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AFTER THREE SEASONS**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Petrol, diesel to be costlier; tax on super-rich, gold imports



NEW DELHI, JUL 5 (PTI): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday hiked tax on petrol and diesel, raised import duty on gold, levied additional surcharge on super rich and brought a tax on high value cash withdrawals as she sought to spur growth with reduction in corporate tax and sops to housing sector, startups

and electric vehicles.

Presenting the maiden budget of Modi 2.0 government in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman, the first full-time woman Finance Minister, proposed measures to ease liquidity crisis facing shadow banking sector (NBFCs) and providing Rs 70,000 crore capital to public sector banks while seek-

ing to raise additional resources through privatisation of some PSUs.

In relief to tax payers, she provided for an additional deduction of Rs 1.5 lakh on interest paid on loans borrowed up to March 31, 2020 on purchase of a house up to Rs 45 lakh.

Corporate tax on companies with turnover of up to Rs 400 crore has been

slashed to 25 per cent from current 30 per cent. Presently, the lower tax rate is applicable on companies having a turnover of up to Rs 250 crore.

Sitharaman said the reduced tax rate would cover 99.3 per cent of corporates in the country.

To boost use of electric vehicles, an additional income tax deduction of

Rs 1.5 lakh on interest paid on loans taken to purchase EVs has been proposed.

Also the government has asked the GST Council to reduce tax rate on EVs from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. Customs duty on certain parts of EVs has been reduced.

Addressing the angel tax issue faced by startups, she said startups and investors who file requisite declarations will not be subjected to any kind of scrutiny in respect of valuation of share premium.

A mechanism of e-verification will be put in place and with this, the funds raised by startups will not require any tax scrutiny.

She raised special additional excise duty and road cess on petrol and diesel by Re 1 per litre each, saying lower crude oil prices provide her with an opportunity to review taxes on the sector.

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Gangtok to host Indian Football Awards ceremony on 21 July



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 JUL:

Gangtok is all set to host the annual Football Players Association of India [FPAI] Indian Football Awards ceremony on 21 July at Paljor Stadium.

Sikkim is hosting this prestigious awards ceremony for the first time and the Football Players Association of Sikkim has been working hard to ensure a successful hosting of the event.

Addressing a press conference here today, FPAS president Nirmal Chettri stressed that it was an honour to host

this international sporting event and informed that the event includes presentation of awards in five categories and an exhibition match between FPAI and Sikkim Stars.

Awards will be presented for the Best Indian Player of the Year, Indian Emerging Player of the Year, Fans' Player of the Year, Best Coach of the Year and Best Foreign Player of the Year.

He informed that the votes for the awards given by Indian players playing in the I-League and ISL.

Mr Chettri informed

Sikkim Stars team will comprises of professional footballers from Sikkim playing in the I-League and ISL and national level football, while the FPAI team will be made up of professional footballers of the country playing in ISL and I-League.

The awards will be presented during half time of the exhibition football at Paljor Stadium.

He further mentioned that FPAS was barely a year old and was happy to host such a prestigious event. He said that FPAS

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SFA's U-17 League to kick off from Sunday

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 JUL:

Sikkim Football Association is organising SFA U-17 Football League for boys at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok from 07 Jul, 2019.

Ten teams are participating in the League namely, D'zongu FC, Sports Academy, Gangtok FC, JVC Singtam, FC Melli, Chujachen FA, Namthang FA, New Light Academy Namchi, Howler's FC Singtam, and Sikkim Boys.

Two matches will be held per day. The first match of the league will kick off at 12 noon on 07 July followed by the second match at 2:00pm. Team SFA has wished all the participating teams all the very best for their respective matches.

Aakraman FC announces special summer football camp for the young



Club to also scout talent for U-15 and U-17 squads

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 05 JUL:

Gangtok-based Sikkim Aakraman Football Club has announced plans to organise a Summer Football Camp for boys and girls aged between seven to 18 from 13 to 20 July here at Tashi Namgyal Academy football ground.

The week-long camp will be conducted for juniors - 9 to 12 years, 13 to 15 years and 16 to 18 years age groups by All India Football Federation D-License coaches.

The camp will have audio video coaching sessions as well and interactive sessions with prominent international and national footballers of Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, Sikkim Aakraman FC president, Jigmee Singey Rinzing Wangchuk, informed that the club was organising such a camp for the first time and that the format will be very special.

He stated that the camp was not only focusing on the basics and fundamentals of football, but will also focus on training young budding footballers on how to handle pressure and criticism during a game.

He added that the camp would be mainly focused on grassroots football and scout for talent.

"Being a professional football club of Sikkim, we are now preparing to play the I-League and we need U-15 and U-17 teams for the same. So, this camp is also a talent hunt to spot skilful young players for our club," Mr Wangchuk said.

He added that a team of spotters comprising of experienced former footballers will shortlist talent.

He mentioned that Sikkim Aakraman FC has plans to take these footballers to further train and groom them for its U-15 and U-17 teams.

"This camp is also special as we have framed the coaching camp after extensive research. Knowledge on the basics and fundamentals of football will help young footballers progress in the game," he said.

He mentioned that the camp will also have audio-visual coaching sessions for deeper understanding about technical aspects and interactive sessions with professional footballers of Sikkim for

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THREE-DAY SATELLITE WORKSHOP ON FUTURE OF GENOMICS

Agricultural scientists shoulder greater responsibility: Governor



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 JUL:

Governor, Ganga Prasad inaugurated a three-day Post Congress Satellite Workshop on "Next Generation Sequencing and Future of Genomics" at College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology at Ranipool, East Sikkim, today, a Raj Bhavan

press release informs.

The workshop is jointly organised by Purnia University, Bihar and Central Agricultural University, Imphal. The workshop also had the presence of various members from Association of Vice Chancellors and Academicians.

As many as 20 Vice Chancellors and eminent

professors from different Universities are attending the workshop.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Governor underlined the need to work diligently towards ensuring food security and other agro products.

This has become all the more urgent in the

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Sitharaman delivers marathon Budget speech, Speaker compliments her

NEW DELHI, JUL 5 (PTI): Nirmala Sitharaman, the country's first full-time woman finance minister, Friday delivered one of the longest Budget speeches which was peppered with Urdu, Hindi and Tamil couplets.

All through her 2 hours 17 minutes long maiden budget presentation, Sitharaman did not pause to have a sip of water.

The budget proposals were welcomed with frequent thumping of desks by the treasury benches with Prime Minister Narendra Modi too joining the members.

Speaker Om Birla also lauded Sitharaman for her presentation of the budget as the country's first full-time woman finance minister.

As the finance minister walked into Lok Sabha just before 10:55 am and took her seat, several women MPs walked up to her, wishing her good luck before the speech.

After the pleasantries, a confident Sitharaman took her seat and adjusted the mike.



She also greeted her parents Savitri and Narayanan Sitharaman and her journalist daughter Vangmayi Parkala, who were sitting in the gallery. A native of Tamil Nadu, Sithara-

man received the longest applause when she made certain announcements on rural artisans in Hindi. Her speech was laced with Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit and even Tamil verses. In fact,

she started out with an Urdu couplet from poet Manzoor Hashmi.

"Yakeen ho to koi rasta niklta hai, hawa ki to bhi le kar chirag jalta hai," she said. The couplet means that if you are determined, you can find a way notwithstanding the adversities.

She also read out a line from Pura Nanooru, a Tamil Sangam Era work by Pisirandaiyaar.

Her recitation won praise by most of the MPs from Tamil Nadu, including DMK's A Raja and Dayanidhi Maran. Sitharamana also cited Chanakyaneti and quoted Swami Vivekananda.

There was hardly any thumping of desk, both from the treasury as well as the opposition side, when Sitharaman announced the move to levy 2 per cent TDS on cash withdrawal exceeding Rs 1 crore in a year from a bank account. The move, Sitharaman said, was to discourage the practice of making business payments in cash.

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For every rupee in govt kitty, 68 paise come from taxes



NEW DELHI, JUL 5 (PTI): For every rupee in the government coffer, 68 paise will come from direct and indirect taxes while states' share of taxes and duties is the single-largest expense head accounting for 23 per cent of total spending, budget documents showed.

According to the Budget for 2019-20 presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Goods and Services Tax collections will contribute 19 paise in every rupee revenue.

Corporation tax is the single largest source of income, contributing 21 paise to each rupee earned.

The collection from borrowings and other liabilities will be 20 paise while income tax will yield 16 paise to every rupee collection.

The government intends to earn 9 paise from

non-tax revenue like disinvestment, 8 paise from Union excise duty, 4 paise from customs and 3 paise from non-debt capital receipts in the every rupee collection. On the expenditure side, the biggest outlay component is the states' share of taxes and duties at 23 paise, followed by interest payment at 18 paise.

Allocation for the defence has been kept unchanged at 9 paise.

Expenditure on central sector schemes will be 13 paise, while the allocation for centrally-sponsored schemes will be 9 paise.

The expenditure on the Finance Commission and other transfers is pegged at 7 paise. Subsidies and pension would account for 8 paise and 5 paise, respectively, in each rupee spending.

The government will spend 8 paise on other expenditure.

BJP-Sikkim to reach out to every house during membership drive

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 JUL:

Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim Pradesh president, DB Chauhan, said that the party will reach out to every house across the State with their membership drive starting Saturday.

He asserted that it

was important for office bearers and workers of the party to connect with every voter to strengthen the party position in the State.

He shared that the target of the party was to make at least 100 new members from every booth of each con-

stituency in Sikkim. He mentioned that the party would strengthen its organisation in the State and make a strong base for future elections in the State.

Mr Chauhan accepts that the position of BJP was not strong in the State, and that they

plan to change this by reaching out to every person here during its membership drive.

The membership drive will be launched by Darjeeling Lok Sabha MP, Raju Bista, from the BJP headquarters in Singtam on Saturday.

Railways gets Rs 65,837 crore; focus on passenger comfort, stress on PPP model



NEW DELHI, JULY 5 (PTI):

Railways received a budgetary allocation of Rs 65,837 crore and highest ever outlay for capital expenditure amounting to Rs 1.60 lakh crore in the Budget for the year 2019-20 presented on Friday, which includes a whopping 200 per cent increase in funds for passenger amenities.

Last year, the outlay for the railways was Rs 1.48 lakh crore while the Budget allocation was Rs 55,088 crore. In the interim Budget, the allocation was Rs 1.58 lakh crore.

In the 2019-20 Budget, funds of Rs 7,255 crore have been allocated for construction of new lines, Rs 2,200 crore for gauge conversion, Rs 700 crore for doubling, Rs 6,114.82 crore for rolling stock and Rs 1,750 crore for signalling and telecom. The allocations have remained the same as in the interim budget presented in February.

