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# SummitTIMES

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## SIKKIM REITERATES REJECTION OF CAB SPYF call for protest rally receives wide support

**SAGAR CHETTRI  
GANGTOK, 14 DEC:**

People from different walks of life registered a strong protest against the recently amended Citizenship Act 2019 here in Gangtok on Saturday. A protest rally organized by Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum [SPYF] was joined by leaders of different political parties, social and political activists, students from colleges and universities of the State and students of North-Eastern States especially those from Assam studying in Sikkim.

Protestors in the rally, which started from Amdo Golai, carried banners and placards with slogans like 'Sikkim Rejects CAB', 'No CAB', 'We Want Quality Education Not CAB', 'Withdraw CAB', 'Solidarity with People who have Lost their Life in the Protest Against CAB', 'Stand with Assam' and others.

The rally covered Indira By-Pass Road and ended in front of District Administrative Centre [East]. The rally ended with participants burning copies of the Act to register their protest.

SPYF member, Shankar Sharma mentioned that the rally was mainly to protest the recently amended Citizenship Act and to demand Inner Line Permit for Sikkim.

"Everyone needs to come together on this serious issue. We are speaking in our own language and talking about our culture and tradition but there is no guarantee that our future generation will get to do so," he said.

He said that the people of Sikkim are becoming a minority in their own State and if this Act is implemented in the State then it will open the floodgates for serious influx in the State.

"We are still silent even after CAB has been passed but everyone needs to come together to protect our rights and privileges and to protect our identity as Sikkimese. We gave up our country to become a part of India. Conditions for the merger with India need to be protected," Mr Sharma asserted.

He stated that Sikkim is also standing in solidarity with the people of Assam and other parts of North

East where intense protests against the act are going on.

"The statement of the Union Home Minister that Sikkim is exempted is not enough but it should be written into the act. So, we reject this act and at the same time we demand ILP in Sikkim," Mr Sharma asserted. He informed that SPYF will start a state-wide signature campaign demanding ILP for Sikkim.

Another SPYF member, Prakash Parajuli expressed that providing Indian citizenship to people from other countries would directly affect the economy, culture, ethnicity, system and customs of the country and the State.

He alleged that Article 371F is being gradually diluted and this act will further accelerate the dilution of the special provisions of the State.

"It is like slow poison for Article 371F and there is high possibility of Article 371F being abrogated following the One Country, One Law policy of the Centre," said Mr Parajuli.



Hamro Sikkim Party president, Dr Bina Basnett expressed that HSP is against CAB as it is totally against the Constitution of the country. Although it has become an act now, there are still possibilities for its amendment, she added.

She also said that Sikkim should be exempted from this act and it should be written into the act.

The act mentions that

only areas with ILP and Sixth Schedule have been exempted so the ruling party of the State is misguiding people on this issue by claiming that the act will not affect the State, said, social activist, Nawin Kiran Pradhan.

Assamese student, Stuti Borgohain, who is studying in Sikkim University, said, "We totally oppose this act as it is totally unconstitutional, un-secular and dis-

criminates on the basis of religion. Indian people do not want this act."

She stated that it was separate case for Assam as the people from Assam have been opposing it this since long time as the people there had fought years to deport illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

"We fought long for it and 855 people sacrificed their lives. If CAB is implemented

in Assam then it is a direct threat to our culture, tradition and language and we may become minority in our own land. We are fighting for our rights since 1979," she said.

She appealed to people in rest of India to stand with Assam and North Eastern States.

"It might seem to be a problem of Assam at present but it is the problem of every Indian," Ms Borgohain said.

## WINTER'S HERE!

### Gangtok shivers at -2 degrees

**ARPAN PRADHAN  
GANGTOK, 14 DEC:**

Temperatures in Gangtok dipped to the lowest this winter hitting -2 Degree Celsius on Saturday morning. Higher reaches of Sikkim began receiving heavy snowfall on Friday causing the temperatures to drop all over the State.

Tsomgo and Nathula in East Sikkim and Lachen-Lachung in North Sikkim received heavy snowfall on Friday which continued till Saturday. Roads were also blocked in various places which received heavy snowfall.

Popular tourist destinations like Tsomgo, Nathula, Lachen, Lachung and other places were closed for vehicular traffic due to road blockades.

No permits were issued for Nathula and Tsomgo today, sources inform.

As per the report of the Meteorological Department, Gangtok, re-

corded minimum temperature of 5.4 Degree Celsius and the maximum temperature remained at 12.7 Degree Celsius in the last 24 hours.

Minimum temperatures across all the four districts have dropped in the last few days. As per the online weather forecast site, World Weather Forecast, the minimum temperature of Gangtok slipped to -2 Degree Celsius in the morning and the average maximum was 12 Degree Celsius today.

Namchi in South Sikkim today recorded minimum temperature of 7.5 Degree Celsius and maximum temperature of 16.3 Degree Celsius.

In North Sikkim, Mangon recorded a maximum temperature of 17.4 Degree Celsius and minimum temperature of 7.3 Degree Celsius. Similarly, Gyalshing in West Sikkim recorded minimum tempera-



ture of 8 Degree Celsius and maximum temperature of 13 Degree Celsius. The above mentioned temperatures are of the past 24 hours.

As per officials of the

Meteorological department, this is the coldest Gangtok has been in the last few months and this is due to snowfall in the higher reaches of the State.

## CM attends Mask Dance at Labrang Monastery



**MANGAN, 14 DEC (IPR):**

Chief Minister, PS Tamang (Golay) attended the Annual Makala Gutur Mask Dance 2019 today at Labrang Palden Phuntshok Monastery, Tumlong, North Sikkim in the presence of Lachung Rinpoche and Mandoling Korchen Rin-

poche.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the Ecclesiastical Minister, Sonam Lama, Cultural Affairs Minister, Samdup Lepcha, Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia, Confidential Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling, Sr. S P/North

and DC/North.

Upon his arrival at Labrang Palden Phuntshok Monastery, the CM was accorded warm welcome by the lama and local dignitaries of Tumlong region.

Thereafter, he offered prayers of Tashi Gaypa along with lamas by light-

ing butter lamp inside the main shrine of the monastery.

The Chief Minister along with his team witnessed the mask dance and later returned to the capital.

It may be mentioned that the blessing ceremony will be held on 16 December.

## NSD's Natya Utsav to begin Sunday in Gangtok

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 DEC:**

A five-day long Natya Utsav by National School of Drama's Repertory Company, Delhi, will be starting here at Manan Kendra on Sunday.

The festival of drama will open with, 'Khamoshi Sili Sili', a play directed by Prof Suresh Sharma.

During the festival, artists of the repertory company will be performing a play each every evening at 5:30 PM from 15 to 19 December.

Addressing a press conference here this evening, NSD Delhi Director In-charge, Suresh Sharma, informed that NSD Delhi

was organizing the festival for the first time in Sikkim and will stage five plays.

The plays scheduled to be performed here are 'Taj Mahal Ka Tender' on 16 December, 'Bayen' on 17 December, 'Jaat Hai Poocho Sadhu Ki' on 18 December and finally 'Pehla Satyagrahi' on 19 December.

'Khamoshi Sili Sili' directed by Prof Suresh Sharma is a translation of the famous play 'Fiddler of the Roof' written by Joseph Stein. 'Tajmahal Ka Tender' directed by Chittaranjan Tripathy is considered one of the most successful satires of the contemporary times. 'Bayen' direct-

ed by Usha Ganguli is based on the story by Mahashweta Devi. 'Jaat Hi Poocho Sadhu Ki' directed by Rajinder Nath and 'Pehla Satyagrahi' directed by Prof Suresh Sharma are about Gandhi's life and struggles.

A 34-member team of NSD Delhi's repertory company is present-

ly in Sikkim in preparation for the festival.

Likewise, NSD Sikkim Centre Director, Bipin Kumar mentioned that the Natya Utsav will be followed by plays by artists of the NSD Sikkim Repertory Company and NSD Sikkim students.

'Surajmukhi and Hamlet', a comedy, will be performed on 22 and

23 December at Manan Kendra. The play is based on Jean Anouilh's "An episode in the life of an Author" and is directed by Bharti Sharma.

A classical play, 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam' will be staged on 25 and 26 December. The play is based on the story of 'Dushyanta and Shakuntala'. NSD Sikkim Centre

Director informed that both these plays will be staged for the first time in the State.

He informed that as per the academic syllabus, students have to put together two productions in a year and this time, students of NSD Sikkim were performing Kalidas' Abhigyan Shakuntalam.



# First preparatory meeting for Khangchendzonga Winter Tourism Festival



**GYALSHING, 13 DEC (IPR):** The first preparatory meeting for the 7th Khangchendzonga Winter Tourism Festival, State Level Tamu Lochar Celebration and Christmas Celebration 2019 was held at the Conference Hall of Narbu Gang Resort, Pelling under the Chairmanship

of Minister PHE & Irrigation-cum-Area MLA, Bhim Hang Subba.

PHE Minister, Bhim Hang Subba and SBS Chairman, DB Gurung are the Chief Patrons while District Collector (W), Karma R Bonpo and SP (W), Tenzing L Lepcha, are the Patrons of the celebration organizing committee.

DC West, Mr Bonpo, assured to provide every possible help from the District Administration and directed all departments to participate with full enthusiasm and support to make the event a grant success.

General secretary of the organising committee, Keshap Pradhan

briefed about the event and called for appropriate suggestions and opinions for the celebration scheduled to be held at Pelling Ground from 25 till 31 December.

President of the Tamu association, Laxuman Gurung elaborated the plan of various activities to be carried out during

Tamu Lochar celebration. He also requested for setting up extra stalls particularly to showcase the Gurung traditions.

He also placed his valuable suggestions on fund raising and the management process.

As per the agenda, the meeting discussed issues such as expenditure and participation of Government departments for various activities proposed for the celebration.

The meeting had the presence and participation of Heads of Departments, Pelling Tourism Development Association, representatives of Tamu Association, Organizing Committee and the local gentry.

## IPR Minister visits owner of house gutted by fire



**GYALSHING, 14 DEC (IPR):** Minister cum MLA Gyalshing Bermiok Constituency, Lok Nath Sharma today visited Karna Bahadur Gurung's house at Yangsum under Najur-Tenkatar

ward, Chingthang GPU, where an incident of fire had taken place on 03 Dec at around 9:30 pm.

Mr Sharma, speaking over the phone, urged the DC West, Karma R.

Bonpo that needful action from Government's side should be taken as soon as possible.

He also provided some financial aid to the victim on the spot.

