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Prime Minister

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Rapper Pravin drops his first MV on hopes and dreams



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 19 NOV:

The 22-year-old rapper from Gangtok, Pravin Giri, popularly known as 3D, has launched his first official music video titled "Sa-pana" on YouTube. This video is his first single venture besides being a member of Gangtok crew named "The Blazing Squad". Pravin follows R&B genre and plans to enter the Hip Hop scene for his next music video.

Speaking to SummitTimes, Pravin said that he has been writing lyrics since he was 18 and started recording his self-composed songs with his team "The Blazing Squad" in 2016. "On my mind" and "Afnu josh" are his previous recorded songs.

About his music video, the young rapper

shares that the video is based on people and their dreams and carries a message of hope and strength to keep moving forward even when failure knocks one down.

The "Sa-pana" video has been shot at various locations in and around Gangtok.

Pravin aspires to motivate people through his music which is why he started a career in this field.

"Music is the only thing that brings out the best in me. It helps me stay focused on the right path. To be honest, music gets me through everything," expresses Pravin.

Pravin hails from the capital itself and completed his schooling from Tashi Namgyal Senior Secondary School. He went on to pursue B.Ed. from DIET, Burtuk.

Digidhan Mela at GMC



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 20 NOV

Aimed at promoting digital transactions in the retailer-customer segment in the Telecom-communications sector, was organized by the Controller of Communication Accounts [WB, DoT] jointly with the Gangtok Municipal Corporation here today.

Representatives from GMC, NPCI, leading telecom service providers and the banking sector attended the event.

Gangtok Mayor, Shakti Singh Chaudhury, and

CCA WB [DoT], Joydeep Guha, addressed the participants and highlighted the role of telecom retailers in promoting micro-level digital transactions.

Since enabling telecom retailers to accept digital payments is a pre-requisite for retailer-customer digital transaction, an overview of different modes of digital transactions was given by NPCI.

Representatives of Telecom Service Providers, in turn, shared digital payment solutions offered by them.

Inter-Departmental Football tourney kicks off at Paljor Stadium

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

The 6th edition of the Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2018 kicked off here at Paljor Stadium today.

The tournament, which will play out over the next fortnight, is being held on the theme, 'The Glory of the Game Lies in Participating, Not in Winning,' and is being organised by one of the oldest football clubs of the State, Boys' Club, Gangtok.

The inaugural match was played between Information & Public Relations Department and Horticulture Department in which the latter outplayed IPR Department 01-03 and bagged 3 points.

The second match of the day was played between Sadar Thana and



Health Department and ended in a goalless draw with the two teams taking a point each.

The programme today had Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, SD Dhakal, as chief guest accompanied by Sikkim Democratic Front secretary [administration], Amos R Lepcha, as

guest of honour.

On 21 Nov, the first match will be played between Block Administration Centre and Rural Management & Development Department while Land Revenue Department will take on Energy & Power Department in the second match.

22 teams are partic-

ipating in this league-knock out hybrid tournament. Teams have been divided into seven groups with three teams in each group except for group-A which has four teams.

At the end of the league round, the group toppers will qualify for the quarter-final round

which will be played on a knock-out basis. The final match is scheduled to be played on 07 Nov. The tournament carries cash prize of Rs 1 lakh for the winners and Rs 50,000 for the runners-up team.

The Inter-Departmental Football Tournament is the most awaited football tournament for

government employees. The tournament is being organised annually by Boys' Club, Gangtok since 2012 but was not organized last year.

The Boys' Club management has conveyed its gratitude to the State Government for allowing the club to continue this tournament.

The main objective of the tournament is to provide a healthy recreational activity for government employees from their hectic daily schedules and to motivate them towards a healthy and productive lifestyle.

It is informed that the tournament is also a good opportunity for employees of different government departments to interact with each other which in turn will also help build good friendships and bonds.

All India Cooperative Week celebration concludes at Tareybhiri

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

The 65th All India Cooperative Week celebration 2018 concluded in a grand manner today here at Eco Hut Tareybhiri, Sadam, Suntaley GPU under Melli constituency. The program was organised by Sadam MPCS in collaboration with Cooperative Department with the theme "Inclusive growth and good governance through cooperative for rural prosperity". The cooperative week was observed from

14-20 Nov across India.

Advisor of Energy and Power Department, Gagan Rai was present as the chief guest and was also accompanied by Assistant Director, SIRD, Dr Tara Sharma, BDO Sumbuk, Dinesh Pradhan, Joint Registrar, Dilliram Sharma, Deputy Registrar, Sewan Rai, Deputy registrar, Laxuman Rai, manager, Sikkim milk union, GT Lepcha, president, Salghari MPCS, Hari Rai, Board of directors, members from different

cooperative societies and Department officers were present.

The chief guest Gagan Rai assured full support and cooperation for the cooperative society's needs in the future. He said that the State Government has been fully supporting the cooperative movement in Sikkim and also thanked the team of Cooperative Department and societies for organizing such a big event at Tareybhiri.

Similarly, the message for All India Coop-

erative Week from the Governor, Ganga Prasad was read out by Cooperative Inspector, Namchi, Rita Sapkota. The message of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was read by Cooperative Inspector Namchi, Dabgyal Lama and the message of the Cooperative Department Minister,

Tulsi Devi Rai was read by Cooperative Inspector, Namchi, Tshering Chukit Bhutia.

A beautiful cultural programme, poetry recitation and SHG organic stall was the special attraction of the day. Later, the organising committee distributed prizes to all the participants.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

WATER SECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

No: WS&PHED/1806/SEW/18-19/02

Dated: 20/11/2018

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites percentages rate E-tender under two bid system from the Eligible Class contractors enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department (PWD), Government of Sikkim/either individually or as consortium/Joint Ventures, for execution of work as detailed below.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Cost of Bidding documents (in Rs.)	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (in Rs.)	Bid value (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Setting up of Sewer collection and disposal system and construction of approach road to Sewerage Treatment Plant for Gangtok Town, Zone III, East Sikkim.	2,00,000.00	63,92,925.00	25,57,16,966.00

- Last date for submission of bids online by Bidders : 26/11/2018 from 1100 hrs.
- Date of opening of bids : 27/11/2018 from 1400 hrs.
- Declaration of result : 29/11/2018

2. The Bidders may download the details and bidding documents from the e-procurement portal i.e. www.sikkimtender.gov.in w.e.f 23/11/2018, 1300 hours onwards.

3. The completed tender documents must be uploaded in the e-procurement portal on 26/11/2018, from 1100 hours. All the relevant papers as per the bidding documents except financial bid must be submitted in hard copy along with the cost of standard bidding document (SBD) in the form of challan/demand draft drawn in favour of Chief Accounts Officer, Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Sikkim, payable at Gangtok before opening of the bidding documents, if the hard copy of the relevant document i/c the cost of tender document and Earnest Money (EMD) are not received on 26/11/2018 before 1300 hours, the tender documents so submitted by the bidder through e-procurement portal shall be considered non-responsive and shall not be opened.

4. The department reserves the right to reject or accept any bid(s) and cancel the bidding process or reject all application without assigning any reason thereof.

5. Uploading of tender document in e-procurement portal is mandatory. Submission of hard copy only will not be entertained.

6. Qualifying requirement of the Bidder should be uploaded as per the bidding documents.

Sd/-

R.O. No. 484/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date: 20.11.18

Chief Engineer,
WS&PHE Department.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK

Ref. No. 17 / SSTRB/18

Dated: 20/11/2018

NOTICE

On the basis of the Written Examination held on 4th November 2018, the following candidates in order of Roll Nos. given below are declared qualified for the viva-voce (interview) for selection to the post of Post Graduate Teacher (Language) under Human Resource Development Department.

BHUTIA		LEPCHA		LIMBOO	
7	20210030	7	20210171	7	20210263
8	20210033	8	20210176	8	20210264
9	20210034	9	20210180	9	20210270
10	20210039	10	20210181	10	20210272
11	20210043	11	20210185	11	20210273
12	20210045	12	20210186	12	20210276
13	20210046	13	20210187	13	20210278
14	20210047	14	20210190	14	20210282
15	20210048	15	20210191	15	20210285
16	20210049	16	20210195	16	20210287
17	20210051	17	20210198	17	20210288
18	20210059	18	20210199	18	20210290
19	20210064	19	20210200	19	20210291
20	20210068	20	20210201	20	20210293
21	20210080	21	20210212	21	20210294
22	20210089	22	20210214	22	20210295
23	20210090	23	20210218	23	20210297
24	20210092	24	20210220	24	20210298
25	20210093	25	20210221	25	20210301
26	20210095	26	20210223	26	20210302
27	20210096	27	20210225	27	20210304
28	20210097	28	20210226	28	20210306
29	20210099	29	20210227	29	20210309
30	20210100	30	20210339	30	20210310
31	20210101			31	20210313
32	20210102			32	20210314
33	20210107			33	20210315
34	20210112			34	20210317
				35	20210318
				36	20210319
				37	20210320
				38	20210331
				39	20210332
				40	20210333

The selected candidates are requested to appear for the classroom demonstration and viva-voce (interview) on the following dates at the Conference Hall of SSTRB, Upper Syari, Gangtok.

28.11.2018 – Sl. No. 1 to 34, Bhutia Language

29.11.2018 – Sl. No. 1 to 30, Lepcha Language

30.11.2018 – Sl.No. 1 to 40, Limboo Language

Sd/-

(Mrs. Annapurna Alley, SCS)

R.O. No. 486/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date: 20.11.18

Secretary- cum-Controller of Examinations,
Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board



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SummitTIMES

**Gangtok on
Wednesday,
21 Nov**
Temp: 21°C/07°C
Forecast: A stray
morning shower;
otherwise,
some sun, then
increasing clouds

**Sunrise: 6:00 AM
Sunset: 4:42 PM**

Delhi CM attacked with chilli powder in secretariat: Officials

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI): A man flung chilli powder at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal outside his office in the Delhi Secretariat on Tuesday, an attack the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) described as “politically motivated”.

