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SummitTIMES

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

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**GRC meets
Governor
seeking support
for fact-finding
commission to
establish status
of Darjeeling**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**
Gorkha Rastriya Congress called on Governor Ganga Prasad here at Raj Bhawan today and petitioned him to help create a cordial atmosphere to initiate the setting up of a "fact-finding commission" by the Government of India to "clarify" the political and Constitutional status of the Darjeeling Hills as was assured by the Ministry of Home Affairs during GRC's earlier meetings with Ministry officials.

Addressing a press briefing after meeting the Governor, Subodh Pakhrin, the GRC chief convenor, informed that their 6-member delegation appraised the Governor about the need for such a commission to establish the status of the Darjeeling Hills.

GRC is convinced that Darjeeling was absorbed into West Bengal purely for administrative purposes in 1949 and that it was never Constitutionally made an integral part of West Bengal.

GRC, it may be recalled, believes that Darjeeling belongs to Sikkim and that it should be reverted to Sikkim from its present status as a part of West Bengal.

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**State Govt not
implementing
PMABY**

properly: BJP

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 DEC:**
Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit vice-president, Mohan Gurung, today questioned why the State Government was not properly implementing the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana offering free insurance of Rs 5 lakh to every family.

The party informs that the programme was launched on 23 September and while a few from Sikkim were also insured at the time of the launch, due to the failure of the government to properly implement the scheme, most remain deprived of this programme.

A BJP press release contends that fearing that all the credit will go to the BJP, the State government has been dragging its feet in implementing the scheme.

On the same, the BJP has directed the State government to properly implement all programmes and schemes of the Centre like other states do in the interest of the people.

SDF has let the Sherpas down: Golay

**SKM's
Parivartan
Sankalp
Yatra reached
Sombaria**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 DEC:**
On the fifth day of his party's "Parivartan Sankalp Yatra," Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay], interacted with party workers at Tareybhiri, Rumbuk and surrounding areas at the constituency level office at Sombaria in West Sikkim today.

During the interactions, the party workers complained about the poor condition of

the health centre at Sombaria bazaar, lack of public toilets in Sombaria bazaar, the need for a public ground and community centre and the seizure of trade licenses of most businessmen of Sombaria.

They also complained against the lack of proper marketing arrangements for farmers of Upper Rumbuk and placed several other issues and problems being faced by the people of the area, an SKM press release informs.

In his deliberations, the SKM president contended that prices of all food items were cheaper in Sikkim than the neighbouring West Bengal before SDF came into office and that the situation have reversed in the past two and half decades.



He further alleged that due to the shortsightedness of the SDF government, 851 farmers from this part have been moved to Kupup for labour works.

He deplored the failure of the State Government in promoting the natural beauty of the area and stated that an SKM government would promote the area and make it "No 1".

He further alleged that the SDF has insulted the Sherpa community by giving them a representative who never speaks in the favour of the community and has even supported proposals moved against the Sherpa community.

He alleged that the SDF government was not interested in providing justice to the Sherpa community and further questioned why the government has not carried out an economic survey on the Sherpas of Sikkim.

Sikkim and WB police hold coordination meet



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 DEC:**
A coordination meeting between Sikkim and West Bengal police was held on 01 Dec at Rangpo, East Sikkim, under the chairmanship of IG L&O, Sikkim,

G.K Verma, informs a press release.

The meeting was attended by IGP Darj, SSP Darj, SP Kalimpong, ASP Darj, DySP & ICs/OCs of WB Police and the Sikkim Police team was represented by SSP/

South, SP/East, SP/West, ASP/East, SDPOs, TI-RSD & SHOs of bordering Police stations.

The meeting sought to foster good relationship between Police of the two states, the release adds.

Fresh lot of 30 seek appointment as Asst Lecturers

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 DEC:**
Around 30 scholars who have cleared NET/ SLET and have research experience of research have demanded that the State Government appoint them as Assistant Lecturers in State Government Colleges and State University as was done for 36 candi-

dates who were recently absorbed without having cleared open competitive examination.

Last year, the Higher Education Directorate of the Human Resource Development Department had advertised 100 posts of Assistant Lecturers and only 77 got through in the recruitment process.

However, 19 candidates who did not clear the examination but had been serving on adhoc/ contract basis as Asst Lecturers were considered and eventually appointed without any open competitive exam. This, after their protested having been overlooked.

turn to pg02

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CAREER COUNSELLING AND STUDY ABROAD
with Mindscan Education, Noida

**04-06 Dec, 2018
Hotel Rendezvous, Gangtok**

4th Dec, 9.30 am-
Topic:
(a) How to choose subjects for class 11 (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

Don't copy our programmes, SDF says to SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 03 DEC:**
Sikkim Democratic Front has accused Sikkim Krantikari Morcha of copying its policies and programmes and has asked the party to come up with its own programmes for a change.

The party has asserted that SKM should clearly place its own policies and programmes to the people of Sikkim.

The ruling party has strongly criticised SKM president PS Tamang [Golay] for imitating socially just, progressive and

developmental policies of the SDF party and announcing these plans and programmes in exaggerated manner to deceive and mislead the people.

An SDF press release issued by its general secretary, Krishna Kharel states that the SKM pres-

ident is just building on SDF's progressive and developmental policies and announcing them to the public in his Parivartan Sankalp Yatra.

SDF's programmes have been developed after a lot of scientific analysis

turn to pg02



NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender invited from the interested firm/ individual for the Auction of the Vehicle belonging to Sikkim Tourism Development Department Corporation bearing the following description :-

	Particulars of the vehicle		
1	Make /Model	Toyota Innova	Year of manufacture
	Engine No-	2KD 6401834	Nov-09
	Chassis No	MBJ11JV4007194845	
	Life of the vehicle	09 Years	
	Vehicle Registered No	SK-01-Z-0048	
Offset value as vaulted by SNT Division Transport Deptt, Govt. of Sikkim: - Rs. 2,10,000/-			

Particulars of the vehicle			
3	Make /Model	Toyota Innova	Year of manufacture
	Engine No-	2KD6402065	Nov-09
	Chassis No	MBJ11JV4007195018	
	Life of the vehicle	09 Years	
	Vehicle Registered No	SK-01-Z-0051	
Offset value as vaulted by SNT Division Transport Deptt, Govt. of Sikkim: - Rs. 2,10,000/-			

On "as in where is" basis lowest amount of the tender should not below then Rs. 2,10,000/- (**Two Lakh Ten Thousand Only**). Sealed tender should reached to the office of Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation, Hotel Mayur, P.S. Road, Gangtok.

Duly accompanied by the earnest money in the form of **TDR of Rs. 10,000/-** (Rupees Ten Thousand only) drawn in the favour of Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation as in **19th December 2018**.

The tender will be opened on the next day (i.e. **20th Dec. 2018**) between **15.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs** in the presence of Tender Committee and interested party at Sikkim Tourism Development Corporations , Hotel Mayur, P.S. Road , Gangtok.

The vehicle can be inspected at **Burtuk Heliped with the permission of Assistant Manager, Burtuk Heliped** during working hour between 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.

Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Tender form could be collected by paying Rs. 1000/- (Non Refundable) from below mentioned address(during office hour between 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.)

- Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation, Hotel Mayur, P.S. Road , Gangtok.
- STDC, Travel Division Office, M./G. Marg , Gangtok
- STDCD Burtuk Heliped

Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer,
Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation
Hotel Mayur, 1st Floor
P.S. Road, Gangtok

Gangtok on Tuesday, 04 Dec

Temp: 18°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

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Namsoong & Losoong stalls are up at Lal Bazaar

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

With the festive season of Namsoong and Losoong fast approaching, people are busy making the

traditional food items like 'khabjiye' and 'zayro' or heading to Lal Bazaar to buy them. Stalls are up in front of Denzong Cinema hall with those looking to buy the scrumptious traditional treats.

Workshop on National Building Code held at NIT Ravangla



RAVANGLA, 03 DEC (IP-R): A workshop on National Building Code was organized by the Institution of Engineers (India), Sikkim State Centre in collaboration with National Institute of Technology, Sikkim at NIT campus Ravangla. The workshop was aimed to sensitize various stakeholders, including students and practicing engineers associated with the construction of buildings about the recent amendments made in National Building Code.

Prof. Somnath Ghosh [Jadavpur University, Kolkata], Prof. DK Baidya

[Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur], Er. S. Arun Kumar [Scientist-D, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), New Delhi], Er. Ashok Chhetri [Divisional Engineer, Buildings and Housing Department, Govt. of Sikkim] and Er. Guru Prasad Sharma & Er. Sajal Sarkar [Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Majhitar] delivered their talks during the workshop. Dr. Anindya Biswas [Head, Department of Civil Engineering, NIT Sikkim] welcomed the participants in the programme.

Chairperson of the state centre and Addi-

tional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim, GP Upadhyaya chaired the programme. In his address, he explained the way the earthquake affects the stability of the building with special reference to Sikkim condition.

Prof. Ghosh discussed various parameters, including dynamic analysis, and ductility which have been included in revised Building Code. Four virtues, including good seismic configuration, stiffness, strength and ductility have also been given due importance in the recent BIS codes. In his address, Prof. Baidya,

explained different challenges in Geo-technical Engineering. He also shared his experience about various consultancy projects and explained the ways and means to handles different hurdles in geotechnical engineering. Liquefaction potential, a very important aspect, is also dealt with care in recent BIS codes.

Er. S Arun Kumar, Scientist-D, BIS explained relevance of various codes revised recently. He explained how the revised codes will help to ensure safety and reduce difficulties in the compliance of the safety provisions while executing the construction projects. Er. Ashok Chhetri explained the checks and balances adopted by various departments to ensure safety of buildings. He also narrated various aspects of revised building codes followed during execution of recent important projects including new hospital building and new building of Secretariat in Gangtok. Er.

Guru Prasad Sharma and Er. Sajal Sarkar explained general philosophy adopted in all seismic codes and methods to identify building structure showing distress and required retro-fitting.

