



## RANDOMIZATION OF EVMS AND VVPATS IN SOUTH

pg02

## CHRISTCHURCH ATTACKS ARE A STARK WARNING OF TOXIC POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS HATE TO FLOURISH

pg04

## HC CONDUCTS TRAINING FOR CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

pg03



# Summit TIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 76 | Gangtok | Tuesday | 19 March 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

### No nominations filed in South

Namchi, 18 Mar (IPR): On the first day of filing for nominations for General Elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, Returning Officer (South), Ragul K informed that no nominations were received for the eight constituencies in the South District.

### 70 organisations to campaign against BJP in 50 cities over jobs

NEW DELHI, MAR 18 (PTI): Ahead of the elections, about 70 organisations from across India have come together to reach out to voters and campaign in 50 cities, highlighting the 'failures' of the Narendra Modi government in creating employment, its leaders said Monday.

Young India National Coordination Committee, the platform comprising mostly of left-backed outfits, will start its campaign from Badaun in Uttar Pradesh in the first week of April, they said.

The first phase of Lok Sabha elections are scheduled to be held on April 11.

"The YINCC marched on February 7 against the government, where youth of the nation raised questions on why the promises of quality education and employment were not fulfilled. The YINCC has now decided that it will campaign against Modi during the elections and ask people to not vote them," said N Sai Balaji of students' outfit AISA.

The campaign will start from Badaun because Najeeb Ahmed, the Jawaharlal Nehru University student who has been missing since October 2016, is from there, he said.

"Modi had promised that his government will give 2 crore jobs every year. They are not even providing 2,000 jobs. Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal will urge people to vote against this government in the upcoming elections," Nisar Ahmed of Samajwadi Yuvajan Sabha said.

Echoing Ahmed, Gopal Tiwari, who led the SSC movement, said time has come for youth of the country to "teach the prime minister a lesson".

Ashish, a leader of the All India Railway Apprentices, said, "Modi has done drama in Allahabad by cleaning feet of sanitation workers. If he is concerned about them, then generate employment for them." "The health sector was the most neglected area where the government did not do anything. The pathetic condition of government hospitals has forced the patients to opt for private hospitals."

## Opposition alliance names nine candidates

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 MAR: Sikkim Progressive Alliance, a coming together of four Opposition parties, today announced their joint candidates for the Lok Sabha seat and eight Assembly constituencies. The SPA is an electoral alliance forged between Sikkim Sangram Parishad, Sikkim National People's Party, Sikkim United Front and Sikkim Rajya Manch Party.

Candidates for remaining 24 constituencies, it is informed, will be announced in a few days.

SUF president, Narendra Adhikari, has been named the joint candidate for the Lok Sabha seat while SNPP president, Delay Namgyal Barfungpa, will be contesting from Gangtok, SRMP president, Rup Narayan Chamling, will contest from Rangang-Yangang, a constituency he won in the 2014 bye-election as



an independent.

Bikash Darjee will be contesting from West Pandam and Gopal Khatiwara from Khamdang-Singtam. They are both SNPP members.

Similarly, Phiprahng Subba and Datema Sherpa, both from SRM, will be contesting from Namcheybong and Darmandin constituencies respectively while Ramesh Khanal of SUF will be the joint candidate for

Rhenock and Tara Bhatara of SSP for Upper Tadong.

Addressing a press meet today, SPA chairperson, the SSP president Dil Kumari Bhandari, said that the alliance was formed in keeping with the aspirations and wishes of the people.

"We had toured the State and the feedback we received was that the people were desirous

of change but wanted a united opposition to come forward. Hence, the SPA was formed," she said.

Mr Barfungpa, the SNPP president and the joint candidate for Gangtok, added that the four parties have agreed on a common minimum programme which will be made public in a few days.

"We have declared nine candidates. SNPP

has always been fighting for the rights of the Sikkimese. I am contesting from Gangtok constituency and am already touring various parts of the constituency and have found that some areas have been left out of developmental programmes. SNPP has always been saying that in the event of our government, we will give free power and free medicines to the people as power is generated from our rivers and medicines are made in the several pharma factories in Sikkim," he said.

The SRMP president, RN Chamling, in turn stressed that the alliance was a strong platform for the people of Sikkim and a reliable alternative for the people.

"People can trust us. We are Sikkimese parties and we will never compromise on the rights of the Sikkimese," he said.

## No nominations filed on first day in East

### Technical issues in EMS software delays randomization

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 MAR:

As per the guidelines of Election Commission of India, First randomization of EVM and VVPATS for 13 Assembly Constituency including Sangha and one Parliamentary Constituency of East District could not be completed today due to technical issues in the EMS software, a press release informs.

District Election Officer (East), Kapil Meena said that no nominations were received today.

Notice of Election in Form 1 has been issued for Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituency including Sangha from East District. 3 of the Expenditure Observers for East District are arriving to Gangtok today and they will have their first review of Expenditure Monitoring Mechanism on Tuesday.

On the first day of filing for nominations for 13 Assembly Constituencies including Sangha and one Parliamentary Constituency of East District, District Election Officer (East), Kapil Meena said that no nominations were received today.

Notice of Election in Form 1 has been issued for Parliamentary Constituency and 13 Assembly Constituency including Sangha from East District. 3 of the Expenditure Observers for East District are arriving to Gangtok today and they will have their first review of Expenditure Monitoring Mechanism on Tuesday.

### HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

email:

news@summittimes.com

## Centre's nod to name change of Nagaland village

NEW DELHI, MAR 18 (PTI): The Centre has given its consent for changing the name of a village in Nagaland, taking to nearly two dozens the number of name-change proposals, including those of towns and railway stations, to be cleared in the past one year, officials said.

After the Union Home Ministry's go-ahead, the ODL Mangkhi village in Tuensang district of the northeastern state will be known as Mungangkun village, a home ministry official said.

The central government has given its 'no-objection' to renam-

ing of 22 villages, towns and railway stations across the country since December 2017.

About 10 proposals received from the state governments for change of names of villages are pending in the home ministry, another official said.

Among the 22 cleared proposals are: Arikkod as Areekode in Malappuram (Kerala); Laxman Garh (Adawala) as Adawala in Rajasamand (Rajasthan); Landgewadi as Narsinghgaon in Sangali (Maharashtra); Samphur as Samphure in Kiphire (Nagaland) and Pindari as Pandupindara in Jind (Haryana).

Robertsganj railway station as Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh); Gulbarga railway station as Kalaburagi (Karnataka); Panki railway station as Panki Dham in Kanpur (UP); Ismailpur as Pichanwa Khurd in Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan) and Miyon Ka Bara as Maheshnagar in Barmer (Rajasthan) are also in the list.

Other name-change proposals given the Centre's no-objections are: Mughal Sarai railway station as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya junction (UP); Narpura as Narpura in Jalore (Rajasthan); Kallor (Radakkum Muri

as Kadukutty in Trichur (Kerala); Nagar Untari as Shri Banshidhar Nagar (Jharkhand); Tilda railway station as Tilda-Neora in Raipur (Chhattisgarh).

Also, Nakti as Nayanpur in Satna (MP); Pallikara II as Kottikulam in Kasaragod (Kerala); Rasuiya Bhatan as Radheyenagar in Chhatarpur (MP); Birshingpur Pali as Maa Birasini Dham in Umari (MP); Todi Kheri as Sarna Kheri in Jind (Haryana); Nagewadi as Nagathnagar in Sangli (Maharashtra); and Khizrabad as Pratap Nagar in Yamunanagar (Haryana) have also been approved.

## CEO takes note of offensive social media posts, issues advisory

SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 18 MAR:

The Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim, in an advisory issued today to all political parties and public, warned against posting content of offensive nature on social media.

The advisory mentions that the CEO's attention has been drawn to social media posts by some individuals containing hate speech, derogatory remarks

and reports, intentional insults and photographs.

"These kind of activities are likely to create feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will in the society and disrupt the peace in the state during the General Elections 2019," the advisory adds.

While warning political parties and the people at large to refrain from such activities, the advisory under-

lines that such actions were punishable under several provisions of the Indian Penal Code attracting punishments ranging from imprisonment from two to five years and fines.

visit us at  
www.summittimes.com

## RCom pays 458.77 crore to Ericsson; Ambani wards off possible jail term



NEW DELHI, MAR 18 (PTI): A day before the expiry of Supreme Court set deadline, Reliance Communications Monday paid Rs 458.77 crore to Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson, clearing outstanding dues and fending-off a possible jail term for its billionaire Chairman Anil Ambani.

Sources close to RCom said the payment was made to Ericsson Monday evening, a day before the four-week deadline set by the Supreme Court to clear dues expires.

An Ericsson spokesperson confirmed that the telecom gear maker

had received the full payment from the Reliance Communications (Rs 458.77 crore) on Monday and Rs 118 crore previously. The amount paid by RCom also includes interest.

Source of funds for the payment was not immediately known and it was expected that RCom will come out with a statement on the issue soon.

The Supreme Court had last month held Ambani in contempt for not paying Ericsson's dues despite promising to do so. It had threatened to send the billionaire as well as Chhaya

## North successfully conducts first randomization of EVMS

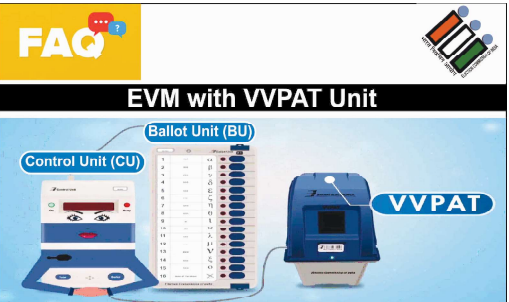
MANGAN, 18 MAR (IPR): In compliance with directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the North District Election Office successfully conducted first randomization of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in the presence of District Magistrate-cum-District Election Officer, Raj K Yadav, SDM (HQ), Samudip Bhutia, Mangan, officials of the Election Department and District NIC and representatives of all political parties of the district, today here at chamber of the District Collector.

