



**50 CENT CELEBRATES DEMOTION OF NYPD COP WHO TOLD OFFICERS TO SHOOT HIM 'ON SIGHT' WITH INSTAGRAM POSTS**  
pg 08

**INDIAN CITIZENSHIP HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED TO 'US' VERSUS 'THEM'**

04

**DEMI LOVATO REVEALED JUST HOW INTENSELY HER OLD MANAGEMENT TEAM CONTROLLED HER DIET AND IT'S HEARTBREAKING**

pg 08



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## SENIOR OFFICIAL MEETS CANDIDATES BUT COLLECTS NO GRIEVANCES

# Recruitment process cancelled, Language teacher applicants demand explanations and justice

*"Not asking for regularization, we followed due process"*

**TSHERING EDEN  
GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

After camping at the Education Department at Tashiling Secretariat for the entire day on Thursday, the Graduate and Primary teacher candidates, whose appointment process was recently cancelled by the Department, finally met a department official a day later on Friday. Representatives of the Language teachers were called in to meet the Director [Higher Education], Kapil Meena, today, but the meeting itself was of little consequence beyond getting an appointment with the department head a week later.

Speaking to media persons after the meeting, the teachers informed that a



meeting with the Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, GP Upadhyaya, has been fixed for 13 March.

Although they wanted to meet the ACS today itself and share their grievances, they were informed that he was busy in a meeting. The Director heard their grievances but refused to officially accept their grievances which the

teachers wanted to submit in written form. That is something they will be able to do only when they meet Mr Upadhyaya.

"On 13 March a five-member team of representatives will place our grievances in written to the ACS in the meeting. We are hoping for a positive response," they said.

They mentioned that their

main demand to the department is to withdraw the recent notice of the Education Department withdrawing the employment and other notices regarding recruitment of Language teachers, and that the department immediately publish the result of the Graduate Teacher interviews.

"We have an 11-point list of grievances to be submitted

to the Education Department. We would also like to urge the Education Minister to take the

ment which effectively cancelled the recruitment process they had completed more than a year

## 12 YEARS IN WAITING

Daljeet Limboo, a resident of Mangshila in North Sikkim, has been working as an ad-hoc Graduate Teacher for the last 13 years. Since he joined, this was the first opportunity he got to apply for a regular Language teacher post.

He first worked in EMRS Swayem and then joined Mangshila Senior Secondary School where he is currently working.

"I am 41 years old and won't get another opportunity like this to get a regular job. I have a family to support. I thank the Department for giving me this opportunity and also request them to give me justice," said Mr Limboo.

matter seriously," they said.

The teachers said that their future course of action will depend on the outcome of the 13 March meeting.

Around a hundred Graduate and Primary Language teacher applicants had gathered at the Education Department on Thursday to convey their grievances regarding the recent withdrawal of employment and other notices by the Education Department.

ago and were now awaiting the results for:

They had arrived at the department at 9 in the morning on Thursday and till around 6 pm, had not been able to meet any Department official. This, despite the Department's invitation that affected applicants could approach it directly with any grievances with regard to the cancellation.

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## CM confident that NEWMA will be beneficial for Sikkim



**NEW DELHI, 06 MAR [IPR]:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] attended a conference on Draft North-East Water Management Authority Bill 2020 in New Delhi today.

In his address, the CM stated that heavy monsoon was the reason for the erosion of river basins in both Teesta and Rangit leading to

loss of life and property. Thus, the establishment of a North-East Water Management Authority (NEWMA) would be beneficial regarding this issue in the state bringing relief to the people.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the State government is hopeful that NEWMA will look into it so that the water resources can be used for

revenue generation.

Sikkim being the youngest member of the North-East region, the Chief Minister talked about the geographical attributes and flora & fauna of the state.

The Chief Minister mentioned the two major rivers of the state - Teesta and Rangit - being glacier-fed, have been facing

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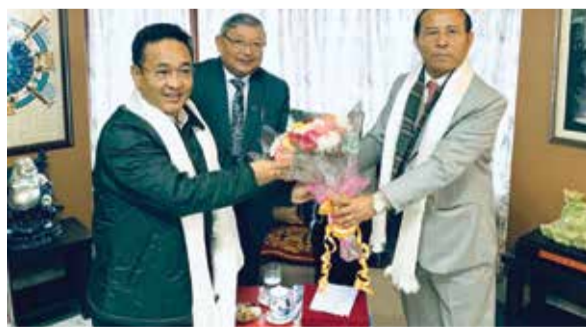
## Justice Subba takes office as first Sikkimese Chairperson of Law Commission

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 05 MAR:**

Justice AP Subba assumed charge as the Chairperson of the Law Commission of Sikkim on Wednesday, 04 March. With this, Justice Subba becomes the first Sikkimese to be appointed to the post even since the Commission came into existence in the state in 1976.

Appreciating the initiative taken by the State Government, Justice Subba has reiterated his desire and determination to work with full responsibility and dedication.

His latest appointment joins a long list of firsts for Justice Subba who was also the first Sikkimese to be appointed a High Court Judge, a post he was elevated to in the year 2004. Apart



from serving on the High Court bench in Sikkim, Justice Subba also served as a Judge in the High Court of Guwahati.

Born on 01 March, 1948 at Hee Pechrek in West Sikkim, Justice Subba completed BSc from Kohima Science College in Nagaland and completed his degree in law from Shillong Law College, Meghalaya, under Guwahati University in 1972.

After his LLB, he got

himself enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura in 1973 and practiced law in Nagaland and Sikkim for about three years until he joined Sikkim Judicial Service as a Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate in 1976.

He was elevated as the Registrar General of Sikkim High Court in the year 1999.

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## Hospitals get separate room for sexual assault victims

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

A designated separate room for medical examination of the victims of POCSO or rape with a female Doctor/attendant attached, has been set-up at the New STNM Multispeciality Hospital at Sochyakgang, a press release informs.

This initiative was taken in order to curtail the delay and undue harassment to victims of POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) or rape as well as their guardians by getting undue publicity and social stigma, under the directions of Judge, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, High Court of Sikkim and Executive Chairperson, Sikkim SLSA and in co-ordination with Health Care & Family Welfare Department.

Apart from the aforesaid room, designated space for POCSO victims have been identified in all the three District Hospitals (West at Gyalshing, North at Mangan and South

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## Bhaichung conferred TOI lifetime achievement award



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

Former Indian Football team skipper, Hamro Sikkim Party working president, Bhaichung Bhutia, was conferred the Lifetime Achievement award for his contributions to foot-

ball by the Times of India group on Thursday.

The award was handed over by Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju at The Times of India Sports Awards (TOISA) ceremony held in New Delhi.

Sportstars PV Sindhu, Rohit Sharma, Rani, Saurabh Chaudhary, Dutte Chand, Manu Bhaker, Bajrang Punia and Jaspal Rana are some of the other prominent names which feature among the winners at the Times of India Sports Awards.





**LAND FOR SALE (URGENT SALE)**

BL land for sale. Road site 100ft by 50ft at Lower Syari. Enroute Ranipool to Deorali via Syari. 10 Minutes Drive from Ranipool. Serious Buyer may contact : **83720-77482/ 94341-36989/ 98320-82664**

## CM discusses disaster mitigation with SSDMA vice chairperson

Summit Report  
Gangtok, 05 Mar:  
Vice Chairperson, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Prof Vinod K Sharma, accompanied by Land Revenue & Disaster Management Minister, KN Lepcha, called on Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] here at his residence.

The Chief Minister, an official press release informs, desired that the next meeting of the SSDMA be held in the first week of April after the budget session.

During the meeting, the CM is reported to have stressed that the Mangan Landslide Mitigation project given by the National Disaster Management Authority be implemented as a benchmark in landslide mitigation and given to a competent agency having experience and the latest technology in the field.

The CM also identified troublespots like the Gyalshing and Bojeck landslides for priority mitigation and suggested that a Project Monitoring Unit be established in SSDMA to monitor and

extend advice from time to time.

He is also reported to have emphasised that the State Disaster Response Fund be properly utilised before monsoons and that a substantial amount be kept for relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation during or after monsoons.

He added that the Landslide Mitigation Fund provided by NDMA be utilised on priority areas identified by experts and approved by the government and not be diverted for any other purposes.

The SDRF, he said, should be used for relief works below Rs 2 lakh and payment procedure simplified for smaller works in consultation with the Finance and Public Works Department.

Prof Sharma, in turn, informed the CM that many national and international agencies were interested in working with SSDMA in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The CM, in conclusion, reiterated his commitment to make a Disaster-Free and Safe Sikkim.

## Justice Subba...

Over the years, in addition to his normal duties, he was also assigned additional duties under various special Acts between 1992-2003. He was Special Judge for Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act for Sikkim from 1992 to 1996 and then again from 2001 to 2002.

He was Special Judge under Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act from the year 1995 to 1997 and Member Secretary, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority and High Court Legal Services Committee, Sikkim from the year 1998 to 2004; President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, East District [1999 to 2004]; Single Member, Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal from the year 1995 to 1997 and again from the year 2001 to 2004. He was Judge, Permanent and Continuous High Court Lok Adalat, High Court of Sikkim from the year 2002 to 2003.

He was the first Special Judge under Prevention of Corruption Act for Sikkim from the year 1995 to 1996.

He also worked as part-time lecturer at Sikkim Government Law College for over four years between 1980 and 1984 in addition to his normal official duties.

He retired on 28 Feb, 2010 as Judge, High Court of Sikkim.

He is presently also heading State Level Committee constituted by the State Government under the direction of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi.

Today, Justice Subba called on Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] at his residence after being appointed Chairman of the Law Commission of Sikkim. Law Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha was also present for the meeting.

## Hospitals...

at Namchi) for their examination wherein female Doctors and attendants have already been identified.

Once a complaint has been received under POCSO Act or under 376 I.P.C. (Rape), the concerned Police Officer of the respective District should immediately escort the victim of sexual assault to the designated separate medical examination room of that particular District and inform the District Child Protection Officers (in case victim is a minor) in order to maintain confidentiality about the identity of the victim and to prevent any stigmatization of the victims involved.

## CM confident...

problems due to the melting of the glaciers resulting in the irregular flow of water for irrigation, hydro-power production, drinking water, etc.

As a result, the people of Sikkim are facing difficulties. This, the Chief Minister suggested incorporating the provisions of conservation of glaciers, education, and awareness to the local communities and maintenance of traditional practices in the Bill.

Talking about the mountainous terrain of the state, the Chief Minister mentioned that the flow of the water is mainly towards the southern region due to which the government had to build catchment areas for perennial regions.

He emphasized the importance of including a provision regarding the development of catchment areas in the region as a perennial source of water during dry seasons. He also spoke on the importance of including a provision concerning the protection and conservation of drying springs in the region and talked about adopting these methods in the state.

The Chief Minister also suggested the conservation of high altitude lakes and the development of artificial lakes to conserve rainwater to be incorporated in the Bill.

He stressed on the conservation of the Himalayan region and biodiversity as a long term solution for water supply due to the northeast region falling under the Eastern Himalayas which is a major source of water for the plains as well.

He also requested social organisations, local traditional bodies, and the traditional practitioners to be made major stakeholders in the proposed Bill.

The Chief Minister informed the successful implementation of Dhara Vikas Yojana for the revival of dying springs and water bodies in the state.

He said that this practice has been successful to a large extent and should be included in the proposed Bill. He also suggested the formation of a scientific advisory body that for the authority.

