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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Govt looking
at new modes
of public
transport,
CM assures
SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today informed that the State Government was trying everything possible to ease traffic congestion in Gangtok and is planning to construct flyover bridges, diversion of roads and tunnelling of roads. The CM said this during the inauguration of the new Secretariat complex today.

He informed that the Government is contemplating on introducing new methods of public transport and traffic management to tackle the challenge of increasing traffic in the capital. He informed that the road from Adampool to Banjhakri Falls near Ranka will be completed for vehicular movement within a month's time.

Likewise, the road from Lower Syari to Ranipool is nearing completion and will be operational very soon, he informed. These two roads will help divert traffic to a great extent, he added.

The CM urged all the stakeholders and people at large to provide feedback and suggestions and to take ownership and responsibility to sustain these infrastructures.

**Over 4,000
criminal cases
pending against
present and
former MPs,
MLAs: SC told**

NEW DELHI, DEC 4 (PTI): The Supreme Court was Tuesday informed that there were 4,122 criminal cases pending, some for over three decades, against present and former members of Parliament and legislative assemblies.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi will Tuesday take

turn to pg07

Rs. 264.30 cr new Tashiling Secretariat complex inaugurated

New Secretariat – a symbol of Sikkimese culture: CM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:**

Built at a cost of Rs. 264.30 crore, the new State Secretariat was inaugurated today by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling. The old Secretariat building had suffered damages in the earthquake that rattled the State on 18 Sept, 2011.

Construction of the new Secretariat complex has been executed through a Kolkata based construction firm M/S Archtech Consultants Pvt Ltd on turnkey contract.

The foundation stone of the project was laid by the then Governor of Sikkim, Balmiki Prasad Singh on 01 Mar, 2013, in the presence of the Chief Minister.

After formally inaugurating the multi-storied new Secretariat building, the Chief Minister took a round of the new infrastructure.

In his address, the Chief Minister congratulated all the State Government employees for the new state-of-the-art



infrastructure created by the Government for effective administration. Terming the occasion as historic, he dedicated the Secretariat to the people of Sikkim and went on to announce that the new Secretariat should be fully functional from 02 Jan, 2019.

He directed all the concerned Departments operating from Manan Bhawan and other rent-

ed establishments to immediately shift their offices to the new premises. He appealed to the officers to enter the new Secretariat with a positive mind-set and a problem-solving attitude.

Since Sikkim is situated in an earthquake prone zone so the state government decided to construct a completely new and earthquake-re-



sistant building that can withstand earthquakes measuring 10 on the Richter scale. The building has all the modern facilities for the officials and the members of the public, who visit the office.

He further said that this mega structure can be a symbol to protect and promote our rich culture and tradition adding that the name

of the building will remain Tashiling Secretariat since it is a legacy from the time of the Chogyals and holds sentimental value for every Sikkimese.

As per the allotment to house the departments, the Chief Minister's Office, Planning, Finance and Home along with Chief Secretary office will be at the main

Secretariat building and other departments like Land Revenue & Disaster Management, Parliamentary Affairs, Finance, Excise and Law Department will be housed in Annexure I building.

The Secretariat building was built at cost of Rs. 264.30 crore [Rs.171 crore from Prime Minister Relief Fund and Rs. 93 crores

from State planning].

"Cultural and historical aesthetics have been incorporated in the new Secretariat, which will be a one-stop centre for visitors and researchers to know Sikkim's culture and history," said the CM. He said that the Secretariat will have support infrastructures like pedestrian walkways, water fountain, garden, bus bay, and adequate parking facility.

The Chief Minister added that the second phase of the work will continue and all efforts will be made to decongest the place leading upto the State Legislative Assembly on one side and the Nehru Statue near Ridge Park on the other.

This is the third Secretariat building which has been constructed in the State. The first, also known as the Chief Court was constructed in 1915 and the second after joining the Indian Union, which had to be demolished after it was damaged by the 2011 earthquake.

turn to pg07

SKM forms ICC to handle complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has become the first regional registered political party to form an Internal Complaints Committee to look into complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace. An SKM press release issued today informs that Kala Rai has been appointed chairperson of the party's ICC which has seven other members.

The ICC was formed in response to Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi's appeal to all recognised political parties to immediate-



ly form internal complaints committees.

"Section 4 of the POSH Act (law on prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace) that mandat-

ed the formation of an ICC in every organisation hiring women. As a political party, a significant number of personnel, including women, are em-

ployed in the offices of the party that committee needs to be constituted immediately as directed by the ministry," the release explains.

LTVC calls on Rijiju with request for seat reservation Bill

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:**

A delegation of Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee called on Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiran Rijiju, at his residence in New Delhi on Monday.

The delegation, led by the LTVC president Yehang Tshong, joint secretary Kishor Tamang and Treasurer Susan Subba submitted a memorandum requesting for the passing of a Limboo and Tamang Scheduled Tribes Seat Bill in the upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament, informs



an LTVC press release.

The release further informs that the MoS as-

sured LTVC to look into the matter and speak with the higher authorities.

Tshering becomes first Sikkim girl to hit half century in Sr Women's One Day League

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:**

Playing only its second match of Senior Women's One Day League 2018-19 in the Plate Division, Sikkim produced a striker from the state, Tshering Ongmu Lepcha, who has become the first local girl to score a half century for the State in the League.

Tshering scored 60 runs against Arunachal Pradesh and became the highest scorer for Sikkim in the match followed by Tabita Subba who was 34 not out.

In the Plate Division, Sikkim will be competing against Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, and Uttarakhand. Sikkim is participating the Indian Domestic League after six years and will be playing eight league matches in Bhu-



baneshwar and Cuttack.

The team is made up of 12 local players and 3 guest players who have been playing professional cricket from their respective States and also have represented India in the past.

Tshering hails from Gyalshing, West Sikkim, and has been playing for Sikkim Women's

Cricket team since 2008 under different age categories and is the best wicket-keeper batsmen of the State, a press communiqué from Sikkim Cricket Association informs.

She has always been a consistent run scorer for Sikkim. Her highest run in 2-day matches is 98, scored against Odisha in

2010 playing in the senior category and 72 runs in One-Days.

Back in January 2013, when Sikkim reached the finals of the Senior Women's Northeast One Day Tournament against Chhattisgarh, Ongmu scored 60 runs and was also the highest run-maker of the tournament.

"Playing cricket has always been my passion and I love this game. We are thankful to the state cricket association and BCCI that Cricket has returned to the state after almost 6 years and we are back on the field. I am grateful to God for putting me in the position where I am today. It is an honor to represent the State in the National Level Tournament and that too in Cricket where the competition is too much. I am happy for my half-century but this is not enough and

turn to pg07



Truck rams into parked car at Melli

A loaded truck lost control at NH10 near Melli and toppled over a parked car below the teesta bridge in the evening. The driver of the truck and occupants of the car suffered major injuries. They were rescued immediately and taken to Melli hospital. [photo: BIKASH CHETTRI]

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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Gangtok on Wednesday, 05 Dec

Temp: 17°C/09°C
Forecast: Sunny to partly cloudy with a little rain in the evening, then a shower in spots

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

Organic farming training at Singyang

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

Mevedir, a service provider for Organic Sikkim, organized a GPU-level training on organic farming at Singyang GPU, West Sikkim, on 01 Dec.

The key participants at the training were Keshang Doma Bhutia (Panchayat President), Jeevan Chettri (Panchayat Vice President), Prem Lall Chettri (Panchayat member) along with farmers of the GPU, a Mevedir press release informs.

Mevedir master trainers Biren Tiwari, Sangmoo Lepcha and Ambika Basnett were present as resource persons who covered topics like organic norms, certification, Trace Net Identification Number issued by the Government of India and maintained by the APEDA (Agriculture and Process Food Exporting Development Agency).

The Panchayat President distributed Madhayaam compost to all the farmers who attended the daylong training.

HSP celebrates ECI registration

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP] has been granted registration by the Election Commission of India. The ECI has written to HSP confirming that the party is now a registered political party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act 1951, with effect from 15.11.2018.

"Today is a historic day for HSP as the party has been registered by the ECI," said HSP vice president, RB Subba, to reporters at the HSP head office here at Deorali.

HSP members dis-



tributed sweets to celebrate the ECI registration.

Party vice president, Bhaichung Bhutia, Dr Bina Basnet and other office-bearers were also

present. To a question, Mr Subba said that the party has not appointed any party president so far.

The party president will be announced much ahead of the upcoming

election, he added. "We have seven vice presidents who coordinate and run the party," he said.

The HSP was formed on 31 May at Daramdin in West Sikkim.

Training on pest management at Lumgor Santok



SUMMIT REPORT

DIKCHU, 04 DEC:

A daylong training on pest and disease management on Organic Farming was held at Sangtok Ward under Lumgor Santok GPU, Lower Dzongu, in the residence of Panchayat member Dawa Lepcha on 03 Dec, a press release informs.

The Program was organised by Organic Sik-

kim, a service provider agency under the Sikkim Organic Mission.

Field Coordinator, Organic Sikkim, Meena Sharma, highlighted the different pest management technologies using locally available herbal and aromatic plants.

Later, a demonstration was also given on Fermented Plants Extract for the control of Red Ants in the soil.

SNPP wants restrictions on CBI withdrawn

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

Sikkim National People's Party [SNPP] today hit back the recent statement of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's on benami properties and said that if Mr Chamling was so insistent that he has no such properties within or outside the state, he must withdraw restrictions imposed on CBI opening investigations in the State.

SNPP president, Delay Namgyal Burfungpa, addressing a press conference here today, also informed that the party has been fighting on this very issue since 2010.

"Despite this, the Lokayukta has failed to appreciate and adjudicate his matter in time-bound manner after the Supreme Court reverted it to the Lokayukta in April 2014," he said.

Over the course of the past four years, only three hearings have been held, he complained.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," he said, adding that he has written to the Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister and President of India seeking their intervention on his plea.

The Chief Minister, while inaugurating a monastery on 28 Nov last month, and taking on opposition allegations of his having benami properties, had challenged them to prove their allegations that he held benami properties.

Golay completes Parivartan Sankalp Yatra of Daramdin

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

In continuation of the ongoing Parivartan Sankalp Yatra, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party president, PS Tamang [Golay], met and interacted with the people of Doda, Buriakhop, Lower Rumbuk and surrounding areas on his last day in Daramdin constituency of West Sikkim.

