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# Summit **T**IMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**BJP criticises CM for using unconstitutional language**

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 07 DEC:** Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit has criticised the Chief Minister for using crude language to describe opposition parties and leaders.

The reference here is to the CM's rejection of SKM as "goonda party," a reference which BJP has condemned as undemocratic and unconstitutional. A BJP press release states that the CM should remember SDF's own track-record of violence, mentioning the 22 June 1993 incident when vehicles were torched, offices vandalised and violence took place for the first time in the political history of Sikkim.

On the same, the release adds that SDF has been celebrating that day as the Kranti Divas.

The BJP release goes on to contend that dozens of political murders have taken place in the 25 years of SDF government, but no action has been taken upon the same.

## CM meets local scholars, assures all help to support research

**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 7 DEC:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today announced a hike in stipend paid to research scholars from the present Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000 from January 2019 onwards.

He made this announcement while meeting more than 80 research scholars and M. Phil students at Samman Bhawan here today.

Reiterating the State Government's commitment to supporting academic research in the State, the CM also announced today that Travel Allowance will be provided to research scholars from the State travelling out to submit their subject papers.

He also handed over Rs 2 lakh to representatives of Sikkim Scholars' Forum.

In his address, the CM



also informed that the State will have its own Agriculture and Horticulture College in the near future.

As for the demand of introducing new subjects at school, college and university levels, the CM informed that he has already discussed the matter with the Sikkim State University's Vice Chancellor to look into the matter.

"We are also trying to make our state university the best green university in the world," he further informed.

The Chief Minister also gave a positive response to the demand for a research centre for social sciences and introduction of Nepali language in B.Ed and SLATE.

As for the demand of 30% reservation for Sikkim students in Sikkim

University, the CM, while offering to all that the government could do towards this end, pointed out that the matter does not fall under the state list since SU was a central university.

The Chief Minister also urged the scholars to look beyond means of survival and contribute to the larger interest of the state, country and the planet.

He stressed the need for proper implementation of government schemes and shared that the bureaucracy was the biggest challenge he has faced.

"Knowledge, skill, innovation and dignity of labour are the new identifiers of the modern world," he said, while inviting the scholars to expand the horizons and strive for excellence.

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## Golay presents "naya sarkar, naya bikas" as SKM slogan for election 2019



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morch president, PS Tamang [Golay], interacted with people of Rabong and Gelling-Baiguney wards in West Sikkim during his on-going Parivartan Sankalp Yatra on Friday. He took note of the various grievances and issues placed by people of these wards, informs an SKM press release.

The release informs that local people demanded sustainable development in the area instead of sops and government benefits.

The release adds that the SKM president alleged that the State government has neglected Gyandil Das Dham of Gelling which was presently lying in a pathetic condition and assured that an SKM government would transform it into a prime pilgrimage tourism site.

He also stated that

the present government does not have any substantial programmes for the educated youth of Sikkim and added that farm produce has gone down due to organic farming but the government has not given them any compensation.

He also accused the ruling party for political murders and lashed out against the SDF government on other issues of the State.

Mr Tamang stressed the need for investigation by the CBI and independent agencies on corruption and other issues of Sikkim.

He mentioned that 'Naya Sarkar, Naya Bikas' was the slogan of the SKM party now.

He added that although SDF has been accusing SKM of being a 'Goonda Party,' retired government employees and intellectuals have been joining SKM and not SDF.

## Sikkim Rajya Manch celebrates ECI registration on first anniversary

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Sikkim Rajya Manch Party [SRMP] has been registered by the Election Commission of India as a political party under section 29(A) of the Representation of People Act 1951 with effect from 26.11.2018.

A letter confirming the registration was sent to the SRMP president, Rup Narayan Chamling, by the ECI.

Sharing the update with journalists here at Rangpo, Mr Chamling stressed that the party was dedicated to the people of Sikkim.

"We had submitted an application to the ECI seeking registration



immediately after our party was formed on 07 December, 2017 but the State government put hurdles and caused the delay. However, we kept up our efforts and finally got the ECI registration," he said.

"We have applied for a party election symbol and out of the 10 options, one will be our symbol selected by the ECI.

It has been one year since the SRMP was formed and we thank the people for their support and encouragement. We will expect more support in coming days as we come before with our programs for the people. Our party is for the Sikkimese and it indeed is a clean party, it is our commitment to work for

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## LTVC meets Ministry of Law officials with seat demand

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

A three-member team of the Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] met Additional Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Dr Reeta Vasista, at her office in Shastri Bhawan on 04 December.

The LTVC team of president Yehang Tshong, joint secretary Kishore Tamang and treasurer Susan Subba submitted a memorandum requesting the passage of a Limboo & Tamang Scheduled Tribes Seat Bill in the upcoming Winter Parliament Session 2018, informs an LTVC press release.

The release further informs that due to the on-going elections, Law & Justice Minister Ravi Shanker was not present in Delhi hence LTVC submitted a memorandum at the Law Minister's and Law Secretary's offices.

LTVC had a brief discussion with the Addl. Secretary (Law) regarding the LT seat reservation issue and came to learn how the Law Ministry has finished all the formalities and the matter was now with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the release adds.

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## SNPP general meeting in Singtam calls for fight against the system



**YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 07 DEC:**

Addressing a general meeting here at Singtam Bazaar today, the Sikkim National People's Party, Delay Namgyal Kazi, alleged that the system was corrupt and compromised in Sikkim and called on the people to stand up against it.

"It's a fight against the system, not an individual," Mr Kazi reiterated, while informing that although he had been a

part of the SDF movement during its inception in 1993, he was betrayed by the party down the line and hence decided to quit the party.

"It has been five consecutive terms of SDF government in Sikkim and they are still in distributing pressure cookers in the name of development. It cannot be allowed to continue short-changing and fooling the people like this," he added.

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## PIB workshop on Rural Reporting in Namchi

**NAMCHI, 07 DEC [PIB]:** Press Information Bureau conducted a workshop for journalists working in rural Sikkim at the South District Officers' Club, Namchi, on 07 December.

The workshop, titled 'Vartalap,' was attended by correspondents active in South, West and some parts of East Sikkim associated with different media houses as well as freelancers. A number of photo and video journalists, and social media bloggers also attended the workshop.

Namchi Municipal Council chairperson, Udai Chandra Rai, was present as the chief guest, accompanied by president, Press Club of Sikkim, Joseph Lepcha, as a special guest.

In her keynote address, Information Assistant, PIB, Shikha Barailly, briefed the local journalists about the role and functions of the PIB. She also made a presentation on how social media has become an important tool for promotion and publicity of government schemes and policies as well as for journalists to effectively propagate information about those schemes.

In this connection, a power-point presentation packed with visuals and statistics was made to shed light on how Social Media Optimization (SMO) tech-



niques can be used to make communication on social media more impactful.

SMO techniques such as analyzing of social behavior of audience, apt networking, use of audio visual tools for creative optimization, the importance of hashtags, key words, tips for ensuring optimum engagements on social media posts etc were also discussed.

The NMC chairperson, in turn, shared his experience of how the general public has started interacting with the authorities via social media.

He recalled instances when public aired their grievances about certain

programs, policies and projects using social media and how the authorities solved those issues accordingly.

"Social media provides the most efficient platform for two-way communication between the public and policy makers without time constraints," he pointed out.

Shovan Kumar Mitra of PIB briefed the participants on the provisions of the Central Government's Journalists Welfare Scheme.

The briefing focused on the purpose of the scheme, eligibility criteria for availing the benefits of the scheme and the

procedure for applying for the benefit.

Besides, the participants were also informed on the process of decision-making by a panel comprising officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, PIB headquarters and non-official members and how emergency cases should ideally be dealt with.

Central government flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) was also discussed threadbare at the program. District Development Manager, Tempa Choda Bhutia, NABARD was invited as a resource person to

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**Gangtok on Saturday, 078Dec**

Temp: 15°C/06°C  
Forecast: Sunny to partly cloudy with a little rain in the evening, then a shower in spots

Sunrise: 06:05 AM  
Sunset: 04:42 PM

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## Poultry management and production training at Namthang under NRuM

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
Namchi, 07 Dec:

Namthang cluster has been shortlisted for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National RUR-BAN Mission (NRuM). This mission develops selected rural clusters economically, socially & physically without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature. The selection, it is informed, is based on various parameters. Under NRuM, focused development works of the cluster need to be carried out through convergence of different schemes of the department with certain provision from GOI under Critical Gap Funding.

With regards to this, the Animal Husbandry Department, being one of the rural-based



departments, have committed to provide a 5-day intensive training to the targeted members on poultry management & production under its skill development & capacity building program.

The chief guest for the training was area

MLA, Namthang Ratepani constituency, Tilu Gurung.

The course offers classroom brainstorming, field visits and power point presentations by experienced faculty members from the district - Dr Dipsika Prad-

han, Dr Ekta Pradhan and Dr Nivedita Pradhan with Dr AL Rai and Dr T Bajgai, JD & Additional Director/South, as course coordinator & facilitator respectively.

The concluding day of the training

program held today saw the distribution of certificates which will facilitate trainees to avail credit from banks under various schemes of the government. The trainees also received veterinary inputs.

## Rajya Sainik Board delegation calls on CM on Armed Forces Flag Day

**GANGTOK, 07 DEC (IPR):** To commemorate the Armed Forces Flag Day, a day dedicated to India towards collection

The Chief Minister said that in a democracy, every individual should be responsible and for any state to progress, there should be determined leadership, effective bureaucracy and disciplined citizens so that it leads to a better society, state and eventually a better nation.

The CM enquired

about the Sainik Guest House and assured full cooperation towards its completion.

The Chief Minister said that in a democracy, every individual should be responsible and for any state to progress, there should be determined leadership, effective bureaucracy and disciplined citizens so that it leads to a better society, state and eventually a better nation.

Greetings for the festival of Losoong were also extended by the Rajya Sainik Board members to the Chief Minister.

## Brinda Karat seeks apology from Sharad Yadav over his remarks on Raje



**NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI):** CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat demanded an apology from former JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav on Friday over his personal comments on Rajasthan Chief Minister and BJP leader Vasundhara Raje's appearance.

"A senior leader like Sharad Yadav making such a derogatory comment on a woman leader, who is also a chief minister, is extremely objectionable. He should withdraw his statement and offer an apology," Karat said.

She said that despite her party being at odds with the BJP, such comments against any woman is unacceptable. "We have very strong political difference with the BJP and Vasundhara Raje. We have been very critical of her policies. But never such personal comment against a woman can ever be accepted", Karat said.

Yadav made the personal comments, calling Raje fat and asking people to give her rest, while addressing a rally

in Alwar on the last day of campaigning in Rajasthan on Wednesday.

