



**NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY OBSERVED
AT LINGI PAYONG SCHOOL**
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**INDIA AND PAKISTAN'S
ESCALATING CONFLICT
WILL BENEFIT MODI
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**CUARON DOES NOT BELIEVE
NETFLIX PUSHBACK COST 'ROMA'
ITS BEST PICTURE OSCAR**
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SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 58 | Gangtok | Friday | 01 March 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

WOMEN LED DEVELOPMENT

- A secure future for the girl child with Sukanya Samridhi Yojana
- Priority given to all women under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- Financial assistance of ₹6000 provided to pregnant women
- Maternity leave enhanced to 26 weeks



**NAMUMKIN AB
MUMKIN HAI**



DAMP 222011300517819

SKM satyagrah pressure replaces bandh to reiterate 35 demands, seek democracy

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 28 FEB:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, which had earlier called a bandh for today and withdrew it following the High Court stay order, organized satyagrah sit-ins at its party offices across the State today to reiterate its 35-point charter of demands with the State Government and to register its protest against what it sees as the undemocratic functioning of the State Government.

SKM party workers gathered at the respective party offices across the morning and sat on hunger strikes with the party president, PS Tamang [Golay], moving across party offices in West Sikkim and joining the satyagrahs there.

The SKM protest demanding that the State government fulfill the 35 demands raised by the



SKM and was joined by a large number of party workers began at the party offices with the

singing of the national anthem with posters of Mahatma Gandhi and the Tricolor prominently displayed

at all the venues. The SKM president stated that while the bandh call was with-

drawn because the party respects the High Court's decision, it was also committed to the

points raised by it which were for the greater common good of Sikkim and not for personal or

political mileage.

It was for this reason that the party decided to hold satyagrah protests across the State to raise the demands in a stronger voice.

These demands, he stressed, were important to the party which was ready to go to any level to have them addressed.

The dharnas were held at all the 31 constituency-level SKM party offices across the State and were joined by party leaders and workers.

Some of demands include immediate restoration of Nepali seats in state assembly, resolution of the Limboo Tamang reservation issue, tribal status for the 11 left-out communities, abolishing of the labour contract system, regularization of ad-hoc teachers and temporary employees, permission for CBI to take up cases in Sikkim etc.

**SC stays its
Feb 13 order
directing
eviction of 11.8
lakh forest
dwellers**

NEW DELHI, FEB 28 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Thursday stayed its February 13 order directing 21 states to evict 11.8 lakh illegal forest dwellers whose claims over the land have been rejected by the authorities.

A bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and Naveen Sinha directed the state governments to file affidavit giving details about process adopted in rejecting the claims.

The apex court posted the matter for further hearing on July 10.

The top court had on Wednesday agreed to hear the Centre's plea seeking withholding of its February 13 order asking 21 states to evict nearly 11.8 lakh forest dwellers whose claims were rejected.

After briefly hearing the matter, the bench said: "We stay and hold our February 13 order."

The bench also directed that the affidavit has to be filed by the chief secretaries of the states giving details of various steps covered for carrying out the eviction of the forest dwellers.

The Centre had rushed to the top court for modification of the order saying the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 was a "beneficial" legislation and should be construed liberally to help "extremely poor and illiterate people" who are not well informed of their rights and procedure under the law.

EVM and VVPAT units shifted to districts

GANGTOK, 27 FEB

[IPR]: With barely three months left for the General Elections, today, as per directions of the Election Commission of India, EVM and VVPAT units were shifted from the East District warehouse located at CEO office here to West, South and North district EVM VVPAT warehouses.

The strong-room was opened with the permission of ADC East (HQ), JC Namgyal, who is also the Nodal Officer for EVM VVPAT Management for East district.

The Nodal Officers for EVM VVPAT Management of the districts, SDM Mangan, Samdup Bhutia, SDM Yangyang, Tshering Gyatso Bhutia, DFO West, Tenzing Norbu Bhutia and officers and IT staff of the Office of the CEO, Sikkim were also present.

Members from political parties- SDF CEC member Raj Kumar, SKM vice president [East] Krishna Sharma also wit-



nessed the opening of the warehouse and shifting of EVM VVPAT units.

All the activities of EVMS (EVM Management System) are now monitored by EVMS (EVM Management System).

The New EVM Management System has two components, first is the Web based application and second is a Mobile application.

The Web Based Application has core functionalities related to EVM management process used by users like Manufacture, ECI, CEOs, DEOs

and Warehouse in charge, whereas the Mobile Application supports application used by temporary users mainly for scanning at warehouse level during sending and receiving in AC Strong Room after first randomization.

The total number of EVM Units shifted to South District is 112 (BU), 115 (CU) and 161 VVPATs, followed by 41 (BU) 46 (CU) and 54 VVPATs to North District and 82 (BU), 87(CU) and 78 VVPATs to West District respectively.

All the EVM VVPAT

Units are collected by Executive Magistrate from the respective district concerned. A tracking device has been installed in the vehicle carrying EVM Units as per the norms of Election Commission of India to monitor and keep track of EVM Units during the transit which is monitored by DEOs and CEO Office.

Strict SOP for security is also being followed. The vehicle is being accompanied by armed guards and executive magistrates throughout the transit.

Pedong's Nawang becomes youngest Team Manager of I-League team

**Minerva Punjab
FC entrusts
Nawang with
scouting for
fresh talent and
tie-ups with
foreign clubs**

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 FEB:

Nawang Yathopa Bhutia, one of unseen faces behind progression of hill football in national arena, has come to the forefront as the team manager of reigning I-League champions, Minerva Punjab FC.

The 28-year-old has been given crucial responsibilities, including working as an agent to scout new players across India especially from the Northeastern Region. He will be tapping into the fertile football grounds of Manipur, Meghalaya, the Darjeeling Hills and Sikkim. Nawang was recently signed as the team manager of Minerva FC by club owner, Ranjit Bajaj.

"I am very happy to be appointed as the Minerva FC team manager and excited to undertake the responsibilities handed over to me," says Nawang.

Based in Chandigarh, Minerva FC made its mark



in Indian football by winning the I-League in its second appearance. The club has its stamp on more than 64 players who have appeared for the national team in various age categories including the senior men's team.

Nawang has the pedigree of being the youngest football agent in India, something he achieved at the age of 21. He is now of the youngest team manager signed by an elite club of India.

Nawang hails from Pedong in Kalimpong and was born and brought up in Gangtok. He is well acquainted with footballers from both the regions and devotes his time to

football development on both sides of Rangpo.

"This is a big responsibility and challenge for me now. I have to prove myself. I wanted to associate myself with a top club like Minerva FC that has been constantly working on building talent," said Nawang.

His immediate task lies in managing the Minerva FC team for the upcoming AFC Cup.

Nawang also holds the position of foreign relationship manager and has been tasked to develop MoUs and tie-ups with foreign clubs.

"We will also be looking forward to develop

turn to pg02

Army rescues tourists stranded by blizzard in Sikkim

KOLKATA, FEB 28 (PTI): The Indian Army rescued and evacuated over 300 tourists stranded in Tsomgo and adjoining areas of East Sikkim owing to heavy snowfall, a Defence official said Friday.

The Army personnel carried out the rescue operation amid the blizzard, evacuating the tourists travelling in 50 to 60 vehicles Thursday, the official said.

The tourists who included

women, children and elderly persons were taken to safer places. A number of them requiring immediate medical care due to the weather and high altitude were evacuated in Army ambulanc-

es and treatment was provided to them, the official said. The tourists were transported from Tsomgo in Army vehicles and subsequently dropped at Sikkim capital Gangtok, he said.

India-Pakistan tensions ground thousands of air travellers

LONDON, FEB 28 (AFP): Thousands of air travellers worldwide were left stranded on Thursday after Pakistan closed its airspace in response to escalating tensions with India.

Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said it would keep airspace shut until 11.59 pm local time, disrupting major routes between Europe and South East Asia.

Thai Airways has cancelled nearly 30 flights, affecting 5,000 passengers.

"All THAI flights from Bangkok to Europe departing near midnight of 27 FEB through early 28 FEB and from Europe to Bangkok departing on 27 FEB have been cancelled due to Pakistan airspace closure," the airline wrote on its Twitter page.

The decision affected its services to London, Munich, Paris, Brussels, Milan, Vienna, Stockholm, Zurich, Copenhagen and Oslo, but the airline said at around 0530 GMT that it was resuming normal operations to Europe.

Singapore Airlines' was also forced to direct flights to Europe to re-fuel, while a flight to Frankfurt was cancelled.

The crisis between nuclear-armed neighbours Pakistan and India has raised fears of an all-out war. Pakistan said it would release a captured Indian pilot on Friday, in an overture towards New Delhi. India earlier said its forces had also shot down a Pakistani fighter jet as Pakistan suddenly closed its airspace early Wednesday.

The CAA said Thursday morning that it had temporarily restored its airspace, with three flights departing from Pakistan as of 1000 GMT.

They were an Emirates service from Peshawar to Dubai, an Air Arabia flight from Peshawar to Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE and a Qatar Airways flight from Peshawar to Doha.

Emirates was earlier forced to cancel 10 return flights to Pakistan while Qatar Airways pulled flights to Peshawar, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Multan.

Saudi Airlines also suspended all flights to Pakistan "until further notice". In Russia, two flights from Moscow to Vietnam and St. Petersburg to Thailand had to turn back to Russia while a Bangkok-bound flight had to land at Uzbekistan. Air Canada suspended flights to Mumbai and New Delhi, diverting an India-bound flight back to Toronto, while seven services from Istanbul to Pakistan were cancelled.

The closure affected Thai Airways flights to Scandinavia and Pakistani International Airlines flights to Copenhagen, with local television station TV2 television reporting that 25 Danish students were stuck at Bangkok airport.

"The atmosphere is not very good right now. We try to keep up the morale, but it's difficult," said student Sara Bjerregaard Larsen, adding that many were in tears.

Thai Airways struggled to find new routes to Europe with Iran "rejecting" a request to travel over its airspace, according to a spokesperson for the carrier.



Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao awareness campaign begins

SUMMIT REPORT

Rangpo, 28 Feb:

The Regional Outreach Bureau (S&DD) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development has begun a

mass awareness campaign on the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative.

A cultural troupe, Bhaoria of Kamrup, Assam, will be holding awareness performances in different parts of the State and organized cultural programs and streetplays at

Gangtok, Namchi, Namthang, Zoom, Nayabazar, Jorhang, Baiguney, Chibirey, Legship, Chisopani and other parts of the state.

The Field Outreach Bureau of Jorethang is also supporting the program.

India cancel Samjhauta Express operations on its end, lack of occupancy behind decision

NEW DELHI, FEB 28 (PTI):

Railways has decided to cancel operations of the Indo-Pak Samjhauta Express on its side due to drastic decline in occupancy, especially after the Pulwama terror attack, and the suspension of services from across the border, sources said.