An SKM press release informs that the people placed various issues and grievances with SKM president, seeking construction of footpath from Rumbuk to Sombaria, carpeting of road at Munyu village, gas godown in Sombaria bazaar etc.

The release adds that in his address, the SKM



president stated that SKM was a pro-poor party and that Sikkim has not yet witnessed economic and social development of the underprivileged under the SDF government.

SKM has been advocating for the financially weaker sections, he added, while reiterating that SDF does

not have any real concern.

On the same, he asserted that it was now the responsibility of the people to save Sikkim.

The release further informs that several SDF families from Lower Rumbuk and Burikakhop officially joined SKM during the meeting.

SKM volleys back SDF criticism

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has strongly criticised the press statement of Sikkim Democratic Front general secretary, Krishna Kharel, on the ongoing Parivartan Sankalp Yatra of SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay].

SKM has asserted that to accuse Mr Tamang of taking out his frustrations with the Parivartan Sankalp Yatra proves that SDF does not have any respect for political thoughts.

An SKM press release points out that direct interaction between a leader and the people shows the connect between the two and was the real beauty of democracy, something that SDF representatives won't appreciate since they preferred to work from the confines of an office instead.



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04-06 Dec, 2018
Hotel Rendezvous, Gangtok

4th Dec, 9:30 am-
Topic:
(a) How to choose subjects for class II (for class 9 and 10 students)

4th Dec, 4 pm-
Topic :
(a) Myths vs reality - Studying outside India
(b) Which course / career stream to pursue after class 12 (in India or Abroad)

5th Dec, 9: 30 AM
(a) How to plan your college / university education

5th Dec, 4 pm-
(a) Myths vs reality - Studying outside India
(b) Which course / career stream to pursue after class 12 (in India or Abroad)

WALK IN EVENT. FREE FOR ALL
For individual counseling, students have to register at Hotel Rendezvous counter from 1st Dec onwards

an initiative of

in association with SummitTimes

Sikkim Summit for Tribal Status 2018: A Historical, Political and Legal Perspective

MK SUBBA & MR SHRESTHA

The Eleven Indigenous Ethnic Communities of Sikkim (EIECOS) in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim organized the Sikkim Summit for Tribal Status on the 3rd and 4th of May 2018, and subsequently released a post conference document on the 17th of November 2018 with compilation of papers, speeches and invited articles of the summit.

The summit was primarily aimed to explore political, legal and historical perspectives on the demand of the 11 left out communities of Sikkim to be recognized as Scheduled Tribes constitutionally by the Union Government.

This time too, expectations were very high that the summit would finally find an amicable and long lasting solution to one of the most contentious issue of Sikkim in the present context, which has vast social, political and ethnical ramifications.

The conglomeration of India's top thinkers, constitutional experts, anthropologists, politicians, retired bureaucrats, were the key resource persons touching on various subjects in their specialized fields. However, the documents compiled and released by the Government of Sikkim on the 17th of November 2018' still seems far-fetched, inconclusive and unconvincing with regards to finding a permanent solution to this issue.

PRE-MERGER DISCREPANCIES

After Sikkim became the 22nd state of the Indian Union on 16th May 1975, Sikkim constitutionally became an integral part and a federal state of the Indian Union from a monarchy that ruled Sikkim for almost 333 years.

As quoted by one of the resource person during the summit, Madam Shomona Khanna, one of the keynote speaker of the summit, who is an eminent lawyer and a constitutional expert, said that; Article 2 of the Constitution of India gives absolute power to the Union Government to admit a new state into the Union "on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit" contained therein under which the Indepen-

dent state of Sikkim became a part of the Indian Union, which has precisely happened in case of Sikkim's merger into the Indian Union.

The then Assembly of Sikkim, passed a unanimous resolution, for Sikkim to be a constituent part of the Indian Union on 10th April 1975 through a plebiscite, popularly known as a Referendum or majority will, without much foresight of any democratic exigencies that were to follow, when such a merger was taking place between two Sovereign Nations.

Even the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has adjudicated that there was no agreement, treaty or any kind of terms and conditions when Sikkim merged with the Indian Union, in the RC Poudyal vs Union of India case in 1992.

Much of the problem that Sikkim faced in the last 45 years till today emerged due to the incongruity between the high expectation of a Democratic future cherished by the Sikkimese people, and the Constitutional limitations and complexities on the other hand.

Having said that, the history of Sikkim since time immemorial cannot be ignored or taken in isolation, however the Constitution of India and law of the land came into force in Sikkim wef 16 May 1975, commencing with the appointment of LD Kazi as the first Chief Minister of Sikkim by BB Lal, the first Governor of Sikkim vide Gazetted Notification No 28/ SKM/Governor (1) 75 dated 16th May 1975.

In 1975, when Sikkim became a part of India, the Sikkimese of Bhutia Lepcha origin and Sikkimese of Nepalese origin were the ethnic autochthons of this land and consequently, the Constitution of India legalized the pre-merger General Elections, held on April 1974, vide 371F (a),(b) (i) (i) (ii) and C, and interestingly, even allowing the Sikkim Legislative Assembly (SLA), and its members to nominate SK Rai as the first Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Sikkim, without any mandated Parliamentary Constituency election, subpersed by Article 371F (e) on the 4th of December 1975.

The General Elections of 1974,

held on the foundations of 8th May Agreement 1973 and Representation of Sikkim Subject Act 1974, established and constitutionalized the distinct identity of the Sikkimese Bhutia, Lepcha and the Sikkimese Nepalese communities, with the main theme of One Man One Vote, wherein 16 seats were Reserved for the Bhutia Lepcha of Sikkimese origin, including 1 seat reserved for the Sangha, and 16 seats were Reserved for the Sikkimese of Nepalese origin including Schedule Castes and Tsongs. **This event was a turning point in the political history of Sikkim, as the Sikkim Assembly formulated the Government of Sikkim Act 1974 paving way for Sikkim to be an Associate state of India vide the 35th Constitution Amendment Act and Article 2- A of the of India. Consequently, the 36th Constitution Amendment Act, and the insertion of Article 371F in part XXI of the Constitution of India formally recognized Sikkim as a full-fledged state of the Indian Union on the strength of the Assembly of Sikkim constituted by the General Election of 1974.**

With the extension of India's election laws in Sikkim in 1976 vide Representation of People's Act 1950 and 1951, the Government of India was constrained to recognize only the Bhutia and Lepchas of Sikkim as Schedule Tribes vide Article 342 and Article 332, vide the Schedule Tribe Amendment Act 1978, unjustifiably leaving the Sikkimese of Nepalese origin outside the ambit of the Scheduled Tribe List, which has become the main contentious political issue of Sikkim for the last 45 years.

Now rewinding back to 1975, the Government of India should have firstly, dissolved the Sikkim Assembly after the merger and called for a fresh General Election as per the Representation of People's Act 1950 and 1951. This would have given a justifiable level playing field to all the stakeholders in finding an amicable solution during that time, without any intrusion of superfluous ideas and opinions, as the events of merger was

still very fresh. This way, the prime objectives of the merger could also have been achieved without any controversies.

The present statement of the Government of Sikkim at the summit, stating that the Non-Inclusion of Sikkimese of Nepalese origin in the Schedule Tribe List of 1978, was due to feudal bureaucratic lapses is misleading and uncalled for, as the Schedule Tribe List are finalized and constitutionalized as per Article 342, where the consent of the State Government is a vital must, thereafter the proposal is forwarded to the Government of India, for further necessary action.

Now, looking back at the General Election held on October 1979, under the Representation of the Peoples (Amendment) Ordinance Bill of 1979, which unjustifiably eliminated the Reservation of the Sikkimese Nepalese in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, vide the Representation of the People's (Amendment) Act 1980 (8 of 1980), -the election, should have been boycotted and rejected by the then main political parties of Sikkim led by eminent Nepalese leaders like Shri R C Poudyal, Shri N B Bhandari and Shri N B Khatiwada as nothing could have outweighed the identity of the Sikkimese Nepalese, vis a vis the 1979 General Elections, which could have been held anytime on a later date.

The General Election of 1979 had huge consequences on the political future of Sikkim, as this was the first Election held post-merger with the Indian Union. But unfortunately, the leaders at that time could not come to a consensus for the greater interest of the Sikkimese Nepalese community, which in turn could have put immense pressure on the Government of India, to revisit the historical background of the 3 ethnic communities of Sikkim, namely Sikkimese Bhutias. Lepchas and the Nepalese, transcending from monarchy to a Federal Republican Democracy. Not boycotting that year's Elections was a major blunder, and since then, the Sikkimese Nepalese have always been vulnerable and

susceptible to historical derogation and discrimination.

POLITICAL MISCALCULATION AND VOTE BANK POLITICS

After the Limboo and Tamangs were included in the Schedule Tribes List in 2002, Vide The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act 2002, the Sikkimese Nepalese community has only been used for vote bank politics, and no sincere efforts are being made by consecutive State Governments, to look back on this historical errors and restore the ethnic identity of the Sikkimese Nepalese.

The past 45 years post merger, was the ideal period which gave unlimited opportunity to settle all inconsistencies, and reach a healthy democratic system of justice, equality and fraternity, but due to political short sightedness, vested interests and unplanned vision of successive State Governments, the Sikkimese Nepalese have been left to fend for themselves.

Over the past few decades, our country's political paradigms are constantly evolving, in the ever changing regional and geo-political landscape, with redefining priorities, but HOW and WHEN the Ethnic Nepalese community of Sikkim will get their rightful and constitutional recognition, is a million dollar question.

Article 170 of the Constitution of India stipulates that the Legislative Assembly of any state shall consist of not more than 500 members and not less than 60 members based on the first census after 2026 which has been clearly exemplified by Article 332 (3-A) and (3-B) of the Constitution of India.

Therefore, in Sikkim's perspective, the constituent Assembly of Sikkim in 2019 and 2024 is of vital importance, for safeguarding and upholding the distinct identity of Sikkim and its people within the constitutional framework of our country. It also demands immense political will and commitment to reclaim and fulfill the long pending constitutional demands of the Sikkimese Nepalese.

Even after the merger, ethnic complexities still continue to deter-

mine the discourse in Sikkim; be it political, economic, or social.

Successive Legislative Assemblies of Sikkim have failed to recognize the significance of Article 371F in Sikkim's context. The ground realities in Sikkim also shows, that the Democratic institutions in Sikkim, have failed miserably in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the Sikkimese Nepalese community, because of the short sighted policies and ideals of the successive Governments that governed Sikkim since 1975, even after being equipped with Special Constitutional provisions like Article 371F which has the power to deviate from the provisions of the Constitution.

