



**NORTH'S CMMSS STUDENTS
OF THE YEAR CALL ON DC**

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**HOW YOUNG FILMMAKERS
ARE PROTECTING ARTISTIC
FREEDOM IN KENYA**

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**SPACE JAM 2 IS A GO
WITH LEBRON JAMES**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**CLEAN INDIA
BECOMING A REALITY**

- 10 crore new toilets built
- Over 5.5 lakh villages are now open-defecation free



**NAMUMKIN AB
MUMKIN HAI**



Minister assures notification to address SUAHGA demands in a few days

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

Unemployed agriculture and horticulture graduates, who have been on dharna outside the District Administrative Centre here for nearly a week, are finally spying on a glimmer of hope. They are however holding back from celebrating just yet, still upset over the long inaction with which their demands have been met thus far by the concerned departments.

Secretaries of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments called on the protesting members of Sikkim Unemployed Agriculture and Horticulture Graduate

Association (SUAHGA) at the protest site today and assured them that the Department would create the posts as demand-

properly, the sidelining of which has led to the present situation where posts which should have been open for new grad-

ing number of seats be created for direct recruitment for which agriculture and horticulture graduates who have not

already going through the demands as enumerated in the memorandum submitted by SUAHGA, he said.

"The Government is very positive towards the demand made by SUAHGA and the Department has already discussed the matter with the Chief Minister," he said, while also appealing to SUAHGA member to call off the Dharna and cooperate with the Government.

"The Department feels that the demand placed by SUAHGA members is genuine and will be taken under consideration if it falls under the criteria framed by the Government," said the Minister.

SUAHGA, meanwhile,

is not in the mood to call off the dharna just yet.

"Until and unless a written assurance arrives from the Government, we will not call off the Dharna. We want all our grievances to be addressed," said Suren Subba of SUAHGA.

As per information provided by SUAHGA, Secretaries of the Horticulture and Agriculture Departments visited the Dharna site this evening and gave verbal assurances to meet their demands.

The Secretaries have assured to fulfill their demands by creating 114 vacancies at various levels in Horticulture and Agriculture Departments.

**Dharna to be called off only
after notification is issued,
unemployed Agri grads announce**

ed by them and issue a notification to the effect within a few days.

The Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal, also confirmed the same while speaking to SummitTimes today.

SUAHGA, it may be recalled, has been demanding that the departments follow the service rules

uates to apply for have been filled by way of promotion even though rules prescribe that these be apportioned 50:50 between promotion and direct recruitment.

Given the recent filling up of posts exclusively by way of promotion, the association has been demanding that a match-

see such direct recruitment for 23 years now can apply and compete for.

Speaking to SummitTimes today, the Agriculture Minister said, "Within next two or three days the department will come out with a notification in regard to the ongoing Dharna of SUAHGA."

The Department was

Adhoc teachers call off protest, will pursue demand with HRDD

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

Adhoc teachers who have been demanding regularization have called off their protest and will be joining duty immediately, informs a press release issued by All Sikkim Adhoc Teachers and Temporary Employees Association today. This was decided in a meeting of the association held today in Gangtok, the release mentions.

It may be mentioned that four adhoc teachers had been arrested on 20 Feb on charges of blocking the highway during their dharna staged on 19 Feb. They had been released on bail on 21 Feb.

"Respecting and honouring the assurance of Chief Minister on the issue related of Adhoc Teachers along with Non-Teaching Staff (HRDD/SSA/RMSA/MDM/Non-Teaching - PTI) of Sikkim working in different schools have unanimously decided to call off their protest in a meeting held today in Gangtok," the release states.

The release further informs that the association has decided to work closely with the Sikkim Teachers Association to pursue the matter with the HRD Department. The association has also clarified that the protest was completely apolitical and that they had no intention to cause inconvenience to the public.

"We believe that justice will prevail and our just demands will be fulfilled by the government and also request the concerned Department (HRDD/STRB/SSA/DOP) kindly pursue our demands in fast track process," the release states.

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SLTTJAC peace rally for seats on 24 Feb

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

Sikkim Limboo Tamang Tribal Joint Action Committee has announced plans to take out a peace rally to press for the demand of seat reservation for Limboos and Tamangs on 24 February in Gangtok.

This was decided at a meeting of the committee held under the chairmanship of its president, SP

Limboo, at Gyalshing in West Sikkim on Thursday.

A press release informs that the peace rally was scheduled to be held from Deorali to Zero Point but following the order of the police administration, the organisation has changed the route of the rally. The rally will now start from Barpipal Dara in Sichey and end at Paljor Stadium.

Apex Court admits LTVC petition for LT seats, issues notices

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

The mood in the Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee is high at present in the wake of news from the Supreme Court that its petition demanding reserved seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly cleared the admission hearing in the apex Court today and notices issued to all the seven respondents.

An LTVC press release informs that the writ petition filed by Yehang Subba and Sancha Raj Limboo on 13 Feb was taken up for admission hearing today and was admitted successfully.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court has issued notices to the Delimitation Commission, Election Commission of India, State of Sikkim, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Lok Sabha Secretariat,

Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Law & Justice.

The respondents have been given a week's time to file their responses with the next hearing scheduled for 01 March, 2019.

"We have a very good feeling regarding the case and confident that Supreme Court will give justice to Limbu & Tamang communities of Sikkim. It is sad Sikkim Govt and SDF Govt couldn't keep their given words to Limbu & Tamang communities after patiently waiting for 17 years. CM and SDF should stop blaming others for their own mistakes. LT seat is pending due to defective proposal of SDF Govt and request all Limbu & Tamang communities people not to believe anything said by CM and SDF," an LTVC press release contends.

Sikkim thrashes Bhutan 09-01 at Dr T Ao Cup



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

Four goals by Roman Subba helped Sikkim thrash Bhutan in its second match in the qualifying round of the ongoing 2nd Dr T Ao Centenary

North East International NEC Gold Cup Football Championship [U-21 years] 2019 at Guwahati, Assam, today.

Sikkim registered an easy 9-1 victory to secure three more points having

also won its first match. With six points, Sikkim is presently on top of group-A.

Roman Subba scored goals in the 16th, 35th, 73rd and 83rd minutes, while Sangay Chophel

scored a brace in the 43rd and 49th minute and one goal each was contributed by Sukraj Subba, Sanjay Rai and Robin Sharma for Sikkim victory.

Sikkim will now take on Assam on 24 February.

Governor visits Navey Shotak, takes turnaround of village one step further

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 22 FEB:**

Governor Ganga Prasad visited Navey Shotak Gram Panchayat Unit in East Sikkim today and interacted with the Gram Panchayat members, PRI functionaries, farmers, local entrepreneurs and villagers.

The area MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, Addl. Chief Secretary to the Governor, Dr K Jayakumar, officers of Raj Bhavan, ADC (Development) North, BDO Kabi Block and other departmental representatives were present on the occasion.

This was the Governor's second visit to the gram panchayat following his adoption of the GPU in November last year.

The visit saw a wide range of discussions and formulation of projects to promote rural livelihood and entrepreneur-



ship through various intervention measures especially in the sectors of organic farming, food processing, apparel design and production, production of bamboo handicrafts among other areas, an official press communiqué informs.

During interactions with stakeholders, the need for capacity building and training in all sectors was stressed and a comprehensive plan drawn up and specific groups with required modalities empanelled for training from within and

outside the state.

Further, to promote local farmers in organic production and marketing, a Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO) was formed which will be facilitated by the state agencies.

At a later stage, a mini

agro-processing unit is proposed to be set up in the GPU which will help value addition and marketing of organic products produced in the area.

Addressing the villagers, the Governor stressed on the need to capitalise on the advantages of organic status achieved by the State nationally and internationally.

He added that there was immediate need to transform the rural economy by means of dairy farming, food processing and setting up of small industries and enhance rural entrepreneurship through various capacity building measures.

He also outlined the objectives behind adopting the GPU which will inspire others to emulate the initiatives that are accomplished in the village.

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North's CMMSS students of the year call on DC

MANGAN, 22 FEB [IPR]: The students from North District who recently secured scholarships to study in the best schools of the country through the Chief Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme met with the outgoing District Collector, North, Karma R Bonpo, today.

Also present for the occasion were JD, HRDD, Delak Pradhan, and other officials.

The parents expressed deep gratitude towards Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for providing an opportunity to students from weaker economic backgrounds to pursue education in the best schools of the country.

The scheme provides full government scholarship to Sikkimese stu-



dents from class VI till they pass out from the Public Schools within and outside the State. The parents shared that it was a dream come true for them with their children now preparing to study in such schools as

Scindia School, Shigally Hills Intern, and credited the Chief Minister for this landmark scheme.

Eleven students from North Sikkim qualified for the scholarship this year following selection exams and the top-

four positions were bagged by students from North Sikkim.

The North District Administration had conducted a special six-month coaching camp for 25 meritorious students of the district.

These students were provided residential facilities at Singhik Secondary School and the District Collector was instrumental in arranging the residential facilities.

The boarding facilities was sponsored by Teesta Urja. HRDD North selected the best teachers from the district to coach the students and the teachers put dedicated effort for six months and also stayed with the students in the hostel through the course.

The District Collector congratulated the students and also thanked the teachers behind their success.

He urged the students to work hard and make good use of this life-changing opportunity provided by the Government.

SKM meet at Zoom; Golay counters CM's allegations



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 FEB:

A constituency-level meeting of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha for Zoom-Salghari in West Sikkim was held at Zoom in West Sikkim today.

On the occasion, a block-level party office was also inaugurated at Zoom by SKM president PS Tamang [Golay], informs an SKM press release.

The release further informs that 61 families from the SDF from different wards of the constituency led by SDF West

District students' cell president, Khagendra Rai, joined SKM during the meeting.

The release adds that the SKM president alleged that the SDF government has always ignored and suppressed the people and educated youth of Zoom area and assured that SKM would always stand with the people of Zoom and further promised to transform Zoom should SKM form the next government.

While strongly condemning the CM's allega-

tion that SKM was plotting to kill the CM and 79 others, Mr Tamang asserted that the CM, also being the Home Minister of the State, should immediately arrest him if he has any proof to back his allegations.

He counter alleged that the CM has been hatching conspiracies to kill SDF workers and blame SKM for the same to gain sympathy of the people of Sikkim.

The meeting was also addressed by SKM advisor TM Rai and an Shyam Bahadur Rai of Zoom.

EVM and VVPAT training at Namchi

NACHI, 22 FEB (IPR): A training and awareness programme on EVM and VVPAT was also conducted at the Taxi Stand and Nandugan Senior Secondary School on 20 Feb. The programmes were held under the chairmanship of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, HQ, Hemant Rai and was supported by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Namchi.

The SDM informed

that the programmes were taken up under directions of the ECI that no voter is left out. He also urged the public to spread awareness about the importance of voting in the neighbourhood.

Also, the first round of training for Presiding Officers and Polling Officers-I was conducted yesterday for South District. Over hundred Polling personnel attended the training.

