



**TOTAL PROHIBITION IN
MIZORAM FROM APRIL**

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**TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME LINKED
TO AN EPIDEMIC OF MYOPIA
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE**

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**ALWAYS WANTED TO
PROVE THAT WOMEN CAN
WRESTLE TOO: PAIGE**

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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Sikkim received more than Rs One lakh cr in central funds in past 4 years: BJP

“If utilized well, problems of poverty and unemployment would have been solved”

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 FEB:

The Sikkim unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving more than Rs One lakh crores to Sikkim by way of development funds in different sectors over the last four years. The party stresses that this proves the concern of the Prime Minister towards Sikkim and its people.

Addressing a press conference here today, BJP-Sikkim president, DB Chauhan, detailed that various projects and schemes launched during the current NDA Government which focused on overall development of Sikkim.

He added that these projects and schemes were launched in different sectors like highways, repair of roads and bridges, infrastructure development, drinking water supply, food security, health, education,



poverty alleviation, hydro power projects, rural electrification, transport and communication, public health, civil aviation, pollution control, forest and environment, urbanization etc.

“All sectors have been rejuvenated and the people are empowered through digital technology. Swacchh Bharat

Abhiyan has been a boon to the health and hygiene of the people of Sikkim,” he said.

Mr Chauhan mentioned that the Central government’s initiative of Direct Benefit Transfer has benefited the people to a great extent as people now get their subsidies directly in their bank accounts.

“There are a total of 130 central government scheme many of which are not implemented in Sikkim which is very unfortunate. If all schemes would have been implemented sincerely then there would be no poverty or unemployment in Sikkim,” he said.

He also presented figures of the funds re-

leased by the Central Government to Sikkim from 2014 to 2018.

He informed that Rs 965.3 crores was given to preserve sacred lakes and wetland complexes, Rs 16,756.89 crores for strengthening of transmission, rural electrification and construction of dams, Rs 640. 44 crores for community centres,

Rs 41,453 crores for construction, broadening, carpeting and repairing of roads and construction of national highway, Rs 31,090.1 crores in MGNREGA, PMGSY, PMAY and others, Rs 1345. 90 crores for poverty alleviation, augmentation of water supply and RUSA and Rs 4,013 crores for a 43 KM long railway track with four stations, which comes to a total of around Rs 96,264.63 crores

He added that the figure could be more than one lakh crores of rupees as the party has still not received details on Swacchh Bharat Abhiyan, digital India and on welfare schemes for different sectors.

He added that this data was taken from the Centre and these only included funds which were sanctioned and utilised. He added that this shows that how the NDA government was sincere and concerned towards Sikkim with its Act East policy for the State.

Development of Tsuklakhang Palace complex inaugurated



REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 15 FEB:

Gangtok MLA, Pintso Chopel Lepcha, today inaugurated the development of Tsuklakhang Palace complex, in the presence of Princess Hope Leezum Namgyal, and Gangtok Mayor Shakti Singh Chaudhary.

Managing Trustee of Tshuklakhang Trust, KN Bhutia, on behalf of the trust, conveyed sincere gratitude towards the State Government for sanctioning the project and thanked the government for the repair of

the palace and protection works undertaken in the complex as part of the project.

UD&HD officials inform that the project is on the verge of completion, with work having begun in 2016 under UD&HD with part of the project components also coming under the Smart City mission.

The Gangtok MLA welcomed the development as an important moment for everyone since the Palace was an integral part of Sikkimese history and identity.

Students unions to begin campaign against Modi govt

CHENNAI, FEB 15 (PTI): A pan-India students and youths organisations’ collective-Young India National Coordination Committee (YINCC) has said it will begin campaigns next month across the country to vote BJP out of power for “ditching” the student community.

The body, consisting of 42 students and youth organisations, includes students’ unions of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University, Allahabad University and Rajasthan University.

JNU Students Union President (JNUSU) Sai Balaji said the collective would begin campaigns across the country from next month (March), in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

“The present government has clearly ditched us in several ways and we have been bearing the brunt of it. This campaign is also to vote the BJP out of power,” Balaji told PTI during an interaction.

Last week, thousands of students and youths of the collective took out a march in the national capital from Red Fort to Parliament Street demanding jobs and better educational opportunities.

“To any new government, our demands would be to fill all vacant posts in the government, offer an education loan waiver,” Balaji said, referring to a charter released by YINCC.