Whole process of first randomization was carried out through 'Election Management System' (EMS) software with an aim to rule out any fix location of the electronic voting machines. Earlier, DEO explained in detail about the first

randomization process and EMS software to the representatives of the political parties.

Thereafter, Electronic Voting Machines located at strong room, Zilla Bhawan, Pentok was shifted to newly constructed strong room at District Administrative Centre premises in the presence of all political parties. Entire shifting process was supervised by the SDM of Mangan, Kabi and Dzongu and escorted by the police personnel.

Later on, all EVM were physically segregated as per the first randomization sheet and kept aside assembly constituency/assembly segment wise at new strong room in the presence of the representatives of all political parties and other authorized governmental officials. Entry to the strong room is restricted and guarded by the police personnel 24x7.



## Q7. Whether VVPAT runs on electricity?

Ans: No VVPAT runs on a power pack Battery.

## Q8. Where were VVPATs used for first time in India?

CALL 1950 FOR ANY ELECTION RELATED QUERIES

Contact Hours : 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

## Randomization of EVMs and VVPATs in South

**NAMCHI, 18 MAR (IPR):** The first randomisation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) was held at warehouse of DAC in the presence of DC cum RO South, Ragul K representatives of political parties along with the elections officials today.

The entire process of randomisation was done through Election Management Software (EMS) as per the directions of the Election Commission of India. In this session, the RO informed the attendees about the procedure of randomisation of the EVMs and VVPATs thoroughly and updated that the EVMs and VVPATs will be allocated for each Assembly constituency. Assembly seg-



ment of Parliamentary constituency including Sangha and for reserve EVMs as well.

After the randomisation, the EVMs and VVPATs were shifted to the newly constructed

strong room at Government Senior Secondary School Namchi and these have been kept separately for Assembly Constituency and Assembly segment wise. It may also be mentioned

here that 9 strong rooms have been made for Assembly constituencies including Sangha and 8 strong rooms have been prepared for 8 Assembly segments of Parliamentary constituency.

## Second round training for election team in North

**MANGAN, 18 MAR (IPR):**

Second round training for Sector Magistrate (SM), Sector Police Officer (SPO), Assistant Expenditure Observer (AEO), Flying Squads Team (FST), Static Surveillance Team (SST), Video Surveillance Team (VST), Video Viewing Team (VVT) and Accounting Team (AT) of North District was conducted at the conference hall of District Administrative Center, North, today.

The training was conducted in the presence of Railway and Account Services, Ravi Patel who is the Expenditure Observer of North District. He was accompanied by District Magistrate cum Returning Officer (RO), Raj K Yadav and Superintendent of Police, North, Kunzang Dorjee Sangdarpa.

National Level Master Trainer cum Sub Divi-



sional Magistrate (SDM), Mahesh Sharma, Kabi, trained to the SM, SPO, AEO, FST, SST, VST, VVT and Accounting Team on different issue related to election procedure. He also explained in detail about the duties and responsibilities of all extended teams who are engaged in election.

He made clear about the expenditure of the candidate who is contesting in Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary Constituency. Candidate who is contesting for Assembly Constituency and Parliamentary Constitu-

ency should not exceed his or her expenditure as stipulated in guideline of Election Commission of India (ECI).

Talking on C-VIGIL Application he emphasized to make use of the said application to the participants for fast and effective communication during the course of election.

He informed that if any voter forgets to take his or her EPIC card along with them on polling day at the time he or she can cast vote by verifying their name in voter list and by producing the

following alternate documents viz. Passport, Driving License, Service Identity Card, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees Central/State Govt./Public Limited Companies, Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office, PAN Card, Smart Card issued by RCI under NPR, MNREGA Job Card, Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour, Pension document with photograph, Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, and Aadhaar Card.

## Unprecedented snowfall in Himalayas due to global warming: Scientist

**PITHORAGARH, MAR 18 (PTI):** The unprecedented snowfall and prolonged cold weather in the Himalayan region this winter was caused by global warming, a weather scientist in Almora said Monday.

The trend will continue in the coming years as global weather patterns are changing rapidly, said Dr Sandeepan Mukherjee, a weather scientist at GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development based at Kosi in Almora.

"The erratic patterns of western disturbances, that cause rain and snowfall in winter months in the northern part of the globe, have become so due to the changing patterns of weather caused by global warming," he said. "It seems these erratic

patterns will continue in the coming years with increase in global warming," he added.

The first spell of rain and snowfall this winter was received in the Himalayan region on December 12 and the last was received as late as on March 13, residents of Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district said.

"There were 24 spells of snowfall in Munsiyari between December 12 and March 13 this year which broke the record of 1972 when there were 15 snowfalls," Puran Pandey, a local said.

According to Mukherjee global warming is not only causing erratic patterns in western disturbances, but also causing uneven trends in south western monsoon that is responsible for monsoon rain in India.

## 6 killed in poll violence in Bangladesh

**ANISUR RAHMAN**

**DHAKA, MAR 18 (PTI):**

Six people, including a presiding officer, were shot dead on Monday by unidentified gunmen in Bangladesh's southeastern hills on the second phase of a nationwide sub-district polls, police said.

Eight others, including some policemen, were injured in the shootings at Baghaichhari sub-district headquarters in Rangamati

district.

"The presiding officer and five others were killed as they were returning to (Baghaichhari) sub-district with ballot boxes after the voting concluded at a remote polling centre there," a police official said.

Rangamati's police chief Alamgir Kabir said the group came under attack in Noyamile area. He added police were yet to track down the miscreants.

## Organic Farming Orientation for Soreng farmers



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**Gangtok, 18 Mar:**

A series of training cum farmer interaction on issues related with organic farming was held for the various ward members of Soreng GPU which concluded on 18 Mar, 2019, a press release informs.

These training programs were organized by Mevedir on the importance of Tracenet ID and Grower Group Certification processes. The training was conducted at Soreng GPU, West Sikkim in the presence of Smt. Chandra Kumari Tamang (Panchayat President), Kabita Thapa

(Agriculture Inspector) along with Mevedir Master Trainer, LM Tamang and other members.

All the series of training programs concluded positively with an average of 25 farmers attending each of the Organic interaction program, the release adds.

## Speculations about second list unfounded: SDF Summit Report

**GANGTOK, 18 MAR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front today clarified that rumours speculating about the party having announced names of the remaining 14 candidates for the Assembly elections were false.

A press release issued by SDF spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, informs that the SDF parliamentary committee which shortlists and announces the names has not done so and will be meeting shortly to finalise the remaining candidates.

The party, it may be recalled, had announced candidates for 18 constituencies on 15 March and had informed at the time that the remaining candidates will be announced by 20 March.

## EC seizes Rs 55 lakh in cash, arms and ammunition in Jaigaon



**KOLKATA, MAR 18 (PTI):**

The Election Commission (EC) has seized Rs 54.87 lakh in cash from four persons in Jaigaon area in West Bengal's Alipurduar district so far before the Lok Sabha polls, additional Chief Electoral Officer Sanjay Basu said on Monday.

The seizures were made by the state police and flying squads, he told newsmen here.

The EC has also seized from various districts 59 arms, 235 ammunition, besides 6757 kg of ammonium nitrate and 2676 kilograms of gelatine stick powder from various areas of the state, where the sev-

en-phase general elections are slated to begin on April 11.

It also seized 3782 litres of liquor, 366 litres of country spirit besides cough syrup, Basu said.

The EC, he said, would conduct awareness programme on EVMs and VVPAT in all the polling booths across the state on Tuesday and the day after.

Alternative identity cards cannot be used to cast vote, he said.

Basu said that the EC had received 361 complaints through National Grievance Service, out of which 287 had been resolved, 486 complaints from the citizens

directly out of which 437 were resolved. It had also received 1139 complaints through the cVIGIL app and action had been taken on 677 of them.

With the first phase of elections to be held on April 11 in the Coochbehar and Alipurduar parliamentary constituencies of the state, March 25 would be last date for filing nomination, 26 March as the date for scrutiny and March 28 as the last date for withdrawal of candidature, he said.

Seven expenditure observers of the EC have already arrived for poll purposes, Basu added.

visit us at  
www.summit-times.com

## BCCI relents on anti-doping: Set to work with NADA for 6 months on trial

**Mumbai, Mar 18 (PTI):** The BCCI Monday said it will work with the National Anti-Doping Agency for the next six months, a major climb-down from its previous position of not adhering to the global anti-doping guidelines.

The decision that was taken by the top BCCI office-bearers and Committee of Administrators (COA) after a meeting with the International Cricket Council chairman Shashank Manohar, came with its share of riders.

"It will be a six-month tripartite agreement

between ICC, BCCI and NADA wherein the samples of our registered pool of players will be going to the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) through NADA, unlike now when Sweden-based IDTM does the sample collection. If we are not convinced, we won't renew the agreement," a senior BCCI official privy to development told PTI after the meeting.

The Board has not yet intimated NADA about its stand.

"I will only comment when I receive any writ-

ten confirmation. I have not yet been officially intimated," NADA Director General Navin Agarwal said.

The other discussion was regarding USD 22 million tax waiver for future global meets and the BCCI told Manohar about its payment plan.

The World Anti-Doping Agency had clearly told the ICC that the BCCI has to come under NADA's ambit so that the world body remains compliant and the matter was intimated to the BCCI during the board meeting in Dubai.

Accordingly, the BCCI decided to come under NADA with a rider that its own chaperons will be collecting the urine samples and it will be handed over to the NADA.

"We maintained that we have no faith in NADA's Dope Control Officers (DCOs). There has been too many examples of inefficient handling of samples by NADA DCOs. Here we are talking about some of the biggest names in Indian sport like Virat Kohli and Mahendra Singh Dhoni. We can't blindly trust them," the official said.

www.summittimes.com |  
news@summittimes.com |  
advertise@summittimes.com

## RCom pays 458.77 crore to...

Virani and Satish Seth - chairmen of two RCom units, to jail if they fail to pay the dues in four weeks.

Ericsson had moved a bankruptcy court in 2017 alleging it had not been paid dues of around Rs 1,600 crore after signing a deal in 2013 to operate, maintain and manage the telco's nationwide network. It extracted a personal guarantee from Ambani to pay the dues.