The programme was attended by about 100 participants including engineers from Buildings and Housing Department and Human Resource and Development department, representatives from SMIT, ATTC and faculty members and students of NIT Sikkim.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks by the Prof. NS Chauhan, the organizing secretary of the workshop and honorary secretary of Sikkim State centre, The Institution of Engineers (India). He also informed the house the state centre is committed to organize similar programmes in future to deal engineering associated with the development of Sikkim.

SRM University Sikkim Starts CARRER READY PROGRAMS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 Nov:

SRM University Sikkim in collaboration with the MAANTT Global Services formally launched the Career-oriented program in SRM University Sikkim yesterday. These programs guarantee placements in tier 1 cities like Chennai, Bangalore and others. The event witnessed the presence of representatives and Subject Matter Experts from the MAANTT, professors and coordinators from the University and the students enrolled for various programs. Prof. Satish Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SRMUS, while addressing the gathering, stressed on the importance of application of knowledge in job market.

He expressed that lack of skill is one of the main reasons for less employment and the Educational institutions should start to focus on



nurturing the skills in students. With this initiative in mind, SRM University Sikkim tied up with MAANTT Global Services to up-skill students on in-demand skillsets required in the job market. Mr. Kumaragurubaran, an Urban Agriculturalist and an IT expert, who was the special guest for the occasion also addressed the gathering. He laid the importance on Artificial Intelligence and the revolution it has brought in the world today. He encouraged the students to be continuous learner and adapt

to the fast changing efficient and creative world.

Mr. Chaitanya, Head – Marketing for MAANTT shared the vision and growth of this program. He highlighted on the prospects of more such programs to be implemented in Sikkim. The five courses with which SRM and MAANTT have kick-started are PG Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science and Certificate Program in Medical Coding, Revenue Cycle Management and Supply Chain Management. Also, they are offering 50 % scholarship for these programs.

KVK-South organizes Finger Millet Field Day



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

Krishni Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim, conducted a Field Day on Finger Millet at Tokdag, Lingmoo, in South Sikkim today. The village has been adopted by KVK-South Sikkim for cultivation of finger millet [var. GPU-28] under the All India Coordinated Research Project on small millets.

Under this project the beneficiary farmers have been provided technological support as well

as input support like seeds, vermin-compost, plant protection measures etc, a press release informs.

Finger millet var. GPU-28 has shown good performance over local cultivar, the release adds.

GRC meets Governor seeking...

The GRC team further informed that they have also appraised the Governor of West Bengal [on 23 November during his visit to Darjeeling] about their stand and the need for a fact-finding commission to establish the status of Darjeeling.

This meeting with the Sikkim Governor today was to create a cordial environment so that their aspiration for a "Greater Sikkim" could be achieved.

Mr Pakhrin said that the Governor appeared convinced with the points GRC raised and expressed confidence that a proper channel will be established for the setting up of a fact finding commission under the Government of India.

When asked whether he was confident that their demand for Darjeeling's return to Sikkim stood a chance, he said that it was the moral obligation of the Government of India to first set up a Fact Finding Commission, establish the facts and then revert Darjeeling back to Sikkim.

Fresh lot of 30 seek...

Shortly after, the HRDD, without advertising the posts, appointed a further 17 who had also been serving on adhoc basis in government colleges, after the Cabinet approved their appointment last week.

Seeking similar consideration, around 30 more eligible candidates have urged the State Government to appoint them too, extending the same courtesy as was accorded to the 36.

Representing these candidates, Peter Rai informed that they have already moved their representation with the authorities but have not received any response yet.

He claimed that they had also cleared the mains of the selection examination conducted for the 100 vacancies originally announced however their names were not considered as they are engaged in private colleges, other universities or were Junior Research Fellows at the time.

Don't copy our programmes...

to determine what the people of the State need, the release adds.

The party further alleges that Mr Tamang is making offhand statements just to please the audience. SDF has stressed that SKM should come up with constructive policies and programmes better than SDF's if it is serious about politics.

Making accusations of corruption against the State Government when Mr Tamang himself has been convicted in a corruption case is just to paint himself clean, the release mentions.

CM to address SDF's SC Welfare Front state-wide tour closing function



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

Scheduled Caste Welfare Front of the Sikkim Democratic Front party has completed its state-wide Jan Sampark Abhiyaan in the State. The closing function of

this Jan Sampark Abhiyan is scheduled to be held on 05 Dec here at SDF Bhawan at 1 p.m. which will have the SDF president and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as the chief guest.

For the same, Scheduled

Caste Welfare Front has invited members of the SC community and weaker sections including leaders, youth and cheli of the party to attend the closing function, informs a press release from SCWF president, AS Baraily.

Governor visits Khadi Bhavan

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad today visited Sikkim Khadi and Village Industries Board at Deorali, Gangtok. He was accompanied by Mayor Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Shakti Singh Chaudhari on the occasion, a press communiqué from Raj Bhavan informs.

On arrival at SKVIB Bhavan at Deorali, the Governor was received by Chief Executive Officer,

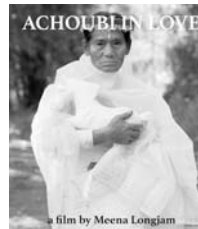
SKVIB, Gyurmie Yousal and other officials of the board. The CEO apprised the Governor about the initiatives and activities being carried out by the board in the State. The Governor was then escorted to the stalls of Khadi products prepared by various units in the State.

In a brief interaction with the officials of the board, the Governor stressed on the need to promote Khadi among the rural masses as a sustain-

able means of livelihood and said that Khadi is a symbol of our economic self-reliance and independence. Khadi being directly related to the rural artisans and entrepreneurs, must be developed with holistic approach and proper marketing strategies for the products prepared, the Governor further said.

Earlier in the day, the Governor also paid a visit to MG Marg, Gangtok and interacted with traders.

Film screening and conversation at The People's Studio



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 03 DEC:

The People's Studio is organizing "One Movie and Three Directors in Conversation" on 04 Dec at 5 p.m at ARTEM Office, Ground floor, Department of International Relations SU, Near Denzong Summit Hotel, Kazi Road,

Gangtok. During the event, Dr Meena Longjam, a Manipuri Film Director, will be screening her documentary 'Achoubi in Love', a film about a widow who invents a solution to protect indigenous ponies by creating an inclusive living space.

Longjam is a national award winning documentary filmmaker whose previous documentary, 'Autodriver', won the best short documentary award at the California-based Women's Voices Now Film Festival in 2017. Her film 'Autodriver' was screened at the launch of The People's Studio at Artem on 18 Nov 2018.

After the screening, Longjam will be in conversation with two acclaimed film Directors from Sikkim – Tribeny Rai and Prashant Rasaily. They will be speaking about their work, the challenges they face as filmmakers and the process of making films in Manipur and in Sikkim.

The recently launched People's Studio at Artem is a space for celebrating art practices from the 8 states in the northeast. It is a space for showcase, debates, discussions, exhibitions and enquiry through which we aim to make art accessible to all. The event is free and open to all.

Kpg Municipality lodges FIR against elements thwarting repairs

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 03 DEC:

The Kalimpong Municipality has lodged an FIR against a group which obstructed work on a drain this morning near the Electricity Department office.

A few days back, a local paper had published news about problems caused by the blockage of the drain in question after which the Kalimpong Municipality started repairs on 30 November, informs Ravi Pradhan, Chairperson of the Ka-

limpong Municipality.

He further informed that this morning, when the labourers arrived at the work site, some "antisocial elements," claiming allegiance to a political party, threatened them. The workers abandoned the site and returned to the municipal office and informed authorities there about the incident.

Later, the Chairperson informed the Police and District Administration about the incident and repairs resumed

after a police team reached the spot.

Mr Pradhan has appealed the people to act and inform the administration about such elements who want to disrupt developmental work in town.

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East District celebrates International Day of People with Disability

GANGTOK, 03 DEC (IPR): District Level celebration of International Day of People with Disability was held at Special School, Syari today. The theme of the celebration was "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

The programme was attended by Chief Electoral Officer, R.Telang, as the chief guest along with DC East, Kapil Meena, accompanied by other dignitaries, senior Doctors (STNM) Government of Sikkim, Members of NGOs, Children, parents and staffs.

R. Telang in his address said that on the occasion of International Day of People with Disability, Sikkim appeals to



all persons with disability to come forward, enrol themselves in Electoral Roll and exercise their Voting Rights in the upcoming election 2019. He further added that until and unless

a Competent Court or a Competent Medical authority declares that a person is "Unsound Mind" no voters shall be left behind, it should be an "Accessible Election". He added that under

the direction of Election Commission of India special provisions are included for Senior Citizens and Disabled people in every election station where volunteers from Scouts

and Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendra or School children (non-voters) will participate to help them so that they can easily get access in their respective polling station.

He further added that the parents of disabled child should focus on their ability so that they can exhibit their talents rather than focussing on their weakness or disability.

International Day of Person with Disabilities is an international observance promoted by the United Nation since 1992 to focus on issues that affect people with disabilities worldwide and to create an awareness that promotes a can-do-culture focusing on what people liv-

ing with disability can achieve throughout life and work. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development in every aspect of political, social, economic and culture life. In today's society, disabled people should have right to "Walk with Dignity" it is no longer enough just to know that disability discrimination is unlawful. We should all have an Emphatic Approach and not Sympathetic Approach.

The programme was organized by Spastic Society of Sikkim in collaboration with District Election Officer East and sponsored by Sun Pharma Pvt Ltd.

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SANGSINGMA SEWA

The Sangsingma Sewa of Late Lachi Maya Wanemphago, who left for her heavenly abode on 26/11/2018, falls on 04/12/2018.

All friends, well wishers and relatives are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our residence at Phago Niwas, Tibuk Basti, Mangshila, North Sikkim.



We would also like to express our gratitude to those who stood by us in our time of bereavement and regret our inability to thank them individually.

**Ash Raj Wanemphago (Husband).
Raj Bahadur Wanemphago, Tej Hang Wanemphago & Lok Bahadur Wanemphago (sons).
Cont.7432039042,8768923609,7872949931.**



ROADS &BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

Memo No...../MSD R&B/2018-19

Date.....

