



NORTH DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETS

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NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO TALK ABOUT FEMINISM ALL DAY: LARSON ON BEING CAPTAIN MARVEL'

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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West prepares for Bhumchu

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
GYALSHING, 14 FEB:

On the directions of the area MLA, Sonam Dadul Bhutia, a co-ordination/preparatory meeting for the upcoming Bhumchu at Tashiding Monastery was convened in the office of the District Magistrate, West Sikkim, on Tuesday, 12 Feb.

The meeting was chaired by the MLA and attended by the DM, SP-West, SE (Power), SDM Yuksam, JD (Health), DE (PHE), Divisional Engineer (PWD), Block Development Officer Chongrang, PI (Gyalshing), AE (R&B), JE (Power) Sub-Inspector excise, Assistant Station Fire Officer, Bhumchu Celebration Committee and Tashiding Monastery.

The meeting resolved that organizers take into consideration the ever-increasing numbers of devotees turning up for Bhumchu which would require additional security measures and parking facilities.

The SP-West suggested that priority be given to devotees coming from abroad and to senior citizens and physically challenged.

Accordingly, a separate registration table for devotees shall be retained.

The Power and Ener-

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State conclave on National SC-ST Hub scheme on 26 Feb



GANGTOK, 14 FEB (IPR):

The State Conclave of the National SC-ST Hub scheme under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise, (MSME), is scheduled to be held at Chintan Bhan on 26 Feb.

National SC-ST Hub is an initiative of the Government of India aimed at popularizing various funding initiatives of the Central Government for SC-ST entrepreneurs. The State Conclave of the National SC-ST Hub scheme is being organized by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) with the assistance of MSME in coordination with Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim.

In this regard, a preliminary meeting of the Joint Working Committee was held at the conference hall of Commerce and Industries Department, Tadong, which was

GOBINDGARH, 14 FEB

(IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was conferred with a Doctorate of Literature (Honoris Causa) by the Desh Bhagat University here at Gobindgarh in Punjab today.

The honour was conferred on him for his 'exceptional vision, deep commitment and continuous efforts to uplift the weaker section, backward class and women; for his leadership and good governance with moral and spiritual wisdom'.

While delivering his keynote address, the Chief Minister congratulated the students who have just received their degrees and medals and also complimented the Desh Bhagat University on its contributions to the field of education and is today seen as one of India's proud educational institutes.

The Chief Minister informed that State Government in Sikkim has

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attended by Commerce and Industries, Principal Secretary, Dr Thomas Chandy, National Working President of Forum of SC-ST Legislators and Parliamentarians cum Director General Dr. Ambedkar Chamber of Commerce, Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal, Information and Public Relations, Secretary, Dr Sherab Shenga, Vice Chancellor of Sikkim State University, Dr GK Niraula, officials from various state and central government agencies and education institutions.

During the meeting, National Working President, Forum of SC-ST Legislators Parliamentarian, Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal briefed the gathering that the programme will have four sessions; inaugural session followed by technical session where targeted group will be students of

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Desh Bhagat Univ confers PhD on CM



made tremendous progress in the education sector duly earmarking 20 percent of state budget under education sector which is the highest expenditure in India so far.

Talking about free education upto college level, the Chief Minister mentioned two unique programs of the Sikkim government like the Chief Minister's Meritorious

Scholarship Scheme at class V level and Chief Minister's Free Scholarship Scheme for Sikkimese students admitted in world's top 20 Universities.

The Chief Minister

further said that Sikkim has become the most literate state in the country with the literacy rate of 96.72 percent, life expectancy of 73.15 years and per capita income of Rs 3,41,000 at present.

Sikkim is the cleanest state, first Open Defecation-free State of India, most peaceful and safest tourist destination state. During the period of 1993 and 2013, forest cover in Sikkim increased to 47.34 per cent from 43.95 per cent in 1993.

Sikkim became the only state in India to have increased its forest cover in the past two decades.

"As a governmental response to growing unemployment, we recently launched a unique program-One Family One Job under which employment to 20,000 were given on 12 Jan, 2019 ensuring 99 percent reach, covering all households in Sikkim," the Chief Minister informed.

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Sikkim squad picked for Dr T Ao Centenary NE international

SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 14 FEB:

An 18-member state team is all set to represent Sikkim in the 2nd Dr T Ao Centenary North East International NEC Gold Cup Football Championship [U-21] 2019 to be held from 19 to 28 February at Guwahati in Assam. The state team is scheduled to leave on 17 February.

The Sikkim team comprises of: Kunal Tamang, Lakpa Dorjee Bhutia, Roshan Mangar, Aunrag Chettri, Kelvin Sherpa, Abid Mohammad, Roshan Pradhan, Prashant Chettri, Boxer Pradhan, Nikesh Gurung, Robin Sharma, Sukraj Subba, Sagar Mahanto, Burnes Rai, Milan Chettri, Sangay Chopel, Sanjay Rai and Roman Subba.

The team will be led by Kunal Tamang as captain and will be accompanied by Arjun Rai as manager, Milan Singh as coach,



Dilip Chettri as team official and Dr Praygan Basnett as physiotherapist.

The Sports & Youth Affairs Department had conducted a selection trial on 05 February which was attended by 60 footballers from different parts of the State. The selection committee finally shortlisted 18 players to

represent the State, following which a rigorous training camp was held at Paljor Stadium.

At a function held here today, Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Dr RK Tamang, wished the best to the state team and advised them to play with good coordination and

teamwork to keep the name of Sikkim on top.

He further urged them to give their best to win the championship for the State. Likewise, Director Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kamal Chettri also expressed his best wishes to the team.

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Exhausting all options, LTTJAC approaches SC with LT seat petition



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 FEB:

Limboo Tamang Tribal Joint Action Committee has asserted that after not getting justice from any quarter, the committee has finally approached the Supreme Court on Assembly seat reservation issue for the two communities. The committee has expressed hope that the Limboos and Tamangs will contest the upcoming election from their own seats.

The petition in the Supreme Court was filed by members of the committee on 15 January and the court admitted the case after a hearing on 11 February. The five petitioners are Adeep Tamang, Saman Prasad Subba Limboo, Surendra Moktan, Dhan Rup Limboo and Binod Yonzon and the four respondents named in the petition are the Union of India, State of Sikkim, Delimitation Commission and Election Commission of India.

The petitioners have prayed to the court "to issue a writ of mandamus or any other suitable writ, order or direction in the nature of mandamus directing the Respondent No 1 to take appropriate steps to amend Section 7 (1-A) in the Representation of Peoples Act, 1950 and Section 5 A of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 providing for reservation of Scheduled Tribes name 'Limboo' and 'Tamang' in the legislative Assembly of Sikkim in accordance with law."

The petition has also prayed to direct the State Government to implement whatever steps the Centre takes pertaining

to reservation of ST, Limboo and Tamang in the State Assembly, direct the Delimitation Commission to issue a final notification giving effect to reservation in the Legislative Assembly seats in the State for reservation of Scheduled Tribe Limboo and Tamang seats based on the 2011 census data and also direct the Election Commission of India to take appropriate steps accordingly.

Addressing a press conference here today, LTTJAC president, SP Subba, stated that the committee has taken all possible steps and reached out to all concerned sides to get the political rights of Limboos and Tamangs and when none of these avenues led anywhere, approached the Supreme Court.

Mr Subba accused the State government of not having the political will to secure seat reservation for Limboos and Tamangs and said that the State government should have passed a resolution exclusively for LT seats in the State Assembly and sent it to the Centre.

LTTJAC treasurer cum spokesperson, Adeep Tamang informed that the Committee has also submitted a memorandum to the President, Prime Minister and Union Home Minister on 17 January with a request to give five seats to Limboo and Tamang through a Presidential Ordinance.

He mentioned that the stand of the committee was to provide five seats to Limboos and Tamangs from the existing 32 seats in the State Assembly.

Delhi vs Centre: 3 powers go to Delhi, 2 to Centre, 1 to be decided by larger SC bench

NEW DELHI, FEB 14 (PTI): The following were the six contentious issues before the Supreme Court which gave its verdict Thursday on division of powers between the Delhi government and the Centre represented by Lt Governor.

The three areas in which the Delhi government will have powers:

1. Appointment of special public prosecutors or law officers.

This power was already given to Delhi government by the High Court in its 2016 order. Before that order, both the governments used to make the appointments, the standing counsel for the AAP government Rahul Mehra said, but added that each time Delhi govern-

ment had to assert its right.

2. Fixing land revenue rate.

Earlier this power was with LG. In 2015, the then LG Najeeb Jung had stayed Delhi government's notification on revised circle rates of agricultural land. The Delhi High Court in its 2016 verdict on the power tussle issue between both the governments, had handed this power to the Centre which was challenged by the Delhi government in the Supreme Court.

3. Power to appoint or deal with electricity commission or board.

Earlier, the then LG Najeeb Jung in September 2016 had rejected Delhi government appointee Krishna Saini as chairperson of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission on the

basis that it was done without his approval.

Besides, appointment of Delhi government nominated directors on the boards of three power discoms were termed illegal by the High Court in 2016 for not having LG's approval.

Powers given to the Centre:

1. Delhi Anti Corruption Branch (ACB) cannot probe central government employees.

Earlier, Delhi government claimed control over ACB but Lt Governor exercised authority over it. Mehra said that till 2014 this power was with the Delhi government until the NDA government brought a notification in 2014 and took away this right. He said the

Delhi government challenged this notification in the high court but it was decided in favour of the Centre.

2. Centre has the power to appoint Enquiry Commission.

This power lay with the Centre even before the verdict. The undecided issue which has been referred by the apex court to larger bench:

1. Control over service matters involving transfers and posting of officers.

In SC verdict Thursday the contentious issue of control over service matters involving transfer and posting of officers of Delhi government has been referred to a larger bench by the two judges.

The division bench differed on the issue of control of ser-

vices in the national capital. Justice AK Sikri said transfer and posting of secretaries and Heads of Departments can be done by LG while in case of officer of Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) and Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Police Service (DANIPS), the files need to be sent from the council of ministers to the LG.

Justice Ashok Bhushan, however, differed with the opinion expressed by Justice Sikri and said that under the law, Delhi government has no power to exercise control over services.

Earlier, this issue was with the Centre. It was challenged by the Delhi government in the Supreme Court.

Anti Leprosy awareness at Lingi-Paiyong



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 FEB:

On the occasion of Anti Leprosy fortnight awareness programme for students and teachers was held at Lingi Payong Secondary School on Wednesday.

The programme featured reading of Anti Leprosy pledge by students and teachers and speeches by students.

