



HANDS-ON TRAINING ON EVMS AND VVPAT FOR ELECTORAL OFFICERS OF EAST SIKKIM
pg02

HIDDEN WOMEN OF HISTORY: CATERINA CORNARO, THE LAST QUEEN OF CYPRUS
pg04

AWARENESS CAMP AT MG MARG ON EVMS AND VVPAT
pg03



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim ends Ranji campaign in 5th position

Arunachal humbled by 10 wickets in Sikkim's last match of the Plate Division

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

Sikkim completed its first Ranji Trophy season on a winning note today, humbling Arunachal Pradesh by 10 wickets. This was a good debut outing for Sikkim which closed its season with 27 points winning half its eight matches and standing on the fifth position in the Plate Division of the tournament. It also registered some record-breaking individual feats with Milind Kumar of the Sikkim squad emerging as the highest run-scorer of the season and also making it to the record books as the second-highest run-getter in a Ranji season for his 1,331 runs scored in eight matches.

Sikkim won its matches against Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland, drew against Meghalaya and lost to Bihar, Puducherry and Uttarakhand.

As for its last match, Sikkim won the toss and elected to field first and



restricted the opponents to just 169 runs with Milind Kumar taking 5 wickets, Ishwar Chaudhary three, and Bipul Sharma and Lee Yong Lepcha scalping one wicket each.

In its chase, Sikkim made 262 runs, earning a

lead of 93 runs to which Lee Yong contributed with his first half-century on the season at 58 runs, Milind (51), Bibek (37), Bipul (31), Jahan and Karma (27) each and Ashish (13).

Brilliant bowling in the second inning saw

Arunachal bundled out for 109 runs. Ishwar took seven wickets, Bipul (2) and Milind (1). Sikkim made quick work of the chase with Milind scoring 19 runs.

Ishwar Chaudhary was adjudged "Man

of the Match" for his 10-wicket haul.

Sikkim bagged 7 points for this win.

Milind Kumar made history with his last knock of the season rising to number 2 in the list of most runs in

a Ranji Trophy season, beating Shreyas Iyer's record by 10 runs. As mentioned, he scored 1,331 runs in 8 matches.

He is also the top scorer of the season and is 432 runs ahead of Punit Bisht of Meghalaya on second place. He scored six centuries and four half-centuries, belted a record 185 fours and stroked 17 sixes in the season.

Ishwar Chaudhary, the leading wicket-taker for Sikkim, bagged 51 wickets and is on 3rd position of most wickets of the current Ranji Trophy season with five 5-wicket hauls and 4 wickets in an innings three times. He also took 10 wickets in a match twice.

Captain Nilesh Lamichaney says, "It was a memorable journey playing first-class cricket for the first time under the guidance of one of the most experienced coaches, Sanjeev Sharma Sir, and experienced players like Bipul, Ishwar and Milind.

turn to pg02

MoTA team visits Nizrameng to study socioeconomic conditions of 11 leftout communities



NAMCHI, 09 JAN (IPR):

The three-member committee constituted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to examine and make recommendations regarding granting of Scheduled Tribe status to the eleven left-out communities of the state visited Nizrameng today.

The committee, which is on a two day official tour of the state, comprises of MoTA Joint Secretary Meera Ranjan Tshering, who is also the Chairperson of the Committee, MoTA Director Gopal Sadhwani, who is also the Member Secretary, Prof Soumendra M Patnaik, Vice Chancellor of Utkal University [member], along with officials of Social Justice,

Empowerment and Welfare Department of the State Government.

The visit was essentially to understand, examine and study the socioeconomic conditions of the eleven left-out communities of the State.

During the last leg of their visit, the delegates met and interacted with the members of the communities and enquired about the various rituals, customs, traditions, cultures, food habits and languages of these communities.

It may be mentioned here that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of Scheduled Tribes.

Budget session likely from Jan 31

NEW DELHI, JAN 9 (PTI):

The Budget session of Parliament is likely to be held from January 31 to February 13 and the interim Budget is expected to be presented on February 1, government sources said Wednesday.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh deliberated on the dates for the Budget session and the final decision will be announced after the Rajya Sabha is be adjourned sine die and the committee recommends prorogation of the Winter session, sources said.

Thereafter the recommendation will be sent to the President.

As of now, it has been decided that the Budget session will be held from January 31 to February 13. The interim budget is likely to be presented on February

1, the sources said. President Ram Nath Kovind is likely to address the joint sitting of the two Houses on January 31 and the Economic Survey may also be tabled on the same day.

The Budget session which usually happens in two phases is likely to be held in a single phase as the general elections are due in April-May this year. It is expected to be the last session of the current Lok Sabha.

The Winter session of Parliament, supposed to end Tuesday, was extended for a day for Rajya Sabha to table the Constitution amendment bill that provides 10 per cent reservation to the 'economically weaker' sections in jobs and educational institutions.

The session in the Lok Sabha was concluded yesterday, and it was adjourned sine die.

District-level advocacy for panchayats and health workers on substance abuse and TB begins from Gangtok



GANGTOK, 09 JAN (IPR):

District-wise advocacy and training of panchayat representatives and Health personnel on Substance Abuse Disorder, Sikkim Anti-Drug Act & Tuberculosis commenced from the East District today at the training hall of the Multispecialty Hospital, Sochyangang, Gangtok.

The training programme is an initiative of the Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare Department, Govt of Sikkim.

The inaugural session was chaired by East Zilla Adhyaksha SS Bokhim and was attended by East Zilla Upadyaksha, Commissioner cum Secretary, Health, Vishal Chauhan and other officials, Doctors, Panchayats and Police personnel.

The chief guest, in his address, welcomed the training as a positive initiative towards realizing the vision of the Government to make Sikkim a Tuberculosis-free State by 2022 and to bring wider awareness about substance abuse.

He said that it was possible to prevent drug addiction through adequate education and community participation. He added that various factors contribute to drug abuse like insecurity and desire for social acceptance.

The Zilla Upadyaksha, in her address, said that adequate awareness on Tuberculosis was necessary for the general public as one needs to have the basic information and then work towards reducing the stigma still associated with tuberculosis.

She added that a sum of Rs 3,000 is being given to tuberculosis patients for nutritious food. She stated that government was taking various steps for awareness against drug abuse and for Tuberculosis prevention as doctors and other health care workers who provide care for TB must follow infection control procedures to ensure that Tuberculosis infection is not passed from one person to another and

turn to pg02

Bridge on Rongyoung ready for vehicular traffic



WANGCHUK BHUTIA

DZONGU, 08 JAN:

The bridge at 4th Mile, Mantam, in Upper Dzongu, across the landslide debris dammed Rongyoung Chu is now ready to take vehicular movement.

The bridge, constructed on the left bank of the river, was submerged by the swollen river during last year's monsoon, snapping the movement of the vehicles and making supply of essential commodities

and travel difficult for the affected people of the cut-off GPUs of Sakyang/Pentong and Tingvong.

The Sub Divisional Office, Dzongu, has also called on all drivers to ply their vehicles cautiously on the bridge for

safety reasons.

The people have extended gratitude to the Roads & Bridges Department, North, for their service and restoring vehicular access to villages on the far side of the dammed river.

SDF's Youth Connect party office dedicated to the young

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

Sikkim Democratic Front opened a specialised party office, 'Youth Connect,' here at Sonam Gyatso Marg today. The party office was inaugurated in the presence of a huge gathering of youth.

In his address, SDF vice-president Incharge [East District], DB Thapa, dedicated the party office to the youth of the State and called on them to come together and take the responsibility of Sikkim and support the vision and work of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to make Sikkim the Best State of the world.

He stressed that Sikkim has be-



come exemplary in different sectors and was the Best State in the country under the leadership of the CM.

Mr Thapa stressed upon the need of taking collective responsibility to maintain Sikkim and sustain devel-

opment here.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha, stated that the new party office was for Gangtok and its surrounding areas.

He added that this party office, operating on the theme 'Youth Connect,' was dedicated to the youth, offering a platform to them to come together and hold brainstorming sessions for the betterment of Sikkim.

Mr Lepcha stated that Sikkim has witnessed overall development in all sectors in the 25 years of SDF government and highlighted that the State government has been working for the youth of Sikkim with single-minded dedication.

turn to pg02

Gangtok on Thursday, 10 Jan

Temp: 09°C/03°C
Forecast: Sunny to partly cloudy with a little rain in the evening, then a shower in spots

Sunrise: 07:01 AM
Sunset: 03:49 PM

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Hands-on training on EVMs and VVPAT for electoral officers of East Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

A hands-on training on EVMs and VVPATs for Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and Supervisory Officers of East district

was organized here at the CEO office on Tuesday, an official press communiqué informs.

The Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim, addressed the participants on the authenticity and reliability of EVMs and VVPATs and instructed

all officers to go through the latest edition of Manual on EVMs & VVPATs and to remain abreast with all the directions by the ECI with respect to these.

ADC [East], Bharani Kumaar, was the resource person for the training.

Golay reaches Rinchenpong with Parivartan Sankalp Yatra

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

The Parivartan Sankalp Yatra of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha saw the party president PS Tamang [Golay] reach Birdang in Lower Kamling under Rinchenpong constituency, West Sikkim, today.

Interacting with the people, the SKM president noted down various grievances and

issues of the residents and urged them not to get misled by the token government benefits dispensed by the SDF Government and instead come forward to bring change in the State, an SKM press release informs.

The release adds that the SKM team also visited and interacted with the people of Up-

per Chuchen, Takuthang and Bhanjyang.

Another SKM press release informs that a team of its Labour front has been visiting different industrial units in the State and taking notes of problems and issues of workers and holding direct interactions with the management of the industrial units here.

SSS condemns SDF support to Citizenship amendment Bill



SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

Have Sikkimese Soul [SSS] has criticized the Sikkim Democratic Front and its Lok Sabha MP for supporting the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 in the Lok Sabha.

The organisation has asserted that support of the ruling party to this Bill endangered the distinct identity of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSS coordinator, Pas-sang Sherpa, contended that the SDF and its Lok Sabha MP have made a "terrible political blunder" by supporting the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019.

He pointed out that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed by Lok Sabha to provide citizenship to religious minorities from countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who came to India before 31 December 2014 and was applicable to all states and Union Territories.

"This bill is a direct threat to Article 371F and the Sikkim Subject Regulation Act 1961. If the Bill is passed and implemented, Sikkim will

have to open its gates for anyone seeking residence in Sikkim," Mr Sherpa argued.

He also asserted that when the political situation has turned volatile in Assam, West Bengal and other north eastern states over the introduction of the said Bill, it was incomprehensible why the Sikkim government blindly supported the Bill without considering future implications.

He said, "Chief Minister of Sikkim is lamenting that the Central government is not recognising Sikkim as a stakeholder in the Union of India in his public speeches, but openly supporting the ill-conceived Bill which can wipe out the distinct identity of Sikkim."

"The recent announcement of SC and OBC certificate to non COI/SSC holders and yesterday's support to the Citizenship Bill 2019 clearly shows the conspiracy of SDF government to do away with Article 371F and its provisions," Mr Sherpa claimed.

The press conference was also addressed by SSS coordinator Raaz Gadaily.

SDF's Youth Connect...

