



**ADITI MITTAL, MAHIMA KUKREJA
CALL OUT TANMAY BHAT ON HIS
'CLINICAL DEPRESSION' REVELATION**
pg 08

**MEN DO SEE THE MESS – THEY
JUST AREN'T JUDGED FOR IT
THE WAY WOMEN ARE**
pg 04

**SEXUALITY SHOULD BE
DESENSATIONALISED AS
DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC,
SAYS ALAN CUMMING**
pg 08



SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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North gets new DC in Rinzing Chewang

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:**

Rinzing Chewang Bhutia was today transferred and posted as the new District Collector for North Sikkim.

He moves from Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department where he was posted as Special Secretary.

Meanwhile, the incumbent DC-North, Raj Kumar Yadav, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Finance, Revenue & Expenditure Department.

Mumbai floods, famed never-say-die spirit floats

MUMBAI, JUL 2 (PTI):

Heavy rains in Mumbai and adjoining areas Tuesday flooded its roads and crippled its rail lines, but the famed "we'll get through this just fine" spirit of the metropolis, as always, remained afloat.

From posting messages on social media platforms offering help to actually stopping their vehicles mid-road to give lifts to the stranded, the Mumbaikar on Tuesday was his usual warm self even as everything around was all gloomy and wet. "A little late but still. If anyone is stuck at Veera Desai road or Amboli (Andheri West) please feel free to stay at my place till the rain subsides. DM me and I shall get message the address. *People please retweet?* #MumbaiRainsLive #MumbaiRains #MumbaiRainsLive#," tweeted Bibhash Chatterjee.

Another citizen Bihan Sengupta, who works as a sports scribe, too offered help.

"Alert: People stuck near Sasmitra Road, Worli, please feel free to come over. DM for details. can provide tea/coffee and snacks. Can't offer anything else cause my maid is a horrible cook. #MumbaiRains #MumbaiRainsLive #MumbaiRain #Mumbai #MumbaiSaga #mumbailocal #MumbaiTraffic," tweeted Sengupta.

People offered lifts while some pooled cabs.

"I was going to work to Mantralaya (state secretariat) on my motorcycle. On the way I gave a lift to a person in need," said Neelesh Joshi, who stays in Parel in central Mumbai and was headed to south Mumbai.

Government agencies too pitched in to ensure not all, especially hope, was swept away in the downpour. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) offered breakfast to stranded commuters at Thane station.

White Paper on State's finances will expose shocking scale of misappropriation by SDF Govt: SKM

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha spokesperson, Jacob Khaling, today informed that State Government will be tabling a White Paper on financial liabilities on the State Government and loans taken by the SDF Government during the Budget Session.

He announced that the White Paper would present proof that the State has a debt of more than Rs 8,000 crores.

He was responding to claims of Sikkim Democratic Front spokespersons at a recent press conference that Sikkim has a debt burden of Rs 6,000 crores, the lowest in the entire North-East Region, and not Rs 8,000 cr as SKM has



been claiming.

The SKM spokesperson also countered that the per capita loan burden in Sikkim was the highest.

Mr Khaling further informed that 95% of the

work on the White Paper has been completed and that the document will be ready for tabling during the budget session which is scheduled to begin on 29 July.

He claimed that the

White Paper will present the entire account of works of the SDF government of the past 25 years and that this White Paper was a documentation of the liabilities on the State and loans taken by the

earlier government from different institutions.

On the same, Mr Khaling urged the SDF president, former CM Pawan Chamling, to attend and participate in the budget session during the

presentation and discussions on the White Paper. The SDF, it may be recalled, has said that it will boycott the Assembly until PS Tamang [Goly] remains the CM.

He further informed

that the State government will also take out a second White Paper.

Similarly, SKM spokesperson, Sonam Venchungpa, alleged that substantial funds have gone to only 1% of the population and contented that the SKM Government was endeavouring to find out where the money has gone and who were responsible for mis-utilisation.

He added that the State government would take account of the people's money and place its findings among the people. Mr Venchungpa stated that the revelations of the budget session will be shocking for the people given the scale of misdeeds and misutilisation by the previous SDF government.

MP asks HRD Ministry for one-time grant for SU Campus



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:**

Lok Sabha MP, Indra Hang Subba, on Monday, requested Ministry of HRD through the Lok Sabha Speaker for one time grant for construction of Sikkim University Campus at the earliest, an SKM press release informs.

It further mentions that Sikkim Central University was established in 2007 but despite having enough funds released by the UGC and Ministry of HRDD, the State Government was not able to provide land to the University for construction of the campus.

CBI crackdown on loan defaulters; 17 FIRs involving funds of Rs 1,139 crore

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI):

In a possibly biggest synchronised action against alleged bank loan defaulters, the CBI Tuesday launched a massive crackdown by carrying out searches at over 61 locations in 18 cities after registering 17 cases involving swindling of funds to the tune of Rs 1,139 crore, officials said.

Over 300 officers drawn from various units of the agency swooped down at over 61 locations and knocked the doors of alleged defaulters on the basis of complaints received from various nationalised banks and inputs developed by the agency under close monitoring of CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla and senior officials in Delhi.

The figure, which stood at around Rs 640 crore, swelled to Rs 1,139 crore as the agency continued filing of FIRs during the day and expanding its search operations.

Braving the water-logged streets of Mumbai

Two places were searched in Delhi and Mumbai in connection with Asuti Trading.

turn to pg02

State Govt declares 07 July 'A Day for Mother Earth'

NO VEHICLES ON ROADS FOR 7 MINS ON 7 JULY

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:**

The State Government has decided to dedicate 'A Day for Mother Earth' with environment friendly activities on 07 July every year. The day also coincides with the closing day of the nation-wide Van Mahotsav Week that is held from 01 to 07 July.

Addressing a press conference today here at the Forest Secretariat, Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia, mentioned that Sikkim Government has decided to dedicate 07 July every year as 'A Day for Mother Earth'. He added that this day will be a permanent feature of the State government.

"A Day for Mother Earth is a wider initiative of the present gov-



ernment involving environment friendly activities to address climate change," said Mr Bhutia.

On 07 July no vehicles will ply on the roads for 7 minutes from 11:00am throughout the State. Stating that pollution caused by vehicular traffic is a major player

in global warming, Mr Bhutia informed that the main objective of this endeavour is to contribute towards Nationally Determined Contributions and Sustainable Development Goals for positive climate action. However, he informed that all emergency and essential

service vehicles will be allowed to ply.

The Minister appealed to the driving community and people of Sikkim to cooperate in this endeavour of the government to reduce carbon emissions. He mentioned that the day will be celebrated in the

state-level with zest and fervour with plantation and other environment friendly activities.

Speaking on the concept of 'A Day for Mother Earth', the Minister stated that the State government has decided to change the concept of 10 Minutes to Earth and contribute more to the environment not only through plantation but through environment-friendly activities across the State.

He added that after consultation with the Chief Minister, the State government has decided to observe 'A Day for Mother Earth' on 07 July every year. One of the objectives of the day is to make people more aware and concerned towards

turn to pg02

SPG security for Chamling not true, claims SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today accused Sikkim Democratic Front of misleading people with false claims. SKM spokesperson and Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, Jacob Khaling, said that Special Protection Group [SPG] security being granted to former CM, Pawan Chamling is not true.

The State Government has not received any information regarding SPG protection being provided to Mr Chamling, he said further adding that this has not been confirmed by the Union Home Ministry and the Central Government. According to Mr Khaling, the former CM has hired private guards and bouncers for security.

He urged the former

CM to write to the State government if he needs any protection.

"State government will provide all required protection to the former CM but we want to urge him not to lie and deceive people by dragging the Home Ministry into the issue," he said.

He also registered his objection to a social media post by SDF claiming that the Union Home Minister had termed Mr Chamling as an asset of the country.

Mr Khaling stated that it is totally false and nothing of the sort has been posted by the Union Home Minister on his social media pages.

On various other allegations levelled by SDF, the SKM spokesperson said that the new government is just one month old while SDF ran the

government for 25 years, therefore, such allegations only point out the SDF government's failings.

He lashed out against SDF's social media team accusing them of lying and deceiving the people by using fake information and pictures.

On the statement of the former CM that Sikkim will have a new CM in the next six months, Mr Khaling stated that Mr Chamling's kranti is only about winning three seats in the by-election and coming to power.

"SKM's kranti is to bring change in the system and this is the difference between SDF and SKM. The people of Sikkim gave us the mandate and the people's government needs to be strong," he said.

He added that SKM

turn to pg02

SpiceJet flight skids off during landing at Kolkata airport, passengers safe

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI):

A SpiceJet flight veered off its path on the runway while landing at Kolkata airport Tuesday, damaging four lights, the airline said, adding that no one was injured in the incident.

The flight, a Boeing 737 800 aircraft operated as flight SG-275 on way from Pune, veered off towards the right side during landing on runway 19L, it said.

"During landing roll aircraft veered off towards the right from the runway center line owing to wet runway/heavy rain. Pilots took corrective action immediately to get the aircraft on center line," the airline said.

"Four runway edge lights were inadvertently damaged. Passengers (have) deplaned normally. All passengers and crew safe," it added.

Amid multiple such incidents, aviation watchdog DGCA has issued safety directions to the country's airlines.

It said in a circular that crew members should be well aware of aircraft limitations during adverse weather operations and airlines should carry out their own "risk assessment" before operating in such conditions.

On Monday night, another SpiceJet flight from Jaipur had skid and overshoot the main runway while landing at the Mumbai airport amidst heavy rains. Consequently, the Mumbai airport has temporarily stopped flight operations at the main runway.

On June 30, another SpiceJet plane from Bhopal veered off the runway at Surat airport due to heavy rainfall and wind.

Meeting discusses Bhanu Jayanti and Rankey Mela in Namchi

NAMCHI, 02 JUL [IPR]: A day long co-ordination cum preparatory meeting for the upcoming Bhanu Jayanti and Rankey Mela, 2019 was held at the conference hall of DAC, Namchi today.