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Assistant Engineer (Mangan), 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:556/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 28/08/2018, & 515/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 12/06/2018,** for the construction of **Fair Weather road**through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of WardPanchayat/ Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as follows: (Kabi Lungchok Constituency)

SL. NO	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER (in Rs)	EARNEST MONEY @ 2.50% (in Rs)	COST OF TENDER DOCU-MENTS (in Rs)	COMPLETION TIME
1	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
2	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
3	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU Km 2.00 to Km 3.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
4	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU Km 3.00 to Km 4.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
5	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU, Km 4.00 to Km 5.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
6	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU Km 5.00 to Km 6.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
7	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU, Km 6.00 to Km 7.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
8	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU, Km 7.00 to Km 8.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
9	Construction of road from Longsok Sangham to Phudok via Thinbhim Rahey-Phyagu, Ramthang Tanek GPU, Km 8.00 to Km 9.25	52,98,120.00	1,32,453.00	1,500.00	09 months
10.	Construction of road from NSH to Ramthang Manilakhang (Gumpa), Ramthang Tanek GPU, Km 0.00 to 0.50	21,19,248.00	52,981.00	1,500.00	09 months.
11.	Construction of road from SKPPL company road to Radong school and Tamang Goan, Rongong Tumlong GPU, Km 0.00 to 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
12.	Construction of road from SKPPL company road to Radong school and Tamang Goan, Rongong Tumlong GPU, Km 1.00 to 2.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
13.	Construction of road from National Highway to Lower Phodong, Rongong Tumlong GPU, KM 0.00 to 1.40	59,33,894.00	1,48,347.00	1,500.00	09 months.
14.	Construction of road from Rangpa to Bakcha, Bakcha GPU Km 0.00 to 1.00	42,38,496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Document (excluding Tender Form) from the Office of the Assistant Engineer, Mangan Sub-Division, Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan, North Sikkim.	2 nd Jan 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
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2	Date of issue of Tender form on submission of TDR (as Earnest money) from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Mangan Sub-Division, Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan, North Sikkim.	3 rd Jan 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
3	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender in the village Administrative Centre of respective Gram Panchayat Unit.	
a	For works from Sl. No.01 to Sl. No.10	14 th Jan 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
b	For works from Sl.No.11 to Sl. No.13	16 th Jan 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
c	For works from Sl.No.14	17 th Jan 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
4	Date and time for Opening of Tender in the village Administrative Centre of the Respective Gram Panchayat Unit.	
a	For works from Sl.No.01 to Sl.No.10	14 th Jan 2019 (2.00pm)
b	For works from Sl.No.11 to Sl.No.13	16 th Jan 2019 (2.00pm)
c	For works from Sl.No.14	17 th Jan 2019 (2.00pm)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.
- The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) latest No objection Certificate/tax Clearance Certificate from Commercial Taxes Division, FRED, b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate and Professional Tax Clearance Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (as above from the office of the Assistant Engineer (Mangan) , Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan , North Sikkim on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the revenue head of the respective GPUs where the work is to be executed.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Account Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, NirmanBhawan ,Gangtok, Tender Form shall be issued only on production of Temporary Deposit Receipts of 2.50% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with he name of the tenders and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at SL.No: 3 (a), 3 (b) and 3 (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the Gram Prasad Kendra of the respective GPUs where the work is to be executed on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderers 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 Value Added Tax and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the Tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- AVoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (ninety) days. The work should commence within !5 (fifteen) days from the date of issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigned any reason thereof.
- The contractors are also required to submit Xerox copies of PAN card.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to notice ,the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man power employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries ,it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
(a) Transportation ,Handling ,storage and use of Explosives (if necessary)shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
(b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation ,storage; handling and use of explosive shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning ,middle and completion stages.
- Damages of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost.The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. there may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials and bridge parts supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

**R.O. No. 526/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
Date: 03.12.2018**

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

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Remember Ayodhya, Learn From Sikkim

*Places of worship can also bring
people of diverse faiths together*

As the anniversary of a disturbing moment arrives, efforts are already underway to whip up communal passions, and one can expect more disgusting sound-bites now that elections are round the corner. 06 December marks the anniversary of that shameful winter day of 1992 in Ayodhya when an unresolved issue, older than Independent India, snowballed into the tragic demolition of Babri Masjid and pulled the entire nation into a vortex of communal violence. In the communal riots which came its wake, at least 2,000 lives, mostly Muslims, were lost. The downward spiral continues and throws up no victors, leaving behind only victims and an army of agent provocateurs propping up leaders in the wave of hate and paranoia that they lift.

The demolition, irrespective of what it achieved for political ambitions, left the nation scarred. It's now nearly two and a half decades since a 1.5 lakh strong mob stormed the mosque and pulled it down. The first title suit over the disputed land [a 47 acre tract] was filed in the Allahabad High Court way back in 1950. Several other suits and petitions followed and it was only in September 2010, sixty years later, that a verdict was delivered. Closure, even if it is only legal and not emotional, however continues to evade this issue and the verdict has since been stayed by the Supreme Court. The lesson is clear - matters of faith, even when packaged in dry legalese as a title suit, are best left out of the courts. These should be left for the believers to resolve. But when it comes to matters of faith and belief, politics monopolises the divisions and does not allow resolutions. The Babri Masjid was constructed in 1528 CE; the first officially recorded communal riots over it were in the 1850's, when, after seven years of such violence, the British fenced the area to divide the places of worship of the two faiths in question. The issue conflated again in 1949, when idols of Ram, Sita and Laxman were smuggled into the Babri Masjid and placed there. With the horrors of the Partition violence still fresh in everyone's minds, the Government sealed off the area. Since then, the issue has surfaced often and confrontation peaked in 1992 when the Babri Masjid structure was demolished by a mob. The destruction was a huge blow to our country's secular credentials and an oft-quoted incident used to fan passions and communal hatred by both sides. This is not an issue likely to be resolved any time soon and the latest political wind in the BJP sails appears to be a revisit different aspects inspired by the jingoistic nationalism that worked so well in 1992.

When one speaks of allowing the believers to resolve issues among themselves, the example one has in mind is the Guru Nanak Lama Sahib of Chungthang in North Sikkim. This institution has an interesting history. A Gurudwara sits alongside a plot which the Sikkimese believe to have been blessed by Guru Rinpoche during his travels here in the 8th Century CE. The field, marking in a way the northernmost extremity to which rice grows in Sikkim, is believed to grow paddy from the rice sprinkled there by Padmasambhava and there is a rock there with an eternal spring of holy water; again, blessed by Guru Rinpoche. Sitting in the Gurudwara's porch is a gnarled tree, believed to have sprouted from Padmasambhava's walking stick. Given the reverence Guru Rinpoche commands in Sikkim, it was in a sparkling gesture of confidence and harmony that the Chungthang residents apportioned a plot in this sacred tract for the construction of a Gurudwara when the army personnel posted there required one. Admittedly, this sharing was not always amiable, but it was never confrontational or spiteful either. And the arrangement that was eventually worked out is a brilliant example of confraternity. When the Assam Rifles was moving out of Chungthang many years back, the fate of the Gurudwara worried every mind, until, yet again, a remarkable resolution was worked out. The Gurudwara is now, in principle, the administrative responsibility of the Chungthang residents who used to sit on its prabandhak committee in what is loosely referred to as the Lama Committee [for a Gurudwara!]. This facility was of great service in the wake of the 18 September Earthquake, accommodating a relief camp and operating an open kitchen, Sanjha Chula - a very Sikh concept and practice, for all. It continues to be a Gurudwara, one that calls itself "Guru Nanak Lama Sahib", and is managed and looked after by the Buddhist residents of Chungthang, who ensure that Granthis are hosted properly when they visit and that the prayers and sanctity of this Sikh place of worship is maintained. It is not whether the committee is effective or even functional, but the fact that the idea was mooted and promulgated which is praiseworthy.

This is a model of mutual respect that the rest of India could learn from on this anniversary of the Babri Masjid Demolition. Admittedly, Chungthang is a very small town and the Gurudwara there was never the nerve centre of communal politics. But it could easily have become one in the hands of more radical minds; but the people, the real believers, stepped up first and charted a more admirable course.

How to develop the mental health care that refugees really need

LLOY WYLIE
theconversation.com

From the migrant caravan that has travelled across Central America, to the ongoing exodus from Syria, the plight of refugees has become a global crisis.

There are currently more refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict and violence around the world than ever before. The media lays out the trauma of this forced migration on our screens: Children who have witnessed parents assaulted or murdered; families forced to leave everything behind as they risk their lives on over-crowded, unseaworthy boats between Africa and Europe.

Most of these refugees end up stuck in camps for years, lacking basic necessities. Women and children face sexual or physical violence and human trafficking. The lucky ones make it to Canada — with a renewed sense of hope for a safer, better life.

When refugees arrive in Canada, they meet a health-care system that is often ill-equipped to address their complex social and psychological needs.

Our research team at Western University, which included clinical project staff Rita Van Meyel and Heather Harder, assessed the preparedness of mental health care services in London, Ont., to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees, including those experiencing trauma. We explored staff experiences as well as resources, supports and training for working across cultures and languages. We probed for relationships between the hospital and community agencies for examples of shared care.

Our findings, published in Public Health Reviews, are not reassuring. Health-care providers felt poorly prepared and supported to provide transcultural trauma-informed care.

COMPLEX HEALTH CHALLENGES

The events forcing people to flee, and their difficult journeys across dangerous terrain and hostile borders, can have a devastating effect on mental health, according to our respondents working with refugees in mental health.

The struggle to adjust and to establish a life in a new country can also be distressing, if not traumatizing. Many refugees face downward social mobility as their professional credentials and experience are not recognized. Intergenerational and gender conflicts emerge, as families are assailed with pressures to assimilate. Deep-seated trauma is often buried under burdens with more immediacy.

