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Summit ON TOP OF THE NEWS TIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 92 | Gangtok | Friday | 05 April 2019

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

This election is for the people, not any party: Golay

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party convened an election campaign meeting at Rongli Bazaar playground in East Sikkim today. The public meeting was attended by people from Rhenock, Chujachen, Central Pendam and Gnathang-Machong constituencies along with the SKM candidates of these constituencies, Bishnu Kumar Khatiwada, Dambar Pradhan, LB Das and Tshering Bhutia and Lok Sabha candidate, Indra Hang Subba.

An SKM press release informs that 611 SDF families from these four constituencies joined SKM at the meeting.

Addressing the people, SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay], announced that all employees, farmers, businessmen, drivers and students of Sikkim are ea-



gerly waiting for 11 April to uproot what he alleged to be the "corrupt, communal and autocratic" SDF government.

He went on to allege that no development has taken place in the State in the 25 years that SDF has been at the helm of af-

fairs and that the people were still lacking even the basic amenities. In this regard, he stressed that the upcoming election

was important to reclaim the State for the people.

"This election is for the people, not any party," he said.

Mr Tamang alleged that SDF lacks principles and policies and that its manifesto was full of lies, **turn to pg05**

SDF accuses SKM of continuing violence

**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front today continued its allegations of poll violence by Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, a recourse SKM was taking after having failed to do politics of programmes and policies.

Addressing a press conference here today, SDF spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, countered SKM claims and insisted that SDF member, Upen Rai, was stabbed by an SKM youth Joel Rai at Pabong under Poklok-Kamrang constituency on 27 March. SKM, it may be recalled, has claimed that Joel Rai was an SDF youth.

He also recounted other incidents of violence targeting SDF supporters and office-bearers and stated that SKM's penchant for violence can be explained to the fact that it is lead by a person who has served time in jail on a conviction held up by the courts.

In the latest instance,

on 03 April Zilla Panchayat of Maneybong Denta was ambushed and restrained by SKM supporters while he was travelling with his family to Uttarey for personal work, Mr Gyaltsen informed.

The SKM party workers abused and assaulted the Zilla Panchayat and even those who tried to intervene, Mr Gyaltsen alleged.

He further informed that SDF will write to the Central Election Commission and Sikkim Police DGP to take immediate action on these matters.

Addressing the SKM allegation that OFOJ beneficiaries have still not received their salaries, Mr Gyaltsen explained that some salaries have been delayed because those beneficiaries have still not submitted their appointment letters and many have not obtained the 14-digit number from DESME to process their dues and avoid duplication.

Where SDF is consistent, SKM always contradicting itself: Katwal

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front's Lok Sabha candidate, DB Katwal, today claimed that where his party had been consistent in its pursuit of all that is important for Sikkim, the Opposition Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has been dithering and contradictory in its statements and performance.

Addressing a media briefing here today, a confident Mr Katwal insisted that the people have seen through the misinformation that SKM thrives on and are more excited about the prospect of voting SDF into office for a sixth consecutive term.

He pointed out how SKM claimed its president could contest the elections and even rolled out what it claimed was legal evidence to back the claim and then realizing that he couldn't after which they drummed up weak excuses and have now presented him as their chief ministerial candidate.

The people, he said, should be able to see through this tendency of SKM to blatantly lie to them and then try and distract the people with baseless allegations and conspiracies.

As for his stint as Lok Sabha should he win the elections, Mr Katwal said that he would be voice of the Sikkimese youth in the parliament and speak for them and about their issues even as he pursues the State's pending issues with the Centre.

On counting day, SKM's rejection by the people will be formalized: Chamling

**ARPAN PRADHAN
KABI, 04 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front party president, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, today announced that whatever was left of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha by way of relevance will dissipate with the counting of votes on 23 May, 2019, the day when SKM's rejection by the people of Sikkim will be formalized.

Mr Chamling was addressing the sixth day of his party's election campaign today at Kabi in North Sikkim.

Commenting on the mushrooming of leaders and resurfacing of parties at around election time, Mr Chamling rued that these groups were motivated solely by personal ambitions and had no sense of service.

While making a series of announcements for the constituency [see box] should he return to office, Mr Chamling alleged that the Opposition did not have any understanding or even desire

to work for the people and were mischievously copying and repackaging SDF plans and policies in their manifestos.

He also addressed the issue of several ticket hopefuls having been left out and assured that the service and support of party workers and leaders will not be forgotten and that they would always enjoy the gratitude and respect of the party. He called on them to be patient and committed to the party and the people.

He also went on to take personal responsibility for the elected representatives and assured that if the MLAs failed to deliver, he would himself take responsibility of the constituencies and have their demands and aspirations met.

The upcoming election, he stressed, was not important because it would return SDF to government for a record sixth time but because it offered the people a chance to save Sikkim and sustain development and peace here.

SDF questions Indra Hang Subba's understanding of LT issue

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 04 APR:**

Sikkim Democratic Front went on an offensive against Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MP candidate, Indra Hang Subba today questioning his understanding of the Limboo-Tamang Assembly seat reservation issue as well as his politics.

Addressing a press conference here today, SDF general secretary [press & publicity], Kavita Subba advised Indra Hang Subba to do proper

research before giving statements and study the white paper issued by the State Government in July 2008 on Limboo-Tamang seat issue.

Accusing Mr Subba of deceiving and misleading people, the SDF general secretary stated that he is making contradictory statements.

"Indra Hang Subba says that SKM is in favour of providing justice to majority Nepali community of Sikkim but on the other hand SKM has



The meet was also addressed by former MLA from the constituency, TT Bhutia, who clarified that several rumours had circulated about his having joined the SKM and pointed out that his standing on this dais was proof that those were mischievous rumours.

Mr Bhutia stressed that the party was supreme for him.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR KABI-LUNGCHOK

- Orchid Sanctuary at Kabi.
- Establishment of DIET College at Kabi.
- A Veterinary College in the constituency.
- High priority to animal husbandry.
- Promotion of adventure tourism, medicinal and organic tourism.
- Construction of a life sized statue of goddess 'Dolma'.
- Construction of life sized statues of Khye Bumsa, Thekong Tek and Nikung Ngai.
- Regularisation of sites of houses along J.N. Road and Pangthang.
- Stretches of vacant lands to be developed into a tea garden.
- A ropeway at Kabi.
- Upgradation of Bojoghari School building and Multi-Purpose hall at Bojoghari.
- Beautification of Bojoghari and construction of a Shivalaya (Shiva Temple).
- Drinking water supply and upgraded sewerage system at Bojoghari.

Our Mountains deserve better

VOTE FOR THE HIMALAYAN CLEANUP, 2020

Follow zerowastehimalaya for more details

Facilities to ensure participation of differently-abled this election

GANGTOK, 04 APR (IPR): As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India this time one of the important themes to be observed during Election is Accessible Elections. Sikkim is going for Polls on 11 Apr, 2019 and to ensure participation of differently-abled Voters in this biggest democratic exercise, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim in co-ordination with Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of State has taken various steps.

The CEO Office has appointed State Nodal Officer and District Nodal Officers for ensuring that this time the elections are Accessible to all PWD Voters. The Election Commission of India has also appointed two Accessibility Observers to specifically oversee the

preparation in the districts with regard to Accessible Elections.

Commissioner – cum – Secretary, Vishal Chauhan, Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department has been appointed as the Accessibility Observers for East and North District. He may be contacted at 94340-08110 for any complaints/ query with regard to facilities provided to PWD voters for East and North District.

Similarly, Secretary, Ambika Pradhan, Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department have been appointed as the Accessibility Observer for West and South Districts. She may be contacted at 9733157778 for any complaints/ query with regard to facilities provided to PWD voters for West and South Districts.

In the first round of exercise the marking of the different-

ly-abled voters in the Electoral Roll was done with the help of the Booth Level Officers (BLOs). These voters have been marked as per their Polling Station and on the day of the Poll following facilities will be provided to them:

1. Basic facilities like drinking water; toilets, shed.
2. Transportation for PWD Voters is being made from the office of the District Election Officers on Poll Day. These Voters will be ferried from their residence by a designated vehicle and brought to the polling station. After casting their Vote they will again be dropped to their residence by the same vehicle.
3. In a State like Sikkim, the

terrain poses as the major obstacle in making polling stations physically accessible. Hence, to overcome this challenge, this time Volunteers have been appointed to assist the PWD Voters to reach the Polling Stations, especially for locomotors disabled Voters. These Volunteers are enrolled from the Electoral Literacy Clubs that are established in Schools and also from the NSS, NCC, Scouts and Guides.

4. The Polling Stations which are physically accessible are being provided with Wheel chairs for the convenience of such Voters.
5. For the benefit of the Visually Challenged Voters

dummy ballot in Braille and voter slip in Braille is being introduced.

6. Pictograms are in circulation and also available in the Voters Facilitation Centres for the convenience of Speech and Hearing Impaired Voters..
7. PWD Voters and Senior Citizens will be given preference in Voting without having to stand in queue
8. PWD Voters can also call the Toll Free number 1950 regarding any query and if they have not marked themselves, they may also mark themselves through the PWD App for any specific assistance.

The Indian Constitution under Article 326 has granted the right

to vote to all its citizens of sound mind above the age of 18, irrespective of caste, religion, social or economic status. Further, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 lays down certain measures to be taken by the Government and Public Authorities for empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Act envisages creating a “barrier free” environment so that the persons with disabilities can participate in society fully and effectively. Barrier does not only mean physical barrier but it also includes communication, cultural, economic, environmental, institutional, political, social, attitudinal or structural barriers. Section 11 of the Act emphasizes accessibility to voting under heading “Rights and Entitlements”.

