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SummitTIMES

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

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**SDF to
contest
2019 on its
own: PD Rai**

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 JAN:**

Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai, today commented that the party was not attaching any significance to the visit of BJP election in-charge to Sikkim of his meetings with different political parties here.

He added that this was clearly just a preparatory visit and does not have any significance and it was his routine work after being made the election incharge of the party for Sikkim.

On the same, Mr Rai reiterated that SDF will contest and win all 32 seats on its own in the upcoming election.

Reacting to ongoing talks of an alliance in opposition, Mr Dahal stated that HSP was suffering from political progeria so it was sinking and there was no growth in the party and SKM president cannot fight the election as per the law of the land, and State BJP was still looking for the people in the party.

On queries about the SDF support for the Citizenship Bill, he stated that it was a voice vote in which he had not taken part. However, he clarified that the Bill would not dilute provisions of Article 371F since 371F was the constitutional provision for Sikkim.

SDF condemns SKM's trivialization of important issue with "drama" FIR

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 JAN:**

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly criticised and condemned the move of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha's women's wing to defame the Chief Minister with their selective release of a video of his speech which they have then misrepresented and projected a wrong interpretation on to mislead the people. The SKM women's wing, it may be recalled, has also filed an FIR on the matter and lodged complaints at several agencies alleging that the CM had outraged women with his recent comments on menstruation.

While strongly condemning the manner in which SKM was representing the matter, SDF party spokesperson, Bhim Dahal, today stated that the ruling party was



ready to have a one-on-one debate on this issue.

As for the FIR filed by SKM, he said it was all just "drama" because even SKM would know how forced and weak their position was.

Addressing a press conference here today, he lashed out against the SKM, especially its women's wing, for degrading the standard of the political dialogue and debate. He added that SKM

has been operating almost exclusively on the politics of rumours, false propaganda and misinformation.

Mr Dahal stated that the SDF government has done historic and

unprecedented work in the field of social justice in Sikkimese politics and society.

Speaking on CM's speech in question [delivered on 05 March last year while addressing a meeting of Scheduled Castes], Mr Dahal stated that SDF party and its leader have always engaged in public dialogue in the civilised manner. However, he added that SKM women wing has attempted to defame Sikkim by showing the incomplete video clips of the CM address and by interpreted it in the complete wrong manner.

He also criticised the SKM women's wing of trivializing and important issue that the CM had brought into public discourse for wider discussions and soul searching.

On the Mahila Mukti movement, Mr Dahal

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'Delhi mein sarkar badal do': Mamata's war cry at opposition rally



KOLKATA, JAN 19 (PTI): Issuing a war cry 'Delhi mein sarkar badal do' (change the government at the Centre), Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee Saturday asserted that the "expiry date" of the Modi government is over and a united opposition will win the coming general elections.

Addressing an opposition rally at Brigade Parade Grounds here called by her, she also promised to work together along with other opposition parties.

Who will be the prime minister will be decided after the polls, she said.

Claiming that BJP's days at the Centre are numbered, she told the mammoth gathering that the "expiry date of the Modi government is over". Criticising the BJP, she said, "There is courtesy in politics, but BJP does not follow it. Those who are not with BJP are called thieves."

Banerjee, whose speech lasted for nearly 25 minutes, also claimed that the BJP does not give respect to many of its own senior leaders and people like Rajnath Singh, Sushma Swaraj and Nitin Gadkari are ignored in the saffron party.

"Modi and his associates are now talking of collective leadership, but if BJP wins the Lok Sabha polls these leaders will be ignored again," she said.

Noting that the present situation in the country is of "super Emergen-

cy", Banerjee said it is worse than that imposed by Indira Gandhi and raised the slogan of 'Badal do, badal do, Delhi mein sarkar badal do' (change the government).

She alleged that the BJP has divided the nation through its divisive politics.

"What Pakistan could not do in 70 years, it (BJP) has succeeded in doing in just four years," the firebrand Trinamool Congress supremo said.

She claimed that under the Narendra Modi government, banks, CBI, RBI, economy and democracy have all suffered irreparable damage.

"NPA, Rafale, insurance are big scandals. Many scandals have happened during this regime and still they (BJP) want to be in power", Banerjee said.

Citing a Bengali proverb, she said that the mother of thieves has the loudest voice.

"There is courtesy in politics, but BJP does not follow it. Those who are not with BJP are called thieves," she said.

Banerjee said that the Modi government has targeted all opposition leaders who spoke against the BJP and have not spared Sonia Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, Mayawati and herself.

The Modi government has not kept any of its promises made before the 2014 elections, she claimed, adding "Acche din will not come for BJP again."

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Krishi Unnati Mela concludes

GANGTOK, 19 JAN (IPR):

The valedictory function of Sikkim Organic Day cum Krishi Unnati Mela was held at Manan Bhawan Gangtok today. The programme was attended by Governor Ganga Prasad as the chief guest.

The program had the presence of Agriculture Minister, Somnath Poudyal, Secretary Agriculture, Khorlo Bhutia, Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim Organic Mission, Dr. S. Anbalagan, Joint Director, NOFRI (ICAR), Dr R.K. Avasthe and ICAR Scientists and other dignitaries, officials and farmers from across the State.

The two-day program was organized jointly by Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Horticulture & Cash crops Development Department and ICAR with support from Na-



tional Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), ICAR- RCNEH Research Complex North - Eastern Hill Region and ICAR - ATARI -IV Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute IV. Governor Ganga Prasad in his speech wel-

comed the dignitaries and highlighted the focal points in the programme, that Sikkim has made a historic declaration in the State Legislative Assembly passing a resolution to convert the entire agricultural land of Sikkim into Organic in 2003.

He expressed satis-

faction over increasing participation of farmers in organic agriculture. He opined that assertive interventions by the government are required to ensure that more and more farmers get access to the land holdings.

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Ladies, get serious about real issues

TSHERING EDEN

Debates or discussions on women's issues in Sikkim are almost non-existent, but of late the opposition has suddenly taken it upon itself to defend women's honor because the Chief Minister allegedly made fun of menstruation.

There are many things right and wrong here.

The right of course is that there is at least something related to women is being talked about. Now whether there is any substance in this is debatable but it is something. Secondly, menstruation is being openly discussed so maybe, just maybe, what the ruling party is offering as a justification for the CM's comments is true and ironically, has been proven so by the opposi-

tion choosing to make it an issue. The CM wanted to initiate wider discussion on menstruation and the opposition has helped him in this endeavour.

What is wrong is that, election or no election, the more pertinent issues related to gender equality are still swept under the carpet, with even the opposition refusing to take them up.

As a woman, I don't really care for what the CM said about menstruation, even if he made fun of it, because the real insult has been served to us for years and continues. That, I am a nobody without a father or a husband or a brother is an insult. My identity as a Sikkimese is determined by whether I was born to a Sikkimese man, am married to a Sikkimese

man or have a Sikkimese man as a brother.

That I have a mother means nothing is an insult.

The State does not care who or what your mother is because she too, is a nobody. Your mother's name is optional, not mandatory. Oh, and that the opposition chose to make, of all things, the menstruation comment an issue is an insult too.

This denial of identity is directly linked with inheritance rights, which of course is linked with land rights. Land has always been used as a powerful weapon to disenfranchise minorities and land has always been seen as a man's right. Do the math. The State has been saying men and women now enjoy equal inheritance rights following the passing of the Sikkim

Succession [2008] Bill by the State Assembly. However, ten years on, this Act is yet to be officially notified. One can't help but wonder why.

Why is it that only women married to non-locals lose their Sikkimese identity? Why not men married to non-locals? No answer to these questions can be devoid of sexism in some form. It is confounding that such an unfair and discriminatory practice exists in the 21st Century. A number of reasons could be cited - politics, lack of awareness, culture and traditions but none could be more powerful and debilitating than the years of internalized patriarchy.

Nari or cheli morchas do not signify women's empowerment, elected women's representatives could. How many of



those have we had? Four in 2009-14 is the highest number of women legislators the State has seen so far. There were 110 men and only 11 women contestants in the last elections. Out of this, only three women got elected. In North Sikkim, women voters outnumber men in two of the three assembly con-

stituencies in the district. Dzongu in North Sikkim has 4,190 women electors against 4,125 men registered as voters there and Lachen-Mangan has the numbers 3,564 against 3,511 in favour of the women. We have never had women representatives from these constituencies.

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Red Panda Winter Carnival 2019 concludes



**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 19 JAN:**

The three-day Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival 2019 concluded today here at MG Marg. The festival was organised by the Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, in coordination with Culture Department. Former Cabinet Minister, NK Pradhan, attended the valedictory program as chief guest accompanied by Minister for Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Ugen T Gyatso.

The last day of the carnival started with a felicitation program where representatives from Nepal, Bhutan and British Council, Kolkata were felicitated by the chief guest. This was followed by cultural performances from Nepal, a solo song by Renumit Lepcha, G # School of Performing Arts and beat-box performance by Bimal Sunar.

In the evening, Granite Yard rocked the stage which was followed by performances by Epistrophe, followed by Tshering Leezum and The Irregulars.