No date of resumption of services has been fixed so far, they said.

The Railway Board cancelled all operations of the Attari Special Express, Delhi-Attari-Delhi, which together with the Wagah-Lahore link is known as the Samjhauta or Friendship Express - from the train's next scheduled run which is on Sunday, the sources said.

Pakistan has already suspended services on its end, officials said here, amidst strain in ties in the aftermath of the February 14 terror attack on CRPF personnel in Pulwama and subsequent developments.

"With no passengers from Pakistan, it makes no sense to run it on our end. Hopefully we will be able to resume services once the tension de-escalates," a source said.

At least 40 passengers from both countries are believed to be stranded at Attari, the sources said. Pakistan had Wednesday cancelled the train's trip on the Wagah-Lahore stretch on its side, even as 27 passengers -- 24 Indians and three from the neighbouring country arrived in Attari at 7 am.

The train had left the Old Delhi Railway station at 11:20 pm Wednesday night.

On Thursday, the Wagah station master sent a message to his Attari counterpart that the passenger and parcel train which comes to Attari station from the

Pakistan side at 12.30 pm will not be coming till further notice, officials said.

Earlier in the day, a Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesman said in a statement the operations of the train had been suspended Thursday "in view of the prevailing tensions between Pakistan and India."

The biweekly train was scheduled to depart from Lahore with 16 passengers.

"Samjhauta Express will resume its operations as soon as the security situation improves between India and Pakistan," the FO said, not giving any specific date for resuming the services.

Originally, the train offered a through service with one rake going all the way between the terminals - Delhi in India to Lahore in Pakistan. However, now a Pakistani rake stops at Attari at which point passengers have to change trains and board an Indian rake.

The Samjhauta Express, named after the Hindi word for "agreement", comprises six sleeper coaches and an AC 3-tier coach. The train service was started on July 22, 1976 under the Shimla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations.

From Lahore, the train departs on Monday and Thursday. The train operates from Delhi on every Wednesday and Sunday.

The sources said the footfall on the train, which generally records an occupancy of around 70 per cent, has fallen drastically post the Pulwama terror attack on February 14 carried out by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed.

Pak to release IAF pilot Abhinandan tomorrow as 'peace gesture': PM Khan



SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, FEB 28

(PTI): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday announced that IAF's captured pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be released on Friday as a "gesture of peace".

The surprise announcement during a joint session of Parliament came barely an hour after Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that Prime Minister Khan is ready to talk to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi to de-escalate Indo-Pak tensions.

As the opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif took the floor of the House, Prime Minister Khan apologised for interrupting and said he wishes to announce that the Indian pilot captured by Pakistan Air Force on Wednesday will be released Friday as a "peace gesture".

The announcement was greeted by thumping of desks by Pakistani lawmakers.

Earlier, Qureshi said that Pakistan is willing to consider returning the captured IAF pilot if it leads to "de-escalation

of tensions with India.

Pakistan detained Wing Commander Varthaman following a fierce engagement between air forces of the two sides along the Line of Control when his MiG 21 fighter jet was downed.

Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) said that the Indian Air Force pilot was safe and sound.

"The armed forces rescued him from the mob that went after him after his plane crashed in Kashmir," the FO said.

India Wednesday summoned the acting high commissioner of Pakistan and demanded immediate and safe return of the IAF pilot who was detained by Pakistan following an aerial engagement by air forces of the two countries.

It has also been made clear to Pakistan that no harm should be caused to the Indian defence personnel, the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi, adding that it has conveyed strong objection to the neighbouring country at the "vulgar display" of an injured personnel in violation of all norms of International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention.

Pedong's Nawang...

the club's grassroots programme where we will be targeting school boys from my place especially in preparing them. Football talent from the hills can contact me. I have already discussed my plan with owner Ranjit Bajaj and he is ready to explore," he adds.

Nawang is one of the founding members of Indian Football Management, the pioneer football agency of India and an organization engaged with players scouting.

Mamring School celebrates National Science Day



SUMMIT REPORT

MAMRING, 28 FEB:

Mamring SSS, East Sikkim, in collaboration with its Math & Science Club and NSS unit, organised a special program today to observe National Science Day at the school.

The science stream of class XII, under the guidance of PGT Mathematics, Rajesh Sharma, conducted the program with display of some science equipment and describing their parts and uses.

Two students pre-

sented speeches on National Science Day and Science for the people.

A quiz competition was also held at the end of the program. The program had the participation of all the NSS volunteers and students from classes VI to XII.



SKM hunger strike at Singtam

YOGEN THATAL

SINGTAM, 28 FEB:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha workers held a hunger strike in front of its

regional office here at Singtam today.

Headed by TN Dhakal, Guru Luitel, executive members and party workers took part in today's hunger strike.

Country worried about the safety of IAF pilot but PM busy strengthening polling booths: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, FEB 28 (PTI):

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for interacting with BJP workers through a video-conference, saying when the entire country was worried over the safety of IAF pilot who is in Pakistan's custody, he was busy strengthening polling booths.

The prime minister on Thursday interacted with about one crore BJP workers in 15,000 locations through what the party said was the "world's largest video conference".

Kejriwal had earlier urged Modi to postpone his mega video-conference, saying the nation's energy must be spent on getting the IAF pilot back from Pakistan's custody.

An IAF pilot was captured by Pakistan after an air combat Wednesday during which the two sides said they shot down each other's warplanes that followed an unsuccessful attempt to target Indian military installations in retaliatory strikes that sparked fears of war.

IAF sources identified the pilot as Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman.

Speaking in the Delhi Assembly, Kejriwal said the entire country was pained by the killing of 41 CRPF personnel in the

Pulwama terror attack but the Indian Air Force took revenge by dropping bombs inside Pakistan.

"The capture of our pilot Abhinandan has again pained the country. The entire country is with the government,

lot instead of strengthening his booths," he said.

Referring to BJP Karnataka chief B S Yeddyurappa's remark that India's pre-emptive strikes on terror camps in Pakistan has created a wave in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and will help the party win over 22 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state, Kejriwal said, "BJP is counting corpses, shame on such a party."

The chief minister said the country is enraged by what BJP and the prime minister were doing.

Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta objected to the chief minister's charges and later, he along with his party colleague Jagdish Pradhan walked out of the House.

Kejriwal said the AAP government in Delhi was realising the dreams of martyrs. "I hope the solution to the Indo-Pak problem will be found soon," he said.

Kejriwal said the AAP government in Delhi was realising the dreams of martyrs. "I hope the solution to the Indo-Pak problem will be found soon," he said.

Governor's greetings on birth anniv of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 28 FEB:**

On the occasion of 195th Birth Anniversary of great thinker and social reformer Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati which falls on 01 March this year, Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad has extended warm greetings and best wishes to his followers worldwide.

As per a press communiqué, the Governor has said, "The day commemorates the birth of one of the greatest thinker, philosopher and social reformer that our country has produced. The founder of Arya Samaj, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati is known worldwide for his thrust on modern education with rich Indian Philosophical base as

the tool to transform Indian society and ensure its progressive journey. His teachings and philosophy has continued to inspire the progressive society worldwide to work for the cause of society. Following the path shown by him, generations of Arya Samaj followers have focused on women education and have started social initiatives such as orphanages, old age homes and hospitals aimed at the welfare of deprived and marginalized section of society.

May the teachings of Maharshi Dayanand continue to enlighten our society and inspire all to work collectively for the wider cause of society fostering peace, brotherhood and harmony among all."

US, Taliban pause negotiations in Doha following 'solid' talks

DOHA, FEB 28 (AFP):

The US and the Taliban have paused negotiations in Doha, with the diplomatic push aimed at ending the war in Afghanistan set to restart over the weekend following "solid" talks between the adversaries. The latest meetings follow marathon talks last month that saw the US and the Taliban walk away with a "draft framework" focused on a potential US troop withdrawal and a pact to prevent Afghanistan from harbouring terrorists.

"Emerging from three solid days of talks with the Taliban in #Doha. Meetings were productive," tweeted US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who is leading the American side during the negotiations.

"We continue to take slow, steady steps toward understanding and eventually #peace," he said.

"Both sides will take the next two days for internal deliberations, with plans to regroup on Saturday," Khalilzad added.

Taliban spokesman

Zabiullah Mujahid confirmed the pause, adding the insurgents were "committed to the current peace process along with peace". The US has continued to push for a ceasefire in the war-torn country and the opening of negotiations between the Taliban and the Kabul government.

The Taliban however have repeatedly refused to meet with officials of the Afghan government, whom they dismiss as "puppets". Khalilzad hinted that headway was being made on the issue, tweeting "there is also progress on forming a national team in #Kabul ready to engage in intra-Afghan dialogue and talks with the Taliban".

Earlier in the week the special envoy met with the Taliban's top political leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Doha, in what has been touted as the highest-level engagement between the two sides in the months-long diplomatic thrust.

National Science Day observed at Lingi Payong School



SUMMIT REPORT

LINGI PAYONG, 28 FEB:

National Science Day was observed at Government Secondary School Lingi Payong in South Sikkim today on the theme, "Science for the People and People for the Science."

The programme started with an introduction to the day by GTS, LD Adhikari.

This was followed by presentation of different models prepared by students.

Mono-cable elevator prepared by Vivek Khatiwara and his team was

adjudged the best model.

S Singh, Yogita Giri and Goma Sharma judged the participants and their presentation across different parameters. The programme was coordinated by GTS Prakash Limboo supported by other teachers.

ported by other teachers.

National Science Day is observed every year on 28 Feb 2019 to mark the historic day when the first Indian physicist, Sir CV Raman, was awarded the Nobel Prize for the "Raman Effect".

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 Bedroom flat available for rent at Church Road, Near Diesel Power House. Conveniently located by the roadside and a 5-minute walk from M.G. Marg. Suitable for Corporate Office and Guest House.

For further details please

Contact: 9434117687 / 9083826462



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

**FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT ANNEXE - I, SONAM TSHERING MARG
GANGTOK, SIKKIM- 737101.**

Tel: Office – 202708

(Fax)- 202215

NIT No. 02/FCS&CAD/2019-20

Dated: 26/02/2019.

1. For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim invites online bids from reputed and established Millers who have milling business preferably in the State of Sikkim for "LIFTING OF WHOLE WHEAT FROM FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA, RANGPO, MILLING INTO ATTA AND FURTHER DISTRIBUTION TO FOOD GODOWNS UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF SIKKIM" for a period of five years.
2. The Central Issue Price of whole wheat is Rs.610/-per quintal. Monthly allocation is 2961.51 quintals. The whole sale rate of Atta is Rs.937.36/-per quintals and distributed at Food Godowns located in different parts of Sikkim.
3. Tender document can be downloaded from www.sikkimtender.gov.in.