But repeated failure by RCom to comply with the promise and Ambani's personal guarantee landed him in trouble last month when the Supreme Court held him in contempt.

Thereafter, it suffered another blow when National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) last week refused to free up Rs 260 crore tax refunds withheld by lenders saying it did not have jurisdiction to do so. Banks had opposed release of the tax refunds.

The apex court on February 20 had held Ambani guilty of contempt of court and ordered the debt-laden company to clear the dues to Ericsson within four weeks or face a 3-month jail term. The last date of making the payment was March 19.

In a verdict that had come as a setback to Ambani, the court on February 20 had pulled up the industrialist for his "cavalier attitude" demonstrated through the affidavit filed in the court and said any "unconditional apology" given must be rejected.

"The RCom group is directed to purge the contempt of this Court by payment to Ericsson the sum of Rs 453 crore within a period of four weeks from today. In default of such payment, the Chairmen who have given undertakings to this Court will suffer three months imprisonment," the bench of Justices R F Nariman and Vineet Saran had said last month.

It had also directed the registry of the apex court to pay Rs 118 crore deposited by the RCom group to Ericsson.

The payment made on Monday is expected to bring curtains down on the bitter and protracted face-off between Reliance Communications and Ericsson over the outstanding dues.

SummitTIMES IN NEPALI

https://www.facebook.com/SummitTimesSikkim/

Watch our Nepali news broadcast every evening on Facebook at the Summit Times Daily Page. Please like, Share, Comment and let us know how we can improve.

Thank You



# HC conducts training for Child Welfare Committee

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 18 MAR:**

Two-day training programme was conducted for the newly appointed Chairperson and Members of the Child Welfare Committee at Sikkim Judicial Academy, Sokeythang, Gangtok on 16 and 17 Mar, 2019 (Saturday and Sunday), a press release informs.

The training was conducted under the guidance of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, High Court of Sikkim, in charge of Juvenile Justice Act and Rules and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, High Court of Sikkim and Sikkim Judicial Academy.

Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrates, Benoy Sharma, East & North and Associate Professor, Dr



Sandhya Thapa, Sikkim University were the Resource Persons for the aforementioned training programme.

During the two-day training programme the participants were trained with regards to

their duties, role and responsibility as the Chairperson and members of the Child Welfare Committee by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Benoy Sharma, East & North, Gangtok.

Dr Thapa gave an

overview on the subject matter from a sociologist's point of view in order to sensitize the members. The training concluded with interaction between the participants and the Resource Persons.

## Change in seven polling stations of East Sikkim

**GANGTOK, 18 MAR (PTI):**

Consequent upon the approval of the Election Commission of India, seven numbers of polling stations from four different Assembly Constituencies of East District have been shifted to new buildings as per the guidelines of ECI. The details are as under:

1. Assembly Constituency 19 Rhenock, part no. 18 (Kaputhang) was previously located at Kaputhang Primary School and now has been shifted to Taza Gram Prasashan Kendra.

2. Assembly Constituency 21 Gnathang

Machong part 3 (Lamat-en) was previously located at Lamaten Primary School and now has been shifted to Village Administrative Centre, Lamaten.

3. Assembly Constituency 25 Upper

Tadong, part 1 (Deorali A), 2 (Daragaon A), 3 (Daragaon B) & 4 (Daragaon C) was previously located at Tadong Krishi Bhawan Room No. I, II and Sahakari Bhawan Room No. I, II respectively and now have been shifted to Nar Bahadur Bhandari

Degree College, Tadong.

4. Assembly Constituency 26 Arithang, part 12 (Syari Tathangchen-D) was previously located at Upper Syari Junior High School Upper Building Room No. I and now has been shifted to Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board.

This is for the information of all general public for the upcoming General Elections 2019. The final and complete list of Polling Stations of the district will be published subsequently by this office.

## Mizoram Assembly passes bill to detect illegal foreigners

**AIZAWL, MAR 18 (PTI):**

The Mizoram Assembly Monday unanimously passed a bill that seeks to detect foreigners illegally residing in the northeastern state, that shares an over 700 km border with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Introducing The Mizoram Maintenance of Household Registers Bill, 2019, Chief Minister Zoramthanga said the influx of foreigners into the state through its porous borders has remained a serious concern for several decades.

The measures proposed under legislation are intended to provide credible individual identification system and to prevent "usurpation" of benefits of developmental schemes by those who are not entitled, the bill says.

It defines "citizens" as a person registered as such, or having requisite qualification as prescribed under the Citizenship Act, 1955, the bill said.

The chief minister said that in many cases the benefits of development are found to have been eaten away to a large extent by such foreigners who "clandestinely" stayed back and got assimilated among the people of the state by taking advantage of the mistaken identity and of difficulties in detecting them.

Even the Supreme Court has expressed concern over such continuous influx of foreigners and their assimilation in the mainstream and it was felt imperative by the state to invoke its legislative powers to enact a suitable law, he said.

Such influx had resulted in abnormal increase in the population which posed a serious threat to law and order as

well as the state's internal security, Zoramthanga said.

"It is, therefore, a strongly felt necessity to develop a comprehensive database in respect of all the residents of Mizoram - whether in villages or in towns and whether permanent or temporary and to ensure its updation and maintenance," he said.

He said the update is required for improvement of the system of delivery of benefits of welfare schemes as well for security purposes, by way of enumerations and verification from time to time.

The Centre, he said, had mooted a system of National Register of Indian Citizens and issue of multi-purpose national identity cards based on such a register. It had also suggested this before the apex court.

## Pak, China should not create hurdles in designating Azhar as global terrorist: Pak daily

**LAHORE, MAR 18 (PTI):**

Pakistan and China should not create hurdles in designating JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, a leading Pakistani daily said Monday, emphasising the need to crackdown hard on terror groups in the country as it will help Islamabad regain the respect of the international community.

The Dawn newspaper in an editorial said that there are no "good" or "bad" militants groups and all have either caused or are capable of wreaking havoc in the country.

"That outlook is hopefully a thing of the past now, as the prime minister (Imran Khan) has promised that no groups will be allowed to use Pakistani territory for militant activities."

"He must make good on that pledge. This is the only way Pakistan will regain the respect of the international community, and counter India's constant campaign to isolate it," it said.

"Most (of the terror groups) have been banned but much more is required to ensure that they are eliminated and never come back to life. If the world wants to blacklist Masood Azhar, there should be no hesitation on Pakistan's part. Neither should China use technical reasons" to block such a move," the daily said.

China for the fourth time blocked a bid in the United Nations (UN) Security Council last week to designate the

Pakistan-based chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed as a "global terrorist" by putting a technical hold on the proposal, a move India termed as disappointing.

The JeM has claimed responsibility for the February 14 Pulwama attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead and raised tensions between India and Pakistan.

The proposal to designate Azhar under the 1267 al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council was moved by France, the UK and the US on February 27.

The daily said while India has been "thirsting for revenge" in the post-Pulwama period, its efforts to blacklist the Jaish and its chief are not altogether altruistic.

# Governor condoles Goa CM's demise

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 18 MAR:**

Ganga Prasad has expressed deep sadness and grief on the demise of Chief Minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar, following prolonged illness at Panjim, Goa.

In his condolence message, the Governor has said, "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the news of untimely demise of Manohar Parrikar, Chief Minister of

Goa at his residence in Panjim, Goa, yesterday evening.

Though I was aware of his illness, it was unexpected that he would leave us at this moment. Having served as a sincere Karyakarta in Bharatiya Janta Party his Bharatiya Janta Party his first as the Chief Minister of Goa State and Union Defence Minister under Prime Minister, Modiji, Late Parrikar has epitomised simplicity, dedication and diligence

in discharging his responsibilities. Identified as a common man with uncommon stature and persona, Late Parrikar has set a benchmark for aspiring leaders keeping nation's interest above self in his illustrious public life. Late Parrikar will be remembered as an able administrator, people's leader, true organisational man and one of the finest leader of Bharatiya Janta Party from western region of

the country. With his demise, the country has lost an exemplary leader, a nationalist and a statesman in true sense, who always worked for the larger interest of the masses till his last breath.

At this time of bereavement, I join the people of Sikkim and my fellow countrymen to offer my deepest condolences. I pray to the almighty for bestowing strength to his family members to cope with this irreparable loss."

## BJP creating artificial majority in Goa, Cong should be allowed to form govt: Azad

**NEW DELHI, MAR 18 (PTI):**

The Congress Monday accused the BJP of creating an "artificial majority" in Goa at the directions of the Centre, and urged Governor Mridula Sinha to invite the opposition party to form a government as it was the single largest party.

The coastal state is in a politically fluid situation after the death of BJP Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar Sunday. While the Congress has staked claim to form the next government, the BJP is also meeting its allies to decide on Parrikar's successor.

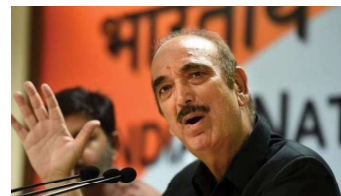
Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad said in New Delhi, "I will like to attract the attention of whole country as well as the media that democracy should be established (in Goa). And governors, who sit on the position of a judge, should take correct decision."

"The one who has a majority should form a government. It is not right for democracy if artificial majority is created as per the directions of central government," he told a press conference.

On Governor Sinha not responding to the Congress' demand for allowing it to form a government in the state, Azad said, "The governor should work as a governor and not for a party."

He also referred to the last Assembly elections in the state and mentioned that the Congress emerged as the single largest party and tried form a government.

"What we tried before, we are trying



Raj Bhawan and handed over a letter to Sinha, saying it was the single largest party in the Assembly and should be allowed to form the government.

"We are saddened by the chief minister's demise, but before his final rites are performed, a new government has to be formed. The governor has acknowledged that the Congress is the single largest party and she said she will get back to us," Kavlekar told reporters here.

The opposition party had earlier also written to Sinha, staking claim to form the government on Friday and then again on Sunday.

