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# Summit **T**IMES

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## Namthang-Siliguri bus service flagged off



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**NAMTHANG, 23 JUN:**

Transport Minister Sanjeet Kharel, who also happens to be the area MLA Namthang Rateypani, today flagged off a new SNT bus service from Namthang to Siliguri. This daily service will leave for Siliguri from Namthang at 7AM and return in the evening. The public of the constituency has expressed gratitude towards the Minister for providing this much-needed direct bus service to Siliguri.

## Project Monitoring Committee formed to expedite Stairway to Heaven project

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 23 JUN:**

A project monitoring committee was constituted to expedite the Stairway to Heaven project underway at Daramdin in West Sikkim following a joint meeting of stakeholders and State Government officials at the project site on 20 June, a press release received from Renjyong Mutanchi Rong Tarjum [Sikkim Lepcha Association] informs.

The meeting, convened by the Buildings

& Housing Department to discuss this much-delayed project was also attended by representatives from Sikkim Lepcha Association, Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association, Sikkim Indigenous Tribal Association and SLA's West district unit.

The Department convened the meeting to explain reasons behind the delay and also to address the grievances of the community.

The association members took seri-

ous note of the delay in completion of the project and the departmental lapses causing it.

The meeting also noticed that the concept paper included in the detailed project report for the project contained inaccuracies and distortions.

While raising serious concern about this, SLA registered its objections and has demanded immediate rectification in consultation with Lepcha intellectuals, scholars

and Sikkim Lepcha Association.

The project monitoring committee has representatives from SLA, Buildings & Housing Department, West district administration and local panchayats and will meet once every three months to keep track of the progress.

SLA has expressed hope that the Department will expedite completion of the project, the foundation stone for which laid way back in 1997.

## BSNL engineers to Modi: Take measures to revive firm, reward performers

**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):**

Citing lower debt and a continuous increase in market share, an association comprising engineers and account professionals at BSNL has sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention for the revival of the state-run firm and also said that non-performing employees should be held accountable.

The All India Graduate Engineers and Telecom Officers Association (AIGETOA) in a letter dated June 18 urged the Prime Minister to provide a budgetary support to BSNL to help address liquidity crunch that is adversely impacting operation and maintenance

of services at the organisation. "We firmly believe that with minimum basic support from the government to do away with the current liquidity crunch, BSNL can once again enter into the league of profit-making companies," the letter said.

The association also stressed on a performance-based mechanism for BSNL employees so that good performers can be rewarded and non-performers be made accountable.

Both state-run telecom firms BSNL and MTNL have been reporting losses since the time they were asked to pay auction determined spectrum price in 2010 for all the circles where

they operate.

MTNL operates in Delhi and Mumbai and BSNL in rest of the 20 telecom circles. While MTNL has been continuously posting loss and has showed no signs of revival, BSNL posted operating profit of Rs 672 crore in 2014-15, Rs 3,885 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 1,684 crore in 2016-17. The association said that predatory market condition has brought the whole sector, including BSNL, under stress but the public-sector firm's market share kept moving in an upward direction.

"BSNL remained self-dependent and almost debt-free which is basically in sharp con-

trast to other telecom players which have been severely debt-ridden owing to huge loans taken from banks and other financial institutions," the association said.

It said BSNL has never defaulted on payment of salaries to its employees except for one month and even during that stressful period, the firm managed operations from its own resources and without any external support.

Both MTNL and BSNL have approached the government for a revival package by allowing them to monetise their assets and allocation of spectrum for 4G services to enable them compete in the market.

## SDF resorting to politics of deception again: SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 23 JUN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has condemned statements made by Sikkim Democratic Front president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, at his party's Sampurna Kranti Diwas function as "deceptive, unconvincing and fabricated".

The ruling party also scoffed at the SDF president's hope to win the upcoming by-elections.

Mr Chamling, it may be recalled, had called on party supporters to focus on the by-elections, pointing out that the equation of the government could change if SDF won all three constituencies going to by-elections. SDF currently has 15 seats in the Assembly including the two it released for bypolls. If it wins all three by-elections, the Legislative Assembly will be evenly divided at 16-16 between SDF and SKM, a situation which could lead to re-elections.

To counter Mr Chamling's confidence, an SKM

press release declares that SKM will win all three constituencies by a huge margin and that there was a good possibility that SDF candidates will lose their deposits.

Of the three constituencies, two were won by SDF and one by SKM.

Given that Mr Chamling had announced that winning the by-election was the "kranti" facing the SDF, the SKM release states that this position proves that SDF was in politics only to win elections and was not bothered about what the people wanted or desired.

"Had that not been the case, SDF would have instead focused more on respecting the mandate of the people and resolving to play the role of a good Opposition. Unfortunately, it continues to prioritise forming the government instead," an SKM leader commented.

The SKM release goes on to add that "kranti" for SKM was about revolutionizing intellectual growth, sus-

tainable development and delivering an active and transparent administration.

Taking on Mr Chamling's dismissal of the SKM government as "unconstitutional" and "ad hoc," the release contends that this attitude proved that SDF did not respect the people's mandate and had no regard for democratic processes.

The release goes to allege that SDF government was responsible for making 60,000 youth unemployed in the past 25 years and to now promise to provide jobs to 60,000 youth was distasteful.

The release adds that in its rush to win the elections, the previous government had rushed appointments under the One Family, One Job scheme and imperiled the collective future of the youth here.

The SKM Government was undertaking a proper investigation into the whole process to streamline the matter, the release adds.

## B-Div league kicks off

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 23 JUN:**

Sikkim Football Association B-Division Sikkim League 2019 kicked off here at Paljor Stadium on Sunday.

Four clubs are participating in the league- SAI Namchi, Howlers' Football Club [Singtam], Young Orchid Football Club and Dzungri Football Club.

The inaugural match saw SAI Namchi thrash Howlers' FC 5-0.

Tshetis Thapa scored a brace for SAI Namchi, while Aman Rasaily, S Gurung and Rohit Gurung contributed a goal each towards the team's victory.

In this second match of the league, Young Orchid outplayed Dzungri FC 4-2 to pocket three points.

Anil Biswakarma scored a brace for Young Orchid and his teammates Robin Pradhan and Pahalman Rai scored a goal each.

Pema Lhendup Tamang scored two goals for Dzungri FC.

## HSP to work harder, extends support to SKM Govt

**SAGAR CHHETRI**

**GANGTOK, 23 JUN:**

Hamro Sikkim Party working president, Bhaichung Bhutia, today announced that the party, despite its drubbing at the polls, would continue to work on its principle of clean politics and in the interest of Sikkim and its people. He added that HSP will extend full support to the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha government.

Addressing the party's first press conference since the election results were declared,

Mr Bhutia reiterated that HSP respects the mandate of the people.

"We have learned a lot from this election. Most of our candidates had contested an election for the first time, so it was learning experience for all of us," he said.

He commented that the people of Sikkim have given a clear message to HSP - to work harder.

On the same, Mr Bhutia said that respecting the decision of the people, the party will work judiciously on its two

core issues - the interest of Sikkim and its people and clean politics.

The HSP working president congratulated SKM and Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] on forming the government and expressed confidence that the SKM government will work in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

"We will extend full support to the State government in working in the interest of the people of Sikkim," he said.

HSP is organising a meeting of all organisa-

tions, leaders and members of the party in the next few days.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that the meeting will discuss future strategies and course of action for the party. He added that the meeting will also discuss various issues related to the recent elections and the upcoming by-elections in the State.

He shared that a delegation of the party will soon meet Union Ministers and the BJP leadership in Delhi.

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## Flyover flowers on the wane

**REBYNA RANA**

**GANGTOK, 23 JUN:**

Pots of flowers that had been placed along flyovers around town were a pretty sight but now most of them have withered and instead give an unkempt look to the town.

Gangtok Beautification Committee with representatives from concerned departments including Forest department looks after the beautification of Gangtok including the flower pots along flyovers, informs DFO, Wildlife, East Division, Dechen Lachungpa. She adds that the committee is awaiting directions and sanctioning of funds in order to replace the pots with fresh plants.

The beautification process started during June-July last year and during Dasain, marigolds had been planted and after that Antirrhinum, Phlox, Petunia and Pansy, etc. These plants lasted for four months [November till Feb], the DFO adds.

"Most of the plants on MG Marg are perennial and can last longer without regular mainte-



nance requiring only weeding and some manure. However, this time the committee thought of testing seasonal flowers like petunias to add more colour and variety," says Ms Lachungpa.

She further informs that seasonal flowers are a challenge since there needs to a continuous cycle.

"Planting and replacing seasonal flowers has to be a continuous process without any halt. This is the first time the

committee tried to beautify the town with seasonal plants and so it was like a trial round. Now the committee has got more experience and we are all working towards successfully beautifying the town," she mentions.

Ms Lachungpa further informed that sample plants are procured from Darjeeling, Kalimpong hills and also from Sikkim and shown to the committee for approval following which bulk orders are placed.

## SMTWDA hopes cooperative system in their sector is ended soon

SUMMIT REPORT  
SINGTAM, 23 JUN:

A general meeting of the Singtam Motors Transport Workers Driver Association discussed Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's promise to do away with the co-operative system from the transport sector and endorsed the commitment while expressing hope that it is formalized soon.

The meeting, held at Singtam Nagar Panchayat community hall today, was chaired by SMTWDA president, Tinku Adhikari, accompanied by the president



of the New Generation Contractor Co-operative Society along with the ex-president, executive and committee members.

One of the electoral promises made by the

SKM was to do away with the cooperative system from transport and government contracts system. Now that SKM has formed the government, the SMTWDA meeting expressed hope

that an official circular to this effect will be issued soon.

The organisation, it is learnt, plans to hold more meetings on these lines to build consensus for the proposal.

## 14 killed, about 50 injured as pandal collapses during religious programme in Rajasthan's Barmer

**BARMER/JAIPUR, JUN 23 (PTI):** At least 14 people were killed and about 50 injured after a pandal fell on them due to strong winds and heavy rains during a religious programme in Barmer district of Rajasthan on Sunday, police said.

A 'Ram Katha' was organised at a school ground near Rani Bhatiyani temple in Jasol area of the district. The pandal was uprooted by strong winds, trapping the people sitting under it, police said, adding hundreds of devotees were attending the programme.

"At least 14 persons have died in the incident and about 50 are injured. Reasons of the deaths will be clear af-

ter postmortem," said Ratan Lal Bhargava, Additional Superintendent of Police of Balotara.

He said the injured were rushed to different hospitals in the district.

Eye witnesses claimed that the tent got uprooted due to the winds and hovered for a few seconds in the air before collapsing.

The person leading the 'Ram Katha', Murlidhar Maharaj, stopped midway and asked people to leave as the pandal started to collapse. He scurried from the stage within seconds, following which the pandal collapsed, leading to a stampede-like situation, they said.

No immediate infor-

mation was available about the condition of Maharaj.

A shopkeeper said locals who rushed to rescue the victims felt current in the structure of the pandal. However, they rescued those trapped inside and took them to hospitals in private vehicles and mini-vans.

The programme was organised by Rani Bhatiyani Mandir Sansathan. It started on Saturday and was about to continue till June 30.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the incident.

"Collapse of a 'Pandaal' in Rajasthan's Barmer is unfortunate. My thoughts are with the bereaved families

and I wish the injured a quick recovery," the Prime Minister's Office quoted him as saying in a tweet.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot took stock of the situation from Jaipur and ordered a probe into the incident.