The Gangtok MLA further alleged that other parties in the State are being funded by the people from outside and if such parties formed the government here, Sikkim would be run by people from outside.

He asserted that Sikkim needs the right leadership.

He added that at present Sikkim, was in its golden era under the leadership of the CM Pawan Chamling.

On the same, he added that everyone needs to come together to save Sikkim from falling into the wrong hands.

Likewise, Arithang Area MLA, Shyam Pradhan stated that seven MLAs of SKM party joined SDF due to failure of leadership in SKM party.

On the same, he added that almost all supporters of SKM had joined the ruling SDF party within one year of the elections.

The inauguration programme was also addressed by senior leaders and youth leaders of SDF.

HSP opposes Citizenship Amendment Bill

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP] today strongly opposed the Citizenship Amendment Bill passed by the Lok Sabha yesterday. It has also criticised the SDF government and its MP for supporting the Bill.

Speaking to media persons over phone from Delhi, HSP

spokesperson, Biraj Adhikari, questioned how the SDF government supported the Bill when the entire state was against it in principle.

"The Chief Minister has been complaining that the BJP-led Centre was not sanctioning Sikkim's demands, but at the same time, its MP is supporting the Citizenship Bill (Amendment) even

when the whole of Sikkim is opposed to it. The SDF government should make its stand clear instead of playing low level politics," he said.

"We oppose the bill since it poses a threat to Sikkim considering the influx taking place in our State. If the Bill is extended to Sikkim, it could raise questions on Article 371F," said Mr Adhikari.

Street-play to raise awareness about Beti Bachao, Beti Padhaao campaign



SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 09 JAN:

The Regional Outreach Bureau of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, today launched a mass awareness campaign on the "Beti

Bachao, Beti Padhaao" campaign.

The Programme focused on improvement of child sex ratio, survival, protection and education of the girl child, and nurture and education without discrimination to empower girls.

A troupe from Kamrup, Assam, "Bhaoria," is

performing street plays at different places in Sikkim to raise aware and performed at Rangpo today.

They are scheduled to organise such programmes at 15 more places in the area covering Budang, Kazigaon, Bhasmey, Kamerey, Pachak, etc.

Poshan Abhiyaan training at Gyalshing



GYALSHING, 09 JAN (IPR):

A district level training by Master Trainers Sangay Tshering Bhutia, Principal, Anganwadi Training Centre, Jerilina Iepcha, LS, Urban Slum Project, Navya MS, Swasth Bharat Prerak, West Sikkim on incremental learning approach modules under Poshan Abhiyaan was

conducted at District Conference Hall here.

The aim of the training was to build skills based on understanding priorities among frontline workers (ASHA, ANM, Anganwadi worker) through a learning-by-doing approach and enable coordinated functioning of ICDS and

health programmes.

Similar training will be conducted at block and sector levels as well. Participants for the training were CDPOs from Gyalshing and Soreng Rural Project, AD Nutrition, Nutrition Inspector, LS, IEC & Health Educators from Family & Family Welfare Department.

District-level advocacy...

our State should have infection control guidance which clearly needs to take into account local facilities and resources as well as number of people being provided with care.

She further highlighted the role of panchayats in making society drug and tuberculosis free and declared that any GPU which achieves tuberculosis and drug free status will be given a cash prize of Rs 10,000 from her own side.

Mr Chauhan, in turn, said that the main objective of this programme was to make people aware about drug abuse and the initiatives taken for its treatment. He stressed that drug addiction was an illness

and proper care and treatment was necessary to help patients come out of addiction.

He added that along with proper counseling and treatment, community and family have a huge role in bringing a person out of addiction. He stressed on the role of the panchayats in this aspect as well.

The programme also included a very productive session about drug abuse addressed by Dr Satish Rasaily, Addiction Psychiatrist, District Hospital, Singtam.

Later, Dr Tekendra K. Rai, Programme Officer, SADA, spoke on the role of PRIs, community and health Department and outlined a strategy to tackle substance abuse. He also facilitated an

interactive session with the participants.

Representative from Police department, Chomu Lachungpa, SIA, Ranipool, discussed the challenges faced by the police and requested Health department, panchayats and community members to co-operate with the police to mitigate drug abuse and drug peddling in the State.

In conclusion, Dr Shanti Mishra, East District TB Officer, spoke on prevention, causes and control of Tuberculosis. She informed that Sikkim has a total of 1,244 cases of TB as per the latest figures.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr Satish Rasaily.

Winter sports coaching in Mangan



SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, 09 JAN:

A winter sports coaching camp is being organised here at Mangan Public ground by the Sports & Youth Affairs Department under the 'Khelo India' initiative. 162 students from dif-

ferent schools of North district are taking part in the camp in different sports categories. The main idea behind the camp is to provide an opportunity to the youth to engage in sports rather than sit idle and waste their talents.

Sikkim ends Ranji...

We learned many things from this journey and would like to thank SCA for giving us the opportunity to play first-class cricket, something we always dreamed about. I would also like to thank Sanjeev Sir, who believed in me to lead the side. I would also like to thank trainer, Abdul Sir, Manager and support staff for their continuous support and keeping us fit the entire season and would like to congratulate the entire team for making a strong come back after Vijay Hazare. Hope to see more victories in future, especially in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Coach Sanjeev Sharma meanwhile signed off the season with these words: "It is a proud moment for Sikkim Cricket playing Ranji trophy for the first time and ending 5th in the points table with 27 points. I would like to commend the SCA management for their support in building this wonderful team and getting outstanding professional players. The local players got to learn many things from this season and they contributed equally in all aspects of the game to bring the team to this position.

I am very happy with the performance of Nilesh, Ashish, Lee Yong, Jahan and Karma. I would like to congratulate Milind and Ishwar for their achievement and Bipul for his all-around performance with 449 runs and 26 wickets. In my ten years of coaching, this has been the most disciplined and best team I have coached and would like to thank the BCCI and SCA for giving me this opportunity."

On behalf of SCA, president Lobzang G. Tenzing congratulated the coach, the trainer, Physio, Manager and the entire team for the excellent performance in Ranji Cup.

The guidance of the coach in bringing out the best in every individual member of the team has been truly extraordinary. The senior men and women teams have shown the way forward with their outstanding performance on and off the field, SCA has conveyed in a press release.

Awareness camp at MG Marg on EVMs and VVPAT



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

An awareness camp and hands-on practice on EVMs and VVPAT, organized by the DEO office, East District, has been underway at the District Control Room here at MG Marg since 07 Jan. The camp is scheduled to continue till 11 Jan, an official press communiqué informs.

Since VVPAT is an additional machine to be used along with EVM from the upcoming election onwards, it was felt necessary to organize such camps where people can acquaint themselves with the process

of voting using VVPAT, the release explains.

During the course of the camp, many people cast mock votes using dummy symbols and experienced the process of voting with VVPAT. Queries raised by the people were cleared by the election officials deputated for the purpose, it is informed.

The awareness initiative was taken under the District SVEEP plan for EVM & VVPAT and will also be organized at the District Administrative Centre premises, BACs and other prominent places too in the coming days, the release adds.

MoTA Consultation Committee visits two communities in East Sikkim

GANGTOK, 09 JAN (IPR): The Consultation Committee led by Joint Secretary of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Meera Ranjan Tshering, visited two different communities of East district at Kadamtham and Khamdong today.

The team included Director MoTA, Gopal Sadhwani, Member Secretary, and Vice Chancellor of Utkal University, Prof Soumendra Patnaik, Member of the Committee, along with officials of the Social Justice Department, Government of Sikkim.

The Consultation Committee is visiting different communities of the State to access first-hand information to recommend the further modalities of the process.

During their visit, the Committee gathered first-hand understanding of the customs, culture and traditions of the left-

out communities. This study is being made to ascertain if the eleven left-out communities of Sikkim are historically, socially, ethnically and constitutionally eligible to demand tribal status rights.

It may be recalled that the Eleven Indigenous Ethnic Communities of Sikkim (EIECOS), in collaboration with Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, had organized the Sikkim Summit for Tribal Status in Gangtok where Governor and Chief Minister of Sikkim, constitutional experts, retired bureaucrats, anthropologists, top thinkers, and policy makers had presented their views and ideas.

Subsequently, a comprehensive post-summit document was released by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

Sports coaching under Khelo India concludes at Paljor Stadium



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 JAN:

The closing ceremony of Sports Activities & Winter Sports Coaching Camp 2018-19 under 'Sports for Peace and Development' [Vertical of Khelo India] was held here at Paljor Stadium today.

A total of 482 boys and girls participated under different sports disciplines at this camp held at different venues in and around Gangtok.

33 State and non-departmental coaches and experts from different sports clubs and associations were assigned to impart training to young sportspersons.

The closing ceremony had Director, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Kamal Chettri, as

chief guest and Additional District Magistrate [East], JC Namgyal, as guest of honour accompanied by HRDD Joint Director [East], Tshering Kee Chingapa, who is also a member of Khelo India District Level Executive Committee, East.

Coaching was offered in 12 disciplines - Athletics, Archery, Basketball, Boxing, Cricket, Football, Karate, Kick Boxing, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Wushu and Weight Lifting for children aged between 9 to 17 years.

A similar programme is underway in Pakyong and Rongli Sub-Divisions in five sports disciplines at different venues for both girls and boys. These started on 04 January and will continue till 17 January.

STF Immunization Committee meets on National Immunization Day

GANGTOK, 09 JAN (IPR):

A meeting of the Special Task Force Immunization (STFI) Committee on National Immunization Day (NID) Pulse Polio Round and 2nd round of HPV Vaccination Campaign was held at the Conference Hall of the Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department today.

The meeting, chaired by the Health Secretary Vishal Chauhan, was also attended by Special Secretary (RMDD), Anil Raj Rai; Mission Director-ICDS (SJEDW), P Bhutia; Director, School Education (HRDD), H. Gyaltsen; Medical Superintendent, Dr KB Gurung; Surveillance Medical Officer (WHO) S. Ray; Health Officer-NE (UNICEF), Maulik Shah; doctors and representatives of the Health Department; and officers from the Department of Labour and HRD.

Mr Chauhan, in his address, said that all work should be carried out efficiently and asked the departments involved to concentrate outside schools as well.

He also asked the



HRDD officials to provide a feedback on Iron Folic and Calcium tablets being distributed at schools as anemia was an issue of concern in the State.

Mr Ray presented an analysis report on the vaccination campaigns done so far and provided district-wise data and figures.

He also explained how the vaccination was carried out as well as the information on workshop and training undertaken by the health offi-

cers and medical staff.

Dr. P Denzongpa, SIO (HC, HS&FW), informed that Rs 9.39 lakh was allotted by the Government of India to carry out campaign.

The Pulse Polio Round will be conducted on 03 February and the second round of HPV Vaccination Campaign is scheduled from 19 February to 06 March, 2019.

She presented the HPV Campaign details reporting that as of 14 Au-

gust 2018, 96.69% coverage had been achieved.

She also detailed the status of vaccine stock and requested the other departments involved to extend their support, particularly to the ICDS cell of SJEDW and their Aganwadi workers.

She also mentioned that the National Deworming Day was coming up on 08 Feb and that the target would be to cover all children and young adults between the ages of 1 and 19.

