



**TAYLOR SWIFT DETAILS STRUGGLE WITH EATING DISORDER IN MISS AMERICANA DOCUMENTARY**

pg 08

**HOW THE WORLD FAILED WEST PAPUA IN ITS CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENCE**

04

**SCRIPTWRITING IS UNDERRATED: AYUSHMANN KHURRANA**

pg 08



# SummitTIMES

Vol 05 | Issue 22 | Gangtok | Saturday | 25 January 2020

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

*Political parties should not give tickets to candidates with criminal background: ECI to SC*

**NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI):**

The EC told the Supreme Court Friday that the direction asking poll candidates to declare their criminal antecedents in the media has not helped curb criminalisation of politics, and said political parties should be asked not to give tickets to those with criminal background. Despite the apex court's direction in 2018, the criminalisation of politics is going on and some alternate mechanism has to be found, the Election Commission (EC) said.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman and S Ravindra Bhat asked the poll panel to come up with a framework within one week which can help curb criminalisation of politics in nation's interest. It asked BJP leader and advocate-petitioner Ashiwin Upadhyay and the EC to sit together and come up with suggestions which would help curb criminalisation of politics. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the EC, said the poll panel has taken several steps to stop criminalisation of politics.

He also said that the directions given by apex court in 2018 have not succeeded and added that instead of these, accountability should be fixed by the court on the political parties that any candidate with criminal background should not be given tickets.

"Given the situation and current composition of Parliament, we can assume that a law will not be passed to prohibit criminalisation of politics and disqualify those charged with serious criminal offences," Singh said. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Upadhyay, said currently 46 per cent of parliamentarians have criminal antecedents and in this scenario it cannot be assumed that a law will be passed in this regard.

To this, the bench asked Upadhyay and the poll panel to suggest an effective mechanism to keep a check on criminalisation of politics.

"This should be done at the earliest in the public interest. This should not be treated as an adversarial litigation. Both of you sit together and give a joint framework as what could be done to stop criminalisation of politics," the bench said.

The Centre in its reply to the petition had sought dismissal of contempt petition filed by Upadhyay and said that on September 25, 2018, the apex court had not given any specific direction to enact a law.

turn to pg 02

## 5 feared killed in Likubhir road mishap

**SUMMIT REPORT KALIMPONG, 24 JAN:**

Five people are feared killed in a road mishap here on National Highway-10 when the Maruti Alto they were travelling in skidded off the highway and fell into the Teesta at Likubhir about 2 KMs ahead of Teesta Bridge towards Siliguri.

A family of four and the driver, headed to Birpara in Dooars from Sikkim, are believed to have been on board the vehicle when the mishap occurred. There are no protective barricades at the spot from where the vehicle is believed to have veered off the road and crashed into the Teesta.

Residents of the area inform that the mishap would have gone unreported for longer had the dead



body of 13-year-old Sakshi Rai not been spotted floating in the reservoir.

Upon receiving infor-

mation about the mishap, the Teesta Rangit Rafting Relief Team and district police arrived at the

scene and when the body was being recovered, the rescuers noticed an oil slick in the water which

alerted them to the mishap and then the car was spotted underwater.

Although rafting ex-

perts joined the recovery crane team in trying to recover the vehicle, it had still not been extract-

ed till late in the evening.

According to the information received from the family members, the vehicle was being driven by Devdutt Tamang and the family on board comprised of Chandan Rai, Tulsi Rai, Sargam Rai and Sakshi Rai.

Four occupants of the vehicle remain untraced.

Kalimpong Police Station in-charge, Abindo Bhattacharya, who was at the spot informs that an NDRF team is expected to arrive tonight and launch search and recovery efforts from Saturday morning.

According to the information received, Chandan Rai is a Group-D employee at the Army Station Head Quarters, Gangtok. Army officials also reached the spot upon learning of the accident.

### Sheena murder case: CBI opposes Indrani's bail plea

**MUMBAI, JAN 24 (PTI):** The CBI has opposed a bail plea filed by Indrani Mukerjea, a prime accused in the Sheena Bora murder case, saying that the charges against her are "serious and grievous in nature."

After failing to secure bail four times on medical grounds, Mukerjea filed another plea in December 2019 in the court of special CBI judge JC Jagdale, seeking bail on the 'merits' of her case.

She was arrested in the case in 2015.

Opposing her plea, the Central Bureau of Investigation said in its reply two days ago that she was accused of killing her own daughter, and the charges against her were "serious and grievous" in nature.

Accused-turned-aprover Shyamvar Rai, Indrani's former driver, has deposed in detail about how the crime was committed and the evidence destroyed, the CBI said.

Kajal Agarwal, a witness, stated in her testimony how the conspiracy unfolded and how fake resignation letter, leave and license agreement and ID card were created in Sheena's name, the agency said.

Of the 253 witnesses, 60 have deposed, the agency said, adding that several key witnesses including Rahul, Indrani's then husband Peter Mukerjea's son from earlier marriage, were yet to

be examined.

If released on bail, Indrani would abscond, or try to influence the witnesses, it said.

According to the CBI, Indrani was opposed to Rahul and Sheena's relationship. On the day Sheena was killed, Rahul had seen Indrani and her driver waiting with Indrani's car when he dropped Sheena in Bandra.

Sheena told Rahul that she will stay with Indrani for the night and it was the last time he saw her, the agency said in its reply.

In her bail plea, Indrani claimed that "there was no evidence in the form of messages, conversations or e-mails or any communication" to show that she had hatched a conspiracy to abduct or kill Sheena.

Sheena (24) was allegedly strangled in a car by her mother Indrani, Indrani's former husband Sanjeev Khanna and driver Shyamvar Rai in April 2012. Her body was burnt in a forest in neighbouring Raigad district.

Former media baron Peter Mukerjea was later arrested for allegedly being part of the conspiracy.

According to investigators, Indrani's opposition to Sheena's relationship with Rahul was a possible motive behind the murder apart from financial disputes.

### Unsegregated waste making recycling difficult: GMC Commissioner

*"We have manpower and machines, only need segregated waste"*

**REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 24 JAN:**

Unsegregated waste is adversely affecting recycling of waste at Martam landfill site even though a compost making machine with the latest technology is available.

According to Commissioner, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Hem Kumar Chettri, the machine is not working to its fullest capacity due to unsegregated waste which the machine cannot handle.

If unsegregated waste is put into the machine, it gets jammed and breaks down, he said.

Mr Chettri informed that the Martam landfill



site gets waste from the entire East district including Gram Panchayat areas like Yangyang, Namthang, Rangpo, and Singtam Nagar Panchayat.

"Waste from a few wards of Gangtok is segregated but from rest of the district, totally unsegregated waste is brought to Martam which we cannot use," he said.

The compost making machine was installed at

Martam in October 2017 which was funded under the Asian Development Bank Project.

Mr Chettri informed that he has written to the DC in the past to ensure that waste is properly segregated. There is need for more awareness and discipline, he added.

"I have appealed in the past also and I would like to appeal again. Please give us properly segregated waste.

If we get segregated waste, non-biodegradable waste can be recycled while biodegradable can be made into compost. Without segregation, the entire purpose of the having the machine is defeated," Mr Chettri said.

"We have manpower and the machines are also in working condition but the only thing we are lacking is segregated waste," said the Commissioner.

### Behmai massacre: Matter postponed to Jan 30

**KANPUR DEHAT (UP), JAN 24 (PTI):** The Behmai massacre case, in which 20 people were killed allegedly by bandit Phoolan Devi's gang nearly four decades ago, will come up before a special court here on January 30.

The matter was earlier postponed to January 24 as the original case diary had gone missing on January 18 when the matter was listed for pronouncement of verdict by Special Judge (UP dacoity-affected area) Sudhir Kumar.

The judge had pulled up the court official for absence of the case diary at the time of delivering the verdict and had asked him to place it before the court on January 24.

But in view of the lawyers' strike over chambers

turn to pg 02

### Aadhaar, dabba, hartal, shaadi make it to Oxford dictionary

**ZAFRI MUDASSER NOFIL**

**NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI):** The latest edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary features 26 new Indian English words, including Aadhaar, chawl, dabba, hartal and shaadi.

The 10th edition of the dictionary, which was launched on Friday, has 384 Indian English words and incorporates over 1,000 new words such as chatbot, fake news and microplastic.

The dictionary focuses on language change and its evolution through the years, and has ensured that the language and examples used in the new edition are relevant and up to date with the times, Oxford University Press (OUP) said.

The new edition comes with interactive online support through the Oxford Learner's Dictionaries website and an app. The website includes advanced features such as audio-video tutorials, video walkthroughs, self-study activities and enhanced



iWriter and iSpeaker tools.

"This edition has 26 new Indian English words of which 22 figure in the printed dictionary. The other four are in the digital version," said Fathima Dada, Managing Director (Education Division) at OUP.

Some of other new Indian words in the dictionary are auntie (while aunty already figures in the English dictionary, auntie is an Indianism), bus stand, deemed university, FIR, non-veg,

redressal, tempo, tube light, veg and videograph.

The four new Indian English words in the online version of the dictionary are current (for electricity), looter, looting and upazila (one of the areas that a district is divided into for administration purposes).

According to OUP, the new edition provides better, more accurate and understandable definitions with examples, usage notes and additional resources

to help the learner use the right word in the right context.

"Prevalence and common usage are the main criteria for enlisting new words. We scan the globe for words which are often used by people while speaking English. Then these words go through a rigorous testing process," Dada said.

"As OUP is the custodian of English language globally, these words have to go through its processes," she told PTI.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, she said, has been reinventing itself for nearly eight decades, anticipating the growing learning requirements of learners.

"The 10th edition also is equipped with a strong digital support system, including an app," she said.

It is equipped with several digital tools. With iSpeaker, learners can get help preparing for speaking exams and presentations.

turn to pg 02

DEAR READERS,  
IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMIT TIMES IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD, PLEASE MESSAGE OR WHATSAPP US YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AT 9832556698 AND WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE NEWSPAPER REACHES YOU.

### 3 films rejected, HC asks MIFF to explain selection process

**MUMBAI, JAN 24 (PTI):** The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Union government to state what process was followed by the selection committee of Mumbai International Film Festival while rejecting three documentary films.

A division bench of Justices S C Dharmadhikari and R I Chagla was hearing a petition filed by film makers Anand Patwardhan and Pankaj Kumar after their movies were refused screening at Mumbai International Film Festival.

The petitioners' counsel Mihir Desai argued that no reasons were officially given by the film festival organisers while rejecting the films, but the makers apprehend it could be because the films are critical of the present political scenario.

The five-day festival, scheduled to begin on January 28, is organised by Films Division of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

It aims to provide a platform for documentary and short film makers from all over the world to meet, exchange ideas and explore possibilities of co-production and marketing of documentary, short and animation films.