A video of Yadav was circulated on social media, with many labelling his comments crass and misogynistic.

Calling Raje a daughter of Madhya Pradesh, he said people need to give her some rest as she was very tired. She was thin earlier, and was now fat, he is heard as saying.

The Rajasthan chief minister urged the Election Commission (EC) to take cognisance of Yadav's comment on her physique.

"To set an example for future, it's important that the EC takes cognisance of this kind of language. I actually feel insulted and I think even women are insulted," Raje tweeted.

Yadav later tendered an apology from Vasundhara Raje.

"I said it as a joke. I've old relations with her. It wasn't derogatory in any way. I had no intentions of hurting her. When I met her, I told her then also that you're gaining weight", Yadav tweeted.

## Tripura to take Rs 200 crore loan from HUDCO, LIC

**Agartala, Dec 7 (PTI):** The BJP-IPFT government would take a loan of Rs 200, either from LIC or HUDCO, to overcome severe financial crunch that the former Left Front government has left behind, a minister said on Friday.

The former Left Front government had emptied the state's coffers due to unplanned projects undertaken without arrangement of funds, state Law Minister Ratan Lal Nath alleged.

"The state cabinet yesterday decided take a loan of Rs 200 crore from either Housing and Urban Development Corporation or the Life Insurance Corporation of India for now," he told reporters.

Nath said, 231 projects are under progress in 21 government departments including

school education, higher education, health and family welfare, home, fire, jail, tribal welfare, law, tourism, youth and sports affairs, urban development, science and technology, minority, food and civil supplies, animal resource development, handloom, labour, panchayat and PWD.

"These projects, most of which are buildings and other structures, have a cumulative financial involvement of Rs 1,497.75 crore," he added.

He alleged that the projects were started keeping the February Assembly elections in mind.

The Left Front, which ruled Tripura for 25 years since 1993, was defeated by the BJP and IPFT combine in the election this year.

## CM meets local...

The research scholars also felicitated the CM on having become the longest serving Chief Minister in the country.

During the session, research scholars and M. Phil students also spoke on the present day education system. They submitted a memorandum containing suggestions for academic growth of the State. Suggestions were also put forth to make education more qualitative.

## Sikkim Rajya Manch...

the interests of the people of Sikkim," he said. Asked on what he has to say to SDF and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling who is his elder brother, the SMRP president said every individual has different thoughts and beliefs and everyone is entitled to individuality.

"I have got nothing to say, I moved out of the family as things were being done in a careless manner in Sikkim. I came out concerned and in the interest of the people and state," he said.

Now that the ECI registration has come through, the party will reach out to the people and seek their feedback on how to proceed further, he informed.

After Rangpo, the SMRP president moved on to Ranipool where the party celebrated its first anniversary.

## SNPP general meeting...

He also voiced fears that unbridled influx remained unaddressed in Sikkim and could have serious impact in the future.

The government also came in for some stick when it came to service delivery.

"Like water, electricity and education are counted among the basic rights of the people but they have been deprived of quality and affordable delivery. Despite the high number of hydel projects in the State, people are billed commercial rates while pharma companies pay domestic rates and enjoy other relaxations. People must not forget that they are being charged an indirect tax," he said.

A cultural programme was also staged as part of the general meeting and party pamphlets and calendars distributed among the people.

## PIB workshop...

shed light on the essential aspects of the scheme. PCS president, Mr Lepcha, underlined the need for establishing and maintaining credibility and went on to cite the need to break certain myths about rural reporting.

"Rural reporting is not just about covering certain events and incidences. A journalist active in rural areas should utilize her power by highlighting the problems being faced by the rural population as well as the shortcomings in welfare schemes and policies. Journalists are the torch bearers of truth and thus truth must be brought to the fore at any cost," he stressed.

The Namchi Correspondent of Sikkim Express, Namu Dikshit, shared her experiences on the challenges faced by journalists in rural areas. Accessibility issues, including lack of motorable roads to certain areas, connectivity issues such as phone and internet accessibility challenges.

South District Correspondent, Samay Dainik, Rudara Kaushik, spoke on the 'importance of development journalism in border areas.'

He observed, "Reporting from border areas is an extremely sensitive job and we need to focus our attention on national interest and objectivity."

He suggested that journalists should keep in mind the sensitivity of the border areas and various state mechanisms operational in those areas, especially the security apparatus, while reporting from border areas.

Freelancer Sanjay Agarwal, active in Rangpo-East Sikkim, stressed the importance of lending due publicity to welfare schemes of the central and state governments. He exalted the role of journalists active in rural areas in educating the masses on their rights and benefits accorded by the state.

## Sikkim case studies to be presented at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:

Additional Director, Department of Science, Technology & Climate Change, DG Shrestha, will present a case study on Reducing Climate Induced Risks and Vulnerabilities due to probable Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) at South Lhonak Lake, North Sikkim, at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This year, the Government of Sikkim has been invited by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to present successful case studies under United Nations Development Programme - Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation Project on Strengthening State Strategies for Cli-

mate Actions.

UNDP-SDC project successfully piloted a siphoning project to reduce the level of water from South Lhonak lake in collaboration with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

Sarika Pradhan, Additional Secretary, Rural Management Development Department, will be presenting a talk on Story of Dharavikas - Revival of Springs. The UNDP - SDC project is assisting RMDD with scientific and technical support for monitoring the discharge of springs.

The UNDP - SDC Project is further assisting Government of Sikkim in Mapping Forest Wildlife Corridors, Mapping Invasive Species of the State, Preparation of Hazard

Risks and Vulnerability Maps of Mangan, Gyalshing and Namchi, Preparation of State Wetland Atlas, PRA mapping exercise for 16 Model Disaster Resilient GPUs and other related activities.

COP24 is the informal name for the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the aim of the UNFCCC.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the

UNFCCC Convention. It consists of the representatives of the Parties to the Convention. It holds its sessions every year. The COP takes decisions which are necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention and regularly reviews the implementation of these provisions.

In accordance with a decision of the 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention (COP22) in Marrakesh in November 2016, the successive climate summit will be held in Poland. Poland was selected to host this event within the framework of the Eastern European Group (EEG).

COP24 is taking place from 2-14 December 2018, in Katowice, Poland.

## Days before Bulandshahr violence, local BJP leaders sought inspector's transfer

**Meerut (UP), Dec 7 (PTI):** Two days before Inspector Subodh Kumar Singh was killed during mob violence in Bulandshahr, local BJP leaders had demanded his transfer after accusing him of creating obstacles for religious functions.

In a letter sent to Bulandshahr MP Bhola Singh, they alleged that his be-

haviour caused resentment in the Hindu community.

The letter was forwarded by the MP to Bulandshahr SSP K B Singh demanding a probe against him. On Friday, the SSP confirmed to PTI that he had received such a letter from Bhola Singh.

When asked what action was taken over it, he said probe orders were given.

The inspector and 20-year-old Sumit were killed when a mob attacked policemen over alleged cow slaughter on December 3.

IG Crime S K Bhagat said Friday that five more arrests have been made in connection with the inspector's death, taking the number of those arrested to nine.

The letter, which was surfaced on social media, was signed by BJP's Syana city chief Sanjay Shrotri, city vice president Kapil Tyagi, former corporator Manoj Tyagi, BB nagar mandal president Neeraj Chaudhary, BJP assembly convener Vijay Kumar Lodhi and Syana block pramuk Pushpendra Yadav.

## AASU asks govt to remove names of Bangladeshis from NRC

**GUWAHATI, DEC 7 (PTI):** The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) Friday demanded that the state government take immediate steps to remove the names of Bangladeshis from the NRC.

The Sarbananda Sonowal government should take up a suo motu verification drive for this as it has the power to do so, AASU advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya told reporters here.

Assam, which faced an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having a National Register of Citizens (NRC), first prepared in 1951. It is being updated under the monitoring of the Supreme Court.

The complete draft of the NRC was published on July 30 and included the names of 2.9 crore peo-

ple out of the total applications of 3.29 crore. There has been a huge controversy over exclusion of 40 lakh people from the draft NRC.

"The names of Bangladeshis have entered the NRC and they must be removed by the government and an error-free NRC should be given to people of the state," Bhattacharya said. The government can verify and delete the names of foreigners instead of pushing the onus on different organisations to file objections, Bhattacharya said, adding that if the government does not act, the AASU will approach the court.

"Filing objections against doubtful citizens is not easy as many of the districts are dominated by illegal migrants.

## Bill granting voting rights to NRIs to come up in Rajya Sabha in upcoming session, govt tells SC

**NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI):** The Centre Friday informed the Supreme Court that a bill to amend electoral law to allow NRIs to vote through postal or e-balls has been passed by Lok Sabha and is likely to come up in Rajya Sabha in the upcoming Winter Session.

The government told this to a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta which was hearing a batch of petitions filed by Nagender Chindam, chairman of London-based Pravasi Bharat organisation, and other Non Resident Indians (NRIs) including Shamsheer V P. The petitions have said that 114 countries, including 20 Asian nations, have adopted external voting, which could be held by

setting up polling booths at diplomatic missions or through postal, proxy or electronic voting.

Additional Solicitor General A N S Nadkarni, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that the bill was likely to be taken up in the Rajya Sabha in the Winter Session, which is to commence from December 11. The bench said it would hear the matter in last week of January.

In July last year, Attorney General K K Venugopal had told the court that NRIs could not be allowed to vote by merely changing the rules made under the Representation of People (RP) Act and a Bill was needed to be introduced in Parliament to amend the Act itself to grant the voting rights.



## Canaan Academy celebrates Annual Day 2018

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Canaan Academy at Mehrung in East Sikkim celebrated Annual Day 2018 in a grand manner with a series of activities at the school on Friday.

On the occasion, students presented group and solo songs, poem recitals and a play on the adverse effects of mobile phones on children.

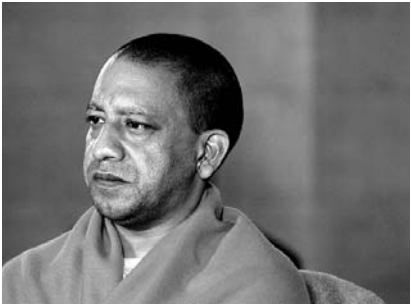
In her address, Canaan Academy Principal, Manju Pradhan, mentioned that the main objective behind opening the school was to provide quality education to students residing in Mehrung and its surrounding areas. While speaking on the various activities

carried out by the school, she informed that the school is committed to the overall development of students and shared her hopes of grooming capable human resource who can face future challenges and become successful in life.

