

SummitTIME

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Diwali greetings from the Governor and CM SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

On the occasion of Deepawali, Governor Ganga Prasad has extended greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim.

In a press commu-niqué issued today, the Governor greets, "The festival of Diwali is symbolic to hope of better. brighter and prosperous tomorrow. It is synonym to the annual moment of joy for all of us to cele-brate with friends, family and well-wishers sharing goodwill, compassion and mutual respect. The lighting of lamps has a deep rooted philosophy in Indian culture and symbolises the act of dispelling darkness from our lives.

As we prepare ourselves to embrace this joyful moment, let us strive to keep our sur-rounding cleanand pollution free. Let us pledge for a safe and pollution free Diwali. I also take this opportunity to extend my Diwali greetings to the members of the armed forces whose vigilance round the clock at the borders enable us to celebrate the festivals with assurance of peace and security.

May the divine light

of Diwali spread peace, prosperity, happiness and good health in the lives of every Sikkimese." Chief Minister Pawan

Chamling and Tika Maya Chamling have also extended warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Sikkim on the festival of Diwali.

In his greetings, the CM has wished long lasting peace, happiness, fulfillment and abundance in the lives of the people of Sikkim. He has stated that the festival of Diwali or Dipawali provides much-needed break from the monotony of life and brings family and friends together in

joyful celebrations.
"May the festival of lights brighten the lives of our people and may it guide us from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, and from despair to hope. May the festival instill in us the spirit of self-inquiry, self-improvement values such as kindness and compassion," the Chief Minister has stated.

Though Diwali is pre-dominantly a Hindu fes-tival, it is celebrated by most people, irrespective of the faith they belong to. The festival symbolizes victory of 'inner light' over spiritual darkness, of knowledge over ignorance and right over wrong. It is a restate-ment of the Hindu belief that good ultimately triumphs over evil.



Saipatris take over Lall Bazaar

GANGTOK, 06 Nov: People flocked to Lall Bazaar in large numbers today to purchase marigold [saipatri] flowers to decorate their houses for Diwali. Not just Lall Bazaar, just about every shop in the suburbs too had stocked up on these flowers today. [from REBYNA RANA]

PM comparing Future Policy Award with Oscars is confusing the masses: SPCC

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK. 06 NOV:

Sikkim Pradesh Con-Gress Committee president, Bharat Basnet, commented today that the remark of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent 'Maan Ki Baat' session comparing the Future Policy Gold Award received by the State to the Oscars has created confusion among the people.

He alleged that the PM

has given such statement just for political benefit.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr Basnet alleged that if the United Nations had given this award, then it should have come



through a proper chan-

nel and protocol.

He added that the organisation should have first informed the Cen-State and people from concerned Union Ministry should also have attended the awards function. He claimed that proper channels and protocol had not been followed for the said award.

While stating that the PM's remarks on the award were misleading, he said the Sikkim should not be made a scapegoat for national politics. He mentioned that SPCC has also informed the All In-

PM needs Rs 3.6 lakh crore from RBI to fix 'mess' his economic theories created: Rahul

DELHI, NOV 6 (PTI): Congress president Rahul Gandhi Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over a media report which claimed the government is seeking Rs 3.6 lakh crore from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), alleging that he needs the amount to fix the "mess his genius economic theories" have created.

Gandhi also urged Re serve Bank Governor Urjit Patel to "stand up" to the prime minister and "protect the nation".

There was no immediate reaction on the charge made by Gandhi.

"Rs 36,00,00,00,00,000. That's how much the PM needs from the RBI to fix the mess his genius eco-nomic theories have created. Stand up to him Mr Patel. Protect the nation," he tweeted and also postturn to pg02 ed the media report.



government. While Gandhi has accused the government of "destroying" institu-tions with its alleged

strong arm tactics, the differences between the Modi government and the RBI came out in public domain after a deputy governor raised concerns about the cen-tral bank's autonomy and warned that the governments that did not respect the central independence ooner or later would sooner incur the wrath of financial markets.

Governor meets North district officials and business community

MANGAN, 06 Nov [IPR]: Governor Ganga Prasad held an interactive ses-sion with the district officials of North Sikkim at Zilla Bhavan in Mangan today.

During the meeting, heads of various depart-ments of the district gave a PowerPoint presentation on the schemes and works of their respective departments.

The status of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Ed-ucation, Health, Roads & Bridges, Power and Rural Development departments along with ICDS and Border Roads were reviewed by the Governor.

Addressing the meet,

the Governor stated the organic farming was one of the most important contributions of the State and credited Chief Minis-ter Pawan Chamling for making the State organic.

He urged all the of-

ficials to implement the policy with full vigor and ensure that farmers get a platform to sell their pro-



duce at important met-

ros of the country. He said that de-partments should now work on food processing schemes and projects and use the Greenfield Airport at Pakyong to supply organic produce to important cities.

"Focus should now on the development of villages as per the vision of Mahatma Gandhi. All officers should work with dedication for the purpose of making the State and country a developed one by making the villages vibrant and self reliant," the Governor added.

Earlier during the day, he also convened a short interactive session with the business community of Mangan. The business community welcomed the Governor and presented brief status of their current business environment in the district.

The Governor, while addressing the business community, stated that the community should turn to pg02

Dated:- 06/11/2018

SIKKIM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Sikkim Undertaking) Udyog Bhawan, Tadong – 737102 Gangtok, Sikkim

SIDICO/2008-19/CMSES/152

NOTICE

TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER CHIEF MINISTER'S SELF EMPLOYMENT **SCHEME (CMSES)**

In continuation of the Sikkim Government Gazette Notification no. 2/C&I/2018-19 dated: 21/08/2018 and Notice SIDICO/2008-19/CM-SES/0588 dated:-01/09/2018, all beneficiaries under Chief Minister's Self Employment Scheme(CMSES) had been given two months to settle their outstanding loan account i.e. 03/09/2018 to 03/11/2018. However, the Government has extended this period for another month till the 2^{nd} of December, 2018.

You are requested to bring the following:-

- 1. Photo ID.
- 2. Valid Employment Card/ Unemployed Certificates from SDM, BDO / Panchayat/ Councillor/ or any the valid document to proof the same.
- 3. In case of mortgaged of land for the loan, the original parcha will only be handed over to the actual owner of the land.

Details of your loan account will be available at:-

Sikkim Industrial Development & Investment Corporation (SIDI-CO) Udyog Bhawan,

Tadong,

Gangtok, East Sikkim

Phone no. (03592) 231531.

Sikkim Industrial Development & Investment Corporation (SIDI-CO)

Jorethang South Sikkim (03592) 257628

Managing Director Sikkim Industrial Development & **Investment Corporation Ltd.** Gangtok.

Ph: (03592) 231397 (PBX), 231531, 232092, 231530 / Email: mdsidico@rediffmail.com

Parents' Day concert held at NPS



GANGTOK. 06 Nov: Nam chi Public School hosted Parents' Day concert at the school's multipurpose auditorium today, a press re-

Principal, Father George

A D'Souza, in his welcome address, thanked the parents for attending the occasion in big numbers

A cultural extravagant show was put up by the students of the school with international and national flavours along with a blend of Musical Play, 'Mary and Peter's Story'. The school choir presented songs showcasing the choir's mu-

A documentary film on NPS' football club titled 'Football for Life' featuring the progress and achieve s made by the club in recent times was also screened during the function

Debutants Real Kashmir held to goalless draw by Churchill Brothers

AR, NOV 6 (PTI): There was no encore in store and debutants Real Kashmir had to be contend with share the spoils with Churchill Brothers following a goalless draw in their first-ever home game of the I-league here Tuesday. A few days after a ter-

rific start to their maiden season in the coun-try's top-flight, when they stunned defending champions Minerva Pun jab FC in their own den, Real Kashmir entered the game as the fancied

But former champions Churchill Brothers. reduced to 10 men, are a fancied outfit and managed to stave off a spirited challenge by the hosts at the TRC Polo Synthetic

Turf Ground. Real Kashmir could not register three points after being denied twice by the woodwork, once in each half. Robertson chose to

stick to the starting XI that earned him the three points against Minerva Punjab. While Petre Gigiu made a single change to the side that drew 2-2 against Chennai City as Lamgoulen Gou Hang-shing started ahead of Vinil Poojary.

It was a competitive

start to the game as both sides were looking to dominate the midfield, but they lacked creativity as the match progressed.

Governor meets North...

work for the improvement of the State and ensure that the peaceful environment is protected and pre served. He stated that he would always be approachable for resolution of any iss

The three-day North Sikkim tour of the Governor concluded today. He expressed his satisfaction and happiness with the tour. He informed that all the grievances of the public will be appropriately dealt by him and that he will continue to visit and meet the people of the district in future.

Diwali greetings from...

The Diwali night centres on the new moon, the darkest night, at the end of the Hindu lunar month of Ashvin and the start of the month of Kartika. The darkest night of autumn, lit with diyas, candles and lanterns, make the festival of lights memorable, filled with fun and merry-making. Diwali is also a celebration of flavours with numerous varieties of cuisines.
In Sikkim, the festival of Diwali or Tihar is cele

brated with great joy and enthusiasm. Spread over five days, the festival is marked by various rituals and myriad celebrations. The first day is observed as Kaag Tihar, wherein crows are given offerings, considering them to be divine messengers. The second day or Kukur Tihar honours dogs for their honesty. After Kaag and Kukur Tihar, Gai Tihar and Goru Tihar are celebrated on the third day, when cow and ox are decorated, fed and worshipped. Also on the third day, in the evening, families get together to worship Goddess Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth. Days before Laxmi puja, houses are cleaned and decorated with diyas and lamps lit near the doors and windows from the day of Laxmi Puja onwards. On the fifth and final day called the Bhai Tika,

brothers and sisters meet and pray for each other's well-being, with the sisters marking the brothers' foreheads with Tika. In turn, brothers present gifts to their sisters. The Deusi and Bhailo form the most sig nificant part of Tihar, where people visit every home singing, dancing and spreading joy. Marigolds or 'Saipatri' in full bloom against the backdrop of green paddy fields and clear blue sky complement the festivities. Families get together and offer each other traditional delicacies. Sel Roti is the most popular dish prepared by every family.

Festivals offer us an opportunity to promote our cultural practices and tradition and also to make the younger generation aware of our customs and traditions, so that these age-old practices remain intact in

future, and Diwali is no exception.

As we celebrate the 'festival of lights' let us also not forget our responsibility towards Mother Earth. With Sikkim becoming the first State to prohibit the sale and use of firecrackers in 2014, we have shown a way towards environmental conservation. I therefore take the opportunity to appeal to all my fellow Sikkimese to refrain from the use of firecrackers.