He said rescue operations were being carried out by the district administration. He also directed officials to ensure proper relief works and treatment of those injured.

Union minister of state for agriculture Kailash Chaudhary, who is the local MP, said he was leaving for Barmer from Delhi to meet the families of the victims and the injured.

March 2020.

We have been asked to study all aspects air traffic, slot availability and its allotment, infrastructure availability and its future requirement, etc. so that slot distribution mechanism can improve from next year onward, the official added.

The official said the AAI is doing one year of analysis as the flight schedule changes every six months.

"This happens due to summer season and winter season. The wind keeps changing. That is the reason why airlines also keep asking for different slots in these two seasons, the official said.

hospital management has a duty to respect the patient's right to second opinion, and should provide to her caregivers all necessary records and information required for seeking such opinion without any extra cost or delay.

All patients have a right to privacy, and doctors have a duty to hold information about their health condition and treatment plan in strict confidentiality.

"It may be specified in the charter that no discrimination in treatment based upon his or her illness or conditions, including HIV status or other health condition, religion ethnicity, gender, age sexual orientation among others.

"To have ensured presence of a female person, during physical examination of a female patient by a male practitioner," the recommendations state.

## Two party workers, minor injured in police firing in WB: BJP

**KOLKATA, JUN 23 (PTI):** The West Bengal BJP leadership has claimed that two party supporters and a minor suffered bullet injuries when police opened fire at them during a clash with TMC activists at Patrasayar in Bankura district.

The incident happened on Saturday evening when the three chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans in front of some Trinamool Congress workers, who were returning from a rally led by state minister Suvendu Adhikari, BJP leaders said.

Clashes broke out between the two groups allegedly over the chant, followed by a scuffle.

The BJP said police had fired to disperse the mob, a claim the police and the TMC denied.

"We resorted to lathicharge and fired tear gas shells when our personnel were pelted with stones," a police officer said.

## India celebrates Olympic Day



**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA), along with its member units, Sunday joined millions from around the world in celebrating Olympic Day.

On this very day, 125 years ago, Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee and revived the Olympic Games.

India's lone individual Olympic gold medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra, IOC Honorary Member Randhir Singh, IOA President Narinder Batra and IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta took part in the celebration.

Every year, Olympic Day sees Olympic Committees and Associations, international and national sports federations, organising committees of Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, National Olympian Associations and Young Ambassadors around the world organised and participate in a myriad of sports activities to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

## ITBP climbers recover 7 bodies near Nanda Devi peak

**PITHORAGARH (U'KHAND), JUN 23 (PTI):** The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Sunday recovered seven bodies believed to be that of foreign mountaineers who had gone missing on way to the Nanda Devi East peak in Uttarakhand last month, an officer said.

A 10-member ITBP team of climbers dug out the seven bodies, including a woman mountaineer, which were buried under the snow on the western ridge of the peak towards the Pindari glacier, said Deputy Inspector General (Kumaon range) A P S Nimbadiya.

The bodies have not been identified yet and it will be possible only after they are brought down to the base camp, Nimbadiya

said that the three persons, including a 14-year-old boy, was admitted to the Bankura Sammiloni Medical College and Hospital.

"Incidents of such clashes are nothing new. The state administration and police have completely failed to control the situation. The TMC government is slowly turning the state into a police state," Bankura BJP MP Subhas Sarkar alleged.

Rejecting the charge, senior TMC leader and minister Subrata Mukherjee said blank cartridges should have been lying around the spot if the police had opened fire.

Meanwhile, police has arrested BJP's local unit president Tamal Kanti Guin for his alleged involvement in the violence.

The saffron party on Sunday organised a road blockade in the area to protest against the incident.

This year, 13 State Olympic Associations in India, including those of Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, organised various sporting activities, competitions, educational seminars and Olympic Day Run as part of their celebration on Olympic Day.

Joining the Olympic day celebrations, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju urged the people to stay active for good health and reminded athletes to stay committed to clean sports.

IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta said, "Our greetings to all on the 125th anniversary of the Olympic movement. The power of Olympism has a lasting positive impact on people's well being every day. This year, the Indian Olympic Association aims to reach out to more on Olympism, through activation, cultural and educational programmes.

## CM tours West Sikkim



**GYALSHING, 23 JUN [IPR]:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] toured West Sikkim today accompanied by Energy & Power Minister Mingma Narbu Sherpa, DC West Karma R Bonpo and SP West Tenzing Loden Lepcha. The CM met with people gathered at Heegaon, Samedong, Sreebadam and Singling and heard out their grievances.

## HSP to work harder..

"In our meeting with the Union Ministers and BJP leadership we will raise the issue of the present financial crises facing Sikkim as mentioned by the Chief Minister in his recent address and request the Centre to help the State," he said. Responding to media queries, Mr Bhutia said that although the party lost the election, it has not compromised on its politics of principles and real issues.

"We have learned a lot from the election and we will work to rectify our mistakes and work more effectively in the days to come. We will always stand for our voters and speak for them," he said.

About his recent meeting with BJP leader Ram Madhav, Mr Bhutia stated that the meeting was very fruitful and discussed several issues of the State.

The press conference was also addressed by HSP spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari.

## ~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

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Vacant plot measuring 0.38 Acres for sale at Amdo Golai, Deorali. Contact: 09717191985/097474651223

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**  
This is for general information of all concerned that Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali East Sikkim shall remain closed for a period of six months for carrying out necessary repairs. All concerned tour operators and clients are requested to refrain from booking or deal with any sort with regard to Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim.

**Mr. Subash Lama**  
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A 5 storied building with 3 floor completed having a land area of 30x70 ft (DABUWA, Melli road (2km from Namchi) is for sale. Rate reasonable. Interested party please contact: 6296370905, 9733284142, 8597088755.

## AAI starts year-long study to improve future slot allotment at six major airports

**DEEPAK PATEL**  
**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):** The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has started a year-long study to analyse air traffic, slot distribution and infrastructure at six major airports Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in order to improve the mechanism of slot allotment, said its senior officials.

A slot is a specific date and time at which an airline can arrive or depart at an airport. It is allocated by a committee that comprises officials from the respective airport, aviation ministry, AAI, airlines, aviation

regular DGCA, etc. After one year, the results of this year-long study will be presented back to the DGCA and the ministry to take a call on how to improve slot allotment in the next year.. We will take help of the central ATFM (air traffic flow management) in this year-long study, a senior AAI official told PTI.

The AAI owns and manages more than 100 airports across the country.

Recently, when Jet Airways temporarily shut down its operations on April 17, a tussle had erupted among the other airline companies in India to corner most of

the Jet's vacated slots, especially the ones at congested airports of Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai.

The fight for slots had erupted as there is no written mechanism in India to allocate slots if an airline in this case it was Jet Airways - temporarily shuts down its operations.

Another senior AAI official told PTI, "Six major airports Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai - have been identified where the analysis needs to take place. This exercise has been started in the month of May this year, and it will continue till

## Health secy urges states to adopt recommendations on patients' rights

**PAYAL BANERJEE**  
**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):** The Union Health Secretary has urged all states to adopt recommendations of the National Council for Clinical Establishments on patients' rights which ensures that patients have the right to second opinion, adequate information about their illness and informed consent.

Under it, hospitals cannot deny the release of a patient's body for any reason. A patient and her representatives have a right to adequate information about the nature, cause of illness, proposed investigations and care, expected results of treatment, possible complications and expected costs, stated the National Council for Clinical Establishments, an apex statutory body comprising representatives of all stakeholders.

recommendations are based on draft charter on patients' rights prepared by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The NHRC had submitted the charter to the Health Ministry, which it had put out in the public domain in September, 2018, inviting suggestions and comments from the public and stakeholders.

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sundan said that they had received several complaints of malpractices by clinical establishments across the country following which the draft charter was discussed in the 11th Meeting of National Council for Clinical Establishments.

The national council has recommended a set of "dos" and "don'ts" for patients and clinical establishments, alike, so that the fundamental grievances and concerns of pa-

tients are addressed while ensuring smooth and cordial environment in the clinical establishments, Sudan said in her letter.

"I request you to kindly adopt this Chapter of Patients' Rights in your state and UT so that the basic and common grievances of patients and clinical establishments are addressed," she said.

The recommendations stated that patients or their family members have the right to access originals or copies of case papers, investigation reports and a detailed bill besides, information and rates charged for each type of service provided and facilities available.

It also states that informed consent should be taken prior to specific test or treatment.

They also have the right to seek second opinion and in such a case the

# Sikkim filmmakers and artistes come together to pursue common interests

**NITESH R PRADHAN**  
**GANGTOK, 23 JUNE:**

Filmmakers and artistes working in movies and production houses here met here on Saturday to discuss issues of common interest and formalize an organization to pursue these issues.

Speaking at the function, Mandira Chettri stressed the need to form an active organisation for the industry because they have a unique set of challenges which could be better addressed if they worked together.

She highlighted that the formation of such an association was just the beginning to start a



process through which help can be provided to filmmakers who need assistance to further their talent.

She added that a formal association will also have the mandate and locus standii to ap-

proach the government with suggestions for the benefit of the industry.

Accordingly, office bearers were selected for the association with Ms Chettri as president, Timothy Rai [vice president], Triveny Rai [treas-

urer], Aditya Cintury as general secretary, Deepak Sharma and Bhawesh Pradhan as joint secretaries, Lewang Ghishing as assistant treasurer, Amir Gurung [publicity secretary], Chitish Chettri [assistant pub-

licity secretary], Karishma Pradhan [cultural secretary], and Sajal CP as coordinator.

A number of individuals working in films and production houses were also included in the executive body of the newly formed association.

Filmmaker Prashant Rasaily, while welcoming the formation of the new body, stated that there was an urgent need to further hone and build the capacity of talent here.

He highlighted the importance of learning the art of filmmaking and also cautioned Sikkim's artistes against exploitation and suggested that they stand their ground firmly.

## CJI writes to PM for removal of HC judge

**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):** Months after an in-house panel found Allahabad High Court's Justice S N Shukla guilty of misconduct by an internal probe, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate a motion for his removal.



A three-judge in-house committee, comprising Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee, Sikkim High Court Chief Justice S K Agnihotri and Madhya Pradesh High Court's Justice P K Jaiswal, had in January 2018 concluded there was sufficient substance in the allegations contained in the complaint against Justice Shukla and that the aberrations were serious enough to call for initiation of proceedings for his removal.

Following the committee's report, the then CJI Dipak Misra, in accordance with the relevant in-house procedure, advised Justice Shukla to either resign or seek voluntary retirement forthwith.

After he refused to do so, the then CJI had asked the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court to withdraw judicial work from him with immediate effect, after which he reportedly went on a long leave.

On Match 23, Jus-

justice Shukla wrote a letter to Gogoi which was forwarded by the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, requesting that he be allowed to discharge judicial work in the high court.

"As the allegations against Justice Shukla were found by the committee to be so serious as to warrant the initiation of proceedings for his removal, he cannot be allowed to resume judicial work in any high court. In these circumstances, you are requested to consider further action," Gogoi wrote to the PM.

When the CJI writes to the President and the prime minister for removal of a high court judge, the Rajya Sabha chairperson appoints a three-judge inquiry committee in consultation with the CJI under the provisions of the Judges (Enquiry) Act, 1968 to look into the allegations.

The committee appointed by the Rajya Sabha chairperson

would examine the evidence and records, and opine if the same formed the basis for whether or not removal motion be debated in the Upper House.