Teacher LD Adhikari

explained the causes, prevention and treatment of Leprosy.

Every year, Anti Leprosy Fortnight is observed from 30 Jan which marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to 13 Jan to bring about awareness regarding the disease.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of School In-charge Satyendra Singh.

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Desh Bhagat Univ...

Talking about Organic farming, the Chief Minister said that Sikkim has a unique identity as the First and Only Organic State in the world and recounted some of the advantages of organic farming as sustainable farming system.

In the fast changing world, the Chief Minister advised students to update themselves with emerging world knowledge on a daily basis as modern advancement in bio-engineering is about to change the course of evolution itself.

He thanked the University Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and faculty members for conferring upon him the honour. He also remembered the people of Sikkim who have entrusted upon him the responsibility to lead the state as their Chief Minister for the last over 25 years.

The Chief Minister was also invited to join the Chancellor and Chief Guest to felicitate different individuals for their achievement in different fields. Among them were conferment of honoris causa to former President, Pranab Mukherjee [in absentia], Padma Shree HR Shah, Surjanaran Patro (Cabinet Minister of Orissa), Lt. General Shokin Chauhan, Lov Verma, Priti Verma (Punjabi Cinema Actress), Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, VR Shankara, Dr Huzaifa Khorakiwala.

Sikkim squad...

Team manager, Arjun Rai shared that the state team comprises a mix of young, promising and experienced players.

"We have a strong squad this time for the championship and I am very hopeful for a better result this time," he said.

Team captain Kunal Tamang said, "The team is in a good form to give its best in the championship. Half of the our players have recently played in the qualifying round of Santosh Trophy so they are in the high spirits and confidence."

This time the championship has teams from Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh apart from teams of North Eastern States. The fixture is scheduled to be drawn on 18 February and championship will be played on league-cum-knock out basis.

State conclave...

universities and colleges including poly technical colleges and existing and upcoming entrepreneurs in the state.

He also informed that Governor Ganga Prasad will grace the inaugural session as the chief guest.

Mr Atwal said, "Different schemes of the Government of India designed to assist the entrepreneurs will be highlighted during the conclave and the financial institutions will also be involved to brief the guidelines to avail different schemes. Through this conclave, SC-ST youth of Sikkim will be benefited from various centrally sponsored schemes."

National Working president expressed his gratitude and thanked the state government for accepting the request to organize State Conclave of the National SC-ST Hub scheme in Gangtok. He further informed that the conclave will have exhibition stalls and asked various departments of the state government and entrepreneurs to be part of the exhibition.

The Principal Secretary, Dr Thomas Chandy sought support of different departments and stakeholders for the successful conduct of the programme.

During open discussions, the IPR Secretary suggested more publicity and promotion for the conclave. Officials also shared their ideas and views to make this conclave successful.

North district planning committee meets

MANGAN, 14 FEB (IPR):

The meeting of the District Planning Committee (DPC) of North District Zilla Panchayat was held at Zilla Bhavan under the chairmanship of Zilla Adhakshya Nam-day Lepcha today.

The meeting was also attended by Up Adhakshya North, Taney Bhutia, District Collector North, Karma R Bonpo, ADC/ Dev, Zilla Panchayat members and Heads of various Departments in the District.

The BDOs of the four blocks of the District presented the consolidated Gram Panchayat Development Plans of various Gram Panchayats in the meeting. The Plans of the Grams Panchayats was unanimously passed by



the Committee. Similarly the Labor budgets of MGNREGA for the year 2019-20 were also discussed and passed by the committee.

The District Collector

discussed the Development Plan of the NDZP and the Zilla members were directed to immediately submit their proposals for implementation in their respective

Gram Panchayats.

The District Collector also stated that NDZP has initiated plans to increase their own source of revenue by taking over the new Guest House at

Pentok and the running the Cold Storage facility at Mangan Shopping Complex and renting shops to poultry farmers.

He stated that NDZP has initiated plans for

the proper marketing of organic vegetables in the district to increase its revenues.

Speaking on the occasion, the Zilla Adhakshya stated that all the plans presented by the Gram Panchayats should be implemented properly. She stated that funds of Gram Panchayats should be used constructively and for increasing the livelihood opportunity of the people.

She asked the Gram Panchayats to use the available infrastructures in the village for the benefit of the public. She also directed that materials for MGNREGA should be available on time so as to reach the targeted man days in the Gram Panchayats.

Students pull rickshaws on V Day to show their appreciation

KOLKATA, FEB 14 (PTI):

To mark Valentine's Day 42 students of various colleges of the city pulled rickshaws on its throughfares with those who ply them as passengers.

Some of the students who took part in this programme were girls.

The students pulled the hand pulled rickshaws along a three km busy stretch between Bank of India Crossing on Amherst Street to MG Road via BB Ganguly Street and College Street in central Kolkata, one of the organisers Saptak Biswas, himself a journalism student, said.

Cycle rickshaws are not allowed to ply on the main streets of the city proper.

While 42 students pulled as many rickshaws, around 65 others from over 20 colleges in the city walked with them along the route.

"We took it as our turn to show our love and appreciation to those who work tirelessly 365 days but seldom get any recognition," a girl student Puja Gupta, who pulled a rickshaw said.

"My hands were aching. I realised the pain, stress and hard-

ship the rikshawpullers experience daily for a few rupees," she said.

Biswas, who had networked with friends in different intitutes for the move, said the rickshaw pullers live in the nearby Sealdah-Jorasanko-Rabindra Sarani pockets of the city and hail from different districts of Bihar.

The participants had approached the rickshawpullers in person for the programme as most of them do not possess any mobile phones and many of them do not understand Bengali, he said.

"But once we explained our initiative, they were too happy to turn up with their vehicles," he said.

Satyen, an elderly rickshawpuller hailing from Gaya, said "It was an altogether different experience. For a change I was sitting in my own rickshaw. I felt embarrassed as it was being pulled by a girl who is as old as my daughter but she asked me to sit back and relax."

The rickshaw pullers were also treated with lunch and a memento each after the end of the trip, the organsiers said.

Farm machinery distributed in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GYABA, 14 FEB:

The Agriculture Engineering Division of Agriculture Department conducted a distribution of farm machinery and equipment under its agriculture machination Phase II distri-

bution today.

74 farmers from the district received farm machinery like power tillers, spice grinders, chaff cutters. District Magistrate, West, Dr AB Karki, was present as the chief guest.

West prepares...

gy Deptt was charged to check electrification and installation of adequate lighting.

The Bhumchu celebration committee undertook to provide suitable rooms for medical and emergency rooms.

A tent / shed shall also be installed at a suitable place in the monastery premises for the convenience of devotees and the meeting decided to request Tourism Department to provide two tents to the Committee.

The Bhumchu Celebration committee and host monastery will also take care of meals for official guests, volunteers, personnel on duty and police staff.

CSPC of SHG Lasso Tashiding was delegated the task of preparing and distributing tea among the devotees on the night of 18 Feb 2019.

Consumption of alcohol, meat and tobacco has been strictly prohibited at the monastery premises.

DE, PWD, was assigned the task of deploying adequate workers from the main entrance gate to the end point of monastery.

A joint spot-visit is scheduled for Monday, 15 Feb, for a final verification of preparations.

PHE and UD&HD will look after water supply and sanitation management.

Door to door visit of the BLOs by the Election Commission of India

NAMCHI, 14 FEB (IPR):

Consequent upon the directives of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim regarding door to door visit of the BLOs from 15 Feb,

2019 to verify from the household if there are any discrepancies in the final electoral roll being published by the Election Commission of India in terms of any members being left out, wrong entries, etc., a meeting with the BDOs, Supervisors and BLOs of South Districts was held today in the Conference Hall of DAC, Namchi chaired by DEO cum DC, South. All SDMs/EROs were also present in the meeting.

The meeting also deliberated on the recent launching of the Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) by the Election Commission of India for citizens for verification of their names, new registrations, changes in the voters details and correction in the voter identity cards for the forthcoming Elections 2019.

They have been also apprised about the District Contact Centre being in operation with lane line number: 03595-264404.

The BLOs were given the prescribed format along with the copy of the final Electoral Roll in respect of their Polling Station for their intensive door to door visit during which time they shall meticulously verify and submit the filled up format. The BLOs have also been appraised that for those Polling Stations where there are more than 700 voters, the BLOs can engage the Aganwadi Workers and ASHA depending upon their competence to assist them in carrying out the verification work in time.

The DEO, South has directed all the BDOs and the BLOs to be in the field from tomorrow and start the work on topmost priority. Various technical issues relating to the final electoral roll were also discussed and all functionaries have vouched

to rectify the rolls during the continuous updation of the electoral roll 2019.

In the course of the meeting, the BDOs were also directed to receive the EVM/VVPAT machine for massive awareness programme at all the Polling Stations under their jurisdiction with their BLOs and ELC members for which the calendar for the programme finalised for the month of February 2019 has also been circulated. The prescribed format for reporting was also supplied to them for a consolidated report to be furnished to the CEO office by Saturday every week. Various awareness broacher and pamphlets were also issued to the BLOs concerning use of EVM/VVPAT during the awareness programme.

As part of the orientation programme for BLOs, there were briefed about their roles and responsibilities to be fulfilled before and on the day of poll in their respective Polling Stations.

AASU demands scrapping of three orders on foreigners issued in 2015

GUWAHATI, FEB 14 (PTI):

The North East region is for its indigenous people and not for Bangladeshis, asserted NESO and AASU Chief Advisor Dr Samujjal Bhattacharya, who demanded that the three orders pertaining to foreigners issued in 2015 be scrapped.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday after the Citizenship Amendment Bill was not tabled in the Rajya Sabha Wednesday, Bhattacharya claimed,

"the black cloud over the existence of the people of the north east region is still there as the orders granting protection to Bangladeshis are still active".

"Citizenship (Amendment) Order, 2015, Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Rules 2015 and granting of long term visa to Bangladeshi Hindus are still there, they have to be scrapped", stated the North East Students Organisation (NESO) leader.

"Yesterday's victory is due to the north east peoples' united unflinching fight against the CAB. It proved that the north east people don't get anything without agitation. If there was no wide-

spread agitation in the region along with support of the various political parties across India, then the Bill would have not been stopped from being placed in the rajya sabha", he claimed.

"We want to give a strong warning to the government of india.... don't play with the future of the indigenous people here. Do not make that mistake. through the bill the government pushed the people of northeast mentally very far", he stated.

