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SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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CM launches PFMS enabled direct benefit transfer system for Pensions



GANGTOK, 29 SEPT (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling launched the Public Financial Management System [PFMS] enabled platform for the disbursement of Pensions under National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) here at a function held at Mintokgang this evening.

With this launch, Sikkim becomes one of the pioneer States to introduce this transparent system of direct benefit transfer through which beneficiaries will direct-

ly receive the pension amount in their bank account in real time. The Aadhaar-linked platform has been created by National Informatics Centre, Government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Rural Development.

Four schemes will be covered under this online payment platform namely Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Wid-

ow Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme.

The program had the presence of Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Sudhaker Shukla, Principal Secretary Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, K Sreenivasulu, Secretary RM&DD Government of Sikkim, CS Rao, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Ru-

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Deptt hands over National Tourism Award to CM



GANGTOK, 29 SEPT (IPR): Minister for Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Ugen T Gyatso, along with Additional Chief Secretary, SC Gupta, and Secretary, CP Dhakal, handed over Tourism Award to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Saman Bhawan today.

Sikkim was conferred the National Award for the Best State/Union Territory for Comprehensive Development of Tourism amongst Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States of India during the National Tourism Award 2016-17 held

at New Delhi on 27 Sept.

The award was handed over by Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Culture, and Tourism, KJ Alphons.

Sikkim has set new benchmarks for responsible travel in the country. Homestays have rapidly made way for sustainable community based tourism in less developed areas while eco-friendly policies have lent new vigor to the virgin Himalayan wilderness that drapes the region's mountains.

CABINET SANCTIONS

Following are some of the decisions taken by the Cabinet in its meeting held today:-

TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.108.39 crores for construction of Ropeway from Pelling to Sangacholing in West Sikkim.

Approval and sanction of Rs. 2 crores as Grant-in-aid to Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (STDC).

RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.11571.15 lakhs for the implementation of works under MGNREGA 2017-18 (Post facto).

Approval and sanction of Rs.29.67 crores as basic grants recommended by the 14th Finance Commission in 2018-19, to be transferred to Gram Panchayats.

Approval and sanction of Rs.621.93 crores for implementation of Phase XII batch and II PMGSY works.

Approval and sanction of Rs.1334.79 lakhs towards payment of land compensation for the land acquired for construction of PMGSY Roads.

ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.4, 41, 28,000/- for rehabilitation of damaged portion of NH-310 at Ranipool-Gangtok- Bye-pass Road.

Approval and sanction of Rs.53,83,282/- for payment of land compensation involved in extension of road from Chakung-Khaniserbong SPWD road to Majuwa village via Chota Samdong in West Sikkim.

Approval and sanction of Rs.33, 93, 417/- for payment of damaged compensation of standing properties involved in back cutting of Namchi-Phong road to Salleybong, Maniram, Tangi Bikmat and Rabi Khola Block in South Sikkim.

Revised approval of Rs.2, 03, 56,000/- with addi-

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Nim Dorjee returns to ISL after recovery from knee injury

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

The 5th season of Indian Super League is scheduled to kick off this evening. The inaugural match of the league will be held between Atletico de Kolkata and Kerala Blasters at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

Five Sikkimese footballers namely Nirmal Chettri [Goa FC], Sanju Pradhan [Mumbai FC], Robin Gurung [Jamshedpur FC], Bikash Jaiu [Jamshedpur FC] and Nim Dorjee Tamang [Pune City FC] will also be part of ISL 2018.

Speaking to Summit Times, 23-year-old Nim Dorjee Tamang, who hails from Melli in South Sikkim, has extended gratitude to his supporters and management for

their constant support during his absence in ISL matches last year owing to knee injury.

"Due to my knee injury, I could not play any ISL match earlier. I feel much better now and I am looking forward to be back on the pitch with full enthusiasm".

After undergoing knee surgery last year, Nim Dorjee has attended fitness rehab in Bangalore for some months.

"I've been working hard to give my best performance in the league. I hope my hard work pays off in the end," says Nim Dorjee.

Nim Dorjee plays as central defense and right defensive winger. His team is scheduled to play against Delhi Dynamos on 03 Oct.



Rain damages Gor School compound



**SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 29 SEPT:**

Incessant rain in North district has severely damaged the school compound of Gor Secondary School in Dzongu, North

Sikkim. The wall and the ground have developed several cracks. The entire ground is uneven while the retaining wall may give up any moment.

The Gor Secondary School, which is the

mother school of Lum/Gor/School Gram Panchayat Unit of Lower Dzongu, is the only secondary school catering education to the children of the area. However, the only playground of the

school needs immediate attention before it sustains more damages.

The school headmistress's quarter has also developed cracks.

POP UP SHOPS
FOOD BRANDS
LIVE PERFORMANCES
KIDS ZONE
SPA
GO TIPSYS

3 DAYS OF HAPPINESS

30TH SEPT TO 2ND OCT

PET FRIENDLY !! 10:30 PM TO 8 PM

OPEN MIC AND JAMING ON 30TH EVE.

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT,

LOAFING AROUND
BUDDHA CAFE
BAKING MAGIC
INFINITY INSTAL
BBR VET
SELIUS BISTRO

SEE YOU AT !!

POP UP RIDGE PARK
Near WHITE HALL

Pasal

SKM snaps back at Gnathang-Machong MLA

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

Responding to Gnathang-Machong MLA, DT Lepcha's press statement given on Friday, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has today said that it is unfortunate that the MLA does not recognize people from his constituency.

Mr Lepcha had refuted SKM's claims of SDF families from his constituency joining SKM. However, SKM has again claimed that SDF CEC members, former Panchayats and ward workers of SDF from the constituency have joined SKM and their names were also announced publicly during a meeting.

The party has stated that it is ready to provide not only the list of people who have joined SKM but will also provide their voter cards if the area MLA contacts the SKM party office.

On Friday, Mr Lepcha had challenged SKM to provide a list of families who had left SDF.

SKM has also alleged that the area MLA has presented wrong data on votes received during the last election. SDF received 5,017 votes while SKM got 3,101 votes in 2014, the party has said.

Jigdel Denzongpa Memorial Chess tourney gets underway

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

The second edition of Jigdel Denzongpa Memorial State Level Chess Tournament 2018 commenced here at SDF Bhawan hall in Gangtok today. A total of 261 players from different parts of the State, mostly students of different schools, are participating in the tournament.

The four-day tournament is being organised by Sikkim Chess Association and is based on Swiss League System of nine rounds.

The inaugural function of the tournament had Principal Secretary to Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, K Srinivasulu, as chief guest while Secretary to Sports & Youth Affairs was present as guest of honour. The inaugural function was also attended by family members and friends of Late Mr Denzongpa.

The inaugural function was followed by the commencement of games in the tournament. The prize distribution ceremony of the tournament



will be held on 02 Oct. Cash prizes will be provided to top 20 players of the tournament and top five in each age category will be awarded with trophies. The tournament has age categories of U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13 and U-15 boys and girls.

In his inaugural address, the chief guest

congratulated SCA on working for the promotion and development of chess in the State. He also expressed his happiness on the participation of young children in the tournament.

Stating that chess offers good mental exercise, Mr Srinivasulu encouraged young children to

play continuously with hard work and dedication.

Likewise, Secretary to Sports & Youth Affairs stated that chess is a wonderful game for children and helps improve concentration and thinking. He encouraged young children to play chess with dedication.

Chief Arbiter of the

tournament, Dharmendra Kumar, encouraged young participations to play with an aim to follow senior rated players of the State who have been doing well in the regional and national levels. He also lauded the consistent efforts and

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West DLSA conducts legal services camp in Tashiding



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

District Legal Services Authority, West Sikkim in coordination with Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized legal services camp at Tashiding in West Sikkim under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority on NALSA [Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights] Scheme 2015, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by District & Sessions Judge cum Chairperson, Jiwan K Kharka, Secretary cum Chief Judicial Magistrate, Subarna Rai, Zilla Panchayat, Laxmi Pradhan, Dr BR Khatiwada from Tashiding PHC, Dr Hemant Khatri from Yuksom PHC, Panel Advocates, Puja Lamichaney, Binita Karki, Aita Rani Limboo and Sanjay Rai, and Panchayat President, GB Bista.

The schemes of the government particularly for the tribal people were disseminated to the public at large. A legal aid clinic was set up at the camp which provided assistance in drafting petitions to avail the various welfare schemes and also for availing free legal aid services.

The gathering was also informed about various provisions of law including Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Sikkim Anti Drugs Act and free legal aid services.

A health camp manned by the doctors and hospital staff was also held for the public of Tashiding.

The programme concluded with an interactive session wherein 150 participants raised various queries on different issues of law.

Poshan Maah programme held in Dzongu

SUMMIT REPORT
MANGAN, 29 SEPT:

Poshan Maah [Sahi Poshan Dosh Roshan] programme was organized by Social Justice & Empowerment Department in collaboration with Sikkim Livelihood Mission at Lingdong in Dzongu, North Sikkim on 28 Sept.

The programme was attended by Child Development Project Officer, Dzongu, Netuk Lepcha, Block Development Officer, Dzongu, Roshan Subba, ASHA

members, Panchayat, students and teachers.

The event commenced with an awareness rally which had the participation of students, ASHA members and officers.

The CDPO Dzongu, in his address, informed about Poshan Maah programme which is based on healthy nutrition for mothers and their children. The students were briefed on proper hand washing technique to avert diseases.



Mangan RTO lodges FIR against FB page for 'defaming' Department

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 29 SEPT:

Regional Transport Officer, Motor Vehicle Division [Mangan], Kharga Singh Gurung, has lodged an FIR against anonymous social media page "Sikkim First" for accusing him of fraudulently transferring ownership of a vehicle without following proper procedure.

In his FIR, the RTO has mentioned that the

department has all relevant documents in respect of registration of Taxi vehicle regd. no. SK 03 T-0263 and since the entire registration process was made after proper verification of documents by different units of the office, the registration has been done as per the norms of the department.

It was also mentioned that such kind of reports/public complaint should

have been brought to the concerned office. However, the said Facebook page has posted defaming statement along with photograph on social media, according to the complainant.

The RTO has sought strict legal action against the operator of the said social media page for defaming the department which has also raised questions about the work of the department.

Making the Right Choice

T. BHUTIA

The world that we are living in today is rife with different communities and groups trying to preserve and protect their identities- be it cultural, ethnic or political. Various communities all around the world are trying to demand certain rights and privileges from the state which has led to 'politics of recognition' being at the forefront of identity politics in almost every society. Within this environment, every state is also trying to advance forward with their agenda of progress and development whilst keeping their population content and secured.