Justice Shukla, who was heading a division bench in the high court, had allegedly defied the categorical restraint orders passed by a CJI-led bench of the apex court last year to permit private colleges to admit students for the 2017-18 academic session.

Two complaints, including one from the advocate general of the state, was received by the CJI on September 1, 2017 and the then CJI had constituted an in-house committee.

According to the inquiry committee report, Justice Shukla had "disgraced the values of judicial life, acted in a manner unbecoming of a judge", lowered the "majesty, dignity and credibility of his office" and acted in breach of his oath of office.

BJP's 'one nation, one poll' a ploy to win all elections by single 'manipulation': Mayawati LUCKNOW, JUN 23 (PTI): BSP chief Mayawati Sunday opposed the BJP's "one nation, one election" idea aimed at having simultaneous Lok Sabha and state assemblies polls, saying it is a saffron party's ploy to win all elections through one-time "manipulation" of EVMs.

Mayawati hurled the allegation, describing even the BJP landslide victory in the last Lok Sabha election as "doubtful".

The new gimmick of 'one nation, one election' is a BJP's ploy to win the Lok Sabha and assembly elections by a single 'dhandhli' (malipulation) misusing the EVMs," she said.

"It will put the nation in an era of casteism making it free from any opposition," she added, addressing a party meeting convened to discuss the purported "national concern" over the alleged "hijacking" of the democracy via EVMs here.

If there is no manipulation in the BJP's victory and if it has the majority votes by its side, why is the party shying away from going to the people and avoiding elections through ballots? a BSP statement quoted her as asking. The meeting was also attended by the BJP's representatives

from other states, who alleged that the Election Commission was working on directions of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The way the EC bowed before the prime minister also gives rise to the apprehension over the free and fair polls in the country and weakening of the democracy," she alleged and demanded that "constitutional bodies should find solution to the people's concern".

She said the BJP's victory is unexpected and against the people's mandate, which is not possible without a planned manipulation and conspiracy.

The BSP supremo demanded that elections in India be held through ballot papers in future.

All the main opposition political parties are of the view that elections should be held through ballot papers but the BJP and the EC are against it, which has created uneasiness in the country, she said.

Mayawati also questioned the BJP's keenness on having simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

If the BJP is so keen on one nation, one poll, why didn't it hold the assembly elections in states like Haryana and Maharashtra with the Lok Sabha polls.

## Sena's women workers remove mannequins from Mumbai streets



Mumbai, Jun 23 (PTI): Activists of the Shiv Sena's women's wing removed illegal mannequins from some streets and shops in Mumbai.

The action came after the Shiv Sena-ruled Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation recently asked garment shop owners not to put up mannequins displaying lingerie without the civic body's permission.

Around 30 women workers from the Sena's local unit on Saturday marched to some streets in Vile Parle area here and removed such mannequins hanging from trees and placed outside shops.

They also asked the shop owners to remove

such mannequin busts put up inside their outlets.

The Sena workers claimed that such a display of lingerie makes women feel embarrassed.

"It could also attract unnecessary attention of children walking on streets," Rajani Mestri, a Sena worker from Vile Parle area, said.

The name of a shop is sufficient for any person to know what kind of garments it sells and there is no need to display lingerie openly, another party worker said.

The Sena local unit workers in other parts of the city will also initiate similar action outside shops, she added.



**HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**GANGTOK - 737103**

Ref No: 380/NCD/HC& FW Dept. Date: 19/06/2019

**NOTICE INVITING PROPOSAL TO RUN 24X7 CRISIS CENTRE**

Sealed proposals are invited from reputed NGOs/Voluntary Organization from Sikkim, registered at NITI Aayog Portal and having experience of at least 3 years in the Health sector to run 24 x7 Crisis Centre at Gangtok for the duration of 9 months.

Details regarding terms and conditions can be collected from NCD Cell, Health Secretariat, Tashiling Secretariat, Gangtok or can be downloaded from the National Health Mission (NHM) website ([www.nrhmsikkim.org](http://www.nrhmsikkim.org)). Proposals along with supporting documents must reach the undersigned by 08/7/2019.

Proposals received after the due date and time will not be considered. The shortlisted NGOs will be asked to make presentation for the selection committee on date which will be communicated.

The Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department reserves the right to reject any proposals without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

NOTE: In accordance to the office Memorandum of NITI Aayog, NGOs are to be registered with NITI Aayog portal (NGO-DARPAN) and should have unique identifiers before submitting their applications.

Sd/-  
Mission Director,  
National Health Mission,  
HC, HS & FW Dept.,  
Govt of Sikkim.

**R.O. NO. 53/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20**  
**Dated: 20.6.19**

*In Loving Memory*



*Moni Kumar Pubba*  
16<sup>th</sup> March 1958 - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019

A memorial service to commemorate the life of Shri M.K. Subb<sup>a</sup> shall be held on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
• 1pm - 6pm •  
at The Royal Plaza, Syari, Gangtok to offer prayers for the departed soul.

Tara & Naresh



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**  
No: 36/ETENDER/BHD/2019 Dated: 10/06/2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (Project), Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentages rate tenders' from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the East District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in) for the work as listed below:

Sl.No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1.	Construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office at DPH Road Gangtok, East Sikkim.	8.67	346.61	0.30	30 months.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale state date and time	:	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 11:00am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit [www.sikkimtender.gov.in](http://www.sikkimtender.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer (Project)  
Buildings & Housing Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**  
No: 36/ETENDER/BHD/2019 Dated: 10/06/2019

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Name of Work	:	Construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office at DPH Road Gangtok, East Sikkim.
Amount put to tender (Rupees in Lakhs)	:	346.61 lakhs.
Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019
Document download /sale start date and time	:	11 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 11:00 Hrs onwards.
Last date & time for seeking clarification regarding bills	:	18 <sup>th</sup> June, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
Last date for online submission of completed bids	:	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
Date of opening of tender bids	:	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2019 at 1300 Hrs.
Place of opening of tender bids	:	Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Planning) Building & Housing Department Government of Sikkim Nirman Bhawan.

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer (N&E)  
Buildings & Housing Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

**R.O. No. 49/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20**  
**Dated: 14.6.19**

## Police-Public Relations

Try working more on collaborations than policing

Cops, who see themselves the world over as the custodians of law & order and personnel ensuring security for the people, have rarely evoked confidence as such, and of late, have found themselves at the receiving end of rebuke from the very public they are paid to protect & serve. While such a situation visits only rarely in Sikkim, it remains worryingly frequent everywhere else – from streets in the US of A, to the corridors of power in Delhi to shameful investigations and encounters in UP and the offensive khaki, whatsapp videos of which still surface from neighbouring Darjeeling and even around Sikkim, on rare occasions for most lay people, but too often for addicts and peddlers. Policing is increasingly, and not always without reason, attracting allegations of atrocities, excessive use of force and over exuberant crackdowns, often even in the absence of context or necessity.

Given that the police is weighed down by a huge colonial baggage, people are the most comfortable when cops are in the background. It is when police presence is overt and overpowering, that public responses can turn disdainful and even hostile. Overt and overpowering are not always about sheer numbers and can also manifest through attitudes, and no one will contest that cops tend to swagger around with an overbearing air. Why, the moment one crosses Rangpo, anyone in uniform flaunts more pompous officiousness than can be healthy, as is suffered by travelers in the hands of that vague community police kind of force that flags down vehicles and keeps finding new ways of challaning Sikkim vehicles. While people let such attitudes slide during “normal” times, when situations turn tense, the pent up frustrations explode and the backlash can be strong. Sikkim had such a moment in the college episode a couple of years back and in the run up to the last elections at several thanas, but to their credit Sikkim Police has traditionally been quick and effective in managing, save the occasional slip-up, which is driven more by individual egos than institutional bluster.

For whatever misgivings one might have about the police in Sikkim, what one cannot ignore is the fact that the force has been diligent in its crackdown on substances of abuse. Drugs hauls are made frequently, and sometimes of mind-numbing volumes, and yet, by Sikkim Police’s own admission, there remains no way of knowing whether any dent is being made in the consumption and supply network. This is because only Sikkim Police appears to be combating substance abuse here. This has to be a collaborative effort in which the society at large endorses a more engaged partnership between the police and recovering addicts in devising ways and means to tackle addiction. In the hands of the police, it becomes an exclusively a law & order matter and with NGO’s it remains a social issue. Since addiction involves a crime and a victim and exacts a social cost, all these aspects need to be addressed simultaneously, and this can happen only through a collaboration. But for such a collaboration to happen, trust will have to be established.

As things stand in Sikkim, the elite don’t care for the police because they can be shaken off with a phone call and the underprivileged do not care because not even genuine pleas appear to move them. To begin with, if the cops were just allowed to do their jobs without any interference, they will be able to evoke some faith among the people. Then some collaborations might become possible.

Police wields enormous power, and clearly shoulders enormous responsibilities as well; it is thus in its interest, and more so in public interest, for the personnel to be better trained and routinely briefed about their role in society. One option could be in attempting community participation in the managing of neighbourhood outposts and police stations so that the police and the public learn to work together instead of, what is increasingly becoming against each other.

## Egypt’s powerful football fans and politics: a toxic mix that could combust during Afcon

CHUKA ONWUMECHILI  
THECONVERSATION.COM

When the 32nd Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) opens in Cairo, Egypt, the focus will be on the games between the continent’s top football teams to see who is going to raise the cup on Friday 19 July at the end of the three-week tournament. But behind the scenes the North African state’s security agencies will be keeping a close eye on a certain group of fans, known as “ultras”.

Ultras are fanatical football fans who organise themselves into support groups, often attached to clubs but also often reflecting a particular class or brand of politics. The ultras movement began in Italy in the 1950s. Today they are also prominent in countries like Germany, France, Poland, Serbia Scotland, Russia, Turkey, Brazil, Argentina, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

They can often be seen strutting their stuff at major matches, providing sounds, visuals and noise through songs, chants, fireworks, instruments, flags and banners. Some ultras have political connotations – left or right wing, fascist, communist or revolutionary. A number of ultra groups are racist and violent and some are linked to criminal gangs. But most are simply passionate supporters.

There’s tension around the security issue because of the role previously played by ultra groups in Egypt. The situation has been so tense that the government has gone as far as banning groups of fans linked to some of the country’s top teams. But the ban goes against the Confederation of African Football’s wishes to have stadia filled to the brim.

Egypt has lifted some of the restrictions it imposed on fans. But some remain in place, including a ban on ultras attending matches. The hope is that this will keep a lid on any outbreak of violence.

### REVOLUTION

The close link between football and politics often manifests in ultras groups. In Egypt, the powerful ultras played a crucial role in the revolution of 2011.

Two ultra groups – Al Ahlawy, that supports Al Ahly, Egypt’s iconic club and its major rivals, Zamalek’s White Knight ultras – marched to-



gether in their thousands on Cairo’s Tahrir Square in 2011. They became a leading voice on the front line against Hosni Mubarak’s regime, helping unseat the despot after 30 years of autocratic rule.

The influential revolutionary group’s role in the events of 2011 has been written about extensively by senior football writer, Matt Gault. As he’s observed, it was a time when only two groups in Egypt were allowed to air their views: the Muslim Brotherhood and the ultras.

Al Ahly is huge in Egypt. It was named African Club of the Century by the continent’s football umbrella body in 2000 for its astonishing record: eight times African Champions League winners, 38 Egypt league winners and 35 times Egypt cup winners. The illustrious club’s highly organised ultras movement, Al Ahlawy, was formed in 2007.

