



SummitTIMES

MP inspects facilities at Gyalshing Dist Hospital, returns satisfied



GYALSHING, 24 JAN [IPR]: Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, today visited the District Hospital to assess the progress and the state of the health facilities available there. He led a thorough inspection of the hospital along with District Collector Dr AB Karki, CMO Dr T Namgyal and other officials.

He interacted with the patients and Medical staff whilst checking the various facilities, the Chief Medical Officer informs.

He then explained that his surprise visit to the District Hospital was to check on the ground reality of treatment provided to patients and the various medical tests available for the public.

He mentioned that the State has always given priority to Health and Education, hence the visit was necessary.

The MP took assessment of the existing facilities, which are as per the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms and after a thorough assessment, stated that significant improvement has been made by the Department of Health while keeping West District on priority.

He expressed satisfaction with the available infrastructure, manpower and equipment in the District Hospital Gyalshing.

The MP later visited the 8th Mile area of Gyalshing to inspect the recently constructed water distribution chamber there.

The MP also interacted with the residents of 8th Mile area whilst handing over drinking water connection orders to them in the presence of DC West, Chairperson (GMC), DE (PHE) and the local gentry.

The water-distribution chamber, funded under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is all set to cater to the needs of around 70 households.

Dr Bina Basnett is Hamro Sikkim Party president

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 24 JAN:** Dr Bina Basnett was unanimously elected as the president of Hamro Sikkim Party today. She was serving as the vice-president of the party since its formation. HSP vice-presidents, RB Subba and Bhaichung Bhutia have been unanimously elected as working presidents of the party. These important decisions were taken during a meeting held here on Thursday.

Dr Basnett hails from Tadong, Gangtok in East Sikkim and completed her schooling from Deorali Girls Senior Secondary School. She completed her MBBS from Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, 5th Mile Tadong and then did her MD from the same institute. She practiced at AIIMS Patna before moving to Lady Hardinge Medical College in Delhi. She resigned from her job to start her political career from Hamro Sikkim Party, which was launched last year.

In her address, Dr Basnett stated that she will work in the interest of the party and people of Sikkim. "I would like to dedicate this historic day to the party workers who have been working at the grassroots level selflessly to take the party forward and they have been working to give a better



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Gangtok Chalo dharna shifts to DAC premises

**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 24 JAN:** The Gangtok Chalo protest in the capital organised by Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum continued into day-2 today with a peaceful dharna at District Administrative Centre area here.

The protestors, it may be recalled, undertook a 110 KM trek from Gyalshing to Gangtok, arriving here yesterday, to voice their demand seeking improved services at the District Hospital at Gyalshing, something required as per Ministry of Health guidelines, and something which the authorities have failed to deliver, they insist.

The protestors, who had gathered at Titanic Park at MG Marg yesterday and intended to continue their protest there, inform that they have been asked by the police to shift to the DAC premises.

They have also stated that they want to continue with the protests until all their demands are met.

Last night, Health Department officials called on the protestors for



a dialogue at Titanic Park but the negotiations ended inconclusive.

A protestor, Rupen Karki, stated that they want to see their demands met 100% and will not budge until then. "There is confusion in department, some say 99% some say 95% of our demands have not been met," says Mr Karki.

Adhoc teachers demand regularization, serve 3-day ultimatum to Deptt



**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 24 JAN:** All Sikkim Adhoc Teachers and Temporary Employees Association has demanded an early resolution of their demands which includes regularisation of 4,312 teachers who meet the regularisation criteria of having served for five years and above.

Addressing a press conference here today, executive member Yogesh Sharma informed they had met the Chief Minister last year and that the CM had recommended their case for resolution to the HRDD but the Department has not paid any heed to the recommendation.

They also took out a rally in Gangtok today press-

ing for the same demand.

Other demands of the association include 50 to 60% relaxation for teachers who have served on adhoc basis in other government service recruitment.

The protestors also presented a memorandum enumerating their demands to Special Secretary, DR Subba, HRDD.

Executive member Rajesh Dahal informed that they have given a three-day ultimatum to the Department to resolve their issues or face a dharna and a rally on 29 January.

After the rally, if their demands still remain unresolved, they plan to proceed to Delhi with their protest and if even that does not help, take legal recourse.

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Janta Mela reaches Mangley



YANGANG, 24 JAN (IPR): Chief Minister Pawan Chamling attended the 5th Janta Mela at Mangley/Sinchuthang today. This episode of the Janta Mela was organized for Barfung, Temi-Namphing, Yangang-Rangang and Tumin-Lingi constituencies.

Also present amongst others were SLA Speaker, KN Rai, Cabinet Ministers alongside Chairpersons, Advisors, Officials, Panchayats and public at large.

At the onset, the Chief Minister distributed tokens to the selected beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister expressed his delight on attending this janta mela at Mangley as it is near Yangang which is also his birthplace. He spoke in brief about the aims and objectives of this mela

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9TH National Voters' Day Celebration

on

25TH January 2019

at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok



VOTER HELPLINE
NO. 1950

"No Voter to be left Behind"

R.O No. 270/IPR/Pub/Dis./18-19 Date: 23.01.19



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Sikkim Berojgar Sangrash Samiti demands written commitment on regularisation of OFOJ jobs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 24 JAN:

Sikkim Berojgar Sangrash Samiti [SBSS] has thanked the State government for providing government jobs to the unemployed under the 'One Family, One Job' scheme during the recent Rojgar Mela. However, the organisation has demanded that the government give a written assurance on regularisation of employment after five years and about their salaries and other financial benefits.

Addressing a press conference here today, SBSS member Man Bahadur Karki from Yangang, who also got a job under this scheme, questioned the terms and conditions mentioned in the appointment letter provided to candidates under the OFOJ scheme.

He stated that the condition specifying



that "the appointment is purely temporary and does not confer right to regular appointment" runs counter to the announcement that the employment will be regularised after five years.

On the same, he urged the government to give a proper, legally-binding written assurance

for regularisation and not issue only verbal assurance.

While mentioning that the government has allocated funds in the supplementary budget to pay salaries to OFOJ employees only for two months, Mr Karki questioned this provision and said that many youth

have left their private jobs and even studies for this job and deserved a more durable assurance.

Another member, Milan Gautam from Yangang mentioned that a circular from the Finance Department last year asked Heads of Departments not to engage extra manpower. On the

same, he questioned how the government would provide salaries to these 20,000 youths.

He alleged that the government had distributed allotments of housing scheme and other benefits just before the 2014 elections, but had not honored the commitments later.

"Jobs given under OFOJ scheme should not be like the benefits distributed just before 2014 election," he said.

He also alleged that many genuine candidates have been left out of this scheme while many undeserving candidates who already have family members in government service were given appointment letters. He also stated that many candidates have not got jobs matching their qualifications.

Another member, Saraswati Sherpa, stated that OFOJ was a good scheme but the way of its execution has raised lots of doubts and confusion among youths.

"We are not protesting this scheme but we are just asking the government for better execution and scrutiny process before providing jobs," she expressed.

Northeast to have exclusive Regional Data Centre

NEW DELHI, 24 JAN (PIB):

Northeast will soon have an exclusive Regional Data Centre, which will be a state-of-the-art institution to be set up with the support of Government of India's National Informatics Centre (NIC). At present, NIC is running National Data Centres at Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Bhubaneswar.

Disclosing this here today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the proposed Centre will be set up at Guwahati and the land for it has been provided by the Government of Assam.

The proposed Northeast Regional Data Centre at Guwahati is expected to be set up at a budget of approximately over Rs 300 crore and while the Department of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and North Eastern Council (NEC) have in-principle agreed to support the project, the exact quantum of sup-

port and the share of financial assistance will be mutually worked out depending upon feasibility and available resources.

A team of National Informatics Centre (NIC), comprising among others Deputy Director General, DC Mishra, State Informatics officer, Suchitra Pyarelal and Regional Technical Director, Ashish Vikram Asthana, briefed the DoNER Minister about the project. It was stated that with the establishment of Northeast Regional Data Centre, the implementation of key flagship projects of the government can be fast tracked and optimum utilization can be ensured of the man-power as well.

This initiative, Dr Jitendra Singh said, will also play an integral role in building digital Northeast India as a part of "Digital India". This, he said, shall also provide impetus to increased use of e-governance services, geo-spatial applications and development related activities. In addition, there will be confidentiality and strategic control of data as well, he said.

National Girl Child Day celebrated in North Sikkim

MANGAN, 24 JAN [IPR]:

The National Girl Child Day was celebrated in grand manner at the Community Hall here under the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" mission. North Adhakshya Namdey Lepcha was present as the chief guest accompanied by District Collector North Karma R Bonpo, Sr SP North K Shandarpa, JD HRDD, CDPOs, Principals of various schools, Aganwadi workers and ASHA workers also attended the function.

The National Girl Child Day is celebrated to increase awareness among the people about inequalities faced by the girl child in society. The theme for this year is, "Empowering Girls for Better Tomorrow," and under the Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao scheme, many awareness drives have been launched to raise awareness about gender equality and empowerment of the girl child.

Speaking on the occasion, the North Adhakshya stated that the best way to empower a girl child was to provide quality education to her.

She urged all the school heads and the HRDD to work towards providing quality edu-



cation in the district and make the education imparted at government schools at par with the public schools in the district. She also stated that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, women have been significantly empowered and today more than 50 percent of the panchayats are women. The women of the state have marched hand in hand with their male counterparts and have excelled in various fields, she said, while urging Aganwadi workers to work dedicatedly towards providing quality services to the young and ensuring a healthy future for the children.

The District Collector informed that various awareness drives have been undertaken under the scheme to empower

the girl child.

The focus of the District Task Force has been on improving the quality of education in the district, he said.