Political parties are only using the demands of ethnic communities as their political agenda without any political determination to secure the hopes and aspirations of the Sikkimese janta and the Sikkimese identity as a whole.

The Limboo Tamang communities of Sikkim had been recognized as Scheduled Tribes long back in 2002 vide Article 342 of the Indian Constitution, but their reservation of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly has still been kept in abeyance for the last 16 years. The recognition of the 11 Indigenous Ethnic communities of Sikkim namely Bahun (Khas) Chettri (Khas) Gurung, Mangar, Newar, Rai, Sunuwar, Mukhia , Thami, Jogi and Yakha as Scheduled Tribes (Pan India) in the near future, will certainly test the Constitutional validity of Article 371F and the Non- Obstante Clause, to an entirely new perspective.

The times are grave, the challenges urgent, and the stakes high, so we need to continue our work on broader policies with collective responsibility, accountability with affirmative actions. We also need to work with unity and dedication to accomplish our unfulfilled promises and unresolved political rights, where no legacy from the past will prevent a good future for us and our children.

[to be concluded]

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SRLM organizes Mega SHG-Bankers Meet at Pakyong

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

One day SHG – Bankers Meet was organised by Sikkim Rural Livelihood Mission, Rural Management and Development Department, on 03 Dec at Pakyong Block under the chairmanship of Commissioner RMDD, Dr. P. Senthil Kumar. Over 625 SHG members participated in the meet and benefited from the program, a press release informs.

The program was attended by AGM Reserve Bank of India, AGM NABARD, Lead Bank Manager, State Bank of India, Branch Managers of SBI Pakyong, CBI Pakyong, SISCO Pakyong, SBI Ranipool, Dy Chief Executive Officer/SRLM, Block Project Manager, SRLM, DPM FI, APM Pakyong and PA Pakyong.

The objective of this meet was to enable and



build a relationship between SRLM SHGs and the Banks in this block. RBI & NABARD extended their support to SHG & LDM along with Bank Managers encouraged SHG members to come forward and apply for loan from their respective bank branches for livelihood.

Thirty-one Loan applications were sub-

mitted on the day and timely sanction and disbursement has been promised by the Banks, the release informs. Over 600 SHG members were also enrolled for PMJJBY, PMSBY & APY schemes on the spot.

In is address Dr. P. Senthil Kumar, SMD/ SRLM, explained the role of SHGs, the support and funds extended by the Livelihood Mission in the state. He also motivated them to take up livelihood activities at higher level and large scale. He also explained the NRLM efforts and safeguards facilitating the bank credits.

The self-help groups in Sikkim under SRLM are monitored very closely to ensure that they follow all NRLM norms and five principles of its functioning including regular sav-

ing, internal lending and account keeping through a monthly reporting system. All SHGs will go for digital accounting system in two months' time through use of tablet at the field level. Community resource persons have been selected and trained for this purpose. This will further enhance the credibility of SHGs of Sikkim to seek bank credits. There are 28 Bank sakhis selected from the SHGs and have under gone training to facilitate bank loan to SHGs.

Dr Kumar stressed to the Bankers to use the service of the Bank Sakhis to prepare bank loan documents. During the discussion, bankers raised issues related to repayment and deposits of the savings of the SHGs in the Bank. It was clarified to them that several

safeguards have been put in place under NRLM to ensure full repayment of bank credits by SHGs and there is a Community Based Recovery Mechanism (CBRM) is also has been put in place to take care of issues related to defaulters if any.

All the bankers appreciated the efforts made by SRLM in providing credit support to the SHGs and they assured that the banks will extend all supports to SHG funding in the state. All Bankers appreciated that SHG loans under NRLM has no default and has no NPA and all the bankers assured all support in providing all bank related support to SHGs including Bank credits in future as well. The program ended with a vote of thanks by the Block Project Manager.

Int'l Day of Persons with Disabilities observed at CRH Tadong



GANGTOK, 04 DEC (IPR): Along with rest of the nation, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) was observed at Central Referral Hospital, Tadong, on the theme "Empowering Person with Disability and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality". Minister for Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, A.K Ghatani attended the function as the chief guest.

The programme was organized by Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti (SVSS) and Central Referral Hospital in association with Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department. According to the United Nations, the theme of 2018 focuses on empowering persons with disability with equal opportunities and inclusiveness. The idea is to empower them with equitable, inclusive and sustainable development as part of Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030.

The programme was attended by Additional Secretary of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, K. B. Pradhan, Additional Secretary, Roshni Rai, Project Director of Human Resource Development Department, Samagra Shiksha, Bhim Thatal, Principal Director, Heath Department, Dr. Nim Dorjee Bhutia, and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Minister, A. K Ghatani said, "The day (December 3) is meant to promote rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of development in the society. The main idea is to raise awareness about Persons with Disabilities, their situation and their means to survive in cultural, economic, social and political life. On this day, it is important to spread

awareness by involving organizations and individuals in breaking down attitudinal and structural barriers for people with disability."

Referring to various central and state sponsored social welfare schemes, the Minister urged children to take advantage of it under Social Welfare Department. He urged the Social Welfare Department to launch a campaign by involving ASHA, CDPOs to identify such students, to award them such welfare schemes and also for making Disability Certificates etc. Minister urged everyone to carry out a survey to identify PwDs in the state so that they can avail various welfare schemes.

Mr Ghatani stated that Sikkim is committed to support Persons with Disabilities to fully participate in their communities by ensuring equal access to all aspects of public life and empowering people with disabilities to be contributors, and decision makers. He further added that in Sikkim, PwDs are given equal opportunities, and valued for their skills and abilities.

"We have to create a healthy society by extending support to People with Disabilities at the right time not only for people with disabilities, but society as a whole." Minister added.

Minister appealed to everyone to come forward and work united and unanimously to make Sikkim free Tuberculosis state by 2022. He also briefed about the upcoming 1000 bedded Multi Speciality Hospital at Sichey.

On the occasion, Dr. Satya Saraswat (Plastic and Cosmetic Surgeon), Saraswat Hospital Agra was also felicitated by organizers for his noble cause like conducting post burnt surgery etc.

'Mr. Knowledgeable' award for ICFAI Univ-Sikkim VC

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 04 DEC:

Vice-Chancellor, ICFAI University Sikkim, Dr Jagannath Patnaik, received the "Mr. Knowledgeable Award" at the All India Education Icon event on 01 Dec 2018, held at Holiday-Inn, Mumbai, organised by Thirtyone Ventures.

Dr Patnaik was the guest of honour and participated as one of the judges at the event which was a first of its kind in the country with participants were from all



over the India.

A vital aspect of this event was to identify the role of the research-

ers in academic in India which represents nation development and global peace.

Navy Day at MG Marg



Summit Report
Gangtok, 04 Dec:

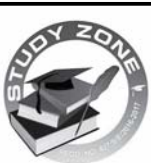
Navy Day was observed here today to celebrate the achievements and role of the naval force.

To commemorate the special occasion, naval vet-

erans of Sikkim organised a special awareness programme in Gangtok with an "Anti Tobacco/ Smoking drive" at MG Marg.

They also remarked that Sikkim has very few youth joining the Indian

Navy and that even this number was decreasing every year. They encouraged youth to join the Indian Navy and said that it was not only a great job, but provided the opportunity to serve the country.



ADMISSION
OPEN

STUDY ZONE

Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)

OUR COURSE OUTLINES:

1. Winter Crash Courses running successfully for classes X, XII (CBSE, ICSE,ISC)

2. Study Materials provided according to the standards of the board.

3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations for the students

4. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective

5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers

6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.

OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To give clear concept of the chapters

2. To help the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations


3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently

4. Greater emphasis would be to excel.

5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651

Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press , Gangtok



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

RABONG SUB DIVISION

SOUTH SIKKIM

N.I.T. No. 04/GOS/SD/R&B/Rab.

Dated: 1/12/2018

RE-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer(Rabong), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 584/R&B/Secy, dated 08.10.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **Gram Panchayat Ward** where the work is to be executed.
The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.	GPU/WARD
1.	Construction of Road from Ling-zoo to Simboley under Rabong Sub-Division in South Sikkim (Km 1 st).	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	12 months	GPU: Kewzing Bakhim. Ward: Lingzoo ward no. 6.
2.	Construction of Road from Ling-zoo to Simboley under Rabong Sub-Division in South Sikkim (Km 1 st to km 2.30) 1300mtrs.	55,10,000.00	1,37,750.00	5,000.00	12 months	GPU: Kewzing Bakhim. Ward: Lingzoo ward no. 6.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt For issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form).	20 th & 21 st December, 2018 (From 10.00am to 4.00pm).
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR(as Earnest Money)	28 th & 29 th December, 2018 (from 10.00am to 4.00pm).
3.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender SL.No. 1 to 2(Venue: GPK Kewzing Bakhim)	9 th January 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.00pm)
4.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender a) SL.No. 1 to 2(Venue: GPK Kewzing Bakhim)	9 th January 2019 (1 pm onwards).

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

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

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

3. The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.

4. The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Rabong Sub Division on production of requisite Bank receipt of Scheduled Bank where the respective GPU's have their account, towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable).

5. Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of temporary deposit receipts (TDR) in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi Circle. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.

6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at SL.No. 3 (a) above should be enclosed with the offer.

7. Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the respective GPK's (Panchayat Bhawan) on the date and within the time indicated above.

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

9. The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

10. In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

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

12. The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.

14. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of Work Order.

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

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

17. The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

18. Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

19. The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicted in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.

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

21. Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.

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

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

22. The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.

23. Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.

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

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

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

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer

Roads & Bridges Department.

Rabong Sub Division, South Sikkim.

R.O. No. 523/ipr/pub/classi./18-19

Date :3.12.2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

In Pursuit of Happiness

...no, not mercenary materialism

And no, this is not a moral science lesson. It will however begin with reference to an international conference the State Government had organized several years back on “Science, Spirituality and Education” with the Dalai Lama as a special guest and speaker. The conference was motivated by a felt need to work on school curriculums in a way that would tease out more empathy and deeper engagements from students and deliver Sikkim the much-needed involved citizenry for the future.

