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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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5 injured in road mishap at Tintek

**SUMMIT REPORT
DIKCHU, 28 NOV:**

Five occupants, including the driver, were injured in a road mishap here at Tintek in East Sikkim today when a Tata Indica car they were travelling in plunged off the road and landed at the curve below leading to Dikchu at around 2.40 pm.

The vehicle [SK-01PB-3773], was coming in from Gangtok and plying to Samdong.

People from the area evacuated the injured persons and rushed them to the hospital and upon being alerted of the news, police personnel from Dikchu OP rushed to the spot.

The injured occupants were given emergency first aid at Samdong Hospital from where they were referred to STNM Hospital, Gangtok.

“SDF does not need alliances to contest elections”

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 28 NOV:**

Sikkim Democratic Front party spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, today highlighted that a political party should have programmes and policies for the people and connect with the masses through that medium, not pursue power by stitching together pre-poll alliances.

SDF, he stated, enjoys such a connect with the people of Sikkim which explains the five Assembly and Lok Sabha election cycles it has won in the State. The party, he said, did not require any alliances to face the vote and will continue to contest on its own as it has done since the first elections it contested in 1994.

“The SDF will contest the assembly and parliamentary elections in 2019 on its own under



the able leadership of the party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling,” Mr Dahal stressed.

Alliances in the mouth of elections were for parties which had no programmes or policies or any connection with the people.

His comments were

in response to media queries on rumours that SDF, since it was already a part of the NDA at the Centre, might enter into a pre-poll alliance with the BJP.

On recent meeting between Hamro Sikkim Party [HSP] and BJP state-unit to explore pos-

sibilities for an alliance, he contended that HSP had not been opened with the blessings of the people of Sikkim but on the blessing of people from the outside the State.

He stated that SDF saw no challenge from the HSP or the possible HSP-BJP tie-up in Sik-

kim since while one was a party in search of not only programmes and policies but also a president, the state-unit of the national party in question had no real presence or appeal among the electorate here.

He also explicitly refuted HSP claims that SDF was in talks with a national party for seat sharing in Elections 2019.

“There is no need for any pre-poll alliance for the party as SDF has been contesting and winning elections with the support of the people of Sikkim and that is the only support it requires,” he said.

As for SDF being a part of the NDA at the Centre, he pointed out that SDF has always been working with the government at the centre in the interest of Sikkim and its people.

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11 schools conduct online exams for National Science Talent Programme



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 NOV:**

More than 500 students from 11 schools across Sikkim today appeared for online exams for National Science Talent Programme titled “Vidhyarthi Vigyan Manthan” (VVM) organised by Vigyan Bharati, Sikkim chapter, in collaboration with Vigyan Prasara, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, in association with National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT), a press release informs.

The main objective of the programme which was held in their respective schools was to nurture bright minds having scientific temperament and also to make students aware of India's contributions towards development of science.

According to Dr TK Mandal, state co-ordinator, VVM and also the general secretary of Sikkim Vigyan Bharati, Sikkim's 500 students are experiencing such kind of online exams for the first time and they are

competing with around 1.43 lakh students across the country.

He informed that students appearing for the exams are from grades VI to XI and categorised in two groups- juniors (VI-VIII) and seniors (IX-XI).

Among these students 120 will be selected (20 students from each class) for the state level competition to be held on 15 Jan next year. The results of today's exams will be declared on 15 Dec, he informed.

The release mentions that three state level finalists will be awarded prizes and certificates and will participate in the national level competition where they will have chance to interact with renowned scientists of the country along with visits of various scientific laboratories.

The schools which participated in today's programme were Deorali Girls' SSS, Holy Cross SSS, Tashi Namgyal SSS, Yangang SSS, Kendriya Vidyalaya- Gangtok/ Singtam, Bojoghari SS and all JNV Schools across Sikkim.

SKM counters Chamling's aspersions



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 NOV:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today countered Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's recent contention that if those in the Opposition were to be voted into office, they would sell Sikkim's assets within six months. Addressing a press conference here today, the SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, countered that such comments were unfortunate “since Sikkim's resources – economic and natural” had instead already been auctioned away in

the 24 years of Chamling Government in Sikkim.

“Instead of accepting the fact that he himself has auctioned the entire state away, to hide his guilty conscious, he is instead accusing the Opposition of harbouring such plans,” Mr Khaling said.

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha will rescue Sikkim from this desperate situation, Mr Khaling said.

He also stressed that Sikkim was thirsting for change to “save democracy” from the one-man-show which is SDF has foisted on the people.

Fire singes Power & Energy Deptt

**Prompt and courageous action by
firefighters averts major damage**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 NOV:**

Prompt and courageous action by Gangtok Fire Station saved government property worth crores from getting razed in a major fire incident here at Energy & Power Department Secretariat last night.

A major fire broke out in the mechanical division of the Energy & Power Department Secretariat. This level of the secretariat on the fifth floor also houses the store room of the department.

Gangtok Fire Station received information about the fire at around 11:30 PM on Tuesday night and a team led by Sub Fire Officer Shamsher Subba rushed to the spot and starting fire fighting operations.

Seeing the gravity of the situation, another team of Gangtok Fire Station led by Additional

Chief Fire Officer Dadhiram Chhetri rushed to the spot as well.

15 firefighters manning three fire tenders battled the blaze for five and a half hours and it was only towards 3:30 AM today that the fire was brought under control.

Speaking to media persons here today, Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Additional Director General Akshay Sachdeva, informed that firefighters faced difficulties as the fire took place at the fifth floor of the building.

He added that four rooms were completely gutted in the fire and two rooms were partially damaged, but further damage was averted due to the alertness and prompt action of the Gangtok Fire Station.

He mentioned that store of the department, which holds stationery items and was most af-



fectured and firefighters had to use tools and machines to break the wall to enter the room to extinguish the fire. In the effort, they also suffered from suffocation and breathing problems.

“Seeing last night problems and challenges faced while carrying out the operation, we would like to procure more

breathing equipment for fire stations in the State to tackle such incidents in the future,” he said.

The Director stated that prompt and courageous action by Gangtok Fire Station team saved government property. He also informed that the nearby fire stations at Pakyong, Singtam and

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Pedestrian walkway near Palace Gate inaugurated

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 28 NOV:**

UD&HD Minister, NK Subba today inaugurated the pedestrian walkway from Palace Gate till Dukit Pan Dokan. Princess Hope Leezum Namgyal and Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha were present along with government and GMC officials.

Addressing the media, Commissioner GMC, Tshewang Gyachho stated that along the said stretch the road was very narrow making it inconvenient for students and the public to walk through. To resolve this problem, the GMC approached the palace for support wherein the palace immediately sanctioned necessary land for the cause of the people and the



students, he informed.

“We, on behalf of the GMC, would like to express our gratitude to the palace, Princess Hope Leezum Namgyal for such gracious gesture,” said

Mr Gyachho. He went on to say that the walkway has been constructed using the funds availed under 14th Finance Commission wherein three Councillors allotted

their share of the fund for the development of the walkway. He thanked the Councillors for the same.

The total project cost was Rs. 58.92 lakh and the length of

the walkway is around 240 feet with 4 feet width. The work of the walkway commenced on 22 March, 2018 and was completed on 27 November, 2018.

Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha expressed his gratitude on behalf of all Gangtokians for the support extended by Princess Hope Leezum Namgyal in making the walkway possible for the welfare of students and other pedestrians.

He said the project would not have been possible if the palace had not provided land for the project. He also thanked the Chief Minister for the beautiful concept along with Minister UD&HD for all the developmental activities being initiated in Gangtok.



**CAREER COUNSELLING
and STUDY ABROAD
with Mindscan Education, Noida**

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

**Mindscan specialises in Career
Counselling and offering Overseas
Education guidance to students –
and has helped more than 15,000
students in the past 10 years. In
addition, there is a range of online
programmes, which can help
college students develop skills
which are required by industry.**

The sessions in Gangtok will cover the following topics:

1. How to choose subjects for class 11 (for class 9 and 10 students)
2. Myths vs Reality – Studying outside India
3. How to plan your college/ university education
4. Which course/ career stream to pursue after class 12 (in India or abroad)

**04 and 05 December, 2018: Seminar and Individual Counselling
06 Decemeber, 2018: Campus visit to Taktse International School**

an initiative of



in association with SummitTimes

**Gangtok on
Thursday,
29 Nov**

Temp: 20°C/09°C
Forecast: Sunny
to partly cloudy
with a little rain in
the evening, then
a shower in spots

Sunrise: 06:05 AM
Sunset: 04:42 PM

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Inter-Departmental Football Tournament

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 Nov:

Forest Department went down to Transport Department 1-2 in the ongoing 6th Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on Wednesday. In another match of the day, Energy & Power Department thrashed Ecclesiastical Affairs Department 5-nil to get the full three points.

Likewise, Rural Management & Development Department and Roads & Bridges Department registered easy victories on Tuesday. RMDD humbled Information & Public Relation Department 7-1,



while Roads & Bridges Department thrashed SISCO Bank 7-0.

On Thursday, Urban Development & Housing Department will take on Sports & Youth Affairs Department in its last league match of the tournament, while another league match will be played between Horticulture Department and Rural Management & Development Department.

“SDF does not need...

On the same, SDF party spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, mentioned that HSP was barely six months old and still looking for a president and its talk about alliance revealed that the party cannot stand on its own.

On the ‘one family, one job’ programme of the State government, Mr Dahal stated that this was an exemplary initiative for the entire country and the outcome of the inclusive politics and humanitarian programmes of the Chief Minister.

On the same, Mr Gyaltsen asserted that instead of opposing the scheme, the opposition parties should present alternatives if they have a better option which was also workable.

Responding on HSP allegations of SDF not doing anything to remove the tag of “immigrants” from Sikkimese Nepali community, Mr Dahal said that SDF has already erased this tag by ensuring that the Sikkimese Nepali lived with pride and confidence in the country.

He also pointed out that the inclusion of Limboos and Tamangs, who are part of the Sikkimese Nepali constellation, in the ST list and the Income Tax exemption extended to the Sikkimese Nepali by virtue of their being Sikkim Subjects was further evidence of the “immigrant” tag was no longer attached to the community.

TN Sharma, also an SDF spokesperson, informed that the SDF government has consistently been pursuing the 40 seat Legislative Assembly recommendation to secure reserved LT seats while the Opposition was only opposing this for the sake of disagreeing and had no alternate formulas to consider.

