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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CS to hold charge of Home Deptt

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Chief Secretary AK Srivastava will continue to head the Home Department, a charge given to him on 24 December 2018.

An office order issued today, the Department of Personnel informs that "consequently, SC Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, is relieved of the charge of Home Department with immediate effect."

Mr Gupta will now continue as Additional CS, Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

Sikkim-BJP

strategises for Election 2019

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit convened a meeting at its Singtam party office today to discuss different issues related to the upcoming elections.

The meeting, chaired by the Sikkim-BJP president DB Chauhan, discussed the party's strategy for the upcoming elections and decided to contest the election on the plank of peace, security and developmental issues of the State, informs an BJP press release.

The release adds that during the meeting, Mr Chauhan informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president Amit Shah will also participate in the election campaign in the State.

He asserted that only a BJP government can provide all the basic needs to the people of Sikkim.

He contended that the people have been denied here since the SDF government has not implemented 126 welfare programmes of the Central Government.

The release informs that the meeting also constituted a four-member manifesto committee led by senior vice-president Mohan Gurung.

SKM student's front demands 'strict action' against all involved in granting permission

SIKKIM KRANTIKARI MORCHA CONTINUES PROTEST AGAINST SDF DAY FUNCTION AT SCHOOL GROUND ON WORKING DAY

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has demanded that the concerned authorities take "strict action" against the District Collector and Superintendent of Police of South District for having given permission to Sikkim Democratic Front to hold a public meeting at Namthang Senior Secondary School ground on 04 March during working hours of the school.

The party also announced that it will take the matter in the courts.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM student's front general secretary, Sonam Chopel Sherpa, mentioned that a notification of the South District Administration taken out on 11 September 2018 had designated venues for political parties to hold

public meetings.

While the Namthang school ground was among the designated venues, the notification clearly detailed that the ground could be used on Sundays or holidays when classes were not underway at the school, he added.

Permission given to SDF to use the ground on a working day in contravention to its own notification was a clear case of favoritism extended by the South district administration, SKM insists.

It may be recalled that SKM had blocked the road at Namthang on Monday in protest against this side-stepping of rules and sources inform that the matter is expected to come up at an all-party meeting to be called by the district administration.

Meanwhile, Mr Sherpa further informed that



SKM's South District student's front convener, Kabita Sapkota, had also filed a general diary at Namthang Police Outpost against an SDF meeting being held at a school ground on a working day, arguing that it would disturb studies.

It was when even this GD was ignored and

the SDF party meeting allowed to go ahead despite a notification disallowing such functions at a school ground on a working day, SKM party workers sat on a dharna on Namthang road for the whole of Monday.

SKM student's front vice-president, Bhim Ku-

mari Sharma, also condemned SDF's insistence to use the school ground on a working day, while the SKM student's front chief convener, Karma Tashi Bhutia, highlighted that such disregard towards the interests of students exposed the hypocrisy behind the Chief

Minister's frequent claims that education was a priority for his government.

He also demanded that the Human Resource Development Department undertake a thorough investigation into the matter and take strict action against the Principal and other involved in issuing

an NOC for the political meeting at the school ground on a school day.

The SKM student's front coordinator, Pema Chopel, added that this was also in violation of Election Commission of India's norms disallowing party meetings in school premises.

SDF FOUNDATION DAY AT NAMTHANG SCHOOL GROUND CONTROVERSY

HSP condemns South administration's blatant contravention of its own rules

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Hamro Sikkim Party has expressed shock and strongly condemned what it sees as the "blatant contravention" of its own notification by the South District administration in its allowing the Sikkim Democratic Front to hold a political meeting at Namthang School Ground on a school day. The district administration had reportedly notified that public meetings at school grounds will be allowed only on holidays.

When SDF was allowed to hold its foundation day celebrations at Namthang School Ground on Monday, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party workers had blocked the highway at Namthang in protest and held up traffic for the whole day.

"Despite the adminis-

tration having issued an explicit notification barring any political meetings at School grounds on working days, the ruling SDF party was given permission to hold their political function yesterday in complete disdain of their own rules," an HSP press release details while condemning it in the strongest terms.

The release also goes on to "caution" senior officers, especially IAS and IPS officers, "to refrain from such public displays of sycophancy" and recommends that the officers instead try and "assure the people and strengthen their belief in the rule of law."

HSP has also demanded that senior officers reiterate their commitment to their own oaths as public servants and ensure that all are treated equally under the law.

SDF thanks people for grand foundation day celebrations

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Sikkim Democratic Front has thanked all its party workers for the grand and successful celebration of the party foundation day at the constituency-level across the State and expressed gratitude towards the people for their participation in the events.

An SDF press release issued by its vice-president [administrative affairs], SK Pradhan, highlights that the party has

made history with the foundation day being celebrated at venues across the State in every territorial constituency.

The release reiterates that the party was established on 04 March 1993 in the collective interest and for the welfare of people of Sikkim and to restore democracy here. SDF party has been able to enter its 27th year under the firm and committed leadership of Pawan Chamling, the release adds.

'Make in Sikkim' aims to reach local products to international markets

SAGAR CHHETRI

GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

In an ambitious initiative, local entrepreneur Ravi Khaling of Namchi, South Sikkim, has launched the first-ever shopping website to take products from Sikkim to international markets. His website, www.makeinsikkim.com, was launched recently with its motto, "Service with Social Responsibility." The idea is to take local products across the world and provide different services to the people of Sikkim at their doorsteps.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Khaling informed that this was the first shopping website of Sikkim to provide a platform to local entrepreneurs to expand their business to the international level.

He added that the initiative has mainly targeted to support up-



coming start-ups, entrepreneurs and small industries to help them in marketing and increase their business.

"Make in Sikkim is a wider platform for the people of Sikkim and through this initiative, local entrepreneurs can reach clients across the

world and for prospective clients to have direct contact with the company," he said.

Mr Khaling informed that an app will also be launched soon to complement the website.

More than 100 entrepreneurs are reported to have already registered

with the site within one week of its launch. Registrations will remain open for two more months.

Mr Khaling further informed that the website will not be taking any commission and raise funds only through registration fee.

He added that the initiative was giving priority to local entrepreneurs of Sikkim.

"I am also going to Nepal and Bhutan shortly to promote products from Sikkim," he said.

Make In Sikkim has seven segments covering food products, flowers, attires and clothes, handicrafts and handloom, hotels and restaurants and home stay, taxi service and freelance services in different areas.

Mr Khaling has appealed to local entrepreneurs to come forward and register with Make in Sikkim.

Luis Figo to bring UEFA Champions League trophy to India

MUMBAI, MAR 5 (PTI):

The coveted UEFA Champions League trophy will be on display at an exclusive fan event to be hosted by Portugal legend and tournament Ambassador Luis Figo here on Friday.

The event, which will take place at Tote on the Turf, is a part of a series of global fan initiatives. It will offer a premium UEFA Champions League experience to Indian fans who will journey through the most iconic moments of the world's most prestigious club football tournament.

The evening will also feature an interactive "Best of the Best", the winner of which will receive an unforgettable photo experience alongside the trophy and the Portuguese superstar, according to a release.

Fans will be chal-

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India has 15 out of 20 most polluted cities in world: Study

NEW DELHI, MAR 5 (PTI): Fifteen of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India, with Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Bhiwadi in the top six, according to a new study. India's national capital region (NCR) emerged as the most polluted region in the world last year, data compiled in the new report states.

The latest data compiled in the IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report and interactive world's most polluted cities ranking, prepared in collaboration with Greenpeace Southeast

Asia, reveals the state of particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution last year. Out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, 18 are in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the report said.

India still has 15 out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, with Gurgaon and Ghaziabad being the most polluted cities, followed by Faridabad, Bhiwadi and Noida being in the top six, with Delhi on the 11th spot, it said. China's capital Beijing, once among the most polluted cities in the world ranked 122nd in the list of the most pol-

luted cities last year based on PM2.5 data, but is still at least five times more polluted than the World Health Organisation annual safety limits of 10 g/m3.

Database comprising of PM2.5 data for more than 3,000 cities reminds us of grim health emergency the world faces from air pollution again after the WHO air quality database released last year. The report identified some of the major sources or causes of ambient air pollution.

"Industries, households, cars, and trucks emit complex mixtures of air pollutants, many

of which are harmful to health. Of all of these pollutants, fine particulate matter has the greatest effect on human health," it said. "Most fine particulate matter comes from fuel combustion, both from mobile sources such as vehicles and from stationary sources such as power plants, industry, households, agriculture or biomass burning," the report added.

Environment activists have expressed concern and said government programmes to clean air should "do more than making political statements".

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SDF Day at Rabongla



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Sikkim Democratic Front's Berfung constituency unit celebrated the 27th SDF foundation day at Rabongla on Monday. The party, it may be recalled, celebrated its foundation day at the constituency level across the State yesterday. At Rabongla, more than 4,000 people of the constituency attended the event.

Area MLA, Minister DD Bhutia, was pres-

ent as the chief guest accompanied by senior vice president (south), SG Bhutia, advisor TT Bhutia, party workers and people from different GPUs of Berfung constituency.

On the occasion, a booklet detailing the developmental works undertaken in the constituency since 1994 under the leadership of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and area MLA Mr Bhutia was released.