This Election let us ensure that no voter is left behind!

Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs in South

NAMCHI, 04 APR (IPR):

The Commissioning of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) to be used for the parliamentary constituency for the ensuing General Elections, 2019 which commenced from 03 April concluded at the Auditorium Hall of Namchi Senior Secondary School, today. The commissioning process was done in the presence of Returning Officer (South), Ragul K, Assistant Returning Officer, Satyen K Pradhan, Sector Magistrates, candidates and election agents.

The commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs was done for Assembly segments of parliamentary constituencies namely Barfung, Poklok-Kamrang, Namthang-Ratey-



pani and Temi-Namphing on 03 April.

Similarly, today, the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs was arranged for Namchi-Singhithang, Melli, Rangang-Yangang and Tumin-Lingi Assembly segments.

It maybe also mentioned that a total number of 24 Bharat Electronic Limited (BEL) engineers from Bengaluru oversaw the commissioning and uploaded the

symbols in the VVPATs. After the commissioning, the EVMs and VVPATs were sealed and stored in the respective Strong Rooms in the presence of General Observer for Parliamentary Constituency (South/West), Pankaj Agarwal (IAS) and agents of contesting candidates. The machines are stored under 24x7 CCTV surveillance and are guarded by armed security personnel.

EO North conducts inspection of Election Expenditure



MANGAN, 04 APR (IPR):

Expenditure Observer, North, Ravi Patel carried out second inspection of the Election Expenditure with all the Contesting Candidates/Agents and Expenditure Monitoring Team in the presence of District Election Officer (DEO) cum Returning Officer (RO), North, Raj Yadav, Nodal Officer, Expenditure and Monitoring Team, North, Karma Loday Bhutia, Assistant Expenditure Observers,

Md Tarique, AEO, Dzongu, Rajanikant Prasad, AEO, Lachen Mangan, Surendra Ram, AEO, Kabi Lungchok here at the chamber of District Magistrate, North.

During the inspection, Expenditure Observer, Mr Patel inspected/tally the register maintenance of day-to-day account of Election Expenditure by Contesting Candidates with shadow observation register for maintenance of day to day account of

Contesting Candidates which is maintained by the Accounting Team.

Expenditure Observer, Patel found all accounting maintenance satisfactory and appreciated the work done by Expenditure and Monitoring Team.

Further, he advised to the Candidates/Agents that they must keep up-to-date Bank Account and Expenditure Register at the time of reconciliation of accounts with Expenditure Team.

An Open Letter to the youth of Sikkim

Dear Sikkimese Youth,

It is, perhaps, late in the day to be writing this letter. Some might add that a letter from me, a social and political nonentity, may not justifiably command your attention. Nonetheless, I am writing this as my response to how politics has been given a free rein which is denting the morale of young people in the state.

I want you to know that the overwhelming dominance of politics in our society is not accidental – nor is it attributable to the common election fever that catches all and sundry seasonally. No. Such wholehearted attention to politics is indicative of a deep-rooted malady in our personal and social life. I dare say that the earnestness, apparent sense of purpose, enthusiasm, focus and curiosity people show in politics reflect how badly their priorities have gone awry.

For far too long, we have been assaulted by a political narrative that claims that all of life's problems are related to politics and therefore only politicians can solve them. Such political pretension is not only insulting to our intellect but, far more than some of us would like to acknowledge, it is decimating the tremendous budding potential in hundreds of our youth. A politician recently told a group of students that he would solve the issues of 'depression, drug addiction and suicide' by providing jobs. Such a dismissive attitude underplays the gravity and complexity of life's deepest problems. Instead of encouraging young people to face life's daunting challenges head on and stand tall, instead of encouraging such struggling individuals to seek professional help, instead of acknowledging that some hurting souls need competent and compassionate help - he is shamelessly presenting himself as messiah and offering false hope. My reaction of irritability is justifiably supported by my conviction that this fellow is either fiendishly deceitful or hopelessly ignorant. Are they really claiming that from May 2019 onwards (should they win) there will be no problems in life? That Sikkim will be a paradise where

all you need to do is 'wish' and they will fulfil it? Nothing can be more damaging to a culture than chanting such political mumbo-jumbo. I want you to know two things. One - anyone who is wooing you with such trashy sentimentality (do not confuse it with elevated sentiment) is your biggest enemy no matter how much he claims to be your greatest leader. Two, life is much, much bigger than politics. Explore the possibilities in life without holding the hands of politicians, most of whom, themselves, have achieved nothing in life. Politics in itself is good. We can all like a party/leader and support them. We must all understand political philosophy as best we can. But weaving the fabric of our aspirations around the hopes politicians give is self-defeating. When politics is given the role of our destiny maker, it is simply a cow in the kitchen.

Another concern is our misplaced idea of political consciousness. When I hear 'politically driven young people', what I find is that their language is heavily tinged with negativity, selfishness, criticality - most of which are either borrowed from others or based on subjective feelings. Critical thinking is striking in its absence. Life is not about highlighting needs and problems. It is about taking part in solving them. Fault finding is different from problem analysis. When we only talk about 'defects, faults and problems' in the name of political discourse, it is sign that we are governed by a 'weakening vision' and attuned to an ever 'strengthening fatal tendency'. We must learn to envision solutions and restrain our natural tendency to highlight negativity. Vision comes from rigorous reflection, research, experience and wisdom. Tendency (negative) comes at birth and grows with idleness and negativity.

Also, remember that you cannot set things right by 'joining politics'. Our society needs the holistic approach on the part of other professionals and lay people who are willing to do what they can do best.

One thing we must admit sooner rather than later is that most of us have become politically over-driven

but sadly uninformed by a literary tradition and objective investigation. That is precisely because we do not read, think and analyse enough. We only listen to our favourite politicians, gossip, angry remarks which further inflame our ill-advised zeal. Intellectual obtuseness on our part is a serious cause for concern. Therefore, when you listen to your political leaders making some preposterous statements, don't feel obliged to hoot or clap and look equally silly. Step back and examine what they say - is your leader knocking on the backdoor of your imagination or on the front door of reason.

We must all admit that there is utter lack of local interpreters that can help us distil the political narratives. We have no dearth of unthinking zealots with torrid lungs and cold hearts all across the political spectrum who sensationalize everything. That calls for you to take it upon yourself to mature and learn to make right judgement. Battle the inner tendency to get carried away by the mood of the crowd.

Finally, much has been said about the need of youth coming into politics. How well has this line of thinking been thought through and debated? Why should youth come into politics? What should they do when they 'come'? You are entitled to your opinions but I think this phrase "youth coming into politics" must be unpacked in clear terms. I have no issues with young people supporting the political ideologies of their choice. I have no problem with some socially-minded, honest and politically sharp young people joining politics full time - provided they want to learn by working hard and staying away from gambling, partying, idleness, swaggering and their ilk. But to say that these young people will bring about change and bring heaven on earth is wishful thinking based on no sensibly sound rationale. Most youth definitely have a higher degree of physical activity, vigour, enthusiasm, aggression and so on. But to over accentuate these qualities is to adopt a limiting measure of worth. In the mosaic of social life, energy must be tempered with experi-

ence, enthusiasm guided by wisdom, passion channelled by purpose and commitment fostered by vision. Our unchecked desire for youth leadership should not deprive us of the wealth of experience and sagacity often found in older people. Youthful vitality has its place, but not without the guidance and experience of the elderly. Many of our worst mistakes and regrettable failures have happened when raw youthful passion went unchecked by elderly wisdom. Yes, we must celebrate the ideas, goals and busy agendas of youth - but not venerate them as the flag bearers of our civilization.

There is the call of the future and the only way to hearken to it is to come out of the bubble of overindulgence in romanticism. The biggest challenge for all the youth of Sikkim is to make up your mind to live like courageous men and women and not let politics paralyse you. We cannot go the distance depending on others. Remember, some of the leaders we have today are underperforming non-achievers themselves. Some of them are grappling with their messed up life. Some of them are bully, always angry, always frustrated, opportunists hopelessly driven by communal bigotry etc. and they are there in all the parties. Reject such moronic leaders without a second thought. These politicians may pretend to look and sound like "adarsh neta" but their overriding deficiencies make them injurious and therefore least preferable. That's the best way to clean up our politics and save Sikkim. If you detect any leader salivating over your muscle power and stirring you to display your 'youth power' physically, stay away from such a fellow.

You college and university grads, use the education that you acquired to become self-made men and women. You will soon realize that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams as Eleanor Roosevelt once said. Your dreams require your effort.

Sincerely Yours,
Jiwan Rai
(email: jiwanr@gmail.com)

~ SummitTIMES ~ CLASSIFIEDS

Required for Summit Times

Two field reporters for Gangtok (East) and one for West District. Should be fluent in english. Have basic knowledge in journalism. Walk in interview:

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Church Road, Gangtok
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URGENTLY REQUIRED:

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

PLOT FOR SALE:

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ANTHYESTHI KRIYA

The Anthyesthi Kriya of Late. Akal Bahadur Pradhan who left for heavenly abode on 24th March, 2019 falls on 5th April 2019.

All relatives, family, friends and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at Rhenock, Pradhan Gaon, East Sikkim. We would also like express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Tika Maya Pradhan (Wife), Khem Narayan Pradhan - 9593777633, Khush Narayan Pradhan - 9593267782, Pushpa Kr. Pradhan - 9593267782, Ganga Ram Pradhan, Arun Pradhan, Udai Pradhan(Sons) Sarita Pradhan, Karuna Pradhan (Daughters) Rekmit Pradhan, Durga Pradhan (Daughter-in-laws)

KUTSHE SHEGU

Our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to all our dear friends and well wishers who have been so supportive and forthcoming during our time of bereavement, the sad demise of our beloved daughter Late **Kes-sang Tongden Lepcha** who left for her heavenly abode on 19/02/2019. Once again in all humility we request your benign presence in offering prayer for the departed soul, the 49th day of Kutshe Shegu which falls on **07/04/2019 (Sunday)** at our residence at Tongden Lee, Dikchu Bazar, East Sikkim. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us in our hard time and regret our inability to thank them individually.