The Dalai Lama had charmed the audience with his ready wit and open mind and set the conference on course by suggesting that the participants deliberate over how common sense, and not necessarily religious regimen, if harnessed with conscious empathy, could deliver an education which inculcated moral ethics. Individual moral ethics, he stressed would link together to deliver genuine social empathy which would in turn manifest in the evolution of more compassionate societies peopled by citizens with a stronger sense of universal responsibility and calmer dispositions. Strife and an unbridled pursuit of material acquisitions, whether at the individual or collective community level, have come to define the 21st century which has now almost made a virtue out of mercenary materialism. Proof of this faulty prioritization is apparent in how “happiness” is now increasingly being sought in acquisitions and not so much in the satisfaction derived from contributing to the world. While the former results in competition and hence conflict, the latter is a more personal experience which is not in competition with anyone else and hence does not lead to strife. Also, as societies get more and more obsessive with acquiring more to be happy, they can also slip into depression when they cannot gather enough ‘benefits’. Sikkim should understand this phenomenon well because it has to be accepted that apathy - that listless lack of interest and refusal to get excited or engage - underlines social response and engagements here.

This apathy does not necessarily stem from denial or oppression, but is born from an inferred sense of loss over not having “acquired enough”. Even as this manifests in listlessness in outward behaviour, internally, the mind is agitated and it is perhaps in this internal disquiet that Sikkim can find the reasons to explain the high suicide rates, addiction and other social challenges, including corruption and even the universal inurement towards dishonesty. Obviously, what has happened in Sikkim, as in societies across the world, is that the pursuit has been for a warped interpretation of happiness, one that is incomplete.

Sikkim requires to seek out answers on how to address the paradox of so many social ills haunting a land of such few material worries. Expecting solutions to be provided and executed by someone else or the government would doom the possible solutions to failure because social course-corrections require social engagement, not governmental or even divine interventions. To return to what the Dalai Lama has often said, Change depends on individual action. Divine intervention, he stresses, is fine so long as it was for individual consolation, but for change and betterment, it is individual action that is needed. This proactive engagement needs to be internalised by Sikkim at the individual, then community and governance levels. A generation groomed with a stronger sense of universal responsibility will also be one with a clearer sense of self and more importantly, with more respect for the aspirations and needs of others. That is the kind of generation which Sikkim needs to reach out for and chalk up as resolution for the New Year...

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

How mainstream media helps weaponize far-right conspiracy theories

HEATHER WOODS & LESLIE HAHNER
theconversation.com

Once an anti-Semitic rumor moved from fringe to the mainstream, it took less than two weeks for violence to erupt. The false allegation that liberal philanthropist George Soros was funding or supporting a caravan of Honduran refugees heading to the U.S. spread wildly from a single tweet posted on Oct. 14.

Along with far-right memes, that allegation helped motivate both an alleged mail-bomber and a mass shooter at a Pittsburgh synagogue. The way these messages traveled across the internet in this short time span is just one example of how extremist messages and memes circulate with incredible speed across mainstream social media platforms.

From our vantage point as researchers of visual and digital communication, memes – short, often image-based forms of communication – are powerful engines of persuasion, even though they can appear innocuous or even humorous. Perhaps the best known examples are LOLCats memes, pairing funny pictures of cats with customizable phrases or sentences. Memes can disseminate information quickly because they invite people to share or remix content with little effort required, making widespread dispersal more likely.

Memes need not be humorous or factual to be functional. All they need to do is attract attention online, which often translates into mainstream media coverage. That makes memes potent tools for distributing disinformation. Moreover, the online and mainstream platforms that amplify memes’ circulation can weaponize false claims and encourage conspiracy theorists – sometimes toward violence.

MEMES MOVE CONSPIRACIES

Understanding how these messages embolden anti-Semitism and other forms of terrorism involves grappling with how white supremacists use digital media. As we detail in our forthcoming book “Make America Meme Again,” messages and memes weaponized in far-right networks are deft political tools that move swiftly across social and traditional media. Because memes are stealthy political messages that usually offer rebellious or irreverent humor, they can be easily retweeted, shared or even pasted to the side of a van.

Before the dawn of today’s social media network, right-wing extremists were more difficult to find, often gathering in local communities and later discreetly in online forums unknown to the vast majority of internet users. Paranoid, rabid discourses of this ilk still boil around those darker corners of the internet. Today, memes help right-wing extremists communicate with one another and with mainstream audiences.

Soros has been demonized by right-wing activists for years, if not decades. Long before the Pittsburgh at-

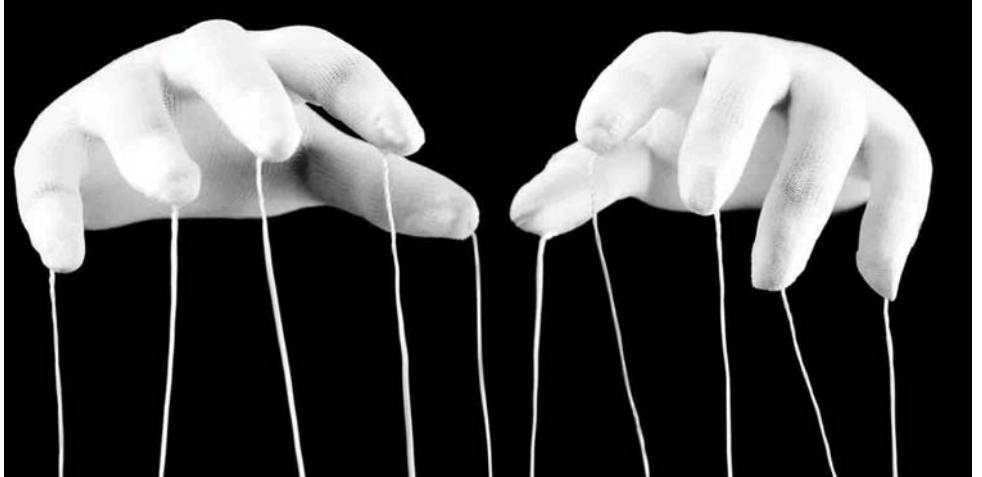
tack and the mail bombings, conspiracy theories about him were common on all sorts of right-wing discussion areas – including on Infowars, 4chan, Reddit and Gab. Starting in March 2018, the terms “caravan,” “immigrants” and “Soros” were frequently posted together on Twitter and Facebook. Memes depicting Soros as an evil fascist facilitating an invasion were commonplace.

The alleged mail bomber covered his van with “images and slogans often found on fringe right-wing social media accounts.” But the suspect didn’t find them on radical sites where white supremacists hide. Instead, based

CONNECTING TO MAINSTREAM MEDIA

Once there is enough social media attention on a topic or claim, it may be covered in more traditional news outlets. That can spread the idea even more widely, and lend credence to inaccuracies and lies. Politicians may also notice online discussion and join in, as U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and a clerk for Texas’ Harris County did with the purported Soros connection to the migrant caravan.

Conspiratorial ideas often become an echo chamber, in which each post draws more attention than the last, generating stronger outrage and escalating the con-



on his social media activity, he likely was radicalized in the same place most people look at cute photos of friends’ kids and check up on Aunt Beatrice – Facebook.

FROM FRINGE TO NETWORK

Social media platforms have tried to push hate speech and uninformed conspiracy theories off their sites, but that’s a difficult task both technologically and ethically. Often, conspiracy promoters find ways to get their ideas into well-trafficked social media, where algorithms promote posts that garner lots of responses – whether appreciative or outraged.

Despite repeated fact checking, the conspiracy grew. Bots and other automated accounts drove roughly 60 percent of online talk about the caravan – but people were part of it too, often sharing posts without doing any sort of verification. Ultimately, these messages and memes may have inspired terrorism.

By October, discussions of the “caravan of immigrants” had grown beyond social media. Within a week of that Oct. 14 tweet alleging Soros was funding a group of refugees seeking asylum, far-right commentator Alex Jones broadcast the conspiracy on Infowars, to his audience of over 1 million daily visitors.

The conspiracy grew from there, with the video or related images popping up on nearly every platform. Eventually the conspiracy reached hundreds of thousands of potential viewers – including the men who would allegedly become the mail bomber and the synagogue shooter.

The two men may never have known of each other or the other’s plans. But their actions intertwined with a viciously networked conspiracy theory.

spiracy. The average user who looks at a conspiratorial meme may not believe its message, but many users may. Even people who don’t believe it initially might come to assume it’s true after seeing an idea several times from different sources. Still others might spread the conspiracy just for amusement in the distress of others.

DEMONIZE, DIVIDE, CONQUER

Memes, tweets and other forms of propaganda are designed to rile up constituents. Scaring voters with purported invasions was one way to infuriate voters as they headed to vote in the midterm elections.

President Donald Trump has historically spread far-right conspiracy theories with little regard for the truth. Just before the election – after the mail bomb attempts and the tragedy in Pittsburgh – Trump himself explicitly repeated the conspiracy about Soros.

When anti-Semitic, racist and xenophobic ideas spread through social media networks, they can infect a host of mainstream information sources – and make fear and violence more likely. That broadens the picture of a dangerous world from which people need protection. Fear appeals of this sort can influence voting, and even push people to take matters into their own violent hands. Until social media platforms or federal agencies find ways to diminish extremism, the proliferation of far-right memes, videos and texts will continue to imperil the citizenry.

[Heather Woods is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Technology, Kansas State University; Leslie Hahner is Associate Professor of Communication, Baylor University]

How where you’re born influences the person you become

SAMUEL PUTNAM & MASHA A. GARTSTEIN
theconversation.com

As early as the fifth century, the Greek philosopher Thucydides contrasted the self-control and stoicism of Spartans with the more indulgent and free-thinking citizens of Athens.

Today, unique behaviors and characteristics seem ingrained in certain cultures.

Italians wildly gesticulate when they talk. Dutch children are notably easygoing and less fussy. Russians rarely smile in public.

As developmental psychologists, we’re fascinated by these differences, how they take shape and how they get passed along from one generation to the next.

Our new book, “Toddlers, Parents and Culture,” explores the way a society’s values influences the choices parents make – and how this, in turn, influences who their kids become.

THE ENDURING INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL VALUES

Although genetics certainly matter, the way you behave isn’t hardwired.

Over the past two decades, researchers have shown how culture can shape your personality.

In 2005, psychologist Robert McCrae and his colleagues were able to document pronounced differences in the personalities of people living in different parts of the world. For example, adults from European cultures tended to be more outgoing and open to new experiences than those from Asian cultures. Within Europe, they found that people from Northern Europe were more conscientious than their peers in Southern Europe.