The District Collector stated that initiatives to improve libraries at all government schools have been undertaken. Grants have been released for purchase of books to all the senior secondary schools, Junior High Schools and primary schools in the district, he informed.

The District Collector said that most of the ICDS centers in the district are being upgraded and two model ICDS centers are on the verge of the completion.

These ICDS centers will be state-of-the-art centers and among the best in the

country, he assured.

An awareness drive on PC&PNDT Act was provided by DRCHO North and District Child Protection Officers provided awareness on POSCO Act. A cultural programme was also presented by the Aganwadi works and a cultural troupe from Lachen.

The District Task Force BBBP provided grants of Rs 10,000 to 10 primary schools, Rs 15,000 to 10 Junior High Schools and Rs 20,000 to five Secondary Schools for their academic performance in the education of the girl child.

A Baby Box consisting of all essential items like blankets, clothes, nappies etc were also provided to newly born child children in the district by the chief guest.



Adhoc teachers demand...

The teachers have stated that they fail to understand why the department is not following up on what the Chief Minister has instructed them to do.

Furthermore, the teachers also plan to organize an all-party meeting with NGOs, student groups and related stakeholders to discuss and deliberate on their demands and concerns.

Dr Bina Basnett...

future to the coming generation of Sikkim," she expressed.

She stated that there is no scarcity of leaders in the party as it has lots of capable and experienced leaders but despite this the party came to a consensus to bring a youth and a woman forward in the party.

There is a need for young leadership and new thoughts in Sikkim and based on this the party has been working to bring youth in leadership positions, she said. She thanked the senior leadership of the party for electing her as the party president.

"This is a big honour for me to have the trust of the senior and experienced leadership of the party," said Dr Basnett.

The HSP president also dedicated the day to all women irrespective of party affiliations.

"The decision of HSP has discarded the thought of the male-dominated society and conveyed that women also have the capability and potential to be leaders," she expressed.

While mentioning that women are still lagging behind in politics, she stressed that women need to come forward and fight for what they deserve. She added that women need to understand their potential and power to come forward to lead the society.

She urged other political parties to put women forward in leadership roles and not to just confine them to carrying flags and raise slogans.

HSP working president, Bhaichung Bhutia congratulated Dr Basnett and stated that youth coming into politics should have ambition and vision to lead the party someday. He mentioned that Dr Basnett has been working for the party sincerely from the first day.

He further added that she single handed took the responsibility of registration of the party and to get the election symbol of the party. On behalf of the party, he thanked her for successfully getting the party registered and obtaining the election symbol of the party.

HSP working president, RB Subba said that it is a historic day and the party's initiative to bring women forward as leaders. He stated that the party has been working to bring youth and women forward in the society.

Mr Subba said that he has full faith that the party president will work to bind all communities together to take them forward.

Further stating that all leaders and workers in the party share equal responsibilities, he urged everyone to work responsibly for the party.

The programme was also addressed by HSP spokesperson Biraj Adhikari.

NIFAA Sikkim State nominates District Presidents

SUMMIT REPORT

SINGTAM, 24 JAN:

A state level meet of members of National Integrated Forum of Artists and Activists (NIFAA) was held at Club House, Tek, Namthang, South Sikkim on 22 Jan. Talks on different agendas regarding the development of NIFAA Sikkim State were discussed in the meet, a press release informs.

Manita Rasaily (East), Mon Maya Pradhan (West), Rinzing Namgyal Bhutia (North) and Suyog Pradhan (South) were nominated as the NIFAA Sikkim State District presidents.

The meeting also prepared an action plan for the coming days. It was also decided at the meeting that NIFAA Sikkim State District Branch shall be officially launched within the month of February.

NIFAA is a national level Non-Governmental Organization and it has received six Guinness Book of World Record awards and is also the recipient of many National Awards. It aims to promote activists, artists, culture of different communities to the national and international level. Sikkim is the 22nd Branch of NIFAA



The meeting was chaired by Stephen Subba, Panchayat Maney Dara Ward and Patron NIFAA Sikkim State. Chief Advisor, Bikash Pradhan, NIFAA Sikkim State gave a brief introduction about the works and activities of NIFAA.

He further spoke about NIFAA Sikkim State being nominated as the best performing state at Harmony 2018, a youth exchange programme to promote national integration and harmony organised by NIFAA last December at Tripura. He congratulated the team members for bringing laurel to the state.

The name of the nominated members for the post of district president was moved by Youth Coordinator, Kishore Baniya, NIFAA Sikkim State. President, Praveen Pradhan, NIFAA Sikkim State in

his speech said it is just the initial days and there are lots of social activities to be performed. With the appointment of district presidents, NIFAA will be able to conduct activities in all four districts of Sikkim, he added. He also congratulated NIFAA Sikkim's cultural team for their wonderful presentation at the Tripura event.

Members of NIFAA Sikkim State present at the meeting included Patron, Stephen Subba; advisor, Bikash Pradhan; president, Bikash Pradhan; general secretary, Krishna Bdr Chhettri; treasurer, Suk Bdr Rai; publicity secretary, Shital Pradhan; youth coordinator, Kishore Baniya; assistant youth coordinator Sudeep Sharma; and others.

Governor attends Oath Taking ceremony of Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch

GANGTOK, 24 JAN (IPR): The Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch held their Oath Taking cum felicitation ceremony, "Aarohanam," marking 25 years of the body, today at Chintan Bhawan. Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad was the chief guest on the occasion and the Minister for Forests, Environment & Wildlife Management Department, TW Lepcha and MLA Central Pendum, Gopal Baraily were the Guests of Honour.

The Governor, in his address, expressed his happiness and said that he was pleased with the functioning of the SBJM. He congratulated the elected members and reminded the people that unity was the key factor in moving towards progress and development.



He also asked the people to be responsible and maintain the peace, security and the sanctity of the State. He highlighted the achievements made by the State, particularly in the Organic sector and praised the people for making Sikkim a leading example in the country and globally as well. He

said that it was the responsibility of the Government to safeguard the rights of every community and that Sikkim has been doing so, efficiently. Minister, TW Lepcha spoke on the development and special provisions made for the business community by the State Government. He congratulated the body and

the executive members and asked them to take their roles sincerely and seriously. He said that all communities should strengthen their brotherhood and work together. Gopal Baraily spoke on the community development of the SBJM and praised them for the commendable work done by them and stressed on

communal integrity. SBJM president, Swaminath Prasad expressed his gratitude to the State Government and said that the business community would remain grateful to the Chief Minister and his Government for the safety, security and for the rights and facilities of the community. General secretary, Birendra Prasad placed the grievances and requests of the community and said that he was hopeful that the demands would be met.

The Central Body Dignitaries, Executive Members, District Presidents took oaths while members from the community and Municipal Corporation as well as Police Department were felicitated for their contribution.

Rastriya Kavi Sangam program held in Rangpo



SUMMIT REPORT
RANGPO, 24 JAN: Rastriya Kavi Sangam Sikkim 5th episode program was organised at Rangpo Drivers Association office hall today. Horticulture Officer, JN Sharma was present as the chief guest along with senior writer, Shiv Darnal, Shivakoti Rajen Chandra and RKS State Secretary, Bhim Sharma were present as the special guest of the program, a press release informs.

Two blood donors of RKS namely Tshering Sherpa and Rebika Limboo were felicitated by the team with khada and Donors Card.

Eight poets and writers namely Bhim Sharma,

Kushal Chettri, Rebika Limbu, Shiv Darnal, Shivakoti Rajen Chandra, J N Sharma, Bikash Bantava and Sabir Ghaley participated in the program.

13 years old, Devanshi Agarwal, daughter of Sanket Agarwal of Singtam was felicitated for her prodigious performance in the sport of shooting in national level, the release mentions. She has won gold, silver and bronze medals in shooting in national level. Though she is studying in Dehradun she was born and brought up in Sikkim.

The program was conducted by RKS Sikkim State President, Sanjay Agarwal

Deadline to finalise Assam NRC not to be extended beyond July 31: SC

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI): The Supreme Court Thursday said the July 31, 2019 deadline to finalise the National Register of Citizens for Assam cannot be extended and asked the state government, the NRC co-ordinator and the EC to ensure that the upcoming general elections do not slow down the process.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi asked the NRC state coordinator Praateek Hajela, Secretary of the Election Commission and the Assam chief secretary to conduct a meeting within a week to ensure that the NRC finalisation process and the upcoming parliamentary elections go "hand-in-hand" and there is no dearth of government officials for either process.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Assam Government, told the bench, also comprising Justice R F Nariman, that such a meeting would be held and the court would be apprised of the deliberations.

The draft National Register of Citizens for Assam was published on July 30, 2018 in which the names of 2.89 crore of the 3.29 crore peo-


ple were included. The names of 40,70,707 people did not figure in the list. Of these, 37,59,630 names have been rejected and the remaining 2,48,077 are on hold.

Hajela said that out of about 40 lakh persons, who were left out of draft NRC, 36.2 lakh persons have filed claims with the authorities for inclusion of their names in the final NRC.

He also said that around 2 lakh objections have been received against those whose names have been included in the draft NRC.

Referring to upcoming general elections, Hajela said that there could be difficulties in finalising the NRC by July 31 as government officials would be required by the Election Commission also for the poll duty.

"The publication of final NRC for Assam should in no circumstance stretch beyond July 31. In elections many employees will be required. The NRC process must continue. You have to work it out," the bench said. "We do not want this to extend beyond July 31," it said, adding that everybody has to be reasonable and "one cannot suffer at the expense of other".



Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim NOTICE

Temporary closure of roads w.e.f. 21st January 2019 to 21st February 2019.