Additional Secretary

Food, Civil Supplies & C.A. Department
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 740/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19

dt. 28.02.2019.



STATE BANK OF SIKKIM

(A Government of Sikkim Undertaking)

LATERAL RECRUITMENT OF GENERAL MANAGER IN STATE BANK OF SIKKIM

ADVERTISEMENT NO. SBS/GM/2019/01

DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION: 01.03.2019 TO 20.03.2019

Established in 1968 through the State Bank of Sikkim Proclamation State Bank of Sikkim of the then Government of Sikkim, State Bank of Sikkim is an undertaking of the State Government of Sikkim. State Bank of Sikkim operates as a commercial bank in the line with any other banking institutions in the country and also functions as a treasury bank to the State Government of Sikkim.

Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens of Sikkimese origin having Sikkim Subject certificate/ Certificate of Identification for lateral appointment in the following posts on regular/contract basis in State Bank of Sikkim.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| Sl. | Name of Post | No of Posts. |
| 1. | General Manager (Credit/Recovery) | 1 (one) |
| 2. | General Manager (Operation & Inspection) | 1 (one). |

For detailed advertisement and application form, interested candidate may visit Bank's Official Website www.statebankofsikkim.com.

**General Manager (A)
State Bank of Sikkim.**

SYNDICATE BANK, Ro, Siliguri
J R Commercial Complex,
Opp Bdo Office
Sainath More Shiv Mandir, Nh-31, Siliguri, West Bengal, 734010



POSSESSION NOTICE

[Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Syndicate Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices on the dates mentioned against the accounts stated herein below calling upon the Borrowers/ Gurantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/surety/owner of property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/surety/owner of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the dates mentioned below. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower/surety/owner of property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank, for the amount and interest thereon, costs etc.

- | |
|---|
| <p>A 1. Name of the Borrower: Mr. Anand Lama (M/s Kanchan View Restaurant)
2. Name of the Gurantor: Mr. Santosh Prasad Gupta
3. Outstanding Amount: Rs 612435.18/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Five and Eighteen Paise Only) and cost thereon.
4. Date of Demand Notice: 14.08.2018
5. Date of Possession: 22.02.2019
6. Description of the immovable Property: Parcha Khatian Bearing No.502, Plot Nos 293,294 and 292 measuring an area of 0.3740 Hect, 0.3380 Hect and 0.0180 Hectares respectively totalling to total 0.7300 Hectres, Under Syani Block, Sichey Elaka, Gangtok Sub Division, East Sikkim.</p> |
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| <p>A. 1. Name of the Borrower: Mrs. Babita Devi
2. Name of the Gurantor: Shri Tashi Bhutia
3. Outstanding Amount: Rs 2691785.11/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Five and Eleven Paise Only) and cost thereon.
4. Date of Demand Notice: 06.08.2018
5. Date of Possession: 20.02.2019
6. Description of the immovable Property: Khatiyon NO.556, Plot No.829/1069 and situated perlong block and measuring area 0.0167 hectares at perlong Gangtok Sikkim owned by Tashi Bhutia.</p> |
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| <p>B 1. Name of the Borrower: Mani Kr. Tamang
2. Name of the Gurantor: Mrs. Sushila Gurung
2. Outstanding Amount: Rs.542782.68/- (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Two and Sixty Eight Paise Only) and cost thereon.
4. Date of Demand Notice: 14.08.2018
5. Date of Possession: 22.02.2019
6. Description of the immovable Property: Plot of Land Plot No.876/1624 Situated at Assam Block, Naitam Elaka, East Sikkim measuring 0.0055 Hectares, owned by Mani Kr. Tamang.</p> |
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mittimes.
com**

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD – SIKKIM DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

Phone: 03592- 281913 Fax No: 03592-281913, Email: spcbsikkim@gmail.com

F.No. P-II/SPCB/2633

Dated:26/2/19

APPEAL

The general public are requested to keep the nallahs and jhoras in and around their settlements, clean for smooth flow of rain water as the monsoon is about to begin in the state. The clean nallahs and jhoras will safely drain out the excess volume of the rain water during monsoon. Hence, State Pollution Contraol Board – Sikkim appeals to all the people to refrain from throwing/ dumping garbage, household waste and construction & demolition waste into the nallahs and jhoras in and around the capital town of Gangtok and various other townships of the state.

These wastes when thrown or dumped in the nallahs and jhoras besides causing Pollution of water may lead to disaster threatening lives and properties of public as evident from the past. We sincerely solicit your support for preventing any eventuality.

'Prevention is better than cure'.

Sd/-

Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Board- Sikkim.
Deptt. Of Forest, Env. & W/L Management,
Government of Sikkim.

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD – SIKKIM DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

DEORALI, GANGTOK – 737102

Phone: 03592- 281913 Fax No: 03592-281913, Email: spcbsikkim@gmail.com

F.No. P-II/SPCB/2634

Dated:26/2/19

NOTICE

CONSENT TO ESTABLISH/ OPERATE/RENEWAL

Whereas no person can establish or operate any enterprise, industrial units without obtaining prior Consent under the provision of Section 25 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981, which are liable for causing environmental pollution. The units include any type of enterprises e.g. Health Care Establishments (Hospital, Clinics, Clinical Labs, Blood bank etc.), Pharmaceutical units, fabrication Units, Vehicle Cleaning facility (Car Spa), Automobile Workshop/ Garages, Hydro- electric Projects and Industrial Units including Hotel, Resorts, restaurant, Hot Mix Plant, Stone Crusher Plant, Diesel Generator sets, Mobile Towers, Petrol Pumps, Photo studios, Dairy, Bakery, Slaughter Houses, Laundry and Jewellery shops etc.

All above mentioned units are hereby directed to establish and operate their unit only after obtaining mandatory consent of the State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim. Failure to the same shall lead to legal action against them under the above mentioned Acts. Hence, notice is hereby given to all units to submit their application online through skocmms.nic.in for obtaining consent to establish/ operate before 31/03/2019 without fail. For further enquiry please contact the office of the State Pollution Control Board – Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok.

Contact No: 7908802047 Engineers, IT Cell, SPCB.

Sd/-

Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Board- Sikkim.
Deptt. Of Forest, Env. & W/L Management,
Government of Sikkim.

R.O. No. 736/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19

dt. 26.02.2019



ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The ANTHYESTHI KRIYA of our beloved late **Smt.Champawati Basnet**, wife of late Shri B.B. Basnet, who left for heavenly abode on 21st February, 2019 falls on **5th March, 2019.**

All relatives, family friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Development Area, Bodhi Marg, Gangtok. We also express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

RS Basnet, Smt B Basnet, PS Basnet,
Smt S Basnet, Smt Kamala Sharma,
DP Sharma, CV Basnet, PV Basnet,
DV Basnet, Jeewan Basnet, Rohan
Sharma, Avinash Sharma, Smt
Bhawana Basnet, Prerna Sharma,
Prabhat Basnet
MOBILE - 9434028015

For a Better Public Transport System

At least 1,14,293 households would welcome a reliable Public Transport option

Waiting in the rain for a share-cab is not the most relaxing way to begin a work-day, especially since the weather is refusing to play along and now a tourist season also setting in to make the wait for taxis even more frustrating. Not only are the jams enormous and tiring, even taxis are becoming scarce as they chase after the more remunerative sightseeing fares. This development, when taken up along with the growing hesitation among banks to jump at every vehicle loan application, leads to a situation where one can safely assume that the number of new private cars on Sikkim roads will not be growing at the same clip as they did in the decade between 2001-2011. A host of factors came together in that decade to inject an explosion of vehicles in Sikkim, and while this might be all fine if one were looking at vehicle ownership as a sign of prosperity, the traffic jams here led to a mistaken notion that there were enough private vehicles in Sikkim to justify the absence of a decent public transport system here.

Let's hold that thought and begin with vehicle ownership statistics in Sikkim as revealed in the data for households released by the Census of India for 2011. Sikkim had around 1.04 lakh households in 2001 which grew to 1,28,131 households in 2011. While the population grew at its slowest rate in recent times at 12.6% between 2001- 2011 [against 33.6% growth in the previous decade, 1991-2001], four wheel vehicle ownership grew nearly four-times. Where 2.3% of the families in Sikkim owned a car/jeep in 2001, the 2011 headcount revealed that this has now grown to 8.3%. It is now 17 years since that census was undertaken, so chances are that the number of families owning a car of their own has grown some more or possibly the same families are now owning more vehicles. Comparing Sikkim's [per capita vehicle spread against the national average for such ownership throws up some interesting statistics as well. While back in 2001, car ownership in Sikkim at 2.3% was slightly lower than the national average of 2.5%, in 2011, it was nearly double the national average of 4.7%. For those who would prefer real numbers, here it is - while 2,618 of the 1.04 lakh households in Sikkim owned a car in 2001, in 2011, this number had grown to 10,635 families out of the around 1.28 lakh households here. The increase, as mentioned, has been mind-boggling and the endless line of vehicles on the highways and town roads here also projects the mistaken notion that there are already too many vehicles on the roads.

And some might even use this density to argue against adding the burden of a wider public transport system here. But that would be a wrong inference, because while many more families in Sikkim now own cars, the number of Sikkim households without any mode of conveyance is also staggering at 89.2% of the households here. Interestingly, at the national level, while much fewer families on average own a car, only 44.1% of the households own no mode of transportation. Again, for those who would prefer actual numbers – the Census of 2011 found that 1,14,293 households in Sikkim do not own any form of conveyance, neither a car, nor a scooter nor even a bicycle. This number was 1,00,548 in 2001. The point being made here is that nearly 90% of the households are in need of a cheap and reliable mode of transportation.

The road network in Sikkim is already expansive and there are jeeps available to and from every corner of the State. People have recourse to only an occasional SNT bus in most places and private jeep services are expectedly more expensive than what a state operated bus would charge for the same journey. What is also sorely missed in Sikkim is a public transport option for shorter distances. Even the City Runner which has a well advised route connecting Gangtok to the suburbs and nearby towns has too few buses on the road compared the number of commuters who would use it if they were more frequent and better scheduled (at least to the level that the jams on Gangtok's only road will allow). The same applies to the districts.

Fact remains that close to 90% of the population remains denied the option of using a state supported public transport, which, even if it were slower, would also be more reliable [against the tourist season vagaries of private operators], safer and cheaper. The policy makers should perhaps factor the interests of this sector in their future projections.

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

India and Pakistan's Escalating Conflict Will Benefit Modi Ahead of Elections

SITA BALI
theconversation.com

Tensions in the Kashmir region were already building after more than 40 Indian troops were recently killed by a suicide bomber. India's "pre-emptive strike" over the disputed border on Tuesday – the first of its kind by India since it went to war with Pakistan in 1971 – has escalated the situation further. India said it had targeted a terrorist training camp and accused Pakistan of violating a 2003 cease-fire, while Pakistan now claims to have shot down two Indian fighter jets.