National Youth Week at Kabrey

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMTHANG, 19 JAN:

The "National Youth Week" programme, observed as part of the birth anniversary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda, concluded here yesterday. The programme was held at Kabrey Sec-

ondary School in South Sikkim and was organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Namchi, in collaboration with Sunakhari Club of Kabrey.

The events began on 12 Jan and were actively participated in by youth and students of the locality.

Blankets and aid to supplement nutrition handed over to TB patients



GYALSHING, 19 JAN (IPR): The distribution of nutrition support and blankets to patients of Tuberculosis (TB) was done by ADC (West), Karma Lodoy Lepcha, at the District Hospital, Gyalshing.

213 TB patients were identified and the aid handed over to them.

For patients under treatment at PHCs, the distribution will take place at their respective PHCs informs Chief Medical Offi-

cer, Dr T Namgyal. The TB patients are getting paid Rs 3,000 per month for additional nutritional support till completion of treatment by the State Government as one of the initiatives of the Chief Minister.

BSF denies allegation of pushing Rohingyas into Bangladesh



AGARTALA, JAN 19 (PTI): The BSF on Saturday rebuffed claims made by the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) that it was deliberately pushing Rohingyas into their territory.

A Bangladesh-based newspaper had on Friday reported that the Border Security Force (BSF) was trying to force 31 Rohingyas into their country from the Kasba Upazilas Kajiatoli border area in Brahmanbaria.

The area falls in Tripura's Kamalasagar in Sipahijala district, about 32 km from here.

Terming the allegations as false and baseless, the BSF Tripura Frontier in a statement said that on January 18, at about 8.30 pm, Lt Col Gomal Kabir, Commanding Officer of BGB called BSF Commandant Ratnesh Kumar and informed him that they had detained 31 Rohingya Muslims at the Interna-

tional Border.

"Commanding Officer 25 BGB insisted the BSF Commandant to take over those Rohingyas inside the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB) fencing, Commanding Officer BGB also alleged that BSF have been pushing Rohingyas into Bangladesh territory," the statement said. "BSF strictly denies any such attempt and refutes the allegation as published in Bangladesh media," the statement added.

The BSF further said that during search and spot verification, no tell-tale signs of any such type of illegal crossing of Rohingyas from Indian territory to Bangladesh side were found.

BSF said that it has learnt from reliable sources that the BGB have brought a group of Rohingyas from the interior of Kasba Upazila and falsely shown them to have been detained near

the border pillar "under a specific strategic plan".

When contacted, a BSF Public Relation Officer on condition of anonymity said, "The allegation is completely false and baseless and BSF has no such plan or never had any such plan earlier".

He said in 2017, 12 Rohingyas were apprehended and in the following year another 62 were held from different parts of Tripura, but not a single one of them was pushed to Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh newspaper had reported that BGB had confirmed the presence of Rohingyas in no man's land on the Indian side. "BSF is gathering huge number of Rohingyas on the border area in a number of trucks. BGB and local villagers are on high alert about the matter," Kabir was quoted as saying in the newspaper report.

Disability screening camp held in Mangan

Mangan, 19 Jan [IPR]: A Disability Screening Camp for Persons with Disability (PWD) was held today at the District Hospital here.

The screening camp was conducted by officers from the Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department and medical specialists from STNM Hospital and was coordinated and organized by the District Collector, North.

100 people from all over the district availed the screening camp at Mangan District Hospital and the eligible beneficiaries were enrolled under various pension schemes of the state government.

A Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SWEEP) Awareness drive was also held during the screening camp where those who had come for



the screening were informed about VVPAT and voting with VVPAT.

The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines are being used for the first time in the ensuing Gen-

eral Elections 2019 and the district election department is working to ensure mass awareness.

The Election Department also collected Form 6 for enrolment of Left-out PWDs. People of the

district greatly benefited from the above camp and expressed their gratitude towards the doctors, officers from Social Justice and the district administration for arranging the screening camp.

Women get lot of respect in other countries, but people don't practise what they preach in India: Sindhu



HYDERABAD, JAN 18 (PTI): Ace shuttler PV Sindhu on Friday noted that a lot of respect was given to women in foreign countries, but, in India, people do not practise what they preach.

Speaking at an event titled 'SH(OUT) - Sexual Harassment Out: We are listening', organised by the Hyderabad Police here, Sindhu said, "I feel really happy that there is lot of respect towards women in other countries, while in India, people actually tell us that we should respect women, but I think there are very rare people who actually practise it... who actually do it (respect). It's just that they only say it and they don't practise it."

"I want to say and wish that everybody should respect others and especially women," she said adding "women have to be strong and we have to believe ourselves as a woman we can do anything".

Women who face sexual harassment, be it physical or mental harassment, should come forward and should not

be ashamed of it, and they should talk about and speak about it, Sindhu stressed.

She said the #MeToo movement had brought lot of awareness about sexual harassment of women at workplace, adding that this movement educated both women and also men about the responsibilities towards the society.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said that the vision of the initiative is to spread awareness across working women in all sectors on what amounts to sexual harassment and what measures are required to be taken for its prevention.

During the symposium, various provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, were explained to the delegates with specific inputs on role and responsibilities of the organisations; constitution and functions of internal complaints committee; and reporting and redressal mechanism for women employees.

SDF condemns...

stated SDF has provided full respect to women since its inception and even taken works and translations of writers and philosophers from women's liberation movement to all corners of the State.

He mentioned that SDF translated books by renowned French writer and philosopher Simone De Beauvoir and taken them to libraries in rural parts of the State in 1993.

He added that the ruling party also taken books of another renowned writer Parijat to all corners of the State.

He mentioned that the speech of the CM was a research document and the party will publish the entire speech for public awareness.

Delhi mein sarkar...

You (BJP) have missed your opportunity."

Banerjee, who has been a strident critic of the BJP, claimed that the party does not even give respect to many of its own senior leaders and people like Rajnath Singh, Sushma Swaraj and Nitin Gadkari are ignored.

"Modi and his associates are now talking of collective leadership, but if BJP wins the Lok Sabha polls these leaders will be ignored again," she said.

Banerjee alleged that the Modi government has imposed an unwritten "super emergency", worse than that imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.

She raised the "Badal do, badal do, Delhi mein sarkar badal do (change the government) to usher in change at the Centre.

Krishi Unnati Mela...

He said that there is a need for adopting participatory approach for management of irrigation, conservation of natural resources like soil, water and vegetation for sustained development and continuing economic progress and improved way of life of the people.

He also laid the importance of Vermi composting, EM composting, biodynamic composting etc and massive awareness training at all the village level through Krishi Mela. He stressed on the importance of skill-oriented education and emphasized on the role of educational institutions to inspire students towards agriculture-based professions.

The Governor also appreciated the role of ICAR-NOFRI in technological empowerment of farmers in agriculture which has enabled the policy makers to take high level policy initiatives in this sector. He stated that Sikkim being a small State has been declared as an organic State further emphasizing the need to empower farmer with new knowledge and skill and the system must also seek the inputs of farmers as they have historically been the source of much traditional knowledge and innovations at the grassroots level.

Secretary Agriculture, Khorlo Bhutia in his address said that Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling declared January 18th as an "Organic Day" in Sikkim to be observed annually after Prime Minister, Narendra Modi lauded the State's development progress in agriculture sector. He also said that Sikkim has been bestowed with pride of becoming the first State of India to declare and adopt 100% Organic Farming for healthy living and sustainable agriculture maintaining the ecology and environment for healthy and wealthy future of the Sikkimese people.

Chief Executive Officer, Sikkim Organic Mission, Dr S. Anbalagan made a presentation on overview of Sikkim Organic Mission where its vision and mission were highlighted. He said that 2003 was given as foundation year and after that two to three years were given for preparatory phase and in 2010 witnessed the implementation phase followed by certification programme.

Presently government is initiating in phase two which involves processing and marketing. In the presentation the Government measures on Sikkim Organic Policy, some important policy decisions and various strategies were highlighted.

Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Dr. R.K.Avasthe briefed about the Organic Farming Technologies for doubling Farmers Income by 2022. In his presentation he focused on Agronomic technology developed at ICAR, Zero till vegetable pea in rice fallow, Micro WHS, Jalkund in different villages of Sikkim and various other technique like low cost water harvesting, year-round organic vegetable production under low cost plastic tunnels for doubling farmers income. He also said that collective action of farmer is required so that they come together on a single platform to march further.

The programme also witnessed the distribution of certificates of appreciation to Field Functionaries of the Department.

The two-day program concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Secretary HCCDD, DK Bhandari.

Ladies, get serious...

Okay, maybe that is a little too farfetched; more women law makers might take some time. Let's look at what the common woman can do. Voting for political parties that will raise the issues we care about. Women have after all been consistently outperforming men in exercising their franchise; even setting a national record in the 2009 election with 82.77% turnout against the 81.46% male voter turnout. In the 2014 Assembly election in Sikkim, the female voter turnout was 81.33% while the male voter turnout was 80.29%. You may say that's just about 1% but even so, it is a difference that could make a difference.