Stretches of road:


1. MelliManpurNamchi Road in South Sikkim (stretch 27+300 to 28+840 Mikkhola)
2. MelliManpurNamchi Road in South Sikkim (Stretch 11+200 to 13+00 Sumbuk to KitamPhatak)

Timing:

1. 8:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.	-----	Closed
2. 10.30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.	-----	Open
3. 11.30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.	-----	Closed
4. 1.30. P.M. to 2:30 P.M.	-----	Open
5. 2.30. P.M. to 4:30 P.M.	-----	Closed
6. 4.30. P.M. to 5:30 P.M.	-----	Open
7. 5.30. P.M. to 7:30 P.M.	-----	Closed
8. 7.30. P.M. to 8:00 A.M.	-----	Open

R.O. No. : 602/IPR.PUB/Classi/2018-19
Date: 18/01/2019

By Order
(R&B Department)



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK, FISHERIES AND VETERINARY SERVICES, KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG. Website: www.sikkim.ahvgs.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Application are invited from the eligible local candidates for filling up of 14 (fourteen) posts of Kennel Hand/ Humane Animal Handler/ Kennel Hand/ Vet-Aide on temporary regular basis in the pre-revised PB-I of 5200-20200 plus Grade Pay of Rs. 2200/- plus other admissible allowances as per the rules under AH,LF&VS Department through direct recruitment. However, during the period of Probation/ Apprenticeship/ Training, pay shall be governed by Notification No. 489/ GEN/DOP dated: 31.10.2011.

CONDITONS OF ELIGIBILITY:

1. Minimum Educational Qualification
(a) Class-V passed from a recognized Board.
(b) The applicant should possess a valid Certificate in Humane Animal Handling Course accredited by Animal Board of India (AWBI).
(c) Preference will be given to person with 5 (five) years of experience in animal birth control and stray dog population control programme.
(d) Candidates must be in possession of either Sikkim Subject Certificate or COI issued by the competent authority under relevant orders of the State Government.
(e) Should have knowledge of any of the State Language viz. Nepali/Sikkimese/ Bhutia/Lepcha/Limboo.
(f) Should have valid Local Employment Card.
(g) Should be conversant with the customs and usages of Sikkim.
3. Duties of the post. : As per Appendix-I given on website. www.sikkim.ahvgs.gov.in
4. Age. : Should have attained the age of 18 years, but should not have exceeded 40 years as on 31.01.2019 vide Notification No. M(3) / (GEN/DOP PT-III, dated 03.07.2017.
5. Reservation : 14(fourteen) posts of Kennel Hand/ Humane Animal Handler/ Kennel Hand/ Vet-Aide.

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Posts.
1.	Unreserved	02
2.	Bhutia Lepcha	01
3.	Bhutia Lepcha (Women)	01
4.	Other Backward Classes-Central List	02
5.	Other Backward Classes- State List	01
6.	Other Backward Classes- State List (Women)	01
7.	Schedule Tribe	02
8.	Schedule Caste	01
9.	Primitive Tribe	01.
10.	Most Backward Classes-State List	01.
11.	Wealer Section of the Society	01
	Total	14

Candidates should bring all attested copy of documents while submitting the application forms and ensure that they are qualified on the date of application in all respect. Candidate will not be informed by the AH,LF&VS Department for any discrepancy or disqualification at personal level. However, those candidates whose forms are found to be incomplete in any manner will be summarily rejected, so all candidates are advised to ensure that they are qualified for the post.

The application form should be obtained from the Head Office, AH,LF&VS Department, Krishi Bhawan Building, Room No. 104 along with original Bank Receipt of Rs.150 in favour of Secretary, AH,LF&VS Department w.e.f 01.02.2019 to 15.02.2019 on any working day between 10.30 AM to 3.00 PM under charge Head 0403-AH-800. Admit Card will be issued accordingly on the day of submission of application form i.e. from 01.02.2019 to 15.02.2019.

Those candidates fulfilling the above prescribed criteria will be called for interview. No TA/ DA admissible for attending the examination/ interview.

Admission at all the stages of examination for which candidates are admitted by the AH,LF&VS Department viz. Part-I & Part-II. The scheme and syllabus of examination for the purpose of filling up the post of Kennel Hand/ Humane Animal Handler/ Kennel Hand/ Vet-Aide is given on website at Appendix II.

Name of the candidates eligible for appearing interview will be displayed in the notice board of Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, and SARAH Division, Deorali, East Sikkim, AH,LF&VS Department. **The date for interview shall be on 18.02.2019.** If any changes regarding date shall be notified on the Notice Board of AH,LF&VS Department.

Test will be purely provisional and is subject to satisfying the prescribed eligibility conditions. If, on verification at any stage of examination process, it is found that candidates do not fulfill any of the eligibility conditions, their candidates for the post will be cancelled by the AH,LF&VS Department, Government of Sikkim without notice.

The AH,LF&VS Department will not entertain any application on review or RTI/ Correspondence till the entire process of recruitment is completed.

R.O. No. 626/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 24.01.19

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary
AH,LF&VS Department



Six drivers to be felicitated on Republic day

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 JAN: Six drivers will be felicitated in the State level celebration of Republic Day at Paljor Stadium this year. All Sikkim Drivers/Transport Front in-charge, G M Gurung has thanked the state government for this announcement and also congratulated all the drivers who are going to be felicitated, as per a press release.

The six drivers are Pratap Tamang [Soreng, West Sikkim], Deo Kumar Sharma [Namchi, South Sikkim], Bindeswari Prasad Datta [Singtam, East Sikkim], Karma Zangpo Lachenpa [Lachung, North Sikkim], Bigyan Rai [Namchi, South Sikkim] and Dawa Phuti Bhutia [Pangthang, East Sikkim], who is also the first woman taxi driver of Sikkim.

KUTSE SHEGU

The 49th day Kutse Shegu of Late Lakpa Tsering Ethenpa (88 yrs.) who left for his heavenly abode on 10th Dec 2018 falls on Sunday the 27th Jan 2019.

All relatives, family friends & well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at " Ethenpa Villa ", Lower Tadong, Gangtok. We also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Mrs. Pasang Lhamu Ethenpa (Pasang Guruma) (wife)
Mr. Menla T. Ethenpa & Tshering Pem (son & daughter-in-law)
Dr. Sonam T. Ethenpa & Chumki (son & daughter-in-law)
Mrs. Diki Yangzum Ethenpa & Karma Chankapa (daughter & son-in-law)
Ms. Chopel S. Ethenpa (daughter)
Mrs. Sangay Pema Ethenpa & Pemba Lama (daughter & son-in-law)
& host of grand children & Great Grand Children
(M) 943-4031-333, 900-2136-777, 817-000-5544




KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU

Our gratitude to all our Friends,Relatives and well wishers for their support and love during the time of our bereavement Our beloved Late Mr Pem Deechen Denzongpa,Yapa Jantareto, to many of his Friends and Well Wishers and Managing Director of Yuksom Breweries passed away on 11th December 2018.

With humility we request all our Family, Friends and Well Wishers, to please join us in prayer for the Kutse Zhipchu Shergu at our residence at Tashi Ghang, Yangtsey on the 28th January 2019

The Yuksom Family,
Tashi Ghang,
Yangtsey, West Sikkim





GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM WATER SECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Memo No..... Date:--


ADDENDUM

Refernce Notice Inviting Expression of Interest no. 01/WS & PHE/1806/SEW/18-19, dated: 08.01.2019 of the Department, Interested bidders may note the following addendum.

“Hard copies of the technical bids in original including cost of tender form and earnest money are mandatory to be submitted to office of the Chief Engineer, Water Security & PHE Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok on or before 04.02.2019 (2 pm).

Chief Engineer
WS & PHED.

R.O. NO. 619/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 23.01.2019.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT & WELFRE DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department on behalf of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department invites e-tender from eligible contractors enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department for the work “Construction of Tribal Research Institute at Assam Lingzey in East Sikkim”. For further details, kindly visit the website www.sikkimtenders.gov.in. Date of uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal will be from 24.01.2019(after 2 PM).

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Water Security & Public Health
Engineering Department

R.O. NO. 624/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 23.1.2019

SummitTIMES

Finnish First

Let's learn some things from Finland

Finland is today (as ranked by independent agencies on a range of international indices), the most stable, the safest and the best governed country in the world. With a population of 55 lakh, it is also ranked the third wealthiest, the third least corrupt, the second most socially progressive and the third most socially just. Its judicial system is recognized as the most independent and the highest levels of personal freedom is lavished on its citizens, and hence it should come as no surprise then that in these times of shrinking trust and ugly profiteering, Finland's police is the most trusted, its banks the most stable and companies the second most ethical. Sitting as it does, among a clutch of Scandinavian countries which ace these rankings, this is a major achievement for Finland because geography has been harsh to the land and history rather vicious to its people. The last ever famine in Europe was 150 years ago, and in Finland, then a backwater under the Russian empire, the famine wiped out 10% of the population. This must have been a staggering setback and the country has been independent only for a 100 years, meaning, it could begin pulling itself out of its privations only a century back, a time by when its neighbours had leaped ahead while Finland's human resource was at its lowest. And yet, the country has done so handsomely well for itself and its people.

Most people, Sikkim included, look at Finland and see its primary school education system and want to learn from it, which is good, but rather incomplete. When one looks at Finland, its experience and its indices, one realizes that excellence does not come in isolation or piecemeal. Once the right environment has been created to install the best primary education systems in place, it is not just schools that are touched but everything else benefits as well – from the environment to social justice to democracy. Yes, that last one as well. Finland, did we mention, is the third most gender-equal country in the world and has the second freest elections.

