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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**Martyrs' Day
to be observed
across Sikkim**

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

Martyrs' Day will be observed as usual on 30 Jan throughout the State with two minutes' silence in memory of those who gave their lives in the struggle for India's freedom.

A press release from Home Department informs that all work and movement including the traffic will stop exactly from 11 a.m to 11:02 a.m throughout the State. Wherever available, the commencement of and termination of two minutes' silence period should be indicated by sound of siren. The day will be observed with due solemnity, the release adds.

**Hazare to
launch hunger
strike from
Wednesday
on Lokpal**

MUMBAI, JAN 28 (PTI):

Social activist Anna Hazare has announced that he would launch a hunger strike from Wednesday over the "non-fulfilment" of assurances by the Centre and the Maharashtra government on the appointment of Lokpal and passage of Lokayukta Act in the state respectively.

In his letter to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, dated January 28, Hazare said he would launch the agitation in his village Ralegan Siddhi in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, the Fadnavis Cabinet Tuesday decided to bring the office of Maharashtra Chief Minister under the jurisdiction of Lokayukta.

Maharashtra Minister Girish Mahajan, who has been acting as an emissary between the government and the activist, urged Hazare to cancel the agitation, claiming that almost all the demands made by the activist have been fulfilled.

Hazare, however, said he would not call off the agitation till the Lokayukta Act becomes a reality.

Apart from the appointment of Lokpal at the national level and Lokayukta in states, Hazare has been demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission recommendations and some electoral reforms.

"It has been five years since the Lokpal Act was passed. Yet the Narendra Modi government has not appointed Lokpal... Lokayukta Act has not been passed in Maharashtra for four years," Hazare observed in his letter dated January 28.

The activist said the chief minister had mediated when he had launched the agitation at Ramliha Maidan in Delhi in March last year.

Adhoc teachers receive some concessions, want more

**Regularisation
demand
remains
unresolved,
dharna to
continue**

NITESH R PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

All Sikkim Adhoc Teachers Association & Temporary Employees Association had a meeting with the Human Resources Development Department Minister, Secretary and officials here at the HRDD head office today after having descended in large numbers at the HRDD office to press for their demands of regularisation, continuation of service and reservation in government employment.

Although the protestors received some assurances from the Department, they are not completely satisfied yet and their demonstration at the HRDD office is expected to continue.

Meanwhile, according to the adhoc teachers,



the department has agreed to issue them appointment letters covering the entire year - 01 Jan to 31 Dec. Earlier, the teachers would get appointment letters covering only the academic sessions leaving them without a salary during the winter holidays.

On the demand for 50% reservation for adhoc teachers in all government employment, the Department has assured

that 30 to 50 percent will be reserved for the adhoc teachers, it is informed.

The services of temporary teachers appointed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will also continue, the department conceded.

What remains up in the air, as per the protesting teachers, is the reason or fairness of salaries of SSA teachers being reduced from Rs 10,000 to Rs 7,000 per month.

The protesting teachers

are also demanding that all of them who meet the educational qualifications required for regular teachers be absorbed into service, while those who lack the qualifications be retained in service in the temporary status and the Department formulate a policy by which their services can be regularized on a pre-scheduled timeline.

There is no clarity yet on how this demand is being addressed and



the protesting adhoc teachers remain unconvinced, arguing why, when services of temporary employees in other departments can be regularized should they remain denied.

The protesting teachers inform that the CM's assurance that temporary teachers who have served for five years and more will be regularised has been clearly rejected by the Department.

"We fail to understand why they can't implement what the CM has assured," said the protestors.

They have stated that such a protest became necessary when the government did not pay any heed to the ultimatum served by them.

The adhoc teachers, it may be recalled had taken out a protest rally in Gangtok on 24 Jan and served a 5-day ultimatum to the Department to

address their demands.

Till the time of filing this report, the protestors were still at the head office, insisting that till a concrete assurance was received from the Department, they will continue their demonstration inside the head office.

They are also demanding that a Temporary and Adhoc Regularisation Act be passed in the legislative assembly in the upcoming session.

NE Chess championship begins in Gangtok



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

The 19th edition of the North Eastern States FIDE Rating Chess Championship started here at Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences auditorium, 5th Mile, Tadong, today. 250 players from North Eastern States are participating in the prestigious championship. The six-day long event is

being organised by the Sikkim Chess Association [SCA] under the aegis of All India Chess Federation [AICF].

The inaugural function of the championship had Upper Tadong MLA, Timothy William Basnett, as the chief guest. He was accompanied by Sikkim Olympic Association president, BK Roka, accompanied

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Kazi Road widening inaugurated



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

Gangtok MLA Pintso Chopel Lepcha inaugurated the widened Sonam Tshering Marg [Kazi Road] here today in the presence of Gangtok Mayor, Shakti Singh. The section of the road from

Hotel Keepsa to the Power Department office has been widened, the work having begun in March last and completed at a total project cost of Rs 57 lakh.

Addressing the function, the area MLA expressed

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Dharna called off, Movement to continue

Talks with Health Deptt a complete failure, movement will continue, says SPYF

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum called off its dharna today after talks with the Health Minister, AK Ghatani, Health Secretary, Vishal Chauhan and senior Health Department officials, were finally held late last night at around 12. However, SPYF has said that the talks were a failure and the dharna has been called off because of the failing health of some of its members.

Speaking to Summit Times, SPYF member, Rupen Karki, said that although the dharna has been called off, the movement for 100% fulfilment of Indian Public Health Standards of the National Health Mission in Sikkim's hospitals will continue.



Meanwhile, during the meeting, the Forum was assured that a radiologist will visit Gyalshing Hospital once a week, a surgeon will visit for two days every fortnight, dialysis facilities will be provided

soon and a status report on all district hospitals will be made available in a week's time.

However, in a press release issued today the Forum has expressed complete dissatisfaction over these assurances.

"...not even a fraction of our demands are fulfilled. Before today, a Radiologist was visiting Gyalshing District hospital once fortnightly now they made it weekly and a surgeon will visit

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Rs 98.05 cr tourism circuit in Sikkim under Swadesh Darshan to be inaugurated

GANGTOK, 29 JAN [PIB]: Union Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism, K.J. Alphons will be inaugurating the project "Development of North East Circuit: Rangpo-Rorathang-Aritar-Phadamchen-Gnathang-Sherathang-Tsomgo-Gangtok-Phodong-Mangan-Lachung-Yumthang-Lachen-Thangu-Gurudongmar-Mangan-Gangtok-Tumin Ling-gee-Singtam" implemented under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in the presence of Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation, Government

of Sikkim, Ugen T. Gyatso at Zero Point, Gangtok on 30 Jan.

The project was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in June 2015 for Rs. 98.05 crore. Under the project, the Ministry has developed tourism infrastructure facilities like Tourist Information Centre, Meditation Centre, Organic Eco Tourism centre, Log Huts, Zip Line, Flower Exhibition Centre, Walkways, Souvenir Shops, Cafeteria, Rain Shelters, Wayside Amenity, Last Mile Connectivity, Parking, Public Toilets, etc.

In addition to above, the Ministry has sanctioned one

more project in Sikkim, "Development of North East Circuit: Singtam-Maka-Temi-Ber-moik-Tokel-Phongia-Namchi-Jorethang-Okharey-Sombaria-Daramdin-Jorethang-Melli" in September 2016 for Rs.95.32 crore. The work under the project is in progress.

The Ministry is carrying out number of activities to handle the issues on above fronts. On one hand the Ministry has given great impetus to the tourism infrastructure in the region under its flagship schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD.

For development of Tourism infrastructure, the Ministry has sanctioned 16 projects for Rs. 1349.04 crore covering all North Eastern States under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD.

The Ministry is actively working with other Central Ministries like Mo/Culture, M/o DONER, M/o Road Transport and Highways, M/o Civil Aviation etc. for development of Tourism in the region.

Swadesh Darshan scheme is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of tourism for

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Administrative reshuffle effected in West Bengal

KOLKATA, JAN 28 (PTI): In a reshuffle in the IAS cadre, the West Bengal government Monday made Alokesh Prasad Roy as the new Commissioner of panchayat department, a senior official at the state secretariat said.

Roy, who was the district magistrate of Purulia, would be replaced by Rahul Majumdar, now ADM of North 24 Parganas district, he said.

Ajit Bardhan, principal secretary of state youth services and sports department, was entrusted with additional charge of Commissioner of Jalpaiguri in place of Barun Kumar Ray, who was made the new principal secretary of North Bengal Development (NBD) department with additional charge of the Malda division.

Reshmi Kamal, district magistrate of Purba Medinipore, was made the executive director of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, the senior IAS officer said.

Partha Ghosh, now joint secretary of the Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department, was made the new DM of Purba Medinipore.

North-east parties decide to oppose Citizenship Bill together

GUWAHATI, JAN 29 (PTI): Ten political parties of the north-east, most of which are members of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), along with the saffron party's key ally in Bihar, the JD(U), on Tuesday unanimously decided to jointly oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

At a meeting of the parties, it was also decided that a delegation comprising representatives of all the outfits would meet President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apprise them of their opposition to the bill that sought to provide Indian citizenship to those Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsees and Christians, who fled religious persecution in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan and entered India before December 31, 2014, after six years of residence in the country. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, on whose initiative the meeting was called, and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga also attended the meeting. The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which has pulled out of the Sarbananda Sonowal-led BJP government in Assam over the issue, was also associated with the convening of the meeting.