Ladies, it is high time we leverage this and build pressure in the political space because it is dominated by men and it is their agendas that reign supreme. Raising a storm over issues like the CM's remark on menstruation can come later when the more bigger hurdles have been crossed otherwise it runs the risk of trivializing women's issues which can do more harm than good. Women need to take themselves more seriously for political parties to do the same.

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Com

KT Gyaltsen condemns Oppn leveling allegations without evidence

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 19 JAN: Sikkim Democratic Front party spokesperson, KT Gyaltsen, stressed that opposition parties have been trying to defame Sikkim and its people by leveling false allegations of corruption on the SDF Government and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

He highlighted that the opposition parties have not been able to provide any proof or basis for these allegations, and asserted that they should not insult the mandate of the people of Sikkim if they do not have any proof and base of their allegations.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Gyaltsen said, "The CM has always continued his work for the people despite criticism and false allegations from the Opposition throughout these 24 years."

He stated that the opposition has been defaming Sikkim and its people by going outside the State with allegations of corruption.

On the same, he asserted that opposition parties should able to give proof or show the charge-sheet for any corruption, asset known to be disproportionate to income, any charge framed or conviction in any case against the CM.

"Since they are making these allegations without evidence, it is clear that it is they who are mentally corrupt," he said.

He asserted that the people of Sikkim have given the mandate to Pawan Chamling for five consecutive times and made him the Chief Minister.

Rahul to raise Rafale, farmers' issue at budget session:Kharge

KOLKATA, JAN 19 (PTI): Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said Saturday that his party president Rahul Gandhi would raise issues relating to Rafale, farmers' distress, unemployment, demonetisation and interference into autonomous bodies like CBI by the Modi government in the budget session of Parliament.

Kharge, while addressing a news conference here, said that the Parliament would resume on January 31 with the President's speech.

"Then the Parliament would initiate the budget session where our leader Rahul Gandhi will raise these issues," the Congress leader said.

He said that the BJP government led by Nar-

endra Modi was "destroying democracy" along with his aide Amit Shah. Kharge said that the fight in 2019 elections would be for freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

"We re fighting for them. We will continue to fight for these," he said.

On Karnataka, Kharge said that the alliance between Congress and JD(S) will continue, adding that one MLA, who was untraced, would be served notice.

Asked if there was a possibility of an alliance between the Trinamool Congress and Congress in the coming Lok Sabha poll in West Bengal, Kharge said it will depend on Congress' state party unit similar to how things are working in Tamil Nadu with DMK and JD(S) in Karnataka.

Opposition parties join hands at Mamata rally, vow to oust Modi

KOLKATA, JAN 19 (PTI): Leaders from over a dozen opposition parties came together Saturday, vowing at a mega rally here to put up a united fight in the coming Lok Sabha elections and oust Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power.

Over 20 leaders, including two from the Congress, attended the show of unity organised by Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "The BJP government has crossed its expiry date, she said.

The leaders called for putting the differences between the parties aside, and said they can decide on issue of prime minister's post after the elections.

Some suggested that the opposition should aim at putting up a joint candidate against the BJP nominee in every constituency.

They also decided to hold more joint rallies ahead of the elections, which are to be held by May. The next public meetings will be in New Delhi and Andhra Pradesh capital Amravati. The two top Congress leaders, party president Rahul Gandhi and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, skipped the Kolkata rally. But the party was represented by Mallikarjun Kharge and Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

Khare, who is leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, read a message from Sonia Gandhi wishing success to the rally.

HD Deve Gowda (Janata Dal-Secular), Sharad Pawar (Nationalist Congress Party) Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Farooq Abdullah (National Conference) and M K Stalin (DMK) were among the top leaders at the rally.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Karnataka counterpart and H D Kumaraswamy too attended.

Socialist leader Sharad Yadav, former Union ministers Arun Shourie and Yashwant Sinha, and BJP rebel Shatrughan Sinha also

shared the dais.

"The BJP government has crossed its expiry date. We all have to fight together to ensure that they are defeated, Banerjee, the last speaker, said.

The issue of prime ministership won't be a problem," she added.

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati didn't come to Kolkata, but BSP general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra addressed the meeting and highlighted his party's recently announced alliance with the SP in Uttar Pradesh.

"The entire country is echoing with the demand to oust the BJP. We have to come together to save the Constitution of Babasaheb Ambedkar. The SP-BSP alliance had been formed to defeat the BJP," he said.

Echoing Mishra, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said many people had thought the SP and the BSP won't be able to clinch an alliance.

"The BJP is now thinking how to win at least one seat in UP, he said in an apparent reference to Modi's Varanasi constituency.

"Those who used to say 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' have turned one against the other by infusing poison in the country. We will fight together to save the country and the Constitution," he said.

In an apparent hint at differences between the parties, senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge recited a couplet, which suggested that even if their hearts don't meet they should hold hands. Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy said the BJP had tried to topple his government. He said over the last 70 years the country has seen the emergence of strong regional parties that have played an important role to protect the interests of their own states.

Delhi Chief Minister accused the BJP of creating divisions among the people in the name of religion, saying this had been Pakistan's dream.

Voter Awareness for Ethnic Communities and NGOs



GANGTOK, 19 JAN (IPR): A Sensitization Programme on Voter Awareness for Ethnic Communities and NGOs working for person with disabilities (PWDs) was organized by Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim at the conference hall of Election Commission Office, Balwakhani, today.

Chaired by Chief Electoral Officer, R.Telang, the programme was organized mainly to give message and information regarding upcoming General Election and its process.

While addressing the programme, CEO, R. Telang informed that such

awareness programmes are being organized to aware the masses right up to the grassroots level. He highlighted on various issues related to electoral Voter List, National Voters Day, VVPAT and Voting process for Differently-Abled Persons (PWDs).

The CEO informed:

1. That Sikkim is going to launch Voter Helpline number 1950 on National Voters Day 25th January for the facilitation of voters in the State. For authentic information anyone can access and check their enrolment list, polling stations, EPIC number and

other voter registration information through ECI Voter Helpline Number, Helpline App, Web portal - nvsp.in. Election related grievances can also be solved online or with the use of digital platform.

2. About the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and Electronic Voting Machines, its functioning, how it will be helpful for the different communities and differently abled person and facilities created for them.

3. This time Election Commission of India added the VVPAT Machine in Election Process which is a paper slip ma-

chines which will come out when a voter casts his/her vote. The slip will automatically drop in a sealed box attached to the EVM for use by the election commission. It can only be seen by the concerned voter. She/he can know that the vote, she/he cast went to the candidate or not.

4. That the National Voters Day will be celebrated on 25th January at Chintan Bhawan with a theme "Nobody to be Left Behind". And requested everyone to participate and celebrate the process of Democracy.

5. About the facilities and special arrangements made for the Voters with differently-abled persons (PWDs) such as wheelchairs, Braille's for blind and other useful equipment. Also free transportation will be provided only for PWDs and Senior Citizens during the voting hours. PWDs voter are allowed to be escorted while casting their votes and also Help Line Desk for the PWDs will be situated at the venue.

Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch calls on CM



GANGTOK, 19 JAN (IPR): Members of Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch called on Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling this evening at his office residence in Mintogang.

The Central Body Elections for the Manch had taken place in December and representatives from all the districts and towns were present.

President of Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch, Swaminath Prasad expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for his support and guidance to the business community.

General secretary of the Manch, Birendra Prasad apprised the Chief Minister of the oath-taking ceremony

which will take place on 24 January and also updated him about the Jan Sabha of all business communities that will take place in February.

The Chief Minister thanked Members of the Manch and said that the Government under his leadership would continue to work towards their progress. Swaminath Prasad expressed his content and said that the business community was completely satisfied with all the works and help extended by the State Government and also stated that the community would work in close coordination with the Government for the development of the State.

ANTHYESTHI KRIYA



Anthyesthi Kriya of Lt. Bal Bdr. Lamichaney who left for his heavenly abode on 11/01/2019 falls on 22/01/2019. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayer for the departed soul at our residence at Gale Tea Garden, Kharka Dhura, Rangli Rangliot, Dist. Darjeeling. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us during the time of bereavement.

Pranay Lamichaney (Senior Journalist) 8918852813

KUTSE ZHIPCHU SHERGU

Our gratitude to all our Friends, Relatives and well wishers for their support and love during the time of our bereavement. Our beloved Late Mr Pem Deechen Denzongpa, Yapa Jantarey, to many of his Friends and Well Wishers and Managing Director of Yuksom Breweries passed away on 11th December 2018.

With humility we request all our Family, Friends and Well Wishers, to please join us in prayer for the Kutse Zhipchu Shergu at our residence at Tashi Ghang, Yangtsey on the 28th January 2019

The Yuksom Family,
Tashi Ghang,
Yangtsey, West Sikkim

#9933117744
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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER BALUAKHANI, GANGTOK-SIKKIM

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Change in Date of Final Publication of ELECTORAL ROLL)

This is to information of general public that final Publication of Electoral Roll in respect of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls of intensive nature with reference to 01.01.2019 as qualifying date in all Assembly Constituencies of Sikkim will be on 31.01.2019 (Thursday) instead of 18.01.2019 (Friday).