The bench, on Friday, directed additional solicitor general Anil Singh, appearing for the Centre, to submit on January 27 records and process followed by the selection committee while rejecting the films.

"The petitioners have an apprehension that their films showing certain content will not be allowed to be screened.

Show us what process was followed by the committee. We are not going to curtail your (selection committee's) freedom to select," the court said.

The petition claimed the selection committee acted in an arbitrary and mala fide manner by rejecting the three documentary films.

Patwardhan's film 'Vivek/Reason' documents the ascendancy of particular political ideology in recent times.

The film covers the murders of rationalists such as Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, M M Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh and investigates the connection of these crimes to the various sectarian outfits.

It also looks at violent attacks on Muslims and Dalits in the name of cow protection, the caste-based discrimination that led to the suicide of young student leader and scholar Rohith Vemula, and numerous other outbursts of violence, large and small, connecting them to present an overview of the turmoil that India is presently witnessing.

Pankaj Kumar's movie 'Janani's Juliet' follows the story of India-nostrum, a Puducherry based theatre group, which, disturbed by a spate of honour killings in India, sets out to introspect the implications of caste, class and gender.

# DISHA meeting held in South Sikkim

**NAMCHI, 24 JAN (IPR):** Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Indra Hang Subba chaired a daylong meeting on District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee meeting (DISHA) for South District organized by Rural Development Department (RDD) and District Administration Center (DAC) at the Conference Hall of South District Zilla Panchayat Bhawan today.

MP (Lok Sabha), Indra Hang Subba who is also the Chairman of the DISHA Committee attended the meeting in the company of DC (South), Ragul.K, Zilla Adhyaksha (South), Tshering Dem Bhutia, ADC (Dev) Namchi, Chandra Prasad Rai, HoDs and staff of all Line Departments; Zilla Members; Panchayats and Dignitaries.

DC South in his welcome address highlighted the importance of DISHA meeting and what



implications it bears for South District as a whole. He further elaborated that the formation of DISHA will fulfill the objective of ensuring better coordination among all the elected representatives of the State and the officials for working efficiently and in a time-bound manner towards holistic development of South district.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman DISHA committee, Indra Hang Subba expressed his de-

light over the line departments' commitment towards presenting a comprehensive account of the ongoing schemes and programmes under their respective departments for the welfare and upliftment of the public.

Furthermore, he spelled out the role of all the line departments to facilitate timely execution of approved projects under the District and urged upon transparency and accountability towards execu-

tion and implementation of the schemes.

He spoke about the need for effective coordination and cooperation between the stakeholders, elected representatives and the public to facilitate better outreach of programmes for the rightful beneficiaries. He also shared his optimistic vision of reforming the structure of State and Centrally sponsored schemes in the district which will eventually make room for newer

## North celebrates National Girl Child Day



**MANGAN, 24 JAN (IPR):** North Sikkim celebrated National Girl Child Day 2020 in a grand manner with a theme 'Empowering the Girl Child is Empowerment of the Society and the Nation' here at conference hall of Zilla Panchayat Bhawan, Pentok, today.

Additional Magistrate, North, Surat Gurung was the chief guest. The programme was attended amongst other by the ADC (Dev)/North, Somnath Adhikari, SDMs, Head of Offices of the district, CDPOs, ASHA & Anganwadi workers and general public.

Addressing the gathering chief guest, Mr Adhikari informed that this weeklong celebration of girl child under 'Beti Bachao Beti Badhao' (BBBP) which got started on January 20 will conclude on January 26 and so far the celebration have been going smoothly and successfully.

Talking on objective of the celebration of

BBBP week, he said that everyone must imbibe the goal of BBBP and take this as 'each one teach one' so that better result could be achieved in future.

Reading out the event calendar of weeklong BBBP special campaign, Mr Adhikari informed that during this period various activities pertaining BBBP were organised throughout the district and called for mass participation to the public on rest last two days.

Lastly, he urged to the BBBP team to work with utmost dedication in this noble cause as the girl child and women empowerment is one of most important component of country's development.

CDPO, Mangan, Lanzev Donka Denzonpa elucidating the 'National Girl Child Day', she said every year, January 24 is celebrated as National Girl Child Day to offer support and new opportunities to the girls and

discourage sex selection. The day is also celebrated to increase awareness about inequalities faced by girls and women in terms of education, healthcare, nutrition, legal rights, protection, and honour.

DRCHO/N, P. K. Basnett talking on child sex ration informed that according to 2001 census, in north Sikkim, the sex ratio was 995 per 1000 male and in 2011 it was 929 per 1000 male. Apart from this, she also spoke on Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Technique (PC&PNDT).

The programme also witnessed the felicitation to mother of newly born girl child of the district, best wishes to Pemkit Lepcha who will represent north Sikkim in the forth coming national child parliament in New Delhi, signature campaign, Power Point Presentation on BBBP by District task Force and cultural programme.

Earlier, the programme started with the lighting of lamp by the chief guest followed by welcome address delivered by SDM, Mangan, Karma Thupden Bhutia and at the end, vote of thanks was proposed by AO, LR&DM/N, Dup Tshering Bhutia while whole programme was coordinated by DCPO/N, Wendy Lepcha.

## Food Dept carries out ration card-Aadhaar linking

**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 24 JAN:**

Food and Civil Supplies Department carried out linking of Aadhaar to ration card at the Community Hall of Singtam Nagar Panchayat on 23 and 24 Jan.

On the first day, more than 500 beneficiaries got their ration card linked to Aadhaar while more than 700 beneficiaries were enrolled on the second day, informed District Civil Supplies Officer, Dak Man



Subba. He informed that beneficiaries who do not update or link their ration card with Aadhaar number shall be excluded from the list of beneficiaries.

Also the fair price shops need to install an

E-POS Machine for daily update and data of those beneficiaries as well.

Further if the installation of E-POS is not done the shop shall be liable for legal action, Mr Subba concluded.

## National Girl Child Day celebrated in Namchi



**NAMCHI, 24 JAN (IPR):** National Girl Child Day was celebrated at the premises of Mayal Lyang Children's Home in Namchi today. The event is part of week-long celebration of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.

Organised by State Resource Centre for Women under Social Justice and Welfare Department, South District, the program was attended by Sr. DPHNO South, Bijay Laxmi Rai as the chief guest.

Addressing the gatherings, chief guest, Bijay Laxmi Rai spoke with regard to gender discrimination. Informing that women have an equal contribution for building society she urged for awareness in health, education and nutrition for the development of girl child.

She also touched upon topics such as Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, which bans prenatal sex determination to stop female foeticide.

In his brief address, CDPO Namchi, Laxman Tamang highlighted the significance and objectives behind the celebration. He informed that the celebra-

tion is to bring awareness as well as to provide support and opportunity to girl children.

In addition, he also spoke about various programmes provided under Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) to girl children of the country wherein they can avail benefits. The program also had counselling on Menstrual Hygiene Management by Anganwadi Worker to the children. The girls of Mayal Lyang also participated in dance, games and art competition wherein prizes were also awarded to them. It may be mentioned here that a total of 34 girl children actively participated in the said program. Present amongst others were DPHNO (Ward), Durga Pokhrel, State Project Coordinator (State Resource Centre for Women), Pabitra Bhattarai, CDPO Namchi, Laxman Tamang along with ICDS Supervisors, Project Supervisors, Nutrition Inspector, officials and staff of concerned Department, in-charge, Suk Tshering Lepcha and children of Mayal Lyang Children's Home.

## Shooting for short film Sambandha concludes



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 24 JAN:**

The shooting of Nepali short film 'Sambandha' at Singtam and Majhitar has been completed. The film is produced and directed by Praja Pradhan under his banner Shaphal Films, a press release infirms.

The short film revolves around the theme of environment. Vinod Sereng, veteran film director from Nepal, cine star Uttam Pradhan, Indian

Idol, Prashant Tamang and famed Nepali singer, Damber Nepali were present at the Mahurat shot.

The story is by AB Gurung, script by Praja Pradhan, concept by Shital Pradhan and camera work was done by Galchen Bhutia. The actors in main roles are Kishore Dugmali, Aadarsh Pradhan, AB Gurung, Zigmae D Bhutia, Takendra Gurung, Premi Lepcha and two child artists Kasish Sharma and Yojana Chettri

### Political parties...

On March 29, last year, the apex court had sought response from the Centre and the EC on Upadhaya's plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings for alleged violation of the apex court's judgment directing all candidates to declare their criminal antecedents to the poll panel before contesting elections.

On October 10, 2018, the EC had issued notification regarding the amended Form-26 and directions to political parties and candidates for publication of criminal antecedents.

However, the plea filed by Upadhyay alleged that the EC neither amended the Election Symbol Order, 1968 nor the model code of conduct (MCC) so the said notification has no legal sanction.

The EC neither published a list of leading newspapers-news channels for the purpose nor clarified the timing for declaration of criminal antecedents by candidates, it said.

This led to the candidates publishing the required information in newspapers and news channels that were not very popular and at odd hours, it added.

In September 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench had unanimously held that all candidates will have to declare their criminal antecedents to the EC before contesting polls and called for a wider publicity, through print and electronic media about antecedents of candidates.

It had left it to Parliament to "cure the malignancy" of criminalisation of politics by making a law to ensure that persons facing serious criminal cases do not enter the political arena as the "polluted stream of politics" needs to be cleansed.

Holding that criminalisation of politics is an "extremely disastrous and lamentable situation", the apex court said this "unsettlingly increasing trend" in the country has the propensity to "send shivers down the spine of a constitutional democracy".

The apex court had directed that each contesting candidate will have to fill up the form provided by the ECI and he or she will have to state "in bold letters" about the criminal cases pending against the candidate.

"If a candidate is contesting an election on the ticket of a particular party, he/she is required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her," it had said, adding that "the concerned political party shall be obligated to put up on its website the aforesaid information pertaining to candidates having criminal antecedents".

The top court had directed that candidate and the concerned political party will have to issue a declaration in widely circulated newspapers in the locality and in electronic media about his or her antecedents.

"When we say wide publicity, we mean that the same shall be done at least thrice after filing of the nomination papers," it had said.

### Behmai massacre...

issue, the matter was postponed to January 30, District Government Counsel (Criminal) Raju Porwal said.

The court is likely to give its verdict on the role of the four surviving accused -- Posha, Bhikha, Vishwanath and Shyambabu. While Posha is still in jail, the rest are out on bail. Three other dacoits, including Man Singh, are absconding.

Phoolan Devi had stormed into the non-descript Behmai village to avenge her alleged rape there by two other bandits -- Lala Ram and Sri Ram -- both Thakurs, a dominant caste in the village.

She was gunned down outside her official residence in New Delhi on July 25, 2001, but was made immortal on the big screen by noted film director Shekhar Kapoor in his movie 'Bandit Queen'.