Union minister and BJP leader Nitin Gadkari is also in Goa to try and find a candidate for the post but a consensus eluded his party and its allies.

Gadkari said in Panaji the BJP had zeroed in on the next CM candidate but its allies were yet to get on board. He, however, did not reveal who the BJP had chosen.

## Taxmen seek public help to prevent malpractices during polls

**MUMBAI, MAR 18 (PTI):**

The income tax department Monday appealed the people to come forward with information to curb abuse of the electoral process through cash and other inducements during the forthcoming general elections that begin on April 10 and end on May 19.

"We are looking for credible information and intelligence and appeal the people," KK Vyavhare, director general of income tax (investigation), told reporters here.

The department can take various actions, including seizure where unaccounted cash of over Rs 10 crore is found, he said, adding one quick response team has been formed for every constituency.

Over 200 officials, including 50 officers, have already been deployed, he said, adding the number will only go up after March 31, when a large amount of staff will be relieved after fiscal-ending work.

The department has created a helpline number- 18002221510-- for the public to come forward and share information and assured full secrecy to callers.

At the last general election, a similar helpline had received 125 calls but there was no seizure.

Vyavhare said there are many tools which can be deployed by the department to detect any cash distribution activity, and pointed to a seizure of Rs 3.5 crore in Pune recently before announcement of the polls.

## PAYING GUEST AVAILABLE

PG available for working women & girls at EPCS Church premises, near Primula Lodge at Churuch Road, Gangtok, Sikkim. Contact: Mob: 9064804782/ Whatsapp No: 9641549764.

## KUTSE SHEGU

The 21 day Shegu of Lt. Sachin Tamang who left for heavenly abode on 25th February 2019 falls on 17th March 2019 (Sunday).

All relatives, family, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence Barboty, Tamang Gaon, Soreng, West Sikkim. We also express our sincere gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

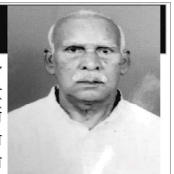


Mrs. Binu Subba (wife) 9647892791  
Ms. Jaikala Tamang, Ms. Sujata Tamang, Ms. Sweta Tamang (sisters)  
Mr. Rajen Tamang (brother)  
6297875142, 9734142686,  
8670576733, 9593388722

www.summittimes.com |  
news@summittimes.com |  
advertise@summittimes.com

## हार्दिक आमन्त्रण

सूचित गरिन्छ कि हाम्रा पिता पथल प्रसाद गत ४ मार्च २०१९ को राति १० बजे भौतिक शरीर त्यागेर परमधामको यात्रा बने। स्थानीय महानन्द घाटमा अर्को दिन उहाँको शव दाहसंस्कार सम्पन्न गरियो। दिवंगत आत्माको सत्गतिको कामनद्वारा उनको परम्परागत अन्तिम संस्कार कर्म निम्न कार्यक्रम अनुसार आगामी २० मार्च २०१९ को दिन २ बजेदेखि निज निवास चम्पासरी विधाननगर, नियर होलिगवर्ल्ड स्कूल, प्रधाननगर सिलगढीमा हुने भएकोले सबैलाई आमन्त्रित गरिन्छ।



शोकाकूल परिवार

छोराहरु: मनोज प्रसाद, विरेन्द्र प्रसाद,

नातिहरु: भुवर प्रसाद, रितिक प्रसाद, शुभम प्रसाद, विकास प्रसाद, पवन

प्रसाद एवं समस्त प्रसाद परिवार

सम्पर्क : 9232698916, 9434188173

**MCC IS IN EFFECT**

**WHAT IS MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT?**

Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections. The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately with the announcement of the election schedule by the Commission for ensuring free and fair elections.

Visit the website: [eci.gov.in](http://eci.gov.in)

# SummitTIMES

Whatever happened to Skiing at Phuni?

**A 'touristy' activity of much potential appears to have fallen off the priority list**

North Sikkim has received some heavy snowfall this year. Speaking to the residents of Lachen and Lachung would have one believe that the March Snow was among the heaviest in living memory, the snowline having come down much lower than most winters. But human memory can play tricks and records might show otherwise, but what cannot be denied is that snowfall has sustained for longer than has been common in recent years and has been thick as well. This brings to mind an interesting experiment which had been attempted at Phuni in North Sikkim some years ago – skiing. The skiing festival, if memory serves, was organized for two consecutive years, the first time by the Tourism Department and the next year by private tourism stakeholders. It has kind of fallen off the map since. It did not help that the intervening years saw hardly any snowfall and then the earthquake of 2011 happened and the focus was perhaps lost.

Phuni is located ahead of Lachung a few kilometers short of Yumthang valley. It is also a place frequented by tourists not just because it is en route to Yumthang, but also because it now boasts of an azure blue glacial melt lake which formed there a few years back. And while the formation of this lake presents its own set of climate-change/global warming worries, we speak of skiing here. Skiing is definitely an activity that will do well in Sikkim and remains one of the few tourist activities which has not been explored with any real consistency even though there are some options available. Phuni was especially well-suited for this because its gentle slopes provided just enough rush to satiate the awkwardness of beginners than the more imposing skiing options at Yumthang which would thrill the better skiers but are best not attempted by tourists on a sightseeing junket. The distance and the complications involved in reaching these locations proved a hindrance earlier, but nowadays, tourists make it to Lachen and Lachung in large enough numbers to sustain a seasonal skiing industry; even add a day to their itinerary for North Sikkim.

Skiing is in itself a tempting invite which few tourists will be able to refuse or bypass, and this needs to be revisited in earnest. And now that Sikkim has quite a few trained-in-adventure sports youth – look at how well paragliding in doing in Gangtok – it should be an initiative that is explored and promoted again.

So what if a compromise has been made, at least a language would have been saved.

## Christchurch attacks are a stark warning of toxic political environment that allows hate to flourish

GREG BARTON  
theconversation.com

When lives are tragically cut short, it is generally easier to explain the "how" than the "why". This dark reality is all the more felt when tragedy comes at the hands of murderous intent. Explaining how 50 people came to be killed, and almost as many badly injured, in Christchurch's double massacre of Muslims at prayer is heartbreaking but relatively straightforward.

As with so many mass murders in recent years, the use of an assault rifle, the ubiquitous AR15, oxymoronically referred to as "the civilian M-16", explains how one cowardly killer could be so lethal.

It was much the same in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando three years ago, when one gunman shot dead 49 people in a crowded space and, though the motive appears very different, the same sort of military instrument of death lies behind the 58 deaths in Las Vegas a year later. An AR15 was used to shoot dead 11 worshippers in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue last October and a similar weapon was used to kill six people in a Quebec City mosque in January 2017.

It is a credit to the peaceful nature of New Zealand society that, despite the open availability of weapons like the AR15, the last time there was a mass shooting was in 1997. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern rightly identified reform of gun laws as one of the immediate outcomes required in response to this tragedy.

But lax gun laws are arguably the only area in which blame can be laid in New Zealand. Ardern, together with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, was also right to refer to this barbaric act of cold-blooded murder of people in prayer as right wing extremist terrorism driven by Islamophobic hatred.

State and federal police in Australia have long warned that, next to the immediate threat posed by Salafi jihadi terrorism, they are most concerned about the steady rise of right-wing extremism. There has been some comfort in the recognition that the most active right wing extremist groups, and there are many, are disorganised, poorly led, and attract but small crowds.

On the face of it, then, right wing extremism in Australia is nowhere near as serious as the neo-Nazi movements of Europe or the various permutations of white supremacy and toxic nationalism that bedevil American politics. In America, it is conservatively estimated that there were 50 deaths due to terrorist attacks in 2018, almost all linked to right-wing extremism.

In 2017, it is calculated that there were 950 attacks on Muslims and mosques in Germany alone. Many of last year's attacks in America involved a common right wing extremist hatred of Islam, and a targeting of Muslims, joining a long-standing enmity towards Jews.

Almost all recent terrorist attacks have been lone-actor attacks. They are notoriously difficult to predict. Whether inspired by Salafi jihadi Islamist extremism or right wing extremism,



lone-actor attacks commonly feature individuals fixated on the deluded dream of going from "zero to hero".

One of the main reasons authorities struggle with identifying right wing extremist "nobodies" who post online, before they turn to violence, is that it's difficult to pick up a clear signal in the noise of a national discourse increasingly dominated by exactly the same narrative elements of mistrust, anxiety, and a blaming of the other.

In Australia, as in Europe and America, mainstream politicians and mainstream media commentators have increasingly toyed with extremist ideas in the pursuit of popularity. Many have openly brandished outrageous ideas that in previous years would have been unsayable in mainstream political discourse or commentary.

Donald Trump can be deservedly singled out for making the unspeakable the new normal in mainstream right wing politics, but he is hardly alone in this. And sadly, for all of the relative civility and stability of Australian politics, we too have now come to normalise the toxic politics of fear.

No-one put it better than The Project host Waleed Aly in saying that Friday's terrorist attacks, although profoundly disturbing, did not come as a shocking surprise. Anyone who has been paying attention and who really cares about the well-being and security of Australian society has observed the steady growth of right wing extremist and right supremacist ideas in general, and Islamophobia particular.

They have seen the numerous attacks on Muslims and Jews at prayer and worried about the day when the murderous violence that has plagued the northern hemisphere will visit the southern hemisphere. But more than that, they have worried about the singling-out of migrants, and in particular asylum seekers, African youth and Muslims as pawns to be played with in the

cynical politics of fear.

Scott Morrison is right to say these problems have been with us for many years. But he would do better to point out that our downward trajectory sharply accelerated after John Howard's "dark victory" of 2001. The unwinnable election was won on the back of the arrival of asylum seekers on the MV Tampa in August followed by the September 11 attacks, and at the price of John Howard and the Liberal party embracing the white supremacist extremist politics of Pauline Hanson.

Both major parties, it must be said, succumbed to the lure of giving focus groups and pollsters the tough language and inhumane policies the public appeared to demand and reward. We are now beginning to see the true price that we have paid with the demonising of those arriving by boat seeking asylum, or looking too dark-skinned, or appearing too religious.