As Gault wrote: “The Ahlawy provided fuel for the revolution which ultimately overthrew Mubarak. They manned barricades, participated in songs of protest and produced banners denouncing the regime of Mubarak.”

The author observes that as a result of this, the Ahlawy today has an exalted position in the hearts and minds of Egyptians:

“They were seen to be the protectors of the revolution, the voice of the poor and disenfranchised.”

### ARAB SPRING

One of the questions around Egypt’s bid to host this Afcon, after Cameroon was stripped of the rights, was the issue of security. It is a pertinent question considering that the Egyptian state has been, since the Arab Spring, engaged in a battle with the ultras.

Their strained relationship got even worse after clashes following a match in Port Said city led to the death of 74 Al-Ahly club fans in February 2012. Fans accused police and paid hooligans of orchestrating the violence, with it being perceived as revenge for the 2011 uprising.

The state banned fans from attending matches after that. The ban was partially lifted last year but only 5,000 spectators will be allowed into games initially, and ultras will remain banned.

These clampdowns by Egypt reflect similar activities in Tunisia and in Morocco that are designed to limit activities of the ultras. While the state has generally used security systems to silence the youth, they had been largely unsuccessful in doing so within the football stadium.

The award to Egypt of hosting rights to the Afcon was a mild surprise. Clearly, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) had few options. Cameroon clearly wasn’t

ready. The only two countries that stepped up to the plate as alternative sites were Egypt and South Africa. South Africa had been a more recent host and its broken diplomatic relationship with influential Morocco was clearly a negative.

Thus, Egypt, despite the underlying security issues, offered the better opportunity – at least in the Confederation’s eyes.

Nonetheless, to win the bid to host the Afcon, the Egypt had to assure CAF that the state would relax the rule limiting spectators at Egyptian stadia. CAF needs spectators at games. Egypt complied. But, as the Afcon approached there were reports of ongoing arrests of members of the ultras – most recently 30 were arrested in connection with “terror offences”.

The Egyptian state clearly believes the arrests will prevent ultras from being at the games.

Ultimately, the state hopes that fan-instigated stadium riots will not occur during the Afcon. While the ongoing clampdowns may make the state feel that this problem has been nipped in the bud, there are uncertainties. Hopefully, for the Confederation and Egypt, the Afcon will be all about football and not about ultras or social problems that inspire the protests.

[the writer is Professor of Communications, Howard University]

## To tackle the climate crisis we need more democracy, not less

REBECCA WILLIS  
theconversation.com

As the climate crisis is increasingly felt across the globe, protesters take to the streets and politicians scramble to respond, a crucial question is beginning to emerge. How can governments develop climate strategies which build public support for action? An announcement by six UK parliamentary committees that they will hold a citizens’ assembly on the climate emergency is a crucial step toward answering that question.

There are no shortage of prescriptions for climate action. From economists calling for an economy-wide carbon tax, to scientists advocating “earth system governance” at the planetary level, there are experts assuring us that they have strategies to cut greenhouse gas emissions quickly and effectively. But there’s a dangerous illusion sitting behind these prescriptions – what the social scientist Maarten Hajer called the illusion of “cockpittism”. Cockpittism describes the assumption that you can dictate climate solutions the same way a pilot might fly a plane, sitting in the cockpit charting the most efficient course, with perfectly calibrated instruments and levers.

This illusion is very problematic – and not just because the climate system is an entity far more complex than a plane. It is problematic because it cuts people out. It is a seemingly apolitical view that self-defined “experts” can decide what is best for people and impose those solutions. At its most extreme, it suggests that democracy is the problem, not the solution – as veteran earth scientist James Lovelock once said, “climate change may be an issue as severe as a war. It may be necessary to put democracy on hold for a while.”

My own research suggests that the opposite is true. To tackle the climate crisis, we need more, and better, democracy, not less. My interviews with politicians showed that they were convinced of the need for action on climate, but did not know what support there would be from the electorate. As one told me: “I’ve had tens of thousands of conversations with voters, and I just don’t have conversations about climate change.”

But this may be about to change, as we know



from polling data that generalised concern about climate change is now at an all-time high. Yet how does this translate into support for far-reaching climate action? Would people be more likely to support locally based programmes, with powers given to cities and towns to cut emissions? Would there be support for introducing a ban on petrol and diesel vehicles, over the next decade? Would people support higher taxes on carbon, if the money was invested in low-carbon solutions and support for vulnerable households? And crucially, how could this all link together into a credible, effective climate strategy that would build the mandate for further action toward a net-zero carbon target?

This is where processes such as a citizens’ assembly, or other deliberative processes such as citizens’ juries or deliberative workshops, can help. These processes allow a representative group of citizens to meet with experts on equal terms, assess evidence, debate and suggest solutions. They are not a substitute for electoral politics, but they provide a more nuanced and detailed understanding of voters’ viewpoints than traditional political polling or focus groups.

At the recent Citizens’ Assembly on climate

change held in Ireland, citizens offered up a surprisingly radical and confident set of suggestions, most of which the government is now taking forward. In the UK, many local areas are now setting up deliberative processes to decide their own next steps on climate.

Done well, such processes can help to develop a more inclusive, less divisive politics, countering the distrust of “experts” and allowing a constant interplay between the views and values of the public and politicians.

A citizens’ assembly is not a panacea. Deliberation won’t, in and of itself, solve the problem. We need far-reaching action which will require radical policy and confrontation of vested interests. But this policy and action will only be achievable if people understand and support it. The more we find out about how to build a public mandate for climate action, and the more we include people in genuine debate and deliberation, the more likely we are to find a way through the climate crisis. If it’s not democratic, it’s not realistic.

[the writer is Researcher in Environmental Policy and Politics, Lancaster University]

# At AES epicentre, experts count reasons, families rue: 'Poverty, malnutrition & lack of awareness'

**ANAND RAJ MUZAFFARPUR, JUN 23 (PTI):** "We all know poverty and malnourishment are some key reasons behind children's deaths but no one will talk officially as it is a very sensitive matter."

A senior doctor at Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital tries to find reasons as to why Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) has devastated so many families in north Bihar's district of Muzaffarpur in a matter of three weeks -- over 125 children have succumbed to the disease till Saturday.

A visit to two facilities -- government-run SKMCH and the Kejriwal hospital, run by a trust -- that are dealing with most of the AES patients in the district makes it clear the doctor was right in his assessment.

At least 127 children have died till 9 am Saturday -- 107 at SKMCH, 20 at Kejriwal hospital. Most of the patients came from economically poor families, with many being farm labourers or daily wage labourers.

"Majority of the children admitted at the hos-

pital belonged to lower strata on socioeconomic front," said SKMCH Medical Superintendent Dr Sunil Shahi.

But when asked if the deaths were directly linked to "poverty", he refused a clear answer. "My job is to treat patients," he said, "senior government officials can answer (on the poverty aspect)".

The government has maintained the deaths were caused by hypoglycemia, a condition that leads to a very low level of blood sugar and electrolyte imbalance.

On Saturday, three died at SKMCH though no casualty was reported from Kejriwal hospital. SKMCH's MS Shahi, however, expressed satisfaction that out of 429 patients admitted in the hospital, 188 have been discharged after treatment.

When this correspondent visited SKMCH on Friday afternoon, the gates of general ward of the paediatric and all the five paediatric ICU, with capacity to treat 50 patients at a time, were



shut for mediapersons, probably because frequent visits by journalists might have inconvenienced patients and their attendants.

However, the senior doctor spoke to PTI, requesting anonymity. "We all know poverty and malnourishment are some key reasons behind children's deaths but no one will talk officially as it is a very sensitive matter."

At Kejriwal hospital, the administrator said poverty and hot and humid weather of the town are the two

main reasons for these deaths.

"99 per cent of children admitted at Kejriwal hospital since June 1 belonged to families whose socioeconomic condition is very poor...Children went to sleep without having dinner. This, coupled with hot and humid weather, brought their blood sugar level down drastically," hospital's administrator V V Giri told PTI.

"It has been my experience that the disease hits poor families. And I have informed

both the district magistrate and civil surgeon that poverty and unusual weather conditions are two main reasons for deaths," said the 88-year-old who has been associated with the hospital for around three decades.

"Malnutrition is the obvious result as poor families don't take healthy diet. Had they been taking healthy diet, children would not have died in such a large numbers," Giri said.

But he asserted "litchi had a very minor role to play in this".

Dr Arun Shah, one

of the leading paediatricians of Muzaffarpur and also a member of national executive committee of Indian Academy of Paediatrics, also said litchi is not responsible for the disease.

It has been found in a study that when a malnourished child consumes unripe litchis empty stomach "it can bring down blood sugar level as unripe litchi contains toxins like MCPG and Hypoglycine A", Dr Shah said.

Though, he singled out malnutrition.

Referring to his joint

paper published in a medical journal 'current science' in 2016, he said, "Our study confirmed that malnourished children are becoming easy prey to the disease and in particular in the months of May-June. Malnutrition is the biggest reason for children's deaths."

Dr Shah, who has been studying this since 1995, asserted "poverty, hot weather, malnutrition, unhygienic conditions are the main reasons."

A study jointly conducted by the National Centre for Disease Control and Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA, and published in renowned journal 'Lancet' in 2017, listed malnutrition as "the cause of children's deaths", he said, adding lack of awareness is also one of them.

A National Centre for Disease Control staff, who was carrying out a survey at Kejriwal hospital, also said "there seems to be a link with malnourishment".

Majority of the respondents PTI spoke to said they didn't have information on preventive measures. Also, almost

all of them complained they did not get anything at Anganwadi centre. The poor hygiene at the hospital didn't help either.

Litter were strewn around the aisle leading to the paediatric's general ward on the ground floor of the SKMCH and the foul stench was difficult to withstand.

"Nothing is available at Anganwadi Kendra, even ORS was not distributed in my village," said 70-year-old Maanmati Devi, a resident of Shitalpatti village, who admitted her grandchild at SKMCH on Monday.

Mohammad Ujale, a farmer at Sutihara village, had come to SKMCH for his niece's treatment. He too had similar Anganwadi centre story to share. He said he didn't come across any advertisement about preventive measures. "Nor did any government agency tell me about it."

However, Akhileshwar Rai of Akhtiarpur Paraiya whose grandchild was being discharged from SKMCH did say he came to know about preventive measures through TV and newspapers.

## 84 pc of IMD's subdivisions record deficient rainfall; 80 pc reservoirs have below normal storage



**NEW DELHI, JUN 24 (PTI):** With the progress of monsoon still remaining sluggish, 84 per cent of the meteorological subdivisions have recorded deficient rainfall, MeT department data shows.

According to the Central Water Commission data, of the 91 major reservoirs in the country, 80 per cent have storage below normal. Of these, 11 have zero per cent storage, making the water crisis acute.

The official rainfall season starts from June 1 to September 30, but the overall monsoon deficiency until June 22 still remains around 39 per cent.

Of the 36 meteorological subdivisions, 25 per cent have recorded "deficient" rainfall, while six subdivisions recorded precipitation classified under the "large deficient" category.

## 10 killed in lightning, thunderstorm & rain in Bihar

**Patna, Jun 23 (PTI):** At least 10 people were killed in thunderstorm, lightning and rain in Bihar since Friday, officials said on Sunday.

Three persons each died in Khagaria and Banka while two died in Jamui and one each in Buxar and Begusarai districts in thunderstorm, lightning and rain which hit the state on Friday and Saturday, the officials said.

Odisha and Lakshadweep subdivisions have recorded "normal" rainfall. While Jammu Kashmir and East Rajasthan subdivisions recorded "excess" rainfall, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands registered rainfall under the "large excess" category.