### To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at GANGTOK:

For circulation details Contact: (Sandeep) 9734152451 & for Advertisement booking at 9933427505 or at office no 03592 208698. Mail us at advertise@summittimes.com

### SILIGURI:

Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads, B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, 1st floor. Opp. Ganga Hotel. Hill Cart Road. Siliguri - 03. Ph. 9832318644/ 9800682989/ 9153035100 or mail at mani\_siliguri@yahoo.co.in.

### KOLKATA OFFICE:

Irshad Ali/ Imteeyaz. Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor. Kolkata - 700072. Ph. 033-22124348/ fax 033-22124337/ mob. 9830547774/ 983108397. E-mail: contact.synapse@gmail.com/ irshad\_ali123@rediffmail.com

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

### FLAT FOR RENT/LEASE

Fully furnished 3BHK flat available for rent/ lease at Church Road near DPH. Roadside and five minutes walking distance from MG Marg. **For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

### LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501,62970-03235, 98320-48410

# Birendra Prasad demands apology on IT exemption allegation

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN:**

Sikkim Bihari Jagaran Manch general secretary, Birendra Prasad, has alleged that some Bihari members of the Old Settlers of Sikkim community have distorted his recent statement on Income Tax exemption to create confusion in the Bihari community of Sikkim. He has demanded a public apology from a group of Bihari old settlers who made allegations against him.

Anil Kumar Gupta, Chotela Prasad and Ram Pujan Singh had alleged that in an SBJM oath taking ceremony at Pakyong, Birendra Prasad had given a statement that Sikkim's Biharis do not need IT exemption.

Addressing a press conference here this afternoon, Mr Prasad lashed out against them for distorting his statement on IT exemption and making personal attacks on him.

"I have not said that Bihari community of

Sikkim does not need income tax exemption. I clearly said IT exemption is not an issue of SBJM but it is an issue of old settlers of Sikkim," he clarified. He urged them to understand his statement properly before making any comments.

He stated that the real issue for SBJM is the implementation of 145th Report on the petition praying for protection of interest of bona fide Indian nationals residing in Sikkim prior to its merg-

er with India in 1975 by the Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha.

Mr Prasad lashed out against Anil Kumar Gupta for making personal attacks on him.

"He alleged that I am not a RC holder of Sikkim but I want to ask Anil Kumar Gupta about his application to the Ministry of Home Affairs around 8 years back asking about his citizenship. The file about his citizenship is still pending in the ministry so he should clarify

his own citizenship status before asking about others," he said.

He demanded that they should apologize to the entire Bihari community of Sikkim for misleading the community time and again on different issues and especially during election time.

"Instead of always talking about IT exemption, they should also explain to us about the benefits to Bihari community if old settlers get IT exemption," he demanded.

# Training for recently appointed Govt advocates

**GANGTOK, 23 JAN (IPR):**

A day-long Training Programme for the newly appointed Assistant Government Advocates cum Assistant Public Prosecutors was organised by the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim at the Administrative Training Institute, Gangtok.

The Training Programme was chaired by LR-cum-Secretary, Law & PA Department, Government of Sikkim, Jagat B Rai. The two-session Training Programme was specially organised for the recently appointed Asst. Government Advocates cum Asst. Public Prosecutors to educate them in the intricacies of the legal matters and also as an Orientation Programme for them.

The Training cum Orientation was conducted by two of Sikkim's very respected and reputed Senior Advocates, AJ Sharma and NP Sharma.

In the first session of the day, Resource Person, AJ Sharma enlightened the gathering on

the basic concept of civil cases under the Civil Procedure Code, 1980 r/w Evidence Act, 1872 and Limitation Act, 1973 all the while drawing attention to filing of nature of suits, pliant, filing of written statements, injunction application, stay of suits, filing of evidence of affidavits, filing of documents, issuance of commission, appeal, revision, second appeal, additional evidence in appeal, amendment, rejection, judgment on admission, suits of Specific Relief Act and suits for Defamation.

Following the first session, the second session of the day was conducted by Senior Advocate, NP Sharma. In this session NP Sharma discussed the basic concepts of Criminal Cases under Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 r/w Evidence Act, 1872 and Limitation Act, 1973 mainly focusing on the filing of charge sheet, pecuniary jurisdiction, cognizance of offences by Magistrates and Court of Session, bar of taking

cognizance, examination in chief, cross-examination, framing of charge, joinder of charge, alteration of charge, additional evidence appeal, revision, evidence for defense, warrant trial and summary trial, bail, recalling of witnesses, Proclamation for person absconding, attachment of property of person absconding, compounding of offences, withdrawal from prosecution and procedure in cases of unsound mind/lunatic.

The entire day and the topics discussed therein by the two very experienced Resource People will prove to be very helpful to the new Legal Practitioners in their careers. The very informative and knowledgeable day concluded with an encouraging speech by Joint Secretary, Law & PA Department, Government of Sikkim, Choden Gyatso, along with the distribution of Certificate of Participation to all the trainees/attendees.

## Governor's greetings on Sonam Lochhar

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 24 JAN:**

On the occasion of Sonam Lochhar, Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad has extended warm greetings and good wishes to the people of Sikkim, a Raj Bhavan release informs.

In his message, the Governor has said, "The festival of Sonam Lochhar celebrated by our Ta-

mang brethren reaffirms our faith in almighty as we worship and offer fresh harvests seeking protection and safety of our fellow beings. This occasion also marks the New Year symbolising new hope and beginning.

May this propitious occasion bring prosperity, harmony and happiness to all Sikkimese."

## CM's greetings on Sonam Lochhar

**GANGTOK, 24 JAN [IPR]:**

Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang has extended his warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on the occasion of Sonam Lochhar.

Sonam Lochhar is the New Year of the Tamang community and is celebrated in the month of Magh. The first day of the new moon in the month of Magh (when Lord Buddha is believed to have been born) counted as the greatest day of significance for Tamang community and hence this day

marks the beginning of the Sonam Lochhar festival.

Sikkim is the land of varied ethnicities and tribal groups, with the Tamang community spread out widely. Sonam Lochhar, also spelled as Sonam Lhosar is the most significant and extravagant festival of this culturally rich community and is celebrated with great fanfare and zeal.

In his greetings, the Chief Minister has wished peace, prosperity, and happiness to the people of Sikkim.

## CS administers National Voter's Day Pledge



**GANGTOK, 24 JAN (IPR):** Chief Secretary of Sikkim, S.C Gupta administered the pledge of the National Voter's Day Pledge at New Tashiling Secretariat today.

The pledge was administered today in lieu of the National Voter's Day or the Rashtriya Matdata Diwas falling on 25 January which is a Gazetted holiday in the state of Sikkim.

Secretaries, Heads of Departments, officials and staff stationed at the New Tashiling Secretariat were in attendance

while the Chief Secretary administered the pledge of the National Voter's Day that commits to uphold the democratic traditions of India and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections with active, fearless and uninfluenced participation in every electoral process held in the country.

The National Voter's Day or the Rashtriya Matdata Diwas is celebrated on the 25th Of January every year, since 2011, in order to encourage more young and first

time voters to take part in the political process of the world's largest democracy. Considering the low participation of young voters in elections, the Election Commission of India came up with this initiative that would identify all newly eligible voters every year and enroll them on time. The eligible voters are handed over their EPIC cards and also provided with a unique badge with the logo, "Proud to be a Voter- Ready to Vote" on this day.

## Hardik Patel released on bail

**AHMEDABAD, JAN 24 (PTI):**

After remaining in police custody for a week, Congress leader Hardik Patel was a free man on Friday as he was granted bail by two courts in different towns.

On Thursday, Patel walked out of Sabarmati Central Jail here after getting bail in a sedition case registered here in 2015.

But as soon as he came out, he was arrested by a police team from Mansa town in Gandhinagar in a 2017 case where he is accused of addressing a rally without police permission.

On Friday afternoon, a court in Mansa granted Patel bail after the

police produced him before it and did not seek his custody.

The Patidar quota agitation leader was then arrested by a police team from Siddhpur town of Patan district, who were waiting outside the court premises, said an official.

Hardik is facing a case in Siddhpur for allegedly addressing a poll rally without permission during the 2017 Gujarat Assembly elections, he said.

"He was arrested because a non-bailable warrant was issued by the local court against him as he had skipped some hearings," the official said.

He was produced before Chief Judicial magistrate TH Dave who granted the Congress leader bail as Patel gave assurance that he would remain present for future court proceedings, said his lawyer, Asif Khan Pathan. Patel, who led the 2015 quota agitation of the Patidar community, is facing 25 cases, including two for sedition.

On January 18, Patel was arrested by the crime branch of Viramgam tehsil in Ahmedabad district for failing to appear before the trial court which is hearing a sedition case against him.

## It will boost our confidence if India get to host boxing Olympic qualifiers: Simranjit

**NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI):**

Former World Championships bronze medalist Simranjit Kaur on Friday said besides home advantage it will act as a confidence booster for local boxers if India get to host the Olympic Qualifying Tournament, which has been cancelled in the Chinese city of Wuhan following the outbreak of coronavirus.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has offered to host next month's Olympic Qualifiers after it was taken away from the Chinese city of Wuhan due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

The qualifiers are scheduled to be held from February 3 to 15, but it has now become uncertain following the virus outbreak which has claimed 17 lives and infected more than 550 people.

"It would be a good if it happens in India. It will boost our confidence as we train here and with crowd rooting for us, it will be home advantage. So mentally we would be more confident as we will be playing at home," the 24-year-old from Punjab told PTI on the sidelines of a program celebrating 'National Girl Child Day'.

Asked if the postponement will affect their preparation, Simranjit said: "Our training

had sped up in the last few days but now with this postponement, we can take a little more time. We now have a month more to prepare for the qualifiers, so it is good."

Simranjit, who had won a gold at Ahmet Comert International Boxing Tournament in Istanbul in 2018, said she will look to justify her selection in the qualifiers by earning a ticket to Tokyo Games.

"2019 was a good year for me as I had won a silver at Asian Championships. But now I feel it is a big responsibility for me as I have been selected and I will have to give my best for the country and qualify for the Olympics," she said.

"I will go step by step. I am not thinking much about the Tokyo Games as first I have to qualify."

Talking about her training schedule, Simranjit said: "We are doing a lot of strength training and focusing on power punches. We put in the extra effort whenever required."

"All things matter whether it is punches or foot work, so focusing on overall right now. I don't think I am weak in any particular area as I play with my heart," she signed off.

## Donation drives begin for Saraswati Puja

**YOGEN THATAL**

**SINGTAM, 24 JAN:**

A woman donates Rs 101 on behalf of her daughter who is studying in class VI at Government Senior Secondary School Singtam for the Saraswati Puja which is scheduled to be held on 29 Jan.

Saraswati Puja is an occasion for every student to offer prayers to the



Goddess of Knowledge. As the puja nears, students start collecting donations

so that they can organize a grand puja that will please the Goddess.

## CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED FOR AMBA SCHOOL LIBRARY UPGRADATION

Wandering Souls of Sikkim is excited to announce our plan to upgrade the school library of Govt. Secondary School, Amba, East Sikkim. This will be fourth such upgradation of school libraries by WSOS.

We have successfully upgraded 3 school libraries so far with the support and contributions of our generous patrons and are looking forward to receive more such contributions.

We request all to kindly contribute books either old or new or cash for the upgradation of school library at Amba.

Our Library Initiative is aimed at upgrading School libraries specially in rural areas of the state and for laying a foundation for better future of our young minds studying in these schools.

**To Contribute Contact WSOS at 7384639193.**



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
OFFICE OF THE SR. SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS  
STATE CENTRAL PRISONS  
RONGYEK**

## TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotation are invited from registered firms of Sikkim for Supply of ration, grocery, hardware and electrical items to the State Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi for the period with effect from 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021. The rates quoted by the firms inclusive of all transportation / carriage charges upto point of delivery i.e. the Central Prison, Rongyek and District Prison, Namchi as and when the items are requisitioned shall be final for all purpose.

Th quotations addressed to the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek should reach the office of the undersigned on pr before 10 AM on \_\_\_\_\_. The Tender Selection Committee shall open the tenders in the office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek at 11 AM on the same day in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized agents.

The quotations shall be accompanied by a state Bank of Sikkim T.D.R made in favour of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek for Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand ) only alongwith certified copies of the concerned firms registrations, valid Trade License, GST registration etc. The failure to submit anyone of the above mentioned documents shall render the quotation void.

The tender Selection Committee reserves the right to accept any or all of the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

The Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek between 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM on all working days with effect from the publication of Tender Notices.

Sd/-  
Sr. Superintendent of Police/Prison, Rongyek

R.O No. 334/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

dt. 22.01.2020

**HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?**

email us: [news@summittimes.Com](mailto:news@summittimes.Com)

[Haitao Guo is Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, University of Pittsburgh; Guangxiang "George" Luo is Professor of Microbiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham]

# Nepal says if India can resolve boundary issue with Bangladesh, why not Kathmandu

**ANIL K JOSEPH**  
**KATHMANDU, JAN 24 (PTI):** If India can resolve its land boundary issue with Bangladesh then why not with Nepal, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said on Friday, referring to the lingering territorial differences between the two neighbours.

India in November released fresh maps of the newly-created union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. In the maps, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is part of Jammu and Kashmir, while Gilgit-Baltistan is in Ladakh.

Nepal claimed that Limpiyadhura, Lipulek and Kalapani areas were shown under India's territory even though they lie within the Nepalese territory.

India has said the new map accurately depicts its sovereign territory and it has in no manner revised its boundary with Nepal.

"If India can resolve land boundary issue with Bangladesh, why not Nepal?" Foreign Minister Gyawali asked during an interaction with a group of visiting Indian journalists at a briefing on 'Sagarmatha Sambaad' at the Nepalese Foreign Ministry here.

No "unresolved baggage" should be carried forward since there is



an increased level of understanding between the two countries and their leaders, he added.

Asked about the status of Kalapani and boundary issue with India, the minister said that the core issue is a baggage which was handed over by the history to both the countries.

"Nepal's current boundary was demarcated, fixed by the Sugauli Treaty of 1816 and the consecutive complementary treaties of December 1816, 1860 and 1875. There are three other agreements which are related to the treaty which categorically tells that Nepal's western border is demarcated by the Kali river, so in the historical evidence, documents and

maps that Kali, in Nepal we call it Mahakali river, is the western boundary river of Nepal.

"So, Nepal wants to settle this unresolved or pending issue according to the Sugauli Treaty and other correspondence at that time, historical maps, evidences," Gyawali said.

"I do believe that both the countries have strong political stability, leaders are visionary and they have good personal contacts as well and commitment to resolve pending issues through diplomatic process," the minister said.

Nepal has already conveyed its concern to India which has expressed that it is ready to resolve the pending is-

sues through discussion, he said. "So I think we should settle so that no unresolved baggage can be the obstacle for the cordial relation between Nepal and India because there is no any alternative for the excellent bilateral relation between these countries," Gyawali said.

His remarks came days after Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said that the time has come to resolve all pending issues through dialogue in the lasting interest of the two countries.

"The time has come to resolve all pending issues through dialogue in the lasting interest of our two countries. A stable and majority government in both countries is

an opportune moment and my government remains committed to working closely with the Government of India towards this end," Oli had said over a video-link before the joint inauguration of the Rs 140 crore Jogbani-Biratnagar Integrated Check Post with an aim to improve bilateral trade and people-to-people contact.

India and Bangladesh in 2015 resolved their boundary issues by swapping enclaves following a historic deal signed between the two countries' prime ministers, giving thousands of people in stateless limbo for almost 70 years an option to chose the nationality of either Bangladesh or India.

## Sports Ministry to hire around 1500 coaches to fill up vacancies: Rijiju

**NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI):** Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said the government has decided to recruit around 1500 coaches to fill up existing vacancies and ensured full support to the country's athletes.

"There are approximately 1500 vacancies for coaches, whom we couldn't hire due to technical reasons. So we have decided to fill up these vacancies in the coming days," Rijiju said on the sidelines of a program celebrating 'National Girl Child Day'.

"We are not going to wait for the 8 years period and will promote the assistant coaches to senior level after few years on the basis of their service record, so that there is no dearth of coaches."

"We are hiring reputed foreign coaches, irre-

spective of their remuneration. There will be no shortage of funds for the training of the Indian athletes. There are some very good Indian trainers and coaches and we are hiring them as well," he added.

The Khelo India Youth Games, the 13-day government's flagship project, concluded this week with Maharashtra maintaining its supremacy by finishing at the top of the table with a massive haul of 256 medals.

"I was extremely happy to see so many national records being broken during the Khelo India Games which is a Under-21 tournament. Some of these athletes will also participate in the Olympics and in other various international events," Rijiju said.

Rijiju also said that his ministry is trying to

ensure that athletes get the required diet at all training centres. "I had gone to Lucknow recently and there I came to know the quality of food was not good, so I stepped in and now I have got the feedback that the quality has improved," he said.

Hailing the country's women athletes, Rijiju said: "The performance of Indian women athletes in Olympics and world championships are better than men. They win more medals than the boys in international tournaments. We have told the sports training centres to give equal opportunities to women."

"If we don't encourage women, our 60 per cent chances of winning medal will be gone. They train as harder and have an equal standing as men."

## Mamata will now paint to protest against CAA and NRC

**KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI):** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will now take up the brush on January 28 to protest against the amended Citizenship Act and the proposed NRC, well known painter Shuvaprasanna who is organising it said on Friday.

The programme will take place at the Gandhi statue on Mayo Road, where Banerjee, a painter herself, will wield the brush along with several other renowned painters to depict the problems of the contentious CAA and NRC, he said.

The theme of the programme is 'No CAA-

No NRC'. It has been planned by Banerjee, Shuvaprasanna said.

"Around 40 painters along with our chief minister will try to depict the protests across the country, the pain of the people who are in detention centres in Assam due to NRC."

It will be a different form of protest," he told PTI.

According to TMC sources, the paintings will be exhibited in various galleries of the state and the country.

"These paintings will be a part of our awareness campaign against CAA and NRC across the country and state," a se-

nior TMC leader said.

The issue of CAA has emerged as major political flash point in West Bengal with the TMC opposing the contentious legislation tooth and nail, and the BJP pressing for its implementation.

Banerjee, a staunch critic of BJP, has been at the forefront of anti-CAA protest as well as against the proposed National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register.

The TMC supremo had led 11 protest marches and seven rallies in various parts of the state against the CAA and the NRC.

## Bodies of 2 women found near brick kiln in West Bengal

**BARUIPUR (WB), JAN 24 (PTI):** Bodies of two women were found near a brick kiln in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said.

The bodies, which are yet to be identified, were found with their clothes dishevelled in Dongajora in Kultali police station area, sparking speculations that they might have been raped elsewhere, killed and then dumped near the brick kiln, Ba-

ruipur police district SP Rashid Munir Khan said.

"However, we can confirm anything only after getting post-mortem reports," the officer said.

The place where the bodies were found is close to Merigunj police outpost and a gram panchayat office, he said.

Bodies of two women were also found in the area in 2003 and 2010 and the cases are yet to be solved, sources said.

## Bru settlement: Tripura begins survey to identify beneficiaries



**AGARTALA, JAN 24 (PTI):** The Tripura government has commenced a survey in the six Bru rehabilitation camps to identify the beneficiaries who will be settled in the state and the entire process is expected to be completed by October, officials said here on Friday.

Thousands of Bru community people have been living in relief camps in two sub-divisions of North Tripura district since 1997. They had fled Mizoram to reach the neighbouring state because of ethnic clashes.

An agreement was signed by representatives of the Brus, the central, Tripura and Mizoram governments in New Delhi on January 16 allowing these tribal people to permanently settle in Tripura after living in the state for around 23 years.

"The state revenue department has begun a survey in the Bru rehabilitation camps on January 18 to find out the exact number of the inmates and beneficiaries of the

agreement. They would also receive a rehabilitation package," Sub-divisional Magistrate of Kancharpur, Abhedananda Baidya said.

The Brus are staying in six camps at Kancharpur and Panisagar sub-divisions of North Tripura district. They get free ration and a cash dole from the Centre.

Under the agreement, Rs 4 lakh will be given to each Bru family in a fixed deposit account, Rs 5,000 per month for two years, a plot of land in Tripura and ration for two years.

The central government will provide Rs 600 crore to the state government for this purpose.

Official sources said the government has to be cautious that only the real displaced people get the benefits and the entire procedure to settle the Brus is expected to be completed by October this year.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb last week said it will take at least six months to resettle the 34,000 odd members of the com-

munity, following norms of the agreement. The agreement was signed one-and-a-half months after the latest initiative to send the Bru refugees back to Mizoram failed. Of the targeted 4,447 families, the chief minister said only 350 families could be repatriated.

The vexed Bru issue started from September, 1997, following demands of a separate autonomous district council by carving out areas of western Mizoram adjoining Bangladesh and Tripura. The situation was aggravated by the murder of a forest guard in the Dampa Tiger Reserve in western Mizoram by Bru National Liberation Front insurgents on October 21 that year.

The first attempt to repatriate the Brus from Tripura was made in November 2009.

The Centre, along with the governments of Tripura and Mizoram, had been trying to repatriate them to their home state over the past one decade, with little success.

## Chinese rake to join Kolkata Metro fleet soon

**KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI):** Kolkata Metro is planning to rollout a Chinese rake, trials of which are currently being conducted, an official said here on Friday, insisting that the move is aimed at phasing out its old fleet.