Refugees need comprehensive social and psychological supports to overcome trauma and begin a healing path. But the fragmentation of mental health services leaves patients experiencing little to no coordination of care.

Refugees experiencing trauma who present with multiple complex health challenges often end up retelling their trauma story to several different care providers. In one of our focus group sessions, social workers noted that the poor coordination and information sharing between care providers



often meant that multiple people would each ask the same refugee patient to explain their trauma.

Universal problems of overcrowded spaces and long waitlists, hallmarks of "hallway medicine," have repercussions throughout the health-care system.

Many staff in mental health that we interviewed felt overworked, that they could never catch up with the demands of their complex caseloads. Our study participants noted that they often do not have enough time to develop the trust needed for a therapeutic relationship with their clients, particularly in the initial assessments of clients experiencing trauma.

TRAUMA EXPERIENCES ARE COLLECTIVE

Patient-centred care requires that patients can share their experience and expectations. Allowing them to tell their story and share their goals takes time. When care providers facilitate these personal narratives, it helps to identify what the real challenges are and to develop tailored solutions.

A psychiatrist with training and expertise in transcultural mental health emphasized in a research interview that the identification of trauma

and mental health itself is a culturally-biased process. How we express or understand mental health concerns varies across cultures and individuals.

A patient may take comfort in hearing the voice of their ancestor or muse, while the care provider calls it psychosis, and the family thinks they're cursed. Building shared understandings take time.

Our health-care system is oriented to providing services for individuals. Many refugee families share a collective trauma experience. Their healing journey must also be a shared process.

Care providers must consider the impact of trauma on the whole family. At the same time, they must analyse how each family member is coping through one-on-one time with a therapist.

BUILDING INTERDISCIPLINARY PARTNERSHIPS

Our research suggests that the current bottlenecks in the system could be resolved with effective task shifting and interdisciplinary models of team-based care. A social worker shared with us that when they collect and share the family nar-

ratives with the mental health team, psychiatrists can focus on treatment and recovery.

Staff told us they need time for training and access to resources around trauma-informed care. Care providers want skills for working in transcultural contexts, where services can integrate multiple cultural perspectives.

Although the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM5) now provides a guide for transcultural mental health assessments, care providers want a flexible approach and need sufficient time, allowing them to judge when patients are ready to share their stories.

Such a skill set would in fact be valuable for working with anyone needing mental health support. And let's face it, most visits to the hospital are due to a scare that leaves all of us feeling vulnerable.

Building trauma-informed skills and supportive community partnerships will result in better mental health services for everyone — based on the compassion and caring that we all crave in our time of need.

[the writer is Assistant Professor, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University]



Why massive effort needs to be put into growing trees on farms

PHILIP DOBIE
theconversation.com

It's now over 50 years since the world was first warned that resources were being used at an unsustainable rate. It has now been estimated that almost one quarter to one third of the world's land is degraded to some extent.

Degradation refers to land that's lost nutrients, or has changed physically, and therefore produces less or supports less life. This is mostly caused by the loss of soil, changes in the quality of the soil, or changes to land cover — like trees being cut down.

About 20% of agricultural land and 40% of forests are degraded. Degradation reduces our capacity to feed a world population that will reach at least 9 billion people by 2050 and it destroys ecosystem services — like the supply of clean water. Also when soil is degraded and trees destroyed, the carbon they contain is released into the atmosphere. Having high levels of carbon in the atmosphere is a major cause of climate change.

Because a great deal of land has been changed to produce food, agroforestry, the practice of deliberately introducing trees into farms, is an important way to restore degraded

land. These trees, outside of forests, have tremendous commercial and ecological value.

Because of this, agroforestry is increasingly being recognised as a key practice, supporting nine out of the 17 sustainable development goals — the global action to end poverty and protect the planet.

Unfortunately policymakers have not yet caught up. Very few agricultural policies around the world promote agroforestry and few agricultural universities and training institutes include it in their syllabuses.

This needs to change if agroforestry is going to be widely adopted across all farms to meet local and global challenges of food production, environmental protection and the alleviation of climate change.

PROTECTING TREES AND SOIL

Trees are vital to a healthy and balanced environment as they store carbon — trees hold three quarters of the carbon found in agricultural land — which affects climate change, and protect soil. Soil supports the growth of plants, also stores carbon and is key for nearly all agricultural production.

The international community has recognised this and is in a battle to restore degraded forests. Countries have pledged to restore about 170

million hectares of land worldwide.

These are massive commitments and the question is where the efforts can be placed and land will be found.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has identified 160 million hectares of land, in 26 countries, with restoration potential.

But most of these areas will be "mosaic" land, where trees would need to grow within managed, mainly agricultural, landscapes. The reason is very simple: most of the forest that has been lost has been transformed into agricultural land, and that land won't be recovered as long as the demand for food continues to grow. If we need more trees, many will have to be introduced into managed agricultural mosaic landscapes.

Fortunately, trees can be valuable and profitable parts of agricultural systems. They provide timber, food and fuel. They make soils more fertile, and protect the ecosystem services that agriculture depends upon. Trees on farms bring immediate benefits to farmers and contribute 17% of gross income in tree-growing households in sub-Saharan Africa.

SLOW UPTAKE

Increasing tree cover on farms is more than an ambition, it's already happening around the world, especial-

ly on smaller, mixed farms. Recent research shows that 45% of farms worldwide have more than 10% tree cover.

But, for its part, mainstream agriculture — still tends to ignore the need to plant trees and there are two reasons for this.

Firstly, agroforestry as a modern approach to farm production and land management — in contrast to agroforestry as a traditional farming practice — is a relatively new idea, dating back only to the 1970s. Agriculture and forest institutions around the world have been slow to adapt themselves.

Secondly, agroforestry gets lost between agriculture and forestry ministries and departments, often hosted in one institution and ignored by the other. This precludes the joining of forces of different specialists needed to push the agenda of trees on farms.

Some countries are breaking this trend. India, for example, has developed a pioneering national agroforestry policy, supported at federal level, funded down to state level and with incentives for state universities to reform their agricultural syllabuses to include agroforestry.

[the writer is Senior Fellow, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)]

Firhad Hakim elected Kolkata mayor

KOLKATA, DEC 3 (PTI): West Bengal minister and TMC candidate Firhad Hakim on Monday secured 121 votes in the 144-member Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) to win the mayoral election.

The result of the mayoral election, conducted through a secret-ballot system, was announced by the civic body's municipal secretary, Harihar Prasad Mondal.

BJP candidate Meena Devi Purohit, who contested the polls against Hakim, bagged five votes. Twelve Left Front and two Congress councillors boycotted the election.

Last week, CPI(M) councillor Bilquis Begum had moved the Calcutta High Court, challenging Hakim's election on the ground that he was not a councillor from any ward of the civic body. The high court on Friday refused to stay the election.

The ruling TMC has 122 seats in the KMC House, the Left Front 14, the BJP five, the Congress two, while one seat remains vacant. Sources said one TMC councillor gave Monday's election a miss due to ill health.

Hakim, who is also the urban development and municipal affairs minister, was chosen as the mayor designate by Trinamool Congress (TMC) councillors, following Sovan Chatterjee's resignation from the post.

Chatterjee visited the KMC headquarters in New Market area of the city to cast his vote.

Talking to media after the announcement of the results, Chatterjee extended his best wishes to Hakim. "I am sure the KMC will function well under the leadership of the new mayor."

Nine NDFB(S) cadres arrested in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, DEC 3 (PTI): In a joint operation by the Army and police officers, nine cadres of outlawed NDFB(S), including a teenager, have been arrested from Jairampur in Arunachal Pradesh.

The rebels were infiltrating into India from their training camp in Myanmar when security forces apprehended them Sunday, Director General of Police SBK Singh said.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition, including pistols and AK-56 rifles, were recovered from their possession.

"Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Red Horns Division of Assam Rifles and Jairampur Police ambushed the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (Songbijit) rebels on their infiltration route," Singh said, adding that the operation has dealt a "body blow" to the militant outfit.

Fake encounter in Assam: CIC threatens penal proceedings against Home Secretary

NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI): The CIC has given a "final opportunity" to Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba to produce records related to alleged fake encounter in Assam last year, reported by then CRPF IG Rajnish Rai, before initiating penal proceedings against him for "obstructing" the flow of information.

Irked by the stance of the Home Ministry to not present records for the Central Information Commission's perusal, the statutory body said since the decision in the matter has "undoubtedly" been taken at the highest level, the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs is designated as deemed Public Information Officer (PIO).

"A final opportunity is granted to the MHA to produce relevant records of the case. The Union Home Secretary shall produce the relevant records before the Commission in person or through his authorised representative on December 19, 2018 failing which, ex parte decision shall be announced," the order said.

The Commission also said that in case records are not produced penal proceedings can be initiated against him for obstructing the process of "adjudication of the Commission and causing obstruction to the flow of information. "Under the RTI Act, no records can be withheld from



this Commission under any pretext," the order said. It said the CIC has statutory power and the same has also been acknowledged by the Supreme Court. "The unusual resistance exhibited by the MHA in producing the records before the Commission cannot be countenanced and the Commission perceives the same to be a direct onslaught on the RTI regime," it said.

It said contention of the MHA on the applicability of relevant clauses under Section 8(1) of the RTI, which

exempts certain information from being made public under certain conditions, is still not concluded and the Commission has not yet decided on the same.

"Apart from a bald assertion made by PIO, MHA, there is nothing on record to substantiate the argument of NHRC/ Assame SHRC having ruled out violation of human rights. No records or findings from any court of Law are produced before the Commission," it said.

The Commission clarifies that

genuineness of an encounter killing/ extrajudicial killing and allegation of human rights violation are two distinct things, it said.

"Lawful justification of extrajudicial killing cannot be confused with the right of citizenry to know the truth," it said.