The result has been such a cacophony of hateful rhetoric that it has been hard for those tasked with spotting the emergence of violent extremism to separate it from all the background noise of extremism.

There are, of course lessons to be learned. Authorities need to do better. We can begin with a national database of hate crimes, with standard definitions and robust data collection. Clearly, we need to pay attention to hateful extremism if we are to prevent violent extremism.

But ultimately, we need to address the permissive political environment that allows such hateful extremism to be promulgated so openly. The onus is on commentators and political leaders alike. They cannot change the past, but they will determine the future.

[The writer is Chair in Global Islamic Politics, Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University]

## 'Momo challenge hoax' prompts parents to help children deal with scary media

ELENA MERENDA & NIKKI MARTYN  
theconversation.com

Recently a number of school boards and police services issued statements advising parents of an alleged cyberbullying threat called the Momo challenge.

It's unclear how many videos actually exist of the creepy-looking mask apparently telling children to harm themselves, or to what extent they have circulated, among children or elsewhere.

While some experts suggest anxious adults including celebrities are driving fear through their uncritical social media sharing, police and school alerts have emphasized the importance of parents being aware of the impact that technology has on children.

So, while the Momo challenge may not be as big an issue as it was made to be on social media, it has raised the issue of the role of technology in children's lives — from the very young to the older child. What is the impact on children when they are frightened by media, or when they view violence?

### ADULT SUPERVISION AND INTERACTION

Children understand and process more as they age. But they still require adult supervision and interaction with their use of technology, both at home and in the classroom, in order to help them understand the themes and meanings and how stories relate to them or the lives of other children globally.

Adults need to provide space and time for children to talk and share openly about what they are engaging with, what their friends are saying or what they are watching when unsupervised.

Parents and teachers can also teach children the importance of breaks from technology to socialize in real life, play and explore. Children should be supported and encouraged to go outside and experience the wonders and silence of nature and to exercise to help keep their hearts healthy and minds happy.

### EFFECTS OF FRIGHTENING MEDIA

Fear is an emotional flight or fight response due to an actual or imagined threat. Children don't have



the cognitive ability to separate fantasy from reality. It is not until five or six years of age that children gain a strong understanding of the difference between real and pretend.

The effects of children being frightened by media can include:

**Anxiety:** Children can develop symptoms of anxiety from watching a video that scares them. The experience is stored in the amygdala, the part of the brain which stores emotions, causing memories of the video to elicit scared and anxious emotions. Young children do not have the life experiences to put videos that scare them into perspective.

**Media violence** can introduce fears in childhood that continue into adulthood. One study, "Tales from the Screen: Enduring Fright Reactions to Scary Media,"

found that more than 90 per cent of the study's participants, reported a fearful reaction to media during their childhood or adolescence. Over one-quarter of those students who had had fearful reactions continued to experience a "residual anxiety" years later.

**Sleep disturbances:** There is evidence suggesting that violent media exposure, as well as media-viewing at night, can be detrimental to a child's quality of sleep. Sleep difficulties can create physiological issues for children including weight problems, cardiovascular issues, learning difficulties, behaviour problems and mental health issues.

**Violent and aggressive behaviour:** Children who regularly view media violence are more likely to display aggressive behaviour and have a decreased

emotional response to violence and injury. They may become more forgiving of violence, view the world as a hostile place or have less empathy for victims.

### STRATEGIES FOR CAREGIVERS

**Limit screentime for children:** The Canadian Pediatrics Society recommends children under two years old should have no screen time and children from ages two to five years old should have less than one hour a day.

**Help your children pick media that is age-appropriate,** by using parental rating guides. Understand your child's developmental level and how media may impact them: for example, preschoolers are more likely to be scared by visual images that look quite frightening as opposed to things that could be actually harmful yet appear more neutral.

**Provide safety guidelines for watching videos online** and explain the importance of reading the title and description of what the video is about. This is especially important for children aged around eight to 10 years of age, who want and can be provided with some autonomy.

**Keep internet use in common family spaces** where you can easily monitor what children are watching and if frightening or violent images are unexpectedly viewed discuss the content with your child and help them work through any fears or worries they may have.

### IF YOUR CHILD DOES SEE FRIGHTENING CONTENT

Respect your child's feelings. Communicate with your child and explain how what they are feeling is understandable.

Help them to manage the fear. Teach simple meditation techniques for before bed such as counting breaths to stop fears from impacting their sleep.

**Rationalize their fear.** A simple explanation such as "bugs will never grow larger than a human" can go a long way.

Elena Merenda is Assistant Program Head of Early Childhood Studies, University of Guelph-Humber; Nikki Martyn is Program Head of Early Childhood Studies, University of Guelph-Humber

## Marked as 'doubtful', 1.2 lk voters in Assam not to exercise franchise

**GUWAHATI, MAR 18 (PTI):** A total of 1.2 lakh people in Assam will not be able to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as they have been marked as 'D' (Doubtful) voters, a senior Election Commission official said Monday.

However, the people who have been left out of the complete draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will be able to vote if their names figure in the electoral rolls, Assam Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Chandra Sahu also said.

There are 40.08 lakh people whose names have been left out of the complete draft of the citizens' register after including the names of 2.9 crore people out of a total 3.3 crore applicants.

The system of 'D' (dubious or doubtful) voters was introduced in 1997 by the Election

Commission of India, which prepared a list of incorporating names of those who could not provide evidence in favour of their Indian nationality. It does not exist anywhere else in the country.

'D' voters were not allowed to vote in the 2014 general elections too.

"Currently, we have 1.2 lakh 'D' voters in the electoral rolls as per the last revision. The rolls are being updated continuously and the list will be finalised on the last date of nomination. Therefore, it will be separate for all the different phases," Sahu said.

The existing draft roll was published on September 15, 2018 and the final roll was released on February 6.

"There has been a slight fall in the current number of 'D' voters from the last revision due to disposing of court



cases. The current figure is likely to change at the time of election," Sahu said.

On security arrangements, Sahu said that 33 companies of central forces have already reached Assam and have been deployed at various places as a confidence building measure.

"More central forces will come to the state during the election. We have made a detailed security arrangement considering the sensibilities of different polling stations. Our state nodal police officer has already held meetings with the Ministry of Home Affairs on this," he added.

As per the last summary revision, over 2.17 crore voters, including at least 7.06 lakh first timers, will exercise their franchise in the three-phase elections in 14 Lok Sabha constituencies in Assam.

The voting in Assam will take place in 28,143 polling stations on April

11, 18 and 23, EC sources said.

In the first phase, voting will be held for Tezpur, Kaliabor, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur constituencies at 9,574 polling stations where 75.16 lakh electorate will exercise their franchise.

In the second phase on April 18, polling will be held in Karimganj (SC), Silchar, Autonomous District (ST), Mangaldoi and Nwagong constituencies where a total 68.36 lakh electorate will vote in 8,992 booths.

Dhubri, Kokrajhar (ST), Barpeta and Gauhati seats will see elections in the last phase on April 23 in 9,577 polling stations where 74.08 lakh people will vote.

There are also about 60,000 service voters, who are staying outside the state and will vote through postal ballot, the EC sources said.

## 15 polling stations in Mizoram for Bru refugees living in Tripura



**AIZAWL, MAR 18 (PTI):** A total of 15 temporary polling stations are being set up in Mamit district of Mizoram exclusively for Bru community voters living in relief camps in Tripura.

Of the 15 temporary polling stations, nine would be for Bru voters of Mamit district and three each for Lunglei and Kolasib districts of Mizoram, state Chief Electoral Officer Ashish Kundra said Monday.

A little over 12,000 Bru voters who originally hail from the three districts but now stay in six relief camps in the neighbouring state would exercise their franchise for the lone Lok Sabha seat in Mizoram on April 11.

Thousands of Bru community people had been lodged in the six relief camps in North Tripura district since late 1997 after they fled from Mizoram in the wake of a communal tension.

They would vote in the temporary polling stations being erected at Kanhmun village near Tripura border, Kundra said.

The Bru voters had cast their votes at the temporary polling stations at Kanhmun village during the Mizoram Assembly election held on November 28 last year.

The NGO Coordination Committee, an umbrella

organisation of major civil societies and student bodies, had earlier threatened to launch agitation if temporary polling stations for the Brus were set up.

The organisation was of the opinion that those living outside Mizoram should not be allowed to vote in the state.

Appealing to the civil societies not to harden their stance, the CEO said launching a stir is a democratic right but thwarting the voting, also a democratic process, by agitation should be avoided.

The Centre and the governments of Tripura and Mizoram had taken steps to repatriate the Bru refugees but those efforts did not yield much.

Six companies of the central armed police force (CAPF) would be deployed during the Lok Sabha polls in the state as against 40 companies during the Assembly elections, he said.

Meanwhile, the People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM) party Monday announced that TBV Lalvenchunga would be its candidate for the state's Lok Sabha seat.

Lalvenchunga had unsuccessfully contested the state Assembly polls from Champai North seat.

## INPT announces candidates after talks with Congress fail

**AGARTALA, MAR 18 (PTI):** The Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT), a regional tribal party of Tripura, Monday announced candidates for both the Lok Sabha seats in the state.

The INPT decided to declare its candidates after its talks for seat sharing with the opposition Congress failed, party president Bijooy Kumar Hrangkhawl said.

Hrangkhawl, an insurgent turned politician, said INPT leaders met Congress president Rahul Gandhi recently in New Delhi and signed a memorandum of understanding for joint fight against the BJP.

"However, the Tripura Pradesh Congress president gave us a condition that I have to resign as the party president and contest as an independent. This is unacceptable to us," Hrangkhawl told a press conference.

Hrangkhawl and INPT general secretary Jagadish Debbarma would contest from East and West Tripura Lok Sabha constituencies respectively.

The INPT president

said his party had also held dialogues with several other regional parties.

Reacting to the development, state Congress president Pradyot Kishore said the INPT wanted to contest East Tripura (ST) seat, "which is not acceptable to us".

"We offered support to the party if it contests independently. I don't think our poll prospects will be affected if they go it alone," he said.