Wangchuk Bhutia (Husband) & all family members.



SNPP president promises equal rights for old settlers if elected

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 04 APR:

President, Sikkim National People's Party [SNPP], Delay Namgyal Barfungpa campaigned at MG Marg, Gangtok today. Mr Barfungpa is contesting from Gangtok constituency.

After campaigning, he spoke with the media about his campaign and his programmes.

"The public response has improved a lot. Earlier when I was campaigning I did not have my symbol. People know me since I am a local and have been with them for years but they did not know my symbol. I know almost ev-



ryone in Gangtok. Now I've got the symbol and everyone is now happy," said Mr Barfungpa.

On the problems people have been sharing with him, Mr Barfungpa said that Gangtok is a

small constituency and every locality has its own set of problems.

He also said that the

old business community has been deprived of their rights.

"They are being fooled, with Residential Certificates and other fake promises. If people of Gangtok elect me, I can say with confidence that I will speak for the old settlers in the Assembly in a strong manner and seek equal rights for the old settlers like the Col holders. This is my promise," he said.

Mr Barfungpa got his election symbol 'Pen Nib' on 28 March after the last date of withdrawal of nomination. Before that, Mr Barfungpa had already started his door-to-door campaigning in Gangtok constituency.

EVMs and VVPATs commissioned in West Sikkim



GYALSHING, 04 APR (IPR):

The Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for the Eight Assembly Constituency was commenced at the Control Room Setup at Girls Senior Secondary School, Kyongs. The Commissioning was done in the presence of DC-Cum-RO West, Karma R Bonpo; General Observer West, Faisal Aftab; ADC West, Karma L Lepcha; SDM (HQ), Tushar

G Nikhare; SDM (Gyalshing), Gilbert Lepcha and other Officials.

The Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs machines along with Reserve EVMs and VVPATs for the four Constituencies (Yoksam Tashiding; Yangthang; Maneybong Dentam and Gyalshing Barnyak) were successfully completed on 04 Apr, 2019 in the presence of the Political representatives.

GO North assesses preparedness of polling stations



MANGAN, 04 APR (IPR):

General Observer, North, Dr Pratibha Singh, in view to assess the preparedness of pooling station of the district visited four polling stations of sector-5 and sector-7 of the district.

On 02 April, Dr Singh visited two polling station of Sector-5: Lum-Sangdong, i.e. 30/13-Lum Primary School and 30/12-Sangtok ICDS, she found both sector are critical, thus she took serious enquiry of both stations and instructed all necessary arrangements must be done as per the guidelines of ECI to sector magistrate, Dupchen Bhutia.

After walking one & half hour from Bay under 30-Dzongu constituency on 03 April, she visited two polling stations of Sector-7 viz. 30/1-Government Secondary School, Tinpong and 30/2-Government Primary School, Pentong (critical).

During her visit she was accompanied by sector magistrate-7, Wangyal Sherpa and Liaison Officer to GO, Tempa Ringzing Bhutia.

She interacted with the Booth Level Officers (BLOs), regarding assured minimum facilities and facilities of Persons with disabilities at Government ICDS Centre, Sangtok.

GO, Dr Pratibha also inspected the ongoing activities of Static Surveillance Team (SST) at Phedang police post.

On her way back to Mangan, she also visited the Rimghim Monastery and took stock of Sangha with the monks of the monastery. According to the LO, Bhutia, Dr Singh found all the Polling Stations in voter's friendly environment and appreciated the assured minimum facilities being ensured by the sector magistrate in their respective polling station.

Police Observer meets police officers in South



NAMCHI, 04 APR (IPR):

Police Observer for Sikkim, Naveen Arora presided over a meeting with all the District Police Officers of the District in the chamber of the SP (South), Manish Verma today.

The meeting had the attendance of two Expenditure Observers for South District, BG Krishnan and Inder Solanki, SP (South), Manish Verma, ASP (South), SD Shanderpa alongside Sector Po-

lice Officers, Sub-Sector Police Officers and SHOs.

In the course of the meeting, Police Observer for Sikkim, Naveen Arora addressed matters and issues pertaining to General election 2019 such as overall security, deployment of all available manpower under SP (South), telephone communication, transport communication and arms & ammunition.

Mr Arora also issued clear directives about

law and order to the police force for ensuring peace during the entire duration of Election process. He called upon the police officers to be well equipped to undertake any challenging circumstances that may arise if any, during the overall process of the General Elections 2019.

Moreover, Mr Arora directed them to be extremely vigilant so as to facilitate peace and security throughout the district during the elections.

RB Subba campaigns for SR Subba in Soreong-Chakhung

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 04 APR:

The chairperson of constituency-level election campaign committee cum sitting Area MLA, RB Subba, after he recovered from his surgery, he has resumed his election campaigning programmes in the constituency. Today, he held a block level campaigning meeting at Tharpu with all block level and ward level party presidents, all 5 ward panchayats and public of the block.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Subba appealed to his village voters to take part in the party election campaigning programmes more actively than before, as it is hardly 6 days left for the voting day.

He urged the public to vote for the SDF candidate, SR Subba and party Lok Sabha candidate, DB Katwal.

"We must cast more than 80% vote in favour of SDF from Tharpu block," said the MLA. In addition, he expressed that during his tenure as MLA, he left no stone unturned to work for Sore-

ong Chakung.

Sancha Raj Subba is an able leader who has a lot of experience in the field of politics and he can provide quality leadership, said Mr Subba.

He also mentioned that he will accelerate the work of election campaigning programme in other blocks as well in order to encourage voters so that they will show up on election day with the positive decision to vote for SDF for the safe and bright future of Soreng Chakung and our state as a whole.

Third round training for presiding and polling officers in South

NAMCHI, 04 APR (IPR):

The third round of training for Presiding and Polling Officers for South District for the General Election 2019 commenced simultaneously at Namchi Community Hall and Auditorium Hall of Namchi Girls Senior Secondary School today. It may be mentioned that this training will continue till 8th April. Also, present were RO (South), Ragul K, Resource Persons Bimal C Rai and Jigme Bhutia.

Addressing the gathering RO spoke about the roles and responsibilities that the polling and the presiding officers should follow as laid down by the Election Commission of India. Additionally, the RO also spelt the im-



portance of submitting various report by these officials during different phases of polls. He also informed about the functioning of Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs). In, addition the RO explained about the importance of mock poll and the vital task shouldered by the presiding and the polling officials in conducting this poll.

The master trainers for the day were Bimal

C Rai and Jigme Bhutia wherein they elucidated about the various aspects that the presiding and polling officers should follow. Additionally, the trainers were also briefed about the 'Poll Star' Application which is an innovative and versatile platform for quick and error-free collection of polling statics from the presiding officers in polling booths and for visual presentation of the acquired data for online monitoring and analysis.

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM EAST DISTRICT COLLECTORATE GANGTOK-SIKKIM-737101

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ELECTION URGENT

Memo NO: 154/DCE/2019

Date: 3/04/2019

NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of all contesting candidates for Sikkim State Legislative Assembly Election 2019 and Sikkim Parliamentary Constituency Election- 2019 that the facilitation centre for casting postal ballots for the General Election 2019 will be set up during training/briefing sessions of Polling Parties at Manan Kendra on 4th & 5th of April 2019 and 6th, 7th and 8th of April at Conference Hall of District Administrative Centre, Sichey, Gangtok. Similar facilitation centre will also be set up at Biraspati Prasai Sr. Sec. School, Ranipool, Marchak on 10th of April, 2019. The timing for facilitation centre for 4th to 8th April, 2019 shall be 2pm to 4pm. However, timing for facilitation centre for 10th April, 2019 at Biraspati Prasai Sr. Sec. School, Ranipool, Marchak shall be 7am onwards before the dispatch of Polling Parties to respective Polling Stations.

You are kindly requested to be present or depute your agent to witness the casting of Postal Ballot in above coting of Postal Ballot in above designated places.

Notice No. 145/DCE/2019 dates 1/4/2019 stands superseded.

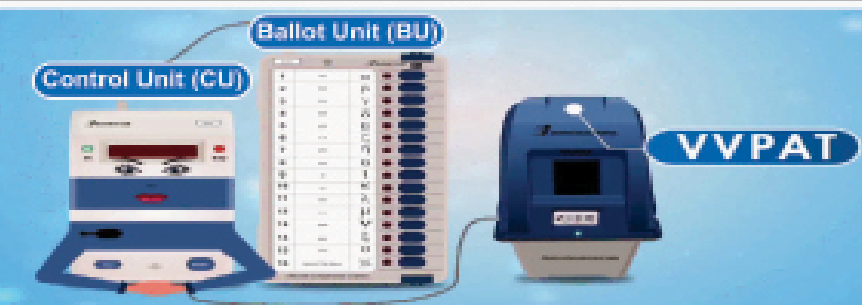
R.O. No. 03/IPR/PUB/Classi/19-20
Date: 03/04/2019

Sd/-
DEO-Cum-Returning Officer, East

FAQ



EVM with VVPAT Unit



Q12. Is it possible to vote more than once by pressing the button again and again?