In his address, the area MLA stressed that

since forming the government in 1994, the SDF Government has been successful in developing Sikkim into an exemplary State due to its innovative policies and programmes.

He also expressed confidence that SDF will form the next government as well, performing consistently well from Berfung, and thanked the people of Berfung constituency for their continued support to the SDF.

New student council formed at Lingi Payong School

SUMMIT REPORT

LINGI PAYONG, 05 MAR:

The student council for the session 2019 was formed at Government Secondary School, Lingi Payong, on 02 Mar; a press release informs. Fresh distribution of students among different houses was also completed the same day.

This year, the members of the student council were elected by voting by students in line with the election procedure followed in the country.

The much-awaited election for student council for the new session was held on 23 Feb with students from classes VI to X voting for their favourite candidates who were nominated to the posts of prefect and vice prefect in different disciplines.

The results were declared on 02 March and the winning students congratulated with khadas.



It is decided by the election committee that the elected prefects will

be administered oath of office during the upcoming guardian-SMC meet-

ing. The headmaster congratulated the students and urged them to work

in coordination with each other for the betterment of the school.

SC issues notice to Centre on plea against Citizenship Bill

NEW DELHI, MAR 5 (PTI):

The Supreme Court Tuesday sought response from the Centre on a fresh plea challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna issued notice on the plea filed by Assam State Jamiat Ulama E Hind and ordered its tagging with similar pending petition of "Nagari-katwa Aain Songsudhan Birodhi Mancha" (Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill).

"Issue notice. Tag with Writ Petition ...," the bench said.

The apex court had on February 27 issued notice on the plea filed by Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill which had sought to declare the Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Rules, 2015 and the Foreigners (Amendment) Order as "discriminatory, arbitrary and illegal".

Prior to this, it had decided to keep the plea pending saying that it would be taken up "only after the Citizenship Act Amendment Bill, consideration of which is now stated to be pending before the Rajya Sabha, reaches its finality".

The bill has been cleared by the Lok Sabha and it would now be presented in the Upper House of Parliament.

Passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8, the bill provides for according Indian citizenship to the Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists

and Parsis who fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, after six years of residence in India instead of the 12 years currently, even if they do not possess any document.

It also seeks to provide relief to the persecuted migrants who have come through the western borders to states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, the home minister had said.

The PIL of Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill has opposed the bill on the ground that it had introduced religion as a new principle into the citizenship law and termed it as "communally motivated humanitarianism".

"Never before has religion been specifically identified in the citizenship law as a ground for distinguishing between citizens and non-citizens. It has introduced religion as a new principle into the citizenship law and can be conveniently branded as 'communally motivated humanitarianism'."

"The illegal immigrants who are to be granted the benefit of this legislation are to qualify for citizenship only on the basis of religion, a requirement that goes against one of the basic tenets of the Indian Constitution, secularism," it said.

It further claimed that the "direct and inevitable" effect of the bill would be the dilution of the Assam Accord inked in 1985, which presently made anyone entering Assam from Bangladesh after March 24, 1971 an "illegal immigrant".

"The amendment de-

feats the purpose of the accord and opens the floodgates to more illegal immigration and consequently, increases claims on diminishing resources. The transformation of migrants, hitherto perceived as illegal encroachers, into legitimate citizens cannot be justified," it said.

The plea further claimed that the bill had the potential to "derail and nullify" the gains made by updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam.

"Many persons, who could not otherwise establish their claims and were therefore excluded from the draft NRC published recently, can now take shelter under this and subsequently, become legitimate Indian citizens at the cost of the indigenous people of Assam," it said.

The petition further alleged that Assam had repeatedly witnessed ethnic clashes and violence, which were arising out of existential threat perceptions, fear of being reduced to minority in one's own homeland and giving up territories to foreigners and imposition of foreign or alien culture. The PIL sought directions to the Centre, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Assam government to declare the Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Rules, 2015 and the Foreigners (Amendment) Order as "discriminatory, arbitrary and illegal".

It further sought directions to the Centre to constitute a National Immigration Commission or any other appropriate body to frame a National Immigration Policy and a National Refugee Policy.

SKM condemns CM's allegations of delaying LT seats

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 05 MAR:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has strongly condemned the Chief Minister's allegation that SKM was involved in delaying/ denying reserved seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities in the Legislative Assembly. The CM had alluded to this in his speech on the occasion of the 27th SDF foundation day on Monday.

The party has asserted that the CM should respect the dignity of his office and not mislead people in such manner.

The State would be much better served of the CM shared the truth of the matter instead.

An SKM press release counter-alleges that it was SDF which has not been sincere and honest towards the interests and aspirations of the two communities. This, the release states, was the real reason why the LT reserved seats have not materialized thus far.

The party has further demanded that the CM present evidence that SKM MLAs were in any way delaying seat reservation.

Organic farming training for Yangtey & Lower Thambong farmers



SUMMIT REPORT THAMBONG, 05 MAR:

Mavedir, a service provider under Sikkim Organic Mission, in col-

laboration with the Agriculture Department, organized a ward level training at Upper Omlok ward under Yangtey GPU and

Lower Thambong ward under Thambong GPU on 04 and 05 Mar, 2019. The trainings were attended by more than 50 farmers.

JeM chief Masood Azhar's brother among 44 arrested in Pak

ISLAMABAD, MAR 5 (PTI):

Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar's son and brother were among 44 members of the banned militant outfits arrested by authorities in Pakistan on Tuesday, amid mounting pressure from the global community on Islamabad to rein in the terror groups operating on its soil.

"We have taken 44 people in custody as part of crackdown on militant groups," Minister of State for Interior Shehryar Khan Afridi said at a press conference here.

Ministry of Interior Secretary Azam Suleman Khan said Hammad Azhar and Mufti Abdur Rauf were among those arrested on Tuesday. Hammad is the son of Masood Azhar while Rauf is his brother.

Khan said a dossier shared by India with Pakistan last week also contained names of Rauf and Hammad.

"It does not mean that action is being taken against only those individuals who are mentioned in the dossier," he added.

The crackdown came amid tensions with India following a suicide attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district

on February 14 by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed terror group that killed 40 CRPF soldiers.

India last week handed over the dossier to Pakistan to take action against the JeM, as pressure mounted on Islamabad to take action against individual and organisation listed by the UN Security Council as terrorists.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi last week admitted that the JeM chief is in Pakistan and is "very unwell", but said the government can act against him only if India presents "solid" and "inalienable" evidence that can stand in a court of law.

"He is in Pakistan, according to my information. He is unwell to the extent that he can't leave his house, because he's really unwell," Qureshi told CNN in an interview.

Afridi, however, said the action was not taken due to any pressure. "This is our own initiative...We won't allow the use of our soil against any country," he said.

Interior Secretary Khan said the action would be taken against all the proscribed organisations under the National

Action Plan, which was formulated after an attack on an army school in Peshawar in 2014 that killed nearly 150 people, mostly children. "This is across the board - we don't want to give the impression that we are against one organisation," he said.

He said the crackdown will continue for two weeks and actions against the arrested members will be taken on the basis of evidence.

Responding to a question, Khan said Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa and its charity wing Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation would be banned within 24 hours. On February 21, Pakistan government had announced that it had banned the JuD and FIF. However, according to the website of the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NCTA), which was updated on Monday, JuD and FIF are still under watch list.

Meanwhile, the interior ministry said in a statement that a high-level meeting was held on March 4 to implement National Action Plan (NAP). The ministry also said that actions against extremists will continue, as per the decisions taken in National Security Committee (NSC).

Luis Figo to...

lenged to match Figo's answers through an interactive voting pad, and the fan with the fastest and most accurate response will be crowned the winner.

"It's a great honour to be able to bring the symbol of the UEFA Champions League to Mumbai. Fans in India are so knowledgeable and passionate about football and I'm excited to meet some of them and test their knowledge of this incredible competition," Figo said.

"Over 125 million fans globally follow the existing UEFA Champions League social media accounts and we want to be in a position to give football fans in India the opportunity to connect with this competition," said UEFA's director of marketing Guy-Laurent Epstein.

The event in Mumbai is the first in a series of global events that will take the iconic trophy on a journey to emerging markets, with events in Rio and Shanghai taking place later in the year.

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India has 15...

Pujarini Sen, an activist associated with Greenpeace India, said the report is "a reminder to us indicating that our efforts and actions to reduce the invisible killer".

"If we want India to breathe clean air, it is high time that our plans such as National Clean Air Programme, Graded Response Action Plan, Clean Air Programme becomes much more stringent, aggressive, legally binding and most of all implementable at ground rather than just being used a political statement without much happening at ground," Sen said.

Jyoti Pande Lavakare, co-founder Care for Air NGO, said Delhi and neighbouring areas have held dubious distinction of being the most polluted places in the world, so this report is not news.

"Delhi will remain the most polluted unless we make a concerted effort on a war footing from the top down to clean the air. What we need is a Clean Air Czar - an empowered, accountable authority whose single goal is to reduce pollution in our country through measurable and time-bound actions," she said.

"This is a national public health emergency and we cannot afford small, incremental progress. We need strong, focussed action that befits a real emergency," Lavakare added.