In their addresses, Pastor PK Rai and Pastor MK Sherpa from Canaan Christian Fellowship, Deorali, congratulated the Principal, teachers and staff of Canaan Academy for successfully imparting quality education. They also encouraged students to remain disciplined, dedicated and creative and utilize their time constructively to be successful in life.

On the occasion, the school also gave away prizes to students in different categories.

## Bulandshahr incident an accident, no lynching in UP: Adityanath



**NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI):** Stating that there is no incident of mob lynching in his state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Friday termed the killing of a police inspector in Bulandshahr an "accident".

The law is taking its course in Bulandshahr, Adityanath said at the Jagran Forum organised by the Dainik Jagran media group. He was referring to the mob violence that broke out earlier this week after cow carcasses were found strewn around, claiming the lives of Inspector Subodh Kumar and 20-year-old Sumit Kumar.

"There is no incident of mob-lynching in Uttar Pradesh. The Bulandshahr incident is an accident and the law is taking its course. No guilty will be spared," the chief minister said.

He was responding to a question on what steps the state government is taking to control mob violence.

The state government came under severe attack after the Bulandshahr incident with the opposition raising questions over the law and order situation. Adityanath

also said cow slaughter is banned in the state and every district has been given money for building shelters, not only for bovines but for other strays as well.

Work on this has been happening on a "war-footing", he said.

Asked about a probable alliance between the BSP and the Samajwadi Party, the chief minister said this was because they feared for their existence. The BJP will win more seats than its 2014 tally and form a majority government at the Centre. In the last one year, the BJP has lost three crucial by-polls -- Gorakhpur, Phulpur and Kairana -- against a joint opposition.

Had the Ram temple matter been with the state government, it could have been resolved in less than 24 hours, Adityanath said in response to a question.

The issue, he added, is pending with the Supreme Court.

"We appeal to the apex court that there should be an early resolution to the issue keeping in mind the sentiments of the people," Adityanath said.

## Proactive, AI-based tools in Twitter, FB, WhatsApp to check objectionable contents

**NEW DELHI, DEC 7 (PTI):** Social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Twitter will soon deploy 'proactive, artificial intelligence (AI) based tools' to check spread of hate messages and rumours inciting violence and crimes against women, Home Ministry officials said Friday.

Anyone found involved in disseminating fake news creating social tension or pornographic contents inciting sex crimes will be identified, name disclosed and prosecuted. This was agreed upon after a series of meetings between representatives of the social media platforms and central government officials led by Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, a Home Ministry official said.

The social media sites have agreed to deploy 'proactive, AI-based tools' to check spread of hate messages and rumours inciting violence and crimes against women. Such content will be automatically removed from their platforms, the official said.

There were problems in implementation or enforcement of directives given by law enforcement agencies under the IT Act and the Telegraph Act but the level of compliance has now gone up to 80 per cent from 60 per cent, while the time taken to take such action has gone down, the official said. The compliance period has come down from 72 hours to 24 hours and it was agreed that if a case is made out in any incident, the person will be identified, name disclosed and he/she will be prosecuted.

During the meetings, specific instances of legal requisitions were shown where the Delhi Police had sought removal of content openly inciting violence but the social platforms' response had been neither "full nor



timely", another official said. Specific legal notices issued by the Delhi Police seeking investigation-related information were also shared with them.

During the series of meetings with all social media platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Twitter, the government had sensitised them about preventive and other actions to remove unlawful content immediately, another official said.

Gauba had held the meetings in June and October. A series of meetings were conducted by senior officers of the Home Ministry, Delhi Police and police officers of other states to sensitise the country representatives of social media platforms about gravity of unlawful or objectionable content posted on their platforms, and their possible consequences.

A number of cases have come to the fore in the recent past where social media platforms were used to spread hate messages and rumours inciting violence, including against women, but Internet giants -- most of them headquartered outside India -- have been allegedly resisting sharing of customer details and message trails citing privacy issues.

Gaddar, whose real name is Gumma-di Vittal Rao, had held ultra left views and worked for the uplift of the downtrodden.

He still carries a bullet in his body after being shot in an attack on him.

He has been advocating safeguarding of the Constitution.

In October this year, he had met Congress president Rahul Gandhi in Delhi and supported the cause of the 'People's Front' in the Assembly polls.

## Sadar Thana and SYA make it to semis of inter-departmental football tourney



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 07 DEC:**

Sadar Thana and Sports & Youth Affairs secured their berths in the semi-final round of the ongoing 6th Inter Departmental Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium today.

In the third quarter-final match played on Friday, Sadar Thana edged past Social Welfare Department 2-0 to enter the semi-final round.

In the last quarter-fi-

nal match, also played today itself, Rural Management & Development Department went down to Sports & Youth Affairs Department 2-4.

Energy & Power Department is already in the semi-final round having defeated Horticulture Department 2-0 in the first quarter-final match on Thursday.

Likewise, Transport Department outplayed Finance Department 3-1

in the second quarter-final match yesterday.

The first semi-final match will be played between Energy & Power Department and Transport Department on Saturday at 12:30 PM, while Sports & Youth Affairs Department will take on Sadar Thana in the second semi-final match at 2:30 PM the same day.

The final match of the tournament will be played on 10 December.

## HC raps WB govt, directs top officials to decide on BJP rath yatra by Dec 14

**Kolkata, Dec 7 (PTI):** The Calcutta High Court Friday came down heavily on the West Bengal government for not responding to letters of the BJP seeking permission for its rath yatras in the state and directed top officials to take a decision on the processions by December 14.

A division bench of justices Biswanath Somadder and A Mukherjee said the government's silence on the permission is "astonishing and astounding".

The court disposed of an appeal by the BJP against a single bench order of Thursday that refused permission for its rath yatra and direct-

ed the state to hold the meeting by Wednesday.

The chief secretary and the director general of police shall hold a meeting with three representatives of the BJP by December 12 and take a decision on the matter by December 14, the court directed.

Observing that an injunction upon the petitioner could not have been passed by the single bench, the division bench modified its ad interim order of Thursday.

The bench criticised the state government for not responding to BJP's letters for permission to hold three rath yatras in the state. The single

bench of Justice Tapabrat Chakraborty had on Thursday said it cannot give permission at this stage for the BJP rath yatra in Coochbehar, which was scheduled to be flagged off by party president Amit Shah on Friday, after the state government refused to allow the event on the grounds that it might cause communal tension.

The rath yatra in Coochbehar was slated to be the first of the three by BJP before the Lok Sabha polls next year. The other two were to be held on December 9 from Kaldwip in South 24 Parganas district and on December 14 from Tarapith temple in Birbhum district.

## Kolkata air quality index 'severe', WBPCB blames weather

**KOLKATA, DEC 7 (PTI):** The Air Quality Index (AQI) in densely populated north Kolkata was found to be 'severe' on Friday, but the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) said it was due to present weather situations in this time of the year.

The AQI at WBPCB's air monitoring station at Rabindra Bharati University, the only computerised monitoring station of north Kolkata, was 434 PM 2.5 at 1 pm, which was 'severe' in air monitoring terms.

The AQI is an indicator of air pollution caused by three pollutants - NO<sub>2</sub>, PM 10 and PM 2.5. The index indicates air quality as 'good' for values of 0-100, 'moderate' for 101-200 and

'poor' for 201-300.

Even after Diwali, the PM 2.5 count was 330 at the Rabindra Bharati air monitoring station.

The AQI reading at US Consulate's air monitoring station in South Kolkata read 196 PM 2.5 at 5 pm during the day marked as 'unhealthy'.

While environmentalists described the situation as alarming, WBPCB Chairman Kalyan Rudra said the reading at Rabindra Bharati cannot be representative of the entire city.

"Besides, there are factors like the overcast sky and flow of

north-easterly wind from areas like Jharkhand into the city which don't allow suspended particulate matters to move upwards," Rudra said.

Environmentalist S M Ghosh said the situation was turning very very serious here.

Ghosh demanded the 10-year-old diesel commercial vehicles and 15-year-old private vehicles be banned immediately and food stalls and road side clothes ironing centres using low quality coal be shut down to stop the city from turning into the pollution capital in India.

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## Folk singer Gaddar votes for first time

**HYDERABAD, DEC 7 (PTI):** Folk singer Gaddar, who had held ultra left views earlier, voted for the first time in his life in the Telangana assembly polls Friday.

The balladeer, who campaigned in support of the 'People's Front' (comprising Congress, TDP, CPI and Telangana Jana Samiti) in the polls, said he exercised his franchise as voting is a tool to bring about a change.

"I voted for the first time after the age of 70... Voting revolution should come... It

should bring about a change. I voted with the view that it should bring about a political change," he told reporters.

He called for safeguarding the Constitution and providing jobs to the youth, who form a major part of the population.

Asked why he had changed his view towards voting, he said it could bring about a change and added that voters should decide as per their conscience, the change they wished to see.

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3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations for the students
4. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective
5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers
6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.

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**OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

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

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# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE SIXT

## Politics and its Fallouts

### Victimisation and divisions

A frequent complaint that the Opposition parties [party, rather, at present since only one seems to be around with enough people to be victimised] always have on the ready against the ruling front is that of "victimization" of its supporters.

On this, the SDF's fifth term in office, the post-poll worries of said victimization had returned and stayed for a while, although the much preferred route of transfers did not come about in the wave that happens after every election. What did come though was a reinforcing of rules and revisiting of service conditions which had remained overlooked thus far. And even that is but an academic exercise now, given that those strictures have since been rolled back and even second Saturdays are holidays again. That said, even that cannot be technically seen as victimization because even if they were inspired by a desire to curtail 'influence', these were necessary rules that had remained unimplemented for far too long. Even in the short run, the people at large would have benefited from the tightening of reins in babudom. But even that experience is in the past now. The media too had seen largesse being curtailed and attitudes getting gruffer, but these still remain policy decisions, which, even if they are unpopular, are not wrong in essence even if the intent was unwholesome.

What is of concern instead is the distrust between different sections which tend to deepen to levels of irrational hostility if the air is not cleared and at least a basic level of congeniality reclaimed. That is what politics can wreak, and that is the most unfortunate fallout of party politics.

Returning to the issue of 'victimisation'; undesirable though it may be, it is also a reality of even social engagements so it is only to be expected when it comes to politics. And in this regard, Sikkim has a track record which makes this response plausible, so, most of the allegations could be true although the extent of victimisation gets amplified or subdued depending upon which side is narrating the story. And expect these noises to get amplified now that elections are barely months away. That said, it forces some introspection on what makes political victimisation common and possible in Sikkim.