## Sikkim team wins Karate C'ship held in Duga



**SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 14 DEC:**

First Indo-Nepal Karate Championship was organised by AU-RORO Fest 2019 in Duga, Sunrise Academy, East Sikkim in association with Sikkim United Karate Do from 12-13 Dec, a press release informs.

Around 170 play-

ers and 10 teachers cum coaches participated from Jhapa Zilla, Nepal and different states of India including Sikkim.

Sikkim team was declared winner of the championship and Nepal was the runner up. Executive committee of Sikkim United Karate Do Association, Chief

Technical Director, KH Rai, MD, principal, Teachers of Sunrise Academy Duga, Karate coaches Shihan, Sensai of Nepal, Bagdogra, Kurseong, Darjeeling, Sikkim, formal Principal Education department, Lachi Pradhan, Rangpo councillor, students were present during the Fest.

## Assam CM to meet Modi, Shah over citizenship protests

**GUWAHATI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal will lead a team to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah very soon to discuss the ongoing protests in the state against the amended Citizenship Act.

Assam Parliamen-

tary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary on Saturday said the decision to brief the prime minister and the union home minister on the situation was taken at a meeting of BJP MLAs and MPs here.

The team will meet the two leaders "very soon" to apprise them of the present situation in

the state, Patowary said in a statement.

"Today's meeting also appealed to the people to maintain peace and order in the state," he said.

Sonowal tweeted that he discussed "the present situation in Assam in a meeting with my Cabinet colleagues, union minister Shri Rameshwar Teli, MPs, MLAs &

@BJP4Assam president Shri @RanjeetkrDass in Guwahati".

Assam is witnessing one of the worst violent protests by the public in its history with three rail stations, a post office, a bank, a bus terminus, shops, dozens of vehicles and other public properties being set ablaze or ransacked.

After the Rajya Sabha passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill on Wednesday night, the state erupted in protests, in which agitators fought pitched battles with the police in almost every major city or town, forcing the administration to impose curfew. Three lives have been lost so far in the protests.

ma Bhattacharya said, "The Governor need not explain the constitutional responsibilities of the chief minister to Mamata Banerjee, who herself has always been in the forefront of democratic movements and has been democratically elected by the people."

She sought to know the views of Dhankhar on the amended Citizenship Act, which, she said, "is against the spirit of the Constitution."

State. Chief Minister as per oath has to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India.

"And I as Governor will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law," Dhankhar, who has been at loggerheads with the TMC government in the state over a number of issues, tweeted.

Reacting to Dhankhar's tweets, state Law Minister Chandri-

## Dhankhar urges Mamata to show allegiance to the Constitution, TMC fumes

**KOLKATA, DEC 14 (PTI):** Amid the violence in West Bengal against the amended Citizenship Act, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday urged Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to demonstrate her "true faith and allegiance" to the Constitution.

Dhankhar's comments drew sharp reactions from the TMC which asked him to "stop lecturing" Banerjee on her constitutional duties.

"I appeal to everyone please don't politicise the issue," Dhankhar told reporters at the sidelines of a programme here.

"If anyone (Banerjee) has taken oath under the Constitution, go by the Constitution ... I have to protect it (Constitution). With folded hands I appeal to everyone - you have a way out under the Indian Constitution," he said.

Referring to the protests over the amended

Citizenship Act, he said "If you think something has to be looked into, destroying trains, buses, railway stations, police stations is not the way out"

Violence has never solved a problem but only created it, he said.

Earlier in the day Dhankhar in a tweet urged Banerjee to act as per her oath and show allegiance to the Constitution of India.

"@MamataOfficial. Distressed and pained at events unfolding in the

## Jaipur Foot plans to scale up its operation to go global at mass level

**LALIT K JHA**

**WASHINGTON, DEC 14 (PTI):** The iconic Jaipur Foot is planning to scale up its operations to provide artificial limb free of cost to physically challenged people both in India and across the world.

For this, it's parent body Bhagwan Mahaveer Sahayata Samiti is working on a plan to use modern information technologies and latest advancement in medical field to bring artificial limbs to the doorsteps of Divyang or physically challenged individuals.

"Our leadership team, including founder and chief patron D R Mehta is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aspiration of a healthy India, of which Ayushman Bharat is a

core component," Jaipur Foot USA chairman Prem Bhandari told PTI in an interview.

In Washington for a day on Friday to meet Indian Ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, New York-based Bhandari said that early this month a physically challenged woman in Philippine, a sister of an embassy driver, has sent pictures over WhatsApp of her leg which she lost in an accident.

Based on the pictures, doctors at Jaipur Foot, which has an office in Manila, manufactured artificial limb for her.

"In less than a week's time she was mobile," he said, adding that a similar help was provided to a physically challenged individual in Germany.

For privacy reason, he did not disclose names of the beneficiaries.

Jaipur Foot traditionally holds camps within the country and now with the financial grant from the External Affairs Ministry has been organising camps in various parts of the world, in particularly in the third-world country to provide artificial lambs to the needy.

While in the market, it costs somewhere between USD7,000 to USD15,000, Jaipur Foot, a non-profit body provides its free of cost. It receives corporate grants and donations to meet its expenses.

Inspired by the two recent cases of Philippines and Germany, Bhandari said the leadership team of Jaipur

Foot is exploring the possibility of making it accessible at mass level.

"We want to help in the mobility of every physically challenged individual in the world," he said.

"Since it is practically not possible to hold physical camps all across the world, we are brainstorming how we can leverage the modern information technology, and advancement of medical science to deliver artificial limbs at the doorsteps of every physically challenged individuals all over the world, Bhandari said.

And within India, Bhandari said Jaipur foot wants to provide mobility to all the Divyang. They constitute a large segment of our society, he added.

## Modi made false promises to people to misled them 6 yrs ago: Manmohan

**New Delhi, Dec 14 (PTI):** Former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday alleged that his successor Narendra Modi misled the people by making "lofty promises" which he "failed" to fulfil.

Addressing a mega 'Bharat Bachao' (Save India) rally at the Ramila grounds here, the Congress leader said Modi had promised to take the country's economy to USD 5 trillion by 2024, double farmers' income and provide two crore new jobs every year for youths.

"Six years ago, Narendra Modi showed lofty promises to people. Now it has been proved that all these promises were false and he has failed in fulfilling all the promises made and the people of the country were misled," he said.

The rally was attended among others by top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, besides Congress chief min-

isters Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot, Bhupesh Baghel. However, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh was conspicuously absent.

In his brief address, Manmohan Singh urged the people to strengthen the Congress party and the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in order "to take the country forward in the right direction".

"It is our duty to strengthen the Congress party and strengthen the hands of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, so that we can take the country forward in the real sense" he noted.

He also urged Congress workers present at the rally in large numbers to take the message of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to every nook and corner of the country.

"It is your responsibility. The enthusiasm in you will surely help give a new direction to the country," he noted.

## Negligible number of people to benefit from amended Citizenship Act: Sonowal

**GUWAHATI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said the number of people to be benefited by the amended Citizenship Act will be "very negligible".

The exact number of those people will be disclosed at an appropriate time, he said and urged the people to maintain peace.

"The number of people who will apply (for citizenship under

the amended Act) will be very negligible. We are running the government and we have the data. At an appropriate time, you will be able to know all these clearly," Sonowal said in a video message.

When the application process will be over, each information will be presented before the public, the chief minister said.

Sonowal alleged that misinformation

like more than one crore people will enter Assam under the Act are being spread to create confusion among the people.

"I appeal to all of you not to get convinced in this fake information. Those involved in inciting violence through spread of misinformation do not want peace and development of the society. They are harmful elements. All peaceful people

should unite against such anti-social elements," he added.

The state government has no problem with peaceful protests, Sonowal said adding that anti-social elements destroying public properties and threatening people will be punished.

Assam is witnessing one of the worst violent protests by the public in its history with three rail stations, a post office, a

bank, a bus terminus, shops, dozens of vehicles and other public properties being set ablaze or ransacked.

After the Rajya Sabha passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill on Wednesday night, the state erupted in protests, in which agitators fought pitched battles with the police in almost every major city or town, forcing the administration to impose curfew.

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### ANTHESTHI KRIYA



The Anthesthi Kriya of Late D. B. Chettri of 5th Mile, Tadong, who left for heavenly abode on 5th of December, 2019, falls on the 17th of December, 2019, Tuesday.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our relatives, friends, well wishers, who supported us during the hour of bereavement. We would also wish to invite all of you to join us in the last rites to offer prayer for the eternal peace of our father at our residence at 5th Mile, Tadong, below Saraswati Mandir, Gangtok.

**Kirti & Binata Kumari & Agni Pavitra & Beeru Raju & Doma Sita & Sonam**

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**For more details: 9083826462 /9832556698**

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# SICA selectors visit National Cricket Academy

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 DEC:**

Four selectors of the Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA), Gyaphel Tshering Bhutia, Bikash Pradhan, Dhiraj Gurung and Karma Thendup Bhutia are on an educational tour to Bengaluru and Goa on the advice of the SICA president, a press release informs.

The tour was mainly planned to visit the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) in Bengaluru and see the facility and infrastructure they possess; to know the game and skill development programs they follow for players, fitness and selection procedure to be followed for different categories.



The Mining Cricket Ground is under construction and SICA is planning to provide the best facility they can to the players, and develop cricket in the state, so these tours will help SICA get an idea of the kind of facilities that can be provided.

During their visit to NCA, the selectors met Rahul Dravid (Director of Cricket Operation, NCA), Tufan Ghosh (Chief Operating Officer), Narendra Hirwani (Bowling Coach, NCA), Roger Binny (President of KSCA). All of them helped the selectors to

get a look at the facilities and answered their queries.

They also expressed their willingness to support Northeast states like Sikkim, who are newly introduced to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as full members.

After Bengaluru, they went to Goa where Sikkim was playing their first Ranji Trophy match of the season 2019-20 against Goa. The objective of this visit was to see how the players who have been selected for the trophy perform in the match and handle themselves in the match situations.

"It was a successful tour and we are thankful to SICA for giving us this opportunity to visit various facilities, meet important personalities of the sport. We have learned many things in this tour and will apply it in coming days to our procedures and surely it will help cricket grow in a positive way in the State," said SICA selectors.

## 'My name is Rahul Gandhi, not Rahul Savarkar; will die, but will never apologise'

**NEW DELHI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said he "will die but never apologise" for speaking the "truth" as he is a Gandhi and not a Savarkar, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his "assistant" Amit Shah instead to apologise for "destroying" the economy of the country.

Addressing the Congress' mega "Bharat Bachao Rally" at Ramlila grounds here, he took a dig at the BJP for demanding an apology for his "rape in India" remark and said, "The BJP asked me to apologise. My name is not Rahul Savarkar, it is Rahul Gandhi, and I will never apologise for speaking the truth."