The origins of the Kashmir conflict lie in British imperial disengagement from the subcontinent. At independence in 1947, the unpopular Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir was faced with invasion by Pakistani tribesmen. He turned to India for help, signing the treaty of accession that took Kashmir into the Indian Union. India sent troops to Kashmir and so began the first war between India and Pakistan.

The Pakistanis were held off by Indian troops after they occupied one-third of Kashmir in 1948. Today, Pakistan continues to occupy that third and India holds the remaining two-thirds including the Kashmir Valley. The border between these two areas in Kashmir is demarcated by the Line of Control (LoC), established after fighting in 1947-48. This demarcation has changed little in all the conflicts of the subsequent years.

Maharaja Hari Singh's move to join India was supported by the popular secular Kashmiri political movement - the National Conference, led by Sheikh Abdullah. Particularly so, as India agreed a special status for Kashmir within the Indian Union – spelled out in Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. A further article in the constitution prohibits people from outside Kashmir from buying land and property in the state, allowing Kashmir to preserve the balance of its ethnic and religiously mixed population (60% Muslim, 35% Hindu and 5% Buddhist).

Pakistan has always maintained that, in accordance with the logic of partition, Kashmir should have been integrated with it. It attempted to take Kashmir by force in 1947-48 and again in 1965, with no success. The Kargil conflict in 1999 was

the last substantial direct confrontation between the two militaries.

Since then there have been regular terrorist attacks on mostly military, paramilitary or government targets in Kashmir – see the full list here. Successive Indian governments have held the Pakistan military and their Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) responsible for training and aiding the terrorists



involved, which Pakistan denies.

After this latest suicide attack, claimed by the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM) terror group, the debate now rests on whether the wider apparatus of the Pakistani state was aware of, and can be held responsible for, the actions of a terrorist group based in their country and with supposed links to the ISI.

MODI OPERANDI

The suicide attack that killed Indian paramilitary personnel takes on added significance because it occurred in the context of the looming general election in India in which the BJP, led by Narendra Modi, is trying to retain its grip on power. Modi and his BJP came to power with a thumping majority in May 2014, promising competent, clean government and economic development.

However, things have not gone well for the government in recent months. The Indian economy is suffering from the long-term effects of the decision to demonetise in 2016 and the inability to generate new jobs. The BJP was also defeated in five state elections in 2018, including key states of the Hindi belt such as Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

With Modi's supposed record of economic competence and good governance under challenge, he has increasingly relied on his party's version of extreme nationalism to keep people's support. The BJP's Hindutva ideology sees India as a Hindu country and believes all Indian Muslims should have been forced to move to Pakistan in 1947, and now constitute a fifth column in the country. So an attack such as the recent suicide bombing – whether or not it was actually instigated by Pakistan – plays into Modi's narrative.

That the attack was carried out by a young man from Indian Kashmir also serves to illustrate the failure of the Modi government in dealing with the Kashmir problem. For more than three years the BJP was itself part of the government of Kashmir in alliance with the People's Democratic Party of Mohammed and Mehbooba Mufti. This alliance fell apart in 2018, mostly over disagreements between the two parties about how to handle the increase in violence in Kashmir and the radicalisation of young Kashmiris, who were once again taking up arms against India.

The Jaish-e-Mohammad terror group, unusually, took immediate responsibility for the attack. Equally, the Indian response to the attack was a first, in that India has never before responded to terrorism within its borders by attacking Pakistan. India's airstrike is considered the first major use of air power against Pakistan since 1971.

At this stage there are claims and counter claims from both sides about what the Indian bombing raids achieved. Pakistan is threatening an appropriate response, so there is potential for an escalation of this volatile situation between two nuclear armed countries.

Amid an intensifying war of words and action between the two, the only beneficiary will be the BJP. As jingoistic fervour rises in India, they hope they will be swept back to office on the crest of that wave.

[the writer is Head of department, Staffordshire University]

What our new study reveals about the genetics and biology of suicidal behaviour

RONA STRAWBRIDGE
theconversation.com

More than three quarters of a million people take their own lives every year, to devastating personal, social and economic cost. Recent research has detailed the strong connection between suicide and mental illness, particularly depression.

Past studies have also shown that those who have lost a relative this way are more likely to consider suicide. This paints a complex picture of suicide as something that has been shown to have both environmental and biological causes.

Now our research has identified specific DNA risk markers which are involved. Our analysis has also shown that people who died by suicide had more of these risk markers, and has indicated the extent of overlap with risk markers for mental illness.

In this largest study to date, we assessed the severity of suicidal behaviours of 157,000 people who answered a survey on mental health and well-being. Crucially this study included people with no diagnoses of mental illness as well as those with known mental illness. We analysed each individual's DNA, the genetic variation for about nine million positions across the genome – the complete set of DNA. Genetic variations are the differences in the DNA that make each of us unique.

COMPLEX BEHAVIOUR

Suicidal behaviour is complex and poorly understood. It includes a range of thoughts and actions, from thinking about self-harm through to suicide attempts. Thoughts about self-harm are relatively common in the general population, even in those with no history of mental illness.

Genetic variations influence personality types as well as the risk of mental health problems and alcohol or drug use. But it is also clear that

genetic predisposition is only part of the issue – broader factors such as personality (impulsivity, pessimism), social (loneliness), economic (deprivation), lifestyle (drug or alcohol use) and environmental (loss of a loved one) also play an important role in suicidal behaviour.



Even without mental illness, negative life experiences (such as bereavement, divorce, financial worries) can trigger distress and despair in people. This can be worse in people with low optimism or perfectionist personalities and can lead to suicidal thoughts and behaviours. People with impulsive or aggressive personalities, or those under the influence of drugs or alcohol, might also act in a way that could injure themselves without realising the severity of the consequences. Access to lethal methods (such as guns) is an important factor in the outcome being self-harm or suicide.

LOOKING AT THE DATA

In our study, we sought to identify genetic variations that might be associated with a broad range of suicidal thoughts and behaviours by making use of a very large sample of data from the UK Biobank. The UK Biobank is a study that collected a wide range of information from nearly 500,000 people across the UK. Information in-

cluded physical measurements (such as height, weight, blood pressure) and detailed questionnaires about lifestyle (such as diet and exercise patterns), family history of disease, personal medical history and current medication. Individuals were also given the opportunity to give a blood

sample for DNA analysis.

Approximately six years after the study began, UK Biobank asked 157,000 participants (from the 500,000 people in the initial study), with and without mental health problems, to complete a comprehensive thoughts and feelings questionnaire. This included a range of questions on mental health and self-harm. Participants were asked whether they had ever:

1. considered that life was not worth living
2. contemplated self-harm
3. self-harmed
4. attempted suicide in the past

We used this range of suicidal behaviours – from thoughts about self-harm and ending life to suicide attempts – analysed in order of increasing severity, and identified three regions of DNA containing genetic variations that were associated with suicidal thoughts and behaviour.

By linking to death certification

records (a small proportion of the UK Biobank have died by suicide), we were also able to show that having more genetic variants associated with suicidal tendencies were observed in individuals who died by suicide. When considering summary results (rather than individual data) across the genome, we found that, as expected, there was an overlap (a genetic correlation) between the genetic variants for suicidal behaviours and those that increase risk for several mental illnesses, most notably major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders.

IMPORTANT WORK

Understanding the genetics and biology of suicidal behaviour is challenging but important work because it will help to inform our understanding of mental illness more broadly. Further study of the three regions of DNA can help us to understand the biology of suicidal behaviour – do the genetic variants influence personality traits? Do the genetic variants increase the risk of suicidal behaviour only when combined with lifestyle, social or negative life events? Can these genetic variants be useful in predicting an individual's risk of suicidal behaviour?

More accurate models of suicide risk prediction are urgently needed and are vitally important for public health around the world. Our long-term ambition is that researchers in genetics will work more closely with social and psychological scientists to develop useful models of suicidal behaviour that are informed by evidence from biological, social, psychological and medical research.

It is very clear that both nature and nurture are important factors in suicidal behaviour. Now we need to study how these complex areas interact to influence risk at a personal level, as well as how society as a whole can have an effect on risk of suicide, such as raising awareness about the dangers of loneliness and lack of social connection.

[the writer is UKRI Innovation Fellow at HDR UK, University of Glasgow]

Unfazed by trolls CRPF man’s widow pitches for peace with Pak

KOLKATA, FEB 28 (PTI): Unfazed by trolls she faced for her advocacy of peace between India and Pakistan, the widow of a CRPF jawan killed in Pulwama attack Thursday asserted she stands by her view that dialogue should be “given a chance”. She also urged the Centre to ensure the safe release of Indian fighter pilot Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured by Pakistan on Wednesday.

Mita Santra’s husband Bablu Santra was one of the 40 victims of the suicide attack on a CRPF convoy in Kashmir’s Pulwama on February 14. Mita said she was not worried about the criticism she faced on social media over her anti-war stand. “We should give dialogue a chance instead of war that will lead to loss of so many more lives,” Mita told PTI and urged the Government of India to make all efforts to ensure Varthaman’s return.

“I urge our government to engage with that of Pakistan to get back Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman safely,” she said. Varthaman was captured following a fierce engagement be-



tween fighter aircraft of the two sides along the Line of Control in which a Pakistani F-16 jet was downed. The IAF also lost a MiG 21 Bison aircraft being flown by Varthaman, who bailed out but was captured and arrested.

Following the death of her husband, Mita had made a strong anti-war pitch despite calls for avenging the suicide attack, insisting that a war should be avoided as it will snuff out many more lives on both sides of the border, leaving women widowed, mothers without sons and children without fathers.

Mita said she was not bothered about social media trolls criticising her stand on war, adding that if one person has criticised her, 10 others appreciated her approach.

The trolls even questioned her love for her husband. “After February 14, nothing touches me. Anybody can say anything, I am not worried,” said the mother of a six-year-old girl. However, she wondered if those criticising her had a family member serving in the armed forces. “Sitting in their homes, some people are saying so

many things, but do they have any of their family members in the Army, Air Force, Navy or paramilitary forces?” she asked.

It is natural that the armed forces will have to go to war and make the ultimate sacrifice, but the Indian government must ensure their security, she said.