Ans. No. As soon as a particular button on the Balloting Unit is pressed the vote is recorded for that particular candidate and the machine gets locked. Even if one presses that button further or any other button, no further vote will be recorded. This way the EVMs ensure the principle of "one man, one vote". The next vote is enabled only when the Presiding Officer/Polling Officer in-charge of the Control Unit releases the Ballot by pressing the Ballot Button. This is a distinct advantage over the ballot paper system.

Q13. How can a voter be sure that the EVM is working and his vote has been recorded?

CALL 1950 FOR ANY ELECTION RELATED QUERIES
Contact Hours : 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

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.nic.in

Pucca Research, Real Identity

No dodging scholarly research if the grip of jingoism is to be broken

Politics is increasingly becoming about identity, and while deeper enquiries into questions of identity are always welcome, when politics jumps in ahead of research or nuanced understanding, everything – from security to even ideas of identity – get compromised. And that cannot serve any good, ever. We are learning this the hard way every day in our country as is the world with the rise of jingoistic nationalism and easy fear-mongering.

The region itself has been in the grips of identity assertion for some decades now, and while this has worked well to boost political careers and specific agendas, it has not succeeded in infusing confidence which any strong sense of identity should deliver. It hence becomes important for the stakeholders to pause, step back and evaluate. One of the problems with the current wave of claims of identity and belonging is that these are sourced from selective readings of colonial texts. Among the scholars, colonial texts have already been universally denounced for their superficial pigeon-holing of people and communities and for their lack of nuance. These colonial texts are, at present, accepted histories of the region. When a dash of traditionally held prejudices are added to these inaccurate and misleading records, confusion and paranoia result. It is thus required for scholars and researchers to deliver new narratives from fresh perspectives, narratives that are more nuanced and subaltern and also more invested with academic discipline.

The process of rewriting these texts is however not new. Taking Sikkim's example, history has been reinterpreted several times, sometimes by the powers that be and sometimes by individual organizations and even proclaimed by political parties. While some 'inventions' have become accepted notions because they have been around for a long time, others invoke only ridicule, except from those who have a stake in the new theories. Both trends are unhealthy because both are misleading and incomplete. Histories are always contested and thus always open to fresh interpretation, but what separates claim from fact is the erudition, research and evidence that supports the latter. It is obvious that it is this fastidious obsession with supporting evidence that brings credibility to a scholar and only notoriety to the conspiracy theorist. One hopes that the deconstruction of established 'myths' and accepted histories start surfacing soon following the scholarly path and not continue on the current rantings and claims of half-baked notions.

But why are histories required? To borrow a term from an academic who has spared some thought on this; histories are increasingly required to prove the "situatedness" of a people; to establish that they belong. Speaking of the Indian Nepali community, it stands at the crossroads of this journey. A wrong turn could see its endeavour at "situating" its identity and nationality digress into an extended and futile debate over nomenclature. It is obvious that a name cannot be imposed on a people and it is also accepted that no introduction of identity will be taken seriously if it comes from a fractured splinter of the whole. The issue at hand is a clear introduction on what being an Indian Nepali/ Gorkha means. To squabble over a name prioritizes the nomenclature rather than the introduction and a name in itself is no guarantee to recognition, security or identity. But this is only one aspect of the understanding of identities and histories, there is so much more that needs to be researched and recorded, and the sooner a more disciplined approach is initiated, the better it will be for all with a stake in anything.

WRITE US:

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

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com



India: what's at stake in the 2019 elections

INDRAJIT ROY
theconversation.com

Indians are about to start voting in the world's largest democratic exercise. The country's 900m registered voters will vote in national elections between April 11 and May 19 across 1m polling stations in 543 constituencies. India has a Westminster-style parliamentary democracy with voters electing their representatives to India's lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha. Voting has been staggered over seven phases to ensure that the electoral process is provided the necessary security. The results will be declared on May 23.

India's current prime minister, Narendra Modi, is up for re-election as the head of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies the National Democratic Alliance. A polarising figure, opinions diverge sharply over Modi's record in government and his legacy.

Supporters insist that Modi has ushered in economic development, military strength, national pride and a sense of confidence among the country's Hindu majority. Critics challenge such claims, pointing to soaring unemployment (the worst in 45 years), agrarian distress, reassertion of caste privilege and social polarisation.

Modi faces a range of opposition forces. The principle opposition is provided by the Congress Party and its allies, the United Progressive Alliance. Other opponents include regional parties in different states, such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, as well as leftist parties in the state of Kerala. The BJP and its allies enjoy a crushing majority in the Lok Sabha, controlling 336 of the 543 seats: the BJP alone has 268 seats.

Fears abound that Modi's re-election will rent asunder India's constitutional values and social fabric. Since the BJP's ascension to power, lynch-

ings of social minorities, especially Dalits and Muslims, have been on the rise. Leaders of India's historically oppressed Dalit communities remain anxious that the BJP seeks to dismantle the affirmative actions for oppressed populations guaranteed by the Indian constitution. The very idea of India is at stake.

A THRIVING DEMOCRACY

When India became independent in 1947, few people expected the country to survive. Nevertheless, Indians introduced universal adult suffrage soon after obtaining independence and adopted a republican constitution in 1950, a full 15 years before economic superpowers such as the US lifted literacy and tax qualifications for voting.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s international observers remained sceptical of India surviving as a democracy, given its huge levels of poverty and illiteracy. Yet, India not only survived but also emerged – warts and all – as one of the world's most thriving democracies. The country presents a very moving story of the ways in which some of the poorest people on the planet have sought to construct and sustain democracy against enormous odds. Their achievements are under threat today.

India poignantly illustrates the global challenges posed to democracy by the rise of nationalism and populism. Identity politics, or a politics that focuses on people's particular social identities, permeates political narratives in India as elsewhere in the world in 2019. Indians are faced with an idea of nationalism that seeks to exclude significant sections of their own population from its ambit. And they have borne the brunt of right-wing populism, as shown by the growth of cow-protection squads administering vigilante justice over the last few years.

Social identity provides the basis of political mobilisation. India today faces these challenges

alongside countries such as Brazil, Turkey, the US and various European countries. Modi joins a galaxy of strongmen politicians such as Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the US's Donald Trump and Hungary's Viktor Orbán, accused of rolling back democratic achievements of the last few decades.

How Indians respond to the challenges of exclusionary nationalism, right-wing populism and supremacist identity politics in the 2019 elections holds key lessons for the world as it confronts the global backsliding of democracy. After all, elections provide a window onto the hopes harboured by citizens, the anxieties they confront and the possibilities they imagine. The narratives that emerge prior to, during, and immediately after any elections offer unique insights into ongoing processes of social change.

INDIA TOMORROW

It is into these imaginations, narratives and social processes, rather than the machinations of the different political parties, that The Conversation will delve over the next few weeks.

In a seven part series, India Tomorrow, from The Anthill podcast, The Conversation will explore the ways in which nationalism and populism are playing out in India as the country heads to polls. We will be speaking to academics from around the world to help illuminate the topics that are not only key to the forthcoming elections but offer an insight into the social upheaval Indians are experiencing in the 21st century.

You can listen to the trailer for India Tomorrow here, and also sign up to The Anthill newsletter to get an email about each new episode. Do get in touch with any questions via podcast@theconversation.com or reach out on Twitter @anthillpod.

[the writer is Lecturer in Global Development Politics, University of York]

Rwanda's gorillas have figured out where to find their sodium fix. But it's dangerous

CYRIL GRUETER
theconversation.com

Mountain Gorilla conservation in Rwanda is a great success story. A number of extreme conservation measures – like daily monitoring and protection, veterinary interventions and controlled ecotourism – have enabled the population to bounce back after a precarious low in the 1960s and 1970s that was brought about by habitat destruction and poaching.

But the population remains fragile. Today only around 1,000 mountain gorillas live in two isolated populations: one in the Virunga Volcanoes – straddling the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and DRC – which has increased from 250 to 600 individuals in about 30 years; and a group in the Bwindi National Park in Uganda with about 400 individuals.

The survival of this particular species is important for a number of reasons. Firstly, mountain gorillas are some of our closest living relatives. They can therefore help us understand human evolution and behaviour. Secondly, they fulfil an important role in maintaining the health of tropical forest ecosystems – for instance by dispersing seeds. And finally, they are a tourist attraction that generates revenue for Rwanda and supports conservation activities throughout the country. In the last two years, tourism has contributed over US\$400 million to the national economy.

In Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park gorillas have been leaving the confines of the protected area

to raid crops – like eucalyptus and bamboo – on nearby agricultural plots. Leaving protected areas is a huge risk to their safety.

My colleagues at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's Karisoke Research



Centre and Max Planck Institute and I wanted to understand why the gorillas were ranging outside protected areas into croplands. We found that when the gorillas left the national park they often headed straight to eucalyptus trees. Our nutritional analyses showed that eucalyptus are more than a hundred times richer in sodium than the gorillas' staple foods inside the park.

This led us to conclude that sodium was the main incentive for the gorillas' escapades. All plants inside the park are low in sodium except a couple of species that grow near the top of the volcanoes.

FOR THE LOVE OF SODIUM

We measured sodium content in samples from 34 of the gorilla's main dietary items and quantified sodium intake by 22 gorillas in three social groups over one year.

The gorillas obtain up to two thirds of their sodium when consuming eucalyptus.

Sodium is a micro-nutrient that's critically important for physiological processes, like muscle and nerve function and maintaining fluid levels in various parts of the body.

Sodium deficiency can affect bones, growth, and reproduction. A sodium deficit can trigger a specific hunger for it which causes animals to go out of their way to obtain it.

This is as true for gorillas as it is for humans.

It's possible that the gorillas were eating eucalyptus for other reasons.