Wishing you a happy, safe and a clean Diwali," the CM concludes.

Lingi Paiyong School carries out anti-firecrackers campaign



SUMMIT REPORT

On the last working day before Deepawali holidays, students of Lingi Paiyong Secondary South Sikkim carried out an anti-firecrackers campaign, lob-bying for green and safe Diwali celebrations this

Students holding plac-ards with anti-firecrackers

slogans, took out a rally at

students The decorated classrooms with garlands and balloons and performed De-

usi/ Bhailo programme. Earlier, teacher CR Khatiwara highlighted on the relevance and importance of the festival of lights celebrated by Nepalese across the world, a press release informs.

Training on Red Ant infestation control at Subithang



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

nternational Panaacea Limited [IPL] organized Ward level prgramme on control of Red Ants at Subithang Ward under Si-mik Lingzey GPU in East Sikkim today, a press re-lease informs.

Field Executives from IPL. Chabilal Khatiwopresented a demonstration on local-

ly-prepared formulation for control of Red Ant infestation while explaining about the required materials and method of preparation.

They also briefed about the documentation process of organic farming.

the During gramme, Identity Cards the registered farmers of Subithang Ward by IPL.

SKM welcomes SDF founder-member into fold



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 NOV:

ounder CEC member of Sikkim Democratic Front, Gyaltshen Bhut-ia, and former Panchavat and SDF vouth vice convener [East], Thakur

P Nepal, joined Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today. They were welcomed by SKM party president, PS Tamang [Golay], at Deorali in Gangtok, an SKM press release informs

Sakya Trinzin to offer Tachak Khyung Sum Wang at Sakya Nyakton Monastery

NAMCHI, 06 NOV [IPR]: The supreme head of the Sakya order of Mahayana Buddhism, the 42nd Sakya Trinzin, visited Rabongla in South Sikkim today. He was accompaby Deputy Direc tor, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology [NIT], Kunga Yonten, Additional Director, Ecclesiastical Department, Kitar Sherpa, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Ravangla, Jigmee W Bhutia, along with a gathering of devotees.

Sakya Trizin visit-ed the Ravangla Sakya Nyakton and Mani Chokerling Monastery where he offered prayers, ex-tended his blessings and interacted with the votees. Thereafter, he visit-



ed Tathagata Tsal and took a brief tour of the premises. He also conducted a puja and sought blessing at the main shrine of the Tsal.

Sakya Trinzin will be

offering 'Tachak Khyung Sum Wang' at Sakya Nyakton Monastery on 07 Nov for the general public after which he will be departing for Tashiding Monastery in

Further, his official tour will continue at Yangthang [West] and a visit to the Chenrezig Singkham Riwo Potala on

Cong-JDS trounces BJP 4-1 in K'taka bypolls; BJP loses Ballari LS seat

BENGALURU, NOV 6 (PTI): Karnataka's ruling JD(S)-Congress alliance Tuesday won a crucial endorsement trouncing the BJP 4-1 in by-elections for three Lok Sabha and two assembly seats with the victory in Ballari ending the saffron rival's 14-year vice-like grip on this par-

liamentary constituency.

The victories with huge margins came as a Diwali gift and a shot in the arm for the nearly six-month-old alliance ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls after facing frequent questions about its longevity.

The alliance led by JD(S) leader and Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy won Ballari and Mandya Lok Sabha seats as well as both the Assembly seats--Ramanagara and Jamkhandi. Kumaraswamy's wife Anitha won from Ramanagara, near Bangalore.

It was a sort for consolation win for the BJP when it managed to hold on to the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat.

BJP had held the Shi-

vamogga and Ballari Lok Sabha seats and JDS Mandya while Congress won Jamkhandi and JDS Ramanagara in the May

12 assembly polls.

The BJP suffered an embarrassing reverse in the mine-rich district of Ballari, a seat it had been winning since 2004 on the back of the clout enjoyed by the controver-sial Reddy brothers.

Buoved by the victories in the bypolls which were seen as a barometer of the public mood. Kumaraswamy and Congress state president Dinesh Gundu Rao asserted they would contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls together against the BIP.

"We will contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections together. As we did this time, we will sit together to chalk out strategies to fight the polls in a coordinated manner," Kumaraswamy manner," Kumaraswa told a news conference.

Gundu Rao on his part said, "It (the electorate) has rejected the BJP, its divisive politics and dictatorial tendencies. We will contest the 2019

election together. "Look at the margins... It's clear that people are fed up with the BJP. This anti-people, anti-farmer, anti-women government at the Centre must go."

Elated over the per-

formance of the ruling alliance candidates, ju-



bilant Congress workers distributed sweets and broke coconuts at vari-

Today, the news from Karnataka is extremely encouraging...This is indicative of the changed mood in the country," Congress spokesperson Man ish Tewari told a press conference in Delhi. "4-1 result in Karnata-

ka looks like a Test series win under Virat Kohli Coalition has delivered, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram tweeted.

Both the coalition

partners had put up joint candidates in the bypolls, which was also considered a test of their ties.

In Ballari, Congress stormed the BJP citadel when V S Ugrappa won the seat by more than 2.43 lakh votes over BJP's I Shantha, the sister of B Sriramulu, a key aide of the Reddy brothers and a former MP from there.

Sriramulu is considered a close confidante of Janardhana Reddy, but the BJP had distanced itself from the mining baron in the May assembly polls with party presi-dent Amit Shah making

the party position clear.

The BJP's loss was attributed to factors including non-involvement of the Reddy brothers Janardhana Reddy is entering harred from Ballari district in an illegal mining case -- and the party depending solely on Sriramulu with its leaders apparently not taking a wholehearted plunge into the campaign.

The Congress invested much prestige and men and material into the fight. The result also reflects the assembly poll outcome trend with the Congress then having won six of the eight assembly segments in Ballari.

Ballari had been a

Congress pocketborough till 2004 and elected Con-gress leader Sonia Gandhi in the 1999 Lok Sabha polls against BJP's Sushma Swaraj. Since 2004, the influence of the powerful and mighty Reddy broth-ers was evident in what was infamously called 'Republic" of Bellary.

traditional stronghold of Opposition leader and rmer chief minister B S Yeddyurappa, his son B Raghavendra defeated his JDS rival Madhu Bangarappa by 52,148 votes in a closely fought contest.

Madhu is the son of

former Congress chief minister, the late S Bang-arappa. JD(S) candidate L R Shivarame Gowda scored a huge victory in Mandya, de-feating BJP's Siddaramaiah, a political green horn and former civil servant by 3,24,943 votes.

Mandya is a strong-hold of the Vokkaliga community to which JD(S) supremo and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda belongs.

Kumaras wamy's wife Anitha bagged the Ramanagara assembly seat by a big margin of 1,09,137 votes against her nearest rival BJP's L Chandrashekar, who had pulled out of the contest, but still officially remains the party candidate.

Chandrashekhar, who had joined the BJP ahead of the polls returned to Congress weeks later, leaving the saffron party red-faced and the field open for a walkover for Anitha Kumaraswamy.

In Jamkhandi as-sembly segment, Congress candidate Anand Nyamgouda defeated BJP's Srikant Kulkarni by a margin of 39.480 votes, riding a sympathy wave following his father and sitting MLA Siddu Nyamagouda's death in a road accident.

Significantly, with the election of Anitha, the As-sembly will see the husband-wife duo as members in the same House.

With Tuesday's victor

ry, the Congress-JD(S) alliance's tally will go up to 120 seats in the 224-member assembly, where the BJP has 104 MLAs.

Apparently unhappy with the outcome, Yed-dyurappa alleged, "The truth of the matter is that money and liquor had a bigger role in this election. Congress and JD(S) won the election by mis using money and power."

After serving 10-year jail term in drugs case, Delhi HC acquits woman

New Delhi, Nov 6 (PTI): She succeeded in getting the stigma of conviction removed by the Delhi High Court in a narcotics case, but not before having served the full 10year jail term imposed by

a trial court.

The foreign national was arrested on October 15, 2008 for allegedly possessing contraband Heroin in her luggage at the airport here.

The high court passed the verdict on her appeal against the trial court's 2014 judgement on October 25, just 10 days after she completed the sentence.

Justice C Hari Shankar said the woman, Annabelle Analista Malibago, would be entitled to be released forthwith unless her detention was required in connection with any other case.

The high court said it was clear that the entire investigation and consequent trial and conviction of the woman stood vitiated by the sole fact of prosecution witness Anju Singh, the com-plainant as well as the investigating officer (IO) of the case lodged by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
"The submission of

the woman's counsel to the effect that, if the com plainant, who has filed the complaint in a case relating to prosecution under the NDPS Act, was herself/ himself the IO, the entire investigation and subsequent prosecution and trial stand vitiated, and that the accused is entitled, ipso facto, to acquittal, merits acceptance," the court said.

It said the woman was entitled to be acquitted of the offence for which she stood convicted by the trial court and allowed her appeal.

Pursuant to receipt of a secret intelligence, DRI caught Annabelle on October 15, 2008, at the check-in-counter of an airlines with 1.240 kgs of heroin concealed in her trolley bag.

Samples of the material were collected and sent to laboratory which revealed that the powder was heroin of 35.6 per cent purity, prosecution

Governor celebrates Diwali with Black Cat Div jawans

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 Nov:

overnor Prasad today celebrated Diwali with officers and jawans of Black Cat Division at Lib-ing in Gangtok accompanied by General Officer Commanding, Black Cat Division, Major General NS Raja Subramani, officers and other ranks of the division.

A press release re-ceived from Raj Bhavan informs that the Governor distributed sweets extended Diwali greetings to all present.

Addressing the gath-ering, the Governor said that due to the sacrifices of the armed forces per-sonnel, countrymen get the opportunity to celebrate festivals and other

Gangtok on

07 Nov

chairperson

Meghalaya

Lokayukta

SHILLONG, Nov 6 (PTI): Retired Gauhati High Court judge Pranoy Ku-

mar Musahary was on mar Musahary was on Tuesday sworn in as the first chairperson of Lo-kayukta in Meghalaya. The Lokayukta is

empowered to probe allegations of corrup-

allegations of corrup-tion against public func-tionaries such as the chief minister, deputy chief minister, minis-ters, speaker and depu-ty speaker of Assembly,

ty speaker of Assembly, MLAs, besides govern-ment officials. Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Justice

(retd) Musahary at a function in the Raj Bha-

The chairperson of the Lokayukta urged the

Conrad Sangma government to speed up the appointment of four oth-

er members of the Lo-

Metbah Lyngdoh and Lahkmen Rymbui, Lead-er of Opposition Mukul

Contact

Summit

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and senior government officials at-tended the oath taking

van here.

kayukta. Cabinet

Sangma

ceremony

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First

of



special occasions in se curity and peace.