2 Indians arrested with hashish in Nepal

SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU, JAN 9 (PTI):

Two Indians were among five people arrested for drug trafficking in two separate incidents in Nepal.

Police arrested Puskhar Mishra, 19, and Kanhai Mishra, 36,

both residents of Sitamarhi district in Bihar, who were carrying 500 grams of hashish on their motorbike.

They were arrested from Koudena village in Sarlahi district in southern Nepal as they were

heading towards India with the contraband, police said.

In another incident, three Nepalese nationals were arrested from Kohalpur municipality in Banke district in western Nepal for carrying 30 ki-

los of hashish, according to police sources.

A police team arrested Kaliman Budha, 52, Buddha Bahadur Rajali, 38, and Balbahadur Budha from Kohalpur along with the narcotic drugs on Tuesday night.

ADMISSION OPEN

STUDY ZONE

Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)

OUR COURSE OUTLINES:

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

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

3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations

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

5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers

6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.

OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To give clear concept of the chapters

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

3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently

4. Greater emphasis would be to excel.

5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651

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

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

WATER SECURITY & P.H.E. DEPARTMENT

NIRMAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Eoi)

Expression of Interest No: 01/WS&PHE/1806/SEW/18-19, Date: 08.01.2019

In continuation to e-tender conducted by the Department for Setting up of Sewer Collection, Disposal system and construction of Approach Road to Sewerage Treatment Plant for Gangtok Town – Zone III, East Sikkim under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), Expression of Interest (Eoi) is invited from reputed Firms registered under Sikkim Public Works Department, Government of Sikkim/ either individually or as consortium of companies)/ Joint Ventures, for “Design, Construction and Commissioning (one year) of 3.25 MLD capacity Sequential Batch Rectors (SBR) type Sewage Treatment Plant and other allied works in the Plant complex at Lower Tathangchen, East Sikkim”. The work will be implemented in accordance with the broad specification of Sikkim Public Works Manual. Completion time for the work is 24 months from the date of Agreement with the Department.

The Water Security & Public health Engineering Department reserves the right to accept or reject the Eoi without assigning any reason.

For details and subsequent communication please visit website:- www.sikkimtender.gov.in from 16/01/2019.

Addl. Chief Engineer,

Water Security and PHE Department

Government of Sikkim, Nirman Bhawan,

Gangtok. Sikkim – 737101

E Mail: phegangtok@gmail.com .

Phone :- 03592-203301.

R.O. NO. 579/ipl/pub/classi./18-19

Date: 09.01.2019

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

GANGTOK

Memo No:.....

Date:.....

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (East-II), Roads & Bridges Department, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of CLASS III GRADE enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018, and No.556/R&B/PWD/Secy dated:28.08.2018 through competitive bidding *with-in the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.*

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
1	CONSTRUCTION OF LINK ROAD FROM BANK DARA TO UPPER POSOKEY KM: 0.00 to 1.80 IN EAST SIKKIM.	1,47,64,820.00	3,69,121.00	30,000.00	24 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1	Date of submission of complete application with Bank receipt/ challan for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form)	31st January 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm) Office of the Gram Prashashan Kendra, Chujachen GPU.
2	Date of issue of tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest money).	1st February 2019 (10.00am to 4.00 pm) Office of the Gram Prashashan Kendra, Chujachen GPU.
3	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	2nd February 2019 (10.00am to 1.00 pm) Office of the Gram Prashashan Kendra, Chujachen GPU.
4	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	2nd February 2019(2:30 pm). Office of the Gram Prashashan Kendra, Chujachen GPU.

For any further queries i/c conditions of contract, office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours.

Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Deptt.
Pakyong Sub-Division.

And

Divisional Engineer (East-II)
Roads & Bridges Department
Gangtok

R.O. NO. 577/ipl/pub/classi./18-19

Date: 05.01.2019

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nehal Bansal, son of Bhagirath Bansal, resident of Bermiok, P.O Bermiok, West Sikkim solemnly declare that previously my name has been recorded in my Birth Certificate vide registration no. 188/RBD/05 dt. 2/4/2005 as Nehal Bansal (Agarwal) instead of Nehal Bansal. I therefore declare and take oath that both names are the same identical person i.e. myself for all purpose before Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dentam West Sikkim on 28th February 2018.

LOST

I, Manjana Rai d/o Shri Sudhan Rai and Mrs. Santu Rai have lost my original marksheet of Class X bearing Roll No. 3157715 and Registration No. G615055210020(JNV Ravangla, South Sikkim) in and around Namchi. If found kindly contact the nearest Police Station.



MARUTI SUZUKI DEALERSHIP REQUIRES:-
Service Advisor, Supervisor & Warranty Manager with Degree/Diploma in Automobile Engineering and minimum 3yrs experience in Automobile Industry.

Resume can be submitted to
HR Manager
Entel Motors (P) Ltd
6th mile Tadong, East Sikkim-737102
9933031828, 9933009938

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 Bedroom flat available for rent at Church Road, Near Diesel Power House. Conveniently located by the roadside and a 5-minute walk from M.G. Marg. Suitable for Corporate Office and Guest House.

For further details please
Contact: 943417687 / 9083826462

SummitTIMES

Punishing a Generation With Boredom

*Sikkim continues to prove itself
to be an uncaring parent*

With the winter break now rather deep into the holidays and outstation vacation season also drawing to an end, the near complete lack of outdoor options for the children must be becoming obvious for most families in Sikkim. Yes, there are some winter camps and coaching options, but nothing really at a pan-Sikkim policy level of social culture. With the long school hours no longer available to dodge the guilt of the boredom we impose on the kids, there is no hiding from the embarrassment of Sikkim consistently proving to be an uncaring parent.

For those who might think otherwise, take a look around. How many parks and playgrounds does Sikkim make available for its children. Even the few that do exist are horrendously designed and although they might look pretty, are not the best of spaces to let children play around unsupervised. Even as the population has increased, the public spaces for children to play around have decreased. Children's parks have been reclaimed as car parks and the grounds that are available are neither maintained nor always open. Almost every locality is now built up to the level of blocking out the sun and the wind, allowing not even the corners or gullies where the kids could be left to play un-chaperoned. Little surprise then that playing games has now become an engagement with screens. Even homes are no longer residential areas which used to have earlier have some space for children to run around and find devise their timepass. Sequestered into flats and "rooms", we are grooming a generation on boredom.

Apart from the obvious health issues that we are imposing on the young, there are also the mental and social handicaps that we are straddling them with. Boredom never delivered positive results, and needs no further reiteration here. Further, even though the young might not notice the obvious, at least at a subconscious level, the denials must be getting internalized, and that can't be healthy either. How can we question them decades later when Sikkim also becomes a place where the elders are also left uncared for? If for nothing else, then for our own selfish reasons of securing more dignified senior citizen years, we should look out for the young in more earnest, motivated less by civil-engineering possibilities. What we tend to also forget when we crowd children out of public spaces is that apart from schools and among relatives, it is in parks and grounds that children build social skills and learn about social responsibility. Replace the parks with smart-phones and we are replacing social contract with social media. That is not even an option and can have disastrous consequences in later years.

And yet, that is how we continue to "look after" our young. There are many issues which continue to get addressed only from top down-substance abuse, skill enhancement, competitiveness to name a few. Efforts directed at all of these could be reinforced if we also looked into the options we offer our children for their leisure hours and months. The society, the people, the parents, however, still don't appear concerned enough to join the discussion. No one has really tried to understand what issues concern the young; and then we wonder why nothing works...

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

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

Hidden women of history: Caterina Cornaro, the last queen of Cyprus

CRAIG BARKER
theconversation.com

The life of Caterina Cornaro could easily be the plot of a novel or TV drama. One of the most significant woman of Venice's golden age, Cornaro (1454-1510) was an important figure in Renaissance politics, diplomacy and arts. She reigned as the queen of Cyprus for 16 years under immense pressure.

As a patron of the arts, she was painted by greats such as Dürer, Titian, Bellini and Giorgione. Yet today she is relatively little known outside of Venice and Cyprus.

Caterina was the last monarch of the Kingdom of Cyprus between 1474 and 1489. Her tragic reign saw the Mediterranean island transfer from the hands of the Lusignan dynasty who had dominated the island since the Crusades, to the Republic of Venice, one of the clearest signs of the mercantile nation-state flexing its imperial muscle.

This significant event took place against the backdrop of interference from Venice's rival, Genoa, and the rise of the Ottoman Empire in the east. Despite the complex political intrigue, Caterina became a much-admired figure in contemporary European society. Still, separating the real Caterina from the romanticised version of her can be a challenge.

EARLY LIFE

Caterina was born in 1454, into one of the most noble and influential Venetian families. (It had produced four Doges, the senior-most elected official of the Republic.) She grew up in the family palace on the Grand Canal. Amongst the family's many financial interests were rich sugar plantations on Cyprus. They developed close relations with the Lusignan family who had reigned over Cyprus since 1192.

After a period of instability, James II became King of Cyprus in 1468 and chose Caterina as his wife. The marital bond was supported by Venice: commercial rights on the island were now secured for Venetian interests. She was presented with a dowry of 100,000 ducats; a not inconsiderable sum of gold and silver coinage.

She and James married by proxy in St Mark's Cathedral on 30 July 1468 when Caterina was 14-years-old. She set sail for Cyprus in 1472 to finally meet her husband.

Caterina arrived and married James in person at the Cypriot harbour city of Famagusta. James, how-

ever, died a mere ten months after the two met, leaving the heavily pregnant queen consort to become regent to her newborn son James III. Tragedy struck the young queen again on 26 August 1474 when her son and last legitimate heir to the Lusignan line died. The child's passing left Caterina as queen regnant, a role she would hold for 16 years. Rumours spread that James II had been poisoned by the queen's relatives.

Thrust into a position of power and prestige through the title, Caterina was immediately the centre of various intrigues within the court. She survived conspiracies from within to overthrow her; and pressure from Naples and the Papal state.

It was Venice that exerted the greatest threat to Caterina. Control of Cyprus would consolidate the Republic's influence over the entire Mediterranean, so they removed many of the queen's trusted advisers and replaced them with commissioners and counsellors influencing decision making. While it is easy to portray her as a victim of Venetian manipulation, for years she faced down considerable pressure by the Republic to surrender the throne.

REMOVAL FROM CYPRUS

In 1489 Caterina finally relented to the Republic's exertions, mediated by her brother, to abdicate. Although she lost political power, she was still able to stage manage her image successfully. Contemporary chronicler George Boustronios's account tell us "on 15 February 1489 the queen exited from Nicosia for Famagusta to leave ... she went on horseback wearing a black silken cloak, with all the ladies and the knights in her company Her eyes, moreover did not cease to shed tears throughout the procession. The whole population was bewailing."

The reality was more complex. Cyprus was locked into a feudal system which was retained by the Venetians; for most Cypriots life would not change with their queen's exile and the collapse of the monarchy.

The pageantry of the fleet carrying the exiled Queen home was played as a brilliant piece of propaganda by both the Doge and by the former Queen. Her disembarkation in Venice became a common scene in contemporary painting.

QUEEN OF THE ARTS

On return to Italy, Caterina was granted for life the fiefdom of Asolo, a town in the Veneto region of northern Italy, in 1489.