Perhaps for minerals we didn't investigate – like iodine – or because of the medicinal benefits that it has. But we also found that gorillas often ventured into the region's colder subalpine or alpine zones where they targeted plants known as giant groundels and lobelias. These turned out to be rich in sodium as well.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Crop raiding is the main source of conflict between people who live in close proximity to the park and wildlife. Farmers generally perceive crop damage by mountain gorillas as a big deterrent to their agricultural development.

The risk is that encounters between gorillas and local people will add to tensions, and lead to local communities being hostile towards wildlife, hampering wildlife conservation efforts.

Close contact between gorillas and people also increases the risk of disease transmission – such as respiratory diseases and intestinal parasites – which could have a detrimental impact on this highly vulnerable ape population.

To discourage the gorillas from crossing into farmlands near the forest, there may need to be a change in agricultural practices such as relying less on plants sought by gorillas for their nutrients.

An ideal scenario would be to establish a buffer zone containing nutritionally unattractive and unpalatable plants. If sufficiently wide, it would discourage gorillas from crossing into croplands.

[the writer is Senior Lecturer, University of Western Australia]

Tight security around Bagdogra airport; Gurung 'unable to land'

KOLKATA/SILIGURI, APR 4 (PTI): Police threw a tight security ring around the Bagdogra airport near Siliguri on Thursday after GJM leader Bimal Gurung, who has been in hiding for the past one and a half years, announced he would return to Darjeeling Hills during the day.

Police also whisked away Gurung's two aides Roshan Rai and Yogen Pradhan from the airport but said no arrest has been made. Later, a leader of the GJM (Gurung faction) told PTI he would not return to the Hills on Thursday. "He is unable to land at Bagdogra and the airport has been cordoned off by police".

The airport has no night landing facility.

Gurung had announced he would return to the Hills on

Thursday, a day after the Supreme Court asked him and his aide Roshan Giri to move the Calcutta High Court for anticipatory bail in connection with the cases filed against them.

Lobsang Lama, the working president of GJM's Gurung faction, too had said the Morcha leader would arrive in the Hills Thursday. When contacted, Gurung told PTI that people in the Hills are eager for his return.

He maintained he is still the GJM supremo and commands the respect and love of the people of the Hills.

The GJM Gurung faction and the GNLF, another major player in the politics in the Hills, are supporting BJP candidate Raju Bista on the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat, while the faction led

by Binay Tamang is supporting TMC candidate Amar Rai.

Gurung had gone into hiding after the June 2017 clashes in Darjeeling. The GJM split after it and Tamang, his deputy, took over the reins of the Morcha.

Tamang then established himself as the de facto leader of the Hills with the help of the ruling TMC and Gurung and his loyalists were expelled from the party. Quizzed about the tight security outside Bagdogra airport, a senior police official said it was precautionary.

Asked whether Gurung would be arrested if he tries to enter Darjeeling, the police official, who did not wish to be named, said, "He is claiming that he can't be arrested as per the (Supreme) court order. So we

would like to see the order".

"I can't wait to return to Darjeeling. Once I am there, I will do everything to ensure the victory of Bista. Tamang and his group are agents of TMC. The people of Hills have rejected him and Rai," Gurung has said.

Tamang, when contacted, claimed that the Hills people no longer favour Gurung and his "politics of violence".

The Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat is held by the BJP and the constituency is poised for a neck-and-neck contest between the TMC and the saffron party.

For the first time in over three decades, the two parties are looking beyond the statehood demand in the region and have stressed on the need to ensure development in the Hills.

Last round of training for Presiding and Polling officers in North



MANGAN, 04 APR (IPR): Three-day last round of training to the Presiding Officers and Polling officers in connection with their duty on polling day and a day prior to poll day began today, here at the conference hall of Zilla Bhawan, North. National level Trainer cum SDM, Kabi, Mahesh Sharma imparted the training.

The training programme will conclude on 06 of April and shall be carried out in two shifts i.e. Morning and Evening

shift. As informed by the Master trainer, Mr Sharma, there is 11 groups in each shift which includes 6 members of Polling team viz. one Presiding Officer and 5 Polling Officers in each group.

Mr Sharma explained about the roles and responsibilities of the Presiding Officers and Polling Officers as assigned to them for Poll day through power point presentation. By any circumstances if Presiding Officer remains absent on poll

day, Polling Officer-1 will take charge with full responsibility, he informed.

He said that the Mock Poll of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) to be done at the Polling Station before the casting of Vote. He also made clear to them about the duty of Presiding and Polling Officers after the poll is over. After the training, a hand on training on Mock Poll to all trainees was conducted.

MERAKI 2019 - cultural fest of SRM University concludes

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 04 APR:

Two-day cultural fest of SRM University Sikkim, MERAKI 2019 concluded recently at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong, a press release informs.

The event witnessed various contests showcasing variety of art including painting, sketching, rangoli making, solo singing in both eastern and western categories, dance in solo and group

categories, short film making, 120 seconds of fame and the anticipated Mr. and Ms. MERAKI 2019 contest. Around 400 students participated in this event, the release mentions.

The finale was held in the auditorium of Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong, which was attended by several distinguished guest judges including the guest band from Siliguri - 'Avaz', whose clos-

ing performances mesmerized the crowds.

The chief guest for the event was Pandit Sanjoy Bandopadhyay, HOD, Department of Music, Sikkim University.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Satish Kumar also expressed his happiness and pride to see the talent in each student. He congratulated all the participants and said that grooming such talent would help students build their confidence and integrity too.

Training for Upper Bhaluthang farmers



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 04 APR:

Mevedir service provider agency organized a ward level training on various aspects of Organic farming on dated 04 Apr, 2019, a press release informs.

The training was conducted at Upper Bhaluthang ward under Yangtey GPU, West Sikkim in the presence of Roshan Khatiwara (Zilla Panchayat) along with Mevedir Project Coordinator, Ashish Chettri and supported by field staff, Nir Maya Chettri.

During the training,

importance and benefits of Organic Farming; seed treatment; use of Phasal Rakshak a certified bio-fungicide; soil quality; importance of Trace Net Identification Number; etc were explained.

Treated seeds of broccoli and bottle gourd with Phasal Rakshak bio-fungicide were given to farmers as samples encouraging them to undertake practical experience in their own farms.

More than 20 farmers attended this training cum demonstration program.

Will support SKM if its leaders endorse our demands: LTVC

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 04 APR:

Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee has placed a few demands to Sikkim Krantikari Morcha president, PS Tamang [Golay] in a meeting on 02 April. An LTVC press release informs that the organisation has placed demands in the interest of Limboo and Tamang communities.

The release adds that Mr Tamang has promised

to talk with SKM leaders on these demands and will give a written response.

"If Mr Tamang and his party agree to endorse LTVC's demands and give it in written then LTVC will extend its support to SKM for the 2019 general election. All the demands raised by LTVC are very genuine and not new," the release states.

LTVC will not compromise

This election...

something that the people have seen through and will not trust SDF again.

He added that the SDF has been deploying money and muscle to woo the people and that the voters should be wary of such advances.

SKM's Lok Sabha candidate, in his address, said that the people have now decided that it was time for change and was tired of SDF's government's continuing failures to address the State's major issues and concerns even as runaway corruption has suffocated democracy and development here.

On counting day...

Addressing the meet, SDF candidate Ugen Nedup Bhutia highlighted the various achievements and developmental works undertaken in the area and shared future plans for the constituency.

The function was also addressed by Lok Sabha candidate DB Katuwal who said that he will be representing all Sikkimese in the Parliament and get Sikkim heard there.

SDF questions...

SDF spokesperson and Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai asked the SKM candidate to ascertain which communities he is going to work for.

"Are you going to work for one or two communities only? Are you going to work for only one class of people? Without stepping into Parliament you are criticizing Members of Parliament," said Mr Rai.

Mr Rai also advised the SKM Lok Sabha candidate not to position himself as a PhD holder when he has only just started his PhD research which, he said, takes five long years.

Final training held for Presiding and Polling Officers

GANGTOK, 04 APR [IPR]: The final round of training to Presiding and Polling Officers 1,2,3,4 and 5 and Reserve Polling Officers was held at Manan Kendra today. A total of 800 Presiding Officers participated in the training.

The trainees were

also given hands-on training on the functioning of EVMs and VVPATs and the significance of conducting mock polls first thing on the day of polls was emphasized and all the necessary procedures pertaining to the polling process

demonstrated.

The basic aim of the training session was for the polling officers to be better equipped with the various procedures for conducting polls and also to build a team rapport and familiarize the polling officers with each other.

GM Gurung Jr campaigns in Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 04 APR:

SDF candidate for Skhamdong-Singtam, GM Gurung [Jr] campaigned at Singtam bazaar today. He was accompanied by Chairperson Film Board, Uttam Pradhan, Brand Ambassador Swachh Bharat, Prakash Subba, and senior party workers.

Nearly 6,000 rendered homeless as nor'wester hits Tripura

AGARTALA, APR 4 (PTI): A woman was killed and nearly 6000 people were rendered homeless in Tripura after a nor'wester ripped through the state for two consecutive days, damaging hutments and croplands and uprooting trees and electric posts, a government official said Thursday.

A tribal woman, who was on her way home from work, was struck by lightning Wednesday night, resulting in her immediate death, Sarat K Das, the project officer of the state's disaster management department, said.

Of the eight districts in the state, West Tripura suffered the maximum damage, he said.

SDF Upper Paiyong ward panchayat joins SKM



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 04 APR:

Award panchayat of Sikkim Democratic Front party, Dhan Raj Tamang joined Sikkim Krantikari Morcha on Wednesday evening. He was panchayat of Upper Paiyong ward under Melli Dara-Paiyong GPU under Melli constituency in South Sikkim. He officially joined SKM with his supporters by meeting the party president, PS Tamang [Golay] in Gangtok last evening.