The State's small size gets further abbreviated when broken down into constituency and block levels, and now with EVMs, to the polling station levels. While it would be near impossible in larger states to actually pinpoint which areas voted against the eventual winner; it does not take much calculation to work out the voting pattern in Sikkim. That done, a victimization drive becomes too tempting to ignore. And the last time, there was a bouquet of constituencies which went to the Opposition breaking a decade-long complete sweep run. This is not an attempt to justify victimization in any way, but an effort to discuss it because very soon, even that season will return. It is necessary here to also classify the victimised into two slots - the private/ individual supporter and the 'government-employed party worker'. Most will claim that the latter group is larger than the former in Sikkim. While there is no justification why individuals from the private sphere should be targeted for their political affiliations, there is little defence for government functionaries who take sides when elections come calling.

While government officials are entitled to their political preferences, it is wrong when they become actively involved in furthering the interests of their favourites. This holds as true for ruling party sympathisers as for Opposition supporters. When a government official ends up taking sides, s/he does not think twice before abusing the office to serve that end. The same holds true for teachers, many of whom invariably end up "playing" politics. One thing is certain, government employees who "play" politics [and this is different from just voting or having leanings] and back the losing side should not have too many complaints if they are singled out for "victimisation." They knew the risks involved when they made their decision.

Despite all that, Sikkim is perhaps not best suited for victimization drives since politics here has this nasty habit of infiltrating everything and becomes difficult to avoid for most people. The best approach for Sikkim should be something that the Chief Minister had suggested in a Budget Session address that all Legislators dedicate their terms exclusively to Sikkim and its people since the last one year of the term would be enough to play politics. That last one year is more than half spent already and the offer was not really taken up. Now, it will be just a litany of complaints, blame-games, name-calling...

# When you're grateful, your brain becomes more charitable

CHRISTINA KARNS  
theconversation.com

'Tis the season when the conversation shifts to what you're thankful for. Gathered with family and friends around a holiday feast, for instance, people may recount some of the biggies - like their health or their children - or smaller things that enhance everyday life - like happening upon a great movie while channel-surfing or enjoying a favorite seasonal food.

Psychology researchers recognize that taking time to be thankful has benefits for well-being. Not only does gratitude go along with more optimism, less anxiety and depression, and greater goal attainment, but it's also associated with fewer symptoms of illness and other physical benefits.

In recent years, researchers have been making connections between the internal experience of gratitude and the external practice of altruism. How does being thankful about things in your own life relate to any selfless concern you may have about the well-being of others?

As a neuroscientist, I'm particularly interested in the brain regions and connections that support gratitude and altruism. I've been exploring how changes in one might lead to changes in the other.

### SHARED PATHWAY FOR GRATITUDE AND ALTRUISM

To study the relationship between gratitude and altruism in the brain, my colleagues and I first asked volunteers questions meant to tease out how frequently they feel thankful and the degree to which they tend to care about the well-being of others. Then we used statistics to determine the extent to which someone's gratitude could predict their altruism. As others have found, the more grateful people in this group tended to be more altruistic.

The next step was to explore more about how these tendencies are reflected in the brain. Our study participants performed a giving activity in the MRI scanner. They watched as the computer transferred real money to their own account or to the account of a local food bank. Sometimes they could choose whether to give or receive, but other times the transfers were like a mandatory tax, outside their control. We especially wanted to compare what happened in the brain when a participant received money as opposed to seeing money given to the charity instead.

It turns out that the neural connection between gratitude and giving is very deep, both literally and figuratively. A region deep in the frontal lobe of the brain, called the ventromedial prefrontal cortex, is key to supporting both. Anatomically, this region is wired up to be a hub for processing the value of risk and reward; it's richly connected to even deeper brain regions that provide a kick of pleasurable neurochemicals in the right circumstances. It holds abstract representations of the inner and outer world that help with complex reasoning, one's representation of oneself and even social processing.

Beyond identifying the place in the brain that was especially active during these tasks, we also saw differences in just how active this region was in various individuals.

We calculated what we termed a "pure altruism response" by comparing how active the reward regions of the brain were during "charity-gain" versus "self-gain" situations. The participants I'd identified as more grateful and more altruistic via the questionnaire had a higher "pure altruism" scores - that is, a stronger response in these reward regions of the brain when they saw the charity gaining money. It felt good for them to see the food bank do well.

In other studies, some of my colleagues had zeroed in on this same brain region. They found that individual differences in self-reported "benevolence" were mirrored by participants' brains' responses to charitable donations, including in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex.

So is this brain reward region the key to kindness? Well, it's complicated.

### PRACTICE MAKES GRATEFUL, MAKES ALTRUISTIC?

The human brain is amazingly flexible. The absence of hearing in someone who's born deaf opens up brain real estate that would have processed sound to instead deal with other sensory information, like touch. Neuroscientists call this plasticity.

In recent years I've been testing the idea that the plasticity of the mature brain can be used to enhance the experience of well-being. Could practice change how emotions that support social relationships - like gratitude, empathy and altruism - are typically programmed into the brain? Through practicing gratitude, could people become more generous?

My colleagues and I decided to test whether by changing the amount of gratitude people felt, we could alter the way the ventromedial prefrontal cortex responds to giving and receiving. I randomly assigned study participants to one of two groups. For three weeks, one group wrote in their journals about gratitude, keeping track of the things they were thankful for. Over the same period, the other group wrote about engaging topics from their lives that weren't specific to gratitude.

Gratitude journaling seemed to work. Just keeping a written account about gratitude led people to report experiencing more of the emotion. Other recent work also indicates that gratitude practice makes people more supportive of others and improves relationships.

Importantly, the participants in our study also exhibited a change in how their brains responded to giving. In the MRI scanner, the group that practiced gratitude by journaling increased their "pure altruism" measure in the reward regions of the brain. Their responses to charity-gain increased more than those to self-gain.

### ALTERING THE EXCHANGE RATE FOR WHAT'S REWARDING

The ventromedial prefrontal cortex is connected to other brain systems that help you experience reward. These high-level systems in your frontal lobes are constantly assessing the value of your decisions. This part of the brain helps you place various things in a hierarchy of how rewarding you find them to be. It may help you determine which decisions, goals and relationships to prioritize.

Here's an analogy: When I was 13, my aunt gave me an amazing opportunity to travel with her to Britain. When I started saving up my babysitting money, it cost US\$1.65 to buy one British pound sterling. But by the time of the trip, it cost nearly \$2.00 to buy one British pound. A £10 British souvenir that would have cost \$16 a few months ago would now cost me \$20. In other words, the value of each dollar bill fluctuated with the exchange rate.

I imagine the ventromedial prefrontal cortex is like the office where you exchange dollars to



pounds or vice versa. For the people with more grateful and altruistic tendencies, it seems the ventromedial prefrontal cortex assigns more value to charitable donations than to receiving money for themselves.

Practicing gratitude shifted the value of giving in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex. It changed the exchange rate in the brain. Giving to charity became more valuable than receiving money yourself. After the brain calculates the exchange rate, you get paid in the neural currency of reward, the delivery of neurotransmitters that signal pleasure and goal attainment.

So in terms of the brain's reward response, it really can be true that giving is better than receiving. As you sail through the holidays - whether with a Thanksgiving banquet spread out for our friends and family, a busy shopping day on Black Friday or a pile of Christmas presents - taking time to practice gratitude can help make giving the most rewarding of activity of all.

[The writer is Research Associate in Psychology and the Center for Brain Injury Research and Training; Director of Emotions and Neuroplasticity Project, University of Oregon]

## Mythmaking, social media and the truth about Leonard Cohen's last letter to Marianne Ihlen

TANYA DALZIELL & PAUL GENONI  
theconversation.com

The note Leonard Cohen wrote to his former lover Marianne Ihlen as she lay upon her death bed became a viral phenomenon after they both died in 2016. But Cohen's last letter to Ihlen was not entirely what you read.

Ihlen had been hospitalised with leukaemia in Norway when a friend contacted Cohen to inform him of her impending death. He responded with the letter (sent as an email) within hours. Ihlen died several days later, on July 28th, having had this farewell message read to her. For a private communication, this letter soon became very public.

Already it is canonised, and not only among fans of the Canadian poet, singer and songwriter. It was recently included in a collection of correspondence, *Written in History: Letters that Changed the World*, edited by English historian Simon Sebag Montefiore.

Montefiore starts his introduction to the book with the declaration that, "Nothing beats the immediacy and authenticity of a letter." But the history of the Cohen letter's circulation shows how "authenticity" can be rendered questionable by those seeking to exploit its "immediacy". It also highlights the myth-making around this writer-muse relationship that gathered a faded resonance after Cohen and Ihlen met on the Greek island of Hydra in 1960, although the relationship had all but run its course by the decade's end.

Ihlen's friend who brokered this final exchange with Cohen was film-maker Jan Christian Mollstad. Within days of Ihlen's passing, Canada's national English-language broadcaster, CBC radio, had tracked down Mollstad. An interview with him was posted on the station's website, along with a truncated transcription, on August 5 2016.

In response to a question from

the interviewer, Mollstad went on to "quote" Cohen's letter in full.

Well Marianne it's come to this time when we are really so old and our bodies are falling apart and I think I will follow you very soon. Know that I am so close behind you that if you stretch out your hand, I think you can reach mine.

And you know that I've always loved you for your beauty and your wisdom, but I don't need to say anything more about that because you know all about that. But now, I just want to wish you a very good journey. Goodbye old friend. Endless love, see you down the road.

The text of this letter, as Mollstad recited it, was immediately picked up by other news outlets. The Guardian and Rolling Stone both ran the story of the letter on August 7th, repeating the CBC version in full.

The letter's instant notoriety was born not only of its gentle farewell to the soon-to-be departed Ihlen, but also because of the intimations of Cohen's own demise. And its consumption was massively enabled by social media.

### 'THE SYNTAX OF LOVE'

A follow-up article in the Guardian praised the letter's "economy of words, the syntax of love, his ability to go straight to the only matter that matters - her death, his mortality, their love - is a thing of beauty and wisdom in itself." It was a sentiment echoed by many.

On November 7 2016, Cohen died. The letter was immediately resurrected across multiple news and social media outlets. It was used now to focus on Cohen's prediction that, "I will follow you very soon," and his evocation, through the image of Ihlen's reaching hand, of being drawn towards her in death.

Over the following months, the letter was read in "tributes" for the departed singer, frequently paired with a performance of *So Long*, Marianne from Cohen's 1967 debut album. In November 2017, Adam Cohen, Leonard's son, interpolated

the letter into the lyrics of *So Long*, Marianne at a star-studded, first-anniversary tribute show in Montreal.

Cohen's letter, now seemingly endorsed by his family, had become part of his canon. All good ... except that the words used in it weren't Cohen's.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

Bypassing the abbreviated transcript and listening to the recorded version of the CBC interview with Mollstad is revealing. Journalist Rosemary Barton asks: "I know you don't have it [the letter] in front of you, but I'm sure given it was written by Leonard Cohen you can remember part of it?"