The man, Anil Kumar, who has been detained, was targeting the bespectacled chief minister’s eyes, officials said. His spectacles broke but his eyes seemed to have been spared any damage, they added.

Kumar, whose Aadhaar card has been recovered, brought the chilli powder to the secretariat in packets of ‘khaini’, or chewing tobacco, they said.

After throwing red pepper powder on Kejriwal, Kumar threatened to shoot him after he comes out of jail, an official recounted. The attack took place outside the chief minister’s chamber on the third floor when he was leaving for lunch.

While AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj accused the BJP, leader of the saffron party’s Delhi unit Manoj Tiwari condemned the attack and called for a “high-level” probe. According to Bhardwaj, the attack happened at the chief minister’s office, which is a “high-security” zone. He said it was a serious matter and termed the attack “politically motivated”.

“The BJP is behind the attack and the accused are being aided by the Modi government,” Bhardwaj alleged.

The Delhi BJP chief said such incidents “cannot be tolerated or justified by anybody”.

High Court directs LPG distributors to deliver cylinders to consumer’s doorsteps

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 NOV:**

The High Court of Sikkim today ordered LPG distributors of the State to deliver filled cylinders to the registered address of the consumers without charging any additional transportation cost. At present, the people of Sikkim need to pay almost Rs 300 extra to porters due to non-delivery of LPG cylinder by the distributors as opposed to the practice of home delivery of LPG cylinders in other States of India.

The HC directive came during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation filed by one Prem Goyal alleging that the State Food & Civil Supplies & Consumers Affairs Department and LPG distributors of Sikkim are charging transportation cost from consumers in violation of the norms of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

The division bench headed by Chief Justice

Vijai Kumar Bist and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan on 19 Nov stated that LPG distributors are bound to deliver filled cylinders on the registered address of the consumers residing in the normal area without taking any additional money.

Senior citizen and a member of the business community of Sikkim, Prem Goyal, had approached the High Court seeking court directions to ensure delivery of refilled LPG cylinders at the registered address of the consumers as mandated by IOCL adding that the Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer’s Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, has also violated IOCL norms by issuing notification for levying extra transportation cost on consumers.

The State Food and Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs department vide its notification imposes transportation charges of

Rs 27 beyond 500 meter to 10 Kms, Rs 42 beyond 10 kms to 25 Kms, Rs 57 beyond 25 kms to 40 Kms and Rs 77 exceeding 40 kms in radius.

The bench while passing the order said that “... whether from 1st December, 2018 they will deliver the filled cylinders to the consumers without taking any additional money in all district headquarters of four districts,” and directed the counsels of the LPG distributors to seek instructions in this regard.

The distributors are getting subsidies from the IOCL for delivery of LPG cylinder to the doorsteps of the consumers.

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas [Regulation of Supply and Distribution] Order 2000 mandated the delivery of LPG Cylinder at the registered address of the consumers and have not authorized that any distributor shall sell liquefied petroleum gas at a

higher price than the price fixed by the Government Oil Company or the parallel marketer.

The Regulation of Supply and Distribution Order 2000, Section 9, sub-section [e] also says that “No distributors shall without prior written permission of the concerned Government Oil Company, refuse to make home delivery at the registered address of the consumer, as registered with the distributor: Provided that the State Government may, fix additional charges for home delivery of LPG Cylinders to the consumers, as it may deem necessary in view of the geographical terrain and or the distance in the area of distribution”.

The State has been using the latter half of this subsection to levy extra costs on consumers. It may be mentioned that even after levying the extra transportation costs on consumers, home de-

livery of LPG cylinders is still not carried out.

IOCL, Kolkata in its RTI replies to the petitioner clearly stated that all the Regular LPG Distributors of IOCL are required to supply refill on home delivery basis to all registered customers residing in their respective operating areas advised by Oil Marketing Companies, for which customer has to pay the Retail Selling Price of LPG refills in that market which is inclusive of delivery charges. Only under exceptional conditions, filled cylinders deliveries on cash-on-carry basis [non-home delivery] from regular LPG distributors are permitted, wherein the delivery charges [currently] of Rs 18 per 14.2 kg cylinder will not be charged.

The petitioner has also pleaded to the High Court to issue writ of mandamus to make the rate of the LPG cylinders equal in all the States.

I-T dept does away with mandatory quoting of father’s name for PAN applications

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI): The income tax department Tuesday said quoting of father’s name in PAN application forms will not be mandatory in cases where mother of the applicant is a single parent.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through a notification amended the income tax rules and said the application forms would give an option to the applicant as to whether mother is a single parent and the applicant wishes to furnish the name of mother only.

Currently, furnishing father’s name is mandatory for the allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN).

The new rules would come into effect from December 5.

Nangia Advisors LLP Partner Suraj Nangia said that through the notification, the tax department has addressed the concerns of those persons whose mother is a single parent and, hence, would want to get their mother’s name printed on PAN cards instead of the estranged/ deceased father.

The notification has also made it mandatory for entities that have made financial transactions worth Rs 2.5 lakh or more in a financial year to apply for a PAN card. The application has to be filed on or before May 31 of the assessment year for which such income is assessable.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce calls on CM

GANGTOK, NOV 20: (IPR)

A team of Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha) representing Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his official residence at Mintogang this evening.

The team led by MP Naresh Gujral, the Chairperson of the Committee, had nine other MPs namely Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Jitendra Chaudhury, Dr. Haribabu Kambhampati, Roopa Ganguly, Ram Kumar Kashyap, Rakesh Sinha, K.R.P. Prabakaran, Dipsinh Rathod, and Khan Saumitra. The MPs were accompanied by officials from the Parliamentary Secretariat. The Committee Members are on a study tour to the State to understand in detail about export of organic products, and the challenges and opportunities associated with it. MP Sikkim Shri P.D. Rai was also present in the meeting, along with Secretary and officials of the



Agriculture Department.

It was a courtesy meeting of the Members of the Committee with the Chief Minister where they shared about their experiences and observations from their brief visit and the discussions held in the Committee meeting earlier in the day.

The Chairperson of the Committee, MP Shri Naresh Gujral lauded the State’s initiatives in agriculture and the economic upliftment of the farmer. Sharing about his interaction with some

farmers, he said that they are earning upto Rupees Eighty Thousand from a single crop. Shri Gujral stated that the Government of India is investing on Food Parks in most of the States and granting huge subsidies. He suggested that Sikkim too could partner with local entrepreneur and establish food parks. He also suggested for setting up of a Central University for Agriculture and Floriculture which can become a model for other States to follow. He

added that it could give a boost to tourism and will also help in employing large number of people. Several other issues were discussed during the meeting.

MP Dr. Farooq Abdullah stated that the State should enhance its air connectivity and one or two more airlines should start service to and from Pakyong airport. He also shared his opinions on the organic products of Sikkim and their potential in the larger market.

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SKM Govt will be solely for Sikkimese: Golay



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 NOV:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha convened a district-level co-ordination meeting here at the Community Hall in Gyalshing, West Sikkim today.

This is for the first time that the authorities permitted an opposition party to hold a political meet in the Community Hall. The party has extended gratitude to the West District Administration for granting permission to hold the meet, an SKM press release conveys.

The meeting was attended by SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay], in the presence of executive members and party supporters of West district.

The CLC presidents of all eight constituencies shared the progress made in their respective constituencies regarding the formation of Ward, Block level committees and the upcoming Jan Sankalp Yatra.

Appointment orders were also handed through the hands of

the president on various portfolios under West district.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Tamang said, “SKM is growing stronger by the day as common people are desperate for change and the party cadre has made it possible that 2019 will deliver an SKM government. History will be kind to the cadre of our party. Hard work and sacrifice by the youth and the party worker has made the party what it is today. We need a disciplined approach now as the election is nearing and we cannot afford negative publicity.”

Lashing out on the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front, Mr Tamang stated, “Our policies should be taken sincerely to the general masses, not like SDF with fake assurances prior to every election. Everyone is equal in SKM party. We don’t believe in old and new workers but what we believe is equality and respect for every party worker.

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International symposium on evergreen oak forests of Eastern Himalayas gets underway



GANGTOK, NOV 20: (IPR)

An international symposium on evergreen oak forests in the Eastern Himalayas was formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling this morning at Chintan Bhawan. The international symposium was organized by Forests Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GmbH under Climate Change Adaptation – North Eastern Region (CCA-NER) Project.

Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling in his inaugural address welcomed the international conservation experts and scientists participating in the symposium. He expressed hope that the symposium would deliberate on environmental threats and adoption of

successful conservation practices like that of Sikkim for larger benefit. He called for collaborative approaches in understanding and adopting best conservation policies amongst nations, states and organizations. He added that the Government of Sikkim would make efforts towards developing appropriate forum for initiating strong regional cooperation amongst regional countries and north-eastern states initially, and the Himalayan states and mountain nations worldwide in time to come. “I foresee common conservation policies and coordinated approach, which should be effective to withstand and reduce the impacts of different global environmental threats in the region,” he stated.

He congratulated the State Forest Department for

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Former STA members wear SKM colors and lash out against Govt

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 20 NOV:**

Former executive members of Sikkim Teachers’ Association today alleged that the State Government has not paid their pay revision dues, something that was announced to be release in three equal installments.