“I want security of the forces to be ensured. All the forces, be it the Army or the paramilitary like CRPF or ITBP, are of the Government of India and it is the duty of the government to take necessary measures to ensure their security,” she said.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
YANGANG SUB DIVISION
SOUTH SIKKIM

N.I.T. No. 486/GOS/R&B/Rav/Div

Dated: 27/02/2019

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (Rabong), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class III Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 08.10.2018 & vide Notification No.556/R&B/Secy. Dated 28/08/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the **Gram Panchayat Ward** where the work is to be executed.The details of works and time schedules are as under: -

Sl. No	Name of Work	Cost of work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.5% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion time	GPU/WARD
1	CARPETING OF ROAD FROM PHONGLA BERMOIK ROAD TO THANGSING KOTHI KM 3 rd & 4 th UNDER YANGANG SUB-DIVISION, SOUTH SIKKIM.	1,05,25,258.00	2,63,131.00	30,000.00	12 months	GPU: 12 Bermoik, Thangsing ward no 02

Time Schedule: -


1	Date of submission of application with bank Receipt For issue of Tender Documents (<i>excluding Tender Form</i>)	:	14 th March, 2019. (From 10.00am to 3.00pm)
2	Date of submission of application with bank Receipt For issue of Tender Documents (<i>excluding Tender Form</i>)	:	14 th March, 2019. (From 10.00am to 3.00pm)
3	Date of issue of Tender Form on submission of TDR (as Earnest Money).	:	16 th March, 2019. (From 10.00am to 3.00pm)
4	Last Date and Time of submission of Tender: - (Venue: GPK-12 Bermoik)	:	18 th March 2019 (From 10.00 am to 12.00 pm)
5	Date and Time of Opening of Bid: (Venue: GPK-12 Bermoik)	:	18 th March 2019 (1 p.m. onwards)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area (**Concerned Gram Panchayat Ward**).
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the **INTENDING TENDERER**. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.
- The application should enclose attested copies of the (a) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (**excluding the Tender Form**) can be obtained during the period specified above from the office of the Divisional Engineer (Rabong), Roads & Bridges Department, Rabong Division on production of requisite Receipt from the Concerned Gram Panchayat Kendra, towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable).
- Earnest money deposit @ **2.50%** in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Senior Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi Circle. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of deposit receipts, to that Contractor/Firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of Deposit Receipt of 2.50% earnest money.
- The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl. No: 3 (a) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box under their respective GPK's (Panchayat Bhawan) on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subject to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost.The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days from the issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage, handling and use of explosives at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.
- Damage of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.

Sd/-
Divisional Engineer,
Roads & Bridges Department,
Rabong Division,
South Sikkim.

R.O. No. 742/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 28.02.2019.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SINGTAM

Memo No:400/ AES/ R&B

Date: 27/02/2019

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

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

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Const. Of fair weather road from Dikchu Singtam Highway Rajatar to Lower Barang				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	09 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	09 months.
	Km 3rd.	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs.1,500.00	09 months.
2	Const. Of fair Weather road from Sheley PMGSY road to Khesey.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 42,38,496.00	Rs.105970.00	Rs.1,500.00	09 months.
	Km 2nd	Rs. 25,43,098.00	Rs. 63,577.00	Rs.1,500.00	09 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt and TDR for issue of Tender Documents.	11 st March, 2019 (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	12 nd March 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	12 nd March 2019 (1.30pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods& Service Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified as above on production of requisite Bank receipt towards the cost of Tender Document (non-refundable) in the Head of GPU where the work is to be executed.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, NirmanBhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No. (a)& (b)above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractors shall be at his/herown risk and cost. The department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the date of issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills us per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED GRAM Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.**

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department.
Singtam Sub Division

R.O. No. 748/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date:28.02.2019.

It would be nice to bat higher up in ODIs: Maxwell

BENGALURU, FEB 28 (PTI): Glenn Maxwell would prefer batting higher up the order in ODIs, following his series-winning 113 at number four in Australia's seven-wicket victory against India in the second T20 International.

Maxwell bats at number 7 in ODIs and would happily take a promotion in the five-match ODI series starting in Hyderabad on March 2.

The 30-year-old slammed his third T20 international hundred on Wednesday night, an unbeaten 113 off 55 balls, to blow away India and win the series 2-0.

"In my case tonight, when I came out, it was 15 overs to go I think. And as long as I get a 80 or a 100 out of that even, if I am doing that at a No 6 or a 7, it doesn't really matter. It's just me making the most of the opportunities when I get them," said Maxwell.

"It's not easy to just come here and go like that because the ball is a lot older, the wicket's gone a lot quicker here. Even tonight at the end of the game, the wicket's sort of drying out and there was scuffs all over it," he added.

Maxwell believes that in ODIs, he will find it difficult to make a difference at No 7 in most occasions and a promotion up the order may just suit his game.

"In one day cricket, it's not as easy to go at



the end. So it would be nice to bat higher up but it depends on what happens in the top four or top five. If the opportunity does come up, I'd like to take," he said.

Maxwell was on a rampage, hitting bowlers to all corners of the park for nine sixes and seven fours. However, he felt that he did not take any needless risk.

"I think it's just got to be about picking your moments. I think a little bit of it is that I have to go hard but I think I had been just picking off balls I can hit the boundaries in.

"Like today, I don't think I took too many ridiculous risks and I feel

I read the game really well and was able to hit the ball in areas where the fielders weren't at all. There's not many times I hit the ball straight over a fielder's head but just place it in the gap and I feel that's okay for me.

"When I had a successful innings, if I am mistiming and it's still falling in the gap but I have gotten in control and I really had a good read of the game and I was just one step ahead," said Maxwell.

He even negotiated pacer Jasprit Bumrah well to stay unbeaten.

"I was always trying to attack him. We needed 44 off the last four overs and he came back

on. I suppose it was a key over. If that only went for four or five, suddenly you need 13 an over. And it only takes six good yorkers from him to push that up to 18-19. That can be quite difficult to get in the last two overs, or the two other overs.

Maxwell was well aware of the threat that Bumrah could pose.

"So I was just hoping he missed a couple of times and wanted to pounce on that. He's done me a fair few times in T20 cricket to his credit. I have sort of changed my approach to him a little bit. Been able to wait for a ball that's slightly off and capitalise on that.

"I was able to get him

for two boundaries in that over, and keep the run rate in check and I was able to target Siddarth next over and then we only needed 14 off 12 balls."

Maxwell was batting in such a zone that he did not even feel the need to change his bat.

"I have been saying in the change room I've got the best bat ever. It's being held together by tape at the moment. Inside edge has been pretty badly hammered. There was a bit of it coming off in the third last over. They told me to change it and I was just like "no, not changing this bat, it's the best bat ever."

Following their

maiden T20 series win over India, Australia go into the ODIs a more confident lot.

"I have been here a lot of times but haven't felt a lot of success. In 2013, we had that amazing series, record amount of runs and last game here Rohit got a double hundred. We tried to chase 380 and I think Faulkner got a 100 in that game but "That was one of the best series played here and to not win that is probably a sign of we played such good cricket in that tour and India still beat us and that's how difficult to win here. So to win here in the first two games of the tou, that starts really well," he added.

Controversy has humbled me and I value India cap even more: KL Rahul



BHARAT SHARMA BENGALURU, FEB 28 (PTI): The "hard time" that he endured in the wake of a chat show controversy has "humbled" K L Rahul and the Indian batsman says he now values his national cap more than ever.

Both Rahul and Hardik Pandya were provisionally suspended for their loose comments on women during a popular chat show. Their bans were later revoked pending an inquiry.

The off-field controversy erupted after Rahul endured a dismal run in the four-Test series in Australia but he is back in the national team after finding his feet with the India A side.

"It was a hard time no doubt. I mean, as a player, as a person, everyone has to go through difficult times and it was my time to go through that and I like I said it gave me time to reflect on my game, on myself. I have always been someone who takes things as it comes," said Rahul after the second T20 International.

India lost the short series 0-2 but Rahul made a successful comeback with scores of 47

and 50. After he was sent back from Australia, Rahul was given the opportunity to regain form in the India A home series against England Lions and he made it count.

Asked if the entire controversy has changed him as a person, the 26-year-old said:"It has humbled me a little bit and you know. I respect the opportunity that I have gotten to play for the country. The dream of every kid is to play for the country and I am no different.

"Just to value where I am, just to keep making opportunities count and put my head down and keep working on my cricket," said the man from Karnataka.

Rahul said the India A stint under coach Rahul Dravid helped him immensely.

"I got some time off from international cricket, so I could come back to India and reflect on what was not going right for me. Fortunately, I got to play some India A games where the pressure is a bit less and where I could focus on my skill and my technique," said Rahul.

"I got to spend a lot of time with Rahul Dravid, working on my game and

chatting about cricket. He helped a lot in the five games I played for India A. The time I have spent in the middle has helped. It is nice to be back with the boys and back in blue," the relief was palpable as he spoke.

Rahul hopes that it is a blessing in disguise that he courted controversy early in his international career.

"I hope so. Things happen like I said. Four-five years with Team India . Learnt about the game, where I stand as a cricketer, as a person so just try to get better from there and be consistent and keep performing."

Rahul admitted that he felt the pressure after making a comeback into the Indian team.

"There was little bit of pressure as I have been away from team. But I came into the series with a little bit of runs, so yeah happy to be back."

India were not able to defend 190 for four on Wednesday and ended up being outplayed in the series. Local hero Rahul said chasing at Chinnaswamy in the night becomes easier with dew factor playing out.

"In the second innings, dew always has an effect. We have seen that in Chinnaswamy. If you see the stadium's history, chasing has been easier. But can't take credit from Glenn Maxwell.

"He (Maxwell) played a very good innings. Our bowlers tried their best but with a wet ball, it was always hard," said Rahul, adding that India will have to find a way to contain Maxwell in the five-match ODI series starting on March 2.

3rd ODI: England register consolation win, avoid whitewash against India



NIKHIL BAPAT MUMBAI, FEB 28 (PTI): England women on Thursday scripted a sensational recovery from a difficult position to register a consolation two-wicket win in the third and final ODI to prevent hosts India from completing a whitewash in the three-match series.

Chasing India's total of 205/8, England were struggling at 49/5 before all-rounder Danni Wyatt (56 off 82 balls) stitched two crucial partnerships with skipper Heather Knight (47 off 63 balls) and Georgia Elwiss (33 not out off 53 balls) to pave the way for their victory.

England scored 208-8 in 48.5 overs to grab two crucial points as the three-game series is part of ICC Women's Championship.

The World Champions are placed in seventh place and need to be in the top four to qualify directly for the 2021 World Cup.

India had already sealed the series after the winning the first two games.

Defending the target, veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami (3-41) rattled the England top-order, removing Amy Jones

(13), Lauren Winfield (2) and Tamsin Beaumont (21).

Soon, it became 40-4 after off-spinner Deepthi Sharma caught and bowled in-form Natalie Sciver (1) and then pacer Shikha Pandey trapped Sarah Taylor (2) as England lost half their side at 49.

But then Wyatt and Knight conjured an important 69-run stand for the sixth wicket.