The charter demands allocation of at least 10 per cent on education in the budget, ending the practice of alleged seat-cuts in universities, fee hike, reservation-cut in higher educational institutions.

“End gender discriminatory rules, ensure academic freedom and freedom of expression on campuses, fulfil constitutionally-mandated reservations,” it said.

Governor condemns terrorist attack on CRPF convoy

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 FEB:

Governor Ganga Prasad has condemned and expressed deep anguish on the terrorist attack on a CRPF convoy at Avantipora in Pulwama district of Jammu yesterday afternoon, claiming the lives of the 42 CRPF jawans.

Stating that he was “deeply appalled” by the irreparable loss of lives of CRPF Jawans following a “ghastly fidayeen terrorist attack” on the CRPF convoy yesterday afternoon, the Governor says,

“The nation is shocked by this act of cowardice by the evil force of terrorism which has given a deep wound to the national psyche and I term it as a national loss. The nation stands in solidarity with the armed forces and the families who have lost their worthy son.”

“The supreme sacrifice made by the jawans in their quest of safety and security of motherland will act as a cruel reminder for the countrymen to unite and defeat these evil forces once and for all,” he adds.

Gujjar quota agitation enters eighth day

JAIPUR, FEB 15 (PTI): Gujjar community members continued to block railway tracks in Rajasthan for the eighth consecutive day on Friday despite the state government releasing a notification to give 5 per cent reservation to them and four other communities agitating for it.

State tourism minister Vishwendra Singh and representatives of the Gujjar community are holding discussions to end the deadlock, Station House Officer of the Malarna Dungar police station Brijendra Singh said. The ongoing dharna led by Gujjar agitation leader Kirori Singh Bainsla on railway tracks and a blockade laid on highways has caused much inconvenience to people. As per the North Western Railways spokesperson, 64 trains have

been cancelled, 71 diverted and 32 partially cancelled in the last eight days.

Bainsla and his supporters began their sit-in on railway tracks in Malarna Dungar area of Swai Madhopur district on February 8, demanding 5 per cent quota for Gujjar, Raika-Rebari, Gadia Luhar, Banjara and Gadaria communities in jobs and education.

The Rajasthan Assembly on Wednesday passed a bill giving 5 per cent quota in government jobs and educational institutes to the Gujjars and four other communities agitating for it. The Gujjar agitators are sitting on Mumbai-Delhi railway track near Malarna Dungar and Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur rail track at Chauth Ka Barwara in Sawai Madhopur district.

ASDTF mediates with NHPC on behalf of contractual drivers

SUMMIT REPORT

RANGPO, 15 FEB:

All Sikkim Democratic Transport/Drivers Front [ASDTF] has mediated on behalf of contractual drivers engaged with the NHPC on grievances raised by the drivers during a meeting with ASDTF executive members a few days back.

The NHPC management, a press release informs, has agreed to increase allowances for meals during outstation tours, allowing one-third of the drivers to simultaneously stay on leave during public holidays, salary for an additional driver for ambulances, increase in period of agreement from 4 years to 5 for the owners and drivers of deputed vehicle, full salary for drivers during times of acci-



dents, and induction of all vehicles into NHPC through driver associations of Singtam, reducing working hours for drivers after the renewal of the vehicles.

These were decided at a meeting between an ASDTF delegation headed by state in-charge

GM Gurung and General Manager of National Hydropower Corporation, Sahadev Khatua, at the latter’s office.

At the meeting, Mr Gurung also appealed to the management to handle local employees, drivers with more respect, immediately

extend medical facilities to 700 workers.

The meeting was also attended by Senior Manager Sanjeev Kumar, HR Head Praveesh Kumar from NHPC along with Sandeep Chettri, Tinku Adhikari, Tenzing Sherpa among others from ASDTF.

SSS condemns Industries Secy’s comments on Registration of Companies Act

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 FEB:

The organization, Save Sikkimese Soul [SSS], has strongly criticised and condemned the statement of the Commerce & Industries Department Principal Secretary, Thomas Chandy, on to extension of Companies Act 2013 to Sikkim. A national daily has quoted the Principal Secretary as calling for the extension of Companies Act 2013 to the State replacing the existing Registration of Companies Act (Sikkim) 1961 in his address at a seminar organised by the Confederation of Indian Indus-



try [CII] on 12 February.