Ravina Kohli, environmentalist and a member of #MyRightToBreathe campaign, said the country lacks the "political will" to make public health a priority.

"Just because health issues does not historically convert to votes, politicians have slashed budgets, ignored this public health emergency and compromised citizens lives. But the cry of the most vulnerable and the most undeserved...#NoSaansNoVote... will ring through soon. Human lives will matter more than political gain if we have true leaders in charge," she added.

Ashtosh Dikshit, CEO of URJA, said, "Inevitable. Has been for a long time and people just nit pick over data and monitoring and research. The government fuels this confusion and has been callous.

"It is for the government to promote eco-friendly industries and construction solutions as well as hasten the usage of better fuels for automobiles, as well as two-wheelers that are also major polluters. The pollution control boards are toothless and ill-equipped," he added.

SU conference deliberates on governance of rural resources in India and Japan

GANGTOK, 05 MAR (IPR): A two-day international conference - "Past and Present of Governance of Rural Resources: Comparative Institutional Analysis of Japan and India" - organized by the Department of History, Sikkim University, began here today.

The inaugural session of the conference was presided over by Dean, School of Social Science, Prof Nawal Kishore Paswan, and had Prof Atlury Murali, University of Hyderabad, as the chief guest.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof Takushi Sakurai, University of Tokyo, while researchers from universities and institutions from Japan, Ohio State University, Lock Haven University [Pennsylvania, USA], Hyderabad, Guwahati and Sikkim University are participating.

The aim of the Conference is to study how people and the state viewed and used various common property resources in India and Japan, a press release informs. Since time immemorial people have been using natural resources like land, water, forests etc. for survival and livelihood and the state has recognized the right of the people on such resources.

The Conference seeks to provide a platform to researchers working in the field from India and abroad to discuss and deliberate on the similarities and differences between India and Japan.

The aim is also to contribute insights regarding the impact of different policies.

Wastelands and common lands during the British period in India, common resources properties of post-independence India, grazing lands/ pasture lands, common resource properties in Japan, forests and forest policies of the Government are some of the sub-themes for discussion at the Conference.

Second Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine installed at Khamdong Sonamati SSS

NITESH R PRADHAN

KHAMDONG, 05 MAR:

Marwari Yuva Manch's Prerna Branch of Gangtok installed a second Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine at Khamdong Sonamati Senior Secondary School today.

The students were briefed on the use of sanitary napkins and its importance. The vending machine has a capacity of 60 napkins.

Zilla Panchayat Sherap Kazi was present on the occasion as chief guest accompanied by the Zilla Upadhakshya and Panchayat presidents.

Also on the day, an awareness talk on mental health and sexual harassment was also held for the students. This segment was held in collaboration with Stars of Hope, an NGO. Dr Pinky Bhutia and Dr Sonam Tongden were the key speakers while Bikash Thapa of Stars of Hope delivered a motivational talk.

ICAR-NOFRI host training on organic vegetable production



GANGTOK, 04 MAR [PIB]: ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong, Gangtok organized Training-cum-Frontline Demonstration Program on Organic Vegetable Production for the progressive farmers of Lingdok, East Sikkim on March 02, 2019 in order to create awareness and self-reliance in organic vegetable crop production under All India Coordinated Research Project on Plasticulture Engineering and Technology. A total of 31 nos. of progressive farmers participated in the program.

Joint Director, Dr RK Avasthe, ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong in his address stressed the farmers to increase the cropping intensity and grow more number of crops for sustainable farming in the State. He also emphasized on the importance of scientific knowledge for commercial production of organic crops to bring about perceptible change in the region. Joint Director also distributed untreated vegetable seeds, organic pesticides, biofertilizers and plastics for construction of low cost plastic tunnels and low cost plastic rain shelters to progressive farmers. Senior Scientist, Dr Ashish Yadav, (Horticulture), ICAR-NOFRI,

Tadong coordinated the program and also shared the organic production technology for intensive vegetable cultivation under low cost plastic tunnel and rain shelters which can empower the farming community and their livelihood status in Sikkim.

Principal Scientist, Dr Rafiqul Islam (Animal Reproduction), ICAR-NOFRI discussed in detail about the backyard poultry, dairy and goat management techniques. He emphasized on the importance of Vanaraja birds which has gained popularity in Sikkim as backyard poultry. He also briefed about the disease management in dairy and backyard poultry. Scientist, Shri Shaon Kr Das (Soil Science) talked on the organic nutrient management techniques in vegetable crops and emphasized on the need of proper management of soil acidity for balanced nutrition of crops.

Scientist, Dr Chandramani Raj (Plant Pathology) shared the information on pest and disease management in organic vegetables crop production. He stressed on the need of proper crop rotation to avoid diseases in vegetable crops. Scientist, Dr Sudip Kumar Dutta, SS (Horticulture) highlighted the

importance of nursery in organic vegetable crop production and briefed about the nursery management techniques. Zilla Member, Smt Devika Khatiwada, East Sikkim in her address thanked the Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI for organizing program and imparting knowledge regarding agricultural practices and also for providing quality inputs to them. She also convinced farmers to cultivate their land and generate income to improve their living standard and become self-dependent.

Earlier, Horticulture Inspector, Smt. Kabita Basnet, Lingdok, HCCDD Govt. of Sikkim welcomed all the participants and helped in organizing program at Lingdok, East Sikkim. Panchayat President, Shri Vishnu Bhakt Gautam, Lingdok and Panchayat Vice President, Smt Kesang Doma Bhutia, Lingdok were also present during program and thanked Joint Director and team for organizing training program. Dr Ashish Yadav, Dr Sudip Kumar Dutta, Dr Chandramani Raj, Mr Navin Kumar and Mr Topden Tshering Bhutia demonstrated the construction of low cost plastic tunnel, bed preparation and crop sowing in the field to the farmers.

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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

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**STATE PROJECT OFFICE
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
TASHILING- 737103, GANGTOK.**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY AUDITOR

Samagra Shiksha Sikkim, Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim invites Expression of Interest from Chartered Accountant firms for the appointment as Statutory Auditors:-

The applicant Chartered Accountant firm should have its office at Gangtok and have experience for more than six years. The interested firms may submit their profiles together with the expected fees. The appointment will be for a period of one year extendable for further period of two years depending on the performance.

The profile should cover the following details.

1. Name of the firm.
2. Date of Registration with ICAI and registration number (Attach document).
3. Detailed profile of Proprietor/Partner.
4. Number of Chartered Accountant employees and other employees.
5. Details of audit carried out in centrally sponsored schemes-Internal and statutory audit.
6. Details of other audits.
7. C&AG Empanelment letter for the year 2018-19 /Empanelment letter with the Fianance Department, **Government of Sikkim.**
8. Proof of payment of Goods & Service Tax for the past three months.
9. Acknowledgement of filing of Income Tax Returns for the years 2016-17 & 2017-18.

The audit assignment would cover the State Office at Gangtok and four District Offices in Sikkim.

The base remuneration is Rs.150,000.00(Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand) only per year.

The E.O.I should reach the office of the State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha Sikkim, Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Secretariat Building; Gangtok marked 'E.O.I for Statutory Audit' on the envelope within 15 days from the date of this advertisement.

*Sd/-
Joint Director
, Samagra Shiksha Sikkim,
Human Resource Development Department,
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.*

R.O. No. 756/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 Date: 04.03.2019



**OFFICE OF THE ASISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
NAMCHI SUB-DIVISION**

Memo No 510/SD/AE(N)/R&B/2019

Date: 02/03/2019

NOTICE

The Notice Inviting Tender for the works falling under Namchi Sub Division published vide No. 04/R&B/Nam/2018-19, dated 31.01.2019 and published vide R.O. No. 647/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 dated 02/02/2019, has been postpone .

The details of work are as under:-

S.No.	Name of work	Value put to tender (Rs.)	Completion on time (in months)	Cost of tender documents (Rs.)	Amount of Earnest Money@ 2.5% for issue of tender form (Rs.)	Grade of contract or	Name of CPU	Name of Constituency
1.	Construction of Road from Dooak to Limkhimtar (Km 1)	42,38,49 6.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Turung Marming	Mamthang Maraypani Constituency
2.	Construction of road from Phongla to Jaubari (Km 1)	42,38,49 6.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Chuba Phong	Mamthang Maraypani Constituency
3.	Construction of road from Siktuglai to Middle Chuba							
a.	KM 1 st	42,38,49 6.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Chuba Phong	Mamthang Maraypani Constituency
b.	KM 2 nd	42,38,49 6.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Chuba Phong	Mamthang Maraypani Constituency
4.	Construction of road from Phongla to Dong village							
a.	KM 2 nd	42,38,49 6.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Rameng Marming	Mamthang Maraypani Constituency

NOTE: The terms and Conditions remains the same as published earlier vide NIT No 04/R&B/Nam/2019-19, dated : 31.01.2019.

The Re-scheduled Dates are as follows:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents.(excluding Tender Form)	11 th March, 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPK).
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form and submission of TDR (As Earnest Money)	12 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPK).
3.	Last Date and Time of submission of Tender	13 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective GPK).
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Tender	13 th March 2019 (1.30 pm at respective GPK).