The matter pertains to an RTI application seeking to get a copy of the report filed by Rajnish Rai, the then CRPF IG. Rai has alleged in the report that a joint team of the Army, the Assam Police, the CRPF, its jungle warfare

unit CoBRA and the border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) conducted the encounter on March 29-30, 2017 in Simlaguri area of Chirang district and killed what they called were two insurgents of the banned group NDFB (S). The copy was denied by the CRPF claiming that its an exempted organisation under the RTI Act.

The applicant had said even if it is an exempted organisation, the information held by it pertaining to allegations of human rights violation is not covered under that exemption.

Agreeing with the view of the applicant, the Commission said the information will not come under blanket exemption to the CRPF from RTI Act and asked for the report to adjudicate whether it attracts Section 8 of the transparency act.

The CRPF then said the report was with the Home Ministry.

The Home Ministry in spite of repeated orders to produce the report did not comply and later claimed the information was not held by it.

"Denial of information to appellant cannot be a ground to deny a record to the CIC. Irrespective of the outcome of the present appeal, there is nothing to fetter power of the Commission to call for any record in process of adjudication of present appeal," the Commission said in its latest order.

24 remote villages in Arunachal to get a road at last



Itanagar, Dec 3 (PTI): More than 4,000 people in 24 remote villages in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Siang district would get a proper road connectivity for the first time within a few months, an organisation which is spearheading the campaign for the construction of the road claimed Monday.

The residents of 24 notified villages in remote Kangku circle of the district used to depend on roads of neighbouring state Assam even to go out of their villages for

any work as there was no road since independence, the 'No Road No Vote Central Committee' (NRNCC) which is spearheading the demand for construction of road said.

NRNCC coordinator Mikjom Taso told PTI that a 65-km road from Likabali to Kangku circle has been sanctioned by states Rural Works department under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) due to consistent efforts of local peoples and NRNVC.

The road has been

sanctioned under the PMGSY, a government official said, adding it would be completed soon.

Not a single vote was cast at five of the nine polling stations of the circle during the by-election to Likabali Assembly constituency held in December 2017 as the voters had boycotted election with the demand "No road no vote".

After the locals threatened to launch civil disobedience movement to surrender their voter identity cards to the state

government if their demand was not met, Chief Minister Pema Khandu had assured to look into the grievances.

"This is a dream come true for people of the circle who have suffered a lot for lack of roads, which had made our lives difficult. The situation gets worse when there is medical emergency or inter-state rows," he said and lauded the state and Central governments for approving the road.

"The road would herald a new dawn in our lives," he claimed.

Predator North American fish found in Pune's Pavana Dam

PUNE, DEC 3 (PTI): The netting of a dead carnivorous fish native to North America in Pavana Dam near Pune has put the state Fisheries department on alert mode as its presence could adversely affect the bio-diversity of the water body.

Officials identified the fish caught in Pavana Dam, about 17 cm in length and weighing 2.5 kg, as the 'alligator gar', which is called so due to its resemblance to the American alligator, particularly the broad snout and long, sharp teeth.

"Upon being alerted about the catch last week

by local fishermen, we took the view of fish experts who confirmed that it was the alligator gar. It is carnivorous and kills other fish in the water body it inhabits," said A M Gadwal, a section engineer at Pavana Dam.

"The experts told us that it is an exotic fish found exclusively in North America," Gadwal added. Fisheries Development Officer Janak Bhosale confirmed the find and said the 'alligator gar' can adversely affect the bio-diversity of the water body as it tends to kill other fish for survival. He said fishermen

have been apprised of the issue and have been told to alert the Fisheries department if they come across these fish again.

Speaking on how the exotic fish might have found its way into Pavana Dam, Bhosale said, "It is possible someone may have brought this fish to keep in an aquarium. He may have later released it into Pavana Dam."

The fish, according to experts, can adapt to water bodies with different levels of salinity and is an ambush predator using stealth and strategy rather than speed to kill other fish.

WB govt scheme to benefit 2 lakh differently abled people: CM

KOLKATA, DEC 3 (PTI): A scheme launched by the West Bengal government earlier this year will benefit around two lakh differently abled people, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Monday.

Banerjee, on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, said people with 40 per cent or more disability is entitled to a monthly pension of Rs 1,000, under the scheme.

"Today is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In 2018, we launched the 'Manobik' scheme, wherein persons



with 40% or more disabilities will receive a monthly pension of Rs 1,000. Two lakh people will be benefitted. We have allocated Rs 250 crore for this scheme," the CM tweeted. The International-

al Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed annually by the United Nations since 1992 with an aim to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society.

Ban Ki-moon urges N. Korea to take denuclearization steps

TOKYO, DEC 3 (AP): Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday to take concrete steps toward complete denuclearisation and gain the trust of the international community if he wants sanctions lifted.

Ban, a former South Korean foreign minister, said "this is the time" to achieve North Korea's denuclearisation after nearly a quarter century of unsuccessful efforts, and that the North and the world should not lose this opportunity.

"I'd like to really advise the North Korean leader that the world is ready" to help his coun-



try, Ban told The Associated Press, specifically citing South Korea, the US, China, Japan and Russia. He said denuclearisation is important for a better future for the two Koreas, including reconciliation and reunification.


"I hope this is the time, please do not lose this opportunity," he said.

Kim sharply raised tensions with nuclear and missile tests last year, but suddenly reached out to South Korea and the United States this year with a vague nuclear disarmament pledge.

US President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in say tensions have eased significantly since then,

but Ban, who is in Tokyo for a World Bank event, said the crisis is not over and that North Korea should fully disclose its nuclear weapons inventory to a trusted international organisation such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The crisis is still continuing because of North Korea's development of nuclear, missile and weapons program and materials. It is North Korea which should clearly state and show by taking actions, then I am sure that there will be no reason why the Security Council of the United Nations will continue to impose the sanction on North Korea," Ban said.

 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> ADMISSION OPEN </div> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">STUDY ZONE Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)</p>	
OUR COURSE OUTLINES:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. tions for the students 5. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective 6. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers 7. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.
OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To give clear concept of the chapters 2. To give the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations 3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. tively and efficiently 5. Greater emphasis would be to excel. 6. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements
<p>For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651 Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press , Gangtok</p>	

We'll need a few options to take down Kohli: Hazlewood



CHETAN NARULA

ADELAIDE, DEC 3 (PTI): The Indian batting lineup is the best in the world but not untameable if talismanic skipper Virat Kohli is kept in check, feels Australia vice-captain and pacer Josh Hazlewood.

Kohli had scored 692 runs, including four hundreds, during India's previous Test tour of Australia and Hazlewood said the run-machine will once again take centrestage when the rivalry renews from December 6 here.

"I see the Indian lineup as the best in the world, if not right up there, led by Virat and I think they feed a lot off him and how he goes about things," Hazlewood said.

wood said.

"They've played a lot at home since we played them last in Australia. They toured England and South Africa, and it was only Virat who stood out. A lot of the other haven't scored too many of the runs," he added.

The bowler said his team has been making plans for Kohli and a few "options" will be in place. "I think we'll obviously have a chat about him before the game starts. We'll come up with a couple of options. It's about what conditions suit, with a player of that caliber you need a few options," Hazlewood told reporters.

But sledging the marauding batsman does not figure in those options.

tions.

"Virat obviously thrives on that sort of stuff. It gets him going and he probably plays his best cricket when he's doing that. It's up to the individual - if it's a bowler or a fielder. I am usually pretty quiet when I am bowling."

Speaking specifically about the first Test, Hazlewood said early breakthroughs will hold the key.

"If we can make some early inroads in this first Test, it's always crucial and the first innings. If we can get on top of them early, hopefully that will filter through the rest of the Test."

India have been touted as favourites against Australia in the absence

of the banned batting duo of Steve Smith and David Warner but Hazlewood said it would be an even contest.

"I think it's pretty even. They're obviously number one Test team in the world but we play some good cricket at home. So I think it's very even heading this," he said.

"With our bowling attack we're very confident and based on last year, we had quite a good template there and it worked pretty well (in the Ashes). So we'll be looking to replicate that and test it against one of the best batting orders in the world."

Australia's quest for reverse swing led to a ball-tampering scandal

against South Africa in March this year and this will be the first Test at home for the hosts since that infamous Cape Town Test.

Talking about working the ball for reverse swing during the series, Hazlewood said, "It's pretty common sense. The rules are pretty clear now it's good to have it in black and white."

"This ground and Perth are not ideal for reverse swing so it's more normal seam and swing. I don't think it's going to play a massive part in this game."

Hazlewood also stressed on the importance of off-spinner Nathan Lyon, especially the fact that he can bowl long spells to allow the three pacers enough time to recuperate themselves.

"He's the key for me. With the four of us, you have Pat who bowls shorter spells and sometimes Starc too. So to have Lyon, it even worked well two weeks ago when we played the Shield game."

"He pretty much bowled from one end after the new ball and we filtered through from the other end."

He added that the fitness of their three-pronged pace attack, also consisting of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, will probably determine the course of this series.

How newly formed Ankita-Karman partnership is clicking

AMANPREET SINGH
NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI):

The on-court "maturity" of Ankita Raina and the "observational" skills of Karman Kaur Thandi is making their newly-formed doubles partnership click, say India's top two singles players.

Ankita and Karman first nailed their career's maiden WTA doubles title in Taipei before uniting to win the Pune Open last week, making it two trophies in a row.

While the two players have not committed on how long they want to play together but if they are playing the same tournaments, there is no stopping this partnership. And given that they are ranked closer, just outside the 200s, there is a possibility of opting for same events.

The results have come immediately after joining forces and they have deciphered a few things about each other, which they feel are yielding success.

"In Taipei itself, we felt that combination and communication was at different level than what we had with other players. That is what is required to do well. When we lose a point, at that time communication is key," said Ankita.

"Sometimes a player has an off day and on that day, the other has to carry the partner," added the 25-year-old.

Karman explained it further: "It was like I missed an easy ball, a stupid ball and she said we won't be angry at each other and stay positive. And as it happened we were down in most of the Super Tie breakers (in Taipei) and we pulled it off." So what is that they find unique in each



other, which they could not find in other partnerships? "Her maturity on the court, she handles the pressure situations well and keeps me positive. And the main thing is understanding each other's game and using that to our strength," said Karman. Ankita said Karman, 20, is receptive of her ideas.