The meeting chaired by District Collector (South), Ragul K, also had the presence of SP (South), Prawin Gurung, ADC, Satyen Pradhan, SDM (HQ), Hemant Rai, alongside HoDs, officials from line departments, stake holders, business communities and local gentry.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the overall arrangements with regard to the celebrations of Bhanu Jayanti which falls on 13 July and Rankey Mela which is scheduled to be held on 17 of July respectively.

The meeting had de-



tailed deliberations on the roles and responsibilities allocated to concerned departments, and other committees.

Addressing the gathering, DC South, Ragul K informed about the direction of the State Government in organising

of the Rankey mela in a vibrant manner involving people from all walks of life.

The venue for this mela will be at DAC road leading to Namchi bazar. Outlining in detail, DC also highlighted the responsibilities of various committees set up for

both the celebrations.

Additionally, he also issued directives for effective partaking from all line departments involving students to participate in the various events which forms a part of the Bhanu Jayanti celebration. He also

elucidated on distribution of various awards to be conferred on the Bhanu Jayanti celebration in coordination with Dakshin Sikkim Sahitya Sammellan.

SP South, Prawin Gurung urged the attendees to diligently maintain the

law and order along with a peaceful participation from all walks of life during the festivity.

Various suggestions and proposals were also sought to ensure qualitative and befitting celebrations of both the events in the district.

BJP preps for membership drive in West Sikkim



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

A meeting to discuss preparations for the Bharatiya Janta Party's membership drive in West Sikkim was held today under the chairmanship of BJP's State Membership In-charge, Jagat Singh Singhi, a press release informs.

The meeting was also attended by co-in charge, the BJP-Sikkim gener-

al secretary SB Karki along with treasurer GD Agrawal. West District membership in-charge Sancho Lepcha and co-in charge RT Lepcha along with two more members and west district constituency level members also attended the meeting.

The meeting decided that all west district committee members will actively launch the membership drive on 06 July

Pradhan Nagar and Dooars veterans register victories

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 JUL:

Pradhan Nagar Football Club of Siliguri and Dooars Veterans registered victories at the ongoing Veteran's Football Invitational Tournament 2019

here at Paljor Stadium on Tuesday. In the first match, Pradhan Nagar FC defeated Denzong Boys Veterans 4-2 while Dooars Veterans edged out TYC Veterans by a solitary goal in the second match.

Amish Tripathi's 'Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta' hits stands

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): The much-awaited third installment of celebrated author Amish Tripathi's best-selling Ram Chandra series is out, announced publishing house Westland.

The book, "Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta", was launched on Monday at the Crossword bookstore in Mumbai amidst the presence of the author and his avid fans.

Describing his new book as probably the "darkest" one he ever wrote, Tripathi said along with chronicling the tale of Raavan, "a pirate, a scholar, a warrior, and a king", it also attempts to explore the most interesting question: "Was Raavan history's greatest villain?"

"Raavan is one of the most complex, violent, passionate and accomplished men of all time.

"A man who will love without reward and kill without remorse. He suffers greatly, and he usually reacts to that suffering with anger and hatred. The fact that he was supremely talented, made the impact of his rage that much more spine-chilling. This is probably the darkest book I have ever written... I hope that the

readers like the book," he added.

Tracing the life of Raavan, right from his birth to the time he abducts Hindu goddess Sita, the book is the third installment of the author's Ram Chandra series after "Ram: Scion of Ikshvaku" and "Sita: Warrior of Mithila".

"While the first book explored the tale of Ram, the second the story of Sita, the third burrows into the life of Raavan, before all three stories merge from the fourth book onwards into a single story," the author explains in the book's introduction.

For the uninitiated, the banker-turned author in his writing uses a story-telling technique called "hyperlink", also known as the "multilinear narrative".

"In such a narrative, there are many characters; and a connection brings them all together," he writes in the book.

Tripathi is credited with penning the fastest selling book series (the Shiva trilogy) in Indian publishing history. He has also authored one non-fiction book, "Immortal India: Young Country, Timeless Civilisation".

North prepares for Bhanu Jayanti Celebration



MANGAN, 02 JUL (IPR): A preparatory meeting for the 205th Bhanu Jayanti Celebration in North District took place at the chamber of the District Collector, North, today.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Collector, Somnath Adhikari, North alongside Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Samdup Bhutia, Mangan. Also present in the meeting were the HoDs of various departments of the District Administrative Centre, Mangan.

During the meeting, various aspects and arrangements in regard to the celebration were discussed at length

with the HoDs.

The 205th Bhanu Jayanti celebrations will be celebrated at Multi-purpose hall of Mangan Senior Secondary School on 13 July. The celebration will commence from 9.30am onward.

The main attraction of the celebration will be cultural and literary programme which includes Dance competition, Ramayana Path, Poem recitation and Essay writing competition.

In the meeting, AD-C/N, Mr Adhikari, asked all HoDs to extend their positive support in making the celebration a grand success.

SPG security...

will have 19 seats in the Assembly in the next 6 months.

Refuting allegations of SDF spokespersons that SKM is spreading political terrorism in the State, Mr Khaling counter alleged that SDF spokespersons, Avinash Yakha and MK Subba, had made the same allegations against the SDF government and Mr Chamling when they were in SKM.

The press conference was also addressed by Press Advisor to the CM, CP Sharma.

State Govt...

conservation of environment and further encourage them to contribute in environment conservation, he said.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that this initiative is a call for positive action which is the need of the hour to safeguard future generations.

"Clean and healthy environment starts from our homes. Hence, it is the duty and responsibility of every citizen to be well aware and conscious about environmental issues and put green ideas and green good deeds into action," said Mr Bhutia.

He informed that Chief Minister, PS Tamang [Golay] will be planting a sapling of Peepal tree at Kichudumra in South Sikkim further adding that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under a Peepal tree.

Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF, ML Srivastava mentioned that the department has already talked to the Army and GREF and they have assured to support this initiative of the government. He informed that the department has been distributing one lakh saplings throughout the State for plantation on that day.

Apart from plantation drives, the department has been organizing awareness programmes through debates, paintings and other activities in schools.

Mr Bhutia expressed that Sikkim would definitely work towards contributing to the national target of carbon sequestration [2.5 to 3 billion tones] by 2030.

CBI crackdown...

By evening, the agency had already registered 17 FIRs across the country and the process of registering more is going on, they said.

The searches were being conducted in Delhi, Mumbai, Ludhiana, Thane, Valsad, Pune, Palani, Gaya, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Bhopal, Surat and Kolar, among others, the officials said.

Other companies which have been booked by the agency in separate FIRs include Ludhiana-based Supreme Tex Mart for causing a loss of Rs 143.25 crore to State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru-based Aegan Batteries for loss of Rs 98.75 crore to SBI, Gaya-based Ramnanndi Hotels and Resorts Ltd for loss of Rs 131.79 crore to Central Bank of India and Noida-based Naftogaz India Pvt Ltd for causing loss of 93 crore to Corporation Bank.

Delhi-based SL Consumer Products Ltd has been booked by the CBI for causing loss to Union Bank of India to the tune of Rs 55 crore, Aligarh-based Samprash Foods Ltd for loss Rs 60 crore to Union Bank of India, Chandigarh-based International Mega Food Park Ltd for loss of Rs 40.17 crore to SIDBI, Bhopal-based Ranjeet Automobiles for loss of 34.36 crore to Bank of Baroda, Surat-based Jalpa Textiles Pvt Ltd for loss of Rs 28 crore to Bank of Baroda, they alleged.

Three FIRs pertaining to alleged irregularities in disbursement of housing loans in a Union Bank of India branch in Bhubaneswar were also registered by the agency in which senior bank officials have been named as accused.

The loans resulted in the loss of Rs 24.17 crore to the bank, the officials said, adding that searches were conducted at nine places in Odisha.

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call 03592-208698, 9734152541,
9647102692, advertise@
summittimes.com,

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Nitesh Thapa son of Nirmal Kumar Thapa resident of Mingram South Sikkim has lost my Class X Pass Certificate, Class X Admit Card & Character Certificate issued from New Light Academy, Namchi, South Sikkim on my way from Gangtok to Namchi. My G.D. No. is 147 dt. 15.06.2019 at Sumbok Police Station, South Sikkim. If found contact: 8967034593.

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

URGENTLY REQUIRED:

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

PLOT FOR SALE:

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

INTERESTED TO BECOME

A YOGA TEACHER?

CRITERIA – Academic qualification of minimum higher secondary pass

Complete yoga syllabus will be provided by SYVC Gangtok absolutely free of cost. After one year of basic training and service (karma yoga)/ volunteering in the Centre, the candidate would be sent for Yoga Teacher Training Course at Shivananda Yoga Ashram. After TTC, the candidate would be appointed on part time basis at the Yoga Centre in Gangtok. College students can also apply. If required, food and accommodation would be provided.

Interested candidates may contact

: Deepa Yoga Centre at

Mob: +91 7432043719/ +91 8170953919.

LAND FOR SALE

A vacant plot measuring 0.38 Ha. (16552.80 sq – ft) is for sale at Amdo Golai (above the main road), Gangtok. For more information please contact – 9717191985/9474651223.

WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER/BABYSITTER.

Contact: 9933443442/9800500696.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Mr. Subash Lama

Proprietor

Hotel Parasol Residency, Panihouse, Deorali, East Sikkim

BUILDING FOR SALE

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

'A day for mother earth' to launch in Khichudumra



SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 02 JUL:

District Collector (South), Ragul K chaired a meeting regarding 'A day for mother earth' at the conference hall of DAC Namchi today, an IPR press release informs..

The meeting was convened to discuss the celebration of 'A day for mother earth' which will be conducted on 07 July coinciding with the closing day of Van Mahotsav Week which is observed from 01 to 07 July.

DC (South) informed that 'A day for mother earth' will be observed by stopping all vehicular traffic for 7 minutes i.e. from 11:00 am to 11.07 am on 17 July, the release mentions.