Lazong Bhutia, Bhanu Pradhan, Tshewang Bhutia and group alleged that as assured by the Chief Minister, the government was to clear their arrears in three consecutive and equal installments, but the Finance Revenue & Expenditure Department published a circular on 15 Sept stating that “the disburse-

ment of advance arrear however, shall be subject to the following terms and conditions,” sub-para 3 of which states that the above adjustments of advance shall be made from the arrear bills payable to the government employees/ pensioners in four equal installments in the current and subsequent financial year.

“This shows that how the CM and his government have misled the innocent government employees, especially those of third and fourth grades. This is but one instance of how the government makes fools of its own employees with false assurances,” said Tsewang Bhutia.

With the reduction in HRA and HSBA in the recent Pay Revision, Mr Bhutia said that a fourth Grade employee has lost a minimum of Rs 2-3 lakh annually and if it is combined, the third and fourth grade employees lose Rs 7-9 lakh.

All the five former teachers who had taken voluntarily retirement in August earlier this year and joined the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha on 18 Nov appealed to all the government employees to open their eyes and see how the State Government has misguided and harassed them.

Lazong Bhutia said that

during his tenure as president of the Sikkim Teachers’ Association, they tried to meet the government head to clarify the differences between them but were not given a chance to do so.

“Teachers across the State are being used for political reasons and seen accordingly, which is very unfortunate,” he said.

On joining SKM, Bhanu Pradhan said that they have felt the need for a change in the system and are convinced that SKM stands to deliver if voted into office.

He added that the present education system has failed to impart quality education in the State.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Disaster Management in Times of Climate Change

The two realities are best prepared for in tandem

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management are relatively recent responsibilities shouldered on two departments in Sikkim – Climate Change to the Department of Science & Technology and Disaster Management to Land Revenue Department. The recognition of the two challenges as issues requiring round-the-year and official attention is welcome and maybe it is even time that the two developments were placed under the charge of a single authority. This would be worthwhile because it is now clear that a majority of the natural disasters in the future will be Climate Change triggered. It would thus make sense to make Climate Change Mitigation a part of disaster management. This, more so in the case of hill states like Sikkim which already flirt too often with natural disasters, the intensity of which will grow as climate begins to change more dramatically.

The impact of climate change is becoming increasingly evident in the polar caps and in the Himalayas. High mountain communities have noted that glaciers are retreating at unprecedented rates. The planet's extremities are canaries in the coal mines - alerting the rest of the world to the extent of the changes that are coming and we, because Sikkim holds that canary, should start getting more involved in the initiatives being undertaken to save the environment because that really is the only cushion to minimise climate change risk.

At the policy level, Sikkim has launched several measures aimed at preserving its environment and understanding where it stands on the climate change risk graph. These, however, remain typically [for Sikkim] top-down affairs and have come as government initiatives thus far. One doesn't see any private participation in drawing focus to the larger picture. Most NGOs and social organisations are involved in almost exclusively localised issues like garbage disposal and plantation works. While these are also necessary, Sikkim needs more who communicate in specifics and undertake studies on climate change impact in the State. There has unfortunately not been any concerted effort in Sikkim on this front thus far. While most people are familiar with climate change, very few are aware of how it is manifesting in Sikkim. The closest that the State has come to studying this is aspect is in the committee (or was it as commission?) set up to study the glaciers of Sikkim. It is not clear what came of this study although some glaciers on high melt have been kept under high watch now. Events like an occasional workshop-cum-orientation which announces that it will discuss climate change and disaster management do not really ever get into the specifics of climate change impact on Sikkim. Without making this change directly relevant to the people, efforts towards mitigation or management will remain funds-driven undertakings which, even if they are earnest, will remain superficial.

Climate Change manifests in both, subtle and overt ways, its slower encroachment not being noticed until it is too late and its more dramatic displays like GLOFs coming so suddenly and destructively that rescue and repairs distract from the causative factors. The dots are not connected and hence lessons are never learnt and preparation always compromised. Some years ago, an ambitious workshop-cum-orientation programme was held in Sikkim on "Climate Risk Management through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation". Followed up in earnest, it could have marked a change in attitudes if it had only succeeded in acquainting stakeholders and line department officials to how climate change has already impacted Sikkim. Then, perhaps management and mitigation plans could have been more than the copy-paste speculative drafts that remain in circulation. The main problem in Sikkim's handling of climate change and even disaster management plans is that most people engaged for it work on generalised blueprints prepared elsewhere. Such blueprints should be seen as suggested frameworks to be filled out with Sikkim-specific data, traditional knowledge base and local know-how to deliver management and mitigation plans which actually deliver.

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



Will an ambitious Chinese-built rail line through the Himalayas lead to a debt trap for Nepal?

JAGANNATH ADHIKARI
theconversation.com

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has ambitions to reshape the global economy by connecting more than 60 countries across Asia, Europe and Africa through trade and infrastructure projects. All told, it's envisioned that nearly two-thirds of the world's population will in some way be connected through BRI projects in the future. Some economists estimate BRI could increase global trade by 12%.

Despite these benefits, many questions have been raised about China's motivations for the initiative, and whether Beijing can afford the US\$1 trillion it has committed to infrastructure projects and its partners can afford the debt they are taking on. Some fear BRI could be a Trojan horse for global domination through debt traps.

Sri Lanka is often cited as a cautionary tale. Unable to repay the loans on a US\$1.5 billion port construction project, the Sri Lankan government agreed to give China a 99-year lease on the port instead. The ports and shipping minister said at the time: "We had to take a decision to get out of this debt trap."

NEPAL TAKES THE PLUNGE

Despite fears over loans they can't pay back, many small countries have accepted BRI as an alternative pathway to economic prosperity. Nepal is one of them – it entered into BRI last year with great enthusiasm.

Then in June of this year, Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli travelled to China to sign agreements worth US\$2.4 billion on everything from infrastructure and energy projects to post-disaster reconstruction efforts.

The highlight of the deals is an audacious plan to build a railway line through the Himalayas. The line will link the Tibetan border town of Kerung with the Nepali capital, Kathmandu, and tourist towns of Pokhara and Lumbini (Buddha's birthplace). The railway is being trumpeted as a potential windfall for Nepal's tourism industry, with some 2.5 million Chinese tourists expected to visit annually.

If the rail line is developed as proposed, Nepal would also be well placed as a major transit hub for trade between China and its rival, India. One study estimates Nepal's trade could be boosted by 35%

to 45% when the rail line and other BRI infrastructure projects are completed.

The Chinese government has already conducted a pre-feasibility study on the Kerung-Kathmandu railway. It estimated the 72.25km line from the Chinese border to Kathmandu would cost US\$2.25 billion. (Other estimates say the cost might be much more.) Nepali railway officials say an incredible 98.5% of the line would run through tunnels and across bridges due to the forbidding, mountainous terrain.

IS NEPAL FALLING INTO A DEBT TRAP?

The main debate in Kathmandu now is whether this proposed rail line is technically and financially feasible, and if it is someday completed, whether it's destined to become a white elephant – an expensive but vastly underutilised transportation line.

Then there is the question of cost. Besides Sri Lanka's struggles to pay back the US\$8 billion in total it now owes Chinese firms, many other countries are in similar straits.

Economists worry that Laos, which has seen its debt reach 68% of GDP, will have difficulty paying off its share of a US\$6 billion rail line being built by China. And in the Maldives, the opposition claims the country is facing a looming debt trap, with US\$92 million in annual payments due to China to pay off an airport upgrade and bridge project – roughly 10% of the entire budget.

In Nepal, the burning question has been whether the trans-Himalayan rail line and other infrastructure projects would be built with similar loans, or if the government would be able to secure grants from China instead.

Economists and planners in Nepal believe the rail line would be beneficial to the country's development, particularly because it would end Nepal's reliance on its traditional ally, India, for trade, fuel, food and medical supplies.

A two-month blockade of the main trade route between Nepal and India in 2015 gave Nepali politicians greater rationale for diversifying the country's trade partners and becoming better connected to global trade routes. The greater connectivity with China is also expected to boost Nepali exports of special herbs and agricultural products that are in high demand in China.

But given the debt problems in Sri Lanka and

other countries, the previous Nepali government was initially hesitant to follow the same path in its dealings with China. Last year, it pulled the plug on a US\$2.5 billion hydropower plant being built by a Chinese firm because of the lack of a competitive bidding process.

But since Oli returned to power in February, he has pursued much more Beijing-friendly policies. Last month, he reinstated the hydroelectric plant contract. And though Nepal is still seeking grants from China to build the trans-Himalayan railway, it's unclear whether Oli will make this a precondition to starting construction.

China is offering soft loans to fund the railway instead. It also sweetened the deal in September by giving Nepal access to four of its seaports, which will give Kathmandu a viable trade alternative to Indian ports for the first time.

Thus far, Nepal and China have not come to an agreement on the funding question over the BRI projects and construction has yet to start.

THINKING BEYOND DEBT TRAPS

Indian politicians and media outlets have been sceptical of China's efforts to woo Nepal, raising fears that BRI is a masquerade for Chinese domination through debt-swap arrangements. But India's real concern is losing its long-standing influence over Nepal, with which it enjoys a US\$5 billion trade surplus.

For Nepal and other small countries in the region, however, the benefits that BRI can bring – namely improved infrastructure and greater connectivity to the world – do appear to be too good to pass up. After all, Nepal's main concern is economic growth, development and improved livelihoods for its people.

For the country to truly benefit from these projects, it needs to enter into them cautiously, with the right funding plans in place. The government views these projects as potentially massive political victories and could overlook concerns over safety issues and financing when signing deals with China.

But Nepal must not fall into the same debt trap as Sri Lanka; otherwise, its aspirations of a brighter future could turn into a mirage.