LT seats carved out from the existing 32 seats in the State Assembly was not a democratic option because it would be an injustice to the 60% population of the remaining population of the State would then be squeezed into minority representation.

Fire sings Power

Rangpo were also alerted and kept on stand-by in case more assistance was required but the facilities at the Gangtok Fire Station proved adequate.

The cause of fire is still under investigation.

PCE cum Secretary KB Kunwar of Energy and Power Department mentioned that the incident was very major but promptness and efficient action by the fire fighters extinguished the blaze in time.

He also informed that although the fire was intense, the damage caused was repairable and that important files and documents were safe. He added that after investigating the cause of the fire and other procedures, the department will take up renovation and trace documents if any were destroyed in the fire.

Sikkim Democratic Retired Government Employees Front meets



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 Nov:

A coordination meeting of Sikkim Democratic Retired Government Employees Front was held today here at Garib Utthan Bhawan in Jorethang, South Sikkim, a press release informs.

SDF party in-charge of South District and senior vice president, Girish Chandra Rai chaired

the meeting as the chief guest and was accompanied by PS Targain (Chairperson RGEF), KN sharma (secy. Ex-servicemen), Satish Chandra Rai (Advisor of Food & Civil Supplies), NJMC Chairperson, Tika Gurung, Zoom-Salghari CLC president, Bhuwan Tiwari, NJMC Councilors, and retired employees from different

constituencies.

While addressing the gathering, the chief guest, Girish Chandra Rai assured to forward all the grievances and demands placed by ex-servicemen to the Chief Minister. He said that the SDF government has done good work and opposition parties do not want to see that and are always trying to mislead

people through social media, as per the release.

Retired employees JL Paljor, PM Chamling, Norbu Bhutia, PD Rai and A P Rizal shared their positive views and good experiences working under the SDF government.

During the meet they also placed some demands and grievances regarding their live certificate, pension and other allowances.

Retired Government Employees from Poklo k-Kamrang, Namchi-Singithang, Namthang- Rateypeni, Melli and Salghari-Zoom constituencies also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, 4 retired employees joined the Front, namely, Krishna Prashad Sharma (RMDD), Manoj Kr Tamang (SNT), Krishna Bdr Chhetri (BSNL) and Ram Chandra Rawat from (UP&HD), the release mentions.

SDF GPU level coordination meet held for Ringhim-Nampatam



SUMMIT REPORT

MANGAN, NOV, 28:

Sikkim Democratic Front held a GPU level coordination meeting of Ringhim-Nampatam GPU under Lachen Mangan constituency, North Sikkim today at Ringhim Helipad. The meeting discussed Janta Mela, One Family One Job, Livelihood and handing over of development grants for Ringhim Gumpa, Malling Mani Lakhang, Mangan Shiv Mandir and SHGs.

The meeting was attended by Forest Minister cum MLA Lachen Mangan, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha as the chief guest accompanied by

CLC president, Pas-sang Tarbu Lepcha, Zilla Panchyat, Mark Tshering Lepcha, Panchayat President, Sherap Bhutia and all the Panchayats, Panchayat President Chungthang, Chung Lepcha, vice president Chungthang, Uyden Lepcha, senior citizens, public and SDF functionaries.

Chief guest, Mr Lepcha, in his address informed about SDF's policy to solve the unemployment problem in the State with its ‘One Family One Job’ scheme. He also talked about Special Janta Mela and organic revolution.

The SKM president,

PS Tamang [Golay] will not be allowed to contest the 2019 election, said Mr Lepcha further adding that the people must look at the facts and vote accordingly.

He also handed over cheque of Rs. 1000000 to Ringhim Gumpa, Rs. 3 lakh for Mangan Shiv Mandir up-graduation work, Rs. 2 lakh for construction of Maling ward Mani Lakhang and financial support for SHGs provided by the Chief minister.

Panchayat president and Zilla Panchayat of the GPU along with Panchayat president, Chungthang GPU, also addressed the meeting.

Cleanliness drive welcomes Swachh Bharat Mission brand ambassador



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 Nov:

In a program held to welcome brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission, Prakash Subba, a cleanliness drive was organised at Singtam by the Nagar Panchayat, a press release informs.

Mr Subba was recently named brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission for North East NAMASTE States Swachh Bharat Mission committee.

The cleanliness drive was organized at Singtam walkway and surroundings.

Municipality Executive Officer of Singtam, Himmat Rai said that since Mr Subba is a resident of Singtam, the Nagar Panchayat decided to welcome him with this drive under his guidance.

Nagar Panchayat President, Sawan Kumar Pradhan on behalf of all residents of Singtam welcomed Mr Subba and

said that it is a proud moment for Singtam.

The program was attended by Government Senior Secondary school Principal, K B Chhetri, Shanti Nagar Gram Sudhar Samiti president, Krishna Chhetri, film director, Praja Pradhan.

SDM Rangpo, P K Rai, students from Singtam SSS, members from different social organisations, councillors of different wards and local residents.

108-yr-old man turns up at booth as Mizoram's oldest voter

AIZAWL, Nov 28 (PTI): Rochhinga, aged 108, was considered to be the oldest voter in Mizoram as the election to the 40-member state Assembly ended peacefully on Wednesday. Rochhinga, a Presbyterian Church elder and a resident of Zemabawk North in Aizawl East-I constituency, came holding a walking stick along with one of his neighbours.

Also among the voters were persons aged 106, 104 and 96.

“I never miss voting in elections. It is our duty. If we fail in our duty, then how can we question when the government will fail in its duty?” Rochhinga told PTI after casting vote.

His neighbour said that the centenarian has a keen interest in political developments.

Aged 106, Darrohnuni, who exercised franchise at Kawrthah polling station-III under the Hachhek seat along

the Mizoram-Tripura border, was the second oldest person to cast her vote. Wrapped in woollens, Darrohnuni came in a wheelchair pushed by her granddaughter.

Another woman, 104-year-old Aiziki of Lunglei Chanmari was cast her vote to elect the next government in Mizoram.

She came along holding a walking stick.

Nuchhungi (96) of southernmost Mizoram's Siaha seat and Darlian-zingi (90) of Serchhip Chhim Veng polling station were two of the nonagenarians who exercised

their franchise Wednesday. Many other senior citizens came out of their homes with crutches, sticks or wheelchairs since early morning to participate in the electoral exercise.

Voting ended at 4 pm in Mizoram, where a total of 7,70,395 voters, including 3,94,897 women and 32,545 first time voters, will decide the fate of 209 candidates.

Around 70 per cent voter turnout was recorded till end of voting as per preliminary estimation across the state, Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer Ashish Kundra said.

LOST

I, Dylen Wongden Lepcha S/o. Mr Palzor Wongden Lepcha resident of Upper Singhik, Mangan North Sikkim have lost my hand bag on 13th Nov 2018 in which my class X and class XII pass marks sheet bearing Roll: 3128781 of year 2005 and Roll No: 3222077 of year 2007 were there

1984 anti-sikh riots: HC upholds conviction, 5-yr jail term of 70 rioters

NEW DELHI, NOV 28 (PTI): The Delhi High Court Wednesday upheld the conviction of 70 out of the 89 people who were awarded five-year jail term by a trial court for rioting, burning houses and violation of curfew during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Of the remaining 19 people, 16 died during the pendency of their appeals against the trial court's August 27, 1996 decision.

The appeals of the three others were dismissed after they absconded, the high court noted in its judgement.

Justice R K Gauba, while dismissing the 22-year-old appeals, asked the convicts to surrender forthwith to serve their remaining prison terms for rioting, looting and burning houses in various residential blocks in Trilok Puri between October 31 and November 3 in 1984 after the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh bodyguards. Around 3,000 people died during the anti-Sikh riots.

The court noted that the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were a “dark chapter” in the history of independent India as the “law and order machinery had broken down”.

It said: “The police forces, and the civil administration, did not take timely or effective action to prevent the riotous conditions from spiralling out of hand. The criminal law process began, but hesitatingly and belatedly.”

“The fact that these cases have continued to linger in the courts at the stage of trial or appeals or revisions till date itself is an indicator of the reality that the response of the law has been tardy, ineffective and highly unsatisfactory.” The high court said that in view of the extensive damage that was caused by the appellants to a large number of houses or other properties of Sikh community by fire, the case merited punishment more severe than the one meted out by the trial court. “Given the fact there is no ap-

peal seeking enhancement of the punishment, the trial court having taken a lenient view, there is no occasion for this court to modify the order on sentence either way,” it said.

In its 79-page verdict upholding the conviction and jail term of the convicts, the high court said in the instant matter, the police did not promptly register the crimes and collect evidence and the other agencies, including the prosecution and the trial court, “failed to rise to the occasion”. “...the manner in which the case was handled, or lingered, at the stage of committal proceedings before the Magistrate, was designed to ensure the case would not proceed with the promptitude it deserved,” the judge said.

The high court said the trial court's order committing the case “lacked clarity” as to why no case for a graver offence, like murder, was made out as a large number of persons had died in the violence committed by the rioters.

In his judgement, Justice Gauba noted that of all the bodies recovered after the rioting, 22 remained unidentified and it was likely that no prosecution was initiated against anyone in respect of these deaths.

“In the foregoing facts and circumstances, this court directs the Commissioner of Police, Delhi to have the material, and the evidence, in above nature, re-examined by an appropriate agency for such further action under the criminal law as may be requisite,” the high court said. It also said that the evidence of the prosecution witnesses, “leaves no room for doubt that riots had broken out in various blocks of Trilok Puri, particularly affecting, very badly, Block no.32 right from the afternoon of October 31, 1984,” when Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

“The large scale rioting, mob violence, arson, looting, genocide and plunder has been duly proved and established... On the foregoing facts, and in the circumstances,

the judgment of the trial court returning finding of guilty convicting the appellants must be upheld. Ordered accordingly,” the high court said.

It dismissed the appeals of the convicts and cancelled their bail bonds.

The court said that after each communal riot, there are allegations of political influences being the root cause and therefore, there might be a need to “inject” a “sense of neutrality” in the investigative and prosecution process, particularly when such incidents are invariably perceived to be engineered by those holding control over certain power centres.

“Towards this end, the possibility of entrusting such tasks to authorities other than normal agencies of the State needs to be explored,” the high court suggested and expressed hope that the legislature will consider enactment of a special law to deal with such crimes effectively at an early date.