The Congress, and the ruling BJP, are yet to announce their candidates.

Both the Lok Sabha seats in the Northeastern state are now held by the CPI(M) and the party has declared the sitting MPs as its candidates.

Contesting separately, the IPFT, ally of the ruling BJP, announced candidates including state Revenue Minister NC Debbarma, for the two seats.

Tripura will go to vote in two phases on April 11 and 18 for West Tripura and East Tripura Lok Sabha constituencies respectively.

## Left Front can't accept Cong's unjustified demands on seat sharing in WB: CPI

**HYDERABAD, MAR 18 (PTI):** CPI General Secretary Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy Monday said the Left Front cannot accept Congress' "unjustified" demand on seat-sharing issue in West Bengal, and it now looks like that the two would fight the Lok Sabha polls in the state separately.

He termed as "unexpected" the West Bengal unit of the Congress calling off on Sunday seat-sharing talks with the CPI(M)-led Left Front for the Lok Sabha polls.

West Bengal has 42 Lok Sabha seats.

"They (Congress) were asking 17 seats. Left Front offered them 12 seats. They are asking for five more seats which are Left front seats... (it is) unjustified. In some of these seats they got two to three per cent votes (in the previous elections)," Reddy told PTI here. He said in Basirhat Lok Sabha seat of West Bengal, CPI got four lakh votes in the previous elections, and the Congress one lakh votes.

"But still they demand that the seat should be given to them. This type of demands cannot be accepted by the Left Front. They are asking for one All India Forward Bloc seat, and three CPI(M) seats. So, it will be very complicated," Reddy said.

Now, it looks like the

Left Front and the Congress would fight the elections in West Bengal separately, the veteran communist leader said.

According to the Left Front's seat-sharing formula, CPI(M) would contest in 22 seats, the CPI and AIFB three each and the RSP two, with the remaining 12 to be left to the Congress.

With the Congress deciding to go solo, the Left front is meeting Monday to decide how to distribute the 42 seats among the partners, Reddy said.

The West Bengal unit of the Congress on Sunday called off seat-sharing talks with the CPI(M)-led Left Front for Lok Sabha polls, after weeks of hectic parleys failed to resolve the impasse over distribution of seats.

"It has been decided by our party unit that we don't want any adjustment or alliance by compromising our dignity. The Left can't dictate us on who will be candidate and who won't. We will fight alone in Bengal," state Congress chief Somen Mitra said in Kolkata after closed-door party meet on Sunday evening.

The Congress' decision on Sunday paved the way for a four-cornered contest in Bengal involving the Trinamool Congress, the BJP, the Left Front and the Congress.

## Central forces conduct route march in Kolkata



**KOLKATA, MAR 18 (PTI):** Central forces conducted route march in various parts of the city on Monday as part of area domination and confidence building measure among the people ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

A contingent of central forces along with officials of Kolkata police conducted route march in various parts of north Kolkata.

Ten companies of central paramilitary forces had arrived in the state since Friday and are

conducting flag marches in different parts of Kolkata and elsewhere before the seven-phase polls in the state beginning on April 11.

On Saturday during their route march the central forces personnel knocked at the doors of the people and assuring them not to be afraid of hoodligans.

The ruling Trinamool Congress Sunday said the central paramilitary personnel should not "terrorise" the people in the "name of making them feel safe and secure".

## Acid attack uncivilised, heartless crime, does not deserve any clemency: SC

**NEW DELHI, MAR 18 (PTI):** The Supreme Court has said that acid attack is an "uncivilised and heartless crime" which does not deserve any clemency.

The apex court observed this while asking two convicts, who have already undergone five year jail for throwing acid on a 19-year-old girl in 2004, to pay Rs 1.5 lakh each as additional compensation to the victim.

The top court also asked the Himachal Pradesh government to pay compensation to acid attack survivor under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

"Indeed, it cannot be ruled out that in the present case the victim had suffered an uncivilised and heartless crime com-

mitted by the respondents (two convicts) and there is no room for leniency which can be conceived," a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi said.

The bench further said, "A crime of this nature does not deserve any kind of clemency. This court cannot be oblivious of the situation that the victim must have suffered an emotional distress which cannot be compensated either by sentencing the accused or by grant of any compensation."

The court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by the state challenging the March 24, 2008 judgement of the Himachal Pradesh High Court which had reduced the 10-year jail term awarded to both the men

by a trial court to five years.

According to the victim, she was on her way to college on July 12, 2004 when the two men came on a two-wheeler and threw acid on her and fled the spot.

She had suffered 16 per cent burn injury in the incident.

The police had filed charge sheet against both the accused and the trial court convicted and sentenced them to 10 years jail term along with a fine of Rs 5,000 each.

Later, the convicts approached the high court against the lower court's verdict.

The high court reduced their sentence to five years and increased the fine to Rs 25,000 each.

The apex court, in its verdict, noted that the

girl had suffered 16 per cent burn injury "which was caused due to acid attack on the darkest day of her life".

The top court was informed that both the convicts had undergone the sentence and deposited the fine as per the high court's judgement and they were released from jail on December 9 last year.

The bench, which said the high court's verdict convicting both the persons needed no interference, asked them to pay additional compensation of Rs 1.5 lakh each to the victim.

It also asked the state to pay compensation to the girl under the victim compensation scheme and deposit the same before the trial court within three months.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey coursed by hydel projects in Sikkim and the region, the cost exacted by this 'development' and some of the stories it birthed, not all of which have been shared before.

Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim and how the State could negotiate with this new disruption.

**THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY**

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

**ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM**

LOKTA BOOKS

loktabooks@gmail.com  
+91 981 000 0200, +91 981 200 0700

## Ronaldo rested as Juventus lose, Inter go third with Milan derby win

**MILAN, MAR 18 (AFP):** Cristiano Ronaldo was rested and Juventus crashed to their first Serie A defeat of the season at Genoa on Sunday following their Champions League heroics, as Inter won a fiery Milan derby clash 3-2 to move into third ahead of city rivals AC Milan.

Ronaldo had fired Juventus into the European quarter-finals with a comeback victory over Atletico Madrid last Tuesday.

Without him the team slumped to a 2-0 defeat but still remain comfortably on track for an eighth consecutive league title.

Juventus's lead was cut to 15 points by Napoli who got back winning, prevailing 4-2 against Udinese after goalkeeper David Ospina collapsed on the pitch after suffering a head injury.

The on-loan Arsenal goalkeeper was later given the all clear following a CT scan at a Naples hospital.

Juventus had won 24 of their 27 previous matches in Serie A this season with three draws, including a 1-1 stalemate against Genoa in Turin.

"It's not a tragedy, but I'm sorry because we wanted to remain unbeaten," said Allegri. You can't play all the games at your maximum. The Champions League match certainly weighed heavy."

It was the first league defeat for Allegri's side since April 2018 against Napoli, and first away since losing at Sampdoria in November 2017.

"TIME TO UNPLUG" - The Italian champions had already been



beaten this season by Atalanta in the Coppa Italia and lost in the Champions League to Young Boys in the group stage and Atletico Madrid in the last-16 first leg.

"The defeat could do us good, because maybe we thought we already had the league in our pockets and instead we still have to get five victories," continued Allegri.

"Much like the Coppa Italia defeat to Atalanta, we picked the right game to lose, because it's just before the break for international duty, so we have time to unplug and rest."

Ex-Juventus midfielder Stefano Sturaro, 26, playing his first game after ten months out with a tendon injury, scored just two minutes after coming off the bench.

Another substitute Goran Pandev sealed victory for Genoa with ten minutes to go.

"I'm happy for him (Sturaro), because he suffered a lot and today he changed the game," said Allegri.

Napoli, meanwhile, rallied after losing a two-goal lead slip just before Ospina's frightening collapse.

The Colombian international had collided with Udinese striker Ignacio Pussetto minutes into the game, before collapsing just before half-time.

"Fortunately it's nothing serious, he's conscious, they did a CT scan that is negative, he'll remain under observation tonight," said coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Amin Younes curled in his first Serie A goal after 17 minutes, with Jose Callejon connecting with a Dries Mertens cross for the second on 26 minutes.

But Kevin Lasagna and Seko Fofana got two past Ospina in a six-minute spell after the half-hour mark as the Colombian looked out-of-sorts after his fourth-minute collision.

Alex Meret replaced Ospina with Napoli pulling ahead when Arkadiusz Milik headed in a Callejon corner on 57 minutes, with Mertens sealing the three points on 69 minutes.

- INTER EDGE DERBY -

Amid drama and tension at the San Siro, Inter Milan overtook AC Milan to consolidate their hopes of Champions

League football for the first time since 2014, ending Gennaro Gattuso's unbeaten run going back to December 22.

Matias Vecino found a way through after just three minutes at the San Siro, days after his team's Europa League exit.

Stefan de Vrij added the second on 51 minutes and Lautaro Martinez slotted in the third from the penalty spot.

For Milan, Tiemoue Bakayoko headed in after 57 minutes with Mateo Musacchio reacting quickly to finish off a rebound (71).

Inter had won the reverse fixture thanks to ex-captain Mauro Icardi's late winner but the Argentine has not played in over a month amid a contract dispute.

Luciano Spalletti's side are now two points ahead of Milan. Roma, are fifth, four points adrift of the Champions League places after a 2-1 defeat to SPAL, with Lazio two points behind in sixth after beating Parma 4-1.

Atalanta are equal on points with Lazio after being held 1-1 by bottom club Chievo.

## Afghanistan record maiden Test win, beat Ireland by 7 wickets

**DEHRADUN, MAR 18 (PTI):** Afghanistan's cricket team Monday recorded its maiden Test win as it beat Ireland by seven wickets in a one-off game here, nine months after making its debut in the traditional format.

Chasing 147 for victory, Afghanistan rode on a 139-run second-wicket partnership between Rahmat Shah and Ihsanullah Janat to secure a historic win months after their Test debut against India.

Both Shah and Ihsanullah struck half centuries, helping their team march to the victory target on the fourth morning of the match in a place that has been its 'home' for a while.