The India Meteorological Department has four divisions east and the north east, south peninsula, central India and northwest India.

The east and north-east India division comprise northeastern states and eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal and all have registered deficient rainfall.

Of the 10 subdivisions of central India, Odisha is the only one to receive normal rainfall.

Four subdivisions, including three from the Maharashtra Vidarbha,

Marathwada and central Maharashtra have recorded rainfall in the category of "large deficient". The east Madhya Pradesh subdivision has also recorded rainfall in the same category.

Vidarbha, Marathwada and central Maharashtra subdivisions have been facing a drought-like situation, with water levels in reservoirs reaching extremely low levels.

Although the Gujarat and Saurashtra and the Kutch subdivisions under central India have recorded "deficient" rainfall, Cyclone Vayu helped bring down some of the shortfall.

The deficiency in these two subdivisions was 100 per cent until June 9, but it went down to 50 and 26 per cent respectively.

Of ten divisions in the south peninsula division, eight are deficient. The

and rains on Friday and Saturday in the state," the release said adding that the "CM has also announced payment of Rs 4 lakh to each of the victim's families as ex-gratia immediately".

The payment would be made from Disaster Relief Fund to the dependents of those killed in the thunderstorm, lightning and rain, it said.

Kumar also directed

Andaman and Nicobar Island subdivision recorded "large excess" rainfall, the only one under this category in the country, while Lakshadweep recorded "normal" rainfall.

With Chennai reeling under a severe water crisis, the Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal subdivision has a deficiency of nearly 38 per cent.

Monsoon reached Kerala on June 8, a week after its normal onset date. Its progress was halted for more than a week due to Cyclone Vayu in the Arabian Sea, causing delay in its advancement in several parts.

The situation, however, is likely to improve. The IMD on Sunday said monsoon has further advanced into east Uttar Pradesh, some parts of central Maharashtra, most parts of Marathwada and Vidarbha.

the officials concerned to ensure proper treatment of those got injured during the thunderstorm and lightning.

Kumar also prayed for their speedy recovery, the release added.

The Patna Meteorological Centre on Saturday said that the monsoon which hit Bihar's north east districts on Friday, covered the entire state on Saturday.

## Over 90 per cent snatching, robbery accused are first-timers: Delhi top cop

**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):** More than 90 per cent of the accused in snatching and robbery cases are first-timers which poses a challenge for the police, Delhi Police Commissioner Anupam Prasad said.

According to statistics shared by Delhi Police, 11.73 per cent of the accused who were involved in robbery cases in 2017 were those who had previous records. This number fell down to 6.80 per cent in 2018 and to 5.52 per cent this year.

Similarly, 9.48 per cent of those accused in snatching cases in 2017 had previous criminal history as opposed to 5.26 per cent in 2018 and to 3.51 per cent in 2019.

Patnaik said the focus of Delhi Police is to curb street crimes, including robberies and snatching incidents, in which firearms are also used at times.

He said there has been a steady decline in such incidents from 2016 to 2018. In 2016, 9,571 cases of snatching were reported.

The number fell to 8,231 in 2017 and to 6,932 in 2018. However, till May 31 this year, 2,812 snatching were reported, an increase from the last year's figure of 2,691 during the same period.

"The worrisome part is that the first-timers are taking to street crimes. So the involvement of those with previous records in robberies and snatching incidents is gradually coming down. First-timers are taking to crime and that is causing problems. They are not

necessarily juveniles but first-timers," he stressed.

In 2017, the city police had launched a scheme called Yuva, under which youths who are on the verge of getting into crime are identified and given skill training and jobs so that they do not get into criminal activities.

"Our record as far as controlling those who have previous record, has been found very successful. It is evident from the decline in the number of cases."

"A first-timer committing a crime comes under police scanner and then we start monitoring their release from jail, and when he comes out our beat officers are monitoring what he does -- whether he is again getting into bad habits or trying to do something better for his life," he said.

"That is one thing that we are trying as far as first-timers are concerned. As far as other preventive measures against street crime are concerned, our focus is on increasing visibility on roads, patrolling by special motorcycles, and group patrolling by senior officers, beat officers and SHOs," he said.

Patnaik said the police identify hot spots and accordingly plan their policing pattern in a dynamic fashion.

"The district DCPs themselves are involved in the planning and implementation part about policing and patrolling facility. Then we identify the criminals involved in robberies and snatching," he added.

## Odisha declares 4th Saturdays as holidays

**BHUBANESWAR, JUN 22 (PTI):** Odisha government employees will now get holiday on the fourth Saturday of every month, besides the second Saturday.

In an order on Saturday, the government also announced new office hours which will be half an hour more than the existing hours.

Offices will function from 10 am to 5.30 pm with half an hour lunch break from 1.30 pm to 2 pm.

Currently, duty hours in most offices are 10 am to 5 pm with an hour lunch break between 1 pm to 2 pm.

The new timings are not applicable to vacation departments, the order said.

The announcement came hours after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik held a meeting of senior officers at the state secretariat here.

Noting that a gov-

ernment wins the trust of people by doing good works, Patnaik said, "We have now reached a certain stage in development and governance from where we should take a leap to the next level. People's aspirations should motivate us to provide effective service."

"I write your (officers) performance appraisal reports. People write my performance appraisal report. I want a link between the two. Both of us have to be accountable," Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister said he wants to focus on employment and value addition on a big scale comparable to the best of the world.

"Make our policies the best in the country in every sector in which we see potential. If the best state in the country is providing X, let's us do X Plus," Patnaik told the officers.

## Odisha to provide transportation cost to school students



**BHUBANESWAR, JUN 22 (PTI):** In a bid to improve attendance in schools, the Odisha government on Saturday decided to provide transportation cost to students who stay more than a kilometer away from their schools.

This comes with a rider because only students with an attendance of more than 30 per cent will get the transportation allowance, officials said.

The decision was taken at review meeting chaired by School and

Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.

The government has also decided to close down 966 schools across the state since there are less than 10 students in each of these schools.

The students of these schools will be relocated to other schools.

"If the distance exceeds one km, travel expense will be given to parents of the children," the minister said.

He said the cash incentive will be given to parents for 10 months in a year.

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# Brathwaite takes confidence from bitter-sweet World Cup ton

**MANCHESTER, JUN 23 (AFP):** Carlos Brathwaite Saturday said he will take confidence from his valiant 101 that took West Indies close to victory only to lose the World Cup thriller by five runs against New Zealand.

Brathwaite set up an exciting game with his 82-ball blitz after West Indies slipped to 245 for nine in their chase of 292 at Manchester's Old Trafford. He smashed five sixes and nine fours for his maiden ODI ton, but fell to paceman Jimmy Neesham in trying to get the winning hit in the penultimate over as Trent Boult took a good catch just inside the long-on boundary. "Obviously bitter-sweet. For me personally, for my confidence," Brathwaite told reporters in the mixed zone.

"As a result of all the hard work I've been putting in it's finally good that it comes to fruition."

"Obviously devastated not to get over the line, but also giving thanks for the performance. Even getting the team into the position we got into before I got out," said Brathwaite, who also took two wickets with his pace bowling.

Opener Chris Gayle



hit 87 and Shimron Hetmyer made 54 before West Indies slipped to 164 for seven against New Zealand's bowling led by Boult.

But Brathwaite, famous for his four sixes in the final over of England's Ben Stokes in the 2016 World Twenty20 title win in Kolkata, kept his team's hopes alive while batting with the lower order. Brathwaite dominated the last-wicket stand of 41 with Os-

hane Thomas, who remained unbeaten on nought, to give the Kiwis a real scare. "Give credit to the lower order. Everyone believed we could get over the line," said Brathwaite.

"Obviously heart-breaking to get so close but not get over the line (but) there were some positives. The fight that the lower order showed was commendable." The 30-year-old Brathwaite sank to his knees in de-

spair after getting out as he was consoled by the New Zealand unit led by Kane Williamson, who set up victory for the Black Caps side with his successive World Cup ton. "The New Zealanders are some of the best people in the world," said Brathwaite.

"Fortunate to have shared a dressing room or play against and socialise with them in franchise tournaments. Good friends with a few of them. "Good sports-

manship on their behalf. I appreciated the mutual respect the opposition had," he said with a smile.

West Indies, champions in the first two editions of the World Cup 1975 and 1979, have just one win from six games and now only have a mathematical chance of making it to the semi-finals.

The Jason Holder-led side will next meet India in Manchester on Thursday.

# Air India suspends its regional director for allegedly shoplifting at Sydney airport

**NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (PTI):** Air India has suspended its Regional Director for East, Rohit Bhasin, for allegedly shoplifting a wallet from a duty free shop at Sydney airport, officials said Sunday.

Bhasin, who has also been barred from entering Air India premises without permission, was rostered as one of the commanders (pilots) of AI301 flight, which was set to depart at 10.45 am (local time) on June 22 from Sydney airport for Delhi.

"There is an initial report of one of its captains Mr Rohit Bhasin who is also working as a regional director picking up a wallet from a duty free shop in Sydney. Air India has instituted an enquiry into this incident and has placed the captain under suspension," a spokesperson of the airline said.

The suspension order issued by the airline on

Saturday stated: "It has been reported by regional manager Australasia that you allegedly committed an act of shoplifting from a duty free shop at Sydney airport before the departure of flight AI301 of 22nd June, 2019, from Sydney airport for which you were rostered as one of the Commander."

The airline spokesperson said, "The incident happened around 6.30 am IST at Sydney and suspension order was served on the captain at the airport itself on landing of the Sydney-Delhi flight around 7.30 pm. Very quick and exemplary action has been taken."

"Without prejudice to any disciplinary action to be initiated against you and pending enquiry, you are hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect," the order stated. Besides barring

from entering premises, the order also directed him to surrender his identity card.

"You will not enter the premises of Air India Ltd without written permission of the management...You will surrender your PIC/ Company identity card to Regional Security Head, Air India Ltd, Kolkata," it said.

The airline has also directed him not to leave his station (Kolkata) without written permission of the management, nor engage in any employment or avocation.

"You will not be eligible to any wages except the subsistence allowance as per rules with immediate effect," it also said.

The spokesperson said, "Air India lays the highest stress on proper conduct of its staff and has a zero tolerance policy towards acts of impropriety."

# Hamilton tells Ferrari: 'Focus on racing, not appealing'

**LW CASTELLET (FRANCE), JUN 23 (AFP):** Lewis Hamilton enjoyed a chance to poke fun at rivals Ferrari on Saturday, suggesting they need to concentrate more on their racing than the complex appeals system of Formula One.

After searing to his record 86th pole position on an afternoon of sizzling heat at the Le Castellet circuit, in the process helping secure a 63rd front row lockout for Mercedes at this weekend's French Grand Prix, the defending five-time world champion was in a playful mood.

He said he had arrived late on Thursday evening, after attending a memorial event for fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld in Paris, and was concerned that he was out of kilter with his normal weekend routine.

But that worry, he said, was wiped away on Friday once he had learned that Ferrari's new evidence in their bid to overturn the result of the Canadian Grand Prix depended mainly on an analysis video made for Sky Sports.

"When I arrived in the morning, I heard it was Karun Chandhok's video that was the new evidence and I was pretty relaxed after that," he explained with a broad smile.

Earlier on Friday morning, he had used social media to express his worries about what lay ahead of him as he lay wide awake and sleepless in the small hours.