Every community at some point in their lives have raised their voices in different forms of protest to protect their community, their people, and their cultural identity whenever they felt insecure in the face of various events that somehow threatened their existence. This has been possible due to various reasons, but most importantly due to the space that the democratic functioning of a state provides. The democratic machinery of governance provides a set up where each community while integrating with the whole also creates spaces where individuals and groups can maintain their uniqueness and difference. In other words, a state with a democratic functioning of governance while integrating different individuals and groups into a single large identity like a national identity by virtue of markers such as citizenship status, also at the same time opens up spaces where the same communities and groups can maintain their uniqueness and exclusivity by endorsing other forms of their identity like their ethnic and cultural identity. Sikkim and its social fabric of diverse ethnic and cultural groups provide a perfect setting where different groups coexist harmoniously while also maintaining their exclusivity and uniqueness.

The world has witnessed protests, revolutions and even wars when it comes to protection of their 'own'. One aspect common to all of these movements and demands is the significant role that a 'leader' plays in making these movements possible in the first place. While there is no denying the fact that every movement and demand has at its centre the people who support the movement, a huge part of a movement and the change it seeks to bring about is dependent on the leader. History is flooded with examples of such 'leaders' who have not only been successful in bringing a certain movement to fruition but also in creating a massive change in the society which has left an indelible imprint in the entire world. Leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi have inspired generations and still continue to do so till this day. All these leaders and many more have been simple people like you and me, who have been dissatisfied with the way things were at some point in their life and sought to do something about it on their own. The only difference between 'us' and 'them' is that they went ahead and actually made a change. We all are very familiar with the 'Montgomery Bus Boycott' that Martin Luther King Jr. led in 1955 which was the start of a revolution in the Civil Rights Movement in American history.

Leadership is therefore not only about performance but it's also about meaning.¹ It is rather an amalgamation of both performance and the meaning it carries. A leader who seeks to make a difference is therefore not someone who is concerned just about the outcome but rather in the way a plan or a certain policy is carried out. He/she is concerned more about the purpose and the meaning behind working out

1 Goffee, Rob & Jones, Gareth, "Why Should Anyone Be Led By You?"- 2015, p. 2

a certain agenda or goal. Outcome is important but that is not given the first priority but rather the process of reaching that desired result. Another significant requirement for effective leadership is the ability of the leader to observe and understand existing situations and act accordingly. Goffee and Jones call this 'situation sensing' which involves a mixture of sensory and cognitive abilities. A leader has to be able to reframe a situation in a way that benefits those they 'lead' (their followers) instead of themselves.² In the more than two decades of ruling the state of Sikkim, Pawan Chamling has given and shown immense amount of these leadership assets in understanding the context of a situation and putting the best foot forward. The best example of this can be seen in his effort to make Sikkim the 'first organic state' in India. This effort of his was recognized by the country when he was awarded the prestigious 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award' in 2016 by the then President, Pranab Mukherjee during the World Sustainable Development Summit organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.³ Not only this, the efforts of Chamling and his administration were also recognized by the global community when he was awarded the 'One World Award 2017, Grand Prix for his exemplary work in the field of organic farming in Legau, Germany.⁴ At a time when the entire world is grappling with environmental problems at a large scale, Sikkim has achieved remarkable heights in terms of preserving and maintaining its ecology and has come out as an ex-

2 Ibid, p. 12

3 For more information, please read the full report in, "Sikkim CM Chamling honoured with 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award', Business Standard, New Delhi: 2016.

4 Barnes, Howard A. & Rai, Jiwan, "Pawan Chamling Champion of Social Justice", Penguin Random House, India: 2018, p. XXXV.

ample for the other states in India and abroad. This wouldn't have been possible without the vision, involvement and dedication of the Chief Minister.

Pawan Chamling is someone who has lived and experienced a time in Sikkim in the past where even basic needs for livelihood were not easily available. In his own words, "people had to scrape through without even basic amenities like water supply, electricity and roads."⁵ The Sikkim that he envisioned in the future or perhaps the reality that we are living today has been born out of that hard past that he and his family and the entire community living in those days had to experience. He longed to study and attain education in the university which remained unfulfilled but this did not stop or deter his love for books and literature. Growing up in a small village in Yangang to farmer parents, education was the only way out of poverty, a way of changing his life and his family's life and also his village at large. This link between education and poverty has therefore been an essential right from the very beginning of his career in politics. His gradual rise to power has thus always been grounded in his roots, where he came from and a simple but crucial need to change his hometown for the better. This can be seen in the kind of education policies and poverty alleviation programs that he and his administration have come up with. Sikkim has become the only state in India where education is absolutely free up to the graduation level. For students from the BPL category, education is free right up to the post-doctorate level.⁶ Apart from this, there is a list of scholarships and grants available for students with the sole purpose of unhindered education for the youth like "The Chief Ministers Meritorious Scholarship Scheme" for school students from the 5th standard onwards,

5 Ibid, p. 60

6 Ibid, p.58

Comprehensive Education Loan Scheme (CELS) for facilitating higher or professional courses in India and abroad.⁷ Uplift through education has thus been central in the Chamling led SDF government. Recently, the Chief Minister has announced free education for the Sikkimese students pursuing MBBS in the soon-to-be-set-up State Medical College.

Pawan Chamling is a leader who has risen from the ground, seen and lived the harsh realities of life in a society which knew very little about 'freedom' and individuality. In his own words, "I have learnt through the hard knocks of life"⁸ and it is this experience of living the ground realities of his time and the challenges he has handled up till date that makes Pawan Chamling a leader of the masses, a champion of the poor simply because he was one of them and still is, in his heart and mind – a simple folk with humble origins who sought to change his life and the lives of many. This is what makes him 'real' – an authentic leader. This is perhaps why he has been able to build a strong connection between him and his people. Leadership is created by both parties i.e. the 'leader' and the 'led' and a leader has to ensure that this relationship is cultivated and nurtured.⁹ "Our policies should be people-centric" has always been the mantra of the Chief Minister and he has maintained this from the very beginning. The fact that he has been the longest serving CM in the country is a testament to the relentless support that the people have had towards him and his administration.

So what is meaningful leadership then? This is rather a difficult question as there is not one definite answer for it. It becomes very important to realise that "there are no univer-

7 Ibid, p.63-66

8 Ibid, p.60

9 Goffee, Rob & Jones, Gareth, "Why Should Anyone Be Led By You?"- 2015, p.11-12.

sal leadership characteristics. What works for one leader will not work for another." As Goffee and Jones say in their book, each leader has his/her "own personal leadership assets" which they deploy at the right time and in the right circumstances.¹⁰ We must also however agree that, not every leader has the finesse and the calibre to do so and not every leader is born with these assets. Some cultivate it with time and experience and there are many others who just act out things which are fed to them by others in the group. A leader who is enacting things out is thus not a leader but rather a 'clone' (noisy or quiet) and we do not want a 'clone leader'. We want a real leader, don't we? We want to be led by a person, not a role holder or a 'position filler' or somebody with a vindictive agenda. We want someone who is flesh and bones and has an immense amount of experience and is wise enough to take decisions and challenges that time has to offer. In the present scenario in Sikkim, it isn't very difficult to see who has the tools and traits to offer 'meaningful leadership'. Nevertheless for those of you who've seemed to lose track and forgotten or have been misled (which can happen in life), it is time to look back and see, reflect on the many (many) years that have gone by under the humble leadership of Mr. Pawan Chamling. Why? Because we have a choice to make and it's imperative that we make a 'good one' for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our future generation and most significantly for this beautiful, blessed land. ::

(The writer can be contacted at tsh.bhuthia.gtk@gmail.com)

10 Ibid, p.11

Gangtok on Sunday, 30 Sept

Temp: 27°C/15°C

Forecast: Intervals of clouds and sunshine, not as warm; a couple of afternoon thundershowers.

Sunrise: 05:27 AM

Sunset: 5:24 PM

North District preps for disaster management mock exercise

MANGAN, 29 SEPT [IPR]:

A preparedness meeting for conducting the State level mock exercise to be held on 10 Oct was held today at Zilla Bhavan in Mangan. The meeting was chaired by District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo, and attended by Superintendent of Police, North, Sub Divisional Magistrates and other officers of the district.

National Disaster Management Authority [NDMA] is conducting a mock exercise in the four districts of Sikkim and ten districts of West Bengal on 10 Oct. The mock exercise will simulate a scenario of a massive earthquake in the North East India which has caused huge devastation. The objective of enacting the scenario is to put into place a quick response system to tackle such disasters. Departments like Health, Police, Food and Civil Supplies, Fire, Forests, Human Resource Development Department along with volunteers have been assigned specific roles to be performed during mock scenario. A preliminary meeting on the same was already held and was chaired by the Chief Secretary of Sikkim.

In order to conduct the mock exercise in North District, the District Disaster Management Authority has prepared five scenarios and the mock exercise will be held in Mangan and Chungthang.

The DC North informed all the stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities under the Incident Response System [IRS] and according to the mock exercise various officers will have to perform those roles. He stated that it was the aim of the District Administration to fully functionalize the IRS system so that the district is better prepared to tackle big disasters in the near future.

He stated that entire administration will take part in the mock exercise along with Indian Army, Indo Tibetan Police Force and the Hydro Power developers. He also stated that the participation of the NGOs and communities is a must to make the exercise successful in the district.

The NDMA will be sending observers from the Indian Army to see the preparedness of the District to tackle disasters and accordingly will be providing feedback to improve the disaster preparedness of the district.

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

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Sikkim SLSA holds debate comptt for law students

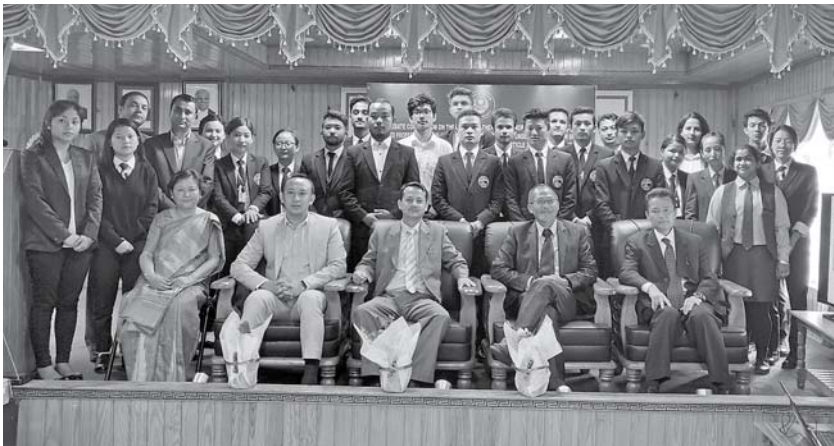
SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a debate competition on "Whether it is appropriate to bring back Right to Property into the Domain of Fundamental Rights under Article 19[f] or should only be recognized as a legal right as provided under Article 300 A of our Constitution" for the students of Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk, Sikkim University, Tadong and ICAI University, Lower Sichey at the auditorium of High Court of Sikkim in Gangtok today.