GOCs call on Governor



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 FEB:

General Officer Commanding, Black Cat Division, Maj Gen. NS Raja Subramani, accompanied by GOC designate, Black Cat Division, Major General Ram Chander Tiwari, called on Governor Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhavan today.

Maj Gen Subramani will be relieving his

charge on 25 Feb, 2019 and Major General Ram Chander Tiwari taking charge as the new GOC the same day.

Maj. Gen. Subramani expressed gratitude towards the Governor for extending all possible guidance to him and constantly encouraging the Division on various occasions.

The Governor also

welcomed and extended best wishes to the GOC designate on his new assignment.

The Governor expressed that the synergy and coordination existing between Black Cat Division and the civilian population of Sikkim will certainly be maintained, enriched and taken forward by the incoming GOC.

Pest management training for Tharpu farmers



SUMMIT REPORT

RAOGAON, 22 FEB:

Mervedir, a service provided by the agency under Sikkim Organic Mission, held a "Pest Management" training on 21

Feb at Raigaon ward under Tharpu GPU, West Sikkim.

The training was attended by more than 15 farmers, a press release informs.

Party worker assaulted in Dentam, SKM alleges

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 FEB:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has alleged that its party worker, Jiwan Kumar Chhetri of Srinagi under Maneybong Dentam constituency, was "brutally attacked" by two SDF workers today.

SKM party workers also picketed the Dentam Police Station today demanding immediate

police action, the release adds.

As per SKM, the assault happened when Mr Chhetri was returning from Gyalshing and was pulled out his car and beaten up.

The party has accused the area MLA of backing the attackers and financing antisocial elements to instigate SKM supporters.

Adhoc teachers...

Further, the association has thanked everyone who has supported their protest including the police personnel, District Administration officials and media. The association has further sought forgiveness from all those who had to face inconvenience due to their protest.

Meanwhile, a booklet published by Sikkim Democratic Front responding to 31 demands of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, states, "Our government has decided to regularize all adhoc services of those who will fulfil the criteria within 2 years, and till such a time it is declared that the teachers will get equal pay and amenities as per regular employees."

Governor visits Navey...

Earlier, members of the Gram Panchayat presented a brief overview of the interventions they require in various rural sectors.

Addl. Chief Secretary to Governor, in his address, provided an insight into the possible outcome and objectives that the Governor's secretariat foresees once the plans and initiatives get implemented with active participation of the stakeholders in the village.

Earlier in the day, an Operations Management Centre was inaugurated by the Governor. This Centre will function as control and facilitation centre for adoption initiatives of the GPU.

New student org supports SKM bandh call



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 22 FEB:

Sikkim Students' Welfare Association [SSWA], a newly formed organisation, has announced support to Sikkim bandh called by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha for 28 February.

The association has contended that the 35-point charter of demands placed by the SKM with the State government were "genuine" and many directly related to students and youth of Sikkim and their future, hence the support.

It is informed that SSWA was formed yesterday in the capital by students of different colleges and universities of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSWA president Mingma Ongchen Sherpa, informed that the main objective of the association was to create awareness among students about their rights and other issues.

He added that the

association would also work to create awareness among students to ensure that political turmoil does not affect them and their future especially during elections.

While announcing SSWA support for the 28 February bandh call, he reiterated that SSWA was supporting the bandh because it believes that the 35 demands placed by the SKM were genuine and related the people of Sikkim.

He added that although a non-political organisation, SSWA has decided to support the bandh.

Mr Sherpa stated that SRC president of Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College opposing the bandh was within his rights to do so, but students need to be conscious about rights and issues of the society as well.

He informed that SSWA members will visit all colleges and universities to appeal to SRC

members and students to support the bandh.

SSWA general secretary, Karan Silwal, in turn said that the Chief Minister had announced laptops for all students which had created hope in students but the distribution process has not started yet. On the same, he demanded that the government immediately announce the dates for the distribution of laptops in different schools and colleges.

"If our teachers have been demanding their rights then it shows how unsafe the future of students must be when teachers are not safe," he asserted.

SSWA vice-president Tseten Tashi Lepcha said that the government has only been distributing laptops to students in Sikkim and not to Sikkimese studying outside the State. SSWA wants laptops to be distributed to Sikkimese students studying outside the State as well.

Luxury vehicle driver and owner association forms exec body

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 FEB:

All Sikkim Luxury Vehicles Driver cum Owner Welfare Association has announced the formation of its executive body through a press release issued today. The executive body was elected in a meeting

held by association on 11 Feb in Gangtok.

The 'main executive board' is headed by president, Manoj Gurung and comprises of vice president, Bhuwan Singh Manger, general secretary, Lokendra Kharka, joint secretary, Passang Tamang, ad-

visor, Karma Thinley Sherpa, treasurer, Sonam Tamang and media & publicity in charge, Mahesh Sharma.

The 'executive associate board' has Karsang Kazi, Pema Tshering Tamang, Amit Kumar Khawas, Sanjay Chettri and Mohan Pradhan.

SPCC condemns Centre's notification on SC/ST certificates to migrants

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 22 FEB:

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee has made a serious allegation against the NDA government led by Bharatiya Janata Party of consistently trying to end the special protection and identity of Sikkim. SPCC president, Bharat Basnett today demanded the withdrawal of a notification issued by the Centre regarding issuance of SC and ST certificates to members of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities who have migrated to Sikkim from other States.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Basnet alleged that the notification is an attempt to dilute the identity of Sikkim. He added that regional parties



have already endangered the State's special status and now the Centre is trying to do the same.

He further accused the Centre of conspiring to create unrest in the State.

People of Sikkim need to understand that only the Congress party, which has given the special protection and safeguard through Article 371F, can save the people of Sikkim, he has said.

Mr Basnet stated that the people of Sikkim

participated in the referendum to become a part of India and through the 8th May Agreement but at present BJP has been trying repeatedly to kill the identity of Sikkim.

The Centre removed the picture of Mount Kanchenjunga from 100 rupees note, denied tribal status to left out communities and tried to implement the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the north eastern region, alleged Mr Basnett.

Final meeting for Vice President's visit held

GANGTOK, 22 FEB (IPR):

Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava chaired a coordination meeting today to review the progress of preparation for the ensuing visit of the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu to Sikkim from 25 to 26 Feb 2019. This was a follow up of the meeting held under his chairmanship on 11 Feb, when all concerned departments and Central Government agencies were assigned specific responsibilities.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary expressed his satisfaction at the state of preparedness at every level. After taking a detailed stock of the action taken from the agenda points of the previous meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the minute to minute program of the Vice President.

Upon arrival to Sikkim on 25 Feb, the Vice President

will attend an official function at National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, where he will interact with the scientists. Thereafter, he will attend lunch hosted by the Chief Minister.

This would be followed by a program at Raj Bhawan where the Vice President will lay the foundation stone of Centre for Training and Demonstration for Bamboo and Sustainable Structures.

Shortly thereafter, the Vice President will launch Pranab Mukherjee's chair for Sustainable Development of ICAFI University, which will also have the participation of visiting delegates from New Delhi. The Governor and Chief Minister will call on the Vice President in the evening.

On 26 Feb, the Vice President will attend the foundation stone laying program of office-cum-guest house of Rajya Sain-

ik Board in the capital. He will wrap up his State visit with the official program at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Tadong.

The meeting discussed in detail the preparations in each of the four venues.

Chief Secretary. A.K. Shrivastava said that this was the last meeting before the visit of the Vice President and urged all the Heads of Departments and agencies and Institutions involved to make the visit a success.

The meeting had the presence and participation of DGP and heads of various departments, officer from the army, Vice Chancellor Sikkim Manipal University, Joint Director ICAR-NOFRI, DC East, VC ICAFI University (Sikkim), Director Pakyong Airport, Director NRC Pakyong, and other officials of the State Government.

From Guwahati to Gangtok: Maati Community at the People’s Studio

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 FEB:

Maati Community, based out of Guwahati, will be showcasing some of their documentaries at The People's Studio, ARTEM, at Kazi Road, on 23 Feb at 4pm.

Maati is a community-based organization that focuses on preserving art, culture and livelihood of the region.

Their documentaries covering initiatives such as the theatre festival, Under the Sal Tree, a children’s library in the

river-island of Majuli and a children’s festival at Majuli will be screened at The People’s Studio, followed by discussions.

They host storytelling sessions on communities and livelihood in the region, their primary focus being to share and learn from these communities and their initiatives in different parts of the northeastern region.

They believe that the idea of producing and promoting such documentaries is to bring out untold stories from the region around the lives

of artists, craftsmen and communities working to bring social inclusion and harmony through creative initiatives.

With this intent, Maati Community encourages storytelling enthusiasts to come forward and tell their stories various mediums, whether art, poetry, story, or film.

The event is a part of the studio’s vision to create a community, culture and audience for art in the region. The event is open to all. In case of any queries, please contact us at: 9820791324.



Outgoing GOC Black Cat Division calls on CM

GANGTOK, 22 FEB (IPR): General Officer Commanding, Black Cat Division, Maj. Gen. NS Raja Subramani, SM, accompanied by GOC (Designate), Black Cat Division, Major General Ram Chander Tiwari, SM called on Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling at his official residence at Mintokgang today.

Major General Subramani is being relieved from his charge of office as GOC, Black Cat Division on 25 Feb 2019 and Major General Ram Chander Tiwari, SM will be taking charge as the new GOC the same day.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude for all the cooperation and wished the very best for his future endeavours. He also extended a warm welcome to Major General Ram Chander Tiwari, SM and hoped for a long and fruitful tenure.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
SORENG, WEST SIKKIM

Memo No:150/GQS/SD/R&B/18-19/367(Soreng)

Dated: 15/02/2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer(Soreng), 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/PWD/Secy. Dated: 12/06/2018,556/R&B/PWD/Secy. Dated: 26/08/2018 and 584/R&B/PWD/Secy. Dated: 08/10/2018 for the Construction of fair weather roads through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of concerned ward of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed.