No Voter to be left Behind

Mere possession of EPIC card without name in electoral roll does not provide Right to vote. Please check your name in voter list online www.ceosikkim.nic.in or www.nvsp.in

If your name is missing from electoral roll, please apply immediately. Process for additional of addition of names and correction of existing entries will continue even after final publication of electoral roll.

Helpline No.
1950

website:
www.ceosikkim.nic.in

Sd/-
Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim.

R.O. No. 607/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19

Date: 19.01.2019

Gangtok Smart City Development Limited,

Sokaythang, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737102

T-03592-280290

E Mail- gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com

CIN U930909WB2017SGC22380

Ref No: 6/SPV/GSCDL/NF

Dated: 18.01.2019

"RETENDER"

FOR AND BEHALF OF THE Gangtok Smart City Development Limited, Assistant Engineer, GSCD Ltd invited sealed reorders from the eligible contractors of appropriate class enlisted with Sikkim Public Department for "Construction of pedestrian walkway from Old slaughter house (near Shere-Punjab) to Indira bypass (zero)" (SIK-Gan-009-NF(I) Arithang Ward) with following time schedule.

	Date of submission of application with DD for issue of Tender Documents(excluding Tender Form)	30 th January 2019 from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM
	Date of issue of Tender Form on Submission of TDR (as Earnest Money)	31 st January 2019 from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM
	Date & Time of submission of Tender	1 st February 2019 up to 12.00 hrs.
iv)	Date & Time of opening of Bid:	1 st February 2019 at 13.00 hrs PM

All other conditions remain same as per the original tender notice issued for the work and same can be seen in website www.gmcsikkim.in and www.smartnet.niua.org.

Sd/-

R.O. No. 606/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
Date: 19.1.2019

Assistant Engineer
GSCDL, Sokaythang, Gangtok.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM LAND REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(DILRMP, E-GOV & GIS cell, SITCO Building, Deorali, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737102)

No: 149/DILRMP/LR&DMD

Date: 14/01/2019.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sikkim Geo-Tech Society under Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Government of Sikkim intends to implement a Web Based Application that will help the Government progress faster towards the policy goals and deliver services online to the public dealing with Land Records & Property Registration, under Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP). Therefore proposals are invited from reputed and experienced Information Technology firms to participate in competitive bidding process to design, develop & implement the "Sikkim Land Records and Registration Information System (SLRRIS)".

2. REP AVAILABILITY, PROPOSAL DUE DATE & QUERIES.

Interested firms may download Tender Document/Request For Proposal from the official website of the Department www.sikkim-lrdm.gov.in. The last date for submission of proposals/bids is 31st Jan 2019 till 4 p.m. No proposals/ bids shall be accepted after the due and time. Query if any can be sent to the Assistant Director at spo-lr-sik@nic.in till 30th Jan 2019.

Sd/-

Assistant Director,
DILRMP, E-GOV & GIS cell, LD&DMD
SITCO complex, Deorali
Gangtok, Sikkim.

R.O. No. 600/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
Date: 17.01.19

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Health Issues Caught

...now to arrest the conditions

A fresh round of the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Annual and Total Check up for Healthy Sikkim [CATCH] is underway across the State with stalls even at the Maghey Melas. This flagship programme of the Government of Sikkim aims to provide comprehensive health-care on annual and periodical basis. The focus is clearly on early detection and diagnosis to ensure that people can make lifestyle course-corrections in time and avert long-term illness. This is undoubtedly one of the more visionary of policy initiatives to have been attempted in Sikkim and it would serve the objectives of the mission well if CATCH was continued consistently and its findings shared more widely to flag the larger health worries and inform future policy interventions for the targeted impact. The administrators will be well advised to evaluate the reach and impact of the previous rounds of CATCH and the health providers and the people would do well for themselves if they recognized the prevalent health of the population. Follow up is also necessary and now that Sikkim has a multi-speciality hospital, this access is now closer and needs to be more effectively pursued. Also, since the New STNM Hospital will also have employees from every constituency, this affinity can be used to turn the traditional approach to healthcare on its head and make doctor visits less of a hassle and hence make preventive healthcare a habit as against the current habit of exclusively curative visits.

Data collated by the State Government based on baseline assessments in the CATCH programme during 2014-15 identified the major health conditions found prevalent among those who attended the camps. As per this data, the top-5 diseases in Sikkim are: Hypertension/High Blood pressure, carries teeth, malnutrition, anaemia and mental illness. If one pauses with this information for a while, it will dawn that there are no major revelations in this statistic because we receive confirmation of these "problems" on a daily basis in our lives. Strokes, resulting from high blood pressure, are reported often and just about every person here will definitely know someone who has had someone in the family felled by a stroke. The brisk business that dentists enjoy now in Sikkim is evidence of the dental issues which rank second and the malnutrition has been pointed out by several other surveys and probably results from unhealthy eating habits (too much "junk" food). Anaemia, Sikkim has always known as prevalent condition, but the staggering ratio of Sikkimese women who live with anaemia asks many questions of social practises and nutrition. High prevalence of mental illness is also reiterated by the continuing challenge of suicides across the State. And it is in its ability to put things in perspective so clearly, apart from providing individuals information about their health status in time, that makes the CATCH programme so special and necessary.

Take hypertension for instance – one can have high blood pressure for years without any symptoms, but even without symptoms, damage to blood vessels and heart continues and can be detected. Uncontrolled high blood pressure increases the risk of serious health problems, including heart attack and stroke. Catching it early clearly helps and since we do not have a culture of regular health checkups and visit doctors and hospitals only after we take ill, the Government bringing this concept to the doorsteps is welcome.

Sikkim is not alone in the stress it finds the health and wellbeing of its citizens under. While communicable, maternal, neonatal and nutritional diseases have dropped across the nation, the rates of non-communicable diseases have risen to epidemic proportions. Several research studies have observed high rates of diabetes and high blood pressure in India. This is in sync with what Sikkim has found through CATCH as well. And knowing these details is important because food habits and lifestyle have changed substantial in the recent past in Sikkim. And this has not been for the better and come at a cost on health. Across the board, people now consume more processed and refined foods, less fruits and vegetables, take in more carbohydrates than is healthy and are lack physical exercise. Now, to see what we do now that we know...

JOSHUA CHOU
theconversation.com

The world is still celebrating the historic landing of China's Chang'e-4 on the far side of the moon on January 3. This week, China announced its plans to follow up with three more lunar missions, laying the groundwork for a lunar base.

Colonising the Moon, and beyond, has always been a human aspiration. Technological advancements, and the discovery of a considerable source of water close to the lunar poles, has made this idea even more appealing.

But how close is China to actually achieving this goal?

If we focus on the technology currently available, China could start building a base on the Moon today.

THE FIRST LUNAR BASE

The first lunar base would likely be an unmanned facility run by automated robotics – similar to Amazon warehouses – to ensure that the necessary infrastructures and support systems are fully operational before people arrive.

The lunar environment is susceptible to deep vacuum conditions, strong temperature fluctuations and solar radiation, among other conditions hostile to humans. More importantly, we have yet to fully understand the long term impact on the human body of being in space, and on the Moon.

Seeds taken to the Moon by the Chang'e-4 mission have now reportedly sprouted. This is the first time plants have been grown on the Moon, paving the way for a future food farm on the lunar base.

Building a lunar base is no different than building the first oil rig out in the ocean. The logistics of moving construction parts must be considered, feasibility studies must be conducted and, in this case, soil samples must be tested.

China has taken the first step by examining the

soil of the lunar surface. This is necessary for building an underground habitat and supporting infrastructure that will shield the base from the harsh surface conditions.

3D PRINTED EVERYTHING

Of all the possible technologies for building a lunar base, 3D printing offers the most effective strategy. 3D printing on Earth has revolutionised manufacturing productivity and efficiency, reducing both waste and cost.

China's vision is to develop the capability to 3D print both inside and outside of the lunar base. 3D printers have the potential to make everything from daily items, like drinking cups, to repair parts for the base.

But 3D printing in space is a real challenge. It will require new technologies that can operate in the micro gravity environment of the Moon. 3D printing machines that are able to shape parts in the vacuum of space must be developed.

NEW MATERIALS ARE REQUIRED

We know that Earth materials, such as fibre optics, change properties once they are in space. So materials that are effective on Earth, might not be effective on the Moon.

Whatever the intended use of the 3D printed component, it will have to be resistant to the conditions of lunar environment. So the development of printing material is crucial. Step-by-step, researchers are finding and developing new materials and technologies to address this challenge.

For example, researchers in Germany expect to have the first "ready to use" stainless steel tools to be 3D printed under microgravity in the near future. NASA also demonstrated 3D printing technology in zero gravity showing it is feasible to 3D print in space.

On a larger scale we have seen houses being 3D printed on Earth. In a similar way, the lunar base will

likely be built using prefabricated parts in combination with large-scale 3D printing.

Examples of what this might look like can be seen to entries in the 3D printed habitat challenge, which was started by NASA in 2005. The competition seeks to advance 3D printing construction technology needed to create sustainable housing solutions for Earth, the Moon, Mars and beyond.