"This is a budget for 130 crore Indians, rich or poor, for entrepreneurs, for the industry, promoting new work and opportunities," said Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

The allocation for rail passenger comfort this fiscal has gone up to Rs 3,422.57 crore from Rs 1,657 crore in the Budget presented last year by then finance minister Arun Jaitley. In the 2017-2018 financial year, the budgetary allocation for railway passenger amenities was Rs 1,100.90 crore.

Indication of the sharp rise was given in the interim Budget in which the allocation for passenger amenities jumped by 50 per cent from the amount allocated in 2018-2019.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Budget, said the railway infrastructure would need an investment of Rs 50 lakh crores between 2018 and 2030 and proposed that a public private partnership (PPP) be used to unleash faster development and delivery of passenger freight services for railway projects to boost connectivity.

"Railways will be

encouraged to invest in suburban railways through special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and enhance metro rail network through PPPs," she said.

Government envisions using rivers for cargo transportation, which will also decongest roads and railways, Sitharaman said.

Goyal said the Rs 50 lakh crore investment in railways that the Finance Minister talked about was needed to modernise stations and build passenger amenities like toilets, waiting rooms and better stations.

"We have drawn up an whole programme. Some of the old projects like 100 per cent electrification, advanced signalling, station development was already there. Now, we have to worked out how to create additional capacities, so that our modal share of freight can go up, the cost of logistics start coming down and our passengers along with good amenities get more and more avenues to travel by trains to reach their preferred destination.

"All this will entail more doubling, tripling, new dedicated freight corridors, some semi high speed freight corridors, very large gamut of investments in different sectors, regional connectivity, connectivity to aspirational districts. We have worked this out both through government expenditure and through public-private partnership," he said.

Sitharaman in her speech said that given the capital expenditure outlays of the railways are around Rs 1.5 to Rs 1.6 lakh crores per annum, completing even all sanctioned projects would take decades. She proposed the use of PPP model to unleash faster development and completion of tracks, rolling stock manufacturing and delivery of passenger freight services.

"Wherever there are opportunities and viability of attracting more investments and better services for the passengers, we will keep an open mind. The passengers have a right to bet-

ter services. We are open to it.

"If there are economically viable projects and people are willing to invest in them, then, why not. For example, if Coal India opened a new mine and they need a railway line and a siding. Why should railways invest in it? Coal India need it to move their coal, so they can invest in it. We can co-invest in them. Whenever there are opportunities which are viable we should have an open mind," Goyal said.

The Finance Minister said railway stations modernisation will also be launched this year.

However, what will remain the Railways' major headache would be its revenue expenditure which includes an estimated salary payout of Rs 86,554.31 crore, about Rs 14,000 crore more than last year.

The Budget estimates also allocated Rs 267.64 crore for Nirbhaya Fund, including provision of Rs 250 crore for Integrated Emergency Response Management System (IERM) (Video Surveillance System), and Rs

17.64 crore for Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.

Estimates under Gross Traffic Receipts for the year 2019-20 have been placed at Rs 2,16,675 crore, an increase of Rs 19,961 crore over the revised estimates 2018-19.

The railway minister also said that the national transporter will invest in creating metro coaches and stock, showing confidence in its manufacturing units, which have produced state of the art coaches like in Train18 and is in the process of manufacturing Train20.

"We are not selling off government assets. Everybody's jobs will be protected. Like we have IRCON, RITES, they are all corporatised government companies," he said, amidst disquiet in its production units about the railways' proposal to hive them off as one corporate entity.

In fact the Budget allocation for rolling stock has increased from Rs 3,724.93 crore in 2018-2019 to Rs 6,114.82 in 2019-2020 - which was announced in the interim Budget.

Gangtok to host...

has already met the Governor and the Chief Minister regarding the event and received positive response from them.

He also thanked the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Sikkim Football Association, Sonam Delek, North East Taxi, Press Club of Sikkim, Positude, OMAS and others for their support.

Mr Chettri informed that FPAI president, Renndey Singh, Indian national team skipper, Sunil Chettri and other Indian international and professional footballers of the country were likely to come to Sikkim for this event.

"We are trying to promote sporting events to encourage youth and this is also a good platform for young footballers to see their icons and favourite footballers in the State," he pointed out.

Aakraman FC...

sharing of knowledge and experiences and motivation.

Registration for the camp is already underway and will continue till the morning of the first day of the camp. Interested persons can contact Akraman FC at 7406741887 / 8130662374/ 7029631869 for registration.

About the club, Sikkim Aakraman FC vice-president Karma Phintso Wangdi informed that Sikkim Aakraman FC was started by likeminded ex-students of TNA in 2010 and has already won many tournaments within and outside the State.

He shared that the next target of the club was to play in the I-League. He mentioned that the club has also been preparing to play the upcoming Sikkim Premier Division League 2019 and has already signed up many players.

A Sikkim Aakraman FC member, Tanam Subba, further informed that the club was also involved in different social works and had recently cleaned the new STNM Hospital complex.

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Agricultural scientists...

backdrop of climate change, rapid urbanisation, increase in population and shrinking area under cultivation around the world, he added.

The Governor further mentioned about the challenges posed by climate change, deteriorating soil quality, decreasing level of water for farming, change in cropping patterns and productivity. He stressed that only genetic engineering and next generation sequencing will ensure the sustainability of agriculture and to that effect, entire human kind and called for serious effort on the part of Agricultural Scientists and policy makers to chart future course of action.

The Governor, while reminding all the eminent scientists and participants about the vow of doubling farmers' income by 2022 taken by the country, stated that the greater responsibility lies with the agricultural scientists to accomplish this mission alongside farmers and policy makers.

He hailed the initiative as a futuristic one and expressed its positive outcome for time bound implementation of agenda and points of action that will be charted by the workshop towards sustainability of agriculture and food security.

Sitharaman delivers...

While the treasury benches were full, several seats in the opposition remained vacant. The significant absentees included the father-son duo of Mulayam and Akhilesh Singh Yadav. The gallery reserved for Rajya Sabha was almost full. Among those present from the Upper House in the gallery were D Raja, Kumar Ketkar, Narendra Jadhav, K Alphonso, Majeed Memon and Swapna Dasgupta.

A few foreign dignitaries were seen in the visitors' gallery. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who arrived in the House a couple of minutes after Sitharaman started her speech, was seen frequently checking his phone. His mother and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi was sitting next to him in the front row and left a few minutes before the budget speech concluded.

Sonia left behind her small red purse with embroidery work, which was picked by Rahul after the House was adjourned.

The husband-wife duo of Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, Maneka Gandhi and her son Varun Gandhi, actress and Mathura MP Hema Malini and her stepson Sunny Deol were among the members present in the House.

LJP leader and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan and his son Chirag were also present.

Karti Chidambaram, Nakulnath and Gaurav Gogoi, sons of senior Congress Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Kamal Nath and Tarun Gogoi respectively, were seen sitting together in the House.

**~ SummitTIMES ~
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URGENTLY REQUIRED:
Urgent Recruitment for a waiter with atleast 3 years experience and one kitchen helper. Contact: Hotel Paramount, Dentam, West Sikkim- 9735909625 / 8348285444

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

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

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

Four & half Storied building on SALE, behind Hotel Agarwal at Pani House, Gangtok, East Sikkim. Interested parties may also buy flats - 2 flats - 1650 sq.ft, 1 Flat - 1186 sq.ft & 1 Flat on top (1 & half)- 3000 sq.ft. Contact: -9434751150

GATC to rock Nepal this weekend



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 05 JUL:**

Girish and The Chronicles are currently touring Nepal performing at various locations. The band will be performing at Lord of The Drinks in Thamel on 06 July, which will be followed by a trip to Pokhara to perform at AURA bar and lounge on 07 July.

It is informed that the tour organisers are in talks with the band

for a possible third performance.

A press release mentions that the frontman of the band, Girish is visiting the place after more than 10 years.

“About 10 years ago Girish used to roam the streets of Thamel with his band Revolving Barrel and occasionally jam with his brothers from Cobweb, Strings and many other musician friends from the promi-

nent bands in clubs and bars. During his year-long stay in the capital, he made friends with a lot of musicians from the scene,” the release informs.

Girish recalls, “I used to live in Kathmandu and perform at some of the venues out there during the years 2008 and 2009, where I began my real journey as a musician. Thamel used to be a Rock ‘n Roll par-

adise with every venue hosting awesome bands and a crazy crowd all over the place. Such beautiful memories I have! I’m really excited to visit the place with GATC this time. We often receive messages from fans out there, appreciating our music and asking us, as to when we would visit the place. I guess it’s finally happening!”, said the frontman.

The band will be per-

forming their singles and songs from their first album, including their latest single, “Rock the Highway”. They are also known to belt out some classics of the ‘70s and ‘80s era, which might be in the list.

Girish and The Chronicles is an Indian Hard rock/Melodic Rock/ Heavy Metal band from Gangtok, Sikkim, formed in 2009, by vocalist Girish Pradhan.

Mixed reactions on budget proposals from Bengal Inc

KOLKATA, JULY 5 (PTI): The Union Budget for the current fiscal has evoked mixed reaction from industrialists of West Bengal on Friday with one hailing it for laying the “roadmap for a new India” and one criticising the same for lacking direction towards employment generation.

“This budget lays the roadmap for a new India, for a modern India based on inclusiveness and development,” RP Sanjiv Goenka Group Chairman Sanjiv Goenka said. “One nation one grid is a new power tariff policy.

Sadak Yojana, Har Ghar Jal Yojana are brilliant moves aimed for the common man,” he attended. On the other hand CII Bengal chapter senior member Dipankar Chatterjee said the budget lacks direction in employment generation and rejuvenation of the economy, including in the ‘Make in India’ programme.

He said it needs to be seen how announcements which are likely to have positive implications are rolled out.

Emami Ltd Director Aditya V Agarwal said the budget augurs well for


the cement industry with a focus on infrastructure.

“Levy of custom duty of 10 per cent on imported newsprint, uncoated and lightly coated paper will boost the domestic industry and create a level playing field. Levy of 7.5 per cent duty on import of palm oil by-products will provide some respite to the domestic refining industry,” he said.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Indrajit Sen viewed the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's proposals as an “exercise in pragmatism” towards a USD five trillion economy by 2024.

The budget pledges structural reforms and focuses on infrastructure, employment generation and Digital India for building a USD 3 trillion economy by 2019-20, Indian Chamber of Commerce said in a statement.

Terming the budget as a “positive approach” Bharat Chamber of Commerce President Sitaram Sharma said the proposal for public private partnership (PPP) in railway tracks and rolling stocks is “very timely”.



RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

GANGTOK

Memo No. 351/RM&DD/MGNREGA/19-20

Dated: 04/07/2019

EXTENSION OF DATE OF TENDER SUBMISSION
(NIT Reference no.286/RM&DD/
MGNREGA/19-20 dated 21/6/2019)


With reference to above tender notice published in the Sikkim Herald/Sikkim Express and Summit Times dated 24th & 26th June 2019 for supply of materials for MGNREGA for the year 2019-20, the date for submission of tender has been extended to 15/7/2019 and will be opened on 16/7/2019 at 2 pm at the respective BDO Offices. All other terms and conditions except last date of submission of tender shall remain un-altered.