Shah scored a 122-ball 76, and Janat an unbeaten 129-ball 65 as Afghanistan notched up the target within a session.

Afghanistan lost Shah and Mohammad Nabi back-to-back off James Cameron-Dow's bowling before Hashmatullah Shahidi smashed the winning boundary to trigger celebrations



in the Afghan dressing room.

Also playing their second Test, Ireland were on the backfoot from the opening day when they were bowled out for 172, even as Afghanistan secured a big first-innings lead after responding with 314.

On the fourth morning, in sight of their maiden Test triumph, Shah hit consecutive fours in just the second over off Tim Murtagh, setting the tone for the innings.

"Happy. It's a historic day for Afghanistan, for our team and our people," said Afghanistan captain Asghar Afghan.

"We have been playing for a while, we have

been playing first-class cricket, so we have that composure. The bowlers were very good, Rashid, Yamin. Now we're going to South Africa for World Cup preparation. We will try our best to play good cricket."

Shah was named the Man of the Match for his twin fifties.

"First of all I'd like to congratulate the country for this win. There was a difference in the pitches - the ODI wickets was better for spin, this was suitable for batting. We played session by session and tried to win the match that way. I would like to give credit to the bowlers, they played really well."

By matches, Afghanistan are joint second-fastest to a maiden Test-match win, alongside Pakistan and England.

Ireland skipper William Porterfield said, "It was obviously going to be a tough ask defending 150. It was the first innings where it went wrong for us."

Brief scores: Afghanistan 314 (Rahmat 98, Asghar 67) and 149 for 3 (Rahmat 76, Ihsanullah 65 not out) beat Ireland 172 (Murtagh 54, Ahmadzai 3-41, Nabi 3-36) and 288 (Balbirnie 82, O'Brien 56, Rashid 5-82, Ahmadzai 3-52) by seven wickets.

## Indian batsmen will need to do well for Delhi Capitals to win IPL, feels Dhawan

**NEW DELHI, MAR 18 (PTI):** Senior opener Shikhar Dhawan Monday reckoned that the Indian batsmen would need to score the bulk of runs for Delhi Capitals to harbour hopes of winning the Indian Premier League.

Dhawan joined the rest of the Delhi Capitals squad here on Sunday after having taken part in the recently concluded One-Day series against Australia.

The left-handed batsman also took part in a T20 practice match organised by the Delhi Capitals to prepare for the upcoming season.

"In IPL, the team who wins the trophy is always the one who has the best balance in the squad. Our team this year is also very balanced as we have good all-rounders, spinners and batsmen. The most important thing for us will be that our Indian batsmen play well and our top 4-5 batsmen are



Indian, so I am expecting a great season ahead," said Dhawan.

A regular in India's limited overs scheme of things, Dhawan has spent 10 seasons away in IPL before joining the Delhi franchise.

"It is like a second homecoming for me, and I am very excited to be a part of the Delhi Capitals for the IPL season. It is a very happy feeling for me to have come back to my home city of Delhi after spending 10 seasons away in the IPL," said Dhawan.

He continued, "Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium has been my home ground

since my early days, and I will be doing my best to perform for the team as I know the conditions and pitches well."

"Apart from that, I will also be looking to help our younger players get used to the pressure of playing in such a big tournament, and hopefully I can spur them on to perform on the field to the best of their abilities."

For Sunday's practice T20 match, the squad was divided into two teams, one led by Rishabh Pant, who joined them over the weekend, and the other by Shreyas Iyer.

## We wanted to win this title badly: Chhetri

**MUMBAI, MAR 18 (PTI):** An elated Bengaluru FC skipper Sunil Chhetri termed his team's maiden Indian Super League victory against FC Goa as a "sweet one" especially after his side had faltered in the summit clash last season against Chennaiyin FC.

Courtesy Rahul Bheke's championship-winning header in the second extra time, Bengaluru defeated FC Goa 1-0 in an edge of a seat thriller last night here to win their maiden ISL title. Bengaluru had last year lost last year's final to Chennaiyin FC.

"Last year after the final, I said next year we'll come back. Right from the ball boy to Carles (Cuadrat the coach), everyone wanted this. We wanted to win it (the title) badly. When you lose the way we did last year, it's sweet to win this one. Asia, we are back," Chhetri said at the post match media confer-

ence late Sunday night.

Now by winning the ISL, Bengaluru FC will play in the AFC Asian Cup next year.

Chhetri also said it was "commendable" that a player like Ferran Corominas, who bagged the Golden Boot award, did not get any chance against his team on all the three occasions when the two teams clashed.

"The message from the coach was that we should try to attack but as soon as we lose the ball, we should fall back and defend and have numbers (at the back). For players like me, Miku and Udanta (Singh), it was not easy because we are attacking minded people," Chhetri said.

"I am happy we did it because Nishu (Kumar) and (Harmanjot) Khabra got that security when Cuadrat and I traced back. It is commendable that a player like Coro (Corominas) did not get open chances against us in

three games," he said.

"Last year, we conceded a lot of set pieces and we were dominant until those two goals, so we were sure on not letting it happen today," he added.

Asked where he would rate this win, Chhetri quipped, Top-two. Number 2."

The winning coach Carles Cuadrat said that the team was trying not to take the game to the penalties as then it can be anybody's game.

"We were trying not to get into tie-breaker as it then becomes a lottery a lot of times. We are happy that one ball in the box gave us the victory. This is the seventh goal done by a set-piece and it shows how important set pieces are in the game, Cuadrat said.

Meanwhile, FC Goa coach Sergio Lobera termed Ahmed Jahouh being sent off the field after earning a red card as the key moment of the match.

## Indian men's hockey team eyes strong start to season at Azlan Shah Cup



**BENGALURU, MAR 18 (PTI):** The Indian men's hockey captain Manpreet Singh feels the team has learnt its lessons from the World Cup debacle last year and is geared up for a positive start to the season at the Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh, Malaysia.

Speaking to the media before leaving for Ipoh on Sunday night, Manpreet said the side has prepared itself for the hot and humid weather in Ipoh by having noon practice sessions at the national camp here.

"We are quite eager to make a positive start as it will give us the right momentum ahead of the FIH Men's Series Finals Bhubaneswar Odisha 2019. We have worked really hard in the camp, often training at noon to get used to playing in the hot and humid weather conditions," Manpreet.

India began their campaign against Japan on March 23 and will be looking to continue their winning form against the side, who they last met during the Hero Asian Champions Trophy last year.

"We will be playing

the Asian Games Champions Japan in the opening match and we will have to be at our best to beat them. We have a lot of youngsters in the team, it will be a great test for them and us as a unit," stated Manpreet who will have Suresh Kumar as deputy.

The Indian team will play their second game against Korea on March 24 while they take on nemesis and Asian Games silver medalists Malaysia on March 26.

"Though we are the highest ranked team in the tournament, we cannot get ahead of ourselves and have to take one match at a time rather than thinking directly about the Final as we have some tough encounters to begin with."

"Each step is important and the objective will be to ensure that we come out victorious in all our matches," he said.

Manpreet believes that the 2018 Odisha World Cup, in which the team lost in the quarterfinals, was a major learning step and many players, who have been given a chance, are in a better position to handle pressure situations.

## Tiger Woods says game 'right on track' as Masters approaches

**PONTE VEDRA (FLORIDA), MAR 18 (AP):** Tiger Woods hit 12 of 14 fairways, made a 30-foot putt for birdie and holed out for par from a green-side bunker in the final round at The Players Championship.

Even though he finished in the middle of the pack, Woods liked the state of his game in preparation for the Masters.

"It's right on track," Woods said after shooting a 3-under 69 on Sunday. "I'm able to shape the golf ball both ways, which I'm going to need there. Just need a few more putts to go in, but that's about it."

Woods made four birdies in wet conditions and had decent looks at a few more, but failed to make many mid-length putts. Still, his 26 putts in the final round marked the first time he needed fewer than 30 this week on the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

"I felt like I was playing well," he said. "My score didn't really indicate that going into the final day, but I was hitting the golf ball well. I'm frustrated at lipping more putts out than I think I have in a very long time. Just one of those weeks where just nothing really got rolling enough to get me going."

Woods' lone blunder his only score worse than bogey all week was

a quadruple-bogey 7 at the famed par-3 17th in the second round. Woods put two balls in the water en route to matching his worst score on any par 3 in 24 years on the PGA Tour.

Had he not dropped four shots at the island green Friday, Woods could have been in the mix Sunday.

Regardless, he found more good than bad in his final stroke-play event before Augusta National (April 11-14). His last tuneup for the Masters will be the Match Play Championship in Austin, Texas, in two weeks, where he is guaranteed at least three rounds.

"I'm excited the way I drove it," he said. "I drove the ball well this week. I drove it not quite as long on the weekend with a little bit cooler temperatures, but I was driving it pretty straight and I was able to shape the golf ball both ways with all three of my woods, which was good to see."

Woods said he had no issues with his neck. He withdrew from the Arnold Palmer Invitational last week with what he described as a strain. It was the first time the 43-year-old Woods withdrew from a tournament in two years, shortly before his fourth back surgery to fuse his lower spine.

He used the week off to get his body right.

to book  
advertisements  
in Summit Times,  
mail us at  
advertise@  
summittimes.com  
or Call  
9933427505  
9734152451



## Elton John to publish 'no-holds-barred' autobiography

**LONDON, MAR 18 (PTI):** Music legend Elton John has announced that he is working on his first autobiography, which will be published in autumn.

The 71-year-old musician had shared the news on Twitter. The "no-holds-barred" memoir will be co-written by music journalist Alexis Petridis. "My life has been one helluva roller coaster ride and I'm now ready to tell you my story, in my own words," John wrote.

According to The Telegraph, the book, which will be published by Macmillan, is expected to cover John's long career and colourful personal life.

Talking about the upcoming project, the singer said in a statement, "I'm not prone to being a nostalgic person. I'm often accused of only looking forward to my next gig or creative project. It's come as quite a surprise how cathartic I am finding the process of writing my memoirs."