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

R.O. No. 762/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 Date: 4.3.2019



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

No:34/ENTENDER/BHD/2019

Dated:02/03/2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer(South), Building & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentages rate tenders from qualified Class IIB contractors, within the South District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Bid Security 2.5% of th bid value (Rs in Lakhs)	Bid value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	Construction of Women's Training Block with Faculty guest House at Yangang, South Sikkim.	7.836	313.44	0.30	30 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	4 th March, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	6 th March, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale start date and time	:	7 th March, 2019 11:00 am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	11 th March, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids, submission of tender fee and bid security (Hard Copies)	:	29 th March, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	30 th March, 2019 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

*Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (N&E)
Buildings & Housing Department
Government of Sikkim.*

R.O. No. 759/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 Date: 04.03.2019

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Pride with Self-Reliance

Follow through on initiatives to inspire merit

Story goes that a senator in Ancient Rome was put in chains and debarred from ever holding a public post again after he was found distributing bread to beggars. No, the Romans did not detest beggars or ignore poverty, they feared that by making himself popular in this manner, the senator would one day grow to become an all powerful tyrant. The Romans, it is thus obvious, valued freedom more than Welfare.

A millennium later, we have managed to invert the equation and actually demand welfare as a matter of right. Elections see politicians out-bidding each other on populist measures, and this is not a fixation unique to Sikkim or even the country and is being increasingly deployed with electoral success across the world, even the so called First World. The democracy that we celebrate every five years with the right to decide is pawned to parties which have the best 'welfare' schemes. Sops, freebies, potentially undeserved windfalls and even more protectionism return in amped-up decibels as elections approach.

While a government which is concerned about the welfare of the underprivileged is undoubtedly preferred, what would have been best was if this concern manifested itself with schemes which brought relief with self-respect instead of just dispensing lazy hand-outs. It is a no brainer to accept that for the long run manufacturing dependence is not as desirable – for the people, not votes – as facilitating sustainable reliance. But to make such assurances is no longer politically wise; not in India, not in Sikkim. But fact remains that this remains the only way to real progress. But, for that to happen, apart from the political will, what is required in even larger measure is the people's recognition of competition and merit as being of more significance than protection. This is not to suggest that quotas are a failed model; they have an important role to play to correct centuries of denial but more a comment on how the corrective measures should not end with protection, but should in fact take off from it to inspire bigger ambitions.

Further, Sikkim has had it easy for quite some time now. It will not remain so for ever. The State has to have an economy of its own, its own industries, its own private sector (not just investments from outside). The economic pressures on the purse-strings in Delhi and the increasingly federal make-up of national politics will see to it that the Central largesse that Sikkim enjoys so lavishly is slowly turned off (it is already drying up). It won't happen immediately, but it will happen one day. There will be those who will continue to expect the State Government to bail them out, but even the State's coffers will become miserly once the doles from Delhi dry up and liabilities here pile up. The only way to ensure that public services and amenities remain operational will be if the people pull their weight more efficiently. The State Government has been trying to get this message across by earmarking years for youth revolution and skill development. These were expressions of intent. For these initiatives to succeed, the youth have to be interested in getting revolutionized and get their skills enhanced. Awareness and skill enhancement camps will remain token efforts till the time the youth don't demand better and deploy the skills they acquire into productive and profitable enterprises. It is not enough to aim at self-sustaining efforts any more or even just supporting start-ups. The bar has to be raised to target lucrative undertakings; sustenance enterprises might just become possible then. And that will still be the first step, Sikkim has to march on in leaps and bounds from thereon to stay proud, something that will come only with self-reliance.

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



Protesters in Algeria use nonviolence to seek real political change

GHALIYA DJELLOUL
theconversation.com

Algeria's 82-year-old president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, whose has been in office since 1999, is seeking a fifth term – and many Algerians are not pleased with his decision.

There has been relatively little public opposition to Bouteflika's continued reign over the past 20 years. But after the country's state-run news agency announced in February that Bouteflika would stand for re-election, on April 18, protests erupted.

Bouteflika, who has been in poor health since a 2013 stroke, is widely seen as an ineffective head of state in a country suffering from a deep economic crisis. Public appearances by the president are now extremely rare. In December, Bouteflika cancelled a meeting with Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, supposedly because he had the flu. Tellingly, Bouteflika is currently reported to be in Switzerland for "medical checks," despite the political crisis.

TAKING TO THE STREETS

Popular resistance to his re-election bid has only grown over the past weeks. From Algiers to Oran, people young and old have taken to the streets and campuses across the North African country to peacefully protest the continuing hold of Bouteflika and his inner circle on power.

Economic crisis has worsened in Algeria as oil revenues plunged with falling oil prices. The unemployment rate is near 12%, with the youth rate at 29%. With half of the population younger than 25, Bouteflika's government is facing a structural and social crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Several candidates have registered to run against Bouteflika, but protesters say elections in Algeria are not free or fair. Some opposition parties plan to boycott the presidential vote if Bouteflika stays in the race.

In a March 3 written statement, Boutelika said that he will run for re-election but step down soon after if elected. No timetable was given, and the offer has not brought calm.

Large-scale public protests are unusual in Al-

geria, where the National Liberation Front – a political regime in power since independence from France in 1962 – regime has violently crushed all signs of dissent. In 1988, more than 500 were killed during Algeria's "black October" demonstrations, which were followed by a military coup in 1992 and subsequent civil war.

Security forces also met 2001 protests by Algeria's Kabyle people with violence; 160 were reportedly killed. Other opposition movements, such as protests in 2011 and an anti-shale gas movement in 2015, flared but weakened quickly.

Algeria largely stood out the Arab Spring – a series of protests in 2010 and 2011 that brought down authoritarian governments in Egypt, Libya and elsewhere – in part because of memories of the country's brutal civil war of the 1990s.

Today, however, protesters of all ages and walks of life are out in strength – students, working men and women, and journalists resisting state censorship. All are calling for a return to the rule of law and demanding that Bouteflika renounce running for a fifth term.

The atmosphere of Algeria's protests is generally festive. As they march down city streets, protesters often sing popular football anthems with a political twist to express their demands. Songs ring out from Algeria's 1962 independence movement and the social movements of the 1980s. From balconies overhead, women sing out their support.

While there has also been anger and indignation, fiery speeches, violence and clashes with police have been relatively limited. A "million-man march" on March 1 was reported to be mostly peaceful, with the state news agency claiming that 183 people were injured.

THE STREET AS PUBLIC FORUM

The moving crowds, rallies and meetings have turned Algeria's streets into something of a public forum. In a country where the government does not allow a real political dialogue, this is how the Algerian people practice their politics.

Protesters demand an end to the rule of Bouteflika and his clan. This includes the president's brother Saïd and other family members who have

a controlling hand in state affairs and the economy.

The Algerian resistance has also taken to social media to share messages of hope, filling the web with broad smiles and forceful slogans about political change in their country. Twitter posts show that citizens are remaining positive about their chances of democracy.

In an effort to keep control, prime minister Ahmed Ouyahia has warned demonstrators that a "Syrian scenario" – civil war – may result if Bouteflika isn't returned to office on April 18.

Unlike in the past, the protests have even received some domestic media coverage – particularly after journalists protested Bouteflika's rule – both in mainstream papers as well as private broadcasts. Ongoing coverage shows streets and squares occupied by protestors, with police officers surrounded by demonstrators.

Algerian protesters are also gaining an international audience, with support from the Algerian diaspora in Paris, Montreal, Geneva and other cities.

IS THE REGIME LOSING ITS GRIP?

Across the nation, the feeling that the 57-year-old regime's grip on power may finally be slipping.

So far, the protesters' strategy has been resolutely nonviolent. They have even made peaceful gestures toward the police and expressed their civic responsibility in unexpected ways, including cleaning the streets after demonstrations.

By resisting political pressure and fatalism through nonviolence, everyday citizens are seeking to change how power may be exercised in Algeria, peacefully yet insistently calling on the government to allow dissent and listen to what its people have to say. Real dialogue, they say, is the only way to restore the legitimacy of Algeria's government in the eyes of its people.

Will peaceful protest be enough to shift the balance of power in Algeria? The future of the movement is uncertain, yet a fifth term for Bouteflika is clearly unthinkable for many citizens.

[the writer is Sociologue, chercheuse au Centre interdisciplinaire d'études de l'islam dans le monde contemporain (IACCHOS/UCL), Université catholique de Louvain]

Women in health, science and innovation are collaborating globally

JUDY ILLES
theconversation.com

Marie Curie, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Brenda Milner, Martha Salcudean, Julie Payette, Halle Tanner Dillon Johnson.

What do these names bring to mind?

They are women whose pioneering work led the fight against cancer, ground-breaking discoveries about how brain cells live and die and to the unveiling of the secrets of human memory. They are leaders in innovation in mechanical engineering and space exploration. They were among the first women in their classes in medicine, going on to provide health care for the poor, underserved and neglected.

These courageous women broke down norms and survived wars, abuse and gender and racial discrimination. They worked independently from men, in partnership with men and sometimes in rivalry with them. They have left legacies of greatness and other women like them continue their work today.

In addition to my research in neuroethics, I have been actively engaged in promoting women in science throughout my career, including as an elected member of the International Women's Forum, a global organization comprising more than 7,000 women leaders and heads of state.