Women seeking asylum for family violence don't have an easy time getting it

TAMARA WOOD
theconversation.com

Saudi teenager Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun's story has travelled around the world this week, highlighting Saudi Arabia's repressive treatment of women and that not only those who seek asylum by sea face perilous journeys to safety.

For now, al-Qunun remains in Thailand, where the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) is assessing her need for international refugee protection. If she is found to be a refugee, Australia has said it will consider granting her asylum.

Reports say al-Qunun fears, if she is returned to Saudi Arabia, she will be abused and killed by her family for renouncing Islam and asserting her independence. Sadly, al-Qunun's fear of being harmed by those closest to her is not unique.

Worldwide, an estimated 35% of women have experienced family or domestic violence. In some countries, the figure is closer to 70%. Not all those at risk will be entitled to international refugee protection, however. Only those who meet the definition of a "refugee" can make a valid claim for asylum.

Women fleeing family and domestic violence must deal with a unique range of legal and practical hurdles before the threat of being returned will truly have passed.

REFUGEE PROTECTION FOR GENDERED VIOLENCE

The international refugee convention of 1951 defines a "refugee" as a person outside their own country who fears persecution because of their race, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

This legal definition was devised in Europe in the aftermath of the second world war; primarily with the political refugee in mind. Although the convention isn't limited to those fleeing political persecution, women fleeing gender-based violence must overcome a number of hurdles to show they meet the definition's criteria.

The most fundamental requirement for refugee protection is that the applicant be outside her country of origin. This alone precludes most women from accessing international protection. The cost of travel and the danger it entails – women and girls face heightened risks of sexual violence, trafficking and exploitation

during their journeys – make seeking asylum a dangerous endeavour.

For women living under repressive regimes such as in Saudi Arabia, where permission to travel is required from a male guardian, leaving the country may be impossible. For those who do leave, trying to prove they are at risk of persecution poses further challenges.

Beyond obvious physical signs of mistreatment, obtaining evidence of domestic violence is notoriously difficult. In most refugee cases, the pri-



mary means of establishing the applicant's claim to asylum is her testimony. Lasting effects of trauma, potentially significant cultural and language barriers, and being surrounded by often male interpreters, decision-makers and legal representatives, can make the burden of proof for such women overwhelming.

Moreover, the refugee definition itself was not designed with the experiences of women in mind. In cases like al-Qunun's, failure to conform to religious expectations will likely play a role. But the tendency of refugee status decision-makers has been to see violence by family members as a private matter, and not attributable to one of the five grounds of persecution: race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group and political opinion.

When refugee claims involving family and domestic violence succeed, it is usually on the basis women may constitute a particular social group. Accepting that women in a particular country constitute a particular social group allows refugee status decision-makers to provide protection to women who fear persecution because they are women.

The UNHCR advises states that women are a clear example of a social group "defined by innate and immutable characteristics, and who are frequently treated differently than men".

However, the worldwide prevalence of family and domestic violence, coupled with concerns about "opening the floodgates" to women seeking asylum, have seen this approach to gender-based refugee claims rejected on a regular basis.

WHAT ABOUT IN AUSTRALIA?

The universal definition of a refugee has been incorporated into Australia's domestic legislation – the Migration Act of 1958. In addition, Australia's refugee status decision-makers routinely consider the claims of women at risk of family and domestic violence, trafficking, forced marriage and so-called honour killings if returned to their home country.

Two recent refugee decisions by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal provide insight into how Australian decision-makers approach such claims.

In the first, the Tribunal held the violence experienced by a Turkish woman, who had been twice hospitalised due to injuries inflicted by her husband, was personal in nature. So, it could not be attributed to one of the five grounds of persecution.

Nevertheless, her claim was upheld on the basis Turkish authorities failed to protect her from such violence. Because of the country's lack of enforcement of laws protecting women and widespread social attitudes linking domestic violence with family honour, the applicant was considered a member of a particular social group – women.

The second case concerned a refu-

Under Caterina, it became a flourishing court for Late Renaissance art and learning. Painters such as Gentile Bellini and poet Andrea Navagero were welcomed. The reputation of the Queen's court soon spread, particularly after humanist Cardinal Pietro Bembo used it as the setting for his famed dialogues on platonic love, Gli Asolani.

There is some debate about who really spent time in Asolo, leading to one historian to describe the "mirage of Asolo". Whatever the true nature of the court; the image of the cultured Queen in exile was manipulated by Caterina. She became a standard figure of portraitists. In later life, and in even in death, Cornaro had far greater control than she ever did during her reign.

In 1510 she died in Venice. The crowds wanting to participate in the funeral of Caterina were so large that a bridge of boats was constructed to allow greater pedestrian movement. She was buried in the church of San Salvador near the Rialto Bridge.

LEGACY

Death was not the end of Caterina's story. Even centuries later she continued to influence the arts. The audience hall of Caterina's castle at Asolo was converted to a theatre in 1798; the theatre itself was later purchased by the John Ringling Museum of Art where it has been reassembled in Sarasota, Florida.

In 2017, a portrait of Caterina from a private collection underwent conservation and was exhibited in the Leventis Museum in Nicosia in Cyprus for the first time. The conservation work included both art historical research and scientific analysis and confirmed a 16th century date for the portrait.

Copies of original portraits of the queen continued to be made into the 18th and 19th centuries. The University of Sydney has within its art collection a large oil painting of unknown hand, but from the tradition of a lost Titian. The queen wears a black widow's gown, a coronet and necklace.

Robert Browning wrote of Asolo. The libretto based upon her life by Jules-Henri Vernoy de Saint-Georges would go onto to form the basis of five operas. A highly romanticised novel Royal Pawn of Venice: A Romance of Cyprus was published in 1911.

It is time her story was once again better known. The story of the republican queen of arts.

[the writer is Education Manager, Sydney University Museums, University of Sydney]

gee claim by a mother of five from Papua New Guinea, who had experienced repeated attacks by her husband and his family members for refusing to accept her husband's infidelity. The Tribunal rejected the proposition women from Papua New Guinea constituted a particular social group, due to their diverse ages, backgrounds, religions and economic circumstances.

However, it accepted the more narrowly defined groups "married women in Papua New Guinea" and "married women in Papua New Guinea for whom a bride price has been paid" as particular social groups and awarded refugee status on this basis.

In some countries, such as Ireland and South Africa, "sex" or "gender" has been added as a potential ground of persecution in domestic legislation. This removes the need to argue whether women are a particular social group in any given society.

Australia has adopted a complementary protection regime, which offers additional protections to people at risk of such harms as torture or inhumane treatment. Australia also has a specific visa for refugee "women-at-risk".

Individual refugee status decision-makers have also set out alternative paths for protecting women from family and domestic violence. In a notable New Zealand case, the decision-maker held the risk of domestic violence faced by the applicant was for reasons of her political opinion. They described her decision to leave her husband as an act of "self-emancipation" from the "structures of power and inequality" that had sanctioned the abusive relationship.

Even if the UNHCR determines al-Qunun is a refugee, her future remains uncertain. Thailand is not a party to the refugee convention and there are doubts as to whether she would receive effective protection there. Resettlement in a country such as Australia is possible, but obtaining the woman-at-risk visa would be at the discretion of the government.

The attention on al-Qunun should at least help ensure her claim for protection gets the consideration it requires. Let's hope it generates similar support for the countless other women in urgent need of international protection.

[the writer is Centre Affiliate, Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW]

Bharat Bandh 2nd day: Violent protests, rail blockades witnessed in many states

NEW DELHI, JAN 9 (PTI): Sporadic incidents of violence in West Bengal and Kerala and rail blockades in certain states were witnessed Wednesday on the second day of Bharat Bandh, which also saw a partial disruption of banking and insurance services across the country.

Other sectors like mining, road transport, power supply too bore the brunt of strike call given by country's 10 major central trade unions, except RSS affiliate Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, to protest against the government's alleged anti-labour policies and unilateral labour reforms. They had given a call for a two-day Bharat Bandh on January 8 and 9.

Stray incidents of violence were reported from various parts of West Bengal Wednesday. Stones were pelted at school buses in Howrah district. Similar incidents were reported on Tuesday as well. There were similar incidents of stone pelting in other parts of the state too.

In Kerala, a treasury branch of the State Bank of India in Thiruvananthapuram was attacked and trains were blocked in various parts of state on the second day of strike.

At the Thiruvananthapuram railway station, Thiruvananthapuram-Hyderabad Sabari Express and Venad Express were stopped, while the Kottayam-Nilambur passenger train in Kalamassery was held up for a while. At many places in Kerala, shops and commercial establishments remained shut, and buses and auto-rickshaws were also off roads in the state.



Trains were stopped by protesters at a few places in Tamil Nadu and banking services in some public sector banks interrupted in Telangana but life largely remained unaffected on Wednesday.

However, some impact of the strike was seen in Goa as private buses and tourist taxis remained off roads. Long queues of passengers were seen at various bus stands after the private buses association in the state shut operations.

In Mumbai, lakhs of commuters faced hardships as an indefinite strike called by BEST, the city's civic transport undertaking, continued. There were only five buses plying on city roads.

Over 32,000 BEST employees went on an indefinite strike Tuesday over various demands, including higher salaries.

Causing severe inconvenience to commuters in Bengaluru, hundreds of protest-

ers from the Left trade unions disrupted bus services at Majestic, the Central Bus Stand, here. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses also remained stationed in their respective depots across the state as protesters damaged the vehicles.

Train services in Eastern Railway zone were disrupted Wednesday after supporters of the Bandh resorted to blockades at many places. A suspected bomb was found on the railway tracks at Ashoknagar in Sealdah-Bongaon section that led to suspension of train services in the route.

In Odisha, train services were hit on the second day of the strike as trade union activists staged 'rail roko' at several places including Bhubaneswar, Balasore and Berhampur. Several trains were delayed due to blockade of railway tracks by strike supporters, leaving a large number of passengers stranded at many places.

Many states invoked essen-

tial services maintenance laws while the Centre had issued a stern warning to refrain from the stir Tuesday.

Banking services were also partially affected for the second day, as a section of PSU bank employees came in support of the strike call.

All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) and Bank Employees' Federation of India (BEFI) have supported the strike, which has impacted banking operation where these two unions are strong.

However, the operation in SBI and private sector banks remained unaffected as other seven unions in the banking sector are not part of the strike.

According to AIBEA General Secretary C H Vekatchalam, cash transactions, clearance of cheques, remittances, bills discounting and foreign exchange transactions were impacted.

Cheques worth about Rs 20,000 crore could not be cleared by clearing houses all over the country on Tues-

day, he claimed.Hind Mazdoor Sabha General Secretary Harbhajan Singh Sidhu said there is 100 per cent strike in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Manipur, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and Goa and mining activity was almost stopped across the country.

"We got good response in industrial areas in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan as well. In our protest march from Mandi House to Parliament in the capital, around 4,000 workers came on road to express their anguish..," he added.

He also said that there was 100 per cent strike in 22 districts of Madhya Pradesh and 20 districts of Karnataka.

According to unions, the strike was affected due to UGC exams, which started from Tuesday as some state transport departments decided not participate completely in the strike in the interest of students. The exams were scheduled in some states on Wednesday as well.