After Knight fell, Wyatt added 56 runs for the seventh wicket with Elwiss to bring the visitors close to the target.

Elwiss and Anya Shrubsole (4 not out) then held their nerve to guide the side home.

Earlier, medium-pacer Katherine Brunt (5-28) grabbed a five-wicket haul to restrict India for 205/8.

India women had fritted away the foundation laid by Smriti Mandhana (66) and Punam Raut (56) after suffering a middle-order collapse.

Brunt, 33, was the wrecker-in-chief as the hosts suffered a middle-order collapse after they slumped from 129/1 to 150/7.

However, Deepthi Sharma (27 not out) and Shikha Pandey (26) later

ensured that the hosts crossed the 200-run mark. Opting to bat, India lost Jemimah Rodrigues (0) early. But then Mandhana and Raut steadied the ship with their 129-run second wicket stand.

They initially played with caution and later hammered the loose deliveries, putting the English attack under pressure.

Mandhana, who mostly relied on pulls and drives, stuck eight fours and a six, while Raut hit seven boundaries.

But Brunt brought England back in the game by removing both Mandhana and Raut in the 29th over. While Mandhana gave a sitter to Dannie Wyatt at deep-mid wicket, Raut was cleaned up.

Brunt then trapped Mona Meshram (0) in front of the wicket and later sent Mithali Raj (7) back to complete her fifer.

Taniya Bhatia (0), Jhulan Goswami (1) also fell cheaply as the visitors made a splendid comeback in the middle-overs.

The two teams will now head to Guwahati to play the three-match T20I series.

Del Potro withdraws from Indian Wells with knee injury

INDIAN WELLS (CALIFORNIA), FEB 28 (AP): Defending champion Juan Martin del Potro has withdrawn from next month's BNP Paribas Open because of a knee injury.

Del Potro said Wednesday through tournament officials that he's been advised to rest by his doctors and he hopes to return to action soon. He defeated Roger Federer to win his first Masters 1000 title last year in the Southern California desert.

The fourth-ranked Argentine lost in the quarterfinals of last week's Delray Beach

Open in Florida. It was del Potro's first tournament since injuring his knee at the Shanghai Masters in October.

Del Potro had already pulled out of this week's Mexican Open in Acapulco, which he won last year. He also missed the Australian Open in January.

With del Potro's withdrawal, Taro Daniel of Japan moves into the men's draw. The women's draw already lost two-time winner Maria Sharapova, who withdrew with a shoulder injury. The tournament runs March 6-17 in Indian Wells.

Fun in Acapulco as Nadal eases into second round

ACAPULCO (MEXICO), FEB 27 (AFP): Rafael Nadal powered into the second rounds at the Mexican Open, breezing past Germany's Mischa Zverev in straight sets to advance to a meeting with Australia's Nick Kyrgios.

World number two Nadal, playing in his first event since being thrashed by Novak Djokovic in last month's Australian Open final, was always in control during a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion completed victory in 1hr 20min at Acapulco's Princess Mundo Imperial venue, defeating his 76th ranked opponent with ease.

The tournament top seed seized the advantage in the opening set, scoring a break to go 3-1 ahead with a delicate lob that left Zverev floundering.

With Nadal's superior variety proving too much for Zverev, the Spaniard quickly wrapped up the opening set for a 1-0 lead.

The second set went with serve until the seventh game, when a wild forehand from Zverev sailed wide to give Nadal the break for a 4-3 lead.

Pakistan Army says troops on high alert along LoC



ISLAMABAD, FEB 28 (PTI): The Pakistan Army said on Thursday that its troops are on high alert along the LoC with all required safeguards to thwart any "Indian aggression" amidst tense ties with New Delhi.

The Pakistan Army's statement came amid tensions between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack claimed by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror group.

"Due to the prevailing environment, the Pakistan Army troops are on high alert along the Line of Control (LoC) with all required safeguards along the Eastern Border in place to thwart any Indian aggression," army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor said in a statement.

He said that the Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy continued to stay fully alert.

"During the last 48

Zverev's hung his head following the miscue, seemingly realising there was no way back.

Nadal then held for a 5-3 lead and wrapped up victory in the ninth game, moving to match point when Zverev could only plop a return tamely into the net.

Nadal then produced a sublime backhand winner down the line to seal a deserved win.

Elsewhere Tuesday, Zverev's younger brother Alex had little difficulty in advancing to the second round, defeating Australia's Alexei Popyrin 6-3, 6-3.

Second seed Zverev's service game overwhelmed Popyrin, with the German hammering down 13 aces en route to victory.

Australia's Kyrgios meanwhile was made to work hard for victory in his win over Italy's Andreas Seppi, battling into the second round with a 6-3, 7-5 win.

Third seed John Isner of the United States also had a testing opening game, needing three sets to subdue France's Adrian Panarin 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

hours, Indian troops resorted to increased ceasefire violations in Kotli, Khairatta and Tatta Pani sectors along the LoC," Ghafoor said.

Pakistan Armed Forces are in a state of readiness for all eventualities, the spokesperson added.

India carried out air strikes against the biggest training camp of JeM in Balakot on Tuesday. In the operation, a very large number of JeM terrorists, trainers, senior commanders and groups of jihadis who were being trained for suicide attacks were eliminated. The facility at Balakot was headed by Yousuf Azhar, the brother-in-law of the JeM chief.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed and many injured on February 14 in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a JeM suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

Trump ‘walks’ as North Korea talks end abruptly without deal

HANOI, FEB 28, 2019 (AFP): The US-North Korea nuclear summit in Hanoi ended abruptly without a deal Thursday, with President Donald Trump saying he had decided to “walk” in the face of Kim Jong Un’s demands to drop sanctions.

The much-anticipated second meeting between the two leaders was supposed to build on their historic first summit in Singapore, but they failed to sign a joint statement as initially scheduled and the talks ended in deadlock.

“Sometimes you have to walk and this was just one of those times,” an unusually downbeat Trump told reporters.

“Basically they wanted the sanctions lifted in their entirety and we couldn’t do that,” said.

But Trump insisted he was “optimistic that the progress we made” before and during the summit left them “in position to have a really good outcome” in the future. “I’d much rather do it right than do it fast,” he added.

He noted Kim had vowed not to resume nuclear or ballistic missile testing -- something he previously identified as a yardstick for success -- but said a third summit with the Pyongyang strongman was not on the cards so far, despite reiterating their “close relationship”.

“We just like each other... there’s a warmth that we have and I hope that stays, I think it will,” said Trump.

The outcome in Hanoi fell far short of the pre-meeting expectations and hopes, after critics said their initial historic meeting in Singapore was more style over substance.

“This is a major failure,” tweeted Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund peace



foundation. It showed the limit of summitry, he added, with “not enough time or staff” to work out a deal.

In the original White House programme, a “Joint Agreement Signing Ceremony” had been scheduled in Hanoi as well as a working lunch for the two leaders.

In the event, both men left the summit venue without signing anything and Trump moved up his news conference by two hours.

Ankit Panda, from the Federation of American Scientists, warned on Twitter that the White House’s expectation of further talks “does not have to be a perception shared in North Korea.” “Kim may have left irate, for all we know. He may have no intention of continuing this,” added Panda.

Trump flew around the world for the meeting and Kim undertook a mammoth two-and-a-half-day trek through China in his olive green train, travelling 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles).

At first the smiles and bonhomie from Singapore ran on into their

second date in Hanoi as Trump touted the “special relationship” between the two, although concrete statements were vague. The US president frequently dangled the prospect of a brighter economic future for a nuclear-free North Korea, at one point saying there was “AWESOME” potential.

From the outset, he had appeared to downplay expectations of an immediate breakthrough in nuclear talks, saying he was in “no rush” to clinch a rapid deal and was content if a pause in missile testing continued.

But Harry Kazianis, Director of Korean Studies at the Centre for the National Interest, said that no agreement was better than a bad one.

There would be “nothing worse than signing a deal just to get something,” he told AFP.

“The challenge is North Korea’s nuclear weapons are already a reality,” he added. “Getting a deal that does little to nothing to remove that threat would be far worse than a flawed deal.” - ‘Rocket man’ -

In Singapore the two

signed a vague document in which Kim pledged to “work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula”.

Progress subsequently stalled, with the two sides disagreeing on what that means, as the North sought relief from sanctions and Washington pressed for concrete steps towards it giving up its weapons.

As in Singapore, the two men put on a show of bonhomie in Vietnam, appearing to share jokes in front of reporters.

Looking relaxed but appearing to say little, they indulged in a pool-side stroll Thursday around the gardens of the luxury Metropole Hotel, a colonial-era building that has played host to stars ranging from Charlie Chaplin to Brad Pitt.

It was a far cry from the height of missile-testing tensions in 2017 when Trump slammed Kim as “rocket man” and the younger man branded the American president a “mentally deranged US dotard”.

In apparently unprecedented scenes, Kim answered unscripted

questions from foreign reporters, saying he would welcome the establishment of a US liaison office in Pyongyang, which would be a step on the way to diplomatic normalisation.

Before the summit, there was talk that there could be a political declaration ending the 1950-53 Korean War which finished technically with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

There were also hopes Kim could pledge to destroy North Korea’s decades-old Yongbyon nuclear complex, which has long been at the heart of Pyongyang’s atomic development but remains shrouded in secrecy. North Korea has promised to mothball it twice before.

A patent distraction from the summit was a scandal back home in Washington with Trump’s former personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen calling him a “racist” and a “con-man” during a congressional hearing.

“He lied a lot,” the president said simply in response on Thursday.

Ex-Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn makes fresh bail request

TOKYO, FEB 28 (AFP): Lawyers for former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn on Thursday filed a fresh bail request for the auto titan who has been detained for more than three months, the Tokyo District Court said.

It is the first bail request filed by the 64-year-old since he shook up his legal team as he crafts his defence to three charges of financial misconduct.

The former high-flying executive has been in detention since his shock November 19 arrest, and has tried repeatedly without success to secure bail.

Reached by AFP, an assistant lawyer for Ghosn’s lead attorney declined to explain how the bail request would differ from previous filings.

“We can’t comment on details, including any differences in approach this time.

We plan to explain about details when we hold a news conference next week,” he said.

Ghosn’s previous legal team even deployed a rarely-used article of the Japanese constitution to force the court to explain

why the Franco-Lebanese-Brazilian remained in detention.

A judge said Ghosn’s continued detention was justified because he posed a flight risk and there was a possibility he would conceal evidence.

Ghosn and his lawyers have argued that neither of those is the case, and he even offered to wear a tracking bracelet and hire guards to monitor his whereabouts, pledging to stay in Japan.

But so far the courts have shown no inclination to end his lengthy pre-trial detention, which has drawn some criticism internationally and from rights groups.