"I know some of the players (on Tour) already and If I suggest a certain style of play, she was ready to listen and accept that. Some players do not do that." The Asian Games silver medalist also recalled how Karman could judge that one of the coaches was helping their rival players from outside.

"She observed that the coach was clapping in different ways at different times and our rivals would either go for lines or move up a bit, accordingly. I don't know if that actually was the case but she thought of it and we played points accordingly," she said.

The comfort of being around the person who speaks the same language is definitely there and it helps in releasing the pressure and lighten

up the mood if the two girls can shake their legs on peppy Punjabi numbers just before the match. Yes, that is how Ankita and Karman warm up for their matches these days.

"Dancing in the locker room on Punjabi songs to get ready for the match is the new thing we are doing. We do funny things during warm ups. I play songs like 'Morni Ban key', 'Selfie' and 'Punjabi Mutiyaar' on my phone," said Karman.

"We both like dancing, once music is on, it is natural," said Ankita adding, "I think it will continue." The baseline game was always a strong point for 20-year-old Karman, who is now even getting better handling pressure situations.

"Every aspect has to improve and we keep working on strengths. Serve is a big weapon and my backhand has got better. The goal is to play Grand Slam (Qualifiers) next year and get into top-150. "On deuce points or super tie break when I was serving, I knew I can serve big and get these two points," said Karman, about close matches in the Taipei event.

Women continue to occupy only 1 in 10 seats in LS despite high success rate in 2014 polls: book

New Delhi, Dec 3 (PTI): The success rate of women candidates in 2014 general elections was higher than that of their male counterparts, yet women in India still occupy just over 1 in 10 seats in Lok Sabha, notes a new book.

Titled "Women Members in the Indian Parliament", the book edited by Shirin M Rai and Carole Spary, demonstrates the barriers faced by women in accessing the lower house of the parliament.

"(In 2014) ... 9.3 per cent of women candidates (were) successfully elected (or 62 out of 668 women candidates) in comparison to 6.3 per cent of men candidates (or 481 out of 7,577 candidates)," the book said.

The women's presence in the Lok Sabha at present is around 12 per cent, which is only 7 per cent higher than what it was in the first general elections in 1951 when there were 24 women members out of a total 489 MPs. The Lok Sabha has 545 seats including the two seats for Anglo-Indians nominated by the president.

In 2014 general elections, 62 women were elected to the 16th Lok Sabha, to a house of 543 seats, or just over 11 per cent. It further rose to 66 in 2015 as a result of bye-elections and nominations bringing women's presence to around 12 per cent.

Of the two largest national parties, according to the book, Congress has historically nominated a greater proportion of women, and over time BJP's nomination of women has also increased.

creased.

However, the BJP in 2014 nominated fewer women candidates than in 2009 (44 in 2009 to 37 in 2014). In contrast, the Congress nominated a higher number and proportion of women candidates: 59 women in 2014 compared with 43 women in 2009.

And even though the number of women contesting the elections has increased considerably, "from 355 in 2004 to 556 in 2009 and 668 in 2014", the book sates that men have still been constituting the "majority of candidates" -- 92 to 93 per cent in the last three general elections.

"In the general election of 2014, women represented 8.1 per cent of total 8,251 candidates contesting for 543 seats, an increase of only 1 per cent over the previous two elections when women constituted around 7 per cent of all candidates," said the book quoting the Election Commission of India (ECI) data.

The proportion of women among total candidates has remained relatively the same because the number of male candidates had also risen in 2014 elections, it added.

That said, the book, observed that women are nominated in greater proportion in the SC and ST category seats, compared to general seats.

"In the 2014 election, though women candidates constituted only 8 per cent of candidates overall, they constituted 14 per cent of all candidates contesting SC reserved seats," it read.

Air pollution: NGT slaps 25 crore fine on Delhi govt

NEW DELHI, DEC 3 (PTI): The National Green Tribunal Monday asked the Delhi government to deposit Rs 25 crore with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for their failure to curb the problem of pollution in the city. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also asked the AAP government to furnish a performance guarantee of Rs 25 crore with the apex pollution monitoring body to ensure that there is no further lapse in this regard.

It said despite its clear directions, there is hardly any action for

compliance of orders of the tribunal and pollution continues unabated in blatant violation of law and under the nose of the authorities "who have hardly done anything concrete except furnishing excuses and helplessness". The green panel said that even after more than four-and-a-half years, the complaint of the aggrieved parties is that the pollution caused by the unregulated handling of plastic continues to remain unabated.

The tribunal was hearing pleas filed by Mundka village resident Satish Kumar and Tikri-Kalan native Maha-

vir Singh alleging pollution caused by burning of plastic, leather, rubber, motor engine oil and other waste materials and continuous operation of illegal industrial units dealing with such articles on agricultural lands in Mundka and Neelwal villages. The tribunal had earlier directed the Delhi chief secretary to co-ordinate with the concerned municipal authorities, police authorities and other officers responsible for compliance of orders of this tribunal already passed referred to ensure compliance at the ground-level forthwith.

MUMBAI, DEC 3 (PTI): Driven to despair by being offered a meagre 20 paise per kilogram for his brinjal production, a farmer in Maharashtra destroyed the entire plantation on his land to save himself from incurring further losses.

Rajendra Bawake, from Sakuri village in Rahata tehsil of Ahmednagar district, claimed he earned only Rs 65,000 after investing Rs 2 lakh and putting in all his energy to cultivate the brinjal crop.

Frustrated with the low income, the distraught farmer uprooted all brinjal plants from his field and threw them away on Sunday.

"I had planted brinjal on two acres of land and laid pipes for drip irrigation. I used fertilisers, pesticides and modern mulching techniques to enhance the production. The total investment came to around Rs 2 lakh. In return, I earned only Rs 65,000," Bawake told PTI on Monday.

The cultivator said he now owes dues worth over Rs 35,000 to fertilisers and pesticides suppli-



er. "I don't know how I am going to raise that money," he rued.

Bawake claimed that when he tried to sell his produce at the wholesale markets in Nashik (Maharashtra) and Surat (Gujarat), he fetched merely 20 paise per kg.

"This frustrated me, so I decided to destroy the entire plantation to save

myself from further loss," he said.

As a routine practice, the cultivator had been selling his produce in cartons on a weekly basis.

"But I never got better returns in the last three-four months and so, I decided to do away with the plantation," he said.

Bawake said he rears three

Maheshwari Chauhan retains women's skeet title

JAIPUR, DEC 3 (PTI): Rajasthan's Maheshwari Chauhan retained her women's skeet title at the 62nd National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) for shotgun events here on Monday.

Maheshwari got the better off Punjab's Ganemat Sekhon, the same rival whom she had beaten last year.

While the two women

had to be separated through a shoot-off in last year's final, Maheshwari overcame Ganemat 52-51 in this year's final to clinch the gold.

The bronze medal was won by Punjab's Simran Preet Kaur Johal, who later picked up three gold in other events.

Simran won the women's team, junior women's and junior women's

team gold to add to her women's skeet bronze.

In the junior women's final, Simran beat state-mate Parinaaz Dhaliwal 55-51.

In the women's skeet team competition, Simran, Parinaaz and Ganemat's combined tally of 342 was far better than silver winning Rajasthan's tally of 331. Telangana won the bronze.

cows at home and needs money to buy fodder for the cattle.

"I had hopes from brinjal farming, but now I don't know how to take care of my cattle," he said.

Notably, an onion-grower from Nashik district, who had to sell his produce for little over Re 1 per kg and fetched only Rs 1,064 for 750 kg of the vegetable, sent his earnings to the prime minister last month to mark his protest.

Farmers from different parts of the country, including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, had converged in New Delhi last Thursday in protest to press for their various demands, including debt relief and remunerative prices for their produce.

Several Social activists and political leaders had slammed the Union government on Friday, alleging it did not implement a "single major initiative" for farmers in the past four-and-a-half years and that demonetisation "worsened the agrarian distress" in the country.

At-risk nations to make case at UN climate summit

KATOWICE (POLAND), DEC 3 (AFP): Nations most threatened by rising sea levels and devastating droughts will use a UN summit in Poland on Monday to urge richer countries to pay their fair share in the climate change fight.

The presidents of at-risk states such as Fiji, Nigeria and Nepal are expected at COP24 talks, which aim to flesh out the promises agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

But host Poland -- heavily reliant on energy from coal -- will push its own agenda: a "just transition" from fossil fuels that critics say could allow it to continue polluting for decades.

The Paris deal saw nations agree to limit global temperature rises to below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) and under 1.5C if possible.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries now have two weeks of negotiations to finalise how those goals work in practice, even as science suggests the pace of climate change is rapidly outstripping mankind's response. One of the key disputes is finance.

Under Paris, richer nations -- responsible for the majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions -- are expected to contribute funding that developing nations can access to make their economies greener.



But US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris accord has dented trust among vulnerable nations, who fear there is not enough cash available to help them adapt to our heating planet.

The World Bank on Monday announced USD 200 billion (175 billion euros) in climate action investment for 2021-25 -- a major shot in the arm for green initiatives but one which needs bolstering by state-provided funding.

The background to Monday's summit could hardly be bleaker: with just one Celsius of warming so far Earth is

bombarded with raging wildfires, widespread crop failures and super-storms exacerbated by rising sea levels.

"A failure to act now risks pushing us beyond a point of no return with catastrophic consequences for life as we know it," said Amjad Abdulla, chief negotiator at the COP24 for the Alliance of Small Island States.

The UN's own expert climate panel in October issued its starkest warning to date.

To have any hope of reaching the 1.5C goal by the end of the century, it said emissions from fossil fuel use must be halved by 2030. Poland is one

of many nations heavily reliant on coal, and wants this round of talks to reflect the role fossil fuels play in its economy.

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

Mohamed Adow, climate lead for the Christian Aid charity, said richer nations needed to stomp up the cash to allow developing countries to make the leap to renewables.