Ahead of their hearing with the Canada race stewards, Ferrari had said that their new evidence was "overwhelming" proof that Sebastian Vettel had not broken any rules when he rejoined after running off-circuit and across a strip of grass.

But the stewards rejected the evi-

dence and thus confirmed that Hamilton was the victor in Montreal. Ferrari said the outcome was a dark day for the sport.

Hamilton said: "If it was me, I would want my team concentrating on the race. Ferrari were spending a lot of time focusing on something else. Me, and my team, were focused on trying to improve the car." He added that he was growing increasingly confident in his Mercedes car, but dismissed any suggestions that after easing to a 29-point lead in the title race he was virtually unrivalled.

"I do feel strong, but each weekend I come in and feel I'm starting on the right foot, Valtteri (Bottas) goes and puts in bloody good laps every time. I'm constantly being pushed by Valtteri."

"There's some races where we as a team are not being pushed certainly as hard as we'd like to be by the others, but the battle within us is, if you look at a lot of the races, half a 10th to a 10th."

"I still have my work cut out, still have to perform and deliver. So the work ethic is exactly the same and the stress is exactly the same as if we were fighting the Ferraris."

Hamilton won last year's French Grand Prix from pole position and has triumphed at five of seven races this year. Team-mate Bottas, who was fastest in practice on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, was second ahead of Charles Leclerc of Ferrari. Vettel, in the second Ferrari, was seventh and said he could not explain his loss of pace and form.

"I don't know what happened," he said. "In the end, I didn't get the best out of the car, which is not satisfactory."

# Huawei asks India to take 'informed and independent decision' on 5G trials

**KJM VARMA BEIJING, JUN 23 (PTI):** Huawei has urged India to make an "informed and independent decision" on permitting its 5G trials in the country as the Chinese telecom giant reeled under pressure following the US ban.

The US has banned Huawei, the world's leader in telecom equipment and the number two smartphone producer, over concerns of security and Washington has been pressuring other countries to restrict the operations of the Chinese telecom firm.

India, however, is yet to take a call on whether it intends to place curbs on Huawei or allow the Chinese telecom equipment maker to partici-

pate in the upcoming 5G trials, that are scheduled to commence in 100 days.

"The Indian Government or any other country must take an independent view to protect its own networks and data through its own standards, test mechanisms and policies. It is important to address cyber security risks through an evidence and fact-based approach, introducing checks and balances with a monitored participation rather than banning out of fear," Huawei, which is based in Shenzhen, said in a statement to PTI here.

Earlier this month, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said India has its security issues over allowing Huawei to

participate in the upcoming 5G trials.

"We will take a firm view on it. There are also security issues...it is not only a matter of technology, as regard their participation in 5G is not conditional upon the trial being started. Whether a particular company is allowed to participate or not, is a complex question including security issues," he had said.

Commenting on the minister's remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry last week said that India should take an independent decision without being guided by the US ban and provide an "unbiased and non-discriminatory" environment for the Chinese businesses.

# Croc enters Guj temple, villagers oppose Forest dept's rescue efforts

**AHMEDABAD/VADODARA, JUN 23 (PTI):** A crocodile that strayed into a Khodiyar Mata temple in Gujarat's Mahisagar district was Sunday rescued even as villagers delayed the forest department operation by claiming the reptile's presence was an auspicious one, a senior official said.

Khodiyar Mata, the family deity of the Patel community in the state, is often depicted in religious literature as riding on a crocodile.

A large number of people who had assembled at the Khodiyar Temple in Palla village in Lunwada tehsil offered prayers, conducted aarti and showered vermilion on the 6-foot reptile as it lay near the goddess' idol, said Lunwada forest department in charge RV Patel. Mahisagar Deputy Conservator of Forests RM Parmar said the people assembled at the temple delayed rescue operations by around two hours.

"When our personnel reached there to rescue the crocodile, people opposed it. We waited for two hours as we did not want to hurt religious sentiments. However, later, we managed to get the reptile to a nearby pond," Parmar said.

He said water bodies in the region, including the Mahisagar River, have a sizable number of crocodiles, adding that these reptiles can travel 4-5 kilometres in search of food. "The crocodile, around four years old, may have entered the temple late night to rest. We rescue around 30-35 crocodiles every year," Parmar added.

# Indian women's hockey team clinches FIH Series Finals, beats Japan 3-1



**HIROSHIMA, JUNE 23 (PTI):** Drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur, who has been on a song, struck twice after skipper Rani Rampal provided the lead as India outplayed Japan 3-1 to clinch the FIH Women's Series Finals, here Sunday.

Leading from the front, captain Rani found the net as early as third minute but Japan's Kanon Mori equalised in the 11th minute.

Gurjit scored in the 45th and 60th minutes to lead India to an emphatic victory.

The world number nine Indian team had already qualified for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers 2019 on Saturday after securing a place in the Final of the competition.

Rani was adjudged the best player of the tournament while Gurjit emerged the top-scorer.

The Indian skipper struck the ball sweetly along the ground, beating the Japanese goalkeeper Akio Tanaka on her right side to give India a 1-0 advantage.

India's dominance saw them win their second penalty corner in the ninth minute, but the team gave a foul away in the execution. Japan were unable to create opportunities for themselves as they could only manage two circle entries in the entire first 15 minutes.

But, when they did enter the circle on the second occasion, the Japanese forward-line combined to score an equalizer from their very first shot at goal.

It was Sakurako Omoto who

picked up the ball at the 25-yard line, and played in a pass on the right flank to Yuri Nagai on the baseline, who then played a pass across goal which was successfully deflected by Kanon Mori onto the Indian Goalkeeper Savita, who could not react in time and conceded the goal.

The second quarter also saw India maintain possession which saw forward Vandana Katariya miss a good opportunity in the 18th minute as she picked up a loose clearance from just outside the striking circle, and ran into it to take a strike, but her shot went just wide of the post across goal.

Japan, on the other hand, also started to get into their rhythm, and tried to create chances by using the flanks, but India's defensive cohesion made sure that they did not concede again. World number nine India controlled possession well as they made five circle entries compared to Japan's zero.

The likes of Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam and Lilima Minz stepped up to help break Japanese attacks, and rotated the ball comfortably to create opportunities for India. However, a better performance by the Japanese defense in the final few minutes of the second quarter meant that both the teams went into the half-time break level at 1-1.

India stepped up their attacking flair again in the opening minutes of the third quarter winning

two penalty corners but could not convert them into a second goal.

Both the teams tried to look to take the important lead, with Japan making two circle entries and getting two shots away, while India made 8 entries and took 5 shots.

However, the last of those 5 shots was the one which gave India the lead as constant pressure on the Japanese in the latter stages of the third quarter saw India win another penalty corner through captain Rani.

Drag-flicker Gurjit was India's saviour yet again as she dispatched the ball into the top left corner of the Japanese goal to give her side a 2-1 lead in the 45th minute.

India managed the fourth quarter well as they maintained possession in the initial minutes with Navneet Kaur and Rani having opportunities to seal the victory with a third goal but their efforts were kept out by the Japanese Goalkeeper.

But on the other side of the field, India defended well from penalty corners to avoid conceding an equaliser. With just five minutes remaining in the match, Japan decided to take off their goalkeeper for an extra outfield player, and that helped them in creating some opportunities.

However, it also worked against them in the last minute of the match as Gurjit scored her second goal of the match through a penalty corner to make it 3-1 and wrap up the victory for India.

# Bolton warns Iran not to mistake US 'prudence' for weakness

**JERUSALEM, JUN 23 (AP):** US National Security Adviser John Bolton said Sunday that Iran should not "mistake US prudence and discretion for weakness," after the US abruptly called off military strikes against the Iran in response to the shooting down of an unmanned American surveillance drone.

Bolton's tough message seemed to be aimed not only at Tehran, but also at reassuring key US allies that the White House remains committed to maintaining pressure on Iran.

Israel, along with Arab countries in the Gulf, considers Iran to be their greatest threat, and Trump's last-minute about face appears to have raised questions about US willingness to use force against the Islamic Republic.

The downing of the aircraft on Thursday marked a new high in the rising tensions between the United States and Iran in the Persian Gulf.

The Trump administration has vowed to

combine a "maximum pressure" campaign of economic sanctions with a buildup of American forces in the region, following the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

President Donald Trump says he backed away from the planned strikes after learning 150 people would be killed. But Bolton, a longtime Iran hawk, emphasized that the US reserved the right to attack at a later point. He also said a new set of sanctions on Iran are expected to be announced Monday.

"No one has granted them a hunting license in the Middle East. As President Trump said on Friday our military is rebuilt, new and ready to go," Bolton said in Jerusalem alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, himself a vocal critic of Iran over the years.

"And as he made clear yesterday, referring to his earlier remarks, the president said, 'I just stopped the strike from

going forward at this time,'" Bolton added.

Bolton is visiting Israel for three-way talks with his Israeli and Russian counterparts that are expected to focus on Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region, including in neighboring Syria.

Israel's prime minister has been a vocal critic of Iran over the years, accusing the Islamic Republic of sinister intentions at every opportunity.

But Netanyahu, a longtime critic of the nuclear deal, has remained uncharacteristically quiet throughout the current crisis between the US and Iran. The Israeli leader appears to be wary of being seen as pushing the US into a new Middle Eastern military conflict.

Standing alongside Bolton, Netanyahu sided with the Americans. He said Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region had increased as a result of the nuclear deal, which gave the country a new cash infusion, and

had nothing to do with the U.S. exit from the agreement.

"After the deal, but before recent events, Iran has been on a campaign of aggression," he said.

"Those who describe the recent actions as somehow opening a hornet's nest are living on another planet." Netanyahu made no mention of the called-off airstrike and said he was "pleased" by US plans for increased economic pressure. But Israeli commentators said that Trump's about-face was a cause for concern.

"It further undermined the already limited confidence of other Western leaders in Trump's judgment, it cast the U.S. president as a paper tiger and provided a moment of triumph for the ayatollahs in Tehran and it raised new doubts about the rationale behind Netanyahu's drive to persuade Trump to abandon the 2015 nuclear deal," wrote Haaretz columnist Chemi Shalev.

## Ethiopian army chief, regional president killed in unrest

**ADDIS ABABA, JUN 23 (AFP):** Ethiopia's army chief and a top local leader have been shot dead during an attempt to overthrow a regional government in northern Ethiopia, underscoring political instability in the country as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tries to push through reforms.

The latest unrest in the Horn of Africa nation flared on Saturday afternoon in Amhara, one of nine autonomous regions, when a "hit squad" attacked a meeting of top officials, Abiy's office said Sunday.

Spokeswoman Bileney Seyoum told journalists the Amhara "coup attempt" was led by local security chief Asaminew Tsige, and resulted in state president Ambachew Mekonnen and his advisor being shot.

The men were "gravely injured in the attack and later died of their wounds," she said, adding that the regional attorney general had been seriously wounded.

"Several hours later in what seems like a co-ordinated attack, the chief of the staff of the national security forces Seare Mekonnen was killed in his home by his bodyguard" in the capi-

tal, she added. Seare and a visiting retired general were shot dead in his home in the upmarket Bole district of Addis Ababa, home to diplomats, aid workers and expats.

The bodyguard has been apprehended while Asaminew is still on the loose, sources said.

According to the statement from Abiy's office, the situation in Amhara region is "currently under full control by the federal government in collaboration with the regional government."

The link between the two attacks and their motives were not immediately clear.

"We don't know what the broader intentions of the attackers were. It is not apparent that there was any organised plan to take over the regional government, but it is possible," International Crisis Group analyst William Davison told AFP.