In response, it is clear that Mollstad is paraphrasing. He stumbles a number of times, trying several phrases over in different forms as he struggles to accurately recall Cohen's words. As he reaches the conclusion of the letter as he recalls it, he simply mumbles, "something like that".

When the interview was transcribed for the CBC website some editorial "smoothing" of Mollstad's recalled version of the letter was undertaken to remove his justifiable hesitations. In the process, more minor changes were made.

In his book, Montefiore resurrects what is likely an accurate copy of Cohen's letter, with permission to use attributed to "The estate of Leonard Cohen". Its differences are, understandably, considerable. It reads in full:

Dearest Marianne,  
I'm just a little behind you, close enough to take your hand. This old body has given up, just as yours has too, and the eviction notice is on its way any day now.

I've never forgotten your love and your beauty. But you know that. I don't have to say any more. Safe travels old friend. See you down the road. Love and gratitude. Leonard Not only is the Mollstad/CBC version a full third longer, but

in small but meaningful ways the intent of Cohen's original was also altered.

Cohen's "Dearest Marianne" strikes a different opening note to the resignation of "Well Marianne". Mollstad has Ihlen reaching out (or back) for Cohen's hand, whereas Cohen gives himself the possibility of reaching for hers; Mollstad's introduced reference to Ihlen's "wisdom" changes the inflection of the relationship between the two protagonists; and Cohen's reference to the couple facing "eviction" from their bodies alters the constant gentleness and intimacy of Mollstad's version.

Arguably Mollstad's version is a little more pleasing in some of its phrasing, with "so close behind you" coming more easily than Cohen's "just a little behind you"; and his reference to a "good journey" chiming more satisfactorily than Cohen's "safe travels" with the shared closing salutation, "see you down the road".

The Cohen letter's circulation in its original form may change, ever so slightly, how the personal histories of Cohen and Ihlen are remembered. And this is a letter that has been changed by history, as journalists and social media commentators, feeding a voracious news-cycle, cast authenticity aside in the process.

Although the appearance of the Cohen letter in Montefiore's volume appears to correct the record, it will be interesting to see which of the two versions survives.

It will likely be the one originally posted by the CBC. Not only is it far more widely known and available, but many people will probably find it more appealing and moving than the original.

[Tanya Dalziell is Associate Professor, English and Literary Studies, University of Western Australia; Paul Genoni is Associate Professor, School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry, Curtin University]

# IIT KGP researchers develop tools to diagnose lung diseases



**KOLKATA, DEC 7 (PTI):** Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed a decision support system to diagnose malignant and other diseased tissues in the lungs.

The system has been developed by the researchers of the Department of Electronics and Electrical Communications engineering of the premier institute.

Lead researcher Sudipta Mukhopadhyay was

quoted having said in an IIT KGP statement, "Biopsy especially in the lungs is a critical process, hence conducted only after initial medical analysis is done by expert radiologists.

"The developed system uses non-invasive and comparatively affordable methods of image analysis that would aid the radiologists to identify malignancy by reading growth in the lung nodules."

The other system will help identify interstitial disease patterns in HRCT (High-Resolution Computed Tomography) images depicting the lung tissue texture, Mukhopadhyay said.

Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) broadly describes a diverse collection of more than 200 lung disorders while tomography is a method of producing a three-dimensional image of the

internal structures of a solid object such as the human body.

The medical image scan database used for reference was taken from Indian patients and the IIT KGP researchers worked with a team from PGIMER Chandigarh for collecting data ground truth and clinical data.

"Foreign database have also been used but the biopsy cases were primarily taken from

the PGIMER," researcher Shrikant Mehre said in the statement.

The ILD tool is developed by incorporating feedback from expert radiologists to make it easy to use for non-tech savvy clinicians.

The software is equipped with necessary modules such as automatic segmentation of lung boundary and pathological region within lung area and the mapping of disease is performed by doctors based on clinical inputs, the statement said.

"We have successfully tested both software systems at AIIMS Delhi... Currently our success rate is higher than 80 per cent in identifying both cases. We are working towards further improvements in order to conduct clinical trials on bigger sample sizes," another researcher Mandar Kale said.

The research has been reported in more than 13 international journals and 19 international conferences through its various stages of progress, the statement said.

## 4 injured as portion of OPD ceiling falls in city hospital



**KOLKATA, DEC 7 (PTI):** Four persons waiting in the out patient department (OPD) of the Calcutta Medical College and Hospital were injured after a chunk of concrete came off from the ceiling

and fell on them Friday, police said. The incident happened in the waiting hall of the ophthalmology department's OPD around noon.

The four, after preliminary medical treatment,

were released, police said. "Because the building is quite old, there are some rooms where the ceiling is not in good condition. We have closed the room," a senior doctor at the hospital said.

## Schalke out to add to Dortmund's recent derby misery

Berlin, Dec 7 (AFP): Schalke 04 plot to become the first Bundesliga side to beat Borussia Dortmund this season and extend the German league leaders' recent misery in Gelsenkirchen in Saturday's Ruhr derby.

This is the first time in six years Dortmund go into the derby top of the table, but they last won at the Veltins Arena half a decade ago.

A gulf of 19 points and 12 places in the table separates the clubs, who are only 33kms (20miles) apart, but Schalke are itching to get one over their high-flying neighbours and bitter rivals. "Since Monday, the pulse of the derby beats in the region. Everyone is talking about it," Manuel Neukirchner, director of the German Football museum in Dortmund, told AFP. "Here, you can't be neutral."

"It reminds me a bit of the Beatles and Rolling Stones in the 1960s - you have to support one or the other." Dortmund have not won any of the last five derbies and Schalke ran out 2-0 winners in Gelsenkirchen last April.

The Royal Blues will be holding an open training session for home fans on Friday to fire the city

up for one of European football's most passionate derbies.

"In derby games, there is no outsider and no favourites," said Schalke coach Domenico Tedesco. "We will do everything to come out of the derby with a positive result." Tedesco sees his team's pressing as their biggest weapon, plus the improving form of midfielders Sebastian Rudy and Nabil Bentaleb, whose penalty rescued a point in last weekend's 1-1 draw at Hoffenheim.

However, the Royal Blues have huge injury problems up front with forwards Mark Uth, Franco di Santo and Breel Embolo sidelined, while Guido Burgstaller and Steven Skrzybski are struggling to be fit in time.

In contrast, Dortmund's attack is on fire.

Goal-machine Paco Alcacer, the league's joint top-scorer with ten goals, has scored nine times off the bench and hit the net in each of his last three games.

England winger Jadon Sancho may be unavailable due to a family bereavement but captain Marco Reus has scored four goals and set up another in his last four games, including a brace

in the 3-2 win at home to Bayern Munich.

"I think he's the bolt which holds Dortmund together -- when he plays well, so does the team -- he's an important player," said Tedesco.

Historically, little separates the team with Schalke having won 39 and Dortmund 38 of the 114 derbies with 37 draws. Dortmund are still smarting from the incredible 4-4 home draw in November 2017 when Schalke clawed back four second-half goals with Brazil defender Naldo heading in the 94th-minute equaliser at Signal Iduna Park.

"Until recently, it was always the successful derby moments that I remembered, but that crazy game is still very present for us," admitted director of sport Michael Zorc, 56, who was born in Dortmund.

"I've 50 years experience of the derby - it's what people talk about in this city, whether you are at the bakers or the petrol station." Dortmund coach Lucien Favre has lost six times and won just once at Schalke in his career - his solitary away victory coming with ex-club Borussia Moenchengladbach in April 2014.

## 11 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants arrested in Meghalaya

**SHILLONG, DEC 7 (PTI):** Eleven illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, including four minors, and a human trafficker from West Bengal, were arrested from a remote village in Meghalaya's South Garo Hills district, officials said. The illegal immigrants took advantage of the absence of a border fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border and entered the country with an aim to settle permanently here, they said.

We have arrested seven Bangladeshi nationals who were caught fleeing their country by the BSF, district SP Abraham T Sangma told PTI. He said the arrested were remanded to judicial custody.

The four minors, belonging to the age group of 2 and 5 years, who were travelling with the adult immigrants were dealt with as per law, he said. The BSF had apprehended the 11 Bangladeshi nationals during a routine check of vehicles on NH-62 which connects the district headquarter and Tura, the division headquarter of Garo Hills division.

The Bangladeshi nationals are residents of Netrakona and Sunamganj district of Bangladesh and had crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border with an aim to travel up to Coochbehar in West Bengal, a BSF spokesperson said. He said that ahead of the general elections in Bangladesh, the Hindus in that country are feeling insecure and illegally entering India.

A resident of Kalarayekuthi village in Coochbehar district of West Bengal, has been approaching the Bangladeshis to cross over, a BSF official said.

According to the BSF, the arrested Bangladeshi nationals, said that their family members have already migrated to Coochbehar and have settled there.

## NSCN(K) faction revokes decision to abrogate ceasefire agreement

**KOHIMA, DEC 7 (PTI):** A breakaway faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), led by Khango Konyak, has decided to revoke its decision of unilaterally abrogating the ceasefire agreement with the Union government with immediate effect.

The chairman and general secretary of the NSCN(K) faction, Khango Konyak and Isak Sumi, said in a joint statement on Thursday that the outfit resolved to revoke the unilateral decision after holding wide consultations with NGOs and civil society groups of the state in the past one month.

The NSCN(K) had signed ceasefire with the Centre in 2001 but unilaterally abrogated it in March 2015 when the



then chairman of the group, S S Khaplang, was alive. The statement said that the appeal made by various organisations and the "positive response" by the Government of India were also factors that led to its decision.

The NSCN(K) expects the Centre to respond positively by honouring its decision to revive the

ceasefire in the interest of peace in Nagaland and the Naga people in general, the statement said.

The NSCN-IM has been engaged with peace talks with the interlocutor of the central government since 1997, when it announced a ceasefire agreement after a bloody insurgency movement, which started in Naga-

land soon after the country's Independence.

Subsequently, the Centre signed a Framework Agreement with the NSCN (IM) on August 3, 2015.

The Union government has also started separate talks with working committees of six Naga nationalist political groups since 2017.

## The issue is not about the ply-board, but about the mindset

**OPEN LETTER TO TOURISM MINISTER - UGEN T GYATSO AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

I am writing this Open letter to express my strong opposition and disappointment pertaining to the maintenance of the stall of our Sikkim Tourism Department at Bagdogra Airport.