Sl.No	Name of Work	Cost put to Tender(Rs)	Earnest Money @2.5%(Rs)	Cost of tender form(Rs)	Completion Time
1	Construction of road from Anku PWD road to Lower Segyang PHSC (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
2	Construction of road from Anku PWD road to Lower Segyang PHSC (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
3	Construction of road from Anku PWD road to Lower Segyang PHSC (Km 2.00 to 3.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
4	Construction of road from Anku PWD road to Lower Segyang PHSC (Km 3.00 to 4.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
5	Construction of road from PWD road Gairigaon to Mabong JHS (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
6	Construction of road from PWD road Gairigaon to Mabong JHS (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
7	Construction of road from GhumauneyGairiGaon to Middle Doksing via Sirisey-Dara (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
8	Construction of road from GhumauneyGairiGaon to Middle Doksing via Sirisey-Dara (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
9	Construction of road from GhumauneyGairiGaon to Middle Doksing via Sirisey-Dara (Km 2.00 to 3.30)	5510045.00	137751.00	5000.00	12 Months
10	Construction of road from AmalayDara PWD road to Simbolay busty (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
11.	Construction of road to Deythang Play Ground (Km 0.00 to 1.10)	4662345.00	116559.00	1500.00	09 Months
12	Construction of road Samagaon to Boompul via LepchaGaon ward No 2 (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
13	Construction of road Samagaon to Boompul via LepchaGaon ward No 2 (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
14	Construction of road Samagaon to Boompul via LepchaGaon ward No 2 (Km 2.00 to 3.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
15	Construction of road Samagaon to Boompul via LepchaGaon ward No 2 (Km 3.00 to 3.90)	3814646.00	95366.00	1500.00	09 Months
16	Construction of road from NDP road to Malidang (Km 0.00 to 1.70)	7205443.00	180136.00	5000.00	12 Months
17	Construction of road from BudangMalbasey road to HukpagaonBudang GPU Pakkigaon (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
18	Construction of road from BudangMalbasey road to HukpagaonBudang GPU Pakkigaon (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
19	Construction of road from Chumbong to Kerabari (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
20	Construction of road from Chumbong to Kerabari (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
21	Constraction of road from Chotasamdong PWD road to PhucharGaon (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
22	Construction of road from Chotasamdong PWD road to PhucharGaon (Km 1.00 to 2.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
23	Construction of road from Suntalay PWD road to TamangGaon (Km 0.00 to 1.50)	6357744.00	158943.00	5000.00	12 Months
24	Construction of road from LB Tamang house at Suntalay to BB GurungMarg(Kamling-Khaniserbong road) (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
25	Construction of road from LB Tamang house at Suntalay to BB GurungMarg(Kamling-Khaniserbong road) (Km 1.00 to 2.50)	6357744.00	158943.00	5000.00	12 Months

26	Construction of road from Hoorgaon PWD road to PMGSY road Upper Hoorgaon (Km 0.00 to 1.00)	4238496.00	105962.00	1500.00	09 Months
27	Construction of road from Hoorgaon PWD road to PMGSY road Upper Hoorgaon (Km 1.00 to 2.50)	6357744.00	158943.00	5000.00	12 Months

Date, Timing and Vanue details of Tender are as follows:

Sl.No	Name of Constituency	Date of Submission of application with bank receipt for issue of Tender documents(Excluding tender form)	Date of issue of tender form on submission of TDR(as Earnest money)	Last date of submission of Tender form	Date & Time of opening of Tender	Tender Vanue
1	Zoom Shalghari (Sl.No 01 to 09) Rinchenpong Constituency(Sl.No 10 to 15)	27/02/2019(10:00 am to 4:00pm)	28/02/2019(10:00 am to 4:00pm)	01/03/2019 (10:00 am to 12:00 Noon)	01/03/2019 Sl.No – 01 to 09 (12:30 Pm to 1:30 Pm) Sl.No 10(1:30 pm to 2:00 pm) and Sl.no 11 to 15 (2:30 pm to 3:30 pm)	1. MabongSegyang GPK(Sl.No 01 to 09) 2. Kamling GPK (Sl. No 10) 3. Deythang GPK (Sl.No 11 to 15)
2	Soreng-Chakung Constituency (Sl.No 16 to 22) Rinchenpong Constituency (Sl.23 to 27)	06/03/2019(10:00 am to 4:00pm)	07/03/2019(10:00 am to 4:00pm)	08/03/2019 (10:00 am to 12:00 Noon)	08/03/2019 Sl.No – 16 to 18 (12:30 Pm to 1:30 Pm) Sl.No 19 to 20(1:30 pm to 2:30 pm) and Sl.no 21 to 22 (2:30 pm to 3:30 pm) Sl.No 24 to 28 (3:30 pm to 4:30 pm)	1. BudangPakkigaon GPK(Sl.No 16 to 18) 2. Chumbong GPK (Sl.No19 to 20) 3. Chotasamdong GPK (Sl.No 21 to 22) 4. Khaniserbong GPK (Sl.No 23 to 27)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractor/Firms of appropriate Class/Concerned ward of the GPU and ULB Area.
- The intending tenders/Contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applicants should enclosed attested copies of the a) **Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application along with theattested copy of COI,Adhar card,Voter card and residential certificate of the Panchayats of the Concerned GPU, b) GST Clearance certificate. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender documents for verification.**
- The prescribed Non Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender form) can be obtained during the period specified in (from the Assistant Engineer,Roads & Bridges Department Soreng) on production of requisite bank deposit slip in favour of the concerned GPU.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of deposit receipt of schedule bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipt (TDR) in favour of Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department Galyshing west Sikkim. Tender form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The tender documents including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderer and the name of the work superscripted on it ,supporting documents listed at Sl.No 3(a&b) along with other relevant documents be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box in the Gram Prasashan Kendra office of the concerned GPU where the work is to be executed on the date and within time indicated above.
- Tender shall be opened by the Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as acceptance of the general direction and condition of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other applicable Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. In complete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents,rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary or Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value,scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per thedirectives of the department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserve the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any),including accidents to labours at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of the work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The recoveries of royalties on Forest produce shall be as per the rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in the analysis of rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase,decrease,alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- I case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department,Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-
 - Transportation,handling,storage and use of Explosives(if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General guidelines, Circular issued by the department and other **competent** authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.ebeginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractor’s bill as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a **Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.**

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department
Soreng Sub Division

R.O. No. 720/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date:21.02.2019

Shape the Monolith into an Asset

Don't blame the bureaucracy, inspire it

In some recent public addresses, the Chief Minister has consistently called upon public servants to adapt faster to the demands and requirements of the changing times. This is not a new call from his office and he has often stressed that government officers should be on the job 24x7. That he continues to make such appeals is a clear indication that the message has not gone through effectively enough. Now, with elections round the corner and administrative and executive shortfalls at the root of many current complications and confrontations, expect this sentiment to be voiced more often.

Of course, he obviously does not mean that officials should be in office throughout the day all through the week, and is only underlining the fact that officers should not shirk responsibility or dodge behind excuses. This call is required because there is simply too much procrastination in how government offices function, too much nonchalance in how work is put off and staggering insensitivity with which people's affairs are handled. What this leads to is a scenario where officials from departments get so injured by the routineness of things that they do not recognize obvious priorities and drag their feet even on urgently required interventions.

This attitude continues to remain entrenched. A work culture under which even on-the-spot directions [which would convey urgency] by the Chief Minister himself can be deferred, needs a vigorous shake up and this is clearly recognized by the CM as well. This comes after several attempts at working the bureaucratic monolith into better shape. There was the five-day week with longer office hours on working days idea which was abandoned as much because there was no guarantee that the extra hours will see adequate attendance as the complaint of teachers who too are government servants but will have to work an extra day every week. Then there are the smart-card and biometric attendance gadgets which were installed at offices. These obviously did not deliver because frequent appeals are still made for better attendance in government offices.

What is obvious is that the public as well as the public representatives are not very satisfied with the performance of the public servants. Improper as it may be to paint all officers and government employees with the same brush, the end-result, the performance of the departments on the whole makes it difficult not to be prejudiced.

But all of this should not lead to fatalistic acceptance. It is not as if government employees don't want to work at all. Given the multiplicity of agencies and offices, in many cases lethargy has set in for want of clear job descriptions, undefined roles and too much interference. A visit to any government office will bear out the fact that the work-culture is slack in Sikkim not because of the personnel, but because there are too many with too little work. There are few who abandon work midway and leave office, but there are many who have nothing constructive to do in all the hours they spend in their chambers. Here again, the tried and tested formula for similar problems elsewhere is VRS. It fails in Sikkim because even before the employees takes the option of VRS there are others in line to take up their jobs. The weight never really gets shed, especially not now when every agency of the government is on the verge of being over-staffed, because there are too many considerations and connections which cannot be ignored in a small state like Sikkim where most things work at a personal level.

So what does one do?

The oversized administration has been viewed for far too long as a burden and since no solution has really worked out, perhaps a change in attitude is required. What if, the same monolith is accepted as an asset and then segregated into compact units with clearly identified roles and responsibilities and then deployed on the field to deliver the "development" that is the final aim of every government. The BDO experiment was one such effort and has delivered rather well. To repeat a point here, there are very few government employees who don't want to work, they grow lethargic because they are not given anything interesting and constructive to do. If more clarity is offered and more responsibility given, things could start looking up. The approach should be to challenge the public servants with complex tasks, back it with greater autonomy in decision-making and then establishing a clear relationship between effort and reward. This, when complemented by the frequent trainings that have now become mandatory should keep refreshing the officials on their exact roles and contributions to Sikkim's future.

Few will fail to measure up if this is done. In the end, even this solution might not work out, but at least Sikkim would have tried and exhausted all options...

How young filmmakers are protecting artistic freedom in Kenya

SAMSON KAUNGA NDANYI
theconversation.com

Artistic freedom was always tenuous in Kenya, but it's become even less so since Uhuru Kenyatta became president in 2013. The political pendulum has swung against political dissenters, intellectuals and a handful of media institutions that still believed in objective journalism.

Progressive gains made under the previous administration of President Mwai Kibaki (2002-2013), such as the freedom of press and speech, have disintegrated. In particular, Kenyatta and the men overseeing the country's cultural landscape, have rolled back artistic freedom by banning films that attempted to expand identity or interpreted it differently. The most prominent example is Rafiki, a recent Kenyan film that was banned for "promoting lesbianism."

Historically, artistic freedom has always been the outcome of struggle. For example, stage actors initiated the first struggle when post-colonial administrations outlawed theatre groups because actors associated themselves with institutions such as the University of Nairobi and Kenya National Theatre (see Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Decolonising the Mind). By and large, the two institutions hosted the most vocal government critics. It became standard procedure for the government to ask theatre groups to submit play scripts for "assessment" before it could issue a performance license.

Officials paid insignificant attention to musicians and film directors as they hardly antagonised the ruling elites and produced non-controversial items. An example was the sycophantic song, Tawala Kenya Tawala ("rule Kenya rule"), composed and produced by Thomas Wasonga. The lyrics exhorted Daniel Arap Moi, Kenya's second post-colonial president, to rule eternally. Wasonga's conservative counterparts in the film industry avoided politics, limiting their cinematic gaze to less controversial themes.

Recently, however, a progressive group of young filmmakers has changed the contours informing cinematic themes. Ambitious and daring, they have inspired a national dialogue of what constitutes free speech as encapsulated in the country's new Constitution, as well as artistic freedom, and individual and societal identity.

AMBITIOUS AND DARING

Unlike their forebears, young filmmakers are increasingly embracing cinema as an ideal platform on which to construct a pluralistic identity that includes the LGBTQ community. This has offended the government's sensibility. Consequently, it has brought cinema under heightened scrutiny.

In September 2014, the Nest Collective, a production company that produced The Stories of Our

Lives, applied for a license to distribute and exhibit the film. They received a rejection letter from the Kenya Film and Classification Board, a government agency that regulates film content, which claimed that the film had obscenity, explicit scenes of sexual activities and it promotes homosexuality which, is



contrary to our national norms and values.