A press release informs that the event was organized under the directions of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also the Executive Chairperson of Sikkim SLSA, and as per the State Plan of Action of Sikkim SLSA and National Legal Services Authority [Legal Aid Clinics in Universities, Law Colleges and other Institutional] Scheme 2013.

Judges for the com-



petition were Senior Advocate, High Court of Sikkim cum Senior Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA, N Rai, and Panel Advocates of Sikkim SLSA, SS Hamal and TR Barfungpa.

The welcome address was delivered by Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA, Suraj Chettri, who gave a brief introduction on the topics of the debate and apprised the gathering that the debate competition is one of the many initiatives undertaken by the Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sik-

kim to spread awareness amongst masses.

Fifteen students from Sikkim Government Law College, Sikkim University, and ICAI University participated in the said competition.

The students who spoke for the motion were Pradeep Tamang [Sikkim Government Law College], Anish Sharma [Sikkim Government Law College], Iaiiohame CR Kharmujai [Sikkim University], Navmit Pradhan [Sikkim University], Rohan Giri [Sikkim University], Ngag-

am Yoka [ICAI University] and Priya Lamdok [ICAI University].

Likewise, Anirudh Gupta [Sikkim Government Law College], Anamika Gurung [Sikkim Government Law College], Rupesh Rizal [Sikkim Government Law College], Mahesh Rai [Sikkim University], Farlan D Marak [Sikkim University], Rikchon C Sangma [Sikkim University], Solanki Basu [ICAI University] and Kinchok Choden Bhutia [ICAI University] spoke against the motion.

Anamika Gurung [Sikkim Government Law College] secured the first position in the competition with Mahesh Rai [Sikkim University] and Solanki Basu [ICAI University] taking the second and third positions respectively.

The winners of the first, second and third positions received cash prizes of Rs 10,000, Rs 8,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively along with certificates while the other participants received certificates of participation.

SMIMS hosts CME on Gastroenterology Update with Live Endoscopic Procedures

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

A daylong Continuing Medical Education [CME] on Gastroenterology Update with Live Endoscopic Procedures was organized here at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences [SMIMS] in Gangtok today.

A press release issued by Sikkim Manipal University informs that the CME, funded by Medical

Council of India and Dr Ramdas M Pai and Vasanthi M Pai Endowment Fund, was organised by the Departments of Gastroenterology and Medicine in collaboration with the Department of Surgery, SMIMS with the main objective of updating knowledge on basic concepts and management of gastrointestinal and liver diseases to the health professionals.

Vice Chancellor, SMU,

Lieutenant General [retired] Dr MD Ventakesh, attended the event as chief guest along with Acting Dean, SMIMS, Professor Dr T Shantikumar Singh, as guest of honour.

The SMU Vice Chancellor, in his address, highlighted the importance of gastroenterology and endoscopic procedures in modern day evidence based medicine.

Around 160 participants including facul-

ties, under graduate and post graduate medical students along with Biotechnology, Nursing and Physiotherapy students and doctors from STNM Hospital and District Hospitals attended the CME.

Resource persons included Dr Vikas Singla [Consultant Gastroenterologist, Hepatologist, Endosonologist, Department of Gastroenterology, Sir Ganga Ram

Hospital, New Delhi], Dr Sundeep Goyal [Consultant Gastroenterologist, Kota, Rajasthan], Dr Pankaj Kaushik [Consultant Gastroenterologist, Agra, Uttar Pradesh] and Dr Jayant Ghosh [Consultant gastroenterologist, Ranchi, Jharkhand] who shared their knowledge and demonstrated various endoscopic procedures and enlightened various aspects of the subject.

Singtam school makes English speaking a priority

tam, KB Chettri.

With an aim to inculcate the habit of using English as first language in the school, the Principal has appointed student volunteers to check on students who are weak in English and

help them improve their English speaking skills.

"There are students and teachers with good command over English language. They have been appointed to guide and support their juniors to develop En-

glish speaking skills. This is a step towards helping every student of Singtam SSS speak in English. Speaking in English is not compulsory in government schools but it is very important," expresses Mr Chettri.

Cabinet Sanction

2018-19.

Approval for amendment of notification regarding Memorandum of Understanding to be executed by the investor before making the investment in the State of Sikkim. HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Approval to the State policy for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadi Pari Yojana Kendra, wherein a policy is framed for providing quality medicines at affordable rates.

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.194.50 lakhs for implementation of Central Assistance under Central Sector Scheme- "Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institute", Sikkim, for 2018-19.

Confirmation of approval accorded for branding Dzongu, North Sikkim as "Lepcha Indigenous Habitat" for promotion, preservation and further enrichment of Lepcha indigenous culture for sustainable development.

Approval and en-block sanction of Rs.118.39 lakhs and transfer the fund to Sikkim State Child Development Society Accounts under ICDS Mission for implementation of Poshan Abhiyan in all four Districts.

Approval and en-block sanction of Rs.2485.76 lakhs and transfer the fund to Sikkim State Child Development Society for implementa-

tion of ICDS Scheme. FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.104.97 lakhs for construction of three new VLW centers at Arigao (Geyzing), Namchi and Sumik Lingzey.

Approval and sanction of Rs.348.21 lakhs for the Scheme: 'Support to Extension Programme for Extension Reforms during 2018-19.'

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.80 lakhs for repair and renovation of MG Marg.

Approval and sanction of Rs.418.54 lakhs for construction of approach road from Gumpa Dara via Leksey Colony to Begha Bazaar and construction of Rural Marketing Centre at Begha in West Sikkim.

Revised approval and additional sanction of Rs.2, 42, 29,000/- for development of Tsuklakhang Palace Complex, Gangtok.

TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Approval and sanction of Rs.83.41 crores for construction of Asta-Chirinjivi Pilgrimage Tourist Centre at Nagi, Namthang, South Sikkim.

Nandok celebrates Swachhata Hi Seva



NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 29 SEPT:

A daylong Block level event celebrating "Swachha Hi Seva" on the theme "Wealth from Waste" was organized by Nandok Block Administrative Centre at Nandok village in East Sikkim today.

Junior High School and Senior Secondary School of Nandok along with ASHA volunteers, Self Help Groups, NGOs and residents of the Block participated in the programme.

Special Secretary, Rural Management & Development Department, Anil Raj Rai, attended the event as chief guest accompanied by Block Development Officer, Nandok, Saptika Rai, and other officials.

Many SHGs from the area displayed their products in the event.

The issue of menstrual health was also one of the subjects of the awareness session of the programme.

The event also held badminton tournament [doubles] which had Bandana Bhutia and Keesang Bhutia emerge as

winners in the women's category while Umesh Gurung and Passang D Bhutia secured the winner's position in men's category.

Expressing happiness, RMDD Special Secretary, Mr Rai, stated that such programmes have helped Sikkim become a Swachh State and credited the Panchayats for their leading role.

He further credited the BAC for their active role in Swachh Bharat campaign in the area.

Many cultural performances, skits, songs and dances were also presented by students and staff of schools and BAC, Nandok.

The SHG members have also expressed satisfaction on the way unemployed citizens particularly women and youth have come forward for self-employment opportunities.

Block Project Manager, Umesh Gurung, added that the BAC has been working as a backbone to felicitate citizens who want to be empowered and also to create a good platform for them and their products.

Jigdel Denzongpa Memorial Chess tourney gets underway

Contd from pg02

hard work of SCA general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal, in promoting the game in Sikkim.

Likewise, SCA general secretary, Mr Dhakal, stated that SCA is conducting this tournament for the second consecutive time in memory of Late Jigdel Denzongpa who was an eminent State player and promot-

er of chess from Sikkim. He also thanked the family members and friends of Late Mr Denzongpa for their support in organising the tournament. He informed that cash prize of the tournament is being sponsored by the batch mates of Late Mr Denzongpa of 1987-91 batch of Malaviya Regional Engineering College [MREC], Jaipur.

CM launches PFMS enabled direct benefit transfer system for Pensions

Contd from pg01

ral Development – NCAP, Rekha Chauhan, State Informatic Officer NIC Sikkim, Birendra Chettri, Principal System Analyst, NIC New Delhi, Brijesh Shrivastava, and officers of State Social Justice Department.

Principal Secretary, SJEWD, K Sreenivasulu, in his opening remarks, gave a brief outline of the new online payment platform and the schemes to be covered under it. He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for sparing his time to launch the PFMS platform for the State. He added that it will bring about speed and transparency in the transfer of pension funds directly to the beneficiary without any delay.

Chief Economic Adviser, MoRD, Sudhaker

Shukla said that Sikkim has been a pioneer State and one of the first States to achieve maximum percentage of Aadhaar seeding (97%) for Direct Benefit Transfer Schemes. It has shown the way to the rest of the States, he added. He also mentioned that the Unmarried Women Pension Scheme initiated by the Government of Sikkim is the first of its kind in the country, and congratulated the Chief Minister for it. He stated that today's launch has brought Sikkim under the ambit of a robust Public Financial Management System.

Principal System Analyst, NIC New Delhi, Brijesh Shrivastava explained the highlights of the NSAP-PPS, its key features, the process cycle and the payment system through PFMS.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Political Violence

Head it off before the boundaries are pushed

Sikkim prides itself over being a peaceful state and often highlights its Buddhist ethos of nonviolence. In fact, there are many who believe that even the formation of the kingdom was a peaceful process. Be that as it may, can Sikkim genuinely lay claim to being a nonviolent society? Its members seem to succumb to violent outbursts too often for a peaceful people.

The last elections were among the more violent political episodes in Sikkim's recent history, and sporadic instances that occurred for at least a year since reinforced the suspicion that when opportunity presents, Sikkim collapses rather conveniently to violent expressions. Let us qualify this by specifying that those who have already secured a place in the public domain appear to be on a hair-trigger when it comes to violence. At least that is what the easy instigation of social media and desperation of political futures proved in the last election cycle in Sikkim. The cold brazenness with which some of the pre-poll violence was launched in 2014, because it was not condemned widely enough by the lay people and their civil society organizations, ended up claiming two lives before Sikkim voted. The fear of continued and violent score-settling might have been one of the factors which played a deciding role in the final verdict, but people need to reject violence more forcefully than that. Because they haven't, or perhaps because there is a staggering trust-deficit in how the Opposition engages the establishment and vice versa, violence, even if not of the physical pre-poll scale, continues to occur in the language used and attitudes flaunted. It's ugliest post-election explosion was during the college showdown in July 2014, but there have been sporadic moments since then. It will not surprise anyone if students complained that the authorities were haughty, dismissive and disinterested and that this led to some in their support groups to get into shoving and loud slanging matches. It is important to bear in mind that violence need not always be physical. If the tendencies are not clipped every time the boundaries are tested, violence will occur more often, and each time with increasing intensity and the physicality will arrive too. Sikkim needs to keep in this mind as it readies itself for another election and the potential even this one might hold for violence if the lay people, the voters every leader wants to woo so desperately, do not convey a clear signal that while they welcome heated ideological debates, they will not tolerate actual violence.