Prosecutors have defended his detention while they investigate three charges of financial misconduct, two involving alleged under-reporting of his salary and a third over a complex scheme in which Ghosn allegedly sought to transfer his losses to Nissan’s books.

Ghosn has denied all the allegations against him, and in an interview with AFP from his Tokyo detention he slammed

his continued detention.

“Why am I being punished before being found guilty?” Ghosn asked, speaking to AFP and the Les Echos daily in January.

The refusal to grant him bail “would not be normal in any other democracy,” he said.

Ghosn earlier this month shook up his legal team, replacing his previous lead lawyer -- a former prosecutor -- with hot-shot lawyer Junichiro Hironaka, who has a history of taking on high-profile cases.

Ghosn’s November arrest sent shockwaves through the auto industry in Japan and beyond.

A towering figure once revered in Japan for turning around Nissan’s fortune, Ghosn also forged a successful alliance between Nissan, Mitsubishi Motors and France’s Renault.

But his attempts to deepen the alliance caused resentment in some quarters, and Ghosn has claimed the allegations against him are part of a “plot” by opponents of greater integration between the three firms.

Pak willing to consider returning IAF pilot if it leads to ‘de-escalation’: Qureshi

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, FEB 28 (PTI): Pakistan is willing to consider returning the detained IAF pilot if it leads to “de-escalation” of tension with India, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Thursday.

His statement came a day after Pakistan detained Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman following a fierce engagement between air forces of the two sides along the Line of Control in which a Pakistani jet was downed. IAF also

lost a MiG 21 jet in the engagement. “Pakistan is willing to consider returning the Indian pilot if it leads to de-escalation,” Qureshi said here.

In New Delhi, government sources said that India has not asked for consular access to the IAF pilot and is insisting on his unconditional and immediate return.

India Wednesday summoned the acting high commissioner of Pakistan and demanded immediate and safe return of the IAF pilot who

was detained by Pakistan following an aerial engagement by air forces of the two countries.

It has also been made clear to Pakistan that no harm should be caused to the Indian defence personnel, the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi, adding that it has conveyed strong objection to the neighbouring country at the “vulgar display” of an injured personnel in violation of all norms of International Humanitarian Law and the Geneva Convention.

Chinese rights lawyer disappears on prison release date

BEIJING, FEB 28 (AP): The wife of a prominent Chinese human rights lawyer says he has disappeared on the day of his scheduled release from prison.

Jin Bianling says her husband Jiang Tianyong’s whereabouts Thursday are unknown. She says supporters arrived at his jailhouse in central Henan province only to be told that he had already been picked up and taken away by unknown individuals.

Jin told The Associated Press from her home in Los Angeles that Jiang’s sister and father have also been missing since Wednesday afternoon, when they were supposed to have been escorted to the prison by state security agents.

Jiang defended politically sensitive clients like blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng. He was sentenced to two years in prison in 2017 on the vague charge of inciting subversion of state power.

UN chief Guterres following with ‘deep concern’ escalating tensions between India and Pakistan

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, FEB 28 (PTI): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is following with “deep concern” the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, calling on both sides to urgently take steps for a “meaningful mutual engagement”.

In the wake of the Pulwama terror attack by the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), tensions have escalated between India and Pakistan.

India carried out air strikes against the biggest training camp of JeM in Balakot. In the operation, a very large number of JeM terrorists, trainers, senior commanders and groups of jihadis who were being trained for suicide attacks were eliminated. The facility at Balakot was headed by Yousuf Azhar, the brother-in-law of the JeM chief.

Following the air strikes by India, Guterres again stressed on his urgent appeal to the governments of India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint to ensure that the situation does not further deteriorate. The UN chief is “obviously, following the situation as we see it even today with deep concern, and his the United Nations’ message, both publicly and privately, to both sides is to urgently take steps to lower tensions through meaningful, mutual engagement and meet their responsibilities to maintain peace and security in the region,” his spokesperson St phane Dujarric told reporters Wednesday. Asked if Guterres spoke to the

leaders of India and Pakistan following another day of escalating tension and plans to get involved to try and mediate a de-escalation, Dujarric said Guterres had received a call Tuesday from Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, adding that there have been contacts at various levels with all sides.

He said that “as always”, the Secretary-General’s good offices are always “available should both parties or all parties, depending on the situation, agree to do that”.

The spokesperson said the UN chief, through his contacts and others, are in touch with the relevant parties to pass along the message of the need to take steps to lower tensions and exercise maximum restraint. Dujarric said contacts have been made at various levels between the UN and India and Pakistan but did not give further details as to which officials in India the contacts have been made with.

Asked about the UN’s role at this point in the situation, he said that the Secretary-General is “kept apprised” of the situation and he is following it. “Discussions are being held at different levels with different parties to make sure that we have we get a full picture of what is going on and the message coming out of those discussions is on the need for both countries to do whatever they can to de-escalate the situation,” he said.

In the days following the Pulwama attack, Guterres repeatedly

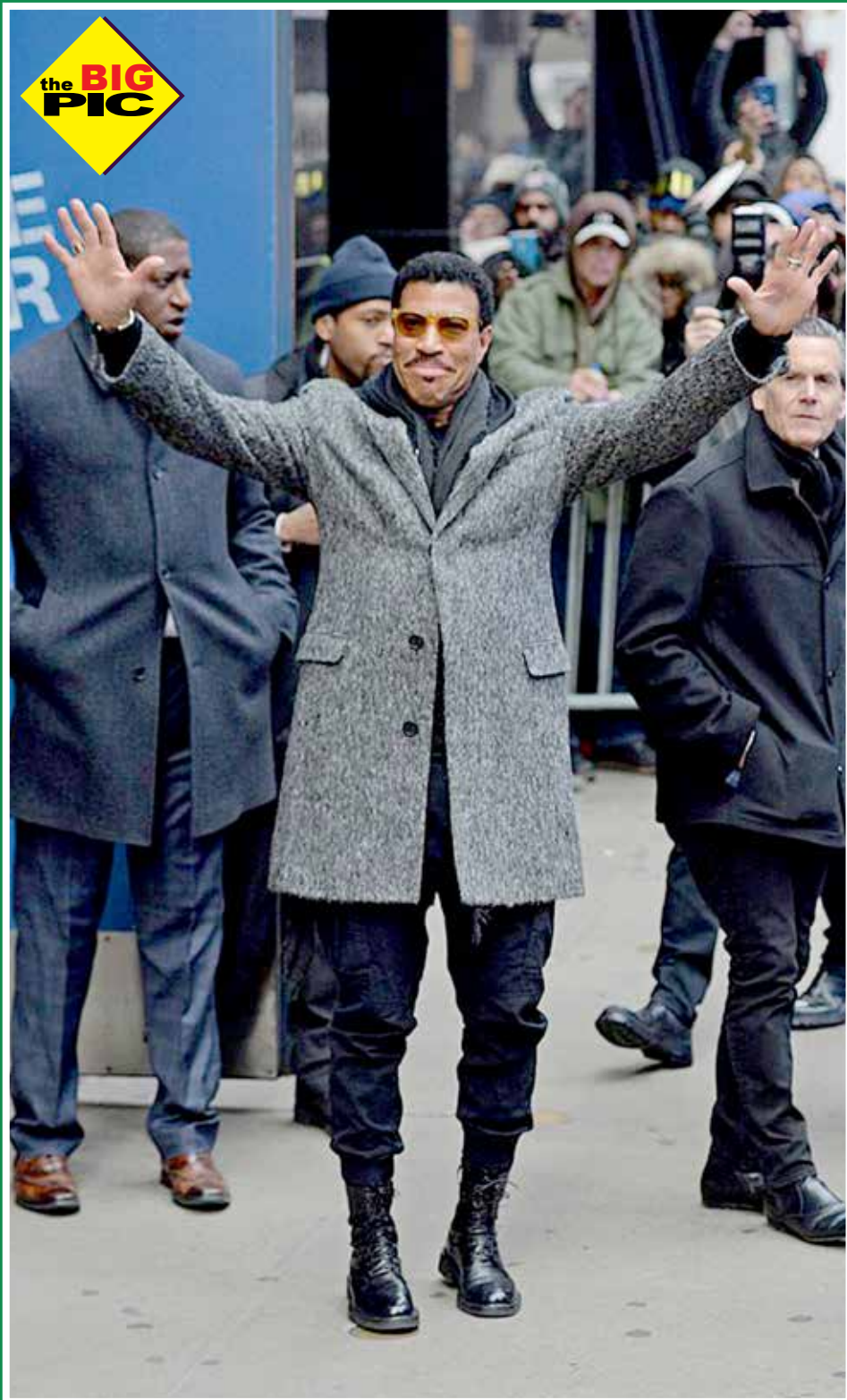
stressed on the importance for both sides to exercise maximum restraint and take immediate steps to de-escalation.

Guterres reiterated his strong condemnation of the terrorist attack against Indian security forces and said it is “essential that there be accountability under international law and the perpetrators of terrorist acts be brought swiftly to justice”. At the same time, the Secretary-General “urgently” appealed to the governments of both India and Pakistan to exercise maximum restraint to ensure the situation does not further deteriorate, the UN chief’s spokesperson said.

The UN Security Council in a press statement issued last week also “condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly” suicide bombing in Pulwama.

The 15-nation Council “underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of India and all other relevant authorities in this regard”. Forty CRPF personnel were killed and many injured on February 14 in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a JeM suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.





HELLO, IT'S ME! The "All Night Long" singer, Lionel Richie, is all smiles as he heads into Good Morning America in NYC.

Will Smith not returning for 'Suicide Squad' sequel



LOS ANGELES, FEB 28 (PTI): Will Smith will not be returning for the sequel of his 2016 DC-Warner Bros film "Suicide Squad".

The 50-year-old actor, who played Deadshot in the David Ayer-directed film, exited the sequel due to scheduling issues. His departure from the project was amicable, reported Variety.

The sequel, which is being branded as a relaunch, will be directed by James Gunn.

The film would mark Gunn's return to the director's chair after Disney sacked him from

"Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol 3" last July when his old offensive tweets resurfaced on social media. "Suicide Squad" featured the characters of Deadshot, Harley Quinn, The Joker, Captain Boomerang and Killer Croc, who are forced into the service of the government in exchange for lighter prison sentences.

Charles Roven and Peter Safran are attached as producers. Zack Snyder and Deborah Snyder are acting as executive producers.

The Warner Bros film is slated to be released in August 2021.

Cuaron does not believe Netflix pushback cost 'Roma' its Best Picture Oscar

LOS ANGELES, FEB 28 (PTI): Filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón, whose "Roma" missed out on Best Picture Oscar to "Green Book", says people may have been sceptical initially about Netflix's involvement but the conversation has changed because it connected with people the way "usually only mainstream films do".