The classification board drew the producer's attention to a piece of legislation – the Film & Plays Stage Act – that borrows heavily from the colonial government's The Stage Plays and Cinematography Exhibitions Ordinance, 1912. During the colonial period the ordinance was used to censor Hollywood westerns to shield African audience from undesirable ideas such as kissing, sex, shooting and nudity.

Rather than evoke Kenya's Constitution – which protects the "freedom to seek, receive or impart information or ideas", and the "freedom of artistic creativity" – to sue the board, the Nest Collective retreated. It took its case to social media, where, as expected, it died.

SAME TACTIC

Four years later, classification board officials banned Rafiki in May 2018 because, as they pointed out, it contained, "homosexual scenes that are against the law, the culture and moral values of the Kenyan people."

It warned that anyone found in possession of the film would be in breach of the law in Kenya, where gay sex is punishable by 14 years.

The film's director, Wanuri Kahiu, sued the Board. She argued in court that the ban violated her constitutional right to free speech and artistic freedom of expression. Kahiu insisted that Kenya is, "made up of different types of people with different

imaginations. There should be freedom to express these imaginations, because imagination doesn't have boundaries."

The country's high court agreed with her. They lifted the ban for seven days, allowing the film to be screened and become eligible to be submitted

as Kenya's entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars.

RANDOM ACT

The censorship of cultural productions doesn't happen in a vacuum, nor is it a random act designed to secure imagined norms and values. It is a calculated and premediated act of subjugation and an act of authoritarianism. In the cultural sphere this begins when the ruling class imagines and constructs a national identity that encompasses nonexistent and undefined principles — such as moral values and norms. It then moves to create competing categories of people, "us" versus "them". Once this is complete, the chips are expected to fall in place.

However, young filmmakers are resisting this path. Resisting it is the only way in which artists can ensure they retain a freer artistic spaces. But that requires acts of courage. As Martin Luther King Jr reminded the world in 1963 from a Birmingham jail:

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed."

This, exactly, is what Rafiki's Kahiu did when she sued the government. It's what the Nest Collective failed to do. Local artists seeking artistic freedom must follow in Kahiu's footsteps and peel back the veneer that legitimises censorship.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of African History, Rhodes College]

Sierra Leone takes welcome leap on rape: but next steps are crucial

LUISA T. SCHNEIDER
theconversation.com

The president of Sierra Leone Julius Maada Bio has declared a national emergency on rape and sexual violence following a public outcry over the high number of rapes of young girls in the West African country.

According to the country's police, there were over 8,500 reported cases of sexual and gender based violence in 2018. The number of incidents of sexual violence is likely much higher, as many cases go unreported. In 2012, the first year official police statistics were collected, 632 cases were reported.

The country's gender justice laws - enacted in 2007 and 2009 - as well as the Sexual Offences Act - ratified in 2012 - have certainly contributed to the higher number of reported cases. But, these increasing numbers show that much more needs to be done to prevent sexual violence and to respond to it better.

The Rainbo Initiative, an organisation offering free care to survivors, holds that young girls are disproportionately affected. President Bio has stated that about 70% of victims are below the age of 15. He made the statement after consulting grassroots women's organisations, NGOs as well as government ministries, judges, lawyers and the police.

Political attention of this kind is vital to addressing rape and all forms of sexual violence. And, declaring the national emergency provides an opportunity for the speedy policy changes needed to combat rape and sexual violence.

The reason the government has taken action is due to the relentless efforts of women's grassroots organisations and other NGOs that have put rape on the national agenda. The organisations help by providing free and confidential medical and psychosocial care to survivors, as well as campaigning to raise awareness. Some

assist the victims during court cases.

Based on my research on the subject, it's my view that the steps proposed by the president seem to reinvent the wheel, rather than build on



strong existing foundations.

Success will depend on whether he's willing to listen to – and learn from – the civil society organisations involved in the fight against rape and sexual assault. They know the problems inside out and what's needed to engender real change. But their efforts to date have been hampered by a lack of funding and governmental support.

WHAT'S MISSING

Bio wants rapists and other perpetrators of sexual violence to be charged with aggravated assault, and face up to life imprisonment if found guilty. He envisions that all public hospitals should provide free medical services for rape and other sexual assault victims. He also announced the creation of a police division, a special magistrate court to try sexual abuse cases and a public hotline dedicated to reporting sexual violence.

These are big goals indeed. But, to succeed, they require meticulous planning, a steady and reliable flow of resources. They also need tailored skills training for service providers, police and medical doctors to adequately respond to survivors of violence. Increased collaboration between Sierra

Leone's medical, legal and police sectors is imperative for success.

A closer look at existing structures and services reveals a more critical reality. Several key organisations such as



AdvocAid, L.A.W.Y.E.R.S. and the Rainbo Initiative have worked tirelessly to offer primary medical and psycho-social care to survivors as well as their proper representation at the courts.

But, these experienced specialists lack resources and support. So much so that they often struggle to keep their operations going. And, so far, their expert opinions have often gone unheard.

AdvocAid has repeatedly shown that women and girls who experience violence are disproportionately disadvantaged by Sierra Leone's legal system. They also lack opportunities to enable them to get out of abusive relationships. And, when using self defence against abusive partners, they can be charged as offenders themselves.

In addition, many women and girls don't know their rights and how to access support. AdvocAid, which has undertaken campaigns to teach women and girls about the law and their rights, points to the need for a national strategy to make rights, regulations and laws known to all in the country.

Since 2003, the Rainbo centres have provided free and confidential primary medical and psychosocial care to survivors of rape and sexual violence.

But working with rape and sexual abuse survivors requires specialised skills, which hospitals across Sierra Leone lack. The government could help by providing the necessary funding to increase the number of centres nationwide. This way, even more survivors could receive care by female doctors and nurses in separate, confidential and safe spaces.

Family support units have been set up to investigate domestic violence, sexual offences and child abuse cases. These are independent police units attached to 62 police stations across the country, with specifically trained police personnel as well as some 20 social workers.

But in a review, the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law found that the units weren't sufficiently staffed, equipped or funded to be able to fulfil their mandate.

Moreover, the courts have heavy caseloads and litigants often wait years until their cases are heard. And, as my research revealed, lawyers and judges have long pointed to the need to amend the existing laws against rape and sexual assault. The Sexual Offences Act, for example, disproportionately targets the marginalised young boyfriends wrongfully accused of rape or sexual assault, while many wealthier perpetrators continue to escape justice.

Additionally, the discriminatory act of banning pregnant girls from school remains in place.

NEXT STEPS

Given the situation in the country, reviewing and adapting existing laws and regulations may be more effective than creating new regulations. Instead of adding to the plethora of existing laws, regulations, services and institutions, the government should look to undertaking the difficult task of strengthening the efforts of existing service providers.

[the writer is Postdoctoral research fellow, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology]

Spl powers to Assam Rifles: Oppn walk out of Assam Assembly

GUWAHATI, FEB 22 (PTI): The Congress and AIUDF Friday staged a walkout in Assam Assembly after their demands of an adjournment motion to discuss special powers granted to Assam Rifles was turned down by the Speaker Hitendra Nath Goswami.

While the state government expressed willingness to discuss the matter through other means, the Congress, AIUDF and AGP stood united in their demand to debate it only via adjournment motion.

Three separate adjournment motion were submitted by the Congress, AIUDF and AGP as they felt that the contentious notification giving special powers to Assam Rifles would “violate human rights and bring in military rule”.

On Thursday, a Ministry of Home Affairs notification empowered Assam Rifles personnel to arrest anyone and search any place without warrant in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.

“It (special powers) will bring military rule and affect freedom of movement, which is given by the Constitution. It is like introducing undeclared emergency,” the Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia said while arguing for the motion.

The senior Congress leader asked why the notification was issued when the BJP-led government has been claiming that peace prevails in North East. “There is a report which says that out of 100 cases of Assam Rifles, human rights have been violated in 37. It empowers even the lowest rank officer to arrest a person without warrant. It will lead to complete violation of human rights,” he added.

AGP member Pabindra Deka, who moved the resolution on behalf of his party, said that it is a dangerous and shocking notification, which can “devastate” peoples’ lives in the region. “It will violate our fundamental rights. It seems the Centre and Narendra Modi want us to take back to Assam Agitation period of murder and loot by forces. Because of unlimited power given to forces, 855 people were martyred then,” he added.

The Assam agitation of 1979-1985 was a popular movement against illegal immigrants in Assam. The movement was aimed at urging the Centre to identify and expel illegal, (mostly Bangladeshi), immigrants and protect and provide constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to the indigenous Assamese people. Deka alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched to exploit the North East and doubted if the special power was being granted to the paramilitary force to counter the massive protests against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in recent months.

“It is against the interest of the people. Assam government has some duties to do in this regard and clear its position,” he said.

Centre decides to keep in abeyance powers of arrest given to Assam Rifles

NEW DELHI, FEB 22 (PTI): The Centre decided on Friday to keep in abeyance the special powers given to the Assam Rifles to arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in north-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, officials said.

The Home Ministry will now revisit the issue with the concerned state governments, which apparently opposed the move to give sweeping powers to the paramilitary force.

It has been decided that the enabling notifications issued on February 19, giving powers to Assam Rifles be kept in abeyance and the entire matter be revisited in consultation with the state governments concerned, a home ministry official said.

While giving the powers to the Assam Rifles, a Home Ministry notification had said: “An officer of the rank corresponding to that of the lowest rank of members of the Assam Rifles” has been given these powers under



the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Assam Rifles personnel will exercise these powers and discharge their duties “under sub-section(1) of section 41, sections 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, 54, 149, 150, 151 and 152 of the CrPC within the local limits of the area comprised within the border districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram”, the

notification had said.

Officials said on Friday that powers under CrPC were available to the Assam Rifles under the Assam Rifles Act, 1941. However, after coming into operation of the new Assam Rifles Act 2006, the issue of re-conferring these powers has remained under consideration since then.

Recently, the issue has acquired urgency for effective enforcement of

Free Movement Regime on the Indo-Myanmar border (on the 16 km belt on either side).

The Free Movement Regime was streamlined after the bilateral agreement between India and Myanmar on land border crossing was finalised last year. This will require giving suitable powers to border guarding forces, including Assam Rifles, under the Foreigners

Act, 1946 and Passport Act, 1967 and Passport Entry into India Act, 1920.

The Assam Rifles is the leading counter-insurgency force in the Northeast. It also guards the sensitive India-Myanmar border.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which is operational in some parts of the Northeast, also gives similar powers to the Army operating in the region.

15 dead, 30 fall ill after consuming spurious liquor in Assam

Guwahati, Feb 22 (PTI): At least 15 people, including five women, have died and 30 others have fallen ill allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in a tea garden in Assam’s Golaghat district, police said Friday.

The victims, labourers of Salmira tea estate, fell ill after they drank the illicit brew Thursday night, the police said.