After all, if violence, and one is still not speaking scale here, highlights public expression, it should worry the Sikkimese society at large.

What Sikkim is seeing of late is a spike in aggressive posturing which is always only a step away from violent aggression. Most instance of violence typically ignite without much planning. They start as a collection of earnest believers, adherents and supporters, as inspired by the ideology [or need] which brought them to the streets as by the lure of defying authority. Typically, the groups have a very small percentage of agent provocateurs who play on egos and pride to egg the group into trouble. There will always be those who will try to instigate groups into violence, and they are not always consciously playing villains; sometimes, and more dangerously, they believe it to be the only recourse and are convinced of the morality of their stands. That should not however mean that violence cannot be curbed. A good place to begin will be in the vocabulary used to describe violence. Violence is often referred and explained as being caused by "anger" and "disenchantment" by "disaffected youth" or "wronged sections". Such messages end up legitimizing lawlessness. Violence is wrong. Period. Keep justifying it and one will soon reap the proverbial whirlwind. Violence is a criminal expression. See it as such and demand that it is tackled as such, and may be civilized debates and lobbying will become possible. Sympathetic portrayals of criminal activity propagate free-for-alls. When institutions fail to repudiate violence, it not only lasts longer but also pops up more often.

How to curb this trend? The community has to reject all forms of violence. This rejection should occur loudly and clearly. The police and public officials should be allowed to expose and take legal action against those who break the peace. While on this aspect, the people should also follow police action on breakdowns of law and order situations and demand better case preparations. Isn't it surprising that thus far no one has ever been convicted for rioting or mob violence in Sikkim even though such incidents have occurred. What could also work in puncturing political violence tendencies is subjecting it to frequent and scathing public ridicule, stripping it of the alpha-male celebrations that are usually attached to it. Do nothing, continue ignoring it, and these elections, which are not very far away, will definitely be more violent and vicious.

Speaking out about sexual violence on social media may not challenge gendered power relations

CAROL HARRINGTON
theconversation.com

Feminists are celebrating a new generation of women who fearlessly share their stories of sexual violence on social media and other digital platforms, confronting established limits on talking about rape.

But as past analyses conclude, not all forms of speaking out challenge the gendered power relations that perpetuate sexual violence.

POLITICS OF SPEAKING OUT ABOUT RAPE

The feminist movement of the 1970s broke ground by publicly telling personal stories of sexual violence. Those women described the problem as one of patriarchal power and women's oppression. Yet as public attention to sexual violence became increasingly common in the late 20th century, it came to be depoliticised as an issue of individual trauma, a starting point for personal self-transformation and empowerment that sat well with neoliberalism.

A new generation of sexual violence survivors have been speaking out on social media, most famously with the #Me-Too movement, which gained mainstream media attention. However, ordinary people have been telling their sexual violence stories online, sometimes anonymously but in many cases not, in ways that have garnered less attention.

One trend I recently investigated is the "my rape story" genre of YouTube videos. I analysed 48 such videos by 40 individual creators, along with the creators' YouTube channels and linked social media.

"My rape story" videos are typically produced by regular YouTubers who maintain a channel where they post stories about themselves, expound on various topics, and promote products or services while exhorting viewers to "click, comment, subscribe". These videos mostly appear on channels where other posts seem designed to attract female viewers, with a focus on female fashion, shopping, and in some cases motherhood.

A few are on channels of aspiring singers, writers or actors. Most such YouTubers do not win huge followings or become celebrities, although many seem to hope to.

YOUTUBERS' RAPE STORIES

In one example, Esther's (all names are pseudonyms) YouTube channel includes many reviews of cosmetics and links to her beauty website, which promotes various products. A vivacious speaker, Esther posts videos in which she tells stories about her life. Her rape story video begins by promoting one of her other videos and asking viewers to share her videos so her channel can grow. She concludes

her story by reminding viewers she posts new content every day.

In another, Destiny's YouTube channel markets her weight loss advice, including a self-published book on weight loss. She also offers advice on positive thinking and self-branding. She presents herself as healthy and resilient, referring to herself as a guru. She tells her rape story calmly, without tears, saying she is sharing it so others can learn from her experience.

In a third, Emogirl's videos present her as vulnerable and in need of support. Pale, with heavy black eyeliner, her first ever YouTube video told of her rape as a teenager. She followed this up with videos telling of how she was bullied at school following her rape and how she started to self-harm and attempted suicide.

RAPE STORIES AND SELF-BRANDING

In their rape story videos, creators usually show



their face and speak directly to the camera, although some like Emogirl use cue cards – holding up handwritten messages and telling their story a few words at a time.

Most film themselves at home, often from their bedroom. These videos share a DIY aesthetic, which characterises much YouTube vlog content. They appear as homemade productions, crafted by ordinary people with a simple digital camera. This aesthetic, now often imitated by corporate and mainstream media, lends the content a sense of authenticity.

The videos unfold in similar ways, with the storyteller describing how she knew the perpetrator, the events leading to the rape, the rape itself in varying levels of detail, and the aftermath of the rape. Only two of the videos I analysed told of a rape by a stranger. Most told of rape by someone close to the storyteller – a relative, friend or boyfriend. Some told of rape by someone they had recently met, typically a date.

Why do people tell such personal stories on YouTube? Social media incites self-disclosure by requiring users to self-consciously construct online personae through carefully curated personal shar-

ing. Such personal sharing serves to construct an online personal brand by creating a particular emotional experience and connection with followers.

Both Destiny and Esther say they feel an obligation to share their rape story so their followers can know them better. Their stories serve Destiny's self-positioning as a guru who can guide others in self-transformation, and Esther's as a girlfriend who gives cosmetic and hairstyling tips while occasionally delving into deeper territory.

Emogirl's rape story video was her first. In subsequent videos she tells followers how important their emotional support is for her, and encourages them to visit her Instagram, where she posts her artwork. Thus, the circulation of these stories speaks to the commodification of personal experience encouraged by social media.

WRESTLING WITH SELF-BLAME

The rape stories YouTubers tell mostly treat rape as an individual trauma perpetrated by, in the words of one, "shitty people". The videos' main theme typically revolves around the storyteller's efforts to "take back control" of her life. Many tell of how the experience made them stronger and situate it as part of their journey to wisdom and self-reliance.

Few link their experience with wider social patterns or treat sexual violence as a social problem with political solutions. Rather, they treat it as a risk women must manage. They urge other women

to avoid drinking too much, to watch their drink when socialising, and to be cautious about trusting men – even those they think they know. Thus, these video creators often fall into self-blame and reiterate well-worn rape myths that suggest their own behaviour (drinking, trusting too easily) contributed to their rape.

Nevertheless, some feminist influence appears in these videos insofar as the creators push back against slut-shaming and victim-blaming. Most seem painfully aware of how others could blame them for their rape. They urge other women to speak out about their own rape and to not blame themselves, no matter how drunk they were or what they were wearing.

These videos thus intertwine a kind of female solidarity and resistance to rape myths with neoliberal therapeutic thinking and social media incitements to self-branding.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy, Victoria University of Wellington]

Just because you're thin, doesn't mean you're healthy

DOMINIC TRAN
theconversation.com

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 63% of Australian adults are overweight or obese.

But it's much harder to estimate how many are within a healthy weight range but have poor diets or sedentary lifestyles. These can cause significant health problems that will often be missed because the person appears to look "healthy".

HOW DO WE JUDGE THE HEALTH OF WEIGHT?

Obesity statistics often take estimates of body fat using body mass index (BMI). Although BMI isn't perfectly correlated with body fat percentage, it's a quick and easy method for collecting data using just the person's height and weight. If the BMI is higher than 25, a person is considered "overweight". If it's above 30, they're considered "obese". But BMI doesn't tell us how healthy someone is on the inside.

Using additional lifestyle measures, such as diet and exercise frequency over the last year, a recent report from the Queensland Health department estimated 23% of those who are not currently overweight or obese are at risk of being so in the future.

These figures indicate that the percentage of unhealthy-weight individuals does not accurately capture the percentage of unhealthy-lifestyle individuals, with the latter number likely to be much higher.

IF YOU'RE NOT OVERWEIGHT, DOES A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE MATTER?

Many people think if they're able to stay lean while eating poorly and not exercising, then that's OK. But though

you might appear healthy on the outside, you could have the same health concerns as overweight and obese individuals on the inside.

When considering risk factors associated with heart disease and stroke or cancer, we often think about health indicators such as smoking, cholesterol, blood pressure, and body weight. But poor diet and physical inactivity also each increase the risk for



heart disease and have a role to play in the development of some cancers.

So even if you don't smoke and you're not overweight, being inactive and eating badly increases your risk of developing heart disease.

Little research has been done to compare the risk diet and exercise contributes to the development of heart disease in overweight versus skinny but unhealthy individuals. However, one study measured the risk of different lifestyle factors associated with complications following acute coronary syndrome – a sudden reduction in blood flow to the heart.

It found adherence to a healthy diet and exercise regime halved the risk of having a major complication (such as stroke or death) in the six

months following the initial incident compared with non-adherence.

UNHEALTHY DIETS ARE BAD FOR YOUR BODY, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR BRAIN?

Recent research has also shown overconsumption of high-fat and high-sugar foods may have negative effects on your brain, causing learning and memory deficits. Studies have found obesity is associated with impairments in

cognitive functioning, as assessed by a range of learning and memory tests, such as the ability to remember a list of words previously presented some minutes or hours earlier. Notably, this relationship between body weight and cognitive functioning was present even after controlling for a range of factors including education level and existing medical conditions.

Of particular relevance to this discussion is the growing body of evidence that diet-induced cognitive impairments can emerge rapidly – within weeks or even days. For example, a study conducted at Oxford University found healthy adults assigned to a high-fat diet (75% of energy intake) for five days showed impaired

attention, memory, and mood compared to a low-fat diet control group.

Another study conducted at Macquarie University also found eating a high-fat and high-sugar breakfast each day for as little as four days resulted in learning and memory deficits similar to those observed in overweight and obese individuals.

These findings confirm the results of rodent studies showing specific forms of memories can be impaired after only a few days on a diet containing sugar water and human "junk" foods such as cakes and biscuits.

Body weight was not hugely different between the groups eating a healthy diet and those on high fat and sugar diets. So this shows negative consequences of poor dietary intake can occur even when body weight has not noticeably changed. These studies show body weight is not always the best predictor of internal health.

We still don't know much about the mechanism(s) through which these high-fat and high-sugar foods impair cognitive functioning over such short periods. One possible mechanism is the changes to blood glucose levels from eating high-fat and high-sugar foods. Fluctuations in blood glucose levels may impair glucose metabolism and insulin signalling in the brain.