Recently, we’ve been able to trace

some of these differences to early childhood.

Parenting – perhaps not surprisingly – played a role.

Working with colleagues from 14 countries, we looked at the way broad societal values influenced how parents raise their children. We then studied how these different parenting styles shaped the behavior and personality of kids.

We did this primarily by administering questionnaires to parents around the world, asking them to describe their daily routines, hopes for their kids and methods of discipline. We then asked them to detail the behaviors of their children.

We also relied on the work of Dutch social psychologist Geert Hofstede, who, in the 1970s, asked IBM employees around the world about factors that led to work satisfaction.

We were able to compare his findings to ours, and we were surprised to see that his results correlated with our own. The cultural values that were revealed through work preferences in the 1970s could be seen in parenting practices and child temperament 40 years later.

This is important: It shows cultural values are relatively enduring, and seem to have an effect on how kids develop over time.

TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF, OR TO THINK OF OTHERS?

Perhaps the most well-known of these broad cultural values are individualism and collectivism.

In some societies, such as the U.S. and Netherlands, people are largely driven by pursuits that benefit themselves. They’re expected to seek personal recognition and boost their own social or financial status.

In more collectivist societies, such as South Korea and Chile, high value is placed on the well-being of the larger group – typically their family, but also their workplace or country.

We found that the way parents discipline their children is strongly influenced by these social values, and likely serves to perpetuate these values from one generation to the next.

For example, compared to parents in individualist cultures, collectivist parents are much more likely, when reprimanding their kids, to direct them to “think about” their misbehavior, and how it might negatively impact those around them.

This seems to promote group harmony and prepare a child to thrive in a collectivist society. At the same time, if you’re constantly being told to think about how your actions impact others, you might also be more likely to feel anxiety, guilt and shame.

Indeed, we’ve found that kids in collectivist cultures tend to express higher levels of sadness, fear and discomfort than children growing up in individualist societies.

FREE TO PURSUE HAPPINESS?

A second set of values we studied was indulgence versus restraint.

Some cultures, such as the U.S., Mexico and Chile, tend to permit and promote self-gratification. Others – like South Korea, Belgium and Russia – encourage restraint in the face of temptation.

These values seem to be connected to a specific set of parenting goals.

In particular, parents in indulgent societies tend to emphasize the importance of developing self-esteem and independence. For example, they expect children to entertain themselves and fall asleep on their own.

When one of their kids misbehaves, they’ll often suggest ways he or she can make amends and try to repair the damage.

The message kids may get from this kind of treatment is that they’re the ones in control of their happiness, and that they should be able to fix their own mistakes. At the same time, when kids are expected to pursue gratification, they may be more likely to impulsively seek immediate rewards – whether it’s eating candy before dinner or grabbing a toy off a shelf at a store – before getting permission.

Meanwhile, in societies that prioritize restraint, parents were more likely to shout or swear when disciplining their children.

This might make them more obedient. But it might also cause children to be less optimistic and less likely to enjoy themselves.

IS INDIVIDUALISM THE FUTURE?

Parents seem to be motivated to best prepare their kids for the world they’re likely to inhabit, and what works in one culture might not necessarily work well in another.

But as our world becomes more interconnected, this diversity of parenting approaches may dwindle. In fact, most countries have become more individualistic over the last 50 years – a shift that’s most pronounced in countries that have experienced the most economic development.

Nonetheless, there’s still a huge difference in parenting styles and childhood development across cultures – a testament to the enduring influence of societal values.

[Samuel Putnam is Professor of Psychology, Bowdoin College; Masha A. Gartstein is Professor of Psychology, Washington State University]

Victoria Memorial to become fully user-friendly for people with disabilities: Curator

KOLKATA, DEC 4 (PTI): The iconic Victoria Memorial will become fully user-friendly for persons with disabilities by April next year after the completion of the ongoing renovation work, Curator of the museum, Jayanta Sengupta has said.

There will be signage in Braille for 50 prime exhibits which will enable people with impairments to tour the galleries on their own, Sengupta told PTI here Monday.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a programme to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

"We will be able to arrange signage in Braille for 50 prime exhibits by March-April 2019, when the



renovation work will be completed," he said.

The museum will also have an elevator for the disabled and se-

nior citizens so that they can go through the galleries which are located on the first floor, he said.

To a question, Sengupta said

the few stairs just before the ground floor level will be removed to facilitate the physically challenged reach the floor on their

own. The existing ramp will also be extended.

He said two battery-operated golf carts, earlier used by security personnel for patrolling the surrounding areas within the vast museum compound, were now being utilised by the disabled persons and the elderly to reach the museum from the gate.

"The golf carts are also being deployed for security patrolling at times, whenever needed, but we are principally keeping the vehicles ready to ferry those having problem in mobility to reach the main building. Using such carts are also environment-friendly," he said. Pointing out that the Victoria Me-

morial, which was formally opened to the public in 1921, did not have disabled-friendly features in those times, Sengupta commented, "When Lord Curzon had decided to construct a grand building with a museum and garden, it did not have all these features."

The curator said, "while renovating and upgrading, we are taking into consideration the retro-fitting aspect. We have to keep the heritage part intact."

The Prince of Wales, later King George V, had laid the foundation stone of Victoria Memorial in the heart of the city on January 4, 1906, and it was opened to public in 1921.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM,
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT,
NAMCHI SUB DIVISION,
SOUTH SIKKIM.**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

N.I.T No.:- 03/R&B/Nam/2018-19

Dated:-03/12/2018

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Namchi Sub Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12/06/2018 and subsequently vide notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 28/08/2018 and 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 08/10/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of concerned ward of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

Sl No	Name of work	Value put to tender (Rs)	Completion time, (in months)	Cost of tender documents (Rs)	Amount of Earnest Money @ 2.5% For issue of tender form (Rs)	Grade of contractor	Name of G.P.U	Name of Constituency
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of road from Mandir Dara Gaon to Bhanjyang Road							
a.	KM -1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Namchi Municipal Council	Namchi Singithang Constituency
b.	KM 1.0-1.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Namchi Municipal Council	Namchi Singithang Constituency
2.	Construction of Raod from Upper Debrong to Lower Debrong							
a.	KM 1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Namchi Municipal Council	Namchi Singithang Constituency
3.	Construction of Link Road from Palden Tamang House bear Boomtar Jail to Tangsang near Lower Boomtar Primary School.							
a.	KM 1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Boomtar Salleybong	Namchi Singithang Constituency
b.	KM 2 nd	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Boomtar Salleybong	Namchi Singithang Constituency
4.	Construction of Link Road from Namchi Rong Raod to Upper Salleybong Dara Gaon.							
a.	KM -1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Boomtar Salleybong	Namchi Singithang Constituency
b.	KM 1.0-1.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Boomtar Salleybong	Namchi Singithang Constituency
5.	Construction of road from Namchi Damthang Raod to Punjitar.							
a.	KM 0.0-0.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
b.	KM 0.5-1.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
c.	KM 1.0-1.5	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
d.	KM 1.5-2.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
6.	Construction of road from near Gom JHS to Middle Syampani Village.							
a.	KM 0.0-0.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Sorok Syampani	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
b.	KM 0.5-1.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Sorok Syampani	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
c.	KM 1.0-1.5	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Sorok Syampani	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
7.	Construction of road from Bashari School tp Dharey Jaubari South Sikkim.							
a.	KM 0.0-0.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
b.	KM 0.5-1.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
c.	KM 1.0-1.5	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
d.	KM 1.5-2.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
e.	KM 2.0-2.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency

f.	KM 2.50-3.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
h.	KM 3.50-4.0	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
I	KM 4.00-4.50	21,19,248.00	12months	1,500.00	52,981.00	Grade IV	Damthang	Poklok Kamrang Constituency
8.	Construction of Raod from Kolbung tp Nalam							
a.	KM 1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Namthang Maneydara	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
9.	Construction of road from Namchi Phong Road to U/Ramaram via Khorlong							
a.	KM 1 st	42,38,496.00	12months	1,500.00	1,05,962.00	Grade IV	Tanzi Bikmat	Namthang Rateypani Constituency

Time Schedule:-

1.

Date of submission of application with bank Receipt (excluding Tender Form)

:

26th December 2018.
(From 10.00am to 4.00pm at respective GPK)

2.

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

:

28th December 2018
(From 10.00am to 4.00pm at respective GPK)

3.

Last Date and Time of submission of Tender

:

29th December 2018
(From 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective GPK)

4.

Date and Time of Opening of Bid

:

29th December 2018.
(1.30 pm at respective GPK)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

1.

Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.

:

2.

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

:

3.

The applicants should enclose attested copies of the Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification. Selected bidder should produce No objection certificate/ Tax clearance certificate from the commercial taxes Division, Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department prior to the issue of Work Order.

:

4.

The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, Cost of tender form shall be deposited to the revenue of respective GPU.

:

5.

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 receipts (TDR) in favor of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi. Tender form shall be issued from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposited receipts to that contractors/firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.

:

6.

The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. 3 above should be enclosed with the offer.

:

7.

Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box at respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, on the date and within the time indicated above.

:

8.

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

:

9.

The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the general Direction and Conditions 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 Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

:

10.

In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

:

11.

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

:

12.

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 labourer at site.

:

13.

The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.

:

14.

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.

:

15.

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

:

16.

The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

:

17.

Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

:

18.

In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring 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.

:

19.

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.

:

20.

Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-

a)

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

b)

The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.

:

21.

The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period. i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.

:

22.

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.

:

23.

Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.

:

24.

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

:

25.

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

:

26.

The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors' bills as per rules.

:

27.

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,
Namchi Sub-Division,
South Sikkim.

R.O. No: 527/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19
Date: 04/12/2018

Modric sees off French stars to end Messi, Ronaldo grip on Ballon d'Or

PARIS, DEC 4 (AFP): Luka Modric saw off competition from a host of French World Cup stars as the Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder won the 2018 Ballon d'Or on Monday, ending the 10-year stranglehold on the award by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Modric, 33, was announced as the winner of the prestigious prize in a glitzy ceremony held in Paris. Ronaldo was second, with France and Atletico Madrid striker Antoine Griezmann completing the podium.

Paris Saint-Germain's teenage forward Kylian Mbappe came fourth, leaving Messi to settle for fifth position. Another Frenchman, Modric's Madrid teammate Raphael Varane, was seventh, just behind Liverpool's Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah.

"As a kid we all have dreams. My dream was to play for a big club and win important trophies," Modric said.