Twelve of them were brought dead to the Golaghat civil hospital and three of them succumbed later. Twenty-seven of the ill have been referred to the Jorhat Medical College Hospital, the police said. The death toll is likely to increase as reports of more persons falling ill after consuming the spurious liquor are coming in, a district official said.

More than a hun-



dred people are reported to have consumed the liquor, suspected to have been bought from the same seller, Khumtai’s BJP MLA Mrinal Saikia said.

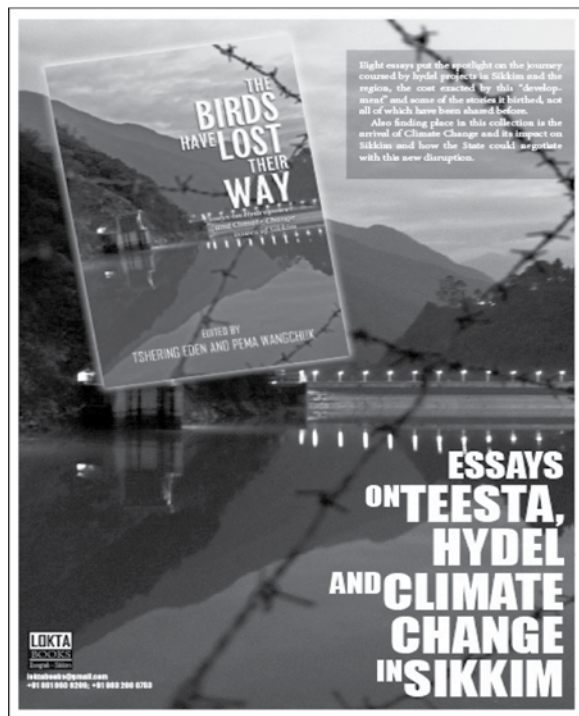
A doctor attending to the patients said that the deaths were due to consumption of spurious country liquor and the condition of most of those brought to the hospital was serious.

Saikia said that he has directed the district ad-

ministration to inquire into the matter and take immediate action against those responsible for the tragedy.

All the deceased, barring one, have been identified.

Congress MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi has demanded the resignation of Excise Minister Parimal Suklabaidya and urged Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to give compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased.



SC directs chief secys, DGPs of 11 states to act against assault on Kashmiris post Pulwama

NEW DELHI, FEB 22 (PTI): The Supreme Court Friday directed chief secretaries and DGPs of 11 states to take “prompt” and “necessary” action to prevent incidents of threat, social boycott and violence against Kashmiris following the Pulwama terror attack. It also sought responses from the Centre and the states where incidents of threat and violence against Kashmiris have taken place after the February 14 terror attack in which over 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

“The chief secretaries, the DGPs and the Delhi Police Commissioner are directed to take prompt and necessary action to prevent all the incidents of threat, assault, social boycott and other coercive acts against Kashmiris and other minorities in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of February 14,” said a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjay Khanna.

The bench perused the advisories issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to the chief secretaries and DGPs of states from time to time and said that they “shall be reiterated from time to time”.

The court also directed that the police officers, who were earlier appointed as nodal officers to deal with cow vigilantism and lynching incidents, would now be responsible for dealing with the cases of assaults on Kashmiris as well.

The bench asked the MHA to give wide publicity to the details regard-

ing the nodal officers so that Kashmiri people can approach such officials in case of “assault, intimidation, social boycott and threat”. Besides the Centre, top officials of Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Delhi have been directed to prevent incidents of “threat, assault and social boycott” of Kashmiris, including students.

The court was hearing the plea of Tariq Adeeb, a lawyer, alleging that students from Kashmir Valley are being attacked at different educational institutions across the country after the Pulwama terror attack and authorities concerned should be directed to take action to stop such assaults.


At the outset, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Adeeb, claimed that 10 more incidents of assaults have taken place in various states after filing of the petition and necessary directions be issued urgently to stop them.

He said that some fresh incidents against Kashmiris have taken place in Punjab and Maharashtra and urged the court to make these two states also parties to the petition, which was allowed by the court.

“The petition was filed in respect of nine states. But since I mentioned it yesterday and until today, 10 additional incidents have come to light, some in two new states of Punjab and Maharashtra,” Gonsalves said.

LOST & FOUND

I, Choden Bhutia d/o Late Karma Tenzing Bhutia resident of Tathangchen, Gangtok, East Sikkim has lost my Class X & XII CBSE Marksheet Certificate roll No. 3141663 of Class X & Roll No, 3636344 of Class XII on 17.02.2019. If found contact : Ph: 9800333758 ,8617602593



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT
SAMAJ KALYAN BHAWAN, 5TH MILE, LUMSEY, TADONG.
GANGTOK- 737101(SIKKIM)

No: GoS/SJE&WD/2009/4(54)/442

Dated: 21.02.19

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities under Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim.

The details of the post and other conditions have been provided in the Amended Rule Chapter VIII of Rule 23 of the Sikkim Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rule, 2017 which can be accessed in the website www.sikkimsocialwelfare.gov.in. The prescribed format can be downloaded from the given website.

The application in the prescribed format should reach the undersigned on or before 25th March, 2019 by registered post/ Speed post or by person to:


The Principal Secretary,
 Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department,
 Government of Sikkim, Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, 5th Mile Lumsey, Gangtok – 737102.

“Application for the post of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department” should be super-scribed on the envelope.

This Department is not responsible for any postal delay.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 725/IPR/Pub/Classi/18-19
Date: 22.2.19

Deputy Director-I
 Social Welfare Division.



GANGTOK SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
SOKAYTHANG, GANGTOK
 SIKKIM – 737102
 CIN – U9309090WB2017SGC223807
 Email: gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com

Ref No: 12/GSCDL/TENDER/NIT/ROADPJ/CONR/2019

Date: 22.02.2019

NOTICE INVITNG TENDER (NIT) NO.GSCDL/TENDER/NIT/ODW/2019
Competitive Bidding (Manual Bidding)

The Superintending Engineer, Gangtok Smart City Development Ltd (GSCDL), Gangtok, East Sikkim invites sealed item wise tender under single envelope two bid system (1E2B) from the eligible contractor’s/construction firm with the Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sl.No.	Contract Package No.	Name of works	Bid value (in Rs) (As per 2012)	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (in Rs.)	Cost of tender/ bid form (in Rs.)	Completion period.
1.	SIK-GAN-68-CONR	Construction of link Road from Paljor stadium road to Indria Bypass Road, Gangtok, Sikkim.	2,73,97,708/-	6,84,943/-	Rs.30,000/-	12 Months.

Tender Schedule

i)	Sale of Bidding documents	:	12.03.19-13.03.19 – 11:00-14:00
ii)	Issue of Tender Forms on production of TDR	:	15.03.19-11:00-14:00 Hrs.
iii)	Last date for submission of completed bids	:	19.03.19 up to 14:00 Hrs.
iv)	Date of opening of bids	:	19.03.19 from 14:30 Hrs onwards.

INSTRUCTION OF BIDDERS

- For complete eligibility and qualification requirement, criteria in the Bidding document as specified should be followed. Financial instruments: Bid Security will be deposited in separate envelope mentioning the amount and the name of Bank either in the form of Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft payable at Chief Executive Officer, GSCDL, Gangtok in the main envelope. Offers for partial bids will not be considered and summarily rejected as non-responsive. Summary of criteria are below vide complete instructions/ bidding process / submission shall be available to the intended bidders on the bidding documents.
- A complete set of bidding documents in the ENGLISH language, may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders on submission of bidder application to Superintending Engineer, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) and on payment of the non-refundable cost of bidding document as specified in Column no.6 of above during normal office hours on Date – 12.03.2019 to 13.03.2019 from 11:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs.
- Tender forms shall be issued at the Office of Superintending Engineer, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) on Date- 15.03.2019 from 11:00 hrs to 14:00hrs, on production of TDR.
- Sealed bid in duplicate duly signed by authorized signatory must be delivered to Superintending Engineer, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) on or before 14:00 hrs of Date- 19.03.2019. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as specified in the bidding document for an amount as specified above in Column no.5. Late bid will not be accepted by tendering authority. Bids will be opened at 14:30 hrs on Date-19.03.2019 by tendering authority for GSCDL in the presence of bidders or bidders’ representatives who chose to attend the process. Successful technical bidders will be informed for attending opening of the financial bidding on the same day at the Office of the undersigned at said time and date of the intimation on the notice board of GSCDL, Sokaythang. The details of bids can also be viewed through the website of www.gmcsikkim.in and www.smartnetniua.org.
- The purchaser/ intending bidders will be responsible for all costs/ expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or delivery of the bids and site visits.
- GSCDL reserves the right to change or postpone above schedule, reduce the scope of work and reject any non-responsive tenders/ bids without assigning any reason thereof.

R.O. No. 726/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date:22.02.19

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
 Gangtok Smart City
 Development Limited.

Black Caps spinner Astle back for Bangladesh Tests

WELLINGTON, FEB 22 (AFP): Spinner Nathan Astle will resume his stop-start Test career against Bangladesh after beating Ajaz Patel for a spot in New Zealand's 13-man squad to face Bangladesh next week, selectors said Friday.

Astle was the only change in the squad that defeated Sri Lanka 1-0 in December to claim an unprecedented fourth Test series in a row for New Zealand.

Selector Gavin Larsen admitted it was "a tough call" to drop Patel, who was outstanding against Pakistan in the UAE.

"It's great though to have Todd fit again and we're keen to see what his wrist-spin can offer in New Zealand conditions, and he'll also bolster the batting," he said.

Astle, 32, made his Test debut against Sri Lanka in 2012 but since then has played only two more, most recently against England in March last year.

The first of three Tests begins in Hamilton on February 28.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (capt), Tom Latham, Jeet Raval, Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, BJ Watling, Colin de Grandhomme, Todd Astle, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Trent Boult, Matt Henry, Will Young.

No decision on Indo-Pak World Cup clash yet: CoA

NEW DELHI, FEB 22 (PTI): The Committee of Administrators (CoA) running Indian cricket Friday decided against taking any stand on the World Cup clash against Pakistan but said it would individually urge ICC members to "sever ties with any nation that is a terrorist hub".

There has been a call to boycott the June 16 World Cup face-off against Pakistan at the Old Trafford in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack, which killed more than 40 CRPF personnel. In a meeting to address the spiralling speculation around the match, the CoA deliberated on the matter but did not take any position for now.

"We are in talks with the government. No decision has been taken on the June 16 match," CoA chief Vinod Rai told reporters after the meeting. "We are expressing two concerns to the ICC. We will ask for more protection for players during the World Cup and we will tell cricketing nations to sever ties with any nation that is a terrorist hub," he added.

There were reports that the CoA and the BCCI might approach the ICC seeking Pakistan's ouster from the mega-event in England that starts on May 30.

However, even such a move is unlikely to make any difference as there is no provision in the world body's regulations that allow one member to seek the ouster of another. The call to boycott the match has come from some prominent names in Indian cricket such as senior off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and former captain Mohammed Azharuddin.