# Jacob Khaling dismisses SDF claims of returning to government

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Senior Sikkim Krantikari Morcha leader, Political Secretary to the Chief Minister, Jacob Khaling, today countered that Sikkim Democratic Front cannot win any election under the leadership of Pawan Chamling.

His remark was in response to the SDF president, Mr Chamling's statement yesterday that SDF will won the next elections and could even form the government mid-term if it so desired.

He said that SDF and its leader Pawan Chamling cannot return to power since it has lost the faith and mandate of the people of Sikkim.

He further pointed out that Sikkim has never returned a rejected leader to office.

“Pawan Chamling can lie and mislead the people but does not have the ability to change the history of Sikkim. The claim that he will return to power with full majority is just an attempt to enervise his party workers,” Mr Khaling said.

“The people of Sik-



kim have brought SKM to government and to make such statements is anti-democracy and anti-people and an insult to the people's mandate. A mature politician should be able to accept the mandate of the people,” he added.

Mr Khaling added that instead of making false claims, Mr Chamling should go through the White Paper vol 1 and 2 taken out by the SKM government on the financial status of the State.

He informed that the SDF government had also taken out a white paper soon after forming the government in 1994 when the State had a loan burden of Rs 214.93

crore on the State government and per capita loan of Rs 4,797.

He added that this loan on the State has increased to Rs 16,207.94 crores as of May 2019 translating to a loan burden of Rs 2,45,203 per person.

“When SKM formed the government, apart from this loan amount there were pending bills and liabilities of Rs 700 crores and project liabilities of Rs 5,604 crores, so the overall debt and liabilities on the State is Rs 21,812 crores and Rs 3,29,995 on every Sikkimese,” he claimed.

Mr Khaling stated that even after taking such huge loans, the previous government did not spend enough on development

and progress of the State but used it for corruption and commissions.

Responding to queries on the Transport Department proposal to review appointment of temporary employees hired between 2014 and 2019, Mr Khaling said that many appointments were made in different departments without the approval of Finance Department, Department of Personnel and other concerned departments during SDF government.

He stressed that the government was not removing any employees but making corrections otherwise a bad precedence will be established in the system.

## Sports and youth events cancelled

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 06 MAR:

Following the meeting held on 04 March to review and discuss preparedness and action plan for any possible Corona Virus outbreak in the State, the Sports and Youth Affairs Department has cancelled various events.

The participation of 33 youths from Sikkim who were scheduled to participate in North East Youth Exchange programme at Delhi stands cancelled.

The participation of under 13 and under 15 football teams scheduled to participate in Delhi Exposure and selection of prince of football w.e.f. 26 March has been cancelled.

The ongoing Chief Minister's Archery Championship has been postponed. Four teams from Bhutan have been restricted from participating in the championship.

Fifty youths from Nehru Yuva Kendra Delhi who are already here in Sikkim under Ek Bharat Ek Shrestha are undergoing medical tests.

North East NSS festival w.e.f. 19 to 23 March has been postponed to April.

## SKM's Chalak Morcha thanks Govt for granting demands

Summit Report

Gangtok, 06 Mar:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's drivers' front, Chalak Morcha, has expressed gratitude towards Transport Minister, Sanjeet Kharel, for accepting demands raised by it.

It is informed that the Chalak Morcha placed a nine-point charter of demands with the Minister on Thursday, seven of which were immediately accepted by the Minister and two were under consideration.

Addressing a press conference here today, a Chalak Morcha leader, Chung Chung Bhutia, thanked the Transport Minister for giving them a patient hearing and granting a majority of their demands on the spot.

The meeting, he in-

formed, was also attended by Political Secretary to the CM, Jacob Khaling, and senior officials from Police and Transport Departments.

He thanked the State government and the Chief Minister and Transport Minister for working continuously in the interest of the drivers of Sikkim

Another leader of Chalak Morcha, Rajni Gurung, thanked the State government for increasing the validity of the registration luxury vehicles by one more year. It is informed that this validity has been extended to 11 years from the existing 10 years.

She also urged Transport Department to make provisions for drivers to pay commercial tax at the Motor Vehicles Division itself.

sion itself.

Raju Thalal, also of Chalak Morcha, mentioned that Transport Minister has assured to bring out a gazette notification of the sanctioned demands soon.

Another leader of Chalak Morcha, Bhacihung Bhutia, informed that the Transport Department in coordination with Chalak Morcha will be organizing awareness camps to sensitize drivers about different subjects, rules and laws.

While refuting allegations of Sikkim Democratic Front president on the present government for harassing and raising huge revenues from drivers, they said drivers have been working freely under the present government.

## Making Schools Climate Smart program held at Soreng

GYALSHING, 06 MAR (IPR):

Two-day program titled 'Capacity Building Strategies for Managing Complex Disasters in the Face of Climate Change. Climate Schools initiative: Making Schools Climate Smart' was held at the Community Hall, Soreng, West Sikkim, from 05-06 Mar.

The program was organised by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in collaboration with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS).

Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha, attended the program as the chief guest and MLA (Soreng Chakung), Aditya Golay, was the guest of honor.

Minister Lepcha in his address acknowledged the efforts of the teachers who participated actively and managed the students during the program. He further extended his gratitude to the organisers for taking the initiative and emphasizing on disaster preparedness.

Mr Lepcha emphasized on the implications of Building By-Laws which needs to be followed to avert disasters in the future. He mentioned that our actions and works determine the future which we want to leave for our coming generations hence we must re-think the way we live and the impact it has on nature.

He further encouraged the students to educate their kins about the things they have learnt through the program and be the global Ambassadors of change which the planet needs.

Aditya Golay in his brief address spoke on how the State of Sikkim is blessed with everything. He then men-

tioned that the developmental works in the state needs to be aligned with nature without hampering the ecology and strive towards making Sikkim nature friendly.

He further stated that the depleting water sources are indications for us to work towards its conservation and hence all should cooperate to rejuvenate the natural springs and lakes in the state.

Vice-Chairman (SSDMA), Prof. V. K. Verma in his address applauded the enthusiasm of the Chief Minister, P. S. Tamang towards making disaster preparedness a priority in order to keep the Sikkimese community safe. He also thanked the continuous support of the Government towards their work ventures in the state.

The Education Minister declared Aditya Golay as the 'Champion of Disaster Risk Management.'

The winners of the Art competition were given certificates by the chief guest.

The winners of the Art competition are as follows

1st Prize: Master

Aashish Mukhia of K. B. Limboo Memorial Sr. Sec. School, Sreebadam, won the first prize followed by Manjila Biswa of Gelling Sr. Sec. School in second position while Kailash Pradhan of Tharpu Sr. Sec. School came third.

The Education Minister along with MLA Soreng-Chakung and Officials visited the Soreng Sr. Sec. School and interacted with the students. The Sunny Weather Lab, a school based weather station was also launched at the Soreng Sr. Sec. School.

## Recruitment process...

THE BACKSTORY

These teachers, all of them working on ad-hoc basis at present, had completed the recruitment process in 2018-19 and were waiting for the results to be announced. They had undergone a long drawn-out process that begins even before the recruitment process.

“We have to undergo B.Ed and then sit for Teacher Eligibility Test and only then do we qualify to apply for teacher vacancies. After that we applied for the vacancies, paid the application fee, cut BRs, sat for written exams and then classroom demonstration and viva voce. Having gone through all these steps, now they are cancelling it all,” said one of the teachers.

The Education Department had completed the recruitment process in Feb 2019 for the post of 173 Graduate Language Teachers, while for the 350 posts of Primary Language Teachers only the written exams had been held.

AND THEN...

At a time when the candidates were still being given the run around for the results, the department issued a notice on 25 March stating that the employment notice, advertisements and other notices had been withdrawn in light of a petition filed in the High Court of Sikkim which alleged that NCTE norms had been flouted in the recruitment process.

Angry teachers on Thursday said that most of them came to know of the withdrawal notice from a Summit Times news-report and that only a few have received the actual notices.

The notice says that the teachers can approach the department regarding any grievance within 30 days from the issue of this notice in case of any grievances.

Here, it is interesting to note that individual notices have been sent to the applicants instead of a public notice.

“Many of us will soon be leaving for CBSE Evaluation training in Guwahati and there are many who work in other districts and can't get leave to come here, so we thought we will talk to Department officials today but we have not been able to meet anyone,” said the teachers who were kept waiting the entire day without any word from the authorities.

They added that the Additional Chief Secretary, Education Department, was informed about the teachers approaching the Department on Thursday. He was clearly occupied with other tasks and does not appear to have delegated anyone to collect the grievances of the teachers.

AN OPPORTUNITY THAT DOES NOT COME OFTEN

According to the teachers, this was the first time that Graduate Nepali teacher recruitment was held while recruitment for regional language [Bhutia, Lepcha, Limboo, etc] teachers is being held after a gap of 12 years.

Most of the teachers have been working on ad-hoc basis for 08-10 years with one teacher who has been working on ad-hoc basis for 13 years now.

“We are not asking for regularization or any special favours. We sat for exams and viva following due process. Our documents were scrutinized before the recruitment began. Our recruitment process fulfilled all the required norms including NCTE norms. Why are they doing this to us?” asked the teachers.

DISCREPANCIES IN DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

The teachers also pointed out that the employment notice and advertisement notice that the department has withdrawn also included Post Graduate Language teachers whose recruitment process was completed and who are now working in various schools across the State.

This puts a question mark on these PG Language teachers who are about to complete their probation period.

The teachers have questioned the department's decision to cancel the recruitment process even before the next hearing of the case which is scheduled for 17 March.

A pertinent question to ask since the court has neither passed a final order on the matter nor has it issued an interim stay on the recruitment process.

Further, even though the petition challenging the Language Teacher recruitment was filed in the High Court of Sikkim nearly a year ago on 23 May 2019, the State Government is yet to file its counter affidavit, it is learnt.

“We approached the department many times in the past. Every time they gave some excuse or the other. They also assured to announce the results after the 2019 elections, and now they have taken this sudden decision,” they said.

They remain unconvinced of the explanation being offered by the Department, a suspicion which has only deepened with the Department's stand-offishness in how it has addressed their situation.

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### GENERAL LAND FOR SALE

General land 30X40 (3 Plots) available for sale at Tadong 6th Mile next to Harka Maya College. Flat Land no cutting required. Price 27 Lakhs (negotiable).

**Contact: 9800201335**

### LAND FOR SALE

A land measuring an area for 50x32 1/2 at Roadside just below housing colony is for sale. It is just a one minute walking distance from Namchi bazaar taxi stand. Interested party may contact 9593373387 and 9434406761

### LAND FOR SALE

An area measuring 1 acre at Sadam South Sikkim near Loretto Convent School at Gupti road. Price negotiable any one interested can contact: 78640-04501,62970-03235, 98320-48410

# Counselling held for 55 students selected under CMMSS

**GANGTOK, 05 MAR (IPR):** Students from across the state selected to undergo continue studies at reputed public schools within and outside the State under the Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme for 2020-21 attended a counselling and allotment session organized by the Education Department here at Chintan Bhawan today.

55 students, screened from a state-level exam, have been selected for the scholarship.

Today's programme had Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Go-lay] as the chief guest.

The Chief Minister congratulated the selected students and their parents and teachers for the progressive outcome and also thanked the Education Department for its effort.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government launched CMMSS from the year 2010 with an aim to provide full scholarship to talented and deserving children from underprivileged families with an opportunity to study in reputed Public Schools within and outside the State.

He informed that this year, 55 students have been selected against the traditional 50. An extra 5 seats are for students from the Lepcha community of Dzongu as a special encouragement to them.