[the writer is Adjunct Research Fellow, School of Design and the Built Environment, Curtin University]

Watching violence on screens makes children more emotionally distressed

CAROLINE FITZPATRICK
theconversation.com

Children today can access media through both traditional devices, like televisions, and portable devices like laptops and tablets.

With more access, children are more likely to be exposed to violent content – like real-life or cartoons where force is being used and harm is being done to a person or character. Studies show that 37% of media aimed at children have scenes of physical or verbal violence. What's more, 90% of movies 68% of video games, 60% of TV shows, and 15% of music videos have some form of violence. In some cases, it's rising – the amount of violence in mainstream movies has been growing steadily over the past 50 years.

Evidence shows that this can be detrimental to young children. Around the ages of three and four children begin to develop perceptions and expectations about the world around them. These views are strongly influenced by their daily experiences. If children are often exposed to scenes of violence, they may develop a view of the world as a more dangerous place than it actually is.

To investigate this further, and predict the types of mental health outcomes this has, my colleagues and I examined the potential long-term risks associated with exposure to violent media on children's development. We found that those exposed to violence become more antisocial and emotionally distressed.

EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE

Through parent reports, we measured children's exposure to violent movies and programmes in 1,800 preschool aged children between the

haviour and family structure.

According to our results, teachers rated exposed children as more antisocial. Antisocial behaviours include; a lack of remorse, lying, insensitivity



ages of three and four. Four years later, second grade teachers rated the same children's classroom behaviour using a social behaviour questionnaire – which covers behaviour such as physical aggression, inattentiveness and emotional distress over the course of the school year. Teachers were unaware of which children had been exposed to violent media.

To rule out the impact of the home environment on the development of these behaviours, we controlled for the contribution of early childhood aggression, parenting quality, maternal education, parent antisocial be-

haviour and family structure.

Our results also reveal significant associations between exposure to violent media and classroom attention problems. Furthermore, exposed children were reported to show more signs of emotional distress; in terms of sadness and a lack of enthusiasm.

The results were similar for boys and girls.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

The content of media to which young children are exposed is closely related to child outcomes.

Age-appropriate programmes –

like sesame street for kindergarteners– which aim to help children understand words or ideas, are known to help them develop language and mental skills.

New technology can be useful too. Video chat technologies – like Skype or Facetime – which give children an interactive, two-way live exchange with adults facilitate language learning.

On the other hand, violent films and video games often feature attractive protagonists that engage in a disproportionate number of aggressive actions. Children exposed to this type of content can develop a deformed perception of violence and its actual frequency in real life.

Eventually, this can give rise to the impression that the world is an overly dangerous place filled with ill-intentioned people. People that have such a worldview are more likely to interpret an ambiguous or accidental gesture as hostile or as a personal attack.

There are steps that parents can take. By modelling, positive non-violent behaviour – like using respectful communication to solve problems rather than aggression – and having conversations about the violent images their children are exposed to, parents can reduce the negative effects of violent media on their child's development.

Parents should also keep bedrooms free from screens, closely monitoring children's media usage, and shutting off the internet at night.

[the writer is Researcher at Concordia's PERFORM center and Assistant Professor of Psychology, Université Sainte-Anne]

Free Sanskrit-speaking course at Jalipool



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

Chinmaya Mission-Sikkim Centre, Kanchikamakoti Vidyapeetham, Sanskrit Bharati and Vishwa Hindu Parishad are jointly organising a ten-day Sanskrit Speaking Course at Kanchi Kamakoti Mandir premises here at Jalipool from 21 to 30 Nov, 2018.

The course is being offered free of cost and will be imparted by an expert group led by Fanindra Gautam.

Vice Chancellor of Sikkim State University, Professor GK Niroula, is scheduled to attend as the chief guest at the inaugural function on 21 Nov. The course will start every evening at 4.30 PM and continue till 6.30 PM, it is informed.

Prajapati Brahma Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya turns 25



GANGTOK, NOV 20

[IPR]: Prajapati Brahma Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Sikkim, celebrated its Silver Jubilee and 25 years of service in Sikkim at Manan Kendra here today.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling attended the special programme as the chief guest accompanied by MLAs, senior officials, Brahmakumaris from within and outside the state, including followers from Bhutan and Indonesia.

The function started with the lighting of ceremonial lamps by the CM and featured soulful cultural performances by Brahmakumaris and the release of, "Smaranjali," a magazine of the organisation, by the CM.

Speaking at the event, the CM thanked Brahmakumaris and emphasised the significant role played by every religion in the world today and highlighted that religion was the amalgamation and assimilation of pure thoughts and values.

He also highlighted the achievements and accomplishments of the State Government in the religious sector over the last 25 years and added that the State Government has always respected and protected the religious rights of all the communities in the state.

The CM stressed that religions have taught humanity to co-exist with nature and helped pave the way to learn about the truth of life and en-

abled the people to learn about the art of living one's life.

He further stated that Sikkim was the only truly secular state in practice in the whole country and that the State Government has left no stone unturned to secure and protect the secular fabric in Sikkim.

He also said, "There is no insurgency in the state and there has been no conflict in the name of religion in our state. There hasn't been any destruction of religious monuments in the state."

The CM urged the people and religious organisations to rise above all caste, creed and petty politics and think more for the welfare of all as a whole.

"We have always abid-

ed by the constitution and have followed and approached our religions according to what the constitution has granted us", he added.

He further mentioned, "With the initiative of the government, various religious monuments, temples, monasteries, churches, mosques, etc have been constructed in the state and that has helped to accelerate pilgrimage tourism in the state."

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Rajyogini BK Sonam Didi welcomed the Chief Minister and congratulated all the members of Brahmakumaris from within and outside the state for their valuable service over the last twenty five years.

Legal services camp held at Kupup



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

District Legal Services Authority and Taluk Legal Services Committee, East organised a Legal Awareness and Legal Services Camp on NALSA [Legal Services to Workers in the Unorganized Sector] Scheme, 2015 at the Community Hall in Kupup, East Sikkim on 18 Nov, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by District & Sessions Judge, East cum Chairperson of District Legal Services Authority, East, Jagat B Rai, and Ld. Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate and Secretary, DLSA, East, Ranjeeta Pradhan, along with officials from various departments.

Ld. Advocates from Bar Association of Gangtok, DP Luitel and Yadev Sharma, Labour Inspector, Labour Department, Navin Sharma, Health Educator, Rongli Primary Health Centre, Passang L Sherpa, attended the event as resource persons.

A mobile medical team from District Hospital, Singtam including Medical Officer and staff from Rongli PHC were also present for conducting health check up during the programme.

The programme highlighted on various topics such as POCOA Act, SADA Act, Juvenile Justice Board Act, Free Legal Aid, Immoral/Human Trafficking and different welfare schemes and rights of labours including Forest Act and Mental Health Act.

The gathering was also informed about the rules and regulations with regard to Forest and Wildlife Act. They were further apprised on mental health and treatment for different types of mental health problems.

The medical team conducted free check-ups and distributed medicines. A Legal Aid Clinic was also set up to address legal matters of the public and to provide counseling.

ICFAI-Sikkim holds on-the-job training for school students

GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

REBYNA RANA

ICFAI University, Sikkim, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology is organizing a 15-day on-the-job training programme from 19 Nov to 07 Dec here at ICFAI College in Lower Sichey, Gangtok.

Students from various senior secondary schools,

namely Dikchu SSS [East], Lingmoo SSS [East], Samedong SSS [East], Temi SSS [South], Tarku SSS [South], Namthang SSS [South] and Sadam SSS [South] will be participating in the event.

The introductory session on 19 Nov deliberated on topics like Programming, Latest Trends in IT, Web Technology, Multimedia, etc.

SKM Govt will be...

Even a ward level worker is as powerful as the party president. We move with equal participation and respect every creative idea. Our well planned and united action will ensure our government in 2019. We will not be slaves to capitalist forces, no party donations will be accepted from the feudalists, corrupt and oppressors. Our government will be for our people."

It may be mentioned here, SKM's Jan Sankalpa Yatra will be conducted in two phases commencing from 29 Nov from Daramdin constituency in West Sikkim. The aim of the yatra is to connect SKM directly with the janta, scanning the ground reality of grassroots Sikkim.

The first phase of the yatra will cover Daramdin, Zoom Salghari, Soreng Chakung and Rinchenpong constituencies while the second phase will cover Bermiok Gyalshing, Maneybong Dentam, Yangthang Darap and Yuksom Tashiding constituencies.

"We will concentrate on areas that need focus after formation of our government in 2019. We will try to cover maximum villages, residential areas during this yatra allotting five days for each constituency. Discipline is the foremost aspect of our party. Anti party activities will not be tolerated at any cost. Recent suspension of high ranked member of our party is a prime example of the seriousness of our party regarding discipline," said Mr Tamang.

The SKM party will also be holding Mega Yuva Sammelan from 18-23 Dec at Rolu in South Sikkim where youth workers are expected to deliver motivational talks alongside trainings by experts from various fields.

The sammelan is being organized to produce skillful and disciplined youth workers and to empower them with quality of leadership to lead Sikkim with youthful vision after 2019, the release explains.

Stressing the same, Mr Tamang said, "Janta Mela is not just for SDF supporters. It's for every Sikkimese. The party cadre should collect the names of all genuine beneficiaries from their respective areas and make a list. Same goes for the latest announcement of the Chief Minister about one family-one job. If the government is serious about jobs then make them regular.

SDF's reluctance to make a law on 'one family one job' speaks for itself. The ruling party's arrogance which has been suppressing the downtrodden people for 25 years should be punished in 2019. Money power of SDF will fail against people's craving for change."