The high court also

suggested reforms, like amending the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 and the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to entrust such bodies with the responsibility of taking note of cognisable offences committed in communal riots, investigate through special investigating teams (SITs) under their control and oversee prosecution through Special Public Prosecutor(s) engaged by them.

“The law on the subject of communal riots cannot be a complete answer to the challenge unless it also establishes special courts with suitable amendments to the general criminal law procedure as indeed the rules of evidence,” the high court suggested.

It also said that since media -- both print and electronic -- were the fourth pillar of democracy, press reports supported by photographic material and video footage may be utilised as evidence in trials of criminal cases arising out of communal riots.

South farmers trained on IPM in rice and vegetables



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 NOV:

Daylong training was organized by KVK South Sikkim at Namthang today in co-ordination with ICAR-NCIPM, New Delhi for conducting trial in IPM on rice and vegetables under NEH component, a press release informs.

At the very onset, Sr. Scientist and Head, I.P. Shivakoti, welcomed the gathering and briefed about the programme. The resource person for the programme was Principal Scientist, Dr.

Mukesh Seghal and Principal Scientist (Entomology) NCIPM, New Delhi, Dr. Mohammad Idris, the release mentions.

The Resource Person gave their presentation on IPM in rice and vegetables. The programme had fruitful interaction between farmers and scientists on organic plant protection measures in rice and vegetables.

About 80 farmers from Turuk, Rabitar, Kabrey, Tek and Perbing khop participated in the programme, the release adds.

Kolkata Book Fair from January 30

KOLKATA, NOV 28 (PTI): Guatemala will be the theme country of the 43rd International Kolkata Book Fair which is scheduled to be inaugurated on January 30 next year, the organisers said Wednesday.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the fair which will be held at the Central Park in Salt Lake. The UK, USA, Russia, China, Japan, Vietnam apart from 11 Latin American countries and Bangladesh will participate in the fair, they said.

Iran is scheduled to participate for the first time in the book fair, which will conclude on February 10, Publishers and Booksellers Guild general secretary Tridib Chatterjee told reporters at a press conference Wednesday.

In fact, a few publishers from Pakistan are also expected to take

part in the fair. "A few people (publishers) from Pakistan have communicated us and expressed their willingness to participate. If they get visa on time they will also come," Chatterjee said.

Ambassador of Guatemala in India Giovanni Castillo was also present at the media conference and unveiled the logo of the theme country stating "The Heart of the Mayan World - Guatemala" (Corazon del Mundo Maya Guatemala).

Publishers from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat will also participate in the fair.

The last edition of the fair recorded around 2.2 million visitors and books worth Rs 22 crore were sold. Meanwhile, the 6th Kolkata Literature Festival, a highlight of the book fair, will be held from February 7 to 9, he said.

Senators set to grill US officials over Khashoggi response

WASHINGTON, NOV 28 (AP): Senators who have grown increasingly uneasy with the US response to Saudi Arabia after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi are set to grill top administration officials Wednesday at a closed-door briefing that could determine how far Congress goes in punishing the longtime Middle East ally.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says "some kind of response" is needed from the United States for the Saudis' role in the gruesome death. While President Donald Trump has equivocated over who is to blame, the Senate is considering a vote as soon as this week to halt US involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

"What obviously happened, as basically certified by the CIA, is completely abhorrent to everything the United States holds dear and stands for in the world," McConnell said Tuesday.

"We're discussing what the appropriate response would be." Much will depend on what senators hear from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Administration officials were able to stall a Senate effort earlier this year against the Saudi-backed conflict in Yemen. But senators are outraged over the administration's response to Khashoggi's killing, and they're particularly upset that no one from the intelligence community is attending Wednesday's briefing.

Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, one of 10 Democrats who declined to join the earlier effort against the Saudis, said Tuesday he was reconsidering his position.

"Things changed," Manchin said. "The whole thing with Khashoggi is very much concerning. It's not who we are as a country. It's not who we should have as allies and not condemn that."

Governor's two-day West Sikkim tour ends

GVALSHING, 28 NOV (IPR): Governor, Ganga Prasad on the second and also the final day of his premier tour to West Sikkim interacted with the Government officials of West Sikkim at the Bhanu Salig, Kyongsa. The District Collector along with SP West, ADC West and HoDs of different departments were present in the interaction program.

The Governor addressed the gathering of Government officials and guests with his words of encouragement and advised them that their role as officials of the district is an important one. He also congratulated them for their respective roles in making Sikkim known not only in India but the entire world.

He advised the officials that their responsibility to the people and the state is huge and that their services would affect the future of Sikkim. Hence they must work



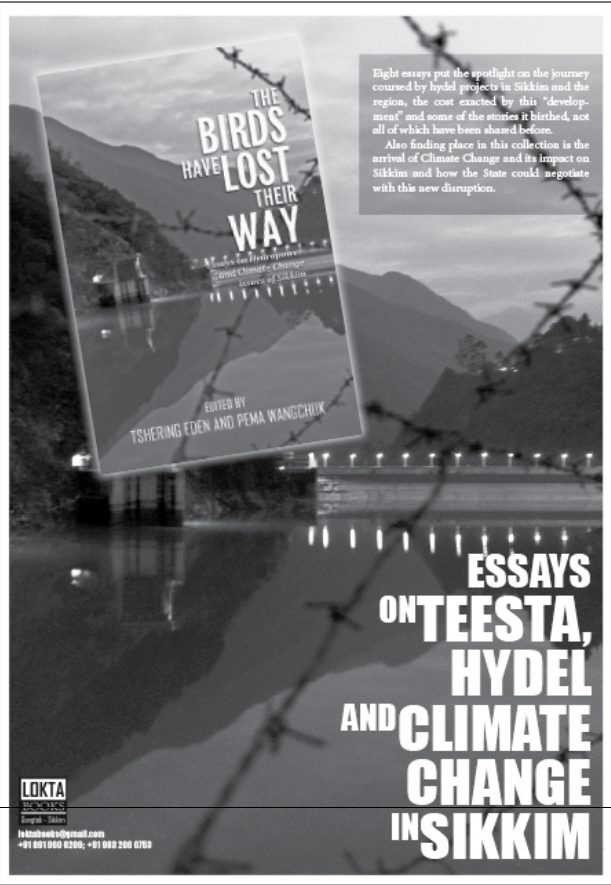
with more enthusiasm and create newer milestones for the West District as well as for Sikkim and India.

He mainly stressed on how the departments should be more involved in multiplying the agricultural and the horticultural produce of the state using various tools and techniques made available to them. He also advised them to find the right market to sell the surplus organic produce and generate more income for their economic stability.

He further advised the DC to hold similar

meetings of District Officials to understand the progress of the district and also visit rural areas more often to understand their perils and work out the possible solutions.

The program was conducted for the Governor to see and understand the District machinery at work and how the district was progressing. During the program various Departmental Heads presented their works in form of a PowerPoint presentation to the Governor briefly explaining him about their different projects and works in the district.



Waiting Period is Over... BUT CELEBRATION IS NOT OVER

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Special Gram Sabha for Lingmoo Payong GPU finalises GPDP



SUMMIT REPORT
PAYONG, 28 NOV:

A special Gram Sabha for the financial year 2019-20 for Lingmoo Payong GPU under Tumin Lingi constituency was organised at Payong Secondary School today under the banner of People's Plan Campaign "Sabki Yojana; Sabka Vikas" to finalise the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

The Gram Sabha was chaired by Panchayat President Yogesh Bhandari and attended by the Zilla Panchayat, Lingmoo Payong, all the Panchayat

members of GPU, members of various standing committees under the GPU, officers from the line departments under Yangang BAC, Anganwadi workers and ASHAs and villagers from all the seven wards of the GPU.

The meeting saw discussions on various proposals passed during Gram Sabha organised at each ward over the past few days.

Ward Panchayats announced the plans and programmes for their respective wards while members from the public also spoke on the occa-

sion and proposed some issues to be taken up with immediate effect for public benefit.

After detailed deliberations, most of the proposals placed were accepted and approved for action.

A special feature of the gram Sabha was involvement of students to witness the procedure and become aware of the functioning and working of local self government. The programme was conducted and coordinated by Kailash Kumar Adhikari, Ward Panchayat, Darakharka ward.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

No: 01/AE(E-I)EW/HRDD/GOS Dated: 24/11/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Human Resource and Development Department, Government of Sikkim, on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, invites sealed **percentage rate tender under single cover system from Class-III contractors, enlisted with Sikkim PWD within 02- West Pendam GPU**, for execution of work as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Bidding documents	Bid Security 2.5% of the bid value	Bid value
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of Hostel for Reserved Category at ATTC Bardang in East Sikkim.	Rs. 30,000/-	Rs. 3,27,115.00	Rs. 1,30,84,586.00

Calendar of Events:

1. Date of Submission of Application : 17/12/2018 (During office hours)

2. Date of issue of Challan : 18/12/2018 (During office hours)

3. Date of Issue of Tender of Tender : 19/12/2018 (During office hours) Form and Documents

4. Date of Submission of Tender : 29/12/2018 (from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon)

5. Date of Opening of Tender : 29/12/2018 (1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.)

6. Place of Submission of and Opening of Tender : Panchayat Bhavan, Shyapley, 02 West Pendam, GPU, East Sikkim.

General Directions and Conditions:

i. The bidders should apply to the Divisional Engineer (East-II), HRDD at East Division Office, Tathangchen, Gangtok in writing for issue of tender form and tender documents by submitting a copy of attested enlistment and Bank Receipt/ Challan of Rs. 30,000/- under revenue head: 0202-01-101.03 other receipt.

ii. Tender documents including tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a Sealed Cover with the name works super scribed on it. The Sealed Cover should contain the following documents:

a. TDR of Rs. 3,27,115.00 should be drawn in the favour Accounts Officer (Works), HRDD, Gangtok

b. G.S.T Registration Certificate.

c. Signed tender documents issued by the department.

iii. Bidders should sign on every page of the tender documents.

iv. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of all the taxes involved. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if it occurs, it should be authenticated.

v. Sealed tender may be deposited in the tender box in the Panchayat Bhavan, Shyapley, 02 West Pendam GPU, East Sikkim on the date and within the time indicated above.

vi. Incomplete/conditional tenders shall be rejected.

vii. The department reserves right to accept or any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

Divisional Engineer (East-II)
HRDD, Tathangchen,
Gangtok

R.O. No: 508/IPR/PIB/Classi/18-19
Date: 26/11/2018

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Make Sex Safe, Not Dirty

Problems with banning condom advts from daytime TV

At around this time last year, at the behest of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), the Information of Broadcasting Ministry issued guidelines restricting the screening of condom advertisements on television between 6am to 10pm. This, one was told, was to “protect” children from “indecent” content. There is a lot more that can be considered a lot more vulgar and indecent than these advertisements. In fact, a lot of what our leaders have been saying, including Chief Ministers or already deeply patriarchal states and even Union Ministers, and which is then played on a spool across TV channels could be considered a lot more offensive than an advertisement, irrespective of how much skin it shows, which advises people to have safe sex. There is so much wrong with the latest move that most must have initially dismissed it as misreporting or “fake” news. But we are experiencing very weird governance nowadays and are playing along with a regime which has no patience for nuance and refuses to accept the difference between subjective and objective opinions. There are few things more repulsive than a leader branding another religion as evil or a copy-cat wannabe leader announcing a bounty on the head of an actress or ministers who control even the police, claim that many times, rape allegations are born out of spite [from the victim] and not violence [by the rapist]. But they are allowed to spew their venom and project their insecurities and stereotypes on impressionable minds (the “children” and the infantilized grown-ups, both) while a product which could not only keep the same audience protected, but also save their lives is somehow deemed too unsavoury and suggestive to be allowed on television during daytime!