Till date, 884 students have benefitted from CMMSS, he added.

CMMSS has been applauded nationwide because of its successful implementation and results. Lauded as one among the many innovative schemes of the state government, this educational scheme has been able to benefit the economically underprivileged children, he added.

Further, the Chief Minister



spoke about the future policies and programs of the government to impart quality education and informed that four Schools from all the four districts will be converted into model schools with the best of teachers, good quality infrastructure, etc.

Addressing the Principals and Heads of Schools in the audience, he assured to send them for educational training to foreign countries and within the nation in the days to come.

The Chief Minister also urged the Education Department to arrange an annual exposure tour programmes for students.

He also spoke about anti-drugs counselling and funds separated by the department which will be utilized by the schools, and UPSC coaching camp to be organized at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College from this year onwards.

Minister for Education, Kunga Nima Lepcha spoke about CMMSS and emphasized on the importance of the scheme.

He said that besides converting the desires and dreams of the students into reality, this meritorious scholarship scheme will increase quality of primary education and generate a sense of competition among students

from the primary level.

This scheme will also encourage the teachers and make guardians more responsive towards the academic performance of their children.

Additional Chief Secretary, Education Deptment, GP Upadhyaya, while providing the general background of the scheme, informed that the number of students sent to the different public schools under this scheme has increased.

He spoke about the expectations of the state from the selected students and highlighted the value and importance of schools where the seats are allotted.

He mentioned that state government spends about Rs 108 crore under this scheme with the dream of positive outcome for the State.

The programme also included a sharing of experiences by students who had availed CMMSS and received the opportunity to study in reputed schools such as Scindia School Gwalior and St Joseph's School, Martam, East Sikkim. They expressed their gratitude towards the State Government.

The programme also had the screening of a short documentary film on CMMSS prepared by the Education Department.

## Food Tech Conclave to promote new and low-cost food processing technologies



**GANGTOK, 05 MAR [IPR]:**

A Food Technology Conclave to generate awareness about new and low-cost food processing technologies was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce here in the capital today.

The Conclave is an effort to sensitize farmers and stakeholders and enhance the number of food processing units, generate wider awareness about new technologies in food processing and to inform entrepreneurs about the various schemes on food technology on behalf of Indian Chamber of Commerce pertaining to development of the sector in Sikkim.

The programme was also attended by Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, HK Sharma, Joint Secretary N Jaswant, ICC Bengal Chapter, Nishant Mittal, HoDs of line departments, FPO members, representatives from Sikkim Organic Mission,

entrepreneurs and students from Institute of Hotel Management.

The Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries has entrusted the Indian Chamber of Commerce with the task to organize the Conclave which is aimed to provide an opportunity for entrepreneurs, farmers and women to explore their chances in Contract Farming Sourcing, Processing, Value Addition, Distribution and promotion of food processing sector of Sikkim.

Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, Government of Sikkim, HK Sharma in his address said that the main objective of the mission is to sensitize people in rural areas about the various schemes.

He concluded his address by stating that the State must work vigorously to produce more organic products to create opportunities for the youth, farmers and entrepreneurs of Sikkim.

ICAR-NRCSS training for south farmers

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

ICAR-National Research Centre on Seed Spices [NRCSS], in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Sikkim, organised a two-day training under NEH Programme on Organic Production and Protection Technologies of Seed Spices for

Sikkim State 05-06 Mar. 160 farmers attended

the training programme form the villages of Ruchung, Perbing Khop, Passi, Kabrey, Rabitar and surrounding areas of Namthang.

An input support programme was also held for the benefit of the farmers to motivate them towards farming.

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Dated: 05/03/2020

### NOTICE

This is for information to all the concerned that as per the order of the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi in the matter of O.A No. 46/2018 regarding inventory of dairies operating in the States/UTs, all dairies & gaushalals operating in the state of Sikkim are required to submit the detailed information (inventory in respect of their establishment to the SPCB-Sikkim within one month from the date of issue of this notice without fail.

The performa may be downloaded from the link: 1. www.sikkimforest.gov.in/SPCB.html  
2. www.sikenvs.nic.in (under latest news).  
Contact No. 03592-281913.

Member Secretary,  
State Pollution Control Board-Sikkim  
Department of Forest & Environment  
Government of Sikkim  
Deorali Gangtok.

R.O. No. 389/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20 dated: 06.03.2020

## Cong asks SKM to stop blaming previous Govt and get working instead

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] president, Bharat Basnet, today asserted that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha should stop blaming the previous government for all ills and begin working on its announcements and promises.

While stating that there were lapses and mistakes in the previous government, Mr Basnet stressed that this was the reason that the people brought SKM to government and it was expected hence that now SKM will not repeat mistakes of the earlier government.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Basnet alleged that the SKM government was repeating the mistakes of the Sikkim Democratic Front government instead to fulfilling promises made to the people during the elections.

He mentioned that instead to providing new jobs, the SKM government has been taking out employees who were already in government employment.

He added that SKM which had positioned itself strongly against ad-hoc employment, was now continuing the practice and that despite the many promises made to the drivers of Sikkim, its policies have been hurting the drivers.

Describing the state government as a BJP-SKM alliance government, Mr Basnet alleged that this alliance has failed at all levels - in the State where promises included in the election manifesto are yet to see deliver and at the national level where the economy is in the doldrums.

## CAEPHT holds prog to promote poultry farming

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 MAR:**

A programme to promote poultry farming was held at CAEPHT Ranipool, on 04 March under the Chairmanship of Dean, Prof PP Dabral, and organized by PI of All India Coordinated Research Project on Plasticulture Engineering Technologies, Prof D Jhaharia, under the SCSP scheme of AICRP on PET.

The event was organized by the AICRP-PET, CAEPHT (CAU), to promote the poultry as one of the livelihood options for SC farmers of Sikkim.

50 chicks each, starter feeds, other nutrient supplements along with feeding and watering trays were provided to 26 farmers from East Sik-



kim during the inaugural program.

Prof Dabral, in his address, informed the gathering that the college has adopted four villages to be developed under the Central Government scheme, Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav.

Prof Jhaharia also

informed that the AICRP-PET centre has also adopted Bhasmey Padamchey village (East Sikkim) to develop as model village for showcasing various plasticulture engineering technologies under the SCSP scheme of the project.

## MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT MANGAN NORTH SIKKIM

Email: mnpnorth@gmail.com

Sealed Tender are invited from individual having COI/SSC and registered organization for the award of Bazar Contract, Car Parking Contract, Car Wash Centre, Pay & Use Toilet Contract and Restaurant under Mangan Nagar Panchayat for the year 2002-21.

The details of the contract and the tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Municipal Executive Officer, Mangan Nagar Panchayat, Mangan, North Sikkim on Payment by depositing the amount at Canara Bank, Mangan on all working days between 11 A.M to 3 P.M.

### DATES

1. First Date for issuance of Tender Documents : 16/03/2020
2. Last Date for issuance of Tender Documents: 19/03/2020
3. Last Date for Submission of Sealed Tender : 20/03/2020 (By 12.00 PM)
4. Date & Time of Opening of Tender : 20/03/2020 (1.00 PM onwards)
5. The rate quoted below the offset price will be out rightly rejected.
6. The details term and conditions can be seen in the Tender Documents.

MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MANGAN NAGAR PANCHAYAT

## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME GANGTOK

No: 971/SJ&WD/CPS/2020

Dated: 06/03/2020

### NOTICE

Reference Employment Notice No. 248/SJ&WD/CPS/2020, dated 03/02/2020, it is hereby informed to all eligible applicants that the date for the written examination have been fixed as below:

Sl.No.	Post	Dates of Exam	Morning/Afternoon
1.	Protection Officer	28/03/2020	Morning
2.	Programme Officer	28/03/2020	Afternoon
3.	Legal cum Probation Officer	29/03/2020	Morning
4.	Accountant	29/03/2020	Morning

Timing : Morning paper : 10 am to 12 pm After noon paper: 1 pm to 3 pm

Venue: Sikkim Government Law College, Burtuk, Gangtok, East Sikkim.

The subjects/ syllabus for the written examination is as follows:

Sl.No.	Post	Subjects
1	Programme Officer	General Knowledge, English, Sociology, Social Work & Law.
2.	Protection Officer	General Knowledge, English, Sociology, Social Work & Law.
3.	Legal cum Probation Officer	General Knowledge, English, Sociology, Law.
4.	Accountant	General Knowledge, English, Accountancy.

Sl.No.	Subjects	Syllabus
1	General Knowledge	International/National/State, Current Affairs.
2.	English	General English
3.	Sociology	Basics of Sociology.
4.	Law	Constitutional Law, Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Produce 1973, human rights laws, laws related to protection/welfare of women and children.
5.	Accountancy	Financial accounting , elementary mathematics, taxation , business Law.

Besides the above subjects, the applicants should have basic knowledge of the child Protection Scheme.

There will be one question paper for each post, consisting of questions on the subjects indicated in the table above and knowledge about Child Protection Scheme. The question paper will be of 100 marks and will be multiple choice question only.

Duration: 2 hours.

R.O. No. 390/IPR/Pub/Classi./19-20  
Dated: 06.03.2020

Sd/-  
Additional Secretary-cum-Director, CPS.



**National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**  
An organization of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways;  
Government of India.

Branch Office:- Gangtok (Sikkim) Contact No.:- 03592 297108

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

1. **Name of work:** Notice Inviting Bid for Lease of Office Premises of NHIDCL, PMU-Gangtok (East Sikkim).

NHIDCL requires accommodation on lease of 200 sqm carpet area (approx.) for the office of PMU-Gangtok for a period of three years at Ranipool. Last date for the receipt of complete tenders in the office of undersigned is 13.03.2020 up to 1500 Hrs.

For further details, please visit NHIDCL Website [www.nhidcl.com](http://www.nhidcl.com)

Dated: 06.03.2020

Dy. General Manager (P)  
NHIDCL, Sikkim,  
Dr. Sundeep Pradhan Building  
Sichey Link Road,  
Middle Sichey, Gangtok  
East Sikkim-737101

## Tongue-Tied

**About mother tongues again, and still no good news to share**

The section spoke about mother tongues and indigenous languages recently, and returns to the theme again. As much as this revisit is caused by a bout of obsessing over the issue, it is also necessitated by the always important theme of regional languages and of how they are losing their, well, voice. Even up to a decade and a half ago, it was not rare to find Sikkimese children conversing in up to three languages on a regular basis and reasonably conversant in a third. Most of them are now reduced to being bilinguals and at best with only a passable spoken proficiency in a third. The missing language from their conversations is invariably their mother tongue. This loss is unfortunate and avoidable and offers us the chance to ponder more seriously on where we are going wrong with our efforts at keeping these languages alive.

Languages are essentially about communication; then they take on aspects of culture and invariably underline the ethos of a people. That said, a language obviously ceases to be one when there is no one left speaking it. This does not necessarily happen with the complete annihilation of a people and is most times caused by the language becoming redundant as a tool of communication. The best examples of this are Sanskrit and Latin. Both are now pursued for purely academic reasons, but the languages for all practical purposes are dead. But how does a language die? Past experience proves that the moment “outsiders” stop trying to learn a language, it is already on death-row. And outsiders stop learning a language when they feel no need for it as a tool for communication. All old members of the business community speak fluent Tibetan. They had to if they wanted to trade with Tibet. Everyone in Sikkim, including those who have been here barely a year, speaks Nepali. They have to because they need to get their message across. Similarly, any Sikkimese going out for studies comes back equipped with Hindi-speaking skills. The Chinese are introducing English in their schools because they want to now converse with the world. That more or less settles what is actually a redundant argument that language is about communication.