"I will die, but I will not apologise for speaking the truth and nor will any Congressman do so. It is Narendra Modi and his assistant Amit Shah who have to apologise to the country for destroying India's economy," he asserted.

Accusing Prime Minister Modi of single-handedly "destroying" the country's economy, he said, "All of India's enemies wanted that its economy, which is its strength, should be destroyed."

"That work (of destroying the economy)

has not been done by the enemies, but by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. And, (he) still calls himself a patriot," he added.

Training his guns on the prime minister, a charged Rahul Gandhi said Modi only thinks about one thing - whether he has the power.

"They will do anything for the power - make the youth unemployed, destroy the economy and what not," he said.

He also alleged that people manning various institutions, including media and constitutional ones like judiciary, have forgotten their work.

While approving of media's criticism of the UPA government, he said, "I respect that and you did the right thing but today you have forgotten your work."

"It is your responsibility to rise when you are suppressed and attacked as it is not an attack on you but on the very soul of India. This country is being scared and suppressed, but no Congressmen have any kind of fear. I am telling those people in institutions not to fear from anything. The Congress party is standing with them. We will together end this atmosphere of

fear in the country," he said.

The Congress leader alleged that the BJP and PM Modi have set the entire north east region on fire and states like Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura are burning.

"He (Modi) has burnt all these places. He divides people and works towards weakening the country, while you people, who have come here, don't divide India and work with your sweat and blood for taking the country forward.

"Your own country is being weakened and divided and our economy is being destroyed. The

reason is that Narendra Modi sees only one thing whether the power is in his hand. He (Modi) only works for being in power. He will destroy everything to achieve power," he said.

Gandhi said PM Modi only "wants to be seen on television all the time" and the people whom he has benefitted by giving them the money "snatched from people", are the ones funding him for marketing himself on the TV.

He said it is only the PM and no other opposition leader who can be seen on television.

The former Congress chief said the country

cannot progress as long as there is no money in the pockets of the poor, farmers, labourers and youths. He also recalled that MNREGA was brought as the Congress knew this country could not progress without labourers.

He said there are many honest industrialists in this country, and "I believe if farmers and labourers make this country, honest industrialists too contribute" to its growth.

Rahul Gandhi said the GST, which he described as "Gabbar Singh Tax", has led to the highest rate of unemployment in the country in 45 years

Sikkim Univ students against new Citizenship law



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 14 DEC:**

Students of Sikkim University staged a strong protest against the amended Citizenship Act here in front of their central library at 6th Mile, Tadong. The protest was called by Sikkim University

Students' Association [SUSA] and had students gather with placards against the new citizenship law and raising slogans against the Act. SUSA executive members stated that the initiative was also to display solidarity with students

protesting against the act in Assam and other parts of the north-eastern region. SUSA also strongly condemned the brutality with which the government has cracked down on protesting students elsewhere in the Northeast.

### CEE 24 NOV 2019

#### (a) English

The result of Common Entrance Exam (CEE) for recruitment into Indian Army for Soldier General Duty, Soldier Technical, and Soldier Tradesman held at Army Recruiting Office, Siliguri, on 24 November 2019 has been declared and uploaded on Indian Army website [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) on 14 December 2019. In case of any query, candidates are advised to contact Army Recruiting Office, Siliguri. The result is also available on **IVRS No 03322236897**.

#### (b) Hindi

आर्मी रिक्रूटिंग ऑफिस, सिलीगुड़ी, में दिनांक 24 नवंबर 2019 को सोल्जर (जनरल ड्यूटी), सोल्जर (टेक्निकल), तथा सोल्जर ट्रेड्समैन पदों के लिए आयोजित सामान्य प्रवेश परीक्षा का परिणाम भारतीय सेना की वेबसाइट [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) पर दिनांक 14 दिसम्बर 2019 से उपलब्ध है। यदि उम्मीदवार को किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी प्राप्त करनी हो तो वे आर्मी रिक्रूटिंग ऑफिस, सिलीगुड़ी से संपर्क करें। परीक्षा का परिणाम आ बी आर एस नम्बर **03322236897** पर भी उपलब्ध है।



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
HEALTH CARE HUMAN SERVICE & FAMILY  
WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
NAMCHI, SOUTH SIKKIM

No. 683/ACC/H&FW

DATED 11.12.2019

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. Sealed tender in two Bid System i.e. Technical and Financial Bid are invited from reputed and authorized dealers of Generic Medicines, Allopathic Medicines, Medical consumables, Toiletry items and miscellaneous items for running the medicine shop/ pharmacy measuring a floor area of 123.5 sq.ft or rent located at Namchi Hospital District Hospital for a period of 2 (two) years (w.e.f 1st Feb 2020 to 31st Jan 2022).
2. The tenderers should hold valid trade license issued by the authorized Government agencies and should have qualified Pharmacists possessing necessary Certificate in Pharmacy from reputed and recognized Institute to run the shop.
3. The tender forms, tender envelopes and other details like eligibility criteria, Terms & Conditions of Lease etc., can be obtained from the Office of Accounts Officer-cum-D&DO, HC, HS & FW Dept., Namchi, South District on any working days w.e.f 17.12.2019 to 24.12.2019 on production of Challan for Rs.2000/-only duly credited to Revenue Head- 0210-800-Other Receipts (Sale of tender form for Pharmacy).
4. Duly filled up Sealed Tender forms accompanied by TDR (refundable) for Rs.1.0 Lakhs (Rupees One lakh) only drawn in favour of AO-cum-D&DO, HC, HS & FW Department from any branch of State Bank of Sikkim should reach the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Namchi within 12.00 pm of 06.01.2020 (Friday) and the same will be opened at 12.30 pm sharp in the O/o Chief Medical Officer in the presence of Interested tenderers/ authorized representatives.
5. Minimum Offset rate for the above premises as described above is Rs.50000/- (Fifty thousand) per month.
6. Tender in which any of the prescribed conditions are not fulfilled or incomplete in any way will be rejected.
7. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Chief Medical Officer  
Health Care, Human Service & Family Welfare Department  
Namchi, South District.

R.O. No. 300/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20

Date 13.12.2019



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
TASHILING, GANGTOK

No.Exam/2019-20/44

Dated 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

### NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified for general information of all concerned that the Government has decided to **postpone** the State Teacher's Eligibility Test, 2019 (STET) scheduled to be held on **14<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (Saturday)** till further order.

Director-Examination  
Education Department



## Mangan Nagar Panchayat Mangan, North Sikkim

It is notified for the information that the Mangan Nagar Panchayat has declared all wards under its jurisdiction of Open Defection Free Plus (ODF+) as per the protocol laid down by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India as a part of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.

Feedbacks/objections in this matter are invited from the General Public within fifteen (15) days from issued of this notice.

Sd/-  
Municipal Executive Officer  
Mangan Nagar Panchayat



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## This Festive Season, Let's Keep Safe

*It is time to make precautions a habit*

The year-end is festive season the world over, more so in Sikkim where the month of December is packed with festivals building up to the traditional send off of a year and the welcoming of the next. This New Year's eve comes bundled with Losoong, and that is bound to ratchet up the celebration quotient; festivities can be expected to be scaled commensurately high. This is also holiday season, and just as Sikkim residents move to warmer climes to end their year, the more adventurous tourists head here to the hills. This to and fro, however, has been dampened by the demonetization experiment. That said, this is the time for fun and frolic. However, for all the fun that a festive season promises, it also carries the potential for mishaps, especially those that occur on the roads. This, Sikkim should bear in mind, is also road accident season.

Several factors collaborate to mar the frolic of the season with unfortunate incidents. For one, the conflicting pressures of tourist bookings and celebration opportunities automatically contribute to speeding and reckless driving. Celebration binges also involve copious consumption and that never mixed well with road safety. This is also that time of the year when reflexes are dulled by the many layers of clothing and bulky jackets that are required. Visibility is poor, and dew and frost are not safe driving surfaces. These are but some off-the-cuff references on what the driving conditions are like at this time of the year. To ensure that this festive season passes without mishap, the personnel who police the roads and individuals who travel in groups, should take adequate precautions at least as far as the obvious challenges are concerned. It is not too difficult to arrange for a driver who will not drink and drive, and it is not impossible to ensure that only the road worthy vehicles carry passengers. Remember, this is also picnic season, a celebration which, apart from being outdoors and in the winter sun, also involves overcrowded vehicles and distracting boisterousness - all the more reason to incorporate some advance precautions into the planning.

With the schools closed and the weather packing up, more Sikkimese will also be holidaying in the coming weeks and month. This means that there will be a lot of locked homes around Sikkim, and no one home has now become a magnet for burglars. With people huddled under blankets and glued to their televisions and smartphone distractions, breaking and entering will not even bother with keeping the noise down. Some precautions will be well advised. In fact, this, the people should insist upon. Beyond that, a Sikkim Police advisory on how to keep homes safe would be well advised and should be heeded.

Festivals are also about having fun and indulging, but here's hoping that Sikkim will do so responsibly and this festive season brings only good and positive tidings...

### WRITE US:

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

Mail us at: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

# What Boris Johnson's victory means for Britain's place in the world

VICTORIA HONEYMAN  
THECONVERSATION.COM

With Boris Johnson's impressive election victory, one of the biggest questions in British politics will be answered: Brexit, in some form, will be done.

But what does this election victory mean for Britain's standing in the world? Who will the UK now count as its allies, and its enemies?

The manner of Brexit matters in terms of Britain's global standing. The large majority he has secured might give Johnson more room for manoeuvre in Westminster, making a softer Brexit possible. This would undoubtedly allow for smoother relations with the UK's neighbours, but a softer Brexit might also have more advantages globally.

Overseas, Brexit is viewed as a form of national self-harm by many, and a softer departure may well prevent Britain's international standing from being substantially damaged. A softer Brexit, which might involve some freedom of movement, may also allow Britain to strike a stronger bargaining position in future trade negotiations with both the EU and other nations. By remaining at least partially linked to the EU, Britain would be able to present itself in trade negotiations as part of a larger market, giving it more power and a louder voice.

#### US AND CHINA

Beyond Brexit, Johnson and US President Donald Trump will undoubtedly remain close, meaning the so-called "special relationship" will be publicly supported and championed. This public friendship may not make Johnson popular on the global stage, but with his majority, and a potential victory for Trump in November 2020, he may not care.

Bonhomie aside, the extent that camaraderie between Johnson and Trump will benefit Britain is more questionable. Securing a favourable post-Brexit trade deal with the US will remain very challenging.