They have alleged that the government has failed to create jobs and grossly ignored unions' 12-point charter of demands.

They also said that Group of Ministers headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on labour issues has not called unions for any discussion since September 2, 2015, strike which left them with no other option but to go on another strike.

Farming communities, through their associations, have also extended support to the strike. Student and teacher organisations of various universities have also declared support, the statement had said.

BJP govt polarising the country on the basis of religion:Gogoi

Guwahati, Jan 9 (PTI): Terming the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 by Lok Sabha on Tuesday as a "Black Day" for Assam and the country, former chief minister Tarun Gogoi accused the BJP government of polarising the country on the basis of religion. "By passing the bill, the BJP government has polarised citizens as Hindus and Muslims and accepted Jinnah's politics of dividing the country," the senior Congress leader said.

"The bill has endangered Assam's culture, heritage, existence for whose preservation Assam's people have been agitating for long, Assam Accord was signed at the end of the 6-year long Assam Agitation (from 1979), 855 became martyrs during the agitation and even Congress people became victims", he said.

Gogoi claimed that even in the Assam Accord those illegally entering Assam after midnight March 24, 1971 would be detected as foreigners. Aliens are not to be identified on the basis of religion. Our country is a secular one, it is in our Constitution's Preamble.

"BJP MPs, MLAs took oath accordingly. By passing the bill on religious ground they have insulted their oath. What is the difference between them and Jinnah who partitioned India on the

basis of religion", he said. Gogoi, who was a former three-time chief minister of the state claimed that "Assam is burning. BJP wants to destroy Assam and push the future of the youth to darkness".


He said "this will cause loss to both the North East region and the country. If such unrests continue, Assam will always remain disturbed and troubled".

The senior Congress leader said "This Bill is a jumla...through it BJP is hoping to get Bengali speaking people's vote."

He criticised the Centre's decision to appoint a high level committee to go into Clause 6 of the Assam Accord as "it is already stated there that Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

Gogoi said that Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is "misleading the people" by claiming Assam will go Jinnah's way if the Citizenship Bill is not passed, and that people are opposing it in a reactionary way with the intellectuals trying to build a wrong narrative.

"Sarma claim suggests that Assamese people are weak and so need Bangladeshis to come in and strengthen them", he said.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD

UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK

Ref. No. 18/ SSTRB/19

Dated: 07/01/2019

NOTICE

On the basis of the Written Examination held on 25th November 2018, the following candidates in order of Roll Nos. given below are declared qualified for the viva-voce and classroom demonstration for selection to the post of Graduate Teacher (Language) under Human Resource Development Department.

The selected candidates are requested to appear with their original documents for verification, classroom demonstration and viva-voce on the following dates at the Conference Hall of SSTRB, Upper Syari, Gangtok.

BHUTIA										
SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	
1	20220001	20	20220025	39	20220071	58	20220101	77	20220140	
2	20220002	21	20220031	40	20220073	59	20220104	78	20220147	
3	20220003	22	20220032	41	20220074	60	20220105	79	20220154	
4	20220005	23	20220033	42	20220078	61	20220108	80	20220157	
5	20220006	24	20220034	43	20220079	62	20220109	81	20220160	
6	20220007	25	20220036	44	20220080	63	20220111	82	20220166	
7	20220008	26	20220037	45	20220081	64	20220113	83	20220172	
8	20220009	27	20220042	46	20220083	65	20220115	84	20220175	
9	20220010	28	20220043	47	20220084	66	20220116	85	20220178	
10	20220011	29	20220045	48	20220086	67	20220117	86	20220182	
11	20220012	30	20220047	49	20220087	68	20220118	87	20220183	
12	20220013	31	20220057	50	20220088	69	20220121	88	20220184	
13	20220015	32	20220058	51	20220089	70	20220122	89	20220185	
14	20220016	33	20220063	52	20220090	71	20220124	90	20220187	
15	20220018	34	20220064	53	20220091	72	20220131	91	20220190	
16	20220019	35	20220065	54	20220095	73	20220134	92	20220206	
17	20220020	36	20220066	55	20220096	74	20220135	93	20220207	
18	20220021	37	20220069	56	20220099	75	20220136	94	20220223	
19	20220022	38	20220070	57	20220100	76	20220139	95	202201031	

LEPCHA										
SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	
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2	20220669	18	20220727	34	20220801	50	20220890	66	20220954	
3	20220678	19	20220731	35	20220804	51	20220893	67	20220962	
4	20220682	20	20220733	36	20220805	52	20220898	68	20220965	
5	20220690	21	20220736	37	20220808	53	20220903	69	20220976	
6	20220691	22	20220741	38	20220813	54	20220905	70	20220979	
7	20220694	23	20220743	39	20220816	55	20220915	71	20220980	
8	20220696	24	20220749	40	20220826	56	20220919	72	20221000	
9	20220698	25	20220751	41	20220831	57	20220920	73	20221004	

10	20220708	26	20220752	42	20220832	58	20220923	74	20221009
11	20220710	27	20220759	43	20220833	59	20220924	75	20221011
12	20220713	28	20220761	44	20220837	60	20220928	76	20221012
13	20220714	29	20220777	45	20220844	61	20220929	77	20221026
14	20220716	30	20220783	46	20220845	62	20220930	78	20221027
15	20220722	31	20220787	47	20220873	63	20220933		
16	20220724	32	20220789	48	20220883	64	20220944		

LIMBOO									
SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO
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2	20220433	20	20220463	38	20220501	56	20220545	74	20220583
3	20220434	21	20220470	39	20220504	57	20220547	75	20220587
4	20220438	22	20220471	40	20220507	58	20220548	76	20220590
5	20220439	23	20220473	41	20220508	59	20220551	77	20220591
6	20220440	24	20220477	42	20220512	60	20220553	78	20220593
7	20220442	25	20220479	43	20220513	61	20220554	79	20220598
8	20220443	26	20220480	44	20220514	62	20220555	80	20220604
9	20220444	27	20220484	45	20220518	63	20220556	81	20220606
10	20220445	28	20220485	46	20220520	64	20220557	82	20220614
11	20220446	29	20220488	47	20220521	65	20220561	83	20220626
12	20220450	30	20220490	48	20220523	66	20220562	84	20220628
13	20220452	31	20220492	49	20220524	67	20220566	85	20220638
14	20220453	32	20220494	50	20220526	68	20220572	86	20220641
15	20220455	33	20220495	51	20220530	69	20220575	87	20220656
16	20220458	34	20220496	52	20220532	70	20220578	88	20220658
17	20220459	35	20220497	53	20220541	71	20220579		
18	20220460	36	20220499	54	20220543	72	20220580		

NEPALI									
SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO	SL. NO.	ROLL NO
1	20220230	33	20220278	65	20220311	97	20220355	129	20220390
2	20220231	34	20220279	66	20220312	98	20220356	130	20220391
3	20220232	35	20220281	67	20220313	99	20220357	131	20220392
4	20220233	36	20220282	68	20220314	100	20220358	132	20220393
5	20220235	37	20220283	69	20220315	101	20220359	133	20220394
6	20220236	38	20220284	70	20220316	102	20220360	134	20220395
7	20220237	39	20220285	71	20220317	103	20220361	135	20220396
8	20220240	40	20220286	72	20220318	104	20220362	136	20220399
9	20220241	41	20220287	73	20220319	105	20220363	137	20220401
10	20220242	42	20220288	74	20220320	106	20220364	138	20220402
11	20220244	43	20220289	75	20220321	107	20220365	139	20220406
12	20220246	44	20220290	76	20220322	108	20220366	140	20220407
13	20220248	45	20220291	77	20220323	109	20220367	141	20220408

14	20220249	46	20220292	78	20220324	110	20220368	142	20220409
15	20220250	47	20220293	79	20220325	111	20220369	143	20220411
16	20220252	48	20220294	80	20220326	112	20220370	144	20220412
17	20220253	49	20220295	81	20220327	113	20220371	145	20220413
18	20220255	50	20220296	82	20220328	114	20220372	146	20220414
19	20220256	51	20220297	83	20220329	115	20220373	147	20220417
20	20220258	52	20220298	84	20220330	116	20220374	148	20220418
21	20220259	53	20220299	85	20220331	117	20220375	149	20220419

Upbeat India face UAE test in AFC Asian Cup



ABU DHABI, JAN 9 (PTI): If Thailand was big, India are faced with a bigger test in hosts United Arab Emirates in the AFC Asian Cup here Thursday, overcoming whom will require them to play out of their skins.

Four days after creating a flutter with a stunning 4-1 drubbing of Thailand, India are now looking an upbeat lot in the continental showpiece.

While the result against Thailand, who have three J-League players in their ranks, was no mean feat, it will be a bigger achievement if the Indians are able to put it across the hosts who are gunning for the title.

Currently ranked 79th to India's 97th, the United Arab Emirates were placed as high as 24 in the FIFA chart in January 2015.

Coach Stephen Constantine will be pleased with how the second half against Thailand turned out. India not only managed to shut down a lethal

Thai attack after being tied 1-1 at the break, but also threatened at the other end through quick transitions in attack.

That stupendous show earned India three valuable points, a place on top of the group and a goal average of plus three.

"We have a very young side here and they are excited. Of course, hosts UAE will be a different game. They are a very good side but they are just another team standing in our way," said Constantine.

As far as the Indian team is concerned, Sunil Chhetri hogs the limelight wherever he goes, and the Blue Tigers will again look up to him upfront.

It will not exactly be appropriate to say that Chhetri will be high on confidence after his double strikes against Thailand, which saw him go past Argentine superstar Lionel Messi in the goal-scoring chart among active interna-

tional players, because that is an ingredient the Indian talisman never lacked. He is never overconfident, though.

In a team sport like football, a squad heavily dependent on Chhetri would not have experienced a 13-match unbeaten run on way to qualifying for the tournament.

Over reliance on the 34-year-old striker would not have seen them maul Thailand the way they did.

And that is a good sign for Constantine's team, which will enhance its prospects of qualifying for the second round of the tournament for the first time in over 50 years if it is able to win or at least draw against the UAE.

It is even better for the team that for all his achievements over the years, Chhetri remains grounded.

Minutes after coming off the bench against Thailand, Jeje Lalpekhlua found the back

of the net, and so did young Anirudh Thapa.

However, the surprise package was rookie forward Ashique Kuruniyan, Udanta Singh being the livewire down wide right.

Udanta, in fact, set up a couple of goals including the inch-perfect cross from right flank, which Chhetri slammed home for India's second goal.

Chhetri and the FC Pune City winger had their eyes on goal whenever they were on the ball and the direct running of the latter and the technique and finishing prowess of the former left the opposition's defence helpless. More of the could be expected against a superior opponent in UAE.

India can expect the UAE to come hard at them after a 1-1 stalemate against Bahrain in the tournament opener.

They wouldn't be satisfied with their performances, especially in the attacking third. It

was the late goal by substitute Ahmed Khalil that saved them the blushes.

Midfielder Ismail Hamadi is also a key player in UAE's scheme of things.

UAE will look to dominate the midfield where Anirudh Thapa and Pronay Halder will come up against a tightly-knit unit. India will also be required to be vigilant at the back as the likes of Ali Mabkhout and 2015 Asian Player of the Year Ahmed Khalil are goal-scorers with predatory instincts in the attacking third.