Five new rakes made by the Integral Coach Factory, Perumbur, were made operational last year by the Metro Railway -- which on an average runs 22 to 24 trains daily on the 27.2 -km-long Noapara-Kavi Subhash route -- she said.

"In all, the Kolkata Metro had ordered 40 air-conditioned rakes from different manufacturers to augment its services. While 16 are from ICF, 14 are from China's CNR Dalian Locomotive & Rolling Stock Co and the rest from CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Company, also in China," the official said. Delivery from Chinese manufacturer Dalian has begun, with the first one arriving late last year.

"A team of experts from Dalian is working with engineers from Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and the Metro Railway here for smooth

integration of the new rake into the system," the official explained.

Trial runs are being conducted two to three days every week, after commercial services end at night, she said. Metro spokesperson Indrani Banerjee said all aspects of the new rakes, equipped with the latest technology, have to be looked into before it was integrated into the system.

The new rake will be operational only after it gets a nod from the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS).

The country's first underground mass transit system, which continues to run old, non-air conditioned rakes that it had acquired in 1984, introduced five indigenously developed rakes last year, providing some relief to commuters. "After some teething problems in the initial stages, which have been addressed, these home-made rakes have now smoothly integrated into the system, the official said.

Banerjee said that the Kolkata Metro authorities plan to run only air-conditioned coaches by the end of 2020.

## West Bengal emerges at the top in vegetable production

**KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI):** West Bengal has emerged as the top state in the country in vegetable production in 2018-19, according to horticulture production data released by the Central government recently.

West Bengal witnessed a production of 29.55 million tonne (MT) of vegetables during 2018-19 which was the maximum in the country in that period, said the state-wise horticulture production data.

Uttar Pradesh was in the second place with 27.71 million tonne of vegetable production in

the same period, it said.

In 2017-18, West Bengal was in the second place with 27.70 MT of vegetable production while UP held the top position with a production of 28.32 MT.

As per the data, for the 2018-19 period, West Bengal has accounted for 15.9 per cent of the country's total vegetable production.

It said UP produced 14.9 per cent of the country's vegetable production, while Madhya Pradesh recorded 9.6 per cent followed by Bihar 9 per cent and Gujarat 6.8 per cent.

It's a great achievement and the credit goes to our farmers, Agriculture Advisor to the Chief Minister, Pradipt Kumar Majumdar said.

He said, "Under the guidance of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee we are trying to help the farmers in enhancing their income which eventually increased the production."

Convincing the farmers to shift to cultivating horticultural crops rather than the traditional ones they had been doing also helped to increase vegetable production, Majumdar said.

visit us at: [www.summittimes.com](http://www.summittimes.com)

**SummitTIMES**  
It's easy to relax...  
When you can trust the News.

**VIDEO NEWS SECTION**

Sikkim SCAN | CapitalTIMES | Neighbourhood WATCH | Sports & Specials | ElseWhere | EICETERA

**To book ad-space, contact SummitTIMES at**

**BANGKOK:** For circulation details Contact: +91-9749897549, +91-9647102842 & for Advertisement booking at +91-9933427305 or at office no 03592 208498. Mail us at [advertise@summittimes.com](mailto:advertise@summittimes.com)

**SILIGURI:** Mr. Mani Rai, M/s. Space Ads. B.R. Ambedkar Building, Room No.7, Tel: 9833083973, E-mail: [contact.synapse@gmail.com](mailto:contact.synapse@gmail.com) / [rahul.alit23@gmail.com](mailto:rahul.alit23@gmail.com)

**KOLKATA OFFICE:** Irshad Ali / Inteleeye, Synapse, 6, Madan Street, Mezzine - 2, 2nd floor, Kolkata - 700072. Ph: 033-22124348 / fax 033-22124337 / mob. +91-9830547774 / +91-9833083973

**Phone:** 03592-208498, +91-9832556698, +91-9832080753

**www.summittimes.com**  
[news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)  
[summittimes15@gmail.com](mailto:summittimes15@gmail.com)  
[advertise@summittimes.com](mailto:advertise@summittimes.com)

**Address:** Santa Bhawan Complex, Church Road Near Diesel Power House (DPH) Gangtok, East Sikkim, 737101

# Wang Qiang plays match of her life to beat Serena Williams

**KEVIN MITCHELL**  
**SYDNEY, 24 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]:** Serena Williams staggered out of the Australian Open on day five, losing in three sets to the world No 29 Wang Qiang, a brave but flawed performance that exposed the veteran American's gathering frailties. It was the biggest shock of the tournament and the biggest upset of Wang's career. She took a single game off Williams in New York six months ago.

"I told my team I could always do it today," Wang said courtside. "It was really good work. I am very happy. After the second set, I was a little confused. I had to be calm. My mind always tells me I have to be calm and trust myself."

China's best player, a 29-year-old late bloomer, played the match of her life against the seven-time Australian Open champion to win 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5 in two hours and 41 minutes on the tournament's biggest stage, and looked to enjoy every minute, even the bad ones.

Williams, though, suffered in every crest and slump, unable to disguise what staying in the Open meant to her – a chance to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 majors.

That moment is gone. Nor will there be an emotional fourth-round meeting for Williams and her best friend, Caroline Wozniacki, no hugs at the net, win or lose, to bid the Dane farewell from



tennis. Only 29 but suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, this was Wozniacki's last tournament. As Williams and Wang embarked on the deciding set, Wozniacki was falling in three sets to Ons Jabeur, the Tunisian who put Johanna Konta out in the first round.

At the start of the week, Williams beat the Russian teenager Anastasia Potapova in less than an hour to join Roger Federer as the only player in the Open era to win 350 matches in grand slam tournaments. But the impression on Friday was that history is beginning to weigh heavily on her. Wang broke at the end of the first set, forcing repeated errors from the American, who looked increasingly weary, her movement sluggish and her ground strokes lacking penetration. Wang struck again in the fifth game of the second, as Williams continued to struggle after just over an hour. Two

key moments arrived in the sixth game, when Wang clipped the line with a running forehand and then Williams hit a regulation backhand long from mid-court to trail 2-4. Scattered calls of "Come on, Serena" floated around a stunned Rod Laver Arena, fans waiting for a comeback that looked increasingly unlikely. Serving at 2-4, Williams handed Wang a chance for the double-break but held through deuce, when her opponent struck long from the baseline.

The errors continued to flow from Williams's racket as she failed to crack the Wang defence, in long or short rallies. When Wang defied a late onslaught to hold for 5-2, fans held their breath as Williams walked slowly to the service line. She held to 15, forcing Wang to serve it out.

Williams continued to swing hard, winning the first two points. Wang clawed one back

for 15-30 and netted a backhand to surrender two break points. Williams raised her arms in triumph when she finished a 24-shot rally with a crosscourt forehand winner.

Her relief was as palpable as the tension in every corner of the building – and the tournament. This sort of news spreads quickly, no matter how many matches are in contention at the same time.

Wang was as cool under pressure, though, as was Naomi Osaka when she beat Williams to win the 2018 US Open. She got two more break points, butchering the first and helpless to reach Williams's wide ace for deuce. Then held again. Just.

They went to the tie-break, where Williams invariably prevails in big moments. She has lost only two at the Australian Open. She led 4-2 at the changeover, thanks to a bad mistake by Wang, and had the ball in her

hand at 5-2 up. Wang pushed a forehand just wide to hand Williams four set points, and a big serve forced a third set.

Williams, who was behind in the serving cycle, saved break point for 4-4, then held with an ace to stay in the championships at 5-5. In the 12th game, Wang fashioned two match points on the Williams serve – and each time her racket twitched. She got another. This time, Williams blinked, her backhand billowing the net, and the job was done.

Seven years ago, Wang – who has played most of her tennis on the Asian circuit until the past couple of seasons – came through qualifying to beat Wozniacki in the first round of the Malaysian Open. She has won two WTA Tour titles and reached four finals. Her best finish at a slam was last year at Flushing Meadows, where she reached the quarter-finals after stopping the then world No 2, Ashleigh Barty, in the fourth round. It capped her breakout season at the highest level, after she had reached the third round in Melbourne, Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

Wang has beaten plenty of other good opponents, including Heather Watson's conqueror here this week, Elise Mertens, and beat Watson in Tianjin in October. But trading on level terms, then outlasting, the player regarded as the greatest of all time will be a memory impossible to displace.

# AIFF launches football masters course



**NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI):** The All India Football Federation has launched a football management program after the signing of an MoU with Spanish second division side Cadiz CF. This will enable students in the program to study in three cities over the course of a year New Delhi, Mumbai and Cadiz in Spain.

AIFF 'Masters' provides students with complete hands-on experiential training on every aspect of football in India

and abroad through live tournament exposure, match staging, clubs and team management, data management and analysis, leadership and project management skills, contractual and legal obligations, sponsorship marketing and business communication.

The program will provide exemplary football managers to meet the needs of Indian football.

The multi-campus approach is set to ensure maximum exposure for the

students to learn and develop within the different national and international eco-systems of the game.

AIFF president Praful Patel said, "Football is without any doubt the number one global sport and is growing very quickly in India.

"We felt that such a program was needed to help students understand the nuances and global practices involved in managing football not only in India but across the world.

# FC Goa eyeing top spot with win over Kerala



**GOA, JAN 24 (PTI):** Hosts FC Goa would settle for nothing less than a victory in their pursuit of climbing to the top when they take on a struggling Kerala Blasters in a Hero Indian Super League match here on Saturday.

FC Goa, ATK and Bengaluru FC, are locked in a compelling three-way battle for the top spot in the league stage of the ISL, which guarantees a spot in the AFC Champions League.

And the Goan outfit will be looking to pull clear of their rivals when they take on a struggling Kerala Blasters at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here.

Bengaluru FC are currently leading the standings with 25 points from 14 games ahead of ATK and FC Goa, both having 24 points from 13 games each.

"I think from now every match is a final, for us and all teams are in the same situation. It's a very important match and we have to move step by step. For us, it is a big opportunity and a big challenge," said FC Goa coach Sergio Lobera.

Kerala Blasters are also in dire need of a win as anything less against FC Goa is set to deal a massive blow to their top-four hopes.

"Chances are still there (of getting top-four). I don't focus on results. I focus on the process. If the process is good then results will come. As long as nothing is decided, we keep going," said Kerala Blasters coach Eelco Schattorie.

Goa will seek home comfort as they look to bounce back from the 0-2 away loss to ATK. They have won their last three home games and have conceded just three goals at home, the least by a team this season.

Tilting the scales in Goa's favour is also the fact that Kerala have been poor travellers. Kerala have kept just one clean sheet away from home this season.

"I think Kerala now have improved compared to the side we played in Kerala. Kerala lost the last match, but the circumstance is very important to analyse, not only the result," said Lobera.