LIVING ON THE MOON

So far, we've focused on the technological feasibility of building a lunar base, but we also need to consider the long term effect of lunar living on humans. To date, limited studies have been conducted to examine the biological impact on human physiology at the cellular level.

We know that the human organs, tissues and cells are highly responsive to gravity, but an understanding of how human cells function and regenerate is currently lacking.

What happens if the astronauts get sick? Will medicine from Earth still work? If astronauts are to live on the Moon, these fundamental questions need to be answered.

In the long term, 3D bioprinting of human organs and tissues will play a crucial role in sustaining lunar missions by allowing for robotic surgeries. Russia recently demonstrated the first 3D bioprinter to function under microgravity.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

Can China build a lunar base? Absolutely. Can human beings survive on the Moon and other planets for the long term? The answer to that is less clear.

What is certain is that China will use the next 10 to 15 years to develop the requisite technical capabilities for conducting manned lunar missions and set the stage for space exploration.

[the writer is Senior lecturer,
University of Technology Sydney]



How to feed a growing population healthy food without ruining the planet

ALESSANDRO R DEMAIO, JESSICA FANZO & MARIO HERRERO
theconversation.com

If we're serious about feeding the world's growing population healthy food, and not ruining the planet, we need to get used to a new style of eating. This includes cutting our Western meat and sugar intakes by around 50%, and doubling the amount of nuts, fruits, vegetables and legumes we consume.

These are the findings our the EAT-Lancet Commission, released today. The Commission brought together 37 leading experts in nutrition, agriculture, ecology, political sciences and environmental sustainability, from 16 countries.

Over two years, we mapped the links between food, health and the environment and formulated global targets for healthy diets and sustainable food production. This includes five specific strategies to achieve them through global cooperation.

Right now, we produce, ship, eat and waste food in a way that is a lose-lose for both people and planet – but we can flip this trend.

WHAT'S GOING WRONG WITH OUR FOOD SUPPLY?

Almost one billion people lack sufficient food, yet more than two billion suffer from obesity and food-related diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

The foods causing these health epidemics – combined with the way we produce our food – are pushing our planet to the brink.

One-third of the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change come from food production. Our global food system leads to extensive deforestation and species extinction, while depleting our oceans, and fresh water resources.

To make matters worse, we lose or throw away around one-third of all food produced. That's enough to feed the world's hungry four times over, every year.

At the same time, our food systems are at risk due to environmental degradation and climate change. These food systems are essential to providing the diverse, high-quality foods we all consume every day.

A RADICAL NEW APPROACH

To improve the health of people and the planet, we've developed a "planetary health diet" which is globally applicable – irrespective of your geographic, economic or cultural background – and locally adaptable.

The diet is a "flexitarian" approach to eating. It's largely composed of vegetables and fruits, wholegrains, legumes, nuts and unsaturated oils. It includes high-quality meat, dairy and sugar, but in quantities far lower than are consumed in many wealthier societies.

The planetary health diet consists of:

- vegetables and fruit (550g per day per day)
- wholegrains (230 grams per day)
- dairy products such as milk and cheese (250g per day)
- protein sourced from plants, such as lentils, peas, nuts and soy foods (100 grams per day)
- small quantities of fish (28 grams per day), chicken (25 grams per day) and red meat (14 grams per day)
- eggs (1.5 per week)
- small quantities of fats (50g per day) and sugar (30g per day).

Of course, some populations don't get nearly enough animal-source foods necessary for growth, cognitive development and optimal nutrition. Food systems in these regions need to improve access to healthy, high-quality diets for all.

The shift is radical but achievable – and is possible without any expansion in land use for agriculture. Such a shift will also see us reduce the amount of water used during production, while reducing nitrogen and phosphorus usage and runoff. This is critical to safeguarding land and ocean resources.

By 2040, our food systems should begin soaking up greenhouse emissions – rather than being a net emitter. Carbon dioxide emissions must be down to zero, while methane and nitrous oxide emissions be kept in close check.

HOW TO GET THERE

The commission outlines five implementable strategies for a food transformation:

1. Make healthy diets the new normal – leaving no-one behind

Shift the world to healthy, tasty and sustainable diets by investing in better public health information and implementing supportive policies.

Start with kids – much can happen by changing school meals to form healthy and sustainable habits, early on.

Unhealthy food outlets and their marketing must be restricted. Informal markets and street vendors should also be encouraged to sell healthier and more sustainable food.

2. Grow what's best for both people and planet

Realign food system priorities for people and planet so agriculture becomes a leading contributor to sustainable development rather than the largest driver of environmental change. Examples include:

- incorporating organic farm waste into soils
- drastically reducing tillage where soil is turned and churned to prepare for growing crops
- investing more in agroforestry, where trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland to increase biodiversity and reduce erosion
- producing a more diverse range of foods in circular farming systems that protect and enhance biodiversity, rather than farming single crops or livestock.

The measure of success in this area is that agriculture one day becomes a carbon sink, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

3. Produce more of the right food, from less

Move away from producing "more" food towards producing "better food".

This means using sustainable "agro-ecological" practices and emerging technologies, such as applying micro doses of fertiliser via GPS-guided tractors, or improving drip irrigation and using drought-resistant food sources to get more "crop per drop" of water.

In animal production, reformulating feed to make it more nutritious would allow us to reduce the amount of grain and therefore land needed for food. Feed additives such as algae are also being developed. Tests show these can reduce methane emissions by up to 30%.

We also need to redirect subsidies and other incentives to currently under-produced crops that underpin

healthy diets – notably, fruits, vegetables and nuts – rather than crops whose overconsumption drives poor health.

4. Safeguard our land and oceans

There is essentially no additional land to spare for further agricultural expansion. Degraded land must be restored or reforested. Specific strategies for curbing biodiversity loss include keeping half of the current global land area for nature, while sharing space on cultivated lands.

The same applies for our oceans. We need to protect the marine ecosystems fisheries depend on. Fish stocks must be kept at sustainable levels, while aquaculture – which currently provides more than 40% of all fish consumed – must incorporate "circular production". This includes strategies such as sourcing protein-rich feeds from insects grown on food waste.

5. Radically reduce food losses and waste

We need to more than halve our food losses and waste.

Poor harvest scheduling, careless handling of produce and inadequate cooling and storage are some of the reasons why food is lost. Similarly, consumers must start throwing less food away. This means being more conscious about portions, better consumer understanding of "best before" and "use by" labels, and embracing the opportunities that lie in leftovers.

Circular food systems that innovate new ways to reduce or eliminate waste through reuse will also play a significant role and will additionally open new business opportunities.

For significant transformation to happen, all levels of society must be engaged, from individual consumers to policymakers and everybody along the food supply chain. These changes will not happen overnight, and they are not the responsibility of a handful of stakeholders. When it comes to food and sustainability, we are all at the decision dining table.

[Alessandro R Demaio is Australian Medical Doctor; Fellow in Global Health & NCDs, University of Copenhagen; Jessica Fanzo is Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Global Food and Agriculture Policy and Ethics, Johns Hopkins University; Mario Herrero is Chief Research Scientist, Food Systems and the Environment, CSIRO]

Crossing the India-Myanmar Border by land

CK LEPCHA

When we heard that the India Myanmar border had opened and land entry was possible, we knew we had to visit. Two years ago, we had visited a village in the Manipur-Myanmar border and knew we wanted to return. The village was 10 minutes walk from the India-Myanmar highway and Indian villagers here had easy access to the Burmese hospital, police station, telephone network and everyday ration in general. We used the Burmese Kyat to make our daily purchases in the village and even our meat came from the Myanmar side of the border. It was an interesting set up. So, when winter vacation started, we decided to head to Myanmar.

We had only received our e-Visas when news broke that Myanmar was visa on arrival. We caught a flight from Guwahati to Imphal and rushed to the Moreh taxi stand because our flight was delayed by three hours or so. Thankfully, the last of the Maruti van to Moreh was still there almost waiting for us as we started for the Kakching hills on a late evening light. It took us four hours to reach Moreh, still on time for dinner at one of the last shops serving food to drivers and latecomers like us.

Located in the the Tengenpual

district of Manipur, Moreh is a very cosmopolitan trading border town with people from various backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, linguistic backgrounds and occupations doing their everyday

passports or visas here). And it is usually the Indian citizens who relish their experience in the other side of the border.

Across the iconic gate, in the Myanmar side of the border is the Namph-

along market where all the fun begins. Burmese beer, sea food noodles, fresh fruits, and cheap Chinese goods are available for one's consumption. One can exchange currency at this market and it is guaranteed that an Indian will become a Lakhpati in Myanmar: 100 Indian rupees equals 2000 Burmese kyat so for less than 5000 rupees, you get one lakh Burmese kyat. So, it is an advantageous exchange for Indians and pleased to say that those who get to take advantage of this situation are mostly from India's Northeast.