While it is true that advertisements of premium condoms are not the only mode of information available to the young about safe sex, it is also a fact that their screening alongside “normal” advertisements makes conversations around safe sex easier. It would even be a good thing if certain advertisements click with the audience and interests couples into using them. The reverse is however not true. Get real moral policing agents, condom advertisements do not inspire couples to indulge in premarital sex or become promiscuous. The country was just about maturing to a level where condoms were not promoted anymore just as aids to ensure “hum do, hamare do” and were being projected and accepted as ways to ensure protected intimacy. But a gaggle of regressive mindsets is convinced that this cannot be. And this is dangerous, because the pushing of condom advertisements to the late-night slot is making sex a dirty word again and typecasting it as shameful and wrong. Such banality has never discouraged anyone, but the attitude we are allowing to return is going to make sex unsafe again. That is not advisable in a country where teen and unwanted pregnancies are already too high and termination of pregnancies already too unsafe.

As per a study published in The Lancet Global Health, an estimated 15.6 million abortions took place in India in 2015, with the majority of women taking pills at home without adequate counselling, according to a study which found that about half of the pregnancies in the country were unintended. This translates to an abortion rate of 47 per 1,000 women aged 15-49, which is similar to the abortion rate in neighbouring South Asian countries. If access to condoms or other modes of contraception were more accessible and talk about contraception more normalised, this would not have been the case. The same study also estimated the incidence of unintended pregnancy in India and found that out of the total 48.1 million pregnancies in 2015, about half were unintended meaning they were wanted later or not at all. And the government’s priority is to run TV spots about condoms out of the screens?

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: letters@summittimes.com

Guide To The Classics: The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

ANTONIA PONT
theconversation.com

Kahlil Gibran (original spelling at birth “Khalil”) is a strange phenomenon of 20th Century letters and publishing. After Shakespeare and the Chinese poet Laozi, Gibran’s work from 1923, *The Prophet*, has made him the third most-sold poet of all time.

This slim volume of 26 prose poems has been translated into over 50 languages; its US edition alone has sold over 9 million copies. Its first printing sold out in a month, and later, during the 1960s, it was selling up to 5,000 copies a week.

It has seemingly been able to speak to various generations: from those experiencing the Depression, to the 1960s counter culture, into the 21st century. It continues to sell well today.

What is fascinating about the Gibran/Prophet phenomenon is the bile of critics in the West in relation to the work. Outside of English-speaking countries, the Lebanese-born Gibran attracts far less disdain. Professor Juan Cole, from the University of Michigan, has noted that Gibran’s writings in Arabic are in a very sophisticated style.

THE MIDWIFE OF THE NEW AGE

The Prophet is interesting for a number of reasons, not only for its ability to sell. It is written in an archaic style, recalling certain translations of the Bible (Gibran was intimate with both the Arabic and King James versions) and has an aphoristic quality that lends itself to citation — for weddings, funerals, courtships — and accessibility. There are at least two high schools named after its author and it was quoted in a eulogy given at Nelson Mandela’s funeral.

The Prophet declares no clear religious affiliation, while at the same time operating in a quasi-spiritual or inspirational register. Many might even class it in that category of writing known as “wisdom texts”.

Gibran has been referred to as the midwife of the New Age, due to the role *The Prophet* played in opening a space for spiritual or personal counsel outside organised religion and its official texts. The Prophet appears to embrace all or any spiritual tradition (or at least to exclude none explicitly), and this vagueness or openness (depending on one’s reading) may account for part of its widespread appeal.

The book, which presents advice on a number of core aspects of being human — such as love, parenting, friendship, Good and Evil, and so on — employs a simple narrative device.

An exiled man, Almustafa, who has been living abroad for 12 years, sees the ship that will carry him back “to the isle of his birth” approaching. Filled with grief at his imminent departure, the townspeople gather and beseech him to give them words of wisdom to ease their sorrow:

“In your aloneness you have watched with our days, and in your wakefulness you have listened to the weeping and laughter of our sleep.

Now therefore disclose us to ourselves, and tell us all that has been shown you of that which is between birth and death.”

Gibran himself had been in the US for 12 years at the time of writing and, it could be argued, was in a kind of exile from Lebanon, the country of his own birth.

Among many subjects, *The Prophet* offers contemplations on marriage:

... stand together yet not too near together:

For the pillars of the temple stand apart,

And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other’s shadow.

On children:

You may give them your love but not your thoughts for they have their own thoughts

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

And pain:

Even as the stone of the fruit must break, that its heart must stand in the sun, so we must know your pain.

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE POET

Biographers have emphasised Gibran’s tendency to pretension, to self-aggrandising, to fictionalising his own history, and his relations with women such as his sister, Marianna (who supported him with menial work), and especially his patron and confidante, Mary Haskell.

The latter remained devoted to him her entire life and also financed much of his lifestyle, enabling his

liver, due to a propensity for large quantities of arak, supplied to him by his sister, Marianna. One wonders whether Gibran was able to find any solace in his own words in his final days of frailty.

In *The Prophet*, he (and, we could speculate, Haskell) write(s):

“Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity ... For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.”



artistic projects up until and beyond his success with *The Prophet*. Haskell had a penchant for enabling the less fortunate (although she herself was not wealthy), and Gibran was not her first project of this kind.

She continued to edit his work discreetly well into her own marriage, to which she had resigned herself after their engagement stalled. Gibran had a tendency to get involved, as Joan Acocella writes in her detailed New Yorker piece, with older women who could be useful to him.

He was a beautiful, “oriental” young man. Having grown up, from the age of 12, in the ghettos of Boston’s South End, he survived by hoisting himself, or finding himself flung, into more privileged circles thanks to his looks, his talent (he could paint and write) and his “mysterious” appeal of being the “other”.

Anglo-Americans could, in other words, accessorise with him. And they did. He was “discovered” by Fred Holland Day, a teacher, who dabbled in the worlds of Blavatsky and the occultism that was de jour, and who liked to photograph young men, both in exotic garments and out.

In Gibran’s case, since evidence suggests that he evaded a sexual relation with Haskell, he at least did not leave her with the financial burden of children (not uncommon in his time). He ended his life primarily close to his sole-remaining sibling, Marianna and his secretary, and later biographer, Barbara Young.

Due to the extensive number of edits that Haskell offered on most of Gibran’s works across his career (including his first publication, a short poem), it is almost certain that “his” output — like many artistic achievements — might be more accurately deemed a collaboration. The enduring convention of signing works with a singular name has tended to result in the eclipsing of efforts of crucial contributors, often women.

DEATH AND DUALISM

Despite the indifference of Western critics to Gibran’s work, Gibran’s credentials were not shoddy; he was a trained artist (at the Académie Julian) had his first exhibition at 21, and produced over 700 works in his lifetime, including portraits of Yeats, Jung and Rodin.

Gibran died young, at age 48, from cirrhosis of the

Gibran has been criticised for his style of playing confoundingly but reassuringly on opposites, which, some argue, can mean anything. (One must note, however, that this unsettling of binary structures is a feature of enduring wisdom texts such as the Tao Te Ching, as well as recalling writings of Sufism and other traditions.)

Furthermore, for the son of destitute immigrants, who rose to fame via his beauty, talent and a blind conviction of his own specialness (which he nourished along with a small obsession with Jesus Christ, the subject of a later, and arguably better work), perhaps life had presented to him its own stark dualities: abjection/acclaim; poverty/wealth; indifference/desire; disdain/popularity; exoticism/racism.

MOMENTARY RESPIRE

For someone who undoubtedly “made it” (according to the grim criteria of the New World), Gibran may well have had more than a kernel of wisdom and know-how for those trying to survive its heartless, capricious climes. The fact is that millions of people have found momentary respite in his shifting, evocative words.

In a century where authority figures - whether political or representing various spiritual traditions - have seemed not only to fail their flocks, but to have actively betrayed them, Gibran’s perhaps fuzzy but lyrical advice has come to fill a vacuum of integrity and leadership. We need not badger readers of this work (who included, incidentally, the likes of John Lennon and David Bowie) who might use it to express their love, notate their grief, or ease their existential terrors.

The Prophet has worked as a widespread balm, as effectively as anything quick and concise can. Cheaper than an ongoing tithe to pharmaceutical companies, at \$8.55, the going rate at Book Depository, it neither incites hatred, nor violence, nor religious divisiveness.

It says the kinds of things that we sometimes wish a trusted other might say to us, to calm us down. In these aggravated times, perhaps we can appreciate its sheer benignity and leave its boggling success be.

[the writer is Senior lecturer, Deakin University]

Heritage as resistance: young people in occupied Palestinian territory are using their past to protect their future

ELLY HARROWELL &
PATRICIA SELICK

Care about being a researcher for your community. You have to document your ancestors and their lives here in this village from before the occupation. You have the right and you must prove that the occupation doesn’t have the right to be here – the occupiers want to displace you. Defend your rights to be here by giving evidence that documents your heritage.

These are the words of a 21-year-old youth researcher from the South Hebron Hills – and they herald a new form of resistance, a form of resistance that may help to protect vulnerable communities.

The Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar, in the West Bank, is currently at risk of demolition by Israeli bulldozers. The UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Nickolay Mladenov, called on the Israeli authorities in September 2018 to halt the proposed demolition, while the UN human rights office has also denounced its planned destruction as breaching international humanitarian law. The Israeli supreme court, however, has defied the UN and twice ruled in favour of demolishing the village. Its fate is now on a knife edge.

The crisis in Khan al-Ahmar, has once again highlighted the precarious lives faced by Bedouin communities in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Marginalised within both Palestinian and Israeli society, and repeatedly displaced from their lands – the Bedouins in Khan al-Ahmar, for example, originally were expelled from the Nak-

ab desert in 1948 – these communities are fighting for their very survival.

AN ACT OF REMEMBERING

But perhaps all is not lost. Against this backdrop, some young researchers working in the oPt have been developing creative and non-violent ways to help their communities survive by restoring their cultural heritage.

As academic and author Edward Said said: “It is what one remembers of the past and how one remembers it that determine how one sees the future.”

Now, these researchers hope that by taking care of their communities’ heritage they will be better placed to resist displacement from their lands. Aged between 18 and 26, they have been documenting the often intangible cultural heritage of their communities – Bedouin-populated villages sometimes so small that even Palestinian civil servants in nearby Hebron haven’t heard of them.

This heritage is at risk of disappearing under the stresses of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Communities such as At-Tuwani, Susya, Al Mufagara and Tuba, in the South Hebron Hills, face eviction as illegal Israeli settlements, guarded by Israeli military forces, continue to encroach on them. Life is hard; residents are restricted from accessing basic services due to the constraints placed on them by the Israeli military.

Given the daily hardships they face, preserving cultural heritage has, perhaps unsurprisingly, long taken a back seat in communities like these. But the young researchers have now collected evidence of songs sung during ploughing or at weddings, and traditional place names, farming practices,

crafts, stories, recipes and much more, all tied to their communities and the land. They have used these histories to develop heritage trails, exhibitions and guides in their communities.

While many of these young people previously have been active in initiatives to support their communities, this is the first time they have engaged in a cultural heritage-based approach. And as one researcher from At-Tuwani put it:

“The importance of heritage on a political level is that it helps us prove that this is our land and that we own it and we lived on it.”

THE RISKS

Bedouin communities in the oPt are all too aware of the risks of losing their cultural heritage. They fear that as it is lost, the Israeli government will have more pretexts to displace them from their land. They understand the value of this heritage as both economic, with the potential to provide valuable income in vulnerable communities, and social, sustaining links between communities stretched to breaking point.

Bedouin communities in the oPt find themselves disconnected as a result of the conflict. They are prevented from practising traditional cultural practices or from sharing this knowledge with future generations. Old and young have become divided.

By carrying out more than 75 interviews with the oldest community members, the researchers have helped to reestablish these lost connections, revitalising relationships between young and old community members. Sameeha, a youth researcher from At-Tuwani, explained how this process

has affected her:

“When you speak to an older man or woman in your area and they tell you a story you never heard before ... for me that was an amazing feeling.”

To feel pride in your past, to share in the joy of your community’s heritage, is surely an act of resistance in itself. But the youth researchers have also started to forge ties with Bedouin communities in other parts of the oPt and Israel. They are sharing their findings and research methods, and learning how these communities have used heritage-based approaches to support their own social and economic development. Together, they are becoming stronger.

Could this approach now help the people of Khan al-Ahmar? The youth researchers have shown how cultural heritage can strengthen communities and their ties to the land they live on. The researchers repeatedly talked about putting their villages on the map, and making them part of a wider Bedouin community which extends through both time (to previous and future generations) and space. They have become visible to local, national and international audiences.

All this provides a platform for solidarity from which oppression can be resisted without violence. Cultural heritage, and the actions taken to protect it, become a resource both to encourage equality and to share a different vision of what life could be in these embattled communities.

[Elly Harrowell is Research Associate, Coventry University; Patricia Sellick is Senior research fellow, Coventry University]

SC orders CBI probe in cases of sexual, physical abuse in shelter homes in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (PTI): The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the CBI to conduct probe into the allegations of physical and sexual abuse of inmates in 16 shelter homes in Bihar which were flagged in a report of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

The report had highlighted rampant sexual and physical abuse of inmates in several shelter homes in the state.

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur, S A Nazeer and Deepak Gupta transferred the investigation being conducted by Bihar Police to CBI and dismissed the state government's fervent request not to do so and grant them a week to rectify the problems.

The apex court said the report of TISS, which was given to the Bihar government earlier this year, had raised grave concern about 17 shelter homes in Bihar and the CBI must look into all of them. Out of these, the case of Muzaffarpur shelter home, where several girls were alleged-

ly raped and sexually abused, is already being investigated by the CBI.

At the outset, the CBI's counsel told the bench that he has taken instructions on whether the agency could probe all these matter.

"The interim director (of CBI) has told me that court number one (of the apex court) has asked him not to take any policy decision. Tomorrow, the CBI case is coming up in court number one," he said. The CBI counsel was referring to a separate matter that is pending before a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, in which CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma has challenged the Centre's decision to divert him of his duties and sending him on leave.

The bench headed by Justice Gogoi had earlier directed acting CBI Director M Nageswara Rao not to take major policy decisions.

During the hearing on Wednesday, when the CBI's counsel referred to the order asking acting CBI director not to

take any policy decision, Justice Lokur observed, "This does not say that all investigation should stop". "It (order) does say that he (Rao) will not take any policy decision but that does not mean that all investigation will stop," the bench said, adding that, "tomorrow's matter has nothing to do with this, absolutely nothing".

"You find out if the CBI is ready to take up the investigation. Tell us after five minutes," the bench told the CBI's counsel.

The counsel appearing for Bihar said they have carried out requisite rectifications and investigating officers (IOs) probing the shelter homes cases have been directed to add stringent provisions, including section 377 (unnatural offences) of the Indian Penal Code, against the accused in some of the matters.

"Can such a direction be issued to the IOs under the law?," the bench asked. When the state's counsel referred

to a provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to buttress his arguments, the bench observed, "This provision is not applicable here."

When Bihar's counsel said that superior officers could give such a direction to the IOs, the court said, "It will leave more loopholes in the case".

The bench noted in its order that it was not at all satisfied with the contents of the communication sent to IOs directing them to add offences under stringent provisions in these cases.

At this juncture, the CBI's counsel said he has taken instructions from the interim director and "in-principle" the CBI was ready to take up all these cases for investigation. Bihar's counsel requested that the court should give them one week's time and they would file a status report giving details of all the shelter home cases. When he said every case should not be sent to CBI, the bench observed, "If state governments does

it work properly, then every matter is not required to be sent to the CBI". Bihar's counsel said that state was acting with "all sincerity" in these cases and court's order transferring these matters to CBI "will eventually cast a doubt" on them.

"Kindly do not pass this order now. Give us one week. We will file a status report. You can go through the status report and then if you will still feel the need to transfer the cases to CBI, then you pass the order," he said.

The court refused to accept the contentions of the state and asked CBI to probe all these cases.

It also made it clear that CBI officers probing shelter home cases in Bihar will not be transferred without its prior permission.

The CBI's counsel also informed the bench that they would file a charge sheet by December 7 in the Muzaffarpur case. He said since CBI has been asked to investigate all these cases, the interim director has requested that the probe team should be expanded. The bench

allowed the request and granted permission to the interim director to expand the probe team and also asked Bihar government to render all assistance to the agency.

At the fag end of hearing, lawyer Aparna Bhat, assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in the matter, referred to a report of the Centre and said there were 1,028 shelter homes across India where instances of sexual and physical abuse have been reported. "Do not mix it up with this case," the bench said and posted the matter for hearing on December 12.

The court was hearing a plea seeking lodging of FIRs and court-monitored probe by an independent agency into alleged physical and sexual abuse of inmates in several shelter homes in Bihar. In the Muzaffarpur shelter home case, an FIR was lodged on May 31 against 11 people following the TISS report.

The probe was later taken over by the CBI and so far, 17 people have been arrested.

Rajnath, Sonowal review Assam situation after protests over Citizenship Amendment Bill



NEW DELHI, Nov 27 (PTI): Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and top officials Tuesday night reviewed the situation in Assam in the wake of strong protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the state, sources said.

Sonowal and his ministerial colleague Himanta Biswa Sarmah briefed the home minister about the continuous protests against the Bill in Assam, they said.

The proposed amendment to the Citizenship Bill of 1955 seeks to grant citizenship to people from minority communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 even if they do not possess proper documents.

A large section of people, organisations in the Northeast, particularly in Assam, have opposed the Bill saying it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971 as the cut off date for deportation of all illegal immigrants irrespective of religion. Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Director of Intelligence Bureau Rajiv Jain and others attended the meeting.

The home minister held the meeting hours after a joint parliamentary committee discussed the Bill where some opposition members sought exclusion of Bangladesh under the purview of the proposed legislation.

A BJP supported member suggested that a provision should be brought in the Bill so that it does not come into effect in Assam, sources added.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER SINGTAM SUB DIVISON ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

Memo No:189/R&B/ AES

Date: 17/11/2018

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam , invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 for the construction of **fair weather roads**, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **CONCERNED Ward of Martam – Rumtek Constituency** where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Construction of Road from Sangkhola to Burung in East Sikkim	41-BENG-PHEGYONG GPU			
	Km 1 st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	12 months
	Km 2 nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs. 500.00	12 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt and TDR (as Earnest Money) for issue of Tender Documents.	30 th Nov, 2018 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	1 st December 2018 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	1 st December 2018 (2.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods & Service Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (including Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above of requisite Bank receipt towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) under respective Gram Prashashan Kendra head.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of temporary deposit receipts in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No. 3 (a) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the respective GPK on the date and

within the time indicated above.

- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicted in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills us per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED GRAM Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.**

Sd/-

R.O. No. 516/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date: 28.11.2018.

Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department.
Singtam Sub Division

Most of 2019 World Cup tickets are sold out: ICC

NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (PTI): Not more than 3500 tickets are left in total for the 2019 World Cup in England, said a top ICC official here on Wednesday.

Campbell Jamieson, General Manager - Commercial at the International Cricket Council, said most of the tickets have been sold out for the tournament to be held in the UK from May 30-July 14. Overall, 48 games will be played in the mega event.