Lobera's record against Kerala has been exemplary. In five games against them, Lobera has managed to win four and draw one, with the draw coming in the reverse fixture (2-2).

However, there are concerns for Goa. Despite scoring 25 goals, the most by a team this

season, they have been in a mini slump of sorts.

They have scored just three goals in the last three games from about 44 attempted shots.

The likes of Ferran Corominas and Manvir Singh will look to turn things around in that respect while the impressive Hugo Boumous and Brandon Fernandes will look to create opportunities.

Defensive mistakes have hurt Kerala this season with the previous game against Jamshedpur FC a clear example.

Abdul Hakku got sent off with a challenge before Raphael Messi Bouli's handball gifted Jamshedpur a way back into the game. Bartholomew Ogbeche's own-goal then gifted the opposition a 3-2 win.

"Goa is a team that plays football the way I would like to play. It is the only team that plays possession-based football and they also have the quality to put balls forward. We have the tools to play the same kind of football but unfortunately, I don't have them fit all the time," said Schattorie.

In attack, Messi Bouli and Ogbeche have been in fine form, scoring 13 out of the 18 goals Kerala have in their name.

# Five-time NBA champion Ron Harper to visit India



**MUMBAI, JAN 24 (PTI):** The National Basketball Association (NBA) on Friday announced that five-time NBA champion Ron Harper will visit India from January 25 to 30 as part of the league's continued efforts to grow the game in the country.

Harper will first stop in Mumbai on January 25, where he will engage with the youth at the NBA Basketball School at the St. Stanislaus School.

On January 26, Harper will make a live television appearance on SONY TEN 1's NBA wrap-around show 'Around The Hoop' to discuss the ongoing season.

The following day, Harper will tip off the Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA program at the Ghatkopar YMCA.

Harper will then travel to Chandigarh through Delhi to attend the Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA

program at DAV Senior Public School, Chandigarh on January 30 to engage with the coaches as a part of the NBA Coaches Academy.

"I am excited to return to India to be a part of the NBA's initiatives to grow and celebrate the game of basketball," said Harper.

"There's so much excitement around the game coming off The NBA India Games 2019 and I look forward to seeing how far the game has come since my last visit in 2013."

Harper, a 6'6 shooting guard from Dayton, Ohio, was selected 8th overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 1986 NBA Draft. Harper is a five-time NBA Champion, part of the Chicago Bulls' three-peat (1996-1998) then twice with the Los Angeles Lakers (2000 & 2001).

# Jordan Henderson shows why he may be Liverpool's most important player of all

**SACHINM NAKRANI**

**LIVERPOOL, 24 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]:** As the final whistle blew on a cold and misty night in the Midlands, Liverpool's players allowed themselves a moment to congregate in the centre of the pitch and celebrate yet another win. Backs were patted, hugs were exchanged and, not surprisingly, breaths were caught after what was the league leaders' toughest assignment of the season so far. But one man in red was not there, for he had walked to the far side of the pitch to acknowledge the 3,000-plus travelling supporters who had made the trip here. In turn they saluted him, and rightly so. He was not only their captain but also the main reason this proved to be another joyous occasion for their side.

Jordan Henderson was outstanding here, scoring his side's first goal, assisting their second and in general performing with a level of authority, commitment and skill that continues to mark him out as arguably Liverpool's most important player right now. That may seem an absurd assessment given those he has around him, most notably Alisson, Virgil van Dijk, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Roberto Firmino, all of whom contributed in their own ways to this triumph, but neither is it outlandish to suggest that without Henderson, Liverpool would be a notably diminished outfit. They may still be top by a distance, but they may well not be looking at a campaign in which they can not only clinch that long-awaited title but also achieve invincibility.

Seriously, he is that good, and has been for some time. Indeed, it is hard to remember the last occasion that all those old doubts and uncertainties about Henderson's top-level credentials came to the fore. Opposition fans no longer have a stick to beat him with, and the angst that use to grip Anfield whenever discussions took place regarding Henderson's suitability as Steven Gerrard's successor has all but vanished. The current captain is not, and never will be, as great as the old one,

but in his own right he is some leader and some talent. That was evident throughout this contest, starting with the manner in which he gave Liverpool the lead after eight minutes – a header that was as powerful as it was accurate – to the way in which he controlled the tempo of their play from a deep-lying midfield role. Most crucially of all, he kept those around him focused on the job in hand, when they were largely on top in the first half and then after the break when Wolves performed with a level of intensity and purpose that for a while looked as if it was going to overwhelm their opponents and bring about what would have been their first league defeat in 386 days.

Watching Henderson in the flesh it really is noticeable how much he communicates with his teammates. He is constantly talking to them, constantly telling them where to be and where to go and, when required, handing out a good old-fashioned bollocking. This was the case on 27 minutes when he told Alexander-Arnold in no uncertain terms to drop back after a Liverpool attack had broken down.

"He played an unbelievable game tonight," said Jürgen Klopp. "He was really shouting at everybody, keeping everybody on their toes, but it's not just about shouting, it's about what you say and he only asks for things he expects from himself."

Of that there is little doubt, for this is a player who has gone on a journey of dogged self-improvement ever since he joined Liverpool in June 2011. Having led the side to Champions League glory last season Henderson is now, as Klopp said himself on the eve of this game, able to let his "natural quality" shine. That is particularly evident in his range of passing: short and quick, long and searching, he can do the lot. He showed that throughout this contest, most tellingly with the perfectly weighted delivery to Firmino on 84 minutes that led to the Brazilian cancelling out Raúl Jiménez's equaliser with a thumping close-range strike.

**to book advertisements in SummitTimes**  
**call 03592-208698, 9734152541, 9647102692,**  
**advertise@summittimes.com,**

## Britain angered by US refusal to extradite diplomat's wife

**LONDON, JAN 24 (AFP):** Britain on Friday rebuked the United States for refusing to extradite a diplomat's wife charged over a car crash that killed a British teenager, calling it a "denial of justice". The case of Anne Sacoolas has been a thorn in London's close relations with Washington, stirring up debates over the limits of diplomatic immunity in cases unrelated to national security.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said he expressed disappointment at the decision in a call to Woody Johnson, the US ambassador to Britain.

"We feel this amounts to a denial of justice, and we believe Anne Sacoolas should return to the UK. We are now urgently considering our options," said Raab.

"The UK would have acted differently if this had been a UK diplomat serving in the US," Harry Dunn, 19, died in August when his motorcycle collided with a car driving on the wrong side of the road near an air force base in Croughton, central England, used by the US military as a communications hub.

Sacoolas, who has admitted to being the driver, was charged by British police with causing death by dangerous driving.

However, she has cited immunity while refusing to return to Britain to face justice, as Dunn's parents have demanded.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has decided to reject Britain's extradition request.

Dunn's parents were informed of the decision in a phone call with their MP on Thursday and "were not at all surprised", said family spokesman Radd Seiger.

"This is a lawless, corrupt administration that appears intent on attacking even its closest international ally," he said.

"If Trump and Pompeo think this is an end to the matter, they have another thing coming to them," he said, saying the family would meet the government to discuss their next steps.

Dunn's parents, Charlotte Charles and Tim Dunn, visited the White House in October to meet US President Donald Trump.

They said he was warm and welcoming but they criticised the White House's attempts to engineer a snap meeting with Sacoolas, who was in a room next door with photographers.

The US State Department confirmed it had rejected the request, saying Sacoolas had immunity from criminal jurisdiction during her stay in the UK. "If the United States were to grant the UK's extradition request, it would render the invocation of diplomatic immunity a practical nullity and would set an extraordinarily troubling precedent," it said in a statement.

The case has been a political headache for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is cultivating trade relations with Washington in a bid to offset the potential damage of Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

# Threat of jail shapes Egyptian lives nine years after uprising

**RUTH MICHAELSON**

**CAIRO, 24 JAN [THEGUARDIAN]:** Mohammed Abdellatif did not see himself as a political activist. As a dentist in Cairo, his concerns were focused on healthcare and issues such as a lack of medical supplies and low wages for doctors.

Then at 3am one day last September, 50 armed security agents stormed his family home. Abdellatif's alleged crime was to have launched a social media campaign demanding better pay and conditions for health workers in Egypt. The previous month while working at a public hospital in Giza, he had started the Twitter hashtag "Egyptian doctors are angry".

His brother, Omar Soliman, described what happened after the state agents entered Abdellatif's home. "They interrogated him for two hours, then blindfolded him and marched him handcuffed to an undisclosed police building. For nine days he remained blindfolded, handcuffed, not allowed to move or talk, given little food, and remained in the same clothes he was wearing since his arrest."

Nine years after the mass protests that shook the country and toppled the autocrat Hosni Mubarak, the threat of prison shapes the lives of a generation of Egyptians. An estimated 60,000 political prisoners languish in jail, while the risk of imprisonment looms over even the apolitical, from businesspeople to doctors, lawyers and students.

Activists who forced the end of Mubarak's almost 30-year reign have been silenced or have fled the country, while the Egyptian authorities have recently begun to target family members of outspoken critics based abroad, raiding homes and detaining at least 28 people.

Since coming to power in a military coup in 2013, President Abdel-Fatah al-Sisi has overseen a broad crackdown on political activity and free speech, detaining journalists, NGO workers and even



the mildest critics. Egypt has built at least 19 new prisons since 2011, housing a swath of ordinary citizens such as Mohamed Nassif Mohamed Ghoneim, a tax office employee who was jailed in 2018 for a Facebook comment considered "offensive to the ruling regime, Sisi and the tax authority's leaders."

Public dissent on even benign issues is risky: 21 people were arrested for protesting against a rise in ticket prices on the Cairo metro the same year and later imprisoned on terrorism charges.

Anti-government protests in several cities last September only provoked a further crackdown. At least 4,433 people were arrested, according to the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, a Cairo-based NGO. (Egypt's public prosecutor claimed 1,000 were detained.) Many remain in prison on charges of aiding a terrorist group, protesting illegally, misusing the internet, undermining national security or using social media to spread false news.

Abdellatif, the dentist, was also accused of joining a terrorist group and was added to a mass trial that included many people arrested after the protests in September. "He didn't see a judge since his arrest. No trial,

no judicial process, just pre-trial detention," said Soliman.

Abdellatif's lawyer, Mohammed Baqir, was arrested later during a visit to see another imprisoned client, Alaa Abd El Fattah, a prominent activist. Abdellatif has been in prison since September on a pre-trial detention order renewed in 15-day increments.

An activity as simple as shopping for clothes for a job interview was all it took for a 19-year-old student to be arrested in downtown Cairo on 21 September. The student, whose family requested anonymity fearing reprisals, crossed one of the checkpoints that had sprung up around the centre of Cairo after protests the previous day, where security officials searched their phones and social media at random.

"We don't know where he is being held and no one has told us where he is and what he is accused of," said his brother. "We filed all kinds of police and reports to the public prosecutor about his disappearance. These were bureaucratic and meaningless. He was just shopping for clothes. Our family is waiting every day for him to return home tomorrow."