ITI-Khichudumra holds convocation ceremony



NAMCHI, 20 NOV [IPR]: Government Industrial Training Institute [ITI], Khichudumra, South Sikkim, held its Convocation and Annual Day function at the campus today.

SLA Speaker, KN Rai, attended the event as the chief guest accompanied by guests of honour Commanding Officer, 4 BN NCC, NCC Training Institute, Kamrang, Colonel Gulshan Chadha, and Principal of Kamrang Government College, Parshuram Sharma.

The program was also attended by Principal of SSS, Lakpa Gyalpo Sherpa, Principal ITI Geyzing, TN Sharma, BDO Sikip, Ranjan Rai, IO Fire Department, KB Gurung alongside Panchayat members, NGO representatives, school heads, senior citizens, staff and students of ITI, Namchi.

Principal MN Bhutia welcomed the gather-

ing and presented the annual report of the institute. He informed that 126 trainees are currently undergoing technical training at the institute.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest congratulated the second batch of pass-out trainees of the Institute for successfully completing their course and emphasised the importance of skill development and capacity building in today's context and credited the State Government and the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for making Sikkim the first state to initiate and enable capacity building programmes.

He also shed light on the global status of youth opting for service sector and urged the students and youth alike of Sikkim to develop keener interest in allied activities and entrepreneurial oppor-

tunities.

AD, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department, Dr IBS Yadav, in turn, lauded the numerous capacity-building programmes of the State Government which help the youth become skilled and efficient and facilitates placements as well.

The program was also addressed by Col Chadha who spoke about the opportunities and scope for ITI Diploma Holder in the Defence Forces. He urged the students explore careers in the armed forces apart from conventional employment opportunities. He also assured to organize a recruitment drive for NCC in the campus for the benefit and larger good of the ITI students.

Earlier, the chief guest inaugurated the newly constructed badminton court in the ITI campus.

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Parliamentary Standing...

He said that he was highly impressed with the overall development in the State.

Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling thanked the MPs for visiting the State and observing the overall development taking place. He shared some information about the indigenous Orchids of Sikkim and other organic produce of the State. He also shared that the State is generating substantial revenue from clean energy such as hydroelectricity projects in the State. He also highlighted some of the unique initiatives taken by the State to improve the socio-economic condition of the people. The Chief Minister suggested that the Central Government should start a subsidy for organic fertilizers along with the subsidy given for chemical fertilizers, and give the people the freedom to choose from either. The Central Government should consider this as a policy decision, he added. He informed that the State of Sikkim has not taken any subsidy for chemical fertilizers in the last seventeen years. He added that the Central Government should compensate this by providing subsidy for organic fertilizers. He suggested that a policy decision should be taken in this regard.

International symposium...

collaborating with 'German International Cooperation' for the conservation and regeneration of Oak forests of Sikkim using innovative ideas of direct seeding. He expressed hope that the pilot study would be a benchmark for other states in the country to replicate. He added that the outcome of the pilot study could be up-scaled for regaining the oak forests to their original pristine level. He appreciated the GIZ for collaborating with the Government of Sikkim for the conservation of Oak forests of Sikkim and also welcomed cooperation from other international experts and agencies for interventions in addressing biodiversity conservation and climate change.

Speaking about Oaks forests in Sikkim, the Chief Minister said that the evergreen trees with good canopy cover are very close to the Himalayan people for their deep rooted relationship, giving high socio-cultural and environmental benefits. He suggested that Oak forests can be grown in the agro-forestry systems to reduce pressure on natural forests. He added that broad leaved Oak forests can also be a response to global climate change. He called for appropriate scientific and management interventions to improve the natural regeneration of Oak forests in natural eco-system in the Himalayas as well as other naturally occurring oak forests in the world. He said that these conservation efforts should ensure that the Oak forests continue to provide eco-system services to people and environment and sustain continuity of such benefits to the next generation.

Prof. Dr. H.C. Jurgen Huss, Chair of Silviculture, University of Freiburg, Germany) in his address said that he was highly impressed with the emphasis laid on forest conservation in the State. He presented a brief background on the work being done under conservation of Oak forests elsewhere in the World. He also highlighted the importance of Oak forest in the Eastern Himalayas and added that the symposium followed by the field trip would help in understanding the subject to a great extent.

Project Director, GIZ CCA-NER Project Dr. Peter Gross in his address said that the symposium would deliberate in detail about opinions and strategies for management of evergreen Oak forests with special focus on the Himalayan eco-system.

Earlier, PCCF-cum-Principal Secretary Forest M.L. Srivastava in his welcome address highlighted some facts about the geography and biodiversity of Sikkim, and also shared some of the features of the Oak evergreen forests.

Mary Kom in semis, assured of 7th medal at World Championships

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI): The celebrated M C Mary Kom Tuesday assured herself a seventh medal at the Women's World Boxing Championship by advancing to the semifinal here, making her the most successful pugilist in the event's history.

The 35-year-old mother-of-three defeated China's Wu Yu 5-0 in the light flyweight (48kg) category quarterfinals to enter the last-four stage and be assured of at least a bronze.

Mary Kom entered the event with a remarkable tally of five gold medals and a silver to her credit. She last won a world championship medal in 2010 -- a 48kg category gold.

"It was a tough bout. Not very tough but not very easy also. There are a lot of good Chinese boxers who keep coming. I have faced a lot of them



but this opponent I have not faced earlier," the diminutive star said after her bout.

"But once I got her game I thought out what to do and I had not much of a problem after that," she added.

The Olympic bronze-medallist next

faces North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi in the semi-final on Thursday. The Indian had beaten her in the Asian Championships last year.

"So, I am confident of winning but not overconfident," she added.

In a bout which saw little action, Mary Kom

was the better boxer with clean punches. More importantly, the local favourite rarely allowed Wu to get a clean shot at her. The five judges ruled in her favour with the elaborate scoreline reading 30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28, 30-27.

Mary Kom was tied

with Irish legend Katie Taylor on the number of medals won before this edition.

But with Tuesday's win, the Manipuri became the most successful boxer in the marquee tournament. Taylor now plies her trade in the professional circuit.

Smith, Warner bans to stand: Cricket Australia

BRISBANE, NOV 20 (PTI): Cricket Australia announced on Tuesday that the year-long bans handed out to Steve Smith and David Warner after the ball tampering fiasco in South Africa in March, will stand. In recent days, owing in no small measure to the Australian team's poor on-field performances, there had been a growing clamour for the bans to be reduced in length.

It would have allowed the duo as well as batsman Cameron Bancroft, who was given a nine-month ban, to return to competitive cricket earlier than stipulated.

The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) had made a submission in this regard, to which Cricket Australia responded in negative.

"The Cricket Australia Board has carefully considered all elements of the ACA submission and has determined that it is not appropriate to make any changes to the sanctions handed down to the three players," interim chairman Earl Eddings said in a statement.

Pacquiao teases Mayweather rematch after January bout

NEW YORK, NOV 20 (AFP): Filipino veteran Manny Pacquiao revealed he has spoken with Floyd Mayweather about a possible sequel to their 2015 superfight, but said no decision would be taken on a rematch until the New Year.

Speaking in New York to confirm details of his January 19 fight against Adrien Broner, Pacquiao said he had discussed a rematch with Mayweather during a recent trip to Japan.

"When I met up with Floyd in Japan, we talked and he said he wants to come out of retirement to challenge me," Pacquiao said.

"All I know is fighting in the ring and entertaining people. That's my job. Floyd has come out of retirement and we'll see after this fight." Mayweather scored a unanimous victory over Pacquiao in 2015's "Fight of the Century", which was largely regarded as a let-down despite being the highest-grossing fight of all time.

Since then, speculation about a possible rematch between the two welterweights has flickered, with Mayweather saying in September he was ready to fight Pacquiao.

"I'm coming back to fight Manny Pacquiao this year another 9 figure pay day on the way," Mayweather wrote on Instagram.

Meanwhile Pacquiao, who will be fighting in the United States for the first time in two years in January's bout, said Monday he remained solely focused on Broner before any return with Mayweather. "We cannot underestimate Broner and this fight," Pac-



quiao said. "We will discuss anything with Floyd Mayweather after that." Pacquiao, 39, will face Broner at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Pacquiao holds the World Boxing Association's regular welterweight crown, a step below US unbeaten WBA 'super champion' Keith Thurman, after stopping Argentina's Lucas Matthysse in July at Kuala Lumpur.

"I have missed fighting in Las Vegas. It has been a second home to me," Pacquiao said.

"Returning to the MGM Grand Garden Arena to defend my world title against Adrien Broner is an exciting way to stage my homecoming." Pacquiao, 60-7 with two drawn and 39 knockouts in a career that began in 1995, turns 40 in December while American Broner is 33-3 with one drawn and 24 knockouts.

Pacquiao, the only fighter to win world titles in eight different weight divisions, has continued fighting after reversing a decision to retire in 2016.

Broner, however, said Monday he planned to send Pacquiao into permanent retirement. "I have paid my dues in this sport, and now it's time for me to get mine," Broner said.

"I get more views than everybody when I fight. A lot of people are going to see me pack off Pacquiao into retirement, and without his belt." Last month, Pacquiao signed with adviser Al Haymon's Premier Boxing Champions group after being promoted by Top Rank's Bob Arum, Haymon's main rival, for the past 14 years.

The move ensures Pacquiao will have chances to fight the best in the welterweight division as Haymon's fighters include Americans Thurman, 28-0 with 22 knockouts; World Boxing Council champion Shawn Porter, 29-2 with one drawn and 17 knockouts, and International Boxing Federation champion Errol Spence Jr., 24-0 with 21 knockouts.