Sd/-

Sr.Accounts Officer- MGNREGA
RM&DD, Gangtok.

R.O No. 81/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Dated 4.7.19



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Department of Food Security & Agriculture Development

SAMETI, SIKKIM

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for Monthly News Letters (2019-20) and Annual Calendar 2020

The details are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quantity	Remarks
01.	SAMETI Monthly Newsletter (2019-20)	1000 copies (English 500 copies and Nepali 500 copies)/	Including English to Nepali translation Compose or Typing, Design and Editing, Size: 8x5 x 10.63 inches. No of Pages : 8 -12 pages. Paper Quality: Art Paper 170 GSM Four Color Printing Centre Stitching/Binding.
02.	SAMETI Annual Wall Calendar-2020	Approximately 5000 nos.	Size 19.5 x 29.5 inches Paper Quality : Art Paper 130 GSM Four Color Printing Both side Mounting Including English to Nepali Translation Composing, Typing, Designing and Editing.

Terms and Conditions

01. Sealed quotations may be submitted (Separate Quotation for Newsletter and Separate Quotation for Annual Calendar 2020) to the office of the State Nodal Officer- Extension Reforms, SAMETI, State Agriculture Management Extension and Training Institute, Tadong, Below Convoy Ground, ICARComplex between10:00 A.M. to 03:00 P.M. w.e.f 04.07.2019 to 09.07.2019.

02. The date of opening of the tenders will be 11th July 2019 at 11:00 A.M. at the Office of the State Nodal Officer-Extension Reforms, SAMETI, State Agriculture Management Extension and Training Institute, FS &ADD, Govt. of Sikkim, ICAR Complex, Below Convey Ground, Tadong in presence of the Tender Opening Committee and their representative of the interested firm/ tenderers.

03. Following documents should be submitted along with the quotations:
a. Sikkim Subject or COI of the Owner/Proprietor.
b. Valid Trade License.
c. Firm Registration Certificate.
d. GST Registration Certificate.
e. Professional/Sales/Tax Clearance Certificate.

04. The rates should be F.O.R destinations and inclusive of packing and forwarding charge.

05. If the party does not meet any of the required conditions mentioned above, their quotation will be reject outright.

06. Draft of the Monthly Newsletter should be shown to the department and approval in writing should be obtained before the same is sent for the final printing.

07. The Tender Committee reserves the full right to accept or reject any quotations/tenders without assigning any reason or reasons.

08. Delivery of the Monthly Newsletter should be within 10 days from the receipt of matters from the office, every month.

09. A sample copy of the Monthly Newsletter and Annual Calendar 2019 can be obtained from the SAMETI Office, TAdong, during office hour.

Sd/-

Mrs Asha Lama

State Nodal Officer- Extension Reforms,
SAMETI, FS & ADD
Govt of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 79/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date: 03.07.2019

National Sports Education Board only new aspect of Sports Budget

NEW DELHI, JUL 5 (PTI): Widening the scope of its flagship ‘Khelo India’ program, the Government on Friday announced the setting up of a National Sports Education Board (NSEB) in the first Budget of its second term but did not change the interim allocations set aside for sports.

The allocations from the interim Budget presented by the then Finance Minister Piyush Goyal in February earlier this year were left untouched in the full budget presented by Nirmala Sitharaman here.

“Khelo India Scheme, launched in October 2017, has created awareness for sports as an integral part of wellness throughout the country,” she said in her budget speech. “The government

is committed to expand Khelo India scheme and provide all necessary financial support. To popularise sports at all levels, a National Sports Education Board for development of sportspersons will be set up under Khelo India Scheme.”

The Sports and Youth Affairs Ministry had got a substantial raise of Rs 214.2 crore in the interim budget presented in February. The allocation was raised from last year’s Rs 2002.72 to Rs 2216.92 crore.


The allocation to the Sports Authority of India was increased by Rs 55 crore to Rs 450 crore. The SAI is the nodal organisation to manage nationals camps, provide equipment and other logistics to the country’s sportspersons.

The Khelo India National Programme for Development of Sports had also got a hike of Rs 50.31 crore in the interim budget, going up from Rs 550.69 crore to Rs 601 crore. Besides, the allocation for NSDF has increased from Rs 2 crore to Rs 70 crore.

The incentive fund for the sportspersons was also raised from Rs 63 crore to Rs 89 crore.

However, the assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) was slashed slightly from Rs 245.13 crore to Rs 245 crore.

The overall allocation for encouragement and awards to sportspersons was increased by Rs 94.07 crore. The previous allocation stood at Rs 316.93 crore and will now be Rs 411 crore.



PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

TADONG, GANGTOK, EAST SIKKIM

RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Application are invited from the local eligible Schedule Tribe (Limboo/Tamang) Women candidates for filling up of 01(one) post of Driver in the Level – 6 of Revised Pay Matrix through Direct Recruitment in the Printing and Stationery Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok. However, during the period of Probation/Apprenticeship/Training, pay shall by governed by Notification No.489/GEN/DOP dated: 31.10.2011.

01. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR THE POST OF DRIVER:

(1) Minimum Education Qualification	Class VII Passed from a recognized board. However, the School certificate should contain the date of birth of the applicant.		
(2) Other requisites	(a) the applicant should possess a valid Driving License for Light Motor (T/NT) category of vehicle issued by the Motor Vehicle Division of Transport Department as specified in the Central Motor Vehicle Act. 1988. (b) Candidate must be in possession of Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification (COI). (c) Should have valid Local Employment Card. (d) Should be in possession of Caste Category Certificate. (e) No Objection Certificate from the Appointing Authority/Head of Department in case of employed candidate(s).		
(3) Age	In terms of Notification No. M(3)/ (55)/GEN/ DOP/PT-III dated: 03/07/2017.		
(4) Reservation	Category	Rooster Point(s)	No of post.
	Scheduled Tribe(Women) (Limboo/Tamang)	21	01

I) PART- A = 80 Marks.

1. Daily routine and check up the vehicle before starting Engine.

2. Should have the knowledge of the various components and important Assemblies of Engine/Gearbox etc.

3. Daily writing of Vehicle log book.

4. Should have the knowledge to differentiate between petrol and diesel engine.

5. Knowledge of Traffic signal and rules.

PART-B = 10 Marks

1) Letter writing (two types) = 10 Marks

2) General Knowledge (National Importance) = 10 Marks

TOTAL MARKS = 100 (One hundred)

a) Persons interested to apply for the post should submit their applications in the prescribed form, which is obtainable from the office of Under Secretary of Printing and Stationery Department on all working days between 11 am to 3 pm w.e.f 19/08/19 to 30/08/19 on production of Bank Receipt of Rs.100/- (Rupees one hundred) only which should be credited to the Head' 0058-200 other receipt'. The amount so deposited shall not be refunded or adjusted against any other purpose.

b) Applications complete in all respects should reach the Office of the Under Secretary (Adm.), Printing and Stationery Department on or before 30/08/19 by 3 p.m. No application thereafter shall be accepted. Incomplete application shall summarily be rejected.

c) Date and Venue of written examination will be intimated in due course through local news papers and will also be displayed on the notice board of the department.

d) No TA/DA is admissible for attending the exams/interview.

Sd/-

Secretary

Printing & Stationery Department.

RO. No. 80/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date: 04.7.19

Allow Local Adaptations of Centralized Models

The top-down model needs tweaking to deliver better

Given the energy with which Sikkim is hosting programmes under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme and will soon be chanting the water conservation mantra ad nauseam, it would appear that the State has a major problem when it comes to ensuring access and care for its daughters or has suddenly been beset by the national problem of falling water tables.

Sikkim has many problems, some even gender related and the water woes in some areas have now been perennial, but letting the girl child be born, survive and receive an education is not one of them; and truly, neither is water beyond the management of it. These are important issues no doubt if the national scenario is taken into consideration, but in a State with no reported case of female infanticide and where no one walks kilometers to access murky water, one might wonder at the necessity of such elaborate events and robust funding on what, let us accept it, is a redundant issue as far as Sikkim is concerned. The government agencies too realize this awkward emphasis and do, it appears, try and work around it to ensure that the earmarked funds end up coming to some use. So one has ingenious ways in which the BB-BP funds were utilized. Or the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan obsession in what is the country's first Nirmal Rajya!

This is shared here to highlight the disconnectedness with which centralized planning looks out for the country. India's daughters, by and large, need saving and access to education, but that is not necessarily the case everywhere that the programme is being force-fed. In areas like Sikkim, it could have easily been ratcheted up some notches to speak more about gender equality, empowerment and rights; it could have moved beyond the unimaginatively routine official events and roped in activists and women leaders to push the envelope of gender rights a little further. But that did not happen. May be its time will come too, but this reference was made not to speak only about the BB-BP initiative, and is cited here to highlight how the pressures of implementing imported models saps everyone of the energy to work out local solutions for local issues. For example, while a girl-child's right to live is not threatened in Sikkim, her right to education often gets compromised; securing the best education for the daughters when a choice has to be made is quite often sidestepped. It is in this direction that Sikkim's energies need to be focused more and it would be unfortunate if the BB-BP was deployed only to reinforce an existing access to literacy. In that sense, it would helped more if centralized planning provided the overall ideology and allowed local adaptations to build on them.

Something on these lines was attempted a few years ago when Delhi announced that it was looking at releasing funds directly to the gram panchayats based on developmental agendas set up by these micro units in line with the developmental push. That said, the decentralisation process already underway in some states, including Sikkim, will achieve little if the decentralised components are not allowed the freedom to change, adapt and modulate projects and schemes to suit the needs, aspirations and ground realities of the areas they represent. Agreed, if this happens, the control that central agencies have over line organisations will weaken, but that is how things should be when one is decentralizing anyways. The parent body should decide policy and leave the implementation to the grassroots level workers who understand the severity of the problems and know which solutions will work. They are not handicapped for initiative or skill, it is only access to funds that limits their effectiveness; as does a more trusting environment which is why they are straitjacketed with guidelines and instructions. Give them the funds and an overarching policy framework to work under and see how everything that the top-down model failed to deliver can actually be rather easily achieved.

How the Dalai Lama is chosen and why China wants to appoint its own

BROOKE SCHEDNECK
theconversation.com

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the spiritual leader of Tibet, is turning 84 on July 6. With his advancing age, the question of who will succeed him, has become more pressing.

Winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize and one of the most recognizable faces of Buddhism, the Dalai Lama is an important figure bringing Buddhist teachings to the international community.

The successor to the Dalai Lama is traditionally located by senior monastic disciples, based on spiritual signs and visions. In 2011, however, the Chinese foreign ministry declared that only the government in Beijing can appoint the next Dalai Lama and no recognition should be given to any other succession candidate.

As a scholar of transnational Buddhism, I have studied Buddhism and its refashioning in the context of globalization.

