largely a clone of Chang'e-3, which landed on the moon in 2013.

The first Chang'e spacecraft was launched in 2007 to verify China's lunar probe technology, obtain lunar images and perform scientific surveys.

## Sino-India cooperation on a fast track after Wuhan summit: China By K J M Varma

**BEIJING, JAN 4 (PTI):** China on Friday said "practical" cooperation with India is on a fast track since the last year's Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping and expressed readiness to work with New Delhi to uphold the rights of the two countries at a time of global uncertainty.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang during a media briefing here said the informal summit between President Xi and Prime Minister Modi in Wuhan has opened up new prospects for the bilateral ties.

You can see that under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, China-India relations have shown a sound momentum of improvement

with frequent high-level exchanges in all areas and practical cooperation has entered a fast track," Lu said responding to a question on Sino-India ties.

He said a sound and steady China-India relations serve the interests of the two countries and people and contribute to world peace and development. Now the world is facing uncertainties and destabilising factors and in such background China is willing to work with India to enhance coordination and communication in international affairs and jointly uphold legitimate rights and interests of our two countries and developing countries," he said. He said the two countries cannot let differences become disputes and have

been making efforts to use bilateral dialogue mechanism to conduct mutual and beneficial cooperation in all areas.

Last month, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi held extensive talks in New Delhi under a newly set up framework and agreed on "ten pillars" of cooperation to enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

The setting up of the 'High Level Mechanism on Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges' was decided upon during the Wuhan summit.

Since the resolution of the Doklam face-off in 2017, the two countries have taken a series of measures to enhance overall ties.

## Mexico demands US probe on use of force against migrants



**MEXICO CITY, JAN 4 (AFP):** Mexico called on the United States Thursday to investigate the use of force by border patrol agents against members of a Central American migrant caravan who tried to rush the US-Mexican border on New Year's.

"The foreign ministry sent a diplomatic cable today to the United States embassy about the incident that occurred on January 1 in the border zone... In it, the ministry requested an exhaustive investigation of events that day," it said in a statement.

Mexico also repeated its call for an investigation into a similar incident on November 25, when some 1,000 migrants from the caravan tried to force their way into the United States and were pushed back by border patrol agents.

In both incidents, US Border Patrol fired tear gas to stop the migrants from crossing the border fence between the Mexican city of Tijuana and San Diego, California. They also fired rubber bullets during the November incident.

Around 100 migrants were involved in the New Year's border crossing attempt. Most were forced to turn back by the tear gas. Twenty-five were arrested, US Border Patrol said.

Mexico "regrets any act of violence along the border" and "reiterates its commitment to safeguarding the human rights and safety of all migrants," it said.

The migrants are part of a caravan of several thousand people that left Honduras in October and spent more than a month trekking across Mexico to reach the US border.

The caravan has triggered frequent tirades from US President Donald Trump, who says it includes dangerous criminals and regularly cites it as evidence of the need for his planned border wall. It once comprised some 7,000 people, but it has gradually dispersed as migrants cross the border, move elsewhere in Mexico or return home. Around 1,500 migrants are currently staying at the shelter set up for the caravan in Tijuana.

The government of Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who took office on December 1, has so far sought to avoid confrontation with the Trump administration over the issue. Instead, it is lobbying for a US-Mexican plan to promote economic development across the region as a means to slow migration.

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

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

**THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY**

EDITED BY  
TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

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**SMILE SCENES!** Singer Kelly Rowland shows off her pearly whites while heading to her car in Los Angeles.

## Will Poulter quits Twitter to focus on mental health

**LONDON, JAN 4 (PTI):** Actor Will Poulter has announced that he is taking a “step back” from Twitter due to his “recent experiences” on the micro-blogging website.

The 25-year-old actor most recently starred in “Bandersnatch”, an interactive episode of “Black Mirror” series on Netflix. Upon its premiere on December 28 last year, Poulter was heavily criticised on the social media for his performance.

Poulter posted a lengthy statement on Twitter, saying that though he accepts “all criticisms”, it is better for him to stay away from the “inevitable negatives”.

“I’d like to say a heartfelt thank you to everybody who has watched ‘Bandersnatch’ and for their responses (whatever they may be) to the material we created. I accept all criticisms and it’s been a delight to learn that so many of you enjoyed what many people worked very hard to produce!” he wrote.

“As we all know there is a balance to be

struck in our engagements with social media. There are positives to enjoy and inevitable negatives that are best avoided. It’s a balance I have struggled with for a while now and in the interest of my mental health I feel the time has come to change my relationship with social media,” he added.

He, however, assured that he will continue to support a number of charitable causes, including an anti-bullying campaign, on Twitter.

Later, Poulter was praised by his “Detroit” co-star John Boyega, who shared his post and wrote, “Best thing you can do mate, well done.”

“Black Mirror: Bandersnatch” features stars Fionn Whitehead as an aspiring video game designer who struggles to maintain his sanity while adapting a choose-your-own-adventure science-fiction novel into a game.