Many people use low body weight to excuse unhealthy eating and physical inactivity. But body weight is not the best indicator of internal well-being. A much better indicator is your diet. When it comes to your health, it's what's on the inside that counts and you really are what you eat.

[the writer is Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Sydney]

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Indian Coffee House - Shimla



CK LEPCHA

Dim lighting, good coffee and the chatter of conversations lost in the spinning of an old fan is almost like an indie movie set; except it is the Indian Coffee House in Mall road, Shimla. It opened in 1957 and is last

of the few Indian Coffee houses across the country. While coffee was grown in India before the coming of the British, the idea of coffee houses was popularized during colonial times. However native Indians were not allowed into these places hence the concept of "India coffee house" was started by the Coffee Cess Committee in 1936. There were about 50 of these coffee chains by the 1940s but a change in the administrative policy meant that a lot of these coffee houses were closed down by the 1950s. In the process many of the workers lost their jobs; so under the leadership of A.K. Gopalan, the workers formed societies and began a movement to handover these shops to the workers who would own and run these coffee chains as cooperatives. Hence they formed the Indian Coffee Workers' Cooperatives and renamed the chain as the Indian Coffee House. So the Indian Coffee House in Shimla is part of the first few branches that opened and is a good reminder of our history and the power of everyday people. Tall wooden ceiling, old furniture and waiters clad in white suits and turbans from the Raj times get busy taking

orders and delivering it to your table. Near the counter is their menu rates which is very affordable as a picture of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a cup and a saucer in his hand in front of the coffee house wearing the Himachali hat is framed for all to see. He had visited the place in December 2017 and tweeted "relished coffee at the Indian Coffee House and reminisced old days. The coffee tastes as good as it did two decades ago." And there are many who get nostalgic as they enter this place. I once overheard someone who was visiting from out of town say they wanted to meet at this place for old times sake. Indeed, the Indian Coffee House is full of nostalgia and memories of the good old days. The remains of the yesteryears can be seen in the crowd who frequent this place too. Silver haired men in groups or by themselves can be seen sitting, chatting and sipping coffee. Sometimes elderly women in their own little groups can also be seen eating dosa and drinking coffee. And if a young traveler or two finds himself/

herself in this place, they would surely be outnumbered. In the mornings, it is mostly the older menfolk drinking coffee and reading newspapers while a family of tourists might have entered because Indian Coffee House is perhaps one of the few eating joints that open earlier than the rest in Shimla. During afternoons, especially in weekdays, workers from nearby offices also drop in for some coffee and after-office-gossip. Easy laughter and endless conversations are a feature one could get used to at the Indian Coffee House. Interestingly, young people are conspicuously absent from this joint. They have other hangouts in town where coffees with caramel have replaced the filter coffee that is served here. The other cafés are more attractive with the latest music in background and social media worthy decors as they give Indian Coffee House a miss. In this generation gap, one could very well wonder how long will the Indian Coffee House in Shimla survive if the youth is not interested in coming here and the fancier multi-national cof-



fee chains take over the place? The answer clearly rests on the people of Shimla. If you ask me, the Indian Coffee House is the busiest eatery in Shimla. Every time I have been there, I have had to wait for a minute or two for the table to emptied or cleaned. It is a local favorite. And my only hope is that the love for this place runs in the family. May the grandfathers who are regulars at the Indian Coffee House today be able to pass that love for their coffees to the grandfathers of tomorrow. [The writer is Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study]



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Memo No: 622/SD IV/R&B/2018-19/829

Date: 24/09/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer - IV, 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. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 for the construction of **fair weather roads**, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **Gram Panchayat Unit/Urban Local Bodies** 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.	Construction of Road from Ramiteyar to Sivik PWD Road via Sadatham under Martam-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Rey-Mindu GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 4.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	18 months
2.	Construction of road from Sadatham to Sama School via Ramudamu Gaon under Martam-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Rey-Mindu GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	18 months
3.	Construction of road from Khangu to Chaksam Gumpa via Gairi Gaon under Martam-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Rey-Mindu GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months.
4.	Construction of road from Rumtek Rey Ranka Road to Mah Bhir School under Martam-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Rey-Mindu GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months.
5.	Construction of road from Rumtek Rey Ranka Road to Tharey under Martam-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Rey-Mindu GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
3.	Construction of approach road to Tirkutam ICDS under Martam – Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Beng-Phegyong GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
5.	Construction of road from Lower Nazitam to Upper Nazitam under Martam-Rumtek constituency in East Sikkim.	Beng-Phegyong GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	12 months
6.	Construction of link road from Ranka Road to Tamu Gumpa, Thamidara under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Luing- Parbing GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	Rs.1,500.00	18 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	Rs.1,500.00	18 months
7.	Construction of link road from Luing Highway to Changrang under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Luing-Parbing GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
	Km 3.00 to 4.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
	Km 4.00 to Km 5.50	63,57,744.00	1,58,944.00	5,000.00	24 months.
8.	Construction of link road from Lower Burtuk via Lower Luing, Kharka Gaon to Luing Thamidara road under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Luing-Parbing GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
	Km 3.00 to Km 4.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
9.	Construction of link road from Lower Burtuk via Lower Luing, Kharka Gaon to Luing Thamidara road under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Lower Sichey Municipal Ward			
	Km 4.00 to Km 5.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	24 months
	Km 5.00 to Km 6.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	24 months
10	Construction of link road from Upper Luing PMGSY Road to Takchi Road under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Luing-Parbing GPU.			

	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.50	63,57,744.00	1,58,944.00	5,000.00	18 months
11.	Construction of link road from Parbing to Baliman under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim	Ranka GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
12.	Construction of link road from Ranka Luing road to Parbing Road under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Luing-Parbing GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	18 months
13.	Construction of link road from Changrang to Dokshing under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Luing – Parbing GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.50	63,57,744.00	1,58,944.00	5,000.00	12 months
14.	Construction of link road from Ranka Malangthang to Ranka Road under Upper Burtuk constituency in East Sikkim.	Ranka GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months.
	Km 2.00 to Km 3.50	63,57,744.00	1,58,944.00	5,000.00	18 months
15.	Construction of link road from Decheling to Bhirjuna under Upper Syari constituency in East Sikkim.	Rongay-Tathangchen GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	12 months
16.	Construction of link road from Nimthang to Pallum Busty under Upper Syari constituency in East Sikkim.	Raongay-Tathangchen GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 2.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	12 months
	Km 2.00 to Km 4.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	16 months
	Km 4.00 to Km 6.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	18 months
	Km 6.00 to Km 8.00	84,76,992.00	2,11,925.00	5,000.00	24 months
17	Construction of Approach road to Sakya-muni Institute (Chamkhang Gumpa) under Upper Syari constituency in East Sikkim.	Rongay-Tathangchen GPU			
	Km 0.00 to Km 0.50	21,19,248.00	52,981.00	1,500.00	12 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with (i) Demand Draft for cost of tender documents drawn against account of respective GPU/ULB. (ii) TDR as Earnest money to be drawn in favour of Accounts Officer, R&B, for issue of Tender Forms.	(Bank account number for DD can be obtained from respective GPU/ULB)
	For SI.No. 1 to 8	23rd October 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at the office of Assistant Engineer-IV, Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.
	For SI No. 9 to 17	24th October 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at the office of Assistant Engineer-IV, Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.
2.	Last date and time for submission of Tender	
	For works under Beng- Phegyong GPU	27 th October 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at Beng- Phegyong Village Administrative Centre/GPK.
	For works under Rongay – Tathangchen GPU	27 th October 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at Rongay-Tathangchen Village Administrative Centre/GPK.
	For works under Rey-Mindu, Luing-Parbing, Ranka GPU and Lower Sichey Municipal Ward.	29th October 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at Rey-Mindu Village Administrative Centre/GPK.
3.	Date and time for opening of Tender.	
	For works under Beng- Phegyong GPU	27 th October 2018 (2.00 pm) at Beng-Phegyong Village Administrative Centre/GPK.
	For works under Rongay – Tathangchen GPU	27 th October 2018 (2.00 pm) at Rongay-Tathangchen Village Administrative Centre/GPK.
	For works under Rey-Mindu, Luing-Parbing, Ranka GPU and Lower Sichey Municipal Ward.	29 October 2018 (2.00 pm) at Rey-Mindu Village Administrative Centre/GPK.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

1. Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors of appropriate class and area.
2. GST registration is must for successful bidder before issuing work order.
3. The bidder shall produce Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit/Urban Local Bodies where the work is being executed.
4. For others General Conditions of Contract and other queries, Office of the Divisional Engineer, East I and Office of Assistant Engineer, Sub Division IV, R&B, Gangtok, may be contacted during office hours.

R.O. No. 384/IPR/Pub/Classi/18-19
Dt. 29.9.18

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Sub Division IV
Roads & Bridges Deptt.
Govt. of Sikkim.

Will be ready for captaincy when opportunity comes: Rohit Sharma

DUBAI, SEP 29 (PTI): His record as stand-in captain has been quite impressive and Rohit Sharma today made it clear that whenever the opportunity comes along, he would be “ready” for full-time captaincy.

Under Rohit, India have won two close multi-nation tournaments -- the T20 tri-nation in Sri Lanka and now the Asia Cup 50-over tournament.

A three-time IPL winning captain of Mumbai Indians, Rohit was asked if he is ready for a long-term leadership role in future.

“Definitely. We have just won so I will surely be ready (for captaincy). Whenever the opportunity comes, I will be ready,” a smiling Rohit told reporters after India’ Asia Cup triumph.

There are challenges of a stand-in captain, Rohit admitted, adding that the main objective is to allow players to play freely without thinking about their places in the team.

“It’s a challenge for any team when few of your senior players are rested. Obviously they will make a comeback and few of the guys have to miss out. Every team is doing that and also guys understand that.

Rohit was more happy with the fact that a young team achieved so much.



Let’s not lie, my goal was better than Salah’s, says Ronaldo

MILAN, SEP 29 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo believes the overhead bicycle kick he scored for Real Madrid against his current club Juventus last season was better than Mohamed Salah’s which won the FIFA goal of the year award.

“Salah deserved to win the Puskas award, it was a good goal. But let’s be honest, let’s not lie to ourselves, my goal was the best,” Ronaldo told his 142 million Instagram followers.

The 33-year-old Portuguese star lost out to former Real Madrid teammate Luka Modric for the FIFA best player award and to Liverpool’s

Salah for the Puskas Award for the best goal.

Salah won the award for his curling strike against Everton in the Premier League in December.

“I’m not disappointed, life is like that, sometimes you win and others lose, what interests me is that in 15 years of career I managed to maintain the same levels of performance,” Ronaldo said.

“Awards are awards... I already have a lot. I play to win and not to win awards.”

Five days after the awards ceremony in London -- which he did not attend -- five-time Ballon d’Or winner Ronaldo

hailed his former Real teammate, saying:

“Congratulations to everyone, to Modric, best player of the year according to FIFA.” Ronaldo scored his acrobatic goal in the Champions League quarter-finals against Juventus before joining the Serie A giants just months later.