He appealed to the public to collectively participate in dedicating a

day to mother earth by involving themselves in plantation drives and cleanliness drives carried out in different locations.

DFO (T), Peggyla Venchungpa said that this programme will be launched at Khichudumra in South District. She also requested all line departments to actively participate in the programme.

Various environmental measures to be carried out on 07 July involving the general public were also discussed at length.

The meeting was attended by SP (South), Prawin Gurung, ADC, Satyen Pradhan, SDM (HQ), Hemant Rai, alongside officials from line departments, stakeholders, business communities and local gentry.

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Tree plantation drive by Rotary Club at ICFAI



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUN:
Rotary Club of Gangtok organized a tree plantation drive at ICFAI University, Gangtok, today, a press release informs. The plantation drive was held as part of the goal of Rotary International District 3240 to make our Earth greener and to celebrate the start of a new Rotary year. In its initiative to make the University greener, environmental-

ly healthier and to further the goal of Sikkim Government to promote bio diversity protection, many saplings of cherry, walnut, chandan, kafal, etc. were planted, the release mentions. The Rotary Club has lauded the Vice Chancellor, Dr Jagannath Patnaik (who is also a member of Rotary Club of Gangtok) and the entire staff and Managing Committee of the University for successfully executing the

program. Chief guest of the program was Forest Minister, Karma Loday Bhutia, who assured all possible help to Rotary Club of Gangtok in the future. Also present during the program were Purnan Sharma (ACF), Hemanta Sharma (RO), Bijoy Pradhan (BO) and Sarita Chettri (HFG) from Forest Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Govt. of Sikkim.

Rights groups in Nepal protest Lanka prez's decision to execute 4 drug convicts

SHIRISH B PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, JUL. 2 (PTI): Human rights and civil society organisations in Nepal on Tuesday protested the Sri Lankan government's decision to end a moratorium on capital punishment and execute four convicted drug dealers. Ending a 43-year old moratorium on death penalty, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena last week signed the death warrants for four drug convicts who will be hanged soon, amid rising drug-related crimes in the country. The island nation last executed a prisoner in 1976. Currently, 1,299 prisoners, including 48 convicted of narcotics-related offences, are on death row in the country. Terming Sirisena's decision as a "shame for the modern society", members of Nepal's rights groups -- including Amnesty International (Nepal), Advocacy Forum, Accountability Watch Group, Jury Nepal and Common Platform of Conflict Victims -- staged protest in front of the Sri Lankan Embassy at Maharajgunj here.

Amnesty International Nepal director Nirajan Thapa said, "Adopting a heinous and inhumane punishment like the death penalty even in the 21st century is a matter of shame for the modern society."

SU Tourism students bid farewell to "Dong Sir"

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:
Students of MTMT (Master of Travel and Tourism Management), Sikkim University, bid farewell to their teacher PK Dong, popularly known as "Dong Sir", who is leaving the University after completion of his contract on 30 Jun, 2019, a press release informs. The farewell party was attended by Head of Department, Dr Jigme Wangchuk, Ashi P Wongmo and all other faculty

members and students of Tourism Department. Speaking on the occasion, Roshan Rai, the MTMT students' representative in SUS, shared that all students of MTMT and other Departments will miss "Dong Sir" and his interesting classes. In response, Mr Dong mentioned that he had a wonderful experience during the last 5 years that he spent with students and teachers. He extended his best wishes to all his colleagues and students.

Sikkim Univ observes 12th Foundation Day

GANGTOK, 02 JUL (PIB): The twelfth foundation day of Sikkim University was observed here at the Kanchendzonga Administrative Block today. The University was established by an Act of Parliament on this day in 2007. Vice-Chancellor, Prof Avinash Khare, after hoisting the University

flag, in his address congratulated the staff and students on the occasion and expressed concern over certain issues like campus construction. Prof Khare also mentioned that research should be prioritized and urged all students and staff members to work towards the progress of the University.



SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

SU/REG/Estt/F-2/08/2018/Vol-I/470 Date: 02.07.2019

APPOINTMENT NOTICE

Sikkim University, a central university established by an Act of Parliament in 2007, invites applications from Indian citizens having requisite qualification and experience for various Teaching positions. Detailed advertisement giving requirements for each post is given on our website. Interested candidates may apply online through the University website www.cus.ac.in on or before 9th August 2019.

Sd/-
Registrar



SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS RECRUITMENT BOARD
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
UPPER SYARI

No: 25/SSTRB/19 Dated: 02 /07 /2019

Addendum to Notice No 24/SSTRB/2019

In continuation to Notice No 24/SSTRB/19 dated: 24 /07/2019, candidates bearing following roll Nos. have been qualified in the written examination of Primary Teacher (Language) conducted by Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board.

SL.NO.	ROLL No.	language
1	18211974	Mukhia
2	18211053	Rai
3	18210021	Bhutia
4	18210065	Bhutia
5	18211791	Lepcha
6.	18211695	Lepcha
7.	18212032	Limboo
8.	18210791	Limboo

Further, it is informed that the Class room demonstration and Viva-Voce which was scheduled to be held from 17th July 2019 to 1st August 2019 for selection to the post of Primary Teacher (Language) has been postponed till further notice.

R.O. No. 77/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 Sd/-
Date: 2.7.2019 **Controller of Exams**
Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board

Rail service to Tripura's Sabroom will start soon: Rly official

AGARTALA, JUL 2 (PTI): Railway service to Sabroom, a town near the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura, would start soon as "no technical problem" was identified in an inspection by railway safety officials, a senior railway official said.

A team of railway officials led by R K Sharma, Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) of the Northeast Frontier Railway had, on Monday, inspected the newly laid 39-km track from Belonia to Sabroom, traversing four railway stations including Belonia, Julai-bari, Manu and Sabroom.

The Rs 3,407 crore project for laying 114-km Agartala-Sabroom railway track started in 2007-08 and the entire work was divided in four parts, among which three portions had been completed. The Belonia-Sabroom stretch was the

last one. "A few minor works would be completed within a week and rail service to Sabroom would start soon. No technical problem was identified during the inspection", Sharma told reporters after the inspection.

Considering the convenience and safety of the passengers, Sharma said, the team had gone through every aspect starting from bridges, tracks, tunnels and stations. Sabroom is just 75 km from Chittagong International Sea Port in Bangladesh.

Work on the 43-km Agartala-Udaipur railway line, the first part of the project, was completed in 2017. Laying of 9 -km track between Udaipur and Garjee, the second part of the project, was completed in 2018. Work on the railway line between Garjee to Belonia (22 km) was completed in February this year.


Newa Language Summer Classes at Singtam



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 02 JUL:
Newa Bhay Bowney-kuthi [NBB], Singtam has started month-long Summer Classes for Newa Language Learning, Traditional Dance and Recipe Cooking Class from 01 Jul, 2019, a press release informs. Thirty students from all age groups registered themselves for different

classes and the number is expected to increase in the coming days according to the coordinators of these classes, the release informs. The classes will continue till the end of this month and anyone interested in these classes can join them, informed NBB president, Binod Pradhan. Chief guest for the in-

augural day was Yogbir Shakya from Kalimpong who is also one of the Newa teachers for the ongoing classes. Invited guests included Nirmal Pradhan, Bishakh Pradhan, Dr Sushen Pradhan, Binita Pradhan from Sikkim Newa Youth Affairs along with advisors, senior citizens and members of NBB, Singtam.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
Office of The Pr. Chief Engineer
Rural Management and Development Department

E Procurement Notice
Bid ID No. SK-PMGSY II Batch I Re-tender 04 Online (2019-20)

The Pr.Chief Engineer, RM &DD on behalf of Governor of Sikkim invites percentage rates bids through e-procurement. The bid should be submitted online in web site www.pmgstyenderskm.gov.in for construction of respective work as detailed in the above website by contractors of appropriate class with the state government for execution of Civil works. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with his own Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date of time for seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender.
		From	To		
Chief Engineer, RM&DD	SK-PMGSY II Online (2019-20)	02/07/2019	31/07/2019 upto 4.30 PM	23/07/2019 upto 4.30 PM	01/08/2019 from 11.00 AM

Sd/-
Pr.Chief Engineer –cum- Empowered Officer
Rural Management & Development Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok.

PMGSY – II(Batch-I) RE-TENDER 4 2019-20

Sl	District	Pkg No.	Block	NAME OF ROAD WORKS	Road Length in kms	Tender amount	Grade of Contractor	Jurisdiction	Earnest Money	Tender form cost	Completion Time
1.	North and East	SK01 C2 RT4	Mangan	DAC road to North Sikkim Academy	1	79.94	All class I-B Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department	Within the STATE through e-tendering system	20.02	50000	1 YEAR
2			Gangtok	MRL04-Rumtek Rey Ranka road to Falay Busty via Tyempem Busty	2.3	178.18					
3											
4			Pakyong	T01-Link road from Chandupul to Chettri Goan	2	153.19					
5				T08-Andheri to Gakcha	2.5	196.34					
				MRL23-Pakyong Machong SPWD road KM2 to Pachey via Theeng dara	2.5	193.29					
				TENDER VALUE	10.3	800.94					
6.	South	SK03 RT4	Jorethang	MRL04-Link road from Mungram to Golitar Tamley Pokhari	2	167.47	All class I-B Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department	Within the DISTRICT through e-tendering system	11.98	50000	1 YEAR
7											
8			Namchi	MRL01-Phongla Mamring to Kanam Busty	2	158.22					
				T10-Phongla Mamring Road to Pamphok	2	153.38					
				TENDER VALUE	6	479.07					

Sd/-
Principal Chief Engineer
Rural Management & Development Department
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 74/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date:01.7.19

So, Sikkim Can Plant

Now to make the young connect and care

So, now even other states of India, from Himachal Pradesh to NCR to Haryana to UP, are making a big splash with focused statewide tree plantation drives. Like some other ideas born in Sikkim that have caught on, this too was first attempted here with the Smriti-Van and 10 Minutes to Earth initiatives, the mith-mithini concept and now the latest – A Day for Mother Earth.