WOMEN BECOME THE MAJORITY

Women around the world have tried to follow their legacies. In some ways, they are succeeding. For example, women represent the majority of young university graduates. Yet they

are still underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and computer science in many respects. Despite advances made in recent years, reports still suggest that women remain less likely to choose a career in science and technology than men.

Regional averages around the world show that women accounted for less than a third of those employed in scientific research and development across the world in 2014. Among Canadians ages 25 to 34 years holding bachelor's degrees, men were almost twice as likely to work in science and technology jobs as women in 2016.

The share of science and engineering degrees is even smaller for women of colour: in 2014–2015, women of colour earned three to five per cent of related bachelor's degrees. Globally, women made up about 12 per cent of board members in the information technology industry in 2015.

LEAKY PIPELINES AND OTHER FACTORS

Labour markets, family and work balance, interest, social class, cultural capital and social class are all factors reported to affect career choice and, by extension, career progress and satisfaction. Motivation is sometimes said to play a role when women decline to enter a field, but this is a highly contested assertion.

What's more likely is that in 2015, for example, women who graduated with bachelor's degrees in science and technology earned just 82 per cent of what their male counterparts earned.

Compounding these phenomena

is the leaky pipeline: women disproportionately decide to leave a career trajectory due to isolation, ineffective feedback, insensitive interactions, and a lack of role models, mentors and sponsors. But let's be clear: good mentors and role models for women need not be only women. In my own life, some of the very best were men.

Yet the news is not all bad. In 2016, women comprised about 40 per cent of scientists and engineers in the EU-28, an increase of more than 20 per cent since 2007. In Central Asia, Latin American and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and the Arab States, women represent over a third of the innovation workforce.

Equity, diversity and inclusivity of women have been topics of keen interest to the academic and corporate worlds that increasingly seek balance and justice among its educational systems and workforces, and to media that covers them. The Athena Program recognizes and rewards institutions for leadership in promoting women.

Canada has recently launched its own version of the Scientific Women's Academic Network (SWAN) Athena program. The Canada Research Chairs Program has taken significant steps to recalibrate for gender balance, albeit imperfectly under certain circumstances for senior women whose appointments have already been renewed once in this prestigious system.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS

It takes a global effort. In a visionary and bold initiative, women

leaders from different countries are coming together to identify priorities and opportunities for international collaboration. "Women in Science, Health and Innovation: Leadership Looking To The Future" will be held in Vancouver on March 7. In this event that ties to International Women's Day — and foreshadows the 2019 Women Deliver conference in Vancouver on gender equality — researchers and speakers from Canada, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany and the United States will come together to address important questions:

- What have been the greatest changes in North America and Europe and over time for women in health, science and innovation?
- What have been some of the historical and incentives barriers to women entering engineering and physical sciences?
- What is on the agenda for coming years in gender, medical research and innovation?
- How have women in the past set the path for women in academic medicine and entrepreneurship of the future?

We will have to see what those collaborations will be and where the conversations will go, but there is much to look forward to when regional silos of strength and determination expand into full-blown global efforts.

[the writer is Professor and Director, University of British Columbia]

Indo-Bangla border in Assam gets advanced surveillance system

DHUBRI, MAR 5 (PTI): Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday inaugurated an advanced electronic surveillance system along the 61-km India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri district of Assam to tackle cross-border crimes and provide respite to BSF personnel from round-the-clock patrolling.

Addressing a press meet here, Singh said the new project, under Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), will equip the unfenced areas along the riverine border with sensors, enabling the troops to take prompt action against intrusion.

“The BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) project will cover the entire span of river Brahmaputra in Dhubri with data network generated by microwave communication, OFC cables, day and night surveillance cameras and intrusion-detection system,” the Union minister said after inaugurating the project.

These modern gadgets provide feeds to the BSF control rooms along the border and enable the paramilitary force’s quick reaction teams to thwart any possibility of illegal border crossing and crimes.

Noting that the Border Security Force (BSF) is responsible for safeguarding of the 4,096-km-long international border with Bangladesh, he said, “At places, where it is not possible to erect a border fence due to the geographical barriers, this BOLD-QIT will prove effective.

“The implementation of this project will not just help the BSF crack a whip on cross-border crimes, but provide respite to the troops from round-the-clock human surveillance,” he said.

The 61-Km border in Dhubri district, where

river Brahmaputra enters Bangladesh, comprises vast stretches of sand bank and innumerable river channels, making vigilance a daunting task for the BSF, especially during the rainy season.

Talking about a border project in West Bengal, the Union home minister said, “The state government there had assured us about a year back that it would acquire land. But that has not happened so far and work got delayed,” he said.

Singh also said he inaugurated two smart fencing pilot projects, spanning five kilometers each, on India-Pakistan border in September last year.

Asked if the facility will be extended along the entire India-Bangladesh border, Singh said, “It will take time, but a system such as BOLD-QIT system should be adopted along the Indo-Bangla border as well as the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.”

To a query on National Register of Citizens, the draft of which was published last year, the Union minister said work was underway.

“Work on updating the NRC is progressing well. The register will be published on July 31,” Singh added.

In January 2018, the information and technology wing of the BSF undertook project BOLD-QIT and completed it in record time with the technical support of various manufacturers and suppliers.

“The riverine section of Indo-Bangladesh border in Dhubri is considered to be highly porous where movement of illegal immigrants and smuggling of arms, ammunition and other goods are very common. The smart fencing will solve the problem to a great extent,” a Home Ministry official said Monday.

Man City owners likely to invest in Indian club this year: Chief Executive Soriano

LONDON/NEW DELHI, MAR 5 (PTI): English Premier League giants Manchester City’s owners City Football Group (CFG) are planning to invest in an Indian football team by the end of this year, said chief executive Ferran Soriano. An official of a reputed club, who has been tracking the development, said the Premier League champions are at an “advanced stage of discussions” with Indian Super League (ISL) franchise Mumbai City FC. They have also had preliminary discussions with Jamshedpur FC.

“Last year, they visited India and watched a match between Jamshedpur and Mumbai City. Talks are on for sure,” the official, close to Mumbai City FC, said. Another official in the know of things, said, “City owners have been talking to Mumbai for the past eight months and talks are at an advanced stage.”

City owner Sheikh Mansour of Abu Dhabi Royal Family, has recently purchased a Chinese

third division club Sichuan Jiuniu, a seventh addition to their bouquet of clubs, which also include New York City, Melbourne City, Japan’s Yokohama F Marinos, Atletico Torque and Girona.

“We have some interest in some markets and countries where there is a genuine football passion and opportunities, like China, but also India. So there might be other opportunities in Asia,” Soriano was quoted by www.skysports.com.

The CEO said that City, currently on top of EPL points table, have been exploring the Indian market for the past two years now. “With all these developments, we have to be patient. We have been looking at India for nearly two years now. I would say this year we’ll end up doing an investment in India,” he said.

Bengal Cong chief writes to Rahul, urges him to take call on seat-sharing with Left

KOLKATA, MAR 5 (PTI): West Bengal Congress chief Somen Mitra Tuesday wrote a letter to party president Rahul Gandhi, underlining the need for “seat-sharing or alliance” with the CPI(M) to “stop the march of BJP in the state and dethrone the TMC in 2021 assembly polls”. According to sources in the state Congress, Mitra also mentioned about the “aspirations of party workers and leaders” to contest the 2019 polls from two seats - Raiganj and Murshidabad.

These two seats have been the bone of contention in the seat-sharing talks with the Left for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

“I have written a letter to Rahulji with my assessment. Now it is for our party president and the AICC to take a call on the matter. I can’t disclose anything further,” Mitra told PTI.

The development comes a day after the CPI(M) central committee, in a move to untangle the formula of seat-sharing between the two political blocs to consolidate anti-BJP and anti-TMC votes, proposed

“no mutual contest” for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in six seats currently held by the Congress and the Left Front in West Bengal.

The state Congress leadership on Monday, reacting to the development had said there can be no compromise on its demand for the two parliamentary seats - Raiganj and Murshidabad, which are known as Congress strongholds.

The Congress leadership had also said, if needed it is ready to fight the polls alone in case the Left Front does not leave these two parliamentary seats - which were won by the CPI(M) in 2014.

These two constituencies were earlier known as traditional Congress bastions.

In the letter, Mitra gave details and statistics of the vote percentage and the number of votes that different parties had received in the 2014 polls, and how the BJP has increased its vote share in those two seats in several by-elections and in the 2016 assembly polls.

“Somen Mitra has urged the party high command to take the



next step and talk to the Left leadership in Delhi to solve the impasse as the main objective is to defeat BJP at the Centre and the TMC in the state.

“Now the ball is in the court of high command. Let’s see what happens next,” a senior Congress leader privy to the developments said.

While the Congress

had bagged four seats in the state in the 2014 general elections, the CPI(M) had won only Raiganj and Murshidabad seats.

While Uttar Dinajpur’s Raiganj has been a pocketborough of Congress stalwart Priya Ranjan Dasmuni, Murshidabad’s politics has been dominated by the party’s firebrand leader Adhir

Ranjan Chowdhury. While Raiganj is represented by CPI (M)’s Mohammad Salim at present, Badaruddoza Khan represents Murshidabad.