Young men ride their 'royal enfields' from Imphal, Nagaland or Assam just to grab some "foreign" beer as ladies from Northeast are seen to be buying the latest fashion and household items in whole sale. Most of these women come from parts of Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya and buy goods so they can take back and sell the "Moreh" items back in their hometowns. These are local entrepreneurs who have managed to support their households by

business here. It used to be one of the "disturbed" areas in the map of Northeast India with illegal arms and drugs trafficked across the borders. But today it is a thriving trade and tourist destination.

Citizens from both India and Myanmar are given access to travel to a few kilometers into the two sides of the border, given that they have their ID cards (no need for



doing "Moreh business". It is a shoppers' paradise and even if you are not a shopper, Moreh will make you a shopper in no time.

Check-Post. When we reached this grand new immigration office, we realized we had arrived before the immigration officers. We were the

in an hour or so. We got our departure stamps and walked to the old bridge to cross to Myanmar. Interestingly, the iron bridge is not painted in the India side but it has yellow paint on the Myanmar side of the border.

As we approached Myanmar immigration, a very strict looking jolly officer greeted us. In no time, our passports were stamped entry to Myanmar and we were in Burmese soil. We were ready to explore the country.

But why visit Myanmar? People might ask. Why not I would say because as we traveled across the country we found out how we have neglected our closest neighbor. We share the same colonial history and our struggles as newly independent states post WWII has been similar too. For now, I am glad we managed to explore and discover the many facets of a country that has remained in the world news for all the wrong reasons.

To be continued...



But for those wanting to go beyond the 16km freeway into Myanmar, we need to go to Gate No.1 to the newly constructed Integrated

only ones there and were not sure when the counter would open. Thankfully four more travelers stepped in and the officers joined

Citizenship Bill: Protests rage on in Assam

GUWAHATI, JAN 19 (PTI): Protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill showed no sign of waning in Assam on Saturday as agitators staged semi-clad protests in Texpur, took out women's rally in Tinsukia, and organised citizen's meeting in Guwahati.

In Tezpur town of Sonitpur district in lower Assam, activists of the Asom Jatiyatbadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) staged a semi-clad protest. Shirtless male members of the organisation demonstrated with messages painted on bare bodies as they took out a massive rally through the main thoroughfares demanding the Bill be scrapped immediately.

Protesting in front of the deputy commissioners office, the demonstrators raised slogans against Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and state Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

They also demand-

ed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain to them how the people of Assam and the country benefited from demonetisation.

In Tinsukia district of upper Assam, women came together to take out a protest rally and also blocked National Highway 37 for some time.

In Guwahati, a citizens' protest meeting was organised in which prominent personalities from the Assam Sahitya Sabha, AJYCP, Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS), among others, spoke against the Bill and demanded that it be scrapped.

The controversial bill, passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8, seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 years, which is the norm currently, even if they do not possess any document.

Entire north east burning because of Citizenship Bill: Lalduhawma



KOLKATA, JAN 19 (PTI): Zoram Lalduhawma on Saturday said the entire north east was "burning" because of the Citizenship Amendment Bill.

"If the bill was enacted ..., India will no longer be the place that it used to be ... so we want a secular government at the Centre, so that this bill was withdrawn or exemption must be given to the north east," he said at the opposition rally at the Brigade Parade ground here. Lald-

hawma, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Mizoram Assembly alleged that the BJP, RSS are trying to rewrite the history on their own way.

He said "We are looking forward to see a new secular government at the Centre so that people of the north east are protected." After Lalduhawma ended his speech, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee said her party was against the Citizenship Amendment Bill.

FIELDWORK REFLECTIONS

The offbeat Megaliths of Northeast.

RONGNYOO LEPCHA.

Objects retain an important position in every culture. Human evolution started with making tools from stones, and as time progressed, so did humans and their materials evolve further. As humans needed shelter from the natural elements they built houses. They used different tools for hunting so they could survive and also protect themselves. With each passing generation the materials became more efficient and so did our species.

Today, there is a vast availability of materials all around us. From the bed we sleep in to the laptop I use to write this article, material culture is everywhere. With the modern times, we can see homogeneity, but when it comes to the community level there is a noticeable deviation from the rest as every group projects its own uniqueness. The physical evidence of this can be seen in the materials they produce and use. Many a research has claimed that to understand a society, one must understand and analyze the physical evidences in that society.

Knowledge makes up culture and is projected through objects. Artefacts clearly show the culture and knowledge that a community possesses. Tools, ornaments, pots are created according to cultural needs. One of the more important parts of the Lepcha material culture are the Megaliths which they have produced in significant numbers but which somehow still remain unseen to the non-Lepchas. Megaliths belonging to this side of the hills are mentioned on much smaller scale and paid very little attention to. Though colonial researchers have mentioned these in bits and pieces, they fail to bring out the significance of these structures and the sentiments the community has attached to them.

For ages now, the Lepchas have been erecting Longtsaoks (stone obelisks) as markers - to mark boundaries, as grave markers and also to mark special occasions and special places. The word Longtsaok comes from two Lepcha words - long meaning 'stone' and tsao meaning 'to plant', so it means 'to plant or planted stone/stones'. These stones are regarded as holy and sacred.

One of the most famous such landmarks in Sikkim is Kabi Longtsaok, 17 kilometres north of Gangtok. It marks the blood treaty sworn between the Lepchas and the Bhutias where the Tibetan noble Khye Bumsa and Lepcha spiritual leader Thikung Tek swore a



blood brotherhood treaty between the Lepchas and Bhutias as equals.

This is the story that everyone knows in the state but is told in many versions, each suiting the liking of the one telling it. As the story goes Khye Bumsa was childless and the desperation led him and his wife to search



for any miracle to happen and then he heard of a powerful Lepcha shaman/priest in the hills of Sikkim. He and his wife came all the way from Tibet in search of this shaman. This was none other than Thikung Tek, upon meeting him, Khye Bumsa expressed his desire to which Thikung Tek blessed him and his wife. On their next visit Khye Bumsa was accompanied by his three sons, and to express his gratitude he signed a blood brotherhood treaty with the Lepcha shaman at Kabi keeping the stones as witnesses which gave the place its name Kabi which comes from Ka-vee originating from the Lepcha words Ka used as a short form for Kayusa meaning 'our' and Vee meaning 'blood' thus, 'our blood', which later became Kabi. The stones can be still be seen on the way to North Sikkim.

For a place with such historical importance, there is very little mention about it in government texts that are produced every year alongside other pilgrimage sites that are projected in these texts. Which is also a good thing on one hand because it retains its sacred and serene setting. Once a year, during Pang Lhabso, the Lepchas and the Bhutias come together to pay homage to these stones which mark the brotherhood of these two communities and with which, the recent history of Sikkim began in some ways.

The Bhutias perform the ritual to pay homage to the guardian deity of Sikkim, Khangchendzonga, and the Lepchas come to offer honour and worship to nature and the spirits of the ancestors. Both communities extend warm greetings to each other but the places they perform each of their rituals remain far apart. The

monks have their own concrete alters to sit and carry out their rituals whereas the bongthing and the muns perform their rituals in the open.

Though the religious beliefs differ, these communities work together to retain the importance of the place.

There are still numerous Longtsaok in Lepcha society which had unfortunately been neglected and some of these are regaining their significance now. These are the simple and earliest forms of architecture. They were placed to serve certain functions as required by the community at a given time and situation. They amplify symbolism and reflect ideas and beliefs.

Though the practice of burial stones was lost for Lepchas since the advent of Buddhism, Lepchas claim to have constructed a good number of Longtsaoks and forts made of stones all over the Eastern Himalayan region. The importance of stones to Lepchas can be seen in the most simple and early forms of architecture. Materials exist everywhere, but how a certain community ascribes meaning to it is important to understand, as materials give the ideas and belief system of a community a concrete form. This material culture will unfold records of the Lepcha worldviews, values and beliefs, as materials produced in a represents its understanding of its social and cultural environment and how these materials are used give a deeper understanding of the Lepcha community and its culture.

Today, the community itself is stepping up to restore and revive these practices and preserve what exists. Just a little more awareness is required to make people aware of the significance of these structures which might seem simple and ordinary to the eye but have strings of sentiments attached to them.

Kohli meets Roger Federer, finishes Australian summer in style

MELBOURNE, JAN 19 (PTI): After leading India to two historic series victories Down Under, India skipper Virat Kohli wrapped up his Australian summer in "style" by meeting legendary tennis star Roger Federer at the Rod Laver Arena here Saturday.

Kohli, who donned the spectator's hat alongside wife Anushka Sharma, watched defending champion Novak Djokovic beat Denis Shapovalov in the men's singles third-round match and Serena Williams storm into the fourth round of women's singles.

Kohli took to social media to post a picture of Federer, himself and Anushka.

"What a day at the Australian open. An amazing way to finish the



Australian summer. Forever grateful #ausopen," Kohli tweeted.

The official twitter handle of the Australian Open also tweeted a picture of the trio, who were

all smiles captioning it as "three legends, one photo." Federer, who is the defending champion at the Australian Open, has already sealed a place in the last 16 of the

competition with a win against American Taylor Fritz on Friday. Kohli on Friday led India to a 2-1 over Australia, their first against the hosts in a bilateral ODI series Down

Under. India also became the first country to return from Australia without losing a single series, having won the Test series 2-1 and drawn the T20 Internationals 1-1.