Given that so many are taking the cue from Sikkim, the State would have set up a better template for others to emulate if it had invested professional follow-up and a third-party audit of the programmes to refine them further and improve its success rate. Such an evaluation was undertaken once in the earlier years, but these initiatives have been underway for around a decade now and more detailed data should have been collated by now. But there is none, save a count of how many trees were planted. One does not still know how many survived or what change they brought to the environment beyond the photo-ops it managed for the VIPs and the organizations. Be that as it may, given the continuing ferocity with which press releases continue to pour in about plantation drives, and the details of the number of saplings planted and the dignitaries who participated, it is established yet again that Sikkim can be inspired to care for the environment. What is also obvious is that saplings were indeed planted. Even children from junior schools still return home excited, bearing news that they had planted little ones of big trees who will now grow up with them.

In a world where countries are building arguments about why they should be allowed to pollute more, this earnestness comes as welcome relief. There is nothing new about plantation drives; that is a tokenism that the world community evolved long back as a fig leaf for World Environment Day to cover the abuse that it subjects the environment all year round. What is new however is that the 10-Minute dedication has been reasonably successful. What Sikkim needed to have done was build up on this introduction and help a generation rediscover the close understanding that the people here had evolved of the land they lived in. The river clean-up drive was welcome initiative earlier this year.

Environment Studies is now a compulsory part of the syllabus, but it is woefully alien and too generalized. The text books are little more than repackaged Geography lessons. Environmental Studies is more than that, it includes cultural relationships with the land and should be more about learning to live with the environment than a sanitized introduction to environment per se. Sikkim is perfectly positioned to make EVS [as Environmental Studies is known in schools], relevant and fruitful. Students, say in Delhi, might need textbooks because they have only concrete and tarmac around them, but depending on textbooks alone in Sikkim only distance students here from nature that surrounds them.

What is more, the State already has a rich tradition of sustainable dependence on the environment, aspects of which form an integral part of traditional lifestyles here. That knowledge base is only one generation distance in the past. It can still be reclaimed. As part of Environmental Studies, students in Sikkim should be learning about the concept of sacred groves maintained by village communities, learn of the stories of mythical powers of its water bodies and understand how people effectively protected them from pollution [and eventual loss] - by reinforcing their surroundings by presenting them as abodes of easily angered nymphs or protecting deities. The young need to also learn of the traditional hunting practices in which animals were killed only for food, and never as game or in retribution.

If the environment has to be protected and conserved, people need to go back to tradition, not turn to more rules and penalties. Tradition needs to be invoked, not as blind faith, but as the only pragmatic and practicable option. The falsehood perpetuated by babus that forests and wildlife need to be 'protected' from the lay people needs to be demolished. Wildlife was not wiped out by hunter-gatherers, they were pushed into extinction by city dwellers on indiscriminate weekend hunts. The forests were not lost to the need of villagers, but were consumed by the greed of the cities – that insensitive obsession for silver-fir paneled rooms in concrete jungles. The young need to understand this, and then learn of how their own respective communities connected with nature and lived with it, how they adjusted their lifestyles around it and how they worked their belief structures into it to weave conservation and sustainable practices as part of that one aspect that no one can argue with – Faith.

Men do see the mess – they just aren't judged for it the way women are

SARAH THEBAUD, LEAH RUPPANNER & SABINO KORNRICH
theconversation.com

On a typical day, men spend a third as much time cleaning as women.

Does that make women beacons of cleanliness, while men are genetically unable to see the messiness in their midst?

This myth is a common explanation for why men don't do as much housework as women. Men walk into a room and apparently can't see the dust bunnies gathering on the floor or the piles of laundry stacked up on the couch.

It lets men off the hook for not doing their fair share of the household cleaning.

But in a recent study we show that men aren't dirt-blind – they can see mess just as well as women. They are simply less severely penalized for not keeping their spaces neat and tidy.

CHORE INEQUALITY

Despite massive gains in education and employment, women still shoulder a larger share of the housework than men.

Women today spend, on average, roughly an hour and 20 minutes per day cooking, cleaning and doing laundry. About a third of that is just spent cleaning. Men, on the other hand, spend about half an hour performing these duties – and only 10 minutes scrubbing and tidying.

This household chore inequality is evident over time, across professions and even when women work longer hours and make more money. Even in Sweden, where government policies are strongly geared toward promoting gender equality, women do more housework. Swedish women do two times as much daily housework than men even though women are much more likely to work full-time than in other countries.

Naturally, the more time spent on chores, the less a woman has to spend on other activities like sleep, work and leisure.

THE SAME MESS

In our study, which was recently published in Sociological Methods and Research, we asked 327 men and 295 women of various ages and backgrounds to assess a photo of a small living room and kitchen area.

By random assignment, some participants rated a photo of the room looking cluttered – dirty dishes on the counter, clothing strewn about – while others examined a much tidier version of the same room. All participants looked at the one photo they were given and then rated how messy they thought it was and how urgently it needed cleaning.

The first thing we wanted to know was whether men and women respondents rated the rooms differently. Contrary to popular lore, men and women saw the same mess: They rated the clean room as equally clean and the messy room as equally messy.

DIFFERING EXPECTATIONS

So if “dirt blindness” isn't to blame, why do women do more housework?

One argument is that social expectations are different for men and women. Women may be judged more harshly for having a less-than-spotless home, and women's awareness of these expectations may motivate them to do more.

We tested this idea by randomly telling participants that the photo they were looking at depicted either “John's” or “Jennifer's” living space. Then we asked them to rate Jennifer's or John's character – how responsible, hardworking, neglectful, considerate and likable they were – based on the cleanliness of their home.

We also asked participants to assess the extent to which she or he might be judged negatively by unexpected visitors – extended family, bosses and friends – and how much responsibility they be-

ner much more negative judgments from visitors.

Interestingly, John's character was rated more negatively than Jennifer's for having a messy home, reflecting the common stereotype that men are lazy. Yet participants did not believe John would be any more likely than Jennifer to suffer negative judgment from visitors, which suggests that the “men are lazy” stereotype does not disadvantage them in a socially meaningful way.

Finally, people were more likely to believe that Jennifer would bear primary responsibility for cleaning, and this difference was especially large in the hypothetical scenario in which she or he is a full-time working parent living with a spouse.

That people attribute greater responsibility for housework to women than men, even regardless of their employment situation, suggests that women get penalized more often for clutter than men do.



lieved Jennifer or John would bear for housework if they were working full-time and living alone, working full-time and married with children, or a married, stay-at-home parent.

This is where things got interesting. Participants rated the photos differently depending on whether they were told that a woman or a man lived there. Notably, respondents held higher standards of cleanliness for Jennifer than they did for John. When they were told the tidy room belonged to Jennifer, participants – regardless of gender – judged it less clean and more likely to inspire disapproving reactions from guests than when the same exact room was John's.

WE'VE ALL HEARD 'MEN ARE LAZY'

Still, we did find that both men and women pay a large penalty for having a cluttered home.

Compared to their tidier counterparts, both Jennifer and John received substantially more negative character ratings and were expected to gar-

JUDGE NOT

People hold women to higher standards of cleanliness than men, and hold them more responsible for it.

Some women may internalize or embrace such standards. But for many, it is unlikely a love of cleaning but rather a fear of how mess will be perceived that is the real problem – and one possible reason why many women frantically clean their home before unexpected visitors arrive.

The good news is that, with enough collective willpower, old-fashioned social expectations can be changed. We could start by thinking twice before judging the state of someone's home, especially our own.

[Sarah Thebaud is Associate Professor, Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara; Leah Ruppanner is Associate Professor in Sociology, University of Melbourne; Sabino Kornrich is Assistant Professor of Sociology, Emory University]

Total solar eclipses reveal the dark and stormy side of the sun we never see

HUW MORGAN
theconversation.com

In astronomy, we have a common saying: “good luck, and clear skies”. For an eclipse chaser like me, this is especially important. We have two minutes and no second chance – one small cloud can spoil everything.

Thousands of tourists turn up to see them, along with a few dozen scientists, for which the eclipse is a unique opportunity to observe the extended atmosphere of the sun – known as the solar corona. Just like Earth, the sun has an atmosphere and magnetic field which extends out to large distances into space. The solar corona is an intense plasma of separated protons and electrons that's a million degrees Celsius or hotter.

In this alien environment of hot, magnetised plasma, physics behaves in ways that are poorly understood. Our safety on Earth may depend on understanding it better though – explosive events in the corona can have dramatic and potentially hazardous effects on Earth.

There's a constant flow of material from this layer of the sun into interplanetary space that's called the solar wind. In 1859, scientists first discovered it when a solar flare was followed by intense aurora on Earth – also known as Northern or Southern Lights. They were apparently bright enough for people to read newspapers by their light at night. This was known as “the Carrington Event” –

electrical currents generated by the flare caused damage to telegraph systems.

As society has become increasingly dependent on technology, understanding space weather and being able to predict it is more important than ever. Eruptions from the sun can damage and disrupt spacecraft, power systems, airlines, communications and GPS systems. A major eruption under the right conditions, like the

worm hovering next to a lighthouse. Scientists will have spent years, and plenty of funding, preparing for this two-minute phenomenon.

A total eclipse occurs when the moon passes in front of the sun, blocking the sun's bright disk and casting a deep shadow onto Earth. Over the course of a few hours, the shadow zooms across Earth's surface faster than Concorde. The “path of totality” – the name for the course the

a faint ring, with extended rays that point outwards from the sun like a crown – hence the name corona.

To observe the sun safely and study the corona during an eclipse, you need the special filters in a spectrometer. The spectrometer accepts light from the solar corona along a long, narrow entrance slit and during the eclipse, this slit scans to observe the whole corona. The light is split into three channels according to wavelength, and then dispersed onto detectors which record how dense and hot the plasma is – information scientists can't obtain otherwise.