"Trudging along the dirty

development path trod by richer countries will see developing nations stuck in the past and pollute their environments while ruining efforts to limit global warming," he said.

For some nations, the time to adapt to the effects of climate change is already here.

Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji and president of last year's COP, said Poland's submission must result in "a just transition for everyone, especially the most climate vulnerable."

The UN's General Assembly chief Maria Espinosa said the choice between the climate or jobs was false. "Societies need to adapt, they need to understand, otherwise we will be in deep trouble, what is at stake now is the very survival of human kind and of the planet," she told AFP.

Poland has already come in for criticism after it announced three state-run coal companies were sponsoring the two-week negotiations.

Patti Lynn, executive director of the Corporate Accountability campaign group, called for nations to agree to the global greenhouse gas drawdown upon which the fate of the Paris agreement now rests. "We need serious solutions from serious leaders, not dangerous schemes and political tricks aimed to keep big polluters polluting," she said.

Oil prices surge on output cut pledge, US-China deal



SINGAPORE, DEC 3 (AFP): Oil prices soared on Monday after Russia and Saudi Arabia renewed a pact to cap output, while the US agreed to halt raising tariffs on Chinese imports, stalling a trade row that many feared could hit demand for the commodity.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday he and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman "have agreed to extend our agreement" to limit production as prices slump on global markets.

An existing deal committing OPEC and non-members to cuts expires this year.

While there was no announcement on how much would be cut and for how long, the pact between the world's two biggest crude exporters was cheered by oil traders, with Brent jumping USD 2.42 to USD 53.35 and West Texas Intermediate up USD 2.60 at USD 62.06 on Monday.

There was a slight paring of prices after Qatar announced it would be leaving OPEC next year as it looks to concentrate on its gas production, though it would continue to pump crude. The country contributes a fraction of the entire output from the group.

"While we still need to know by how much OPEC will curb its production, Putin's comment does clear a barrier for OPEC in stabilizing prices as Russia has been ambiguous about its stance," Ahn Yea Ha, a commodities analyst at Kiwoom Securities told Bloomberg News.

Both main contracts

have plunged by about a third since hitting four-year highs at the start of October, hit by a number of factors including easing demand, high production, softer-than-expected US sanctions on Iran and a global growth slowdown.

Another major reason for the sell-off has been the ongoing trade row between China and the US, which has seen the world's top economies swap tariffs on imports worth hundreds of billions of dollars fuelling fears about the impact globally.

However, Donald Trump and Xi Jinping on Saturday announced a deal that will see the US hold off raising levies on Chinese goods on January 1 and China promise to buy more from the US, while entering a 90-day period of talks to bring an end to the dispute.

Traders are now looking ahead to a weekend meeting of OPEC and key non-OPEC members in Vienna, where they will make an announcement on their cuts plans.

Most analysts expect a cut of around one million barrels per day, but some say this may not be enough to arrest the decline in prices.

"It's a huge week not only for oil markets but capital markets in general," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trade at OANDA.

"Post-G20 sentiment is a bit more positive than expected but still very much work in progress, so perhaps the most crucial event in December next to (Britain's) Brexit vote could very well be the OPEC summit."

Qatar will pull out of OPEC amid tension with Saudi Arabia



DUBAI, DEC 3 (AP): The tiny, energy-rich Arab nation of Qatar announced on Monday it would withdraw from OPEC, mixing its aspirations to increase production outside of the cartel's constraints with the politics of slighting the Saudi-dominated group amid the kingdom's boycott of Doha.

The surprise announcement from Qatar's minister of state for energy affairs, Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, again throws into question the role of the cartel after needing non-members to push through a production cut in 2016 after prices crashed below USD 30 a barrel.

It also marks the first time a Mideast nation has left the cartel since its founding in 1960.

In a statement, al-Kaabi said Qatar, the world's largest exporter of liquified natural gas, planned to increase its exports from 77 million tons of gas per year to 110 million tons.

He also said Qatar wants to raise its oil production from 4.8 million barrels of oil equivalent a day to 6.5 million barrels.

"In light of such efforts and plans, and in our pursuit to strengthen Qatar's position as a reliable and trustworthy energy supplier across

the globe, we had to take steps to review Qatar's role and contributions on the international energy scene," al-Kaabi said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from Vienna-based OPEC, which is to meet this month and discuss possible production cuts.

Qatar, a country of 2.6 million people where citizens make up over 10 per cent of the population, discovered the offshore North Field in 1971, the same year it became independent.

It took years for engineers to discover the field's vast reserves, which shot Qatar to No 3 in world rankings, behind Russia and Iran, with which it shares the North Field.

It's also made the country fantastically wealthy, sparking its successful bid for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Qatar's wealth also has seen it take on a larger importance in international politics. ults political stances have drawn the ire of its neighbours, particularly Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest exporter.

In June 2017, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates began a boycott of Qatar in a political dispute that continues to this day.

World Bank promises USD 200 bn in 2021-25 climate cash

KATOWICE (POLAND), DEC 3 (AFP): The World Bank on Monday unveiled USD 200 billion in climate action investment for 2021-25, adding this amounts to a doubling of its current five-year funding. The World Bank said the move, coinciding with a UN climate summit meeting of some 200 nations in Poland, represented a "significantly ramped up ambition" to tackle climate change, "sending an important signal to the wider global community to do the same".

Developed countries are committed to lifting combined annual public and private spending to USD 100 billion in developing countries by 2020 to fight the impact of climate change -- up from 48.5 billion in 2016 and 56.7 billion last year, according to latest OECD data. Southern hemisphere countries fighting the impact of warming temperatures are nonetheless pushing northern counterparts for firmer commitments.

In a statement, the World Bank said the breakdown of the USD 200 billion would comprise "approximately USD 100 billion in direct finance from the World Bank". Around one third of the remaining funding will come from two

World Bank Group agencies with the rest private capital "mobilised by the World Bank Group".

"If we don't reduce emissions and build adaptation now, we'll have 100 million more people living in poverty by 2030," John Roome, World Bank senior director for climate change, warned.

"And we also know that the less we address this issue proactively just in three regions -- Africa, South Asia and Latin America -- we'll have 133 million climate migrants," Roome told AFP.

The bank's financing package amounts to "about 40 billion a year, but the direct (finance) is 27 billion per year on average", Roome said.

He added that in the 2018 fiscal year, running from July 2017 to June this year, the World Bank had committed USD 20.5 billion to climate action, compared with an annual average of USD 13.5 billion for the 2014-2018 period.

Roome said the money now being earmarked amounted to "about 35 per cent" of the World Bank Group's total financing. Much of the climate action financing is being set aside for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, notably through development of renewable energy strategies.

However, the World Bank stated that "a key priority is boosting support for climate adaptation," given the millions of people already battling the consequences of extreme weather.

"By ramping up direct adaptation finance to reach around USD 50 billion over (fiscal) 21-25, the World Bank will, for the first time, give this equal emphasis alongside investments that reduce emissions," the bank stated.

Given the urgency to act in the face of sea level rise, flooding and drought "we must fight the causes, but also adapt to the consequences that are often most dramatic for the world's poorest people", said World Bank CEO Kristalina Georgieva. By stepping up financial aid to developing countries worst affected, Georgieva said the bank was committed to adapting infrastructure while investing in "climate smart agriculture, sustainable water management and responsive social safety nets" as well as early response networks.

"Even if we can keep global warming down to 2 degrees Celsius we know you're gonna need a significant amount of adaptation in places like Chad, Mozambique or Bangladesh," said Roome.

Kamala Harris to decide on 2020 US presidential bid over holidays

WASHINGTON, DEC 3 (PTI): Kamala Harris, the first Indian-origin US Senator, has said that she will decide whether to consider a presidential bid in 2020 during the upcoming holiday season, according to a media report. Harris, 54, said that her decision to whether run for the president post will be a family decision.

"It will ultimately be a family decision," Harris told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" co-host Mika Brzezinski on Saturday during an event in San Francisco.

"And over the holiday I will make that decision with my family," Harris said. Harris, ranked fifth in a November poll of Democratic voters, is the preferred nominee to take on President Donald Trump's reelection bid, the Politico News reported.

Born in Oakland, California, she is the daughter of an Indian mother who migrated to the US from Chennai in 1960 and a Jamaican-American father.

Her mother Shyamala Gopalan studied science, specifically endocrinol-

ogy and complex mechanisms of cancer. Her father Donald Harris grew up in Jamaica, where he became a national scholar and earned the opportunity to study economics in the US.

During the Obama era, she was popularly called as the "female Obama".

She is considered to be close to Barack Obama, the first black American President, who endorsed her in her various elections including that of the US Senate in 2016.

Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas get married in traditional Hindu ceremony

JODHPUR, DEC 3 (PTI): Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas got married in a lavish, Hindu ceremony that ended in the early hours of Monday here, tying the knot twice over after a Christian “I do” wedding the night before.

Doing their hats to their Indian and American origins, the Indian actor and the American singer exchanged wedding vows for the Christian wedding on Saturday evening at the glittering Umaid Bhavan Palace and went through a traditional ceremony Sunday evening.

Priyanka, 36, wore a red sari, while Jonas, 26, was dressed in a traditional outfit and turban, People magazine reported late Sunday.

For their Christian wedding, the couple wore custom-made Ralph Lauren outfits and their wedding parties also donned the same label.

The Hindu wedding took place at the Umaid Bhavan palace grounds, with the Mehrangarh Fort as the backdrop.

The complete Jonas family was in attendance -- Nick's parents Denise Jonas and Kevin Jonas Sr, a pastor who officiated at the Christian wedding, and his brothers, Kevin, accompanied by wife Danielle, Joe and his fiancée, “Game of Thrones” star Sophie Turner, and Frankie Jonas.

From the bride's side, all her close friends and family members, including mother Madhu Chopra, brother Siddharth and cousins Parineeti and Mannara, were present at the ceremony.

An ET online source said the bride looked “breathtaking in her traditional red Indian wedding outfit”.

