



**NOBEL LAUREATES URGE
WORLD TO HELP VICTIMS
OF RAPE IN CONFLICT**
pg02

**INDIA HALT 10-YEAR BARREN RUN
IN AUSTRALIA WITH 31-RUN WIN**
pg06



**URJIT PATEL RESIGNS AS
RBI GOVERNOR CITING
PERSONAL REASONS**
pg03

SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 315 | Gangtok | Monday | 10 December 2018

O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

BJP march over Sabarimala issue turns violent

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 10 (PTT): The BJP's "secretariat march" over the Sabarimala issue here on Monday turned violent, prompting police to use water cannon and tear gas to disperse the party workers.

Protesting against the police action, BJP has called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Thiruvananthapuram district on Tuesday.

The main opposition Congress-led UDF, which continued to disrupt proceedings in the state assembly for the sixth day, took out a march to the House later. The BJP and the UDF marched separately, demanding the LDF government's intervention to end the agitation by their respective leaders for withdrawal of the prohibitory orders around Sabarimala.

The BJP workers threw stones and hurled chairs at police personnel outside the state secretariat when the latter stopped them from proceeding further.

CM INAUGURATES NEWLY BUILT MANIRAM PERI GUMPA Promises Tamang study centre and statue of Pem Dorji

NAMCHI, 10 DEC (IPR): Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, inaugurated the newly built Maniram Peri Gumpa at Maniram Bhanjyang today. He was accompanied by Advisor Ecclesiastical Affairs Department, P.T. Bhutia, Chairpersons, Advisors and public at large.

At the onset, the Chief Minister offered prayers at the main shrine and sought blessings from Kyabje Mindrolling Khochhen Rinpoche from Dehradun. Thereafter, the CM took a brief tour of other areas of the gumpa.

Addressing the colossal congregation comprising of monks, devotees and public from far and wide the Chief Minister extended his best wishes on the completion of the Peri gumpa. He informed that this gumpa is one of the largest gumpas of the Tamang community in the state as well as in the country. The CM also declared this gumpa for the public



and added that the remaining construction of this gumpa will commence at the earliest. He also urged the public to maintain the sacredness of this shrine.

The Chief Minister spoke in brief about the teachings of Lord Buddha and urged all to follow his enlightened path and further emphasized on spirituality and said that it is one of the most important attributes that an individual can possess.

He also announced that a Tamang study centre will be set up soon which will focus

on the preservation of the various aspects of the communities. A statue of Pem Dorji who is credited with producing the first ever damphu along with an installation of the Tamang damphu which will be constructed shortly, provided the location for this can be identified soon. The CM added that the State Government will be institutionalizing the unique features of the various communities existing in the state in order to preserve the tradition and culture. He further stated that only the central government

can provide Limboo and Tamang Assembly seats.

Additionally, the Chief Minister said that the state government has always focused on the welfare of Tamang community. The Tamang language is being taught at school level and Sonam Lochhar has also been declared a state holiday.

The CM also encouraged the Tamang youth to be constructive in nature and also appear for various competitive exams.

He also highlighted that the State Government has established various Buddhist projects



namely that of Samdrup-tse, Tathagata Tsal and Chenrezig Singkham Rivo Potala hence, the state has become an abode of the gods. He also informed about the range of initiatives undertaken by the State Government in health, rural development, animal husbandry and many more. He also informed that the State Government has sanctioned the construction of different religious establishments for various communities in the State.

The CM further reiterated that from the upcoming janta mela, grants will be provided for the purchase of shen-tap for lamas and other

religious attires for the religious leader belonging to various communities. He also apprised that an employment mela will be conducted soon where jobs will be given to candidates under the 'One family, One job' scheme.

During the course of the program the monk fraternity felicitated the Chief Minister for his unwavering efforts in the upliftment of the State and also in developing the Maniram Peri gumpa. The Chief Minister also felicitated the architect of the gumpa, Kiran Rasaily, and Mr. Bhutia, founding members and artisans of the gumpa.

SKM blames SDF Govt for bad roads and accidents

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 Dec:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has expressed its concern on the bad condition of roads in the State. The party stresses that it is embarrassing for the Sikkim Democratic Front government to claim sustainable and farsighted development after failing to even maintain roads in the State.

An SKM press release alleges that the bad condition of most roads in the State clearly shows that the ruling government has been working without any concern for the safety of people. Roads are an important infrastructure and 90% of the people have been facing problems due to poor maintenance of roads, the party has said.

Blaming bad roads for road accidents in the State, SKM has alleged that weaknesses in Research and Development and Quality

turn to pg02

Sports & Youth Affairs Department wins 6th Inter Departmental Football Tournament



**SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 10 DEC:**

Sports & Youth Affairs Department emerged as the champion of the 6th Inter Departmental Football Tournament 2018 played here at Paljor Stadium. In the neck-to-neck final match played on Monday afternoon, Sports & Youth Affairs Department edged past Transport Department by a solitary goal.

Transport Department secured its berth in the final round by defeating Energy & Power Department in the

tie-breaker, while Sports & Youth Affairs Department edged past Sadar Thana to enter the finals of the tournament.

Both teams played an attacking game from the start but missed the net on several occasions to take the lead in the match. The first half of the match ended in a goalless draw. The second half was again full of attacks and counter-attacks but both teams failed to score any goal. However, in the dying seconds of the match, the referee gave a penalty shot to Sports & Youth

Affairs Department for a handball by a Transport Department defender in the D-box area. Ongchuk Lepcha successfully converted this golden opportunity into the winning goal for Sports & Youth Affairs Department.

Sikkim Democratic Front secretary [administration], Amos R. Lepcha, who was present as the chief guest, gave away cash prizes, individual trophies and winners and runners-up trophies. The organisers have presented the cash prize of Rs 1 lakh to the winner and Rs

50,000 to the runners-up.

Wilson Rai of Horticulture Department was adjudged as the Best Goal Keeper of the Tournament, while Man of the Tournament trophy was presented to Birbal Rai of Finance Department and Fair Play Trophy to Energy & Power Department. Likewise, Michael Lepcha of Sports & Youth Affairs Department received the Highest Scorer trophy for his 7 goals in the tournament and Man of the Final Match trophy was given to Amos Subba of Sports & Youth Affairs.

12-hour bandh affects normal life in Dimapur

DIMAPUR, DECEMBER 10 (PTT): Normal life was affected in Dimapur, Nagaland's largest town and commercial hub, during the 12-hour bandh called by the Public Action Committee (PAC) on Monday, officials said.

The bandh was called by PAC under the aegis of Naga Council Dimapur (NCD), the apex tribal body of Dimapur to contain multiple taxation, syndicate system, extortions, abductions in Dimapur, a statement issued the media cell of PAC said.

The PAC statement said that the bandh was called to send a strong message that the public is tired of multiple taxation, extortions and incidents of kidnappings taking place in Dimapur.

All business establishments, including banks, educational institutions and government offices remained closed, it said.

However, only those students appearing for various examinations were exempted from the purview of the bandh, it added.

PAC Convenor Vekho-sayi Nyekha said the bandh passed off peacefully and there were no reports of any untoward incidents.

He also apologised to all those who were affected during the bandh.

India successfully test-fires nuclear-capable Agni-5 missile

BALASORE (ODISHA) DEC 10 (PTT): India successfully test-fired nuclear-capable ballistic missile Agni-5, which has a strike range of 5,000 km, from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast Monday.

This is the seventh trial of the indigenously-developed surface-to-surface missile, defence sources said.

Agni-5 is a three stage missile and is 17 metre tall and 2 metre wide. It is capable of carrying 1.5 tonne of nuclear warheads.

"The missile was launched with the help of a mobile launcher from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal on Monday afternoon," said a defence source.

"It was an user associated trial. Strategic force command along with DRDO scientists conducted it," the source added.



During this trial, the flight performance of the missile was tracked and monitored by radars, tracking instruments and observation stations, said the source.

India has in its armoury the Agni missile series -- Agni-1 with a range of 700 km, Agni-2 with a range of 2,000 km, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range.

The Agni-5 is the latest and most advanced variant in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.

"The high-speed on-

board computer and fault-tolerant software, along with robust and reliable bus guided the (Agni-5) missile flawlessly (during the test)," an official said.

The missile is programmed in such a way that after reaching the peak of its trajectory, it turns towards the earth to continue its journey to the target with an increased speed, due to the earth's gravitational pull, and its path precisely directed by the advanced on-board computer and inertial

turn to pg02

UK court orders Mallya's extradition to India

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, DEC 10 (PTT): A UK court Monday ordered Vijay Mallya's extradition, in a major boost to India's efforts to bring back the fugitive wanted for alleged fraud and money laundering charges amounting to an estimated Rs 9,000 crores. Delivering

the verdict, Westminster Magistrates' Court Chief Magistrate Judge Emma Arbuthnot said that there was "no sign of a false case being mounted against him".

"Having considered evidence as a whole. There is a case to answer," Judge Arbuthnot said as she ruled that 62-year-old Mallya could be

extradited to India to stand trial on the charges brought by the CBI and the ED.

She was also extremely critical of how loans were granted and then used.

The ruling marked a significant point in the high-profile extradition trial that has lasted over a year. In relation to the defence's attempts to

dispute Indian prison conditions as a bar to Mallya's extradition on human rights grounds, the judge said the video of the Barrack 12 of Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail, where Mallya would be held, "gives accurate portrayal and has been recently redecorated".

to book
advertisements in
SummitTimes,
mail us at
**advertise@
summittimes.
com**
or call us at
03592-208698

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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

For further details please
Contact: 9434117687 / 9083826462

EU court rules Britain can revoke Brexit unilaterally

LUXEMBOURG, DEC 10 (AFP): Europe's top court ruled Monday that Britain could halt Brexit without the approval of fellow EU member states, in a victory for pro-Europeans on the eve of a key House of Commons vote.

"The United Kingdom is free to revoke unilaterally the notification of its intention to withdraw from the EU," the European Court of Justice said, in response to a suit from a group of Scottish politicians.