Britain is already looking to strengthen economic and political ties with Commonwealth countries - Australia's prime minister, Scott Morrison, swiftly tweeted his congratulations to Johnson. The reality of leaning on the Commonwealth will not be as lucrative as membership of the EU, but the Conservatives are keen to draw on it nonetheless.

Specific countries, like India, will become increasingly important. An economic pow-



erhouse, the UK will want to secure a trade deal with India. But at what cost? For India, any trade deal with the UK will have to come with the promise of a relaxation of the visa requirements for Indian nationals. That pay-off may be difficult for Johnson to sell to an electorate which has been repeatedly promised a reduction in immigration and a tightening up of immigration policy from the Conservatives.

China will be another key relationship to watch in future. Relations with China have not been particularly good over the past 20 years. For example China froze investment into the UK under the coalition government following David Cameron's meeting with the Dalai Lama in 2012. Johnson's government will be looking to improve this relationship in the hope of a beneficial trade deal.

But how can this be achieved? One recent example is the Conservative government's response to the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. It might be expected, because of Britain's historic links with Hong Kong and Britain's desire to maintain democracy in the territory, that Johnson's Conservatives would be outspoken in their support of the democratic movements.

Instead, the Johnson government has been quiet on the violence in the territory, a response which will undoubtedly please the Chinese government. It may be that silence

is the cost of a future trade deal with China - a stance which has changed from under the leadership of Theresa May, where Jeremy Hunt was fairly outspoken on Hong Kong while foreign secretary.

#### WEAKENED

For a post-Brexit Britain, there will undoubtedly be some economic opportunities, but there is a cost. Outside of the EU, Britain is a much smaller power on the global stage, both economically and politically.

To secure those all-important trade deals, Britain will have to decide what pay-offs it is willing to make. For all his bluster, Johnson may have to swallow some uncomfortable truths and some uncomfortable compromises. Whether he can sell those at home is another matter.

The size of the Conservatives' victory will hammer the final nail in the coffin of the hopes of those in the EU, and in the UK, who wanted a reversal of Brexit. Johnson is not a popular man in Europe, but Brexit fatigue has made his European counterparts keen to work with him to get Brexit finished. While securing a trade deal with the EU by the end of December 2020 will be tricky, it is also in the EU's interest to make sure that trade remains smooth.

*[the writer is Lecturer in British Politics, University of Leeds]*

## Bougainville has voted to become a new country, but the journey to independence is not yet over

ANNA POWLES  
THECONVERSATION.COM

The Autonomous Region of Bougainville, a chain of islands that lie 959 kilometres northwest of Papua New Guinea's capital, Port Moresby, has voted unequivocally for independence.

The referendum saw 85% voter turnout during three weeks of voting, with 97.7% of voters choosing independence from Papua New Guinea over the second option, which was remaining, but with greater autonomy from PNG. As the Bougainville Referendum Commission stated, the numbers told an important story, reflecting the support for independence across genders and age groups.

It's a momentous event, not only because it could a new country, but also because the referendum marks an important part of a peace agreement signed almost 20 years ago. The 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement ended the deeply divisive nine year conflict (1988-1997) that led to the deaths of approximately 20,000 people, or about 10% of Bougainville's population.

The referendum, however, is non-binding. The ultimate outcome will be determined by a vote in Papua New Guinea's National Parliament following negotiations between the Papua New Guinean government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

But as former President James Tanis said to me hours after the result was announced: "we survived the war, ended the war, delivered a successful referendum, what else can now stop us from becoming a successful independent nation?"

#### CHINA'S INTEREST IN BOUGAINVILLE

For the broader region, an independent Bougainville has a number of implications. Firstly, it sends a strong signal for other self-determination movements across the Pacific, including in New Caledonia which will hold a second referendum for independence in 2020.

There are also geopolitical implications. The referendum has taken place during a period of heightened strategic anxiety among the Pacific's so-called traditional partners - Australia, New Zealand and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, France and Japan.

There have long been concerns China will seek to curry influence with an independent Bougainville. As one Bougainvillean leader informed me, Chinese efforts to build relationships with Bou-



gainville's political elite have increased over the past few years.

Beijing's interest in Bougainville is two-fold: first, it is seeking to shore up diplomatic support in the Pacific Islands region, thereby reducing support for Taiwan which lost a further two Pacific allies this year. And second, to access to resources, namely fisheries and extractive minerals.

Although it will be tempting for many in Canberra, Washington and Wellington to view an independent Bougainville through the current strategic prism - adhering to narratives about debt-trap diplomacy - doing so undermines the importance of local dynamics and the resilience of Bougainville people.

An independent Bougainville navigating a more disordered and disruptive international environment will need nuanced grounded advice, rather than speculation.

The road ahead for Bougainville will be challenging and it will need its friends - particularly New Zealand and Australia.

The much vaunted respective "Pacific Reset" and "Pacific Step Up" policies provide entry points for the kind of genuine engagement and support that Bougainville will require in the coming years.

CELEBRATION WITH CAUTIOUS ANTICIPATION

Following the result's announcement, Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape said his government had heard the voice of Bougainvillians, and the two governments must now develop a road map that leads to lasting political settlement.

And Bougainville Referendum Commission chairman Bertie Ahern urged all sides to recognise the result and said the vote was about "your peace, your history, and your future" and reflected "the power of the pen over weapons". Acknowledging the result is non-binding, Ahern said: "the referendum is one part of that ongoing journey."

And here lies the challenge. The post-referendum period was always going to be one of celebration, cautious anticipation and the management of expectations.

As one of Bougainville's formidable women leaders told me, there are concerns about security in the post-referendum period as expectation turns to frustration if there are perceived delays in determining Bougainville's future political status.

What's more, the negotiations are likely to take a long time, since there's no deadline they're required to meet.

There are, however, critical milestones that still need to be hit first. This includes the Autonomous Bougainville Government elections, the first elections following the referendum, so will likely see intensified politicking as politicians jockey for a potential role in building an independent Bougainvillean state.

The Papua New Guinea's national elections are also scheduled for 2022. The risk in both cases is that Bougainville's future becomes a political pawn.

An independent Bougainville will face significant challenges and diverse choices.

Not least of which is Bougainville's economic security and the choices that will need to be made about the Panguna Mine, the gold and copper mine at the heart of much of the conflict, and fisheries, once the new nation's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone is created.

A young nation built on a past mired by the extremes of resource nationalism, Bougainville has difficult decisions to make about how it secures its economic self-reliance.

*[the writer is Senior Lecturer in Security Studies, Massey University]*



*Tea growers feel pinch of Assam protests, fear less production, sales*

**KOLKATA, DEC 14 (PTI):** Tea growers in Assam have started feeling the pinch of the ongoing protests with partial disruption in production at many gardens and sale of the crop at the Guwahati auction centre being hampered, industry insiders said on Saturday.

Transportation of the produce has also been affected due to the ongoing stir, they said.

“Though winter months are not the peak season, plucking and manufacturing operations in many gardens across the state have been affected amid wide-spread protest,” North Eastern Tea Association adviser Bidyandanda Barkakoty told PTI.

Compared to last few years, the weather condition was favourable during this December and the growers were able to produce relatively better quality tea but operations at several estates have been adversely affected by the protests, he added.

“During Tuesday’s shutdown, gardens were mostly closed. Plucking activities took place on Friday but not in a full-fledged scale as many workers could not come due to lack of transport,” All Assam Small Tea Growers’ Association general secretary Karuna Mahnata told PTI.

The legislation has put the state on boil as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration.

Violent protests broke out in the state earlier this week with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew in several places.

Planters also said the Tea Board has extended the plucking time till December 19 on account of shortage and non-availability of workers.

The board had earlier asked them to shut plucking and manufacturing operations by mid-December to prevent production of inferior quality tea, according to growers.

Suspension of internet services has also affected their business.

“Due to the internet suspension and violent protests, several tea growers are apprehending that they may face difficulties to pay wages to workers as banking services might be affected. Usually, payments to labourers are made either on Friday or Saturday,” Barkakoty said.

Sales of tea at the Guwahati auction centre have also been disrupted.

“Every week, around 40-45 lakh kgs of tea is sold.

But, only 15 lakh kg has been sold so far this week,” Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers’ Association Secretary Dinesh Bihani said.

Barkakoty said planters are also apprehending that if the ongoing protests continue for a prolonged period, the pruning activities and other agricultural processes which usually happen during the winters might get disrupted.

## Violent protests continue in Bengal, several buses, rly station torched

**KOLKATA, DEC 14 (PTI):** Violent agitations continued to rock parts of West Bengal for second consecutive day on Saturday as people protesting against the amended Citizenship Act set several buses on fire and torched portions of a railway station complex, officials said.

Incidents of violence were reported from Murshidabad and North 24 Paraganas districts, and rural Howrah, police said.

Angry protestors torched around 15 buses, both public and private, and blocked traffic on the arterial Kona Expressway in Howrah that connect both NH6 (Mumbai Road) and NH2 (Delhi Road) to Kolkata, the police said.

Traffic movement along the expressway came to a standstill, they said.

The National Highway 34, one of the main roads that connect north and south Bengal, was blocked in Murshidabad.

Buses were also set on fire there, the police said.

Several other roads



in the district were also blocked, they said.

In Howrah district’s Domjur area, the National Highway 6 was blocked as protestors set tyres ablaze and ransacked several vehicles, the police said.

A huge police contingent was at the spot to control the situation, they said.

Since last night, 20 shops have been set on fire in Bagnan area of Rural Howrah, an official said.

A portion of the Sankrail railway station complex in Howrah district was also set on fire in the afternoon by hundreds of protestors, they said.

They also thrashed personnel of the Railway Police Force present at the station.

Train movements were also blocked in the Sealdah-Hasnabad section of the Eastern Railway.

The agitators staged sit-ins on the tracks at Shondaliya and Kakra Mirzapur stations of the section, a railway spokesperson said.

Train services have also come to a halt in the Howrah-Kharagpur section of the South Eastern Railway since 11 am, as protestors sat on the tracks at Sankrail, Nalpur, Mourigram and

Bakranawabaz stations, said zonal spokesperson Sanjoy Ghosh.

Twenty trains, including eight express trains, have been stopped at various stations in the South Eastern zone, a railway official said.

Several trains have also been cancelled in the stretch.

The cancelled trains are 12847/12848 Howrah-Digha AC Exp, 12222 Howrah-Pune Durgam Exp, 120889 Howrah-Tirupati Hum-safar Exp, 12860 Howrah-CSMT Geetanjali Exp, 22877 Howrah-Er-nakulam Antodaya Exp and 22897/22898 Howrah-Digha-Howrah Kan-

dari Exp.

The 12841 Coromondal Exp from Howrah, 12245 Howrah-Yesvantpur Durgam Exp, 18645 Howrah-Hyderabad East Coast Express have also been cancelled.