"It is the duty of the common folk to acknowledge the contributions of armed forces towards keeping the country safe and letting the country various occasions," the Governor said.

Stating that it was his pleasure to be among members of armed forces on Choti Diwali, the Governor urged everyone to find time to celebrate festivals with the personnel who have prioritized country over their personal and family

engagements.
The Governor arrived at the Libing helipad for the occasion directly after completing his three-day North Sikkim tour this afternoon.

Pre-Diwali celebrations at Mamring SSS



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 06 NOV:

National Service Scheme unit of Mamring Senior Secondary School, in collaboration with the SAATHI & Eco Clubs of the school, organised a pre-Diwali celebration at the school today with the aim to

spread awareness on safe, eco-friendly and pollution-free Diwali, a press release informs.

Principal, Mamring SSS, Prahlad Sharma, urged the students and teachers to share awareness and in-formation on all Sikkimese festivals to preserve it. He focused on the ban on fire

crackers in the State and appealed all to follow the initiative taken by the State Government.

The students and teachers also carried out a rally from School Dara to State Bank of Sikkim, Mamring holding placards with slogans against the use of fire crackers



OFFICE OF ADDL.DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE CHECKPOSTS BRANCH JN ROAD, 3RD MILE

F.No. 16/POL/Accts/CP/HQ/915 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dated: 06/11/2018

FOR SUPPLY OF POLICE UNIFORM FOR CHECKPOSTS BRANCH The Checkposts Branch hereby issued partial modification of the Notice In-

viting Tender F.No. 16/POL/Accts/CP/HQ/407 Dated: 12/10/2018 published in Sikkim Express Dated: 13/10/2018.
(2) a) Last Date of issue of Tender Form is extended till 17th November,

- 2018
 - b) Last Date of submission of Tender Form is also extended till 12:00 noon of 30th November, 2018.
 - c) Further Cost of Tender Form is revised from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs.2,000/- only.
 d) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be Rs. 50,000/- only.
- All other requisite information shall remain the same as published in Tender Notice F.No.16/POL/Accts/CP/HQ/407 Dated: 12/10/2018.

R.O. No. 466/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 Date: 06.11.18

Addl. Director General of Police Checkposts Branch 3rd Mile, JN Road.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Date: 05/11/2018

RE-TENDER NOTICE

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

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completio n Time.
1.	Construction of Road from Dhanbari to PMGSY Road				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 nd	Rs.12,71,549.00	Rs. 31,789.00	Rs. 500.00	12 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt	21st Nov.2018 2018 (10.00 am			
	and TDR (for issue of Tender Documents.	to 4.00 pm) at respective			
		Gram Prashashan Kendra			
		where work is to be executed.			
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	22nd Nov. 2018 (10.00 am to			
		1.00 pm) at respective Gram			
		Prashashan Kendra where			
		work is to be executed.			
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	22nd Nov. 2018 (2.00 pm) at			
		respective Gram Prashashan			
		Kendra where work is to be			
		executed.			

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- PIONS OF CONTRACT.

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

 The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.

 The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate, (b) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- ment for verification.
- ment for verification. The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (includingTender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above of requisite Bank receipt of the State of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) in the Head of GPU where the work is to be executed. Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of temporary deposit receipts in favour of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts to that contractors/ firm who has obtained the tender Documents, on production of towards deposit receipt of 2.5% earnest money.

 The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a seated cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No. 3 (a), (b), and (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.

 Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box on the date and within the time indicated above. Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.

 The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith jected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

 The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever.
- work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.

 The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

 Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.

 The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work Order.
- the date of issue of work Order.
- the date of issue of work Order.

 All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.

 The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

 The recoveries of Taxes and Royalties on forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government.
- ment from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of

- ment from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

 Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

 The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicted in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.

 In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.

 Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.

 a) Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.

 b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.

 The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.

 Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.

 It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the

- tor's bills us per rules.

 The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED WARD Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.

Assistant Engineer Singtam Sub Division Roads & Bridges Department.

R.O. No. 465/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 Date: 06.11.2018.

Opinion

SummitTIMES

Time to Change

We Gossip So That We Don't Have to Engage

Rumours serve only one purpose - entertainment. They titillate, scandalise, and then evaporate. In most cases, the receivers and circulators of such gossip know that no one believes the rumours and everyone partakes in it only get over the boredom with which most people appear afflicted in these lazy winter months. That said, there also appear to be a whole lot of people, who even if they don't accept rumours as true, convince themselves that there has to be a germ of truth some layers down for active imaginations to have created the dramatized versions in circulation. And then there is that whole smoke and mirrors trick that 'information' bereft of context can pull. But then again, while one can reason with the informed, there is really no defence against ignorance. Hence, at the end of the day, there is really only one way to settle a rumour – ignoring it. But while it is easy to ignore something when it is only whispered in street corners and closed circles, it becomes difficult to do so when they are palmed out and circulated in the public domain.

The drift should be obvious by now. Most ru-

mours are brought into wider circulation by political parties, both ruling and opposition and the in-betweens, by way of press releases, public speeches, throwaway comments and wink-wink suggestions. Trolls, and the anonymity they hide behind, have now made it possible for nuance to be abandoned on "social media" and fling anything at the thousands of walls hoping that something sticks. Leaders, most of them new to the medium, make the mistake of engaging with agent provocateurs either by getting into arguments themselves, unleashing their online armies or issuing official denials and/or suffering an online meltdown themselves. The moment they do any of these, they give the faceless rumour-mongers credibility as representative voices because they receive response. Once this cycle begins, followers follow and the lines start getting blurred and suspicions start getting stronger.

Meanwhile, newspapers, by the very definition of their jobs, are required to allow space for public statements by public personalities. Unfortunately, the party affiliates who play rumours into the streets are not required to be accountable. What is worse, few demands are made of them to even be professional. Allegations are raised without even prima facie evidence and claims are made without any supporting evidence and very often condemnations issued on something that is only being gossiped. To deny them the space by way of news coverage would be unfair to the profession of journalism, but to sensationalise their statements means being even more unprofessional. It is a difficult call, but given the extremes to which claims and counter-claims swerve in the political domain, the only hope is that the readers can see through the weak fronts on their own and sift the gossip from the news.

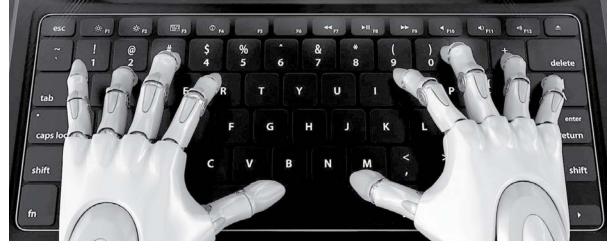
That would be the ideal situation, but we don't live in an ideal world, do we?

The best defence against rumour-mongering would have been strong implementation of the Right to Information Act. If that were to happen, whenever people felt real fears or suspicions, they would be able to draft an application and exercise their right to information. But information by itself is worthless if the debate that follows is not intelligent, informed and coherent. Thus far, public debates have essentially been shouting matches with no heed paid to putting things in context or explaining the issues, much like the nightly TV newsroom debates. The people had to make do with slanging matches, but, if the people desire, things can be different now. They can inform themselves in advance and then hear out the politicians to decide whether their arguments and interpretations are sound or not. At the end of the day, the only weapon against rumours is the truth. Circulate it in the public domain and embarrass those who deal in rumours.

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



Even a few bots can shift public opinion in big ways

TAUHID ZAMAN

early two-thirds of the social media bots with political activity on Twitter before the 2016 U.S. presidential election supported Donald Trump. But all those Trump bots were far less effective at shifting people's opinions than the smaller proportion of bots backing Hillary Clinton. As my recent research shows, a small number of highly active bots can significantly change people's political opinions. The main factor was not how many bots there were - but rather, how many tweets each set of bots issued.

My work focuses on military

and national security aspects of social networks, so naturally I was intrigued by concerns that bots might affect the outcome of the upcoming 2018 midterm elections. I began investigating what exactly bots did in 2016. There was plenty of rhetoric – but only one basic factual principle: If information warfare efforts using bots had succeeded, then voters' opinions would have shifted.

I wanted to measure how much bots were – or weren't – responsi-ble for changes in humans' political views. I had to find a way to identify social media bots and evaluate their activity. Then I needed to measure the opinions of social media users. Lastly, I had to find a way to estimate what those people's opinions would have been if the bots had never existed

FINDING TWEETERS AND BOTS To narrow the research a bit, my

students and I focused our analysis on the Twitter discussion around one

event in the lead-up to the election: the second debate between Clinton and Trump. We collected 2.3 million tweets that contained keywords and hashtags related to the debate.

Then we made a list of the roughly 78,000 Twitter users who posted those tweets and constructed the network of who followed whom among those us-ers. To identify the bots among them, we used an algorithm based on our observation that bots often retweeted humans but were not themselves frequently retweeted.

This method found 396 bots – or less than 1 percent of the active Twitter users. And just 10 percent of the accounts followed them. I felt good about that: It seemed unlikely that such a small number of relatively disconnected bots could have a major

effect on people's opinions. A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PEOPLE

Next we set out to measure the opinions of the people in our data set. We did this with a type of machine learning algorithm called a neural network, which in this case we set up to evaluate the content of each tweet. determining the extent to which it supported Clinton or Trump. Individuals' opinions were calculated as the average of their tweets' opinions.

Once we had assigned each hu-

man Twitter user in our data a score representing how strong a Clinton or Trump backer they were, the chalwas to measure how much the bots shifted people's opinions which meant calculating what their opinions would have been if the bots hadn't existed.

Fortunately, a model from as far back as the 1970s had established a way to gauge people's sentiments in a social network based on connections between them. In this network-based model, individuals' opinions tend to align with the people connected to them. After slightly modifying the model to apply it to Twitter, we used it to calculate people's opinions based on who followed whom on Twitter – rather than looking at their tweets. We found that the opinions we calculated from the network model matched well with opinions measured from the content of their tweets

LIFE WITHOUT THE BOTS

So far we had shown that the follower network structure in Twitter could accurately predict people's opinions. This now allowed to us to ask questions such as: What would their opinions have been if the network were different? The different network we were interested in was one that contained no bots. So for our last step, we removed the bots from the network and recalculated the network model, to see what real people's opinions would have been without bots. Sure enough, bots had shifted human users' opinions – but in a surprising way.