Though the Congress is yet to take a decision on the CPI(M)’s proposal, a senior leader privy to the seat-sharing discussions with the CPI(M) had said on Monday that

the party will not compromise on the two constituencies -- Raiganj and Murshidabad.

“There are two prevailing views in the party. One view is we fight alone in Bengal as it is the Lok Sabha elections where the fight is between the Congress and the BJP and the second view is that we share seats with the CPI(M). But there will be no compromise on our demand for Raiganj and Murshidabad seats,” the Congress leader had said.

“Raiganj and Murshidabad have long been a stronghold of the Congress. We lost these seats by a very small margin in 2014 polls due to a four-cornered contest. But this time we are confident of winning those two seats,” the Congress leader had said.

The two parties had a similar tactical understanding in the 2016 assembly polls but it failed to have an impact as TMC won 211 seats in 294-member state assembly.

In last three years, the BJP has outsmarted the Congress and the CPI(M) to become the main challenger to the TMC in Bengal.

Union Cabinet likely to take up ordinance on reservation roster in universities on Thursday

NEW DELHI, MAR 5 (PTI): The Union Cabinet is likely to take up an ordinance on Thursday on the reservation mechanism for university teachers, sources said Tuesday.

“The HRD Ministry had sent an ordinance on reservation mechanism for faculties in universities for Cabinet approval and the same is likely to be taken up on Thursday,” a source said.


Earlier in the day, Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said the Centre was committed to restore the reservation roster in

educational institutions and there was “no need” for any agitation. Various students’ and teachers’ organisations have been urging the government to bring an ordinance to restore the 200-point roster taking college or university as a unit for reservation in teaching posts.

“Few groups have decided to agitate. I would like to assure them that they need not agitate, the government will do justice. We will bring the 200-point reservation roster and how we will do it will be clear within two days,” Javadekar told

reporters. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had announced last March that an individual department should be considered as the base unit to calculate the number of teaching posts to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates, following an order by the Allahabad High Court in April 2017.

The Supreme Court had last month dismissed a review petition filed by the HRD Ministry after its special leave petition against the court order was rejected by the apex court.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
 No:31(a)/ENTENDER/BHD/2019 Dated:04/03/2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Additional Chief Engineer(N&E), Building & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentages rate tenders from qualified Class I B contractors, within the South District, enlisted with the SPWD in single cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Bid Security 2.5% of th bid value (Rs in Lakhs)	Bid value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1	Construction of Multidisciplinary centre at Syari, Gangtok, East Sikkim	21.52	860.70	0.30	24 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS


i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	5 th March, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	5 th March, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale start date and time	:	5 th March, 2019 16:00hrs onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	8 th March, 2019 up to 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	15 th March, 2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	16 th March, 2019 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

R.O. No. 764/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
 Date: 05.03.2019

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer (N&E)
 Buildings & Housing Department
 Government of Sikkim.

Contact Summit TIMES at
9832556698 news@summittimes.com
advertise@summittimes.com
summittimes16@gmail.com



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Memo No: 622/SD IV/R&B/2018-19/267 Date. 04.03.2019

CORRIGENDUM

Consequent upon approval from the competent authority, time schedule for the submission and opening of tender documents for the works vide Notice Inviting Tender No.622/SD IV/R&B/2018-19/257, dated 26.02.2019 has been amended. The details of works and time schedule are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Cost of work	Earnest	Cost of	Completion
1.	Construction of link road from S Topgay House to Dho Tapu JHS in East Sikkim undr Shyari constituency	33-Kopibari Syari GPU			
	KM 1 st	42,38,496.00	1,06,000.00	1,500.00	12 months.

TIME SCHEDULE

1.	Date of submission of application with (i) Demand Draft/deposit slip for cost of tender documents drawn against account of respective GPU/ULB and (ii) TDR of SBS as Earnest money to be drawn in favour of Sr. Account Officer, R&B, for issue of Tender Forms.	(Bank account number for DD can be obtained from respective GPU/ULB)
		25 th March 2019 from office of respective GPKs and ULBs.
2.	Last date and time for submission of Tender.	
		27 th of March 2019 (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) at respective GPKs/ULBs.
3.	Date and time for Opening of Tender.	
		27 th of March 2019 (2.00 pm) at respective GPKs/ULBs.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors of appropriate class and area.
- GST registration is must for successful bidder before issuing work order.
- The bidder shall produce Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit/Urban Local Bodies where the work is being executed.
- For others General Conditions of Contract and other queries, Office of the Divisional Engineer, East I and Office of Assistant Engineer, Sub Division IV, R&B, Gangtok, may be contacted during office hours.

R.O. No. 763/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
 Date: 05.03.2019

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer-IV
 Roads & Bridges Department
 Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok.

All England C’ship: Sindhu, Saina aim to break 18-year-old jinx

BIRMINGHAM, MAR 5 (PTI): A challenging draw stands in the way but India’s top shuttlers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will nonetheless fancy their chances of ending a nearly two-decade old title jinx at the All England Championship starting Wednesday. It was Sindhu and Saina’s mentor and current chief national coach P Gopichand, who was the last Indian to win the championship back in 2001.

Only the top 32 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings qualify for the tournament and out of them, only three Indians have been seeded -- the third being Kidambi Srikanth (seeded seventh) in the men’s event.

Fifth-seeded Olympic and world championship silver-medallist Sindhu will square off against former world no 2 Sung Ji Hyun of South Korea at the USD one million event.

London Olympics bronze-medallist Saina, seeded eighth, will start her campaign against Scotland’s Kristy Gilmour.

The star shuttlers



have had contrasting results against their first-round opponents.

While Saina enjoys a 6-0 overall record against Gilmour, Sindhu has been troubled by Sung Ji but leads 8-6 in their previous 14 encounters.

Sung Ji defeated Sindhu twice in three meetings last year and if the Indian can put it past the Korean, she will run into either Russian Evgeniya Kosetskaya or Hong Kong’s Cheung Ngan Yi in the second round.

A favourable result will then pit Sindhu against third-seeded Chinese youngster, Chen Yu-fei in the quarterfinals.

The Indian had lost to Chen at the 2018 China

Open and will be wary of the Chinese despite enjoying a 4-3 head-to-head record.

“Each round will be comparatively tough. Each point is important to me. I am playing Sung Ji Hyun in the first round and it would be important for me to focus from the first round,” said the 23-year-old, who had reached the semifinals in the last edition.

While Sindhu has been in red-hot form last season, claiming silver medals at all major events, former world no. 1 Saina remains the only Indian to come close to winning the prestigious title, finishing runners-up in 2015.

The seasoned Hyderabad-badmi enjoyed a good start to the year, winning the title at the Indonesia Masters in January and getting the better of Sindhu in the national finals to claim the crown.

Saina, who turns 29 on March 17, will face either Denmark’s Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt or China’s Cai Yanyan if she happens to win the first round.

While Saina has an edge over the Dane, she has never faced the 19-year-old Chinese player before.

The vastly experienced Indian is expected to cross at least the second round and is likely to face her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying

against whom she has lost 12 consecutive times.

The Chinese Taipei shuttler enjoys an overall head-to-head record of 14-5 against Saina.

In the men’s event, Srikanth will take on Frenchman Brice Leverdez in the opening round while an in-form Sameer Verma will start against former world champion and world no.1 Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

After a poor 2018, Srikanth had a decent outing in Malaysia and Indonesia, reaching the quarterfinals. He would look to find his best form during the week.

Sameer, who had reached the knockout stage of the World Tour Finals, will be playing his first BWF event of the season.

Among others, B Sai Praneeth and HS Prannoy will face each other in the opening round.

While Praneeth would be hungry to put his Senior Nationals’ disappointment behind him, Prannoy has been battling with a breathing problem triggered by a Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disorder (GERD). He would be eager to put on

a good show before leaving for his medical treatment in the US.

Chief coach Gopichand has already pinned his hopes on Saina, Sindhu and Srikanth. He feels the trio has what it takes to end the country’s 18-year wait for the prestigious trophy.

“We have had good performances from Saina, Sindhu and Srikanth has also been in good form. I do expect that we will have a good performance at this year’s All-England,” Gopichand had said last month.

Three-time world champion Carolina Marin, who is undergoing physiotherapy after rupturing the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) in her right knee during the Indonesia Masters final, will be also among the ones to watch out for in the singles’ draw.

In women’s doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa & N Sikki Reddy will play the seventh-seeded Japanese pair Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto, while Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram will square off against Russia’s Ekaterina Bolotova and Alina Davletova.

Ajax hopes to take advantage of Ramos’ absence

MADRID, MAR 5 (AP): Needing goals, Ajax hopes to take advantage of Sergio Ramos’ absence when it faces Real Madrid in the second leg of the round of 16 in the Champions League.

Ramos, the Real Madrid captain, is suspended from Tuesday’s match because of an accumulation of yellow cards.

“Ramos is Madrid’s boss on the field and in the backline,” Ajax coach Erik ten Hag said on Monday through a translator.

“His absence clearly is a loss tactically, but also mentally. It’s a loss that will clearly be felt by Real Madrid. It obviously won’t be as good as a team as if it had Ramos on the field.”

Nacho Fernandez is expected to replace Ramos in central defense, playing alongside Raphael Varane.