Puri-Digha Express, Puri-Santragachhi Passenger from Puri on December 15 have also been cancelled on December 15, a statement said.

Some trains were also short terminated.

Protests over the amended Citizenship Act reached the shores of West Bengal on Friday, with agitators resorting to violence and arson at railway stations and thoroughfares across the state, seeking immediate revocation of the law.

The legislation has put the entire Northeast on the boil as people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration, while Muslims across the country apprehend that the move could be a precursor to the country-wide implementation of the National Register for Citizens (NRC).

*RJD calls for Bihar bandh on Dec 21 in protest against citizenship law*



**PATNA, DEC 14 (PTI):** Lalu Prasad’s Rashtriya Janata Dal has given call for a Bihar bandh on December 21 in protest against the amended Citizenship Act, alleging that it has blown the Constitution to smithereens.

Tejashwi Yadav, Prasad’s younger son and heir apparent, made the announcement late on Friday night, urging all political and non-political outfits having “faith in the Constitution and the principle of justice” to take part in the bandh which was initially scheduled for December 22, but was later pre-poned so that the police recruitment exams next Sunday were not affected.

“The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a black legislation that has blown the Constitution to smithereens. As a mark of protest, Rashtriya Janata Dal will organize a Bihar bandh on Sunday, December 22.

“We appeal to all secular parties, non-political outfits and common citizens who have faith in the Constitution and the principle of justice to wholeheartedly support the bandh and help us make it a success,” he tweeted.

The 30-year-old leader of opposition followed it up with another tweet

“Correction: Bihar bandh will now be on Saturday, December 21 because police recruitment tests are scheduled on December 22. The rescheduling is being done so that young aspirants are not inconvenienced on account of the bandh.”

Founded in 1997 after which it ruled Bihar for eight more years, the RJD is known for using strong arm tactics to enforce shutdowns which bring normal life to a standstill, sometimes even resulting in violence and massive disruption of rail and road traffic.

The party has been going through a rough patch since the Lok Sabha polls this year wherein it put up its worst-ever performance and failed to win a single seat.

Turmoil in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s JD(U) over supporting the Bill in Parliament, which is expected to dent his popularity among the state’s Muslims, has prompted the opposition party to come out of torpor and bring itself back into the reckoning with assembly polls less than a year away.

Meanwhile, the BJP - the party in power at the Centre and the JD(U)’s coalition partner in Bihar - took exception to the vociferous opposition to the Bill and condemned it as “scaremongering and appeasement of Muslims”.

Bihar BJP spokesman Nikhil Anand said in his reply to Yadav’s tweet: “brother, please take the trouble to read the Citizenship Amendment Bill at least once, in its entirety, ask questions that may thus arise and thereafter even run a campaign for further amendments if such a need is felt. But such rants against a legislation that has already been passed by both Houses of Parliament are shameful and nothing more than scaremongering and appeasement of Muslims”.

The legislation has put the entire Northeast on the boil, where people fear that it may exacerbate the problem of illegal immigration, while Muslims across the country apprehend that the move could be a precursor to the country-wide implementation of the National Register for Citizens (NRC).

## Internet services suspended across Assam till Monday

**GUWAHATI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Internet services across Assam will remain suspended till December 16 to prevent alleged misuse of social media in disturbing peace and to maintain law and order in the state, officials said on Saturday.

Suspension of internet services have been extended for another 48 hours keeping in view the prevailing law and order situation in the state, additional chief secretary (home and political department) San-



jay Krishna told PTI.

This services have been suspended as “social media platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter and You Tube, etc are likely to be used

for spreading of rumours and also for transmission of information like pictures, videos and texts that have the potential to inflame passions and does exacerbate the law

and order situation”.

Internet services were suspended on Wednesday initially for 24 hours in ten districts of the state, and then extend-

## Normal life hit in parts of Nagaland in shutdown against citizenship law

**KOHIMA, DEC 14 (PTI):** Schools and colleges were closed, markets were shut and vehicles remained largely off roads in parts of Nagaland on Saturday amid a six-hour shutdown call given by the Naga Students’ Federation (NSF), protesting against the amended Citizenship Act, officials said.

No untoward incident has been reported so far from the Naga inhabited areas where the shutdown began at 6 am, they said.

The sudden shutdown, announced by the NSF on Friday to express resentment of the Naga population against the law, will continue till 12 pm.

Students appearing examination, medical staff on duty, media personnel, and those having weddings are being

allowed on roads by the protestors.

State capital Kohima also wore a deserted look with most of the commercial establishments not opening due to the shutdown.

NSF vice president Dievi Yano condemned the amended Citizenship Act, saying it did not take into account the sentiments of the indigenous people of the Northeast.

“The NSF totally represents the injustice done by the central government and we will never support the amended Citizenship Act, which is the latest weapon of the Centre to divide the Northeastern people on concessional lines,” he said.

“The NSF does not believe in classification of illegal immigrants on religious lines as the NSF regards all illegal immi-



grants as criminals and they must be treated accordingly,” he said.

Further, the NSF condemned the three Naga MPs -- Tokheho Yephthomi (Lok Sabha) and K G Kenye (Rajya Sabha) from Nagaland and Lorho S Pfoze (Lok Sabha) from Manipur -- for voting in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

The NSF said that along with the North

East Students Organisation (NESO) it would take all necessary measures to ensure that the law does not take effect in the region.

On Friday, Dimapur Naga Students’ Union along with the Joint Committee on Prevention of Illegal Immigrants organised a candlelight vigil in Dimapur which saw hundreds of people taking part.

## Citizenship row: Tough security measures continue at AMU

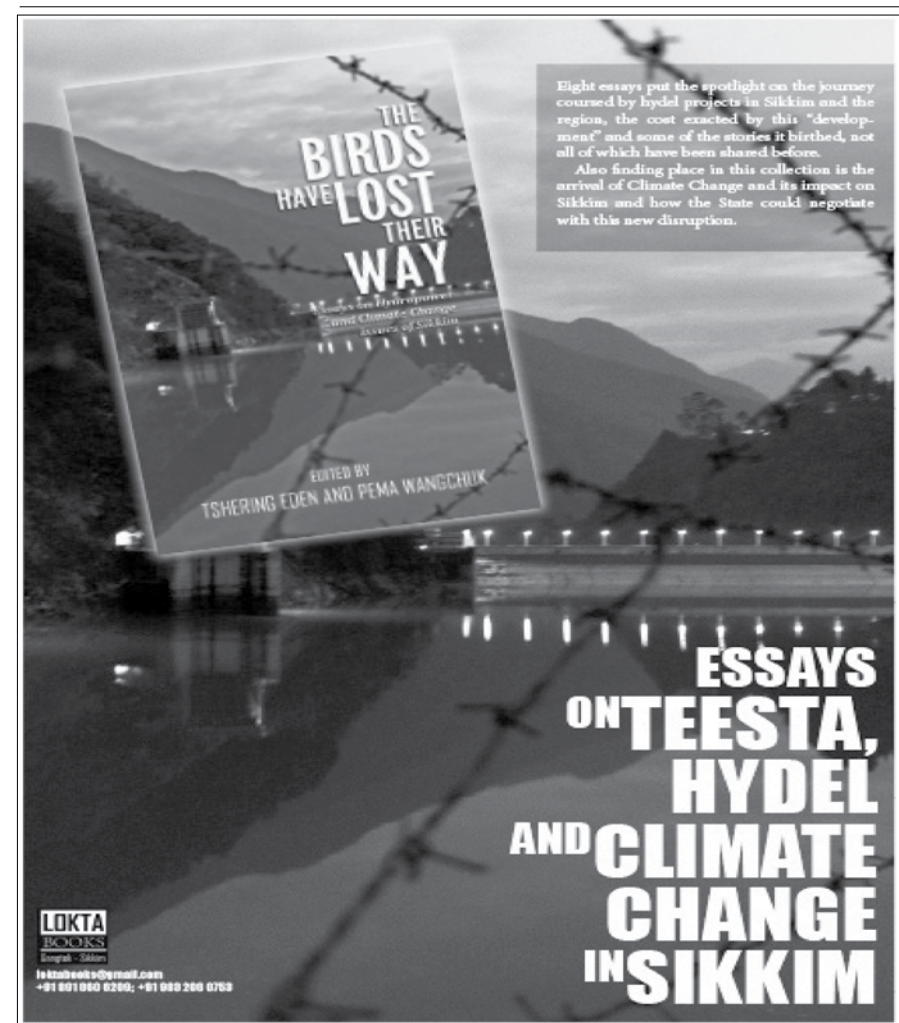
**ALIGARH (UP) DEC 14 (PTI):** Tough security measures continued at Aligarh Muslim University on Saturday as a precautionary measure amid student protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Heavy police patrolling is underway at the university circle and other entry points of the AMU campus as a precautionary measure, police said.

Annual examinations are continuing as per

schedule and the district authorities and the AMU administration are maintaining strict vigil, AMU spokesman Dr Rahat Abrar said.

AMU Teachers’ Association secretary Najmul Islam told PTI that the executive committee of their association would hold an emergency meeting on Saturday night to take stock of the situation and decide on future course of action.





# Manley to McTominay: 4,000 victories for Manchester United’s academy

JAMIE JACKSON  
THEGUARDIAN

Scott McTominay is the latest poster boy for a remarkable Manchester United academy that has produced the Busby Babes, George Best and the Class of 92, and which will provide a player to the matchday squad for the 4,000th game in succession when Everton visit on Sunday.

McTominay was blooded at the age of 20 by José Mourinho in a 2-0 defeat at Arsenal in May 2017 and by the end of the following campaign had received the manager’s player of the season award.

McTominay, spotted at five when he attended a development centre in Preston, is the epitome of a system that has sourced United’s top five appearance makers: Ryan Giggs, Sir Bobby Charlton, Bill Foulkes, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville.

Of the 4,000 landmark, he says: “It’s amazing. Whenever we were in the youth team we had different members of staff saying to us about the consecutive matches we’ve had a youth player from the academy in. To get to 4,000 is incredible and a real credit to the staff who have invested so much in every player who has contributed.”

The run began on 30 October 1937 in a second division game at Fulham when Tom Manley and Jackie Wassall were in a United XI that lost 1-0. During the next eight decades the nascent careers of Dennis

Viollet (1940s), Duncan Edwards (1950s), Best (1960s), Norman Whiteside (1970s), Giggs (1980s), Scholes (1990s), Paul Pogba (2000s), and Andreas Pereira (2010s) would presage them becoming first-team regulars and taking a place in the roll call of the academy’s headline successes.