Addressing a press confer-

ence here today, SSS coordinator Passang Sherpa stated

that his organisation strongly condemns such a controversial statement by the Principal Secretary to refer to an Old Law of Sikkim as redundant.

He questioned how a bureaucrat could make a comment like that about Old Laws of Sikkim.

“Bureaucrats should not comment on such matters,” he said.

He mentioned that the matter if extending Companies Act 2013 to Sikkim was still pending with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and that the Ministry has sent around ten reminders to the State Govern-

ment in 2018 alone seeking its view on the matter but received no response.

Mr Sherpa inferred that political leaders were now sending bureaucrats to pass remarks that an old law was not relevant.

“We want political parties of Sikkim to take up this important issue and live up to their claims of safeguarding old laws of Sikkim but their silence on this issue shows they are only after vote banks not real issues. So we are compelled to take up this issue in the interest of the people of Sikkim,” Mr Sherpa said.

District level training for Presiding and Polling Officers begins from Mangan

GANGTOK, 15 FEB (IPR): The first phase of District Level Training for Presiding and Polling Officer-1 started from Mangan in North Sikkim today.

The training is being organized by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer with Resources Persons, National Level Master Trainers M. Bhanani Kumar, Mahesh Sharma and State Level Master Trainers Prem Kamal Rai and Subash Ghimiray imparting training in two batches to Presiding and Polling Officer-1 of north district.

During the training, Presiding and Polling Officer-1 were briefed about the role and responsibilities of concerned officers during polling hours.

The resource persons stressed on basic functions and workings

of EVMs and VVPATs; importance of CRC; errors; commissioning and sealing; connecting EVMs and VVPATs, voting commensurate entries in Form 17C, Mock poll certificate, mock poll exercises etc.

For the active participation of trainees, resource persons also conducted quiz competition as well.

For East district, training will be held from 16 to 18 February at three venues - conference hall of DAC, Gangtok, Conference Hall of East District Zilla Panchayat and Conference Hall of the O/o the CEO, Baluwakhani.

For South district, the training is scheduled from 18 to 21 February and for West district from February 18 to 20.

Sonowal seeks peoples' cooperation for NRC hearing process

GUWAHATI, FEB 15 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Friday urged the people of the state to cooperate in the hearing process of National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Hearings for the claims and objections regarding the NRC updation began in 1436 centres across the state during the day, officials said.

The chief minister asked all officials engaged in the work to ensure smooth completion of the hearing process of claims and objections as an error-free NRC would make the implementation of Clause 5 of Assam Accord possible, he said.

Chairing a meeting here to discuss various issues connected to the claim and objection process during the NRC updation, Sonowal said the process for preparing an

error-free citizens register has been going on under the direct supervision of Supreme Court in which both the central and state governments have extended support.

Names of 40.37 lakh people were not included in the final draft of NRC which was published on July 30, 2018. Out of them 36.28 lakh people have claimed for inclusion and another two lakh have registered their objections.

In a statement Sonowal appreciated the peaceful environment maintained by the people during the publication of the first and the final drafts of the NRC and appealed for maintaining it during the hearing process of claims and objections.

The state had been witness to large-scale protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, which has lapsed.

Centre garners Rs 12,000 crore GST from Bengal till Dec

KOLKATA, FEB 15 (PTI): The Centre has raked in some Rs 12,000 crore from West Bengal during the current fiscal till December as its share from the Goods and Services Tax from the state and expects to exceed the target of Rs 18,000 crore by March 2019, a revenue official said Friday.

"The CGST share target for the FY19 was Rs 18,000 crore and till December we have already collected Rs 12,000 crore. We hope the target may get exceeded by March," assistant commissioner of CGST, Pan-

diyaraj G V said on the sidelines of The Bengal Chamber organised seminar on contentious issues related to GST.

He said the filing of refund which is still semi-online would get streamlined soon.

Tax expert T B Chatterjee said GST is a great step but was introduced without training of officials.

"The GST officials at the local office level, be it from the state or the Centre are incompetent to guide the traders causing disruptions despite being a good tax system," he said.

RBI lifts cap on FPI investments in corporate bonds

MUMBAI, FEB 15 (PTI): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday withdrew the 20 per cent limit on investments by FPIs in corporate bonds of an entity with a view to encourage more foreign investments.

As part of the review of the FPI investment in corporate debt undertaken in April 2018, it was stipulated that no FPI should have an exposure of more than 20 per cent of its corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate (including exposure to entities related to the corporate).