"The Ballon d'Or was more than just a dream for me and it is really an honour and a privilege to hold this trophy." Mbappe, who does not turn 20 until later this month, picked up the consolation prize of the Kopa Trophy for the best young player.

The gala ceremony also saw a women's Ballon d'Or named for the first time, with Lyon's prolific Norwegian striker Ada Hegerberg taking that award.

Modric -- the oldest winner



since Italy's Fabio Cannavaro, also 33, in 2006 -- was crowned after an outstanding year in which he starred in the Real side that retained the Champions League before heroically helping drag his country to the final of the World Cup for the first time in their history.

Croatia lost 4-2 to France in Moscow in the final in July.

The prize comes after Modric claimed the Golden Ball for the best player at the World Cup before picking up UEFA's prize for player of the season and FIFA's best player award in September.

Ronaldo and Messi were

among 30 nominees for the Ballon d'Or, organised by France Football magazine and which takes votes from 180 journalists from around the world.

The Portuguese star played with Modric in the Madrid side that won the Champions League before moving to Juventus in a typically prolific year, while Messi has again been outstanding with Barcelona.

The pair had won the prize five times each in the last decade but both are now in their 30s and neither stamped their authority on the World Cup.

Messi finishes outside the top three in the voting for the first time since 2006.

The World Cup was always likely to play a key role, and France had hoped to see one of their stars take the award on home soil.

The last time a Frenchman won the Ballon d'Or came in 1998, when Zinedine Zidane was rewarded for starring as Les Bleus won that year's World Cup.

But perhaps the lack of a single standout French candidate cleared the path for Modric -- Hugo Lloris, Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante had

also been in the running, as had Tottenham Hotspur and England striker Harry Kane, the World Cup's top scorer.

"I won the Europa League and the World Cup, so it's been a great year, but it is true that it was a little bit disappointing after I was told what the podium was," said Griezmann.

Modric has won 14 trophies since joining Real in 2012, including four Champions Leagues. He could add to that as Real take part in the Club World Cup later this month.

A refugee at one point growing up during Croatia's War of Independence in the 1990s, his popularity in Croatia was hit by his testimony last year during the multi-million-euro corruption trial of former Dinamo chief Zdravko Mamic. Prosecutors charged Modric for giving false evidence, but the charges have now been dropped.

Hegerberg, 23, won the women's prize after starring for French side Lyon as they successfully defended the Champions League title and won a 12th consecutive French title.

"I want to say thanks to my teammates because this would not have been possible without them, my coach or our president Jean-Michel Aulas," Hegerberg said.

"I also want to thank France Football. This is a huge step for women's football.

We have plans for all Indian batsmen, not just Kohli: Mitchell Marsh



CHETAN NARULA

ADELAIDE, DEC 4 (PTI):

The talk is all about Virat Kohli right now but the Australian bowlers' preparation for other Indian batsmen is as detailed and anyone who thinks otherwise is plain "silly", all-rounder Mitchell Marsh said Tuesday.

Gearing up for the four-match Test series that starts Thursday here, Marsh said his team's bowlers have strategies in place and would be aiming for perfect execution when the action begins.

"We all know Virat's a great player. We'll have our plans for him and hopefully we can execute them. But if people think we're not prepared for the other batsmen in the Indian team, who are all very good players, then they'd be pretty silly," said Marsh.

Marsh said the new faces and inexperience in the Australian batting line-up should be seen as an opportunity, rather than a sign of weakness for the hosts.

"There's obviously been a lot of talk about that and it's been a big build up to this Test match but there's a great feeling around this group...now it's about going out there and hopefully putting it together as a batting unit. But we all feel really good at the moment," he said.

The Australian vice-captain was also asked about the spin challenge that India poses and the fact that the visiting tweekers have never had a particularly good run in this country.

"We know R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav are all world-class spinners. History shows that Indian spinners haven't had as much impact over here as they have in India. But they're world-class bowlers and we're very prepared for them. It will be a great contest," he replied.

Marsh is expected to return to the Australian middle-order despite a poor outing in the UAE against Pakistan.

He and brother Shaun Marsh will form the backbone of the home team's middle-order and look to replicate their form from the Ashes last summer.

"He's my brother and my best mate. I look up to him in every single way... hopefully people respect

him for the fact he's never given up. He keeps coming back, keeps working hard. Hopefully he can keep proving a few people wrong. I just want him to have a great summer," he said.

The all-rounder said he is also fully fit to bowl and hopes to be a vital fifth cog in the Australian attack, comprising of three pacers and Nathan Lyon.

"I have got some good overs under my belt the last couple of weeks for Western Australia. My goal for this summer is to start chipping in with the ball and get a few more wickets for the team.

"I love coming on in the graveyard shift, 70 to 80 overs when the ball's doing nothing and trying to sneak in a wicket. I really want to take my bowling to the next level in this team," he said.

"I think number six is a great position to bat especially if you've bowled a few overs. I'm doing my best to make the number six position my own in this team, so that's all I can do," he added.

Australia now have two vice-captains in place, with Josh Hazlewood the other one, and like him, Marsh outlined that the start of the cricket summer is a special time, never mind that this is the first home series since the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

"We want to play an exciting brand of cricket that people want to come and watch. We know there's going to be a lot of Indian fans here too, so that's always exciting to play in front of them. But we are just pumped to get back playing in front of our fans," he said.

Marsh recently played Shield cricket at the Adelaide Oval. The pitch has been prepared exactly like it would have been for a day-night Test and the all-rounder said that it would provide ample opportunity for both batsmen and bowlers.

"It was a very good cricket wicket. We won the toss and bowled first. During the four-day game, in Test cricket you get the extra day where the wicket can potentially break up.

"...and there was enough in it with the new ball to take wickets. Once you got in, it was Adelaide Oval. It was very even for both sides, I thought," he signed off.

Why aren't Dhoni, Dhawan playing domestic cricket? Asks Gavaskar



NEW DELHI, DEC 4 (PTI):

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has questioned the BCCI for allowing the likes of Shikhar Dhawan and Mahendra Singh Dhoni to skip domestic cricket ahead of a hectic six months culminating into the World Cup in England.

Dhawan, who was dropped from the Test team, is spending time with family in Melbourne following the T20 leg of the Australia while Dhoni has had no cricket since the ODI series against the West Indies ended on November 1.

The former captain is a certainty only in the 50-over format after he was ignored for the T20s against the West Indies and Australia. He retired from Tests in 2014.

"We shouldn't ask Dhawan and Dhoni 'Why you are not playing domestic cricket?'. We should, in fact, ask the BCCI and selectors why are they allowing players to skip domestic cricket when they are not on national duty," Gavaskar told 'India Today'.

"If the Indian team

has to do well, players have to be in prime form and for that they have to play cricket," he added.

Gavaskar wants the two players to compete in the ongoing Ranji Trophy, especially Dhoni, who is facing constant criticism for his waning batting form.

"He (Dhoni) didn't play the T20Is against Australia, before that he didn't play the West Indies Tests, and then he is not playing the Test series against Australia.

"So, he last played in October (November 1) and will next play in January, which is a huge gap. But if he doesn't do well on tours of Australia and New Zealand, then there will be more questions asked on his place in the World Cup.

"As you grow older and if there is a gap in your cricket, your reflexes will slow down. If you play any form of cricket at the domestic level, you get an opportunity to play long innings, which serves as a good practice for you," Gavaskar added.

The World Cup starts May 30.

MANCHESTER, DEC 4

(AFP): Jose Mourinho needs to lift Manchester United's morale quickly as a deflating run of performances threatens to throw their season off track completely but he faces a daunting task against a revitalised Arsenal.

Mourinho's team have not looked themselves at Old Trafford for much of the season, with their past two matches producing an insipid goalless draw against Crystal Palace and an unconvincing late Champions League victory over Swiss side Young Boys.

On their travels, they had looked as if they were getting back to form as October turned to November, with the side producing fine displays in drawing at Chelsea and beating Juventus.

Yet perhaps those performances were just papering over the cracks. United recovered from a two-goal deficit to draw at Southampton on Saturday and Romelu Lukaku scored his first club goal since September 15 but there was much to be alarmed about.

Mourinho claimed his players, with the exception of Marcus Rashford, were meek, lacking the spirit of what he called "mad dogs".

According to Duncan Castles, a British journalist with close links to Mourinho's agent Jorge Mendes, the United manager compared midfielder Paul Pogba to "a virus" after another poor performance at Southampton, saying the France international lacked respect for both his teammates and fans.

United's dressing



room gives little indication of being a happy place ahead of Arsenal's visit to Old Trafford on Wednesday.

To prove the point, forward Juan Mata effectively declined to publish his regular Monday internet column this week, instead posting a short message that began:

"Unfortunately, I feel as though it isn't the time for posts." During a season riddled with disappointments, Mourinho has by and large been treated sympathetically by the club's fanbase, who feel that he was not given enough support in the last close-season transfer market by executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

The manager's frustration at not being able to sign a top-class centre-back has been raked over repeatedly but his defensive team selection at Southampton baffled even his most loyal supporters.

With Chris Smalling and Eric Bailey unfit,

Mourinho elected to play two midfielders -- Scott McTominay and Nemanja Matic -- in a three-man central defence against a team that had not won at home all season. It did not work.

Failure to win on the south coast further damaged United's chances of finishing in the top four -- the ticket to Champions League qualification -- and Mourinho himself appears to believe that is now a long shot with his team lagging eight points behind fourth-placed Arsenal.

Asked by Brazilian television what his aims were for the remainder of the season, he said: "Try to win as many points as possible and try (to achieve) almost the miracle of finishing fourth.

"Last year, I said that finishing second was a fantastic thing because of the qualities we had in comparison to the quality of the other teams that are fighting for the top four. And this year, with

more problems that we have had, it proves what I said."

Arsenal, like United, spent relatively little in the close-season, bringing in Bernd Leno, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, Lucas Torreira and Matteo Guendouzi for relatively modest sums, yet look revitalised under Unai Emery's management.

They have gone 19 games unbeaten in all competitions since losing their first two matches of the season, and are playing a thrilling brand of aggressive, high-pressing football.

According to Uruguay midfielder Torreira, the manager's words are making as much of an impact as his actions -- as evidenced by his half-time team talk on Sunday before the Gunners recovered to beat Tottenham 4-2.

"He told us to be calm," Torreira said. "We listened to the manager and we improved many things. That worked for us to get the victory.