Given much of the news reporting, we were expecting the bots to help Trump – but they didn't. In a network without bots, the average human user had a pro-Clinton score of 42 out of 100. With the bots, though, we had found the average human had a pro-Clinton score of 58. That shift was a far larger effect than we had anticipated, given how few and unconnected the bots were. The network structure had amplified the bots' power

We wondered what had made the Clinton bots more effective than the Trump bots. Closer inspection showed that the 260 bots supporting Trump posted a combined 113,498 tweets, or 437 tweets per bot. However, the 150 bots supporting Clinton posted 96,298 tweets, or 708 tweets per bot. It appeared that the power of the Clinton bots came not from their numbers, but from how often they tweeted. We found that most of what the bots post-ed were retweets of the candidates or other influential individuals. So they were not really crafting original tweets but sharing existing ones.

It's worth noting that our analysis looked at a relatively small number of users, especially when compared to the voting population. And it was only during a relatively short period of time around a specific event in the campaign. Therefore, they don't suggest anything about the overall election results. But they do show the potential effect bots can have on ople's opinions.

A small number of very active

bots can actually significantly shift public opinion – and despite social me-dia companies' efforts, there are still large numbers of bots out there, constantly tweeting and retweeting, trying to influence real people who vote.

It's a reminder to be careful about what you read – and what you believe – on social media. We recommend double-checking that you are follow-ing people you know and trust – and keeping an eye on who is tweeting

what on your favorite hashtags. [the writer is Associate Professor of Operations Management, MIT Sloan School of Management)

Broken heart syndrome was thought to be a short-term condition - the latest evidence suggests otherwise

NELSON CHONG

stressful event, such as the death of a loved as the death of a loved one, really can break your heart. In medicine, the condition is known as broken heart syndrome or takotsubo syndrome. It is characterised by a temporary disruption of the heart's normal pumping function, which puts the sufferer at increased risk of death. It's believed to be the reason many elderly couples die within a short time of each other.

Broken heart syndrome has similar symptoms to a heart attack, including chest pain and difficulty breathing. During an attack, which can be triggered by a be-reavement, divorce, surgery or other stressful event, the heart muscle weakens to the extent that it can no longer pump blood effectively.

In about one in ten cases, people with broken heart syndrome develop a condition called cardiogenic shock where the heart can't pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. This can result

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

It has long been thought that, unlike a heart attack,

damage caused by broken heart syndrome was tempo-rary, lasting days or weeks, but recent research suggest that this is not the case.

A study by researchers at the University of Aberdeen provided the first evidence that broken heart syndrome results in permanent physio-logical changes to the heart. The researchers followed 52 patients with the condition for four months, using ultrasound and cardiac im aging scans to look at how the patients' hearts were functioning in minute detail. They discovered that the disease permanently affected the heart's pumping motion They also found that parts of the heart muscle were replaced by fine scars, which reduced the elasticity of the heart and prevented it from

contracting properly.

In a recent follow-up study, the same research team reported that people with the broken heart syndrome have persistent im-paired heart function and reduced exercise capacity, resembling heart failure, for more than 12 months after being discharged from hospital.

LONG-TERM RISK

A new study on the condition, published in Circulation,

now shows that the risk of death remains high for many ears after the initial attack.

In this study, researchers in Switzerland compared 198 patients with broken heart syndrome who developed cardiogenic shock with 1,880 patients who did not. They found that patients who experienced cardiogenic shock were more likely to have had the syn-drome triggered by physical stress, such as surgery or an asthma attack, and they were also significantly more likely to have died five years after

People with major heart disease risk factors, such as diabetes and smoking, were also much more likely to experience cardiogenic shock, as were people with atrial fibrillation (a type of heart arrythmia).

A second study from Spain found similar results among 711 people with broken heart syndrome, 11% of whom developed cardiogenic shock. Over the course of a year, cardiogenic shock was the stron-gest predictor of death in this group of patients.

These studies show that cardiogenic shock is not an

uncommon risk factor broken heart syndrome patients, and it is a strong predictor of death. They shed light on a condition that was previously thought to be less serious than it is.

The evidence now clearly shows that the condition is not temporary and it highlights an urgent need to es-tablish new and more effective treatments and careful monitoring of people with this condition. [the writer is Senior Lecturer,

Department of Life Sciences, University of Westminster]

Russia, China abstain on UN vote to punish Libya rapists

UNITED NATIONS, NOV 5 (AFP): Russia and China

on Monday refused to back a UN resolution that will

allow the Security Council

to slap sanctions on perpe-

trators of rape and sexual violence in Libya.

resolution renewing sanc-

tions on Libya was adopt-

in the 15-member council.
Russia and China ab-

stained but did not use their

veto power to block the mea-

sure that expanded the criteria

for applying sanctions to in-clude gender-based violence.

Netherlands

Sweden, which pushed for the new sanctions

political points at home.

"This is populism dis-tilled in its purest form," Ne-

benzia told the council, who

noted that preventing sex crimes in Sweden and the

Netherlands "is the remit of

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused

ed by a vote of 13 in favor

The British-drafted

part of crime in any specific country," said the ambassa-dor, adding that the council

should focus on threats to

ed sexual violence as a criteria for sanctions in

recent resolutions on the Central African Republic

Swedish Deputy Am-

bassador Carl Skau said he

hoped that adding the new

sanctions criteria will have

a "deterrent effect and that there will be accountability

Dutch Ambassador Karel van Oosterom said

it was "an important

step forward" for the UN

council to slap sanctions

on perpetrators of sexual violence "for instance in

the refugee camps that

warned that militia mem-

bers, migrant smugglers and criminal gangs often

resort to rape in Libya,

which has descended into

rape women refugees."

UN officials ha

The council has add-

international security.

and South Sudan.

for such crimes."

Odisha Cong MLA resigns over Kunduli gangrape incident

(PTI): Congress MLA Krishna Chandra Sagaria on Tuesday resigned as member of the Odisha Assembly, protesting "injustice" meted out to an alleged gangrape victim of Koraput district, who committed suicide earli-

A 14-year-old girl in Kunduli area of Koranut district had alleged that she was gangraped by four men in uniform in October, last year. The police, however, ruled out rape, citing her medi-cal reports.

The girl subsequently committed suicide by hanging on January 22, triggering sharp reactions



Stating that he had announced his decision

October 30, Sagaria, who Koraput assembly segment, said he met Assembly Speaker PK Amat on Tuesday resignation letter. "I have quit the membership of Odisha Assembly, as I feel I have no moral right to continue as an MLA, having failed to ensure justice in Kunduli gangrape and suicide incident," the Congress leader told reporters.

Sagaria also said that

the speaker hasn't reacted to his move as yet.

Amat was not im-

mediately available for comment The Dalit leader, however, clarified he would continue to

work for the Congress. He said he was deeply pained to have learned about the fate of the 14-year-old Kunduli girl, earlier this year.

resentative, I was moral-ly responsible to ensure justice for her." he noted.

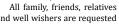
Holding the BJD-led state government responsible for the incident, the Congress leader had earlier alleged that the investigation was "hushed " by the police.

He vowed to reach out to the people of Odi-sha to generate create awareness about the "increasing atrocities and crimes against women' in the state.

will tell people about the inaction on the part of the state government in providing justice and security to women,

the national governments." "Sexual and gender-based violence Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

The Kutshe Shegu of Lt. Dorjee Bhutia, R/o of Gangkha, Kartok Busty, Pakyong, East Sikkim, who left for heavenly abode on 22nd September, 2018 falls on 9th November, 2018.



and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at residence Kartok Khim, Pakyong, East Sikkim We also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement. Mr. Phurba Wangdi Bhutia (Son),

KUTSHE SHEGU

Mrs.Ongu Bhutia (daughter-in-law), Mrs.Tshering Diki Bhutia (eldest daughter), Mrs.Chanachup Doma Bhutia. (dauahter). Mr. Sonam Dorjee Bhutia (son-in-law), Ms. Yangchen Diki Bhutia (daughter), Mrs. Sanaav Diki Bhutia (dauahter). Lobsang Chumbi Bhutia (son-in-law), and all grand daughters and grand sons.

(Contact No. 7407820652,8116142598,9647892 122,9609868993,7557824132)



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SIR THUTOB NAMGYAL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL GANGTOK, SIKKIM

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

The Sealed quotations are invited from the reputed and registered medical shops located around 500 meters from the New 1000 bedded Multispeciality Hospital situated at Sochaygang for the supply of emergency medicines for the year 2019-20.

Date of issue of quotation :15.11.18 to 17.11.18 Date of submission of :22.11.18 (Till Date & time for opening : 22.11.18 at 2.00 PM

Terms & Condition:

- The quotation form can be obtained from the office of Senior Accounts Officer, STNM Hospital on production of State Bank of Sikkim Challan of Rs.2000/- duly signed by
- Sakkim Challan of RS.2000/- duly signed by Senior AO, STNM Hospital credited under head 0210-01-800 other receipt. The interested firm should produce COI/ Sikkim Subject, Residential Certificate, up to date drug license, registration firm, trade license, GST Registration, experience certificate and full address of shop at the time of submission of quotation form.

 The quotation should accompany TDR of
- Rs.50,000/- against the supply of medicines from the State Bank of Sikkim in favour of Senior AO, STNM Hospital. The de partment will not liable to pay the interest on the said amount.
- Terms and condition shall be applicable as per the general purchase condition and details will be indicated in the tender form.
- The Tender Opening Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotation without assigning any reason or reasons thereof and reserve to award the work to any bidder found competent.
- For further information visit the office of the undersigned.

Director cum Medical Superintendent STNM Hospital Govt. of Sikkim. Gangtok.

R.O. No. 464/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 date: 06.11.18

Sabarimala: Frenzied protesters block woman, iniure TV cameraman

SABARIMALA (KER), NOV 6 (PTI): In a tense show-down at Sabarimala in Kerala, about 200 frenzied devotees Tuesday tried to prevent a woman pilgrim from entering the hilltop shrine suspecting her to be of menstrual age and allegedly at-tacked a cameraman of a Malayalam television news channel.

Ignoring prohibito-ry orders, devotees and right wing activists gathered in huge numbers at Sannidhanam, the shrine complex, following which a senior state RSS leader addressed them using a microphone to bring the situation under control.

Though a rush of pilgrims is hardly wit-nessed during the annual "Sree Chitira Atta Thirunal", the hill temple saw an unprecedent-ed flow of devotees this time when it was opened for the two-day special puja Monday evening

Clapping and chanting 'Ayyappa saranam', a huge crowd of devotees surrounded Lalitha Ravi (52), suspecting her to be of menstrual age, but police intervened and escorted her out.

The woman showed her Aadhaar card to them to prove she did not belong to the "traditionally barred" age group of 10-50 years though the Supreme Court has allowed entry of girls and women of all age groups.