The threat of prison has been amplified by increasing reports of

deaths in custody. Mustafa Kassem, a US citizen, died in prison last week after a hunger strike in protest at his incarceration. Kassem was detained alongside his brother-in-law while changing money in a shopping centre in a Cairo suburb in 2013 and later given a 15-year sentence as part of a mass trial.

The interior ministry said Kassem received "comprehensive healthcare during his sentence." The US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, expressed outrage over Kassem's "pointless and tragic death" in a meeting with Sisi on the sidelines of a diplomatic summit in Berlin. But some observers accused Washington of failing to push hard enough for his release.

A coalition of Egyptian human rights groups pleaded for the Red Cross to be allowed to inspect the country's prisons following Kassem's death, pointing to a toll of 917 prisoner deaths between June 2013 and November last year, "with a drastic increase in 2019". Egypt's former president Mohamed Morsi died in prison in June last year after he was repeatedly denied medical care and held in conditions that an independent review by British MPs denounced as torture.

In November the United Nations voiced fears that thousands more detainees across Egypt may be at risk from gross human rights abuses while in detention. Shortly afterwards, Egypt's state information service released a video intended to contradict the UN's statement, showing a visit by government officials to Cairo's infamous Tora prison, including interviews with detainees.

A select group of journalists were invited to tour the same Cairo prison complex, a site associated with mass incarceration and torture, where they were shown a chef carefully tending to an outdoor barbecue and detainees playing football on a freshly mown pitch in an effort to present a different image of prison conditions.

"Putting so many people behind bars disrupts social life, it disrupts family life and obviously has an impact on politics – particularly to the extent that the Egyptian state has locked up the very people who were most likely to pursue a peaceful version of politics," said Andrew Miller, of the Project on Middle East Democracy, a Washington thinktank.

He said mass incarceration on this scale was politically and socially unsustainable. "They are either intentionally or unintentionally empowering the violent actors that remain outside of prison to assume a higher profile within opposition activities," he said. Egypt's interior ministry did not respond when contacted for comment.

As Saturday's anniversary of the protest movement approached, Egyptian security forces made their presence felt once again in downtown Cairo, searching homes at random and demanding to see residents' details to signal that no protests would be tolerated.

One resident of the area said security officials had marched her from her home to a local police station for a precautionary check in case she was later charged with a crime. "It was traumatising," she said.

## Life under lockdown in China: hospital queues and empty streets

**LILLIAN YANG**

**BEIJING, 24 JAN**

**[THEGUARDIAN]:** In hospitals across Wuhan, the city at the centre of the new coronavirus outbreak, there is panic and despair. Patients wearing masks queue for hours, waiting to be called by nurses. Staff who have worked endless shifts are forced to turn many away. Pharmacies are running out of supplies.

A lack of diagnostic tests means lots of people don't know for sure if their fever is the new strain of coronavirus, which has killed 26 people in China and affected more than 800.

Even reaching emergency wards is a struggle, following the shutdown of public transport in the city, which has been placed in complete lockdown. The roads are mostly deserted, and taxi drivers, fearing infection, are refusing to pick up patients from hospitals.

About 10 people got off a high-speed train that pulled into Wuhan on Friday afternoon but nobody got on before it resumed its journey. "I need to be with my family," said one passenger, dragging two large cases out of the station.

Footage that appears to have been taken inside medical facilities, and shared on social media, shows staff unable to manage the huge influx of people. In one clip, a patient lies on the floor of a crowded room, apparently having fainted. In another, a woman wearing a face mask cries out



for help, saying: "I have a fever." It is not possible to verify the videos.

"Patients are all anxious and worried," said Ms Zhang, a nurse in Wuhan, who is pregnant, and who is herself receiving treatment for a low fever.

Her elderly mother is believed by doctors to have the new coronavirus, but she has not been given a diagnostic test. Her mother was previously given injections at an outpatient department and sent home. Despite trying several hospitals, none were able to offer a bed.

Zhang fears her father could also become ill, as he has developed a fever after visiting the hospital with her mother.

On Thursday she waited for hours to receive treatment herself, and was eventually given an anti-inflammatory injection but told supplies of cephalosporin had run out.

After speaking to the head of department for infected medical staff, she was able to get a bed.

"I am a nurse myself, it's difficult to get myself a bed, for normal people it would be much more difficult. The situation is the same in other hospitals in Wuhan, I heard from friends and relatives who are working in other hospitals here," she said.

On the outskirts of Wuhan, diggers and bulldozers have begun work to build a new 1,000-bed hospital, which is due to open within days. Built on the site of a holiday complex once intended for local workers, it is expected to be similar to those established in Beijing in 2003, when the city faced a Sars outbreak that killed almost 800 people and reached nearly 30 countries.

Mr Huang, an architect, said his sister-in-law in Wuhan, who has had symptoms, struggled to get a diagnostic test – but eventually had one this week and got the all clear. "Only when you are being isolated, and have severe symptoms, there will be a chance you can be tested," he said.

"There aren't enough beds in hospitals."

Another resident, who is British, told the Guardian that he and his friends would be reluctant to go to hospital unless they were certain they had the disease. "It's the number one place to catch it," he said.

Healthcare staff are working flat out to try to treat patients, said Zhang. All staff have cancelled their spring break, she said, and are taking extended shifts.

In one video shared widely online, the strain placed on medical staff is clear. A doctor wearing a mask and protective goggles, believed to be from Wuhan, can be seen breaking down as he speaks on the phone.

"Do you think I don't want to go home? Do you think I don't want to celebrate Chinese new year? ... We are transferred to work in fever clinic, you think we don't care about our own safety?" he says, as a colleague, also in protective equipment, tries to console him.

## Italy threatens Facebook with new fine for selling users' data

**ROME, JAN 24 (AFP):** Italy's competition authority has warned Facebook it faces a further fine of five million euros (5.5 million) for persisting in selling users' data without informing them.

The non-compliance procedure by Italy's AGCM consumer and market watchdog follows five million euro fine against the social media giant in November 2018 for failing to tell users "how the data they will provide will be harvested for commercial purposes."

Facebook has also failed to publish a "corrective statement" about

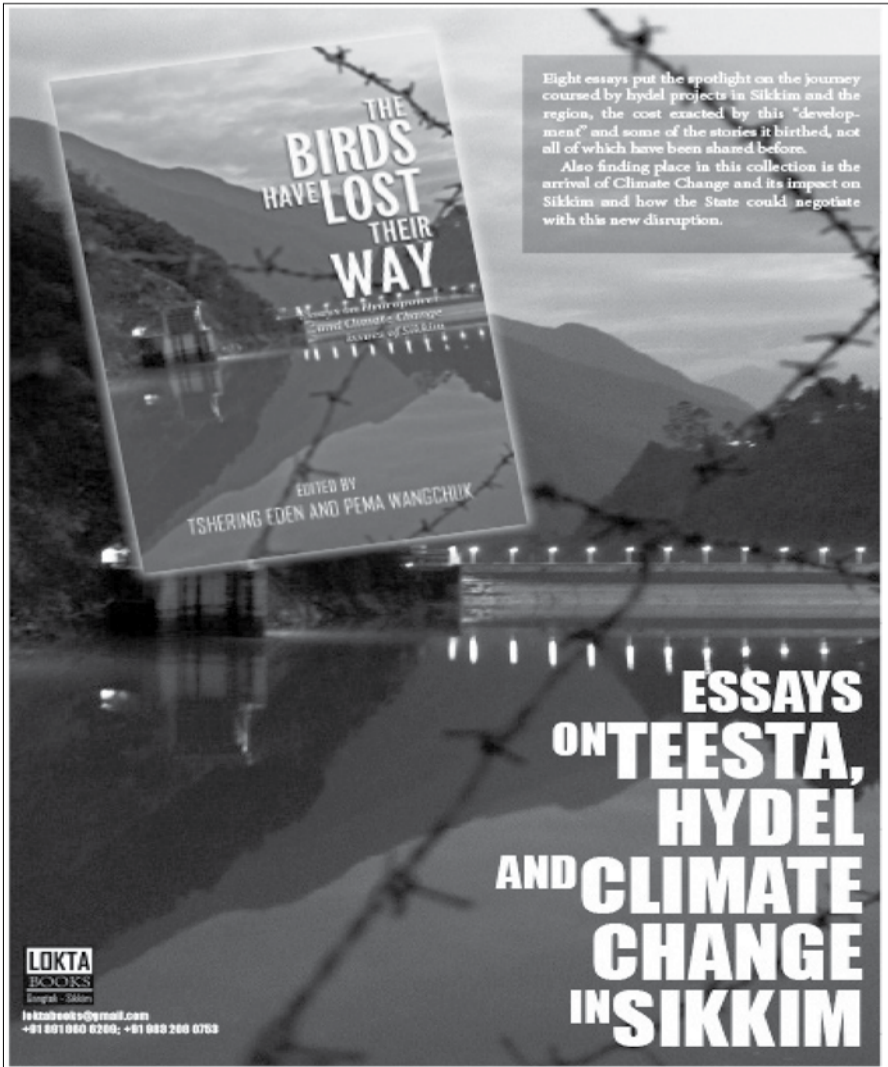


its commercial practices on its homepage and app, the authority said in a statement on Friday.

The company has removed the claim that "it is free and will be forever" but users "continue not to be informed by the company, clearly and immediately, as to the collection and use of their

data for remunerative purposes." Facebook has repeatedly said it does not sell users' data.

The company has faced a barrage of criticism recently for the misuse of users' data to influence elections amid increasing calls for the company run by Mark Zuckerberg to be regulated.





**RARE SIGHTING:** It's not every day that we see these two hand in hand. Recently, Alicia Vikander and Michael Fassbender were spotted during a rare public outing for Paris Fashion Week. The two looked happy and in love after being pictured leaving the Louis Vuitton dinner for Fashion Week.

## 'Batman' script is beautiful, dark and moving: Colin Farrell

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 24 (PTI):** Hollywood actor Colin Farrell has revealed that the script of Matt Reeves' "The Batman" is dark, moving and gorgeous.

Farrell will be starring in the film as DC supervillain Penguin opposite British actor Robert Pattinson's Batman.