Tickets for all India games are sold out including the one against Pakistan on June 16 at Old Trafford.

"Most of the World Cup games are sold out. I think we have just about 3500 tickets left in total. This shows the interest the game is greater than ever," Jamieson told PTI after announcement of the tie-up between ICC and Indian beer brand Bira 91.

England will host South Africa in the tournament opener at the Oval on May 30 while the final will be held on July 14 at Lord's.

Tiger hunting more Majors in 2019



NASSAU (BAHAMAS), Nov 28 (AFP): A rejuvenated Tiger Woods will head into the New Year excited knowing he's won six of his 14 Major Championship titles on three of the four 2019 host venues.

Former world number one Woods made a successful return to golf this year after missing most of the previous two seasons through injury.

While Woods finished his season with a dramatic, emotional win in the Tour Championship in Atlanta in September, he fell short in the season's Majors, tying for sixth at the British Open and finishing

runner-up at the PGA Championship.

Next year however Woods' Major campaign will feature three stops on courses where he was won before. As well as four victories in the Masters at Augusta National, Woods has also won at Pebble Beach, venue for the US Open, and Bethpage Black in New York's Long Island, which is hosting the PGA Championship.

"The Major venues for next year do excite me as I have won on three of the four," Woods told AFP.

Woods said his performances in the final two Majors of 2018 suggested he was close to

winning his 15th big one.

"What I did in the last two major championships, I gave myself a chance to win both of them and I was right there," Woods said in Albany, where he was speaking ahead of this week's Hero World Challenge. "That's ultimately what we want to have happen. Now it's about trying to get everything to peak together like I did for those two weeks to do it again four more times. That's the trick.

"As you look at anyone who's ever played this game, that is the most difficult thing to do in this game. That's why

most people haven't won a lot of major championships, because it's so hard to do.

"Fortunately, I was able to do it 14 times and hopefully more in the future." - Woods meanwhile said his enthusiasm to represent the United States in team events was undiminished despite an unhappy return to duty at the Ryder Cup in September.

The 42-year-old said he is determined to be a playing captain when he skips the USA in the Presidents Cup in Royal Melbourne. Woods would become the first "playing" captain since

the inaugural event in 1994 when Hale Irwin captained the victorious USA side. "Yes, I would like to captain the side and there has been that precedent already been set, 1994 when Hale Irwin was captain," said Woods.

"If I make the team on points, yes, I'll play."

Woods meanwhile defended his participation in last week's head-to-head 9 million winner-take-all contest against Phil Mickelson last week in Las Vegas, which was criticised as a cash-grab by some critics. "I think we've got some positive feedback overall," Woods said of the encounter, which was won by Mickelson.

"Obviously, there's some things we can do as far as interaction and as far as play. I wish we both would have played better, but neither one of us putted well that day and there were some tough hole locations out there."

"So, maybe going forward, just don't quite have the greens so fast or the pins so difficult, but also as short as the golf course was playing, we should have made at least seven, eight birdies a piece. We just did not.

Countdown begins for launch of PSLV-C43



BENGALURU, Nov 28 (PTI): The 28-hour countdown for the launch of earth observation satellite HysIS along with 30 satellites from eight countries on board ISRO's trusted workhorse PSLV-C43 began at 5:58 AM on Wednesday.

The launch is scheduled at 9:58 am on Thursday from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh about 110 km from Chennai, said Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

"The countdown for the launch of PSLV-C43/HysIS mission started today at 05:58 hrs IST," it said. The space agency said fuel filling of PS4 stage (fourth stage) has been completed.

The Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS), an earth observation satellite developed by ISRO, is the primary satellite of the PSLV-C43 mission.

The mass of the spacecraft is about 380 kg, the space agency said adding that the satellite would be placed in 636 km-polar sun synchronous orbit with an incli-

nation of 97.957 degree.

The primary goal of HysIS, whose mission life is five years, is to study the earth's surface in visible near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

The co-passengers of HysIS include 1 micro and 29 nano satellites from eight different countries. All these satellites have been commercially contracted for launch through ISRO's commercial arm Antrix Corporation Limited. All the satellites would be placed in a 504 km orbit by PSLV-C43, the space agency said.

PSLV is a four stage launch vehicle with alternating solid and liquid stages. PSLV-C43, which is the 45th flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), is the 'Core Alone' version of PSLV. It is the lightest version of the launch vehicle.

This will be ISRO's second launch in the month. The space agency had launched its latest communication satellite GSAT-29 on board GSV MkIII-D2 on November 14.

Single women's group holds meet in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Nov 27 (PTI): Ahead of next year's Lok Sabha election, a forum campaigning for the rights of single women stressed on the need to build political will to take up the issues faced by single women.

The National Forum for Single Women's Rights organised a meeting in Delhi, where over a 100 single women from 11 states gathered to discuss issues faced by them. They also discussed their concerns with Women and Child Development Secretary Rakesh Srivastava. The forum said they had prepared a charter of demands that would be presented to politicians, said a representative from the forum.

All low-income single women in India should be assured of a monthly pension, at least no less than half of the minimum wage. In 2018, this amount is Rs 3,000 per month, said the charter.

The charter added that the government should have schemes and programmes in place for children of single women and other vulnerable children. In Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, there are such schemes in place.

All women, regardless of their caste, religion, class or community should have equal rights to property, as men, both in their natal and marital homes, the charter said.

Parul Chaudhary speaking on behalf of the forum said the WCD Ministry should study the Rajasthan government's Palanhar scheme, which provides direct benefit transfer (DBT) to households with children growing in vulnerable circumstances -- including children of single women; and launch a similar scheme for the entire nation.

Olympics gold my dream, training hard for it: Mary Kom

NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (PTI): A sixth world title added to her cabinet, ace Indian boxer M C Mary Kom Wednesday said she is now aiming for a gold in the Olympics.

The 36-year-old claimed her sixth gold at the world event, making her the most successful boxer in the tournament's history with an overall tally of seven medals.

"I have a medal in Olympics (a bronze in 2012), but gold is something I dream for. I am very happy about my championship win, as it boosted my confidence to face life head-on," she told reporters on the sidelines of an athletics event here.

"I am eyeing a gold at Tokyo Olympics. I will train doubly-triply hard to get a gold for my country," she said.

Mary Kom won her world title in the 48kg category but for the Olympics, she will have to bulk up to the 51kg division.

Union Minister for



Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi, who was also present at the function held at the JLN Stadium, called Mary Kom a "national treasure". "She has won six world titles and we are happy that she administered a pledge to the children present here on keeping the fairness and sportsmen's spirit in any game," Gandhi said.

Mary Kom, during

her interaction with the media, said a disciplined training regimen is what keeps her bout-ready at all times.

"I have been very sincere during my training. If I have 2-3 sessions, I will make it a point to not miss them, I attend as many as possible. If I don't train, I won't succeed," she said.

Asked if her training schedule will undergo

any change keeping the Olympics in mind, the Manipuri said she will talk to her coach and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to work out her plan.

"I will speak to my coach, the BFI, the SAI (Sports Authority of India). We have already got some good facilities and hope to get better results this time," Mary Kom said.

I will be in better form for World Tour finals: Sindhu

AMIT KUMAR DAS

NEW DELHI, Nov 28 (PTI): Indian badminton ace P V Sindhu believes she would be in top form at the BWF's World Tour Final as a recent break gave her the time to be well-prepared for the season-ending tournament starting December 12. Olympic silver medalist Sindhu, who finished runners-up at the last edition of the event in Dubai, skipped last week's Syed Modi International in Lucknow to focus on the USD 1,500,000 event to be held at Guangzhou.

It is the third time that the Indian ace qualified for the prestigious event and asked if she would be in better form this time, Sindhu said: "Ya, because I have enough time to prepare this time."

"I hope I do well in this tournament. I am confident of giving my best. It is one of the biggest tournaments with all the top players and it will be tough but I really want to win it." Sindhu continued her impressive form this year, claiming silver medals at all the major events --

Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and the World Championship, besides finishing runners-up at India Open and Thailand Open. Talking about the final losses that were difficult to digest, Sindhu said: "I played five finals and lost and those were tough to take but I am happy with the Asian Games results. I mean, overall some good results and some upsets in the finals." The 23-year-old listed several factors that might have led to her summit losses, which were a talking point this year.

"Sometime it does upset you when you lose in the finals, or even in a quarterfinal or semifinal, especially when you think may be I could have played better or even if you gave your 100 percent and even then you lose."

"Sometimes you don't play up to the mark and you win even then. You think that you should have played better. You have to just think it is not your day. For example in 2017 World championship final, it was not my day because I gave

everything in that match," she added.

So who were the players she found difficult to beat this year? "I feel everyone is of same standard, it is not like one is tough. It is all about that particular day. You can see a lot of juniors coming up, so we have to give your best against even the lower-ranked players," she said.

On her six successive losses to Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, Sindhu said: "Of course Tai Tzu is a deceptive player, she is the world No.1 but still I feel it was about that particular day."

"Actually, I feel it is not so tough... you have to prepare for her strokes. She (Tzu Ying) is deceptive in the sense that she has that confidence in her that if she plays a particular stroke, she will get that point. "But if we can keep the shuttle in the court and take her strokes then it should be fine," she explains. In a grueling season, Sindhu played as many as 18 tournaments and she said there is hardly any time to reflect on the matches. "We don't have much time but whatever time

we get, we need to analyse and know what mistakes we are doing. We have to pick our tournaments where you can give your best, it is tough, you have to be mentally and physically fit."

"It is very important to be confident and strong even if you lose, because you know there are tournaments coming up next and you have to be prepared for it," she said. Once the World Tour Finals are over, Sindhu will turn her attention to the Premier Badminton League (PBL) where she will play for Hyderabad Hunters, taking on Olympic champion Carolina Marin, in the opening match on December 22. "I'm really looking forward to play Carolina and I hope it turns out to be a match to remember," said Sindhu while talking about the Spaniard, who will represent Pune 7 Aces this season.

"I will be representing my own city and that makes this opening clash even more special. You can expect full-throated support from the Hunters which will prove to be our strength as we face Pune.

Was a bit sad but moved on: Dhawan on Test omission



SYDNEY, Nov 28 (PTI): Back amongst runs following a prolonged bad patch, Shikhar Dhawan has "moved on" after initially feeling sad about his omission from the Indian Test team for the Australia series.