Researchers and other societies have been trying to get a handle on what makes Finland so excellent. Even accepting that the Finnish experience cannot be replicated, understanding it will at least tag the societal instincts necessary to deliver so well. One does realize that these things are not packaged and delivered top-down and are instead manifestations of how the larger community behaves and responds to situations. Tarja Halonen, Finland's president from 2000 to 2012, was quoted in a recent report as saying, "We live in a cold, harsh and remote place. Every person has to work hard for themselves. But that is not always enough. You have to help your neighbours." He was responding to a query on what contributed to the Finnish Miracle. But it is not just instinctive cooperation, but also perseverance and complete commitment to common pursuits. Their geography and challenges are not kind to fickleness and the Finns clearly know this well. They also have a name for the "dogged, courageous persistence regardless of consequence" that defines them – "sisu". A historic manifestation of "sisu" was in 1939-40, when 3.50 lakh Finnish soldiers twice fought off Soviet forces three times their number, and inflicted losses five times heavier than those they sustained. And this attitude has served them well in peaceful times as well. Their survival has traditionally depended on working together, collaborating, but interestingly, not by subsuming individuality, but by allowing equal expression and representation. The Finns have leveraged the absence of traditional hierarchies (within themselves) to ensure that while collaborations and community participation was quick and genuine, ideas can be freely shared and individuality safely expressed without running the risk of being judged or scoffed. This attitude celebrates excellence and allows ideas to germinate and merit an expected outcome. In such environments, while mediocrity is tolerated, it is not celebrated as is common in more feudal settings of even democratic societies; people believe in each other and are not second-guessing every gesture and don't allow their prejudices to rule their judgment. Such a people look ahead and not stare into the past. That is a nice place to be. And it is not as if everyone is happy and smiling all the time in Finland. Their free society means that free expression is genuinely on offer and criticism, even ridicule, is frequent and harsh. But there is also trust and faith.

BERTRAND VENARD
theconversation.com

Fighting corruption is supremely difficult, as it is proved by the recent expulsion of UN anti-corruption mission in Guatemala, the jail sentence of a former Korean President or the murder of an African journalist investigating corruption.

Considering the huge cost of corruption, many experts and observers would recommend looking at public policy or business practices in place in countries such as Denmark or Finland, known for being transparent and accountable societies. Yet countries such as Bhutan, in the heart of the Himalayas, can provide original approaches in dealing with anti-corruption policies.

ON THE PATH OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Known as the Thunder Dragon Kingdom, Bhutan has embarked on the path of democracy in recent years, bringing on a series of social-economic changes while opening up to the world. Yet, it ranks among the poorest countries in the world with 12% of its population below national poverty line.

Bhutan is also surrounded by South Asian states with high level of corruption, in particular India and Bangladesh. Despite its own challenges and according to the Corruption Perception Index 2017 of the NGO Transparency International, Bhutan ranks 26th out of 180 countries, while much richer countries do not fare so well: Poland (36th), Spain (42nd), China (77th) or India (81st).

The results indicate that Bhutan may be a good example in a quest for effective anti-corruption policies. How did it manage so well despite the odds? And what can we learn from its experience?

LOSS OF PERSONAL POWER FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

In the fight against corruption, it's essential to avoid hypocrisy – preaching good while acting badly. To avoid such behaviour, in Bhutan real actions and accomplishments are celebrated rather than mere words. There as in many countries, corruption is usually defined as the abuse of power for private gain against the public good. Bhutanese history offers some explanations that are linked to the Wangchuck sovereigns, called Druk Gyalpo or Dragon Kings.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuck (reign 1972-2006) has been able to demonstrate how a leader acts without corruption and how he embodied ethical principles. Indeed, in 2006, he abdicated in favour of a democratic process in which most of the monarch's power was transferred to a Council of Ministers and an elected Parliament. The first democratic elections were held in 2007.

The monarchy sustained through the fifth and current Druk Gyalpo King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who followed the same ethics as his father. In doing so, he also embodied what is antonymic to corruption: the loss of personal power for the public good.

BENJAMIN PRESTON &
JOHANNA NALAU
theconversation.com

Recent reports have delivered sobering messages about climate change and its consequences. They include the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C; the fourth installment of the U.S. government's National Climate Assessment; and the World Meteorological Organization's initial report on the State of the Global Climate 2018.

As these reports show, climate change is already occurring, with impacts that will become more intense for decades into the future. They also make clear that reducing greenhouse gas emissions from human activities to a level that would limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or less above preindustrial levels will pose unprecedented challenges.

Today, however, there is a large and growing gap between what countries say they'd like to achieve and what they have committed to do. As scholars focused on climate risk management and adaptation, we believe it is time to think about managing climate change damage in terms of triage.

Hard choices already are being made about which risks society will attempt to manage. It is critically important to spend limited funds where they will have the most impact.

TRIAGING CLIMATE CHANGE

Triage is a process of prioritizing actions when the need is greater than the supply of resources. It emerged on the battlefields of World War I, and is widely used today in fields ranging from disaster medicine to ecosystem conservation and software development.

The projected global costs of adapting to climate change just in developing countries range up to US\$300 billion by 2030 and \$500 billion by

mid-century. But according to a recent estimate by Oxfam, just \$5 billion to \$7 billion was invested in projects specific to climate adaptation in 2015-2016.

Triaging climate change means placing consequences into different buckets. Here, we propose three.

The first bucket represents impacts that can be avoided or managed with minimal or no interventions. For example, assessments of how climate change will affect U.S. hydropower indicate that this sector can absorb the impacts without a need for costly interventions.

The second bucket is for impacts that are probably unavoidable despite all best efforts. Consider polar bears, which rely on sea ice as a platform to reach their prey. Efforts to reduce emissions can help sustain polar bears, but there are few ways to help them after the fact. Protecting Australia's Great Barrier Reef or the Brazilian Amazon poses similar challenges.

The third bucket represents impacts for which practical and effective actions can be taken to reduce risk. For example, cities such as Phoenix, Chicago and Philadelphia have been investing for years in extreme heat warning systems and emergency response strategies to reduce risks to public health. There are a variety of options for making agriculture more resilient, from precision agriculture to biotechnology to no-till farming. And large investments in infrastructure and demand management strategies have historically helped supply water to otherwise scarce regions and reduce flood risk.

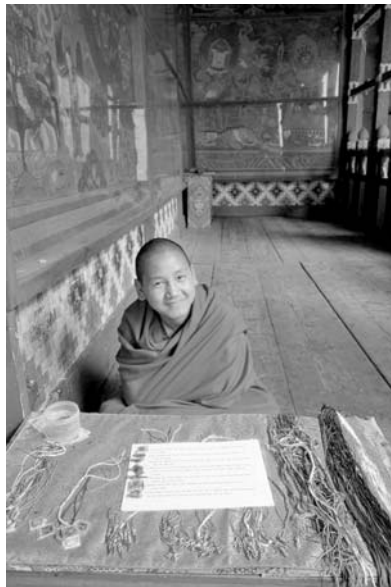
In each of these cases, the challenge is aligning what's technically feasible with society's willingness to pay. **WHAT TRIAGE-BASED PLANNING LOOKS LIKE**

Other experts have called for climate change triage in contexts such as managing sea level rise and flood risk and conserving ecosystems. But so far, this approach has not made inroads

MAKING CORRUPTION A COLLECTIVE ISSUE

Involving the population in public life through elections marked a crucial change for Bhutan. In this Buddhist country, acting collectively is part of the culture, especially in the fight against corruption.

While compliance programs today often stress the importance of paying attention to leaders, the Bhutanese approach the fight against corruption as



a multiple-stakeholder question, and result in collective actions,

Pupils, students, professionals, corporate executives, journalists and civil servants are involved at different levels to address and look at corruption from their own unique perspectives. For example, in investigated the country's mining sector, the country's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) interviewed a wide range of stakeholders, including mine representatives and inspectors, environment and forest officers and local leaders and representatives.

This process do not limit investigations to a small group of specialists, making anti-corruption actions more inclusive.

PERMANENT ANTI-CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY BENCHMARK

A danger in any anti-corruption program is to follow only minimal practices. For example, to limit the judicial liability of a firm, its compliance department could be required to follow existing guidelines, paying attention to the respect of standard anti-corruption rules rather looking at the effectiveness of these rules.

In Bhutan, the Anti-Corruption Commission and other experts look for effective methods and adapt them to the context of Bhutan. Concretely, the ACC staff compare the commission's strategy, policies and actions to those of other agencies around the world, ask foreign experts to come to Bhutan to give advice, go abroad to learn about the latest policies.

EVIDENCE-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

In general, most countries and organisations do not conduct research themselves and don't base their anti-corruption decisions on research. While corruption has been shown to have a negative impact on economic growth, academic investments are made to deeply understand it.

In Bhutan, however, decision makers are working to build data-driven strategies in many areas. Bhutan has conducted several scientific inquiries to understand the causes, consequences and ways of reducing corruption. For example, the ACC studied corruption in the public road construction with a collaborative survey assisted by Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, Ministry of Finance and the Royal University of Bhutan. Findings detailed issues involving dishonesty, problems with monitoring and enforcement, undue influence and unfair practices.

ETHICAL INDICATORS

To ensure the success of any anti-corruption action, indicators are necessary to follow its progress. The strategy set up by the King of Bhutan, the politicians and civil servants is part of the original policy of achieving the population's Gross National Happiness, which puts happiness rather than wealth as the main objective of the country. Thus, the country has managed to develop its own overall performance index not on Gross Domestic Product but rather on (Gross National Happiness Index (GNHI).

The GNH index includes several measurements of corruption, thus making anti-corruption policy is part of the national well-being strategy. Bhutanese leaders and other stakeholders have designed some holistic "key performance indicators" to monitor the anti-corruption policy and its results.