ICC rejects Pakistan's compensation claim against India on bilateral cricket



DUBAI, NOV 20 (PTI):

The International Cricket Council's dispute panel Tuesday dismissed Pakistan's compensation claim against India for allegedly failing to honour a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral series, ending the long-standing feud by accepting the BCCI's arguments on the matter.

"...the PCB's claim is dismissed. Costs are reserved," the ICC stated in the one-line order that concluded a 26-page judgement.

"The judgement is binding and non-appealable," it added.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had demanded Rs 447 crore compensation after alleging that the BCCI didn't honour the MoU that required India to play six bilateral series between 2015 to 2023.

The BCCI, on its part, maintained that the alleged MoU was not binding and did not stand as Pakistan failed to honour a commitment to support the revenue model suggested by India for the ICC.

The Indian Board also said that bilateral cricket with Pakistan was subject to government clearance, which has not been forthcoming since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

"We are happy that our stand has been vindicated. What PCB termed as Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was just a proposal letter," CoA chief Vinod Rai told PTI. "I would like

to thank the BCCI legal team as well as everyone who worked on this arbitration," Rai said.

Rai said BCCI will now file a counter compensation case against the PCB to demand the cost of arbitration.

"We will make a presentation to the panel and demand entire cost of compensation to be borne by the PCB for the arbitration where there claims have been dismissed," he added.

The ICC's three-member dispute resolution committee was formed last year to look into the PCB's compensation claim. The hearing took place at the world body's headquarters here from October 1-3.

The issue goes back to 2014 when the erstwhile BCCI secretary Sanjay Patel signed a one-page document which BCCI always termed as the "proposal letter" to play six bilateral series between 2015 to 2023 on home-and-away basis.

The ICC dispute panel ruled that the document signed between the two Boards did not seem binding.

"It follows inexorably that the PCB's claim must fail. If there was no obligation on the BCCI to engage in the tours in either 2014 or 2015, its omission to do so was no breach and gave rise to no damages claim," it said.

The first of the proposed series was planned in November 2015 in the UAE but BCCI didn't get permission from the gov-

ernment which is mandatory for any bilateral cricketing engagement with Pakistan.

The PCB's compensation claim was triggered by a loss of TV revenue for that particular series.

"The Panel accepts that the awareness of the BCCI's claimed need for government approval was indeed reflected not only in PCB e-mails but also in minutes of PCB board meetings, all of which were aggregated in the BCCIs helpful schedule to its written submissions," the ICC judgement stated.

India's former external affairs minister Salman Khurshid was among those who were cross-examined during the dispute panel hearing. According to a senior BCCI official, he justified India's refusal to play bilateral cricket with Pakistan, citing security concerns.

Rai thanked Khurshid for his deposition during the hearing.

"Mr Khurshid and Sundar Raman's deposition in the arbitration made our case stronger," he said.

Raman was the COO of the Indian Premier League.

The ICC panel did urge the two countries, with frosty diplomatic ties, to consider reviving bilateral cricket.

"The Panel expresses the hope that political considerations will not long prevent that desire from being fulfilled," the judgement's conclusion read.

Vijender signs up with Bob Arum, set for US debut next year

LOS ANGELES, NOV 20 (PTI): Indian boxing star Vijender Singh has signed a multi-year deal with legendary promoter Bob Arum's company Top Rank, paving the way for his American debut next year after an unbeaten professional run in India and England.

Vijender, the 2008 Olympic bronze-medalist, has fought all but one of his professional bouts in India and England. He will make his debut under the Top Rank banner in early 2019, his India promoters IOS Boxing said in a statement. "Top Rank is very excited to enter into a contract with Vijender," Arum said in a statement on Monday night here.

"We intend to make him a big star in the United States and look forward to him participating in major events in India, where he is already a major superstar."

Arum is an International Boxing Hall of Famer and has worked with several big names in the circuit, including the likes of Manny Pacquiao.

Vijender, who has a 10-0 (7 KO's) record in the circuit since turning pro in 2015, said he couldn't have hoped for a better deal. He has been associated with Queensberry Promotions, owned by Frank Warren, in England.

"I have always wanted to work with someone who is the best in the business, and I know Top Rank has been the driving force behind boxing's biggest superstars, including Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather, and Miguel Cotto," he said.

"I am eagerly waiting a date for my U.S. debut to take on the world and keep the Indian flag on the world boxing map fluttering high," he added.

India start favourites against weakened, unsettled Australia

BRISBANE, NOV 20 (PTI): An Australia in turmoil both on and off the field has made India the firm favourites in the compelling rivalry's latest battle which begins with a T20 International series here on Wednesday. In a bid to assert themselves as favourites for the Test series, which starts December 6 in Adelaide, India would be hoping to dominate the three T20Is. The touring side has won its previous seven T20I series dating back to November 2017, and its last defeat in the format was against West Indies in July last year.

Not to mention, on their last visit here, the Men in Blue won the T20I series 3-0. So, they will be riding high on a wave of confidence and eager to make an early mark on this trip.

Australian cricket, in contrast, has been dogged by structural reform in the wake of the ball-tampering saga in South Africa in March and it has resulted in turbulence on the field as well.

Only on Tuesday, Cricket Australia ruled out reducing the bans of Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft in reply to a plea submission from the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA). In the absence of Smith and Warner, Australia's results have fallen off a cliff.

Since the ban, they are yet to win a T20I series against an opposition of note since March. They lost to England

in a one-off game in June, then lost to Pakistan in the T20I tri-series final in Zimbabwe, lost 3-0 to Pakistan again in the bilateral series in the UAE, and then lost to South Africa in a rain-curtailed one-off match on Saturday.

It remains to be seen whether being on home turf would raise the spirits for the once invincible Aussies.

The one significant change for India ahead of this series is the return of skipper Virat Kohli, who was rested for the three-match contest against West Indies at home. While it undoubtedly strengthens the visitors, all eyes will be on how the Aaron Finch-led Australian side deals with the best batsman in world cricket at the moment. While there are calls from all quarters for Australian cricket to keep a check on aggression and play the game in right spirit, Kohli has always garnered attention whenever he has visited here.

On his early trips Down Under, he has never quite been the Australian fans' favourite. But starting 2014, his batting exploits have taken centre-stage. He scored 199 runs in three innings during that 2016 T20I series' whitewash. South African skipper Faf du Plessis has professed a "silent treatment" to Kohli and it remains to be seen if the Australian cricketers and the public can ignore him at all.

Kohli's return to the side means that

one front-line batsman will have to make way. In England, the skipper batted at number four, allowing KL Rahul to bat at number three in light of his stupendous form in the 2018 Indian Premier League.

Rahul's current form though is nothing to write home about. He managed only 16, 26 not out and 17 against the West Indies in the recent T20I series but has been retained.

Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant, both of whom have proven to be more consistent and explosive in recent times compared to Rahul, have also been included in the final 12.

The team has instead left out Manish Pandey, continuing his run of limited opportunities of late. Pant will don the keeping gloves, something that was amply clear during the net session as well. He practised glove-work under the watchful eyes of coach Ravi Shastri, while Karthik only did some out-fielding. The bigger concern for India is to find a balance in their bowling attack in Hardik Pandya's absence.

With ample bounce anticipated on the Gabba pitch, three pacers -- Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah and Khaleel Ahmed -- are certain starters.

Washington Sundar, who played the last T20I against West Indies, has expectedly made way for Bumrah.

The spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and

Yuzvendra Chahal have been retained in the final 12 but remains to be seen if both make the playing XI on Wednesday. Krunal Pandya was the all-rounder against West Indies, and is expected to continue playing after making the final 12. Australia are also considering fielding a spinner, after taking the field against South Africa with a full-pace attack on Saturday. Glenn Maxwell was the lone spinner then, but it is understood that the hosts will alter their plans keeping in mind the conditions and bigger dimensions of the ground here. Starting off with the aggressive shortest format is Australia's best bet to upset India's plans for this summer of cricket, wherein unlike their prior trips here, the visitors are already considered the better side in all departments.

Teams:

India (Final 12): Virat Kohli (capt), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant (wk), Krunal Pandya, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed.

Australia: Aaron Finch (capt), Ashton Agar, Jason Behrendorff, Alex Carey, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Chris Lynn, Ben McDermott, Glenn Maxwell, D'Arcy Short, Billy Stanlake, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye, Adam Zampa.

Match starts at: 1.20 pm IST.

IIT-KGP developing mechanism to extract crucial info from social media during disaster

KOLKATA, NOV 20 (PTI): A research team of the IIT Kharagpur has been developing a mechanism to filter critical situational information from social media during disasters from tonnes of other data. During a disaster, people such as victims and on-site empathisers flood social media platforms with real-time information, but the huge volume of posts makes it difficult for one to locate relevant messages from the spot, an IIT-KGP statement said on Tuesday.

While the critical information is “less than two per cent”, the prob-

lem is compounded as the posts often contain informal language without any grammar, arbitrary shortening of words and images.

The research team from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the institute is developing the algorithms keeping all of these in mind.

The algorithms would be able to search various social media handles with wide access and give situational information from English and Hindi posts, the statement said.

“Summarisation is important because the

amount of information posted is so much that human beings cannot go through all the information to find out critical tweets which are less than two per cent,” the statement said.

The algorithm being developed by the team can identify and extract critical, actionable information in real-time and in summarised form which could be helpful for disaster management, lead researcher Prof Saptarshi Ghosh said in the statement.

“We studied group posts exchanged among medical practitioners of

an NGO on an internal messaging mobile application, during a three-month period following the 2015 Nepal earthquake. From these posts, we extracted detailed information on what are typical medical requirements after an earthquake,” Ghosh said.

At present, the team is developing web-based systems and mobile apps for aiding post-disaster relief operations.

For instance, a person sitting in the control room can get live updates about what resources are needed where, what resources are available

and coordinate relief operations accordingly, the statement said.