Ramos will also miss the first leg of the quarterfinals if Madrid advances, as UEFA said he deliberately provoked the yellow card in the first leg so he could be available for future matches.

Ajax, playing in the round of 16 for the first time since 2006, needs to score at least two goals to reverse the 2-1 home loss in the first leg and make its first quarterfinal appearance since 2003.

“Our goal is always the same: To score goals,” Ten Hag said. “This is Ajax. We don’t care about which opponent we are playing against.”

Ten Hag said he expects three-time defending champion Madrid to be extra motivated as the Champions League presents its only realistic chance of winning a title this season.

“They only have a chance to succeed in the Champions League, so they will be playing with a different attitude,” Ten Hag said.

Madrid is coming off two consecutive losses to Barcelona at its Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, being eliminated in the Copa del Rey semifinals, and dropping in the Spanish league to 12 points from the lead with 12 games remaining.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT, NAMCHI SUB DIVISION, SOUTH SIKKIM.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

N.I.T No.- 06/R&B/Nam/2018-19

Dated:-01/03/2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Namchi Sub Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12/06/2018 and subsequently vide notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 28/08/2018 and 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 08/10/2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of concerned ward of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed. The works are listed as under:-

Sl No	Name of work	Value put to tender (Rs)	Completion in time, (in months)	Cost of tender documents (Rs)	Amount of Earnest Money @ 2.5% For cost of tender form (Rs)	Grade of contractor	Name of CPD	Name of Constituency
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of link road from Palden Tsongmo House near Monaster Hall to Tsongmo near Lower Monaster Primary School.							
a.	KM 2 nd	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Pranatai Sakkyang	Namchi Singphong
2	Construction of Road from Mainroad PWD Road to Main road School via KDS and Lower Mainroad							
a.	KM 1 st	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Mainroad Palden	Namchi Singphong
b.	KM 2 nd	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Mainroad Palden	Namchi Singphong
3.	Construction of Road from SPWD Road near Forest Park to Panchayat Bhawan.	21,19,248.00	6 months	1,500.00	52,931.88	Grade IV	Mamby Karmang	Paldan Karmang
4.	Construction of Road from Namchi Doodling Road to Panchayat (Additional length 1.6 Km)	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Doodling	Paldan Karmang
5.	Construction of road from Barabari to Sumbaring (1.8 Km)	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Kaga Karm	Namching Sakkyang Constituency
6.	Construction of Lower Khap Chomang Road to Lower Parkang PWD Road.							
a.	KM 1 st	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Parkang Devam	Namching Sakkyang Constituency
b.	KM 2 nd	42,35,696.00	12 months	1,500.00	1,05,942.80	Grade IV	Parkang Devam	Namching Sakkyang Constituency

Time Schedule -

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form)	18 th March, 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective CPD.
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form and submission of TDR (No Earnest Money)	19 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective CPD.
3.	Last Date and Time of submission of Tender	20 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective CPD.
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Bid.	20 th March 2019 (1.30 pm at respective CPD).

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applicants should enclose attested copies of the Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification. Selected bidder should produce No objection certificate/ Tax clearance certificate from the commercial taxes Division, Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department prior to the issue of Work Order.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during

the period specified in (As above from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, Cost of tender form shall be deposited to the revenue of respective GPU).

5.Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of temporary deposit receipts (TDR) in favor of the Sr. Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi. Tender form shall be issued from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposited receipts to that contractors/firm who has obtained the tender documents, on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.

6.The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, Supporting documents listed at Sl. No. 3 above should be enclosed with the offer.

7.Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box at respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, on the date and within the time indicated above.

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

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

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

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

12.Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labourer at site.

13.The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.

14.All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.

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

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

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

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

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

20.Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-

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

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

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

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

23.Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.

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

25.The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.

26.The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors’ bills as per rules.

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

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department,
Namchi Sub-Division,
South Sikkim.

R.O. No: 760/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19

Date: 04/03/2019

US President Trump plans to scrap preferential trade status for India, Turkey

WASHINGTON, MAR 5 (PTI): US President Donald Trump, who once described India as the “tariff king”, has said that he intends to end the preferential trade treatment to India and Turkey, asserting that New Delhi has failed to assure America of “equitable and reasonable” access to its markets, a move that could be seen as a major setback to bilateral ties.

The move is the latest push by the Trump administration to redress what it considers to be unfair trading relationships with other countries like China. Trump has pledged to reduce US trade deficits, and has repeatedly called out India for high tariffs.

On Monday, President Trump notified Congress in letters of his “intent to terminate” trade benefits for both countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) eligibility criteria.

Under the United States GSP programme, nearly 2,000 products including auto components and textile materials can

enter the US duty-free if the beneficiary developing countries meet the eligibility criteria established by Congress.

India was the largest beneficiary of the programme in 2017 with USD 5.7 billion in imports to the US given duty-free status and Turkey the fifth largest with USD 1.7 billion in covered imports, according to a Congressional Research Service report issued in January.

In a letter to Speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Trump said he was determined that New Delhi had “not assured” the US that it would “provide equitable and reasonable access” to the markets of India.

“I am taking this step because, after intensive engagement between the United States and the Government of India, I have determined that India has not assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets of India,” Trump said in the letter to congressional leaders.

“I will continue to as-



sess whether the Government of India is providing equitable and reasonable access to its markets, in accordance with the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) eligibility criteria,” Trump said in his letter, a copy of which was released to the press.

Trump, who has vowed to reduce US trade deficits, has repeatedly called out India for its high tariffs.

At a White House news conference on October 1, the US President described India as a “tariff king” as he reiterated his allegations that New Delhi has a high tariff

providing adequate and effective intellectual property protection and providing the US with equitable and reasonable market access.

Countries can also be graduated from the GSP programme, depending on factors related to economic development.

In New Delhi, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said India exports goods worth USD 5.6 billion under the GSP, and the duty benefit is only USD 190 million annually.

India mainly exports raw materials and intermediate goods such as organic chemicals to the US, he said.

“GSP withdrawal will not have a significant impact on India’s exports to the US,” the secretary told journalists.

In a separate letter, Trump also informed the Congress of his intent to terminate the GSP beneficiary designation of Turkey.

Trump’s letter to Pelosi could be seen as a major setback to India-US bilateral relationship, in particular in the arena of trade and economy.

Imran Khan’s party tweets in Hindi



ISLAMABAD, MAR 4 (PTI): In an unusual move, Pakistan’s ruling party on Monday tweeted in chaste Hindi Prime Minister Imran Khan’s statement that the person who solves the Kashmir issue will be worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

“Main Nobel Shanti Puraskaar Ke Yogya Nahi Hun. Is(ka) Yogya Vyakti Vah Hoga Jo Kashmiri Logo Ki Ichha Ke Anusar Kashmir Vivaad Ka Samadhaan Karta Hai aur Upmahadweep Main Shanti aur Manav Vikash Ka Marg Prashasth Karta Hai,” the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party tweeted quoting Khan, in an obvious move to catch

the attention of Indian Twitterarti.

(I am not worthy of the Nobel Peace prize. The person worthy of this would be the one who solves the Kashmir dispute according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people and paves the way for peace & human development in the sub-continent.)

On March 2, a resolution was submitted in Pakistan’s National Assembly Secretariat stating that Khan’s decision of releasing Indian Air Force pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman has de-escalated the hostility between Pakistan and India.

According to the resolution, Khan “acted responsibly” in the current tension and “deserves the Nobel Peace Prize”.

Tensions between India and Pakistan flared up after a suicide bomber of Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad killed 40 CRPF personnel in Kashmir on February 14.

After the attack, the Indian Air Force carried out a counter-terror operation, hitting what it said was a JeM training camp in Balakot, deep inside Pakistan on February 26. The next day, Pakistan Air Force retaliated and downed a MiG-21 and captured Varthaman.



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

Memo No:32/SD/J/R&B/EWR/13-14/521 Date: 27.02.2019
N.I.T No:- 05/R&B/Jor/2018-19 Date: 27.02.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Jorethang Sub Division, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 & 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, Dt:08/10/2018 through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban local bodies where the work is to be executed.

The works are listed as under:

Sl. No	Name of Work	Value put to Tender (Rs.)	Completion time (in Months)	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)	Amount of Earnest Money @2.5% for issue of tender form	Grade of Contractor	Name of G.P.D	Name of Constituency.
1.	Construction of Jeepable road from Lumchik via Lumchika to Rang Km 1* (0.00-1.000) mtrs.	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Sumbuk-Kartikary	Melli

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents.(excluding Tender Form)	18th March, 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective G.P.D.
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form and submission of TDR (As Earnest Money)	19th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective G.P.D.
3.	Last Date and Time of submission of Tender	20th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective G.P.D.
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Tender	20th March 2019 (1.30 pm at respective G.P.D.)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification. Selected bidder should produce No objection certificate/ Tax clearance certificate from the commercial taxes division, Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department prior to the issue of Work Order.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, cost of Tender Document form shall be deposited to the revenue of respective GPU.
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi. Tender Form shall be issued from the

- respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at Sl.No. 3e should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the concerned Gram Prasasan Kendra, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages(if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/ Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor’s bills us per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED GRAM Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges Department
Jorethang Sub Division

R.O. No. 757/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 Date: 04.3.19.2019.