Speaking to media persons this morning, Dhan Raj Tamang alleged that panchayats have to work under the pressure of SDF party.

"SKM party has youth-centric and futuristic programmes and policies for the people, so I have joined SKM to work freely in the interest of the people of the area," he said. He assured to extend full support to SKM candidate, Tilak Basnet to ensure SKM's victory from the constituency.

"I will go door-to-door with my supporters to reach the programmes and policies of SKM in the constituency. The position of SKM is much stronger at present than in 2014 as all are in the favour of change," Mr Tamang expressed. He alleged that the area have still lacks basic needs.

Contact Summit TIMES at
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East EVMs and VVPATs commissioned



RANIPOL, 04 APR (IPR): The commissioning of the EVMs and VVPATs for 13 Assembly Constituencies was successfully completed today at the control room at Biraspati Parsai Senior Secondary

School, Ranipool, in the presence of RO [East], ADC Bharani Kumar, Assistant Returning Officers and authorised political party agents.

A mock poll on 5% of the EVMs and VVPATs was

also conducted in the presence of election agents of candidates from east district.

The EVMs and VVPATs are now kept back in strong rooms sealed in presence of election agents.

GO East visits polling stations

GANGTOK, 04 APR (IPR):

General Observer for East District, Mousumi Chattaraj Chaudhuri visited two different polling stations of the East district to review the arrangements at Polling stations.

Observer visited Polling stations stationed at Pacheykhani Secondary School and Rorathang Secondary School and took stock of the arrangements put in place for the convenience of the voters on polling day (April 11).

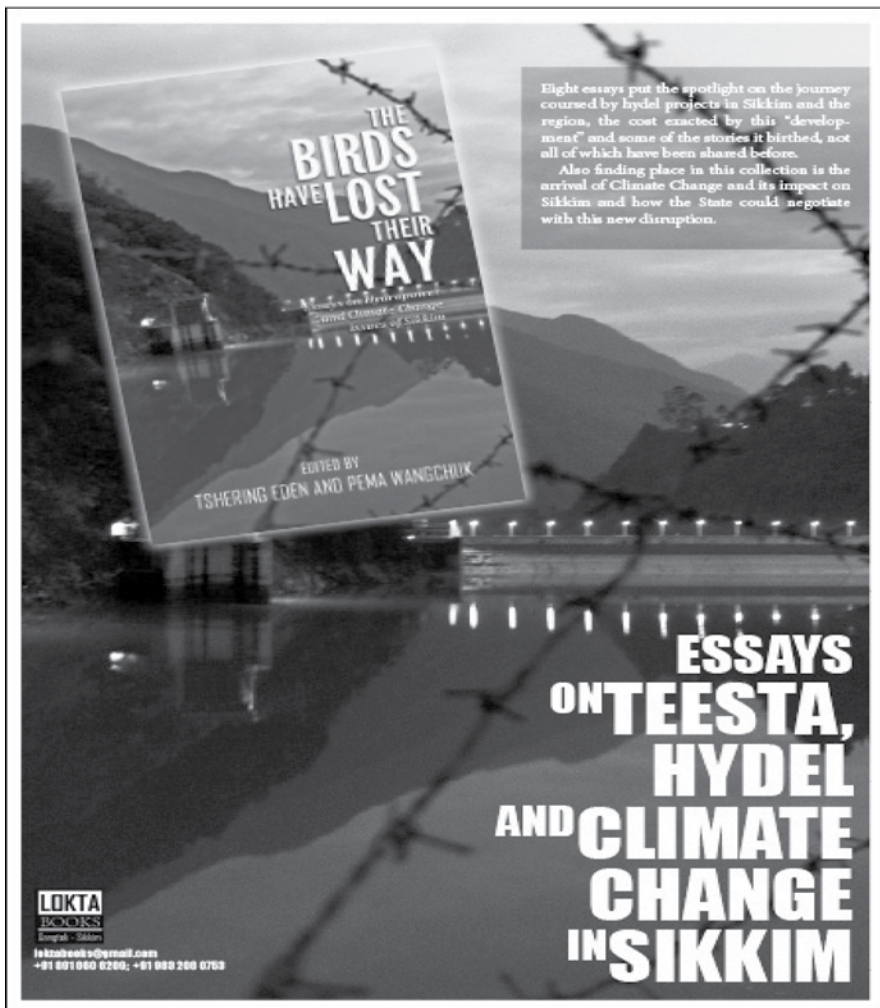
During the visit the General Observer reviewed the facilities being provided at the poll-



ing stations including water, electricity, toilet, cleanliness, facilities for Person with Disability (PwD), transport facilities etc to different polling stations.

The General Observer, Ms. Mousumi stressed on the officials and field staffs (BLOs, FST, VST)

to work in close coordination with each other to ensure smooth conduct of the election process on polling day. The Observer also articulated that the election officials need to be vigilant in order to conduct a free, fair, transparent and inclusive election in the district.



SC ruling: RBI to come out with fresh circular on resolution of bad loans

MUMBAI, APR 4 (PTI): Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das Thursday said the central bank will soon come out with revised circular for effective resolution of stressed assets in the backdrop of the Supreme Court order. The Supreme Court Tuesday quashed the RBI circular of last year that pertains to the provisions for referring the defaulter to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) even on a one-day overdue.

“The court has said that power of RBI under Section 35AA has to be exercised in certain manner. The validity of section 35AA of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 stands and henceforth we have to comply with the direction of Supreme Court and act accordingly,” Das said.

Section 35AA empowers the central government to authorise the RBI to issue directions to any banking company or companies to initiate insolvency resolution process in respect of a default under the provisions of the IBC. “In the light of the Supreme Court order, the RBI will take necessary steps, including issuance of revised circular as may be necessary for expeditious and effective resolution of stressed assets,” he said. Revised framework for resolution of stressed assets issued on February 12, 2018 invited criticism from various quarters, including a parliamentary panel.

The RBI substituted the previous guidelines with a harmonised and simplified generic framework for resolution of stressed assets in view of the enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. “Although the new guidelines have been termed as harmonised and simplified generic framework, yet they are far from being so,” Standing Committee on Energy in its report tabled in Parliament last year said.

“The Committee are of the opinion that the coining of restructuring in resolution plan is hollow without having any serious meaning or business which only reflects the blurred vision of (the) RBI in understanding and appreciating the problems.

Indian football team rises two places to 101 in FIFA rankings

NEW DELHI, APR 4 (PTI): The Indian football team gained two places to rise to 101 in the FIFA rankings issued on Thursday.

With 1219 total ranking points, the Indian team lies 18th among the Asian countries.

The team did not play any international match after the last rankings on February 7.

Iran continued to top the Asian rankings at 21, followed by Japan (26), South Korea (37), Australia (41) and Qatar (55). Overall, Belgium remained on top with 1737 points, ahead of France (1734), Brazil (1676), England (1647) and Croatia (1621).

Ten-man Bayern survive cup scare in nine-goal thriller

BERLIN, APR 4 (AFP): Robert Lewandowski saved his team from a humiliating German Cup exit as Bayern Munich came from behind to beat second-tier Heidenheim in a 5-4 thriller on Wednesday.

Bayern were 2-1 down at half-time having gone down to ten men early in the game, and threw away a two-goal lead in the second half.

Yet Lewandowski's late winner ended a rollercoaster resistance from Heidenheim and sent Bayern into the semi-finals.

“I don't really know what to think of this game,” said Bayern striker Thomas Mueller on Sky Sports.

“After such a great start, it should have gone differently for us. We didn't play well, particularly after the red card, and it doesn't feel all that good.”

Everything seemed to be going according to script when Leon Goretz-



ka headed Bayern in front from a corner on 12 minutes. Yet the script went up in flames when Bayern went down to ten men just minutes later.

Niklas Suele was initially booked for a challenge on Robert

Andrich, but a video review convinced the referee that Suele had denied Andrich a goalscoring opportunity.

The red card galvanised Heidenheim and they forced several chances before Robert

Glatzel headed in the equaliser just before the half-hour mark.

Ten minutes later, the Allianz Arena was silenced as Marc Schnatterer fired Heidenheim in front. Mueller brought Bayern level af-

ter half-time, turning in Lewandowski's header with a marvellous, swivelling finish.

He then returned the favour three minutes later, setting up Lewandowski to restore the lead for Bayern. Serge Gnabry

added a fourth for Bayern on 65 minutes, slotting the ball in at the far post at a corner.

Yet Glatzel stunned Bayern again when he scored twice in three minutes to make it 4-4. Having pulled a goal

back on 74 minutes, the Heidenheim striker completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot.

It ended in disappointment for Heidenheim, however, as a handball at the other end allowed Lewandowski to score the winner with an 84th minute penalty.

Werder Bremen also reached the semi-finals after they eased to a 2-0 win over Schalke thanks to goals from Milot Rashica and Davy Klaassen.

Rashica's dipping shot from outside the area broke the deadlock just after the hour mark. Klaassen slotted in a second shortly afterwards to ensure Werder's place in the last four alongside Bayern, RB Leipzig and old rivals Hamburg.

“We didn't play very well today but we had the quality to win anyway and we are very happy to be in the semis,” Bremen captain Max Kruse told Sky.

The semi-final draw will take place on Sunday.

Holder's PSG set up French Cup final date with Rennes



PARIS, APR 4 (AFP): Holders Paris Saint-Germain will play Rennes in the French Cup final later this month after beating 10-man Nantes 3-0 in their semi-final tie on Wednesday as Kylian Mbappe scored one penalty after missing another.