Man Utd seek to derail Liverpool title bid as Spurs lurk

LONDON, FEB 22 (AFP): Liverpool travel to Manchester United on Sunday facing the toughest assignment of their Premier League run-in on paper as Tottenham seek to sneak back into the heart of the title race.

The trip to Old Trafford is effectively Jurgen Klopp's team's game in hand as they bid to open up a three-point lead over Manchester City, who play Chelsea in the League Cup final on the same day.

Liverpool thumped United 3-1 at Anfield in the last match of Jose Mourinho's reign on December but they are transformed under interim boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and are back in the top four.

If Spurs beat Burnley and Liverpool slip up, Mauricio Pochettino's men will be just two points behind City and Liverpool, with all three clubs having played 27 matches.

AFP Sport picks out some of the main talking points ahead of this weekend's Premier League fixtures. **WARY LIVERPOOL FACE OLD TRAFFORD LITMUS TEST**

Liverpool know that a win at Old Trafford -- where they have won just twice in the league since 2004 -- would be a huge statement of intent as they hunt their first English top-flight title since 1990.

Klopp's men are 14 points clear of United but they will be facing a different team from the one they demolished in December, courtesy of a



goal from Sadio Mane and two from Xherdan Shaqiri.

"Since the new manager came in there is a new flow, they played good games and have won a lot and that is building confidence in the team," said Liverpool midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum. "It's also a home game for them so they will have a lot of confidence as they don't have the problems they had before."

SOLSKJAER'S TOUGH SIDE

Solskjaer has lifted his side into the Champions League places and knows any chance he has of becoming the next permanent manager probably hinges on staying there.

But defender Luke Shaw says the interim boss, known for his sunny demeanour, is capable of showing some steel.

"You know, Ole does it at the right time (shows another side)," Shaw told MUTV.

"He knows how good we can be

and, if we're not up to his standards or the standards of Manchester United, he will certainly let you know.

"We've had a few moments like that where we might have been comfortable in a game but got a bit sloppy. He's the manager and he tells the players what he wants. It's good and what we need sometimes, a kick up the backside from the manager, if we're getting too comfortable."

SPURS STEALTH ATTACK

Despite showing incredible tenacity to stay on the edge of the Premier League title race, Tottenham have gone under the radar, with Manchester City and Liverpool the constant focus. But four straight league victories have kept Spurs in the hunt for their first English top-flight title since 1961 -- and they are getting ready to welcome talisman Harry Kane back into the fold.

"He is doing very well and maybe he is going to be available at Burnley (on Saturday)," said Pochettino.

"Harry is an animal and wants to be ready as soon as possible. In the last 10 days he has been fantastic and having him back available is a fantastic boost for everyone."

GOLDEN OLDIE HODGSON IS RECORD-BREAKER

Roy Hodgson will become the oldest manager in Premier League history when Crystal Palace take on Leicester. The former Liverpool and England boss will break Bobby Robson's record for the Premier League era, which has stood since Robson's final game at Newcastle in August 2004.

He will be 71 years and 199 days old on Saturday.

The pair are among four managers to take charge of a Premier League game in their 70s, with former United boss Alex Ferguson and Cardiff's Neil Warnock also part of the exclusive club.

IOC 'suspends discussions' with India for hosting global events

NEW DELHI, FEB 22 (PTI): The International Olympic Committee has decided to "suspend all discussions" with India regarding hosting of global sporting events after Pakistani shooters were not issued visas for the World Cup in New Delhi.

The Olympic committee also revoked the Olympic qualification status for the men's 25m rapid fire event from the New Delhi World Cup due to denial of visas to the Pakistani shooters in the wake of last week's Pulwama terrorist attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

The IOC said it will not allow India to organise Olympic-related events in the future, unless written assurances are obtained from the government.

The two Pakistani shooters' participation in the tournament had become doubtful after the terrorist attack had been reported. The IOC's decision comes hours after International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President Vladimir Lisin announced that all the allotted 16 Olympic quotas for the 2020 Games would be scrapped. However, the apex body limited the withholding of quotas to only two while retaining 14.

"The IOC restricted



the withdrawal of recognition as an Olympic qualification event to the 25m rapid fire pistol competition in which the two Pakistani athletes were supposed to participate. This happened in the interest of the other 500 athletes from 61 countries participating in the other events who are already in India for their competition," the IOC said in a statement after its executive board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland Thursday.

"Since becoming aware of the issue and in spite of intense last-minute joint efforts by the IOC, the ISSF and the Indian National Olympic Committee (NOC), and discussions with the Indian government authorities, no solution has been found to allow the Pakistani delegation to enter India in time to compete," the statement said.

The IOC came down heavily on India for going against the Olympic charter.

"This situation goes against the fundamental principles of the Olympic charter, in particular the principles of non-discrimination, as well as the IOC's and the Olympic movement's position, reiterated on many occasions over the past few years, that equal

treatment must be guaranteed for all participating athletes and sporting delegations at international sports events, without any form of discrimination or political interference from the host country.

"As a result, the IOC executive board also decided to suspend all discussions with the Indian NOC and government regarding the potential applications for hosting future sports and Olympic-related events in India, until clear written guarantees are obtained from the Indian government to ensure the entry of all participants in such events in full compliance

with the rules of the Olympic charter -- and to recommend that the international federations (IFs) neither award nor hold sports events in India until the above-mentioned guarantees are obtained," the IOC said.

The Pakistan shooting federation Wednesday requested the ISSF not to offer quota places in the events their shooters were scheduled to participate in.

Pakistan had applied for visas for two shooters -- G M Bashir and Khalil Ahmed -- in the rapid fire category as the event in New Delhi also served as a qualifier for the 2020 Olympic games.

depth about the kind of future that North Korea could enjoy if it follows through on its commitment to the final and full of denuclearisation," the official said.

Trump would be accompanied by his Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and several of his top aides for the second summit meeting with the North Korean leader. Hundreds of reporters are travelling to Hanoi to cover the much-anticipated summit.

Officials from the two countries are still negotiating on the text of the agreement or the joint statement that could be issued after the conclusion of the talks between the two leaders next week, another senior administration official said, responding to a poser.

"We are in the midst of negotiating some issues and as is often the case in these negotiations nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to. And in this case, I would not want to mention any of the specifics except that we will be closely engaged with the North Korean delegations right up until the president arrives for the summit next week," a third official said.

The official noted that the talks are an effort towards denuclearisation of North Korea. At the same time, he cautioned that nothing was guaranteed as of now.

Trump and Kim to have one-on-one meet in Hanoi

WASHINGTON, FEB 22 (PTI): US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will meet one-on-one and spend substantial amount of time together next week when the two leaders meet in Hanoi, Vietnam, the White House said Thursday.

Trump and Kim are meeting for their second summit on February 27 and 28. The first one was on June 12 in Singapore, which was part of the president's effort to improve his country's relationship with North Korea and ultimately have a denuclearised state.

"There will be opportunities for the two leaders to see one another one-on-one, to share a meal and indeed for expanded meetings of their respective delegations in laying out the objectives (which) is ultimately about denuclearisation of North Korea, a senior administration official told reporters during a conference call.

"That is what was agreed already between the two sides and that is the overriding goal that President Trump is seeking to achieve with this summit," the official said, who spoke with reporters on condition of anonymity.

This is an important step towards that ultimate goal, the official noted. "After breaking the ice with Kim in some aspects in June, Trump is also looking to talk in

No IPL opening ceremony this year, CoA says allocated money will go to Pulwama martyrs' families

NEW DELHI, FEB 22 (PTI): The IPL will not have an opening ceremony this year after the Committee of Administrators (CoA) running Indian cricket Friday decided to allocate the money set aside for it to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack.

The opening ceremonies of the cash-rich T20 league are a heady mix glitz and glamour with performances by Bollywood stars being the highlight. However, as a mark of respect to the slain CRPF men, it has been decided to scrap the ceremony for the event's 12th edition beginning March 23.

"We will not have any inaugural function for the IPL and the money budgeted for that goes to the martyrs' families," said Committee of Administrators chairman Vinod Rai. The CoA took the call at a meeting here on Friday.

The Pulwama attack took place last week and its reverberations are being felt in the sporting arena as well. There has been a call to snap sporting ties with Pakistan.

The Rai-led CoA decided against taking any stand on the World Cup clash against Pakistan but said it would individually urge ICC members to "sever ties with any nation that is a terrorist hub".



Pope offers 21 proposals to fight abuse at start of summit

VATICAN CITY, FEB 21 (AP): Pope Francis opened a landmark sex abuse prevention summit Thursday by offering senior Catholic leaders 21 proposals to punish predators and keep children safe, warning that the faithful are demanding concrete action and not just words.

The tone for the high stakes, four-day summit was set at the start, with victims from five continents Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and North America telling the bishops of the trauma of their abuse and the additional pain the church's indifference caused them.

"Listen to the cry of the young, who want justice," Francis told the gathering of 190 leaders of bishops conferences and religious orders.

"The holy people of God are watching and expect not just simple and obvious condemnations, but efficient and concrete measures to be established."

More than 30 years after the scandal first erupted in Ireland and Australia, and 20 years after it hit the US, bishops and Catholic officials in many parts of Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia still either deny that clergy sex abuse exists in their regions or play down the problem.

Francis, the first Latin American pope, called the summit after he himself botched a well-known sex abuse cover-up case in Chile last year and the scandal reignited in the US.

With his own papacy and the Catholic hierarchy at large facing a credibility crisis, Francis has now vowed to chart a new course and is bringing the rest of the



church leadership along with him. The summit is meant as a tutorial for church leaders around the globe to learn the importance of preventing sex abuse in their churches, tending to victims and investigating the crimes when they occur.

The Vatican's one-time sex crimes prosecutor delivered a step-by-step lesson Thursday on how to conduct an investigation under canon law, citing the example of Pope Benedict XVI, who turned the Vatican around on the issue two decades ago.

Calling for a conversion from a culture of silence to a "culture of disclosure," Archbishop Charles Scicluna told bishops they should cooperate with civil law enforcement investigations and announce decisions about predators to their communities once cases have been decided.

He said victims had the right to damages from the church and that bishops should consid-

er using lay experts to help guide them during abuse investigations.

The people of God "should come to know us as friends of their safety and that of their children and youth," he said. "We will protect them at all cost. We will lay down our lives for the flocks entrusted to us."

Finally, Scicluna warned them that it was a "grave sin" to withhold information from the Vatican about candidates for bishops a reference to the recent scandal of the now-defrocked former American cardinal, Theodore McCarrick.

It was apparently an open secret in some church circles that McCarrick slept with young seminarians. He was defrocked last week by Francis after a Vatican trial found credible reports that he abused minors as well as adults.

Francis offered a path of reform going forward, handing out a 21-point set of proposals for the church to consider in-

cluding some that would require changes to canon law. He called for specific protocols to handle accusations against bishops, in yet another reference to the McCarrick scandal. He suggested protocols to govern the transfers of seminarians or priests to prevent predators from moving freely to unsuspecting communities.