"The BJP through Government of India inflicted mental torture on the people of northeast forcing them to take bullets in Tripura, police beatings in Assam and women to sleep on the streets in Manipur. Not listening to the voice of the people, the government brought the bill and the anti-cab movement started", Bhattacharya averred. "By imposing the bill the government wanted to take away our identity, language, culture and heritage. Even the NRC which will identify the illegal Bangladeshis in Assam", he charged the administration.

"We strongly warn the Government of India

that don't polarise Assam and the northeast on lines of religion as the culture here is not religion centric. There is no place for communal forces or fundamentalists in Assam. We resist such moves.

We don't want a second Tripura or Jammu and Kashmir where the indigenous people have become minorities. Northeast is for its indigenous people and not for Bangladeshis", asserted the NESO leader.

On the cab not being tabled in the rajya sabha Wednesday, Bhattacharya said "it is peoples victory. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma took the leadership to mobilise opinion nationally with other political parties against the bill."

All Assam Students Union (AASU) president Dipanka Nath and general secretary Luringiyoti Gogoi also speaking said the movement has to continue to prevent the government from attempting to bring an ordinance in the lines of cab to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Jains, Sikhs and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan without documents.

Alembic workers need to struggle till all demands are fully met: HSP

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 14 FEB:

Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) has congratulated the protesting workers of Alembic Pharma on their victory in compelling the State Government to wake up and take action towards securing the lawful, just and fair demands of the workers.

HSP has called upon the workers not to give up the struggle till all demands are fully met in a time bound manner.

The party has also called upon all industrial workers of Sikkim to come together to secure their rights and join and support each other in solidarity.

The HSP president, Dr Bina Basnett, it may be recalled, had joined the dharna by Alembic Pharma workers on 13 Feb, 2019 and extended her party's full support.

"The Govt. being pressurised by the resolute struggle of the workers, the determined support of HSP and adverse media reports, had summoned the company officials and convened a meeting with the workers. In such meeting, all repressive steps were promised to be withdrawn and the financial and job security issues were put under time-bound active resolution mode," an HSP press release states.

"HSP sincerely hopes that the Govt. will act expeditiously and in the interest of the workers and industry, failing which struggle shall be intensified till people get justice," the release concludes.

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MoS Tourism praises Sikkim at pakyong event

Summit Report
Gangtok, Feb 14: Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Tourism, KJ Alphons, made a brief visit to the State today. This is his second visit of the MoS to Sikkim within a span of less than fifteen days.

Addressing an event titled, "Bharat ki Maan ki baat, PM Modi ke Saath," a program organised by Sikkim BJP here at the community hall, Pakyong, the MoS highlighted the key achievements and accomplishments of the Government in the last five years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was accompanied by the Sikkim-BJP president, DB Chauhan, and the Pakyong SDM.

He gave a brief outline of all the people-centric schemes implement-



ed successfully by the Central Government.

Mr Alphons spoke highly of the developmental initiatives of the State and termed Sikkim

as a 'model State'.

He said that he was highly impressed with Sikkim, its good-natured people and the cleanliness and eco-friendly

practices, and said that he even mentioned Sikkim in his recent address in Parliament as well as in television interviews.

The Minister further

said that Tourism and Orchids were the special features of Sikkim and added they should be promoted nationally and internationally.

Yet to come across any evidence supporting sedition charges against AMU students: Police

ALIGARH (UP), FEB 14 (PTI): Police said Thursday they have so far not found any evidence to support the sedition charges levelled against 14 Aligarh Muslim University after protests broke out on the campus earlier this week.

The AMU authorities suspended eight students late Wednesday night in connection with the protest during which a motorcycle allegedly belonging to a member of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), BJP's youth wing, was set on fire.

The police had booked the students for sedition after BJYM activist Mukesh Lodhi filed a complaint, alleging that he was assaulted amid chants of anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans on Tuesday.

BJP's students' wing ABVP had protested reported plans by AIMIM lawmaker Asaduddin Owaisi to visit the campus. The BJYM members held a separate demonstration against the visit, demanding that the MP should be banned from the campus. There were counter-protest then by other AMU students. Owaisi did not come to the university.

Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said all the evidence secured so far on the reported incident at AMU Circle has not revealed anything to

suggest sedition.

Police are collecting further evidence, including videos, and if they fail to get anything to substantiate the sedition charges, then it would be dropped, the SSP said.

He confirmed that all pieces of evidence, including video clippings of the clash at the university circle between AMU students and those belonging to the ABVP, have so far drawn a blank on this controversial issue.

The case of sedition and attempt to murder was filed on Tuesday evening on the basis of a written complaint by Lodhi, the Aligarh president of the BJYM.

In his complaint, Lodhi alleged that he was driving across the AMU Circle when these students surrounded him and launched a "murderous assault" while raising anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans.

When contacted, the AMU spokesman confirmed that Lodhi is the same person who had issued an ultimatum to the AMU Vice Chancellor last week warning him if land for constructing a temple on the campus is not allocated within the next 15 days, "then we will ourselves begin the construction".

When newsmen asked the SSP as to why 14 students of AMU were booked under sedition charges merely on the basis of a complaint by

an outsider, he parried the question.

The SSP confirmed that the police are further preparing a list of 55 AMU students against whom non-bailable warrants would be issued shortly.

He said the police would then ask the university authorities to take disciplinary action against such students.

When asked as to why no FIR has been registered on the basis of the complaint filed by the AMU authorities and leaders of the university students' union, the SSP said, "We have asked the AMU authorities to file a single comprehensive complaint and we will file an FIR once we receive such a complaint."

When contacted, AMU spokesman Prof Shafey Kidwai said, "As far as we are concerned, we have not received any evidence to support the charge of sedition against.



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
BALUWAKHANI,
GANGTOK-SIKKIM.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for general information of public that an extensive 10 days house to house re-verification program to reconfirm if any eligible voter or any new voter who has turned 18 years on 1.1.2019 has been left out. The re-verification programme is being conducted from 15th February, 2019 to 25th February, 2019 by Booth Level Officers in their respective polling station jurisdiction.

All eligible Citizens are requested to participate during the house to house survey and co-operate with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to reconfirm and verify the individual details of each household. If any eligible voter is left out, they may submit Forms 6 for New Addition and shifting, Form 8 for correction of entries and 8A for transposition within Assembly Constituency.

Further citizens may also verify their details in the Electoral Roll through Voter Helpline No. 1950. www.nvsp.in and www.ceosikkim.nic.in.

*R.O. No. 688/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 13.02.19*

CAEPHT hosts training of Solar Pump Technicians

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 FEB:

A 25-day skill development training for "Solar Pump Technicians" began today at the College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology (CAEPHT), Central Agricultural University (CAU), Ranipool. The

training is being sponsored by Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) and has 20 participants.

The training will cover - assessing installation sites, understanding installation pre-requisites, arranging for installation materials, mounting and

installing the panels at suitable locations; connecting panels to the battery and pump; connecting pump to water source and ensuring effective functioning of solar energy system after installation

The training was inaugurated by Prof PP Dabral, Dean, CAEPHT.



NAMCHI SMART CITY LIMITED

UDHD OFFICE BUILDING

KAVI AGAM SINGH ROAD

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CIN- U74999WB2017SGC219726

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum No: 14/NSCL/WORKS/2019

Dated: 14.02.2019

This is to inform that the advertisement published under Project "Namchi Smart City Limited", UD&HD Building, Kavi Agam Singh Road, Namchi- 737126, South Sikkim under caption "INVITATION FOR BIDS" Tender No. 11/NSCL/WORKS/2019, 12/NSCL/WORK/2019 & 13/NSCL/WORKS/2019 - dated 02.02.2019" and the subsequent Corrigendum published in SummitTimes Vol 04.No.42 dt. 13.02.2019. as below

With reference to the Tender No. 11/NSCL/WORKS/2019, Dated 02.02.2019 Sl No. 1 is postpone except Sl No. 2, which will be opened as per the date specified in SummitTimes dated 03.02.2019.

With reference to the Tender No. 12/NSCL/WORKS/2019, dated 02.02.2019 Sl No. 1,2,4 & 5 are postponed except Sl No. 3, which will be opened as per the dates specified in Summit Times dated 03.02.2019.

With reference to the Tender No. 13/NSCL/WORKS/2019, dated 02.02.2019 Sl No. 2, 3 & 4 are postponed except Sl. No. 1, which will be opened as per the date specified in Summit Times dated 03.02.2019.

The Departments regrets for the above mentioned subject.

Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer,

Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL) Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL)
Namchi, South Sikkim

Sd/-

Divisional Engineer

Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL) Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL)
Namchi, South Sikkim

LOST

I, Mr. Denesh Limboo, S/o Mon Kumar Limboo, R/o Upper Zimchung, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim have lost my original Class XII PASS Certificate of CBSE Board bearing Roll No. 3643784 of Mangan Sr Sec School (MSSS), Mangan North Sikkim on 27.12.2018 in around Mangan Bazaar(MNP area).

So, if found kindly handover to MSS School authority or nearest Police stations.

ANTYESTI KRIYA

The Antyesti Kriya of late Seeta Gautam, wife of I.K Gautam (Ex Jt. Commissioner, Excise Deptt.), who left for heavenly abode on the 8th of Feb. 2019 falls on the 20th of February 2019 (Wednesday).



All relatives, friends, family and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence opposite Tamang Gumpa, Sichey, Gangtok.

Sons: Pramod Gautam, Binod Gautam, Subodh Gautam

Daughters-in-law: Dr. Tara Gautam, Mala Gautam, Dr. Kritika Sharma

Dewars: S.K Gautam, R.P Gautam, R.K Gautam, H.K Gautam

Daughter, son-in-law: Roma Gautam, Suresh Adhikari

Cont: 9434126851, 9647206717,

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R. O. No. 273/IPR/PUB/DIS/18-19, Dated: 13.02.2019

Shed the Mediocrity

Get informed, and then demand better

The talk about developing Sikkim into a “knowledge-based” society has been around for a while. What it is being said in polite terms is that effort is required to draw Sikkim away from the mediocrity of its human resource that infiltrates just about every field of activity here. Take journalism for instance. No one will praise the media in Sikkim as outstanding. Promising, may be... maybe even prolific, but not outstanding. Not quite yet. At best, we can be accepted as average. Of course, we in the media will never admit even to ourselves that we compete in mediocrity, but that is another discussion altogether.

But why is the fourth estate so mediocre in Sikkim? Not because there is a dearth of committed media-persons in the region, but simply because no demands are made of them for excellence by the readers. Mediocrity flourishes in the absence of pressure. Much the same holds true for every other aspect of life here. Take governance for example. The bureaucracy remains somnambulant, because the public representatives don't shake them up often enough. Take a look around, administrative basics and even etiquette remain ignored until too late. And then a situation explodes into a dharna and issues get resolved, leading one to wonder why it takes public demonstrations to get heard. It is obvious that all of these situations arrived with enough advance warning, but remained unaddressed until only excuses and shifting of blame could be offered where simple outreach and consultations could have worked. That said, even public representatives don't get pro-active. This, primarily because the people don't demand delivery or even action from them and appear satisfied with securing favours instead of claiming their rights.