Now, let’s look at Sikkim. Take the Bhutia or Lepcha languages as examples. We don’t see too many non-Bhutias or non-Lepchas wanting to learn these languages unless they are involved in some research. Very soon, even the families which still use the language will stop doing so because they have to interact with people from outside every day. These languages then lose all utility and within a generation are lost. Also, because there is so little literary work in these languages, even the aesthetic appeal of learning them is lost.

So what is being done about it? The State government has made it mandatory for all government schools to teach the “local” languages to anyone interested. And that is the best it can do. The students have to enroll for the classes from there on. Is that happening? The other problem is that the government diktat runs only over government schools. Private institutions, which are either cramped for funds or driven by profits, don’t offer too many language options. Since these are also institutions which produce the better achievers, we are also releasing too many non-regional language speakers into positions of influence and power in the coming years. Check out any school and the number of enrolments for Nepali and Hindi are much higher even among those for whom neither language is their mother-tongue. The situation will only worsen with time unless we make it worth the while of those who take the trouble to learn these languages. For that, those who complain about losing their language need to create more awareness, produce more literature, get a pop-culture going in these languages, make it more vibrant. The release of the first Lepcha language movie a couple of years back was an exciting development on this front. The region needs more of this. Even some attempts at dubbing the bigger box office hits might be worth a try and could deliver some interesting results. The present generation, with its millisecond attention-span, needs a lot of colour to keep them interested. Even if this comes at the cost of diluting some aspects, do it. So what if a compromise has been made, at least a language would have been saved.

### WRITE US:

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



# Indian citizenship has now been reduced to ‘us’ versus ‘them’

**RAHUL SAMBARAJU**  
*theconversation.com*

The fallout from two controversial changes to citizenship laws continues to rock India. At least 35 people have died in sectarian violence in New Delhi which began on February 23. Muslims homes and businesses have been attacked and mosques vandalised by mobs.

All schools in the capital were shut as clashes intensified between those for and against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The CAA, passed by India’s parliament in December 2019, means that “illegal migrants” of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhists, Parsi or Christian faith from Afghanistan, Pakistan or Bangladesh who escaped persecution and arrived in India before 2014 can be fast-tracked to citizenship. But not if they are Muslim.

Accompanying this is the adoption of the NRC, an attempt to draw up a register of Indian citizens. For those who can’t prove their citizenship through documentary evidence, it can lead to the loss of citizenship. The NRC has only been implemented in the state of Assam, but the government plans to extend it nationwide.

Together, the CAA and NRC mean that Muslims, and others who cannot provide the required documents, will be left with no recourse to citizenship, unlike those of other faiths.

Petitions filed before the Supreme Court of India allege that the CAA violates the right to equality in India’s constitution and is antithetical to the word “secular” in the preamble to the constitution. In late January, the court refused to stop the implementation of the act while giving the government time to respond to the allegations.

Ostensibly, changes in citizenship policy are being framed by the government as a way to target “illegal migrants” or “infiltrators”.

But a common explanation for the changes is that they have been driven by the Hindu nationalism of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh – the organisation that moulded the prime minister, Narendra Modi, as well as Nathuram Godse, the man

who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi. This ideology promotes the idea of a Hindu Rashtra, which aims to formally entrench Hinduism in Indian politics while continuing an anti-Muslim agenda.

As a lawyer and social psychologist, we think there is more to the story. By looking at the way India’s constitution was written and putting the current crisis into the context of social psychological debates about migration, we argue that the government’s policies are constructing Muslims and other minorities as a problem for the country. By creating an “us” and “them” dynamic to Indian citizenship, the government is enabling private policing of people who it finds disagreeable – even if it has not explicitly sponsored sectarian violence.

### WHAT THE CONSTITUTION SAYS

At the time of independence, India’s political arrangement was not constituted by ethnic status. Members of any religion, of various castes and sects, and speakers of different languages were all Indian. The historian Niraja Gopal Jayal has argued that the debates at the time the constitution was drafted in the late 1940s were influenced by pressing concerns about partition, mass migration, and the very real possibilities of communal violence between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

These led to the adoption of ius soli, or citizenship by birth, as a key principle within the constitution. Despite polarised debates on citizenship, the decision was ultimately taken that anyone born in India would be Indian – a decision suitable to the historical moment.

For Indians, this has always meant that a person is a citizen of India because of its constitution rather than because of their religious, ethnic, or regional ties. Until now.

The CAA and NRC mark a fundamental transformation by emphasising the principle of ius sanguinis – or citizenship by descent or blood – over that of citizenship by birth. The CAA privileges the acquisition of citizenship on grounds of religion, and the NRC means a person’s name can be excluded from the register of citizens if they cannot prove their descent.

### US VERSUS THEM

What’s going on in India is a clear example of

“othering”, a term describing a group of people – “them” – as a problem, and distinct from “us” – the majority. Creating the distinction between “us” and “them” often closely involves references to nations and nationhood.

The social psychologist Michael Billig has argued that while nations are visible political entities, they make their presence felt in rather unnoticeable ways, which he terms “banal nationalism”. This means that we can readily draw on our and other’s national belonging to inform political projects, such as the citizenship policies in India.

Muslims have been simultaneously categorised as an internal and external other: both a “termite” and “infiltrator”. By being portrayed as potentially non-indigenous to India, all Muslims can be treated as “illegal immigrants” and then put in detention centres or deported. In contrast, those who can claim citizenship are included in the nation and can consequently claim nationhood.

India’s new citizenship policies enable people to doubt each others’ citizenship and national belonging, a particular problem for marginalised peoples. Nationalism that was once largely unnoticed can now become more overt. The recent widespread violence by pro-government mobs against “anti-national” protesters is a visible example of this. Less evident, but no less damning, are instances of insidious exclusion in which “doubtful” citizens are vulnerable to arbitrary police brutality or private harassment.

This combination of private citizens policing “doubtful” citizens, and the police abetting or standing by mob violence against any inconvenient identity (be it based on a person’s religion, gender or profession) is a lethal one. Take for instance the recent case of an Uber driver who drove a poet to a police station when he overheard a phone conversation on anti-CAA protests.

A consequence of this shift might well be that being an Indian citizen becomes synonymous with being a certain sort of Hindu. Hindu Rashtra then will not be imposed from the top down by the Modi government, but it will also become part of everyone’s lives.

*[the writer is Assistant Professor, Psychology, Trinity College Dublin]*

# The DRC is on the road to being Ebola free: how it got here

**YAP BOUM**  
*theconversation.com*

At the beginning of March the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced that the last Ebola patient had been discharged from a treatment centre. The country has been in the grip of an Ebola outbreak since August 2018. More than 3,300 cases were confirmed and 2,264 people died. The last case was reported on February 17th. Now the countdown towards declaring the end of the world’s second largest Ebola outbreak begins. The World Health Organisation has put a time line of 42 days on this. The Conversation Africa’s Ina Skosana spoke to Yap Boum about the latest developments.

The last patient being treated for Ebola in the DRC has been discharged. What does this mean for the outbreak?

The first thing is that it’s evidence of all the work that’s been done by those in the field as well as remotely. This has ranged from tracing patients to raising funds, engaging the communities and testing samples. And it shows that collaboration and coordination are the only ways to handle a complex problem such as the Ebola outbreak.

For the DRC it means that we can now count down the 42 days (two incubation phases of the virus) to declare the country Ebola-free. During that time community engagement and contact tracing will

continue to ensure no case is left behind. Treatment centres will remain open but will slowly decrease their staffing based on the evolution of the outbreak.

Teams will be on standby to administer vaccinations if need be. This is because the rVSV vaccine is only administered to people who are in contact with someone who has been diagnosed. There’s still an ongoing study involving the JnJ vaccine. This will carry on until the participants have completed the protocol, including the second dose of vaccine.

This outbreak has been raging on for 19 months. What was the turning point?

In my opinion, the turning point was the change in leadership to manage the outbreak response. After the elections in 2018 there was a change of government with President Félix Tshisekedi at the helm. In July 2019 the president appointed Professor Jean-Jacques Muyembe as the chairman of the response, leading to the resignation of the Minister of Health, Dr Oly Ilunga Kalenga.

These changes signalled a new, more inclusive approach to managing the crisis. As a result communities became more engaged and involved in the response. People from the affected areas became more engaged in managing a disease that was affecting them.

To be honest, we don’t yet know what the secret ingredient was. But by the time we declare the country Ebo-

la-free we hope Professor Muyembe will tell us more about it. We imagine that his long experience with the disease and its management has paid a significant role in coordinating all those who were involved in the response. Not an easy task at all, I can tell you.

But there were other contributory factors we can list. There was the impressive involvement of the WHO through its teams in the field as well as its Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Dr Michel Yao, who was in charge in the DRC.

On top of this, partners such as Doctors Without Borders, Alima and others managed to play the roles allocated to them by the coordination team.

A major development was the WHO’s decision in July 2019 to declare the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. I must stress this wasn’t the silver bullet. The outbreak of a deadly disease within a conflict zone – and then in a major city – can’t be solved with a technical solution, such as more funding. But the decision gave the DRC’s Ministry of Health more flexibility to ensure response teams reached even the most remote areas. The decision had a critical effect on the response. It provided a second breath to address the new phase of the outbreak, paving the way to the point we’ve arrived at now.

It is also important to mention that the outbreak was unlikely to last forever. The people and communities were more and more aware of the

precautions needed to prevent and manage Ebola. People accepted that certain steps were critical in stopping the outbreak: these included screening people’s temperatures, washing hands and safe burial practices.

But we still have to wait for the 42 days and remain vigilant before we can celebrate.

### KEY BREAKTHROUGHS

The key lesson from breakthrough to come out of the ending Ebola outbreak is that we don’t solve a complex problem using technical solutions. Implementing an Ebola response requires political and community engagement – globally, at the highest level of the country, and locally.

The ability to listen to all partners, to negotiate based on interest, the capacity to advocate and finally decision-making power all contributed to stopping the outbreak in DRC.

Everything starts and ends with leadership.

Beyond stopping the outbreak it is important to note that Ebola is now a preventable and curable disease. We now have a vaccine (rVSV) that’s proven efficient in a large outbreak. Another is being assessed, while the drugs Mab114 and Regeneron have been found to be effective.

The development of drugs and vaccines is further evidence of the critical impact that research can have on improving health while saving lives.

*[the writer is Professor in the faculty of Medicine, Mbarara University of Science and Technology]*

# Childline Advisory Board Meeting held at Gyalshing

**GYALSHING, 05 MAR [IPR]:** The Children Collaborative Organisation, Gyalshing, organised Swatcha Program and Childline Advisory Board Meeting at the WDZP Office conference hall here today.

The program was also attended by SP West, Tenzing L Lepcha; ADC West, Karma L Lepcha along with ADC Dev (Gyalshing), Milan Subba, CMO West, Anusha Lama; HoDs; Officials from various departments and the Students of different Schools of Gyalshing.

The SP West, in his address, stated that officials need to know their roles with regard to child-care and child welfare.

He also asked all HoDs, Block Development Officers of West Sikkim to implement and sensitize the public about the Childline Helpline at their respective offices and areas of jurisdiction.

He mentioned that proper sensitization needs to be carried out in order to tackle child-related problems and cases in



the district, hence he urged that the lead of proper guidance needs to be taken by the concern heads.

ADC Dev (Gyalshing), in his briefing, mentioned the move towards a 'Swachh Bharat' by making it a massive mass movement that seeks to engage everyone in the task of cleaning homes, work places, villages and surroundings in a collective quest.