For example, the regular National GNH Survey seeks to clarify areas in which the conditions for happiness exist. It includes questions about corruption, including where public action is required. For example, the Ministry of Education regularly evaluates integrity levels in its programmes and trainings. The success of an anti-corruption policy is thus due to its integration in a broader ethical vision as well as having specific targets.

While Bhutan still faces some corruption problems, including 2018 case of irregularities in construction bids, the country's success in the fight against corruption has been impressive. It is time for other countries to both learn from their inspiring ideas and apply them.

[the writer is Professor, Audencia]

We can't save everything from climate change – here's how to make choices

into adaptation policy.

How can societies enable triage-based planning? One key step is to invest in valuing assets that are at risk. Placing a value on assets exchanged in economic markets, such as agriculture, is relatively straightforward. For example, RAND and Louisiana State University have estimated the costs of coastal land loss in Louisiana owing to property loss, increased storm damage, and loss of wetland habitat that supports commercial fisheries.

Valuing non-market assets, such as cultural resources, is more challenging but not impossible. When North Carolina's Cape Hatteras lighthouse was in danger of collapsing into the sea, heroic efforts were taken to move it further inland because of its historic and cultural significance. Similarly, Congress makes judgments on behalf of the American people regarding the value of historic and cultural resources when it enacts legislation to add them to the U.S. national park system.

The next step is identifying adaptation strategies that have a reasonable chance of reducing risks. RAND's support for the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan included an analysis of \$50 billion in ecosystem restoration and coastal protection projects that ranked the benefits those projects would generate in terms of avoided damages.

This approach reflects the so-called "resilience dividend" – a "bonus" that comes from investing in more climate-resilient communities. For example, a recent report from the National Institute of Building Sciences estimated that every dollar invested in federal disaster mitigation programs - enhancing building codes, subsidizing hurricane shutters or acquiring flood-prone houses - saves society \$6. Nevertheless, there are limits to the level of climate change that any investment can address.

The third step is investing enough

financial, social and political capital to meet the priorities that society has agreed on. In particular, this means including adaptation in the budgets of federal, state, and local government agencies and departments, and being transparent about what these organizations are investing in and why.

Much progress has been made in improving disclosure of corporate exposure to greenhouse gas reduction policies through mechanisms such as the Task Force on Climate-Related Disclosures, a private sector initiative working to help businesses identify and disclose risks to their operations from climate policy. But less attention has been given to disclosing risks to businesses from climate impacts, such as the disruption of supply chains, or those faced by public organizations, such as city governments.

Finally, governments need to put frameworks and metrics in place so that they can measure their progress. The Paris Climate Agreement calls on countries to report on their adaptation efforts. In response, tools like InformedCity in Australia are emerging that enable organizations to measure their progress toward adaptation goals. Nevertheless, many organizations – from local governments to corporate boardrooms – are not equipped to evaluate whether their efforts to adapt have been effective.

There are many opportunities to manage climate risk around the world, but not everything can be saved. Delaying triage of climate damages could leave societies making ad hoc decisions instead of focusing on protecting the things they value most.

[Benjamin Preston is Senior Policy Researcher; Program Director, Infrastructure Resilience and Environmental Policy, Pardee RAND Graduate School; Johanna Nalau is Research Fellow, Climate Adaptation, Griffith University]

CBI arrests renowned Bengali film producer Shrikant Mohta in Rose Valley scam

KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI): The CBI Thursday arrested renowned Bengali film producer Shrikant Mohta in connection with the Rose Valley chit fund scam, sources said. Mohta allegedly duped the Rose Valley of Rs 25 crore, CBI sources said. Mohta was served a notice by the investigating agency regarding “acceptance of money from Rose Valley” and CBI sleuths questioned him in his office at a shopping mall in south Kolkata.



Later they took him to the CBI office at CGO Complex in Salt Lake for further interrogation and he was arrested there. The agency is probing both the Saradha and Rose Valley multi-crore scams. Enforcement Directorate is also probing the Rose Valley scam. Rose Valley chairman Gautam Kundu is currently in jail in money laundering case. Mohta’s company Shree Venkatesh Films has produced many award-winning films like Chokher Bali, Memories In March, Autograph, Raincoat and Iti Mrinalini. The firm also distributes most Bollywood and Hollywood movies in eastern India. Some of Indian film industry’s top actors and directors have worked with him.

Centre reconstitutes tribunal to adjudicate ban imposed on 8 Manipur insurgent groups

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 (PTI): The Centre on Thursday reconstituted a tribunal to adjudicate matters related to extension of ban imposed on eight insurgent groups in Manipur for five more years over continued involvement in unlawful and violent activities. In a notification, the Home Ministry said the tribunal has been set up under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and will be headed by Delhi High Court judge Justice G S Sistani. The tribunal will adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Meitei extremist organisations of Manipur as “Unlawful Associations”, the notification said. On December 12, 2018, the central government had constituted the tribunal headed by Delhi High Court judge Justice Sangita Dingra Sehgal. However, due to certain reasons, Justice Sehgal could not continue with the tribunal and hence the tribunal has been reconstituted with Justice Sistani.



The organisations which were banned in November 2018 include Peoples’ Liberation Army generally known as PLA and its political wing, Revolutionary Peoples’ Front (RPF), United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed wing Manipur Peoples’ Army (MPA), Peoples’ Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and its armed wing ‘Red Army’. The others are Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and its armed wing, also called Red

Army; Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL); the Co-ordination Committee (CorCom) and Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK). The home ministry said the eight Meitei extremist organisations of Manipur were involved in 756 violent incidents in the past five years from January 1, 2013 to July 31, 2018 during which they killed 86 people, including 35 security personnel. The groups have been indulging in acts of intimidation, extortion and

looting of civilian population for collection of funds, making contacts with sources abroad for influencing public opinion and securing assistance by way of arms and training for the purpose of achieving their secessionist objective, the ministry said. They are also indulging in such activities for maintaining camps in neighbouring countries for the purpose of sanctuaries, training and clandestine procurement of arms and ammunition, it had said.

IIT Kharagpur, Japan’s AOTS sign MoU for research centre
KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI): IIT Kharagpur (IIT KGP) and Japan’s Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS) have signed an MoU to explore opportunities for a research centre that will facilitate collaborative projects. The two organisations shall focus on “state-of-the-art joint certification courses in the domains of technology and management to be co-taught by faculty/experts in both countries, including visit to the host institutions,” an IIT KGP statement said here Thursday. The partnership will have a strong focus towards professional development of students, it added. Japan is a global leader in domains such as urban science and infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, high-speed railways, semi-conductors, while India has emerged as domain experts in information technology, data science, artificial intelligence and the startup culture, IIT KGP Director P P Chakrabarti said. The proposed centre at IIT KGP will facilitate collaborative projects and training modules in these areas in accordance to the work culture of India and Japan, which have their unique styles of management and leadership, he said.

Tea Board floats tenders for tea lounge at headquarters

KOLKATA, JAN 24 (PTI): The Tea Board has invited tenders from private parties for opening a tea lounge on the first floor of its head office here. It has also floated tenders for reopening the non-functioning tea lounge at Mumbai, a source of the board said.

“We are approaching private parties for setting up a tea centre at the Kolkata headquarters of Tea Board. We propose that tea lounges be opened with the view to popularise its consumption,” he said. The move comes at a time when private companies like Goodricke

and Wagh Bakri have already opened tea lounges in different parts of the country. Asked about the outlook for the industry in 2019, the source said, “It is good”. The figures for 2018 are still being finalised, he added.

Congress demonstration against Citizenship bill



ITANAGAR, JAN 24 (PTI): The Congress held demonstration in various places in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Congress leaders and workers led by Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president, Takam Sanjoy, CLP leader Takam Pario and MLA Markio Tado staged a dharna in front of Civil Secretariat here. The Congress workers also burnt effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and state Chief Minister Pema Khandu. Addressing the gathering, Sanjay charged Khandu for remaining a silent spectator

when the bill has put North East India, particularly Arunachal Pradesh, on fire. He said the British had enacted ‘Chini Hill Act’ in 1846 and ‘Bengal Easter Frontier Regulation’ in 1872 to protect then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA). Arunachal Pradesh was earlier known as NEFA. “But Prime Minister Narendra Modi claiming to be chowkidar of India is adamant to bulldoze the most sensitive state sharing border with Myanmar, Bhutan and China,” Sanjoy said, and recalled how patriotic Arunachalees did not allow Chinese to enter their state.

Sanjay alleged that the Citizenship Amendment Bill would endanger the existence of indigenous people. “We will never accept Bangladeshi refugees as Indian citizens and will continue to oppose,” he said, adding they could be settled in any part of India but not in this protected state. The Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on January 8. The bill seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslims who fled religious persecution from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and entered India before December 31, 2014.

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

SINGTAM

Memo No:-.....

Date:-.....

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy. dated: 28.08.2018 for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Concerned Ward of the Gram Panchayat Unit of West Pendam Constituency where the work is to be executed. The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
1	Const. of road from Chwribotey Phakli Mamjei Jukepani to Pendam School in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 2nd.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 3rd.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt & TDR for issue of Tender Documents .	4th February, 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm) at resective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	6th. February, 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm) at resective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	6th. February, 2019 (1:30 PM) at resective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

1

Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.

2

The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.

3

The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Services Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification. \

4

The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtain during the period specified in (As abovefrom the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the Head “0059-80-800” cost of Tender Form (Roads & Bridges).

5

Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkimshall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, NirmanBhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.50% earnest money.

6

The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No: (a)&(b)above should be enclosed with the offer.

7

Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, on the date and within the time indicated above.

8

Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.

9

The Tenderer shouldsign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

10

In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in the regard.

11

The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.