"Such a revocation, decided in accordance with its own national constitutional requirements, would have the effect that the United Kingdom remains in the EU under terms that are unchanged as regards its status as a member State," the court ruled.

Following a 2016 referendum, Britain declared its intention to quit the European Union on March 29 last year, triggering the "Article 50" EU treaty procedure that would see it definitively leave two years later, on the same date next year.

British Prime Minister Theresa May's government insists it has no intention of halting the

process and has agreed a draft withdrawal agreement with the 27 remaining member states.

The withdrawal agreement is expected to go before the British parliament for approval on Tuesday.

If, as appears likely, it is rejected it would raise fears that Britain could crash out of the union on March 29 without a deal or that it could revoke or postpone Brexit in order to hold another referendum.

The court's ruling will be welcomed by campaigners for a second referendum, but May's government insists it has no intention of reversing course, whatever the court in Luxembourg might say.

"We don't want to stay in the EU. We voted very clearly," Environment Secretary Michael Gove, an influential cabinet Brexiteer, told BBC radio.

"This case is all very well but it doesn't alter either the result of the referendum or the clear intention of the government to leave.

"It's the intent of the government to honour that referendum mandate."

Nobel laureates urge world to help victims of rape in conflict

OSLO, DEC 10 (AFP): Nobel laureates Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad called on the world to protect victims of wartime sexual violence in their Peace Prize acceptance speeches on Monday, slamming indifference to the plight of women and children in conflict.

Congolese gynecologist Mukwege, whose work has made him a global expert on rape in conflict, and Yazidi activist Murad, a survivor of IS sexual slavery, both said victims were sometimes valued less than commercial interests.

In an emotional ceremony, which saw the laureates cheered and given standing ovations, Mukwege and Murad called on the world to do more.

"If there is a war to be waged, it is the war against the indifference which is eating away at our societies," Mukwege said at the ceremony in Oslo.

His Panzi hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo's war-torn east has treated the wounds of tens of thousands of women and children for sexual assaults that have become a "new reality" in the country.

He said the violence

humanity".

In her speech Murad implored the global community to help free hundreds of women and girls still held by jihadists, saying the world must protect her people and other vulnerable communities.

"It is my view that all victims deserve a safe haven until justice is done for them," she said, pausing briefly, seemingly overcome with emotion.

Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said the pair had received the Peace Prize "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict".

She described them as "two of the strongest voices in the world today".

In a sombre ceremony in Oslo City Hall, both smiled as they received the Peace Prize gold medal, diploma and the nine million Swedish Krona (880,000 euros, a million dollars), which they will share.

Mukwege lay much of the blame for the horrific violence unleashed on civilians on those in power in his troubled country.

"For twenty years now, day after day, at Panzi hospital, I have



seen the harrowing consequences of the country's gross mismanagement," said the doctor, a critic of DR Congo President Joseph Kabila, who is set to be replaced in elections this month.

"Babies, girls, young women, mothers, grandmothers, and also men and boys, cruelly raped, often publicly and collectively, by inserting burning plastic or sharp objects in their genitals," Mukwege said the trade in the country's abundant natural resources helped fuel the violence while profits "end up in the pockets of a predatory oligarchy".

"We love nice cars, jewellery and gadgets. I have a smartphone myself. These items contain minerals found in our country. Often mined in inhuman conditions by young children, victims of intimidation and sexual violence," he said.

"It's not just perpetrators of violence who are responsible for their crimes, it is also those who choose to look the other way." He called for a global fund to provide reparation for victims and economic and political sanctions for those behind the violence.

Murad survived the horrors of captivity under the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria where

they targeted her Kurdish-speaking community.

Older women and men faced summary execution during the IS assault, which the United Nations has described as a possible genocide.

Captured in 2014, Murad suffered beatings and gang-rape before she was able to escape.

In her Nobel acceptance address Monday, Murad said more than 6,500 women and girls from her community had been kidnapped, raped and traded "in the 21st century, in the age of globalization and human rights".

The fate of some 3,000 women and girls is still unknown.

"Young girls at the prime of life are sold, bought, held captive and raped every day. It is inconceivable that the conscience of the leaders of 195 countries around the world is not mobilised to liberate these girls," she said.

"What if they were a commercial deal, an oil field or a shipment of weapons? Most certainly, no efforts would be spared to liberate them," Murad, whose mother and six of her brothers were killed, said on Sunday that "steps towards justice" had given her some hope.

A UN team authorised to investigate the massacre of the Yazidi minority is due to finally start fieldwork in Iraq next year.

Murad has been supported in her campaign for justice for Yazidis by Lebanese-British lawyer and rights activist Amal Clooney, who was in the audience in Oslo.

No jihadist has yet faced trial over the atrocities against the Yazidis.

Murad said she was thankful for the Peace prize, but added: "The fact remains that the only prize in the world that can restore our dignity is justice and the prosecution of criminals."

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: letters@summittimes.com

Gangtok on Tuesday, 11Dec

Temp: 14°C/09°C

Forecast: Sunny to partly cloudy with a little rain in the evening, then a shower in spots

Sunrise: 06:05 AM

Sunset: 04:42 PM

RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha resigns from Union council of ministers

NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI): RLSP president Upendra Kushwaha resigned from the Union council of ministers and walked out of the BJP-led NDA on Monday, a day before Parliament's Winter Session begins.

Kushwaha, in his resignation letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said he was "dejected" and "betrayed" by the PM's leadership, according to party sources.

"It is unfortunate that the government's priority is not to work for the poor and oppressed, but to fix political opponents by hook or crook," Kushwaha said in the letter.

The Rashtriya Lok Samta Party chief also held a press conference here in which he announced he has quit the National Democratic Alliance. "I have left NDA, other options are open," he said.

Kushwaha also attacked Nitish Kumar, saying the Bihar chief minister was against him.

The RLSP chief is like-

ly to meet Congress president Rahul Gandhi later in the day.

Welcoming Kushwaha's resignation, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav said he has taken the right decision which is in favour of democracy and now he should decide his future course of action to remove the BJP from power.

Kushwaha had been targeting the BJP and Kumar, a key ally of the ruling party, for weeks.

He was upset with the BJP after it asserted that the RLSP would not be given more than two seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, even as it went out of way to accommodate Kumar by agreeing that the saffron party and the JD(U) would fight equal number of seats.

The RLSP may join hands with the opposition, which includes Lalu Prasad's RJD and the Congress.

Bihar sends 40 MPs to Lok Sabha.

Sensex tumbles 714 pts as exit polls show Congress-BJP neck-and-neck in state elections

MUMBAI, DEC 10 (PTI): Market benchmark Sensex buckled under heavy selling pressure Monday, plummeting 714 points as investors panicked over exit polls suggesting the Congress giving a tough fight to the ruling BJP in state elections as also the bruised rupee and weak global cues further dampened sentiment.

The BSE Sensex cracked below the 35,000 mark, plunging 713.53 points, or 2 per cent, to close at 34,959.72.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 205.25 points, or 1.92 per cent, to 10,488.45.

Exit polls for the recently concluded assembly elections have predicted a tight finish between the ruling BJP

SKM blames SDF...

Control Mechanism of the concerned department have been responsible for the same.

The party has further said that on the 25th anniversary of SDF, the CM had announced that all roads will be made by April this year but he has failed to do so. On the same, SKM has stressed that it is now time for the government to work instead of making such false announcements.

The party has further demanded that the government constitute a high-level committee to improve the condition of roads in the interest of the people of Sikkim.

India successfully test...

navigation system. As the missile enters the earth's atmosphere, the atmospheric air rubbing its outer surface skin raises the temperature to beyond 4,000 degree Celsius. However, the indigenously-designed and developed heat shield maintains the inside temperature at less than 50 degree Celsius.

Finally, commanded by the on-board computer with the support of laser gyro-based inertial navigation system, micro inertial navigation system (MINS), fully digital control system and advanced compact avionics, the missile hit the designated target point accurately, meeting all mission objectives, the sources said.

The ships located in mid-range and at the target point tracked the vehicle and witnessed the final event.

All the radars and electro-optical systems along the path, monitored the parameters of the missile and displayed them in real time.

The first two flights of Agni-5 in 2012 and 2013 were in open configuration. The third, fourth and fifth launch were from canister integrated with a mobile launcher, that enables launch of the missile in a shorter time as compared to an open launch.

The missile has advantages of higher reliability, longer shelf life, less maintenance and enhanced mobility.

The first test was conducted on April 19, 2012, the second on September 15, 2013, the third on January 31, 2015 and the fourth one on December 26, 2016. The fifth test was held on January 18 this year and the last one was held on June 3, 2018. All the trials were successful.

and the Congress in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and a win for the opposition party in Rajasthan, impacting trading pattern on the domestic bourses in a big way.

Besides, a weakening rupee, which hit 71.44

per dollar intra-day, and fresh foreign fund outflows further pulled the key indices.

All sectoral indices on the BSE and NSE ended in the red, led by realty, banking, metal, pharma, pharma and financial stocks.

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



Urjit Patel resigns as RBI Governor citing personal reasons

MUMBAI, DEC 10 (PTI): Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel, who faced the possibility of an unprecedented action from the government over differences on a variety of issues, Monday resigned from his job citing personal reasons.

Patel, 55, who took over as the 24th Governor of the central bank on September 5, 2016, had the shortest tenure since 1992.

He was hand-picked by the BJP-led government after his predecessor Raghuram Rajan was denied a second-term.

"On account of personal reasons, I have decided to step down from my current position effective immediately," Patel said in a brief statement.

His resignation was being speculated right from the time the government cited a never-before-used provision of the RBI Act to get him to consider its views on re-



laxing lending norms for segments such as small and medium enterprises, appropriate size of reserves the central bank must maintain and easing norms for weak banks.

In his statement, Patel thanked his colleagues at the RBI but made no mention of the government or the Finance Ministry.

"It has been my privi-

lege and honour to serve in the Reserve Bank of India in various capacities over the years. The support and hard work of RBI staff, officers and management has been the proximate driver of the bank's considerable accomplishments in recent years.