The Dalai Lama's succession today is not just a religious issue, but a political one as well. Here's how the Dalai Lama is chosen.

THE DALAI LAMAS IN TIBETAN BUDDHISM

The Dalai Lama is a highly influential figure.

All of the Dalai Lamas are thought to be manifestations of the bodhisattva of compassion, Avalokitesvara. The 14 generations of Dalai Lamas, spanning six centuries, are linked through their acts of compassion.

For Buddhists, the ultimate goal is enlightenment, or "nirvana" – a liberation from the cycle of birth and death. East Asian and Tibetan Buddhists, as part of the Mahayana sect, believe bodhisattvas have reached this highest realization.

Furthermore, Mahayana Buddhists believe bodhisattvas choose to be reborn, to experience the pain and suffering of the world, in order to help other beings attain enlightenment.

Tibetan Buddhism has developed this idea of the bodhisattva further into identified lineages of rebirths called "tulkus." Any person who is believed to be a rebirth of a previous teacher, master, or leader, is considered a tulku. Tibetan Buddhism has hundreds, if not thousands of such lineages, but the most respected and well-known is the Dalai Lama.

LOCATING THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

The current Dalai Lama was enthroned when he was 4 ½ years old and renamed Tenzin Gyatso.

The search for him began soon after the 13th Dalai Lama died. Disciples closest to the Dalai Lama set to identify signs indicating the location of his rebirth.

There are usually predictions about where and when a Dalai Lama will be reborn, but further tests and signs are required to ensure the proper child is found.

In the case of the 13th Dalai Lama, after his death, his body lay facing south. However, after a few days his head had tilted to the east, and a fungus, which was viewed as unusual, appeared on the northeastern side of the shrine containing the body. This was interpreted to mean that the next Dalai Lama could have been born somewhere in the northeastern part of Tibet.

Disciples also checked Lhamoi Latso, a lake that is traditionally used to see visions of the location of the Dalai Lama's rebirth.

The district of Dokham, which is in the northeast of Tibet, matched all of these signs. A 2-year-old boy, named Lhamo Dhondup, was just the right age for a reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama, based on the time of his death.

When the search party, consisting of the 13th Dalai Lama's closest monastic attendants, arrived at his house, there were immediate signs that this was the one they were looking for.

DALAI LAMA MEMOIRS

The 14th Dalai Lama recounts in his memoirs about his early life that he remembered recognizing one of the monks in the search party, even though he was dressed as a servant. The search party did not show who they were to the villagers, to prevent any manipulation of the process.

As a little boy, he remembers asking for the rosary beads the monk wore around his neck. These beads were previously owned by the 13th Dalai Lama. After this meeting, the search party came back again to test the young boy with further objects of the previous Dalai Lama. He was able to correctly choose all items including a drum used for rituals and walking stick.

CHINA AND DALAI LAMA

Today the selection process for the next Dalai

Lama remains uncertain.

In 1950 China's communist government invaded Tibet. The Dalai Lama fled in 1959 and set up a government in exile.

The Dalai Lama is revered by Tibetan people and his exile has created anger inside Tibet. China's threats to manipulate the selection process is believed to be a way to impose control on the Tibetan people.

In 1995, the Chinese government caused the disappearance of the Dalai Lama's choice for the successor of the Panchen Lama, the second most important tulku lineage in Tibetan Buddhism, when he was 6 years old. The Chinese government appointed their own Panchen Lama.

China also wants to appoint its own Dalai Lama. But it is important to Tibetan Buddhists that they are in charge of the selection process.

FUTURE OPTIONS

Because of the threat from China, the 14th Dalai Lama has made a number of statements that would make it difficult for a Chinese appointed 15th Dalai Lama to be seen as legitimate.

For example, he has stated that the institution of the Dalai Lama might not be needed any more. However, he has also said it was up to the people if they wanted to preserve this aspect of Tibetan Buddhism and continue the Dalai Lama lineage.

Another option the Dalai Lama has proposed would be for him to appoint his reincarnation before he dies. In this scenario, the Dalai Lama would transfer his spiritual realization to the successor. A third alternative Tenzin Gyatso has stated is that if he dies outside of Tibet, his reincarnation would be located abroad, most likely India.

Lastly, he has mentioned the possibility of being reborn as a woman, but added that he would have to be a very beautiful woman. He believes that appearance is important in transmitting Buddhist teachings.

The Dalai Lama is confident that no one would trust the Chinese government's choice. In April 2019, U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner said at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Asia Subcommittee that the Congress would not recognize a Dalai Lama chosen by the Chinese government.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Rhodes College]



‘Havana syndrome’ symptoms of diplomats in Cuba are not mass hysteria

EDWARD SHORTER
theconversation.com

It is a disservice to the men and women of the United States and Canadian diplomatic services to suggest they are suffering from a "mass psychogenic illness" arising from their tenure in Havana.

In the autumn of 2016, many members of the U.S. mission in Cuba began to develop "symptoms of dizziness, ear pain and tinnitus" — as physicians who investigated them reported — after perceiving high frequency noise and cerebral pressure. In the late winter of 2017, 14 members of the Canadian legation began developing similar symptoms.

The mysterious "Havana syndrome" has since been a subject of intense speculation. The question is whether the victims are suffering from a psychogenic disorder arising in the mind or a somatogenic disorder arising from a physical disorder of brain tissue itself. Mass psychogenic illness is simply a new term for what used to be called "epidemic hysteria."

Do these diplomats have hysteria, now being called "Havana Syn-

drome?" Or do they have a lesion, caused by some kind of a device intended to inflict injury?

VICTIMS SUFFERED TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

A number of things are wrong with the "psychogenesis" (hysteria) argument. Most notably, symptoms of hysteria are caused by the action of the mind.

A study led by Dr. Michael E Hoffer, a neuro-otologist at the University of Miami, however, reported problems with the central vestibular system (inner ear) in 36 per cent of American diplomats and their families affected by Havana syndrome.

Lesions in this part of the auditory apparatus would be organic. Inner ear damage is not psychogenic and means that the tissues of the inner ear itself have sustained some kind of assault.

The affected Canadians who were evacuated to the University of Miami, and who then subsequently went to the University of Pennsylvania for similar examinations, were reportedly diagnosed with "traumatic brain injuries akin to concussions."

It is wrong to see these diplomats and their families as fitting any kind

of psychogenic profile. In 1974 psychiatrist François Sirois at Laval University analyzed 70 outbreaks of "epidemic hysteria," both historical and present-day. Of the 70, 69 occurred in girls and young women. Only one of the 70 — the koro epidemic in Singapore in the 1960s — affected males only. (Koro is the delusional belief that your sex organs are retracting inside your body.)

Historically, "hysteria" — meaning physical symptoms "of unexplained origin" — was associated more with women than men. This is because it has been women who, traditionally, have borne the brunt of loss and suffering, and often dealt with these wrenching emotions by developing bodily symptoms.

Thinking that these middle-aged men and women in the U.S. and Canadian embassies in Havana could have been suffering from "mass psychogenic illness" simply defies belief.

ENDOMETRIOSIS ONCE DIAGNOSED AS HYSTERIA

It is wrong to imagine that their symptoms could have some kind of psychological mechanism. The mechanism of psychogenesis/hysteria

is suggestion. For example, all the schoolgirls fall to the ground vomiting at recess because they have been suggested into their symptoms.

The loss of balance, sensations of pressure inside their brains and so forth that these diplomats report are no more psychological than mumps.

"Stress" has been invoked as the psychological motor. Indeed these diplomats and their families are under stress. But so is everyone else. Stress is a constant in modern life. Schoolteachers in inner city schools around the globe are also under stress, but they don't develop this illness of the diplomats.

What caused these lesions? It is anybody's guess. But medicine has a long history of assuming psychogenesis when occult organic disease is at play. Multiple sclerosis in women, for example was once considered to be a form of hysteria.

Similarly, before the discovery of endometriosis, deep pelvic pain in women was diagnosed as hysteria. Let's not make this mistake again.

[the writer is Jason A Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Toronto]

Sitharaman discards briefcase, carries 'bahi-khata' for budget

NEW DELHI, JUL 5 (PTI): Breaking the age-old tradition, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday entered Parliament carrying Budget documents in a red 'bahi khata' (traditional Indian ledger) instead of a briefcase used by her predecessors.

The word 'budget' has its origin in the French word Bougette, which means leather briefcase. Traditionally, Budget documents -- which primarily include the minister's speech copy, finance bill and some other papers related to revenue receipt and expenditure -- were carried in a brown briefcase, a legacy passed on by the British.

India's Budget briefcase is a copy of the 'Gladstone Box' that is used in the British budget.

In Britain, one Budget briefcase is passed on from one finance minister to another but in India, different finance ministers have carried different cases.

Sitharaman's predecessor Arun Jaitley carried a tan-brown coloured briefcase in 2018.

"I thought it was better we move out from British handhold. And I thought it was good enough to do something on our own. It was easier for me to carry also and very Indian," she said in the customary briefing post Budget presentation.

Sitharaman, the first



full-time woman finance minister of the country, carried the budget documents draped in red silk cloth with the national emblem and keyhole.

Some of the Indian parliamentary traditions have their roots in the colonial legacy. Even after independence, the Budget for decades was presented at 5 pm, which was seen as better synced with local time in England.

During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, the then finance minister Yashwant Sinha broke this colonial tradition and started Budget presentation in the morning.

Since then all governments have been

presenting the budget at 11 am.

Two years back, the tradition of presenting the budget on the last day of February too was done away with and moved forward to February 1 to allow for the process of parliamentary approvals to be completed for the new fiscal began on April 1.

The 'Gladstone Box' came into prominence after the then British budget chief William E Gladstone in 1860 used a red suitcase with Queen's monogram embossed in gold to carry his bundle of papers. Because his speeches were extraordinarily long and needed a briefcase to carry the pa-

pers, the briefcase came to be known as 'Gladstone Box'.

The original Gladstone after becoming shabby was officially retired from service in 2010.

On Budget day, the Indian finance minister poses with the Budget briefcase outside Parliament just was Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer poses with his suitcase in front of 11 Downing Street before the Budget speech.

Sitharaman too posed for camera persons before entering Parliament for the Budget presentation.

Commenting on the shift from a briefcase

to bahi-khata, Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian said the government is following "Indian tradition."

"It is in Indian tradition. It symbolises our departure from the slavery of Western thought. It is not a Budget, but a Bahi-Khata (ledger)," he added.

India's first finance minister RN Shanmukham Chetty carried a leather portfolio to present the first Budget in 1947.

From 1970 onwards, finance ministers started carrying a hardbound briefcase but unlike Britain, their shape and colours varied.

Arunachal CM stresses on streamlining land allotment & acquisition process

ITANAGAR, JUL 5 (PTI): Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has stressed on streamlining the land allotment and land acquisition process in the state.