The focus is to pro-

vide flexibility to State governments, as sanitation is a State subject, to decide on their implementation policy, use of funds and mechanisms, taking into account State specific requirements. This is to enable States to develop an Implementation Framework that can utilise the provisions under the Mission effectively and maximize the impact of the interventions.

The Coordinator, Childline (West), Chitrani Rai briefed on childline and swachata on vision and mission of the organisation, objectives of childline - 1098, actions of childline, intervention model, childline child protection activities and the notable achievements and exercises of the Childline collaborative organisation till date.

The main agenda of

the meeting was to form the Childline Advisory Board (CAB), mass publicity of child helpline number - 1098, pasting of childline-1098 logo/stickers in the transport vehicles and others, incorporation of childline logo in all official website with proper circular, demand of establishing two more childline sub-centres in Soreng and Yuxsam, making of child friendly rooms in police stations, permission for conducting awareness generation program in every schools, formations of volunteers group in village level, Gram Panchayat level, block level and trainings.

The meeting also had an open discussion where the framing of future strategies and action plans for eradicating child trafficking, child labour, child abuse and other issues from the district were discussed.

In the said program students also delivered a short speech on topic Importance on cleanliness for healthy living.



## Bhutanese team beats Maenamla in Archery tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 MAR:**

Yangtse Tours & Travels, Bhutan has advanced to the next round of the ongoing 19th Chief Minister's Gold Cup Archery Tournament [Com-

pound] here at Archery Shooting Range in Tenzing Namgyal Memorial Ground, Tathangchen. In a match played on Thursday, Yangtse Tours & Travels defeated Maenamla with 48-25 points.

## Siliguri Round Table on 'Women's Empowerment' throws light on various aspects of women's issues

**SILIGURI, 05 MAR [PIB]:**

Women need to be empowered economically, socially and culturally to bring about changes in their status across the world, said Dr Debjani Basu Mallick, District Tuberculosis Officer of Health of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts at a round table on the theme of "Women's Empowerment", jointly organized by Press Information Bureau, Kolkata and Salesian College, Siliguri at Salesian College here today.

Obstetrician Dr Samita Das Ghose, Gynaecologist, Colposcopist and Endoscopic Surgeon, Neotia Getwell Health Care Centre, Siliguri, in turn mentioned that women need to be fearless apart from being educated and financially self-dependent.

Welcoming the panelists, Additional Director General of Press Information Bureau, Jane Namchu, Kolkata and Regional Outreach Bureau, West Bengal, pointed out that this was a decade in which women's rights



and gender-equality have taken centre-stage.

A gender-equal world can be a healthier, wealthier and harmonious place, she said, adding that the story of women's struggle for equality does not belong to any one activist or any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.

The panelists consisted of Principal, Dr Meenakshi Chakraborty, Kalipada Ghosh Tarai Mahavidyalaya, Bagdogra; Associate Professor, Dr Shamistha Bhat-tacharjee, Community Medicine, North Bengal

Medical College; Professor (Retired), Noreen Dunne, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling; Associate Professor and Dean, Dr Gunjeet Aurora Mehta, PG Department, Salesian College, Siliguri; Journalist, Sanchita Aich, Echo of India, Siliguri and Editor, Deeksha Rupasa, The Statesman.

The discussion session focused on issues related to women's emancipation, gender equality and women's empowerment and highlighted the way forward to strengthen the empowerment of women and ensuring dignity for women in various aspects of life.

## Training on Fish Farm construction



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

The inaugural function of three-day training program on Design and Construction of Fish Farm and Hatchery was organized by Department of Processing and Food Engineering at ATIC conference hall, College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology, (Central Agricultural University-Imphal), Ranipool, today, a press release informs.

The training has Asst Professor, Dr Basant Ku-

mar Singh as Course Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Dr Rakesh Kumar Raigar as Course Co-coordinator.

Twenty-three progressive farmers from different districts of Sikkim attended the program. The main aim of the training program was to develop skills for the construction of fish ponds and hatchery, pond management, fish product development and allied business as a cottage industry to the farmers.

## Cloth bags launched at waste management sensitisation prog held at Talkharka



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**RONGLI, 05 MARCH:**

In collaboration with Reghu Zilla and Gram Panchayat, Talkharka Homestay and SHGs, WWF India organized a sensitisation programme on waste management and launching of cloth bags from Talkharka in Rongli bazaar at Mangaldeep Resort, a press release informs.

SDM Rongli, PR Dulal, was present as the chief guest for the programme which was also attend-

ed by BDO, Reghu, Bhim Pradhan, ACF (T) Forest, BS Tamang, WWF India Sikkim Coordinator, Lak Tshering Thing, Reghu Zilla member, TM Rai, Gram Panchayat President, Shiva Kumar Rai, ASI Rongli Police, TK Pradhan, president, Vinod Buchha and members of Rongli Bazar Dev Committee, shopkeepers, different SHGs of Talkharka Reghu, MD Mangaldeep Dilip Rai Pradhan, BPM State Rural Livelihood mission and staff of Reghu BAC.

## Swachhta Pakhwada awareness at Singtam

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

An awareness program on "Swachhta Pakhwada" was organised by ICDS Singtam Rural Project (East) SJ&WD and State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) WCD on 06 Mar, 2020 at Rangpo PHC, a press re-

lease informs. Swachha bal - balika pratiyogita was also organised and prizes distributed to the winners.

A live demonstration of hand washing technique by a team led by AWW Maghigaon of Rangpo and ASHA was also conducted.

## State must challenge HC's COI verdict in Supreme Court, SSC demands

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK 05 MAR:**

Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan has demanded that the State government challenge the recent judgment of the High Court of Sikkim on a Certificate of Identification [CoI] matter in the Supreme Court. He threatened to launch a people's movement if there is no immediate action from the government.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Pradhan stated that the judgment was not in the interest of the people of Sikkim and very harmful for the coming generations. On the same, he urged the government to appeal the matter in the Supreme Court. He also urged the people of Sikkim to be aware about the matter to take steps accordingly.

"If the State government does not take any ac-

tion then we will be compelled to launch a strong people's movement in the interest of the people of Sikkim," he said.

Speaking on some recent developments in the State, Mr Pradhan stated that SKM had made big announcements and promises before coming to power. However, he alleged that instead of fulfilling its promises to provide employment to youth, the present government has been trying to take them away.

It is very unfortunate that Transport Department has not taken any decision regarding 286 employees working in different posts in the department, he stated. Even if the government terminates a single employee from Transport Department the people will not stay silent, he added.

It may be mentioned that a Transport Depart-

ment notesheet had appeared on social media recently where it was stated that the department is proposing to terminate 286 temporary employees whose appointment process was suspect.

On the latest Education Department notice cancelling the recruitment process of Graduate and Primary Language teachers, Mr Pradhan stated that taking out such notice after the completion of all required processes of written, viva and class demonstration by the interviewee is a failure of the government to handle the issue. The government has even failed to submit the counter affidavit in the court on the petition challenging the recruitment process, he added.

He also urged the people to take immediate action in support of the protest by Temi Tea Estate workers.

## Swachhta and Poshan Pakhwadas observed at ICDS centres around Rangpo

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**RANGPO, 05 MAR:**

Swachhta Phakwada and Poshan Pakhwada were observed at different ICDS Centres of Duga, Central Pandam and Rangpo area of Duga and Rangpo Zone Singtam Rural Project.

Under the guidance of supervisor ICDS, PP Rai, awareness programs, cleanliness drives and rallies were the main attraction of the program.

Swachhata Pakhwada is observed from 01 to 15 March while Poshan Pakhwada is observed from 08 to 22 March.

**HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?**  
email us: [news@summittimes.com](mailto:news@summittimes.com)

## 25 teachers from Sikkim conferred national award for innovation

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 06 MAR:**

Twenty-five teachers from various government schools across Sikkim were conferred National Teacher Awards for Zero Investment Innovation by the Union HRD Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', at an event held at IIT Delhi on 01 March.

The teachers were recognised for improving the quality of education in State-run schools through zero investment innovations as part of Zero Investment Innovations for Educational Initiatives (ZIEI) programme under the nationwide education transformation programme, 'Rupantar', undertaken by Sri Aurobindo Society.

The teachers from Sikkim were among over 1,000 teachers from 35 States and Union Territories across the country whose zero investment innovative ideas were selected from amongst over one lakh ideas collected by the Society.

Also, two other teachers from Sikkim were presented the Teachers Innovation Award. The awards have been instituted to recognize the effective grass-root innovations in teaching.

The innovations in education applied by the teachers have been compiled in a State-wise innovation handbook which was released by the Union HRD Minister on the occasion.

The teachers from Sikkim also shared their zero investment innovative teaching ideas during workshops held as a precursor to the awards function.

A team from the Education Department comprising Additional Chief Secretary GP Upadhyaya and Director Bhim Thatal also attended the awards function, a press release informs.

Mr Upadhyaya also addressed a session on 'importance of micro-innovation in perspective of zero-investment innovations.'

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What is Novel Coronavirus - nCoV?

The Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) is new strain of Coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Notorious for mutating quickly and acquiring new qualities, it is a rising epidemic that was previously not identified in humans.

### Symptoms of nCoV

- Fever
- Difficulty in breathing
- Dry Cough
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome
- Pneumonia - like symptoms

### Treatment

- Treatment is symptomatic and supportive, based on the patient's clinical condition.
- No vaccinations available as of now
- Visit Doctor in case symptoms detected

### Precautions to Prevent nCoV

- Wash your hands often with soap.
- Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Observe good personal hygiene.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people with possible symptoms.
- Avoid contact with animals and consumption of undercooked meats.
- Avoid travel to nCoV affected places.
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory syndrome and cover your mouth while coughing or sneezing.



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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE**  
**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**

# Bhim Bahadur Chettri serves the nation and his passion

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 MAR:**

Army man, Bhim Bahadur Chettri, who put on his dancing shoes for dance reality show Dance Plus made it till the semi-final round [Top 10] of Season 5 of the popular show. He is now back in Sikkim and has thanked all his supporters.

The 25-year-old hails from Jitlang in East Sikkim and is presently serving in the Indian Army.

Speaking to media persons today, Mr Chettri shared his dancing experience in Dance Plus season 5. He mentioned that dancing was his passion since childhood but a time came when shouldering his family's responsibilities became more important.

"I am a self-taught dancer and never took any formal training. My father always wanted his son to serve the nation and it was also my dream



to wear the uniform of Indian army to serve the nation so I chose to join the army rather than to follow my passion," he said. He joined the Indian Army in 2014.

However, Mr Chettri shared that his seniors and other soldiers in the army have always appreci-

ated and supported his dance and they motivated him to go for the auditions of Dance Plus season 5.

"It was a proud moment for me when my name was attached to Sikkim and Indian Army during the show. Although I belong to a small place it was a proud moment

for me to represent my State and Indian Army on such a big platform," Mr Chettri said.

He stated that his hard work and struggles helped him to overcome various hurdles in the show.

"Earlier only a few knew about my dancing but now

everyone knows so it is a big challenge for me. I will continuously serve my nation and also take out time for my passion," he expressed.

Bollywood veteran actor, Jackie Shroff praising Sikkim and sharing the stage with Deepika Padukone were some of the memorable moments in the show for Mr Chettri.

He expressed his gratitude to all supporters and well-wishers from across the country and outside for their support. It was disheartening to be voted out in the semifinals but Dance Plus season 5 was a learning experience, he said.