It's a vicious cycle, but not one that is impossible to break. All it requires is involvement.

No one will strive for excellence if it is not demanded of them. Also, no one will strive for excellence if it is not recognized either. And recognition is possible only if the people differentiate between what is downright puerile, what is average and what sets the bar of performance higher. And that brings us back to the need of having a “knowledge-based” society. Simply put, only a society that is “knowledgeable” will be able to demand that its intelligence is respected. This knowledge should not be confused with literacy [Sikkim does quite well on that front]. Knowledge here is about being informed. People who are aware of what is happening around them can take intelligent decisions and once the people think intelligently, then those who serve them [from the media, to the public servant, to the public representative] will have to improve their performance too. The pressure for survival [as professionals] will itself pull Sikkim out of the mediocrity it wallows in at present.

But how does one go about it? It is not really as complicated as it sounds. For people to become more aware, all they have to do is get more involved, ask more questions, demand better answers. The government can contribute towards this transition by making information accessible. It is only after the people have been provided with information that they can mull over it and debate it. Although the debates might be immature initially, they will get better eventually. Once that happens, the people themselves will shape the knowledge-based society that Sikkim needs to grow into now.

WRITE US:

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

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Book Review: Behrouz Boochani's unsparing look at the brutality of Manus Island

ALEX REILLY
theconversation.com

It is a matter of wonder that Behrouz Boochani was able to write *No Friend But the Mountains* at all. He did so while in Manus prison, using text messages in Farsi on smuggled mobile phones. Egyptian and Australian academic Omid Tofighian worked closely with Boochani to translate the text into English. In a detailed introduction to the book, Tofighian explains that Boochani's writing contributes to a Kurdish literary tradition. He describes his style as “horror surrealism”.

This is not how I experienced the book. Although the imagery Boochani shares is horrific, and the brutality of the prison environment is almost beyond belief, Boochani is bearing witness to a system of detention that is part of contemporary Australian policy, and to which he is an on-going victim. This is no piece of imagination.

In a prologue to the book, author Richard Flanagan places the book in the Western genre of “prison literature”, alongside writing by the likes of Oscar Wilde and Antonio Gramsci.

For me, the book invokes Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* for its use of insanity and humour to explore the brutality of authority, and Shahram Khosravi's ‘Illegal’ Traveller for its meditation on state techniques for exclusion through the eyes of the excluded.

The book begins with Boochani boarding a boat somewhere on Java, hoping to reach Australia. In elegant prose, he brings to life the refugee journey through detailed observations of his fellow travellers. He describes a rapid collapse of order:

“Men lie in the arms of another's wife, children lie on the bellies of strangers. It seems they have all forgotten ... the energy spent establishing a gender-based order.”

A storm destroys the boat with waves the size of mountains that transport him back to the mountains in his native land.

“Where is this place? Why is my mother dancing?”

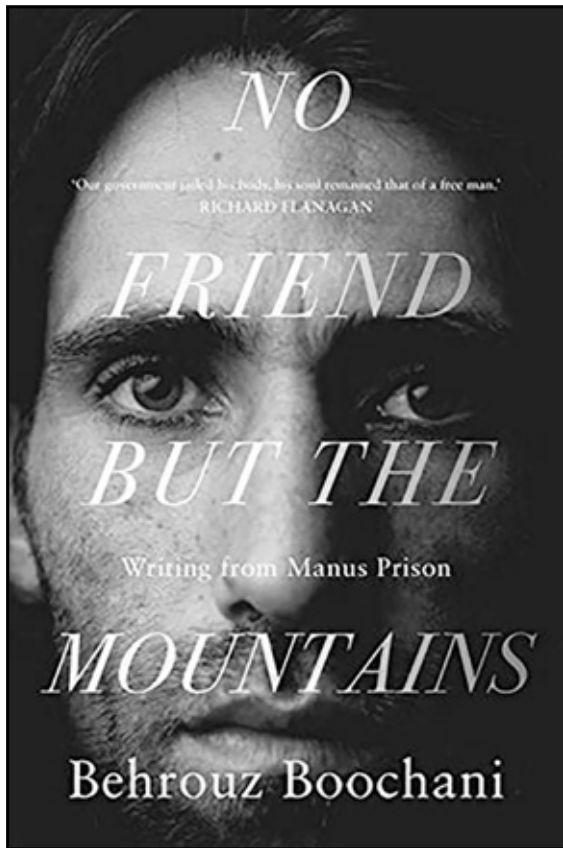
After being rescued, a short interlude on Christmas Island begins the clinical process of dehumanising the asylum seekers. They are issued flip-flops and ill-fitting clothes, regularly strip-searched, exposed to CCTV in toilets, moved from cage to cage through layers of bureaucracy, and finally escorted (or carried) by two guards per prisoner to an plane bound for Manus Island.

From this moment, the sense of a journey ends, and the book is a meditation on survival in a prison system intent on destroying the prisoners' will.

Australians accept detention on Nauru and Manus as a “necessary evil” to prevent an uncontrollable flow of asylum seekers to Australia by boat. Boochani dissects this necessary evil. He sits us on a white plastic chair, our feet on the wire border fence, overlooking the jungle.

There is no silence. Only the constant grind of an old tractor generator, the whirr of fans, the noise of hundreds of prisoners crammed into a space the size of a football field, the static of the guards' walkie-talkies signalling an incident.

Boochani takes us on a sensory tour of the Manus prison. The smells – body odour and bad breath, rotting vegetation, diesel and excrement. The rubbing against one another in the tight spaces – flesh on hairy, sweaty flesh.



The uniforms are reminiscent of dystopian regimes – nurses in orange carrying boxes of yellow pills, local guards in purple, medical staff in white, and Australian federal police in flak jackets with shields and black gloves with metal spikes.

The heat is oppressive. The bottled water so warm it does not quench one's thirst. The only relief is a huge shade tree in the middle of the complex.

We learn of the daily routine, the constant queuing for meals, for the toilet, for cigarettes, for the telephone. Through a detailed analysis of how these queues operate, we begin to understand the way institutional power breaks the spirit of the prisoners by pitting one against another, and using an unbending authority to remove all human compassion.

In one incident, a man cannot swap his place in the telephone queue to speak to his dying father because the regulations make no provision for it. An appeal to a higher authority brings out the Boss, backed by 12 police officers. The Boss places his hand on the shoulder of The Man with the Dying Father (as Boochani calls him) and calmly explains that the rules are the rules.

The queues mean that stronger prisoners eat well, and weaker ones starve. Boochani marvels at the fortitude of The Cow, a brick of a man, who is prepared to sit in the heat of the sun for hours to ensure his place at the front of the meal queue.

In the first few months of detention, there is still a sense of resistance. Maysan the Whore en-

tertains prisoners most nights with wild dancing in innovative costumes of bed sheets, “pretending to be happy as a form of revenge”. But eventually Maysan begins to deteriorate. “We must find another way to cope with exile”, Boochani laments.

Boochani shares his own weakness, anger, frustration and despair. He does not romanticise these feelings. He simply observes.

Periodically, he tries to make sense of his experience, musing on the strategies of oppression. He describes Manus prison as a Kyriarchal system, a system of total psychological control.

The generator, which Boochani calls Mr Generator, breaks down periodically, leaving rooms unbearably hot and filled with mosquitoes. Just when the tension is unbearable, the generator resumes.

Games are not allowed. When prisoners create a makeshift backgammon board on a table using bottle lids, it is destroyed.

“How can it be that soccer balls are prohibited, but cigarettes are always available?”

Milk is offered as a special treat. The allocation is always half a cup. If a cup is overfilled, even slightly, it is removed and binned. Why not just redistribute the milk? The lack of logic “confines the mind of the prisoner”, Boochani writes, “leaving him just trying to cope”.

The toilets flow with excrement. They are a place for sex. A place to cut wrists with a razor. Despite risk of punishment, people prefer to piss behind bushes after dark.

The sights and sounds outside the walls are important for retaining hope and sanity – the sound of the ocean just behind a thin strip of forest, the coconut trees, the chauka birds and crickets, the sunsets and phases of the moon, the white flowers along the sewage line.

“The prisoner's imagination is always occupied with the world beyond the fences.”

Poetic streams of consciousness intersperse the narrative, and Boochani is occasionally transported back to the Kurdistan of his childhood. At these moments, the reader is with Boochani at the fence as he lets his mind run free, interpreting the confusion of his existence in this place of torture. These interludes make the book more intensely personal without descending into romanticism or self-pity.

The book ends with the description of a riot in the prison. The full brutality of authority is unleashed in response. We learn that The Gentle Giant, Reza Barati, has been killed.

No Friend but the Mountains reveals that Manus prison is designed to break the will of refugees so they see no option but to return home. It leaves no doubt that any prisoner who chooses to repatriate has been driven to do so through the brutality of the prison system, in clear breach of Australia's non-refoulement obligation under the UNHCR's 1951 Refugee Convention.

Every Australian should read this book and marvel at the extent of our brutality, the human cost of a “necessary evil”.

[The writer is Director of the Public Law and Policy Research Unit, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide]

A robot that can touch, eat and sleep? The reality of cyborgs like Alita: Battle Angel

MICHAEL MILFORD & PETER STRATTON
theconversation.com

Alita: Battle Angel is an interesting and wild ride, jam-packed full of concepts around cybernetics, dystopian futures and cyberpunk themes.

The film – in cinemas from today – revolves around Alita (Rosa Salazar), a female cyborg (with original human brain) that is recovered by cybernetic doctor Dyson Ido (Christoph Waltz) and brought into the world of the future (the film is set in 2563).

Hundreds of years after a catastrophic war, called “The Fall”, the population of Earth now resides in a wealthy sky city called Zalem and a sprawling junkyard called Iron City where the detritus from Zalem is dumped.

We follow Alita's story as she makes friends and enemies, and discovers more about her past. Her character is great – she has many of the mannerisms of a teenage girl combined with a determination and overarching sense of what is right – “I do not stand by in the presence of evil.”

So let's dig into the many scientific concepts touched on in the film and see how far from reality they are, or might be in the future.

TOUCH SKIN

Alita goes through two cybernetic bodies in the film, with the second being especially advanced. A big part of the film is the interaction between the human and cyborg components, and a major component of that is touch, especially with respect to the main love interest Hugo (Keanu Johnson).