A relief worker can also get updates on his or her smartphone about people being trapped in the vicinity, so that they can be rescued.

The project has been jointly funded by IIT Kharagpur’s Institute Scheme for Innovative Research and Development grant, Microsoft Research India and ITRA, Media Labs Asia and the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, the IIT KGP statement said.

Arunachal stresses on documentation of tribal cultural heritage

ITANAGAR, NOV 20 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has directed the state’s research department to expedite work on “audio-visual documentation of cultural heritage of Mishmi tribes” of the state.

Mein’s directive came on Monday during a meeting with research department Secretary Dani Salu, Director Batem Pertin and a German anthropologist who is working on tribals of the state for 15 years, an official release said.

The researcher from Hydelberg, Dr Gerhard Heller, is presently working on the indigenous healing practice of the Idu Mishmi tribe who inhabit the Dibang valley region.

Heller had already documented the traditional healing systems of other tribes such as Miju Mishmi, Digaro Mishmi, Monpa and Galo tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, the release said.

Mein, also holding the planning and finance portfolio, said the documentation project was announced in his budget

speech and also reflected in the departmental State Annual Development Agenda (SADA) for the year 2018-19.

The deputy chief minister also asked the research department to complete formalities of signing an agreement with Heller immediately and begin the work soon.

Official sources said the agreement would enable the government to utilise Heller’s findings to initiate tribal tourism in the state.

His expertise would also be helpful in setting up a digital museum in the state capital which would showcase the rich cultural heritage of all the tribes of the state, the sources said.

Salu said the documentation project would be completed within the stipulated period of two years.

Mein also asked the research department to expedite the digital museum project.

The concept paper for the digital museum project has already been submitted and it is being finalised, the research secretary said.

BJP manifesto for Mizoram: Mizo language to be added in Eight Schedule



AIZAWL, NOV 20 (PTI): The BJP on Tuesday released its manifesto for the Mizoram Assembly election, promising to include Mizo, the official language of the state, in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

The party promised rice at Rs 1 per kg, home to every homeless family and traffic-congestion-free Aizawl in three years and pothole-free all-weather roads in the next six months.

The manifesto was released by party general secretary Ram Madhav here. BJP president Amit Shah was scheduled to release it, but could not do so as he was behind schedule in his tour to the southern and northern tip of the state.

The saffron party promised to establish

two medical colleges, three engineering colleges and as many nursing training institutes, besides creating 50,000 jobs in the next five years.

Construction of trans-boundary highway, linking Myanmar and Bangladesh border via Aizawl, to promote trade, tourism and industries was among the poll promises of the party.

Other promises include establishment of multi-speciality hospitals in every district as part of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, football stadiums in every district, setting up of eco-parks and picnic spots to promote tourism.

The BJP is contesting in 39 seats of the 40-member Assembly that goes to the polls on November 28.

SC irked over leak of CBI director’s confidential reply



NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI): The Supreme Court Tuesday expressed deep anguish over the purported leak of CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma’s response to the CVC’s findings against him as also the publication of allegations levelled by agency’s DIG Manoj Kumar Sinha in his separate plea.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which reheard the matter at the request of senior advocate Fali S Nariman, who is representing Verma, made it clear that the court would not hear any party and would confine itself to the issues red flagged by it.

Miffed over the alleged leak of Verma’s confidential response to CVC’s findings, the bench, which also comprises Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph, said that it wanted to keep the CBI Director’s response confidential to maintain the probe agency’s dignity.

The court was hearing Verma’s plea against govt’s decision to divest him of duties and sending him on leave.

The bench, while adjourning the hearing to November 29, then took umbrage of various media reports based on the petition filed by Sinha levelling allegations against various top functionaries.

“Yesterday, we had refused the mentioning (seeking urgent listing of Sinha’s plea against his transfer to Nagpur) and we had expressed that highest degree of confidentiality was to be maintained.

“But here is a litigant who mentions it before us and then goes out to distribute the petition to everyone,” the CJI said referring to the purported wild allegations of Sinha which have been published in the media.

“Our efforts to maintain the respect the respect of this institution is not shared by these people. They are giving it to

everybody,” the CJI said.

Sinha on Monday dragged the names of NSA Ajit Doval, Union minister Haribhai Parthibhai Chaudhary and CVC K V Chowdhury over alleged attempts to interfere in the probe against CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana, who has been divested of his duties and sent on leave along with his boss.

Earlier in the morning, the top court had expressed strong displeasure over the leak of Verma’s confidential reply in the media and adjourned the hearing in his case to November 29.

Minutes later, Nariman and lawyer Gopal Shankaranarayanan mentioned the case again before a bench headed by Chief Justice and sought hearing during the day itself.

When the bench again took the matter, Nariman said that the apex court had passed order asking Verma to respond to the CVC’s finding on November 16 and the news article published by the portal was of November 17.

Nariman clarified that the news article contained Verma’s response given to CVC during the preliminary enquiry proceedings.

However, the bench then referred to some other news articles published based on Sinha’s plea levelling against top functionaries of the government.

“This is yesterday’s article. We want to know what is going on. This court is not a platform for people to come and express whatever they want. This is a place where people come for adjudication of their legal rights. This is not a platform and we will set it right,” the CJI said.

The top court again adjourned hearing to November 29 and refused to hear any party, including Central Vigilance Commission.

At the outset, the alleged leak of Verma’s confidential response to

the CVC’s findings on corruption charges against him irked the top court, which said none of “you deserve any hearing”.

On the leak of Verma’s confidential reply in the media, the bench, without divulging the name of the news portal, which allegedly carried a story on the CBI director’s response, handed over to Nariman a copy of the news report.

“It is only for you Mr Nariman and not as a counsel for Alok Verma. We have given this to you as you are one of the most respected and senior member of the institution. Please help us,” the bench told Nariman.

Nariman, after going through the news report, said it was totally “unauthorised” and he was very “disturbed and shocked” by it.

The chief justice then told Nariman that Shankaranarayanan, who is also representing Verma, had on Monday mentioned the matter before the court and sought more time to file a reply on behalf of the CBI director.

“Nobody had asked him (Shankaranarayanan) to do so. It was totally unauthorised. I was never informed. Nobody asked him to mention the matter. I am very disturbed,” Nariman told the bench, adding that he and his junior had worked late in the night to prepare Verma’s response. Referring to the media report, Nariman said, “This gives a new twist to the word responsible press and freedom of press”, and added that the news portal and its journalists concerned be summoned by the court.

“How can this come? It’s a leak. I myself is shattered the way it has been done,” he said.

The CJI then adjourned the hearing to November 29 and said the bench does not want to record any reasons for it and observed, “We don’t think any of you deserve any hearing”.

IPL distributes IDs to registered farmers of Sumin Lingzey GPU



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 20 NOV:

International Panaacea Limited [IPL] organized Ward level distribution programme of Identifi-

cation Cards for progressive farmers of Chadey, Subithang and Lingzey Wards under Sumin Lingzey GPU in East Sikkim today. Field functionaries from IPL, Ch-

habal Khatiwoda and Bhanu Bhakta Sharma, distributed Identification Cards to the registered farmers of the Wards, a press release informs.

Trafficking survivors and activists urge govt to recognise human trafficking as national phenomenon

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 (PTI):

Trafficking survivors and activists have urged the government to recognise human trafficking as a national phenomenon and bring more women in the decision-making role to change the mindset of the people.

In a workshop organised by Sankalp Foundation on ‘Is Human Trafficking a People’s Issue in Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Telangana?’, the survivors made an appeal to the government to recognise trafficking as a people’s issue or a mainstream

governance issue.

Naharvi, a trafficking survivor from Chattisgarh’s Champa district, said she had worked as a bonded labour for 10 years in the brick-kiln industry. “We were made to work for 17 hours a day and just allowed to sleep for four hours. We were kept locked and not allowed to move at our will. That is not a kind of life I want for my children and no one recognises our problems,” she said.

Hemlata, an activist who worked for rehabilitation of brick-kiln workers from Rajasthan, said there was a need to look at trafficking from

the point of view of migration. “There is a need to ensure safe migration for women and children so that they do not get trafficked due to unsafe migration.” The activists and survivors urged the government to recognise trafficking as a national phenomenon and bring more women in the decision-making role.

“The participation of women of women needs to be increased and unless women come under decision-making role, till then, change would not come in the mindset of people,” said Sumitra, a social worker from Telangana.

Manipur CM asks insincere ministers to quit

IMPHAL, NOV 20 (PTI):

Angry over low attendance of ministers and officials at a government function here, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has sought resignation of the ministers and officials who have no concern for the people.

The chief minister made the statement at the ‘Quami Ekta Week’ (National Integration week) function organ-

ised at the premises of the Manipur Rifles on Monday, an official release said.

The ministers and officials should resign if they do not discharge their duties for the welfare of the people with sincerity and dedication, he said. The function, organised by the state government, was attended by a handful of ministers, legislators and officials, the release said.

All elected representatives and senior officials need to be the role model for the public and do exemplary work during their service period, he said. He cautioned

the authority concerned to do the needful to avoid low attendance at any state level function in future and said nothing could be achieved without discipline.

Recalling former prime minister late Indira Gandhi for maintaining the unity and integrity of the country, he said the present NDA government under Narendra Modi had started giving recognition to unsung heroes of the battle for independence of the country.

China slams Dalai Lama for ‘separatist activities’



KJM VARMA

BEIJING, NOV 20 (PTI):

China on Tuesday hit out at the Dalai Lama who is on a visit to Japan, saying that countries should not facilitate the Tibetan spiritual leader’s “separatist activities”.