While the provision

was aimed at incentivising FPIs to maintain a portfolio of assets, market feedback indicates that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been constrained by this stipulation, the RBI said.

"...in order to encourage a wider spectrum of investors to access the Indian corporate debt market, it has been decided to withdraw this provision with immediate effect," the central bank said.

The RBI said the directions in this regard have been issued the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

Total prohibition in Mizoram from April

AIZAWL, FEB 15 (PTI): The Zoramthanga government in Mizoram will impose total prohibition in the state from April this year, state Excise and Narcotics Minister K Beichhua said Friday.

The Mizo National Front (MNF) government, which came to power in December 2018 after defeating the Congress, had promised total prohibition in its election manifesto like the other opposition parties in the face of stringent demands for it by the church, which has a big presence in the Christian majority state.

The government has been drafting a prohibition law which is likely to be introduced in the state assembly in March during the budget ses-



sion, officials said. Prohibition had been force in the north eastern state since February 20, 1997 when the former chief minister Lal Thanhawla

came to power heading a Congress government.

The earlier MNF governments of Zoramthanga which was in power from December 1998

to December 2008 had abided by it. Thanhawla had, however, eased the stringent prohibition law by legislating the Mizoram Liquor (Prohi-

bition and Control) Act, 2014. The Act had come into effect from January 15, 2015 under which liquor card holders were allowed to purchase lim-

ited amount of liquor from wine shops, which were opened for the purpose.

An official statement Friday said that Beichhua has appealed to all concerned officials to be prepared to successfully enforce the prohibition as they would otherwise become the target of NGOs, churches and opposition parties.

The state government would work together with the civil societies and the churches to combat the menace of drugs and alcohol and all the vacant posts in the excise department would be filled up expeditiously to enforce the total prohibition, he said at the general conference of the Mizoram Excise and Narcotics Service Association (MENSA).

Regional parties wasted Central funds in Sikkim: Cong

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 FEB:

All India Congress Committee [AICC] general secretary in-charge North Eastern States [excluding Assam], Luizinho Faleiro, today contended that the Centre has provided substantial funds to Sikkim over the last 43 years, but governments of regional parties have not been able to convert it into tangible development. His clear indication was to the fact that Sikkim has elected only regional parties to office, political choices he blames for what he sees as the lack of adequate development and progress in the State.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Faleiro stated that responding to the aspirations of the people of Sikkim, Congress has been working towards uniting all opposition parties of the State.

He added that the party was open to all and was in touch with SKM and HSP to explore alliances.

However, he added that in case no coalition came about, the party was ready to go it alone in elections and contest from all 32 seats.

He informed that the party has asked its dis-



trict level committees to identify potential candidates and submit a report to the state committee. He stated that the party would reach out to every household of Sikkim.

Mr Faleiro claimed that the UPA government had provided much development and progress to Sikkim but those did not transform to reality. He alleged that the SDF government has taken Sikkim backward.

He further alleged that loans of crores of rupees taken by the State government have not produced any results and the State still depends on imports for food grains.

He further alleged that Sikkim has the highest loans debt, suicide rate and dropout rate, indices

which need to change for the better.

Mr Faleiro stated that the Congress has always respected the unique identity, culture and traditions of Sikkim and provided special provisions for the safeguard of Sikkim and the interests of its people.

He also argued that the biggest threats to Sikkim were the Prime Minister and RSS which have been trying to destroy the unique identity, culture and traditions of Sikkim and the north-eastern region.

Mr Faleiro criticised and condemned SDF party and its MP, PD Rai, for having supported the Citizen Amendment Bill.

It was also informed that Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC]

had convened a meeting at its party office on Friday which was attended by Mr Faleiro and Pradyot Deb Barman, AICC observers for Sikkim, and state president Bharat Basent and other leaders of SPCC.

The meeting discussed different issues of Sikkim and passed resolutions and also observed a one-minute silence in the memory of Pulawa blast victims.

The meeting passed a resolution to thank the AICC president Rahul Gandhi for his strong decision on not allowing the Citizenship Amendment Bill to pass in the Parliament and for announcing a unique Minimum Income Guarantee Scheme.

Situation normal at Langpih, talks started with Assam: Sangma

SHILLONG/RANGIA, FEB 15 (PTI): A day after a clash broke out between villagers and Assam Police personnel in disputed Langpih area, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Friday said the situation was normalised there.