Mr Chettri urged the people of Sikkim to always support and motivate local talents of the State in different fields. He said that support and encouragement of the people will help local talents to reach national and international levels.

## Agri Minister inspects Phaka Horticulture farm

**LACHUNG, 06 MAR (IPR):**

Agriculture Minister, Lok Nath Sharma along with the departmental officials led the field inspection of Phaka Horticulture farm at Lachung, this morning. He was accompanied by the Additional Director AH&VS, Karma Bhutia, Additional Director Agriculture, BD Rai, Dy Director Horticulture, Rinzing Ongyal, Dy Director Agriculture, Kunga Samdup Bhutia, field functionaries and local youth.

He thoroughly inspected the farm spread over surface area of 5.4 hectare of land at Phaka and discussed with the officials and field functionaries on the technical aspects of production of seabuckthorn, potato, peas, apple and other vegetables and further urged them to put tremendous effort to revive the farm with field activities. He stressed to act for progress in farming practices with active involvement of all concerned.

After the field visit, Minister Sharma also inspected existing infrastructures and directed the concerned officials to prepare an estimate report for fencing, drainage system and repairing of

essential infrastructures. He also interacted with the field workers and urged them to put all efforts to revive the farm in practice.

Thereafter, Minister Sharma also had a brief meeting with the Pipon of Lachung Dzumsa, Yangku Lachungpa, Ex-Pipon, Lakpa Lachungpa, Gyambo, Nima Lachungpa, Thendup Lachungpa and other members. He assured to extend all support from the state government and advised to form a team of committed members to embrace revolutionary change in farming.

Lachung Dzumsa urged the Minister Sharma to take up initiatives for marketing of their production which he assured to arrange in near future.

Later, the Minister along with the Minister-cum-MLA of Lachen Mangan constituency, Samdup Lepcha, jointly inspected Bop Piggery Farm which is said to be the oldest piggery farm in the State. Ministers interacted with the officials and staff and took stock on the status of the farm, availability of feed, manpower and other requirements to strengthen the farm.

## Lingi Payong School hosts first AGM of the year; New SMC and schools prefects elected

### SUMMIT REPORT

**LINGI PAYONG, 05 MAR:**

The first annual general meeting for the year 2020 was organised at Lingi Payong School on Thursday, a press release informs.

The meeting was attended by teachers, SMC members, students, parents and guardians and other well wishers from the village and was chaired by senior-most guardian of a student, Santa Bahadur Rai.

The students welcomed their parents with Khadas while Yog Kumar Bhandari, a teacher, presented the welcome address.

The Headmaster presented a brief report on the school for the year 2019 and placed the agenda for the day's meeting.

The sitting School Managing Committee was dissolved on completion of its term and a new SMC constituted under the chairmanship of Panchayat president Yogesh Bhandari.

The meeting also selected other members of the SMC as mandated by the RTE Act.

On the occasion, the outgoing SMC members



were offered Khadas and felicitation letters from the school for their untiring contributions.

The new student council for the year 2020 was announced and the elected members congratulated by the SMC members and teachers with Khadas.

Sanchay Tamang and Astha Rai were elected as School Prefect and Vice Prefect. The headmaster administered the oath of office to the elected representative of the student council. The student council was formed

following democratic process of election on 21 Feb, 2020.

A Community Reading competition was also organised for the students of primary classes (III-V) in Nepali and English language in which Akash Koirala and Abina Rai stood first in their respective categories and were handed cash prizes of Rs 100 each sponsored by the chairperson of the day.

Geeta Nath Koirala and Pawan Adhikari were the judges for English reading whereas

Nil Kumar Khatiwara and Rajendra Khakal were judges for Nepali reading competition.

This was followed by an inter-house quiz competition among the students of upper primary classes (VI-VIII) where Gurudongmar House (Yellow) and Zemu House (Red) emerged as winner and runners up. They were also awarded with cash prize of Rs. 300 and Rs. 200 by school in-charge Satyendra Singh.

Geeta Nath Adhikari, Parent and SMC member speaking on behalf of parents and guardians hailed the work and efforts of the school as exemplary and suggested various measures for bringing about more improvement in the school's functioning.

A School Wall calendar and table calendar were also released on the occasion.

The programme was hosted by teacher CR Khatiwara and recorded by A Koirala and Goma Sharma offered the vote of thanks. The parents and students were also provided with lunch managed by the school.

## Students from Delhi arrive for Inter-State Youth Exchange Prog



**GANGTOK, 06 MAR (PIB):** Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Sikkim, is organizing a 15-day Inter-State Youth Exchange programme under the "Ek Bharat, Shresta Bharat" programme.

As part of this initiative, around 50 youth

from different parts of Delhi, the pairing UT of Sikkim, arrived here on Thursday and were received today at Paljor Stadium in the presence of the Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Sikkim, Kuber Bhandari.

## Mamring and Amba Schools twinned



### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 MAR:**

A twinning programme was held for Govt Senior Secondary School, Mamring, and Govt Secondary School, Amba, today.

Class VI, VII and VIII students from Amba School along with their Class Teachers attended Teaching Learning classes at Mamring School with their counterparts, while students of classes IX and X of Mamring School with their class teachers attended classes at Amba School.

Students of both schools attended the Morning Assembly, classes as per daily routine, interacted with their counterparts, had their Mid-Day Meals together and also interacted with teachers.

The Twinning Pro-

gramme is scheduled to continue on 06 March which the exchange classes switched.

Today's session was a fruitful one, a press release informs, adding that students from the respective schools shared their learning outcomes jointly.

A quiz competition was also held during the 7th and 8th periods.

The feedback sessions revealed that students were in much need of such exposure as they expressed that they were able to get hands-on experience about each other's school, classroom environment, teaching-learning strategies, team-teaching etc.

The students shared their experience and highlighted the learning outcomes after being twinned.

## Awareness on pollution control at Sreebadam



### GYALSHING, 06 MAR (IPR):

A one-day awareness program on 'Pollution Control to Save Our Future' held at K. B. Limboo Memorial Government Sr. Sec. School, Sreebadam, West Sikkim organised by Member, West District, State Pollution Control Board supported by State Pollution Control Board, Sikkim and West District Zilla Panchayat.

Education Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha chaired the program as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Ashok Gurung, Up-Adhakshya (WDZP); K. C. Gyatso Bhutia, Addl. Dir, Education Department; Kusum Gurung, Jt. Director, State Pollution Control Board; Kalpana Gurung, Principal, KB Limboo Memorial SSS along with Officials; dignitaries and students.

The Education Minister in his address mentioned about the importance of Environment conservation and the reduction of pollution via various measures. He informed about the use

of alternatives to plastics needs to be done in order to protect the future generations. Minister also spoke about the vital roles of the students in relation to the awareness and sensitization which needs to reach every homes of Sikkim.

He also shed light on the issue of water scarcity and how this needs to be treated as a matter of urgency. He urged the students and teachers to promote the importance of water conservation and its benefits.

He further spoke on the issue of addictions to various substances and liquor and how it harms the family and lives of young people.

During the program the Minister handed out Certificates to the participants.

The Up-Adhakshya also presented white board and dustbins to the Schools of Sreebadam and Kaluk. The program also had cultural programs and skits by the School students and also a skit with a message about drug addiction by Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India (SAATHI).

# Technology Week and Kishan Mela kicks off in Mangan

**MANGAN, 05 MAR (IPR):**

A three-day Technology Week-cum-Kishan Mela kicked off today at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mangan.

The Minister, Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Lok Nath Sharma was present as the chief guest for the inaugural day accompanied by Minister, Road & Bridges, Samdup Lepcha, as the guest of honour.

Addressing the Kisan Gosthi, the Agriculture Minister reiterated that the State Government was fully committed for the welfare of the citizens at all levels.

He emphasised the "tremendous potential" of agriculture sector in North District and urged farmers to make optimum utilisation of uncultivated land.

He also advised FPOs to be more proactive and determined to enhance production and to export local produce to global markets after processing and value addition tagged with Green Economy & Sikkim Himalaya.

The present government has begun carrying out farming practically in the field and farmers have been motivated and are coming forward to adopt agriculture as a lucrative profession.

He informed farmers about the provision of subsidized loans initiated by the state government in Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services for Goaterry, Dairy, Poultry, Piggery, Fisheries farming etc. and encouraged the gathering to adopt farming with proper planning through benefits extended under the

leadership of the Chief Minister of Sikkim.

The Minister also informed about financial incentives available under Spices Board for cardamom cultivation and urged the public to be aware of available facilities.

Minister Sharma also outlined on the scope of advanced technologies for dairy farming and shared plans of the department to adopt improved techniques for economic growth of the farmers in the near future.

Minister Sharma also announced that a Cold Storage Centre will be established in North Sikkim.

He also applauded the initiatives of KVK Mangan and congratulated the head of the institution and the entire team for their commendable services.

The area MLA, Mr Samdup Lepcha, in his speech, said that today Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has become an epidemic. An emergency meeting to discuss the issue of protection against spread of corona virus in the state under the chief secretary was held on 04 Mar, 2020, he informed.

Further, he has appealed to every individual to stay alert and follow all health advisories seriously.

Speaking on the agriculture sector, Minister Lepcha said that the method of farming has been improved with the utilization of advanced equipment.

He also advised farmers to share their knowledge in their respective societies. He also touched upon the vital role of farmers to sustain the economy and encouraged them to

adopt modern techniques developed by Agriculture scientists.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture, R Telang, advised farmers to adopt the acquired technical knowledge in practice.

He called on them to develop a positive attitude and never be disheartened in dealing with challenges in farming.

He also encouraged farmers to be more organised, social and united to adopt agriculture professionally and address the constraints and impediments for surplus productivity.

Secretary Agriculture, Rinzing C Bhutia, informed that all the schemes under the government sector are clearly dedicated to the farmers and urged them to take complete benefit of the schemes.

He also underlined the provisions of financial benefits of Rs 6,000 under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi (PMKSN) on annual basis and advised them to consult officials at district level to ensure inclusion of the names of every farmer entitled for the benefit.

Secretary, Horticulture Deptt, MT Sherpa also addressed farmers and underlined various schemes and programmes being implemented under the department.

During the programme, Minister Sharma handed over Poly Tank & PVC Pipe, Farm Machineries, Knep-Sak Sprayer, Chaff Cutter, Power Tiller, Spices Grinder, Micro irrigation under Agriculture and Horticulture Department, Farmers also received token of

## South Korea condemns 'irrational' Japan virus quarantine

**SEOUL, MAR 6 (AFP):** Seoul will summon Japan's ambassador to protest over "irrational" plans to impose coronavirus quarantine on arrivals from South Korea, it said Friday, accusing Tokyo of ulterior motives. The two countries have close economic ties and are both major US allies, democracies and market economies faced with a rising China and nuclear-armed North Korea.

But their relationship continues to be heavily affected by Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945 -- a dispute that escalated into a trade and security row last year.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday announced that foreign arrivals who have recently been in China or South Korea would be required to spend 14 days in quarantine.

Seoul's foreign ministry urged Tokyo to reconsider the "irrational and overbearing" measure in a statement, saying it would summon the ambassador to protest.

"We can't help but question whether Japan has other motives than containing the outbreak," it added.

Seoul could take countermeasures, it signalled, saying it was exploring "all possible options" to ensure the safety of South Koreans.

South Korea's total reported infections -- the largest figure outside China, where the virus first emerged -- rose to 6,284 on Friday, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. It announced seven more deaths, taking the toll to 42. Japan has reported 360 confirmed cases and six deaths from the illness.