One idea called for raising the minimum age for marriage to 16 while another suggested a basic handbook showing bishops how to investigate cases.

Abuse survivors have turned out in droves in Rome to demand accountability and transparency from church leaders and assert that the time of sex abuse cover-ups is over.

"The question is this: Why should the church be allowed to handle the pedophile question? The question of pedophilia is not a question of religion, it is (a question of) crime," Francesco Zanardi, head of the main

victims advocacy group in Italy Rete L'Abuso, or Abuse Network, told a news conference in the Italian parliament. Inside the summit hall Thursday, the church leaders heard five videotaped testimonies from victims about their abuse and cruel treatment from an indifferent hierarchy.

One woman from Africa told the summit that the priest who began raping her at 15 forced her to have three abortions over the following 13 years. "He gave me everything I wanted when I accepted to have sex; otherwise he would beat me," she said.

The victims' names were not released to protect their privacy, but Chilean survivor Juan Carlos Cruz confirmed he provided a video.

"You are the physicians of the soul and yet, with rare exceptions, you have been transformed in some cases into murderers of the soul, into murderers of the faith," Cruz said in his testimony. Manila Cardinal Luis Tagle choked up as he responded to such testimony, telling the bishops that the wounds they had inflicted on the faithful through their negligence and indifference recalled the wounds of Christ on the cross.

In the keynote speech, he demanded bishops and superiors no longer turn a blind eye to the harm caused by clergy abuse and cover-ups.

"Our lack of response to the suffering of victims, yes even to the point of rejecting them and covering up the scandal to protect perpetrators and the institution, has injured our people," Tagle said. The result, he said, had left a "deep wound in our relationship with those we are sent to serve."

Mention of JeM in UNSC statement only in general terms not a judgement: China



BEIJING, FEB 22 (PTI): China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Friday sought to downplay the scathing statement issued by the powerful organ of the world body naming Jaish-e-Muhamad in the Pulwama terror attack, saying the mention of the Pakistan-based outfit was only in "general terms" and "does not represent a judgement".

Forty Central Reserve Police Force personnel were killed in a suicide attack by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14, sparking outrage in the country.

The powerful UN Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday strongly condemned the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack.

"The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir, which left 40 Indian paramilitary forces dead and dozens wounded on February 14, 2019, for which Jaish-e-Mohammed has claimed responsibility," it said in a statement.

Asked about the statement highlighting the role of JeM claiming the responsibility of the Pulwama attack, China's

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters that Beijing was closely following the developments related to the terror incident.

"Yesterday, the UN Security Council issued a press statement that mentioned that a particular organisation but only in general terms. It does not represent a judgment on the attack," Geng said.

His remarks were seen as an attempt by China, without whose endorsement the UNSC statement could not have been released, aimed at placating its close ally Pakistan and play down the indictment of the JeM.

China has been repeatedly blocking India and several other countries' efforts to bring about a global ban on JeM chief Masood Azhar in the UN's anti-terror 1267 committee.

While China's endorsement of the UNSC statement was reflection of wariness on the part of Beijing to repeatedly defend JeM in the UN body, which casts a shadow on its relations with India, observers say it is to be seen what stand Beijing would take when France moves its resolution seeking to list Azhar as a global terrorist in the UN.

France, also member of the permanent five of the UNSC, has officially

announced that it would move a resolution soon in the 1267 committee seeking Azhar's listing.

Since 2016, China has consistently blocked moves first by India and later by the US, the UK and France to designate Azhar as a global terrorist by putting repeated technical holds.

In his response on Friday Geng said that "China also noted that the Pakistani government showed readiness to cooperate with India on the investigation and that it is also ready to resolve differences with India through dialogue".

"China hopes all parties will work to find the truth about this attack. We hope Pakistan and India will engage in dialogue to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," he said.

The UN statement also underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these "rep- rehensible acts of terrorism" accountable and bring them to justice".

The UN condemnation came a day after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Maleeha Lodhi met top UN leaders including with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to brief them about the escalating tensions in the region in the wake of the Pulwama attack.

US aid for Venezuela lands in Curacao

WILLEMSTAD (CURCAO), FEB 22 (AFP): A plane carrying food and medical aid from the United States landed on the Caribbean island of Curacao Thursday en route to Venezuela, whose government has vowed to block it. AFP reporters saw the jet land at the airport in Curacao, one of the focal points of a volatile standoff between Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and self-declared head of state Juan Guaido. A dozen Venezuelan opposition supporters cheered and sang their national anthem as the plane touched down after flying from Miami.

Cargo handlers started unloading pallets of aid in which bottles of water were visible.

Organisers say the goods, channelled by the USAID development agency, will help relieve Venezuelans suffering in a severe economic crisis.

One of the Venezuelan organisers of the shipment, Miguel Rodriguez, said the plane contained 50 tons of food and medicine for Venezuelans suffering shortages.

He told AFP a boat was ready to ship the aid to Venezuela, whose coast lies some 40 miles away.

Pak says not concerned over India's plan to stop flow of water

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, FEB 22 (PTI): Pakistan is not concerned over India's plan to stop the flow of its share of water to Pakistan from the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty, a top official said.

The response came hours after Union minister Nitin Gadkari said in New Delhi that India has decided to "stop" the flow of its share of water to Pakistan from rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) after the ghastly Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Talking to Dawn on Thursday, secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Water Resources Khawaja Shumail said: We have neither concern nor objection if India diverts water of eastern rivers and supplies it to its people or uses it for other purposes, as the IWT allows it to do so.

He said Pakistan did not see Gadkari's statement as worrisome in context with the IWT.

Actually India wants to construct Shahpurkandi dam on the Ravi ba-

sin. This project is abandoned since 1995. Now they (India) want to construct this in a bid to use its own share of water that goes unutilised and finally flows to Pakistan. So if they want to use this whether through storing it, through construction of this dam or any other way for their people, they can do as we have nothing to do with it.

But we will definitely express our concerns and raise objections strongly if they use or divert waters of western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) on which our right to use prevails, Shumail said.

According to Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Mehr Ali Shah, as the IWT has already given a right to India in 1960 to use the water of eastern rivers, it is now up to it to do so or not.

Whether they diverted and used their unutilised share of eastern rivers' waters in 1960, we had no problem. They want to do it now, we have no problem. And if they don't want to use this, we have no issue, Shah said.

He said the planned Shahpurkandi dam was actually the stage-2 of the Ranjit Sagar dam. Though this project will also generate power, it will be used for irrigation purposes, he said.

While commenting about the proposed visit of Indian experts (India's commissioner for Indus waters) to Kotri Barrage (in Sindh province) keeping in view the tension between the two countries after the Pulwama attack, Shah said: Let's see what happens in this regard. But we hope for the best.

A three-member delegation of Pakistani experts headed by Shah completed its general tour of inspection (from Jan 28 to Feb 1) to various hydropower projects 1,000MW Pakal Dul, 48MW Lower Kalnai, 850MW Ratlay and 900MW Baglihar dam at Chenab Basin in India.

Besides, India, a couple of days before the Pulwama attack, also shared the design data of its three planned run-of-the-river hydropower schemes with Pakistan

under the IWT. These included Balti Kalan, Kalaroos and Tamasha hydropower projects which are planned to be constructed at Balti Kalan Nullah and Kalaroos Nullah at the Jhelum basin and Tamasha, a sub-tributary of the Indus river, respectively.

The reiteration to stop the flow of Indus water to Pakistan comes amid mounting Indo-Pak tension over the Pulwama terror strike that has triggered demands for action against the neighbouring country. India has already decided to revoke the Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan and mounted a diplomatic offensive to isolate it in the international community.

There were demands to stop flow of India's share of Indus water to Pakistan after the Uri terror attack in 2016.

Under the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960, the waters of the western rivers -- the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab -- was given to Pakistan and those of the eastern rivers -- the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej -- to India.



Space Jam 2 Is a Go With LeBron James

Space Jam 2 is heading to theaters! Warner Bros. announced Thursday that the highly-anticipated sequel will open July 16, 2021.

Wave your hands in the air if you feel fine!

Space Jam 2 is happening! SpringHill Entertainment has just posted new details about the highly-anticipated follow-up to the hit 1996 movie starring NBA legend Michael Jordan. Now, over 20 years later, Space Jam 2 will star basketball icon LeBron James as “small forward,” with Bugs Bunny co-starring as “point guard.”

The SpringHill Entertainment Instagram post, which shows a locker room, also reveals that Terence Nance will direct the movie and Black Panther’s Ryan Coogler will be a producer on the film.

James also confirmed the news to The Hollywood Reporter on Wednesday.

Talking about Coogler, James said he “loved his vision” for Black Panther, which Coogler directed. James also noted to THR that when he was growing up, there were no black superheroes. “So for Ryan to be able to bring that to kids,

it’s amazing,” he shared.

“The Space Jam collaboration is so much more than just me and the Looney Tunes getting together and doing this movie,” James told THR. “It’s so much bigger. I’d just love for kids to



understand how empowered they can feel and how empowered they can be if they don’t just give up on their dreams. And I think Ryan did that for a lot of people.”

Production on the movie is “tentatively slated” to start in 2019 during the NBA off-season.

Amy Winehouse hologram tour put on hold

LOS ANGELES, FEB 22 (PTI): Amy Winehouse hologram tour, that was slated to launch later this year, has been put “on hold” by the show’s producer.

BASE Hologram took to Twitter to announce that they have “encountered some unique challenges and sensitivities” that have made them reassess the tour.

“In developing the type of highly ambitious, state-of-the-art hologram/augmented reality theatrical event that would truly capture (Winehouse’s) genius and incredible artistic and social contributions, we have encountered some unique challenges and sensitivities,” the tweet read.

The Winehouse show will be “on hold until we determine the best path to a creatively spectacular production that would properly honour Amy’s legacy at its highest caliber,” the company said. The tour was scheduled to kick off in 2019 and run for several years. The production was supposed to feature Winehouse’s hologram backed by a live band, singers and theatrical stagecraft.

BASE has already gone forward with tours of “Roy Orbison: In Dreams” and one featuring opera legend Maria Callas called “Callas in Concert”.



Why Captain Marvel Is A Marvel Amongst MCU Superhero Films



A female superhero, a woman director, an origin story in reverse and Nick Fury in a younger avatar, multiple firsts set the forthcoming Captain Marvel, the first movie to release after the death of Marvel creator Stan Lee, apart from the traditional Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) entertainers fans have grown up on.

Oscar winning-actress Brie Larson, who has graduated from comedies to independent drama and film franchises, has taken on the powerful role of Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel in the movie, which marks the first time that MCU has a female superhero as the title character. And making it a reality is Anna Boden, one half of the film’s director duo.