The 10 political parties that participated in the meeting from across the north-east were -- the Mizo National Front (MNF), the United Democratic Party (UDP), the AGP, the Naga People's Front (NPF), the National People's Party (NPP), the National Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), the Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP), the People's Democratic Front (PDF), the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) and the Khamam.



Army Commander visits forward areas of Sikkim

GANGTOK, 29 JAN [PIB]: Lt Gen MM Naravane, General Officer Commanding Eastern Command is on a three-day visit to Trishakti Corps.

On arrival at Sukna on 28 Jan, he was received by Lt Gen CP Mohanty, GOC, Trishakti Corps, and briefed on the operational situation and preparedness.

On 29 Jan 19, the Army Commander, accompanied by GOC Trishakti Corps and GOC, Black Cat Division, met Chief Minister Pawan Chamling

and discussed various activities being undertaken by the Army.

The Army Commander, accompanied by the GOC, Trishakti Corps, also visited the forward areas where he was briefed on security situation along the border and interacted with the troops. He complimented the soldiers for their professionalism, dedication and commitment towards maintaining round-the-clock vigil along the inhospitable terrain and despite adverse climatic conditions.

SDF Govt failed Sikkim on LT seats, not Opposition: HSP

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

Hamro Sikkim Party has taken strong exception to Chief Minister Pawan Chamling's claims that HSP, its working president Bhachu Bhutia in particular, along with other political parties and organisations have delayed the allocation of reserved seats for the Limboos and Tamangs in the State Legislative Assembly.

HSP spokesperson Biraj Adhikari, in a press

statement issued today, points out that the HSP was barely seven months old whereas the LT seats issue has been pending for 17 years.

"...the people want to know what the govt was doing during the last 17 yrs to deliver the LT seat," the HSP press communiqué enquires while adding, "Instead of blaming other people, he [the Chief Minister] should be saying sorry to the LT community and also live up to his words

that he will quit."

The release points out that Mr Chamling has said he would quit politics if he doesn't get the LT seat before 2019 elections. "...so we have been waiting to see if his words were sincere or just a lie as usual," Mr Adhikari adds.

"He should now stop the lying, and the blame game, and stop pointing fingers on others for the failure of the government and also, his own failures," the release reiterates.

Swine flu death toll rises to 169; Over 4,500 test positive



NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI): The death toll due to swine flu in the country has soared to 169 this year while 4,571 people have tested positive for the virus, with Rajasthan accounting for over 40 per cent of the cases.

According to data issued by the government, Rajasthan recorded 1,911 cases and 75 deaths till Monday followed by Gujarat with 600 cases and 24 deaths.

Delhi reported the third highest number with 532 people being infected with the H1N1 virus. No death has been reported due to the flu in the national capital so far. Punjab has reported 27 deaths and 174 cases, followed by Haryana which recorded eight deaths and 372 cases. Maharashtra has recorded 82 cases and 12 deaths till Monday.

With the numbers going up, the health ministry recently held a meeting with the states and

asked them to strengthen their surveillance for early detection. It also asked them to keep beds reserved in hospitals to deal with acute cases.

The official said states have not made any demand yet regarding drugs, diagnostic kits and other wherewithal to deal with the issue.

"There is sufficient stock of swine flu drug Oseltamivir and also there is no scarcity of N95 masks and diagnostic kits. Further, states have been asked to issue advisories to people mentioning the dos and don'ts," a senior health ministry official said.

Delhi government also has issued an advisory in view of the rising cases of swine flu.

The advisory states that seasonal influenza (H1N1) is a self-limiting viral, air borne disease spread from person-to-person, through large droplets generated by the act of coughing

and sneezing, indirect contact by touching a contaminated object or surface (fomite transmission like telephone, cell phones, computers, door handles, door bells, pens, toys etc) and close contact, including hand shaking, hugging and kissing.

The dos and don'ts mention covering nose and mouth with disposable tissue or handkerchief while coughing or sneezing, washing hands with soap and water frequently, avoiding crowding places, maintaining isolation, drinking plenty of liquid and consulting doctor.

As per the advisory, one should not touch eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands or hug, kiss and shake hands while greeting, or spit in public places, dispose of used napkin or tissue paper in open areas or smoke in public places.

Last year, the country reported 14,992 cases and 1,103 deaths due to the flu.

Barcode stray cows, shelter them in unused govt buildings: UP govt to officials

LUCKNOW, JAN 29 (PTI):

Grappling with the menace of stray cattle, the Uttar Pradesh government has told officials to barcode abandoned animals and set up temporary cow shelters at unused government buildings.

The suggestions figure in a government order (GO) issued Monday, weeks after the Yogi Adityanath government announced a cess to set up shelters for cattle. Temporary cow shelters can be established at various cooperative institutions (such as mandi parishads and sugar mills) and at institutes of the Central government which have been lying closed, it suggested. The order suggested that stray cattle should be bar-coded and RFID-tagged if possible. RFID involves

using radio frequency identification technology to scan identity tags. The order said fodder banks can also be set up at the temporary shelters. Farmers can deposit crop waste there.

The 23-page order was issued by the state's animal husbandry department to all senior government officials in Lucknow, district magistrates and district police chiefs. The order comes over three weeks after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on January 3 gave district magistrates about a week to ensure stray cattle across the state are shifted to fenced shelters. Those directions were issued during a video-conference with the DMs, amid reports that stray cattle were destroying crops.

NE Chess championship...

by general secretary, Bharat Singh Chauhan, and joint secretary, Atanu Lahiri, from AICF among other dignitaries.

In his inaugural address, the chief guest conveyed his best wishes to all participants and encouraged players from Sikkim to give their best to keep the name of the State flying high. He further urged them to continue with their hard work and practice to play at national and international level competitions.

The AICF general secretary, in turn, stated that AICF has been committed to the development of chess in the region. He informed a "Smart Girl Chess Tournament" will be held soon.

He also advised SCA to host national and international chess tournaments in the state.

Likewise, the AICF joint secretary mentioned that the chess was developing well in the north-eastern region. He further expressed hope that the region will produce more players at the national and international levels.

He stated that AICF was working hard for the promotion and development of chess in the region with special encouragement schemes dedicated to the region.

In his address, the SOA president appreciated the SCA efforts, especially its general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal, to bringing chess to this appreciable position in the country in a short span of time.

He also congratulated the association for producing quality players from Sikkim. While assuring to provide all possible support to SCA, he announced to provide 10 chess clocks from SOA.

The Chief Arbitrator mentioned that Sikkim has produced many FIDE-rated players in a short time.

He added that a very conducive environment existed for chess in Sikkim and other parts of the north eastern region and congratulated SCA for its efforts in producing quality players.

The championship is being played in the Swiss League System of 10 rounds and carries a total cash prize of Rs 1.50 lakh sponsored by the All India Chess Federation. The championship has Dharmendra Kumar as the chief arbiter.

Speaking to media persons, SCA general secretary, Mahendra Dhakal stated that SCA was hosting this prestigious championship for the second time.

Rahul Gurung from Sikkim is the current North East Champion.

Winter Sports Coaching Camp at Namchi concludes



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

Winter Sports Coaching Camp 2019 was organised by Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, South District from 04-26 Jan. The camp was organised under Sports for Peace and Development

- Khelo India for Under 14 & 19 boys and girls, a press release informs.

Coaching in various sports disciplines was carried out in different places of the district. Football coaching was at Singithang playground, volleyball at Namchi SSS and indoor sports

like karate, taekwondo, table tennis, badminton and boxing at Indoor Stadium Namchi.

Minister, GM Gurung gave away certificates to players on the day. Also present were DC South, Zilla Adhyaksha, SDAFA president cum Advisor PHE.

Governor condoles demise...

railways under various Governments at Centre.

With his demise, the country has lost a political stalwart and an experienced administrator. At this time of bereavement, I join the people of Sikkim to offer my deepest condolences. I pray to the almighty for bestowing strength to his family members to cope with this great loss."

Rs 98.05 cr tourism...

development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritised manner.

Under this scheme the Government is focussing on development of quality infrastructure in the country with objective of providing better experience and facilities to the visitors on one hand and on other hand fostering the economic growth.

The scheme was launched in 2014 -15 and as on date the Ministry has sanctioned 77 projects worth projects for Rs. 6121.69 crore to 30 States and UTs. 30 projects / major components of these projects are expected to be completed this year. 11 projects have been inaugurated as on date under the scheme.

Kazi Road widening...

gratitude towards the Chief Minister for sanctioning the work and also towards the Palace for providing the space to allow the widening.

"Land is at a premium in Sikkim and we are grateful towards the palace for providing us around 100 metres space to make the widening possible. This was a grand gesture and will go a long way towards making things more convenient for the many students who use this road which also connects to the Secretariat," he said.

The function was also attended by Princess Hope Leezum, Additional Chief Engineer, UD&HD, Chetraj Mishra, ward councillor of Tibet-Kazi Road, SD Pulger, officials, and public.

During the function, representatives from the Power Department, PHE, UD&HD, Sikkim Traffic, Government Contractor, Tibet-Kazi Road Councillor, were felicitated with a letter of appreciation by the area MLA.

Dharna called off...

Gyalshing District hospital two days every fortnight. These achievements are nothing in front of our demands. After such an arduous struggle we ended up getting nothing," the release states.