As shown in the film, Alita's cyborg body has a pretty advanced and location-sensitive sense of touch. In today's world, robot touch, or tac-

tile sensing, is relatively advanced (although not yet widely deployed) and uses a range of technologies including deformable skin that changes both its capacitance (to measure and “sense” the touch) and illuminance (to display the results of the touch).

Touch can also be detected in terms of changes in temperature, conductivity, resistance or even optical changes that result from a touch.

Verdict: Not a stretch.

ANTIMATTER HEART

Like Ironman from The Avengers with his arc reactor, and The T-850 from the Terminator series with its hydrogen fuel cells, Alita is powered by an antimatter heart.

We are nowhere close to an antimatter-type energy source at this stage - current robots of similar size like the ones Boston Dynamics builds are increasingly being powered by relatively conventional batteries.

There are multiple major obstacles to overcome in using antimatter as any type of energy source, including finding an efficient way to obtain the antimatter in the first place and capturing the energy released from a matter-antimatter event.

Verdict: Beating physics is difficult.

LEARNING TO USE A BODY

Alita's first steps upon waking up in her new body cause her to stumble, but only momentarily.

Robot walking and other related motion capabilities have long been an active field of research, with companies such as Boston Dynamics making very publicly visible strides (see what we did there) in biped (two legs) and quadruped (four legs) movement.

Alita has likely never used the exact body that she is given at first – but manages to walk, jump and fight flu-

ently almost instantaneously.

This is in stark contrast to current robots learning from scratch to walk – which can take thousands of hours of training in simulation and then on the robot to get right.

Instead it's likely that Alita has a range of pre-trained motion models for a variety of body configurations, and is able to rapidly tweak them to work on the body she is given.

Verdict: Runs well.

WILL CYBORGS NEED TO EAT?

The doctor tells Alita she has to eat to provide nutrients to her (still organic) brain. This sounds reasonable, but she would need a complete digestive system to break the food down into nutrients and absorb them into her bloodstream.

Since her torso is completely inorganic, it's more likely that fluid, vitamins, minerals and macronutrients (proteins, carbohydrates and fats) would be injected directly into her blood.

Today, some people who have had their intestines removed due to illness continue to live relatively normal lives.

Verdict: Hard to swallow.

WILL CYBORGS NEED SLEEP?

We first see the repaired Alita as she wakes up from a deep sleep.

Scientists are not certain about all the reasons that sleep is needed, but it seems particularly important for the brain. While awake, your brain cells use lots of energy and produce lots of metabolic waste that accumulates around the cells.

At night while you sleep, your brain clears away the waste. Sleep also seems vital for remembering what you've learned.

Since Alita's brain is human, it's quite plausible she would need to sleep.

Verdict: Not just a dream.

COULD A BRAIN SURVIVE FOR 300

YEARS?

Even while you sleep, your brain still needs a constant supply of oxygen. Brain damage from a lack of oxygen starts becoming irreparable after about 20 minutes without it, although with noted exceptions.

Brains can be temporarily put into a state of suspended animation by cooling them down dramatically, and operations like heart transplants are sometimes done this way today.

But keeping the brain cold also requires power, and a brain can only currently be kept alive like this for a few hours, not the 300 years portrayed in the movie.

Verdict: A little brain-dead.

THE FUTURE OF HUMANS - CYBORGS

Alita: Battle Angel presents a world full of cyborgs with varying remnants of their humanity (both physical and mental). Whether this is a realistic potential future is still up for debate - we don't know whether this ongoing hybridisation of humans and technology will be sustained or will rapidly switch completely over to robotics technology.

But if we are to have a future of cyborgs, the movie presents (sometimes realistically) a range of concepts that are fascinating to consider: will these cyborgs still need to eat, to sleep, and how will a mixed society of humans and cyborgs function.

Alita: Battle Angel is a vision of one such possible future, and is a worthy addition to the canon of films that provoke us to think about just what our world of tomorrow will look like.

[Michael Milford is Professor, Queensland University of Technology; Peter Stratton is Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The University of Queensland]

Bangladesh rescues abducted Malaysia-bound Rohingya

DHAKA, FEB 14 (AFP): Bangladesh police have stopped 43 Rohingya refugees from being smuggled to Malaysia by boat with a dozen women claiming they were abducted by traffickers, officials said Thursday.

Acting on tip-offs, police found the refugees at two separate places in the southeastern border district of Cox's Bazar, raising the number of Rohingya being rescued from the traffickers to more than 100 in less than a week.

About 740,000 of the Muslim minority fled Myanmar for Bangladesh after a military clampdown in the Buddhist-majority nation in August 2017.

They have joined another 300,000 Rohingya who have already been living in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar following previous bouts of violence.

Officials fear many may end up being exploited by an internationally organised human smuggling racket who have previously sent thousands of Rohingya to Malaysia by boats until Bangladesh launched a crackdown in 2015 following the discovery of mass graves of refugees in Thailand.

Rapid Action Battalion, an elite police unit, said they rescued 12 women -- mostly in their 20s -- from a residential room in Cox's Bazar city early Thursday morning and arrested two alleged traffickers for "abducting" them.

"The young women from the refugee camps were lured by the traffickers. They were promised they would be sent to Malaysia. They were then brought to Cox's Ba-

zar and kept in a house," RAB spokesman Mashkur Rahman told AFP.

Rahman said they were treating it as a case of abduction after the women claimed they were confined in a room without consent.

In another drive late Wednesday, Cox's Bazar police rescued another 31 Rohingya from the southern island of Maheshkhali, some 110 kilometres (70 miles) away from the overcrowded Kutupalong refugee camp.

Local police chief Provas Chandra said the 14 women, 11 men and six children were hiding in a coastal forest at Maheshkhali waiting to board a Malaysian-bound boat.

"They paid some 20,000 taka (240) each to the traffickers for the journey," he said.

He said they arrested a woman trafficker and were "searching for others".

An analyst said the latest discovery of Malaysia-bound Rohingya was a "dangerous" sign and shows the desperation at more than 30 refugee camps where the Rohingya live in bamboo and tarpaulin made shanties in squalid conditions.

"It is very natural for the desperate refugees to attempt the risk to search for a better future," Tasneem Siddiqui, who heads a Bangladeshi think tank on migration issues, told AFP.

"They know the way is full of obstacles, yet many think this is their only way out," she said.

Authorities fear that more Rohingya will try to take boats to Malaysia while the Bay of Bengal remains calm before the arrival of monsoons at the end of March.

EU-India to jointly fund 7 research and innovation projects to tackle water challenges

NEW DELHI, FEB 14 (PTI): India and the European Union on Thursday decided to jointly invest up to 40 million euros on seven research and innovation projects, including on Ganga rejuvenation, to tackle the urgent water challenges in the country.

The Delegation of the European Union to India and the Indian government's science and technology, and biotechnology departments on Thursday announced the seven projects that have been selected under the EU-India Joint Call on Research and Innovation for Water. The selected projects will develop new or adapt the most suitable existing innovative and affordable solutions for Indian conditions, both in urban and rural areas, thus providing some key solutions to the urgent water challenges, an EU statement said.

The EU, through its research and innovation programme 'Horizon 2020', and the Indian government will invest a total of up to EUR 40 million (Rs 323 crore) on seven projects, which have an average duration of four years. The key focus areas of these projects include improving the quality of drinking water, waste water management and real-time monitoring and control systems. In total, 130 entities will be

part of these seven projects, ranging from universities, research labs, private sector and municipalities.

Those participating in the projects will include prestigious institutions such as IIT-Bombay, IIT-Guwahati, IIT-Bhubaneswar, IIT-Roorkee, IIT-Delhi, CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) and TERI. Besides supporting India's Ganga Rejuvenation initiative, the projects will also support transfer of European technologies to India, which would require them to be tested, demonstrated, and customised to suit Indian needs at an affordable cost, the statement said.

The cooperation will also lead to increased scientific excellence while ensuring that at the end of the project, the technology can be deployed and be of benefit to the entire Indian population, it said. "Many of these water challenges are common to India and the EU. India and Europe have, in the past, collaborated intensively on water, enriching each other's technological and scientific knowledge and management capacities to cope with stress on water resources," said Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union to India.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Memo No:293/ AES/ R&B

Date: 13/02/2019

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

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

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1	Const. Of Fair Weather road from Sang Kola to Chuja in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.105970.00	Rs.1500.00	09 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.105970.00	Rs.1500.00	09 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt and TDR for issue of Tender Documents.	1 st March, 2019 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	2 nd March 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	2 nd March 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

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

Sd/-

R.O. No. 693/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date:14.02.2019

Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department.
Singtam Sub Division



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Memo No:292/ AES/ R&B

Date: 13/02/2019

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

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

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Carpeting of road from NH 10 to PHE Tank Chisopani in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs.68,94,809.00	Rs. 172370.00	Rs.5000.00	12 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs. 68,95,872.00	Rs.172397.00	Rs.5000.00	12 months.
	Km 3rd	Rs. 68,95,417.00	Rs.172385.00	Rs.5000.00	12 months.
2	Const. Of Fair Weather road from Ganesh Mandir road to Lumin Gaon in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.105970.00	Rs.1500.00	09 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt and TDR for issue of Tender Documents.	1 st March, 2019 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	2 nd March 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	2 nd March 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

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

R.O. No. 694/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date:14.02.2019.

Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department.
Singtam Sub Division

Ronaldo on bench as Juve warm up for Atletico against Frosinone

MILAN, FEB 14 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo is set for a rare start on the bench as Juventus host struggling Frosinone on Friday looking to pull 14 points clear in Serie A with an eye towards next week's Champions League trip to Atletico Madrid.

Portuguese star Ronaldo brought his tally to 20 goals for Juventus in all competitions last weekend in a 3-0 win over Sassuolo.

But the 34-year-old will start on the bench for just the second time this season before the former Real Madrid player returns to the Spanish capital next week.

Paulo Dybala returns to the starting line-up, forming an attacking trident alongside Mario Mandzukic and Federico Bernardeschi.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri's defensive problems have been eased with trio Andrea Barzagli, Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini back training.

Juventus captain Chiellini is expected to return on Friday.

Second-placed Napoli dropped points last weekend with a goalless draw against Fiorentina and face a potentially tricky test at home against Torino. Walter Mazzarri's Torino



are four points off the Europa League places.

Napoli will be without midfielder Marek Hamsik for the first time since the former skipper having sealed his move to Chinese Super League club Dalian Yifang.