He told officials of the Land Management department to increase revenue so that it could emerge as one of the leading revenue generating department of the state government, an official release said Thursday.

The chief minister sought the detailed target and plans of the department while holding a review meeting with the officials of the Land Management department.

"Arunachal Pradesh with its huge geographical area has enough potential to tap its land resources for revenue generation," he said.

The Land Management department has projected a target reve-

nue of Rs 50 crore this year from Rs 12 crore generated last year.

Khandu stressed on speeding up the process of converting Land Possession Certificates (LPCs) to RoRs (Right of Record) so that revenue from land allotments is enhanced optimally.

The officers informed that the state policy in this regard has already been approved and software as well as equipments to digitalize land records is in place. Soon the process of conversion would be undertaken by the respective district administrations, it said. "Once all records are digitalized and conversion of LPCs to RoRs which, is equivalent to land allotment, is completed, revenue generation of the department would shoot up," the officers said.

They informed that almost 1700 new land

allotments have been given after the government decision on conversion of LPCs to RoRs, about 400 of which is in the capital complex.

Rest are in various stages of process, they added. The Land Management department officers informed the chief minister that the land required for the Holongi Airport has been acquired and handed over to Airports Authority of India.

Also except for one section in Lower Subansiri district, land acquisition for the Trans Arunachal Highway is almost complete in other parts of the state.

The department sought attention of the government towards the issue of non-uniformity in land acquisition rates across the state, which it said needs to be rationalized to make easy acquisition processes.

Mamata accuses Centre of placing misleading reports in Parliament

KOLKATA, JUL 5 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit out at the BJP-led central government on Friday for pursuing a "political agenda" and accused it of placing misleading reports in Parliament on the issue of madrasas being used for radicalisation and recruitment activities in two districts of the state.

Instead of the report given by the state on the matter, the Centre placed a "report of its own in Parliament", the chief minister said. "When specific questions are asked in Parliament, the Centre seeks a reply from the state government on those issues.

"On June 28, we were asked whether the students in the madrasas in the bordering districts were being radicalised. We gave a reply that such a question did not arise.

But they (Centre) did not place our report (in Parliament), rather gave a reply of their own," the Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief said in the Assembly.

She also placed the report on the madrasas of the state in the House.

"Anti-socials are anti-socials, they should not be related with any religion. A thief is a thief. If an incident happens, the government will take action. The BJP is trying to politicise everything. They are sending letters of (central) agencies to every department. They are threatening everybody," Banerjee said.

The Centre had conveyed its concern to the West Bengal government over the recent political violence in the state, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said on Tuesday.

He had added that information was received about a number of incidents of violence before, during and after the general election, resulting in deaths and injuries to several people, including political workers, in West Bengal.

"Concern on the issue was shared by the government with the state government and an advisory was issued on June 9, 2019 asking the state government to maintain law and order, peace and public tranquillity in the state," he had said replying to a written question in Parliament.

The Union minister had also said there were inputs regarding the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh using certain madrasas in Burdwan and Murshidabad districts of the state for radicalisation and recruitment activities.

Kashyap, Sourabh enter quarterfinals at Canada Open



CALGARY, JUL 5 (PTI): Indian shuttlers Parupalli Kashyap and Sourabh Verma dished out gritty performances to progress to the men's singles quarterfinals of the USD 75000 Canada Open Super 100 tournament here.

Sixth seed Kashyap, a former Commonwealth Games champion, fought for an hour and 24 minutes before quelling a stiff challenge from China's Ren Peng Bo 23-21 21-23 21-19, while reigning national champion Sourabh eked out a 21-13 15-21 21-15 win over another Chinese Sun Fei Xiang.

Kashyap, who had reached the semifinals of

India Open, will take on France's Lucas Claerbout while Sourabh will lock horns with Li Shi Feng of China next.

"Tough win today .. Happy to get through to the quarters," Kashyap tweeted after the match.

Sourabh too was happy with his performance.

"Quite happy with my performance today ... executed the strategy well through out the match. Would like to thank amrishshinde for helping me from the sidelines," Sourabh wrote on his twitter handle.

Amrish Shinde, a part of the panel of coaches at the Gopichand academy, has travelled with the team to Canada.

Tripura gets Rs 358 crore from Centre for road projects

AGARTALA, JULY 5 (PTI): The Centre has sanctioned an additional amount of Rs 358 crore for construction of new roads in rural areas of Tripura, an official said Friday.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 15 and had demanded an additional fund of Rs 358

crore for speedy completion of the works, a release issued by the CMO said on Thursday.

"This amount was demanded for completion of long-term projects which were left unfinished in the state. Even though the previous Left Front government did not have funds to spend, they started the

projects. Later on, these projects were left hanging due to lack of funds," the release said

The funds (Rs 358 crore) reached the state treasury on Tuesday, the release said, adding it would help the state government to complete the projects and infrastructure development works.

Man kills daughter to claim insurance money in Nepal



SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, JUL 5 (PTI): A 39-year-old man has been arrested in Nepal for allegedly killing his minor daughter so that he could claim Rs 25 lakh insurance money, police said on Friday.

According to police spokesperson Nabin Karki, Yadav allegedly killed his daughter by throttling her on Monday. The body of the minor was found floating on a pond the following morning.

Ram Kishor Yadav of Maulapur Municipality of Siraha district, strangled his four-year-old daughter Laxmi Kumari Yadav to get Rs 25 lakh insurance money, the police said.

Laxmi was the youngest daughter of Yadav and he got her insured at Prabhu Bank for her bright future.

The investigation shows that Yadav had already paid the first premium of Rs 175,000 to the bank.

Police also said that after Yadav learned from someone that the insurance company would pay double the insurance amount in case of insured person's death within a month of holding policy, he was motivated to take the advantage by killing his own daughter.

Police further revealed that Yadav had frequently been serving jail sentences for different cases time and again from 2001 to 2004.

Elton John adds new London show for 2020

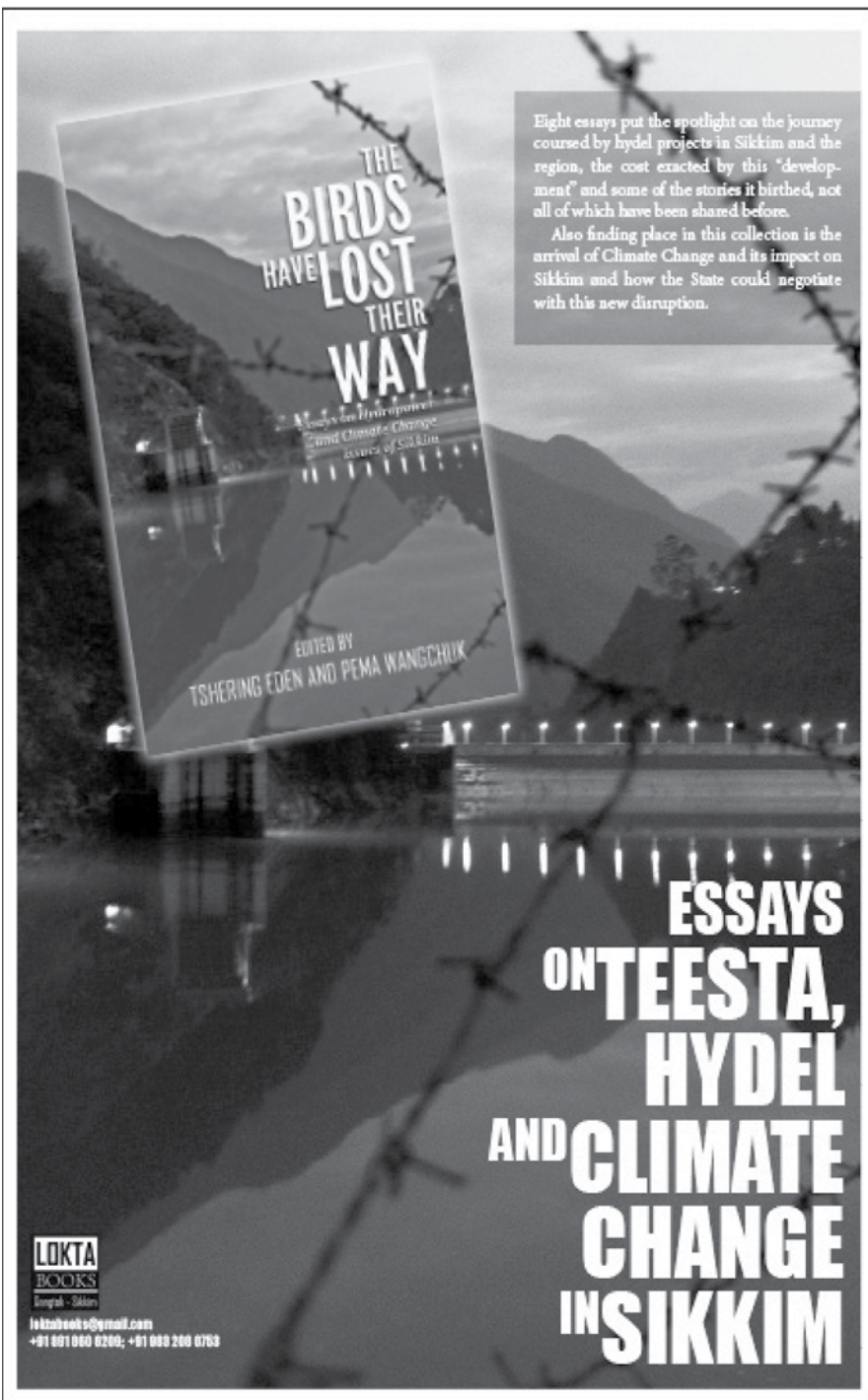
LONDON, JUL 5 (PTI): Music Elton John has announced an additional show in his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour due to public demand.

The "Rocket Man" singer will have another gig at London's The O2 arena on December 2, 2020, reported ContactMusic.

John is already sched-

uled to perform at the 20,000-capacity venue on November 4, 6, and 7, 2020. The Grammy winner will also play there on December dates of 9, 14, and 16 next year.

On Wednesday, he continued on the European leg of the trek at Mez Graz Open Air in Austria.



India seek answers to middle-order puzzle ahead of big semi-final

Kushan Sarkar
Leeds, Jul 5 (PTI): A wobbly middle order has been a cause of concern despite the winning run and India would be desperate for the likes of Mahendra Singh Dhoni to find some form ahead of the semifinal when they take on Sri Lanka in their last preliminary World Cup clash here Saturday.

Already assured of the second spot and a last-four spot, a win against Sri Lanka can take Virat Kohli's men to the top of the points table provided Australia lose their final game against the already ousted South Africa.

So they might have a lot to play for as a pole position and a possible semi-final against a New Zealand team on a downward spiral will be more welcoming than facing a dangerous England which is on an upswing.

The middle-order puzzle has remained unsolved and it has increasingly looked that Indian team management has been heavily dependent on Plan A, which is success from their top-order.