Mabkhout is seven goals shy of becoming UAE's all-time top scorer. The central defensive pairing of Sandesh Jhingan and Anas Edathodika will be kept busy at the back, and so could be goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

India's grand opening seem to have also left the UAE football association concerned, which has adopted a unique strategy to fill the stands at the stadium with fans of the home team.

It has been reported that the UAE FA has purchased 5,000 tickets for the game against India and plans to distribute it only among the local fans on the match day for free to pack the stands with home support. India will hope to not get carried away by all these, something their coach stressed a day after the win against Thailand.

"We don't go into a match expecting to win 4-1 or 5-1. However, we are not trying to get carried away with the emotion. We still have two games left and we still need another two points to qualify from the group stages," Constantine had said. "After we have qualified, we can get a little bit excited, but our primary job is still to qualify out of the group stages." Only time will tell what's in store.

Harendra Singh removed as Indian men's hockey coach



NEW DELHI, JAN 9 (PTI): Indian men's hockey coach Harendra Singh was Wednesday sacked from the position following a disappointing 2018 and offered the task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.

Constant chopping and changing of coaches is a frequent phenomenon in Indian hockey and Harendra, who was appointed in May, is the latest casualty.

"Though the year 2018 was very disappointing for the Indian Men's Hockey Team with results not going as expected, Hockey India (HI) believes investing in the junior program which will reap long-term benefits," HI said in a statement explaining the reasons behind Harendra's axing.

The Junior World Cup-winning coach took charge after India's medal-less showing at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games but was unable to change the team's fortunes.

India were also below-par in the Asian Games in Indonesia, settling for a bronze after going into the tournament as the defending champions. They ended the year with a quarterfinal loss in the World Cup in Bhubaneswar.

"Hockey India will shortly be advertising and will invite applications for the position of the Chief Coach of the Indian Men's Hockey Team which will be returning to training camp in February 2019 for the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup scheduled to commence from 23 March 2019.

"In the interim, the team will be overseen by Hockey India High Performance Director, David John and current Analytical Coach, Chris Ciriello," the statement added.

The decision to reas-

sign Harendra was taken by the HI High Performance and Development Committee on Monday with an aim to build a "strong base" ahead of the 2021 Junior World Cup and the 2020 and 2024 Olympics.

The meeting was attended by Committee Chairman R P Singh, members including Olympians Harbinder Singh, B P Govinda and Syed Ali.

"The offer (of junior head coach) has been made to Harendra Singh for taking charge of the Junior Men's team commencing from the camp slated to start in March 2019," HI said.

Harendra took the junior team to the World Cup title in 2016. As women's chief coach, he had swapped places with Dutchman Sjoerd Marijne to join the men's squad ahead of the August-September Asian Games.

India's practice of firing coaches at regular intervals has been criticised by many experts of the game including legendary Australian captain and coach Ric Charlesworth.

Changes in the support staff were expected following India's quarterfinal loss to Belgium in the World Cup at home last month. The fifth-ranked Asian team was aiming to win its first World Cup medal since 1975.

"It is completely unprofessional from Hockey India. With less than two years to go for the Olympics, this is the last thing India needed. But seeing the trend (of changing coaches frequently) it is not a surprise anymore. You can't expect the team to win like this," former India captain Zafar Iqbal told PTI.

"Even Germany lost in the semi-finals but that doesn't mean their team was bad," said Iqbal.

Sports Minister Rathore launches '5MinuteAur' challenge



NEW DELHI, JAN 9 (PTI): Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore played table tennis with both hands and spoke at the same time while launching a '5MinuteAur' challenge as part of the Khelo India movement.

Rathore, an Olympic silver medalist in shooting, urged India's leading athletes and actors to share their childhood stories when they would ask their parents to let them play for that five extra minutes.

He tagged Virat Kohli, Saina Nehwal, Deepika Padukone and Salman Khan to share their stories.

"Remember when we used to play in our childhood, that was the exact time when our parents would remind us of our homework. And we would say 'just five more minutes'," Rathore said in a video message on twitter.

"There was no one to speak for us then but now we have a voice. So why don't we all speak up for all the kids in the country and say 'let them play', five minutes more,

play India. Use #5MinuteAur and #KheloIndia and share you five minutes more story."

In 2017, Rathore had shared a workout video and challenged athletes and film personalities to share their regimens.

The Khelo India Youth Games 2019, which will see a host of athletes in action, officially kick off in Pune Wednesday.

Among those in action will be champion shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary, world cadet champion Olympics gold medalist weight-lifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga, budding tennis player Mahak Jain and swimming star Srihari Nataraj.

The athletes will compete in 18 different disciplines, of which six are team sports.

At the Khelo India School Games 2018, Haryana won 38 gold, 26 silver and 38 bronze medals, while Maharashtra finished with 36 gold, 32 silver and 42 bronze medals.

Kohli's India have chance to close in on England in ODI team rankings

DUBAI, JAN 9 (PTI): Virat Kohli and his pace ace Jasprit Bumrah continued to top the individual charts and India could reach within one point of leaders England in the ICC ODI team rankings, provided they win their next eight matches.

India, who play three matches against Australia and five against New Zealand, could reach 125 points and within one point of England if they are able to win all eight matches while Pakistan need to beat South Africa 5-0 in order to overtake them. England lead the table with 126 points while India are currently placed second with 121 points.

Kohli (1) and Rohit Sharma (2) maintained their positions in the batting list, and Bumrah also remained way ahead in the bowling rankings ahead of Afghanistan's Rashid Khan and his India teammate Kuldeep Yadav, who was placed third. Among other Indians, the rankings



charts also included batsman Shikhar Dhawan (9) and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who was placed joint sixth with Adil Rashid of England.

Players from other teams also made movements. New Zealand leg-spinner Ish Sodhi and fast bowler Lachlan Ferguson have moved up after creditable performances during a 3-0 sweep over Sri Lanka in a home series that ended on Tuesday. The two are now in joint-31st position after Sodhi's eight wickets in

the series helped him climb up 26 slots and Ferguson's seven wickets lifted him 12 places to a career-best position in the list led by India fast bowler Bumrah.

Sri Lanka captain Lasith Malinga is another bowler to gain in the latest update, moving up three places to take 46th spot after finishing with seven scalps in the series.

Among international batsmen, Ross Taylor and Martin Guptill have retained their third and 14th positions after scoring

281 and 153 runs, respectively, while New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has dropped out of the top-10 to 11th position.

Henry Nicholls has gained 21 places to take 59th position while Colin Munro has moved up from 58th to 56th. Niroshan Dickwella (up one place to 26th), Thisara Perera (up 22 places to 65th), Kusal Perera (up seven places to 66th) and Danushka Gunathilaka (up 11 places to 82nd) are the batsmen to gain from the Sri Lanka side.

After flood fury, Kerala's Munnar woos tourists with sub-zero temperatures

MUNNAR, JAN 9 (PTI): With broken roads and landslide carved mountains, this hill station had been a mute reminder of the deadly August floods in Kerala, the worst in a century, which ravaged the state.

But Kerala's Munnar, fondly called the 'Kashmir of the South' by travel buffs, has once again turned out to be a paradise for tourists, thanks to the unexpected chilly weather and snow. Located 1,600 meters above sea level, the tourist town was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British government in South India.

The mercury level has plunged to minus degree Celsius in the last few days, spreading a blanket of snow across its lush greenery and tea plantations, which has wooed a large number of holidayers, both domestic as well as foreigners. The photos of snow-sprinkled grasslands and reports of the frozen climate of the place have gone viral on the social media also in no time.

For the last eight days, the mercury level has gone down to below zero degree Celsius.

It was -2 degree Celsius at the tea plantations and zero

degree Celsius at the town area Tuesday, according to the weather report.

Local people said it was very rare for the frozen climate to last for over a week.

Seeking to tap the opportunity thrown in by the unexpected weather conditions, Kerala Tourism had updated its Twitter handle with information and photos of the cool weather. "We can't get enough of this rather unexpected, but dreamy Munnar weather."

We can't get enough of this rather unexpected, but dreamy Munnar weather," one of the

tweets said. The chilly weather has also given renewed energy to the tourism sector, which had faced the brunt of the deluge that had ravaged Munnar in August last year.

Hotellers, home-stays and resorts are receiving good bookings due to the sudden inflow of tourists.

However, the unexpected snowfall has caused extensive damage to tea plants, local people said. Wildlife photographer Praveen Muraleedharan said that the minus degree temperature at high altitudes and deep forests of

Munnar was common during December end and the first week of January.

"This may not be a positive sign. It is due to drastic climate change. We need to conduct proper research into it.

Unfortunately, many are marketing the phenomenon in Munnar as a snow-fall destination in Kerala," he told PTI.

Located in the biodiversity hot spot of the Western Ghats, Munnar is a sought-after tourist destination, known for its vast tea plantations, pristine valleys and scenic mountains and exotic flora and fauna.

Senior UN official calls for peaceful solution to Myanmar's Rohingya crisis

YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, JAN 9 (PTI): Expressing concern over the deteriorating situation in Myanmar's restive Rakhine State, a senior UN official has urged all sides to intensify efforts to find a peaceful solution to one of the world's worst refugee crises.

Acting Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar Knut Ostby said he was "deeply concerned" over the January 4 violence in which 13 Myanmar police officers were killed in raids by ethnic Rakhine rebels.

Around 350 militants from the Arakan Army stormed four police stations in the northern Rakhine State on Friday, "killing 13 policemen and wounding nine others", according to a statement released by the Army chief's office.

Ostby is "deeply concerned about the situation in northern and central Rakhine State" where an estimated 4,500 people have been displaced so far due to fighting between the Arakan Army



and Myanmar's security forces, Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, told reporters on Tuesday.

Dujarric said Ostby was shocked by the reports of attacks on January 4, regrets the loss of life and offers his deepest sympathies to the families of the police officers who were killed.

Ostby urges all sides to ensure the protection of all civilians and uphold their responsibilities un-

der International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law.

He also appeals to all sides to intensify efforts to find a peaceful solution to the situation and to ensure humanitarian access to all people affected by the violence, Dujarric said.

"The United Nations has been in close contact with the Myanmar authorities in recent weeks and has offered to support ongoing efforts to respond to the humani-

tarian needs of those affected by the violence," Dujarric said.

According to the UN estimates, nearly 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State since August 25 last year when the army launched a military crackdown.

Myanmar does not recognise Rohingya as an ethnic group and insists that they are Bangladeshi migrants living illegally

in the country.

The UN described the atrocities by the Myanmar military on Rohingya refugees as a textbook example of ethnic cleansing while the rights groups called it a genocide.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar, however, rejects the charge, saying its security forces launched a counter-insurgency operation on August 25 in response to Rohingya militant attacks.

N Korea's Kim ends Beijing visit as Trump summit looms

BEIJING, JAN 9 (AFP): Kim Jong Un's train left Beijing on Wednesday after the North Korean leader visited his key ally on a trip seen as a strategy session ahead of his expected summit with Donald Trump.

Kim arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for his fourth visit to Pyongyang's sole major diplomatic friend, reportedly visiting a factory and meeting President Xi Jinping.