'Moscow data could expose '300-600' doping cases'



BERLIN, JAN 19 (AFP): Richard McLaren, the Canadian lawyer whose 2016 bombshell report exposed state-sponsored doping in Russia, suspects "hundreds" of doping cases could be contained in the latest data retrieved from Moscow.

On Thursday, WADA said they had "successfully retrieved" data from the Moscow laboratory at the heart of the affair.

"It's pretty much anyone's guess as to what that number is," McLaren said when asked how many doping cases he expected the new data to reveal.

"My thinking would be in the 300-600 possible range."

WADA had demanded the data be handed over to complete its probe into the 2011-2015 scandal which eventual-

ly saw Russia's athletics team barred from the 2016 Rio Olympics and exiled from the 2018 Winter Olympics.

In September, WADA conditionally lifted a ban on the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), paving the way for its reinstatement.

One of the conditions was access being granted to the data by the end of 2018.

But when a WADA team arrived last month, Russian authorities raised issues with the certification of their equipment under Russian law and a December 31 deadline was missed.

"It's puzzling to go back and think, what went on in December that they weren't prepared to provide information and some ten days later in January, they are," Mc-

Laren, who is no longer involved in the investigation, told German broadcaster ARD on Friday.

"I think what was going on there was nothing to do with WADA, but it was a power struggle within Russia.

"That got resolved over the Christmas period and now they are preparing to provide the information and are in the process of doing so."

WADA will now attempt to authenticate and review the data "and my hope would be that they get the complete and true data," McLaren said.

"Some of it will have to be cross-checked and analysed to determine it's authenticity in a number of steps, that won't happen in a couple of days -- it could take two or three weeks.

Let Pandya, Rahul play while inquiry is on: BCCI president urges CoA

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 (PTI): BCCI acting President C K Khanna Saturday urged the Committee of Administrators (CoA) to lift the suspension on Hardik Pandya and K L Rahul for their much-criticised sexist remarks and refused to convene a Special General Meeting on the matter.

Khanna said calling the SGM to appoint an ombudsman to investigate the two players' conduct, as demanded by Board officials, wouldn't be right as the Supreme Court is due to take up the issue next week.

Pandya and Rahul have been suspended pending an inquiry for their sexist comments on a TV chat show.

"They made a mistake, and they have already been suspended and called back from the series against Australia. They have also submitted an unconditional apology," Khanna write in a letter to the Committee of Administrators (CoA) running the BCCI.

"I suggest that pending inquiry we reinstate both the cricketers into the Indian squad immediately and allow them to join the team in New Zealand at the earliest," he added.

The CoA wants the Supreme Court to appoint an ombudsman to decide the fate of the

two players, who have already missed the ODI series against Australia and are set to sit out of the tour of New Zealand as well. They have also been thoroughly lambasted for their comments on hooking up with multiple women and joking about it on the show.

Around 14 state units, mainly former BCCI president N Srinivasan's loyalists, had requested Khanna to convene an emergent SGM, which needs to be called in 10 days.

BCCI Treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry also wrote to Khanna requesting for an early SGM, so that board members can take a call on the appointment of ombudsman. "As per constitution of the BCCI, an ombudsman can be appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). And moreover the matter (appointment of ombudsman) is already sub-judice," Khanna replied to Chaudhry.

Khanna also sought BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary's view.

"Why would Khanna or Amitabh sign the notice for convening Special General Meeting when the matter is in Supreme Court. There would be a risk of Contempt of Court," a senior BCCI official privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Vikas wins pro debut in style

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 (PTI): Indian boxer Vikas Krishan was off to a winning start in the professional circuit, notching up a Technical Knockout against American Steven Andrade in New York.

Vikas, who has signed up with the legendary Bob Arum's Top Rank Promotions, made his debut in what was to be a six-round super welterweight contest.

The bout, however, lasted just two rounds on Friday night at the Stone Resort Casino in New York.

The fight was the under-card of Olympic silver-medallist Shukur Stevenson's IBF Inter-continental and WBC Continental Americas featherweight title contest against Jessie Crist Rosales.

Stevenson knocked out his opponent.

"Won my pro debut fight by TKO. Thank you all for your love and support," Vikas tweeted after the bout.

Andrade came into the contest with an ex-



perience of six fights on the circuit with a 3-3 record. This was his fourth successive loss, the last being in November 2017.

The 26-year-old Vikas is one of India's most decorated boxers and has won gold medals at the Asian and Commonwealth Games. He is also a world championships bronze-medallist and a multiple-time Asian championships med-

allist. Vikas prepared for his pro debut under the aegis of Stevenson's grandfather Wali Moses.

Vijender Singh, India's first and only Olympic medallist in boxing, has also signed up with Top Rank Promotions after an undefeated professional run in England and India.

His debut on the US soil is being planned for March later this year.

Accord with Naga armed groups soon: Ravi

HYDERABAD, JAN 19 (PTI): A proposed accord with Naga armed groups is expected to be concluded soon, Deputy National Security Adviser R N Ravi said Saturday.

"It's nearing conclusion with all. In fact, there is nobody left out. Everyone is part of it.

"There are eight armed groups which are now talking to Government of India. NSCN (I-M) plus seven others, they are all part of it. There is no one left out," Ravi, who has been involved in the process, told reporters here.

The efforts to conclude the accord are expected to fructify "soon", he said.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a national conference on 'Self Reliance in Defence Manufacturing', organised by the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS).

In his address to the conference, Ravi said the Make in India initiative of the government is guided by an approach of building strength, especially when it comes to national security, against the earlier one of upgrading capacities based on threats.

"Shukracharya in his Shukraneeti says if you are strong, you have friends around. If you are



weak, you have enemies around. If you are weak, weakness invites aggression. If you are strong, you are secure.

"You cannot be strong if you just keep measuring from time to time where are your threats emanating from. Because, threats are not under your control... Strength is yours. You need to build that strength," he said.

"The whole thrust in Make in India is nothing but a simple translation of this Shukraneeti. Be strong. National security from the perspective of strength," he said.

Observing that there has been general sense among the Indians, "of awakening to its destiny that we can and we must," in the last four and half years, he said it has to be translated on the ground.

Working towards

technology innovation for national security, the country must expand to areas beyond the conventional and catch up fast in space and cyber, he said. The country needs to have an edge in digital technology as digital infrastructure includes various areas like economy, defence and growth, he said.

G Satheesh Reddy, Chairman, DRDO and Secretary, Department of Defence R & D, said industry and also start-ups are being promoted in a big way.

"That's why we are promoting the industry in a big way. Both start-ups and the established industries. Start-ups for promoting innovations in a big way," he said.

Any industry which has got a good idea or a technology can work with DRDO, Reddy added.

JNU sedition case: Court questions Delhi Police for filing chargesheet without procuring requisite sanctions

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 (PTI): A court here questioned the Delhi police on Saturday for filing a chargesheet against former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a 2016 sedition case without procuring requisite sanctions. Metropolitan Magistrate Deepak Sherawat granted police time till February 6 to procure requisite sanctions after they told the court they will get the approvals within 10 days.

"Why did you file (the chargesheet) without approval? You don't have a legal department," the court said. The court is likely to resume hearing



on the matter soon. Police on January 14 filed the chargesheet at a city court against Kumar and others, saying he was leading a procession and supported seditious slogans raised on the varsity campus during an event in February 2016.

Police also charged

former JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya for allegedly shouting anti-India slogans during the event held on February 9, 2016, to mark the hanging of Parliament-attack mastermind Afzal Guru.

Earlier, they had claimed before the court

here that Kumar had raised anti-India slogans in 2016 "to incite hatred and disaffection towards the government". Police cited statements of various witnesses in its chargesheet to state that Kumar was walking along with the protesters where a number of unidentified persons were raising

slogans during the event. The evidence listed by the agency include report of JNU's high-level committee, statement of varsity's registrar Bhupinder Jutshi and the mobile phone recordings in which Kumar was seen arguing with him over cancellation of the programme.

Police said a video shot by a news channel and clips shot by students present at the spot show that Khalid, Bhattacharya and Ashutosh were raising slogans.

It, however, added that the slogans raised by Ashutosh were not anti-national, unlike those by Khalid and Bhattacharya. Khalid raised slogans as shown in the videos

and mobile clips, police said, citing a video which shows him saying, "The programme is against occupation of Kashmir by the Indian State. I am making it very apparent that I am not from Kashmir but I believe that what is happening in Kashmir is Indian occupation of Kashmir..." Regarding Rama Naga, whose name appears in column 12, the chargesheet said that he delivered speech with contents against the RSS.

On 36 others listed in column 2 of the chargesheet, including Ashutosh, Rama Naga, Banjojotsana, Shehla Rashid and Aparajitha Raja, police said that they were not seen raising anti-India slogans.

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HAILEY BALDWIN: The newlywed rocks pink hair and a Louis Vuitton jacket while grabbing coffee in Brentwood.

Ajay, Kajol urge people to recycle, reuse plastic

MUMBAI, JAN 19 (PTI): Bollywood power couple Ajay Devgn and Kajol on Saturday urged people to recycle and reuse plastic.