"Roma" was the clear front-runner in the race and bagged three Oscars -- Cinematography, Best Foreign Language Film and Best Director nods -- but stopped short of claiming the top prize, which went to Peter Farrelly's racial drama "Green Book".

The choice by the Academy members drew sharp reactions both from the film fraternity and in the media, with critics pointing out at Hollywood's hostility towards Netflix, which is being seen as a market disrupter.

When asked to comment about the perception that Netflix's involvement may have cost the film its Best Picture Oscar by Variety, Cuarón had a carefully-worded answer.

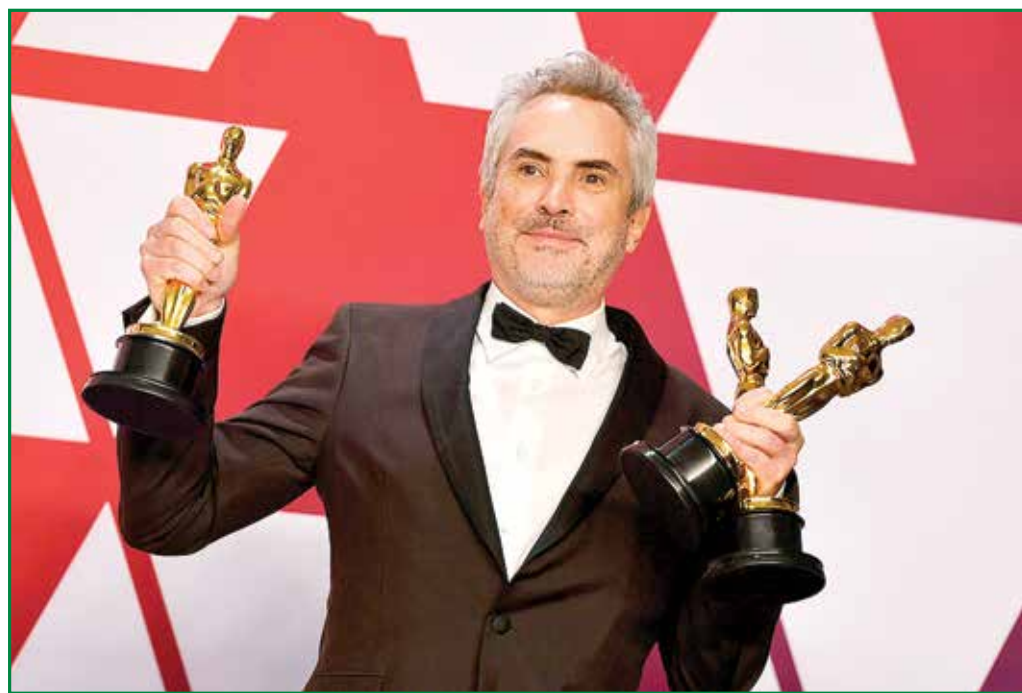
"In the beginning, when I started this process, I felt that. I had friends and other filmmakers say, 'What are you doing?' It was almost as if I was betraying something.

"But I think the conversation has changed. I think most people are recognising that this film is reaching audiences

worldwide in a way that usually only mainstream films do," the 57-year-old director replied.

Cuarón said the debate around

films. It's hard to see foreign films. Most theatres play big Hollywood movies," he added. The Oscar winner also said that the distribution model also needs to be



watching films on streaming services and in theatres is "super important" to him but he also believes that theatrical experience is largely focused on tentpole cinema.

"For me the conversation about theatrical is super important. I'm a filmmaker. I believe in the theatrical experience. But there has to be diversity. The multiplex theatrical experience is a very gentrified experience.

"You have one kind of product with few variations. It's hard to see art-house

tweaked keeping in mind the type of film that is being presented to the audiences.

"You cannot impose the release strategy of a tentpole film on a smaller film. You may need fewer theatres and longer runs or models in which the so-called window is shorter. We're thinking in one single paradigm.

"It's a moment to start opening up paradigms. Right now it's a confrontation between economic models. It's not like one model benefits cinema, and the other does not," he added.

Rami Malek in final talks for 'Bond 25'



LOS ANGELES, FEB 28 (PTI): Rami Malek, who recently won an Oscar for Best Actor, is in final negotiations to play the antagonist in the latest installment of James Bond franchise.

The film will be directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga, who came onboard as a director after Danny Boyle exited the project over "creative differences".

It was being reported earlier that Malek was being eyed for the villain role, but his schedule on the last season of his breakout show "Mr Robot" which shoots from March through July, was a hindrance. According to Collider, the actor's team has successfully managed his shooting schedule to accommodate the Bond film. The yet-untitled film will mark Daniel Craig's fifth and possibly the last outing as the famed British spy.

Actor Ralph Fiennes, Naomie Harris and Ben Whishaw will also reprise their roles in the new film.

French star Lea Seydoux, who played psychologist Madeleine Swann in Sam Mendes' "Spectre", is also returning. MGM will distribute the film in partnership with Annapurna Pictures. The film will release on April 8, 2020.

I was shattered when I heard 'Sonchiriya' script: Bhumi



MUMBAI, FEB 28 (PTI): Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she was left shattered by the commentary filmmaker Abhishek Chaubey has done in "Sonchiriya", from patriarchy to casteism, and feels it's an extremely topical project.

Helmed by Abhishek and co-written by Sudip Sharma, the film chronicles the story of dacoits during the time of emergency.

"Sonchiriya" had its premiere at a special screening at MAMI, Wednesday night, which was attended by the cast, Sushant Singh Rajput, Bhumi, Ranvir Shorey, and Abhishek along with producer Ronnie Screwvala.

"The first time I heard the script, I was honestly shattered. You have these characters on their journey to find their own truth and through the narrative, Abhishek sir has commented on so many things that are still very relevant and prevalent in our society," Bhumi said at the screening.

The film uses the backdrop of Chambal valley and makes a strong commentary on the inherent casteism and the strong patriarchy which runs deep.

For Bhumi, playing her character,

which is a victim of patriarchy, was a process of immense introspection.

"I started questioning my life. I said, 'I am this city girl. I am opinionated and have a lot of ego. I have power and I am strong.' But there's a huge section of society that still doesn't have the power to say no. The kind of things that happen to my character was so heartbreaking for me.

"What I love the most about my character is that this girl does not know she has opinions or she has any strength but she is pushed to a deep corner where her natural instincts kick in," she added.

Bhumi also lauded Abhishek for weaving the caste divide in the film powerfully.

"The narrative that Abhishek sir has used, he has spoken about just the caste bias we have in our country. We obviously don't realise it but it's really deep."

After the screening, the film got a standing ovation.

Abhishek said he was glad to see "an almost packed theatre" for the film on which they've been working on for nearly three years.

"Sonchiriya" releases on March 15.

ARIES: If you choose to ignore every bleeping device and message thread for the next 48 hours, don't apologize, Aries! This is a restful, "me first" kind of weekend. Taking care of yourself and enjoying a few scintillating one-on-ones is all you need to focus on! The moon is in private, internal Scorpio and your eighth house of strong emotions, intimacy and eroticism!

TAURUS: With a Scorpio moon activating your partnership realm all weekend, two heads (and hearts) are better than one! What you don't want, however, is another half who can't hold their own next to you. When you're on, you're a force of nature, Taurus, and anyone who's going to team up with you needs to be an equal.

GEMINI: You might have to assume the mantle of authority today, Gemini, so be ready to step up to the plate. Someone is NOT carrying their weight, and if you don't say something, nothing is going to change. Ack! Rather than pretending it's not the case or tiptoeing around the issue, address it directly.

CANCER: Even if you're just running out for coffee or a quick grab-and-go at the farmer's market, spruce yourself up a little. With the moon in aesthetic Scorpio and your amorous, glamorous fifth house, you could be in for a weekend of surprises. You never know who you might run into at the beekeeper's honey stall—or where a random conversation might lead.

LEO: Home is where your head, heart and hustling hands are all weekend, as the Scorpio moon hovers in your domestic fourth house. Don't rush to do work that can hold till Monday—and don't be too quick to tend to a friend who needs a pep talk. You've got a dozen household projects that have been in the pipeline for too long already, and now is the perfect time to put your desires front and center. Change that light fixture; put the new bedding on and maybe shop for your dream sofa.

VIRGO: Whatever was dragging you down last week, let it go, Virgo! The Scorpio moon is beaming down in your playful third house, beckoning you to get out and

interact with your favorite band of merry-makers. Link up with friends who have the pulse of the cultural scene and mix it up with some let-your-hair-down fun like karaoke or a burlesque show.

LIBRA: Are you waiting for this magic moment to arrive where your schedule just opens up? Reality is, you're the one setting the pace for your life. If you keep go-go-going at breakneck speed, you're going to burn out eventually. Preempt that from happening, asap. This weekend dangles the perfect carrot. The moon will be in introspective Scorpio both days, giving you a chance to hit reset on those wildly tipping scales.

SCORPIO: With la luna floating through your sign all weekend, you have planetary permission to take all the "Scorpio time" you need! Start by looking at your calendar. What do you wish you could magically erase? It's okay that you've come down with a case of reverse-FOMO and want to sit everything out until next week. Anyone who adores you or cares about your wellbeing will understand!

SAGITTARIUS: Clear the excess from your calendar and plan to put your own needs and desires first this weekend, Sagittarius. The moon is hunkered down in introspective Scorpio and your internally focused twelfth house for the next two days, and anything too crowded or cacophonous will fry your circuits. Apologize to anyone you might disappoint—or ask if they're open to shifting plans around!

CAPRICORN: Hole up at home base and unplug for the next two days? Sorry, Capricorn—not with the Scorpio moon lighting up your communal eleventh house. People are your priority this weekend, especially the ones whose sense of adventure is matched only by their amazing taste in food and bands! Take the reins and play social director or let your innermost circle know that the Sea Goat is down for whatever fun is in the offing.

AQUARIUS: With the moon beaming in your career zone on both Saturday and Sunday, you'll find it hard to leave work at the office. Even if you're physically engaged in

other activities, mentally you'll still be mulling something you didn't finish (or complete to your standards) when you logged out on Friday. So here's a thought: Instead of being an apparition at brunch or your friend's gallery opening, duck home and devote a finite amount of time to getting this done.

PISCES: Get up and get OUT! With the Scorpio moon jetting through your nomadic ninth house, the weekend is like a two-day treasure hunt for all the coolest hangouts. And guess what, Pisces? They might not be found in your zip code. Maybe it's time to pack a bag for a quick road trip or perhaps a cheap, last-minute flight to a friend two states away. (Cough, cough: Do we feel a Monday sick day coming on?) Or just stay home and play tourist in your own town. Any change of scenery would be an instant mood booster. Check out a different live-music venue; eat at an authentic restaurant in another part of town. Are there any foreign films showing or outsider-art shows you could patronize? On Sunday, indulge your interest in the mystical side to life.