I came across this recent unbelievable photo of Tourism stall of Sikkim on Facebook, for which I confirmed the authenticity and I was shell shocked to see it not because it was looking poorly maintained but more importantly, the amount of carelessness exhibited by the Tourism Department of Sikkim at the Bagdogra airport of the neighbouring state is a huge disrespect to the general public of Sikkim and also a damage to the reputation of the State of Sikkim.

Initially, after seeing the photo, the first kind of mindboggling contradiction came up and I had a second thought that may be Tourism Department has opened its other stall in some railway station. Suddenly I noticed the stall of



This photo was posted on 22nd July, 2018, Courtesy: Friends FB page.

Gorkhaland Territorial Administration with neat, attractive and glassed stall, followed by the other nice looking West Bengal Tourism stall. Then it made me realize something's not right until I saw the luggage strollers which is normally used in airports, which confirmed that this was Bagdogra Airport.

Immensely saddening was when I asked one of my friend from Delhi for his opinion on this picture made no difference with our thoughts and similarly how those numerous travellers mind have already been

impacted for months during tourist season this year; with this live scene of the Sikkim stall is of sure embarrassment to the reputation of the Sikkim as a whole.

Tourism is a boon here in Sikkim and as per recent assembly statements of Government of Sikkim pertaining to GDP increase of 3033 % from 1994 to 2017 to Rs 2.9 lakhs per capita income and here we are with such carelessness of the Tourism department or shall we assume the GDP figure is just only in letter and not in spirit.

Moreover, the amount of carelessness exhibited one cannot and should not ignore when the Reputation is of Our Beloved State and these days we see funds of crores of rupees being misused through failed projects and here we are again witnessing, the careless government with a "Bhayi Halcha Attitude" not even able to maintain the Tourism Department stall properly at Bagdogra Airport.

Additionally, when our Chief Minister and ministers of all departments fly from this very airport and

we are sure that they have come across this stall many times. However, I am just immensely disappointed and saddened that no Minister till date has have given a second thought about it and expressed concern on this issue.

If the Government or the Tourism Department is lacking funds, then they can seek for donations from the public and we are also ready to contribute but please don't and be careful when the situation is especially related to the reputation of our beloved state and we will not let anyone tarnish the image of our state even if that is our own Government.

Lastly I believe almost whole Sikkim also agrees that the most stylish Minister of Sikkim is Mr Ugen T Gyatso - Tourism Minister - but there is big 'but' when his own department's stall is so pathetically maintained.

With this eye-opening letter, we hope Our Tourism Minister and the Tourism Department get the clear message that no such future carelessness would be ignored especially pertaining to Sikkim's Reputation and we also do hope and request Mr Minister to kindly take swift action on the maintenance or renovation of the offending stall as appropriately as possible.

**CONCERNED SIKKIMESE Kunga Bhutia, Gangtok**

## Mayweather to stage "entertainment" spectacle in Japan

LOS ANGELES, DEC 7 (AFP): Boxer Floyd Mayweather says his New Year's Eve bout with Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa will be "all about the entertainment".

The nine-minute exhibition in Japan will have no official winner or loser if it goes the distance, and Mayweather said at a press availability at his training base in Las Vegas on Thursday that he was looking forward to the event as a chance to sample "something different".

The contest will take place at the Saitama Prefecture Super Arena in Saitama, Japan, Mayweather said.

Saitama is 16 kilometres (10 miles) north of Tokyo. Mayweather added that there and won't be any judges present and the bout would not count on the combatants' official fight records.

"It is all about the entertainment," Mayweather said. "Nine minutes of entertainment ... I'm in the entertainment business." Besides



three-minute rounds, the exhibition will take place at 67kg (147 pounds), feature "straight boxing rules" and eight-ounce boxing gloves.

"This will be full contact competition but the bout is not going on boxing or MMA records," a Mayweather spokesperson said in a news release. Nasukawa, also in Vegas Thursday, said he hopes his countrymen will get behind the show.

"There has never been a Japanese fighter

to face Floyd Mayweather in the ring. I would like to make a big impression," said the 20-year-old, who is 27-0 with 21 KOs as a featherweight kickboxer. "I want to get the whole fight community, the whole country of Japan and the entire world involved in this fight.

Thursday's press event came almost a month after 41-year-old retired welterweight champ Mayweather (50-0, 27 KOs) announced he had scrapped plans to

stage a fight with Nasukawa, indicating he had been duped into agreeing to a contest.

"I want it to be clear that I, Floyd Mayweather, never agreed to an official bout with Tenshin Nasukawa," Mayweather wrote on Instagram.

But on November 15, the CEO of mixed martial arts promoter RIZIN said a "misunderstanding" with Mayweather had been ironed out and the fight was on.

At that time, May-

weather described the match to TMZ Sports as "a little boxing exhibition" with no kicking involved. There was no mention Thursday of a US broadcaster, an undercard, or how much money Mayweather would receive for the spectacle.

Mayweather came out of a two-year retirement in 2017 and knocked out mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor in the 10th round of a super-hyped boxing match.

## Boca and River train in Madrid for 'weird' Libertadores final

MADRID, DEC 7 (AFP): Boca Juniors striker Carlos Tevez conceded playing a Libertadores Cup final in Madrid on Sunday will be "weird" but rejected suggestions River Plate have been put at a disadvantage.

The second leg was moved to Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu after the original fixture at River's El Monumental stadium was postponed last month, following an attack by their fans on Boca's team bus. South America's football federation, CONMEBOL, ruled River should lose the chance to play at home, with the game moved abroad amid fears of further fan violence.

"It is a weird final," Tevez said Thursday after Boca had trained at Las Rozas, the base of the Spanish national team.

"To play a match between Boca and River in Madrid, it's weird. But as a player, it is important to stay focused on the match." Argentina's two greatest football rivals competing for South America's most prestigious club prize out of the country, and in Spain, has proven controversial, with both clubs expressing their disapproval.

Boca believe the chaos caused by River's fans means they should be awarded the trophy while River have protested against the loss of home advantage enjoyed by their opponents in the first leg, which finished 2-2.

"We would have liked to have played the game at home," said River goalkeeper Franco Armani on Thursday. "On our pitch, in front of our fans, who



deserve it, but the decision is already made. We have to make the best of it." Both sets of supporters have been allowed an equal allocation of 25,000 tickets for the match in Madrid, despite away fans being banned at Boca's Bombonera ground, as they would have been at El Monumental.

Asked if River's chances had been damaged, Tevez said: "I don't think so. River have a lot more pressure playing at home and now it is 50-50. To play at home, sometimes it goes against you in a Libertadores final."

Security remains high on the agenda after River's fans smashed the windows of Boca's bus and left some of their players injured.

"After Sunday there will be a champion and no more talk," Armani said.

"The only thing I can say is that what happened in Argentina cannot ever happen again."

One of Boca's most radical supporters was sent back to Argentina on Thursday after he had arrived at Madrid's Barajas Airport. "He is one of the most important and dangerous Boca ultras," a spokesman for the Span-

ish police told AFP.

Tevez also called for calm around the match.

"I think people are smart," he said.

"They know they can't mess around here so the truth is everything should happen peacefully, as it should do.

"I think it's important for everyone involved to know that while it is a final, of course, it is a football match. We feel good because we're here and we thank the Spanish people for welcoming us."

Both teams appeared in good spirits as they trained in Madrid for the first time on Thursday.

Boca's players were put through a light session at Las Rozas in the morning before River trained in the evening at Real Madrid's Valdebebas. River had landed at Madrid's Barajas Airport early on Thursday morning. Attending both sessions were more than 150 journalists while a small number of fans were also seen waiting outside.

Former Boca idol Juan Roman Riquelme voiced his disapproval of the relocated fixture earlier this week, saying it would make it "the most expensive friendly in history".

## Hockey World Cup: HI lodge complaint against Pakistan assistant coach Danish

SAUMJOYOTI S CHOUDHURY

DEC 7 (PTI): Hockey India has initiated an inquiry against Pakistan's assistant coach Danish Kaleem for breaching security protocol, adding to the list of off-field issues plaguing the former champions at the ongoing men's Hockey World Cup here. With the World Cup nearing halfway stage, Pakistan's campaign is getting from bad to worse due to a host of issues, which include injury blow to skipper Muhammad Rizwan Senior and a one-match suspension to his deputy Ahammad Butt.

As if that was not enough, Hockey India has now lodged an official complaint with International Hockey Federation's Technical delegate Christian Deckenbrock of Germany against Danish for breaching security protocol and misbehaving with security persons inside the stadium.

Pakistan's chief coach Tauqeer Ahmad Dar admitted things are far from rosy for his side on and off the field ahead of their crucial Pool D match against Netherlands on Sunday. "The last few days have been very hard. Most energies are being wasted on things other than sports," said Dar told reporters after a practice session here on Friday.

"One of our main players, our skipper has fractured his toe and is out of the tournament. Our vice-captain has been banned by the Technical Delegate. The reason we have no clue. There was no action taken on the ground. No penalty corner was given and no green card was given. "One more inquiry about our coach that has been lodged by Hockey India. A new enquiry every day," he added.

Explaining the reasons behind the inquiry, Dar said: "Me and Danish sit on the terrace and watch match. And we communicate with walkie talkie to Hasan Sardar

(manager) and Rehan Butt (assistant coach). "At half time against Malaysia, I had sent him (Danish) with some notes to Hassan bhai. And when he was coming back, he was stopped by the security and they asked for his accreditation card.

"Unfortunately, he forgot his card at the dressing room but the security people misbehaved with him. Yesterday they (Hockey India) lodged a complaint," he added. Dar termed Ahammad Butt's suspension as completely unfair and said one of Pakistani players got stitches on his head after being hit by a Malaysian player but no action was initiated against him.

"Hassan Sardar was emailed in the morning that there is a decision pending against Ahammad Butt and that he has done something very wrong," he said. "He went to the enquiry, but there is no evidence but that is the decision of the Technical Delegate. We have appealed against that and I hope sanity prevails.

"He was shown a video for just two or three minutes. It shows a Pakistani rusher trying to save a PC. A Malaysian forward is trying to score. One of our boys Abu Bakr got stitches because of a stick from a Malaysian boy. But that's ok. It's hockey not ping pong," the coach said.

Dar said the off-field issues are having an adverse effect on the Pakistani players. "We are in bad shape mentally. We are focusing on things other than the ground. We are discussing who is going to come because of injury. Our top two are out of the ground," he said.

"18 players and 2 are not there. Only 15 left for the match against Holland. It is a major handicap as we are minus 1 tyre of a car against Netherlands, one of the toughest teams in the tournament," the former Olympian said.

Talking about their match against Malaysia, Dar said: "I think we are

here because of mental strength. They played extremely well, more than their ability.