Poulter portrayed Colin Ritman, an experienced programmer who becomes something of a mentor to Whitehead’s character.

## Before acting, Timothee Chalamet wanted to emulate LeBron James, Lionel Messi

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 4 (PTI):** “Call Me By Your Name” star Timothee Chalamet has revealed that before he started acting, he thought he could be an athlete.

The 23-year-old actor was speaking at the 30th Palm Springs International Film Festival, where he received the Spotlight Award for his performance in the film “Beautiful Boy”.

According to Variety, Chalamet said during his teenage years, he wanted to follow the footsteps of basketball star LeBron James and Argentina’s footballer Lionel Messi.

“There’s a moment when you’re growing up where you realize the adults around you, your parents, they’re all just people. Everyone is just a messy human, and today that’s what inspires me the most in my acting,” he said.

“But that realization at first, that we’re all vulnerable, is kind of scary and defeating. At first I wanted to be a professional athlete, think LeBron James and Lionel Messi. They inspired me with their invincibility,” he added.

The actor said he, however, soon realised that he lacked the “athletic talent” to achieve to what James and Messi have achieved.

“I looked in the mirror and I humbly realised I’d never be an athlete for many reasons. Freakishly small frame but more importantly my very glaring lack of athletic talent,” he added.

After he went to a performing arts school in New York, Chalamet said, things started to change for him and he started to look up to many great artists.

“Something changed and I felt myself falling in love for the first time in my life. I was getting inspired in a way I had when

I’d wanted to become an athlete, but this time the inspiration wasn’t to be superhuman, but to be very human indeed, he said. “The invincible Messis and LeBrons weren’t as interesting to me as the artists who were vulnerable for a living the Heath Ledgers, the Joaquin Phoenixes,” he added.



“Beautiful Boy”, also featuring Steve Carell, Maura Tierney and Amy Ryan, follows a family’s love in the midst of their son’s addiction and his attempts at recovery. The film is directed by Felix Van Groeningen and released in the US in October last year.

## Bumblebee: This origin film might bring you back for a repeat



**B**umblebee movie review: The film’s centrepiece, an Autobot called Chris, makes you feel for every pummelling he takes from the Decepticons chasing him across planets.

A lonely, bullied teenager who pines alone in her garage, listening to soulful music. A broken, lonely soldier who has lost his memory and voice. Clueless parents, genuine laughs, a budding friendship, and only a few things that go boom. Yes, this too can be a Transformers film. And taking over from regular director Michael Bay, Travis Knight zeroes in on what the many, dizzyingly moving parts of this franchise’s towering machines desperately needed: a beating heart.

The film’s centrepiece, an Autobot called Chris, makes you feel for every pummelling he takes from the Decepticons chasing him across planets. Bearing the hope of Autobots to survive the Deception onslaught, all the way from their planet Cybertron to Earth, Chris is smaller than the others of his kind, but his vulnerability lies not just there but in the way he is filmed crouching, unsure, tentative, feeling his way around. Bumblebee is an origin film, meant to set off the entire Transformers franchise, which itself was born of a successful toy series.

On Earth, Chris meets Charlie, a girl who finds him hiding out as a Volkswagen Beetle and drives him home thinking she finally has a car. She is good with tools, words, and time, and Chris needs all of

that, and more. It is she who names him Bumblebee, for the small noises he makes trying to communicate.

Steven Spielberg is associated with this Transformers film, like the four others which have come before, and you can spot a lot of E.T. in Bumblebee. Knight, with just one animation film behind him, after all, is not trying to do anything too pathbreaking here. Charlie is your standard rebel; her life is standard American film material though her mother, as played by Pamela Adlon, brings a nice and unruffled touch; John Cena is standard Yankee soldier-patriot at heart, adequately paranoid about what Cold War Russia is up to (the year is 1987); Spielberg has already set the gold standard for an aliens-meet-humans scenario; while Bay admittedly has given Knight a standard successful springboard from where to take off. Still, it’s the new bounce in those moves that promises a fresh lease of life for this franchise.

Watch Bumblebee mess around with a kite, use radio to talk with Charlie and her friend after he loses his voice, crouch scared in a corner, lie down obediently as Charlie tinkers around with his machinery, rub eggs gleefully on the car of a girl who bullies her, sit head between knees behind a tiny rock in a laughable attempt to ‘hide’ when trapped. That will keep you going through all the heavy metal clashes — yes, there are plenty of that, but again in edited cuts that actually let you follow the action — and might even bring you back for a repeat.

## Awkwafina in talks to join cast of ‘Jumanji’ sequel



**LOS ANGELES, JAN 4 (PTI):** Actor and rapper Awkwafina is in negotiations to star alongside Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart in the sequel to smash-hit film, “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle”. The 29-year-old star had a spectacular 2018, courtesy box office hits “Ocean’s 8” and “Crazy Rich Asians”.