"I take this opportunity to express gratitude to my colleagues and Directors of the RBI

Central Board, and wish them all the best for the future," he said.

Patel had more than eight months of the first three-year tenure left and was eligible for a second term as was given to several of his predecessors barring Rajan.

Prior to taking over on September 6, 2016, he was a Deputy Governor overseeing the monetary policy department at

the RBI under Rajan and was known as his 'inflation-warrior'.

Patel, who has worked with the International Monetary Fund, Boston Consulting Group and Reliance Industries, among other organisations, took over after Rajan completed his three-year term on September 4.

Patel is among the few with a corporate background to become RBI Governor, the top post at the Mint Street that has been previously held by mostly career bureaucrats and economists.

Patel was the eighth Deputy Governor at RBI to be made Governor, the last being YV Reddy. Besides, at least five former Governors had served at IMF before becoming RBI chief, while a few others went on to work at IMF after leaving the central bank.

However, some Deputy Governors served as Governors only for interim periods.

Delhi air quality worsens, to further deteriorate in next two days

NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI): Delhi's air quality worsened further and slipped to 'severe' category Monday as heavy stagnant air prevented dispersion of pollutants, according to authorities. The Central Pollution Control Board or CPCB recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) of 403, which falls in 'severe' category. Neighbouring Ghaziabad, Noida and Faridabad also recorded 'severe' air quality. Noida's air quality was worst at an AQI of 452, CPCB data showed.

An AQI between 201 and 300 is considered 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor' and

401 and 500 'severe'. Nineteen areas in Delhi recorded 'severe' air quality and ten areas recorded 'very poor' air quality, according to the CPCB.

Under the 'severe' category, even healthy people find it harder to breathe and doctors advise physical activity be kept at a minimum. Authorities said they are closely monitoring the situation.

The overall PM2.5 level -- fine particulate matter in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometre -- was recorded at 257 and the PM10

level at 445, it said. The Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR) said the overall air quality of Delhi will further deteriorate over the next two days.

"Values are likely to remain in same range until tomorrow which is likely to decline by Wednesday. Calm surface winds are not allowing pollutants to disperse," it said.

"Winds are calm and dispersion is low. Western disturbances influence may impact Delhi's air quality by introducing the moisture and making air heavy.

Amendments in rules on HSRP for vehicles notified: Govt to SC

NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI): The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that it has notified the amendments to Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 following which all new vehicles will be sold pre-fitted with high security registration plates (HSRP) from April 1.

The government told this to a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta which was hearing a matter related to hologram-based, colour-coded stickers for vehicles indicating the fuel being used by them.

The bench said since the rules have been notified, no further order was required to be passed in

the matter.

Advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the air pollution matter, said on October 1 that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had asked the national capital region (NCR) states to implement the apex court's order regarding colour coded stickers on vehicles.

She said the rules notified by MoRTH were likely to be challenged and court should make it clear that any challenge to this notification should come to the top court only.

Additional Solicitor

General A N S Nadkarni, appearing for MoRTH, also supported Singh's submissions and said only top court should hear the challenge to notification so as to avoid any multiplicity.

The bench said that challenge to the validity of the notification would be heard by the top court only.

According to MoRTH, the notification mandates that HSRP, including the third registration mark, shall be supplied by the vehicle manufacturers along with vehicles manufactured on or after April 1, 2019 to their dealers and the dealers shall

place a mark of registration on such plates and affix them on the vehicle.

The vehicle dealers can also provide the high security registration plates for old vehicles, the ministry has said, adding, that high security registration plate helps in keeping track of vehicle and makes it easier to trace a lost or stolen vehicle.

The amicus had earlier flagged in the apex court an issue that there was only one vendor in a state for issuing HSRP for vehicles and it was a "monopoly" of vendor.

The apex court had on August 13 accepted the proposal of MoRTH

to have hologram-based, colour-coded stickers for vehicles plying in Delhi-NCR which would indicate the nature of fuel used in them.

MoRTH had said that hologram-based light blue colour sticker would be used in vehicles using petrol and CNG fuel, while an orange sticker would be put on diesel-run vehicles.

These issues have cropped up before the court when it was hearing a matter relating to air pollution in Delhi-NCR.



STUDY ZONE
Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)

OUR COURSE OUTLINES:

1. Winter Crash Courses running successfully for classes X, XII (CBSE, ICSE, ISC)
2. Study Materials provided according to the standards of the board.
3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations for the students
4. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective
5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers
6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls.

OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To give clear concept of the chapters
2. To give the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations
3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently
4. Greater emphasis would be to excel.
5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651
Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press , Gangtok

Tea exports to Pakistan up 22 per cent

KOLKATA, DEC 10 (PTI): Exports of tea to Pakistan during the first 10 months of 2018 rose 22 per cent at 13.07 million kg as compared to 10.65 million kg in the corresponding period of 2017, the Tea Board said on Monday.

Major country-wise exports from January to October stood at 200.38 million kg as against 198.86 million kg a year ago, as per provisional estimates released by the board.

Iran was the highest importer of Indian tea at 23.04 million kg during the reporting period, topping the

year-earlier figure of 22.13 million kg.

However, there was a slight fall in exports to CIS nations at 51.07 million kg from 52.72 million kg in the similar period of 2017.

In value terms, India exported tea worth Rs 4,061.81 crore during the first 10 months of the year, compared to Rs 3,911.05 crore in the corresponding period of 2017, according to the Tea Board release.

The unit price per kg during January to October was lower at USD 2.99 as against USD 3.03 a year ago.

Human Rights violations cannot be tolerated: Manipur CM

IMPHAL, DEC 10 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Monday said human rights violation by anyone, including elected representatives and law enforcers, will not be tolerated and proper action will be taken against such people.

He also said the current government is against any kind of rights violation, Singh said while speaking on the occasion of 70th anniversary of International Human Rights Day at the Banquet Hall of 1st Manipur Rifles here.

"Just because we are

government, we cannot resort to anything we want," Singh said, adding, the Human Rights Commission and the judiciary are there to check the excesses.

The elected representatives and police officers are also human too, the chief minister said.

On the other hand, the public too needs to exercise responsibility as well, he said.

During bands and blockades, police officials are maltreated since many of them get injured due to stone pelting, the chief minister said.



ACCIDENT: A vehicle went off the Indira Bypass at Sichey, Gangtok, its fall broken by a tree, which stopped it from crashing further down to the Ranka road, and saving the occupants from more grievous injuries. Details on how the mishap occurred are unclear, but eye-witnesses suggest that the occupants suffered injuries and were rushed to medical attention. The accident is reported to have occurred at around 4 PM on Monday.

to book advertisements
in SummitTimes
call: 03592-208698,
9734152541, 9647102692
advertise@
summittimes.com

THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

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

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

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

LOKTA BOOKS
Gangtok - Sikkim
loktabooks@gmail.com
+91 901 060 6260; +91 983 266 0763

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Haste Makes Waste

About time that budgetary controls were reinforced

One often hears people with bills stuck with government departments complain of how they are routinely turned away with excuses of the department not having enough funds. There was a time when an accounts section in a government department had put up a notice on its door announcing that it did not have funds and that people should not bother them unnecessarily. That was back in 1999! In the two decades that have passed since, not much has changed even if the directness with which the lethargy is admitted has toned down. One says lethargy and not paucity because it is the former that is to be blamed because when a fiscal year draws to a close, funds appear to materialise rather furiously. But we get ahead of the story here. Remember the time when regularized MR and Workcharged employees who had not received their salaries for some months and given the run around with the excuse that the required funds had not been released. Most times, people accept these excuses as being truthful, believing that the concerned personnel in the government know their jobs and that the government is genuinely cash-strapped. But that is almost never the case as reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the State's finances have routinely pointed out. More often than not, the government ends up not spending up to a quarter of the funds at its disposal on any given financial year. For instance, between 2012 and 2017, in eleven cases at departments ranging from Forests to Social Welfare to HRDD to Power to RM&DD to Tourism, there were persistent savings of more than Rs One crore in each case and also by 10 per cent or more of the total grant.

Now, if this 'saving', and this cannot really be called a saving, was a result of austerity measures and judicious book-keeping, one would be all praises for the army of accountants in government departments. But that was not the case; the 'savings' resulted from incompetence. Few examples illustrate this slipshod financial planning better than the habitual rush of expenditure in the last quarter of the financial year, with a bulk of this coming in the closing month.

When it comes to the budget and the segregation of demands for grants, the government breaks it up into 46 departments and then there are several 'heads' under it for specific expenditures. As per the CAG Report, in 28 'Major Heads' under 19 grants/appropriation, an expenditure of Rs 410.71 crore during the month of March 2017 ranged between 50 and 100 per cent of the total expenditure. In eleven cases, 100 per cent of the total provision for the year 2016-17 was incurred in March, which was contrary to the Sikkim Financial Rule which clearly mandates that rush of expenditure in the closing month of the financial year should be avoided. If it is any solace, this situation is slightly better than March 2013 when 22 departments showed an injudicious 'rush of expenditure' between Jan to March that year. This expenditure was under 33 heads and the record reflects on those rushed [it should really be called delayed] expenditure which were in excess of 50% of the provision, i.e. instances when the department spent 50% of its budget [under a particular head] in the last three months of the year. Some of the standouts in this list are Land Revenue Department which did not spend anything on water supply and sanitation for 9 months and then spent the entire budgetary provision between Jan to March, with 62% of it in March 2013 alone. Expenditure on 'public works' by the same department for the said financial year was paid out entirely in March 2013. HRDD spent 67% of its "capital outlay for education, sports, arts and culture" in the last quarter.

But March 2017 was still special.

The State Government incurred an expenditure of Rs 1,062.25 crore (i.e., 22.26 per cent of the total expenditure) in March 2017, out of which, Rs 352.16 crore (7.38 per cent of the total expenditure of the year) was spent on the last day i.e., 31 March 2017.

It goes without saying that the last minute rush, the diligence of the accounts departments to spend it all, does not offer enough time to really 'spend it all' due to which in 32 cases, savings exceeded Rs one crore in each case and also by more than 20 per cent of total provision. Against the total savings of Rs 1,796.94 crore in the State, savings of Rs 1,040.23 crore (57.89 per cent) occurred in 7 cases relating to 7 grants.