It may be mentioned that SPYF started the protest against IPHS norms not being followed in Gyalshing District Hospital. They had started their march to Gangtok from Gyalshing in West Sikkim on 20 Jan and reached here on 23 Jan. Since then, members of the Forum had been camped in front of DAC East demanding a meeting with the three signatories of a written assurance given by the Health Department in July last year.

This written assurance had stated that 90% IPHS norms will be implemented at Gyalshing District Hospital within one month and remaining requirements will be taken care of within 03 months. Since the Department failed to fulfil these assurances, we want a meeting with the signatories, SPYF had said.

On 26 Jan, in a bid to intensify its protest, SPYF had invited all organizations and political parties to join their movement and had planned to take out a rally on 28 Jan. However, authorities did not allow the rally following which SPYF members blocked the road in front of the DAC East towards Sichey.

SPYF members refused to budge until the Health Minister and other Health officials arrived for talks. The meeting finally took place at the DAC East office around 11:30 p.m. last night.

"Our struggle will continue. We are preparing for making it a truly state wide movement with the involvements of people from all the districts of Sikkim. Our demand would be implementation of IPHS norms in all the district hospitals of Sikkim. Our movement will continue until no district hospital in the state remains outside the purview of IPHS," the release mentions.

SCERT workshop for primary teachers & teacher educators

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN:

A five-day consultation meet cum workshop on pedagogy of mathematics and language learning at pre primary and primary stage began at SCERT on 28 Jan. The programme is organised by State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Sikkim in collaboration with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi. The objective of the

programme was to help teachers devise ways and means to support students to achieve the learning outcome of students, informs a press release. In the inaugural session, Prof AK Rajput from NCERT shared the overview of the programme and highlighted its significance. Director SCERT, Dr Rabin Chhetri shared findings of Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) and expressed his concerns on the performance of our state. He opined that it was

the combined responsibility of all the stakeholders to work as a team to improve the situation. State Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Bhim Thatal presented some interesting facts and examples of mathematics and language learning. He urged teachers to prepare our students for PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) test, in which the state of Sikkim will participate in 2021-22. Deputy Director

SCERT, Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari, who was the co-ordinator of the programme requested NCERT to help the state to design a suitable intervention programme to support students of the state to achieve the desired learning outcomes at the elementary level. Teachers teaching mathematics and english at elementary level from all the four districts and teacher educators from SCERT and DIETs participated in the programme.

Nine snow leopards killed by poachers since 2008, reveals RTI reply

Noida, Jan 29 (PTI): Nine snow leopards have been poached and killed in the country since 2008 and eight poachers arrested for the crime, according to data obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

These killings were reported from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi, according to the data provided by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Noida-based lawyer Ranjan Tomar had sought state-wise data on snow leopards killed by poachers in the last 10 years and offenders arrested from the WCCB, a statutory body formed to combat organised wildlife crime.

"As per data available in the records of the bureau based on the information from the state forest and police departments, nine snow leopards have been killed and eight poachers have been arrested in the last 10 years in India," the WCCB said in a written reply. Of the nine cases, four were in Jammu and Kashmir -- one in 2010 while three in 2014. Two such deaths were reported from Himachal Pradesh in 2011, two from Uttarakhand in 2012, and one from Delhi in 2016, it stated. The snow leopard is a vulnerable species found predominantly in central and south Asia, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which estimates their number globally between 2,710 and 3,386.

In India, the species is found in Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. Tomar had also sought to know similar details about the lion-tailed macaque, an endangered species endemic to western ghats, but bureau said it does not maintain such data.

The WCCB said it conducts capacity-building programmes for forest and police officials of wildlife cases under provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It said it also carries out sensitisation and awareness programmes for the officials of border guarding forces, customs, Central Industrial Security Forces, Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police, judicial officers and other stakeholders like representatives of Panchayat Raj institutions and students on importance of wildlife and its role to combat wildlife crime.

ICRI training for Assam Lingzey's large cardamom growers



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 29 JAN

Indian Cardamom Research Institute, RRS, Spices Board, Tadong, conducted a Farmers Training on 'Scientific Production Technologies and Post Harvest Management of Large Cardamom and Plantation Visit' at Gairigaon, Assam Lingzey, East Sikkim.

28 farmers attended the programme which saw BA Gudade, Deputy Director (Research), brief them about research activities at the institute and discuss fluctuation in large cardamom prices, market potential and market trends. Ashutosh Gautam, Scientist (Crop Improvement), delved in differ-

ent cultivars of large cardamom, their growing habit and characteristics, altitude-based selection of cultivars, importance of shade trees for better production while Rayel Chhetri, Senior Research Fellow, discussed the role of pollinators and conservation of bumble bees the principal pollinator in large cardamom.

HC quashes Mizoram govt's prolonged liquor ban order

Aizawl, Jan 29 (PTI): The Aizawl bench of the Gauhati High Court Tuesday quashed the order of the Mizoram government banning sales of liquor from December 21 to March 1, and instructed it to allow vendors to sell alcohol as per the validity of their licences. The sitting judge, Justice Michael Zothankhuma, found the orders of the Commissioner of Excise and Narcotics department declaring the "dry days" for an extended period as "arbitrary" and set the order aside. The judge ordered the state government to allow the owners of the three bonded warehouses

to import liquor on the basis of permits and the retail vendors to sell liquor as per the validity of their licences issued under the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Act, 2014. The government's contention that the prolonged dry days were declared due to observance of the Republic Day on January 26 and 'Chapchar Kut', the most prominent traditional festival of the Mizos on March 1, was not accepted by the court saying that the state government could declare dry days on such days in accordance with the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Act, but not for such a long period.

The new Mizo National Front (MNF) government headed by Chief Minister Zoramthanga, in a meeting of the council of ministers on December 18 last year, had declared dry days from December 21 to January 14. Another meeting of the council of ministers on January 10 decided to extend the dry days from January 15 till March 1 this year. The owners of the bonded warehouses and retail liquor vendors submitted petitions on January 17 challenging the orders of the state government.

Nagaland Cabinet rejects citizenship bill

Kohima, Jan 29 (PTI): The Nagaland Cabinet has rejected the citizenship bill, following pressure from various tribal organisations and students bodies. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Chief Secretary Temjen Toy, in a press release, said that taking into account the will and desire of all sections of the people, the Cabinet meeting on Monday made it amply clear that the state government remains opposed and rejects the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016. The bill, which was passed in the Lok Sabha earlier this month, has been an issue of concern in Nagaland and triggered protests across the northeastern region, they said. The people of the state have expressed

their opposition to the bill in various forms in a democratic manner and the Cabinet discussed the bill at length on Monday, they said in the release. The Cabinet had earlier said that the CAB was not applicable to the state. The National Democratic People's Party-led People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) government in the state had said that Nagaland enjoys protection under provisions of Article 371 (A) of the Constitution and the Inner Line Permit (ILP), according to which, any person who acquires Indian citizenship will be ineligible for acquiring property or settling down in the state. The state government from the very beginning had expressed its opposition to the bill and

conveyed the same to the Centre, they said. The PDA government has also assured the people that it will leave no stone unturned to constantly protect the rights and privileges of the people, the chief minister and the chief secretary said. Regional parties across the northeast which are in alliance with the BJP will meet in Guwahati on Tuesday to put forth their objections to the controversial bill. They will be joined by the JD(U), NDA's major ally in Bihar, and the AGP, which recently snapped ties with the BJP in Assam over the proposed legislation that seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslim nationals from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Memo No:189/ AES/ R&B

Date: 25/01/2019

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

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

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1.	Construction of New road from Bhasmey PWD road to Chuwan turning (Pachey Rorathang road) via Kali Khola Gaon in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1 st	Rs.1,05,74,636.00	Rs.2,64,365.90	Rs.30,000.00	24 months
	Km 2 nd	Rs. 1,47,64,076.00	Rs. 3,69,101.90	Rs. 30,000.00	24 months
	Km 3 rd	Rs. 87,69,090.00	Rs.2,19,227.25	Rs.5,000.00	24 months.
	Km 4 th	Rs. 1,16,38,780.00	Rs. 2,90,969.50	Rs. 30,000.00	24 months.
	Km 5 th & 6 th	Rs.1,26,39,805.00	Rs. 3,15,995.13	Rs. 30,000.00	24 months.
2	Const. Of 15 mtr span steel bridge ove Kali Khola along New road from Bhasmey PWD road to Chuwan turning (Pachey Rorathang road) vial Kali Khola Gaon in East Sikkim.				
	15 Mtr.Span Steel Bridge	Rs. 92,09,266.00	Rs. 2,30,231.65	Rs.5,000.00	24 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

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

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

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

R.O. No. 627/ ipr/ pub/ classi/ 18-19
Date.28.01.2019.

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

Sd/-
Divisional Engineer
East Division- II
Roads & Bridges Department.

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

In These Times of Tall Claims

Enjoy the show, but

There is politics in the air. If one takes the steady stream of press releases at face value, there are so many people joining so many parties every day that families across the State must be regretting the falling fertility rate. They would have had so many more to give to parties if only their families had not been so small. May be that is also why parties are increasingly counting their new converts by the families and not actual number of new members. That being the new trend, now Sikkimese, like they acquire their religion and relatives through birth, will also be inheriting their political leanings through the same connections. Thankfully, the indoctrination is very casual, and takes but the switching of the flag on the roof to also switch sides and then feature, as a family, in a press release, again. Hmmm... If only things were really that simple. And they also are in a way. After all, who, except the “leaders” out to score political points actually goes through the tedium of officially resigning in Sikkim? And also, if supporters in the bastis don’t have a formal process of joining up beyond collecting a flag, how could they know of the official processes of signing out? And so the cycle rolls on, with leaders ignoring the obvious and the coteries playing blind too, and the people, well, playing along.