Police later escorted her to the shrine to offer prayers along with her other women relatives. Hailing from Thrissur,

Lalitha came to the hill temple, which opened this morning, with 19 relatives, including women, for her grand-son's 'chorunnu' (rice

giving ceremony).

Police at sannidhanam said a case has been registered against 200 "identifiable" persons "identifiable" persons in connection with the incident, based on her

When the situation went out of control, se-RSS leader Valsan Thillankeri, who has been camping at the shrine complex since Monday, pacified the angry agitators and asked them to maintain calm and cautioned against alleged "unruly elements", who could intrude to create trouble at the hill

shrine, "The leadership has the responsibility to avoid any kind of untoward incident. That's why I addressed the devotees. It was to help the police,"

he later told reporters. Valsan also courted a controversy for allegedly controversy for allegedly violating the key tradition of the Sabarimala shrine by climbing the sacred 18 steps without carrying the customary 'irumudikkettu' (sacred offerings to Lord Ayyappa) on his head.

TV channels aired vi-

TV channels aired visuals of the Sangh leader standing on the gold-en steps, leading to the sanctum sanctorum.

However, he rejected

the charge and said he did carry the offerings while climbing the holy steps. Scores of devotees shouted at Vishnu, the cameraman of a Malayalam TV news channel, as he was taking visu-als of their protests. TV channels also aired visuhurling a plastic stool at the cameraman, who climbed up the sun-shade of a building to

capture the protest.

The news channel also alleged that the agitators threw a coconut at him, which devotees offer to the deity.

Vishnu nding over his camera safely to other journalists standing below the sunshade.

The police said no case has been registered so far in connection with the incident.

Girls below 10 years of age and women above 50 have frequently prayed at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple in

However, the entry of women of all ages has become a sensitive issue after the September 28 Supreme Court verdict.

A group of young women from Andhra Pradesh had to return from the base camp Pamba, following protest

this morning.

Another batch of women from the state, aged above 50, were prevented by devotees at 'nadappandal', the area near sacred 18 steps, as they did not carry the 'irumudikettu'.

But police later escorted the aged women to the shrine complex after convincing devotees.

Civil societies call off protest before CEO's office, wait for EC team's visit his responsibilities.

AIZAWL, Nov 6 (PTI): An umbrella organisation of civil societies and stu-dent bodies in Mizoram called off their protest be-fore the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Tuesday, soon after the Election Commission announced that it would send three-member team to ssess the situation in the poll-bound state.

NGO Coordination Committee chairman Vanlalruata said that the demonstration in front of CEO S B Shashank's office was called off at 12.30 pm in view of the visit of the three-member Election Commission team to Aizawl.

Vanlalruata pressed hope that the EC delegation would understand the ground situation and remove Shashank from the CEO's post to ensure free, fair and peaceful election to the 40-member Mizoram assembly on

November 28. People congregated in large numbers in front of the CEO's office since 8 am on Tuesday following a call by the NGO Coordination Committee to picket his office, de-

manding his removal.

The police said the CEO was at home and did not come to his office on Tuesday. "As people

have lost faith in him, the only solution for smooth conduct of the Assembly election 2018 now would be removal of CEO S B Shashank from office forthwith," Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla had writ-ten to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

The NGO Coordination Committee had also appealed to the Federation of Mizoram Government Employees and Workers (FMGEW) to support the agitation and cease work from Tuesday.

Most of the shops in Aizawl city were closed Tuesday in response to a call made by the Mizoram Merchants' Association (MiMA). Very few vehicles were on the roads in the state capital and attendance in government offices was thin

The conglomerate, which had Friday demanded that Shashank leave Mizoram by Monday evening, had decided to picket before the CEO's office, which is located at Treasury Square, from Tuesday and not allow him to attend office.

They were demanding Shashank's exit from the state, after the Election Commission (EC) had removed the state's principal secretary (Home) Lalnunmawia Chuaungo

The protesters de-manded the ouster of Shashank, who they alleged have hurt the sentiments of the Mizo people by his "pro-Bru" stance for conducting the elections.

The CEO told a press

meet here on Monday that he was just fulfill-ing his responsibilities in accordance with the instructions of the EC

The EC, in its Friday's order, had said, "... the Election Commission is satisfied that the continuance of Mr. Lalnunmawia Chuaungo as prin-cipal Secretary (Home), in state government of Mizoram will have adverse impact on conduct of smooth, free and fair election process in Mizoram."

The order mentioned six incidents, mainly related to the arrangements to enable the Bru refugees staying in camps in Tripura, take part in the voting

process.

Thousands of people from the Bru community had fled Mizoram in the late 1990s following ethnic clashes.

Chuaungo, a native the state and Gujarat-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been relieved of

On his fallout with Chuaungo, the CEO said he had issued a statement to the district election offi-cers (DEO) and the electoral registration officers (ERO) on September 11 to notify that "identification slips could be used as valid documents by eligible Bru migrants in Tripura".

Chuaungo, however, issued another order on September 13, asking the Bru refugees to not use the identification slips except for the purpose of repatriation, he said.

Shashank had alleged that Chuaungo and Chief Secretary Arvind Ray did not issue any clarification on the September 13 order, despite the EC's

Shashank said Monday that he had "no intention to hurt the sentiments" of the state's civil societies and apologised for rankling them in any to Mizoram.

India voices concern to China over large trade deficit

BEIJING, NOV 6 (PTI): India on Tuesday voiced its concern to China over the large trade deficit with it which has climbed to over USD 51 billion and boost bilateral trade in IT services, agriculture prod-ucts, pharmaceuticals and tourism sectors in which it has proven strength and global presence but miniscule presence here.

The bilateral trade between India and China rose by 18.63 per cent ear-on-year and reached historic high of USD 84.44 billion last year. But the trade deficit too con-tinue to remain high at USD 51.75 billion in 2017.

Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan, who is visiting Shanghai to attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE) here, met Wang Shouwen Vice Min-ister of China's Commerce Minister and discussed bilateral trade issues.

He also expressed satisfaction over the progress made in talks

regarding the export of soya bean meal and pomegranate from India. according to an Indian Embassy release here.

"The Commerce Sec-

retary while expressing concern regarding the large trade deficit, ac-knowledged Chinese government's efforts in clearing some of the mar-ket access issues such as for rice, rapeseed meal etc. during the past few months and expressed satisfaction over progress on soya bean meal pomegranate related issues," the statement said.

India has been air-

ing its concerns to China er the huge trade deficit for several years. New Delhi has been

putting pressure on Bei-jing to take measures to bring down the over USD 51.75 billion trade deficit, which was one of the main focus areas of the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Wuhan in April this year.

India has been asking China to provide market access to its food and agro products, pharmaceuti-cals, IT and IT-enabled services (ITES), tourism and services in which it has proven strengths and significant global presence but minuscule presence in China.

The Indian pavilion at the CIIE has showcased import opportunities of these products.

In his meeting with Wang, Wadhawan also informed him about the encouraging response to the business promotion events organised by the Indian Embassy and Consulates covering products like sugar, rice, tea, oil meals etc.

He requested Wang to provide the guidelines of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce to its importers to source these products

Recently, India and China had a series of official level exchanges to discuss the bilateral trade issues

After the successful Joint Economic Group March 2018 and attendlogues at the official levmarket access issues, the

Wadhawan also had a discussion with sugar importers of China including China Sugar Association, and briefed them about India's sug-ar sector and its proven available capacity in terms of both, quality as well as quantity, to meet the Chinese requirements on a sustained long term basis.

Important players from Indian sugar indusincluding Managing Director of the National Federation of Coopera-tive Sugar Factories Lim-ited (NFCSF) also attend-

way. Earlier too, the civil society organisations had opposed the EC's decision to conduct electoral revision of the Bru voters in Tripura's relief camps. They also urged the EC to disenfranchise all the Bru voters who chose to stay back in Tripura and did not return

meeting hosted by India's Commerce Minister in ed by Chinese Commerce Minister, both countries had two rounds of diael leading to resolution of some of the pending release said.

Buffon says Champions League return against Napoli like electric shock

Naples (Italy), Nov 6 (AFP): Italian goalkeep-ing legend Gianluigi Buffon said that making his European debut for new club Paris Saint-Germain at home in Italy against Napoli was like an elec-tric shock for him.

"I know the San Paolo Stadium very well and above all I know the feeling that there is between the team and its fans," said the 40-year-old former World Cup winner ahead of Tuesday's game. "Being able to return

to the Champions League after my disqualification in a match so important in Italy and Naples is some-thing that inevitably gives some major shocks.

"It's very emotional! If I chose to continue to play at 40 years it's because football generates emotions like nothing else. "I'm really lucky to be able to return in Italy, against Naples, in a Champions League match."

Buffon was suspend-

ed for PSG's opening three European games for his behaviour and comments towards the referee during Juventus' quarter-final loss to Real

Madrid last April.

Napoli and PSG played out a 2-2 draw in the first leg in Paris, with the Italians second in Group C on five points after three games, one behind leaders Liverpool.

PSG face the prospect of potential early elim-ination as they sit third with four.

A defeat in the heated atmosphere of the San Paolo and Paris could find themselves



behind the top two with two games to play, including a home clash with Liverpool later

"It will be very difficult to win because the Napoli I saw in the first leg is a team to be respected," said Buffon.

"For us it will be important not to lose, because then there are still two games to make up.

mates "I hope after this

USA GYMNASTICS.

BEGIN HERE. GO ANYWHERE.

forced exile to be able to to be useful to my teamand the

ing on Buffon to help keep cool heads in Naples.

"Gigi (Buffon) will help us, he already knows the stadium and the atmosphere and he'll be a big help in the dressing room," said Tuchel at Monday's press conference.

"Gigi is coming back from a ban and he deserves to play in Italy against a team he knows."

In Naples, Buffon will meet up again with old friend Carlo Ancelotti, who brought the goalkeeper to Juventus back in 2001 -- the start of a glorious 17-year career in Turin

"Carlo is a special person but he is also a great coach who has won everything in his career," said Buffon.

"He brought me to Juventus, even though he following year he defeat-ed us in the Champions League final ... " Napoli are counting on Ancelot-

ti's European credentials Champions League titles with AC Milan in 2003 and 2007 and once with Real Madrid in 2014 -- to pull them through against PSG, who have the two most expensive players in history in Ney mar and Kylian Mbappe.

"It's always a pleasure to meet him again, to see that he is motivated despite his age, I have great respect for the professional and great affection for my friend," Ancelotti said earlier.

"The group remains very halance certain, which is a very positive thing for us," estimated the Italian coach.

Herath gets 100th Galle scalp as England struggle



6 (AFP): Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath, the most successful left-arm spin ner in history, claimed his 100th scalp at Galle on Tuesday in his fare-well match as England struggled 113 for 5 at lunch in the first Test.