The reigning seven-time Italian champions take on Napoli in a top-of-the-table clash Saturday. Juventus lead Napoli by three points after six games.

“It will be a good game, we want to win against a great team, it’s an important day,” added Ronaldo.

Motivate yourselves, Mourinho urges under-performing MU

MANCHESTER, SEP 29 (AFP): Jose Mourinho believes Manchester United have been found wanting for motivation in a difficult start to the season, but is expecting a big response from his side in Saturday’s visit to West Ham.

United begin the weekend sitting seventh, eight points off the top of the Premier League, after defeats to Brighton and Tottenham and being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Wolves last Saturday after three straight wins.

That was followed on Tuesday by elimination from the League Cup on penalties at home by Championship side Derby County after a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford.

“I sometimes feel frustrated because with the work we do, I’m always expecting more,” said Mourinho on Friday.

“It looks that when we feel we are really improving and playing better and having a good run of results there is always a little going down in terms of the focus or the motivation. I feel that.”

Mourinho has also had the distraction of a clash with midfielder Paul Pogba having stripped the Frenchman of his role as vice-captain on Tuesday, and seen



video footage of a stand-off between the pair at training on Wednesday go viral.

The Portuguese insisted that Pogba will return to his starting line-up at the London Stadium having impressed with his attitude in training this week.

And unlike in recent times when Mourinho has been criticised for his negative outlook, he backed his side to beat a West Ham side on the up having won at Everton and held Chelsea in their last two league outings.

“I expect to win tomorrow. I expect to play very well tomorrow. We worked very, very well - especially on Wednesday and Thursday, so tomorrow I expect a very good performance and

I expect to win a very difficult match,” said Mourinho

“I don’t come here and say the training session was not very good, that the players are not committed and that I have a bad feeling.”

Mourinho’s problems with Pogba are just the latest in a series of fall outs he has had with members of the United squad in just over two seasons in charge.

Luke Shaw and Anthony Martial have previously been in the firing line, but he refuted suggestions his players are struggling to deal with the demands of representing the 20-time English champions.

“I don’t think any player is afraid to play for the club,” added

Mourinho.

“If I put myself in the position of a journalist, maybe people think that sometimes the boys are not committed, maybe people can think the manager doesn’t demand enough from them, maybe people think on the training ground we don’t train enough this area or that area. That’s quite frustrating.

“But I repeat that tomorrow I think we are going to play very well, I think we are going to win a very difficult match against a very good opponent, an opponent with great investment, an opponent with a champion manager (Manuel Pellegrini) with lots of experienced players and lots of very talented players.

No Nobel Literature Prize as Academy’s bell tolls

STOCKHOLM, SEP 29 (AFP): In tatters after a #MeToo scandal, the Swedish Academy has postponed this year's Nobel Literature Prize, leaving an empty page for 2018 as it attempts to reform the venerable institution.

Created in 1786 by King Gustav III and modelled on his French elder, the Swedish Academy has selected the winner of the prestigious literary distinction since it was first awarded in 1901.

The “Holy Grail”

of authors, poets, and playwrights, the Nobel has gone to some of the greatest writers of all time, from Albert Camus to Samuel Beckett and Ernest Hemingway.

But the list of recipients also includes US rock icon Bob Dylan, the 2016 choice harshly criticised by some who lambasted the Academy for overlooking other popular and critically-acclaimed authors - such as American novelist Philip Roth, who died in May this year without getting

the nod.

After the Dylan controversy, the Academy attempted to smooth things over last year with an uncontroversial laureate, Kazuo Ishiguro, a British author of Japanese origin whose nomination enjoyed broad consensus.

But just three weeks after that announcement, the institution again found itself in controversy, this time in the eye of the #MeToo hurricane.

Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, married

to an Academy member, and the head of an influential cultural club in Stockholm, was accused of rape and sexual assault.

An internal Academy probe also revealed conflicts of interest between him and the institution, which had funded his club for years.

Arnault ultimately faced trial on two counts of raping a woman in 2011. His verdict is due on Monday, and the prosecution has sought a three-year sentence.

The Academy has been deeply divided over how to deal with Arnault and on the reforms it needs to undertake.

Some of the 18 members, who are appointed for life, have refused to

participate in the Academy’s work over the row - including its first female permanent secretary Sara Danius - leaving it without a quorum.

And in the months since the scandal erupted, the usually-discreet members have exchanged ugly jibes in the media.

Paralysed and ridiculed around the world, the scandal forced the Academy’s hand: it announced in May that it would postpone by one year the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize, a first in 70 years.

The 2018 laureate will be announced at the same time as the 2019 prize.

“I could see that there were weakness-

es in their organisation but I would never have thought something like this could happen,” Lars Heikensten, director of the Nobel Foundation that finances the prizes, told AFP.

“We hope that they will be able to clear up their things.”

With the Academy in shambles and no literature prize to look forward to this year, a group of Swedish cultural figures decided to create their own award pending the Nobel’s return next year.

The “New Academy Prize in Literature” was devised as a protest to denounce “bias, arrogance and sexism”, and “remind people that literature and culture at large

should promote democracy, transparency, empathy and respect, without privilege”, according to the founders who include authors, artists and journalists.

It will be announced on October 12.

The Swedish Academy, a hermetic circle whose deliberations in Stockholm’s cobblestoned Old Town are kept secret for 50 years, is seen as out-of-touch with reality and modern times.

“Lifetime membership and an ageing population also create a difficult situation, with some members still active at an age where they no longer have the capacity to work professionally, or understand how the Academy

is perceived by the public,” Madelaine Levy, literary critic at daily Svenska Dagbladet, told AFP.

The public has lost confidence in the body, perceiving it as “ridiculous” and “chauvinist”, she said.

“The Academy needs reform, namely more transparency and stricter conflict of interest regulations.” Publishers meanwhile fear the Academy’s crisis is far from over.

“I’m keeping my fingers crossed but as things are now I would say I am uncertain” there will be a Nobel Literature Prize in 2019, Hakan Bravinger, an editor at Sweden’s second-biggest publishing house Norstedts, told AFP.

Data of 50 mn Facebook users at risk after security breach, accounts from India likely hit

WASHINGTON, SEP 29 (PTI): Data of 50 million Facebook users have been exposed following a massive security breach by unknown hackers, its CEO Mark Zuckerberg said, amid fears that a significant number of the accounts affected could be from India.

The precautionary measure taken by the social media giant has impacted another 40 million users, Zuckerberg said Friday.

In a conference call with reporters, he did not give a country-wise of the user accounts hit by the data breach.

However, a significant number of affected users are expected to be from India, given that the company has the maximum 270 million users in the

country. It has 2 billion global users.

Facebook did not immediately respond to a PTI question on the number of accounts affected in India.

“On Tuesday afternoon, our engineering team found an attack affecting up to 50 million accounts on Facebook. The attackers exploited a vulnerability in the code of the View As feature which is a privacy feature that lets people see what their Facebook profile would look like to another person,” Zuckerberg said.

“The vulnerability allowed the attackers to steal Facebook access tokens - which are the equivalent of a digital key - which the attackers could have used to take over or access people’s

accounts,” he said.

Stressing that the investigation into the incident was still at a nascent stage, Zuckerberg said the social media giant does not know if any of the accounts were misused or who was behind the cyberattacks.

“So far, our initial investigation has not shown that these tokens were used to access any private messages or posts or to post anything to these accounts.”

He said Facebook has taken steps to patch the security flaw to prevent this attacker - or any other attacker - from being able to steal additional access tokens.

Facebook has invalidated access tokens for the accounts, causing those users to be logged out.

“These people will now have to log back in to access their accounts again and we will also notify these people in a message on top of their News Feed about what happened when they log back in,” the chief executive officer said.

In addition to getting in touch with law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, Zuckerberg said Facebook is logging out all users who used the “View As” feature since the flaw was introduced last year as a precautionary measure.

“This will require another 40 million people - or more - to log back into their accounts,” he said.


“This is a really serious security issue. And we’re taking it really seriously. We have a ma-

jor security effort at the company that hardens all of our surfaces, and investigates issues like this,” he said in response to a question.

“In this case I’m glad that we found this and that we were able to fix the vulnerability and secure the accounts. But it definitely is an issue that this happened in the first place,” he said.

Gary Rosen, vice president of product management at Facebook, said in all 90 million users would have to log back in. “After they have logged back in, people will get a notification at the top of their News Feed explaining what happened,” he said.

Facebook said users don’t need to change their passwords.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS RECRUITMENT BOARD
GANGTOK – 737101

Ref No: 15 /SSTRB

Dated: 29/09/2018

NOTICE

In continuation to Employment Notice No. 34/SSTRB/18 dated 14/03/2018: Notice No. 01/SSTRB/18 dated 23/04/2018 and Notice No. 05/SSTRB dated 31/05/2018 for the post of Graduate Teacher (Nepali) and Employment Notice No. 19/SSTRB/17 dated 22/08/2017 and Notice No. 33/SSTRB dated 23/2/2018 which invited applications for filling up of 233 posts of Language Teachers (GT, PGT) in different languages, it is to inform that the number of vacancies for the post of Graduate Teacher and Post Graduate Teacher (Language) has been increased as under in terms of Letter No. 517/HRDD/ADM dated 02/07/2018.

Sl. NO.	LANGUAGE	PERVIOUS VACANCY	PRESENT VACANCY	GRAND TOTAL
1.	Bhutia PGT	08	06	14
2.	Lepcha PGT	13	06	19
3.	Limboo PGT	13	03	16
4.	Bhutia GT	05	15	20
5.	Lepcha GT	18	17	35
6.	Limboo GT	08	09	17
7.	Nepali GT	101	-	101
	Total	166	56	222

Further, it is to inform that the date for submission of application for all the above posts had been re-opened and executed till 06.10.2018.

The other eligibility criterion and the syllabus as published vide above employment notice shall remain the same.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 387/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
dt. 29.09.2018

Asst. Controller of Exams.
SSTRB

HUNDREDS KILLED IN INDONESIA QUAKE-TSUNAMI

Palu (Indonesia), Sep 29 (AFP): Nearly 400 people were killed when a powerful quake sent a tsunami barrelling into the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, officials said Saturday, as hospitals struggled to cope with hundreds of injured and rescuers scrambled to reach the stricken region.

The national disaster agency put the official death toll so far at 384, all of them in the tsunami-struck city of Palu, but warned the toll was likely to rise.

In the city - home to around 350,000 people - partially covered bodies lay on the ground near the shore, the day after tsunami waves 1.5 metres (five feet) came ashore.

There were also concerns over the whereabouts of hundreds of



people preparing for a beach festival due to start Friday evening, the disaster agency said.

Hospitals were overwhelmed by the influx of injured, with many people being treated in the open air, while other survivors helped to retrieve the remains of those who died.