12

The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

13

Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost.The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.14 The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days form the issue of Work Order.

15

All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.

16

The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

17

The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

18

Subletting of contract work is against the norms and it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

19

The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.

20

In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.

21

Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:

(a)

Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.

(b)

The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor:

22

The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.

23

Damage of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.

24

It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.

25

The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor’s bills as per rules.

26

The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/-

R.O. No.: 608/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19

Date: 21/01/19

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

SINGTAM SUB DIVISION

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

Barcelona left with mountain to climb after cup defeat by Sevilla

SEVILLE, JAN 24 (AFP): Barcelona's hopes of winning a fifth consecutive Copa del Rey were dented on Wednesday as they were beaten 2-0 by Sevilla in the first leg of the quarter-finals.

Lionel Messi was rested and Luis Suarez left on the bench as Kevin-Prince Boateng made his debut for Barca in a match that Sevilla might even have been disappointed not to win by more.

Even so, Pablo Sarabia and Wissam Ben Yedder each scored in the second half at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan to leave their opponents facing an uphill task if they are to rescue next week's second leg.

"We played a great game, it's a shame it doesn't settle the tie," said Sevilla coach Pablo Machin.

"In Barcelona, anything can happen. They have turned around bigger defeats than this." Ben Yedder celebrated his goal by unveiling a t-shirt in support of Argentine striker Emiliano Sala, the player who is feared to have died in a plane crash on his way to join new club Cardiff



City in Wales.

"Para mi hermano fuerza E. Sala," the message read, meaning, "For my brother, be strong".

Barcelona had thrashed Sevilla 5-0 in last year's final, when Andres Iniesta delivered a masterclass in what was one of his final appearances for the club.

Winning a domestic double, however, did little to ease the disappointment of crashing out of the Champions

League and Ernesto Valverde is clearly keener to rotate in the Copa del Rey this season.

Messi and Sergio Busquets were left out completely while Luis Suarez, Philippe Coutinho and Jordi Alba all started on the bench, only to come on as substitutes in the second half.

"I thought it was for the best," Valverde said. "But when you make changes you take risks."

Boateng, who has

joined on a six-month loan deal from Sassuolo, was signed to spare Suarez nights like these and he did little particularly wrong, or spectacular, before being replaced after 63 minutes.

Barca's biggest signing of the transfer window was announced three and a half hours before kick-off, a 75-million euro deal for Frenkie de Jong to join from Ajax in the summer.

"He is an exciting

signing for the club," Valverde said. "He is for both the future and the present."

They could have done with some of the 21-year-old's craft in the first half, which was high on intensity but low on precision as both sides traded blows but failed to create much of note.

A quick free-kick sent Ben Yedder free and he fooled the sliding Gerard Pique with a dummy only to shoot wide,

off-balance. Barca's best early chance fell to the out-of-sorts Malcom but he took the ball too far left after nipping round Juan Soriano and hit the side-netting.

Sevilla had been the better team and their dominance continued after half-time. Just before the hour-mark, they scored, as the lively Quincy Promes did brilliantly down the left and his cross fell to Sarabia at the back post.

Sarabia's drilled the bouncing ball into the far corner, with the offside Ibrahim Amadou darting across Jasper Cillessen's line of sight.

Barca brought on Suarez and Coutinho, who almost made an instant impact. Suarez's first contribution was to lose the ball and his second was to win it back. Coutinho was given a free shot at goal but fired over.

Sevilla could have made it two but Ever Banega headed over and then they did, as his cross grazed Sergi Roberto on its way to the back post, where Ben Yedder had timed his run perfectly. He slid in to bolster his team's advantage.

Marauding Mandhana, teen star Rodrigues guide India women to easy win over NZ



NAPIER, JAN 24 (PTI): The in-form Smriti Mandhana and teen sensation Jemimah Rodrigues hammered New Zealand's clueless bowling attack to steer India to an emphatic nine-wicket triumph in the opening ODI of a three-match series here Thursday.

The 22-year-old Mandhana (105) and the 18-year-old Rodrigues (81 not out) put together a batting masterclass after the bowlers did the job for India by bundling out New Zealand for a below-par 192.

Competing in their first series after the furore that followed the team's T20 World Cup exit in the semifinals last year, the Indians produced a thoroughly clinical performance to eke out the comfortable victory in 33 overs.

While Mandhana, fresh from winning the ICC women's cricketer of the year award, slammed her fourth ODI hundred, Rodrigues notched up her maiden international half-century.

"I think it's great to start the series with a

win and wonderful to see openers get an over 100-run partnership. I think lot of girls do look up to Mandhana. She had a great 2018 and she is continuing and it gives a lot of confidence to the dressing room," India captain Mithali Raj said in the post-match presentation.

"But easy catches should have been taken. We are definitely not overconfident," she added, referring to the shortcomings she noticed.

Mandhana and Rodrigues stitched together the highest ever opening wicket stand against New Zealand -- a 190-run partnership that stood for 32.2 overs. Rodrigues was making just her fifth appearance in national colours.

Mandhana's 104-ball knock included nine fours and three sixes, while Rodrigues managed nine hits to the fence.

"The wicket was great to bat on. We played according to the merit of the balls and it was a great innings," she said.

An overcast sky

meant that the two teams did not face the sun-strike that halted play for nearly half an hour in the men's game on Wednesday. Earlier, put in to bat, New Zealand let slip a good start and crumbled in the face of India's relentless spin combination of Poonam Yadav and Ekta Bisht.

Both Bisht and Yadav snared three wickets each to put the visiting side on top.

Yadav, in fact, ripped through the White Ferns' middle order, claiming the scalps of skipper Amy Satterthwaite (31), Lauren Down (0) and Amelia Kerr (28) in her quota of 10 overs.

This was after Susie Bates (38) and Sophie Devine (28) gave New Zealand a solid start.

But Devine's run out by Deepti Sharma triggered a collapse and New Zealand folded in 48.4 overs. Bates' 38 off 54 balls, including a couple of fours, was the best that any home batsman could manage. The next match of the series will be played in Mount Maunganui on January 29.

Pre-season NBA games will make huge impact, says Lewis

MUMBAI, JAN 24 (PTI): The historic and first-ever pre-season games of the widely followed National Basketball Association (NBA), involving Indiana Pacers and Sacramento Kings, in Mumbai later this year will create a huge impact, feels former NBA star Rashard Lewis.

"I am expecting it to create a major impact. First games played here in India between 2 young teams Indiana Pacers and Sacramento Kings, two very good teams for the future.

"I expect the kids and the fans to come out and support them, said the 6-foot 10-inch former

forward during an interaction with the media here on Thursday. I think they will have a lot of fun and learn a lot of things.

"A lot of camps and clinics will also be con-

ducted by both the teams when they are in town," added Lewis, who won the NBA championship with the Miami Heat in 2013.

The two pre-season games, announced in December last by the NBA, are scheduled on October 4 and 5 at the indoor stadium of the National Sports Club of India in Worli here.

Asked whether a professional basketball league, in the wake of successful other sports leagues like IPL, ISL and PKL, is the way to go forward, Lewis said that certainly was the way to promote the game.

"Yes, it will help grow the sport tremendously. Just like the other countries have leagues that they relate to the NBA as well. "There are a lot of different leagues that are played around the world.

Spain tour will be good indicator ahead of Olympic Qualifiers: Rani

BENGALURU, JAN 24 (PTI): Indian women's hockey team skipper Rani Thursday said their Spanish tour will help "understand where we stand" ahead of the Olympic Qualifiers, slated to be held later this year.

The tour opener will be played in Murcia.

"It will be a challenging tour no doubt but our team has made a lot of improvement in the past two years and we see this as a great opportunity to understand where we stand ahead of the Olympic Qualifying events this year," stated Rani.

The Indian team will play four matches against Spain between January 26 to January 31 followed by two games against Ireland on February 2 and 3.

"We have quite a few youngsters who have been



given a chance to show their potential against strong teams. It is important to have a larger pool of players with good international exposure ahead of important tournaments this year," she added. Rani believes her team will carry confidence from its impressive performances last year, which helped India move up the FIH world rankings.

"Though we surprised many with our performance against teams like England and

I think if they help create a league here it can help the sport grow.

"And they can have their own league just like NBA. China has its own league," he noted.

Lewis, who twice made it to the NBA All-Stars in his playing days, is on a four-day visit to the city to promote the game before leaving for Bengaluru.

He was of the opinion that the hoop game was picking up in the country.

"Yes, I feel the sport is picking up here in India and is moving in the right direction.

"Not only for basketball reasons but for educational reasons as well - to teach them how to play the game in the right way - and I think the more we can reach out to the youth and the community, the more it can grow," he explained.

Sun-strike halt: Napier Mayor asks India, NZ cricketers to toughen up

NAPIER, JAN 24 (PTI): Cricketers from India and New Zealand should be tough enough to deal with a "bit of sun in their eyes", said Napier's Mayor Bill Dalton and wondered if players would have walk off if a similar situation arose in India.

The first ODI between India and New Zealand here on Wednesday was halted for about half an hour due to players being blinded by a setting sun, a bizarre first in international cricket which is otherwise no stranger to rain-related interruptions.

"I wonder if in India they go off the field because they have sun in their eyes," Dalton was quoted as saying by 'stuff.co.nz'.

"To be absolutely honest with you, my view is that these guys are sportsmen who play outside. If they get a bit of sun in their eyes that's part of the game. It's an outdoor sport and they've got to toughen up... It's all a bit weird to me," he added.

New Zealand Cricket spokesman Richard Boock said there was no immediate remedy in sight for the problem.