Only two other bowlers have achieved 100 wickets at the same ground -- Herath's compatriot Muttiah Murali-tharan who achieved it at Galle, Kandy and SSC Colombo, and England paceman James Anderson at Lord's.

Herath notched up the milestone with none other than England captain Joe Root, who came down the wicket and missed after a breezy 35.

Root had steadied En gland after the visitors found themselves 10 for 2 after debutant opener Rory Burns was caught behind off Surange Laknal for nine and Moeen Ali was bowled next ball.

Surrey left-hander Burns had been given the tough task of replacing stalwart Alastair Cook following his retirement in September.

After Root, Dilruwan Perera skittled Keator Jennings four short of his 50 before bowling Ben Stokes around his legs for seven as he attempted to sweep.

At lunch on the first day, Jos Buttler was unbeaten on 10 and wicketkeeper Ben Foakes, England's second debutant alongside Burns, on five.

US Olympic to dissolve USA Gymnastics

Los Angeles, Nov 6 (AFP): The United States Olympic Committee said it had begun moves to disband the country's governing body for gymnastics in the aftermath of the sport's devastating sexual abuse scandal, a statement said.

USOC chief executive Sarah Hirshland on Monday said in a statement Olympic chiefs had start-ed proceedings to revoke USA Gymnastics' status as the official governing body for the sport in the United States.

In an open letter ad-dressed to US gymnasts, Hirshland said USA Gymnastics had failed to "change its culture, to rebuild its leadership, and to effectively serve its membership."

"You deserve hetter" Hirshland told gymnasts in the letter.

The HSOC hombshell comes after a series of humiliating body blows to USA Gymnastics, which has lurched from one self-inflicted crisis to the next as it struggles to rebuild in the aftermath of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal.

Former US team doctor Nassar was jailed for life earlier this year after abusing more than 250 athletes, including several stars of the United States' gold medal-win ning teams at the 2012

and 2016 Olympics.
The beleaguered governing body, which had been accused of covering up Nassar's crimes, has been in a state of perpetual crisis ever since the scandal broke.

Last month, newly installed chief executive Mary Bono resigned after just four days following an outcry by Olympic stars Simone Biles and Alexandra Raisman.

Bono had taken over from chief executive Kerry Perry, who had resigned after just nine months after criticism of her performance by USOC.

Perry's departure came after the appointment and swift resig-nation of elite coach Mary Lee Tracy -- who had made comments supportive of Nassar in 2016 when allegations of abuse against him had begun to emerge.

USOC had warned

it was prepared to take the ultimate sanction of revoking USA Gymnastics' status as a governing body unless it put its house in order. On Monday, Hirsh-

land said USOC had taken its decision after lengthy deliberation. "This is a situation in

which there are no perfect solutions," Hirshland said in a statement.
"Seeking to revoke

recognition is not a concome to easily.

"In the short-term, we have to work to en-sure that USAG gymnasts have the support necessary to excel on and off the field of play.

"We are building

plans to do just that. In the long-term, it will be the critically import-ant responsibility of the recognized Gymnastics NGB, whether the existing organization or a new one, to lead gymnastics in the United States and build on the supportive community of athletes and clubs that can carry the sport forward for decades to come.

"We are prepared to identify and help build

Paris Saint-Germain challenges UEFA in court

GENEVA, Nov 6 (AP): Paris Saint-Germain has challenged UEFA in court after a club finance panel reopened its investigation into the French champion, and can as-sess transfer deals for superstar forwards Nevmar and Kylian Mbappe.
The Court of Arbitra-

tion for Sport said on Monday the appeal case is con-fidential at the request of PSG and UEFA and gave no further details.

Qatar-owned PSG has long been a target of UEFA rules designed to curb so-called financial doping by wealthy backers of clubs which qualify for the Champions League or Europa League.

The Financial Fair Play program requires clubs to approach break-even on soccer-related business, such as player trading and wages, and also assesses the fair market value of sponsorship deals.

PSG forfeited 20 million euros (USD 22.8 million) of Champions League prize money in a 2014 settlement. Then, 2014 settlement. Then, Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City got the same deal from UEFA in signature cases from the first round of FFP sanctions

Details of tough 2014 negotiations between both clubs and UEFA's then-leaders were revealed at the weekend by European media. Published emails included legal threats by the clubs trying to prevent Champions League worth

tens of millions of euros per released PSG and Man City from their settlement deals for complying with three years of stricter monitoring.

PSG then spent heavily in that offseason, breaking soccer's transfer record to buy Neymar from Barce-lona for 222 million euros (USD 253 million). A loan deal was agreed with Mo-naco for Mbappe that became a 180 million euros (USD 205 million) purchase

this year.
UEFA opened an investigation soon after the Mbappe loan, and warned PSG in June this year to raise cash quickly from player sales to balance its 2017-18 accounts. UEFA also said some sponsor deals, including from Qatar,

were overvalued.
Still, investigators for UEFA's Club Financial Control Body closed their scrutiny of PSG's accounts the year through June 2017 before the Nevmar signing

The UEFA panel's judging chamber reviewed the decision and in September sent the case back for a "deeper investigation." It is that move which PSG is challenging at CAS.

The sports court's judges must first decide if it is admissible to appeal a procedural step rather than a final ruling.

Joining PSG in a similar situation, Galatasaray was also placed under further investigation by the UEFA panel last month. It is unclear if the Turkish club has appealed to CAS.

Warne's Royal anecdotes: Handling Kaif's ego, figuring Munaf's age, nurturing Jadeja's talent

New Delhi, Nov 6 (PTI): Busting the ego of a current star, channelising the talent of a future star and enjoying the earthy sense of humour of a nonchalant India international were some of the things that Shane Warne did during a memorable first edition of the IPL.

In his much-acclaimed autobiogra-y 'No Spin', Warne recollected some of the back stories that went into the making of Rajasthan Royals, the fairy-tale winners of the maiden edition.

Warne recollected an incident related to Mohammad Kaif, which could have people in splits but also at the same time show the marked difference between the Indian and the Australian sporting cultures.

Warne writes: "It was Mohammad

Kaif, who, unknowingly, brought our attention to something that needed fixing straightaway. When we checked into the hotel as Rajasthan Royals group, everyone got their room key and disappeared.

"Minutes later, while I was chatting with the owners in reception, I noticed Kaif go to

the front desk and say, "I am Kaif." "Yes," said the receptionist, "How

can we help?"
"I am Kaif." I went over.

"Everything alright, mate?" I asked

'Yes, I am Kaif.'

"I think they know, who you are, mate, what do yo mean? What are you looking for?" Warne asked.

"I have got a little room like every



one else," Kaif said

"I said "Right ok. Do you want to upgrade yourself or something?'

'Yes, I am Kaif," he repeated.

Warne then said that he "knew exactly what he (Kaif) wanted! "I am a senior, an Indian international player, so I get a bigger room," he meant.

Warne said: "Without trying to be funny, mate, everyone gets the same room. I am the only one with a big room because I have to meet with people."

because I have to meet will people.
"Oh." And off he (Kaif) walked.
Warne then wrote: "We realised that the senior Indians expected preferential treatment and youngsters were like, you know, 'pick my bag!'. So I figured that I had to gain the respect of the whole

quad of 50 by quickly laying down exactly the same ground rules for everyone

Warne also got a taste of Indian huour when he asked India seamer Munaf Patel his age.

"I had a lot of time for Munaf Patel. who had a huge heart and a great sense of humour. I was sitting at the back of a bus with him one day, early on and asked how old he was.

"Skipper, do you want real age or IPL

age as others would ask?" Munaf asked. Warne said: "I just want to know how old you are." The answer that Munaf gave im-

"I am 24 but if my real age was 34, I would still tell you my IPL age was 24,

much wanted to play. If I am 34, no one picks me. If I am 28, people think I have a few good years left.....I'm going to stay in my 20s for a long time to come," Munaf said. Good thinking Munaf.

It is well documented that Ravindra Jadeja rose to stardom with the first IPL where Warne termed him his "rockstar".

Warne in his book recollected how he had to discipline one of the future stars of Indian cricket.

According to Warne. "We loved him (Jadeja) from the minute we saw his approach and enthusiasm. There was a bit of 'boy wonder' in him so we gave him a longer leash than most, but his lack of discipline was a problem because it sometimes led the younger guys down the wrong path."

"We let a few things go but I cannot

stand anyone who is late for anything And Ravi Jadeja was always late. First time, there was a bit of confusion with bags and stuff, so I let it slide, Second time, no good -- the bus left at 9 am for training and he wasn't on it. So he had to make his own way to the ground and of course was late again.

"On the way back after training, I stopped the bus halfway to the hotel and said, 'guys, we had someone late again this morning. Ravi, mate, Get off here and walk home.' One of his mates made a fuss and I told him to get off too and told them to walk back together. No one was late after that'

CPCB recommends ban on entry of heavy vehicles in Delhi after Diwali

New Delhi, Nov 6 (PTI): The CPCB has recommended to the authorities that the entry of heavy vehicles in Delhi must be banned after Diwali from November 8 to 10 when the air quality is expected to deteriorate

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Tuesday held a meeting with the transport authorities and advised them to ban the entry of heavy vehicles from November 8 to 10, Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary of the statutory organisation under the en-vironment ministry said.

The recommendation was made in view of the heavy pollution caused by such vehicles which night add to the woes of the national capital which is already battling alarming levels of pollution another CPCB official said Delhi's air quality is

expected to deteriorate to 'severe plus emergency' category after Diwali on November 8 even if "partial toxic crackers" are burned compared to last year, the Centre-run System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) said.

Even if 50 per cent of the total load of toxic fire crackers as compared to Diwali-2017 is added, the prevailing weather conditions will aggravate the high smoke level and make air quality to persist in severe range for at least two days on November 8 and November 9." SAFAR said in a report.

Temporary exemptions granted to eight countries to keep oil prices down: Trump on Iran sanctions

WASHINGTON, (PTI): US President Don-ald Trump has defended his decision to spare India and seven other major importers of Iranian oil from immediate penal-ties, saying it was done to keep the global oil prices

down and avoid causing a

"shock" to the market.

The US on Monday reimposed all penalties that had been lifted as part of the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal as the Trump administration added nearly 700 targets, including 50 Iranian financial institutions, to a sanctions list.

It marked an intensifying effort to strangle Iran's economy to pressure the regime to change its ways, espe-cially to force Tehran to stop the ballistic missiles programme and abandon its nuclear ambitions if

The crippling sanctions cover Iran's banking and energy sectors and reinstate penalties for countries and companies in Europe, Asia and elsewhere that do not

halt Iranian oil imports.