"(I) have had the joyful honour of rubbing shoulders and working with so many of the people at the heart of these changes," he added.

John's unauthorised biography was released in 2007, but this will be the first time that the singer himself has told his story.

He is currently on his Farewell Yellow Brick Road trek, apparently his last tour.

John plans to retire by next year to spend more time with his husband filmmaker David Furnish and children - Zachary (nine) and Elijah (six).



## Jackie Chan, Wu Jing to star in Chinese mountain climbing epic

**LOS ANGELES, MAR 18 (PTI):** Two of China's biggest action stars Jackie Chan and Wu Jing are teaming up for an action adventure film that revolves around scaling Mount Everest.

Tentatively titled "Climbers" in English, the movie is about the first Chinese mountaineers to summit the world's highest peak.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the film will be directed by Hong Kong filmmaker Daniel Lee and produced by Shanghai Film Group.

"Climbers" will recreate the real-life expedition of Chinese climbers Wang Fuzhou, Gonpo, and Qu Yinhua, who made a historic ascent up Mount Everest's North Ridge in 1960.

The Chinese team was the first to successfully climb the north side of Everest, which is known to be especially perilous.

The trio famously left a small statue of Chairman Mao atop the summit, before returning midway down the mountain to rescue a fourth member of their team who



was unable to complete the climb.

Popular young actor Jing Boran and TV star Hu Ge star as the two other climbers in the quartet.

Zhang Ziyi is set to play a Chinese meteorologist who assists the mission.

"Climbers" is currently shooting in China and is expected to be released either on China's National Day holiday or during Chinese New Year in 2020.

## Idea of directing films interests me, says Keira Knightley

**LOS ANGELES, MAR 18 (PTI):** British actor Keira Knightley says the art of filmmaking interests her but she is not planning to turn to direction anytime soon.

The actor also said she likes to be involved in the script writing process.

"I don't know, at the moment with a three year old, no. But maybe further down the line. I've worked on a lot of films, I've worked with a lot of wonderful directors and I'm really interested in how it's all put together and I really like working with scripts and storylines. I think there's certain areas that I'm confident I'd be okay in, and certain areas where

I'm not as confident.

"The problem is, as an actor what I'm meant to do is completely ignore the camera is there, so it's taken me so long to completely ignore the camera there that now if you're thinking about directing you need to be thinking 'why are you there and what lenses are you on,'" Knightley told Collider.

The 33-year-old actor will next be seen in James Kent's new drama "The Affair".

## Winston Duke had no idea he was auditioning for 'Black Panther'

**LOS ANGELES, MAR 18 (PTI):** Marvel Studios' obsession with keeping things under wraps is not a secret but it was a "lightbulb" moment for Winston Duke when he got to know he auditioned for "Black Panther".

The actor, who had a breakout role in Ryan Coogler's Marvel film as M'Baku, said he did not know he was reading lines from a "fake script" for a Marvel movie.

"I didn't even know what I was doing, I didn't know what movie it was in the audition. They didn't tell you so I auditioned without knowing what movie I was auditioning for," Duke told Metro.

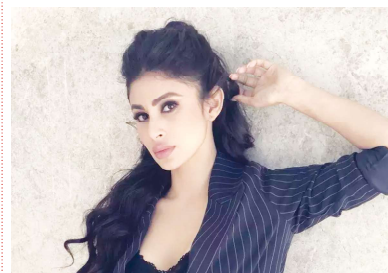
"They were fake scripts! You just sign a non-disclosure agreement and then they send you sides (a part of a script provided to actors for use in an audition) that they just wrote, and you memorise it and work on it and flush it out and create character and go in and do your things," he added.

The actor said he was in the dark till he met Coogler for a director's session.

"I had no idea until I had a director session the third time around and saw it was Ryan Coogler, and I was like, 'ohhhh, lightbulb!'" Duke said.



## Was surprised when I was cast as villain in "Brahmastra": Mouni Roy



**MUMBAI, MAR 18 (PTI):** Mouni Roy says her casting as the main antagonist in Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt-starrer "Brahmastra" came as a surprise for her.

The 33-year-old actor, who made her Bollywood debut with Akshay Kumar's "Gold", says she wants make versatile choices.

"I am playing the main villain in the film. I am really looking forward to it. What is more liberating for me is playing different characters that challenges me. I was surprised initially that they wanted me to play the villain."

Ayan Mukherji (director) had seen something from 'Naagin' and felt I could play the villain. So you never know what clicks with whom. As an actor you should be willing to experiment and be versatile otherwise you can't learn and grow," Mouni told PTI.

"Brahmastra" also featuring megastar Amitabh Bachchan, will serve as the first film in the trilogy. Mouni says working with the team has been an enriching experience.

"My life is fulfilled after working with Mr Bachchan. Ranbir and Alia are sweethearts, they are too good. They all are such big stars that you get scared walking on the sets."

"They all have been so generous, welcoming and

made me feel comfortable. With great success and talent they also have that humility and are accepting people from outside," she adds.

"Brahmastra", produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Production, will release on December 20.

Mouni will be seen next in "RAW: Romeo Akbar Walter" opposite John Abraham. The film releases on April 5.

The actor said she had a great time working with John and is happy with the way her role has shaped up in the film.

"RAW" was offered to me after 'Gold' and Brahmastra. This was last year. I am playing John's love interest, it is integral to the story. She is a banker. It was superb working with John. Both Akshay Kumar (her 'Gold' co-star) and John Abraham have lot of similarities like they are so focused and disciplined."

Her upcoming films also include 'Made in China' with Rajkummar Rao, in which she plays the role of a Gujarati housewife, and 'Bole Chudiyan' with Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

"This girl in ('Bole Chudiyan') is very fiery, drives tractors and dances. It is a full on Hindi film heroine. I am excited about it. I was waiting for something like this," Mouni says.



**THE REALITY STAR, Kylie Jenner looks stunning in a black dress as she leaves the Nice Guy restaurant in West Hollywood.**

**ARIES:** Reunited and it feels so good. Saturday's friendly angle between Mercury and Uranus could lead you back to a group you once cherished. From an indoor sports league to an activist organization to people you just like drinking IPAs with, you've been missing that bond. If you can't convene in person, set up a time to video chat.

**TAURUS:** Kill 'em with kindness Saturday, Taurus, and a megadose of compassion. A stressed out friend or relative could make everyone's life miserable if you don't intervene. Rather than going mutinous, get to the source of this person's angst. Maybe they feel overwhelmed or upset about a recent "failure." Preempt and prevail! Find out what support is needed before they ask.

**GEMINI:** Were you a little too quick to judge a group as weird or "not your thing." Gemini? Saturday, you could have misgivings about your hasty write-off. Give this cutting-edge crew a second chance. Are they really asking you to become a devotee, or are they simply

offering a fresh perspective on life? If you still find them intriguing, dip your toe in the water without fear.

**CANCER:** If you can't beat 'em, join 'em! This Saturday, collaborating with the so-called competition might bring the win-win you're both looking for...If you can set aside your differences. The trick is to test the waters slowly small instead of trying to resolve every difference in one day. If you've been gasping for air—or maybe just a change of scenery—the next ten weeks could send you on some amazing adventures.

**LEO:** This Saturday, a refreshingly honest conversation can move the needle on a stuck relationship. Don't get hung up with saying the "right" thing, Leo; just speak your piece in a non-blaming way. And make sure you extend that open-minded courtesy to the other party as well. Of course, sometimes these sentiments are best expressed in a letter—one that you don't send, but rather write, then rip up and burn as a ceremonial release.

**LIBRA:** Who says February 14th gets to have all the fun? Saturday's playful pairing of Mercury and Uranus could bring an early visit from St. Valentine. A scintillating conversation could lead to a dinner date that lingers on for hours. If you're already spoken for, Saturday could be like a V-Day prequel. Reserve a table for two or pick up a pair of tickets for a raved-about show.

**VIRGO:** Thoughts are swirling through your head this Saturday, but don't let them evolve into an epic work of fiction. With analytical Mercury getting a boost from innovative Uranus, talk to people who can help you see the situation from an enlightened perspective. Everything happens for a reason, Virgo, even if it makes zero sense in the moment.

**SCORPIO:** Is it a fact or just a feeling? Saturday's Mercury-Uranus mashup brings some much-needed objectivity to a situation that's been hitting all your emotional buttons. While you don't want to ignore your intuition, what's bothering you might be a result of a past trigger rather than something that's actually occurring in

the here and now. The surest way to find out? Investigate, as only a Scorpio can! Your inner bon vivant takes the wheel this Sunday as social Mercury high-kicks into Pisces and your flamboyant, fun-loving fifth house!

**SAGITTARIUS:** If other people are slowing you down this Saturday, no need to drag those stragglers along for the ride. Enjoy a day of independence, allowing yourself to come and go as you please without checking for approval. The dedicated alone time will refresh your feed and you'll be ready to reign as life of the party come sundown. Avoid any venues that feel stuffy or elitist! **CAPRICORN:** Anyone can dazzle you with a first impression—but can they actually walk their talk? Under Saturday's convivial alignment of Mercury and Uranus, you might not be the best at separating the wheat from the chaff. Enjoy the magic moments you share with people socially, remembering that only time can tell the true story about their integrity and character. Reserve judgement, one way or

the other, because it's equally possible that someone you wrote off as annoying could start to grow on you!

**AQUARIUS:** Chat up strangers this Saturday, because at any moment, random banter could reveal a serendipitous spark. The fateful encounter could happen during an espresso run or while you're rolling up your yoga mat after class. One thoughtful comment on an Instagram-friend's feed could lead to a DM exchange—and one bold right swipe could swiftly evolve into a Saturday night date!

**PISCES:** You don't have to make excuses for other people's bad behavior, Pisces, but it's possible that you overreacted to a recent slight. You're rightfully disappointed but is this really grounds for a freezeout? Maybe you extended the benefit of the doubt a little too quickly or projected qualities onto people that were never really there. Accept their limitations then consider letting go of your anger. Going forward, you can't count on these people for certain things—but that doesn't mean you can't still be cordial.