Vicky Kaushal to play Udham Singh in Shoojit Sircar's next

Vicky Kaushal is set to play freedom fighter Sardar Udham Singh in a film, which will be directed by Shoojit Sircar.

The film is a biopic on the revolutionary, who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab in British India in 1940, to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Sircar said Kaushal was the "obvious choice" for the film, which was earlier set to feature Irrfan Khan.

"If you look at Vicky's track record, he is taking brave steps and making some really fabulous choices. I wanted an actor who is ready to give his heart and soul to the film. Plus, he is a Punjabi boy and my film is a story of a Punjabi man," the filmmaker said in a statement.

The actor, whose last film "Uri: The Surgical Strike" is one of 2019's biggest hits, said working with Sircar was on his wish list.

"It's a surreal feeling because it's like a dream come true as I am finally getting to work with him. I have always been a big admirer of how Shoojit sir looks at his stories.

"The way he is looking at the character and the world is extraordinary as well as beautiful. Plus, it's also a big honour for me that finally, I am going to be directed by him. Honestly, that's something that will take time to sink in," Kaushal said.

The currently untitled film goes on floors next month and is slated to be released next year.

Singh has been the subject of a biopic in Bollywood in the past with Raj Babbar playing the role in "Shaheed Udham Singh" in 1999 film.



Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Sooryavanshi' locks Eid 2020 release date

MUMBAI, MAR 5 (PTI): "Sooryavanshi", starring Akshay Kumar, is set to release on Eid 2020.

The film, to be directed by Rohit Shetty, features Akshay in the title role.

The character was introduced in Rohit's last release "Simmba" in the post-climax scene as ATS officer Veer Sooryavanshi.

"A bullet for a bullet! Get ready for #RohitShetty's #Sooryavanshi on Eid 2020. Action-packed, masala intact! @karan-johar @RelianceEnt @RSPicturez @Dharma-Movies #CapeOfGoodFilms," Akshay made the announcement on Twitter.

The actor, who is also attached as co-producer, shared two posters from the film.



"Sooryavanshi" is the third series in Rohit's cop universe after "Singham" and "Simmba". This is Akshay and Rohit's first project together.

"Eid 2020 will be about a bullet for a bullet. #Sooryavanshi stars the khiladi of all time, @akshaykumar & directed by the blockbuster machine, #RohitShetty!" tweeted co-producer Karan Johar.

Ranveer too doffed his hat to Akshay and wrote, "A Bullet for a Bul-

let.. He's not alone.. #Sooryavanshi," the "Simmba" star wrote.

The film is presented by Reliance Entertainment and produced by Rohit Shetty Picturez in association with Dharma Productions and Cape of Good Films.

'Sherlock Holmes 3' delayed till 2021



LOS ANGELES, MAR 5 (PTI): The third part of Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law's "Sherlock Holmes" film series has been delayed.

According to Variety, the release date of the much-awaited film has been pushed back from December 25, 2020 to December 22, 2021.

Downey, 53, who played the famed British detective Sherlock Holmes in the series, and Law, 46, who portrayed his famous sidekick Dr Watson, are both returning for threequel.

The duo have till now appeared in the films "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011).

Both the films were helmed by Guy Ritchie but there is no news yet whether the director is coming back for the third part or not.

"Narcos" co-creator Chris Brancato has written the script for the new film, which will be produced by Susan Downey, Joel Silver and Lionel Wigram.

Seth Rogen joins cast of 'Twilight Zone' reboot



LOS ANGELES, MAR 5 (PTI): Actor Seth Rogen is the latest star to board the cast of new "The Twilight Zone" series.

The 36-year-old actor joins the likes of John Cho, Allison Tolman, Jacob Tremblay, Kumail Nanjiani, Greg Kinnear, Adam Scott, Steven Yeun and Sanaa Lathan, among others, in the revival of the classic sci-fi/fantasy franchise.

According to Deadline, Rogen will appear in one episode of the series which will be penned by "Key & Peele" alum Alex Rubens.

"Get Out" director Jordan Peele is executive producing the series and serving as the narrator/host.

The show is produced by CBS Television Studios in association with Peele's Monkeypaw Productions and Simon Kinberg's Genre Films.

In addition to Peele and Kinberg, Win Rosenfeld, Audrey Chon, Glen Morgan, Carol Serling, Rick Berg and Greg Yaitanes will also executive produce the series.

The first two episodes will be available on CBS All Access on April 1, with new installments coming on Thursdays beginning April 11.

The Prodigy singer Keith Flint dead at 49

Keith Flint, the singer and iconic frontman of British rave scene band The Prodigy, has died at the age of 49, the electronic pop group said.

Police said they were not treating the death as suspicious after finding his body on Monday in Essex, northeast of London.

"We attended and, sadly, a 49-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed," Essex Police told AFP.

"The death is not being treated as suspicious and a file will be prepared for the coroner." The Prodigy issued a statement calling Flint



a "true pioneer, innovator and legend", Britain's domestic Press Association news agency reported.

Heavily tattooed and topped with a bleached mohawk, Flint helped turn The Prodigy into one of the most influential groups to emerge from the underground rave scene.

Their biggest hits included "Firestarter" and "Smack My Bitch Up", which merged intense dance beats with punk elements.

"There was a real determination for it to have zero compromise," Flint told AFP in 2015.

"There really needed to be an antidote to the DJ scene, which made it quite brutal.



BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL! Model Gigi Hadid steps out in a bold yellow and green number during Paris Fashion Week.

ARIES: Go big or go home, Aries. With the moon and generous Jupiter merged in your expansive ninth house, the world is truly your oyster. You could be overcome by a craving for new scenery and adventures today. Start researching flights and travel plans or register for an inspirational seminar. Conversations could also take you to new heights, causing you to rethink some of your core beliefs!

TAURUS: Partnering up could be profitable, Taurus. Today, the moon and fortuitous Jupiter connect in your eighth house of joint ventures. Consider how much further along you'd be if you merged your skills and resources with others. This cosmic combination urges you to spend more time on the tasks you excel at and outsource the rest.

GEMINI: The truth shall set you free, Gemini. Today, the moon aligns with "tell it like it is" Jupiter in your relationship house, sparking honest dialogue. A heartfelt discussion or a clear-the-air conversation can bring you to a deeper understanding. With the cosmic gambler, Jupiter, in the mix, it's

an auspicious day to take a chance in love. Coupled? Move your bond to a deeper level by addressing unspoken issues.

CANCER: Reminder: Healthy living isn't about suffering and deprivation. How about making it into an adventure instead? Today's expansive moon-Jupiter merger in your self-care sector motivates you to create an enjoyable routine. Take a Southeast Asian cooking class, experiment with new spices and superfoods, sign up for a circus workshop: aerial silks, anyone? These orderly stars could also give you the urge to purge any clutter from your space.

LEO: Give your feelings some airtime, Leo. Today, as the moon merges with outspoken Jupiter in your shout-it-from-the-rooftops fifth house, insist on transparency. There's a good chance your emotions will come rushing out before you can stop them, so just roll with it. Silver lining: With everything in the open, at least you don't have to pretend anymore. The fifth house also rules romance, and this cosmic lineup could dial up the flirtatious vibes.

VIRGO: Are you being a know-it-all, Virgo? Try taking a "live and let live" approach, especially with your family. Since you only want the absolute best for your loved ones, it can be hard to withhold your unsolicited advice. But today's alignment of the moon and expansive Jupiter in your domestic sphere prompts you to listen and ask questions more than talk AT people. Initiate an honest conversation with a relative or close friend.

LIBRA: It's a no-filters kind of day, Libra. Today's merger of the moon and outspoken Jupiter in your communication house emboldens you to speak frankly with everyone. Instead of being overly diplomatic (and vague), share what's on your mind without all the window dressing. Even if your delivery is a little rough around the edges, at least others will know your message is sincere. Besides, a little unpolished honesty can be a potent conversation starter.

SCORPIO: It's a no-filters kind of day, Libra. Today's merger of the moon and outspoken Jupiter in your communication house emboldens you to speak frankly with everyone. Instead of being overly diplomatic (and

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SAGITTARIUS: It's a no-filters kind of day, Libra. Today's merger of the moon and outspoken Jupiter in your communication house emboldens you to speak frankly with everyone. Instead of being overly diplomatic (and vague), share what's on your mind without all the window dressing. Even if your delivery is a little rough around the edges, at least others will know your message is sincere. Besides, a little unpolished honesty can be a potent conversation starter!

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AQUARIUS: It's a no-filters kind of day, Libra. Today's merger of the moon and outspoken Jupiter in your communication house emboldens you to speak frankly with everyone. Instead of being overly diplomatic (and vague), share what's on your mind without all the window dressing. Even if your delivery is a little rough around the edges, at least others will know your message is sincere. Besides, a little unpolished honesty can be a potent conversation starter.

PISCES: Make hay while the sun shines, Pisces. Today's mashup of the moon and lucky Jupiter in your ambitious tenth house could throw open the doors to professional advancement. Don't wait for opportunity to fall in your lap. Connect with an influential player and make your bold ask. Under these auspicious skies, you could get exactly what you want. If the "yes" you're seeking doesn't come immediately, shepherd your request through the proper channels.