Secretary of State
Mike Pompeo said that India, China, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea. Taiwan and Turkey were temporarily allowed to continue buying Iranian oil as they showed "sig-nificant reduction" in oil purchase from the world's fifth-biggest producer. "We have the toughest

sanctions ever imposed. But on oil, we want to go a little bit slow because I don't want to drive the oil prices in the world up," Trump told reporters at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington on Monday before leaving on a campaign trail for the mid-term polls being

He, however, emphasised that his effort to keep the oil prices down has nothing to do with Iran. When asked about his decision to give temporary exemptions to eight economies from the ban on Iranian oil imports, Trump said, "I'm not looking to be a great hero and bring it down to zero immediately. I could get the Iran oil down to zero immediately, but it would cause a shock to the market. I don't want to lift oil prices."

"If you notice, oil prices are going down very substantially, despite the fact that already half of their capacity is gone. But I don't want to do

that," he said.
"I saw some people saying, 'Oh, why aren't you tougher on that?' Well, the sanctions are very tough and I don't want to lift the oil prices

worldwide by clamping down 100 per cent. It will be gradual," the US presi-dent said.

India. the world's third-biggest oil consum-er, meets more than 80 per cent of its oil needs

through imports.

Iran is its third-largest supplier after Iraq and Saudi Arabia and meets about 10 per cent of total needs. Currently, India pays its third largest oil supplier in euros using European banking channels.

India has resisted Washington's call to reduce purchases to zero, citing the galloping energy needs of its 1.3 billion people. initially

Oil prices soared on fears that the Iran sanctions would knock the world's fifth-biggest producer offline. However, fears of a supply shortage have eased by the Trump

and India and stronger oil output from Saudi Arabia and the United

States, CNN reported.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party leadership criticised Trump for giving exemptions to some of the major Iranian oil

importers. In May, Trump had pulled the US out of the 2015 land-mark JCPOA terming it as disastrous". Under the Obama-era deal, involving five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany, Iran had agreed to stop its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

After the US' with-drawal from the deal, Trump signed fresh sanctions against Iran, which claims its nuclear programme is peaceful and for civilian purpose.

Indian-Tibetan descent Aftab Pureval draws national attention in his bid for Congress

Washington, Nov 6 (PTI): Aftab Karma Singh Pureval, an American of Indian-Tibetan descent seeking to make his maiden entry into the US House of Representatives, has attracted national attention after ng endorsed by former US President Barack Obama.

Top leaders from both sides have campaigned aggressively in the Ohio's first Congressional District, where the dynamic Democrat Pureval, 35, is giving a tough fight to Republican Congressman Steve Chabot, 65, who has represented the seat since 1995, except for a brief period of 2009-2010.

Pureval is one of the few candidates to be endorsed by former president Obama, who has been a star campaigner for

the party this mid-term.

This is an "election that will decide the fu-

ture of our country," Pureval, who is also of Tibetan origin and cur-rently is Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, told hundreds of supporters at an election rally in his Congressional District.
Running an aggres-

sive and impressive campaign, Pureval, political pundits say, has made it a 'toss-us" seat, meaning it is no longer a safe for the top Republican leader.

Sensing victory, the top Democratic leader-ship over the past few days have been making an extraordinary effort to secure the seat.

Pureval, who ended his election night eve by thanking first responders, has outraised Chabot.

As per the latest figures from the Federal Election Commission, Pureval has raised USD 3.4 million as against USD 1.57 million till October 17.

On Sunday the Demo-cratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez too campaigned for Pureval.

We need leaders like Aftab Pureval who will hold the Trump adminis tration and congressional Republicans accountable for their constant attacks on Medicaid. It's time to show them the door tomorrow," Perez said. However, the Chabot

campaign has accused him of campaign finance violations. Last week the Ohio Elections Commission fined him USD100 after it determined that his team has improperly used clerk of court campaign funds to pay a photographer USD 360 for a photo shoot for his Congressional campaign.

Two other campaign finance violation charges against him were disnissed by the Ohio Elections Commission. But the Chabot campaign has made it an election issue. But his campaign manager Sarah Topy stepped down just days before

"Aftab Pureval's entire campaign has been accompanied by one effort after another to delay, distract, and cover up the truth," the Chabot campaign alleged. The allegations did had an impact on his campaign.

The New York Times in its latest poll last week said that Pureval is trailing by nine percentage points

If elected, Pureval would be the first Tibetan American to enter the US House of Representative. He was the first Democrat to get elected as the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts in more than 100 years.

Born and raised in Southwest Ohio, Pureval attended UC for law school where he volunteered in the domestic violence clinic to protect battered women. After working at a law firm, he became a spe-cial assistant federal prosecutor where he worked with the FBI to prosecute crimes against children.

Before becoming Clerk of Courts, he worked at P&G as the global brand attorney for Olay, support-ing a billion dollar business and learning how to get things done for the clients he served.

As Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, the first Democrat to hold this office in more than 100 years, he has brought modern and essional reforms to the Clerk's office.

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S Arabia grilled at UN rights review session over Khashoggi killing



YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, NOV 6 (PTI): Saudi Arabia expressed "regret and pain" over the killing of jour-nalist Jamal Khashoggi and asserted its commitment to achieving the "highest possible standards" in human rights in the country as it was grilled by countries at the UN on Monday over the brutal murder.
The public debate at the UN

Human Rights Council in Geneva came just over a month after the royal insider-turned-critic was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul

Confirming that an investigation is still on-going into the death of Khashoggi, who was last seen entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. President of Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Commission Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Aiban during a scheduled review session told member states that King Salman bin Abdulaziz

had personally initiated the probe. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already expressed its regret and pain for the death of Jamil Khashoggi, Al-Aiban said.

"King Abdel-Aziz has already instructed the prosecution to proceed with the investigation into this case according to the applicable laws and prepara-tion to reaching all facts and bringing all the perpetrators to justice in order to bear the facts to the public."

Following Al-Aiban's comments, 40 Member States appealed to Saudi Arabia to find out what had happened to Khashog-gi, many also calling for reform to the Kingdom's freedom of ex-

Saudi Arabia is facing a tor-rent of international condemna-

tion over the killing of Khashoggi. Al-Aiban's comments came as a Turkish official charged Monday that Saudi Arabia had sent

experts to Turkey to cover up the journalist's murder before allow ing Turkish police in to search

During the review session, around 10 countries also expressed concern about the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Yemen, where Saudi Arabia has faced criticism for coor-dinating air strikes which have killed civilians.

On the issue of Yemen, Al-Ai-ban insisted that Saudi Arabia affirms its continuous support for the Yemeni people and their legitimate government, which had requested assistance against Houthi attackers in 2015. The Coalition forces are do-

ing their best to spare civilians, particularly women and children, civilian sites, and infrastructure as a side-effect of the armed conflict, Al-Aiban said, adding that Saudi communities near the border with Yemen continue to come under attack from the rebel Houthi movement's militia.

Amid concerns over freedom expression in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi representative insisted that it was a guaranteed right, before noting the launch of many multilingual television and radio channels as evidence of people's right to express their opinions.

The issue was picked up by many Member States, including Den-mark, France, Germany and the United States, which although it is not a current member of the Human Rights Council, is permitted as a UN Member State to attend Universal Periodic Re-

view (UPR) discussions.

Specifically, it urged Saudi Arabia to more clearly define what constituted terrorism in law, so as not to criminalize expression, as-

sociation or peaceful assembly.
Another non-Council member, Russia, meanwhile, echoed other countries' comments that wel-

comed Saudi efforts to increase participation in social and political life, before expressing concern about possible violations of religious minorities, prisoners and detainees, amid reports of alleged torture in detention centres -and of migrant workers, who make up one-third of Saudi's population.

In addition to many calls for the abolition of the death penalty amid concerns that its use is increasing in Saudi Arabia, Member States present also urged the kingdom to banish the practice of male

guardianship of adult women.

Reforms of the practice had only been put in place partially , Switzerland's delegation said, and in most cases the discrimination

against women persists .

Recent news tells us of the oppressive atmosphere creating lethal consequences, the Swiss delegation said. We call for freedom of expression to be reinforced, freedom of association and expression for all, ensuring security for all journalists and releasing from prison all those who have been imprisoned for freely expressing their opinions.

A total of 97 countries spoke the Universal Period Review of Saudi Arabia in Geneva. Al-Aiban noted that Saudi Arabia had accepted more than 150 recommendations made at its last UPR appearance in addition to another 37 recommendations, which it had accepted partially.

According to UPR rules, all 193 UN Member States are reviewed by their peers, at a rate of 42 a year. The body meets three times a year and reports to the UN Human Rights Council.

This time, the countries being reviewed are Saudi Arabia, Senegal, China, Nigeria, Mexico, Mauritius, Jordan, Malaysia, the Central African Republic, Monaco, Belize, Chad, Congo and Malta.

accounts ahead of US midterm elections 85 Instagram accounts SAN FRANCISCO, NOV 6 that may be engaged in coordinated inauthen-

Facebook blocks 30

(AFP): Facebook said Monday it had blocked some 30 accounts on its platform and 85 accounts on photo-sharing social network Instagram over concerns they may be linked to foreign entities and aimed at interfering in US midterm elections.

The announcement came shortly after US law enforcement and in-telligence agencies said they had no indication of efforts to disrupt election infrastructure but that Americans should be wary of Russian attempts to spread fake news.

A study published last week found that misinformation on social media was spreading at a greater rate than during the run-up to the 2016 presidential vote, which Russia is accused of manipulating through a vast propaganda campaign in favor of Donald Trump, the eventual winner.

"On Sunday evening, law enforcement contacted us about on-line activity that they recently discovered and which they believe may be linked to foreign enti-ties," Facebook said in a blog post.

"Our very early-stage investigation has so far identified around 30 Facebook accounts and tic behaviour. "We immediately blocked these accounts

and are now investigating them in more detail."
It added all the Facebook pages associated with the accounts appeared to be in French or Russian languages. The Instagram accounts were mostly in English, with some "fo-

cused on celebrities others political debate. celebrities, "Typically, we would be further along with our analysis before announcing anything publicly. But given that we are only one day away from important elections in the US, we wanted to let peo-ple know about the action we've taken and the facts as we know then today," Facebook added.

Despite an aggressive crackdown by social me-dia firms, so-called "junk news" is spreading at a greater rate than in 2016 on social media ahead of the US midterm elec-Oxford Internet Institute researchers said in a study pub-lished Thursday.