The spectrometer could eventually reside in space, observing the solar corona continuously as part of a mission to watch the sun from a satellite. Scientists could reconstruct the corona's magnetic field, plasma and other features to finally make sense of this extreme and mysterious environment – and help prepare Earth for its mood swings.

Eclipses such as 2019's event in South America give a highly-detailed snapshot of the solar atmosphere, and offer a precious opportunity to learn about the hidden layer of the sun which can greatly affect life on Earth. It's also relatively cheap compared to space missions, and can help scientists develop new tools for looking into space. As always, we hope for good luck, and clear skies.

[the writer is Reader in Physical Sciences, Aberystwyth University]



event in 1859, could cause huge damage to the global economy, on the order of hundreds of billions of dollars.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE SUN

Outside of an eclipse, the solar corona is made invisible by the extremely bright light coming directly from the sun's visible surface – the photosphere. The photosphere is over a million times brighter than even the brightest regions of the corona, so observing the corona is a bit like studying the behaviour of a glow-

shadow follows – is so large it spans oceans and continents.

Luckily for us, the corona is revealed in all its glory during a total solar eclipse. And luck really is the right word in this context. Imagine the odds of an inhabited planet with intelligent life having a moon that is of the right size and distance to appear the same size in the sky so that it can eclipse the sun. As the moon covers the bright disk of the sun, the surrounding atmosphere appears as

The Cancer Foundation challenges White Paper on E-Cigarettes by ICMR

NEW DELHI, JULY 2, 2019

[PRNEWSWIRE]: In a letter to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, the Prime Minister’s Office and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), The Cancer Foundation - a non-profit organisation involved in multi-aspect alleviation of cancer problem, shared a rebuttal to the white paper released by ICMR on May 29, 2019. In the letter, referencing the white paper which called for a complete ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), The Cancer Foundation (CF) expresses concern that both ICMR and the Government of India are taking a one-sided view of the situation and a contrarian viewpoint should be given due consideration with a view to formulate regulations for the category.

Highlighting the statistics on the increase in disease burden caused by consumption of tobacco is at a rise, the letter called out that in India itself, approximately 45% of all cancers among males and 17% among females are directly attributable to tobacco use. In addition, nearly 1.35 million Indians die due to tobacco related illnesses each year, taking a toll not just on families and



society but also on the public health system.

To this end, the letter states that “many scientific institutions of repute have acknowledged that tools such as Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) pose significantly less risk to health compared to traditional cigarettes or bidis. These devices, which contain addictive nicotine, but do not emit the toxic medley of carcinogens found in cigarette smoke, are growing popular as an alternative that smokers can opt for to reduce their exposure to toxins and lower risk of cancer and other tobacco-related illnesses.”

The Cancer Foundation in its letter also raised questions on

why ENDS is an exception when cigarettes, which make the population sicker and are conclusively linked to high mortality rates are not banned?

“If India opts to impose a ban on ENDS, it is inevitable that a black market will emerge where it will become impossible to prevent sale to youth and non-smokers. Global regulations also set benchmarks for manufacturing standards, battery and e-liquid quality, and nicotine content, but in the event of prohibition, these parameters will also be beyond control, and if anything, black marketing may lead to an influx of poor quality ENDS into the market, which could pose serious

risk of injury and harm”, the letter added. Elaborating on the concerns around the possible ban on ENDS products, CF in its letter emphasised that this approach might be a step away from the larger goal of tobacco control in the country. In addition to preventing adult smokers from having access to reduced harm alternatives, a ban could potentially be detrimental to attempts towards addressing the risk of tobacco related cancer.

The letter also highlights regulatory and programmatic initiatives from other countries including the recent initiative by the Government of New Zealand that encourages adult smokers to switch to vaping. “Re-

cently, the Ministry of Health of New Zealand launched a campaign and website (called Vaping Facts) to inform smokers of the facts about vaping and to encourage them to make the switch. The key message is that vaping can help some smokers quit, but it is not completely harmless and is not for non-smokers. The website also clarifies certain myths about vaping and informs that switching can limit exposure to toxic substances, reduce risks of heart and lung ailments (including cancer), and has no health impacts for by-standers.”

Urging the Government of India to adopt a similar approach the letter states that “India, too, can use a combination of regulatory and programmatic awareness tools to help existing smokers make an informed choice about their health.”

The letter also highlights that none of the legislation mentioned in the ICMR report are applicable to ENDS as a product class including the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and that an attempt to retrofit ENDS under the DCA will not pass legal muster on account of prior positions adopted by the Drugs Consultative Committee and the Delhi High Court.

Meghalaya’s pad-woman goes green with eco-friendly napkins

SHILLONG, JULY 2 (PTI): In a first, a 30-year-old woman in Meghalaya has come up with eco-friendly sanitary napkins with an aim to check land and air pollution in the hill state, where access to hygiene still remains a distant dream for many.

Shaidalin Marbaniang, a member of a self-help group (SHG) at Riangdo village in West Khasi Hills, launched her own brand of sanitary pads ‘Syntu’ (flower in English) last month, after having attended a one-week workshop on menstrual hygiene organised by the Central government. “I was concerned about the non-availability of hygienic pads for girls and women in my village. Add to that, non-compostable pads were making their way to the sewerage system and landfills in the state,

posing threat to the environment,” Marbaniang told PTI.

The new pads have been manufactured with 95 per cent biodegradable materials, she claimed.

“At the moment, 300 pads are produced every day. I am working on installing an automatic machine to increase productivity,” she stated.

Rodonald Majaw, a senior official of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), said it did not take Marbaniang long to come up with the new product after learning the basics at the workshop organized by the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

“She approached the Livelihood Business Incubator (a branch of the MBDA) for a sanitary napkin manufacturing

machine and the authorities happily obliged. Marbaniang did not have to invest much as the raw materials for the pads were available in plenty,” he said.

The 30-year-old has reached an agreement with the MBDA, as part of which she will be paying a certain amount of the money she earns from the sale of the napkins, Majaw said.

“The sanitary pads, priced at Rs 6 each, are now available in the district and the MBDA authorities are helping her out to expand the business,” he said.

Congratulating Marbaniang on her endeavour, District Additional Deputy Commissioner AVD Shira urged other self-help groups to set up businesses and create employment opportunities for the youth.

Centre has expressed concern to West Bengal govt over political violence in state: Minister

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): The Centre has expressed concern to the West Bengal government over the recent political violence in the state, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said Tuesday.

He said information was received about a number of incidents of violence before, during and after the general election, resulting in deaths and injuries to several people, including political workers in West Bengal. “Concern on the issue

was shared by the government with the state government and an advisory was issued on June 9, 2019 asking the state government to maintain law and order, peace and public tranquility in the state,” he said replying a written question.

The minister also said there were inputs of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan and all its manifestations as a terrorist organisation on 23.05.2019 in terms of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967,” he said.

“Relevant inputs in this regard are regularly shared with the state governments and agencies concerned with the advice to take appropriate action. The government has notified Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan and all its manifestations as a terrorist organisation on 23.05.2019 in terms of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967,” he said.

Govt claims there is no link between fertilizers and prevalence of cancer

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): There is no scientific basis to link use of fertilisers and pesticides to cancer, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Tomar said this during Question Hour in response to remarks by two Punjab MPs - Ravneet Singh Bittu and Bhagwant Mann - that “exponential rise” in cancer cases in Punjab was due to excessive use of fertiliser with patients from the state travelling to Bikaner by a train which is commonly referred to as ‘Cancer Train’.

Tomar said the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), quoting the Cancer Registry of Punjab, has said the incidence of cancer was 100-110 for every 100,000 individuals which is almost equal to the national average.

“The Punjab government has also reported that the consumption of fertiliser has no link with



prevalence of cancer in Punjab,” he said.

The minister said the central government supplements the efforts of the state governments to prevent and control cancer and to provide affordable and accessible care.

“The Punjab government has not joined the central scheme of Aayushman Bharat, under which free cancer treatment upto Rs 5 lakh can be availed. I request the honourable members to ask the Punjab government to join the Aayushman Bharat programme,”

he said.

Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who hails from Punjab, also supported Tomar, claiming that the Punjab government has stopped funds to a multi-speciality hospital in the state.

Tomar said the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) is being implemented for interventions up to the district level which includes awareness generation

for Cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate level institution for treatment.

“Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer facilities Scheme is being implemented to support setting up of State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country.

“The government is making efforts to promote judicious use of fertilisers with the cooperation of state governments,” he said.

Bihar Assembly adjourned as Opposition demands resignation of Health Minister

PATNA, JUL 2 (PTI): Bihar Assembly was adjourned on Tuesday as the opposition parties shouted slogans demanding the resignation of Health minister Mangal Pandey over the deaths of more than 150 children due to acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in the state.

As the House assembled at 11 am for its business, RJD leader Lalit Yadav demanded the resignation of the Health minister holding him responsible for children deaths in Muzaffarpur

and other parts of the state due to AES.

Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary asked the opposition leaders that the House had a debate on the serious issue on Monday, followed by the state government’s reply on the issue.

Choudhary said that he had allowed the adjournment motion on the important issue of children’s deaths from AES but it seemed that you (opposition MLAs) are adamant on the resignation of the minister

by disrupting the House proceedings.

The opposition MLAs did not paid heed to the Speaker’s request to let the House carry out it’s normal business of Question Hour and rushed to the well of the House raising slogans against Health minister Mangal Pandey and demanding his resignation.

Parliamentary Affairs minister Shravan Kumar also said that the state government gave the reply after the debate on Monday. Health minister

and Chief minister also spoke during government’s reply on Monday and now they (opposition) just want disrupt the proceedings of the House and don’t want to let the members raise the issues of public importance.

They should go to their chair and raise the issue in the zero hour, Kumar said but commotion continued in the House for 15 minutes after which the Speaker adjourned the House till 2 PM (post lunch session).



DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

GANGTOK – 737101

Ref No. 234/DL/ESIC

Dated: 28.06.2019

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Applications are invited for walk-in-interview, from eligible local candidates for filling up the post mentioned below purely contractual basis in consolidated pay as indicated against each post for initial period of one year at Employees’ State Insurance Service dispensary, under Labour Department, Government of Sikkim which is extendable based on performance.

Sl No.	Name of post	No of post	Minimum Education Qualification	Age limit	Fixed pay
01.	Medical Officer	02	MBBS Degree from MCI recognized Institute.	22 to 35 years.	Rs.40,000/-per month.
02.	General Nursing Midwifery (GNM)	02	Class XII Passed with Pass Certificate of 3 years of General Nursing training & Midwifery training from MCI recognized Institute or school of Nursing recognized by Nursing Council of India.	22 to 30 years.	Rs.18,000/-per month.
03.	Dresser	01	Class X passed with experience in application of plaster in an orthopaedic unit of registered recognized hospital	18 to 30 years.	Rs.15,000/- per month.
04.	UDC(Cashier)	01	Graduate degree from any recognized University	18-30 years.	Rs.12,000/-per month.
05.	UDC(adm.)	01	-do-	18-30 years	Rs.10,000/-per month.
06.	LDC	01	Class XII passed	18-30 years.	Rs.10,000/-per month.
07.	Record Keeper	01	Class X passed	18-30 years.	Rs.10,000/- per month.
08.	Peon	02	Class VIII passed	18-30 years.	Rs.9,000/- per month.

The Candidates having the requisite qualifications as mentioned in the job description are requested to submit their application along with certified copies of degree and certificate to Under Secretary, Labour Department by 22.07.2019 before 4.30 PM. Application received after closing time and date will not be entertained / Considered. The walk-in-interview will be held on 12.08.2019 for the post at Sl.No. 1 to 3 and on 13.08.2019 and 14.08.2019 for the post at Sl.No. 04 to 08.

Venue: Labour Department
Government of Sikkim
Time: 10 am to 4 pm.

Under Secretary,
Labour Department, Government of Sikkim,
Gangtok.

R.O. No. 76/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20
Date: 2.7.2019.

'My goal is to win Wimbledon,' says teen Gauff after Venus shock

LONDON, JULY 2 (AFP): Cori Gauff, at 15 the youngest ever qualifier for Wimbledon, is not content with just beating five-time champion Venus Williams -- now she wants to win the title.

The teenage American, who was not even born when Williams won her first two Wimbledon singles titles, showed not an ounce of fear on Court One, making light of the 24 years age difference and her ranking of 313 as she eased to a 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Gauff made no bones about her ambitions at the tournament.

"My goal is to win it," she said. "I said this before: I want to be the greatest.

"My dad told me that I could do this when I was eight.

"I'm still, like, not 100% confident. But you never know what happens." Gauff said she was determined to make the most of her opportunities.

"I mean, like my motto is just like wing it," she said.

"I've said that before. This is kind of a sad thing, we're all going to die one day, I just want to make the most of it."

Gauff, who revealed Rihanna and Beyonce were her role models off the court, said she had not allowed her admiration of childhood idol Williams affect her play.

However, she did have a slight wobble at the end when she let slip three match points.

Williams, whose exploits along with her younger sister Serena inspired Gauff to take up the sport, made no secret of how far Gauff could go.

"I think the sky's the limit, it really is," said Williams.

"Just have fun. Enjoy life. That's all you can do."

Gauff, who said Roger Federer had been a big help too re-energising her and could claim some credit for her winning the French Open junior title last year, said she had finally been able to muster the courage to address one of the Williams sisters after twice failing to prior to that.

"I was just telling her thank you for everything she's done," said Gauff.

"She and her sister have been, like, heroes for me and many other little girls out there. I was just thanking her."

Gauff sank into her chair and cried in the immediate aftermath of the victory.

Later she recalled the previous time she had been reduced to tears.

"The movie 'Endgame' when Ironman died, I was crying," she said.

"Every time I think of it, I get teary-eyed because I really liked Ironman."

Gauff, though, said there is another side of her when she is off the court.

"I'm definitely really goofy off the court," she said.

"I'm always cracking jokes. I was practicing, people were taking pictures of me.

Chile eager to make Copa history against Peru, says Vidal

PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL, JULY 2 (AFP): Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal says the reigning Copa America champions are focused on making history ahead of their semi-final against Peru. The 2015 and 2016 champions are aiming for a third continental title in a row, a feat only achieved once before by Argentina in successive years from 1945-47.

"We want to leave our legacy as triple champions, that's our dream," said the Barcelona midfielder, an integral part of Chile's only two previous Copa successes.

"That's why we want to play our best match of the Copa against Peru. It would be something historic for us to get to the final and that's our aim."

Chile faced Peru in the 2015 semi-finals on home soil when they won 2-1 before beating Argentina on penalties in the final for their first ever continental success.

"We need to play the perfect match, to win it with authority," added Vidal. "Peru have great teamwork, they play well, very similar to Colombia" who Chile beat on penalties in the quarter-final.



"That's why it will be a very difficult match and fantastic to play in it."

Vidal pointed to Peru captain and striker Paolo Guerrero as the biggest threat Chile will face on Wednesday.

Guerrero and Chile's Eduardo Vargas, with 12 goals each, are the top two still active scorers in Copa history.

"He's a player who knows how to play against four defenders

and it always takes a lot out of us to mark him," said Vidal. Vargas, who scored twice in Chile's opening 4-0 thrashing of Japan, may never have had the chance to add to his Copa ledger, but for a change of heart by Chile's Colombian coach Reinaldo Rueda.

Vargas, known as "Turboman" for his incredible engine, fell out of favor with Rueda for disciplinary reasons following a friendly with

Sweden in 2018.

He spent almost 18 months overlooked by the Colombian before being recalled for the Copa America following 17 goals in 49 matches for his Mexican club side Tigres last season.

It was a good move as Vargas has been electric in the tournament alongside a rejuvenated Alexis Sanchez -- who's looked his old self after 18 months of misery at

Manchester United -- and Jose Fuenzalida in a three-pronged attack. - **'Right conditions'** -

Peru are clear underdogs having been surprise qualifiers for the semi-finals.

They arrived in the knock-out stages demoralized following a 5-0 thrashing by hosts Brazil in their final group match and progressed to the semi-finals on penalties, but only after Uruguay

had three goals ruled out for offside in their quarter-final, two of those by the slimmest of margins that VAR spotted but were invisible to the naked eye. Even so, coach Ricardo Gareca says there's no hint of an inferiority complex amongst his players.

"We're in the right conditions to tackle this kind of match," he said. "Maybe it's a bigger match than the others

before but we can play better."

While Chile can boast established European-based talents in midfield such as Barcelona's Vidal, Charles Aranguiz of Bayer Leverkusen and Bologna's Erick Pulgar, Rueda feels that in Christian Cueva, who plays for Brazilians Santos, he has one of the most under-rated players in the tournament.

"As far as we're concerned, Cuevo doesn't get the appreciation that he deserves from his performances for the national team, I don't know why," said Rueda.

"Many times I see passes by a European player that illicit admiration, but I see Cuevo make passes that are just as good that go by completely unnoticed." This is the third time in the last four editions Peru have reached the semi-finals but they haven't gone on to the final since 1975 when winning their second Copa title.

In fact, the only two times they've reached the final -- the other was on home soil in 1939 -- they won the tournament.

Holder promises West Indies will 'look after' century-maker Pooran



CHESTER-LE-STREET, UNITED KINGDOM, JULY 2 (AFP): West Indies captain Jason Holder vowed to "look after" Nicholas Pooran after his maiden one-day international century so nearly led to a stunning World Cup win over Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka posted an imposing 338 for six, a total built on Avishka Fernando's first hundred at this level, in a match between two sides whose hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals had already evaporated before a ball was bowled at Chester-le-Street on Monday.

But Pooran, well supported by Fabian Allen (51), got the West Indies close to a target of 339 -- which would have been

a new World Cup record for a winning side batting second -- before they lost by 23 runs.

Defeat meant the West Indies have now lost seven matches in a row after starting the tournament with an impressive win over Pakistan.

But Holder took some comfort from 23-year-old left-hander Pooran's century.

"Nicholas played an outstanding innings, he knocked it around as easily as he possibly could," said Holder as he reflected on Pooran's 118 off 103 balls, including 11 fours and four sixes.

"What he has produced is what we expect him to produce, we want him to get better and im-

prove," the all-rounder added. "We selected him for a reason and gave him full backing to go and play the game he wants to play.

"Yes he will make mistakes as a young player but it is important for development to take place. "We will look after Nicholas the best we possibly can, I expect big things.

"He has got the talent, ability to change gears, he can improvise, has every shot in the locker and it is just a matter of him putting it together more often."

For the West Indies, the winners of the first two World Cups back in 1975 and 1979, it was yet another case of what might have been

after they squandered chances to beat reigning champions Australia and then saw Carlos Brathwaite fall just short of what would have been a match-winning six against New Zealand.

"It is disappointing to come so close on a number of stages and not get that win," said Holder.

The West Indies end their involvement at this World Cup against Afghanistan, still searching for their first win of the tournament, on Thursday.

"We have shown some fight this entire campaign," said Holder.

"I'm proud of certain individuals who definitely put their hands up and put their hearts on the line.

England and New Zealand look to seize World Cup destiny

CHESTER-LE-STREET, UNITED KINGDOM, JULY 2 (AFP): England and New Zealand head into their final World Cup group match on Wednesday, each knowing that a win would see them into the semi-finals.

Even a defeat would not spell the end of either team's chances of emerging as one of the top four from the 10-team round-robin phase.

Were England to lose in Chester-le-Street, Pakistan could leapfrog them into the top four with victory over Bangladesh.

Given that they play each other in their final pool match, only one of Bangladesh -- who also still have to face India -- or Pakistan can draw level with New Zealand in the event the Black Caps lose on Wednesday.