Lorenzo Insigne takes on the captain's role and insisted motivation remained high despite Juventus' charge towards an eighth consecutive league title.

"Juventus haven't sapped our motivation, we knew it would be hard to keep up with them," said Insigne.

"We know they're a great team, but we're no worse

than them.

"The championship is still long. We left some points on the road that we deserved, but we certainly do not give up."

- INTER IN TURMOIL -

Meanwhile, third-placed Inter Milan, nine points behind Napoli, are in turmoil as they host Sampdoria days after stripping star forward Mauro Icardi of the captain's armband.

Icardi's contractual situation, with his current deal expiring in 2021, has become an increasingly divisive issue between club bosses and the player's wife Wanda Nara, who is also his agent. The Argentina

forward hit back by refusing to travel for their Europa League round of 32 first-leg game at Rapid Vienna on Thursday and is uncertain to play against his former club Sampdoria, who are ninth, on Sunday.

"It was a difficult and painful decision because we know his worth," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti.

"It was done exclusively for the good of Inter. There are some things concerning the player that had to be sorted." The uncertainty over Icardi, who scored 29 Serie A goals last season, could prove problematic as Spalletti tries to secure Champions League football next season.

Inter are just four points ahead of city rivals AC Milan who travel to Atalanta.

Atalanta, Roma and Lazio are all one point behind AC Milan.

The clash in Bergamo will be one for fourth place, the final Champions League berth, which Roma will also be targeting at home against Bologna, and Lazio at Genoa.

Roma claimed a 2-1 Champions League last 16, first-leg win over Porto on Tuesday with teenage star Nicolo Zaniolo scoring both goals.

Sindhu enters quarters, 3 matches postponed due to uneven court



AMIT KUMAR DAS GUWAHATI, FEB 14 (PTI): Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu sailed into the quarterfinals with a straight game win but three pre-quarterfinals of the 83rd Senior National Badminton Championship had to be rescheduled after Saina Nehwal refused to play due to uneven surface of the court, here Thursday.

A former champion, Sindhu, top seed, took time to get into the groove before opening her campaign with a 21-11 21-13 win over Nagpur's Malvika Bansod in the women's singles, while top seed Sameer Verma, playing the next match at the Assam Badminton Academy courts, conceded a men's singles encounter against Aryamann Tandon midway at 21-16 1-8 after aggravating a achilles heel problem.

Up against Shruti Mundada in the pre-quarters, Saina then decided to have a look at the surface and made it clear that she won't risk playing on that "un-

even" court with the All England Championship round the corner.

BAI secretary (events) Omar Rashid then postponed the three pre-quarterfinal matches, involving Saina, Parupalli Kashyap and B Sai Praneeth, to the evening session after consulting the players.

"The wooden planks came out at a couple of places after Sindhu played her match. So they are now going to fix it. We will come back in the evening to play our pre-quarterfinal matches," Saina's husband and fellow player Parupalli Kashyap said.

Like last year, the players ranked within top 50 in the BWF ranking and top shuttlers in the BAI ranking, filled up the top eight places, who were given direct entry in the singles pre-quarterfinals after a super draw was conducted on Wednesday night.

Along with Sindhu, fourth seeded Assamese Ashmita Chaliha, third seed Shriyanshi Pardeshi, Riya Mookerjee, Aakarshi

Kashyap, veteran Neha Pandit and Vaishnavi Bhale also made it to the last eight round.

In men's singles, former champion Sourabh Verma, Lakshya Sen, Kaushal Dharmamer, Harshheel Dani, Aryamann Tandon and Bodhit Joshi also progressed to the quarterfinals.

Sourabh defeated Kartik Jindal 21-8 21-15, Lakshya brushed aside Ansal Yadav 21-11 21-8 and Harshheel stunned fourth seed and 2018 SaarLorLux Open champion Subhankar Dey 21-15 21-17.

In men's doubles, top seeds Arjun MR and Shlok Ramchandran defeated Rohan Kapoor and Saurabh Sharma 21-11 21-18 to enter the semifinals, while Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty got the better off veteran pair of Rupesh Kumar and V Diju 21-8 18-21 22-20 to make it to the last four stage.

Arun George and Sanyam Shukla and Krishna Prasad G and Dhruv Kapila also advanced to the semifinals.

VAR denies Ajax goal in Real Madrid Champions League clash

AMSTERDAM, FEB 14 (AFP): The video assistant referee (VAR) system was used to rule out a goal in the Champions League for the first time in last 16 game between Ajax and Real Madrid.

Ajax defender Nicolas Tagliafico appeared to have headed the Dutch side ahead on 38 minutes, but referee Damir Skomina disallowed the goal after Dusan Tadic was shown to be offside on replays.

Tadic was deemed to be interfering with Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois after the Belgian spilled a header at a corner and Tagliafico nodded in the rebound.

UEFA later confirmed why the decision was taken. "The referee identified that Tagliafico's team-mate Dusan Tadic was in an offside position

and interfering with the goalkeeper -- preventing him from playing or being able to play the ball -- as the header was being made," said UEFA on Twitter.

"This was in line with VAR protocol and the goal was correctly overturned and a free-kick given for offside."

The VAR system, widely used during last year's FIFA World Cup, and now called upon in most of Europe's leading leagues, is making its Champions League debut after it was introduced for this season's knockout stages.

VAR was initially set to be rolled out in the Champions League from the start of next season, but the decision to bring forward its use follows lobbying from top European clubs.

Nehra lists 5 reasons why Pant should be in India's WC squad



KUSHAN SARKAR NEW DELHI, FEB 14 (PTI): A pure match-winner, a back-up opener and an effortless six-hitter in the class of Rohit Sharma -- Rishabh Pant merits selection in India's World Cup squad and there are more than one reasons for it, feels former pacer Ashish Nehra.

Nehra, who has tracked Pant's progress in Delhi and international cricket since he first joined the Sonnet Club, gave five elaborate reasons for the dynamic youngster's inclusion in the playing XI of the mega-event.

"In a team, there will always be contributors but at a big event like the World Cup, you need players with X-factor. Rishabh Pant is not a mere contributor but a pure match-winner who should be picked for the World Cup," Nehra told PTI on Thursday.

Nehra, a key member of the 2011 World Cup-winning team, feels there are three to four specific reasons to pick Pant.

"If you look at India's batting line up, save Shikhar (Dhawan), there aren't any left-handers in the top seven. You

need variety with a left-right combination, where Rishabh perfectly fits," he reasoned.

The 21-year-old Pant is a left-hander and scored Test hundreds in his first series in England and Australia.

"Secondly, Rishabh can bat at any position between Nos 1 to 7 and so Virat (Kohli) and the team management can use him as a floater," said Nehra, who also played the 2003 World Cup final in South Africa.

The third reason cited by Nehra was Pant's ability to hit sixes effortlessly from the word go. Nehra said the fearless approach comes in handy in pressure situations.

"If it comes to effortlessly hitting sixes, Rishabh comes second only to Rohit Sharma with his big-hitting ability. India will need that in abundance during the World Cup," Nehra said.

And last but not the least, Nehra felt Pant has shown the ability to win matches singlehandedly.

"No disrespect, this team has three clear match-winners and they are Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah. For me, the fourth one is going to be

US and China seek deal to prevent trade-war escalation



BEIJING, FEB 14 (AFP): US and Chinese negotiators on Thursday kicked off two days of high-level talks that President Donald Trump says could decide whether he escalates the bruising tariff battle between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump indicated this week he was open to extending a trade truce beyond March 1 depending on progress in Beijing. He is considering pushing the deadline back an additional 60 days, Bloomberg News reported, citing sources.

In December he postponed plans to sharply hike tariffs on 200 billion of Chinese imports to allow more time for negotiation.

The two economic superpowers have already imposed duties on more than 360 billion in two-way trade, which has weighed on their manufacturing sectors and shaken global financial markets.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are

meeting with China's top economic czar Liu He, seeking to build on progress made in Washington last month.

We are "looking forward to discussions today", Mnuchin said as he left his hotel Thursday morning for the talks.

Expectations for a trade deal have grown as China faces pressure from slowing economic growth, and as swooning global markets pose a challenge to Trump and his economic advisors.

Data released Thursday in China showed its trade surplus with the US -- a major source of anger within the Trump administration -- narrowed in January to 27.3 billion, even as its American imports plunged 41 percent for the month from a year earlier.

Last year the surplus hit a record USD 323.3 billion.

China's total imports also sank for the month, pointing to weak demand amid slowing economic growth.

Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to meet

with the US officials in Beijing this week, a report in the South China Morning Post said Wednesday, bolstering hopes for the talks and world markets.

Trump also has said he expects to meet with Xi "at some point" to clinch a trade deal.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday that preliminary talks in Beijing were "going along very well," Bloomberg reported.

"They're showing us tremendous respect," he added. "Markets will continue to watch -- and react -- closely to the ups and downs of the negotiations," said Trey McArver of Trivium Research.

"But Sino-US relations are all about the two leaders, and it will ultimately be up to Xi and Trump to come to a deal -- or not," he wrote Wednesday in a newsletter.

The two sides said major progress was made in talks last month in Washington, but a wide gulf remains on some issues.

Fans stabbed in Rome ahead of Sevilla-Lazio: reports



ROME, FEB 14 (AFP): At least three people were stabbed in a mass brawl between Lazio and Sevilla fans in Rome, with one suffering serious injuries, Italian media reported.

Two Spanish fans and an American were hurt in the fight, which broke out ahead of Thursday's UEFA Europa League match, La Repubblica daily said.

"Everything was quiet, when suddenly we heard shouting and the sound of broken glass. We rushed to the window and saw guys with hoods armed with clubs and batons that were attacking other guys," one local bar owner told the daily.

Some forty people were involved in the

clashes in Monti, near the Colosseum in the historic centre, which was broken up by police in riot gear, it said.

The Gazzetta dello Sport daily put the number of people being treated in hospital for stab wounds after the attack at four, including one British man reportedly in critical condition.

It said knives had been used in the attack, adding that one of the Spanish fans was also critical, while the other Spaniard and the American were said to be less seriously wounded.

Another daily, Corriere della Sera, said one of the injured fans dragged himself bleeding along the street to call for help from passersby.

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US says ex-intel official defected to Iran, revealed secrets

WASHINGTON, FEB 14 (AP): A former US Air Force counterintelligence specialist who defected to Iran despite warnings from the FBI has been charged with revealing classified information to the Tehran government, including the code name and secret mission of a Pentagon program, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The Justice Department also accused Monica Elfriede Witt, 39, of betraying former colleagues in the U.S. intelligence community by feeding details about their personal and professional lives to Iran. Four hackers linked to the Iranian government, charged in the same indictment, used that information to target the intelligence workers online, prosecutors said.