In this billing the Busby Babes and Class of 92 are prominent. The former were developed under Sir Matt Busby, with the manager’s assistant, Jimmy Murphy, and chief scout, Joe Bishop, executing his vision.

This stellar group formed the core of the consecutive title-winners of 1955-56 and 1956-57 before eight – Roger Byrne, Mark Jones, Eddie Coleman, Edwards, Billy Whelan, Tommy Taylor, David Pegg and Geoff Bent – were killed in the Munich air disaster of 1958, with Jackie Blanchflower’s career ended by the injuries he suffered.

This glittering and tragic history has informed the subsequent culture of the academy, says Nick Cox, who succeeded Nicky Butt as its head in the summer.

“If you think back to what Sir Matt Busby tried to create, he made the point that people who pay to watch have been grafting in the factories all week,” Cox says. “They’re local folk, this is their one release and we have a duty to entertain and show them we’re the same, but just privileged to be on the pitch. When it’s local boys that con-



nection becomes even greater and more powerful.”

Butt, Giggs, David Beckham, Gary and Phil Neville and Scholes became known as the Class of 92 because of the role the first four of them had in the FA Youth Cup triumph of that year and their status as mainstays of Sir Alex Ferguson’s stellar side in the mid-1990s to early 2000s, whose 1999 Treble triumph remains the domestic game’s greatest feat.

They were in a second wave of “Fergie Fledglings” developed under the Scot, whose commitment to youth began with the late-1980s crop that included Russell Beardsmore and Lee Martin.

Cox follows a long tradition of United talent scouts and developers. Luminaries include Bob Bishop, who discovered Best and Whiteside; Murphy, who was prominent in healing a near-broken club until Busby recovered; and Eric Harrison,

the youth team coach from 1981 until 2008.

Cox says: “What we’re doing here is producing the equivalent of gold medalists and spacemen who are landing on the moon. To produce young players who are ready to play at Old Trafford is the pinnacle. We’re trying to create a rich ecosystem.”

Many of those who do not make it have fine careers elsewhere. Cox says: “It’s kids in our first team, kids playing professional football across the country but, more importantly, kids who have been enriched by the contact they’ve had with us.”

Ole Gunnar Solskjær was made Mourinho’s successor partly because of his belief in home-grown talent. The Norwegian has proved his commitment to it, though a net summer spend of only around £80m indicates pragmatism is at work, too.

Thursday’s 4-0 Europa League win over AZ Alkmaar was graced by

two goals from Mason Greenwood, an 18-year-old graduate. In 2019 Solskjær has given debuts to nine other club-reared products: Tahith Chong, James Garner, Brandon Williams, Ethan Laird, Di’Shon Bernard, Dylan Levitt, Ethan Galbraith, Largie Ramazani and D’mani Mellor.

There are 12 academy players in Solskjær’s squad. They have played 38% of all first-team minutes in 2019-20 and assisted or scored 31 of United’s 34 goals. November’s 3-1 defeat of Brighton & Hove Albion featured the Premier League’s youngest lineup this term with an average age of 23 years and 350 days.

Solskjær says: “Giving young players a chance is a tradition we are very proud of. It’s part of our DNA and you learn that quickly when you join the club. Young players can only surprise and impress you when you give them a chance to show their talent. The 4,000 is a milestone we are proud

of and long may it continue.”

A subplot of the academy narrative concerns those who did not realise their potential. Ravel Morrison is one example, a midfielder rated very highly by Ferguson but who failed to make a league appearance before leaving in January 2012.

Cox says: “Maybe his character has held him back, but he is still a Premier League footballer [at Sheffield United] and doing OK.”

Cox tutored Borussia Dortmund’s Jadon Sancho when both were at Watford. “I’ve known him since he was seven but Jadon Sancho produced Jadon Sancho,” says Cox. Sancho moved from Watford to Manchester City in 2015 and United face competition from their crosstown rival in the race to attract talent. If this reflects a lack of success in the Youth Cup since 2011 or at Under-18 Premier League level for six years,

We want this to look like a childlike rather than a cut-throat, sanitised environment.

“We’ve always had our eye on the bigger picture. Where are these kids going to be in 10 years? Do we still have kids who are going to play in the first team? If you win at the expense of development, you don’t produce footballers.”

Cox may have a point, as beyond Phil Foden City have struggled to produce a first-team squad regular since Mich Richards in 2005.

McTominay describes the values United imbue. “It’s about general standards: being punctual, always wearing black boots until you get to the reserve team,” he says. “There are no big egos, no kids coming in wearing jewellery. If a young player is doing that in the canteen I would certainly be one to say something and the same with other boys in the first team, and the manager as well.

“You don’t realise how much things like that are going to help. You think: ‘This is rubbish.’ Now I look back and those standards have been passed through, so everybody has the idea of what a Manchester United player should look and be like – the DNA that comes with wearing that badge.”

Cox’s ambition is to produce a fresh wave of talent as impressive as the Class of 92. “We have to aspire to do that, absolutely,” he says. “We have to believe it’s possible.”

## Criticism mounts on WADA decision in Russia doping case

LAUSANNE, DEC 14 (PTI): Criticism of the World Anti-Doping Agency’s sanctions against Russia mushroomed with a rebuke from the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee coming on the heels of the outraged resignation of a member of the WADA athlete committee.

The USOPC and British Paralympian Victoria Aggar each expressed their disagreement with WADA’s decision not to issue a blanket ban on the Russians in wake of evidence that government officials doctored data that was supposed to be used to prosecute cases stemming from the country’s long-running doping scandal.

Aggar, a Paralympic rower, announced her resignation from WADA’s athlete committee, saying “I simply can no longer be part of an organization that places politics over principle.”

## Rashford adds finishing touch to become complete striker

LONDON, DEC 14 (AFP): Marcus Rashford has always had the tools to become a world-class forward. Now he has added a clinical touch to his searing pace and box of tricks.

The 22-year-old already has 13 goals for United this season – equalling his best-ever return for the club in a single campaign and is the undisputed leader of the team’s attack.

Just weeks ago Rashford was struggling for goals in Ole Gunnar Solskjær’s misfiring team, finding the net just once between the opening day of the season and the match against Liverpool on October 20.



Hours later at its quarterly meeting, the USOPC board debated the wisdom of sanctions that called for innocent athletes to be able to compete as neutrals at next year’s Olympics, even though determining who really is innocent has been made more difficult because of the data manipulation.

“It’s very difficult for us to see how justice can be served and how there will be a true deterrent versus future corruption if any of the athletes from Russia have a right to compete in Tokyo under any flag, neutral or otherwise,” USOPC chair

Susanne Lyons said.

“If the data truly has been corrupted ... it’s very unclear how you can decide and siphon out who’s been part of the doping and who has not.”

Earlier in the week, the chair of the British Olympic Association called for “the fullest possible sanctions to be taken against Russia at Tokyo 2020.”

It was the same stance that a majority of the WADA athlete committee took last weekend, before WADA executives met to rubber-stamp the recommendation that would allow Russians to compete as neutrals.

ing pace and trickery.

Solskjær spoke in glowing terms of Rashford after his two goals in the recent 2-1 win against Tottenham.

“The boy is 22 and he played like he was in the backyard, garden or playground with his mates,” said United’s Norwegian boss, who has compared his attributes with former United player Cristiano Ronaldo, who also took time to become a prolific goalscorer.

“Sometimes, maybe, there is expectation and pressure on him because we do expect a lot from him, as he has shown (what he can do) so many times.” The elegant Rash-

The decision forced Aggar’s hand, and led her to release a statement saying WADA’s actions “have fundamentally shaken my belief in an organization that I felt initially served a great purpose in protecting the integrity of sports.”

The USOPC’s Athletes Advisory Council was among those supporting Aggar.

“WADA’s decision to ignore the majority of its own Athlete Committee ... is out of touch and the current sanctions will not be enough to cause significant change in Russia,” the AAC said in a statement.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday, WADA compliance chairman Jonathan Taylor said disallowing the Russian flag and its Olympic officials from the Tokyo Games, but not barring all its athletes, “was the appropriate line to draw.

ford says he is tougher on himself than any critic and has talked about minor adjustments he has made to his game.

“Just little stuff like, for me holding off defenders is a big one,” he said in an interview with former England player Gary Lineker for Goalhanger Films.

“It’s something that I speak about quite often a lot with my brothers who see me play all the way through. I always say if you’re trying too hard to do it then you’re not quite at your maximum.”

“I feel like this season I’m doing little stuff that shows that it’s becoming a bit more natural and easier,” he added.

## Arsenal’s Ozil condemns Muslim silence over Uighurs

ISTANBUL, DEC 14 (AFP): Arsenal’s Mesut Ozil, a German footballer of Turkish origin, expressed support for Uighurs in Xinjiang and criticised Muslim countries for their failure to speak up for them.

“Korans are being burnt... Mosques are being shut down ... Muslim schools are being banned ... Religious scholars are being killed one by one ... Brothers are forcefully being sent to camps,” Ozil wrote in Turkish on his Twitter account.

“The Muslims are silent. Their voice is not heard,” he wrote on a background of a blue field with a white crescent moon, the flag of what Uighur separatists call East Turkestan.

China has faced growing international condemnation for setting up a vast network of camps in Xinjiang aimed at homogenising the Uighur population to reflect China’s majority Han culture.

Rights groups and experts say more than one million Uighurs and people of other mostly Muslim ethnic minorities have been rounded up in



the camps in the tightly-controlled region.

After initially denying the camps existed, China describes them as vocational schools aimed at dampening the allure of Islamist extremism and violence.

Turkey, which takes its name from Turkic people who migrated from central Asia, is home to an Uighur community and has regularly raised concerns about the situation in Xinjiang.

In his tweet, Ozil said Western states and media had kept the Uighur issue on their agenda and added: “what will be remembered years later would not be the torture by the tyrants but the silence of their Muslim brothers.”

## Woods sits as International expands Presidents Cup lead

MELBOURNE, DEC 14 (AP): The Americans are in a big hole at the Presidents Cup, and there’s nothing Tiger Woods is doing about it.

Whatever momentum they had going into the double session Saturday at Royal Melbourne vanished as Abraham Ancer and the International team filled the scoreboards with their black-and-gold colors and built a 9-5 lead after three sessions.

Tony Finau birdied the last two holes to at least get a half-point from the final fourballs match for the U.S. team.

Woods, the first playing captain in 25 years and a winner in the two matches he played with Justin Thomas, took himself out of the lineup on Saturday morning for fourballs. And then in a surprise, he sat himself in the afternoon.

“You have to do what’s best for the team, Woods

said. And I’m getting ready for the singles tomorrow.”

The decision even surprised International captain Ernie Els, sitting on the other side of the table from him and fully preparing to set his foursomes lineup based on where Woods was going to play.