"There are no clear signs of a broader coup attempt in Addis. The government has linked the assassination of the chief of staff to the Bahir Dar attack, but otherwise it appears to

be an isolated incident, which suggests there wasn't a concerted attempt at a national coup."

The internet has been cut nationwide since Saturday evening, after being severed for much of the previous week.

A journalist in the regional capital Bahir Dar told AFP shooting had begun shortly after sunset and continued for several hours before ceasing. On Sunday he described the city as a "ghost town".

The United States embassy issued alerts about reported gunfire in the capital Addis Ababa, and violence around Amhara's main city Bahir Dar.

Amhara, in Ethiopia's northern highlands, is the homeland of the ethnic group by the same name, and the birthplace of many of its emperors as well as the national language Amharic.

The Amhara are the second-largest ethnic grouping after the Oromo, and both spearheaded two years of anti-government protests which led to the resignation of former prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

Abiy, an Oromo, took power in April 2018 and has been lauded for a string of efforts to

reform a nation which has known only the authoritarian rule of emperors and strongmen.

He has embarked on economic reforms, allowed dissident groups back into the country, sought to crack down on rights abuses and arrested dozens of top military and intelligence officials. He also sealed a peace deal with neighbouring Eritrea, a longtime foe.

However the loosening of the reins has also unleashed a wave of unrest.

Ethiopia's 1995 constitution, written by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Front (EPRDF) after it unseated the Derg military junta in 1991, partitioned the country into nine autonomous regions with borders following ethnic lines.

The EPRDF itself is a coalition of four parties from Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region.

Longstanding tensions in a country of more than 80 ethnic groups have burst into the open, often over land and resources in Africa's second most-populous nation.

## Iranian general warns US against uncontrollable scope of war

**TEHRAN, JUN 23 (AP):** An Iranian military commander warned on Sunday that any conflict with Iran would have uncontrollable consequences across the region and endanger the lives of US forces, as tensions between Washington and Tehran have flared after the downing of an American surveillance drone.

Maj Gen Gholamali Rashid made the remarks while addressing Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards Corps during a field visit to a command center for Iranian radars and missile systems. The general oversees and coordinates joint military operations in the Iranian Armed Forces.

"The US administration should behave in a responsible way to protect the lives of American forces," he was quoted as saying in comments published by the semi-official Fars news agency.

Rashid said if war breaks out, the scope and duration of the conflict would be uncontrollable, and blamed any escalation on "U.S. interventionist policy." His comments come as tensions were running high in the Persian Gulf as the Trump administration combines a "maximum pressure" campaign of economic sanctions on Iran with a buildup of American forces in the region.

The latest flareup came when Iran said it shot down the U.S. drone on Thursday and that it elected not to fire on a U.S. spy plane with a crew of over 30 people that was flying in the area at the same time.

President Donald Trump backed away from plans for a retaliatory military strike after learning 150 people would be killed. He said, however, such action is "always on the table until we get this solved." He said "we very much appreciate" the decision by Iran's Revolutionary Guard not to shoot down the manned American aircraft.

US military cyber forces, meanwhile, launched a strike against

Iranian military computer systems on Thursday, according to U.S. officials. The cyberattacks disabled Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, the officials said.

Also Sunday, and during an open session of Iran's parliament, lawmakers chanted "death to America" when acting parliament speaker Masoud Pezeshkian condemned what he said was the violation of Iranian airspace by the U.S. drone. The chant dates back to before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and remains a staple of hard-line demonstrations.



RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
Gangtok-737 101

No: 287/RM&DD/MGNREGA

Dated: 21/6/2019

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotation of rates are invited from interested firms having valid MGNREGA empanelment with RM&DD, Government of Sikkim for supply of the following materials for MGNREGA works for the financial year 2019-20 to be supplied to the following Block Administrative Centres:

1) Jorethang 2) Sumbuk 3) Namchi 4) Namthang 5) Ravangla 6) Temi Tarku 7) Sikkim 8) Yangang 9) Gangtok 10) Ranka 11) Regu 12) Rhenock 13) Parakha 14) Pakyong 15) Martam 16) Duga 17) Khamdong 18) Rakdong-Tintek 19) Passingdong 20) Kabi Tingda 21) Mangang 22) Chungthang 23) Chongrang 24) Chumbong 25) Daramdin 26) Gyalshing 27) Hee-Martam 28) Kaluk 29) Mangalbarey 30) Soeng 31) Dentam 32) Yuksom.

#### LIST OF ITEMS

Sl.No.	ITEM	SPECIFICATION	UNIT
1	Cement	50 kg Birla Gold, Ambuja, Birla Samrat, Ultratech, Star, Lafarge, ACC, Pentent	per bag
2	TMT Rod (6mm to 18mm)	Durgapur or equivalent	per kg
3	Angle Iron (various sizes)	Durgapur or equivalent	per kg
4	Plywood Waterproof (Sizes 6mm to 32 mm) & non-waterproof	Waterproof / Local	per sq ft
5	Nail (various sizes)	ISO certified	per kg
6	Chinese Nail	-	per kg
7	Sand	-	per cft
8	Stones	-	per cft
9	Signboard (3x4)	Angle iron	per piece
10	First Aid Box	Box consisting of Dettol, Gauge, Bandage, Cotton, files of Paracetamol, Maftal Spas, Enteroquinol tablets etc.	per piece
11	Hammer (Big & Small)	ISO certified	per piece
12	Kata	ISO certified	per piece
13	Ramba - Big & Small	ISO certified	per piece
14	Doko per piece	Local made	per piece
15	Namlo per piece	Local made	per piece
16	Farua	ISO certified	per piece
17	Karai	ISO certified	per piece
18	Karni	ISO certified	per piece
19	Belcha	ISO certified	per piece
20	Sickle	ISO certified	per piece
21	Chino	ISO certified	per piece
22	Chisel	ISO certified	per piece
23	Raite (File)	ISO certified	per piece
24	Saw medium size	ISO certified	per piece
25	Bucket	Unbreakable plastic 10ltrs ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
26	Jug	Unbreakable plastic	per piece
27	Mug	Unbreakable plastic	per piece
28	Line Suta	-	per roll
29	Measuring Tape 50 feet	ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
30	Belcha Dori	-	per kg
31	Jute rope	-	per kg
32	Bending Wire	ISO certified	per kg
33	GI Wire	ISO certified	per kg
34	GI Wire Mesh	ISO certified	per ft
35	Barbed Wire	ISO certified	per kg
36	Wire cutter	ISO certified	per piece
37	Giti Martol	ISO certified	per piece
38	Raj Martol	ISO certified	per piece
39	Jamara Martol	ISO certified	per piece
40	Pliers	ISO certified	per piece
41	Polypipe 1/2 inch	ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per kg
42	Polypipe 1/2 flexible	ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per kg
43	GI Pipe (20 ft various sizes)	Tata Brand or equivalent	per piece
44	GI fittings (Sizes 15 mm to 32 mm dia.)	Union, Socket, Tee, Elbow, Short piece, Plug ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
45	PVC Pipe (20 ft various sizes)	ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
46	PVC fittings (Sizes 15 mm to 32 mm dia.)	Union, Socket, Tee, Elbow, Short piece, Plug ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
47	Hacksaw Blade (single & double)	ISO certified	per piece
48	Hacksaw Frame	ISO certified	per piece
49	Plain sheet (various sizes)	ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per sqft
50	Sand Net	ISO certified ( brand to be specified by the bidder)	per metre
51	PVC tank/drum	Capacity of 100 Ltrs	per piece
52	Plastic Tarpaulin 24'x18'	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
53	Hume Pipe (various sizes)	ISO certified (brand to be specified by the bidder)	per piece
54	GCI Sheet (0.35, 0.4, 0.5 mm)	ISO certified (various sizes)	per foot
55	Bricks	first class	per piece
56	MS Pipe (Various sizes)	-	per piece
57	Dhibri Nail	-	per kg
58	GI Washer	-	per packet
59	Bitumen Washer	-	per packet
60	Enamel Paint (yellow, white & black) for signboard	Asian Paints	per litre
61	Paint Brush (Various sizes)	-	per piece
62	Rate of Transportation for Cement, Rod, Bricks, Sand & Stone	Cement - per bag Sand/Stone - per cft Rod - per Ql Brick - per piece	per km
63	Stone chips	Machine crushed	cft
64	Local wood	Local	cft

9. The quotation must be quoted by the empanelled supplier and Cooperative Society preferably based within the administrative jurisdiction of concerned BAC only. The intending suppliers should enclose copies of valid trade license and other tax clearances along with the quotations. At the time of approval of rates the DPC shall compare the quoted rates with the rates obtained from STCS with due regard to the prevailing market rates.

10. The quotation should accompany with Xerox attested copies of valid empanelment certificate issued by Rural Management and Development Department, Govt of Sikkim for the supplier and firms and a copy of certified registration of cooperative society from concerned department for the cooperative societies and Trade license and clearance certificate of GST and Professional Tax by both the supplier/firms and cooperative societies.

11. The Cooperative Society registered in the concerned block who is experienced in supply works only are eligible for quoting the rate. However the society should submit bank statements for last 3 years (25-30 lakhs transaction). Only on vetting of financial capability of cooperative Society, rates quoted would be accepted.

12. In case of failure in regular supply or not matching up of the quality standard as laid down by the Department, the supply order would be cancelled immediately.

13. The empanelled supplier or MPCS quoting the quotation must also have the store facility and transportation facility within the concerned block.

14. In failure of compliance of the above mentioned terms & conditions for the supply of materials under MGNREGA, the tender committee can summarily reject the quotation at the time of scrutiny.

15. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

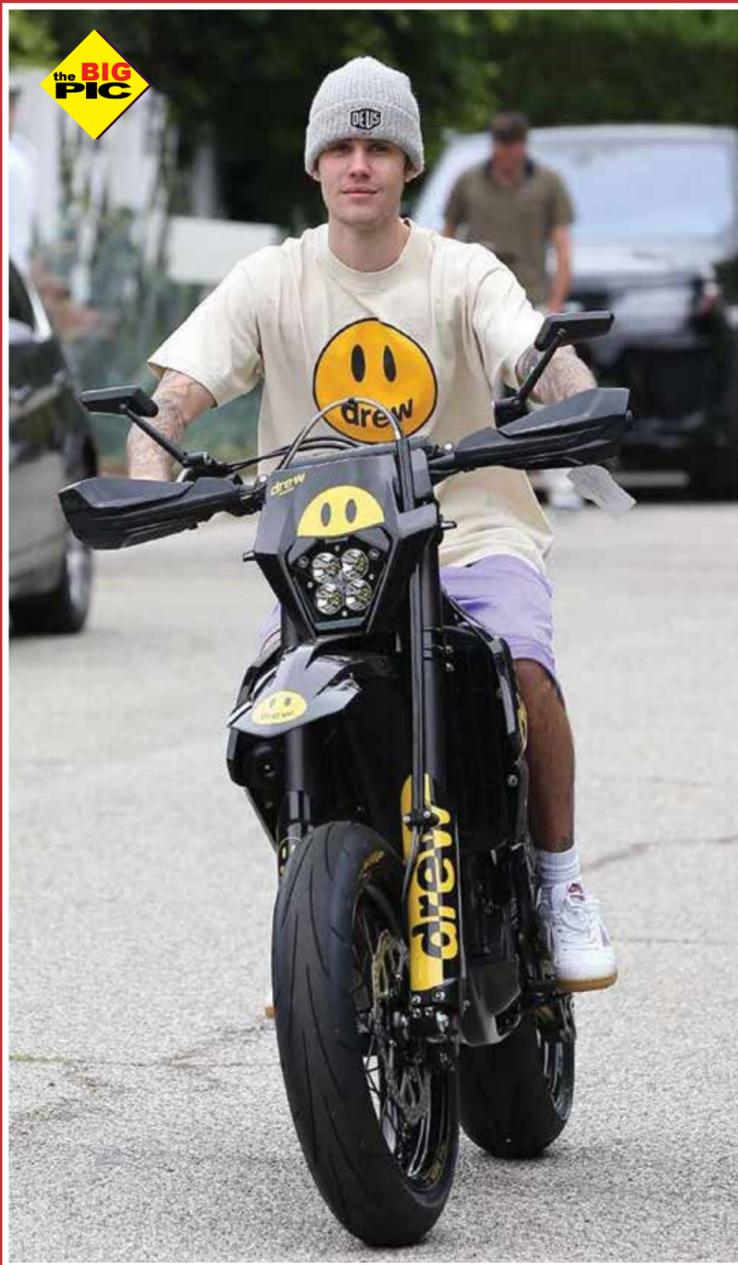
16. The Authorities shall draw an agreement with the selected supplier.