Witt had been on the FBI's radar at least a year before she defected after she attended an Iranian conference and appeared in anti-American videos. She was warned about her activities, but told agents that she would not provide sensitive information about her work if she returned to Iran, prosecutors say. She was not arrested at the time.

"Once a holder of a top secret security clearance, Monica Witt actively sought opportunities to undermine the United States and support the government of Iran

a country which poses a serious threat to our national security," said FBI executive assistant director Jay Tabb, the bureau's top national security official.

Tabb said "she provided information that could cause serious damage to national security," though he did not provide specifics.

Witt remains at large in Iran, as do the four hackers, who prosecutors say were acting on behalf of the powerful, government-linked Revolutionary Guard. That group, a branch of Iran's armed forces, has previously been designated by the U.S. government as terrorism supporter.

The indictment was unsealed the same week as Iran celebrates the 40th anniversary of its Islamic Revolution and as the country denounced a Middle East security conference in Warsaw co-hosted by the U.S. and Poland.

Officials said the indictment's timing was unconnected to the meeting.

Witt served in the Air Force between 1997 and 2008, where she was trained in the Farsi language and was deployed overseas on classified counterintelligence missions, including to the Middle East. She later found work as a Defense Department contractor.

The Texas native de-

fected to Iran in 2013 after being invited to two all-expense-paid conferences in the country that the Justice Department says promoted anti-Western propaganda and condemned American moral standards.

The Treasury Department on Wednesday sanctioned the New Horizon Organization, which organized the conferences Witt attended and hosts events that American officials say promote Holocaust denial, conspiracy theories and serve as a platform to recruit and collect intelligence from attendees.

Witt first traveled to a "Hollywoodism" conference in 2012, when she appeared in Iranian television videos in which she was identified as a former U.S. service member with critical views of America. She was then warned by FBI agents that she was a potential recruitment target for Iranian intelligence.

"She chose not to heed our warning that travel to Iran could potentially make her susceptible to recruitment," Tabb said. "She continued to travel." Later that year, she was hired by an individual who is not named in the indictment but who professed to have ties to high-level officials to help in the filming of an anti-American propaganda commercial.

She returned to another "Hollywoodism" conference in 2013. This time, with free housing and computer equipment, she went to work for the Iranians, supplying information about a classified Defense Department program and assembling into "target packages" research she conducted into the lives, locations and missions of former colleagues, the indictment said.

The accused hackers exploited that research, contacting Witt's former colleagues through imposter Facebook and email accounts. Their goal was to induce the targets to click on links and attachments containing malicious software that could compromise their computer and networks.

The case was unsealed soon after the Justice Department freed from custody an American-born Iranian television anchorwoman who'd been detained for days by the FBI as a material witness in an unspecified criminal investigation in Washington, where the Witt indictment was filed. Marzieh Hashemi works for the Press TV network's English-language service. She has not been charged with any crimes. Justice Department officials wouldn't say if the investigations were connected.

Afghan Taliban announce talks with US in Pakistan

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, FEB 14 (PTI): The Taliban said Wednesday its negotiators would next week meet the top US and Pakistani officials including Prime Minister Imran Khan during a key round of talks in Islamabad as part of the ongoing Afghan peace talks.

Neither Washington nor Islamabad immediately confirmed the announcement by the Taliban. On the "formal invitation of the government of Pakistan, another meeting is scheduled to take place between the negotiation teams of the Islamic Emirate and the US on 18th of February, 2019 in Islamabad," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement.

The Taliban's delegation would also meet Prime Minister Khan, the statement said.

Mujahid said the regular round of talks was already scheduled to be held on February 25 in Qatar.

He said that in the meeting with Khan, Taliban would have "comprehensive discussions about Pak-Afghan relations and issues pertaining to Afghan refugees and Afghan businessmen". Though there was no official confirmation, diplomatic sources in Pakistan said that the Taliban delegation would visit Pakistan and hold talks with both American and Pakistani officials.

The Taliban and the US are in a discussion to end more than a 17-year long bloody war in Afghanistan. The Taliban control nearly half of Afghanistan, and are more powerful than at any time since the 2001 US-led invasion after the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001.

UAE's Tabreed to build India's first district cooling system in Amaravati



DUBAI, FEB 14 (PTI): A UAE-based international cooling provider has entered into a 30-year concession with Andhra Pradesh government to build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in the state's new capital Amaravati.

The agreement between the National Central Cooling Company (Tabreed) and Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) is for a contracted cooling capacity of 20,000 refrigeration tonnes and this will be the company's first plant outside its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market, a statement released by the firm said.

Tabreed's district cooling system is part of Andhra Pradesh government's vision for Amaravati to create jobs and homes along with a world-class infrastructure, a green city, and efficient resource management.

In addition and in line with the ambitious plans for this greenfield capital city of Andhra Pradesh to be among the most sustainable cities

in the world, Tabreed's system will meet cooling requirements for the the State's Assembly, High Court, Secretariat and other government buildings that are currently under construction, for which cooling services will commence from early 2021.

Tabreed Chairman, Khaled Abdulla al-Qubaisi said as their first district cooling project in India, this signals a significant step for Tabreed to penetrate one of the world's biggest and fastest growing markets.

We see this as an opportunity to establish an initial presence which will be the foundation for further growth in the future, he said.

Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), said: Bringing in the best solutions and providers from across the world to build Amaravati, we are excited to select Tabreed, a global district cooling leader, as our partner for our new capital. "Tabreed demonstrated strong commercial flexibility, operational depth, and under-


standing of the complexity of well-structured district cooling concession schemes through the bidding process.

Compared to other cooling systems, district cooling uses only 50 per cent of primary energy consumption for cooling urban buildings thereby reducing carbon emissions.

This cost-effective form of air conditioning has associated benefits of improvement in air quality and reduction in general noise levels when compared to other traditional air conditioning systems.

Tabreed CEO, Jasim Husain Thabet, said the company is pleased that its first project in India has increased its presence to six countries.

"Our strong core business, experienced team, structuring capabilities, and proven innovative skills made us the ideal choice to be a long-term partner of APCRDA. Our focus will be on delivering high quality and cost-effective cooling solution to provide long-term benefits for the Andhra Pradesh government, he said.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
RABONG SUB DIVISION
SOUTH SIKKIM

N.I.T. No.05/GOS/SD/R&B/Rab

Dated: 16/01/2019

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer (Rabong), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department 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 territorial jurisdiction of the **Gram Panchayat Ward** where the work is to be executed. The details of works and time schedules are as under: -

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.5% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion time	GPU/WARD
1	Construction of road from Hingdam to Sagbari (Km-1 st)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Lamaten-Tingmoo Ward: Hingdam ward no.5.
2	Construction of road from Lower Deythang to Zorong via Jugathang. (Km 1 st - 0 to 0.50 km)	21,19,248.00	52,981.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Barfung-Zarong Ward: Lower Deythang Ward no 7.
3.	Construction of road from Lower Deythang to Zorong via Jugathang. (Km 1 st - 0.50 km to 1.00 KM)	21,19,248.00	52,981.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Barfung-Zarong Ward: Biring Ward no 5.
4.	Construction of road from Lower Deythang to Zorong via Jugathang. (Km 2nd)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU : Barfung-Zarong Ward: Zorong Ward No 4.
5.	Construction of road from Ghewa Busty to Sardar dhara, Upper Borong, South Sikkim (Km1st) – 0.50 Km	21,19,248.00	52,981.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Borong-Phamtam Ward: Lower Borong Ward No1.
6.	Construction of road fro Gaucharan to Pakhagon, lower Borong (Km 1 st)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Borong-Phamtam Ward: Lower Borong Ward No. 2.
7.	Construction of road fro Gaucharan to Pakhagon, lower Borong (Km 2nd)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Borong-Phamtam Ward: Lower Borong Ward No. 2.
8.	Construction of road from PWD Raod 16 th Mile to Rayong-Pipalay school (Km 1 st)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Rayong-Tinkitam Ward: Pipalay ward no.5
9.	Construction of road from PWD Raod 16 th Mile to Rayong-Pipalay school (Km 2nd)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Rayong-Tinkitam Ward: Pipalay ward no. 5.
10.	Extension of raod from Adhikari Gaon to Gumpa Dara Ben Peku (Km 1 st)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Ben-Namprik Ward: Peku ward no.1
11.	Construction of raod a Ganchung Kazeni Tar to Palak Gumpa (Km-1 st)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Temi Ward: Ganchung ward no.6.
12.	Construction of raod a Ganchung Kazeni Tar to Palak Gumpa (Km-1 st)	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Temi Ward: Ganchung ward no.6.

Time Schedule: -

1. Date of submission of application with bank Receipt For issue of Tender Documents (*excluding Tender Form*)

21st February, 2019, (From 10.00am to 3.00pm)

2. Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money)

22nd February, 2019, (From 10.00am to 3.00pm)

3. Last Date and Time of submission of Tender: -

a)	Sl.No. 1 (venue: GPK Lamaten Tingmoo)	:	27 th February, 2019 (from 10:00am to 12:00 pm)
b)	Sl. No. 2 to 4 (Venue: GPK Barfung Zorong)	:	27 th February, 2019 (from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm)
c)	Sl.No. 5 to 7 (Venue :GPK Borong Phamtam)	:	28 th February, 2019 (from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm)
d)	Sl.No. 8 to 9 (Venue : GPK Rayog Tinkitam)	:	28 th February, 2019 (from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm)
e)	Sl No. 10 (Venue : GPK Ben-Namprik)	:	1 st March, 2019 (from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm)
f)	Sl No. 11 to 12 (Venue: GPK Temi)	:	1 st March, 2019 (from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm)

4. Date and Time of Opening of Bid:

a)	Sl.No. 1 (venue: GPK Lamaten Tingmoo)	:	27 th February, 2019 (1:00 pm onwards)
b)	Sl. No. 2 to 4 (Venue: GPK Barfung Zorong)	:	27 th February, 2019 (1:00 pm onwards))
c)	Sl.No. 5 to 7 (Venue :GPK Borong Phamtam)	:	28 th February, 2019 (1:00 pm onwards)
d)	Sl.No. 8 to 9 (Venue : GPK Rayog Tinkitam)	:	28 th February, 2019 (1:00 pm onwards)
e)	Sl No. 10 (Venue : GPK Ben-Namprik)	:	1 st March, 2019 (1:00 pm onwards)
f)	Sl No. 11 to 12 (Venue: GPK Temi)	:	1 st March, 2019 (1:00 pm onwards)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

1. Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area (**Concerned Gram Panchayat Ward**).