And, with both Asian teams well behind on net run-rate, it would take a big New Zealand loss allied to a commanding Pakistan victory or two Bangladesh wins by big margins, to deny the 2015 losing finalists a place in the last four.

But right now, England and New Zealand's World Cup destiny is in their own hands.

England travel to the northeast buoyed by a 31-run win over an India side that were previously unbeaten.

Sunday's success against India, the team that recently replaced England at the top of the one-day international rankings, came after back-to-back defeats by Sri Lanka and reigning champions Australia had led many pundits to question their tournament nerve and nous.



But the pleasing aspect for England, other than the result, was that the defeat of India was built on many of the factors that have been key to their ODI revival since a first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

Jonny Bairstow (111) and Jason Roy, who made 66 following his return from a hamstring injury, put on 160 for the first wicket before the in-form Ben Stokes hit 79, his third successive fifty, to boost the total to 337-7.

England, bidding to win their first World Cup, then kept things tight in the field, with Chris Woakes impressive and recalled paceman Liam Plunkett (3-55) once again taking wickets through the middle overs. "Winning a game like this, under the pressure we were under, can only stand us in good stead, potentially for the New Zealand game and hopefully after that," said Woakes.

"You don't actually play much knockout cricket, so to put ourselves in the heat of the battle -- obviously we'd rather have qualified by now -- could potentially help us."

By contrast, New Zealand head into the match following successive losses to Pakistan and Australia that have put a taken the gloss off a promising campaign.

An attack led by left-arm quick Trent Boult, who took a hat-trick hero against Australia, and featuring the express pace of Lockie Ferguson is a testing proposition for any side.

New Zealand could now recall another pacerman in Matt Henry at the expense of spinner Ish Sodhi, given the Riverside is not renowned for turning pitches.

But while several England batsmen have made hundreds at the World Cup, New Zealand appear dangerously over-reliant on captain Kane Williamson and fellow senior batsman Ross Taylor for runs.

Colin Munro was dropped for the Australia game, while fellow opener Martin Guptill has managed just 85 runs from six innings since his 73 not out against Sri Lanka.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Tom Latham is averaging just 8.2 at this tournament.

"We're still in charge of our destination and where we're heading, and that's always a nice thing to have," said Craig McMillan, New Zealand's batting coach.

"Obviously (Guptill and Latham) are short on runs but we're excited by the fact that we haven't quite clicked as a batting group yet.

Writer Sarah Aboobacker wins plagiarism case

MANGALURU, JUL 2 (PTI): Noted Kannada writer Sarah Aboobacker has won a legal battle against the makers of the 2011 national award-winning film 'Byari,' which she claimed was based on her much-acclaimed novel 'Chandragiriya Teeradalli.'

'Byari,' the first film in Beary language, directed by K P Suveeran and produced by Altaf Hussain, had won the Swarna Kamal for best film at the 59th national film awards.

Hussain also plays a character

in a prominent role in the film.

She had moved the court against the film's producer and director saying the movie makers had used her story without permission.

Upholding her contention, the third additional district and sessions court here in its judgement directed Altaf Hussain, the producer, not to screen the movie anywhere henceforth.

The Judge B Muralidhar Pai noted that there was an infringement of her intellectual property rights.

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Hong Kong leader condemns ‘extremely violent’ protests



HONG KONG, JUL 2 (AFP): Hong Kong’s leader on Tuesday condemned “the extreme use of violence” by masked protesters who stormed and ransacked the city’s legislature in an unprecedented challenge to Beijing’s authority.

The semi-autonomous financial hub has been thrown into crisis by weeks of massive demonstrations over a bill that would allow extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

But on Monday -- the 22nd anniversary of the city’s handover to China -- anger spilled over as groups of mostly young, headline protesters, broke into the legislative council.

They hung the city’s colonial-era flag in the debating chamber, scrawled messages such as “Hong Kong is not China” and defaced the city’s emblematic seal with spray-paint.

Police charged into the building shortly after midnight.

The events pose an unparalleled challenge to Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who has so far left Lam to handle the protests.

In a pre-dawn press conference, Lam,

the city’s Beijing-appointed chief executive, described the scenes of vandalism as “heart-breaking and shocking”.

“This is something we should seriously condemn because nothing is more important than the rule of law in Hong Kong,” she said, with the city’s police chief Stephen Lo by her side.

Lo added: “Protesters’ violent acts have far exceeded the bottom line of peaceful expressions of demands.” The financial hub has been rocked by massive protests over the past three weeks as anger against the pro-Beijing government has boiled over.

The rallies -- including a huge pro-democracy march on Monday -- have been largely peaceful while calling for Lam, whose approval ratings are at a record low, to resign. But they have failed to win many concessions, with Lam resisting calls to permanently shelve the extradition law or step down. On Monday, some headline protesters appeared to have reached breaking point, saying they felt compelled to storm parliament because their concerns were going unheard. “We have marched, staged

sit-ins... but the government has remained unmoved,” Joey, a 26-year-old protester, told AFP as she walked over shattered glass inside the building.

“We have to show the government that we won’t just sit here and do nothing,” “There are no rioters, just tyranny,” read one banner hoisted above the podium.

The legislature was closed on Tuesday, as police inspected the damage inside the building, while workers waited outside to begin a clean-up.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Eddie Chu was stopped from entering his office as police cordoned off the debris-strewn building with barricades.

“The police said the whole place is a crime scene. So now the whole place is basically taken over by the police,” Chu told reporters outside.

Under the terms of Hong Kong’s handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997, the city enjoys rights and liberties unseen on the autocratic mainland. But many residents accuse Beijing of reneging on that deal with the help of unelected leaders.

Iraq sets up ‘loophole’ in US sanctions to buy Iranian power

Baghdad, Jul 2 (AFP): Iraq is establishing a financial “loophole” to continue buying vital gas and electricity from Iran despite US sanctions, AFP has learned, mirroring a European mechanism that came into effect Friday.



The “special purpose vehicle” (SPV) would allow Iraq to pay for imported Iranian energy in Iraqi dinars, which Iran could use to exclusively buy humanitarian goods, three senior Iraqi officials said.

The workaround would allow Baghdad to keep the lights on and avoid shortage-driven protests without triggering US sanctions, as it treads an increasingly precarious tightrope between its two main allies Tehran and Washington.

One senior government official told AFP it was the product of months of talks between Iraqi, Iranian and US officials.

MW of electricity and 28 million cubic meters (988 million cubic feet) of gas for power stations from neighbouring Iran, which together make up about a third of Iraq’s power supply.

That reliance has angered the US, which slapped tough sanctions on Iran last year but has granted Iraq several temporary waivers to keep purchasing Iranian power until October.

The US insists Iraq wean itself off Iranian energy, but Baghdad has said that could take up to four years, during which it would need to keep purchasing at least Iranian gas.

To do so, the central banks of Iran and Iraq agreed in February to create a payment method that steers clear of US sanctions, Iran’s state news agency IRNA said, without providing additional details.

discussions to reach an agreement, which would be fully within US exemptions,” the source said.

It would effectively be a “loophole” around sanctions, said Ahmed Tabaqchali, senior fellow at the Sulaymaniyah-based Institute of Regional and International Studies.

“It’s like a ledger. You record the money paid, and Iran has that much credit in Iraq,” Tabaqchali told AFP.

The system would work much like INSTEX, a mechanism recently activated by Britain, Germany and France to trade legitimately with Iran without falling foul of US sanctions.

“The Iraqi government will continue to pay Iran for gas by depositing money into a special bank account inside Iraq, in Iraqi dinars,” the official said.

“Iran will not be able to withdraw the money, but will be able to use it to purchase goods from outside Iraq,” Iraq has an outstanding bill of around 2 billion for previous gas and electricity purchases, according to Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zangeneh.

A US official told AFP that Washington was aware of the mechanism’s creation.

The US embassy in Baghdad declined to comment, while Iran’s embassy did not respond to an AFP request.

Two additional high-level Iraqi officials confirmed Baghdad was establishing such an account with US knowledge, but could not say whether payments into the account had begun.

“How else is Iraq supposed to pay what it owes Iran? We have no other choice,” the second official said.

To offset its notorious power shortages, Iraq imports around 1,400

fundamental services for millions more but the current funding shortfall will only grow unless Member States act soon.

Naidu underscored India’s support for UNRWA’s work which is providing assistance to about 5.4 million Palestine refugees to help them achieve their full human development potential.

As part of the Government of India’s ongoing assistance programmes in Palestine to strengthen capacity-building efforts focused on institutions, services and training personnel, the country is providing 150 places for Palestinian professionals every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme.

In addition, during the last five years, under an India-Palestine development partnership, 17 agreements have been signed in the fields of agriculture, health care, information technology, youth affairs, consular affairs, women’s empowerment and media.

work much like INSTEX, a mechanism recently activated by Britain, Germany and France to trade legitimately with Iran without falling foul of US sanctions.

Still, the system is fraught with political, financial and practical complexities.

Iraq’s economy relies almost exclusively on oil revenues, paid in dollars, which leaves Baghdad extremely vulnerable to any punitive measures the US could take in response to a violation.

It also remains unclear what exactly Iran could purchase from Iraq as trade is heavily tilted in the other direction.

“Credit would develop in Iran’s favour but how would it actually cash it?” said Tabaqchali.

Importing goods from outside Iraq would require a third party willing to take the political and financial risk of such a transaction, he told AFP.

And, ultimately, much of Iraq’s transactions with Iran are cash purchases of commercial goods -- something US authorities implementing sanctions are unable to monitor.

“Cash is untraceable,” said Tabaqchali.

Trump says US will keep strong intel presence in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, JUL 2 (AFP): President Donald Trump says he wants to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan but will leave a strong intelligence presence, branding the country the “Harvard of terrorists” in an interview broadcast Monday.

“We will be leaving very strong intelligence, far more than you would normally think,” Trump said told the Fox News Channel’s “Tucker Carlson Tonight.” “It just seems to be a lab for terrorists... I call it the Harvard of terrorists,” he said.