"It's something we need to have a talk about and review in the course of time, but there isn't any immediate remedy that's obvious," he said. Indian captain Vi-

rat Kohli, whose side's eight-wicket demolition of New Zealand was somewhat overshadowed by the bizarre turn of events, said after the match that he had never experienced a sun-induced stoppage in his life. "It was funny. In 2014, I got out once with the sun in my eyes and this rule wasn't there then," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

The decision to halt proceedings was taken after the dinner break of the day-nighter, keeping the players' safety in mind, on-field umpire Shaun George said.

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson took a lighthearted view on the situation.

"It is hard to move the sun and hard to move the Grand Stand. So, we didn't have much option and had to sit down a bit," he quipped.

Stoppages due to sun have also been witnessed at few English grounds, but none of them were international matches.

In 1980, an India-England Test match in Mumbai was brought forward by a day due to a solar eclipse.

Normally, the cricket pitches are positioned in the North-South direction to avoid this scenario, but at McLean Park, the pitch is East-West facing.

RJD leader shot dead; Lalu, Kushwaha express outrage



SAMASTIPUR (BIHAR), JAN 24 (PTI): An RJD leader was shot dead here early Thursday in Samastipur district, evoking condemnation from opposition leaders in the state including the party's jailed national president Lalu Prasad.

Raghuvar Rai (50), state general secretary of the RJD and a former deputy chairman of the Zila Parishad, was gunned down at Kalyanpur while he was on morning walk, Superintendent of Police Harpreet Kaur said.

She said motorcycle-borne assailants, whose identity and number were yet to be ascertained, fled the spot after firing at Rai.

The leader was taken to a hospital in the neighbouring Darbhanga district where he succumbed to injuries, Kaur said.

Following the murder, the RJD supremo took to the micro-blogging site twitter and trained his guns at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, though he did not mention the latter by name.

Sharing a news report about Rai's killing being the fifth incident of murder reported from

the state in the past 24 hours, Prasad tweeted in Hindi: "He feels no shame, keeps saying there is rule of law. People are being killed like insects in Bihar and he goes on playing the same record".

Prasad is serving sentences in a number of fodder scam cases and lodged at a hospital in Ranchi for various ailments.

His official twitter handle is operated by people close to him.

Prasad's younger son Tejashwi Yadav, leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly, tweeted: "Nitish Kumar ji, please rein in the goons who enjoy state patronage. What is the use of your keeping the Home portfolio. Criminals have been killing workers of RJD and RLSP but till date you have kept silent."

Rashtrika Lok Samata Party (RLSP) chief Upendra Kushwaha also came out with a tweet alleging that the state government had become "deaf, dumb and mute" and also used the Bihari slang "thethar" (callous) for the regime while expressing concern over the state of affairs.

China clones five gene-edited monkeys for human disease research

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, JAN 24 (PTI):

Scientists in China have cloned five monkeys after editing genes to induce several human diseases like Alzheimer's that they claim will help in medical research, an advance which is likely to raise fresh ethical concerns about gene-editing.

The announcement follows the recent confirmation that the world's first gene-edited human babies have been born in China, following an "unauthorised experiment" that has caused widespread disquiet in the scientific community.

Chinese scientists have cloned five monkeys from a gene-edited macaque with circadian rhythm disorders that are linked to sleep problems, depression and Alzheimer's disease, the official Xinhua news agency said on Thursday.

It is the first time multiple clones had been made from a gene-edited monkey for biomedical research, the news agency said. Chinese Scientists made the announcement of the monkey cloning on Thursday with two articles published in National Science Review, a top Chinese journal in English.

The cloned monkeys were born in Shanghai at Institute of Neuroscience of Chinese Academy of Sciences. Researchers said that the advance



means that a population of customised gene-edited monkey models with uniform genetic background will be available for biomedical research.

Disorders of circadian rhythm are associated with many human diseases, including sleep disorders, depression, diabetic mellitus, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Previously, mice and flies were widely used for the research of such diseases, but these animal models differ greatly from human beings in terms of activity routines, brain structure and metabolic rate.

The announcement with photographs of the newly born monkeys in incubator comes in the backdrop of China

punishing a scientist He Jiankui whose experiments resulted in the birth of twin gene edited babies. A special investigation team held that He defied the ban and carried out unauthorised experiments.

He had announced their birth in November, after China launched a probe. The investigating team has confirmed that while one volunteer delivered twins Lulu and Nana another lady is pregnant. The cloned monkeys, closer to human in physiology, make better models for research on disease pathogenesis and potential therapeutic treatments.

In order to create an ideal donor monkey, researchers knocked out BMAL1, a core circadian regulatory transcription

factor, using gene editing at the embryo stage.

They selected one of the gene-edited monkeys with the most severe disease phenotypes as the donor. The fibroblasts of the donor were then used to clone five monkeys by somatic cell nuclear transfer, the same method used to generate Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, the first cloned monkeys born in China at the end of 2017.

Different from Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, generated by using fibroblasts from an aborted fetus, the new clones were made using a gene-edited young adult male monkey.

"It shows that besides using fetus, batch cloning of gene-edited male monkeys with diseases is also feasible," Qiang Sun

of the institute said. Sun said the research programme was reviewed and supervised by the institute's ethic committee in accordance with international ethical standards of animal research.

He said that the research signified the maturing of China's somatic cell cloning.

Muming Poo, the director of the institute, said that the research team would focus on cloning monkey models with different brain diseases in the future.

Besides being used to study human brain diseases, the models will be used to test medicine effectiveness, which can help reduce the number of animal models used in experiments and lower the cost of medicine development, he said.

Jakarta ex-governor freed from prison after blasphemy sentence

JAKARTA, JAN 24 (AFP):

Jakarta's former governor has been released from prison, his assistant said Thursday, nearly two years after his blasphemy conviction fanned fears over religious intolerance in the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation. Basuki Tjahaja Purnama -- the Indonesian capital's first non-Muslim governor in half a century and its first ethnic Chinese leader -- left Mako Brimob prison in Depok, outside Jakarta, at around 7:30 am local time, Ima Mahdiah told AFP.

Supporters of the former governor, who is popularly known as Ahok, gathered outside the prison, chanting and cheering his new-found freedom. The release ends one of the most tumultuous chapters in Indonesian politics in recent memory.

Purnama had been a popular politician who won praise for trying to clean up the traffic-clogged megacity and clamp down on corruption before his imprisonment. But his downfall came quickly after comments he made on the campaign trail during a re-election bid saw him accused of insulting Is-

lam. The filmed remarks, which went viral online, sparked mass protests in Jakarta, spearheaded by radical groups opposed to a non-Muslim leader and encouraged by his political rivals.

He lost the election to a Muslim challenger and was then sentenced to two years' jail in May 2017. It was an unusually harsh sentence -- prosecutors had only recommended probation for the now 52-year-old.

"He was picked up by his son Nicholas Sean Purnama" after being released, his assistant Mahdiah said. "He will spend time with his family first, resting." Purnama's case drew international headlines and a wave of criticism, including from the United Nations, which urged the country of 260 million to revise its decades-old blasphemy law. The charge against him centred on a remark he made to voters about his Muslim rivals using a Koranic verse to trick people into voting against him, which judges ruled amounted to blasphemy against Islam.

The huge demonstrations calling for Purnama's jailing fuelled con-

cerns about the growing influence of religious hardliners and that the Southeast Asian country's much-vaunted tolerant brand of Islam was under threat.

Indonesia's blasphemy law states that anyone found guilty of "expressing feelings of hostility" towards religion can be jailed for up to five years.

It applies to any of the six officially recognised religions, including Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism, but most prosecutions are brought against people accused of blaspheming Islam, which is followed by nearly 90 percent of the population.

Among them was an ethnic Chinese Buddhist woman found guilty in August of insulting Islam for asking her neighbourhood mosque to lower the volume on its sound system. She was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

The woman's comments about the mosque noise triggered riots in 2016 that saw angry Muslim mobs ransack Buddhist temples.

Some ethnic Chinese in the area fled in fear.

Sports-loving sultan picked as Malaysian king after shock abdication

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 24

(AFP): Malaysia's royal families on Thursday picked a sports-loving sultan as the country's new king after the last monarch abdicated in a historic first following his reported marriage to a Russian ex-beauty queen. The previous king, Sultan Muhammad V, stepped aside this month following just two years on the throne after reports surfaced he had married the former Miss Moscow while on medical leave. There was great shock across Malaysia at the first abdication of a monarch in the Muslim-majority country's history.

Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, a keen athlete who holds a string of positions on sporting bodies, including at world football governing body FIFA, was elected as the new king

during a special meeting of Malaysia's Islamic royalty. Sultan Abdullah "has been chosen as the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (king) for a period of five years starting from January 31, 2019," said a statement from the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal, Syed Danial Syed Ahmad. Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy, with a unique arrangement where the national throne changes hands every five years between rulers of the country's nine states headed by Islamic royalty.

Eight of the state sultans earlier met at the national palace in Kuala Lumpur for the so-called "Conference of Rulers" to select the new king. The only one absent was Muhammad V, who remains the sultan of the northeastern state of Kelantan despite having abdicated as the national monarch.

Abdullah was widely

expected to become king as the central state of Pahang was next in line to provide the monarch. The 59-year-old was named Pahang's new ruler -- replacing his elderly, ailing father -- several days after Muhammad V's abdication, paving the way for him to become the next national monarch.

The deputy king was named as Sultan Nazrin Shah of Perak state, according to the statement.

As well as being a member of FIFA's council -- which lays out the vision for global football -- he is president of the Asian Hockey Association and a former head of the Football Association of Malaysia. After attending school in Malaysia, the keen polo player went on to study in Britain, where he attended the Sandhurst military academy, according to a biography published on Bernama.