"Against Malaysia we were in a street fight. Rolant (Oltmans) knew all our players. He knew all their tactics and structure and how they would take penalty corners, individual skills. It was a street fight and luckily we survived." Four-time champi-

ons Pakistan are currently placed third in Pool D behind Netherlands and table-toppers Germany and they need at least a draw against the Dutch to avoid early ouster from the tournament.

"Pakistan cannot beat Holland on skill right now or on physical fitness. It is only the mental strength of the boys and the passion for hockey.

The difference between their grassroots and our grass roots is like 300 per cent," Dar said.

"We have talked to the boys what is going on off the field. We have said that you should be fully motivated. The place to take revenge is here. If they play according to their capacity and go beyond it, we can give a tough fight to Holland."

## Advantage India on Day 2 as Ashwin, pacers keep Aussies on tight leash

CHETAN NARULA

ADELAIDE, DEC 7 (PTI): India had the slight edge in a sedately-paced battle of attrition after senior off-spinner R Ashwin cleaned up the Australian top-order and a meticulous pace effort kept the home team's scoring in check on the second day of the opening Test here.

Travis Head (61 batting) and Pat Cummins (10) kept Australia in the game with a 50-run partnership in the last session but India walked away with the advantage after the latter fell towards the end of day's play.

At stumps, Australia were 191/7 in 88 overs with Ashwin being their primary tormentor, securing figures of 3/50 in 33 overs. He was aided well by the pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah (2/34) and Ishant Sharma (2/31).

Mitchell Starc (8 batting) was giving Head company at close of play with Australia trailing by 59 runs against India's first innings effort of 250 all out, the highlight of which was Cheteshwar Pujara's fighting hundred.

Post tea, the hosts lost two wickets for 10 runs in a passage of play spanning eight overs. It was credit to Indian bowling that it kept the runs in check and regular inroads into the Australian line-up meant that they were never really out of pressure.

Peter Handscomb (34) had been living dangerously and he was the first to fall. He tried to play the late cut against Bumrah but only managed to edge behind. Shortly after, Ishant came up with an unplayable length delivery and Australian captain Tim Paine (5) had no choice but to play at it, only to edge to the keeper. Australia were struggling at 127-6, when things turned their way thanks to the eighth-wicket partnership between Head and Cummins.

Head started to play more shots as soon as the tail-ender came to the crease, and in doing so, reached his second Test half-century off 103 balls.

It was the only passage of play where India's bowling lost a little colour, but it was partly due to the fact that



Murali Vijay (0-10) bowled four overs before the second new ball was taken. Cummins faced 44 balls until then but it didn't matter as Bumrah trapped him LBW. However, the Indian pacers were unable to make further inroads into the Australian lower-order as Head and Starc batted out the remaining overs before stumps. Earlier, Ashwin bowled with control as Australia were restricted to 117-4 at tea.

The senior off-spinner bowled an incisive spell that tied down the Australian batsmen.

First up, Shaun Marsh (2) gifted his wicket immediately after the break. In the very first over, he went for a wild slash against Ashwin, but ended up playing on as Australia were reduced to 59-3. Usman Khawaja (28) and Handscomb then added 28 runs for the fourth wicket. The latter played some loose strokes at the start of his innings, but got some streaky boundaries off Mohammed Shami (0-51) to help the scoring rate move along.

The big moment came in the 40th over, when Ashwin got Khawaja's wicket. The left-hander had been tied down and was content eating up deliveries. However, he pushed one for-

ward against Ashwin and gloved it to keeper Rishabh Pant. India appealed, and then opted for DRS review with hotspot showing a faint tickle on Khawaja's glove as Australia were suddenly reduced to 87-4.

Head then joined Handscomb and defied the Indian bowling, which didn't allow any easy runs but also couldn't find another breakthrough before the tea break. Handscomb struck five boundaries, while Head hit a four as well, as the duo put on 30 runs for the fifth wicket, taking Australia past 100 in the 48th over.

In the morning, Australia were placed at 57-2 at lunch after India were bowled out for 250 (88 overs) on the very first ball of the morning session. Mohammed Shami (6) showed no patience at all and went after a short delivery from Josh Hazlewood (3-52) only to be caught behind down leg side, as India's innings came to a quick end.

Mitchell Starc (2-63), Pat Cummins (2-49) and Nathan Lyon (2-83) finished with a brace each.

Thereafter, Australia didn't have the best of starts as Ishant bowled Aaron Finch (0) with a fuller, inswinging delivery on only the third ball of their in-

nings. It was a hectic start to the day's play, but Khawaja and debutant opener Marcus Harris (26) settled down to provide a solid start for the hosts.

The duo batted out 20.4 overs and put on 45 runs for the second wicket, already higher than any partnership for the top-four Indian wickets. The Indian pacers bowled with fiery pace with Bumrah even breaching the 150kmph mark at one point.

However, they bowled short of good length on most occasions and didn't make the Australian batsmen play too many deliveries. On their part, both Harris and Khawaja were content leaving as many deliveries as possible, and struck only four boundaries between them.

Ashwin was introduced into the attack in the 12th over of the innings, and immediately hit up an interesting duel with Harris. The cover drive came out against the spinner, expectedly as a few more runs started flowing.

Ashwin first struck before lunch. Harris played on to his pads and was caught at silly point in the 22nd over, as the spinner got dividends for blocking all scoring opportunities.

Australia's 50 came up in the 27th over thereafter.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**Urban Development & Housing Department**  
**Gangtok, Sikkim**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

N.I.T No./

Dated:

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer (Plg), Urban Development and Housing Department, Development Area, Gangtok, East Sikkim invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department (SPWD) vide Notification No: 584/R&B/PWD/Secy dated: 08.10.2018 & vide Notification No. 556/R&B/Secy dated 28/08/2018, through competitive bidding within the concerned ward under Gangtok Municipal Corporation (as per enlistment) where the work is to be executed. The details of works and time schedule are as under:

1. **DETAILS OF TENDER**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Time Of completion.	Territorial jurisdiction WARD
1.	Construction of footpath below Harka Maya College at Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	2,89,664/-	7,241.6/-	100/-	3 months	Ward(15):Tadong
2.	Construction of footpath at Tiny Pearls School Area Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	2,20,693/-	5,517/-	100/-	3 months	Ward(15):Tadong
3.	Construction of footpath from NH 10 to Holy Cross Auditorium Building under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	3,79,336/-	9,483.4/-	100/-	4 months	Ward(15):Tadong
4.	Construction of footpath c.c. Footpath below Entel to Rani Khola at Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	3,58,671/-	8,966.8/-	100/-	4 months	Ward(15):Tadong
5.	Construction of JTW on Chawan Jhora at Lower Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	5,51,729/-	13,793.22	250/-	5 months	Ward(15):Tadong
6.	Jhora Training Works at Lieutenant Jhora at at Lower Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	5,51,729/-	13,793.22	250	5 months	Ward(15):Tadong
7.	JTW including protective wall near the house of Gyan Bahadur Chettri at at Lower Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	3,44,828/-	8,620.70	100/-	4 months	Ward(15):Tadong
8.	Repairing JTW at Dhanjay Jhora at Metro Point Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	1,72,413/-	4,310.32	100/-	2 months	Ward(15):Tadong
9.	JTW at T.B. Gurung Jhora at Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	2,06,903/-	5,172.60	100/-	2 months	Ward(15):Tadong
10.	JTW on Dahal Jhora below Dr. Adhikari Vey Clinic at NH10 at Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	6,20,691/-	15,517.30	250/-	5 months	Ward(15):Tadong
11.	Restoration of Jhora at Old Sikkim Jewels Building at Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	1,23,985/-	3,099.60	100/-	2 months	Ward(15):Tadong
12.	Construction of Drain at Lumsey above the House of Phul Maya at Tadong under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	4,13,794/-	10,345/-	100/-	4 months	Ward(15):Tadong
13.	JTW below Adampool near Sikkim Motors Workshop under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	4,82,757/-	12,069/-	100/-	5 months	Ward(15):Tadong
14.	Construction of Footpath from Upper Samdur to Zero Mile under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	8,27,597/-	20,690/-	250/-	7 months	Ward(16): Ranipool
15.	Construction of Riverside sidewalk from Ranipool Bridge to Jalipool under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	7,93,103/-	19,828/-	250/-	7 months	Ward(16): Ranipool
16.	Construction of Footpath at Samdoor under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	4,13,793/-	10,345/-	100/-	4 months	Ward(16): Ranipool
17.	JTW from Lower Samdur to Rani Khola under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	3,79,312/-	9,782.79	100/-	3 months	Ward(16): Ranipool
18.	Construction of Drain from Upper Samdur School under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	1,65,517/-	4,137.90	100/-	2 months	Ward(16): Ranipool
19.	Construction of Drain at Ranipool Bazar near Dr. Shanti Complex under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	1,79,313/-	4,482.80	100/-	2 months	Ward(16): Ranipool

20.	Upgradation of footpath from Greendale School to Tar Bari under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	6,27,573.00	15,689.30	250/-	5 months	Ward(14): Dargaon.
21.	Upgradation of footpath from Kiran Chettri's house to Greendale School under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	5,24,138/-	13,103.50	250/-	5 months	Ward(14): Dargaon.
22.	Upgradation of footpath from Birbal Rai's house to above Manipal CRH under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	4,20,699/-	10,517.50	100/-	4 months	Ward(14): Dargaon.
23.	Beautification of Footpath from Lumsey near Khilon Rai House under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	4,34,499/-	10,862.50	100/-	4 months	Ward(14): Dargaon.
24.	Construction of Drain at Tar Bari under Gangtok sub-division in East Sikkim	5,10,361/-	12,759/-	250/-	5 months	Ward(14): Dargaon.

## TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt/Challan for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form):	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2018 ( from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.
2.	Date of issue of Tender form on submission of TDR(as Earnest Money).	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018 & 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019 ( from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.
3.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender forms & documents.	
	a) Sl.No. 1 to 6: Tadong(Venue: GMC)	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.
	b) Sl.No. 7 to 13: Tadong(Venue: GMC)	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.
	c) Sl.No. 14 to 19: Ranipool(Venue: GMC)	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.
	d) Sl.No.20 to 24: Dargaon(Venue: GMC)	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.
4.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender forms & documents.	
	a) Sl.No. 1 to 6: Tadong(Venue: GMC)	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( 1 p.m onwards.)
	b) Sl.No. 7 to 13: Tadong(Venue: GMC)	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( 1 p.m onwards.)
	c) Sl.No. 14 to 19: Ranipool(Venue: GMC)	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 ( 1 p.m onwards.)
	d) Sl.No.20 to 24: Dargaon(Venue: GMC)	12 <sup>th</sup> January ( 1 p.m onwards.)

**CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.**

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application, (c) GST registration. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (including Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in the office of the GMC, Gangtok on production of Challan which is available in the office of the GMC.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of temporary deposit receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer U.D & H.D, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts to that contractors/ firm who has obtained the tender Documents, on production of towards deposit receipt of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscribed on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No. 3 (a) (b) & (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the GMC on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Taxes and Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED Gram Panchayat/Urban Local Body Unit where the work is to be executed.
- The rates incorporated in the Estimates for the tendered work is as per SOR 2012, of Public Works Department, Government of Sikkim and is exclusive of GST.

Sd/-

**R.O. no. 539/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19**  
**Date: 07.12.2018**

**Assistant Engineer**  
Gangtok Sub Division  
U.D & H.D.



**STYLISH AND WARM: THE 'HAVANA' SINGER, CAMILA CABELLO, WAS SEEN FILMING A COMMERCIAL IN MANHATTAN LOOKING STYLISH AND WARM WHILE HOLDING A CUPCAKE.**

## MIB reboot titled 'Men in Black International'

**LOS ANGELES, DEC 7 (PTI):** The reboot of "Men in Black" series has been titled "Men in Black International". The film, directed by F Gary Gray, will feature Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson in the lead.

According to Collider, a logo has also been designed of the reboot, which is set to hit the theatres on June 14 next year.

Hemsworth and Thompson, who reunite after starring in "Thor: Ragnarok", are playing Agent H and Agent M respectively, the alien-fighting and world-saving characters portrayed by Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones in the original film trilogy.

The cast also includes Kumail Nanjiani, Rafe Spall, Liam Neeson, Rebecca Ferguson and Hemsworth's older brother Liam.

Neeson is playing the head of the Men in Black organisation in London, where the story begins. Walter F Parkes and Laurie Macdonald, who produced the original movies, return as producers, while Steven Spielberg

is coming back to executive produce.

Hemsworth had recently announced on Instagram that the film has wrapped shoot-



ing. "That's a wrap on MIB for me!! From London to Morocco to Italy and NYC. Thank you to all the fantastic cast and crew who took part on this epic journey and our director F.Gary Gray, cheers for the fun times, big laughs and solid memories," the actor had written.

**ARIES:** Limits? What limits? Today's Sagittarius new moon in your fiercely independent ninth house can help you to bust out of a rut. Whether you're game to be your own boss or say sayonara to a bad deal, it's time to emancipate yourself!  
**TAURUS:** Solid as a rock! If that's your motto AND your goal for your personal and professional life, get serious about allowing only those kinds of people and scenarios into your world. Smooth-talking players and unreliable partners won't cut it for your pragmatic sign.  
**GEMINI:** Two's your lucky number today, as a Sagittarius new moon powers up your seventh house of committed relationships. Whether you're single or attached, working with a business cohort or flying solo, you will attract all kinds of worthy partner possibilities. These could be new folks or friends (or friends of friends) that you're see-

ing with fresh eyes.  
**CANCER:** A Sagittarius new moon powers up your sixth house of self-care, motivating you to shed some limiting habits and replace them with healthy new ones. Don't wait for New Year's to make your resolutions or start a new eating plan or exercise routine. Plenty of gyms and yoga and Pilates studios are offering deals NOW. So get out there and do your best negotiating.  
**LEO:** No use trying to play small today, Leo. Wherever you go, the spotlight is going to find and follow you. This is what happens when a Sagittarius new moon activates your fifth house of glamour and fame. Without even trying, your self-loving vibes and innate confidence will come beaming through.  
**VIRGO:** Home and hearth, kith and kin: These are a few of your favorite things today, as a Sagittarius new moon activates your domestic

## Ariana Grande Just Made Us Cry With Her Tearful Speech at Billboard Woman of the Year Awards

**I**t's official: Ariana Grande-truly is the woman of the year.

The pop princess accepted the honor at Billboard's 2018 Women in Music Awards. She graced the stage in a short lavender dress, which she nicely paired with matching knee-high lavender boots.

Patti LaBelle presented the singer with the honor, calling her "all that and a bag of chips."

But before the 25-year-old could take the stage, a video of artists like Pharrell and Katy Perry played, where they praised Grande's vocal talents and onstage presence. It also touched on the "Dangerous Woman" singer's bravery following the tragic bombing that took place at one of her concerts in Manchester, England in May 2017.

She then performed a breathtaking rendition of the chart-topping song "Thank U, Next," after which Ariana jokingly thanked every one for attending her quinceanera.

Once the crowd's laughs subsided, Ariana began to thank the various women, managers and performers who



have helped her to become the Woman of the Year. "This is really special. I want to say that I find it interesting that

this has been one of the best years in my career and one of like the worst years in my life," she said, holding tears back.

Ari explained that she isn't asking for sympathy, but to give comfort to anyone in the world who might be struggling. "I'm just saying that because I feel like a lot of people would look at someone in my position right now I guess; Woman of the Year, an artist that could be at her peak, reaching her you know, whatever, and think, you know, 'She's really got her shit together; she's really on it; she has got it all'. I do, but as far as my personal life goes I really have no idea what the f--k I am doing," she candidly shared. "So yeah, it's been a very conflicting one. I just want to say if you're someone out there who has no idea what this next chapter is going to bring, you're not alone in that."

The songstress concluded her speech by sharing her hopes for herself in the new year. Alluding to the dramatic year she experienced, Grande said, "I look forward to hopefully learning to give some of the love and forgiveness that I have given away so frivolously and easily to men in the past to myself this year."

## Oscar host Kevin Hart addresses furore over his old homophobic tweets



**LOS ANGELES, DEC 7 (PTI):** Kevin Hart, who is set to host 91st Academy Awards next year, has responded to the controversy surrounding his old homophobic tweets, asking people to "stop looking for reasons to be negative." The 39-year-old actor was announced as the host of 2019 Oscar on Tuesday and soon after his old tweets where he cracked anti-gay jokes resurfaced online.

According to BuzzFeed, Hart had started deleting his tweets after the announcement, but many online users took screenshots before they were removed.

After a backlash, the actor posted a video on Instagram, saying he is in great mature place where all I do is spread positivity. "Guys, I'm almost 40 years old. If you don't believe that people change, grow, evolve as people get older, I don't know what to tell you," Hart said in the video.

"If you want to hold people

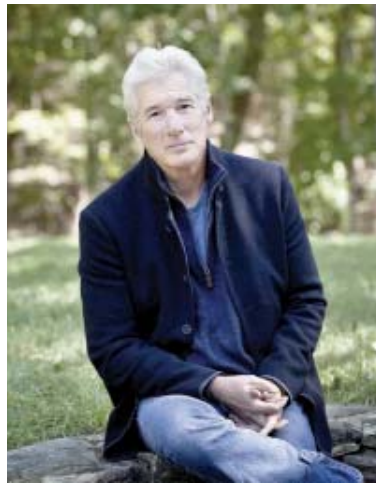
in a position where they always have to justify their past, then do you. I'm the wrong guy, man. I'm in a great place, a great mature place, where all I do is spread positivity," he added.

In the same post, the actor said he is fine if people want to "search my history or past and anger yourselves with what you find".

"I'm almost 40 years old and I'm in love with the man I am becoming. **YOU LIVE and YOU LEARN & YOU GROW & YOU MATURE.** I live to Love.. Please take your negative energy and put it into something constructive.

"Please... What's understood should never have to be said. **I LOVE EVERYBODY... ONCE AGAIN EVERYBODY.** If you choose to not believe me then that's on you... Have a beautiful day," the actor said. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which runs the Academy Awards, has not yet responded on the controversy.

## Richard Gere to star in Apple remake of Israeli series 'Nevelot'



**LOS ANGELES, DEC 7 (PTI):** Veteran actor Richard Gere is in negotiations to star in an untitled Apple drama series.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the series is based on Israeli show "Nevelot", and expected to be green lit soon by the tech giant.

If finalised, Gere, 69, will play the lead in the series.

The story follows two elderly Vietnam veterans and best friends who find their monotonous lives upended when a woman they both loved fifty years ago is killed by a car.

Nevelot was created by Dror Sabo with Daphna Levin and Lee Yardeni. It was based on Yoram Kaniuk's novel of the same name and produced for the Israeli cable network HOT.

The Apple series would be written by Howard Gordon and he will also executive produce the project alongside Gere, Warren Leight, Sabo, Yardeni, Avi Nir, Alon Shtruzman, Rachel Kaplan, Peter Traugott, Yoram Mokady, and Mirit Toovi.

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**VIRGO:** Home and hearth, kith and kin: These are a few of your favorite things today, as a Sagittarius new moon activates your domestic

fourth house. Has life been zipping along at breakneck speed, causing you to unintentionally give short shrift to some of your nearest and dearest?  
**LIBRA:** Hello, superconnector! Today's Sagittarius new moon accentuates your third house of community, crowning you social director. You're comfortable bringing together like-minded folks for work, play or romance, but under this lunar power, you're really fired up. So why not turn it into a sideline business and make a little moola facilitating a joint venture?  
**SCORPIO:** Today's Sagittarius new moon in your second house of finances turns your attention to the all-important subjects of work and money. New moons bring the opportunity for a fresh start, and who couldn't use a little economic stimulation during the holidays? Start by realistically assessing your gifting budget.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Happy personal New Year! Today marks the only Sagittarius new moon of the year and, for you, the first day of a powerful six-month cycle. You've got the cosmos on your side, so make a bold move toward realizing your wildest dreams. Here's a manifesting tip: The clearer your goals, the faster you'll be able to make them a reality.  
**CAPRICORN:** You're no quitter, Cap, but sometimes even your persevering sign is forced to admit that enough is enough. And today—with the only Sagittarius new moon of the year activating your twelfth house of endings—may be one of those days. It's not a sign of weakness but of strength to walk away from an untenable or unfulfilling situation.  
**AQUARIUS:** You're the most indie-spirited sign of the zodiac, Aquarius, but you're also its consummate team player. And today, the only Sagittarius new moon of

the year lands in your collaborative station, sparking an inventive team project. Your tribe's no herd of cloned sheep, and the respect you pay one another makes it easy to subdue your ego and work toward a common goal. Feeling sporty? Look for an indoor athletic league, or play to your sign's strengths and find a meaningful humanitarian project to support.  
**PISCES:** The only Sagittarius new moon of the year lands in your tenth house of professional success today, rousing your inner tycoon from a long nap. Even though you resonate more with creative types, that doesn't mean you can't run a profitable company. If you do need some support on the business side, align yourself with someone with complementary skills. Get clarity on your career goals by writing them down. For the next six months, keep that list in plain sight—and let the manifestation begin!