“I’ve wanted to pull them out,” Trump said of US troops who have been fighting in the country since 2001.

But he said he hesitates due what he described as advice from the military that it is preferable to fight militants there than at home -- echoing an argument advanced by George W Bush’s administration.

Trump’s comments come with rival Afghans set to start meeting in Qatar on Sunday in a fresh attempt to make political headway as the United States seeks a peace deal with the Taliban within three months.

India pledges to contribute USD 5 million in 2019 to UN Palestine refugee agency



BY YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, JUL 2 (PTI): India has pledged to contribute USD 5 million in 2019 to the UN Palestine refugee agency, even as it voiced concern over the agency’s difficult financial situation due to voluntary contributions from a limited donor base and called for ensuring sustained fiscal support for its work.

India’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu said the Government of India has increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to the UNRWA core budget, from USD 1.25 million in 2016 to USD 5 million in 2018.

He was speaking last week at a meeting of the General Assembly Ad Hoc Committee for Voluntary Contributions to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) that as a mark of India’s solidarity with the Palestine refugees.

“We pledge to contribute

tribute USD 5 million in 2019, at the same level as in 2018,” Naidu said.

He noted that there is a projected shortfall of more than USD 200 million against a funding requirement of approximately USD 1.2 billion for UNRWA this year, causing concerns in the Agency about its ability to provide essential services to the Palestine refugees.

“Almost all of the UNRWA’s resources come from voluntarily contributions, with a limited donor base. This arrangement is fraught with uncertainties and could cause sudden crisis like the current one. Access to adequate predictable resources is the way forward,” he said.

Naidu emphasised that UNRWA’s difficult financial situation has caused concern and has put to risk the Agency’s core services to the Palestine refugees, notably in the fields of education, health, and assistance to the most vulnerable refugees. India made a strong appeal to other

traditional donors of UNRWA to consider enhancing their contributions and non-donor member states to consider contributing to UNRWA in solidarity with the Palestine refugees.

A total of 23 donors announced contributions, or their intention to contribute, to the UNRWA’s 2019 budget during the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, established by the General Assembly as the primary forum for announcing financial support.

UNRWA has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, across its five fields of operation - Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip - since 1950. The Agency currently serves 5.4 million Palestinian refugees - 20 per cent of the world’s refugees.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres noted that millions of children have benefited from an UNRWA education and the Agency has provided

ed fundamental services for millions more but the current funding shortfall will only grow unless Member States act soon.

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03 TOP OF THE NEWS

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CLASSY BOOTS! The model, Sofia Richie looked striking in snake skin boots while celebrating the campaign with Frankies Bikinis at Nobu Malibu.

Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap invited by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as members

NEW DELHI, JUL 2 (PTI): Directors Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap and veteran actor Anupam Kher are among the 842 new members invited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in its latest push to become more inclusive. Kher has an extensive career in both Hindi cinema as well as Hollywood films such as "Hotel Mumbai" and "The Big Sick" while Akhtar, who has been invited in the directors category, most recently directed "Gully Boy".

Kashyap has been invited in the Short Films and Feature Animation category. "Lunchbox" writer-director Ritesh Batra is also a part of the new invitees list, so are Indian origin actor Archie Punjabi and "Late Night" director Nisha Ganatra.

In the Visual Effects department, Sherry Bharda of "Hichki" fame and Srinivas Mohan, best known for his work on "2.0" and "Baahubali: The Beginning", have been invited.

The Academy, which is behind the annual

Oscar Awards, has invited members from 59 countries and half of them are women.

With this, the overall percentage of women in the Academy has increased from 25 per cent in 2015 to 32 per cent this year.

The overall membership of people of co-



lour has doubled from 2015 and currently stands at 16 per cent and in 2019 batch, they constitute 29 per cent of the total invitees.

Among the invited 842, 21 are Oscar winners while 82 member are Oscar nominees.

The organisation had invited 928 new members in 2018 which included Indian names such as Shah Rukh Khan, Naseeruddin Shah, Tabu and Madhuri Dixit.

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

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

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

Aditi Mittal, Mahima Kukreja call out Tanmay Bhat on his 'clinical depression' revelation

MUMBAI, JUL 2 (PTI): Comedians Aditi Mittal and Mahima Kukreja have called out Tanmay Bhat for using a mental health issue like depression to try and do damage control in the wake of AIB's fall from grace amid #MeToo allegations.

In a series of Instagram videos last week, Bhat claimed he is suffering from "clinical depression".

"After everything that happened in October, I'm mentally checked out. I feel almost paralysed and unable to participate socially, online or even offline," he said.

Bhat was under attack for his inaction in the complaints against comic Utsav Chakraborty during the #MeToo movement in October 2018.

Last month, comedy group AIB announced that Bhat will step down from the post of CEO and the company's YouTube channel is "dead for the foreseeable future".

On Sunday, Mittal in a series of tweets blasted Bhat for using depression as merely a good for "public consumption". She further said the claims sounded insincere as the corporates had pulled out investment from AIB post #MeToo wave hit the comedy collective.

"I remember when I had to hear on the set of a show that I was working on that I gave 't** access too soon' coz it was told by Tanmay Bhat to the 22 year old writers on that set. I spent a year saying no to work after that coz I was terrified I would have to hear that again... We've all been f**ked over by life. But apparently depression is only newsworthy when someone who had a corporates throwing money at him stopped having money thrown at him..."

"Sisters out there wanting to be symbols and role models of depressed people not being depressed. Like what part of your life will you not sell for public consumption, again? Like, if you want to play depression victim now, you please acknowledge the system of 19-24 year olds with Macs and Twitter accounts, and men with VC funds that you were 'friends' with that led to the depression of so many young women who tried to do comedy at that time," Mittal wrote.

She recalled being "slut shamed" by Chakraborty, former comedian at AIB who was outed by comic Mahima Kukreja as an alleged sexual harasser.

"I remember being slut shamed by Utsav Chakraborty, to a guy that said he liked me. He told the guy 'Be careful of Aditi, she's been around.' It's kind of why I felt so incredibly strongly for Mahima when she spoke up. Because I just couldn't bear to have more of this happen."

Allegations against Chakraborty came to light as part of a

Twitter thread about the way Indian men behaved onboard a cruise liner. Chakraborty's apparent woke tweet did not sit well with Kukreja who called him out on his own behaviour alleging that he sent her unsolicited pictures of private parts opening a can of worms as many other women, including minors, came forward with similar allegations.

On Monday, Kukreja pointed out the irony in Bhat's videos saying, nobody bothered about the mental health of women who were harassed.



"Women's mental health has been great much anxiety etc depression is fun all is great. Just FYI because nobody is asking," Kukreja said, adding women struggle with mental health issues on a daily basis.

She added, "Also FYI my mental trauma is valid and I've f**king dealt with it and will continue to deal with it without hurting women in the process

"I can't get myself to get on stage regularly to perform comedy because I'm afraid to run into your fav woke comic boys who will trigger me and cause me panic attacks but the who the f**k cares right."

There were some supportive voices in the comedians community with people such as Kaneez Surka, Kunal Kamra, Naveen Richard and Zakir Khan posting messages wishing Bhat good health.

"You are so loved jaan - you don't even realise how much," Surka, who had accused Mittal of forcefully kissing her on stage, wrote on Instagram.

Mittal said the kiss, during an open mic, was part of the act but she apologised unconditionally for causing discomfort to Surka.

"We cannot empathise. But we can sympathise. And love. And there is plenty of love over on this side. Just come on over and help yourself to as much as you want buddy," Naveen Richard said.

Kamra wrote, "We are all rooting for you to come back harder and stronger."

Sexuality should be desensationalised as defining characteristic, says Alan Cumming



LOS ANGELES, JUL 2 (PTI): Actor Alan Cumming says the practice of labelling LGBTQ actors by their sexuality should stop.

The 54-year-old actor, who made a history when his role as Dylan Reinhart on "Instinct" became the first ever openly gay lead in a US network drama, believes a person's sexuality should not be the only defining factor.

"I get really pi**** off, I'm bored, when people say 'gay actor' Alan Cumming or 'queer actor' Alan Cumming. Fair enough, all those things are true, but you wouldn't say 'straight actor', or 'heterosexual actor'."

"When you look at it like that... We have

to get to the point where we just tell stories about people, and one of the facets of them is that they're LGBTQ or whatever. It's about how you desensationalise someone's sexuality," Cumming told People NOW.

The actor added playing Dylan has been an honour for him and he appreciates that his character's sexuality is not the focus point of the arc.

"What I think is important to go through, to keep happening on television and film, is that you have these characters, they're doing something in the story, and they just happen to be gay or whatever. But that's not the main thrust of their narrative," he said.

'Black Widow' stand-alone well needed: Florence Pugh

LONDON, JUL 2 (PTI): Actor Florence Pugh believes fans have been waiting for long to see a "Black Widow" stand-alone. The actor, who will feature alongside Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow aka Natasha Romanoff in the Marvel movie, believes it is an important story to be told.

"This film has been wanted by fans for such a long time and I think it's well needed. So I feel like it's only got support and love. And that's a very exciting thing," Pugh told The Telegraph in an interview. Details of the 23-year-old actor's role in the movie are being kept under wraps.

The film, to be directed by Cate Shortland, also features David Harbour, Rachel Weisz and O-T Fagbenle.

Fagbenle is set to play the lead role opposite Johansson.

ARIES: Today's solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer expands your concept of home and family. Can you find refuge in the empowering support of your closest friends? A chosen family CAN be like blood. Does the local coffee shop feel more comforting than your own apartment? If so, this lunar liftoff could spur you into redecorating mode.

TAURUS: Stick to nearby pastures, Bull! Today's revelatory solar (new moon) eclipse in Cancer supercharges your third house of friendship and local affairs. Why schlep out to some far-flung locale when there's more than enough fun to be had in your own zip code? Invite a neighbor or potential BFF over for mimosas and a walking tour of your 'hood.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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