Mourinho aiming to stop rot as Man Utd season unravels

Soyuz arrives at ISS on first manned mission since October failure



BAIKONUR (KAZAKHSTAN), DEC 3 (AFP): A Soyuz spacecraft carrying Russian, American and Canadian astronauts arrived at the International Space Station on Monday, following the first manned launch since a failed launch in October. Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko, Anne McClain of NASA and David Saint-Jacques of the Canadian Space Agency blasted off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome earlier in the day.

They successfully docked at the ISS on schedule at 1736 GMT to begin an expected six and a half months aboard the ISS, the Russian Roscosmos space agency said via Twitter.

It was the first manned voyage for the Soviet-era Soyuz since October 11, when a rocket carrying Russia's

Aleksey Ovchinin and US astronaut Nick Hague failed just minutes after blast-off, forcing the pair to make a harrowing emergency landing.

They escaped unharmed but the failed launch -- the first such incident in Russia's post-Soviet history -- raised concerns about the state of the Soyuz programme.

The Soyuz is the only means of reaching the ISS since the United States retired the space shuttle in 2011.

Kononenko, McClain and Saint-Jacques smiled and gave thumbs up to the cheering crowd including relatives as they ascended into the Soyuz capsule on Monday morning. Minutes after take off, Roscosmos said the capsule was in orbit. NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine meanwhile thanked the US and Rus-

sian teams "for their dedication to making this launch a success".

In a successful rehearsal for Monday's flight, a Soyuz cargo vessel took off on November 16 from Baikonur and delivered several tonnes of food, fuel and supplies to the ISS.

Russia said last month the October launch had failed because of a sensor damaged during assembly at the Baikonur cosmodrome, but insisted the spacecraft remained reliable.

While flight commander Kononenko is beginning his fourth mission to add to an impressive 533 days in space, both Saint-Jacques and McClain are making their maiden trip. Crew commander Kononenko, 54, said during a press conference on the eve of the launch that "risk is part of our profession".

But he added that his team "absolutely" trusted those who had prepared for the flight.

European Space Agency astronaut Alexander Gerst, NASA's Serena Aunon-Chancellor and Sergei Prokopyev of Roscosmos were set to greet the trio on arrival at the ISS.

Veteran Kononenko said the crew would conduct a spacewalk on December 11 as part of an investigation into a mysterious hole that has caused an air leak on the ISS.

While on board, Saint-Jacques will be involved in an experiment called "At Home in Space" which "takes a closer look at how crew members adapt to living with each other by creating a shared culture," according to the Canadian Space Agency.

Among the dozens of

other experiments the new crew members will take part in is one that will use worms to examine muscle loss in space, led by British scientists.

The experiment could pave the way to new treatments for muscular conditions for people on Earth, according to the UK Space Agency.

McClain, 39, served in Iraq and has represented the United States in women's rugby.

She has said training to spacewalk resembled the sport since it demands "grit, toughness, mental focus, and more".

Russia-US cooperation in space has remained one of the few areas not affected by a crisis in ties between the former Cold War enemies. But comments by the combative chief of the Russian space agency, Dmitry Rogozin, have raised eyebrows.

He recently joked Russia would send a mission to the Moon to "verify" whether or not NASA lunar landings ever took place. In recent years Russia's debt-laden space industry has suffered a number of mishaps including the loss of cargo spacecraft and satellites.

At a press conference following the successful docking, Rogozin announced March 1, 2019, as the date for the next manned launch to the ISS. He said Ovchinin and Hague would be on board, along with NASA's Christina Koch.

At-risk nations plead for 'justice' at UN climate summit



KATOWICE (POLAND), DEC 3 (AFP): Nations facing imminent environmental disaster called Monday on rich polluters to help them back from the brink, as the UN warned the world's plan to avoid climate catastrophe was "way off course".

From glaciers melting in Nepal to the rising seas threatening to engulf small island states, the world is already experiencing the damage lying in wait if global warming is allowed to run unchecked.

Nearly 200 nations gathered in Poland Monday for the start of the COP24 summit, where they must agree on a universal rulebook to make good on the promises they made in the 2015 Paris climate deal.

"Nepal is a country comprised of mountains and plains," president Bidhya Devi Bhandari told delegates. "We have been bearing the brunt of disproportionate impact of climate change despite being a low carbon-emitting country."

The Paris agreement vowed to limit global temperature rises to under two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) and to the safer cap of 1.5 C if at all possible.

For this, richer nations must provide funding -- USD 100 billion per year by 2020 -- to steer developing countries towards greener energy while drastically drawing down their own emissions.

But developing nations have complained that richer states -- responsible for the vast majority of historic fossil fuel use -- aren't doing enough to help them adapt to our

warming planet.

"We feel as if we have been penalised for the mistakes we never made," said Bhandari. It is incumbent on the international community to ensure that justice is done."

Trust in the Paris process has been badly undermined by US President Donald Trump's decision to renege on his country's commitment, and there are fears the political will to act is waning as negotiations drag on.

With just one degree Celsius of warming so far, Earth is already being subjected to raging forest fires, flooding and superstorms made worse by rising seas.

A string of UN reports have sounded the alarm: levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere are the highest in 3 million years and the last four years were the four hottest in history.

In October a team of more than 90 independent scientists said mankind must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by half within the next 12 years to avoid heat rises that could tear at the fabric of society.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned nations that their plan to chart a route away from runaway global warming was "way off course".

"Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," Guterres said.

President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria used his address to

call for more stringent guidelines for "financial flows from developed countries to developing economies for climate change action".

As developing nations begged for vastly quicker action, host Poland was pushing its own agenda: a so-called "just transition" to greener energy which critics fear would allow it to continue burning coal for decades.

Eighty per cent of Polish energy comes from coal, and the COP24 itself is being held on the site of a decommissioned plant in the mining city of Katowice.

Poland is expected unveil a declaration calling on states to "recognise the challenges faced by sectors, cities and regions in transition from fossil fuels... to ensure a decent future for workers impacted by the transition."

Proceedings were injected with a shot of glamour as former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger delivered a surprise address and wildlife documentary maker Sir David Attenborough made a plea to act on behalf of humanity.

"If we don't take action the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon," he said.

Frank Bainimarama, prime minister of Fiji and president of last year's COP, said developed nations must act before countries such as his were consumed by the waves.

"Or, God forbid, (we) ignore the irrefutable evidence and become the generation that betrayed humanity," he said.

New Secretariat...

After the devastating earthquake, the state has re-constructed over 8,000 houses, repaired and maintained numerous roads, 'mandirs', 'gumpas', churches, buildings and other educational institutes of the State including the Secretariat building is one of them.

He gave a brief background of the challenges faced by the Government after the devastating earthquake of 2011 causing severe damage to Government infrastructure and private property. He said that the Government took the problem as a challenge and succeeded in re-constructing and resurrecting damaged infrastructure within a span of few years.

He added that a Technical Committee formed to assess the impact of the earthquake on the old Secretariat made two suggestions - retrofitting and reconstruction. The Government took the decision to demolish the old building and reconstruct a new building and related infrastructures with earthquake resilient features, he informed. He added that the new Secretariat has been built with modern earthquake resistant methodologies which can withstand an earthquake of magnitude 10 Richter scale.

"People of Sikkim should introspect on how the Government has created such infrastructures amidst severe challenges," he stated.

Addressing bureaucrats, the Chief Minister urged them to be humane and compassionate while dealing with people-centric schemes and programmes. He categorically stated that there should be no delay or anomaly in the implementation of Government policy decisions. Schemes like Medical Aid, Old Age Pension, Ex-Gratia, Student Scholarship, Maternity benefit, and Land to Landless should be made available to the people without bureaucratic delay, he stated.

He added that the Government's decisions such as jobs on compassionate ground to immediate kin, issuance of trade licence, strict check on entry of chemical fertilizers in the State, policies regarding posting and promotion should be strictly adhered to. He maintained that posting is done in the interest of the Government and not in the interest or willingness of the employee.

Stating that with equal rights come equal responsibilities, he urged the State Government employees to perform their duties with utmost sincerity. He said that in the last twenty four years, Government employees have benefitted the most in terms of promotions.

On the occasion, Chairperson, Archtech Consultants Private Limited, Shamalendu Ghoshal was presented the Certificate of Project Completion by Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling for successful completion of the project.

Earlier, PCE-cum-Secretary, Building & Housing Department, R.B. Thapa in his welcome address attributed the successful completion of the new Secretariat to the strong will and farsighted vision of the Government.

Chief Engineer, Building and Housing Department, Kuldeep Chhetri presented the technical report of the new Secretariat project.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Speaker, MLAs, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretaries and Head of Departments, Chairpersons and Advisors, Mayor GMC, Zilla Panchayat Adhyakshas, Upadhyakshas, Panchayat Members, and officers of various Departments.

Bangla court records testimony of 1st witness in 2016 terror attack trial

ANISUR RAHMAN DHAKA, DEC 4 (PTI): An anti-terrorism special tribunal in Bangladesh has recorded the statement of the first witness in the 2016 terror attack case, three years after the country's deadliest attack killed 22 people, mostly foreigners, including an Indian national. Militants of the banned Neo-Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (Neo-JMB) attacked the posh Holey Artisan restaurant in the Gulshan diplomatic enclave on July 1, 2016 in the Bangladesh capital.

Twenty-two people -- an Indian girl, nine Italians, seven Japanese and five Bangladeshis, including two police officers -- were killed in the attack.

"Police sub-inspector Ripon Kumar Das testified before the court as the first prosecution witness, being the complainant in the case," a court official said.

Six of the eight accused, who had earlier confessed to their involvement in the attack, appeared before the court on Monday amid heavy police security to face the trial. The other two accused are on the run, but were being tried in absentia.

All the accused belonged to the banned Neo-JMB. The trial in the case began on November 26, when the court indicted them after reviewing the police chargesheet.

During the investigation, it was found that 21 people were involved in the assault, but police said 13 of them died in subsequent anti-terrorism clampdown.

They said only five militants staged the carnage and all of them

were killed on July 2 in a raid by the military commandos. The Neo-JMB, said to be inclined to the Islamic State or ISIS terror group, executed the carnage, sparking an up-roar globally and signalling the strong presence of militants in the Muslim-majority country.

The outfit emerged as the revived chapter of the radical Islamist group.

Counter-terrorism unit chief of Bangladesh Police, Monirul Islam earlier said the police gathered 75 pieces of evidence for the trial and mobilised 211 witnesses to the carnage to testify before the court.