If Rs 1,796.94 crore of the budgetary provision remained unspent in 2016-17. It would have been less worrying if this was just saving, but it is more than that, it is unplanned finances resulting in compromised projects and schemes. Surely, if Rs 1,040.23 cr of the provisions remain unspent in seven cases, everything for which the funds were earmarked in the budget projections gets compromised. Clearly, budgetary control should be strengthened and a good place to begin would be to have a "Budget Manual" which enumerates detailed procedures for better financial management.

Human rights 70 years on: important victories as well as major misses

HENNING MELBER
theconversation.com

According to Amnesty International, human rights continue to deteriorate. CIVICUS – an umbrella body for a global alliance of civil society organisations – observes that the civil society space is shrinking. Human rights activists and social justice movements face an uphill battle. Seventy years ago, the then 58 members of the United Nations (UN) adopted its first two fundamental frameworks at the General Assembly in Paris: "the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on 9 December 1948; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December."

Nowadays, this achievement is recognised as Human Rights Day. In a few countries, among them South Africa, Namibia and Cambodia, it's celebrated at some point during the year as a public holiday.

Often, the Universal Declaration is criticised as an attempt to establish Western values to maintain a global dominance. Its eight main drafters came from Australia, Chile, China, France, Lebanon, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the US. Article 1 starts with the words:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and human rights.

Critics have questioned the relevance of these frameworks. But as I argue in a forthcoming book, the Universal Declaration in combination with the Charter of the United Nations served as a relevant compass in the campaigns for decolonisation during the 1950s. But, as a detailed historical study by Roland Burke documents, once in power anti-colonial movements often turned their backs on the very same rights they used for the mobilisation and recognition of their struggle.

So where is the world 70 years on?

The second Secretary-General of the UN Dag Hammarskjöld popularised the saying:

"the UN was not created to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell." Sadly for many people life on earth has remained close to hell. But their numbers would not be less without the UN frameworks. Numerous human rights prin-

ciples adopted during the last 70 years might not have the effects we would like to see. But they have not been in vain.

SETBACKS

The anchoring of genocide and crimes against humanity as part of international law after the Nuremberg trials has been brilliantly documented by historian and author Philippe Sands. But institutionalised prosecution only followed the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998 and the establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002. Even so, most war crimes remained outside of the Court's jurisdiction because big powers such as China, Russia and the US, as well as a host of other states, refused to ratify it.



International outrage led to Aung San Suu Kyi falling from grace after Myanmar unleashed violence against the Rohingya.

The Court has suffered other setbacks too. A number of African states have withdrawn from it on the grounds that they feel the continent is being selectively targeted. This despite urgent pleas by civil society not to evade accountability but rather to influence international law.

Other areas of progress have similarly been marred by setbacks. This has been mainly due to the fact that human rights issues in the global governance sphere are often the victim of strategic or opportunistic motives and reasoning.

SELECTIVE APPLICATION

These contradictions are mirrored in the composition and voting patterns of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Established in 2006, its 47 members proportionally represent the world regions. They are elected for a three-year period by the UN General Assembly.

The Obama administration joined the UNHRC in 2009. In mid-2018 the Trump administration declared the US's withdrawal.

Other countries have fewer problems with the Council. In October 2018, 18 newly elected members for 2019 included Bahrain, Cameroon, Eritrea, and the Philippines. Among the current members are China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Governments are guided by a preference to act within a collective alliance.

Rohingya. It also implicated the Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and culminated in the outgoing UNHRC chief demanding her resignation. Her extraordinary fall from grace shows that moral-political postulates do matter, and have consequences when being ignored.

Despite such occasional successes failures to live up to the standards codified (and ratified) continue to characterise the track record in global governance. More often the abuse of human rights remains without such condemnation.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The dilemma is structurally embedded. Asymmetric power structures in global governance have not been solved. The most influential states control decision making in the UN Security Council. With their veto power they remain gatekeepers and put their own interests over those of humanity.

As a result, the conventions are still selectively applied. Double standards by those who close eyes and ears if it suits their economic and geostrategic interests remain firmly in place. The barbaric assassination of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi – and US President Donald Trump's response – is a sobering reminder.

Nevertheless, the frameworks have introduced reference points against which such hypocrisy can be measured, named and shamed. Without such conventions, campaigns – and campaigners – would have been even less successful.

Despite all shortcomings and flaws, the world would not be a better place without the UN and its accepted (though not practised by many) minimum standards of good governance.

Human Rights Day might not be a reason for celebrations. But it is a helpful reminder that a great deal is already anchored in frameworks that recognise human dignity and well-being.

We have to live up to it – and continue to fight for them.

[the writer is Extraordinary Professor, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria]

3 ways Facebook and other social media companies could clean up their acts – if they wanted to

ANTHONY M. NADLER & MATTHEW GRAIN
theconversation.com

Facebook is in crisis mode, but the company can take major steps to fix itself – and the global community it says it wants to promote. Facebook founder, CEO and majority shareholder Mark Zuckerberg need not wait for governments to impose regulations. If he and other industry leaders wanted to, they could make meaningful changes fairly quickly.

It wouldn't be painless, but Facebook in particular is in a world of hurt already, facing criticism for contributing to civil unrest and sectarian turmoil around the world, delayed responses to disinformation campaigns, misleading users about data-handling policies, and efforts to discredit critics – not to mention a budding employee revolt.

Facebook, Twitter, Google and other social media companies are causing society-wide damage. But they tend to describe the problems as much smaller, resulting from rogue individuals and groups hijacking their systems for nefarious purposes. Our research into how social media can be exploited by manipulative political operatives, conducted with Joan Donovan at the Data & Society research institute, suggests the real problem is much larger than these companies admit.

We believe the roots lie in their extremely profitable advertising systems, which need a major overhaul. We have identified some key changes that these giant powerhouses could make right away. These moves could reduce opportunities for political manipulation and limit the harm to democratic societies around the world.

USERS' MINDS IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Facebook, Google, Twitter and other social media companies have built an enormous digital influence machine powered by user tracking,

targeting, testing and automated decision-making to make advertising more effective and efficient. While building this supercharged surveillance system, companies have promised users and regulators that targeted advertising is mutually beneficial for both consumers and advertisers.

In this bargain, users are supposed to receive more relevant ads. Facebook, for instance, explains that its "interest-based advertising" serves users who "want to see ads that relate to things they care about." It's true that these methods can identify ads that connect with users' actual interests. But the very same data-driven techniques that tell a surfer about a new board design can also identify strategic points where people are most vulnerable to influence. In particular, the leading social media advertising systems let political operatives experiment with different ads to see which are the most effective. They can use these tools not only to see if certain issues resonate with particular targets but also test for fears or prejudices that can be invoked to influence political behavior. One key way to do this is to make people feel that someone else represents an emotionally charged threat to their identity. In 2016, for instance, Russia-linked operatives bought thousands of Facebook ads targeted to specific audiences suggesting Hillary Clinton had insulted their group's dignity or threatened their safety. Some ads alleged Clinton espoused disrespect for specific occupations, like coal miners, or racial groups, like African-Americans. Others claimed she would confiscate guns or supported radical political movements seeking to overturn familiar ways of life.

Targeting political ads is not unique to online advertising, but the tools of digital ad systems are vastly more powerful than traditional mass media. Advertisers can

try out several versions of an ad simultaneously and receive almost instant feedback on which ones most effectively drive specific audiences to share, like or comment on them. This digital feedback loop helps political operatives refine their tactics, probing for just the right images, words and emotions to influence very specific subgroups of citizens.

MOVE FAST AND FIX THINGS

Members of Congress and even some key Silicon Valley figures have begun discussing the need

ad experiments could get informed consent in advance from every user who is involved. Companies should ask for users' consent in specific notifications about ad experiments and not penalize users for opting out by limiting their access to services. We suspect many users would opt out of these tests if given the choice, but in any case this policy would help draw public attention to the hidden manipulation tools that platforms offer to their real customers: the political and commercial advertisers who pay the bills.



for tighter government oversight and greater accountability in digital advertising. Change need not wait for politics.

Based on our analysis, here are some steps companies could take right away – on their own. These moves may hurt the firms' finances, but would demonstrate serious and lasting commitment to limiting their platforms' usefulness in political manipulation campaigns.

As their first move, social media companies could stop allowing their ad services to be used as free-wheeling experimental laboratories for examining their users' psyches. Just as marketers and academic researchers must obtain permission from their test subjects, political advertisers that run online

MAKE TARGETED POLITICAL ADVERTISING TRANSPARENT

To increase transparency and limit the ability of special interests to secretly influence politics, social media companies could refuse to work with so-called dark money groups. All political advertisers should be required to disclose their major donors in a format users can easily access.

A new policy banning dark money ads would respond to evidence that political operatives have used impersonation and manipulative ad tactics to stir in-fighting or sow division among coalitions of their adversaries. Impersonation clearly works best when ad sponsors are able to hide their identities and motives. Anonymous ads are also more likely to violate ethical stan-

dards simply because no one fears being held responsible for them.

MAKE PLATFORMS MORE DEMOCRATIC

A more significant change social media companies could make would be to introduce democratic oversight of how they collect and use people's data.

Facebook's Zuckerberg recently took an initial step in this direction, announcing that he will create independent review panels to handle users' appeals against the company's removal of content it judges inappropriate. He explained that he wanted to ensure "these decisions are made in the best interests of our community and not for commercial reasons."

Whatever you think about this plan – and it has been greeted with plenty of skepticism – Zuckerberg's reasoning acknowledges that because social platforms have become so central to democratic life, their own policies and design decisions require democratic accountability.

A more ambitious vision would let independent ethics panels representing diverse communities of users set enforceable policies for ethical political advertising. Similar sorts of groups are common in medicine and are emerging in artificial intelligence, among other fields. The details of how such committees operate will be critical to their success. If these committees are set up in partnership with nonprofit organizations with proven records of advocating for democratic communication and campaign finance transparency, perhaps they could help social media companies earn greater public trust by prioritizing democracy over maximizing their profits.