Mbappe's two spot-kicks came after he set up Marco Verratti for the opener in the first half at the Parc des Princes, with substitute Daniel Alves wrapping up the victory late on.

The result keeps Thomas Tuchel's team on course to win a domestic league and cup double, which would go some small way to easing the pain of their exit from the Champions League in the last 16 at the hands of Manchester United.

“After the first goal it was a little easier,” said

PSG captain Thiago Silva.

“We had to try and score the second because if it had stayed at 1-0 it would have been more difficult.

“I think we deserved this result even if it was difficult and we still deserved to be in the final, which is important for the club.”

PSG are 20 points clear at the top of Ligue 1 with nine matches left and could be crowned champions for the sixth time in seven seasons as early as Sunday, if they beat Strasbourg and second-placed Lille lose their game.

The Qatar-owned club can also win the French Cup for the fifth year running, and a record 13th time overall, when they play Rennes in the final at the Stade de France in Paris

on April 27. Rennes reached the final by winning 3-2 at Lyon on Tuesday, but the Brittany club have been knocked out of the Cup in each of the last two seasons after heavy defeats against PSG.

Paris might also have Neymar back for the final after the Brazilian returned to training on Wednesday following more than two months out with a foot injury.

The opening goal here arrived just before the half-hour mark, with Mbappe finding Verratti, who controlled before firing low into the net from 25 yards.

It was the Italian's first goal for PSG since November 2017, although he did net for Italy just last week, against Liechtenstein in Euro 2020 qualifying.

The home side lost Marquinhos to injury

just before the break, but were then awarded a penalty shortly after the hour mark, the referee pointing to the spot following a VAR review on a handball appeal.

Mbappe scored his penalty, but was ordered to retake it and this time his weak effort was saved by Nantes goalkeeper Ciprian Tatarusanu.

However, Nantes then had giant striker Kalifa Coulibaly sent off for a second yellow card for a foul on Silva, and Mbappe -- who had also missed a penalty in a win over Marseille last month -- was handed the chance to make amends from 12 yards after Alves was brought down.

This time he did score, taking his tally for the season to 33 goals, and Alves then made it 3-0 in injury time with a delightful lob.

Last seven months were toughest period, did not know what to do: Pandya

MUMBAI, APR 4 (PTI): India and Mumbai Indians all-rounder Hardik Pandya termed the last seven months as the toughest period of his life when he “did not know what to do” in the wake of the controversy surrounding his outrage-evoking comments on women.

Pandya, who helped MI beat Chennai Super Kings in an IPL game here, was initially suspended by the BCCI and sent back to India from the Australia tour following his comments on a chat show earlier this year. Later, the suspension was provisionally lifted pending an inquiry.

The 25-year-old said he has left behind the controversy.

“It feels pretty good to help the team to win and contribute. It's been seven months that I've hardly played games. They weren't easy and I didn't know what to do. I've just batted and batted. I want to improve my game every day. It's a fantastic feeling batting like that and making your team win,” he said.

Pandya, who smashed an 8-ball 25 not out and then picked up three wickets to power MI to a 37-run win over CSK, dedicated the man of the match award-winning performance to those who stood by him.

“I was out with injury and then some other controversy happened. I want to dedicate this

Man of the Match to my family and friends, who stood with me in the toughest times,” Pandya said at the post-match presentation ceremony Wednesday night.

“Now my only focus is to play IPL and make sure India wins the World Cup.” CSK skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni felt many “things went wrong” for his side.

“We started well, were right on the mark for the first 10-12 overs. Then, a few catches were dropped, a few misfields, the death over bowling wasn't great. We don't have bowlers who hit the deck, it was slightly tough on them,” Dhoni said.

Dhoni said he would prefer a one-on-one meeting with his players rather than a team meeting.

“We do have one-on-one plans, we needed to know where we could cut-off the boundaries, which batsmen to target, a boundary less or two could have made a difference to a 10-12 run over or a 7-run over. We needed to build some momentum, but we need to know when to plan for those,” he said.

“It is a tough thing - this so-called momentum, it doesn't really matter, a good start from the bowlers will make things tight, once you set the tone, the game goes along in that flow.” On the injury to some of his

players, Dhoni said, “We don't have a few players. Bravo has a hamstring injury, David Willey is not there, he has his own problems. Lungi Ngidi is not with us as well, we will have to look at the pitch and then decide on the right combination.”

MI captain Rohit Sharma was delighted with the result.

“We don't want the headache of winning every game at the back-end of the tournament. It becomes very tough. I thought 170 was a fighting total because there was something in the pitch,” he said.

“If we knock a few wickets with the new ball, we'll be in the game. That's probably why I can't find a game-changing moment in this 40 overs.”

MI's West Indian batsman Kieron Pollard called Pandya “phenomenal” and explained his role in the current set-up.

“(Hardik) is phenomenal. For us it is just about encouraging him and giving him that opportunity. He practices like that. The Pandya boys have been batting well, so being the more experienced guy, I have to take the initiative and try to do well whenever I come in.

Asked why he was not bowling, Pollard said, “That's a question you'll have to ask the skipper. I think as a team we strive on momentum.

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RCB to ring in changes against KKR in search of first win

BD NARAYANKAR

BENGALURU, APR 4 (PTI): On a losing streak in the last four matches, Royal Challengers Bangalore are expected to ring in changes and experiment in search of their first win when they take on Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL match here Friday.

RCB's performance this IPL has been disappointing, both with the bat and ball, and a dejected captain Virat Kohli has conceded that his struggling team is yet to get the right balance but will continue experimenting with its combinations.

They lost their last game by seven wickets against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur and now they will be up against a balanced KKR side, who have won two matches out of three they have played so far. Last time, the RCB beat KKR was in May 2016 at Eden Gardens and

they have suffered defeats in their last three encounters against the Kolkata-based side at Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

Batting collapse is the biggest worrying factor for RCB and to made matters worse captain Kohli's form has not been up to the mark by his high standards. He has managed a below 20 average in four games. Parthiv Patel and AB de Villiers are the only batsmen who have above 20 average. In their first match against Chennai Super Kings, RCB were bowled out for a paltry 70 in 17.1 overs after their top-order crumbled before the bowling of Harbhajan Singh and Imran Tahir. Against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the RCB bowlers allowed SRH to post a mammoth 232 with centuries from Jonny Bairstow and David Warner. RCB then

collapsed to an embarrassing 35 for 6 in the eighth over, with Kohli and de Villiers contributing just four runs between them. In the end, they were skittled out for 113 to lose the match by a massive 118 runs.

Against Rajasthan Royals too, RCB top order failed, except Parthiv who scored a half century. The RCB think-tank would be hoping that their top order batsmen come out with flying colours on Friday against KKR.

Despite their struggling form, Kohli and de Villiers are nearing personal milestones. Kohli is 17 runs away from becoming the second Indian cricketer after Suresh Raina to complete 8,000 T20 runs and de Villiers 15 runs short of becoming the second highest T20 run-scorer for RCB. He has 3,406 runs under his belt. The bowling

department has also been disappointing. Apart from Yuzvendra Chahal, all the other RCB bowlers have not been among wickets and have conceded far too many runs in death overs. Though KKR lost their last game by 3 runs in Super Over against Delhi Capitals, their confidence level is still high with their batsmen, including Nitish Rana, Andre Russell, Robin Uthappa and Shubman Gill, being in top form.

Russell has been in sensational form with his incredible power-hitting ability that helped KKR win two matches. Restricting him will be a challenge for Chahal and company. Rana has been impressive as an opener and in the middle order too in the first two games. The performance of Gill will be watched keenly since he is tipped to be a future India star.

Ghosn vows he won't be 'broken' after re-arrest in Tokyo

TOKYO, APR 4 (AFP): Japanese prosecutors Thursday re-arrested Carlos Ghosn on fresh allegations of financial misconduct, as the former auto tycoon slammed an "outrageous and arbitrary" detention and vowed he would "not be broken."

In the early hours, officials raided the central Tokyo apartment the 65-year-old Ghosn has called home since winning bail last month after more than 100 days of detention on different charges. It was the latest twist in a rollercoaster drama that has gripped Japan and the rest of the world since his shock arrest at a Tokyo Airport on November 19.

Prosecutors said Ghosn had been detained over transfers of Nissan funds totalling USD 15 million between late 2015 and the middle of 2018. They suspect Ghosn used USD 5 million of that for personal expenditure.

"The suspect... was responsible for overseeing the whole of Nissan's operations and performing his duty loyally so as not to cause losses to Nissan, but he betrayed that duty in order to benefit himself," they said in a statement.

Ghosn released a statement through his representatives attacking what he called the "outrageous and arbitrary" detention.

"Why arrest me except to try to break me? I will not be broken," said the former high-flying executive.

He has denied any wrongdoing and took to Twitter for the first time Wednesday to announce plans to "tell the truth"



at an April 11 news conference that now looks unlikely. Prosecutors can hold Ghosn for up to 22 days while they investigate the new claims and may re-arrest him again or seek to hold him in pre-trial detention.

Deputy chief prosecutor Shin Kukimoto justified the arrest by saying they judged there was a "risk of destruction of evidence." But Ghosn's lawyer Junichiro Hironaka, known as the "Razor" for his mental sharpness, told reporters the fresh arrest was "against the spirit of the law" and "should not be tolerated in a civilised nation."

He added his client had expected prosecutors would rearrest him and had therefore prepared a video, without specifying the contents or exactly when it would be released.