Indonesia flood, landslide death toll rises to 26



MAKASSAR, JAN 24 (AFP): The death toll from flash floods and landslides in Indonesia jumped to 26, a disaster agency official said Thursday, as rescuers race to find still-missing victims.

Thousands have been evacuated from their homes as heavy rain and strong winds pounded the southern part of the island of Sulawesi, swelling rivers that burst their

banks and inundating dozens of communities in nine southern districts. Parts of the provincial capital Makassar have also been affected.

"As of this morning, 26 people are confirmed to have died and 24 others are missing," said Syamsibar, the head of the local disaster management agency, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

The death toll had stood at eight on Wednesday. More than 3,000 people have been evacuated and at least 46 are being treated at local hospitals and health clinics. The floods also damaged houses, government buildings, schools and bridges.

"The search and rescue teams are still looking for missing victims and evacuating people whose homes

were inundated by the flooding," Syamsibar said. Landslides and flooding are common in Indonesia, especially during the monsoon season between October and April, when rain lashes the vast tropical archipelago.

In October, flash floods and landslides killed at least 22 people in several districts across Sumatra island.

Trump delays State of the Union address

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JAN 24 (PTI):

President Donald Trump Thursday announced that he would delay his State of the Union address until a crippling government shutdown ends, backing down in a major spat with the Democrats over his plan to build a controversial border wall along the US-Mexico border.

His announcement came after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi rescinded an invitation for him to deliver the speech in the House

Chamber. A row between Trump and the Democrats over border security has led to the longest government shutdown in US history. Trump is demanding USD 5.7 billion of congressional funding to build a wall on the US-Mexico border, but newly empowered Democrats have refused.

Some 800,000 federal employees have been going unpaid since December 22 due to the shutdown. Trump announcing his decision said it was Pelosi's "prerogative" to sug-

gest a later date. "As the Shutdown was going on, Nancy Pelosi asked me to give the State of the Union Address. I agreed. She then changed her mind because of the shutdown, suggesting a later date. This is her prerogative - I will do the Address when the Shutdown is over," Trump said.

"I am not looking for an ... alternative venue for the SOTU Address because there is no venue that can compete with the history, tradition and

importance of the House Chamber. I look forward to giving a 'great' State of the Union Address in the near future!"

On Wednesday House Speaker Nancy Pelosi withdrew an invitation for him to address Congress, saying government services should fully re-open first.

Trump initially said the speech should be "on time, on schedule, and very importantly, on location." Trump in a letter to Pelosi on Wednesday had

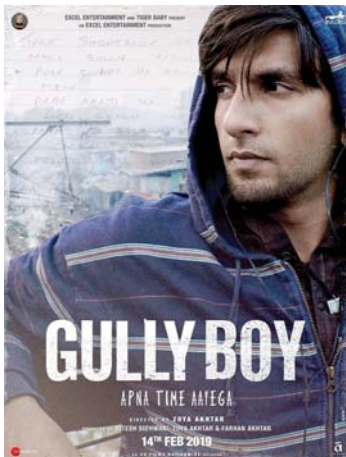
asserted that there are no security concerns as claimed by her in a January 3 letter, and as such he looks forward to seeing her at the Congress on January 29 to deliver his annual State of the Union Address. On Thursday, Pelosi fired back, telling Trump that "the House of Representatives will not consider a concurrent resolution authorising the President's State of the Union Address in the House Chamber until government has opened".





OUT AND ABOUT! The World of Dance host, Jenna Dewan, is spotted grabbing lunch with a friend in L.A.

Ranveer signed 'Gully Boy' because of original 'Mere Gully Mein'



MUMBAI, JAN 24 (PTI): "Gully Boy" is one of 2019's most awaited films and actor Ranveer Singh says it was the original "Mere Gully Mein" track that had him hooked. In the Zoya Akhtar directorial, the 33-year-old actor plays an up-and-coming rapper who sets out to achieve his dream by rhyming about his life on the Mumbai streets.

Ranveer says the original number, created by underground rappers Divine and Naezy, blew him away when he saw its video for the first time. "When Zoya pitched me this film, 'Mere Gully Mein', the original video was the first thing she showed me. She said that this is the flavour of the film I want to make and the video completely blew my brains.

"I mugged up the entire rap and since then I started following Naezy and Divine's music. 'Mere Gully Mein' for me, like for many others, is a huge breakthrough for the scene, the movement that's happening in our society and I'm glad that I was the first one to whom this breakthrough of a song reached," he told PTI. The actor, who has recreated Naezy's portion in the album, says incidentally it was the first song he rapped for the album.

He says it was "almost like my test". "Zoya was unsure about my rapping skills at first. I remember that day at Purple Haze studio; Divine was there - he was actually in the booth with me; hyping me and guiding me. And it happened in the first take. "Divine loved it, Zoya loved

it and it was decided there and then after I rapped Naezy's verse from 'Mere Gully Mein' that I would be doing my own voice in the film," Ranveer says.

Besides "Mere Gully Mein", two other tracks -- "Asli Hip Hop" and "Apna Time Aayega" -- have been released from the album.

And Ranveer has lent his voice to a total of four numbers in the film's album. The actor's last release "Simmba" was a massive hit and he is currently prepping for Kabir Khan's sports drama "83". "Gully Boy", also featuring Alia Bhatt and Kalki Koechlin, hits the screens February 14.

Of Siachen soldiers and glacier captains: Nat Geo docu captures remarkable stories of survival

Kunal Dutt

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI): How do soldiers survive at minus 50 degrees Celsius in Siachen and glacier captains carry out evacuation flying over relentless ice-fields in the world's highest battlefield?

These and few other lesser-known stories of the Indian Air Force's operations in the toughest climatic conditions in the country will be unveiled through a special documentary that premieres Friday on National Geographic channel to mark the 70th Republic Day.

Titled 'Extreme Flight : Indian Air Force', the 44-minute film with its stunning visuals, captures the story of selfless service rendered by personnel of the Army who guard the nation at high-altitude border posts, and men and women of the IAF who rush relief material and succour to soldiers in helicopters flown in very harsh weather conditions.

Narrated by actor Kabir Bedi, the Republic Day special documentary in English, will also be broadcast on the channel on January 26 at 12 noon and 8 pm and available on Hotstar.

Shruti Takulia, Creative Director and Vice President, India productions at the National Geographic, says, the project had many challenges, but the IAF provided valuable guidance and technical and logistic support to help tell the untold or lesser-known stories to people, while ensuring the safety of the crew.

Siachen Glacier is a place where wind speed could reach 160 kmph, temperature sometimes falls below minus 50 degrees Celsius and has low oxygen level, and at such high-altitude areas mere survival itself is a challenge. Soldiers face several risks, including suffering frost bite, depression, sleep loss, diminished appetite, hypoxia or even memory loss, the film says.

"As with all our projects, idea was to tell these lesser-known stories and IAF's partnership made the film so powerful in capturing the various narratives, whether it is challenges faced by the first woman glacier captain of the Air Force, Sq Ldr Khusboo Gupta, at the Leh Air Base, to the risk involved in flying a helicopter in extreme weather conditions," Takulia told PTI in an exclusive interview.

Gupta is part of the Siachen Pioneers, a helicopter unit assigned to support the glacier's least-accessible posts.

Takulia said the idea for the film first germinated in 2016 and "then we took it further and then officials from the IAF also offered a lot of suggestions. Then the research phase began for which we consulted various defence and medical experts".

"The actual shoot began last year in February and the final shoot ended in May. From Jammu and Kashmir to Northeast, we have showcased the amazing stories of survival that not many know about. In the film, we can see defence personnel in deep snow,

sometimes three feet-deep or pilots and others wearing battery-heated boots to ward off frostbite. We tried to capture these microscopic details to show how difficult the survival is there," she said.

According to the documentary, Siachen has the world's highest battlefield and the film also captures the Leh Air Base located in picturesque Leh town with largely Buddhist population. At 10,682 ft, it is a crucial base for high-al-

ing, said many crew members had suffered injury during the filming.

"I once received a report from the crew which read like -- one torn ligament, one sprained ankle, one tetanus shot, one hand with rusted barbed wire in it, two crew members who collapsed due to a lack of oxygen, clothing blown away by the downwash or blast of an aircraft engine three times, four instances of crew member who fell sick, five



titude air maintenance on Siachen.

In Northeast, Ziro Advanced Landing Ground in Arunachal Pradesh at 5,121 ft has been featured, where from Mi-17 carries out evacuation sorties and other operations, often affected by mist and rains. The Chabua Air Force Base in Assam also has been filmed, and breathtaking mid-air shots of Sukhoi Su-30 aircraft will delight the viewers.

Takulia said the IAF had specified norms for filming and the crew members were provided safety harness during the shoot which took place under the scrutiny of the IAF officials.

"For several sequences where we did not have the crew, we requested the IAF and its pilots flying the planes to take shots for us during operations. It was a great team work between the IAF and National Geographic," she said.

But it was not just one story of survival, as for the crew filming the documentary, it too was a survival test against the odds.

"We had chosen a very tight team and fitness was a major factor in including them in the project. They underwent some health regimen before leaving for Leh and also spent two-three days in Leh before the actual shoot to acclimatise themselves with the extreme weather conditions," Takulia said.

The creative director of the project, who made a few trips to oversee shoot-

instances of oxygen deprived and very cold crew members at 18,000 ft and multiple instances of ego bruised from falls in the snow," she said.

They were injured but their sense of humour was intact and the enthusiasm of the crew was still very high till the end of the shoot that tested their limits, physical and mental, Takulia added.

The film also captures a 'stranded pilot's struggle for survival' as part of a course of the Jungle and Snow Survival School of the Air Force in Pir Panjal range (4600-13,500 ft) of the Himalayas.

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