[Anthony M. Nadler is Associate Professor of Media and Communication Studies, Ursinus College; Matthew Grain is Assistant Professor of Media, Journalism and Film, Miami University]

BJP booth level leader shot dead in West Bengal

BURDWAN (WB), DEC 10 (PTI): A BJP booth level leader was shot dead and a party worker seriously injured when unidentified miscreants attacked them in West Bengal's Paschim Burdwan district, police said Monday.

The BJP booth level president, Sandip Ghosh and party worker, Jaidip Banerjee, were returning home after attending a meeting when they were attacked by the miscreants at Malandighi Saraswatigunj area of the district on Sunday night, they said.

Banerjee has been



admitted to a private hospital in Durgapur, they said.

Bijay Ghosh, the father of the deceased, said his son had told him that he was going to attend a picnic.

The BJP alleged that

Ghosh was killed by TMC goons.

Denying the allegations, a Trinammol Congress district leader said that BJP's internal party rivalry was responsible for Ghosh's death.

Human Rights violations cannot be tolerated: Manipur CM

IMPHAL, DEC 10 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Monday said human rights violation by anyone, including elected representatives and law enforcers, will not be tolerated and proper action will be taken against such people.

He also said the current government is against any kind of rights violation, Singh said while speaking on the occasion of 70th anniversary of International Human Rights Day at the Banquet Hall of 1st Manipur Rifles here.

"Just because we are government, we cannot resort to anything we want," Singh said, adding, the Human Rights Commission and the judiciary are there to check the excesses.

The elected representatives and police officers are also human too, the chief minister said.

On the other hand, the public too needs to exercise responsibility as well, he said.

During bands and blockades, police officials are maltreated since many of them get injured due to stone pelting, the chief minister said.

They get demoralised since people use abusive languages he said.

Such hardship faced



by police needs to be understood as well, he added.

The chief minister also said though freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution, the matter of "decency and morality" needs to be considered.

Speaking on the rising number of derogatory comments on social media, he said it is essential to formulate a law that will deal with usage of derogatory and defamatory statements.

"I am worried about our future as decency seems to have fallen to much extent," Singh said.

He also called for better cordial relationship between the pub-

lic and police and appealed that police are also human as well.

Meanwhile, acting Chairperson of Manipur Human Rights Commission, Khaidem Mani said bands and blockades have been declared as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

He also urged the authorities to deal take proper action against bandh supporters people suffer a lot during bandhs.

The International Human Rights Day is marked as historic for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted on December 10 back in 1948 by the UN General Assembly.

China hopes resumption of Sino-India military drills will provide impetus to bilateral ties

BEIJING, DEC 10 (PTI): China on Monday expressed hope that the resumption of military exercises between the Indian and Chinese armies that will begin on Tuesday would inject impetus and yield good results for the improvement of bilateral ties.

An Indian military team headed by Col Puneet Tomar has arrived in China's southwestern Chengdu city to take part in the 'Hand-in-Hand' military drills between the two armies starting there from Tuesday, the Indian Embassy here said.

Officials earlier said both sides would field 100 personnel to take part in the seventh edition of the exercises. The inaugural ceremony would be held on Tuesday and the drills would be concluded on



December 23.

The drills are being held after a gap of one year as they could not be held last year because both armies were locked in a 73-day standoff at Doklam in the Sikkim sector.

Asked about how China viewed the exercises being resumed after Doklam, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said "we hope this can have a good results".

He referred to the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi

Jinping at Wuhan in April this year and the "important consensus" reached between the two leaders to improve relations.

He noted that the two leaders had met four times this year.

The two countries should implement the consensus between the two leaders including the exchanges between the two militaries, Lu said.

"Under the guidance of the consensus between the two leaders and through the concerted efforts of the two sides, I hope the exchange-

es between the two militaries can achieve positive outcomes, injecting impetus to the bilateral ties," he said.

The Chinese military earlier said the subject of the exercises will include adoptive and basic training, and live shooting.

"The drills will promote understanding between the two militaries and improving their capabilities in fighting terrorism," Chinese defence ministry spokesman Col Ren Guoqiang had said last month.

"True to its name which is 'Hand-in-Hand', we believe China and India's militaries should work hand-in-hand to bring benefits to our people," he said.

After the Doklam standoff, the two militaries made efforts to improve relations following

the Wuhan summit.

Besides resuming the defence dialogue after the standoff, the two countries also held the 21st round of border talks.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who are the Special Representatives for the border talks, held the discussions on November 24 in Chengdu during which they called for intensifying efforts to find a solution to the vexed border dispute.

The two sides also held the ninth defence dialogue on November 13 led by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra and Lt General Shao Yuanming, Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Department of Central Military Commission of China.

Govt stops foreign funding to 156 NGOs

NEW DELHI, DEC 10 (PTI): Cracking the whip, the government has barred 156 NGOs from receiving foreign funds for six months for defying an order to open accounts in any of the 32 designated banks.

The Home Ministry said about a year ago, it had directed all non-governmental organisations (NGOs), business entities and individuals who receive funds from abroad to open accounts in any of the 32 designated banks for higher level of transparency. However, the latest order said that it has been observed that the associations have not yet opened their bank accounts in central government's Public Financial Management System (PFMS)-integrated banks and contravened the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 by not complying with the December 2017 direction.

"Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred by section 13 of the FCRA, 2010, pending consideration of cancellation of their certificates, the central government hereby, suspends the registration under FCRA 2010 of the said associations (including their branches and



units) for a period of one hundred and eighty days," the latest directive said.

Suspension of the FCRA registration means the NGOs and entities cannot accept funding from abroad, an official said.

The directive to the NGOs, companies and individuals to open foreign contribution accounts in banks, which are integrated with the central PFMS, was given for a higher level of transparency and hassle-free reporting compliance.

The FCRA 2010 provides for the regulation of acceptance of the foreign funds or foreign hospitality by certain individuals, associations, organisations and companies "to ensure that such contributions or hospitality is not being utilised for the

activities detrimental to the national interest", the ministry had said.

The 32 designated banks where individuals, NGOs and other entities can open their accounts are Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, ICICI Bank, The Cosmos Co-Operative Bank, Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, South Indian Bank, IDBI Bank, Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd, The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd, HDFC Bank, UCO Bank, IndusInd Bank Limited, City Union Bank and Syndicate Bank.

Allahabad Bank, The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd, Punjab National Bank Ltd, Punjab National Bank, Allahabad UP Gramin Bank, DCB Bank Ltd, Manipur State Co-op Bank,

Vijaya Bank, Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd, Yes Bank, Oriental Bank Of commerce, Dena Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Andhra Bank and Axis Bank are the others. The PFMS, which functions under the Controller General of Accounts in the Ministry of Finance, provides a financial management platform for all plan schemes, a database of all recipient agencies, integration with core banking solution of banks handling plan funds, integration with state treasuries and efficient and effective tracking of fund flow to the lowest level of implementation for plan scheme of the government.

It also provides information across all plan schemes or implementa-

tion agencies in the country on fund utilisation leading to better monitoring, review and decision support system to enhance public accountability in the implementation of plan schemes. Introduction of the PFMS resulted in effectiveness and economy in public finance management through better cash management for government transparency in public expenditure and real-time information on resource availability and utilisation across schemes.

It also resulted in improved programme administration and management, reduction of float in the system, direct payment to beneficiaries and greater transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

The Narendra Modi-led government tightened the rules for NGOs and took action against all such entities for violation of various provisions of the FCRA 2010 which include non-filing of annual returns as mandated in the law.

Last month, the Home Ministry had served show cause notice to 1,775 entities for their "failure" to submit annual income and expenditure statement on foreign funding for up to six years.

450 INPT supporters held for blockade on roads, railway tracks

AGARTALA, DEC 10 (PTI): Tripura Police on Monday arrested 450 picketers of the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra (INPT), after it blocked stretches of NH-8 and railway tracks, as part of a 12-hour strike to press for scrapping of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

West Tripura SP Ajit Pratap Singh said there were no reports of any violence and 450 picketers were arrested at 2 pm after the party withdrew the agitation.

Assistant Inspector General Smriti Ranjan Das said a large contingent of Tripura Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Tripura State Rifles (TSR) personnel were deployed before the strike commenced at 6 am in Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) areas of West Tripura district.

INPT president Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawli said party supporters blocked NH-8 at three places, including Khamtingbari Raipasha and Hezamara. Picketers also disrupted train movement at Bhrigudas Choudhury Para at Jirania.

"We welcome everyone who are opposed to the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The bill is likely to be placed on the floor of the Parliament tomorrow (Tuesday)," Hrangkhawli said.

The bill seeks to make migrants of six communities eligible for citizenship of India.

In October, a five member delegation of INPT met members of an inter-ministerial high-power committee formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs to study the socio-cultural, linguistic and economic problems of tribes living in Tripura.

SAUMOJYOTI S CHOUDHURY

BHUBANESWAR, DEC 10 (PTI):

Considered as the cornerstone of field hockey for so long, drag-flicks are fast becoming a "dying art" because of technological advancement of the game and experts feel it is time to infuse a new life to the scoring technique before it diminishes further.

Danger is lurking over the art even though it is still not on life support. With the usage of modern technology which includes video analysis, improved coaching methods and upgraded protective gears for first-rushers, scoring with a drag-flick is becoming more and more difficult now-a-days.

A statistical assessment of the matches till the pool stages of the ongoing men's World Cup here will give a fair idea about the diminishing

effect of penalty corner conversions.

A total 167 penalty corners were earned by the 16 participating teams in the 24 matches played so far at the end of the pool stages of the World Cup. But the conversion rate provides a threatening picture.

Out of the 167 chances, only 40 resulted in goals, which put the conversion rate at a poor 23.95 per cent.

Ask former India captain Sandeep Singh, a lethal drag-flicker in his playing days, about the concern and he sums it up beautifully.

"It is getting tougher and tougher to score from drag-flicks now-a-days because every team's defence has got smarter. With protective gears in place, the first runners are not afraid today to rush in and take a hit," Sandeep told PTI.