Visibly angry, he vowed to fight likely attempts by the prosecutor to extend the detention, claiming the arrest was "not necessary" and designed merely to pile pressure on Ghosn. He

added prosecutors had confiscated not only diaries and documents belonging to Ghosn, but also the passport and phone of the tycoon's wife Carole.

Ghosn already faces three separate charges. The first two relate to the alleged deferring of around USD 80 million in income and concealing this in official documents to shareholders.

The third, more complex, charge is that he attempted to transfer personal losses to Nissan and paid a Saudi contact who provided collateral from the company funds.

In an interview with French television to be aired later Thursday, Ghosn reiterated he was "combative and innocent" but acknowledged "it's hard." "A lot of lies have been told and these lies have come one after another," he said.

Ghosn, who holds French, Brazilian and Lebanese nationalities, appealed to the French government to "defend" him and his "rights as a citizen." French Economy

Minister Bruno Le Maire stressed Ghosn "should benefit from the presumption of innocence and consular protection" in an interview with BFMTV French television station.

Thursday's arrest came after French car firm Renault, which Ghosn also once headed, handed French prosecutors documents showing the auto tycoon had authorised suspicious transfers worth million of euros.

A Nissan spokesman said the firm's own internal probe had uncovered "substantial evidence of blatantly unethical conduct" and that their focus was on "addressing weaknesses in governance that enabled this misconduct."

Ghosn had maintained his silence since paying around USD 9 million to win bail on March 6 when he walked out of his detention centre dressed in a workman's uniform in a bizarre attempt to evade the world's media. Reports emerged early

Wednesday that prosecutors were considering further charges against him whereupon Ghosn suddenly popped up on Twitter to announce he would "tell the truth" about his case at a news conference on April 11.

His tweet, which his representatives confirmed was authentic, sparked questions about his bail conditions, which were thought to include a ban on internet use.

However, Hironaka insisted his client was acting within his rights, telling reporters: "My understanding is that he's not banned from using the internet" and prosecutor Kukimoto said the arrest had nothing to do with the tweet.

Ghosn was largely credited with saving Nissan from the brink of bankruptcy by tying its fortunes to Mitsubishi Motors and Renault.

He has frequently denounced his downfall as a "plot" by Nissan insiders worried he planned to push them into a full partnership with the French firm.

European Parliament approves no-deal Brexit visa waiver

BRUSSELS, APR 4 (AFP): The European Parliament on Thursday approved a law allowing Britons visa-free EU visits even after a "no deal" Brexit, despite a furious dispute over the status of Gibraltar.

The law means British visitors making trips of fewer than 90 days to the Schengen passport-free zone will not need visas, even if Britain crashes out of the EU without a deal in place.

The parliament approved the measure by

502 votes to 81, with 29 abstentions, paving the way for millions of British holidaymakers to flock to the beaches of the Mediterranean this summer regardless of the outcome of Brexit.

Implementation will depend on Britain granting EU citizens the same rights in return, but London has said it will do so and the principle of the law has broad support.

But the text of legislation itself triggered a bitter row in Brussels, after member states - at

Spain's urging - referred in a footnote to the draft to Gibraltar as a "colony of the British crown".

The United Nations does legally list Gibraltar as a "non-self-governing territory", but Britain insists it is part of "the UK family" and that its citizens freely voted to remain British.

Britain's decision to leave the EU has revived controversy over Spain's long-standing claim on the territory, against the backdrop of Spanish elections.

India one of the highest taxing nations in world: Trump

BY LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, APR 4 (PTI): India is one of the highest taxing nations in the world, US President Donald Trump has alleged as he again slammed the country for imposing 100 per cent tariffs on American products, including the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Such a high tariff is not fair, Trump said Tuesday during National Republican Congressional Committee Annual Spring Dinner here.

Early this year, at a White House event to announce his support for reciprocal tax, Trump had said he was satisfied with the Indian decision to reduce the import tariff on Harley-Davidson motorcycles from 100 per cent to 50 per cent. "Even this is not enough, this is okay," he said at that time.

Trump has repeatedly claimed that India is a "tariff king" and imposes "tremendously high" tariffs on American products.

"I got a call from Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi of India. They're one of the highest taxing nations in the world. They taxed us 100 per cent," Trump said reiterating his of-

ten-heard remarks on Indian tariff structure.

"They charge us 100 per cent tariffs on goods. So they send a motorcycle--and they make a lot of them--Indian cycles. They send them to our country, we charge them nothing. We send a Harley Davidson to India and they charge us 100 per cent. Not fair, okay. Not reciprocal. It's not fair," Trump said.

During his address to the National Republican Congressional Committee Annual Spring Dinner, Trump explained how his trade policies are successfully addressing the balance of trade issue with other countries.

Trade talks with China are going on very well, he said.

The world's two largest economies are locked in a trade war since Trump imposed heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items from China in March last year, a move that sparked fears of a global trade war.

Trump imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods. In response, China, the world's second largest economy after the US, imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on USD

110 billion of American goods. Top trade officials from America and China are holding talks to negotiate a comprehensive trade deal.

"I think we're doing very well. They need the deal more than we do. They need the deal. And they getting hurt badly with they're paying 25 per cent on USD 50 billion worth of technology stuff and they were going to pay 25 per cent on another USD 200 billion," he said.

Trump said his administration is fixing broken trade deals to protect the American workers.

"We are standing up to China's chronic trading abuses and theft of intellectual properties and so many other things that they've done to us," he said.

"I don't know how you people allowed this to happen for so many years. You've been here longer than me. But they really have, they've taken advantage of our country. And you know what? I respect them for it. I say it. We should have been doing that to them, he said.

Trump described Chinese President Xi Jinping as a king. "I was in China making a speech," Trump recounted.

Indian expat wins USD 2.7 million raffle draw in Abu Dhabi

DUBAI, APR 4 (PTI): An Indian expat in UAE has won a whopping USD 2.7 million in the Big Ticket Abu Dhabi raffle draw, becoming the fourth Indian to have won it in a row.

Ravindra Boloora was declared the winner in the draw that was held at the Abu Dhabi International Airport on Wednesday, Khaleej Times reported.

However, Boloora could not be informed about the news immediately as he was in Mumbai and could not be contacted over phone, the report said.

His daughter answers the phone, telling the organisers of the draw to call after a week.

"Please call after a week. He is out of the country. He is in Mumbai," his daughter was quoted as saying by the report.

Mosque massacre suspect to face 89 charges in court Friday

WELLINGTON, APR 4 (AP): The man accused of carrying out the Christchurch mosque attacks will face 50 murder charges and 39 attempted murder charges when he makes his second court appearance, New Zealand police said Thursday.

Police had earlier filed a single, representative murder charge against 28-year-old Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant. He is due to appear via video link during a brief hearing on Friday, and won't be required to enter a plea.

Fifty people died in the March 15 attacks on two mosques and another 50 were injured.

Police said in a brief statement that they were considering filing more charges against Tarrant but couldn't comment further as the case was before the court.

Tarrant's first appearance was on the day after the attacks in the Christchurch District Court. His case has now been moved to the High Court due to the seriousness of the charges. Tarrant has reportedly been moved to a high-security prison in Auckland, which is why he'll appear via video link. During the scheduled court hearing, media photographs



won't be allowed and reporting on the proceedings will be severely restricted under New Zealand law. The intent of the law is to avoid the possibility the reporting and images would taint the views of potential jurors before they hear evidence in court. Judge Cameron Mander said in a note that the brief hearing will mainly be about the accused gunman's legal representation.

Tarrant earlier dismissed lawyer Richard Peters, who was assigned to represent him during his district court appearance. Peters said Tarrant told him that he wants to represent himself. Many worry that Tarrant will try to use his trial as a soapbox to push his white supremacist views.

The judge said he had received applications from 25 media organisations to take film, photographs or audio recordings of Friday's hearing but had denied all of them. He said reporters could remain throughout and take notes, although would be restricted in what they could report.

He said media could still use pixelated images of Tarrant which the district court judge had allowed. The pixilation obscured his face.

Retired law professor Bill Hodge said the idea behind obscuring his image was that the prosecution might need a witness to be sure he saw the gunman at the mosque rather than recognizing him from media stories. Hodge said New

Zealand and Australia were trying to preserve the ancient common-law approach to a fair trial, but that it seemed quaint in an era where people could easily find more information or images on the internet.

New Zealand's Department of Corrections said in an email they wouldn't answer questions such as where Tarrant was being held due to operational security reasons. They said that despite some restrictions, he was being managed in accordance with New Zealand and international laws regarding the treatment of prisoners.

"At this time, he has no access to television, radio or newspapers and no approved visitors," the department said.



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BJP Sikkim President &
Arithang Candidate



SHRI RAJNISH KUMAR
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SHRI NITIN NAVIN
Election In-charge Sikkim



SHRI AMIT SHAH
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SHRI RAM MADHAV
National General Secretary &
North East In-charge, BJP

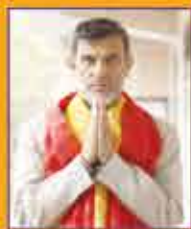
**Main
Chaukidar
Hoon**

Respected Shri Ram Madhav

will be addressing a public meeting at the Tata Stand, Ranipool, on 05-04-2019 [Friday] at 10 AM. All Sikkimese are invited to attend the public meeting in the thousands for the all-round development of the State and to familiarize themselves with BJP's commitment to the State.



LATEN TSHERING SHERPA
Lok Sabha



BHANU BHAKTA SHARMA
Gyalshing-Bermiok



MOHAN GURUNG
Chujachen



BIRENDRA POURALI
West Pendam



BHOLA CHAUHAN
Melli



JIGDEL BHUTIA
Martam-Rumtek



DEVI BASNETT
Namcheybong



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