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

3. The application should enclose attested copies of the a) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.

4. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (**excluding the Tender Form**) can be obtained during the period specified abovefrom the office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Rabong Sub Division on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the StateBankof Sikkim, towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the receipt Head '**cost of Tender Form**' to the Chief Accounts Officer/Accounts Officer concerned.

5. Earnest money deposit @ **2.50%** in the State Bank of Sikkimshallbe in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi Circle. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of deposit receipts, to that Contractor/Firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of Deposit Receiptof2.50% earnest money.

6. 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 work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl. No: 3 (a) above should be enclosed with the offer.

7. Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the Office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges, Rabong Sub-Division, South Sikkim, on the date and within the time indicated above.

8. Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.

9. The Tenderer shouldsign on every page of the tender 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 and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

10. 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 Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

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

12. The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor 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 labour at site.

14. The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days form the issue of Work Order.

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

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

17. The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce 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 on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

18. 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.

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

20. 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.

21. Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:

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

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

22. 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 stages.

23. Damage of 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.

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

25. The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.

26. The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.

R.O. No. 691/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
Date: 14.02.2019

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer,
Roads & Bridges Department,
Rabong SubDivision, South Sikkim



HELLO, J LO! The Second Act star, Jennifer Lopez, waves to the cameras before heading into Jimmy Kimmel Live! in Los Angeles.

Waiting for day when woman directing superhero film won't be news worthy: Anna Boden

SINGAPORE, FEB 14 (PTI): Anna Boden says she is waiting for the day when women filmmakers directing an action-packed superhero film will be a routine and not something headline worthy.

Boden, who has co-directed the first female-fronted Marvel superhero film "Captain Marvel" along with Ryan Fleck, said making a film on a character which already enjoys immense fan following was an amazing experience for her.

"This is the movie I really wanted to be a part of. It has been really amazing to work on this canvas with a character that so many people care so much about.

"But it's 2019... And every body here looks for the day when it is not news worthy that a woman is directing this kind of movie," Boden said at a press conference here on Thursday.

"Captain Marvel" features Brie Larson in the titular role alongside Samuel L Jackson's Nick Fury without his iconic eye-patch.

The film, which will hit the theatres in India on March 8, also features Jude Law, Gemma Chan, Ben Mendelsohn, Clark Gregg, Djimon Hounsou and Lee Pace.

The team, including Larson, Jackson, Chan and directors Boden and Fleck, is currently promoting the film in Singapore.



Never thought I'd get to talk about feminism all day: Larson on being Captain Marvel

RADHIKA SHARMA

SINGAPORE, FEB 14 (PTI): Featuring in and as Captain Marvel helped Brie Larson realise a dream she didn't think was possible. The actor says the film gave her a "larger" platform to contribute to feminism, a cause dear to her heart.

Larson stars as US Airforce pilot Carol Danvers, who becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes Captain Marvel.

The 29-year-old actor, who is a vocal women's rights activist, said it struck her while working on the Marvel film that she would be able to reach out to more people with the message of gender parity, a privilege not enjoyed by an indie movie that she usually collaborates on.

"It was really powerful and exciting. And it's also allowed me opportunities 'coz the film is so big, I knew I would be able to share certain concepts on a much larger scale than I'd been able to previously in independent films and even carry that over in the press tours.

"I have never had a press tour like this where we were able to work on reaching parity along the way. I feel so lucky

that I made my first blockbuster movie and I just get to talk about feminism all day. I never would have thought that was like a possibility for me. That's like my dream, Larson told PTI during a group interview.

With Captain Marvel, which is an origin story set in the 1990s, the actor has become the first woman to lead a standalone Marvel superhero film.

The Oscar winner says she toiled for nine months before she started shooting and the inherent connect with the story made her get up every day, even when she felt like giving up.

"I think you have to have something that kind of transcends the movie, that keeps you going, that gives you fuel every day. Because it takes too long to make it and I trained for nine months. Then the shoot was 75 days. It's almost a year to go at something really hard every single day.

"It's very easy to burn out. So you have to have something that's kind of in the pit of your stomach that is this undeniable thing that you can remind yourself of. That makes it feels important, that makes it feel more that just making a movie, she adds.

Larson, who shot to fame with her role in "Room", says it was important to her that all female characters in the film got their chance to shine.

"For me, getting female complexity on screen, making sure that we had a film that talked about all the different kinds of female experience and we get to that not just with Carol, but also with Gemma's and Lashana's and Annette's character, she adds.

The film also stars Samuel L Jackson, Gemma Chan, Jude Law, Annette Bening, Ben Mendelsohn, Clark Gregg, Djimon Hounsou and Lee Pace.

"Captain Marvel" hits the screens on March 8 in India.



Kangana to direct film on her life, says won't be a 'propaganda'



Mumbai, Feb 14 (PTI): Actor Kangana Ranaut will soon bring her own life story to the big screen as a director and says the project won't be a "propaganda". With a script penned by "Baahubali" writer KV Vijayendra, who also wrote "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi", the film will go on floors by the end of this year in October-November.

"My own story is the subject of my next directorial. But it is not a propaganda film with characters who are starkly black and white, rather it is a sincere, heartfelt account of my journey so far with plenty of lighter moments," Kangana said in a statement.

"I'm emboldened by the love of the people around me, who have never judged me but accepted me for who I am," she added. According to the actor, Vijayendra "urged" Kangana, around 12 weeks ago, to let him write a film based on her life.

"I was nervous and wary initially, but then, given his stature and the fact that I trust him implicitly, I gave Vijayendra sir the go-ahead on the project."

Kangana said the film will focus on various aspects of her life but would not name people who have had differences with her in the past.

"How can I show my journey without people, I can't be walking alone. But we will not be taking any names. The idea is to protect me and my life with all its highs and lows. "In the end, it is the story of an achiever, a girl from the mountains who came into Bollywood without any connections in the industry or even a godfather, and went on to carve a niche for herself against all odds," she added.



REQUIRED FOR CANADA

**Nurses,
Caregivers,
Chef-Waiters-Butchers-Bakers,
Driver,
Farm Workers - Meat Packers
IT PROFESSIONAL**



Walk for Interview & Resume Submission



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Paribahan Nagar, Opp. Webel IT Park, Matigara, Siliguri

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sevenseasconsultancy5@gmail.com

Contact No. +9170764 21789 / +9183487 14807

ARIES: A sensual Valentine's Day is in store for Rams as your ruler, lusty Mars, moves into earthy Taurus until March 31. You've enjoyed hosting the red planet in Aries since December 31, but you now need to downshift a bit and move into manifesting mode. Over the next six weeks, take some of those inspired ideas and put them into tangible form.

TAURUS: This February 14, single Bulls have an advantage over the rest of the field, thanks to red-hot Mars pulsing into your sign—and keeping your engines revving until March 31! Pull out the stops and turn on your legendary charms. Already attached? Even if you've had plans in the works for weeks, welcome the spirit of spontaneity. A sexy detour could take your night from sweet to smoldering.

GEMINI: Not only will the moon be in Gemini this Valentine's Day, but lusty Mars is ducking into sensual Taurus and your dreamy twelfth house! You could launch a charm offensive AND write a fairy tale simultaneously, a duality only a Twin could pull off. If you're

in a relationship, do something unexpectedly romantic—perhaps a follow-me trail of petals to leading to your room of choice.

CANCER: Be ready to seal the deal—with your signature or a kiss! Friendship is as important as romance this V-Day as excitement junkie Mars barrels into Taurus and your eleventh house of community after charging up your career zone since December 31. Single Crabs could flirt your way through the room, and even if you're in a relationship, you'll enjoy going out with a group.

LEO: This Saturday, a refreshingly honest conversation can move the needle on a stuck relationship. Don't get hung up with saying the "right" thing, Leo; just speak your piece in a non-blaming way. And make sure you extend that open-minded courtesy to the other party as well. Of course, sometimes these sentiments are best expressed in a letter—one that you don't send, but rather write, then rip up and burn as a ceremonial release.

LIBRA: Who says February 14th gets to

have all the fun? Saturday's playful pairing of Mercury and Uranus could bring an early visit from St. Valentine. A scintillating conversation could lead to a dinner date that lingers on for hours. If you're already spoken for, Saturday could be like a V-Day prequel. Reserve a table for two or pick up a pair of tickets for a raved-about show.

VIRGO: Thoughts are swirling through your head this Saturday, but don't let them evolve into an epic work of fiction. With analytical Mercury getting a boost from innovative Uranus, talk to people who can help you see the situation from an enlightened perspective. Everything happens for a reason, Virgo, even if it makes zero sense in the moment.

SCORPIO: Is it a fact or just a feeling? Saturday's Mercury-Uranus mashup brings some much-needed objectivity to a situation that's been hitting all your emotional buttons. While you don't want to ignore your intuition, what's bothering you might be a result of a past trigger rather than something that's actually occurring in the here and now. The surest way to find

out? Investigate, as only a Scorpio can! Your inner bon vivant takes the wheel this Sunday as social Mercury high-kicks into Pisces and your flamboyant, fun-loving fifth house!

SAGITTARIUS: If other people are slowing you down this Saturday, no need to drag those stragglers along for the ride. Enjoy a day of independence, allowing yourself to come and go as you please without checking for approval. The dedicated alone time will refresh your feed and you'll be ready to reign as life of the party come sundown. Avoid any venues that feel stuffy or elitist!

CAPRICORN: Anyone can dazzle you with a first impression—but can they actually walk their talk? Under Saturday's convivial alignment of Mercury and Uranus, you might not be the best at separating the wheat from the chaff. Enjoy the magic moments you share with people socially, remembering that only time can tell the true story about their integrity and character. Reserve judgement, one way or the other, be-

cause it's equally possible that someone you wrote off as annoying could start to grow on you!

AQUARIUS: Chat up strangers this Saturday, because at any moment, random banter could reveal a serendipitous spark. The fateful encounter could happen during an espresso run or while you're rolling up your yoga mat after class. One thoughtful comment on an Instagram-friend's feed could lead to a DM exchange—and one bold right swipe could swiftly evolve into a Saturday night date!

PISCES: Happy Galentine's Day! Pass some conversation hearts to your BFFs this February 14 as passion planet Mars buzzes into your zone of platonic partnerships until March 31. That's not to say you can't have a super-romantic V-Day. But this spirit-lifting transit will keep the vibe light and fun. Your social butterfly wings will be at full flutter over the next six weeks. Enjoy the wave of new friends, exclusive invites and tag-team victories. You might even join forces with sibling, neighbor or a local business.