The sequel, which will once again be helmed by Jake Kasdan, will also see Jack Black and Karen Gillan reprising their respective roles from the 2017 film.

According to Variety, Kasdan, Scott Rosenberg, and Jeff Pinkner have penned the script.

Matt Tolmach is producing the project along with Johnson’s Seven Bucks banner and Kasdan.

“Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle”, a reboot of Robin Williams’ 1995 “Jumanji”, was released in December 2017 and raked in USD 960 million at the global office. Johnson had recently confirmed that the sequel will hit the theatres in December this year.

**ARIES:** No holding back! Today’s animated alignment of communicator Mercury and unpredictable Uranus fills you with passion and an irrepresible urge to express yourself. You’ve got some big ideas, Ram, and it’s worth putting them out there to see who might want to join forces with you. Attached? See if you can wriggle out of previous commitments and slip off for a spontaneous road trip or overnight outside city limits!

**TAURUS:** You’re in your social element today, as messenger Mercury teams up with your co-ruler innovative Uranus in your friendship houses. Even if you’re up to your eyebrows in back-to-the-grind undertakings, there’s no reason you can’t connect with people while you’re hustling and bustling. Catch up with a friend during your commute; listen to an inspiring podcast while paying bills. Or cut your task time in half by asking a colleague to help you with a project!

**GEMINI:** Thinking of a mellow NYE, Gemini? Think again! Before the stroke of midnight, firebrand Mars rushes

into Aries and your eleventh house of groups, which means more will definitely be merrier. Early in the day, set some lofty intentions, perhaps writing them down in a dedicated journal or making a vision board that will inspire you on a daily basis.

**CANCER:** Upgrade to the VIP tickets, Cancer. Shortly before the ball drops on 2019, uncompromising Mars rushes into Aries and your prestigious tenth house until February 14. You’ve got grand plans for the year ahead, and it all starts NOW. Tonight, you practically owe yourself an upscale celebration.

**LEO:** You may still be digesting Christmas cookies, but you can start burning off those holiday indulgences now. Today, as the life-giving Sun links up with disciplined Saturn in your sixth house of wellbeing, you may find sticking to an exercise routine or a healthy-eating plan easier than ever. Exploit this planetary lift by diving in headfirst. Join a gym—or become a regular at yours—and find a class that will keep you pumped up. In

the food department, experiment with cutting back on just one “evil,” like sugar or processed food.

**VIRGO:** Simmer down! You want to tune out the outer world and listen for messages from your muse today, as the creative Sun winks at structured Saturn in Capricorn and your fifth house of self-expression. If you’ve been taking your talents for granted, it’s time to get a little more about serious about them. Withhold judgment for now and just start devoting a few hours a week (and more on weekends) to pursuing your craft—whatever it may be. Romance could reach a passionate peak, but you need to know if the object of your affections is playing for keeps. Ask!

**LIBRA:** You’ll be in your gracious, glamorous element this NYE as passionate Mars launches a six-week tour through Aries and your seventh house of relationships (aka “the Libra house”). It’s likely that you’re feeling warm and fuzzy about a handful of friendships, and what better way to show how much you care than to host a pre-party party?

**SCORPIO:** This might not be the NYE that sees you dancing on the bar till dawn, but considering the year of wild growth that’s behind you, a gentler pace is fine by you—isn’t it, Scorpio? Thanks to your co-ruler Mars settling into Aries and your sixth house of self-care this evening, 2018 slinks out more like a kitten than a lion. You’ll be just as happy (happier, probably) bidding adieu to the year in a meditation circle, candlelight yoga class or perhaps on some sandy beach

**SAGITTARIUS:** Party costume: Check. Crazy shoes and accessories: Check! Wild hair and makeup: Up to you, Archer, but why not? This NYE gets a turbo-charge from passionate Mars. Just before midnight, the red planet bursts into Aries and your festive, flamboyant fifth house until February 14. Since the fifth house also rules fame, this NYE (and the first six weeks of 2019) could turn into one giant photo op for you and your crew.

**CAPRICORN:** How’s this for a perfect NYE gameplan: Get yourself suitably dressed up; have everyone stop by just

as the bubbly reaches the perfect temperature; cue up your killer playlist; and let the rest unfold spontaneously. With passionate Mars nestling into your domestic quarters shortly before the ball drops, you may relish the thought of staying home and turning your living room into “the club.”

**AQUARIUS:** Wait a second there, Water Bearer. If you’re about to hit Go on a team project without running your decisions up the flagpole, you need to do a rethink on that. Last we checked, democracy still rules. And with savvy Mercury in your collaborative zone connected with healer-feeler Chiron in Pisces, you have no business trying to be the whole voting committee!

**PISCES:** For the record, Pisces, worrying about all the things you have to do won’t tick them off your to-do list any faster. Today, let mental Mercury and high-minded Uranus step in as your stress-management squad. Are you trying to cram too many tasks into too little time? It can be scary to turn down opportunities, but your sanity depends on it.