Jokes apart, if speaking into their echo-chambers and gloating over the repeats keeps them occupied and satisfied, so be it, but that is not all that happens when politics picks up. It will also soon be the season when the very real concern of vicious rumour-mongering and tasteless name-calling will begin. The medium might have grown from the poorly produced pamphlets to poorly written Facebook posts complimented with shoddily photoshopped images carried over from more juvenile days, but the messaging remains as crass. What the agents of such media-management seem to overlook is that rumours serve only one purpose - entertainment. They titillate, scandalise, and then evaporate. In most cases, receivers and circulators of such gossip know that no one believes the rumours and that everyone is partaking in it only get over their boredom or to suppress their insecurities depending on which side of the conversation they sit on. It goes without saying that the best response to the rumour mill is to ignore it, but while it is easy to ignore something when it is only whispered in street corners, it becomes difficult to do so when they are palmed out in the public domain. And that is bound to begin happening on a big scale very soon in Sikkim as parties begin guarding turfs, claiming new ground and remaining relevant.

This will also soon become the season of tall claims and wild allegations. Time to bring out the salt, because we will need to be taking pinches of it very often to remain sane. At the end of the day, the only weapon against rumours is the truth. Circulate it in the public domain and embarrass those who deal in rumours. Don’t do so effectively and don’t demand it vociferously enough, and soon the confusion will muddy away realities beyond salvaging. Then, Sikkim could find itself where America still dwells – the land of alternative facts where facts have retreated so deep that it is the truth that people become skeptical about even as they lap up every lie and untruth; a situation where attempts to debunk falsehoods often end up strengthening the lies in the eyes of the people.

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

Amazon deforestation, already rising, may spike under Bolsonaro

ROBERT T. WALKER
theconversation.com

Over the past 25 years that I have been conducting environmental research in the Amazon, I have witnessed the the ongoing destruction of the world’s biggest rainforest. Twenty percent of it has been deforested by now – an area larger than Texas.

I therefore grew hopeful when environmental policies began to take effect at the turn of the millennium, and the rate of deforestation dropped from nearly 11,000 square miles per year to less than 2,000 over the decade following 2004.

But a new political climate in Brazil, which set in even before President Jair Bolsonaro took office in January 2019, has led to a recent increase in the pace of rainforest felling. And Bolsonaro, a former army officer, made Amazonian development a core campaign pledge.

DAMMING THE TAPAJÓS

At stake is what becomes of the region around the Tapajós River, one of the Amazon’s largest tributaries and home to about 14,000 Mundurucu tribal people. The Mundurucu have until now successfully slowed down and seemingly halted many efforts to turn the Tapajós into the “Mississippi of Brazil.”

The Tapajós River is the Amazon’s last undammed clearwater tributary. The basin that surrounds it is roughly equal to 15 percent of the Brazilian Amazon region and about the size of France. This remote area has a great deal of biodiversity, and its trees store large quantities of carbon.

Because the Amazon rainforest absorbs a lot of the carbon emitted through the burning of fossil fuels, climate scientists consider its preservation key to preventing an uptick in the pace of global warming.

Brazil is planning to build a series of big new hydroelectric dams and webs of waterways, rail lines, ports and roads that can overcome logistical obstacles standing in the way of exporting commodities and other goods.

The government did suspend plans to build an 8,000-megawatt dam at the heart of this sprawling project in 2016. At the time, it cited the “unviability of the project given the indigenous component” and stated it would stop building big dams in 2018, before Bolsanaro took office.

Yet many observers remain very concerned about how Bolsonaro’s presidency will affect the Mundurucu and the rainforest they protect. Groups like International Rivers – a nonprofit dedicated to the “protection of rivers and the rights of communities that depend on them” – are not about to declare victory.

SOUTH AMERICAN GAMBIT

Brazil’s Amazon development plans are part of a broader gambit that includes all the South American nations. First conceived in 2000, the Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America is designed to build a continental economy through new infrastructure that provides electricity for industrialization and facilitates trade and transportation.

Known widely by its Spanish and Portuguese abbreviations as IIRSA, this initiative is turning the Amazon, 60 percent of which is located on Brazilian territory, into a source of hydropower and a transportation hub connecting the Atlantic

and Pacific oceans. It will become easier to ship Brazilian soybeans to global markets, and manufacturing will expand, stimulating population growth in the Amazon.

The blueprint for this bid to develop the Amazon, which also includes portions of Peru, Bolivia and six other countries, calls for building more than 600 dams, 12,400 miles of waterways, about 1.2 million miles of roads, a transcontinental railway and a system of ports, much of it in the tropical wilderness.

NEW WAVE OF DEVELOPMENT

Bolsonaro has not yet confronted the Mundurucu or taken concrete actions to keep his promises about developing the Amazon. But he has taken steps that point in this direction with the officials he has selected for key posts. He has also trans-

ferred responsibilities for demarcating indigenous lands from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Agriculture, which an agricultural lobbyist is running.

The new Brazilian president’s plans for the Amazon come on the heels of decades of deforestation following the construction of roads and hydropower facilities during the 1960s and 1970s. This initial wave of construction opened the sparsely populated region to an influx of newcomers, and contributed to the destruction of about a fifth of the forest over four decades.

Then came a wave of stronger environmental policies – such as the stricter enforcement of logging laws, the expansion of protected areas and the voluntary decision by soybean farmers to refrain from clearing the forest – which lowered Brazil’s Amazon deforestation rate after 2000. It seemed to me and others that a new era of Amazonian conservation had dawned.

But that was before I understood the full implications of the Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America.

This plan is far more ambitious than earlier infrastructure projects which were completed by the end of the 1970s, and I believe that it could wreak even more destruction.

Should all of its components be built, the new transportation and energy infrastructure would be likely to spark a new wave of deforestation that I

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Mundurucu tribal people are demanding that Brazil’s government respect their land rights.

Why Trump’s wall rhetoric is about power rather than policy

RICHARD SHAW
theconversation.com

The nation whose anthem lauds “the land of the free and the home of the brave” and whose constitution was drafted “in order to form a more perfect union ... and secure the blessings of liberty” continues to flirt with the prospect of authoritarian rule.

In the aftermath of his decision to temporarily reopen the federal government, President Trump is once again threatening to declare a state of emergency to allow him to spend public money on the construction of a wall on the United States-Mexico border without congressional approval.

The weakened position Trump finds himself in now makes such drastic action unlikely. But one of the lessons to be taken from Trump’s presidency is to expect the unexpected.

Should he do so, it would not, of course, be the first time an American president has asserted this prerogative.

CURRENT CRISIS NOT ABOUT POLICY

Generally, there can be compelling reasons for declaring a state of emergency, but Trump would have been perhaps the first to invoke this prerogative in order to fulfil a (subtly altered) campaign promise.

While there is a legitimate debate about whether or not there actually is an emergency at the border, the crisis that would be created should

Trump declare an emergency in order to secure public funding for his “big, beautiful wall” would not primarily be about policy. It would concern more fundamental matters, such as the efficacy of America’s much-vaunted constitutional system of checks and balances.

The US constitution established three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. It apportions power to each branch so none can dominate the others. But the American constitution pays relatively little attention to the presidency. There are only four short sections concerning the office, only one of which contains much detail about presidential powers.

This means the powers of the president remain under-articulated. The constitution is also silent on how states of emergency should be managed. Taken together, this means it’s not entirely clear that legislative and judicial institutions can rein in a president who declares a state of emergency on spurious grounds.

In effect, by declaring a state of emergency a president assumes additional powers by essentially creating exceptions to rules and laws that normally constrain them. The courts can and likely would review the legality of any such action. But rulings against presidents are the exception.

BATTLE FOR THE GOP

More prosaically, if the “Trump shutdown” strained relations within

the Republican Party imagine what a “Trump state of national emergency” might do. The party’s establishment has proved willing to accept various affronts to presidential conventions of conduct.

This includes Trump’s propensity to play fast and loose with the truth, his lack of appetite for work and limited grasp of policy detail as well as his inability to serve as a president for all Americans.

But it is clear the partial shutdown has significantly ratcheted up tensions within the party and added to speculation Trump will face a primary challenge some time before the 2020 presidential election.

In that context, it is conceivable that a presidential declaration of a state of emergency for wall funding might at last be the moment when Republicans – or at least enough of them to give Trump pause for thought – act in the long-term interests of the country.

More likely, there will be a point at which political self-interest trumps Trump. Republicans seeking to hold onto seats in 2020 in districts won by Hilary Clinton in 2016, or in which the Democratic Party was resurgent in last year’s midterms, may well peel away from Trump if his already soft approval rating continues to slide. There are already signs that some establishment figures are putting daylight between themselves and the president, and as the Republican

convention and the 2020 presidential election move into view, more may choose to follow suit.

ROAD TO TYRANNY

Under these scenarios, Republicans may take a closer interest in restraining Trump than they have done so far. Seriously spooked Republicans may prove more amenable to the notion of impeaching the president. And because a president cannot dissolve Congress, Trump would be unable to get in a preemptive strike should the House move to impeach him.