The duo inaugurated the on-ground leg of 'Start A Little Good' campaign and launched 'Plastic Banega Fantastic' drive at Mahim creek here. "My heart breaks to see how plas-

tic is littered on beaches, streets, etc. I believe in doing good for a better tomorrow. Though there is a change but the fact is things are getting worse. It's been said that by 2050 we will have more plastic than fish in our sea and we need to do something about it. "It is about segregating plastic. It is a small thing. If we do it then plastic will be recycled and reused," Kajol told reporters here at the event.

Ajay part said everyone needs to do their bit for a better future. "We have to act responsibly. If we speak about it some people might listen to it and some might change their thinking and act upon it as well," he said. The initiative 'Plastic Banega Fantastic' by Hindustan Unilever marks the beginning of four month activation in Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore.

Ariana Grande Called Out By Rapper Princess Nokia for Stealing "7 Rings"

While Ariana Grande is busy breaking the internet with her latest song "7 Rings," another artist has accused the pop star of ripping off her own song.

Princess Nokia took to social media on Friday to point out what she believes are striking similarities between "7 Rings" and "Mine," which was featured on the rapper's 1992 mixtape.

Princess Nokia posted a video of herself reacting to both tracks being played simultaneously, telling the camera, "Does that sound familiar to you? 'Cause that sound really familiar to me. Oh my God!"

"Ain't that the lil' song I made about brown women and their hair? Hmm... Sounds about white," she continued.

And despite directly mentioning her Instagram account in the caption, Ariana has yet to respond to Princess Nokia's shady diss. So what exactly is Princess Nokia accusing Ariana of copying from "Mine?" According to the hip-hop star, she finds particular issue with the lyrics.

In "7 Rings," Ariana raps, "My wrist, stop watchin', my

neck is flossin' / Make big deposits, my gloss is poppin' / You like my hair? Gee, thanks, just bought it / I see it, I like it, I want it, I got it (Yeah)."



Meanwhile, Princess Nokia's lyrics from "Mine" include, "Rock my many styles then go natural for the summer / Hair blowing in the hummer / Flip the weave, I am a stunner / It's mine, I bought it / It's mine, I bought it."

2.0 receives Golden Reel Award nominations in two categories



Rajinikanth starrer 2.0 is continuing to make waves. The film has been nominated a Golden Reel Award for Sound Editing in the Foreign Language Feature category. As per Variety, the film has also received a nomination in the Feature Film: Foreign category. Oscar-winning sound designer Resul Pookutty, who worked on 2.0, took to Twitter to share the news. He described the nomination as "highest recognition in Sound Design".

He tweeted, "Absolutely delighted to announce #2Point0 is nominated for the highest recognition in Sound Design, Golden Reel Award at @mpseorg in USA, I'm elated... Indian Cinema march forward... thank you so much #TeamCanaries @shankarshanmugh @arrahman @rajinikanth."

Resul Pookutty said, "Through 2.0, Indian cinema had introduced a new format of sound to the world cinema. This recognition is the greatest affirmation to the technical innovation me and my team has achieved through this film and thereby a proud moment for Indian cinema." Resul Pookutty was widely applauded for his use of the 4D SRL sound

in 2.0. It was the first time this technology was being used in Indian cinema. He has revolutionized the way 'sound' is perceived in movies through his tireless contributions. He has won the highest accolades for his work including an Academy Award, BAFTA and was awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government. Shankar's sci-fi magnum-opus and the most expensive film ever made, 2.0 has grossed Rs 500 crores, making it the all-time highest earning movie in terms of box-office collections. The film starred Rajinikanth, Akshay Kumar and Amy Jackson in lead roles and had music by AR Rahman.

Frank Grillo to star in 'Hell on the Border'



LOS ANGELES, JAN 19 (PTI): "Captain America: Civil War" star Frank Grillo is set to play the lead in new action-thriller "Hell on the Border". The film will be written and directed by Wes Miller, best known for helming movies such as "River Runs Red" and "Prayer Never Fails", reported Variety.

Grillo, 53, will be joined by Ron Perlman, the star of "Hellboy" series and "Sons of Anarchy". The plot details of the project are not yet known. Production recently started in Birmingham, Ala.

It will be produced by Curtis Nichouls, Henry Penzi, and Sasha Yelaun. Grillo will also be seen "Donnybrook", co-starring Jamie Bell and Margaret Qualley, and "Boss Level", alongside Mel Gibson and Naomi Watts. He is set to feature in Netflix's "Point Blank", which reunites him with his "Captain America: Civil War" co-star Anthony Mackie.

REQUIRED FOR CANADA

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ARIES: Who's on top? Saturday's volatile square between the ego-driven Sun and head-headed Uranus in Aries could find you bristling at the slightest whiff of authority. Someone's domineering ways could push your buttons but watch those knee-jerk reactions. If you really want to show how powerful you are, acting like a rebellious teenager isn't exactly the best way. Hold off for a day before rocking the boat or people may feel threatened by your fervent push for change!
TAURUS: Sometimes the truth hurts—and Saturday it could actually pierce YOU, Taurus. Under a volatile Sun-Uranus square, unfiltered rants could provoke a bigger conflict than you bargained for. If you're upset, it's better to be direct—or to vent to a neutral sounding board and get it out of your system first. People are likely to twist your words and overreact. Choose your confidantes with care!
GEMINI: Volcanic eruptions? The ego-driven Sun and volatile Uranus could get rivalries and group conflicts boiling like hot lava. Is someone trying to wrest

control of a team endeavor—or is your own urge to micromanage turning a collaboration into a dictatorship? Someone on Team Gemini could be acting in a rebellious or destructive manner this Saturday. You might also be considering a risky investment. Think it through before making an impulsive money move. On Sunday, there's only one question to ask.
CANCER: Battle of the egos? On Saturday the arrogant Sun clashes with irreverent Uranus, disrupting the harmony of a close relationship. Brace yourself for a possible curveball from a collaborator. You thought you were aligned and working toward a common goal, but you might find out otherwise. Or, a sudden change to a project could throw off your careful plans. Don't swallow your anger just to keep the peace.
LEO: If the truth hurts, is the pain justified? Within reason, yes. But Saturday's inflammatory Sun-Uranus square could make your honesty a little TOO brutal. Even if your criticism is well-intentioned (and correct!), someone could feel at-

tacked by it. Be careful about opening Pandora's Box by asking certain people for feedback. If you're not ready to hear their honest input about your performance on a recent project, don't go soliciting it.
VIRGO: Jealous much? Saturday's volatile Sun-Uranus square could stir up drama and rivalries. People are thin-skinned and prone to jumping to conclusions. You could be paranoid about a love interest's intentions, even tempted to snoop in their messages. Or, you might pick a fight to make someone "prove" that they care. None of these things will get you the result you're hoping for, Virgo. Better to cool off than do or say something you regret!
LIBRA: Feelings aren't facts, but trying telling anyone that Saturday (including yourself). The semiannual Sun-Uranus square puts even your normally calm, collected sign at risk for an emotion explosion. Someone's unpredictable behavior could push you over the edge. Or, your own Libra vacillating could hurt someone else's feelings—why DO you need so much time to "think it over" anyway.
SCORPIO: Tunnel vision alert! Saturday's explosive Sun-Uranus square could push

your stress levels over the edge. Your need to control or micromanage could leave others feeling dominated. An employee could behave in a flaky manner or someone on Team Scorpio could go rogue. You'll need to be quick on your feet to get everyone back on the same page. Pro tip: Try listening as much as you talk.
SAGITTARIUS: Saturday's clash between the Sun and disruptor Uranus could throw you a curveball. But don't let the temporary drama destabilize your hard-won serenity. Formulate a practical plan, even if you have to pay something off in installments or call a time out when an argument gets heated. On the flip side, if you're feeling suffocated by too much security, don't go overboard trying to make things "exciting" again.
CAPRICORN: Nobody puts Capricorn in the corner! At least, not Saturday. An explosive clash between the Sun in your sign and volatile Uranus could bring some repressed emotions surging to the surface. This could surprise you as much as the person on the receiving end of your tirade. A female relative or friend could be especially triggering Saturday.

AQUARIUS: Inner circle drama? Conflict could intensify among a friend group as the Sun gets into a smackdown with your ruling planet, irreverent Uranus. Someone (you, perhaps?) may be disregarding people's feelings, sparking rivalries or totally ignoring agreed-upon protocols. Should you cut this person loose before they sink the whole ship—or cut and run yourself? Maybe.
PISCES: What's the big idea? You may need to wrestle all the moving parts of a huge plan into place Saturday—and quick! A volatile Sun-Uranus square could pull the rug out from under you, especially in your career or a key relationship. Are things moving too fast? Before you sign on the dotted line or make a major commitment, make sure you're both heading in the same direction. The last thing you want to be impulsive about is a long-term relationship. Pause for the (crucial) cause of sorting that all out. On Sunday, call it a wrap on anything that is draining your energy reserves as the Sun dips into Aquarius and your twelfth house of healing and closure until February 18.