Vice-captain Rohit Sharma, with 544 runs that include record-equalling four tons, has been the stand-out player and skipper Virat Kohli, with five half-centuries and 400 plus aggregate, has also had a good World Cup but per-



haps not exceptional by his standards.

In this backdrop, there cannot be a better opposition than Sri Lanka for Dhoni to check his bat swing at the death overs when Lasith Malinga will be firing in at the block-hole or bowl his variation of slower deliveries.

Sri Lankan off-spinner Dhananjaya de Silva has been pretty economical, going at sub-5 rate in the matches that he has played. If Dhoni gets to play more balls during the middle overs against De Silva and score some runs, it will only boost his confidence.

In all the matches so

far, Dhoni has managed only 47 runs in 81 balls against the spinners, his widely accepted weakness against the slower bowlers during middle overs coming to the fore.

Dimuth Karunaratne may fancy using his left-arm spinner Milinda Siriwardana knowing Dhoni's problems against slow left-arm orthodox bowlers.

No one more than captain Kohli will like his "guiding light" to succeed as his role will be immense should India remain in the competition for the final next Sunday.

But the Sri Lanka game is also one such encounter where Indi-

ans can breathe a bit easy and check out some other combinations, including giving the fiery Ravindra Jadeja, some game time ahead of the last four clash. Jadeja is the only player, apart from the the just joined Mayank Agarwal, who hasn't yet got a game but it is unlikely to happen considering there are too many left-handers in the Lankan line-up.

However, this could prompt Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri to bring back Kedar Jadhav in the middle-order for his off-breaks. But that could be a bit unfair on Dinesh Karthik, who didn't get

to face too many balls against Bangladesh in their last game.

Kohli till now hasn't shown any inclination of pushing Dhoni up the order beyond number five. And it could turn out to be an interesting ploy if the former captain bats at number four, while the power hitters like Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya play their natural game down the order.

Vijay Shankar's replacement Mayank is already here but his best friend KL Rahul, with a couple fifties, has ensured his place at the top of the order alongside Rohit, who would would

be gunning for a fifth World Cup hundred.

Rohit has scored two ODI double hundreds against this attack and it will be intimidating for the likes of Isuru Udana. They will bank on Malin-

ga's intelligence gathered from the Mumbai Indians dressing room to break the 'hitman code'. India's fast bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah (14) and well supported by Mohammed Shami (14 wickets), would have ideally liked some rest before semi-finals. But with the top position on the points charts in line, Kohli may just be tempted to go with at least one of them if not both.

Squads:
India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Dinesh Karthik, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mayank Agarwal, Ravindra Jadeja, Kedar Jadhav.

Sri Lanka: Dimuth Karunaratne (captain), Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Lahiru Thirimanne, Angelo Mathews, Lasith Malinga, Jeevan Mendis, Dhananjaya De Silva, Kasun Rajitha, Isuru Udana, Suranga Lakmal, Milinda Siriwardana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Thisara Perera, Avishka Fernando.
Match Starts at 3 pm.

WI need to follow England's footsteps to build team for 2023 WC: Brathwaite



LEEDS, JUL 5 (PTI): Swash-buckling all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite believes West Indies need to follow in the footsteps of England and rebuild the team over the next four years after failing to make the semi-finals at the ongoing World Cup.

After starting with a bang against Pakistan, West Indies ended their campaign with a 23-run win over minnows Afghanistan to register only their second win in the tournament.

"As a team, we need to regroup. We have some time off, some aching bodies will get time to recuperate and then it's about finding ways and combinations to compete and win series," Brathwaite said.

"Hopefully we can take that winning mentality into the next World Cup. If you look at 2015 and what England did after the World Cup, they have built straight up to the 2019 World Cup and it's paying dividends.

"I don't know off the field what the plans are for the 2023 World Cup but I think it's something we need to look at and build towards that."

West Indies came close to winning against New Zealand when Brathwaite had hit a brilliant century, but fell short by five runs. They also suffered a narrow defeat against Australia.

"There is disappointment in the changing rooms at not making the final four but we're thankful for the good performances," said Brathwaite, who returned with a four-wicket haul at Headingley.

"Sheldon Cottrell had a fantastic tournament and at times like these it's easy to let those things go missing. But as a team we came together, we highlighted

the guys that we thought had good performances and the guys that didn't will take the lessons and come back from it so we can start to win bilateral series leading up to the next World Cup."

Meanwhile, Shai Hope, who was adjudged player-of-the-match for his 77 in West Indies' 23-run win on Thursday, said the tournament was definitely a learning experience for his side after registering just two wins from nine games.

"It was definitely a learning experience, something I will never forget. Playing each game in this format you obviously have to be the better team on the day to progress in the tournament," Hope said.

"Regardless of what happens in any team we have to go out there and play cricket."

Hope too agreed with Brathwaite that it is now time for West Indies to rebuild the team for the next World Cup.

"We've got to improve from this experience, I'm sure we are going to use this is as a platform for the next four years so we can have something stronger and build more momentum," he said.

"In a tournament like this you have to play your best game each game. If you muck up you are basically out of the tournament." Hope, who scored a century in each innings when West Indies defeated England by five wickets in Leeds two years ago, said he loved batting at Headingley.

"Two years ago I had some fun batting and it's just nice to get out and perform again here. I'm not sure what it is, the wicket, the atmosphere. Whatever the case may be, I'm happy to bat here," the wicket-keeper said.

Sudan generals, protesters reach agreement on new ruling body: Mediators

KHARTOUM, JUL 5 (AFP): Sudan's ruling generals and protest leaders reached an agreement on the disputed issue of a new governing body Friday, mediators said, in breakthrough talks aimed at ending the country's months-long political crisis.

"The two sides agreed on establishing a sovereign council with a rotating military and civilian (presidency) for a period of three years or little more," African Union mediator Mohamed El Hacen Lebat told reporters.

The power sharing agreement came after two days of talks that resumed on Wednesday after the previous round of negotiations collapsed in May over who should lead the ruling body -- a civilian or soldier.

Tension between the ruling generals and pro-

test leaders had further soared after a brutal raid on a longstanding protest camp in the capital Khartoum that killed dozens of demonstrators and wounded hundreds on June 3. Both sides also "agreed to have a detailed, transparent, national, independent investigation into all the regrettable violent incidents that the country faced in recent weeks," including the June 3 raid, Lebat said.

The ruling generals had previously rejected calls for an independent investigation from protest group The Alliance for Freedom and Change, and had launched their own enquiry.

The latest round of talks came through after intense mediation by Ethiopia and African Union between the two rival groups.

World will miss Gayle's aura when he finally retires, say WI teammates



LEEDS, JUL 5 (PTI): West Indies cricketers paid glowing tributes to retiring Chris Gayle after he drew curtains on his World Cup career, saying world cricket will badly miss the big-hitting opener's aura when he hangs up his bat later this year. Gayle played the last match of his fifth and final World Cup against Afghanistan here on Thursday. The West Indies legend has decided to end his international career after playing the home series against India next month.

Wicket-keeper batsman Shai Hope said it will be a sad day for world cricket when Gayle finally calls time on his illustrious international career.

"Probably the whole world will miss him when he goes. It's going to be a sad day for cricket," Hope told reporters after West Indies beat Afghanistan by 23 runs in their last outing at the World Cup in England and Wales.

Asked what he would miss most about Gayle, Hope, who was adjudged player-of-the-match for his 92-ball 77, quipped: "Probably sun glasses. There are too many things you can

pick from Chris." Gayle has amassed 1186 runs at a strike-rate of 90.53 and an average of 35.93 in 34 innings across five World Cups. He also took 16 wickets with his part-time off-spin. Paying glorious tribute to Gayle, all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite said he didn't understand the importance of the legendary opener when he initially came into the team.

"I don't think I really understood the magnitude of what Chris Gayle had done for West Indies cricket when I came into the team," he said.

"It's one of my regrets over the course of my short West Indies career but being with him a lot more and sharing a dressing room with him in franchise cricket as well, you get to see the aura he has on and off the field.

"I now really understand what Chris Gayle means, not only for West Indies cricket but for world cricket as well. Whenever he decides to call it quits, world cricket will definitely miss him so from me to Chris, congrats on a fantastic career and congrats on pushing the game of cricket in the way you have.

Love all: how Megan Rapinoe and other gay players are taking sport to a higher level



HANNAH JANE PARKINSON
theGuardian

Women in sport still face a lot of stigma and abuse. One reason for this is the stigma and abuse that women face in general, but added to that is the fact that women in sport are often pegged as lesbians. You'd like to think that women kicking a ball, swinging a bat or hitting a target wouldn't be so political – yet here we are, still trapped in the patriarchy's locker room, engulfed in Lynx Africa fumes.

Recently, however, queer female athletes have proudly come to the fore. This week, Belgian tennis players Alison van Uytvanck and Greet Minnen became the first IRL couple to team up at Wimbledon, and called for more support in the sport for same-sex couples – in particular, saying it would help male players to come out.

We have also had the pleasure of WNBA pro-basketball player Sue Bird's essay on her girlfriend, Megan Rapinoe, AKA the star of the US women's football team. I urge you all to read it, not only because Bird is a brilliant writer, but because it defines #relationshipgoals such as these: "My girlfriend ... was putting American soccer, women's sports, equal pay, gay pride and TRUE LOVE on her back, all at once."

As well as scoring two crucial goals against hosts France, Rapinoe has also managed to annoy Donald Trump and Piers Morgan, simply by being herself – which means that she is doing absolutely everything right (though those two bozos do usually come as a pair). To give you an idea of how successful this Women's World Cup has been, the semi-fi-

nal between the US and England was the most watched British broadcast this year.

The past few months have also seen a defiant Caster Semenya battling the IAAF to continue competing, alongside posting adorable pictures with her wife.

Of course, there have always been queer female athletes (because there have always been queer women). The difference is that in the past, many of them came out only towards the end of their careers, or after they had ended, because of the threat of bigotry, lost sponsorship and even personal safety. Legends such as Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King, for instance, didn't disclose their sexuality for most, or all, of their playing years.

Amélie Mauresmo did come out in 2006 at the height of her fame,

the year she won two Grand Slams and was No 1 in the world rankings. The French player said she never regretted it, despite being called "half a man" by Martina Hingis.

Since then, there has been huge progress for gay women in professional sport. In 2014, while still playing, the former England international and current Manchester United Women's coach, Casey Stoney, came out. And in 2016, Navratilova proposed to her girlfriend on the big screen at the US Open.

There is, however, still much more progress to be made, and even more so in men's sports. But having just arranged to watch England's third place play-off in a Soho pub this Saturday, slap-bang in the middle of London's Pride parade, it is clear the times are changing. Get in.

First charges against Hong Kong anti-government protester

HONG KONG, JUL 5 (AFP): A Hong Kong street artist was charged on Friday with assaulting a police officer and criminal damage, the first prosecution against an anti-government protester since the city was rocked by unprecedented demonstrations.