None of this may come to pass. Trump may well be on the defensive right now but his chances of being re-elected in 2020 will be seriously (and perhaps fatally) compromised if he backs down on the wall issue again when congressional negotiations on immigration and border security wrap up on February 15. During the two years of his administration he has proved perfectly happy to plough on regardless of public or political sentiment for far less significant issues. It is conceivable that he will do so again.

He has also demonstrated that he chafes against constraints on presidential agency, wishes to expand the reach of the executive branch and responds badly to criticism. In short, he is a poor fit for a liberal democracy but potentially a rather good one for an autocracy.

[the writer is Professor of Politics, Massey University]



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SINGTAM

Memo No:189/ AES/ R&B

Date: 25/01/2019

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer- (East-II) & Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam , invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **appropriate Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018for the construction of **fair weather roads**, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **the Gram Panchayat Unit/Concerned Ward of Rhe-nock Constituency** where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Mon-ey @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Com-pletion Time.
1.	Construction of New road from Bhas-mey PWD road to Chu-wan turning (Pachey Rorathang road) via Kali Khola Gaon in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1 st	Rs.1,05,74,636.00	Rs.2,64,365.90	Rs.30, 000.00	24 months
	Km 2 nd	Rs. 1,47,64,076.00	Rs. 3,69,101.90	Rs. 30,000.00	24 months
	Km 3 rd .	Rs. 87,69,090.00	Rs.2,19,227.25	Rs.5,000.00	24 months.
	Km 4 th	Rs. 1,16,38,780.00	Rs. 2,90,969.50	Rs. 30,000.00	24 months.
	Km 5 th & 6 th	Rs.1,26,39,805.00	Rs. 3,15,995.13	Rs. 30,000.00	24 months.
2	Const. Of 15 mtr span steel bridge ove Kali Kho-la along New road from Bhasmey PWD road to Chuwan turning (Pachey Rorathang road) vial Kali Khola Gaon in East Sikkim.				
	15 Mtr.Span Steel Bridge	Rs. 92,09,266.00	Rs. 2,30,231.65	Rs.5,000.00	24 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

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

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the (a) Goods& Service Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification.

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

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

Sd/-
Divisional Engineer
East Division- II
Roads & Bridges Department.

R.O. No. 627/ipr/pub/classi./18-19
Date: 28.01.2019.

Keyboard great invention, but musicians lost jobs: Maestro

KOLKATA, JAN 28 (PTI):

Keyboard is a great invention as it can recreate effects of multiple instruments, but several musicians have lost their jobs because of it, sarod legend Ustad Amjad Ali Khan has said. In a lighter vein, the maestro also said that he would have probably been out of job if the device could reproduce the sound of sarod.

"Keyboard has rendered jobless many people, including scores of instrumentalists in the film industry. "But it still remains a great invention as it can recreate a whole lot of sound effects from instruments such as violin and sitar. I respect the person who invented it," the Padma Vibhushan recipient said during a conversation at Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet here Sunday

Talking about traditions in music, Khan said it was important to understand the nuances before breaking conventions. Drawing parallels with literature, he said "grammar might be important, but not many understand the intricacies of poetry". "Rabindranath Tagore had on occasions broken convention in his songs by taking liberty in his ragas and the result was beautiful. Only a genius like Tagore can do that, the rest follow convention," he added.

Ronaldo v Zapata: Juventus tackle Atalanta in Coppa Italia



MILAN, JAN 29 (AFP): Cristiano Ronaldo locks horns again with Colombian ace Duvan Zapata as Juventus travel to Atalanta on Wednesday with a Coppa Italia semi-final berth at stake.

Juventus have won the last four editions of the competition -- sealing a record 18th last season by beating AC Milan in the final.

But their path towards another title after lifting the Italian Super Cup this month could be hampered by quarter-final opponents Atalanta.

Zapata scored a double against Juventus as the side from Bergamo held the champions to a 2-2 draw in Serie A on December 26.

The league leaders had travelled to Bergamo with Ronaldo on the bench but were forced to call on the Portuguese star after a Zapata brace threatened their unbeaten run this season.

Both Ronaldo and Zapata are in form having scored 15 goals in Serie A so far, and are vying for top scorer.

Ronaldo slotted in the

penalty that gave Juventus a hard-fought 2-1 win over Lazio on Sunday.

In Bergamo, Zapata missed a penalty but less than a minute later scored the equaliser as his side came from three goals down to hold Roma 3-3. It was the 27-year-old Colombian's 14th goal in the last eight league games.

He also scored in the Coppa Italia last 16 tie against Cagliari.

Ronaldo, 33, has scored in his last eight away games, along with the winner in the

Italian Super Cup final and a Champions League goal for a total of 17 for Juventus. But Juventus looked sluggish for an hour on Sunday with second half substitutes Joao Cancelo and Federico Bernardeschi saving the day in Rome. "Those who come off the bench are essential," said Massimiliano Allegri.

"I was sad to leave Bernardeschi out initially, but we have a big game coming up against Atalanta." Juventus will be without defender

Leonardo Bonucci who sprained his ankle at the weekend, but Miralem Pjanic, Sami Khedira and Mario Mandzukic are all back training.

- AC MILAN v NAPOLI ROUND TWO -

Napoli travel back to the San Siro on Tuesday for round two after being held to a goalless draw there by AC Milan in the league on Saturday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are trailing 11 points behind Juventus in Serie A and the former AC Milan, Chelsea and Real Madrid boss is desperate to win some silverware in his first season.

Brazilian midfielder Allan returns after being dropped from Napoli's last game in Milan following speculation of a transfer to Paris Saint-Germain, with Ancelotti declaring "the matter over" and the player staying in Italy.

AC Milan's new signing Krzysztof Piątek is in line to make his full debut, having appeared as a substitute at the weekend. Roma travel to Fiorentina midweek with Inter Milan hosting Lazio on Thursday, after falling 1-0 against Torino.

Great chance for mentally toughest Saina to win All England: Vimal



AMIT KUMAR DAS NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI):

Saina Nehwal is mentally the toughest shuttler in the country and the ability to overcome injuries is the key to her longevity, believes former coach Vimal Kumar.

Saina, who had suffered a shin injury late last year, won the Indonesia Masters last Sunday after the withdrawal of Carolina Marin from the summit clash due to a leg injury.

Her former coach Vimal has also backed the Indian ace to win the coveted All England Championship in March.

"She is definitely mentally the toughest, even I will give her edge over the men's players, she is much tougher than all of them," Vimal, who had coached Saina from 2014 to 2017, told PTI on Tuesday.

"She doesn't think too much once she is on court, no matter if she has some pain, she will go all out and make it difficult for her opponents," said the former India coach, under whom Saina attained the World No. 1 ranking in 2015.

With Marin suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) -- the ligament that stabilizes the knee -- and world no 1 Tai Tzu Ying also recuperating from a wrist injury, Vimal feels Indian duo of Saina and P V Sindhu will have a great chance to end India's wait for an All England title.

"It (Indonesia win) will give Saina a lot of confidence and can help her in All England Championship, she can target that," he said.

"Carolina also might need 5-6 months to recover if the injury is serious, so the All England will be wide open. Carolina and Tai Tzu Ying were

favourites. So now Saina and Sindhu will have big chance to win the title."

Saina, who will turn 29 in March, is currently the oldest player in the top ten and Vimal said it is important for the Indian to train smart to stay at the top of her game.

"She has had her share of injuries. I was there with her at the Olympics, she was preparing well and suddenly it came up. But subsequently, the way she came back, have to give her credit.

"Now it is a question of training smart. She has a couple of years at the top and with the Olympics coming up, she would want to do well... I don't want to go that far now but she can immediately think of doing well at the All England."

Saina had aggravated her knee injury at the Rio Olympics and needed surgery and rigorous physiotherapy to return to the sport.

The London Olympics bronze medallist returned to win the Malaysia Masters in 2017, her last BWF title before she ended the two year wait by clinching the Indonesia Masters last week.

"It is a creditable performance from. I saw a few matches, I don't know if she had the stamina to play at a good pace like Tai Tzu Ying and Carolina Marin as she was carrying a bit of injury.

"I don't think she was in right shape but because of mental toughness she pulled through quite a few matches," said Vimal.

Last year, Saina had won her second Commonwealth Games title, besides winning a bronze at the Asian Games and reaching finals at Indonesia Masters, Denmark Open and Syed Modi International.

India face South Africa in ICC T20 WC opening match

DUBAI, JAN 29 (PTI): Former champions India will square off against South Africa in their opening match of the men's T20 World Cup to be held in Australia next year, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced Tuesday.

India's opening match will take place in Perth on October 24 while the tournament will get underway from October 18 with qualifying rounds in South Geelong, according to the fixtures. India, who lost in the semifinals to eventual winners West Indies in the previous edition in 2016, face a qualifying team in their next Super 12 match in Melbourne on October 29. India won the event's inaugural edition in 2007.

The men's competition, from October 18 to November 15, will feature several qualifying matches before hosts Australia take on world's top-ranked Pakistan in the first match of the tournament-proper on October 24 under lights at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said: "Whenever we host an event in Australia we know we can guarantee the one billion cricket fans around the world a great show. "The world's best players. Outstanding venues. Noisy, passionate, knowledgeable fans. Exciting cricket. This is the perfect combination for a T20 World Cup and in 2020 we go one step further with two T20 World Cups in one year"

Defending champions West Indies play their first Super 12 group stage match against New Zealand on October 25 in Melbourne.