“Yes, especially the way he’s been playing with J.T.,” Els said.

“I thought Tiger would play this afternoon.”

Arsenal moved to distance themselves from Ozil’s comments in a bid to limit fallout in China, where the club has numerous commercial interests.

“The content published is Ozil’s personal opinion,” the club said in a Chinese language post Saturday on its official account on the Twitter-like Weibo platform.

“As a football club, Arsenal has always adhered to the principle of not involving itself in politics.” But a few angry fans called for a ban on airing Arsenal games featuring Ozil.

“I hope they ban Ozil’s matches and business activities (in China),” wrote one Weibo user. Another Chinese fan

said she “cried last night” after reading the post, which the star had also uploaded to Instagram.

“For over a decade, I’ve worn an Arsenal jersey with Ozil’s number. It will never be worn again,” she wrote on Weibo.

The 31-year-old footballer sparked controversy last year when he was photographed with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, raising questions about his loyalty to Germany on the eve of their 2018 World Cup campaign.

Ozil later quit the national squad, accusing German football officials of racism. Erdogan was Ozil’s best man when the footballer was married in Istanbul this year.



## Will not tolerate Iran's bad behaviour: US Defense Secretary

LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, DEC 14 (PTI):** The United States will not tolerate Iran's bad behaviour and it is focussed on internationalising the response to Iran's aggression by encouraging increased burden sharing and cooperation among its allies and partners, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Friday.

"We are focussed on internationalising the response to Iran's aggression by encouraging increased burden sharing and cooperation among our allies and partners," Esper said during his appearance at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) think-tank.

Iran, he alleged, continued with its malign influence and widespread destabilising activities across the Middle East.

Its efforts had increased in recent months as it attacked targets in Saudi Arabia, disrupted commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, shot down a US

unmanned aerial vehicle in international airspace and provided support to proxies, including the Houthis, Hezbollah and Shia militia groups in Iraq, Esper charged.

To address these threats, since May, nearly 14,000 US military personnel were deployed to the region to further enhance deterrence and demonstrate its commitment to allies and partners, he said, while asserting that these forces were not intended to signal an escalation, but rather to "buttress our efforts at deterrence".

The International Maritime Security Constructs, which protects freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, includes contributions from the United Kingdom, Australia, Albania, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Esper said.

The more nascent international integrated air missile defence effort, led by Saudi Ara-

bia, aimed to increase security by protecting critical infrastructure throughout the region, he added.

"Through these actions, we are sending a clear message to Iran that the international community will not tolerate its bad behaviour," Esper said.

In the Middle East, he said, the United States must remain committed to supporting a regional constellation of strategic partners to ensure the enduring defeat of the ISIS, while deterring Iran's acts of aggression.

"In Syria and Iraq, the United States has achieved great success, working alongside our partner forces to destroy ISIS's physical caliphate and liberate millions of people living under its barbaric rule. This includes the successful operations that resulted in the death of ISIS's founder and leader Bakr al-Baghdadi as well as one of his top deputies," Esper said.

## Not fair that I am being impeached: Trump

LALIT K JHA

**WASHINGTON, DEC 14 (PTI):** US President Donald Trump on Friday said it was unfair that he was being impeached as he had done no wrong and the country under him was doing quite good.

"It's not fair that I'm being Impeached when I've done absolutely nothing wrong!," Trump said in a tweet on Friday night as a key Congressional committee, earlier in the day, approved the two articles of impeachment against him.

The impeachment against Trump now moves to the House of Representatives, where the opposition Democratic Party enjoys a majority. Once passed by the House, the trial for impeachment would be carried out in the 100-member US Senate, where Trump's Republican party has a majority.

"The Radical Left, Do Nothing Democrats have become the Party of Hate. They are so bad for our Country!," Trump said in his tweet.

Earlier in the day, he described the impeachment as a hoax and politically motivated.

"The impeachment

is a hoax. It is a sham. It started a long time ago, probably before I came down the escalator with the future First Lady. It started a long time ago," Trump told reporters earlier in the day at the White House.

"It is a witch hunt. It is a sham. It is a hoax. Nothing was done wrong. Zero was done wrong. I think it is a horrible thing to be using the tool of impeachment, which is supposed to be used in an emergency. And it would seem many, many, many years apart," he asserted.

"To be using this for a perfect phone call, where the president of that country said there was no pressure whatsoever -- did not even know what we were talking about. It was perfect; the relationship is perfect. I have done much more for them than Obama did for them. It is a scam. It is something that should not be allowed. And it is a very bad thing for our country," Trump said.

The Democrats, he said were trivialising impeachment.

"I tell you what,

someday there will be a Democrat president and there will be a Republican House, and I suspect they are going to remember it. Because when you use impeachment for absolutely nothing, other than to try and get political gain," Trump said.

He asserted that his poll numbers had gone through the roof.

"Fundraising for the Republican Party has gone through the roof. We are setting records. We have never -- nobody has ever seen anything like it because the people are disgusted. The people are absolutely disgusted. Nobody has ever seen anything like this," he said.

Meanwhile, the US Senate geared itself for the next phase of impeachment process.

"If articles of impeachment are sent to the Senate, every single senator will take an oath to render 'impartial justice'. Making sure the Senate conducts a fair and honest trial that allows all the facts to come out is paramount," Senate Minority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer said.

## Malaysian PM again hints he could stay on beyond 2020

DOHA, DEC 14 (AFP):

Malaysia's 94-year-old Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad again raised the prospect on Saturday that he could stay in office beyond 2020, declining to give a definitive pledge to step down.

Mahathir returned to power last year after dealing a historic election defeat to the corruption-plagued coalition that he once led and which had been in power for six decades.

Mahathir led Malaysia for more than two decades before his retirement in 2003 which paved the way for the leadership of now dis-

graced former prime minister Najib Razak.

"We had a vision to become a fully developed country by 2020. Unfortunately, after I stepped down, the leadership took a different course, different policies. And that caused the target not to be achieved in 2020," Mahathir said at the Doha Forum event in the Qatari capital.

"What we have settled for is we will still try, but we have moved the accomplishment date to between 2025 and 2030.

"I have promised that I would step down once I have resolved

some of the major problems that have been left by the previous government. I promised that I will step down if a leadership candidate has been named by the coalition."

Anwar Ibrahim, seen as the likely successor to Mahathir, has previously said that he expects to take office by May 2020, but Mahathir has publicly contradicted him several times.

And on Thursday, Anwar was questioned by police over allegations he sexually assaulted a male former aide, the latest such scandal to hit his career.

# North Korea conducts 'crucial test' at Sohae launch site: KCNA

North Korea has conducted another "crucial test" at its Sohae satellite launch site, state media reported Saturday, as nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington remain stalled with a deadline approaching.

The announcement comes a day before US Special Envoy on North Korea Stephen Biegun is set to arrive in Seoul for a three-day visit, and after the United States tested a medium-range ballistic missile over the Pacific Ocean on Thursday.

"Another crucial test was successfully conducted at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground from 22:41 to 22:48 on December 13," a spokesman for the North's National Academy of Defence Science said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

The "research successes" will be "applied to further bolstering up the reliable strategic nuclear deterrent" of North Korea, the spokesman added.

The statement did not provide further details on the test.

Sohae, on North Korea's northwest coast, is ostensibly a facility de-



signed for putting satellites into orbit.

But Pyongyang has carried out several rocket launches there that were condemned by the US and others as disguised long-range ballistic missile tests.

The North is banned from firing ballistic missiles under UN Security Council resolutions, and rocket engines can be easily repurposed for use in missiles.

Frustrated by the lack of sanctions relief after three summits with President Donald Trump, North Korea has vowed an ominous "Christmas gift" if the US does not come up with concessions by

the end of the year.

Some analysts have suggested the North may be referring to an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

Earlier this month the North announced it conducted what it called a "very important test" at the same site in Sohae.

"It's very likely that the North is going to fire something on Christmas day, and they may call it a rocket system when it actually is an ICBM," Ahn Chan-il, a North Korean defector and researcher in Seoul, told AFP.

"The tests at Sohae can be seen as a form of preparation for the launch -- whatever it will

be -- on December 25."

- End-of-year deadline -

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had agreed to shutter the Sohae site during a summit last year with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang as part of trust-building measures.

Kim has also held three meetings with US President Donald Trump since June 2018.

But his nuclear negotiations with Washington have been deadlocked since a summit in Hanoi broke up in February, and Pyongyang has issued a series of increasingly assertive comments in recent weeks as its time limit approaches.

The North this week

criticised Washington as "foolish" for convening a UN Security Council meeting over growing concern about short-range rockets fired from the isolated state.

By arranging the meeting, Washington "decisively helped us make a definite decision on what way to choose," North Korea's foreign ministry spokesman said.

Last week, the North's vice foreign minister warned of returning to a war of words with the US, threatening to resume referring to Trump as a "dotard" -- Pyongyang's nickname for the US leader at the height of tensions in 2017.

The comments came a day after it warned that if the US used military force against the North it would take "prompt corresponding actions at any level".

Back in 2017 North Korea announced it successfully tested an ICBM capable of reaching Alaska.

At the recent NATO summit, Trump boasted about Washington's "most powerful military", adding: "Hopefully, we don't have to use it, but if we do, we'll use it. If we have to, we'll do it."

## Sudan's Bashir awaits his fate in corruption trial

KHARTOUM, DEC 14

(AFP): A verdict in the corruption trial of Sudan's ex-president Omar al-Bashir is expected on Saturday, eight months after the military deposed the strongman during unprecedented mass protests against his three-decade rule.

Bashir is charged with illegally acquiring and using foreign funds.

If found guilty, he could be sent to prison for up to 10 years.

The Khartoum court is expected to hand down its verdict at 10:00 am (0800 GMT).

Bashir was toppled by the army on April 11 after months of mass demonstrations triggered by an acute economic crisis.

He has attended several hearings since the trial began in August, appearing in a metal cage wearing the traditional Sudanese white jalabiya and turban.

At the start of the trial, judge Sadeq Abdelrahman said authorities had seized 6.9 million euros as well as USD 351,770 and 5.7 million Sudanese pounds (USD 128,000) from Bashir's home.

While the former president admitted to having received a total of USD 90 million from Saudi leaders, the trial centres on the USD 25 million received from Saudi Arabia's de fac-

to ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Bashir said the money seized from his home came out of the USD 25 million. The funds, he said, formed part of Sudan's strategic relations with Saudi Arabia and were "not used for private interests but as donations".

Bashir's lawyer Mohamed al-Hassan told reporters that the ex-president's defence does not see the trial as a legal case, but as "a political" one.