Sparked by a law that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, the city has witnessed three huge peaceful rallies as well as civil disobedience and violence from a hard core of younger protesters who have besieged the police headquarters, and on Monday stormed and ransacked the city's parliament.

Authorities have vowed to hunt those behind the unrest that has plunged the semi-autonomous city's Beijing-backed government into crisis.

Pun Ho-chiu, 31, appeared in court on Friday over his alleged involvement in the blockade of the city's police headquarters on 21 June.

He was also charged with disorderly behaviour for throwing eggs at police outside the headquarters during the six-hour siege. A



well-known activist nicknamed "Painter" for his street art, Pun was remanded into custody and faces up to ten years in jail if convicted.

Forensic investigators have been combing through the trashed parliament for fingerprint and DNA evidence that might help them uncover which protesters were involved in the breach that left the building wrecked, its walls daubed with slogans such as "HK is not China" and a colonial era flag pinned to the legislature's podium.

Police have yet to re-

lease a tally on how many have been arrested over the month of protests but local media have reported dozens have been detained so far.

The protests present the most severe challenge to Beijing and Hong Kong's leaders since the city's handover to China.

Critics say Beijing has ratcheted up control over the city in recent years, stamping down on dissidents and refusing calls for universal suffrage.

While the current protests were sparked by huge public opposition to the extradition bill they

have since morphed into a broad anti-government movement. City leader Carrie Lam has postponed the legislation but has failed to quell public anger.

Protesters have demanded she withdraw the bill entirely, launch an independent inquiry into police use of tear gas and rubber bullets, and for her to step down.

Since the parliament siege Beijing has vocally thrown its support behind Lam, calling on Hong Kong authorities to pursue all those involved in the ransacking. Multiple university student

groups confirmed they had rejected an approach this week by Lam's administration for closed door talks arguing it was "too little, too late".

The students said they would only agree to talks if the government granted an amnesty to those arrested and held the dialogue in public.

Lam led talks with student leaders during the 2014 pro-democracy Umbrella Movement protests that occupied parts of the city for two months but failed to win any concessions from Beijing.

Bahamas police: 7 Americans killed in helicopter crash

NASSAU (BAHAMAS), JUL 5 (AP): A helicopter carrying seven Americans to Fort Lauderdale, Florida crashed Thursday off Grand Cay island in the Bahamas, killing everyone on board, Bahamian police said.

A statement from the Royal Bahamas Police Force said the helicopter went missing shortly after leaving Big Grand Cay and authorities and local residents later found the crash site two miles off Grand Cay.

Police identified those killed as four wom-

en and three men but did not provide names.

The Register-Herald newspaper in Beckley, West Virginia, quoted Gov. Jim Justice as saying that one of the people killed in the crash was Chris Cline, whom the newspaper described as a "billionaire mining entrepreneur," "coal tycoon" and "benefactor to southern West Virginia."

"West Virginia lost a super star, without any question," the newspaper quoted Justice as saying. "A giving, good man. I

just love him with all my soul. ... As governor, I will tell you we've lost a great West Virginian." Justice told the newspaper he could not yet officially identify anyone else who died in the crash.

Justice's spokesman, Jordan Damron, did not return an email or phone call asking for comment Thursday night to confirm his statements.

Bahamian police did not provide a cause of the crash but said an investigation with civil aviation authorities was underway.

Southern California rocked by strongest quake in two decades

LOS ANGELES, JUL 5 (AFP): Southern California was rocked by its largest earthquake in two decades on Thursday, a 6.4-magnitude tremor that caused "substantial damage" at a military facility but otherwise only minor injuries in the sparsely populated area.

The shallow quake, followed by dozens of aftershocks, struck in the Mojave Desert six miles (10 kilometers) from the small city of Ridgecrest at 10:33 am (1733 GMT).

It was felt 160 miles away in Los Angeles and even as far afield as Las Vegas in the neighboring state of Nevada, as the United States celebrated its July 4 Independence Day holiday.

Although the quake in the most populous US state of California revived fears of the "Big One" -- a powerful tremor along the San Andreas Fault that could devastate major cities in Southern California -- President Trump was quick to reassure that this wasn't it.

"All seems to be very much under control!" he tweeted two hours after the quake in the Searles Valley of San Bernardino County. The area "will continue having a lot of aftershocks," some maybe as strong as magnitude five, California Institute of Technology seismologist Lucy Jones told a press conference.

The earthquake was the largest in Southern California since 1999

when a 7.1-magnitude quake struck the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base, according to The Los Angeles Times.

Thursday's epicenter was in or on the edge of the US Navy's sprawling desert bomb testing range known as China Lake.

The Naval Air Weapons Station covers 1.1 million acres (445,000 hectares) and strictly controls the airspace above it. Inside, the Navy develops and tests missiles, bombs, artillery shells and other war ordnance, and the aircraft used to deliver it.

An official at China Lake told AFP there was "substantial damage" to their facilities, including fires, water leaks and spills of hazardous materials. Paul Dale, the station's commanding officer, said later at a news conference that officials were making "damage assessments," and declined to elaborate.

David Witt, the fire chief in Kern County which includes Ridgecrest, reported "minor, minor injuries," stemming from broken glass and shelves falling down in supermarkets. He was not able to provide an exact number of casualties.

Peggy Breeden, mayor of Ridgecrest which has a population of 28,000, said the local hospital had been evacuated as a precaution, and she had received reports of a handful of

house fires.

Some areas of the city had lost power, while gas had been cut due to ruptured lines, she said.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department said that "buildings and roads have sustained varying degrees of damage." This included "buildings with minor cracks, broken water mains, power lines down, rock slides on certain roads." The quake struck at a depth of 6.6 miles (10.7 kilometers) in the vast desert region.

Residents told local TV that the shaking set off panic, while sending televisions plunging to the ground and causing drawers to fall open.

AFP reporters in Los Angeles clearly felt the earthquake for about 10 seconds.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said there was no significant damage in the second-largest US city.

Jones said there is a small possibility this quake is the prelude to a larger one.

"There is about a one-in-20 chance that this location will be having an even bigger earthquake within the next few days, that we have not yet seen the biggest earthquake of the sequence," she said.

"There have been hundreds of earthquakes today," she said, including more than 100 that the United States Geological Survey measured at greater than magnitude 2.5.

Trump celebrates US Independence Day with massive military parade

WASHINGTON, JUL 5 (PTI): US President Donald Trump on Thursday celebrated America's Independence Day with an unprecedented display of country's military might at a parade in the national capital.

Trump became the first US President in over 70 years to deliver an Independence Day address which the Opposition Democratic leaders criticised for what they alleged politicisation of the country's declaration of independence from Britain on July 4, 1776.

Joined by First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, his cabinet colleagues and top military leadership, Trump in his address to thousands of people said this was an occasion to salute the US soldiers and generals.

"Today we come together as one nation. With this very special salute to America. We celebrate our history by people, and the heroes who proudly defend our flag, the brave men and women of the United States military," said the US President.

In his 'Salute to America' address, Trump said the same American spirit that emboldened country's founders has kept its people strong throughout its history.

"To this day that spirit runs through the veins of every American patriot. It lives on in each and every one of you here today. It is the spirit, daring and defiance, excellence and adventure, courage and confidence, loyalty and love that built this country into the most exceptional nation in the history of the world, and our nation is stronger today than it ever was before. It is its strongest

now," he said.

The President recalled the upcoming anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. He recognised Gene Kranz, the NASA flight director from that mission, and promised someday soon that the US will "plant the American flag on Mars".

Trump recognised each branch of the armed forces, noting the Space Force would soon be added. He also recognised law enforcement and Gold Star families.

"Our nation has always honoured the heroes who serve our communities. The firefighters, first responders, police, sheriffs... border patrol and all of the brave men and women of law enforcement. On this July 4th, we pay special tribute to the military service members who laid down their lives for our nation," Trump said.

Several separate flyovers of military aircraft took place as Trump spoke about the legacy of the armed forces.

The air platforms which participated in 'Salute to America' included Air Force One; F-18; MH-60 (1), US Air Force Aircraft B-2/F-22; US Marine Corps Aircraft: V-92/V-22; US Army: Aircraft: AH-64 and US Navy: F-35/F-18.

Among other military equipment were M1A2 Abrams Tanks; M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles; M88 Recovery Vehicle and Contact Truck with crew. "On this July 4, we pay special tribute to the military service members who laid down their lives for our nation. We are deeply moved to be in the presence this evening of gold star families whose loved ones made the supreme sacrifice," Trump said.

Iran demands Britain release oil tanker held in Gibraltar

TEHRAN, JUL 5 (AFP): Iran demanded Friday that Britain immediately release an oil tanker it has detained in Gibraltar, accusing it of acting at the bidding of the United States.

A senior foreign ministry official "described the UK move as unacceptable" in a meeting with British ambassador Rob Macaire, who had been summoned to hear a formal protest, the ministry said in a statement.

He "called for the immediate release of the oil tanker, given that it has been seized at the request of the US, based on the information currently available", the statement added.

Authorities in Gibraltar, a British overseas territory on Spain's southern tip at the western entrance to the Mediterranean, said they suspected the tanker was carrying crude to Syria in violation of EU sanctions.

The detention of the 330-metre (1,000-feet) Grace 1 vessel comes at a sensitive time in Iran-EU ties as the bloc mulls how to respond to Tehran announcing it is poised to breach the uranium enrichment limit it agreed to in a troubled 2015 nuclear deal.

The Grace 1 tanker was halted in the early hours of Thursday by police and customs agencies in Gibraltar, aided by a detachment of British Royal Marines.

The ship was detained 2.5 miles (four kilometres) south of Gibraltar in what it considers British waters, although Spain, which lays claim to the territory, says they are Spanish.

It was boarded when it slowed down in a designated area used by shipping agencies to ferry goods to vessels.



"We have reason to believe that the Grace 1 was carrying its shipment of crude oil to the Banyas refinery in Syria," Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said in a statement.

"That refinery is the property of an entity that is subject to European Union sanctions against Syria.

"We have detained the vessel and its cargo," Picardo said.

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell told reporters the vessel was detained at the request of the United States.

In a statement, Britain's Foreign Office said "we welcome this firm action by the Gibraltarian authorities, acting to enforce the EU Syria Sanctions regime".

European Union sanctions against war-torn Syria have been in force since late 2011.

The 28-member bloc has imposed sanctions on Syrian officials including government ministers over their role in the "violent repression" of civilians. It has frozen the assets of around 70 entities and introduced an embargo on Syrian oil, investment restrictions and a freeze on Syrian central bank assets within the EU.

The tanker's detention comes just days after Iran announced it would

exceed the uranium enrichment limit set up as part of the 2015 deal to avoid it building up to the level required for a nuclear warhead.

Tehran took the action in response to Washington abandoning the nuclear deal last year and hitting Iran's crucial oil exports and financial transactions with biting sanctions.