One man was seen carrying the muddy corpse of

a small child.

The tsunami was triggered by a strong quake that brought down buildings and sent locals fleeing for higher ground as a churning wall of water crashed into Palu, where there were widespread power blackouts.

Dramatic video footage captured from the top floor of a parking ramp in

Palu, nearly 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the quake's epicentre, showed waves of water bring down several buildings and inundate a large mosque.

"I just ran when I saw the waves hitting homes on the coastline," said Palu resident Rusdianto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

The shallow 7.5 magnitude tremor was more powerful than a series of quakes that killed hundreds on the Indonesian island of Lombok in July and August.

Indonesian president Joko Widodo said the military was being called in to the disaster-struck region to help search-and-rescue teams get to victims and find bodies.

Earlier, the head of the

country's search and rescue agency Muhammad Syaugi told AFP that local staff had found "many" dead bodies.

"We're particularly concerned about the impact of the earthquake on children, who are more vulnerable to being swept away in tsunamis," said Tom Howells, NGO Save the Children's Program Implementation Director.

People living hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre reported feeling the massive shake, which came hours after a smaller jolt killed at least one person in the same part of the country.

The quake hit just off central Sulawesi at a depth of 10 kilometres just before 1100 GMT - early evening in Sulawesi - the

US Geological Survey said. Such shallow quakes tend to be more destructive.

Pictures supplied by the disaster agency showed a badly damaged shopping mall in Palu where at least one floor had collapsed onto the storey below, while other photographs showed major damage to buildings and large cracks across pavements.

The agency also said homes and a local hotel were flattened while a landmark city bridge was destroyed.

A key access road had been badly damaged and was blocked by landslides, the disaster agency said.

The main airport in Palu, capital of South Sulawesi province, was shut after the tsunami struck and was expected to stay

closed for at least 24 hours, complicating any disaster relief efforts.

Friday's tremor was also felt in the far south of the island in its largest city Makassar and on neighbouring Kalimantan, Indonesia's portion of Borneo island.

The initial quake, which was followed by a series of powerful aftershocks, struck as evening prayers were about to begin in the world's biggest Muslim majority country on the holiest day of the week, when mosques are especially busy.

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone nations on earth.

It lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide and many of the world's volca-

nic eruptions and earthquakes occur.

Earlier this year, a series of powerful quakes hit Lombok, killing more than 550 people on the holiday island and neighbouring Sumbawa.

Indonesia has been hit by a string of other deadly quakes including a devastating 9.1 magnitude tremor that struck off the coast of Sumatra in December 2004.

That Boxing Day quake triggered a tsunami that killed 220,000 throughout the region, including 168,000 in Indonesia.

In 2010, about 430 were killed when a huge quake sparked a tsunami off the coast of Sumatra, while more than 600 were killed in a quake-tsunami disaster on Java island.

Libya seeks UN "security" support

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 29 (AFP): After a month of militia clashes that left more than 100 people dead, Libya's UN-backed foreign minister on Friday called for the country's UN political mission to transform into a "security and stability" support role.

Mohamed Siala, foreign minister of the UN-backed Libyan unity government, did not specify if he had in mind a UN peacekeeping mission.

"Priority must be given to security, to stability," he told the United Nations General Assembly.

"We call for conversion of UNSMIL, which is a special political mission, into a mission of

support for Libya's security and stability," he said without providing further detail.

The United Nations Support Mission for Libya (UNSMIL), led by Ghassan Salame, was set up in 2011 to assist the country's new authorities after the NATO-backed revolution which ousted Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

UNSMIL has focused on fostering political dialogue to help the North African country's transition to democracy.

Under a UN-brokered agreement, the unity government was set up in Tripoli but it is not recognised by a rival admin-

istration supported by military strongman Khalifa Haftar in Libya's east.

Tripoli itself has been at the center of a battle for influence between armed groups with shifting allegiances. A month of clashes left more than 100 dead south of the city before the unity government on Wednesday announced a ceasefire deal between rival militias.

Siala welcomed the efforts of UNSMIL which he said enabled the conclusion of the ceasefire.

"We ask concerned parties to respect it. National and international legal bodies will pursue the authors of these tragic attacks," he said.

UNITED NATIONS, SEP 28 (AP): China warned Friday that its critical relationship with the United States could break "like a glass," and used the most global of stages to warn the Trump administration it wouldn't be pushed around on trade.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi insisted that his country "will not be blackmailed" or bow to pressure. "Protectionism will only hurt oneself, and unilateral moves will bring damage to all," he told the UN General Assembly gathering of world leaders.

President Donald

China says it won't be pushed around by US on trade

Trump this week cranked up punitive tariffs on China, and Beijing responded in kind, escalating a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Trump upped the ante by then accusing China of meddling in the upcoming US midterm elections because it opposes his trade policies. He has presented little evidence to back up the allegations, which China says are untrue.

Wang, in separate remarks at a think tank, said US-China relationship was at a critical point, four decades since ties were normalized.

"The relationship between our two countries is a common asset. It must be preserved and valued. It's the result of generations of people's efforts," Wang said. "It's like a

glass. It's easy to break it" and would be difficult to repair, he said.

Although Wang presented China as upholding multilateral institutions drawing an implicit contrast with Trump's anti-globalist stance Beijing's top diplomat said the suspicions that China seeks global hegemony and to displace the US as a world leader is false. But he warned it's an idea that is spreading, amplifying differences between the two countries.

"This is a serious strategic misjudgment," Wang told the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, "that will be extremely detrimental to US interests and the future of the United States." He said China rather seeks a path of peaceful development.

He defended China's assertive behaviour

in the South China Sea, where it has built man-made islands to reinforce its sweeping territorial claims that are disputed by its neighbours. He said military facilities on those islands are for defensive purposes to counter military activities by other nations in the area, including the United States.

Wang also defended China's recent participation in military drills with Russia that have added to US anxiety that its key strategic rivals are setting aside historical differences and teaming up against it. He said military-to-military ties are normal to build "mutual understanding."

On human rights, Wang was asked about the reported harsh treatment of Uighur Muslims in China's far west. He maintained

that China had brought law and order to a region once blighted by terrorism. The Trump administration is reportedly considering sanctions in response to members of the religious minority being forced into "re-education" camps on a massive scale.

Notwithstanding all these differences, the main driver of the current discord between the US and China is trade.

Trump increased tariffs Monday on USD 200 billion of Chinese goods. Beijing responded by imposing penalties on USD 60 billion of American products. That was on top of an earlier duty increase by both sides on USD 50 billion of each other's goods. The tit-for-tat is fuelling anxiety that smaller nations will suffer.

Trump orders FBI probe of Kavanaugh, Senate confirmation in doubt

WASHINGTON, SEP 29 (PTI): Agreeing to the demands by Democrats, US President Donald Trump has ordered a limited FBI investigation into the allegations of sexual assault against his embattled Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, throwing his Senate confirmation in doubt.

The FBI has been asked to complete its investigation in a week, meaning the confirmation of Kavanaugh, 53, as Supreme Court judge would be delayed by at least a week.

"I've ordered the FBI to conduct a supplemental investigation to update Judge Kavanaugh's file. As the Senate has requested, this update must be limit-

ed in scope and completed in less than one week," Trump announced Friday.

In an accompanying statement issued by the White House, Kavanaugh promised full co-operation in the investigation.

"Throughout this process, I've been interviewed by the FBI, I've done a number of 'background' calls directly with the Senate, and yesterday, I answered questions under oath about every topic the senators and their counsel asked me. I've done everything they have requested and will continue to cooperate," Kavanaugh said.

At least three women have now accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct while drunk.

On Thursday, Christine Blasey Ford, 51, during a televised public hearing before the committee recounted the alleged sexual assault by the conservative judge, which "drastically altered her life".

The two were in high schools when the alleged incident happened in the early 1980s.

Kavanaugh, making appearance before the same Senate committee after Ford, denied the allegations.

Trump's decision on a limited FBI investigation against Kavanaugh came after the Republicans agreed to it. The Republicans hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate,

"The Senate Judiciary

Committee will request that the administration instruct the FBI to conduct a supplemental FBI background investigation with respect to the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court," the committee said in a statement.

"The supplemental FBI background investigation would be limited to current credible allegations against the nominee and must be completed no later than one week from today," it said after Republican Senator Jeff Flake demanded the same.

Flake called for a delay in the Senate vote to allow for an FBI probe into the claims levelled against Kavanaugh.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this "development" and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

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Domestic political, electoral compulsions behind India's reluctance to talk: Pak FM

NEW YORK, SEP 29 (PTI): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has alleged that India's "domestic political and electoral compulsions" were behind New Delhi's reluctance to talk to the new government in Islamabad.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Qureshi were slated to meet on the sidelines of the ongoing UN General Assembly session in New York.

However, India called off the meeting last week, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad releasing postage stamps "glorifying" slain Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani.

"Why are they reluctant? Simply politics, elections...they are scared of

the electorate. They have swung the pendulum to such an extreme (that), now they're finding it difficult to bring it back And (with) the elections round the corner, they (Indian government) felt that it could boomerang," Qureshi said Friday in response to a question at an event organised by the Asia Society here.

India has maintained that there can be no talks with Pakistan unless it stops supporting terrorists.

On Thursday also, Swaraj, in a huge snub to Pakistan, left a meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers early, which was attended by Qureshi.

Responding to a query about the incident, Qureshi said, "I wish we were going to smile at each other. But (I) could see the im-

mense strain (on Swaraj's face). And when she left, she wasn't even willing to engage with the media...I could see the pressure, I could see the political (pressure) on her."

"So, politics, nothing else, politics, domestic politics (made India reluctant to talk to Pakistan)," he said.

It was sad to see how "a regional forum (SAARC) had become hostage" to the needs of one nation, he added.

The Pakistani Foreign Minister, who is scheduled to meet the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday, said, "Today, India is a strategic partner of the US. We have no qualms about it. But we feel that Pakistan is an ally who has always stood

with the US."

Qureshi said whenever Pakistan stood with the US, it has benefited America. "Whether it was the Cold War, the Soviet invasion or the 9/11 terror attack, we were the ones to stand with the US and collectively we decimated that evil," he said.

He said the Trump Administration will miss an opportunity if it does not engage with the new government of Pakistan.

Qureshi also sought US intervention in the Indo-Pak talks.

Pakistan has been consistently seeking US intervention in Indo-Pak talks. However, successive US governments have refused to entertain such a request.



Tanushree Dutta says Nana Patekar still harassing her with legal threats and intimidation tactics

Tanushree Dutta has created a stir after returning to India from the US after many years. She has spoken openly about how Nana Patekar harassed her on the sets of Horn Ok Pleassss. Tanushree was roped in for a special item song in the film. It seems Nana Patekar sent away the choreographer and insisted on showing the moves to Tanushree himself. It seems he told the makers that he wanted to do an intimate dance with her.