The trial does not

relate to charges Bashir faces at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Bashir has been wanted by the ICC for years for his role in the Darfur war that broke out in 2003, when ethnic minority rebels took up arms against his Arab-dominated government which they accused of marginalising the region.

Rights groups say Khartoum applied targeted suspected pro-rebel ethnic groups with a scorched earth policy,

raping, killing, looting and burning villages.

The Darfur conflict left around 300,000 people dead and 2.5 million displaced, according to the UN.

After Bashir was toppled, ICC prosecutors requested he stand trial for the killings in Darfur.

Army generals who initially seized power after the president's fall refused to hand over the 75-year-old.

But Sudan's umbrella protest movement, which now has significant representation on a sovereign council that in

August became the country's highest executive authority -- recently said it has no objection to his extradition.

Separately, on November 12, Sudanese authorities filed charges against Bashir and some of his aides for "plotting" the 1989 coup that brought him to power.

In May, Sudan's attorney general said Bashir had been charged with the deaths of those killed during the anti-regime demonstrations that led to his ouster, without specifying when he would face trial.

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**LOTS OF LAUGHS! Actors, Sienna Miller and Aaron Paul lounged at the after party for a film screening of American Woman in New York City.**

## Cate Blanchett, David Harbour to guest star in 'The Simpsons'

**LOS ANGELES, DEC 14 (PTI):** Hollywood stars Cate Blanchett and David Harbour are heading to Springfield with the actors set to voice guest star on "The Simpsons".

The long-running animated comedy will see the Oscar winner Blanchett voice a canine psychologist named Elaine, who will appear next year in an episode that is likely to be the season 31 finale.

In "The Way of the Dog", Elaine agrees to help Santa's Little Helper, who is suffering from depression.

"She determines if there's a trauma in his past that they have to go solve, which actually goes back to the first episode of the series," "The Simpsons" executive producer Al Jean told Entertainment Weekly.

"Stranger Things" star Harbour will play an alternate version of Mr Burns, voiced by Harry Shearer, in a season 32 episode.

In a take on Undercover Boss, Mr Burns notices some graffiti on the wall at the nuclear power plant and decides to go undercover to root out the problem.

"Like 'Mission: Impossible', they give him a whole new body and face and voice so that this people in the plant won't possibly recognise him.



"He's supposed to be a blue-collar guy from another part of the plant, but everything he says is like Mr Burns. He wants to go to karaoke and sing songs from the 1890s, but the guys don't see through it," Jean added.

"The Simpsons" airs Sundays on Fox.

## Thin line between being responsible and satisfying creative juices as an actor: Rani Mukerji



**MUMBAI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Actor Rani Mukerji believes an artiste needs to have a "good balance" of films to achieve creative satisfaction and be socially responsible.

The actor, whose latest release "Mardaani 2" revolves around rape cases committed by juveniles in India, said she has always been aware about the projects she takes up.

good balance, it's a great thing and I have been able to achieve that throughout my career. I have done all kinds of films," she added.

"Mardaani 2" opened on Friday to a favourable response from both audience and critics.

"If you get love, respect and adulation from your country, somewhere down the line you become responsible. But again, there is a thin line between being responsible and also satisfying your creative juices," Rani told PTI.

She further said sometimes actors can face dilemma between choosing to play a certain character on screen and making films with a social message.

"Sometimes you would want to play a negative character to see that side of yourself, to see if you can pull off that character. That might not be a socially silver lining film for your career.

"It would just be something you want to do. As an actor if there is a

## Sahir Ludhianvi was a paradoxical man: Javed Akhtar



**NEW DELHI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Known for speaking truth to power through his poetry and his radical attitude when it came to fighting for what was right, Sahir Ludhianvi was an entirely different person in his private life, poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar said here Saturday.

"He was a very paradoxical man, I can't say a more boring thing about him if I say he was a good man. When he was good he could be good beyond limits and same goes for when he was angry with somebody. It was like a pendulum with him," Akhtar said at a session during the ongoing Jashn-e-Rekhta festival.

The poet, who was the only son of a rich landlord, stayed with his mother after her divorce during early childhood and led a life of poverty before becoming a successful poet and lyricist.

Akhtar said that it was wrong to think that such a successful poet must have led an easy life considering the suffering he had gone through.

"Do you think a man who led a relaxed life, the one with money and comfort would name his book 'talkhiyan' (bitterness)? It is not possible. His life was full of bitterness and sadness and it remained with him till his last days," the 74-year-old lyricist said.

Looking at his social life, nobody could

imagine the kind of effect his mother had on him, he added.

Reminiscing an incident at Ludhianvi's Versova home in Mumbai, Akhtar said that he had never seen such a mother-son relationship before or after the poet, who died in 1980.

At one of their drinking sessions, Ludhianvi commented on the political situation and everyone agreed to his opinion.

"He thanked everyone and in middle of the conversation he walked to the other end of the house to his mother's room, narrated the entire incident to her, told her how everyone appreciated his point of view and then came back," Akhtar remembered with an evident surprise.

This was a 45-year-old successful poet who could admonish ministers, fight with directors, producers, music directors and sought approval of his mother for the smallest thing, he added.

"He had these two different sides to him. He was not one man, there were several men inside him," the lyricist said.

Ludhianvi was known as the "people's poet" as his writings reflected their loves, sufferings, angst and joy. He also worked extensively as a film song lyricist for close to three decades.

## Success of big films gave me courage to do smaller movies: Sonakshi

**MUMBAI, DEC 14 (PTI):** Actor Sonakshi Sinha says she found the courage to do smaller films courtesy the visibility that came with the commercial blockbusters which helped her reach out to a bigger audience.

Sonakshi made her big Bollywood debut opposite Salman Khan in "Dabangg" and went on to star in potboilers such as "Rowdy Rathore" and "R... Rajkumar".

The 32-year-old actor simultaneously headlined movies like "Akira", "Noor" and this year's "Khanadaani Shafakhana".

"The big films that I've done and their success gave me the courage to do smaller films like that and take it all upon my shoulders. These big films have given me an audience that I wouldn't have got if I had started the other way around. I know that, which is why I am able to take those risks," Sonakshi told PTI.

The actor said even though the films weren't successful, she still gets a lot of love for them.

"As long as I do my job well, irrespective of the result of the film at the box office, I am happy. Bad box office numbers don't make a bad film. 'Lootera' didn't do well at the box office but it is my most remembered film."

She will be next seen in "Dabangg 3"



and will begin 2020 with her forthcoming film "Bhuj: The Pride of India", featuring Ajay Devgn and Sanjay Dutt.

Set during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971, the film follows IAF Squadron Leader Vijay Karnik, the then incharge of the Bhuj airport, who with his team reconstructed the IAF airbase with the help of 300 local women.

"It's really exciting. It'll be my first biopic. I'm playing the role of this amazing woman, Sunderben Jetha Madharparya, who gathered 300 women from her village to build a runway overnight so that the Indian plane could land in Bhuj. It's a phenomenal story. I'm happy I'm able to portray strong women on screen," she said.

### Aries:

"The wound is where the light enters." A Rumi quote to awaken you, wild one. There's no doubt that are experiencing pain and disappointment. Know that there is a breakthrough on the other side of this breakdown, one that will teach you the importance of self-love and take you closer to the truth. The present is where the magic is at. Release the bonds of a life long gone.

### Taurus:

In your search for love, look for someone who possesses qualities that are complementary to yours. For instance, if you're a wild child, partner up with somebody is practical and dependable. You need a solid ground to build something on. But does that mean your relationship is going to be lacklustre? Anything but, Taurus.

### Gemini:

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." If Lewis Smedes' words resonate with you, it means you've done the inner work and closed the doors that do not lead anywhere. Move forward with dignity and grace, Gemini. Move

forward with knowing you are protected and taken care of. What you are making space for at this time: a relationship that is both solid and reliable.

### Cancer:

This is the last leg of war, Cancer. The worst will soon be over. You have shown an inordinate amount of strength and courage. As the year nears its end, you will gain clarity on who will be entering 2020 with you, and who will no longer be a part of your sacred circle. Trust that you will walk into the new decade armed with hope and optimism.

### Leo:

Blame it on the holiday season if you must, but you are entering the most romantic period of your togetherness. Expect grand gestures and love songs. Nothing is too little or too much when you're together. Some of you could be thinking about bringing your own into this world.

### Virgo:

If you're constantly playing detective in a certain relationship, maybe you need to re-

consider your choices, Virgo. Is the proof at hand solid? If you answered in the affirmative, find the courage to move on. However, if you find yourself doubting your decision, have an open and honest conversation with the person concerned.

### Libra:

When two people are really invested in each other, they will always find a way to navigate life's many storms together. The proof is the pudding, Libra. You'll know their true motives by taking into consideration both their actions and words. The Universe is giving you the chance to build something beautiful. Open yourself to the blessings as you let the fears and the self-doubt go.

### Scorpio:

It's time to strip away the layers of conditioning, Scorpio. To address the wounds left behind by those who said you were 'too loud', 'too overbearing' or 'too dominating'. Scorpio, don't give another human being the power to decide where you should or shouldn't draw the line. Today, you're being asked to not just accept but embrace your 'too much'

personality. As you do, your relationship with yourself will undergo a drastic change.

### Sagittarius:

Pause, breathe and go within. Picture what your life looks like a decade from now. Do they feature in the montage you just watched? If yes, is their role significant? Answering in the affirmative is a sign that you need to work through the differences. There's no mountain too high when you're working like a dream team, Sagittarius. Some of you may come to the realisation that they are not 'the one'. Make your intentions clear.

### Capricorn:

This is the day to apply Sting's wisdom to your life—if you love somebody, set them free. Know that this will only give them the time and space they need to evolve and reach their full potential. It will also give you freedom to explore who you are outside this relationship, and the things that ignite your inner fire. If the connection you share is strong, know that you will survive this storm. On the upside, some of you could be in the mood to explore your freedom together.

### Aquarius:

What if your life is a spiral rather than a straight line? You keep coming back to the same point until you've worked through certain life lessons. Understand what your experiences are teaching you in the now. Could codependency be the reason for the growing distance in your relationship? Beware of making one person your entire world. Some of you may be living through the last traumas at this. Let wounds resurface so they can be released, wild one.

### Pisces:

Pisces, you're a magickal being. Stop trying to live a mundane existence. Pay attention to what the Universe is revealing to you via signs, symbols and dreams. Your clairvoyant, clairaudient and clairsentient abilities are especially heightened at this moment. Remember, your inner skeptic will make you doubt the inner voice of wisdom. It's important for you to practice silence and make a habit of tuning in. Maintaining a journal with the messages that are coming through is an excellent way to track your progress.