17. The quotation should be addressed to the BDO/ Programme Officer of the respective BAC and should reach them by 8/7/2019 and will be opened on 9/7/2019 at 2 pm in the presence of the committee formed for the purpose in the chamber of the concerned BDO cum PO.

NOTE: For further details and clarification, if any, concerned BDO may be contacted.

Sd/-  
Joint Secretary (MGNREGA)  
RM&DD, GANGTOK

RO.No: 56/IPR/Pub/Class/19-20 Date: 21/06/19



**DECKED OUT!** The "I Don't Care", Justin Bieber crooner takes a spin on his customized Drew House motorcycle in Beverly Hills.

## Amy Pascal confirms sequel to Tom Hardy-starrer 'Venom'



**LOS ANGELES, JUN 22 (PTI):** Producer Amy Pascal has confirmed that a sequel to 2018 blockbuster "Venom" is moving forward at Sony with Hollywood star Tom Hardy set to reprise his role.

Pascal shared the news in an interview with Fandango, where the producer said Hardy will be back as Eddie Brock aka Venom in the follow-up.

"I can say that Tom Hardy will be back, magnificently playing that character as no one else can," she said.

Directed by Ruben Fleischer, the 2018 film also featured Michelle Williams and Riz Ahmed. Despite the mixed reviews it received,

the film made a splash at the box office, earning over USD 850 million in worldwide gross.

Pascal believes there are two reasons for the movie's success -- Sony creating a franchise surrounding the character, and Hardy's portrayal of the anti-hero.

"It's a couple of things. One of them is that Sony did a great job creating that franchise and giving it a life and giving it its own world.

"Then there's Tom Hardy. When you think of Venom, you'll never be able to think of anyone but Tom Hardy sitting in that bathtub of lobsters. And once you saw Tom Hardy do this character, that's all you needed to know," she added.

**ARIES:** You might want to leave a trail of breadcrumbs to follow back from the daydreams that will be the hallmark of the next five months. On Saturday, nebulous Neptune turns retrograde in your twelfth house of fantasy and illusion until November 27. This can be a boon to creative and spiritual pursuits, like revving up your meditation practice.

**TAURUS:** Be mindful of the company you keep this Saturday as intuitive Neptune turns retrograde in emo Pisces and your social-networking sector until November 27. In reverse, it'll give you plenty of opportunities to review your inner circle as well as some of the outer rings. There's no question that most of these people deserve your loyalty, but during this annual five-month retrograde, you may realize that you're giving too much to a few energy vampires who suck you dry.

**GEMINI:** Career options suddenly open up as insightful Neptune pivots into reverse this Saturday, back-spinning through your professional tenth house until November 27. Things may not be as they appear, so vet all offers thoroughly. During

this slowed-down, soul-searching transit, you can revisit projects you set aside and ruminate on what kind of changes, if any, would bring you more satisfaction.

**CANCER:** Change is in the air as Neptune turns retrograde in your global ninth house from Saturday until November 27. Suddenly "home sweet home" feels more restrictive than safe and secure. One way or another, you'll want to spread your wings and check out some wider horizons. Some Crabs may do that literally—perhaps sailing up a gorgeous coast—while others will prefer a more figurative approach, like signing up for a pottery class or lecture series.

**LEO:** Over these next five months, as soulful Neptune spins retrograde through your mystical, metaphysical eighth house, the most compelling mystery will be your own! This annual reversal pulls back the curtain on aspects of life and relationships that may have been hidden or murky. It's a great time to embark on a spiritual practice or deepen an intimate relationship.

## Ayushmann Khurrana Met Real Life Cops To Prepare For His Role In The Film

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana believes his golden run at the box office, including back-to-back hits Andhadhunand Badhaai Ho, instilled the confidence in him to take up a hard-hitting project like Article 15. The film, directed by Anubhav Sinha of Mulk fame, touches upon the sensitive topic of casteism. Ayushmann said he always wanted to be a part of gritty and socially-relevant films like Article 15. "Last two years were very fortunate for me as my films clocked great numbers at the box office and it only gave courage to me to do a film like Article 15. It was a part of my bucket list to do a film like this because I always wanted to do something on a social issue," he told PTI in an interview.

The film offers a realistic take on Article 15 of the Indian Constitution, which prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Ayushmann believes the presence of mainstream actors like him in such films helps the cause as it will help them connect with a wider audience. "If you have a mainstream actor attached to a subject like this, it reaches out to a wider audience. We want to reach out to people who believe in caste discrimination and if we are able to change the mindset of one person that will be the true victory for us," he said.

The actor was set to collaborate with Anubhav Sinha for a romantic film but destiny brought them together for Article 15. Ayushmann Khurrana said he became a fan of the director after watching his 2018 courtroom drama Mulk. "I became a fanboy of Anubhav Sinha, I feel he discovered his true voice as a director after Mulk. When I met him he had offered me a rom-com but I told him I am looking for a hard-hitting subject, something like Mulk. "He narrated a couple of concepts to me and Article 15 was one of them. Later he worked on the

draft, which we both loved and we happened to be on the same page."

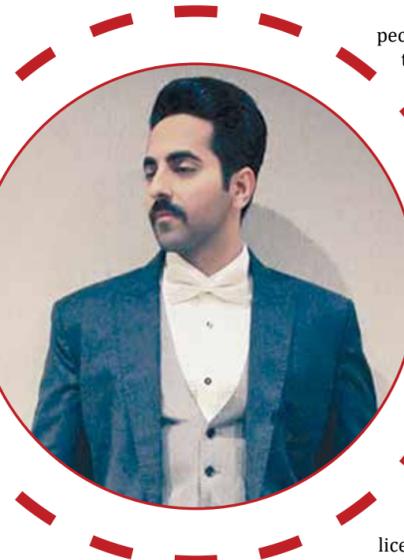
While Article 15 may be Ayushmann's first film based around a social issue, the actor has been a part socially-relevant stories during his theatre days. "We have made street plays on social issues and caste discrimination was one of them.

murder of a woman, who belongs to a minority class, in rural Uttar Pradesh. The actor said he was confident he would be able to pull off a tough role like this. "When I was doing theatre in Chandigarh, I always played negative and aggressive characters, something that nobody could imagine me in. I did imagine myself to play a cop but maybe people did not.

"Anubhav Sinha sir also never expected me in the role of a tough cop. And that was the challenge. More than the character, it was the subject that intrigued me." To prepare for the role, Ayushmann said he read author Om Prakash Valmiki's book Joothan, in which the author describes his life as a Dalit. "I read the book called Joothan, it is about the kind of prejudices he faced in his life. It made me really depressed that I could not sleep while shooting for this film. But it did help me build the character. "Also, I met real-life cops including senior IPS officers in Delhi and some cops in UP, I observed the way the proceedings go on at a police station."

Ayushmann Khurrana said he watched the documentary, India Untouched: Stories of a People Apart, which he says, was an eye-opener for him. Responding to reports some Brahmins in UP are upset over the negative portrayal of the community in the film, Ayushmann said such accusations against the film were untrue. "They have to realise that what they are doing is redundant and a waste of time and energy, they need to see the film and then realise what is right and wrong. And in fact, Article 15 has already been certified by the CBFC, which is known to be strict with sensitive content," he added.

Also starring Sayani Gupta, Kumud Mishra, Manoj Pahwa and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Article 15 is scheduled to be released on June 28.



Apart from that, I have been supporting an NGO in Delhi. I did all this before Article 15 came into the picture. As a person, I was always intrigued by the caste divide in the country. In rural areas the caste divide is very rampant; there are honour killings because of inter-caste alliances. We have depicted the situation as real as it could be in our film." The actor lamented the huge class divide prevalent in every part of the society. "We have separate utensils for our domestic help, we do not share a meal with them or any of our staff. It is all deep rooted. It will take time to get rid of all this. We need to look within and then the conversation will be started." Ayushmann Khurrana plays a police officer investigating the rape and

## Google celebrates Amrish Puri 87th birthday with a doodle



**MUMBAI, JUN 22 (PTI):** On legendary Indian actor Amrish Puri's 87th birth anniversary on Saturday, search engine Google paid tributes to the character artiste with a special doodle.

The doodle created by Pune-based guest artist Debangshu Moulik celebrates the life and legacy of the renowned actor. Born in Punjab on June 22, 1932, Puri started his journey in cinema at the age of 39 with 1971's "Reshma Aur Shera", after working in theatre and doing voice over parts.

He subsequently featured in Shyam Benegal's films "Nishant" and "Manthan".

The actor appeared in

more than 200 films in various languages -- including Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Punjabi, Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, and English.

One of his most memorable performances was as Mogambo in the 1987 cult classic "Mr. India".

Puri broke into Hollywood scene as Khan, a supporting role in the Oscar-winning movie, "Gandhi".

He was later cast as Mola Ram in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom", after initially turning down director Steven Spielberg's offer.

Puri passed away at the age 72 on January 12, 2005 following a brain haemorrhage.

## It's a tough market: Russo Brothers on making indie film 'Cherry'

**LOS ANGELES, JUN 22 (PTI):** Director duo Anthony and Joe Russo have back-to-back four Marvel Studios blockbusters to their credit, but the filmmakers believe no matter how much box office success they have attained in recent years, it is always tough to make an indie project.

Following the blockbuster performance of their last venture "Avengers: Endgame", the directors are now working on indie film "Cherry", featuring Spider-Man star Tom Holland.

In an industry poll published by The New York Times, the Russos are among the leading voices from Hollywood who lamented the dwindling fortunes of the independent cinema that is struggling to survive the onslaught of big-budget commercial films in the theatres.

"When you talk about making character movies like 'Cherry' (after four Marvel sequels), even we are finding that is becoming increasingly

difficult as the months pass - not as the years pass, as the months pass. "It is a tough market, even for us coming off 'Endgame', to make a darker, character-driven movie. It's not what the market was even two years ago," Joe said. His brother, Anthony, believes there is too much content being made in both films and television.

"There were 350 more movies released theatrically in the United States last year than there were when 'Avatar' came out in 2009. The same thing's happening on television. There just used to be fewer of everything -- fewer movie stars, too -- and when the numbers start to get up this high, you start to lose the trees for the forest," he added. "Cherry", based on Nico Walker's autobiographical novel of the same name, revolves around a former Army medic who after his return from Iraq suffers from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and gets addicted to opioids.