The North Korean leader's motorcade was spotted arriving at the Beijing central railway station early afternoon, and the train departed shortly after on a day-long ride back to the northeast border, according to AFP journalists.

The unannounced trip was largely shrouded in secrecy. Beyond confirming his presence in Beijing, no details have been provided by either North Korea or China on his schedule.

Kim met for one hour with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday -- believed to be the North Korean leader's birthday -- and the two later dined with their wives at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

The meeting focused on Kim's expected meeting with Trump, according to Yonhap.

In a New Year speech, Kim warned that Pyongyang may change its approach to nuclear talks if Washington persists with sanctions.

Relations between China and North Korea had deteriorated in recent years over Pyongyang's nuclear activities, but Kim has made sure to keep Xi informed about his dealings with the United States and South Korea as ties appear to have warmed.

"In order to resist the high pressure of the US, he must communicate with Xi in advance to see what steps he can take to deal with Trump," Beijing-based independent political commentator



Hua Po told AFP.

"Kim needs the support of Xi so as to ask the US to make substantial steps, such as providing assistance to North Korea and normalising relations with North Korea," Hua said. Kim chose China for his maiden official trip abroad last year before holding meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Trump.

Trump said Sunday that the United States and North Korea are negotiating the location of their next summit.

Discussions between the US and North Korea over Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal have stalled since Kim and Trump's high-profile summit in Singapore in June where they issued a vaguely worded declaration about denuclearisation.

The United States insists that United Nations sanctions must remain in place until North Korea gives up its weapons, while Pyongyang wants them immediately eased. China also wants the sanctions to be relaxed.

But Chinese officials also likely want to impress on Kim -- who has so far pursued only limited reforms to his statist economy -- the benefits the giant Communist country has enjoyed in its transformation from impoverished nation to economic powerhouse.

Yonhap, citing unidentified sources, re-

ported that Kim toured a factory operated by medicine firm Tongrentang for about half an hour in an economic zone in the Chinese capital.

He then went to the Beijing Hotel where he was expected to have lunch with Xi before his departure.

"For North Korea itself, 2019 is his strategic turning point. If he wants to shift his focus to the development of the economy, he needs China's co-operation," said Lu Chao, a North Korea expert at China's Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences.

"China will also introduce some successful experiences to Kim to help North Korea achieve economic transformation and realise the denuclearisation of the peninsula as soon as possible," Lu told AFP. In the New Year speech, Kim focused on North Korea's moribund economy, saying that improving people's lives was his top priority and tackling energy shortages was an urgent task.

Hua, the Beijing-based analyst, said changes in the economic model will affect politics, "which poses new challenges to his control over the country." "For this point, he must ask for advice from China."

The visit coincided with negotiations between US and Chinese officials in Beijing to resolve a bruising trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

SC will not allow airing of Indian content as it 'damages our culture', says Pak CJ

ISLAMABAD, JAN 9 (PTI): Pakistan's Chief Justice Saqib Nisar on Wednesday said that the Supreme Court will not allow Indian content to be shown on Pakistani TV channels as it "damages our culture".

Chief Justice Nisar made the remarks while hearing an appeal filed by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) against a high court's decision to ban the broadcast of Indian content on TV channels in Pakistan, Dawn reported. Pemra's counsel Zafar Iqbal Kalanauri informed the three-member bench, led by the chief justice, that foreign content had been banned on court orders before a high court issued a stay order against it.

Pemra Chairman Saleem Baig told the court that 65 per cent of the content shown on Filmazia channel is foreign and that the number at times goes as high as 80 per cent, the paper said.

At this, the chief justice said, "we will not allow Indian content to be aired on (Pakistani) channels".

Pemra counsel informed the chief justice that "Filmazia is not a news channel but is an entertainment channel; it does not do any propaganda." "It is, however, damaging our culture," the top judge replied.

Nisar observed that the Pakistan Broadcasters Association's counsel Faisal Siddiqui was not present in the court.

"We cannot pass a judgement without hearing him," he said.

Subsequently, the hearing was adjourned till the first week of February. In 2016, Pemra had imposed a complete ban on airing Indian content on local television and FM radio channels.

Suspicious packages found at Indian consulate and other diplomatic missions in Melbourne

NATASHA CHAKU

MELBOURNE, JAN 9 (PTI): Suspicious packages containing white powder, some reportedly marked with the word "asbestos" were sent to the Indian consulate and several other diplomatic missions here on Wednesday, prompting Australian authorities to evacuate the facilities and launch an investigation.

Australian Federal Police said a number of packages sent to at least 10 consulates and embassies in Melbourne and Canberra were being examined by emergency services and the circumstances around the incidents were under investigation.

Victoria Police said they believed the consulates were specifically "targeted" and the situa-

tion was "not impacting the general community".

The incident comes just two days after a suspicious white powder was found at the Argentinian Consulate in Sydney. Emergency services were first alerted to the packages at the US Consulate and Indian consulate about 12.30 pm.

Firefighters and Ambulance Victoria paramedics were attending the Indian Consulate and US Consulate on St Kilda Road.

An Indian Consulate official said all was fine at the building.

"Police and emergency services have responded to suspicious packages to embassies and consulates... The packages are being examined by attending emergency services. The

circumstances are being investigated," the Australian Federal Police tweeted. There are reports the packages contain white powder laced with asbestos, and that warnings were e-mailed to staffers at the consulates prior to the delivery telling them to "wear masks" when opening the packages, 9News reported.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) said it was assisting the Australian Federal Police at a number of incidents at embassies across Melbourne.

"At this time we believe the matter is targeted and not impacting the general community," the MFB statement said.

"We isolated the area then identified where the actual substance was, collected it and made it

safe," 9News quoted Bryan Kellett from the MFB as saying from outside the Indian consulate.

A worker at the Pakistani consulate in Melbourne opened one of the packages about 10am on Wednesday, The Age newspaper reported.

It is understood the envelope, which looked like a normal letter, was addressed to the Consulate-General of Pakistan.

Initial suspicions were raised by a spelling mistake on the envelope, with "consulate" misspelled. Inside, the worker discovered a small item that looked like a marble tile, and three packages of tightly packed powder, The Age report said.

The staff member did not touch the contents of the package.

Developing economies must get ready to cope with possible turbulence: World Bank official

WASHINGTON, JAN 9 (PTI): There is an urgency for emerging markets and developing economies to get ready to cope with possible turbulence, a top World Bank official has said as she called on the governments to concentrate more on their debt management practices and accelerate the pace of reforms.

Kristalina Georgieva, the World Bank's CEO, said the global growth is moderating from 3 per cent to 2.9 per cent in 2019. That is still a robust growth performance.

"But what we see happening are troubling signs in terms of international trade and manufacturing activities," she said.

"In this more challenging environment, there is an urgency for emerging markets and developing economies to get ready to cope with possible turbulence and to build fiscal and monetary space, to build policy buffers," she said in a conference call with journalists on the occasion of the release of the Global Economic Prospects report.

She said the governments have to concentrate more on their debt management practices, especially in countries where this is already a serious concern.

"They need to use borrowing to fund development needs, to use borrowing for productive purposes and they have to work with creditors on

transparency and sustainability of lending practices," she said.

Georgieva will serve as the interim President of the World Bank after Jim Yong Kim departs the international financial institution on February 1.

Urging countries to accelerate reforms, Georgieva said from the Bank's perspective, this is particularly critical for investing in human capital, lowering barriers to higher investments and boost positivity and make sure that they are integrated in the world economy in a way that helps them to expand and grow.

"They are softening and, on that background, we face two risks that are likely to persist throughout the year. One, trade tensions and two, financial strength in large emerging markets and developing economies," she said.

One of the issues of concern she said, is that the Bank's main focus on poverty reduction is correlated to strong, steady, and equitable economic growth.

"When growth softens, we are likely to see either stalling or even reversal of poverty reduction. We are also concerned about debt levels and especially debt levels in low income countries where during the period of time of low interest rates, there had been a

build-up of debt and now debt service is eating into the government revenues making it more difficult to fund essential social services," she said.

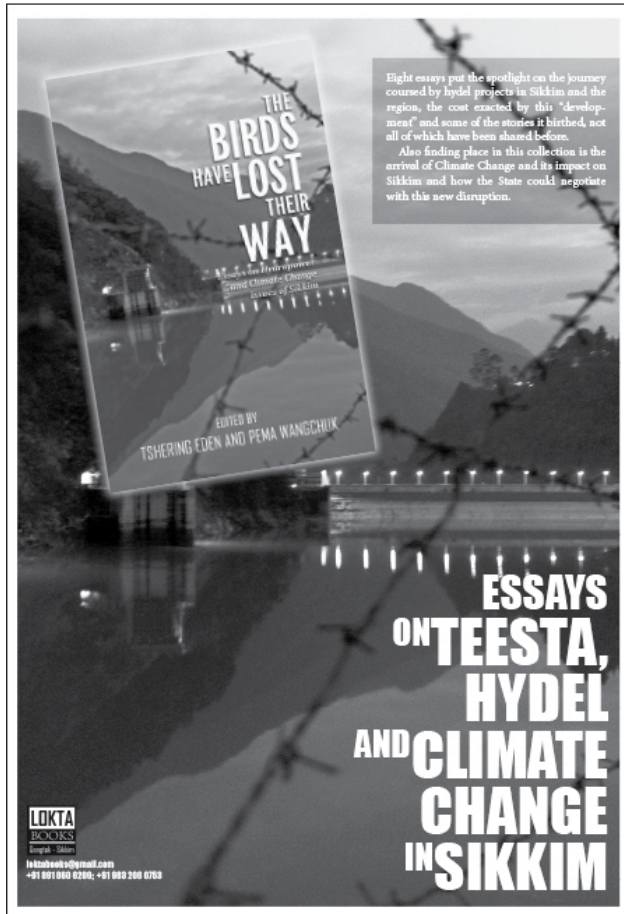
Noting that the majority of low-income countries would be impacted, she said that they would be hard-hit by a sudden weakening in trade or by global financial conditions worsening.

"What I mean by that is situations in which financial flows go into the direction of safer locations and that makes both access and costs for countries more difficult, less favourable, she said.

Ayhan Kose, Director of the World Bank Prospects Group, said that the external environments has been becoming increasingly challenging for emerging market and all developing economies.

Trade has been slowing, global manufacturing activity has been getting weaker and financial conditions have been tightened. These developments have affected the Bank's growth projections, he said.

"In emerging market and developing economies, we expect growth to stabilise around 4.2 per cent in 2019. However, relative to our June report, we expect .5 percentage points lower growth in this year in these economies, Kose said.





WHERE IN THE WORLD...?! The Jane the Virgin star Gina Rodriguez speaks to schoolchildren as part of Carmen Sandiego Day in Miami, Florida.

Hart apologises for homophobic tweets again; Rock doesn't want to host Oscars

Kevin Hart has once again issued an apology to the LGBTQ community for his old homophobic tweets, while his contemporary Chris Rock has said his name can be crossed off this year's potential Oscars hosts list.

The controversy over using gay slurs in his past Twitter posts led Hart to step down as the emcee of Academy Awards 2019, after apologising for his comments.