On the Dalai Lama’s reported comments that China and Tibet should co-exist and prosper together, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman

Geng Shuang said here that the Tibet issue is an internal matter of Beijing. “As for the Dalai Lama’s speech, it is not up to me to answer this question. I can tell you that the 14th Dalai Lama is a political exile and he is engaged in separatist activities,” he said.

“We hope the relevant parties will not provide facilitation for his separatist activities,” he said.

China insists Tibet has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans claim they were essentially independent for most of that time. The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in his Himalayan homeland.

The Dalai Lama is on a 10-day teaching tour of Japan. China routinely objects to his foreign visits.



SMILES FOR MILES! Jessica Jones actress, Krysten Ritter, is all smiles while filming in New York City today.

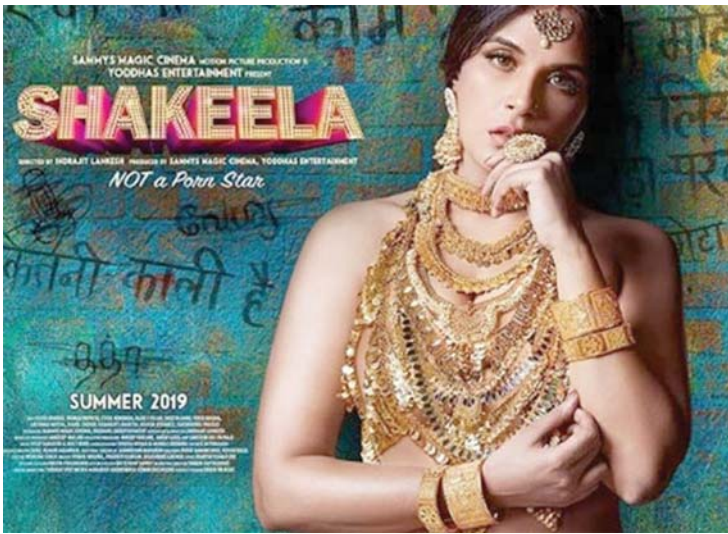
First look poster Richa Chadha's 'Shakeela' out

MUMBAI, Nov 20 (PTI): The makers of Richa Chadha-starrer "Shakeela" have released a bold and feisty first look of the film.

The first poster of the Indrajit Lankesh-directed film features Richa as the eponymous adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the '90s from Kerala and acted in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

In the poster, which has the catchphrase "Not a Porn Star" inscribed on it, Richa is shown donning tons of gold jewellery. The film is produced by Magic Cinemas and Yoddhas Entertainment.

"I'm looking forward now that the film has wrapped up for the release next year. We have kept the story to the most authentic version of her real life. Shakeela herself has been pivotal to making this film happen and helping us an in-depth knowledge into her life which has helped us tell the story in its most authentic



version possible," Richa said in a statement.

"She was a brave soul who defied norms of the business during her time and her story was much more than what people know of. To essay the role of a living being is additional responsibility on me as actor and team as the makers of the film," she added.

The film also features Richa's "Masaan" co-star Pankaj Tripathi, who is playing the role of a '90s actor. It is set to release early next year.

Anil, Kareena, Abhishek to dub Netflix's 'Mowgli' in Hindi

MUMBAI, Nov 20 (PTI): Netflix on Tuesday announced that actors Anil Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Abhishek Bachchan, among others, will be lending their voices for the Hindi version of Andy Serkis' fantasy adventure film "Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle".

The Hindi voice cast also includes Madhuri Dixit and Jackie Shroff, the streaming giant said in a statement.

Abhishek will voice Bagheera, the black panther who is a friend, protector and mentor to the "man-cub" Mowgli. In the English version, Oscar winner Christian Bale has voiced the character.

Kapoor is taking on the role of beloved bear Baloo, played by Serkis himself in the film, while Shroff will voice the villainous Bengal tiger, Shere Khan, which was portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch in the English version.

Madhuri and Kareena will provide the voice work for python Kaa and female wolf Nisha. Actors Cate Blanchett and Naomie Harris did the voice work for the two characters in the English version.



The streaming giant also announced that actor Freida Pinto, who plays Mowgli's adoptive mother Messua, will also do the voice work in Hindi.

The India-set film will have its world premiere on November 25 in Mumbai with its lead cast -- Serkis, Bale, Pinto and newcomer Rohan Chand -- in attendance.

The trailer of "Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle" was launched at Netflix's See What's Next: Asia event held in Singapore earlier this week.

'Arranged Marriage' is a progressive film, says Patralekhaa



MUMBAI, Nov 20 (PTI): Patralekhaa, who will be next seen in Pradeep Sarkar's "Arranged Marriage", says it is a progressive film.

The movie will explore the relationships in a family and their involvement during the process of an arranged marriage.

"My character is a timid girl. It is a very progressive film. It will resonate with a large section of audiences," Patralekhaa said in a statement.

The actor plays a Bengali girl in the film. For the first time the "CityLights" actor has teamed up with Sarkar and she says, she enjoyed the process of working on this film.

"His love and passion for his work is the most endearing thing about him and also annoying. But I have learnt so much from him. It was indeed a pleasure working with him. One of the bucket list."

"Dada's (Sarkar) process is very interesting. A teenager is trapped in that man. He is very helpful and supportive." The film features Ali Fazal as the male lead.

Tekashi 6ix9ine Could Face Life in Prison As Rapper Is Indicted on 6 Charges

Tekashi 6ix9ine could spend life in prison due to criminal charges that were filed against him in federal court on Monday. According to an eyewitness, the rapper appeared in court with his hands and feet shackled.

Tekashi was indicted on six counts: conspiracy with others to commit racketeering, discharging a firearm while committing a crime, committing a crime of violence in aid of racketeering, assault with a dangerous weapon, carrying a firearm, and committing a crime in aid of racketeering. Two of the charges against Tekashi have a maximum sentence of life in prison. He faces a minimum of 32 years in prison.

According to court documents obtained by E! News, Tekashi, Shottie, Crip-py, Ish and others were part of the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods gang (also known as "Enterprise" and "Nine Trey"), which "committed and agreed, attempted, and threatened to commit acts of violence to protect and expand their narcotics business."

The Southern District of New York sent out a press release, where Homeland Security Special Agent in Charge Angel M. Melendez said the gang "showed an unprecedented level of violence this year."



Prosecutors said he was a flight risk, but his lawyers offered to give up his passport, put him on house arrest and pay \$750,000 to the court. Ultimately, Tekashi was denied bail pending the trial because of the possibility of conducting crime while at home.

ARIES: Your scattered energy comes together today in a powerful laser beam of concentrated attention and effort. You will work until you drop, and no one and nothing had better get in your way! Keep up the good pace. You're going to feel more loved than usual, and this changes absolutely everything for you.

TAURUS: It seems that the new planetary lineup has just opened up some doors that had previously been shut. You revel in the confidence that people have in you. It isn't that your abilities have changed, just your attitude! People trust you because you exhibit more self-confidence. It's a wonderful feeling, isn't it? Hold on to it at all costs.

GEMINI: There is a possibility that you feel cheated or tak-

en advantage of in some way. Do you feel as if you're paying more than your fair share? The day ahead gives you an opportunity to achieve recognition for your efforts and perhaps redress some grievances. It's odd that despite your tendency to espouse fairness, you feel uncomfortable when the authorities rule in your favor.

CANCER: You're gifted at bringing people together, there's no doubt about that, Cancer. Today will be especially good for participating in or initiating group activities. It's a favorable day for any project related to fellowship and assistance. You might do the groundwork to form a team, discussion group, or charitable endeavor.

LEO: You have a promising day ahead, Leo. Finally, you

will advance by leaps and bounds in whatever needs to be done. Whatever has been causing the delays will likely be revealed today. You return to the skill and professionalism you so value after several weeks of halting progress. Don't tolerate any violation of your ethics now or in the future.

VIRGO: There's some likelihood that something you need or want has been eluding your grasp. The somewhat strained aspect of the heavens lately hasn't helped. But today everything is within reach, especially if it was material considerations holding you back. You have an auspicious day ahead, so make the most of it!

LIBRA: The day ahead will be a soothing one, Libra. Since it's auspicious for the materi-

al aspect of things, it's a good time to settle household issues like bills or repairs. But you might also take advantage of today's aspect to set in motion even more ambitious plans about your living situation. Is it time to think more seriously about that move you've been dreaming of?

SCORPIO: You will be full of ideas for improving your life-style, Scorpio, especially as it relates to your family. It's true that over the past few months you've experienced some hardships. You can breathe easier now. Whether it's for your career or home, today's initiatives are likely to bring great rewards. Take advantage of the atmosphere to put together a realistic plan for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: Is discipline

high on your list of priorities lately, Sagittarius? You're undoubtedly trying to inject some order into your daily life, and your behavior could benefit from some adjustment as well. Whether it concerns food, hygiene, or simply the intensity of your daily rhythm, it's possible that you will notice a real improvement today.

CAPRICORN: You can expect your mood to improve today, Capricorn. The professional and private projects that you have at the moment should be progressing well. You feel reassured, and you're encouraged to make some new plans. If you continue to keep up the good rhythm, you will have success in redefining your goals and life direction.

AQUARIUS: Some people say that you miss out on life be-

cause of your tendency to observe your life rather than experience life directly. If that's the case, then today will be a real departure for you. You will suddenly seem more in contact with your sentiments and be more present and connected to those around you. It feels good for a change, doesn't it?

PISCES: Today, Pisces, you're in the mood for commitment! Take time to connect with the social world as you seek like-minded people who can share your intimate, individualistic realm. Ultimately, we all have to figure out how to make our way in society. Today you will feel more sociable than usual. Expect to have some good ideas about ways you can enlarge your social circle.