Twitter said Saturday it deleted a "series of ac-counts" that attempted to share disinformation without giving a number

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2nd Prize Rs.1,000/- 5402 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 4750
4th Prize Rs. 300/- 5775 5th Prize Rs. 202/- 6973
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KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE							
RESULT FOR BODOLAND LOTTERIES DRAW DATE - 05-11-2018							
DrawTime 5:10 PM 5:25 PM			5:40 PM 5:55 PM		6:10 PM	6:25 PM	6:40 PM
1st Prize : Rs.10000/-	B40 2451	D72 2551	E75 1555	G84 1420	C77 1730	G24 2599	K83 2746
2nd Prize : Rs.3000/-	G76 2462	G02 1612	C87 1987	C91 1001	K73 1640	D78 1938	G66 1480
3rd Prize : Rs.1500/-	B36 2470	G49 2187	K10 1025	K05 1516	B16 1631	J25 2050	L88 1638
	1085 1089 1367 1373 1382	1022 1045 1156 1167 1304	1072 1111 1168 1354 1356	1063 1130 1203 1564 1571	1007 1015 1287 1310 1444	1129 1163 1294 1434 1513	1011 1090 1111 1354 1374
4th Prize : Rs.140/-	1383 1632 1886 1961 2066	1523 1581 1590 1597 1653	1359 1520 1579 1582 1591	1804 1813 1896 1987 1991	1462 1678 1722 2236 2242	1655 1722 1753 1893 1964	1437 1472 1607 1677 1781
(Common to all Series)	2186 2210 2238 2329 2546	1666 1709 1714 1971 2024	1733 1867 1921 1947 2099	2133 2183 2217 2342 2347	2268 2401 2412 2608 2657	2109 2294 2359 2398 2479	1954 1997 2179 2181 2413
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DrawTime	6:55 PM	7:10 PM	7:25 PM	7:40 PM	7:55 PM	8:10 PM	8:25 PM
1st Prize : Rs.10000/-	L40 1910	E63 2841	K77 2702	H93 2414	K77 1668	L80 1581	H26 2831
2nd Prize : Rs.3000/-	D52 1742	B43 2631	J60 2798	J86 2289	D66 2739	K83 2794	L51 2567
3rd Prize : Rs.1500/-	C96 2571	E53 2065	J03 1129	K22 1963	G73 2390	J27 1702	D98 1972
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(Common to all Series)		2146 2189 2212 2375 2479	2308 2367 2376 2569 2621		2313 2482 2598 2655 2791		2279 2339 2380 2568 2648
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DrawTime	8:40 PM	8:55 PM	9:10 PM	9:25 PM	9:40 PM		
1st Prize : Rs.10000/-	G48 1671	C76 2849	H57 2068	H93 1257	C57 2360		
2nd Prize : Rs.3000/-	G02 2440	E95 1086	D52 1998	G53 1326	B92 2346		
3rd Prize : Rs.1500/-	L70 2178	J06 2548	K08 2858	G71 2044	D67 1227		
	1004 1285 1308 1387 1845	1163 1172 1221 1313 1326	1148 1216 1241 1264 1280	1061 1246 1280 1322 1353	1043 1194 1335 1370 1371		
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GLAMOUR GIRL! Movie star Lupita Nyong'o lights up the red carpet in a gold gown at an event in Mountain View, Calif.

Noah Centineo to star in Assaf Bernstein's 'Valet'



Los Angeles, Nov 6 (PTI): Actor Noah Centineo, the breakout star of "To All the Boys I've Loved", is set to play the lead in

the feature "Valet".

The film will be directed by Assaf Bern-

stein, best known for helming Netflix's political thriller series "Fauda", reported Variety.

The 22-year-old actor will portray a young valet driver, who gets involved in a government mission to take down an inter-

national arms dealer.
"American Sniper" scribe Jason Hall is writing the script for the feature with Mark Burg, Daniel Herther, Brad Kaplan and Brent Baum producing it.

Centineo is currently shooting for TV series "Good Trouble" and he will also be seen in Elizabeth Banks' "Charlie's Angels" remake, alongside Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Balinska.

I often think about Freddie Mercury's formative years in India: Rami Malek

New Delhi, Nov 5 (PTI): Playing Queen frontman Freddie Mercury was a challenge that Rami Malek would not wish upon anyone else but the actor says transforming himself into the musician was something that he will cherish forever.

Malek stars as Mercury in "Bohemian Rhapsody", a biopic

on the flamboyant singer behind all-time hits such as "Somebody to Love", "We are the Champions", "We will Rock You" and

Coming from a family of Egyptian immigrants, Malek says

he could relate to the musician's personal battles. Mercury was born as Farrokh Bulsara in a Parsi family in Tanzania's Zanzibar and spent most of his childhood in India

before moving to England.

"It was difficult to play Freddie, a challenge I would not wish on anyone but it was a story worth telling... When you think about Freddie Mercury, you think about someone who was almost supernatural. He defied what we consider mortal humans to be incapable of," Malek told PTI in a telephonic interview from Sydney.

Fox Star Studios is releasing "Bohemian Rhapsody" in In-

dia on November 16.

Malek is looking forward to the film's India release as he believes Mercury had a special bond with the country, where he spent most of his childhood.

"It is such a pleasure that the film will play in India. I think about Freddie's time in India, especially what it would have been like for him to spend so many of his reformative years there. I think the film will speak very deeply to the people of India and everyone else for that matter, but especially to Indians, he said. Malek's transformation into Mercury has received unequivocal praise everywhere but not all reviews have been kind to the film. It, however, is on its way to becoming a major box office draw

The actor said he avoids reading reviews of his performances because they mess with the experience he had while playing a character.

"I try not to read any reviews because I don't want them

to alter my appreciation or the experience of the filmmaking process. I am honoured to be the person to contribute to Freddie's story and be a tiny part of Queen's legacy. The ability to bring it to a new generation is special and I am very fortunate to be a part of it."

The film also stars Ben Hardy, Mike Myers, Lucy Boynton, Gillen, Tom Hollander and Allen Leech in supporting roles.



The film was directed by Bryan Singer, who was fired close the film's completion due to series of absences and it was completed by Dexter Fletcher. Singer, however, retains the di-

Rebel Wilson tweets apology after backlash over 'plus-sized' claims

Los Angeles, Nov 6 (PTI): Rebel Wilson has apologised for the comments she had made about "plus-sized" wom-en actors in Hollywood.

The Australian actor, who will be next seen opposite Liam Hemsworth in "Isn't It Romantic", had claimed in an interview with Ellen DeGeneres that she will be "first-ever plus-sized girl to be the star of a romantic comedy". When social media users remind-

ed her that actors Queen Latifah and Mo'Nique had fronted romantic comedies before, Wilson said there was a "grey area" around how those films were categorised.

After further backlash, the actor

tweeted an apology.

"In a couple of well-intentioned moments, hoping to lift my fellow plus sized women up, I neglected to show the proper respect to those who climbed this mountain before me like Mo'Nique, Queen Latifah, Melissa Mc-Carthy, Ricki Lake and likely many oth-

ers," Wilson wrote.
"With the help of some very compas-



sionate and well-thought out responses from others on social media, I now realize what I said was not only wrong but also incredibly hurtful. To be part of a problem I was hoping I was helping makes it that much more embarrassing & hard to acknowledge. I blocked people

on Twitter because I was hurting from the criticism, but those are the people I actual ly need to hear from more, not less. Again,

I am deeply sorry," she added.

"Isn't It Romantic", directed by Todd
Strauss-Schulson, also features Priyanka Chopra and Adam DeVine.

ARIES: You may have your mind set on some big plans that you've been working on for some time now, Aries. The problem is that today there is some conflict with something or someone with a large ego who suddenly wants a piece of the pie. Either that or this person wants to burst your bubble. Don't give up hope on your dreams. Realize that this opposition is just part of the adventure.

TAURUS: You may have been

feeling more emotional lately, Taurus. Today a fanciful energy could sweep you off your feet and into another realm en-tirely. Feel free to take off for at least a little while in order to gain a better perspective on the issues at hand. Strong, forceful powers are urging you to let someone else take the reins on a particular project. **GEMINI:** People and situations that you were counting on may suddenly run into opposition today, Gemini. Don't be surprised if the seat you're sitting on is suddenly pulled out from under you. Make sure you have some extra padding since have some extra padding, since it could be a rather hard fall. More than likely, however, you will be able to take it in stride.

CANCER: Your ego has probably been feeling strong lately, and you may feel an extra boost of self-confidence, Cancer. Don't be surprised if your ego gets threatened by some-one who appears out of the blue with an aggressive, opinionated attitude, someone who isn't on quite the same track as you. You may find it hard to deal with people today, since they could be a bit spacey.

LEO: If you knew the truth of all the things that are going on outside your world, you'd be appalled, Leo. You shouldn't take things at face value to-day. It's important to simply go and see things for yourself. Don't trust another's word on what is true and what isn't. Question what you see. Make sure you don't let others pull the wool over your eyes.

VIRGO: It isn't a good idea to try to fit people into a mold today, Virgo. This will only annoy others and frustrate you. It's important that you relax and simply let people blossom into the people they want to be. If you have a preconceive of who they should be notion of who they should be, you're only setting yourself up for failure and disappointment, as well as anger from the othLIBRA: Consider subscribing to an alternative newsletter of some sort, Libra. You will find some amazing information that the general public doesn't necessarily know. Knowledge is power. For the most part, common knowledge is quite limited. Make an effort to seek news from a wider community. Some mainstream information is pretty unreliable.

SCORPIO: Don't expect others to take much notice of your emotions today, Scorpio. You're more respectful of theirs than they are of yours. Find peace among all you en-counter. This could be difficult, since other people's wills are involved. In that case, people aren't likely to back down. Others think they're right and refuse to see things any other way SAGITTARIUS: Your aggressive attitude is likely to start a fight that might be difficult to settle now, Sagittarius. There are extremely stubborn forc-es at work, and you may find that no one is willing to budge from their position. The thing that is apt to make this even more difficult is that people may misinterpret certain pieces of the puzzle. Try to bring understanding to the situation instead of more aggression.

CAPRICORN: People may be

difficult to deal with today. Capthat they're just as stubborn as you are. Try to give others the benefit of the doubt or there will be a stalemate in just about every corner of your life. Don't consider it a loss or failure of character if you find you need to make some concessions in order to get things to work.

AQUARIUS: Your ego may be under some stress today, Aquarius. The tricky part is that the threat you feel is probably a result of something that isn't even completely real. It could be that someone is acting on false information that has no bearing on the reality of the situation. You might be swept away by someone else's false impression of who you

PISCES: You could develop a stomachache if you try to sort out all the confused issues of the day, Pisces. There are apt to be too many matters for you to handle alone, so don't even try. It's one of those situations in which you start to untangle one knot only to create anoth-er somewhere down the line. It's best to just let the ball of string lie where it is for now.