Australia, Pakistan, the West Indies, New Zealand and two qualifiers make up Group 1 of the Super 12 stage. India, England, South Africa and Afghanistan and two qualifiers make up the other group. The first semi-final will take place at the SCG on November 11, with Adelaide Oval hosting the second semi-final the following night.

The final will be played at the MCG on November 15. The tournament will be held in eight Australian cities and 13 venues. ICC T20 World Cup Australia 2020 Local Organising Committee CEO Nick Hockley said: "We're so excited to be able to let fans all around Australia and the world know when and where their teams will play, so they can start planning now. ICC men's T20 World Cup Schedule: **First round:**

18 October, 2020: Sri Lanka v Qualifier A3, Kardinia Park, South Geelong; Qualifier A2 v Qualifier A4, Kardinia Park, South Geelong

19 October, 2020: Bangladesh v Qualifier B3, Bellerive Oval, Tasmania; Qualifier B2 v Qualifier B4, Bellerive Oval, Tasmania 20 October, 2020: Qualifier A3 v Qualifier A4, Kardinia Park, South Geelong; Sri Lanka v

Qualifier A2, Kardinia Park, South Geelong 21 October, 2020: Qualifier B3 v Qualifier B4, Bellerive Oval, Tasmania; Bangladesh v Qualifier B2, Bellerive Oval, Tasmania 22 October, 2020: Qualifier A2 v Qualifier A3, Kardinia Park, South Geelong; Sri Lanka v Qualifier A4, Kardinia Park, South Geelong

23 October, 2020: Qualifier B2 v Qualifier B3, Bellerive Oval, Tasmania; Bangladesh v Qualifier B4, Bellerive Oval, Tasmania **Super 12:**

24 October, 2020: Australia v Pakistan, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney; India v South Africa, Perth Stadium, Perth 25 October, 2020: A1 v B2, Blundstone Arena, Hobart; New Zealand v Windies, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne 26 October, 2020: Afghanistan v A2, Perth Stadium, Perth; England v B1, Perth Stadium, Perth

27 October, 2020: New Zealand v B2, Blundstone Arena, Hobart

28 October, 2020: Afghanistan v B1, Perth Stadium, Perth; Australia v Windies, Perth Stadium, Perth

29 October, 2020: Pakistan v A1, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney; India v A2, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne (7:00pm)

30 October, 2020: England v South Africa, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney; Windies v B2, Perth Stadium, Perth

31 October, 2020: Pakistan v New Zealand, Brisbane Cricket Ground, Brisbane Australia v A1, Brisbane Cricket Ground, Brisbane

1 November, 2020: South Africa v Afghanistan, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide; India v England, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne

2 November, 2020: A2 v B1, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney; New Zealand v A1, Brisbane Cricket Ground, Brisbane

3 November, 2020: Pakistan v Windies, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide; Australia v B2, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide

4 November, 2020: England v Afghanistan, Brisbane Cricket Ground, Brisbane

5 November, 2020: South Africa v A2, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide; India v B1, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide (7:00pm)

6 November, 2020: Pakistan v B2, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne; Australia v New Zealand, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne

7 November, 2020: England v A2, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide; Windies v A1, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne

8 November, 2020: South Africa v B1, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney; India v Afghanistan, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney **Semi-finals:**

11 November, 2020 Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney

12 November, 2020 Adelaide Oval, Adelaide

Final: 15 November, 2020 Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne.

Mandhana stars again in Indian women's series-clinching win against NZ

MOUNT MAUGANUI, JAN 29 (PTI):

Opener Smriti Mandhana led the chase for India with familiar panache after a feisty bowling performance that steered the side to a series-clinching eight-wicket triumph over New Zealand Women in the second one-dayer here Tuesday. Opting to field, India produced an excellent effort to bowl out New Zealand for a paltry 161 in 44.2 overs before player of the match Mandhana (90 not out) and skipper Mithali Raj (63 not out) stitched a 151-run unbroken third-wicket stand to guide the team to an easy win.

The duo resurrected the Indian run chase from 15 for 2 after the early loss of opener Jemimah Rodrigues (0) and Deepti Sharma (8).

"It feels great but I think our bowlers deserved the player of the match award more than me. I will give it away to our bowlers, they did a great job to restrict New Zealand on a good wicket," Mandhana said in the

post-match presentation.

The 22-year-old Mandhana has been in excellent form in recent times and Tuesday's half century was her eighth in the last 10 ODI innings. She hit 105 in the first match of the ongoing series. On Tuesday, she took just 82 deliveries in her unbeaten knock of 90.

Raj, on the other hand, faced 111 deliveries in her sedate knock 63. But, she was a perfect counterfoil to the aggressive Mandhana. Raj completed the run chase in style with a six as India reached to 166 for 2 in 35.2 overs.

"I am happy with the way the team is shaping up. I have always enjoyed batting in challenging conditions. It wasn't easy, it required patience here. Smriti is in good form and somebody had to give her support," Raj said.

India have now taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match contest, which is part of the ICC Women's Championship series. The visiting side beat New Zealand in the

first one-dayer by nine wickets at the same venue on January 24. The third and final match of the series is scheduled to be held in Hamilton on February 1. It was a fitting revenge for the Indian team, which had lost the home leg of the ICC Women's Championship series 1-2 to New Zealand during the last cycle that ran from 2014-2016.

New Zealand are ranked second in the ICC Women's Championship table and are guaranteed a direct entry into the 50-over World Cup being the hosts.

Just like the first match, India opted to field and shot New Zealand out for a paltry 161 with senior pacer Jhulan Goswami grabbing 3 wickets for 23 to lead the Indian bowling charge.

The spin trio of Ekta Bisht, Poonam Yadav and Deepti Sharma, who had tormented New Zealand in India's nine-wicket win in the first ODI, took two wickets each to stifle the Kiwi innings yet again.

Raag Darbari is not about a political party, but entire state structure: Dastango Mahmood Farooqui

MANISH SAIN

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 (PTI):

Whether it was through the inimitable village patriarch Vaidya ji, or his disillusioned nephew Ranganath, the 1968 novel "Raag Darbari" raised serious concerns over the country's socio-political environment at the time.

But, the reason why Shrilal Shukla's late 60s work continues to be relevant even after half a century is because it was never a comment on a single political party but one on the entire state structure, feels dastango Mahmood Farooqui.

Farooqui, who has adapted the satire for 'dastangoi' -- a 16th-century Urdu art of storytelling, told PTI that the reality of how the system works, painted by Shukla in his quintessential deadpan humour, has hardly changed over the years. "The

ruling class -- people from politics, corporate, media, and intellectuals, don't change. They are not affected by who is in power. "The book is not about one political party but the entire state structure. The interaction between state and society that was then, hasn't changed much even today," the 40-year old performer-director said.

Farooqui, along with journalist and dastango Darain Shahidi, presented a contemporary adaptation of "Raag Darbari" here recently.

The dastango duo added a contemporary touch to the famed novel by including satirical poems by famous writers and poets including Baba Nagarjun and Kedarnath Singh.

Talking about the process behind transforming this novel of over 300 pages into a 120-minute dastan, Farooqui said that it

was always a "challenging task" as novels were meant to be enjoyed alone and a dastan has to be told in a gathering.

"It is next to impossible to read a novel and hold the crowd at the same time. To tell it in the form of a dastan, you have to make changes to it.

"And it needs to be done in a way that those who have read the novel return with something new, and those who haven't, know the essence of the story," he said. In its dastan form, the novel took shape of a 45 page script over a period of five months.

The storytelling art, which "disappeared" after the death of dastango Mir Baqar Ali in 1928, was revived by Farooqui in 2005, thanks to the extensive work done by his uncle and poet Shamsur Rahman Faruqi.

While in the last 14 years

dastangoi has become an essential part of cultural events like Jashn-e-Rekhta, Farooqui believes now is the time to put "checks and standards" to maintain the quality of the art.

"I am happy that this art has revived in India and reached Pakistan, Canada among other places. But the problem that we face now is since there are no masters of this art, every person sitting on the stage considers themselves to be a master.

"It is both a good and bad thing. Good as it encourages and interests more people to learn it, bad as there are no checks and standards," he said.

He added the onus for taking the art forward also lay on the audience who should screen every performance that they watch and "not accept anything in the name of dastangoi."

Stories of Jews finding refuge in India recounted at UN’s Int’l Holocaust Remembrance Day

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, JAN 29 (PTI): Poignant tales of compassion of Jews finding refuge in India in the midst of the horror of the Holocaust were recounted as the UN commemorated the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 commemorates the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. It commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of an estimated 6 million Jews.

India’s Permanent Mission to the UN co-hosted with B’nai B’rith International a special event ‘India: A Distant Haven during the Holocaust’ here Monday as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres voiced concern over the centuries-old hatred being “not only still strong”, but also “getting worse”.

India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said the commemoration was an opportunity to recount the moving tales of compassion amid the tragedies of the Holocaust, and to promote the civilisational values that are key to preventing such crimes against humanity from occurring ever again.

He told the gathering that there were numerous stories of solace offered in India to those escaping troubling times in Europe.

He recounted the legendary story of the Maharaja of Nawanagar,



who against all odds, took personal responsibility to provide home to around one thousand Polish children.

They travelled all the way to Gujarat in India to escape the ravages of the World War II in their homeland.

During the ensuing panel discussion, noted scholar, author and archivist Kenneth Robbins shared how some of the Jewish faith found refuge in India in the midst of horror and gloom of the Holocaust.