"But there are still

some flickers like Gonzalo Peillat who can beat any defence with his power and accuracy. We need variations, variations in not just attempt but in flickers' attempts as well. I mean a flicker needs to use different angles, pace to keep the opposition defence guessing," he said.

But it is not a concern that came to fore overnight. The game is witnessing low conversion rate from penalty corners since the 2016 Rio Olympics and it is decreasing with every International Hockey Federation (FIH) event.

Argentina's Peillat, considered as the best drag-flicker of the world currently, feels "surprise element" is the need of the hour.

"It's all about how the other team defend. You cannot expect the flickers to score from every corner. Every drag-flicker

tries to study the defence of other teams. You have to find a way how to beat the defence," he said.

"Every team is working on variations but every time you cannot go for variations or direct hit. You have to play with both the styles. It has to be a mix and match to keep the opposition defence guessing. You need to have surprise element," Peillat said in his assessment.

Two-time defending champions Australia has so far earned 15 penalty corners and converted just five.

Australia chief coach Colin Batch said the ever-increasing decline in conversion rate is a cause of concern.

"Yeah, it is a concern. It is getting harder and harder to score from short corners. The defence are very good now. We need to get the push out really quick to give

our flickers the best opportunity," Batch said.

India's analytical coach Chris Ciriello, who was a potent drag-flicker for Australia and scored three goals in the final of the last World Cup in 2014, said the usage of varied types of protective gears have made defenders fearless now while defending penalty corners.

"Defending a penalty corner is safe now because of different equipments. The guys wear ice hockey gloves, thicker knee pads and shin pads. So the risk of injuries have subsided and the rushers have become fearless," Ciriello said.

But all said and done, the experts are of one opinion while giving their concluding remarks drag-flicks still and will remain a key component of field hockey but execution of the art need to change with time.

Mewetshou Dianu new Miss Nagaland

Kohima, Dec 10 (PTI): Mewetshou Dianu from Phok district was crowned Miss Nagaland at a beauty pageant here.

The 20-year-old reigning Miss Phek defeated 10 other contestants to become Miss Nagaland 2018 at a glittering ceremony organised by Beauty and Aesthetic Society of Nagaland here on Sunday night.

Mewetshou said "Miss Nagaland is not only a title but a responsibility and by winning the crown I want to be a role model to voice the concern and welfare for women".

Grace W Ezung (23) from Wokha and Bendangkoka (20) from Mokokchung were adjudged the first and second runners-up respectively.

India halt 10-year barren run in Australia with 31-run win

CHETAN NARULA

ADELAIDE, DEC 10 (PTI): India gave wings to their quest for a maiden series win in Australia with a 31-run victory in the opening Test, their first in the country since 2008, with Rishabh Pant equalling a world record along the way here Monday.

Chasing 323, the hosts were bowled out for 291 in 119.5 overs shortly before tea on day five with Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami taking three wickets each for a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

Pant finished with 11 catches, and equalled the record for most dismissals in a Test by a wicketkeeper, sharing it with England's Jack Russell and South Africa's AB de Villiers.

This was the first time India won the opening Test of a series in Australia in 70 years.

Things went too close for comfort for India as Nathan Lyon (38 not out)

and Josh Hazlewood (13) put on 42 runs for the last wicket and frustrated the Indian bowling. The sparse crowd at Adelaide Oval cheered every single as the duo edged closer and the odd boundary didn't help matters.

Finally, things came to a close as Ashwin had Hazlewood caught at second slip in the 120th over to register India's sixth Test win on Australian soil.

"It's important to stay calm. The odds were stacked up against them as soon as we got Pat Cummins out. I wouldn't say I was cool as ice but you try not to show it," Kohli said at the end of the match.

Post lunch, India had a big early breakthrough when Australian skipper Tim Paine (41) played an uncharacteristic pull shot off Bumrah and only managed to loop it up for Pant to take an easy catch.

The visitors then were bothered by two lower-order stands.



First, Mitchell Starc (28) and Pat Cummins (28) put on 41 runs for the eighth wicket and carried Australia past 200 in the 89th over.

While Shami broke through that partner-

ship, things didn't ease out. Pant could have had 12 dismissals but he dropped Lyon in the 105th over off Bumrah.

Four overs later, Kohli didn't make any mistake at first slip as

he helped dismiss Cummins, albeit he was frustrated with his 31-run stand with Lyon.

In the morning session, India removed Travis Head (14) and Shaun Marsh (60) as

Australia reached 186 for six at lunch.

Starting from over-night 104 for four, the Head-Marsh partnership lasted only 7.4 overs before India forced a breakthrough with the old

Kookaburra ball.

Head was the first to go, with Ishant Sharma (1-48) bowling a sharp bouncer that followed the batsman and left him no room. The ball looped up to gully where Ajinkya Rahane made no mistake.

The duo had added 31 runs with the onus now on Marsh and Paine as the last recognized batting pair.

Marsh shouldered the responsibility and scored his first half-century in the fourth innings of a Test off 146 balls. It was his 10th Test half-century overall.

He had looked comfortable at the crease all morning, but Bumrah removed him after the drinks break. The big moment came as the ball moved away just a tad and Marsh gave the slightest of edges to be caught behind in the 73rd over.

It was Pant's ninth dismissal in the Test, equalling MS Dhoni (9 versus Australia, Melbourne in 2014) as the

second-best haul by an Indian wicket keeper in overseas Tests. He later equalled and went past Wriddhiman Saha's Indian record for highest dismissals in a Test (10) against South Africa at Cape Town earlier in the year.

Cummins then helped Paine play out 10.5 overs, although he had a couple of hairy moments in the 74th over off Ashwin. India wasted a DRS review when they thought he had edged it.

Four balls later, a loud appeal for caught at short leg was turned down with Cummins reviewing it successfully this time.

India scored 250 in their first innings with Cheteshwar Pujara anchoring with his 16th Test century. Australia replied with 235 and conceded a 15-run lead. The visitors then finished at 307 in their second innings, including a collapse of five for 25, and set a competitive target on day four.

Shakhtar prepare for home match 700 kilometres from home



KIEV, DEC 10 (AFP): It is a big week for Shakhtar Donetsk and their fans as they prepare to host Lyon in the final round of Champions League group games on Wednesday.

But the spectre of war has cast a shadow over the match with the fans now expected to travel over 700 kilometres (435 miles) to watch their own team 'at home'.

Victory over the visiting French side will see Shakhtar, the Ukrainian champions, book their place alongside Group F winners Manchester City in the last 16 of Europe's top club tournament.

A draw will be enough for Lyon to progress at Shakhtar's expense, so for the Ukrainians it is all or nothing.

Anticipation among the players and the fans of a packed and pulsating home stadium cheering the team to a place among the very elite of Europe was rising... until the match was moved last week to the capital Kiev.

Shakhtar will now host Lyon in a city over 700 kilometres away from home, the lair of one of their biggest rivals.

The reason? War. And the introduction of martial law.

In late November, Russia seized three Ukrainian navy vessels and detained 24 crew members in the most dangerous incident in years between the ex-Soviet neighbours.

In response, Kiev imposed martial law for 30 days in 10 regions that border Russia, including Shakhtar's temporary

home in Kharkiv.

That in turn prompted UEFA to move the Shakhtar-Lyon match to Kiev. "It's very hard for a club to play in an alien city," Ruslan, a Shakhtar supporter from Donetsk, told AFP. "The team, of course, lacks all those fans... their support."

Shakhtar fans have become used to having to travel to home games.

For the last two years, the club has been sheltering in Kharkiv, a mere 300 kilometres from their Donbass Arena in Donetsk, which they abandoned in 2014 when the region fell under the control of Russia-backed separatists.

Kharkiv was a step up for the fans as Shakhtar has spent two years travelling over 1,200 kilometres to play home games in Lviv on the other side of the country.

Shakhtar's coach Paulo Fonseca has urged fans to support the team in the capital.

"We regret that the match venue has been changed, causing inconvenience for our fans who planned to attend the match in Kharkiv... We hope for your support in Kiev!" the Portuguese manager said in a statement to the fans on the club website.

The club even offered to book the best seats at the 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium in Kiev for those supporters who bought tickets to the Kharkiv arena, but now are willing to come to the capital.

The problem for the fans is twofold. Distance

is certainly a factor but the other stumbling block for them is that they will have to play in the capital, home of their longtime rival Dynamo Kiev. They can hardly rely on local support.

"It would be better to play in Kharkiv. There are more of our fans there," Shakhtar fan Sergiy Tsvetlov told AFP.

"I myself planned to go (to Kharkiv). But it will be very difficult for me to go to Kiev," the 20-year-old student, who lives in a small town in eastern Ukraine, said.

Fonseca and his players are doing their best not to be distracted by the switch and head into the match in good spirits.

"We do not feel any danger in the cities which we visit," said Fonseca.

After retaining the Ukrainian title in May, Fonseca's side are seven points clear of Dynamo Kiev in the current championship race. They beat FC Mariupol 3-0 away on Friday in their last match before the domestic league winter break.

The players echoed their coach but admitting the Lyon switch is a nuisance for their supporters.

"It didn't create big problems for us (footballers)," midfielder Taras Stepanenko told AFP.

"This is a big problem for our fans."

"We hope that the fans will have the opportunity to come... and support the team. It is very important for us." A win on Wednesday will make the journey all the more worthwhile.

AC Milan let Inter off the hook with Torino stalemate

MILAN, DEC 10 (AFP): AC Milan missed a chance to pile pressure on local rivals and fellow Champions League chasers Inter Milan in Serie A after being held to a goalless draw by Torino at the San Siro on Sunday.

Gennaro Gattuso's fourth-placed Milan are three points behind Inter, who lost to leaders Juventus on Friday, after wasting opportunities to win the match, with forward Patrick Cutrone missing a golden chance with four minutes left and Gonzalo Higuain, returning from a two-match ban, also denied late.

Milan's wastefulness wasn't punished by Torino, four points behind Milan in sixth and still unbeaten away from home, thanks to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma denying Iago Falque and Andrea Belotti.