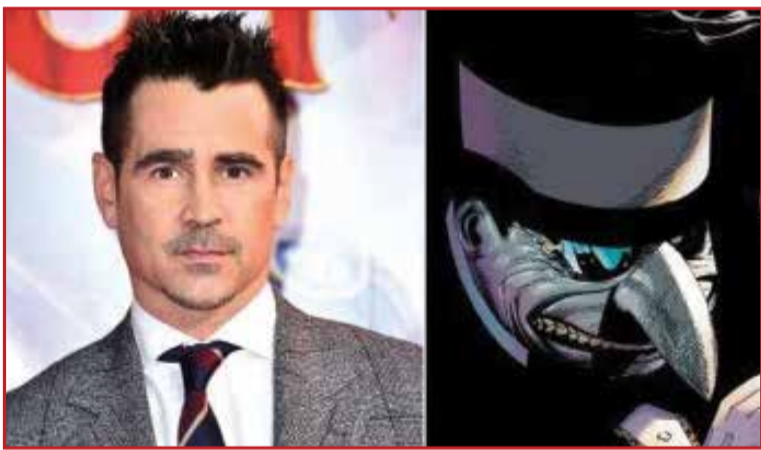
Reeves has penned the script with Mattson Tomlin.

"I'm in the process of talking to Matt Reeves, who's the director, who wrote the script, and wrote a really beautiful, dark, moving script, really gorgeous.

"It's all very hush hush. But it's a really beautiful script that he wrote and he has a real love for it, Matt. So, we're in the process of finishing designing the aesthetic of the

character," Farrell said during an appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live".

"The Batman", which is scheduled to be released on June 21, 2021, also features Paul Dano as the Riddler, Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman,



an, Jeffrey Wright as Commissioner Gordon, and Peter Sarsgaard in a mystery role.

Veteran actor Danny DeVito played Penguin to Michael Keaton's Caped Crusader in Tim Burton's 1992 film "Batman Returns".

## Taylor Swift details struggle with eating disorder in Miss Americana documentary

Taylor Swift isn't holding anything back in her new Netflix documentary.

In Taylor Swift: Miss Americana, which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival on Thursday, the "Lover" singer revealed that she struggled with eating disorders in the past. Crediting the paparazzi's intrusive and frequent scrutiny of her appearance with causing her to develop an "unhealthy" relationship with food, she admitted that there were times she'd even "starve" herself.

Her struggle is documented in the "raw and emotionally revealing" film, where Swift is seen being swarmed by a sea of photographers as she leaves her apartment. In a voice over she says, "It's not good for me to see pictures of myself every day." Then, she shared moments where seeing an unflattering image of herself triggered her to lose weight.

"It's only happened a few times, and I'm not in any way proud of it," Swift continued. "A picture of me where I feel like I looked like my tummy was too big, or...someone said that I looked pregnant...and that'll just trigger me to just starve a little bit — just stop eating."

Prior to the film's premiere, Swift had recalled a tabloid story that alleged she was pregnant at 18 because of the structure of her outfit during an interview with Variety.

"I remember how, when I was 18, that was the first time I was on the cover of a magazine," she told the outlet. "And the headline was like 'Pregnant at 18?' And it was because I had worn something that made my lower stomach look not flat. So, I just registered

that as a punishment."

"And then I'd walk into a photo shoot and be in the dressing room and somebody who worked at a magazine would say, 'Oh, wow, this is so amazing that you can fit into the sample sizes. Usually we have to make alterations to the dresses, but we can take them right off the runway and put them on you!'" she continued. "And I looked at that as a pat on the

challenging it was to be candid about her body image struggles, noting that she was initially reluctant to share that piece of her with the world.

"I didn't know if I was going to feel comfortable with talking about body image and talking about the stuff I've gone through in terms of how unhealthy that's been for me — my relationship with food and all that over the years,"



head. You register that enough times, and you just start to accommodate everything towards praise and punishment, including your own body."

This idea of being punished and rewarded also translated to the way she looked at food. She added, "And my relationship with food was exactly the same psychology that I applied to everything else in my life: If I was given a pat on the head, I registered that as good. If I was given a punishment, I registered that as bad."

Still on the topic of her disorder and the media's negative effect on her mental health, Swift also discussed how

she explained. "But the way that [director] Lana [Wilson] tells the story, it really makes sense. I'm not as articulate as I should be about this topic because there are so many people who could talk about it in a better way. But all I know is my own experience."

"I think I've never really wanted to talk about that before, and I'm pretty uncomfortable talking about it now," she continued. "But in the context of every other thing that I was doing or not doing in my life, I think it makes sense" to have it in the film."

Taylor Swift: Miss Americana will be available to stream starting January 31.

## 'The Witcher' anime spin-off in the works at Netflix

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 24 (PTI):** Streaming platform Netflix has confirmed that its is developing an anime spin-off of its latest Henry Cavill-fronted series "The Witcher".

The streamer shared the film's announcement on Twitter via its NX account.

"The rumours are true, a new Witcher story is in the works. The anime film, 'The Witcher: Nightmare of the Wolf', will take us back to a new threat facing the Continent. Brought to you by the Witcher team @LHissrich

and @BeauDeMayo, and Studio Mir the studio behind 'Legend of Korra,' the tweet read. Lauren Schmidt Hissrich, who is also the showrunner on "The Witcher" series, expressed her excitement on the new project

"It's a big day here in #TheWitcher world -- and I've been keeping this one secret for over a year," she tweeted.

"The Witcher" series premiered on Netflix on December 20 last year. The show has already been renewed for a second season.

## Elton John, Randy Newman, Cynthia Erivo to perform at 2020 Oscars

**LOS ANGELES, JAN 24 (PTI):** Cynthia Erivo, Elton John, Idina Menzel, Chrissy Metz and Randy Newman are set to perform their Oscar-nominated songs at the 2020 Academy Awards.

John will perform the song "I'm Gonna Love Me Again" from his biographical drama movie "Rocketman".

Newman, who is also nominated for the best original score for "Marriage Story", will perform the track "I Can't Let You Throw Yourself Away" from animated feature

"Toy Story 4". Erivo will sing "Stand Up" from her Harriet Tubman biopic "Harriet". The actor is also nominated in the best actress category at the Oscars.

Menzel will be joined by singer-songwriter Aurora to perform "Frozen II" track "Into The Unknown", while Metz will sing "I'm Standing With You" from "Breakthrough".

The award ceremony will also see an appearance by popular American musician Questlove. .

## Scriptwriting is underrated: Ayushmann Khurrana



**KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI):** Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana believes scriptwriting is an underrated art in the film industry but a good script makes all the difference in an actor's performance.

"Film writing is different. Writing a script is so difficult... (It's) the most underrated. Actors are puppets as (whatever they do) it is all in the script," he said during an interaction with the audience at Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet here on Thursday evening.

Ayushmann, who has established himself with content-backed movies such as "Vicky Donor", "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan", "Dum Lagao Haisha", "Andhadhun" and "Badhaai Ho", believes it is important for an actor

to stay connected with common people to understand the nuances of the characters they portray.

"I try to make that connect with common folk. Wherever I shoot, I try to become one of them. I engage in conversations with the driver, the tea seller. They talk about their problems. I have to know these people, I have to be one with them, that's my way of preparing." His upcoming film "Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan" deals with homosexuality and Ayushmann hoped people will like the film as people are more aware and inclusive now.

"I was gung-ho about doing this film, and so far preparations are concerned I have lots of friends in LGBTQ community," the actor said.

**ARIES:** Building your psychic muscles is a process, Aries, just like working out. Your guides are trying to get in touch with you, sending you messages from the beyond. But are your receptors working to their optimum capacity? Today, you're being asked to tune into your third eye, the space between your brows. Envision a luminescent golden light descending from the heavens, clearing any and all blocks.

Tip: Your spirit guides are trying to get through. **TAURUS:** Brian Leaf, author of Misadventures of a Garden State Yogi, defines inner wisdom "as a knowledge that comes from quieting the mind, setting aside the ego, setting aside one's ideas of how things should be, and listening and feeling for what feels truly right."

Tip: Quieten your mind in order to tune in. **GEMINI:** The emotional is an extension of the physical. How we care for our sacred vessel directly affects our state of being. So, where do you want to vibrate at, Gemini? Today, you're being asked to consider

detoxification. What are the things that are causing more harm than good? Once you've eliminated the harmful substances, consider switching to a wholesome, plant-based diet. Tip: Eliminate the toxins.

**CANCER:** The moon signifies 'Shakti' or the sacred feminine. She's infamous for activating our intuition or inner wisdom. As a Cancerian, you are directly affected by her movement. Take a moment to understand her cycles and rhythms and how they affect you on a soul level. Today, la Luna is in the waning phase, one step away from the new moon, urging you to retreat into your sacred space and focus on shadow work.

Tip: Tune into the phases of the moon.

**LEO:** An important aspect of being a leader is training others to be one too. Leo, we know you are the master of masters, you can do everything by yourself. Do you need to push yourself to your limits though? Learn the art of delegation. Consider this as a testimony of your team's skills; a testimony of how well you have taught them.

Tip: Let your baby birds fly.

**VIRGO:** We are always talking about manifestation and making space for the big stuff. Truth is, new energy cannot enter until we have cleared out the clutter. Work with the cycles of the la luna, Virgo. Today, we are under the influence of the waning moon. This is considered to be a sacred time to practice shadow work and confront our so-called dark parts. Resistance to letting is but natural. Tip: Make space to receive what you have asked for.

**LIBRA:** Embrace the beauty of endings, Libra. They signify the completion of a phase, thereby making space for beginnings. Now isn't that a wonderful place to be in! Think of this as a period of surrender; of letting go. Be grateful for the journey and the soul lessons. When you find yourself pushing against the flow, make a list of things that you'd like to release from your existence, whether it's a limited belief or a relationship that's no longer in alignment. Tip: Cut the cords where you need to.

**SCORPIO:** Our body is three quarters water. Therefore, it is paramount to keep replenishing this reserve. Word for the wise: stay hydrated! Beginning your day with two or three glasses of water is a good way to set a precedent. Exposing our bodies to different temperatures of water is known to have varying effects on the system. For instance, cold showers are invigorating, while hot baths help calm the nerves and release stress. Tip: Allow the element of water to heal you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Take a look at the recurring patterns in your life. Why do you think the story is repeating itself, Sagittarius? Is there a lesson here you haven't been paying attention to for a long time? Quieten the mind and listen to what Spirit is trying to communicate. Tip: The Universe is supporting you to break this cycle.

**CAPRICORN:** "Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly." You are in the midst of a massive transformation, Capricorn. Ready to blossom and become who you were meant to be all

along? While some people are going to applaud your courage others may attempt to bring you down to their level.

Tip: Embrace the changes.

**AQUARIUS:** Late President Abdul Kalam once said, "To succeed in your mission, you must have single-minded devotion to your goal." Aquarius, tap into the power of focus. Put paper to pen as you word your intentions. Then, like an arrow, move straight towards the target. When you are aware of your destination and certain of the route you want to take, there is no reason why you will not hit the target.

Tip: Let focused intention be the secret to your success.

**PISCES:** Starting a project? Now that's the easy part. Sustaining that inner fire is where the real challenge begins. What do you do when you face challenges or when things refuse to go as planned? Channel your inner improv artist. Be flexible when you can. This will help you navigate the obstacle course. Tip: Yes, you can do it!