Around 40 countries and regions have imposed entry bans on foreigners who have recently been in the South, while more than 20 require quarantine, as do several parts of China.

Japan's quarantine announcement was already affecting "thousands of South Koreans", said Park Chul-hyun, a media columnist based in Tokyo, who cancelled a three-day trip to Seoul for fear of having to go into quarantine on his return.

"There are thousands of South Koreans arriving in Tokyo on a daily basis and I bet a majority of them have called off their trips," said Park, criticising the measure as a "pure performance" ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. Over 90 per cent of South Korea's cases are in the southern city of Daegu -- with more than 4,600 cases confirmed there -- and the neighbouring North Gyeongsang province. Most of the country's infections are linked to the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a religious sect often condemned as a cult.

A 61-year-old female member of the sect in Daegu developed symptoms on February 10 and attended at least four services before being diagnosed.

# China's coronavirus death toll touches 3,042; confirmed cases rise to 80,552

BY K J M VARMA

**BEIJING, MAR 6 (PTI):** The death toll in China's novel coronavirus outbreak has touched 3,042 with 30 new fatalities while the confirmed cases have risen to 80,552 amid signs that the dreaded COVID-19 was stabilising, including in the epicentre Hubei province.

China's National Health Commission (NHC) said that it received reports of 143 new confirmed cases of coronavirus infection and 30 deaths on Thursday on the Chinese mainland.

Among the deaths, 29 were in Hubei Province and one in Hainan Province, NHC said in its daily update of the COVID-19 on Friday.

Meanwhile, 102 new suspected cases were reported taking the 482, it said.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland so far totalled to 80,552 by the end of Thursday. This included 3,042 people who had died of the disease 23,784 patients still being treated and 53,726 patients discharged after re-



covery, the NHC said.

Also on Thursday, 16 imported cases (those coming from abroad) of novel coronavirus infection were reported on the mainland, including 11 in Gansu Province, four in Beijing and one in Shanghai.

By the end of Thursday, 36 imported cases had been reported, said the commission.

So far 104 confirmed cases including two deaths had been reported in Hong Kong,

10 confirmed cases in Macao, and 44 in Taiwan, including one death.

Forty-six patients in Hong Kong, nine in Macao and 12 in Taiwan had been discharged from hospital after recovery, NHC said.

China's Hubei Province and its capital Wuhan, the epicentres of the novel coronavirus outbreak, reported 126 new confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection

and 29 deaths on Thursday. The latest report brought the total confirmed cases in the hard-hit province to 67,592.

While the province and Wuhan continue to report new cases and deaths, local health commission said the situation on the containment of the virus has been further improving.

The daily count of new cured and discharged cases in the province has exceeded

the number of new confirmed cases for 15 consecutive days since February 19. Li Yang, deputy director of the Hubei Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention told media in Wuhan. Wuhan and the entire Hubei province that has over 50 million population has been kept under lockdown by the Chinese government since January 23.

However, with the situation improving by the end of Tuesday, 22 cities and counties in Hubei had been classified as low-risk, 17 as mid-risk while 37 others remained at high-risk, Li said.

There have been 14,770 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 outside China, with over 267 deaths, state-run People's Daily reported on Friday, citing statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

In the past 24 hours, 2,098 newly confirmed cases outside China have been reported and five new countries/territories/areas (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gibraltar, Hungary, Slovenia, and occupied

Palestinian territory) have reported cases of COVID-19, according to the WHO statistics.

South Korea confirmed 518 more cases of COVID-19 on Friday, raising the total number of infections to 6,284, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

Italy reported a total of 107 deaths of COVID-19 and the total number of infections reached 3,858 on Friday.

The novel coronavirus has now claimed 107 lives out of more than 3,513 cases in Iran on Friday.

France reported a total of 7 deaths of COVID-19 and the total number of infections reached 423 on Friday.

The US' death toll from the COVID-19 rose to 12 on Friday. Nationwide, there are 163 confirmed cases.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 80,552 by the end of Thursday, including 23,784 patients who were still being treated, 53,726 patients who had been discharged after recovery, and 3,042 people who had died of the disease.

## First Advisory Board Meeting on Disability held



**GANGTOK, 06 MAR (IPR):** Minister for Social Justice and Welfare Department, Dr M. K. Sharma chaired the First Advisory Board Meeting on Disability at Chintan Bhawan today.

During the meeting, the HODs of the line departments, Medical Specialists, Doctors, senior officials deliberated on the major issues in the disability sector like Unique Disability ID Project and also issues relating to programmes and schemes of the state to take care of social security schemes and programmes for persons with disabilities.

The meeting also had discussion on the constitution of State Advisory Board on disability to exercise the powers conferred and to perform the functions assigned to it under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

Minister Dr. Sharma appreciated the sincere efforts made by the Department of Social Welfare for efficient and effective implementation of various provisions/sections of RPWD Act, 2016. However, he further directed all the members to work in tandem so as to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act in letter and spirit.

It was also mentioned that the board shall meet at least once in

every six months and shall observe such rules and procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings as may be prescribed by the State Government. The board shall also be the state level consultative and advisory body on disability matters, and shall facilitate the continuous evolution of a comprehensive policy for the empowerment of persons with disabilities and the full enjoyment of rights.

The meeting also discussed the role and function of the State Advisory Board on disability, such as

1. to advice State Government on policies, programs, legislation and projects with respect to disability,
2. Review and coordinate the activities of all Developments of the State Government and other Governmental and non-Governmental Organizations in the State which are dealing with matters relating to persons with disabilities,
3. Take up the cause of persons with disabilities with the concerned authorities and the international organizations with a view to provide for schemes and

projects for the persons with disabilities in the State plans,

4. Recommend steps to ensure accessibilities, reasonable accommodation, and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities, services and the built environment and their participation in social life on an equal basis with others
5. Monitor and evaluate the impact of laws, policies and programmes designed to achieve full participation of persons with disabilities, and
6. Such other functions as may be assigned from time to time by the State Government.

Further, it was apprised to the Board that the Social Justice and Welfare Department has been implementing number of Schemes for Persons with Disabilities.

On the occasion, a power point presentation on the status of implementation of various provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (section-wise) along with Sikkim Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 was made by Joint Secretary Social Welfare Division, Rohini Pradhan.

Further, it was also desired by various members that there should be Free Travel concession in buses, 100% UDID implementation, holding of awareness camps, Websites accessibility and effective Redressal of problems faced by PwDs with multiple Disabilities.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the chair.

## Malaysia anti-graft chief who investigated 1MDB quits



**KUALA LUMPUR, MAR 6 (AFP):** Malaysia's anti-corruption chief, who had been investigating scandal-hit state fund 1MDB, said Friday she had resigned after a reformist government collapsed and a graft-tainted party took power.

The "Pact of Hope" alliance, which stormed to a historic victory in 2018 and ousted a long-ruling coalition, fell apart amid infighting last week and prime minister Mahathir Mohamad resigned.

Mahathir, 94, then sought to return as premier but unexpectedly lost to ex-interior minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who heads a coalition dominated by the multi-ethnic country's Malay Muslim majority.

Latheefa Koya, a leading human rights activist who had been head of the anti-corruption commission since June, said she had informed Muhyiddin she was quitting earlier this week but insisted she was not pressured.

"I also briefed the prime minister about our ongoing actions and efforts for the recovery of the stolen 1MDB monies from abroad," she said in a statement. "He was fully supportive of these actions." Last week, Malaysia's attorney general Tommy Thomas, who had brought corruption charges against ex-premier Najib Razak over the 1MDB controversy, also resigned.

Billions of dollars were stolen from 1Ma-

aysia Development Berhad and spent on everything from a super-yacht to pricey artworks, in a fraud allegedly involving Najib and his cronies.

Najib's coalition, which had governed Malaysia for six decades, was ejected from power in 2018 in large part due to the 1MDB allegations, and he is on trial for corruption.

Mahathir's government had started recovering money from overseas allegedly looted from the fund.

But the new ruling coalition includes Najib's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, and there are concerns his trial and others linked to the 1MDB scandal could be affected.

## Tibetan Sheep conservation begins in Lachen

**WANGCHUK BHUTIA MANGAN, 06 MAR:**

A workshop on the emergent need for conservation and development of Tibetan sheep in Sikkim and induction of parent breeding stock by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department in collaboration with Lachen Dzumsa was held today at Rabom farm near Lachen in North Sikkim.

The workshop was sponsored under the Border Area Development Programme [BADP].

Additional Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Dr Karma Tenzing Bhutia, spoke of how Tibetan Sheep, which was a preferred livestock

in the Lachen-Lachung area was now going extinct in these parts.

He further informed that sheep have been brought from Ladakh in order to conserve the farming here.

He also highlighted the shortage of vehicles under the department in the district.

The function was chaired by the Animal Husbandry Minister Lok Nath Sharma as chief guest in the presence of Roads & Bridges Minister, Samdup Lepcha, who also happens to be the area MLA, and Secretary Animal Husbandry, SB Subba, Pions of Lachen, officials and the general public.

Lachen Pion also re-

quested to the concerned minister for the development of infrastructure and recruitment of the educated youth under one family one job from Lachen.

The area MLA appreciated the initiative undertaken by the department and urged the people of Lachen to work diligently for the conservation of the animals.

The minister also suggested that the farming of the Tibetan sheep should be done in large scale by the department by recruiting more staff under the one family, one job scheme.

He also urged that the Lachung Farm be revived and made into a model farm.

He further added that

the government was proposing online marketing for vegetables.

The ministers also visited the piggery farm at Bob and Angora farm and trout farm.

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**CAMILA'S CARPET LOOK!** Singer, Camila Cabello struck a pose on the carpet at The Global Awards in London.

## The Batman Star Zoe Kravitz Details Intense Process for Catwoman Role

Zoe Kravitz might be incredibly busy, dividing time between Hulu's *High Fidelity*, HBO's *Pretty Little Lies*, and Matt Reeves's *The Batman* -- but that doesn't mean she didn't have to carve out a couple of months to get in fighting shape for her role as Selina Kyle/Catwoman. During an interview on iHeartRadio's *Questlove Supreme* podcast, Kravitz called both her physical preparation, and the shoot itself, "intense" and detailed a process of showing up in London months in advance of filming in order to prepare for superhero combat. The actress also praised the work of *The Batman* star Robert Pattinson, in a wide-ranging interview.

In the conversation, she also talked about following in the footsteps of actresses like Eartha Kitt, Michele Pfeiffer, and Halle Berry. She spoke mostly in generalities, avoiding the fanboy questions that comic book movie actors are often peppered with largely because *Questlove* simply doesn't watch many comic book movies and didn't even know, until she told him, that Pattinson was the *Dark Knight*.

"It's pretty intense," Kravitz said. "We just started shooting two weeks ago, but before that I was in London for two months, just getting in shape, training, learning fights."

She added that the shoot itself is intense, and that it's going to be a long one, with the film expected to wrap production this summer in advance of its 2021 release.

This isn't the first time Kravitz has discussed the workout regimen; she said back in January that she came home every day limping from her training. By Valentine's Day, though, word had come down that Kravitz had already tried on the Catwoman costume.

"Definitely, I was excited when I got the role, and usually when you get a job the people who

are excited about it are you, your parents, your agent, your friends and that's kind of it," Kravitz explained. "But when the press release came, I got more text messages and calls than I've gotten on my birthday, on my wedding day. All of a sudden, the reality began to sink in about what this means not only to me, but to everybody else culturally — and the fans of this universe are so dedicated and opinionated."