"I don't consider it a missed opportunity, as we knew very well that Torino are a difficult team," said Gattuso.

"It's a good point. I don't see it as a bad per-

formance at all. I am sure that a year ago, we would have lost this game."

Milan also had the chance to move away from Lazio, who contrived to draw 2-2 with Sampdoria on Saturday despite taking the lead five minutes into stoppage time, and Roma, who threw away a two-goal lead to draw at Cagliari after the Sardinians were reduced to nine men.

All lag behind Juve, who are eight points clear of second-placed Napoli.

Earlier Duvan Zapata got Atalanta back to winning ways after consecutive losses with a hat-trick against former club Udinese that brought them to within touching distance of the Champions League places, the last of which is occupied by Milan.

"Zapata's enjoying a good moment," said Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini, after the South American also scored in last week's defeat to Napoli, who had loaned him to Udinese.



"He's in great condition and is an extra option for us." Colombian striker Zapata's goals put Gian Piero Gasperini's side seventh, level on 21 points with three other teams and five behind Milan.

"We're in the company of great teams, everyone can fight for the Europa League and maybe even for fourth place," said Gasperini.

Cesare Prandelli started his reign as Genoa coach with a 1-1 draw against fellow strugglers SPAL, despite captain Domenico Criscito being sent

off in the 11th minute.

Andrea Petagna had headed SPAL ahead minutes after Criscito's dismissal for a high tackle, but Krzysztof Piatek earned Genoa a point from the penalty spot with his 11th goal of the season -- taking him ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo at the top of the scoring charts.

On-loan Everton winger Kevin Mirallas struck his first Serie A goal six minutes into injury time to snatch a point for Fiorentina in a dramatic 3-3 draw at Sassuolo that saw both teams finish

with 10 men.

Belgian Mirallas, 31, who joined the Tuscan side on a season-long loan after falling out of favour at Goodison Park, came on as a late substitute and made an instant impact when he beat Sassuolo keeper Andrea Consigli with seconds remaining.

A chaotic final period saw Sassuolo's Filip Djuricic and Fiorentina's Nikola Milenkovic sent off before Fiorentina struck back.

Mirallas' late leveler, which came after his side had gone 3-1 down with 10 minutes remaining, means ninth-placed Sassuolo are also on 21 points, two points ahead of Fiorentina, who drop to 12th after their eighth game without a win.

Elsewhere Parma were held 1-1 at home by 10-man Chievo after Bruno Alves' free-kick cancelled out Mariusz Stepinski's shock opener for the Serie A bottom club, while Empoli beat Bologna 2-1 in a battle between relegation candidates.

Spurs face make-or-break Barcelona clash

LONDON, DEC 10 (AFP): Tottenham are sitting pretty in the Premier League but face a potentially season-defining match against Barcelona in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Mauricio Pochettino's men have amassed 36 points from 16 Premier League matches, with 12 wins, leaving them in third place behind Liverpool and Manchester City.

That they have managed that despite playing in their temporary home of Wembley and after a World Cup in which so many of their players featured until the final weekend, makes their achievement all the more impressive.

However, with City and Liverpool in such rampant form, few expect Spurs to win the Premier League, putting increased emphasis on their match against the Spanish league leaders

in Group B.

Pochettino must somehow find a way past Lionel Messi's Barcelona to reach the knockout stages but he remains positive ahead of the daunting trip to the Camp Nou to face the five-time European champions.

"It will be a massive game. They have qualified for the next stage but in the Champions League no one is going to give a present," said the Argentine, who left Harry Kane out of the starting line-up for the 2-0 win away to Leicester on Saturday.

"We need to win and deserve to win. The mentality is going to be 200 percent to try to win. We are going to arrive in the best condition, Barcelona are one of the best teams in Europe." Spurs took just one point from their first three games in Group B, losing to Inter Milan and Barcelona



and drawing with PSV.

But they beat PSV at home and then scored late through Christian Eriksen to beat Inter 1-0 at Wembley, leaving them in second place on seven points, the same as the Italians.

With Barcelona already guaranteed to top the group, Spurs must match Inter's result to

guarantee progress.

Pochettino has in the past talked about how only the Premier League or Champions League title will take the club to the "next level", even though the trophy cabinet has been empty since 2008.

Spurs have played in the Champions League for the past three seasons but they cannot boast the pedigree or history of Manchester United or Liverpool in Europe's top club competition.

They have only progressed beyond the Champions League group stage twice, reaching the quarter-finals in 2011.

Barcelona, who beat Spurs 4-2 at Wembley, have already made sure of winning their Champions League group for a record 12th successive season.

Dauntingly for Spurs, Barca are unbeaten in 28 Champions League home matches and the Londoners will not be

encouraged by the fact that the Spaniards have only lost two home matches in 33 against English opponents.

But Spurs themselves, with a vibrant collection of attacking players including Kane, Eriksen, Dele Alli and Son Heung-min, have won eight out of their past nine fixtures in all competitions and will be hoping that Ernesto Valverde's side take their foot off the gas.

Beating the Catalan club would be particularly sweet for Pochettino, a former player and coach at Barcelona's city rivals Espanyol.

The Argentine earned his first win as a manager in a derby at the Camp Nou in 2009.

"Espanyol were bottom and Barcelona were top," he recalled. "All the people were saying Espanyol were dead and had no chance. It was a special victory and an unbelievable memory."



NAMCHI SMART CITY LIMITED

UDHD OFFICE BUILDING
KAVI AGAM SINGH ROAD
NAMCHI – 737 126. SOUTH SIKKIM
T | 03595-264088 E|smartcity-namchi-sik@gov.in
CIN : U74999WB2017SGC219726

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL), Namchi, South Sikkim invites percentage rate tender among the eligible bidders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of work	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (In Lakhs.)	Bid value (In Lakhs.)	Cost of tender/ bid form (In Rs.)	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Pedestrian walkway from Damthang Road to Mandir-dara Road	0.23	9.11	250	08 Months
2.	Pedestrian walkway from Lower Ghurpisey School to Loyola College	0.61	24.35	1,500	08 Months
3.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar road to BSNL office	0.47	18.89	500	08 Months
4.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Entry Gate (Job – A)	0.72	13.86	500	08 Months
5.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Entry Gate (Job – B)	0.27	10.74	500	08 Months
6.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Entry Gate (Job – C)	0.27	10.74	500	08 Months
7.	Construction of Pedestrian walkway from Indra Kumar Chettri House to Dew Kumar Rai House across PHED Road, Upper Ghurpisey)	0.08	3.18	100	08 Months
8.	Pedestrian Walkway from Bhanjyang Road near Jlt. Bahadur House, Upper Boomtar to Tenzing Lama House (Job – A)	0.24	9.83	1,500	08 Months
9.	Pedestrian Walkway from Tenzing Lama House to Housing Colony (Job – B)	0.63	25.25	250	08 Months
10.	Pedestrian Walkway from Tharpu Dara to Singithang Public Ground	0.32	12.72	500	08 Months
11.	Pedestrian Walkway from Singithang Public Ground to Kopchey PWD Road	0.99	39.44	1,500	08 Months
12.	Pedestrian Walkway from Namchi Bazar to Kamrang Fatak	2.13	85.36	5,000	08 Months
13.	Pedestrian Walkway at Tinzir Mandir Gate to Dhara	0.17	6.64	250	08 Months
14.	Pedestrian Walkway from Purano Namchi School to Rolep	0.93	37.26	1,500	08 Months
15.	Pedestrian walkway from New Sec School to Panchayat Bhawan	0.27	10.62	250	08 Months

Tender Schedule			
(i)	Sale of Bidding documents	:	07.01.2019 & 08.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(ii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids.	:	10.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(iii)	Venue of the submission of the bids	:	Office of the CEO Namchi Smart City Limited, UDHD Office Bhanjyang Road, Namchi-737126 South-Sikkim. Tel no:- 03595-264088
(iv)	Last date for submission of completed bids	:	16.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(v)	Date of opening of bids:	:	17.01.2019 from 1100 Hrs.

Eligibility Criteria:

This Invitation for bids is eligible to the contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department and eligibility criteria as per the Govt. Order (R&B, GoS) 373/R&B/Secy dated: -01/05/2017 except the mode of Tender.

NOTE:

The tender forms to the intending bidders will be issued on the dates specified above after production of the Demand Draft drawn in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited, as cost of tender forms duly deposited in any nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled bank. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Security value shall also be deposited in favour of Chief Executive Officer, NSCL as EMD in the form of Demand Draft drawn in any Nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled Bank.

-Sd-
Chief Executive Officer
Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL),
Namchi, South Sikkim

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL), Namchi, South Sikkim invites percentage rate tender among the eligible bidders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of work	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (In Lakhs.)	Bid value (In Lakhs.)	Cost of tender/ bid form (In Rs.)	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of new link road from Durga Mandir to Kamrang College & Improvement of road from Bazar to Durga Mandir	5.86	234.75	30,000	12 Months
2.	Improvement of road from Namchi Bazar to Mandir, Dambudara	0.75	30.14	1,500	12 Months

Tender Schedule

(i)	Sale of Bidding documents	:	07.01.2019 & 08.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(ii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids.	:	10.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(iii)	Venue of the submission of the bids	:	Office of the CEO Namchi Smart City Limited, UDHD Office Bhanjyang Road, Namchi-737126 South-Sikkim. Tel no:- 03595-264088
(iv)	Last date for submission of completed bids	:	16.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(v)	Date of opening of bids:	:	17.01.2019 from 1100 Hrs.

Eligibility Criteria:

This Invitation for bids is eligible to the contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department and eligibility criteria as per the Govt. Order (R&B, GoS) 373/R&B/Secy dated:-01/05/2017 except the mode of Tender.

NOTE:-

The tender forms to the intending bidders will be issued on the dates specified above after production of the Demand Draft drawn in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited, as cost of tender forms duly deposited in any nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled bank. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Security value shall also be deposited in favour of Chief Executive Officer, NSCL as EMD in the form of Demand Draft drawn in any Nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled Bank.