"Yes, I was a bit sad but I have moved on and I am in a good frame of mind. I am in a happy positive mood. I am enjoying my game. I have got a bit off time and I am going to enjoy my training and get myself fitter. I am happy and once I am happy things go well for me," Dhawan, who was adjudged 'Man of the Series' in the recently concluded T20 series, told 'ESPN Cricinfo'.

The Delhi opener is confident that India will do well in the four-Test series beginning December 6 at Adelaide.

"I think we have got a very good chance to win the series here. We have to play good complete cricket in all three departments whether it's

batting, bowling or fielding and also catching. We have to be consistent and then we will have a good chance of beating Australia," said Dhawan, who will be turning 33 in a week's time.

While the World Cup is still six months away, the focus will be on the process for the veteran of 115 ODIs.

"I am going to give my best. I am a big believer in process and once I get it right, other things will follow on its own. Of course, we would like to bring the World Cup back home," he exuded confidence.

What makes him confident about his success in England is his past record in limited overs cricket.

"I have done well in both Champions Trophies in England and with my experience, I hope to score a lot of runs in World Cup and give good starts and sail through so that we can get the Cup back.

Gene-edited baby trial ‘paused’: China scientist



HONG KONG, Nov 28 (AFP): The Chinese scientist who claims to have created the world's first genetically-edited babies said Wednesday the trial had been paused, following an international outcry over the highly controversial procedure.

He Jiankui defended his work in front of a packed Hong Kong biomedical conference, saying he had successfully altered the DNA of twin girls born to an HIV-positive father, an apparent medical first.

A total of eight volunteer couples -- HIV-positive fathers and HIV-negative mothers -- had signed up to the trial, with one dropping out before it was halted.

He said there had been "another potential pregnancy" involving a second couple, but when questioned further agreed it had been a chemical pregnancy -- a term referring to a very early miscarriage.

"I must apologise this result was leaked unexpectedly," He said of the

apparent breakthrough. "The clinical trial was paused due to the current situation," he added.

The conference has been upended by the gene-edited baby revelations claims, after university professor He posted a video claiming the twin girls -- born a few weeks ago -- had had their DNA altered to prevent them from contracting HIV.

The move prompted a heated debate among the scientific community, with many raising concerns over the lack of verified data and the risks of exposing healthy embryos to gene editing.

Editing human embryos can create unintended mutations in other areas -- so-called "off-target effects" -- which can be carried through to birth, experts warned. But He took to the stage Wednesday to justify his work, and was bombarded with questions as he told the audience that the parents were aware of the potential dangers when they signed up.

"The volunteers were informed of the risk posed by the existence of one potential off-target and they decided to implant," he said.

He also said the university where he works had been "unaware of the study's conduct."

Southern University of Science and Technology, in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, had earlier distanced itself from He, saying he had been on unpaid leave since February and had "seriously violated academic ethics and codes of conduct."

Organisers of the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing, which opened Tuesday, also said they had been unaware of He's work.

Conference moderator Robin Lovell-Badge said He's trial was a "backward step" for the science industry, but described the babies' birth as "momentous" nonetheless.

"This is an example of an approach that was not

sufficiently careful and cautious and proportionate," he said.

"Clearly however it is a point in history... These two babies would appear to be the first gene-edited babies. So it is a momentous point in history," Summit chair David Baltimore, a Nobel laureate, said there had been "a failure of self-regulation by the scientific community because of a lack of transparency." He's claim would "be considered irresponsible", Baltimore said.

He, who was educated at Stanford University, said the twins' DNA was modified using CRISPR, a technique which allows scientists to remove and replace a strand with pinpoint precision.

Gene editing is a potential fix for heritable diseases but it is extremely controversial because the changes would be passed down to future generations and could eventually affect the entire gene pool.

In many countries the editing of human DNA is

tightly controlled.

Qiu Renzong, formerly the vice president of the Chinese Ministry of Health's ethics committee, told reporters at the conference that lax regulations in China mean that scientists who break the rules often face no punishment, and think of the ministry as being "without teeth".

China's National Health Commission ordered an "immediate investigation" into the case, the official Xinhua news agency reported, while the Shenzhen hospital meant to have approved the research programme denied its involvement.

A union of Chinese scientists issued a statement saying it "resolutely opposes so-called scientific researches and biotech applications that violate the spirit of science and ethics," Xinhua said.

The case has damaged China's international reputation in the field, said the Chinese Union of Life Science Societies.

This is not the first time Chinese researchers have experimented with human embryo technology. Last September, scientists at Sun Yat-sen University used an adapted version of gene-editing to correct a disease-causing mutation in human embryos.

There is also a history of fraud within China's academic community -- including a scandal last year that led to the withdrawal of 100 "compromised" academic papers.

A joint statement Monday from a group of 100 scientists in China criticised He Jiankui's claims and called them a "great blow to the global reputation and development of biomedical research in China".

Lion Air jet should have been grounded before fatal crash, Indonesia says



JAKARTA, Nov 28 (AFP): A crashed Lion Air jet should have been grounded over a recurrent technical problem before its fatal journey, Indonesian authorities said Wednesday, as details from the new jet's flight data recorder suggested that pilots struggled to control its anti-stalling system.

The preliminary crash report from Indonesia's transport safety agency also took aim at the budget carrier's poor safety culture, but did not pinpoint a definitive cause of the October 29 accident, which killed all 189 people on board.

A final report is not likely to be filed until next year. The Boeing 737 MAX vanished from radar about 13 minutes after taking off from Jakarta, slamming into the Java Sea moments after pilots had asked to return to the capital.

Investigators said Lion Air kept putting the plane back into service despite repeatedly failing to fix a problem with the airspeed indicator, including on its second-last flight from Bali to Jakarta. "The plane was no longer airworthy and it should not have kept flying," Nurcahyo Utomo, aviation head at the National Transport Safety Committee, told reporters. The findings will heighten concerns there were problems with key systems in one of the world's newest and most advanced commercial passenger planes.

"But we don't know yet whether it's a Boeing or airline issue," said aviation analyst Gerry Soejatman. Investigators have previously said the doomed aircraft had

problems with its airspeed indicator and angle of attack (AoA) sensors, prompting Boeing to issue a special bulletin telling operators what to do when they face the same situation.

The report confirmed that initial finding, saying the plane's data recorder detected an issue with the AoA. It also said the plane's "stick shaker" -- which vibrates the aircraft's steering wheel-like control yoke to warn of a system malfunction -- was "activated and continued for most of the flight."

An AoA sensor provides data about the angle at which air is passing over the wings and tells pilots how much lift a plane is getting.

The information can be critical in preventing an aircraft from stalling.

The doomed plane's flight data recorder showed that pilots had repeatedly tried to correct its nose from pointing down, possibly after erroneous data from AoA sensors was fed into a system that automatically adjusts some of its movements.

Black box data showed the plane also had an airspeed indicator issue on multiple earlier flights, said investigators, who have yet to locate the cockpit voice recorder on the sea floor.

Lion must take steps "to improve the safety culture" and bolster the quality of its flight logs, the transport agency said. "Airlines need to take paperwork seriously," Soejatman said.

"That didn't cause the crash, but it can cause other problems in the environment they're working in." Despite a dubious safety record and an

avalanche of complaints over shoddy service, the budget carrier's parent Lion Air Group has captured half the domestic market in less than 20 years of operation to become Southeast Asia's biggest airline.

Indonesia's aviation safety record has improved since its airlines, including national carrier Garuda, were subject to years-long bans from US and European airspace for safety violations, although it has still recorded 40 fatal accidents over the past 15 years. The report stopped short of making any recommendations to Boeing but the US plane-maker has come under fire for possible glitches on the 737 MAX -- which entered service just last year. The APA, a US airline pilots' union, said carriers and pilots had not been informed by Boeing of certain changes in the aircraft control system installed on the new MAX variants of the 737.

"I am really surprised if Boeing has not shared all the flight performance parameters with pilots, unions, and training organisations," University of Leeds aviation expert Stephen Wright told AFP, adding that "a deliberate omission would have serious legal ramifications".

Several relatives of the crash victims have already filed lawsuits against Boeing, including the family of a young doctor who was to have married his high school sweetheart this month.

Authorities have called off the grim task of identifying victims of the crash, with 125 passengers officially recognised after testing on human remains that filled some 200 body bags.

New Zealand intelligence bans China's Huawei from 5G rollout

WELLINGTON, Nov 28 (AFP): New Zealand's largest telecoms carrier Spark said Wednesday that the country's intelligence agency had barred it from using equipment provided by China's Huawei in its 5G network as it posed "significant national security risks".

The move follows reports the United States is urging its allies to exclude the Chinese telecoms giant from 5G rollouts over cybersecurity fears. Spark said in a statement that it was legally obliged to inform the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) about its 5G plans.

It said GCSB chief Andrew Hampton had raised concerns about the use of Huawei Radio Access Network (RAN) in the new network and declined the proposed rollout. "The director-general has informed Spark today that he considers Spark's proposal to use Huawei 5G equipment in Spark's planned 5G RAN would, if implemented, raise significant national security risks," Spark said.

The firm called the decision "disappointing" and said it would decide its next action after examining the detailed reasoning behind Hampton's conclusion.

It still expected to

complete its 5G network by July 2020.

Hampton confirmed Spark's announcement in a brief statement.

"The GCSB under its (legislative) responsibilities, has recently undertaken an assessment of a notification from Spark. I have informed Spark that a significant network security risk was identified," he said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang expressed "deep concern" over the ban.

"The Chinese government encourages Chinese enterprises to follow market principles and international regulations, and develop overseas economic partnerships on the basis of abiding by local laws," he said. "The economic and trade partnerships between China and New Zealand are mutually beneficial. We hope that New Zealand will offer a level playing field for Chinese enterprises operating in New Zealand, and do more to benefit mutual trust and partnerships."

Huawei -- one of the world's largest telecommunications equipment and services providers -- has been under scrutiny in some countries, including the United States and Australia, over its alleged close links to Beijing authorities.

Explosion near chemical plant in China kills 22



KJM VARMA BEIJING, Nov 28 (PTI): A truck carrying hazardous chemicals exploded outside a chemical plant in China's northern Hebei province on Wednesday, killing at least 22 people and leaving as many others injured, the second major industrial disaster in the country in the last four days.

The blast occurred outside the Hebei Shenghua Chemical Industry in Zhangjiakou, Qiaodong district around 12:40 am, igniting a fire that engulfed nearby vehicles, the officials were quoted as saying by thepaper.cn, a Shanghai-based website.