Investigators alleged that the militants staged the attack to announce their strong presence in Bangladesh and particularly show their brutality by killing foreigners and draw international attention.

Over 4,000 criminal cases...

up the issue relating to the criminal cases against the present and former legislators on a Public Interest Litigation.

The apex court had sought detailed data on the pending criminal cases against the present and former legislators from the state and various high courts so as to enable the setting up of adequate number of special courts for expedited trial in these cases.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria who is assisting the court as amicus curiae in the matter along with advocate Sneha Kalita filed the data received from states and high courts and submitted it to the apex court.

The data compiled stated that in 264 cases, trial has been stayed by high courts. Further, the report said in several cases which have been pending since 1991, charges have not yet been framed.

The court will hear the PIL filed by lawyer and BJP leader Aswini Upadhyay seeking a life time ban on politicians convicted in criminal cases besides setting up of special courts to expeditiously try such cases involving elected representatives.

Tshering becomes first...

I need to work hard for the best result of the team. Lastly, I would like to thank Som Tshering Lepcha sir, who has been coaching us all these years and helped us keep in touch with Cricket and our current coach Purnima Rau madam for believing in me," says Tshering.

So far, Sikkim has played two matches - against Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh - and gave a tough fight to the opponents. In the first match, Archana Das (Member of T20 World Cup Squad 2012) scored 87 not-out, scoring the highest runs for Sikkim, Priyanka Acharya and Purni Maya Gurung taking 3 wickets and 1 wicket respectively, SCA informs.





BRIGHT LIKE A RAINBOW! Actress Julia Roberts rocks a multicolored coat while out and about in NYC.

See Brie Larson in the Newest Trailer for **Captain Marvel**

Brie Larson oozes girl power in the newest trailer for Captain Marvel.

In a new movie trailer for the comic, Larson takes us on a journey of self-discovery as her character, Carol Danvers, attempts to remember who she is and where she came from. It is also a total blast to the past since Captain Marvel makes her entrance into earth's atmosphere in the '90s.

As Captain Marvel begins to discover her powers with the help of Samuel L. Jackson, who plays Nick Fury, fans of the Marvel universe see how S.H.I.E.L.D. was formed into the agency it exists as today. While the new trailer has been a long time coming, there are still quite a few months until the movie is released. Over three months to be exact. But Brie assures fans that the



long wait is definitely worth it. "I'm really proud of what it is that we're making," she teased to E! News in June. "I think all the hype and anticipation will be worth it."

ARIES: Rearrange your schedule so you can do more creative and visionary work today and save the "drilling down to the nitty-gritty" for tomorrow. The moon swings into your intuitive eighth house and gets supercharged by an alignment with energizing Mars.

TAURUS: Today's trine between the intuitive moon and go-getter Mars in your teamwork sector can advance your upward trajectory by drawing in supportive collaborators. But where do want to go, Taurus? The clearer you are about your hopes and dreams, the more likely you'll be to manifest them.

GEMINI: Got goals? Of course you do. That's part of being a Gemini! You're good at identifying and starting projects, but you often get distracted before you finish them. As the year draws to a close, you might become more single-minded about accomplishing a few very important objectives. Today, with the moon fist-bumping motivated Mars in your house of career success, the

desire to get certain things done outstrips everything.

CANCER: You won't be able to hang onto any pessimistic attitudes as the moon bops into your festive fifth house and joins forces with can-do Mars. That half-empty glass suddenly looks half-full, and your gourmand sign is sure to top it up by the stroke of happy hour. This cosmic coupling can give you a motivational shove where it's needed most.

LEO: It's fine to live in the moment and enjoy your hard-earned cash, but it's also important to squirrel plenty away for your long and brilliant future. Whether you've just created your first-ever budget or are a financial wizard, there's always more to learn about money management. Today's a great day for a lesson as the moon catches a buzz from ambitious Mars in magnetic Pisces and your eighth house of wealth and shared resources. You don't have to do anything major, but you will benefit from talking with a financial professional and learning about age-appropriate investing.

VIRGO: Double your pleasure today by buddying up with a colleague or your sweetie and sharing the workload. Sometimes your service-oriented sign is reluctant to ask for help because you don't want to "bother" people. But in doing so, you struggle unnecessarily AND deny friends the chance to repay your kindnesses. Today, as the moon trines can-do Mars in your partnership zone, create more balance in your life and your relationships by swallowing your pride and asking for an assist.

LIBRA: If the only thing you haven't been putting off is procrastination, today's moon-Mars merger can turn your game around. As the emotional moon teams up with the zodiac's head cheerleader in your house of health, tap into your own steely resolve. You've taken on—and met—way bigger challenges than this, Libra. So get thee back to the gym or shala and reacquaint yourself with the radiance that comes from eating a more plant-based diet.

SCORPIO: As the moon sends some love to passionate Mars in your amorous and innovative fifth house, you may find yourself craving something more stimulating than numbers-crunching. Meet your responsibilities early in the day so you can indulge the urges of your inner artist. You don't have to start from scratch. Pull out that unfinished screenplay or painting and see what new direction you can take it in.

SAGITTARIUS: Just when you thought it was safe to reconnect with a certain relative or frenemy, the moon collides with aggro Mars in your family zone and dredges up some stormy feelings. You were all set to make nice with this person, but then they go on the offensive, leaving you feeling vulnerable and insecure. But hang on a second, Archer: You're the only one who can make yourself feel bad.

CAPRICORN: CTime for a digital detox? In our always-wired world, it actually is possible to be TOO connected. And today, as the moon collides with ex-

trist Mars in your third house of communication, resist reflexively engaging in your usual online activities. Want to get a reality check on how dependent you've become on technology?

AQUARIUS: Come down from your high-minded visions and work the practical magic, Aquarius! Today, as the moon teams up with energetic Mars in your house of money and security, you'll feel motivated to pursue some of your more realistic objectives.

PISCES: Front of the line, please! Today, the Scorpio moon hooks up with assertive Mars in Pisces, giving you cosmic permission to put yourself first... and second and third. For the next 24 hours, you won't require any encouragement to focus on your top priorities. Of course there will be deadlines to meet and people to check in with, but anytime you have the chance to advance your personal agenda, go for it—unapologetically! Just stop short of playing the prima donna. Others have THEIR agendas, too.

'Talvar' changed perspectives but don't believe it influenced court decision: Meghna Gulzar

Her film "Talvar" on the 2008 Aarushi-Hemraj twin murder case may have changed perspectives "to some extent" but it will be wrong to say it had any influence on the Allahabad High Court acquitting dentist couple Rajesh and Nupur Talwar, asserts director Meghna Gulzar.

The Talwars acquittal, in the sensational murder case of their teen daughter and domestic help, has been challenged by the CBI in the Supreme Court.

"... our judiciary operates free from all biases. They also looked at the facts of the case, like we did and processed them with more objectivity, Meghna said at the Times Literature Festival Sunday when asked whether the film had any impact on the 2017 verdict.

"...I would indeed like to believe that the film has, to some extent changed the perspective of the people," she said.

Gulzar's 2015 film, starring Konkona Sen Sharma, Neeraj Kabi and Irrfan in lead roles, deconstructed the double murder from three different perspectives. Though the film presented all versions, some felt it tilted in favour of Talwars.

The director, who also made the acclaimed film "Raazi", is working on two real-life inspired stories -- a film on Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw and one on the case files of former Mumbai police commissioner Rakesh Maria.

"It is content that draws me to a film. The subject of Field Marshall Manekshaw came to me and I don't think anyone can let go of it. My film on Rakesh Maria is mainly about his case files that gives a perspective on how crime has changed in Mumbai over the years, the 44-year-old director said.



The director and Shweta Bachchan, who has turned novelist with "Paradise Towers", were in conversation with festival director Vinita Dawra Nangia in a session titled 'Carving a Niche'. "Having an actor as a mother (Rakhee) and not choosing acting as a career, made things easy. Because then you don't have to live up to any benchmarks set by them," she said.

Meghna Gulzar, the daughter of actor Rakhee and lyricist-filmmaker-writer Gulzar, was compared to her father at the beginning of her career. However, her impressive lineage did not help her get big stars for "Filhaal", her directorial debut about surrogacy, she said.

"When my films worked, they worked because of the film. Not because of who my father is," she added.

Shweta, on the other hand, was never interested in acting despite both her parents -- Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan -- being huge stars in Bollywood.

"What I have started to do now has nothing to do with the film world. There's a certain temperament needed to be in the profession, and I don't have what it takes," she said.

PETA India slams Priyanka, Nick for using animals at their wedding



People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India chapter on Monday called out newlyweds Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas for using elephants and horses at their wedding procession.

PETA India took to Twitter to blast the couple who tied the knot as per Hindu traditions on Sunday in Jodhpur. They had exchanged wedding vows as per Christian rituals on Saturday.

"Dear @priyankachopra and @nickjonas. Elephants for weddings live and chains and horses are controlled with whips, spiked bits. People are rejecting elephant rides and having horse-free weddings. Congrats, but we regret it was not a

happy day for animals," the animal rights' organisation wrote on the microblogging site.

PETA also shared its video from four years ago, highlighting the woes of the animals, titled, 'Captive Elephants in Jaipur: PETA India's 2014 Inspection'.

The couple, who left Jodhpur on Monday, are yet to respond to the remarks. Priyanka, who is a vocal asthmatic, was lambasted for hypocrisy after the sky was lit up with spectacular fireworks post the first nuptials.

On Diwali, the actor had urged people not to burn firecrackers and celebrate a pollution-free festival of lights.

Sanjay Dutt, Aayush Sharma to team up for gangster film



MUMBAI, DEC 4 (PTI): Sanjay Dutt and Aayush Sharma are set to collaborate for a gangster film. Dutt was last seen in "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3", while Aayush made his acting debut with "Loveyatri".

"The film is loosely inspired by the underworld and an era of its rise and fall. Since it's a high octane action film, we could think of no one better than the legendary Sanjay Dutt.

"Aayush Sharma seems promising and has great screen presence. We were both keen on working with each other," producer Prerna Aroa told PTI. Formalities with both the actors are underway. An official announcement will be made soon.

The film will be jointly produced by Prerna under the banner Five Studio Five Elements and choreographer-filmmaker Ahmed Khan.

It will go on floors in May 2019. Dutt also has Karan Johar's home production film "Kalank" and Ashutosh Gowariker directed "Panipat" in his kitty.