The unilateral move has sent tensions in the Gulf soaring as the administration of President Donald Trump forges ahead with a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran in coordination with its Middle East allies Israel and Saudi Arabia.

White House National Security Advisor John Bolton, a champion of the hawkish policy towards Tehran, applauded the interception of the supertanker.

"Excellent news: UK has detained the supertanker Grace 1 laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions," Bolton tweeted.

According to specialised shipping trade publication Lloyd's List, which analyses vessel-tracking data, the 1997-built ship is laden with Iranian oil.

It reported that the ship loaded oil off Iran in April and sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.





HOME SWEET HOME! The singer, Rihanna arrives in her hometown of Barbados, accessorized in Louis Vuitton and Fenty eyewear.

Building career was a methodical endeavour earlier: Julia Roberts

London, Jul 5 (PTI): Julia Roberts says social media has “destabilised” the way a new actor would go about planning their career in films.

The actor said 30 years ago, one would get a chance to do another film, only if their earlier work was successful, unlike today.

“Things have changed a lot. When I started out, there was no social media, there was barely internet. People couldn’t take pictures with their phones. There were logical steps in a career progression: you made a film and if it was successful, you had the opportunity to work again.

“If your second film was successful, you could be paid more and get a new role. Now, someone can just pop out of nowhere and make it, which I guess is very destabilising. Building a career was a much more methodical endeavour 30 years ago,” Roberts told

Britain’s Marie Claire magazine.

The Oscar winner said today she plans her professional chores in a manner that matches the schedules of her cinematographer husband Daniel Moder and her kids.

“I pay even more attention (to my role choices) because we have a family and it’s not just about me. My husband and I avoid working at the same time. So there are my projects, Danny’s projects, the kids’ school calendar - organisation is basically math.

“I feel very lucky that I don’t have to work constantly. My mother worked full-time, 365 days a year, with only two weeks of vacation, and she took care of us - she had no choice. I have boundless admiration for those women and everything they have to do to make ends meet,” she said.

The actor was most recently seen in feature “Ben is Back” and Amazon Prime Video’s “Homecoming”. She will return to executive produce the web series for its second season.



Robbie Williams lived in haunted house

LOS ANGELES, JUL 5 (PTI): Robbie Williams has claimed he once lived in a house which he believes was haunted by the spirit of singer Mama Cass.

Williams said he rented a property from actor Dan Akroyd 18 years ago in Los Angeles but felt terrified the moment he entered the place, which was once home to the ‘Mamas and the Papas’ singer, who died in 1974 aged 32.

“It was completely and utterly haunted,” the singer said during “Alien Nation” podcast.

Williams recalled speaking directly to the spirit: “I know that you are here and I am going to respect your space. I please ask you to respect mine as I am scared of you.”

The singer said he was sharing the house with a friend, who had a similar spooky experience.

“My friend who I was living with at the time came down. He’d just had a shower and he was white. I said, ‘What’s up?’ And he said, ‘I’ve just had a conversation with someone that wasn’t there.’ He said the atmosphere in the room changed

one evening when ‘The Mamas and the Papas’ hit single “California Dreamin’” played on the television.



“There was this silence I’ve never experienced before or since,” Williams said, adding his wolf puppy Sid later started whimpering and refused to stay in the room.

The singer said he moved out three months later but when he left, the staff of the movers refused to go inside “because of the old lady sitting in the chair”.

Rhea Kapoor’s Pic With ‘Partner In Crime’ Sonam Kapoor Is All About Sibling Love

Rhea Kapoor’s post for her sister Sonam Kapoor will make you smile instantly. Why, you ask? Well, it’s all about sibling love. On Friday, the filmmaker shared an oh-so-adorable photograph of herself along with Sonam. In the picture, the sister duo can be seen chilling together on a couch or should we say in their “natural habitat” (as Rhea described in her caption). In her post, Rhea referred to Sonam as her “partner in crime” and she wrote: “With my partner in crime in our natural habitat. Don’t underestimate how much you will miss your annoying sibling when they decide to get married and become an adult.”

Rhea’s post not only received lots of love from her Instafam but also the members of the Kapoor clan. Sonam

wrote: “Miss you Rhee.” Sonam and Rhea’s mother Sunita Kapoor commented: “Miss you beta.” Anand Ahuja

attributed to the fact that the actress frequently shuttles between Mumbai, London and Delhi.

Sonam and Rhea frequently make appearances on each other’s Instagram profiles. The sister duo run an apparel brand Rheson (which is an amalgamation of Rhea and Sonam’s names). They often model for their own brand and share pictures on their respective social media accounts.

Sonam and Rhea are the daughters of Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor and fashion designer Sunita Kapoor. They also have a younger brother named Harshvardhan Kapoor, who is also a Bollywood actor. He made his debut with the 2016 film Mirzya.



and Maheep Kapoor left several heart emojis on the post. Now, the reason behind everyone missing Sonam could be

‘Ransom’ cancelled after three seasons

Los Angeles, Jul 5 (PTI): Drama “Ransom” will not return for another season, CBS network has announced.

The official Twitter handle of the show, which followed crisis and



host-negotiator Eric Beaumont (played by Luke Roberts), shared the news on Twitter on

Wednesday.

“#Ransom fans: We’re joyful and lucky to have shared these past three seasons with you. Unfortunately, we have to bid the CriRes team farewell.

“We loved telling stories about strong, smart characters resolving conflicts with words instead of violence. Thank you for watching,” the statement read.

A source told Entertainment Weekly, the producers pulled the plug on the show due to financial crunch.

The drama was inspired by the real-life negotiators Laurent Combalbert and Marwan Mery, and was an international co-production from David Vainilla and produced by Frank Spotnitz.

It started airing on CBS in June 2016.

Nepal not confirmed as host nation for 20th IIFA Awards: organisers

MUMBAI, JUL 5 (PTI): The organisers of the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) on Friday said Nepal was one of the countries that was being considered as a host for its 20th edition but a final call is yet to be taken by them. Their response comes days after the Nepal government stopped work related to the event in Kathmandu following opposition from a parliamentary panel.

Wizcraft International, the organising company, said they were considering “several countries and picturesque destinations” for the upcoming edition. “Nepal was just one of countries bidding for IIFA in 2019 and IIFA had not yet confirmed Nepal as the host for our 20th Edition. IIFA is not responsible and has not been involved in any of the recent media activity relating to Nepal and does not endorse any event details provided,” Wizcraft International director Andre Timmins said in statement.

He further claimed the Nepal government officials made public statements about the ongoing discussions, which has forced the organisation to take a “legal stance”.

“This has been in spite of IIFA brand regulations barring them to speak publicly about the discussions until the bid submission made by them is reviewed, assessed and formally accepted by IIFA with legal contracts being exchanged.

ARIES: Brand-new you? Today, the moon is in Aries, approaching its quarter phase. Maybe you’ve been toying with a career change or considering putting a “rebranded” version of yourself out into the world. The quarter moon helps you refine those ideas and ensure they’re truly in line with your essence. It’s not just about succeeding or catching that “big fish,” Aries.

TAURUS: Time for a transition? Today, the quarter moon in your twelfth house of closure could find you ready to let something go. Maybe you had a few epiphanies over the past week, and you’ve been able to look at things through a wide-angle lens. Perhaps you’ve finally embraced the truth of a situation, and you’ve been letting that settle in.

GEMINI: Bring on the wellness renaissance! Today, a solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer rocks your sixth house of healing and detoxification. You’ve been hella busy, Aquarius, but skipping workouts and grabbing junk food on the run hasn’t done much to fuel your productivity. Start

setting up new systems that will lead to a more balanced existence.

CANCER: Ask, believe, receive. Today, the soulful moon unites with intuitive Neptune in Pisces and your broad-minded ninth house. This is the day to imagine what you want, because you can magnetize your dreams to you through creative visualization. The ninth house is all about expansion, so don’t just aim for the “safe,” low-hanging fruit. Go bigger, Cancer! Feeling out of touch with your power to manifest? Try writing up a gratitude list. When you recall all the things you’re thankful for, you’ll begin to attract more abundance.

LEO: You SAY that you want happiness, love and freedom, but do you actually believe that your desires are possible, Leo? Today’s moon-Neptune conjunction in your mystical eighth house encourages you to examine your own limiting beliefs. Since you may need tangible proof to REALLY change your mind, hunt for people who are living the life you want for yourself.

VIRGO: Relationships can be hard work, we know, we know. But they can also be a haven from stress and struggle so stop telling yourself that you don’t need people. Today, the moon and compassionate Neptune align in Pisces and your partnership house. The tranquilizing effect can be beneficial to your bonds with the ones who matter most. Soften your stance with your partner, and be gentler in your interactions with close friends.

LIBRA: Arm candy can be fun to play with, but you need more than empty calories to satisfy your romantic appetite. On Saturday, reserve your final rose for someone with style AND substance. It’s a lot easier to teach someone the finer points of fashion than it is to imbue them with a great character. With the right raw materials—a caring heart, a sense of integrity, compatible interests—you’ll have more than enough to work with.

SCORPIO: Still musing over the weekend’s romantic escapades? Don’t rush to “back to business” mode. Today, the moon and quixotic Neptune embrace in your

fifth house of passion, adding a sensual spin to your agenda. An attraction could spark, or you could be feeling especially amorous. Nobody to sidle up to (yet)? Get glamorous for yourself, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS: Home is where your heart is today, as the moon conjoints with sensual Neptune in your domestic fourth house. If you must trek into the office, bring the cozy vibes with you. Keep an open-door policy so coworkers can plop down and share tales of their weekends. (That expense report can wait).

CAPRICORN: Power to your partnerships, Capricorn! Today’s solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer and your relationship zone could bring an unexpected collaboration to life. Your best duos will become even MORE dynamic while unhealthy alliances could suddenly go poof! Searching for a sidekick? Instead of a clone, consider an attractive and understanding “opposite” who complements your natural gifts. If you’ve already found your one-and-only, use today to plot out the next big-picture mission you want to achieve as a pair. Just

make sure you leave room for spontaneity and surprises—a gift eclipses bring.

AQUARIUS: Bring more intimacy to your exchanges Saturday and don’t be afraid to bare your soul. Thanks to a cozy alignment between the moon and Venus, conversations could quickly accelerate from weather talk to tales from your recent vacation and latest dating escapades. Don’t just entertain; investigate! People will be warmed by your interest in what’s bubbling below the surface in their lives. Plan for a languid movie night or a dinner date with a favorite plus-one.

PISCES: Is a love story brewing, Pisces... or perhaps reaching a new climax? As a solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer heats up your fifth house of innovation and love, passion could be percolating in unexpected places. If you’re single, throw any preconceived notions about your “type” out the window. This lunar lift could recalibrate your romantic GPS. Coupled up? Bring some fresh moves (and new toys) into the bedroom. Be bold with your pillow talk, whether the topic is blindfolding each other or making babies.