An industrial safety official, identified only as Wu, said that one of the trucks lined up outside the plant to deliver chemicals had exploded, setting off a chain reaction that engulfed

other trucks.

Chinese news reports, and images from the scene, indicated that a fiery explosion near the plant had set around 50 vehicles ablaze, including dozens of trucks, and sent a dark plume of smoke into the night sky.

The fire has now been contained, and a search operation is underway, authorities said. The injured have been taken to a nearby hospital.

Employees at the Shenghua plant said operation has been suspended out of safety concern. Shenghua is affiliated with China Hao-hua Chemical Group, a subsidiary of State-owned ChemChina, which is ranked 167th among Global Fortune 500 enterprises.

Fu Jianhua, the vice-minister of emergency management, has led a team to the site to

guide relief work, the report said.

Zhangjiakou, a city about 156 km northwest of Beijing, is set to host the 2022 Winter Olympics alongside the capital. Industrial safety is a major concern in China, where requirements for the storage and transport of chemicals and other dangerous products are often weakly enforced.

This is the second major industrial explosion in China in the last four days.

Two people were killed and 57 injured in a warehouse explosion in northeast China's Jilin Province on November 24. A total of 370 houses have been damaged, with 15 having collapsed.

A massive explosion in 2015 traced to improperly stored chemicals killed at least 173 people in Tianjin, about an hour east of Beijing.

SummitTIMES

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He left a stranger, returns a star

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Spok Blair collapses, blocks Kanha completely

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For Sikkim's Patron Saint



RAVISHING IN RUBY: The model/actress Tyra Banks looked ravishing as she attended the world premiere for her movie Life Size 2.

Vishal Bhardwaj to serve as showrunner on Netflix's 'Midnight's Children' series

MUMBAI, NOV 28 (PTI): Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj has been announced as the showrunner of Netflix's "Midnight's Children" series, based on author Salman Rushdie's classic novel. Bhardwaj, best known for adapting famous William Shakespeare plays into films such as "Maqbool", "Omkaara" and "Haider", will also executive produce the new series, the streaming giant said in a statement.

The novel, released in 1981, is considered Rushdie's magnum opus and won him multiple accolades, including the 1981 Booker Prize, the Best of the Booker twice - both in 1993 and 2008, and the James Tait Memorial Prize. "The opportunity to translate one of the greatest works of literature in a medium that is accessible to millions of people around the world is incredible, and I'm delighted to partner with Netflix in bringing 'Midnight's Children' to life on screen," Bhardwaj said.

"I'm confident that taking this quintessentially Indian epic that transcends generations

and genres, combined with the production values and creative freedom that Netflix offers, will contribute to an unforgettable series that is Indian at heart and global in reach," he added.

The novel follows the life of Saleem Sinai, born on the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947, the time of India's independence. His every act is mirrored and magnified in events that sway the course of India's national affairs; his health and well-being are inextricably bound to those of his nation. He also possess telepathic powers that links him with India's 1,000 other "midnight's children", all born in that initial hour and endowed with magical gifts.

"The scope and scale of Midnight's Children can only be translated by a creator with an expansive vision, depth of storytelling, and a nuanced knowledge of bringing characters to life. We couldn't have imagined anyone other than Vishal Bhardwaj as the showrunner on this series and are honoured that he will steer the project," Simran Sethi, director-creative international Originals for Netflix, said.



Amanda Bynes opens up about drug abuse

"Easy A" star Amanda Bynes, who had taken a break from acting to focus on her life, says she is ready to return to the spotlight after enduring a "dark, sad world" of drug abuse.

The actor said she first started smoking marijuana at the age of 16 but it was her dependence on Adderall that led to her spiralling out of control, she told Paper magazine in an interview. "I'm really ashamed and embarrassed with the things I said. I can't turn back time but if I could, I would," the actor, who features on the cover of the magazine, said.

Bynes said she started smoking marijuana from a young age but she "didn't get addicted" and "wasn't abusing it" but she later progressed to trying harder drugs such as MDMA, cocaine and ecstasy.

"(I tried) cocaine three times but I never got high from cocaine. I never liked it. It was never my drug of choice.... I definitely abused Adderall."

She said she got hooked to Adderall after reading a magazine article that called it "the new skinny pill".

"...they were talking about how women were taking it to stay thin. I was like, 'Well, I have to get my hands on that,' she said.

Bynes managed to get a prescription by going to a psychiatrist and "faking the symptoms of ADD (attention deficit disorder)."

"When I was doing Hall Pass (2010), I remember being in the trailer and I used to chew the Adderall tablets because I thought they made me (more) high (that way). I remember chewing on a bunch of them and literally being scatterbrained and not being able to focus on my lines or memorize them for that matter." The 32-year-old actor's erratic behaviour led to

many tabloid stories and prompted her to announce her retirement from acting, something that she considers stupid now.

After stepping away from the spotlight, Bynes described herself as being someone who had "no purpose in life" and spending her time being "stoned all day long."



Bynes also credited her isolation to hanging out with a "seedier crowd." "I got really into my drug usage and it became a really dark, sad world for me," she explained.

Bynes is aware that her behaviour sparked a negative reaction from the public, which she said led people to "diagnose" her. She is now four years sober, and credits her parents with "really helping me get back on track."

"I have no fear of the future. I've been through the worst and came out the other end and survived it, so I just feel like it's only up from here.

Lady Gaga and Korean Lip Patches



Amongst the many Hollywood celebrities to post selfies of themselves wearing a lip patch, was Lady Gaga. While there are many lip patches available in the market, we like the Etude House Honey Jelly Lips Patch (Moisturizing), \$4.90. With the same concept as a face mask, lip patches are designed to be left on clean, dry skin so that all its goodness can be optimally absorbed to hydrate and plump lips instantly. Perfect before makeup application, this one from Etude House packs honey, propolis and royal jelly to deeply condition and nourish chapped lips, smoothing out fine lines so your lip colour doesn't sink into those vertical lip wrinkles.

Telcos object to trailers of Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar film '2.0'

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 (PTI): Telecom operators' body COAI Tuesday raised objections to trailers of Rajinikanth-Akshay Kumar-starrer '2.0' movie, which is set to hit the screens this week, saying that the promotional videos show mobile phones and towers in a bad light.

Alleging that the content of the movie is "defamatory", the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) Tuesday said it has requested the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to revoke the certification of the film.

The COAI, whose members include Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, has alleged that the promotional videos are based on the theme that electromagnetic field emissions from mobile phones and towers are harmful to living creatures and the environment, including birds and human beings. Such a depiction would create unfounded fear and mass paranoia by spreading misinformation about the adverse impact of mobile towers and mobile phones, the grouping said in a statement.

The content of the movie is "defamatory to COAI and its members, endangers public order, presents anti-scientific attitudes, constitutes offences including under various sections of

the IPC (Indian Penal Code) and is in violation of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952," it added.

The big budget movie is to be released on November 29. "We have further requested the Censor Board to revoke the certification already granted including for the teaser, trailer and other promotional video and Tamil language version of the film with immediate effect until such time as CBFC makes a determination on our submission. "We have requested that the exhibition of the movie be suspended in the meantime," COAI Director General Rajan S Mathews said in the statement. The COAI has also alleged that the content of film is against the public interest, as it constitutes offences under Section 268 (public nuisance), Section 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) and Section 499 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code and "stands to prejudice the ongoing proceedings before the Supreme Court over whether or not mobile towers have any harmful effects adequately."

Rajinikanth, who is preparing to enter politics, is expected to announce plans of launching a political party in the coming weeks, as per reports.

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SEPARATE HOSTEL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

ARIES: Today you will feel mushy and forlorn. Ganesha says you will make special efforts to strengthen your relationships. You look upon commitment as a security for the future. As a result, you will develop strong, long-term bondings.

TAURUS: You will be fondly thinking about your close friends, particularly about the ones of the opposite sex. It may suddenly dawn upon you that you are in love, says Ganesha. If per chance, there is a romantic encounter, go ahead and dive fearlessly in the pool of love. It is near certain that the wedding bells will be ringing for you sooner than you think. Today, nearly all Bulls are likely to

come under the lovely spell of romance.

GEMINI: You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesha.

CANCER: You will tackle with ease, even the most confounding challenges today. You may be the scapegoat, though, fears Ganesha. Beware, or this may shake you and lower your self-confidence. Try to shake off your weaknesses, and you should see yourself obtaining energy and positivity.

LEO : Financial gains in

shares and stocks are indicated. If you are an investor, your investments will yield substantial profits. Long-standing debts are also likely to be cleared, and pending dues will be settled. Expenses for the purposes of entertainment are a possibility, says Ganesha.

VIRGO: Take a break today, says Ganesha. Replace the mundane with something exotic. Attend private dos and social meets and be gregariously gregarious.

LIBRA : Ganesha says today is a day where you will spend happy moments with your family members. You will feel happy and will get to spend some romantic time with your

beloved. Your innermost feeling will be showcased in the internal thoughts of your life partner and both of you will be in tandem with each other today. Ganesha advises you to enjoy these pleasant moments of togetherness.

SCORPIO: Just another mundane day in store for you. At work, pressure may mount and lead to a hectic and tedious day. You may even feel irritated at times. Thus, feeling the need to unwind, you may invite your sweetheart for the cup of coffee and spend quality time together.

SAGITTARIUS: Appreciation for all that excellent work you have put in is a no-go for you! Yet, you stand to

gain nothing by losing heart. While the acknowledgement you look for has been delayed, Ganesha says it has not been denied and is in the offing already.

CAPRICORN: Often, sentiments take over your mind. Making you impractical, at times, this tendency proves to be harmful for you. Don't show it on your face as others may take advantage of your weakness, advises Ganesha. If you don't control your emotions, it may become an obstacle in your path to success. Be strong and give a tough fight to those who want to go ahead of you.

AQUARIUS : You will go through some heavy mood

swings today. And the people who know you well will get shocked and find it difficult to deal with you. Keep your guards on, and don't take uncalled-for decisions, advises Ganesha, rather get your current assignments cross the finishing line.

PISCES : Today will be a hectic day for you. Most of your time will be spent in making your relationships on the business as well as the personal front more meaningful. You will likely find yourself attending social events. There is also the possibility that you will attend some religious ritual today. Apart from this, nothing substantial is likely to occur today, says Ganesha.