-Sd-
Chief Executive Officer,
Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL),
Namchi, South Sikkim

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL), Namchi, South Sikkim invites percentage rate tender among the eligible bidders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of work	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (In Lakhs.)	Bid value (In Lakhs.)	Cost of tender/ bid form (In Rs.)	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jhora training work from Gangtok road to Bhanjyang Road (Job – A)	0.72	28.74	1,500	12 Months
2.	Jhora training work from Gangtok road to Bhanjyang Road (Job – B)	0.48	19.24	500	12 Months
3.	Jhora training works at Boomtar Devi Thaan, Namchi	1.09	43.74	5,000	12 Months
4.	Improvement of Storm water drainage from Gangtok road (Ma-Khan Jhora) to Dambudara Road	0.47	18.74	500	12 Months
5.	Improvement of Storm water drainage at Mandir Jhora	0.26	10.41	500	12 Months

Tender Schedule			
(i)	Sale of Bidding documents	:	07.01.2019 & 08.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(ii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids.	:	10.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(iii)	Venue of the submission of the bids	:	Office of the CEO Namchi Smart City Limited, UDHD Office Bhanjyang Road, Namchi-737126 South-Sikkim. Tel no:- 03595-264088
(iv)	Last date for submission of completed bids	:	16.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(v)	Date of opening of bids:	:	17.01.2019 from 1100 Hrs.

Eligibility Criteria:

This Invitation for bids is eligible to the contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department and eligibility criteria as per the Govt. Order (R&B, GoS) 373/R&B/Secy dated:-01/05/2017 except the mode of Tender.

NOTE:-

The tender forms to the intending bidders will be issued on the dates specified above after production of the Demand Draft drawn in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited, as cost of tender forms duly deposited in any nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled bank. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Security value shall also be deposited in favour of Chief Executive Officer, NSCL as EMD in the form of Demand Draft drawn in any Nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled Bank.

-Sd-
Chief Executive Officer,
Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL),
Namchi, South Sikkim

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL), Namchi, South Sikkim invites percentage rate tender among the eligible bidders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of work	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (In Lakhs.)	Bid value (In Lakhs.)	Cost of tender/ bid form (In Rs.)	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Affordable Housing at Gangyap Ward, Dambudara Ward, Lower Ghurpisey Ward, Upper Ghurpisey Ward, Upper Singithang Ward, Purano Namchi Ward (Beneficiaries – 84 Nos)	24.675	987.00	500 / Each	12 Months

Tender Schedule			
(i)	Sale of Bidding documents	:	07.01.2019 & 08.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(ii)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids.	:	10.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(iii)	Venue of the submission of the bids	:	Office of the CEO Namchi Smart City Limited, UDHD Office Bhanjyang Road, Namchi-737126 South-Sikkim. Tel no:- 03595-264088
(iv)	Last date for submission of completed bids	:	16.01.2019 up to 1600 Hrs.
(v)	Date of opening of bids:	:	17.01.2019 from 1100 Hrs.

Eligibility Criteria:

This Invitation for bids is eligible to the contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department and eligibility criteria as per the Govt. Order (R&B, GoS) 373/R&B/Secy dated: -01/05/2017 except the mode of Tender.

NOTE:

The tender forms to the intending bidders will be issued on the dates specified above after production of the Demand Draft drawn in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Namchi Smart City Limited, as cost of tender forms duly deposited in any nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled bank. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Security value shall also be deposited in favour of Chief Executive Officer, NSCL as EMD in the form of Demand Draft drawn in any Nationalized | Commercialized Scheduled Bank.

-Sd-
Chief Executive Officer,
Namchi Smart City Limited (NSCL),
Namchi, South Sikkim



SCRIBBLE STYLE! Singer Rita Ora rocks a black and pink scribe print ensemble by Moschino at the Capital FM Jingle Bell Ball in London.

Rani Mukerji's next is 'Mardaani 2'



MUMBAI, DEC 10 (PTI): Rani Mukerji is set to star in "Mardaani 2", a sequel to her 2014 critically acclaimed hit.

"Mardaani", a Pradeep Sarkar-directed cop drama, revolved around child trafficking and featured Rani as Shivani Shivaji Roy, senior inspector, crime branch.

The sequel is produced by Aditya Chopra and Yash Raj Films is starting the "Mardaani" franchise with the project.

"Mardaani 2" will be directed by Gopi Puthran, the writer of the first film.

"Mardaani" is and will always be extremely close to my heart. Right since its release, everyone has asked me time and again when I would be doing 'Mardaani 2' and I'm sure this announcement will come as a pleasant surprise to them all. Gopi has written an extraordinary script that we all love and I can't wait to start shooting this film soon," Rani said in a statement.

The first film proved a breakthrough for Tahir Raj Bhasin, who featured in a negative role, and giving a sneak peek into the character of the new antagonist, Rani said Shivani will face a "merciless" villain.

"Shivani will face a cold, merciless villain who has no empathy, no fear of God and is pure evil. The character has been written superbly and I'm excited to find out who the actor will be."

"Mardaani 2" is set to go on floors in 2019 and will release in the later half of the year.

ARIES: Limits? What limits? Today's Sagittarius new moon in your fiercely independent ninth house can help you to bust out of a rut. Whether you're game to be your own boss or say sayonara to a bad deal, it's time to emancipate yourself!

TAURUS: Solid as a rock! If that's your motto AND your goal for your personal and professional life, get serious about allowing only those kinds of people and scenarios into your world. Smooth-talking players and unreliable partners won't cut it for your pragmatic sign.

GEMINI: Two's your lucky number today, as a Sagittarius new moon powers up your seventh house of committed relationships. Whether you're single or attached, working with a business cohort or flying solo, you will attract all kinds of worthy partner possibilities. These could be new folks or friends (or friends of friends) that you're see-

ing with fresh eyes.

CANCER: A Sagittarius new moon powers up your sixth house of self-care, motivating you to shed some limiting habits and replace them with healthy new ones. Don't wait for New Year's to make your resolutions or start a new eating plan or exercise routine. Plenty of gyms and yoga and Pilates studios are offering deals NOW. So get out there and do your best negotiating.

LEO: No use trying to play small today, Leo. Wherever you go, the spotlight is going to find and follow you. This is what happens when a Sagittarius new moon activates your fifth house of glamour and fame. Without even trying, your self-loving vibes and innate confidence will come beaming through.

VIRGO: Home and hearth, kith and kin: These are a few of your favorite things today, as a Sagittarius new moon activates your domestic

fourth house. Has life been zipping along at breakneck speed, causing you to unintentionally give short shrift to some of your nearest and dearest?

LIBRA: Hello, superconnector! Today's Sagittarius new moon accentuates your third house of community, crowning you social director. You're comfortable bringing together like-minded folks for work, play or romance, but under this lunar power, you're really fired up. So why not turn it into a sideline business and make a little moola facilitating a joint venture?

SCORPIO: Today's Sagittarius new moon in your second house of finances turns your attention to the all-important subjects of work and money. New moons bring the opportunity for a fresh start, and who couldn't use a little economic stimulation during the holidays? Start by realistically assessing your gifting budget.

Beyoncé Dazzles in Red and Gold While Performing at Indian Wedding Event



Beyoncé showcased sexy and traditional looks in India as she performed a private concert at a pre-wedding event for businesspeople Isha Ambani and Anand Piramal in their native India.

Ambani, daughter of India's richest man, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, and Anand Piramal, the son of Piramal Group's billionaire chairman Ajay Piramal, are set to marry on Wednesday in Udaipur. On Sunday, Beyoncé took the stage at a pre-wedding party, performing songs such as "Crazy in Love" and "Perfect" while showcasing several hot looks.

Among them were a plunging red and gold studded dress with a high slit, paired with a traditional Indian headpiece and matching jewelry, as well as a Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla gold fringed leotard and gold thigh-high boots.

Beyoncé later posted on her Instagram page photos of herself at the event, and a video of herself performing.

Paris Hilton to showcase her artwork

Reality TV star Paris Hilton is planning to hold an exhibition where she will be showcasing her "futuristic" artwork.

Hilton said her artwork is full of neon lights, crystals and collages.

"I'm putting my art exhibit together now. My art is very futuristic and pop, with neon lights and crystals and collages and painting. I draw animals. It's really inspired by pop culture, it's really different," Hilton told New York Post's Page Six.

The DJ and socialite, who recently ended her engagement to "Leftovers" star Chris Zylka, said she is too busy to date. "I'm amazing. I am busy being a boss-babe, running an empire. That is all I have time for. I barely have time for myself, let alone anything else. I am not even thinking about (dating) right now."

"I am literally so busy. I hardly have time to see my own family, let alone do that. I am so happy. I just love my life. My advice is to always be happy and feel good about yourself - because life is truly too short," she said.



Katie Cassidy and Matthew Rodgers get married

Los Angeles, Dec 10 (PTI): "Arrow" actor Katie Cassidy and Matthew Rodgers are a married couple now. The duo exchanged wedding vows in front of family and friends at Sunset Key, Florida.

Cassidy announced the news on her Instagram page. She also posted a picture of her kissing her new husband. She wore a long-sleeve, lace Pronovias gown and her hair in a bun, with no veil and he wore a white jacket over black pants.

"I can't help falling in love with you... YES! It's official! #MrsRodgers I love you my husband," she wrote.

Cassidy, daughter of the late David Cassidy, announced her engagement in June 2017.

the year lands in your collaboration station, sparking an inventive team project. Your tribe's no herd of cloned sheep, and the respect you pay one another makes it easy to subdue your ego and work toward a common goal. Feeling sporty? Look for an indoor athletic league, or play to your sign's strengths and find a meaningful humanitarian project to support.

PISCES: The only Sagittarius new moon of the year lands in your tenth house of professional success today, rousing your inner tycoon from a long nap. Even though you resonate more with creative types, that doesn't mean you can't run a profitable company. If you do need some support on the business side, align yourself with someone with complementary skills. Get clarity on your career goals by writing them down. For the next six months, keep that list in plain sight—and let the manifestation begin!