“Nick did a beautiful job following the customs of a Hindu



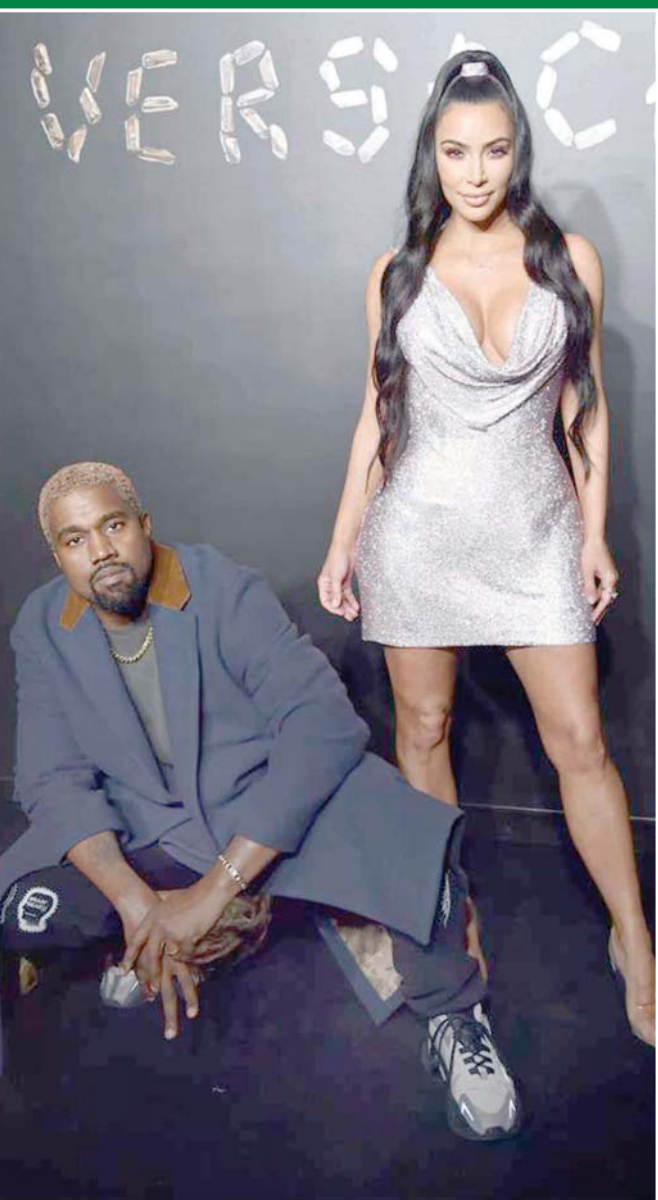
du ceremony, it was lovely seeing how they honoured both of their heritages,” the source added.

Prior to the Hindu wedding ceremony, Priyanka and Nick had traditional mehendi and saangeet functions.

The couple wore outfits by designer duo Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla for both the ceremonies.

The wedding ceremonies were held in utmost secrecy with no media allowed in. Even the guests were asked not to bring mobile phones with cameras. Other than select pictures from the mehendi and saangeet that were released to the media, only one grainy photograph of Priyanka in red was circulating on social media.

The couple is yet to share any pictures of the Christian or the Hindu weddings. The duo earlier posted the photographs from their pre-wedding ceremonies on their respective social media accounts.



THE STYLISH COUPLE: Kim Kardashian & Kanye West arrived at the Versace show in NYC looking stylish as ever.

Tessa Thompson can't play stereotypical girlfriend roles

LONDON, DEC 3 (PTI): Actor Tessa Thompson says it is important for her to not surrender to the idea of a conventional girlfriend in the movies. The 35-year-old actor, who stars as Bianca Taylor in “Creed” franchise, said she was determined to see her character ‘buck convention’, reported Contactmusic.

“It was important to me, from the first film, Ryan Coogler (writer and director of the first ‘Creed’ movie) and I had so many conversations about that, and we really wanted to try to buck convention in that space,” Thompson said.

The actor said she finds the typical portrayal of female love interests in movies to be “obnoxious”.

“So often women are tasked with - not just in boxing movies, but just in movies in general - I won't say which, but I was watching a film last night on the plane and I was just like ... man, women! We just show up in movies to function to support the male character in ways.

“Like, we die for them, we live for them, it's just obnoxious actually. We wanted to



do something different with (Bianca), so we tried to do that,” she said.

Acting is like a working vacation for me: Matthew McConaughey

London, Dec 3 (PTI): Hollywood star Matthew McConaughey says he never gets bored of making films and views acting as a “working vacation”.

The 49-year-old actor, who has been in the movie business for over two decades, said he does not feel bored by his career and loves the way it still scares him.

“I'm not bored at all. Acting is like a working vacation for me. I can't wait to go to work. I'm scared about it, I love it. I love the adrenaline of it. I'm confident with it. I'm surprised with it. It spooks me in a good way,” McConaughey told The Guardian.

The actor, who has children Levi, 10, Vida, eight, and five-year-old Livingston with wife Camila Alves, said he is driven by the fact he wants to make movies his kids can see one day.

“I really like the adventure and experience of diving into it. It's an excavation. It's a construction. It's architecture, building something. I'm happy. I look forward to it. I don't make many films my kids can see yet but I look forward to them one day looking at my stuff and going: ‘Oh, I see what Dad was doing!’ (But) we're not sitting them down with ‘Killer Joe’ any time soon,” he said.

Paris Hilton refused to appear on ‘Simple Life’ reboot

LONDON, DEC 3 (PTI): Reality TV star and socialite Paris Hilton has revealed she enjoyed working on “The Simple Life” but said no to the reboot because of her packed schedule.

The socialite appeared on the series, that ran for five seasons until 2007 alongside her childhood best friend Nicole Richie, which saw the pair leave their privileged lifestyles to take on a variety of blue collar jobs.

Hilton said the show completely changed her life and gave her career as a businesswoman a much needed boost, reported Contactmusic.

“I think the biggest misconception is that people still think I'm the ditsy blonde for ‘The Simple Life’. What most people don't know is that it was a character that I came up with for the show and created for several reasons. I had so much fun doing it and I love being able to prove people differently today.

“They actually approached me to re-do it again but my schedule was so insane that I didn't have time to do it so I said no , but it would be pretty epic. It changed my whole life since it was the first of its kind. There really was nothing out there like it in the world. After that show, I got to go all around the world and it really started my career in this business,” she said.



ARIES: Connect with the person sitting next to you on the bus, Aries, or the one behind you in line at the store. He or she may have a piece of wisdom to share that will change your life forever. Know that you, too, could be that person who changes someone else's life with a single thought or piece of wisdom. Communication is the key to expanding your world in many ways.

TAURUS: Your self-esteem may be challenged by a fast-paced talker or unpleasant situation, Taurus. Don't accept things as they appear at first glance. There's a much deeper meaning brewing below the surface, and you'd be foolish not to recognize this when it comes around. Stick to your guns and stay grounded. Newfangled devices and big promises may not be all they're advertised to be.

GEMINI: Jump on board the fast train and see how far it takes you, Gemini. You will be surprised how far you can go with minimal effort. Your grace and polite manners will help you navigate to

where you need to be. You're your own ship and there is a large gust of wind filling your sails. Make the most of this energy by shooting for the top and not resting until you get there.

CANCER: Flexibility is important today, Cancer. Take the relaxed, laid-back approach. Trying to ram your ideas through isn't the best tactic. Having tunnel vision will restrict you in many ways. Keep an open mind and be receptive to other people's ideas and opinions. You have a great deal of power at your fingertips. It would be a shame to waste it by not having the breadth of vision to see all your options.

LEO : Things coming at you from all sides are forcing you to make a move, Leo. Try not to feel pressured into something you don't want to do. A nervous restlessness is apt to take over your being and urge you to act. Don't let other people's energies dictate your actions. Secure your position and be strong. Don't be lured into situations you know are bad for you.

VIRGO: Lock into the practical, grounding force that is not only realistic but also flexible. Attend to details and organize yourself, Virgo. Be aware that you may need to alter your course in order to fit with the group energy. Try to work together with those around you to achieve a common goal. Initiating the help of others is easier than you think as long as you stay focused and motivated.

LIBRA : Today is one of those days in which prosperity is much closer than you think, Libra. You will find what you seek, but it's up to you to take the first step to going after it. More than likely, you're looking for solid answers to your deep and probing questions. Don't let your inquisitive mind rest until you find the answers that ring true for you.

SCORPIO: Indecision may leave you helpless at a crossroads today, Scorpio. Others around you could be just as undecided regarding their direction. At the same time, you may feel pressured to

take immediate action and you're tired of waiting for others to make the first move. Find answers in simple solutions. There's more than one correct way to go. Your choice is the right one if you believe it.

SAGITTARIUS: Latch on to the expansiveness that comes when you connect with others in the social arena, Sagittarius. Communication is a key part of the day. You will find that if you go with the flow, you will land exactly where you need to be. Take the adventurous route and feel free to skip around from one thing to another. There's no need to pin yourself down to only one way of doing something.

CAPRICORN: Connect with the stable, grounding energy of the day, Capricorn, but beware that tension may come in the form of fast talk and misguided information. People might be fickle and frantic. Wait for the dust to settle before you pick which road to take. Impulsive decisions are apt to lead you down paths that might

not be the best choice for you now. Try not to think too much!

AQUARIUS: The expansive feeling you might be experiencing is apt to be squelched today as you get the feeling that you've lost touch with reality. Make sure you connect with real life, Aquarius, and do a bit of planning to balance your whimsical nature. Things that you haven't accounted for might crop up and hit you, serving as a reminder that you need to deal with the here and now.

PISCES : Walk to the beat of your own drum, Pisces. If you try to latch on to the glib, fast-paced information of the day, you might lose your voice in the crowd. On the other hand, if you plant your feet firmly and try to plan in too much detail, you might deprive yourself of spontaneous events that prove fulfilling. Chart your own course, and don't be afraid if no one else comes along.