She added, "It was a little scary, but also whenever I get nervous about something, I feel it pushes me to a better place anyway, so I welcome the nerves. If you start focusing too much on what people are going to think you're doing yourself a disservice, it's almost like you're putting your energy in the wrong place. Of course, I want to honor the fans and hope they like what I do with the role, but in order to do what I think I need to do with Catwoman I have to go internal and forget about the rest of the world." The cast of *The Batman* will also include *Westworld* star Jeffrey Wright as Jim Gordon, *There Will Be Blood*'s Paul Dano as Edward Nygma/The Riddler, *The Lobster*'s Colin Farrell as Oswald Cobblepott/The Penguin, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*'s Andy Serkis as Alfred Pennyworth, and *Barton Fink*'s John Turturro as Carmine Falcone. Newcomer Jayme Lawson has been cast in a currently-unknown role.

The *Batman* stalks into theaters on June 25, 2021. Did you know ComicBook.com has a podcast? That's right folks, *ComicBook Nation* is available every Wednesday and Friday bringing you the best breakdowns of the week's biggest news from Kofi Outlaw, Matt Aguilar, Janell Wheeler & the rest of the staff at the site. Catch the newest episode right here or subscribe on iTunes today!

## Demi Lovato Revealed Just How Intensely Her Old Management Team Controlled Her Diet And It's Heartbreaking

"If I was in my hotel room at night, they would take the phone out of the hotel room so that I couldn't call room service."

Demi Lovato stopped by *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* today, where she opened up about her eating disorder, and had a heartbreaking conversation with Ellen about what was really going on behind the scenes during her past visits to the show.

It all started when Ellen shared a disturbing fact she just learned about Demi's former management team.

"I just learned today that when you came [on the show] for the last six years, the team — you're no longer with this team — there was a team that used to handle everything before you got here."

"They were told to hide the sugar and put everything away so that when you got to your dressing room, even backstage, there was no sugar anywhere near. Did you know that was happening?"

Demi told Ellen that she had no idea her old team was doing that on the *Ellen* set, but she wasn't surprised to hear it.

"I didn't know that until today, too," Demi responded. "But I lived a life for the past six years that I felt wasn't my own, because I struggled really hard with an eating disorder, yes." "My life, I just felt, was so — and I hate to use this word, but I felt like it was controlled. By so many people around me."

Demi went on to detail just how closely her team controlled her diet:

If I was in my hotel room at night, they would take the phone out of the hotel room so that I couldn't call room

service. Or if there was fruit in my room they would take it out because that's extra sugar. Like, we're not talking about brownies and cookies and candies and stuff like that. It's like, it was fruit.

And, in one heartbreaking anecdote, Demi painfully recalled not being allowed to have cake on her birthday:

And, for many years, I didn't even

have a birthday cake. I had a watermelon cake, where you cut your watermelon into the shape of a cake and then you put fat-free whipped cream on top. And that was your cake. And for years I did that, and it kind of became this ongoing joke, but I just really wanted birthday cake.

Fortunately, Demi got rid of that team, and is now focused on practicing self-care and self-love. "This year, when I turned 27, I have a new team. And Scooter Braun, my manager, gave me the best birthday cake. And I spent it with Ariana Grande, who is one of my good friends, and we just had the best birthday."

"And I just remember crying because I was finally eating cake with a manager

that didn't need anything from me, and that loved me for who I am, and supported my journey."

Demi also had a message for anyone who would try to control someone else's diet the way her former team did.

"I think at some point, it becomes dangerous to try to control someone's food when they're in recovery from an



eating disorder," she said.

Demi concluded the conversation on a happy note, saying that she's in a much better place now, and sharing a recent moment where she finally felt truly happy after practicing self-care: It was a Saturday night, and I was like, "You know what? It's a self-care night. I'm gonna take a bath, get a massage." And I just had this moment of happiness after taking care of myself where I started laughing, by myself, in my room.

"And that's why the song that I have coming out is called, 'I Love Me.' Like, we are good by ourselves. We don't need a partner, we don't need substances. We're good."

## 50 Cent Celebrates Demotion Of NYPD Cop Who Told Officers To Shoot Him 'On Sight' With Instagram Posts

50 Cent made several posts on Instagram that mocked the NYPD officer who told other officers to shoot the rapper "on sight" last year. This came after a source revealed the officer received a demotion.

Fans of 50 Cent know the rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, is fond of trolling his enemies on social media, and extends past beef with other rappers and entertainers. As reported by the *New York Post*, Deputy Inspector Emanuel Gonzalez of the NYPD came under fire last year when he allegedly said to "shoot [50 Cent] on sight" during a June 07, 2019 roll call.

At the time, Gonzalez was a commanding officer at Sunset Park's 72nd Precinct in Brooklyn, New York. A source told the outlet that the officer was recently transferred to NYPD's Auxiliary Police Section which is viewed as a demotion. "That's punishment," the source confirmed.

When the 44-year-old rap icon learned of the news he wasted no time going on Instagram to mock the cop who had allegedly uttered threats towards the rapper. He posted a screenshot of a headline about the "embattled" officer and added a scathing caption suggesting Gonzalez will no longer get to use a gun.

"Remember this guy Commanding officer Gonzalez from the 72 precinct. They bust his a\*\* down to auxiliary no more

Strap just a flash light and badge," the Empire producer wrote.

Hours later, 50 Cent made another post directed towards Gonzalez. This was a photo of an article in a paper about the officer's transfer and the headline said it involved "beef with Brooklyn club." The *Get Rich Or Die Tryin'* artist alleged in his caption that the officer had once tried to shake him down.

A spokesman for the NYPD told the *New York Post* that the reason Gonzalez was transferred had nothing to do with his comments about the rapper.

"It is inaccurate to say the inspector was transferred as a result of any issues stemming from the 50 Cent allegations," the representative said. Jackson made a third Instagram post about the apparent demotion which featured a picture of a whistle and had the officer's name on it. As reported by the *New York Post*, issues between the rapper and the commanding officer stem from when the cop allegedly tried to shake down the owner of *Love & Lust* nightclub in Brooklyn. 50 Cent made Instagram posts which apparently threatened the officers involved but later deleted them.

Anthony Miranda, Chairman of the National Latino Officers Association told the publication that reports of Gonzalez's transfer being a demotion are untrue and described them as "a political attack."



Isla Fisher to lead dark comedy 'Guilty Party'

Los Angeles, Mar 6 (PTI): Actor Isla Fisher is set to star in "Guilty Party", a dark comedy from CBS All Access.

In addition to starring, Fisher will also serve as executive producer on the show, reported Variety.

The half-hour series, created by Rebecca Addelman, will follow Fisher's Beth Baker, a discredited journalist who takes on the story of a young mother sentenced to life in prison for maiming and murdering her husband, crimes she says she did not commit, in an attempt to save her career.

While looking for the truth, Beth finds herself contending with Colorado gun-smugglers, clickbait culture, the stagnancy of marriage and her own past.

"'Guilty Party' is a wild ride fuelled by Beth's grit, passionate heart and desperation to redeem herself. We knew we needed a magnetic, versatile talent in the role, and Isla perfectly embodies the wholly original character Rebecca created.

"We are thrilled to add 'Guilty Party' to our growing comedy slate which includes 'Why Women Kill', 'No Activity' and the upcoming animated 'Star Trek: Lower Decks,'" said Julie McNamara, executive vice president and head of programming for CBS All Access.

This will be Fisher's first regular television role in three decades. She last appeared on

**ARIES:** Family and community take centre stage, Aries. Spend time with your forever cheerleaders, the ones who have supported you and held space for you to become who you are today. Let them know how grateful you are for their presence, how much you have learnt and continue to learn from them. Commit to the practice of love. Let your compassionate side shine through. Know that everything you put into the Universe will eventually come back to you.

Tip: Family and community will take centre stage.

**TAURUS:** Like you Carrie Bradshaw, you're in the mood to put your money where you can see it—hanging in your closet. This is the time to reinvent your sartorial game. But don't go overboard, which you have the tendency to. Set a budget aside from the beginning. Invest timeless pieces that can be styled differently.

Tip: Up the style game.

**GEMINI:** Misery loves company, doesn't it, Gemini? What the Spirit wants you to do: snap out of it already! This is not a healthy

space for you to be in. Your vibration is not supporting your soul growth nor is it helping you attract healthy relationships. Small, simple steps in the right direction will make a big difference. Start by making a gratitude list.

Tip: Raise your vibrations by giving thanks for what you have and what is yet to come.

**CANCER:** Sometimes you need to let your practical side take the wheel. At other times, you need to weave a little bit of magic. But this week, you're being asked to marry the yin and yang aspects of you. Use the law of attraction to draw in what you desire as you prepare to take concrete steps towards the achievement of your goals. Looks like you're getting closer and closer to the destination. On the downside, you may have to deal with somebody who has a chip on their shoulder.

Tip: You came here to conquer.

**LEO:** Michael Curtiz once said, "The only things you regret are the ones you don't do." Your thoughts exactly, Leo. You may have a bad rep for being spontaneous (read: impulsive), but you learned early on that nothing worth remembering is ever created within

the confines of your comfort zone. So throw the shoulders and mousts out of the window.

Tip: Throw the rulebook out of the window.

**VIRGO:** Virgo, you're a sorceress. Stop trying to live a mundane existence. Pay attention to what the Universe is revealing to you via signs, symbols, visions, and dreams. Your clairvoyant, clairaudient and clairsentient abilities are especially heightened at this moment. Remember, your inner skeptic will make you doubt the voice of wisdom.

Tip: Listen to the voice of wisdom.

**LIBRA:** Isn't the boss babe act getting a little tiring? Stay committed to your goals, Libra. Remember what you came here for. But resist the urge to make your work the focal point of your existence. The cards are urging you to break out of that power suit and get in touch with the wild child within. What are the things that make you feel nurtured?

Tip: Find a balance between work and play.

**SCORPIO:** If you have a friend who is going through the things that you are facing right now, what would you tell them? Time to apply the sage advice to your own life,

Scorpio. Clichéd as it is, the answers you seek are already within you. Have you been letting the drama outside interfere with your sacred purpose?

Tip: Trust the guidance that's coming through from within.

**SAGITTARIUS:** In the wise words of Roman philosopher Seneca, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." You've already done the dirty work thereby laying a solid foundation. So prepare for the grand opening, Sagittarius. What you need to keep in mind when the right opportunities come knocking at your door: the importance of striking when the iron is hot.

Tip: You are on your way to realising the grand vision.

**CAPRICORN:** To quote Oscar Wilde: "Be yourself. Everybody is already taken." Your relationship with yourself is undergoing a major upgrade. Keep showering yourself with love. Know that accepting yourself, flaws and all, is the key to empowerment and bringing about a change in the way you interact with the world.

Tip: You are becoming more you than you ever have.

**AQUARIUS:** Nearing yet another breaking point, Aquarius? When you set unrealistic expectations for yourself, you are bound to fail. See how and where you are being hard on yourself. 'I am enough' is an affirmation that will help you find wisdom and courage. Some of you may be experiencing guilt around self-care. There's only so much you can serve from an empty cup. Allow yourself to get the time out you have been yearning for.

Tip: It's time to prioritise self-care.

**PISCES:** So this is not the life you envisioned for yourself! Are you really lost though or simply taking a detour? Trust that you are exactly where you need to be, Pisces. Everything that is unfolding right now is a part of the divine plan that is written for you in the constellations. Remember, bringing in the energy of worry and anxiety will salt your game.

Tip: Release the need to control this situation and the path will reveal itself.