Stephen Tauber, a Holocaust survivor whose family fled from Austria to India, also shared his family’s stories.

“While the world was at war, India was engaged in its own struggle for freedom from colonial rule. Yet, even during these difficult times, the people of India welcomed visitors from overseas who were escaping

uncertainties in their homelands,” Akbaruddin said. He noted that the link between India and people of Jewish faith went back thousands of years in history when the first Jews landed on India’s south-western coast nearly two thousand years ago and over the decades have greatly contributed in the fields of entrepreneurship, art, architecture and culture.

Akbaruddin pointed out that India had rarely witnessed anti-semitism except during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks when Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists killed 16s people including six persons at the Chabad House in Mumbai. “As we mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention this year, we watch with concern that globally the forces of anti-se-

mitism, racial and religious intolerance and xenophobia are posing new challenges to global values,” he said.

“Examples of compassion and solidarity serve as beacons of hope and inspiration in troubled times. Stories of those who have witnessed horror in unimaginable ways and have triumphed, help in building across borders and generations, confidence and solidarity for the cherished values of pluralism and peaceful co-existence,” he added.

During the panel discussion, Robbins spoke about minorities’ contribution to Indian society, and India’s history of religious tolerance.

He also outlined the movement of Jews to India during different periods of history.

Tauber recalled a more personal story of his own family that had left Vienna and travelled

to India on an Italian ship. His family worked to maintain its Jewish traditions in a tiny community. In 1941, the family settled permanently in the United States.

“Ken is a font of knowledge about India, and particularly the intersections between Indians and Jews...Ken’s work epitomises the phrase ‘labor of love’,” B’nai B’rith International CEO Daniel Mariaschin said.

Mariaschin thanked Tauber for sharing his story, noting “that you and your family were fortunate to find rescue in India and ultimately a new life here in the United States”.

President of B’nai B’rith International, oldest Jewish service organization in the world, Charles Kaufman emphasised the UN’s role in fighting hatred and violence.

In Kabul, US reports ‘agreements in principle’ with Taliban

KABUL, JAN 29 (AP): Negotiators for the United States and the Taliban insurgents have reached “agreements in principle” on key issues for a peace deal that would end 17 years of war in Afghanistan, the top US envoy has said.

The statement by US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad followed six days of talks last week with the Taliban in Qatar, where he urged the insurgents to enter into direct negotiations with the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Ghani on Monday assured Afghans that their rights will not be compromised in the name of peace with the Taliban, who have been staging near-daily attacks against Afghan forces, causing scores of casualties every week. Their offensive has not let up despite the severe Afghan winter and the insurgents now hold sway over nearly half of the country.

Khalilzad said in an interview with The New York Times that an agreement in principle was reached with the Taliban on the framework of a peace deal “which still has to be fleshed out” that will see the insurgents commit to guaranteeing that Afghan territory is not used as a “platform for international terror-

ist groups or individuals.” He said the deal could lead to a full pullout of US troops in return for a cease-fire and Taliban talks with the Afghan government.

In his statement released by the US Embassy, Khalilzad said, “We made progress on vital issues in our discussions and agreed to agreements in principle on a couple of very important issues.”

“There is a lot more work to be done before we can say we have succeeded in our efforts but I believe for the first time I can say that we have made significant progress,” he said.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said he has been briefed on the talks and described them as encouraging, but he also told reporters that the department has not been directed to prepare for a full withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Speaking before a meeting at the Pentagon with Shanahan, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said any discussion about the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan would be premature. He said Khalilzad had briefed NATO allies on the talks weeks ago.

“We are in Afghani-

stan to create the conditions for a peaceful negotiated solution,” Stoltenberg said.

“We will not stay longer than necessary, but we will not leave before we have a situation that enables us to leave or reduce the number of troops without jeopardizing the main goal of our presence and that is to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for international terrorists once again.”

He added that he believes it’s too soon to speculate on withdrawal because “what we have to do now is to support the efforts to try to find a peaceful solution. We strongly support those efforts.” Ghani sought to assure Afghans that no deals would be made without Kabul’s awareness and full participation. “Our commitment is to provide peace and to prevent any possible disaster,” Ghani said in an address to the nation. “There are values that are not disputable, such as national unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.” Ghani’s office said he and Khalilzad met late Sunday in Kabul to discuss details from the talks.

Khalilzad’s statement emphasised the inclusion of the Afghan government in the talks.

Trump to deliver State of the Union Address on February 5

WASHINGTON, JAN 29 (PTI): Donald Trump will deliver the State of the Union Address on February 5 after it was delayed due to a government shutdown over the US president’s demand for funding for a wall along the border with Mexico. The traditional annual speech by President Trump was initially scheduled for January but had to be postponed because of the largest government shutdown due to differences between the White House and the Opposition Democrats on the issue of the wall.

Trump is demanding USD 5.7 billion to build his border wall while Democrats were holding firm at USD 1.3 billion for border security measures. Speaker Nancy Pelosi refused to pass the necessary resolutions in Congress to allow for a State of the Union Address and told the president that he needed to first allow the federal government to fully reopen. Pelosi cited security concerns because government workers were not being paid during the shutdown.

Trump considered moving the address to another location but ultimately decided to wait to deliver it after the shutdown was over. The 35-day government shutdown the longest in US history ended Friday when Trump and congressional leaders struck a deal to reopen the government through February 15.

Pelosi sent a letter to the president on Monday formally inviting him to deliver the speech before

a joint session of Congress. Trump quickly accepted the invitation.

“When I wrote to you on January 23, I stated that we should work together to find a mutually agreeable date when government has reopened to schedule this year’s State of the Union address,” Pelosi wrote. “In our conversation today, we agreed on February 5th.”

Trump wrote back that it is his “great honour” to accept.

“We have a great story to tell and yet, great goals to achieve!” he wrote. The State of the Union address comes at a pivotal time for Trump, who will be able to lay out his agenda for the coming year before a national audience amid some of the lowest approval ratings of his presidency.

The agreement on a State of the Union Address came as the Congressional Budget Office said the partial shutdown would definitely have a negative economic impact. The annual State of the Union address is the keynote prime time speech by the president to the Congress in which he sets out his legislative agenda and national priorities for the next year and highlights his achievements to the American people.

The speech will be Trump’s third to a Joint Session of Congress his initial appearance on February 28, 2017 was weeks after his inauguration and not considered a formal State of the Union.

Chinese activist jailed for five years: rights groups

BEIJING, JAN 29 (AFP): The founder of a prominent Chinese civil and human rights website was sentenced to five years in prison on Tuesday for inciting state subversion, according to human rights organisations.

Liu Feiyue created and ran the Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch website, which covers a range of civil and human rights issues, including protests, police abuses, and government corruption -- sensitive topics that are scrubbed from most Chinese media sites.

The Suizhou Intermediate People’s Court in central Hubei province

sentenced him after he was found guilty of “inciting subversion of state power”, according to Human Rights Watch.

“The sentence... once again shows how the Chinese government abuses the judicial system to silence dissidents,” Patrick Poon, China researcher at Amnesty International, told AFP.


There are “serious flaws in the procedure of this case, without due process in line with international standards”, he added.

Liu’s sentence came one day after human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang was handed a four-and-a-half-year

sentence on similar subversion charges.

Wang is one of more than 200 lawyers and activists who were swept up in a 2015 crackdown aimed at courtroom critics of Communist authorities. China’s first “cyber-dissident” and founder of human rights website “64 Tianwang”, Huang Qi, is also facing charges.

Arrested in 2016 for “leaking state secrets”, Huang has since been held in a detention centre in southwestern Sichuan province and was expected to go on trial earlier this month. Liu was detained around the same time, according to Poon.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME
GANGTOK


Notice for registration of all the Child Care Institutions in Sikkim

In compliance to the Judgement passed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition No. (CrI) No 102 of 2017, it is mandatory for all the Government/NGOs/Voluntary Organisations running Child Care Institutions (CCIs) for the Children in Sikkim to get their CCIs registered under Juvenile Justice Act 2015 regardless of whether they are receiving grants from the Central Government or the State Government as the case may be. CCIs running without registration is illegal and as per Sec 42 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection off Children) Act 2015, those who fail to comply with the provisions of Section 41(1), shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year or a fine of not less than one lakh rupees or both.

For Application Form and any other query please contact
DCPO East/8768976238
DCPO North/9083501548
DCPO West/9735989009
DCPO South/9775431700 or the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary cum Programme Manager/ICPS
Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department
Government of Sikkim

R.O. No: 629/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Date: 28/01/2019



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HOME DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

No: 9166/Home/2019 Dated: 22.01.2019

PUBLIC ADVISORY


Information and communication technology is being used in all works of public life including banking, transport, airlines, railways, power and other sectors. However, with the enhanced use of technology for day to day activities, possibility of cyber crime is also increasing due to which people become victims of crimes. Therefore, to educate and create awareness about the modus operandi of such cyber criminals and crimes, the following Advisory is issued:

- (a) People are advised not to share their user ID, password, ATM/Credit card PIN, OTPs etc. Help of financial institutions, NGOs, educational institutions, RWAs etc. are to be availed of to spread such messages.
- (b) People are advised to approach various channels through which complaints about cyber crimes can be filed.
- (c) People are advised to inform law enforcement agencies about misuse of cyber space especially if they noticed child pornography, obscene material/content on social media or other platforms.