On his SiriusXM radio show, "Straight From the Hart", the comic on Monday said that his words have been "chopped up" following previous apologies.

"Once again, Kevin Hart apologises for his remarks that hurt members of the LGBTQ community. I apologise," he said.

He later explained the original homophobic joke that landed him in trouble. Hart quoted the joke, "I want to say that I have no problem with gay people. I don't have a homophobic bone in my body. I want you to be happy, be gay, be happy." "And then I say as a heterosexual male, if I can do something to

stop my son... That's where the joke starts!" he argued. "The only clip that I have seen all over the media is the one where I go, 'Stop! That's gay'. I really had to dive into the whole thing, even the tweets," Hart said.

The comedian said the words were "not I said to gay individuals". "I didn't say these words to people, at the time, this was our dumb a**es on Twitter going back and forth with each other. We thought it was okay to talk like that, because that's how we talked to one another. In that, you go, f**k! This is wrong now," he said.

Meanwhile, the same day, Chris Rock declared that he had no interest in hosting the Oscars ceremony. The actor-comic, who has hosted the Academy Awards twice, made his intentions clear during his emceeing gig at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards dinner in Manhattan. "If it was five years ago, I could say something really offensive and funny right now, but I can't do that anymore, so... hey!" Rock quipped.

ARIES: Trying to do it all by yourself (again), Aries? And then feeling overwhelmed as a result? Here's a news alert: There are other, highly capable people who can help you out and maybe-just-maybe offer some ideas that even your sharp mind hasn't landed on yet! Today, instead of shouldering more than is necessary, tap into the communal vibes of the moon in your eleventh house of teamwork. Ping a coworker or post your needs on social media. You may be amazed at the quantity—and quality—of responders!

TAURUS: Go big, scale back—or just go back to bed? You may feel pulled in opposing directions today as buzzy Mars in your intuitive twelfth house squares off with randomizer Mercury in your expansive ninth house. When you put in 110 percent, you feel spread too thin, yet when you hold back to reconsider, you fear you'll miss an opportunity. The trick? Prioritize! Step out of the office—or away from your work—and clear your head. Rather than pushing for the right answer, stay open and allow it to come!

GEMINI: Go ahead and invite a couple extra colleagues to the brainstorming meeting or expand the guest list for an upcoming gathering! Just make sure you're not opening the door to one too many high-maintenance types. With excitable Mars in your teamwork zone getting body-checked by quicksilver Mercury in your house of intense emotions, feelings could bubble up that no one's prepared for. Before you wave people in, make sure you have at least some idea of what their agenda is.

CANCER: Upgrade to the VIP tickets, Cancer. Shortly before the ball drops on 2019, uncompromising Mars rushes into Aries and your prestigious tenth house until February 14. You've got grand plans for the year ahead, and it all starts NOW. Tonight, you practically owe yourself an upscale celebration.

LEO: You may still be digesting Christmas cookies, but you can start burning off those holiday indulgences now. Today, as the life-giving Sun links up with disciplined Saturn in your sixth house

of wellbeing, you may find sticking to an exercise routine or a healthy-eating plan easier than ever. Exploit this planetary lift by diving in headfirst. Join a gym—or become a regular at yours—and find a class that will keep you pumped up. In the food department, experiment with cutting back on just one "evil," like sugar or processed food.

VIRGO: Simmer down! You want to tune out the outer world and listen for messages from your muse today, as the creative Sun winks at structured Saturn in Capricorn and your fifth house of self-expression. If you've been taking your talents for granted, it's time to get a little more about serious about them. Withhold judgment for now and just start devoting a few hours a week (and more on weekends) to pursuing your craft—whatever it may be. Romance could reach a passionate peak, but you need to know if the object of your affections is playing for keeps. Ask!

LIBRA: You'll be in your gracious, glamorous element this NYE as passionate Mars launches a six-week tour through Aries and

your seventh house of relationships (aka "the Libra house").

SCORPIO: This might not be the NYE that sees you dancing on the bar till dawn, but considering the year of wild growth that's behind you, a gentler pace is fine by you—isn't it, Scorpio? Thanks to your co-ruler Mars settling into Aries and your sixth house of self-care this evening, 2018 slinks out more like a kitten than a lion. You'll be just as happy (happier, probably) bidding adieu to the year in a meditation circle, candlelight yoga class or perhaps on some sandy beach.

SAGITTARIUS: Party costume: Check. Crazy shoes and accessories: Check! Wild hair and makeup: Up to you, Archer, but why not? This NYE gets a turbo-charge from passionate Mars. Just before midnight, the red planet bursts into Aries and your festive, flamboyant fifth house until February 14. Since the fifth house also rules fame, this NYE (and the first six weeks of 2019) could turn into one giant photo op for you and your crew.

CAPRICORN: How's this for a perfect NYE gameplan: Get yourself suitably

dressed up; have everyone stop by just as the bubbly reaches the perfect temperature; cue up your killer playlist; and let the rest unfold spontaneously. With passionate Mars nestling into your domestic quarters shortly before the ball drops, you may relish the thought of staying home and turning your living room into "the club."

AQUARIUS: Wait a second there, Water Bearer. If you're about to hit Go on a team project without running your decisions up the flagpole, you need to do a rethink on that. Last we checked, democracy still rules. And with savvy Mercury in your collaborative zone connected with healer-feeler Chiron in Pisces, you have no business trying to be the whole voting committee!

PISCES: If you try to hit the ground running this morning, you might wind up spinning your wheels. That's because the moon is concluding its monthly trek through Aquarius and your twelfth house of rest and introspection. To be maximally productive, get into the flow of the day rather than try to force things. Trust your intuition and follow other people's leads.

Was painful to revisit cancer phase for my book: Manisha Koirala

MUMBAI, JAN 9 (PTI): Manisha Koirala has said it was "painful" to revisit her cancer phase while writing her book "Healed", which chronicles her battle against the disease.

The actor was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012 which she successfully overcame. She has been cancer free since 2013.

"It was indeed very painful to revisit the phase for the book. To be able to remember everything in detail, revisit and stay with that, it was really painful.

"I had shut the book several times as I thought I wouldn't be able to finish writing it. I often thought that it was a bad idea, that I shouldn't attempt writing," Manisha told reporters.

"Healed: How Cancer Gave Me a New Life" was launched Tuesday.

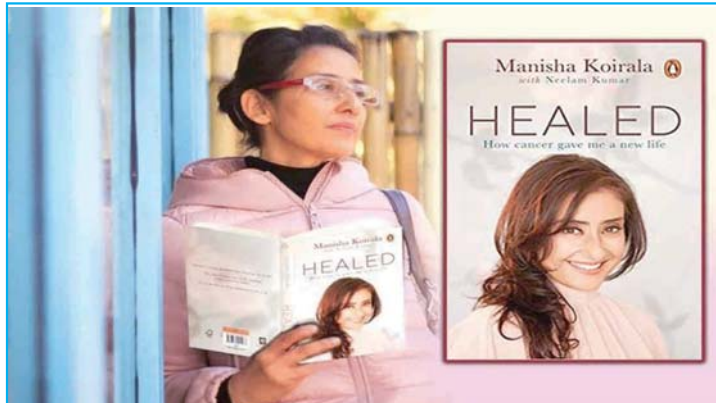
Several of Manisha's friends from the industry turned up to support the actor, including Rekha, Anupam Kher, Jackie Shroff, Bhagyashree, Mahesh Bhatt, Imtiaz Ali and Dia Mirza. The book is co-written by Neelam Kumar and published by Penguin Random House India.

Manisha said what kept her going was the zeal to tell her story to the world so that it inspired people who have been

diagnosed with cancer.

"I guess I just wanted to tell the story and I wanted to encourage myself as well as other cancer patients who have been diagnosed. That whole thing kept me going."

On Tuesday, news broke that veteran actor-director Rakesh Roshan has been diagnosed with throat cancer and



Manisha hopes he will emerge a winner.

"I am sure there is a way out. Don't lose hope. All of this can be treated today, though it's scary, but it can be dealt with. I am sure he will come out as a winner and I pray to God for the same," she said.

After backlash, Pandya apologises for comments on TV show



SYDNEY, JAN 9 (PTI): India cricketer Hardik Pandya Wednesday apologised after being slammed for making what many construed as misogynistic and sexist remarks on 'Koffee With Karan', saying he got "carried away by the nature" of the show.

The 25-year-old all-rounder has provoked a backlash after the comments he made on the celebrity chat show hosted by film maker Karan Johar, in which he appeared with India teammate KL Rahul.

Taking to Twitter, Pandya posted, "After reflecting on my comments on Koffee with Karan, I would like to apologise to everyone concerned who I may have hurt in any way.

"Honestly, I got a bit carried away with the nature of the show. In no way did I mean to disrespect or hurt anyone's sentiments. Respect."

On the show, Pandya boasted about hooking up with multiple women and spoke about how open he is with his parents, saying he had once told them after losing his virginity, "aaj mai kar ke aaya."

When the host of the show asked him why didn't he ask women their name in a club, Pandya responded by saying, "I like to watch and observe how they (women) move. I'm little from the black side so I need to see how they move."

A barrage of criticism started coming Pandya's way, prompting the Indian Cricket Board to consider banning players from appearing on such chat shows.

The BCCI had Tuesday taken note of his "crass and cringeworthy comments" on the chat show and had ticked him off.

Pandya is currently with the Indian team in Australia where it recently recorded a historic maiden Test series win. Pandya had joined the team before the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne after recovering from a back injury which he had suffered during the Asia Cup in UAE last year.

He will be seen in action in the three-match ODI series against Australia which starts on January 12 in Sydney.

'Munna Bhai 3' script ready, to go on floors this year: Arshad Warsi

Actor Arshad Warsi says if everything falls into place, the third installment of the "Munna Bhai" franchise will go on floors by the end of the year.

Directed by Rajkumar Hirani, the series chronicles the story of an affable goon, played by Sanjay Dutt, and his loyal sidekick Circuit (Arshad), who, in the previous two films, took on the conditions of hospitals and the diminishing Gandhian values in the country.

When asked about the third installment, Arshad told PTI, "I do know that the script is pretty much ready. I do know from Raju that the film will go on floors this year- either mid or the end of the year. The work on the script is going on. As of now, yes it's Sanju and me. These are the things I've been told."

"Munna Bhai MBBS" released in 2003, followed by its sequel "Lage Raho Munna Bhai" three years later.

This time, however, there would be a gap of more than a decade and Arshad says it's slightly "scary" to pick up the character from where he left.

"I tend to do my film and forget about my character and I move on to the next one. I tend to forget, which is what happened with 'Munna Bhai.' When I came for the second part, I was doing the same role differently. I realised something isn't quite right. Then Raju and I saw a couple of scenes from the first one and remembered how I should be doing. This time too, I'm sure I'll do it." Apart from this, Arshad says the fifth installment of "Golmaal 5" will also happen.

In Rohit Shetty's recently released "Simmba", the "Golmaal" gang had a cameo in a special song where they hinted about the upcoming film.

"That will happen too. All of us know, Rohit knows, that he owes it to the audience," he added.

The actor is currently gearing up for the release of "Fraud Saiyaan", directed by Sourabh Shrivastava. The comedy film is presented by Prakash Jha and scheduled to be released on January 18.