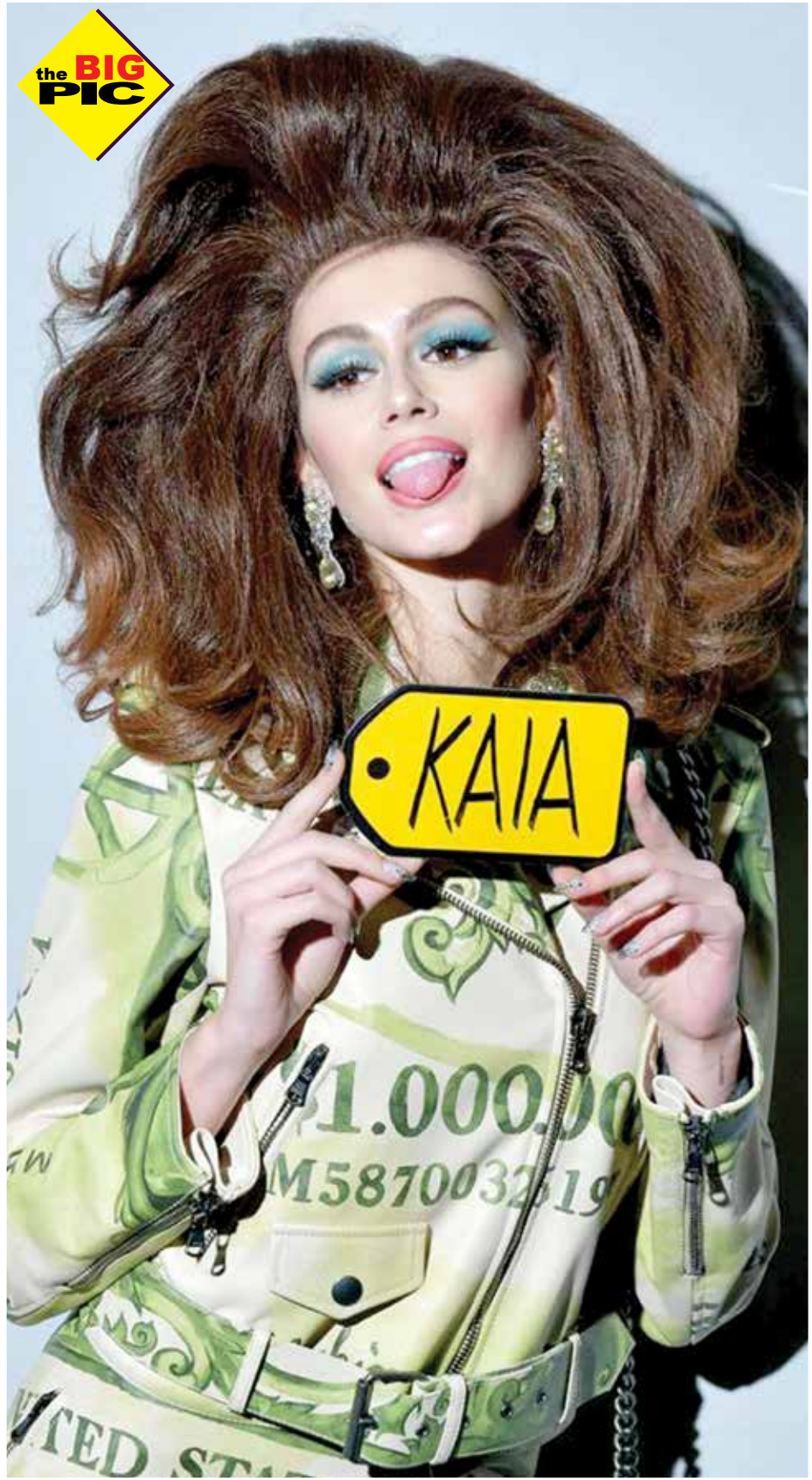
Talking about the newness that Captain Marvel (which she has directed with Ryan Fleck) offers, Ms Boden said: “We and Kevin Feige (Marvel Studios President) and the rest of the people at Marvel felt that we have seen enough traditional origin movies before, wherein there’s a human, then we see how he gets super-powered and then you see them save the earth.”

“So we got excited about introducing this superhero in a different way and kind of introducing her as someone who is already super-powered. When you meet her, she is a space-warrior, she can do proton blasts from wrists... What she does not know is her history and how she became who she is. Over the course of the film, we kind of unpack with her, and go on this journey of self-discovery with her. It’s like an origin story in reverse.”

MCU has regaled superhero movie buffs with titles like Iron Man, Thor, Captain America: The First Avenger, Guardians Of The Galaxy, Doctor Strange, Spider-Man: Homecoming and Black Panther, which is the first superhero film to be nominated for the Best Picture Oscar.

Thrilled for the recognition that superhero films are getting, the directors hope their take on the character of Captain Marvel touches a chord with the audience. The film, starring Jude Law, Samuel L Jackson and Gemma Chan, will release in India on March 8, International Women’s Day.

For Ms Boden, being MCU’s first female director and directing the franchise’s first female superhero film, makes her “stand a little bit taller” seeing the adulation that she has been receiving even before the movie has hit the screens.



BIG HAIR, DON’T CARE! Supermodel Kaia Gerber makes a face while backstage at the Moschino Fall/Winter 2019 show during Milan Fashion Week.

Alexandre Desplat will not attend Oscars ceremony



LOS ANGELES, FEB 22 (PTI): Oscar-nominated composer Alexandre Desplat will be unable to attend the Academy Award ceremony because of recent throat surgery.

The French music composer, who is already a two-time Oscar winner for 2014’s “Grand Budapest Hotel” and 2017’s “The Shape of Water”, is nominated this year for his Japanese-flavored score for Wes Anderson’s “Isle of Dogs”.

The composer had hoped to fly to LA for the Oscars ceremony, but doctors have advised him “to refrain from flying long distances at this stage of his recovery,” Desplat’s representative told Variety.

He is currently working on the score for “The Secret Life of Pets 2”.

The other four original-score nominees Terence Blanchard (“BlackKkKlansman”), Ludwig Goransson (“Black Panther”), Nicholas Britell (“If Beale Street Could Talk”) and Marc Shaiman (“Mary Poppins Returns”).

Eminem not happy with Netflix over ‘The Punisher’ cancellation

LOS ANGELES, FEB 22 (PTI): Veteran rapper Eminem is upset with Netflix for cancelling “The Punisher”.

Netflix has cancelled all Marvel shows ending their six-year partnership. “The Punisher” was among the most recent shows to be laid off after two seasons.

The Oscar-winning hip hop artist took to social media to protest the February 18 cancellation of the Jon Bernthal-led vigilante series.

“Dear Netflix, Regarding your cancellation of ‘The Punisher’, you are blowing it!! Sincerely, Marshall,” Eminem wrote in all caps on Twitter.

Netflix had already cancelled “Iron Fist”, “Luke Cage”, and “Daredevil” after the release of their most recent seasons. The still-upcoming third season of “Jessica Jones” will mark Marvel’s last release on the streaming giant.

The decision comes as Disney prepares to launch its own streaming service, Disney+ later this year.



ARIES: It’s almost too easy to get “lost in space” today, with mental Mercury orbiting dreamy Pisces and your internal twelfth house. Hours can pass without your even realizing it, with nothing technically “productive” coming out of whatever wormhole you get sucked into. Fortunately, can-do Jupiter is elbowing the messenger planet to come back to present time and tick some boxes on your ever-growing task list!

TAURUS: Watch your step—and your back. A competitive friend—or is that frenemy?—could be setting up a weird power dynamic with you. Mercury in nebulous Pisces and your house of peers is on the receiving end of a sharp square from amplifying Jupiter in your house of secrets and intense emotions. But if you try to talk about it, it’s likely they’ll just deny it.

GEMINI: You might have to assume the mantle of authority today, Gemini, so be ready to step up to the plate. Someone is NOT carrying their weight, and if you don’t say something, nothing is going to change. Ack! Rather than pretending it’s not the case or

tiptoeing around the issue, address it directly. **CANCER:** WEven if you’re feeling pressured to get ‘er done, slow and steady is the pace that’s going to win today’s race. Crab. You may be stressed from a big deadline or trying to absorb too many details, but it’s up to you to limit your intake of data. With can-do Jupiter squaring mental Mercury today, there won’t be any rest for the weary. But you may be pushing yourself harder than necessary.

LEO: This is not a good day to test your psychic abilities when trying to nail down details that are integral to your success. With Mercury in mysterious Pisces and your private eighth house, you may THINK your intuition is on point. But brash Jupiter is sending a disruptive beam from your dramatic fifth house. There’s a distorting current in the air, and you won’t be able to see it for what it is.

VIRGO: Think twice before you point your critical lens at someone or lash out in anger. A jagged square between impulsive Jupiter and your ruler, messenger Mercury, is making your tolerance for nonsense paper-thin. The trouble is, if you try to give feedback,

your candor could strike people below the belt. Your best bet for today is to disengage, even if every fiber of your being wants to read the offending party like a stack of library books.

LIBRA: Hit pause on your monologue, Libra, and take your audience’s pulse. You might think people are hanging on your every word, but they might actually be waiting for you to take a breath so they can get a comment in edgewise. Today, loquacious Mercury is getting zapped by passionate, self-directed Jupiter in your communication corner.

SCORPIO: Protect your rep! A challenging clash between uncouth Jupiter and chatty Mercury could loosen lips—yours and other peoples’. Someone might say things for attention or just to stir things up. This is one energy vortex you want to steer very clear of! If others are engaging in mean-spirited conversation or spreading false rumors, speak up and nip it in the bud. Sometimes all it takes to neutralize the haters’ bluster is one person who’s willing to stand up for what’s right!

SAGITTARIUS: There’s no doubt that your straightforward sign can dish out the blunt barbs, but today’s stars ask the question: Can you take it as well as you serve it up? With verbose Mercury in your sensitive fourth house clashing with your ruler, loose-lipped Jupiter, things might come out cattier than you intended. While normally you’d just shrug it off and move on, today you might find yourself on the receiving end of similar snark—and suddenly understand how it feels!

CAPRICORN: You generally think before you speak, Cap, but today’s stars might hit your verbal accelerator and cause you to blurt out something better kept under wraps. With uncensored Jupiter in your unconscious twelfth house squaring chatty Mercury in your communication corner, you may not be aware of the simmering emotions that are fueling your speech. Are you still mad at someone for something they said weeks ago? We can’t always “just let bygones be bygones.” Perhaps you need an air-clearing convo before you

can truly bury the hatchet.

AQUARIUS: Two things that seldom blend seamlessly: money and friendship. And today’s edgy square between loose-lipped Mercury and outspoken Jupiter might bring to the surface some buried resentment—yours or someone else’s. Sidestep that snake pit by resolving not to talk about finances, raises or even how much something cost around people you don’t know intimately. And if you’re at a group meal or hang, deliberately don’t reach for the bill. Let the math whiz at the table do the divvying.

PISCES: News flash: It’s not only okay for you to talk about your work with your inner circle, but true friends actually WANT to hear about your successes! Today’s assertive alignment of go-getter Jupiter in your career corner and loquacious Mercury in your sign lights a fire under you to speak up. While sharing amongst friends is good for your ego—and can help you work through sticky issues—you DON’T want to say the same things around colleagues. With them, bring your usual Piscean inscrutability.