Further, to mitigate possibility of disruption in normal business activities or losses due to cyber crimes, Government of India has created an ecosystem to prevent and control cyber crimes. With this objectives, MHA has launched @CyberDost Twitter handle in 2018 where pertinent posts can be placed regularly.

Sd/-
(Pratap Pradhan) SCS
Secretary PROTOCOL
Home Department
Government of Sikkim

R.O. No. 623/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 Date: 29.01.19 File No. Home/Confdl./127/2012/04 Part.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Memo no: 139/UD&HD/Jrt. Date: 25/01/2019

RE-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Superintending Engineer (S&W), Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites bids through e-procurement for the works listed below from eligible contractors of appropriate class. All tender details shall be uploaded on the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in on 29.01.2019 and all bids should be submitted online through the website.

Pack- age no.	Name of Works	Bid Security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs in Lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of Tender / bid form (Rs in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Construction of Kissan Bazaar cum Parking Plaza at Gyalshing in West Sikkim	8.20	327.92	0.50

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

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (S&W)
Urban Development & Housing Department, Jorethang

R.O. No: 628/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Date: 28/01/2019



COMFORT ZONE! It's all about dressing in warm and cozy clothes for Rihanna while traveling at JFK airport.

Planned my wedding on 'Ek Ladki Ko...' sets: Sonam Kapoor

MUMBAI, JAN 29 (PTI): Actor Sonam Kapoor has revealed that she planned her wedding with Anand Ahuja during the shooting of her upcoming film "Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga", along with her father Anil Kapoor. The father-daughter have teamed up for the first time on screen with the film.

"When we were shooting the film, my wedding was being planned. So not much time was wasted as we used plan my wedding on sets, in between takes. "In a way it was godsend that we did this film together right before the wedding, otherwise I don't know how we would've found the time to meet each other," Sonam told reporters during a special event of the film on Monday. Sonam and Anand dated for over four years before tying the knot on May 8, 2018 in



Mumbai suburbs. The actor said she was extremely nervous to work with her father.

"Our relationship on set was very professional. But honestly I was very scared on the first day. I was very nervous, hadn't slept the night before, was very stressed out."

The "Neerja" actor said the best thing about Anil is that he is still hungry to learn new things. "Curiosity dies in some people after they grow up. My dad, in a very nice way, hasn't grown up. He is still so curious. When you are curious, you always feel you're a student. "I think that is a quality I hope I imbibe from him. To constantly learn, ask questions, be better and to never think I've done enough."

The film is co-written by Gazal Dhaliwal and director Shelly Chopra. It also features Rajkumar Rao and Juhi Chawla.

Taiwanese Singer Will Pan Is Timberland's New Asian Ambassador

Taiwanese musician, actor and total heartthrob Will Pan is adding a new title to his already burgeoning CV: He's the new 2019 APAC ambassador for outdoor wear label, Timberland.

Announced in a release, the brand revealed that Pan was the perfect choice of the brand not only because of his impressive fashion and entertainment portfolio, but also for his "long-term commitment to community outreach and environmental sustainability".

As one of his commitments as ambassador for the brand, Pan will be joining Timberland's Nature Needs Heroes campaign this year, and will undertake various initiatives on social media and in real life to raise awareness about environmental and sustainability issues in Asia.

Pan also paid a visit to London this past London Fashion Week Men's to attend Timberland Global Creative Director

Christopher Raeburn's fall/winter 2019 show, as well as to visit the RÆBURN Lab in Hackney, where Raeburn showed



him how the brand's commitment to environmentalism played an integral part in the brand's design process.

As part of his duties as a Timberland ambassador, the singer will also take part in various initiatives in Asia, such as joining Japan-based non-profit organisation Green Network for a reforestation project in Inner Mongolia's Horqin Desert.

Fashionable and with a heart — now that's how we all like our men.

Margot Robbie shares Harley Quinn look from 'Birds of Prey'

LOS ANGELES, JAN 29 (PTI): Margot Robbie has shared her first look as Harley Quinn in the upcoming "Birds of Prey (And The Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)". The 28-year-old actor, who reprises her "Suicide Squad" breakout character in the female-led film, took to Instagram to post the photograph. "Miss me? HQ," Robbie signed the picture as her on-screen character.

Cathy Yan is directing the film from "Bumblebee" writer Christina Hodson's script. The movie also features Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Huntress, Jurnee Smollett-Bell as Black Canary, Ella Jay Basco as Cassandra Cain and Rosie Perez as Renee Montoya.

Ewan McGregor is the latest addition to the cast who stars as Black Mask, the villain. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the film will follow Quinn as she "assembles a girl gang of friends to take on a bad guy".



Robbie is also attached as producer, along with Sue Kroll and Bryan Unkelles. "Birds of Prey" is scheduled to be released on February 7, 2020.

REQUIRED FOR CANADA

**Nurses,
Caregivers,
Chef-Waiters-Butchers-Bakers,
Driver,
Farm Workers - Meat Packers
IT PROFESSIONAL**

Walk for Interview & Resume Submission



7SEA OVERSEAS CONSULTANCY

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sevenseasconsultancy5@gmail.com

Contact No. +9170764 21789 / +9183487 14807

ARIES: So much for keeping things small and intimate. With the radiant Sun and genial Mercury synched up in your more-is-merrier eleventh house, your one-on-one meeting could evolve into a hivemind brainstorming session. The more feedback the better today, and don't worry that it will send you spiraling out in too many directions. Once you take it all in, you can synthesize the new data and figure out what's best for you. Today, however, it's best to let your mind and imagination stretch!

TAURUS: So much for leaving work at the office, Taurus. With the Sun and detail-driving Mercury trading friendly fire in your career zone all today, you might even be ordering lunch at your desk. But make sure to take some stretch breaks and give yourself a firm cutoff time tonight. (As in, no staying later than the custodial staff.) First, you're just tweaking a line of text in a presentation.

GEMINI: Breakfast in bed might not be possible on a Tuesday, but how about meeting your favorite plus-one for an extended lunch break or an after-work date? With the

Sun and flirty Mercury entwined in your seductive eighth house all today, you'll have a hard time keeping your mind on mundane matters. If you don't have a special someone to send naughty texts to throughout the day, you could be intimately engaged with the muse.

CANCER: Everything's coming up roses today, especially when it comes to your career. But to enjoy the blossoming possibilities, you have to take a risk. Daredevil Mars gets a windfall of support from lucky Jupiter—a rare, one-day formation. Their combined powers give you the guts to ask for a raise, pitch a project or share your work with the world. Is a leadership position calling your name? Stop waiting for someone else to ascend to the throne. Jump in, Cancer. Anything you don't know now you'll learn on the job.

LEO: It's a sweet-talking day for Leos, as the Sun and glib Mercury unite in your partnership house and bless you with even greater powers of persuasion. Few can say no to you when you turn on that playful, confident charm. But remember: If you rope people into things, you're at least a little bit respon-

sible for, well, showing them the ropes. Of course, that can be part of the fun—and a worthwhile bonding experience with someone you'd like to see more of this winter.

VIRGO: A vitality-boosting Tuesday is in the stars as the life-giving Sun synes up with social Mercury in your wellness corner. Instead of happy hour, meet friends for hot Pilates and sushi or get their recommendations for great studios, trainers and fitness apps. With the endorphins fueling your confidence, you might strike up a conversation with the attractive person who always shows up for the same classes you do.

LIBRA: Although you're a staunchly independent thinker, you love to partner and collaborate with people who share your idealistic perspective on life. If they're free-spirited, visionary and open-minded, you'll make magic with them any day. (No, they can't make a million demands on your time, but otherwise, it's cool.)

SCORPIO: Slip on those over-the-knee boots or a glamorous faux fur coat. You'll be feeling the Old Hollywood vibes as the "see

me, love me" Sun and messenger Mercury merge in your theatrical and romantic fifth house. Before you've left for work, you may have staged an extensive selfie shoot—and even fielded an accusation of thirst-trapping! **SAGITTARIUS:** So many friends, so little time! Your popularity spikes today as the radiant Sun links arms with social Mercury in Aquarius and your third house of community. If you planned to work solo or head home straight after work, get ready to change your agenda. An invitation to join a new group for lunch or pop in to an evening event could bring a radical upgrade to your winter social calendar!

CAPRICORN: Ready to toss your to-do list out the window today? Not so fast. An industrious meetup of the Sun and on-the-move Mercury powers you through those outstanding tasks. And you'll feel tremendous relief as you tick off each box! Plus, who says you can't enjoy this practical magic in a social way? Surely there's a friend who wants to accompany you on a lunch hour run to the architectural salvage shop to price out French doors—or maybe the farmer's market

to stock up on greens and raw honey.

AQUARIUS: When you see something, say something, Aquarius. It's not like you can help yourself today as mouthy Mercury and the illuminating Sun sync up in your sign and activate your quick-fire first house. Your instincts will be sharp; your tact and timing, well...not so much. But ultimately, it's better to speak your piece than to hold it in and later drive your entire Facebook feed insane obsessing over what-ifs?

PISCES: Lighten up that agenda, Pisces and build some unstructured flow time into your day—in solitude or with people who understand the concept of comfortable silence. With the Sun and mindful Mercury in your soulful twelfth house, you could have some real epiphanies while journaling or quietly reading and researching during your lunch break. Looking for some evening entertainment? See what's happening at a local yoga studio. A visiting instructor could be teaching an amazing class—maybe one that ends with a gong meditation or a sound bath of singing bowls.