Tanushree had alleged misbehaviour and walked off from the sets. Later, goons from a regional political party harassed her family. The actress on her return has said that the incident left her traumatised and

she left the industry.

Actors like Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar, Richa Chaddha, Farhan Akhtar and Priyanka Chopra have come forward in her support. In a media statement, Tanushree has spoken about how no one supported her and Bollywood only looks up when Hollywood initiates a #MeToo movement. Nana Patekar's lawyer Rajendra Shirodkar told India Today that they will "initiate appropriate legal proceedings including filing a complaint for defamation".

Farah Khan put up a picture on Instagram of the whole Housefull 4 team going to Jaisalmer for a song shoot.

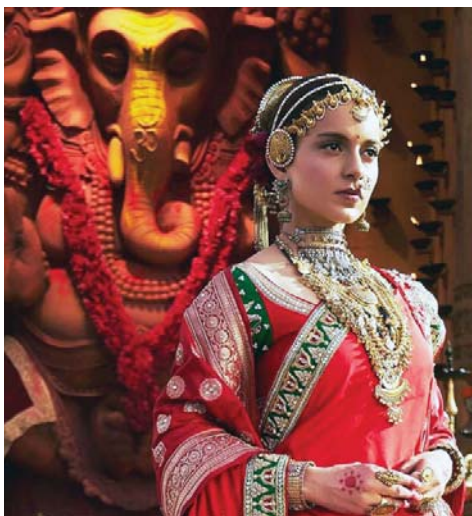
Tanushree's media representative said in a statement, "Tanushree is upset about two things. Farah's Instagram post has appalled her. Being a woman herself, Farah has made her stand very clear by going ahead with Nana for the Housefull shoot."

The statement also says, "A man who is claiming to be Nana Patekar's advocate is calling up people close to Tanushree and media houses alike, threatening to drag Tanushree to court for speaking up. Even after ten years, Nana Patekar is still harassing Tanushree Dutta with legal threats and intimidation tactics while the whole world is watching."



PEACHY KEEN! Reese Witherspoon looks peachy keen discussing gender equality at #ShelsEqual Summit in NYC.

Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi teaser arrives on Gandhi Jayanti



The wait is over. The teaser of Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi will be out on Gandhi Jayanti. The makers announced this sharing a picture of Kangana Ranaut looking splendid in red. She is wearing a red sari with loads of jewellery. The actress is a picture of grace and intensity in the pic.

Gandhi Jayanti is an occasion where we celebrate the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and his contribution towards securing India's independence. Rani Lakshmi Bai waged the first war of Independence in 1857 and left and everlasting impression with her valour.

Shariq Patel, CEO Zee Studios, said, "Manikarnika salutes the extraordinary jour-

ney of India's fiercest warrior queen. Rani Lakshmi Bai sacrificed her life, fighting for freedom and proud to bring this epic journey to screen and inspire future generations. We are excited to launch the teaser on Gandhi Jayanti and we are confident it will win hearts."

The film was launched with great fanfare in Varanasi with Krish as the director. However, he backed out as the makers were not happy with his work. Kangana Ranaut, thereafter took over the work of the film.

She said, "I am proud of this film, and of portraying a character who empowers and inspires. We have put in our heart, blood and sweat into making this film. Man-

ikarnika will make every Indian Proud. I am ecstatic to showcase the teaser to everyone on the special occasion of Gandhi Jayanti."

Producer Kamal Jain said in a media statement, "It has been an honour to present the life story of One of India's bravest warriors on the big screen. He added that the film captures multiple-facets of Rani Lakshmi Bai who was not only a great warrior but also an outstanding human being whose courage resonates with people even today."

Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi releases on the eve of Republic Day, 25 Jan, 2019 and is produced by Zee Studios and Kamal Jain.

NEW AVENGERS 4 LEAKED PHOTOS CONFIRM CRUCIAL SPOILER!



While fans wait for Marvel to announce the Avengers 4 title and drop the trailer, an insider leaked a few images from the summer 2019 release online. A new wave of allegedly Avengers 4 leaked pictures gives a whole new perspective at the Marvel movie. The leaked photos made their way to Twitter and feature Captain Marvel, Captain America, Black Widow, Iron Man, Hulk, War Machine and an exciting new Marvel character.

Over the past few weeks, there have been several speculations that Avengers 4 will introduce Ronin. A popular theory shares that since Hawkeye made a deal with authorities post the Civil War and since then, the superhero decided to shed the ego and instead, Ronin comes into existence. The new leaked photos have added fuel to the speculation. This isn't the first time that leaked photos have hinted Ronin's addition to the story line. A previous set of leaks also carried a Ronin spoiler and fans jumped at the

opportunity to speculate.

If the leaked pictures are to be believed, Brie Larson's superhero has also undergone a makeover in Avengers 4. In the leaked pictures, Carol Danvers flaunts a different hairdo as compared to what we saw in the Captain Marvel trailer.

Apart from the two changes, the leaked images also tease Hulk's new look. In a previous art work leak, fans saw the green Avenger sport a suit like that of Black Panther. In the new set of leaks, he is again seen in the suit. On the other hand, Iron Man is seen wearing a new reactor on his chest.

Avengers 4 is slated to release in May next year. Fans might not get many details until next March as Marvel would be focusing on Captain Marvel releasing two months before Avengers 4. The female superhero movie has generated a lot of buzz among Marvel fans. The movie will introduce the superhero and eventually merge her storyline with the events of Avengers: Infinity War.

BLUE'S SIMON & GOOD MORNING BRITAIN'S RANVIR TO HOST BRITAIN'S FIRST ETHNICITY AWARDS

Blue singer Simon Webb and Good Morning Britain's Ranvir Singh have been confirmed to host Britain's first ethnicity awards. The ceremony - set to take place on 08 Nov - will be held in London's Waldorf Hilton.

Among the stars nominated for the prestigious honour are The Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle and Britain's Got Talent judge Alesha Dixon, and stars such as grime artist Stormzy and Strictly Come Dancing's Karen Clifton in attendance.

Speaking about the awards

show Simon said: "I am honoured to be co-presenting the 2018 Investing in Ethnicity Awards. It means a great deal to me personally to support and honour those that are committed to diversity in the workplace and our communities."

Meanwhile Ranvir added: "I'm delighted to be co-hosting the awards - it will be a proud night for talented people who are truly representing the world around them and being a part of the evening is a huge honour. I am very excited to see the winners awarded for promoting diversity."



Among the nominations are The Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle, who is up for the Inspiration Public Figure award opposite Letitia Wright, Mohamed Salah, Alesha Dixon, Gemma Chan, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Babita Sharma and Ore Oduba.

Her wedding to His Majesty Prince Harry has also been recognised, with a nod for Media Moment of the Year.

Another star-studded category is the one for Influencer, which sees The Good Place star Jameela Jamil nominated against model Adwoa Aboah.

Legendary singer Grace Jones also joins the star-studded nominations lineup, as she could receive the Legacy Award.

Simon also tied the knot with his PA girlfriend Ayshen Kemal in August, in a lavish London ceremony which saw all of his Blue band-mates in attendance.

The couple - who have been dating for three years - first announced their engagement in Feb last year, when Simon popped the question on a Valentine's Day Jamaican getaway.

ARIES: Perhaps you spent quite a bit of money lately and you're holding your breath waiting for the bills to roll in. Some quick reckoning of receipts today likely yields some wonderful news. Wonder of wonders, it appears you've stayed within your budget, Aries! Try not to overreact to the news that you have more money than you thought. Give your wallet and checkbook some time off.

TAURUS: This is a good day to reflect on the past weeks and get some perspective, Taurus. You've probably been working too hard and neglecting other priorities in your life. Give yourself this day to relax and visit with friends and relatives. Spend the day chatting, laughing, and unwinding. Don't obsess about tasks that wait for you at the office. They aren't going anywhere.

GEMINI: Don't plunge headfirst into work mode, Gemini. The cleaning and tidying up can surely wait for another day. Today's energies indicate that spending time with friends and family should be your main priority. Consider spending the afternoon doing activities with your kids. Hire a babysitter for the evening. It would do you good to go out with your partner - just the two of you.

CANCER: It's likely that your thoughts are completely turned to work. Much as you should devote your time off to friends and family, you can't help the way you're wired, Cancer. When at home, you may sneak away to check your email. Perhaps you secretly phone your business partner. Your family rolls their eyes, but generally understands and forgives your crazy behavior. Be sure to

turn on the extra charm, just in case!

LEO: This is a good day for financial matters, Leo. With your credit cards maxed out, you may be thinking that your bank account isn't as healthy as it could be. But today you're likely to receive some news that indicates otherwise. You may get a windfall or discover that your portfolio is generating healthy returns. It's a good day for paperwork.

VIRGO: You could be feeling quite lazy today, Virgo, and you definitely deserve to feel this way! You deserve some time off after all of the activities of the past week. Give yourself the gift of a true day off. Do only what you want, whether it's watching movies or spending the afternoon soaking in the tub. Total indulgence. Just relax and unwind.

LIBRA: You think of yourself as a

practical person, Libra, but today your thoughts may turn to the mystical and spiritual. Your intuition is strong now, letting you tune in to the feelings of your loved ones. This allows you to be empathetic and understanding, which your partner especially appreciates. Your intuition may inspire you to approach a problem in a new way. Let your mind wander and see what develops.

SCORPIO: You will probably encounter a bit of opposition along with today's planetary energies, Scorpio. Even those who are usually right behind you will seem uncooperative. Try not to let this faze you too much. Resolve to follow your own instincts and work alone if need be. Once you've had a chance to advance your ideas further along on your own, you can present them again.

SAGITTARIUS: Your thoughts to-

day are likely to turn to setting goals for the future, particularly concerning your career. While you've made a lot of progress in recent months, you'd like to see even more forward movement. This would be a great day to start thinking of concrete ways to make that happen, Sagittarius. Why not have a family brainstorming session? It's likely to yield some great advice.

CAPRICORN: Today's planetary energies are stimulating your ambition, Capricorn. Issues connected with your professional life may be very much on your mind. You could plot out ways to further your career. Perhaps you seek a promotion in your current business, or you could be thinking about looking for another job entirely. This is the ideal time to put specific plans into place for the future.

AQUARIUS: You've been so busy

socializing these past few weeks that you may have inadvertently neglected the special person in your life, Aquarius. It's been fun to be out and about together, attending parties and having people over for dinner, but that has left little time for closeness and snuggling. Try to rectify that today. In fact, a midafternoon nap might be called for. Why not invite your honey to join you? **PISCES:** It's possible that a big change is in store for you in the near future, Pisces. It may be that you've come to realize that your current home and neighborhood are no longer a good fit. If you've been toying with the idea of moving, today you may get some news that motivates you to make your fantasy a reality. This is a good day to peruse the real estate listings. You might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.