Talks between the two states on the matter have started, though prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC was imposed in Langpih as a precautionary measure by the authorities in Meghalaya. A report from Assam quoting police in Kamrup district said seven persons, including five police personnel, were injured in the clash on Thursday and two people were detained.

Langpih - or Lumpi, as it called in Assam - has been a bone of contention between the two north-eastern neighbours for decades. Meghalaya claims it to be part of West Khasi Hills district, while Assam asserts that it falls under

its Kamrup district. "The situation was normalised but four people were injured and two people were arrested," Meghalaya Chief Minister told reporters in Shillong.

He said, "We have immediately spoken to the Assam. West Khasi Hills district SP has informed the matter to the SP of the other side. They have discussed it and I think the two people will be released."

During the day, sub-divisional officer of Mawshynrut area has promulgated section 144 CrPC in Langpih as a precautionary measure following the clash, officials said. The clash took place at Umawali village near Langpih on Thursday when the Assam Police tried to stop work for electrification there and arrested two persons, a senior officer of Meghalaya Police said.

"They said the area falls in Assam. When the villagers protested and started pelting stones,

the Assam policemen resorted to lathi charge and, in the process, four persons were injured," he said. Jogendra Barman, Officer-in-Charge of Boko police station in Kamrup district of Assam, said labourers working under a contractor were illegally engaged in electrification work at Lumpi claiming that the area belonged to Meghalaya.

People of Lumpi tried to stop the workers who then attacked the locals, Barman said. A police team reached the spot on being informed but unidentified people from Meghalaya pelted stones at them injuring one assistant-sub-inspector of police and four constables, the OC said.

DSP Kalyan Pathak and Barman himself then went there with more personnel and controlled the situation after resorting to a lathi charge, Barman said adding that two labourers were detained for interrogation from the spot where policemen and CRPF personnel were deployed.

The Meghalaya chief minister said the government is trying to ensure that development reaches to the people and status quo is maintained.

He said a "very strong" communication has been sent to the Assam government on the matter. Sangma, however, said such incidents keep on happening from both sides.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Santosh Tamang s/o Kalu Man Tamang r/o Lower Sripartam South Sikkim declare that I am in Indian Army and my wife name is Lakmit Lepcha but in my document my wife name by mistakenly is written as Lakmit Tamang. So the affidavit is to state that her actual name is Lakmit Lepcha not Lakmit Tamang.

Victoria Beckham to launch YouTube fashion channel

LOS ANGELES, FEB 15 (PTI): Singer-designer Victoria Beckham is launching her own YouTube channel ahead of her London Fashion Week show on Sunday.

The former Spice Girls star is planning to add a variety of content about her brand to the channel.

According to Variety, the channel will also feature behind-the-scenes footage of the workings

of her fashion label, of which she is creative director. "I am thrilled to launch my YouTube channel at such an important time of the year for me and offer an exclusive insight into my experience of London Fashion Week," Beckham said.

She added that she wants to "build a sense of community with an amazing group of collaborators" through the new channel.

Before the Oath Commissioner, South Sikkim at Namchi.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jiwan Tamang, son of Hasta Bahadur Tamang, aged about 40 year resident of Gangyap, P.O & P.S. Namchi, South Sikkim do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:

1. That "MOKTAN" is a sub caste of caste "TAMANG".
2. That my surname has been recorded as Moktan in few of my documents including my senior school certificate examination 1998, bearing serial no SSCE/ 98004472, issued by CBSE and Secodary school of Examination pass Certificate 1995 vide serial no. SSE/95/00132786 issued by CBSE.
3. That however my surname has been recorded as Tamang in my COI bearing Sl.No. 1469 dt. 1.3.1996 issued by Office of Dist. Collector, South Dist. Namchi and my Electoral ID card bearing card no. CXP0068973, issued by ECI and in my Aadhar card vide no. 849126021342 duly issued by Unique Identification Authority of India, Gol.
4. That I Have sworn this affidavit to declare that Moktan is the sub caste of the caste Tamang and I further declare that person with the name and surname of JIWAN TAMANG AND JIWAN MOKTAN AND JIWAN MOKTAN TAMANG are the names of one and the same person that is myself.
5. That this affidavit is made bonafide and satisfaction of concern authority.

Jiwan Tamang
DEPONENT

LOST

I, Mr. Denesh Limboo, S/o Mon Kumar Limboo, R/o Upper Zimchung, Pentok, Mangan, North Sikkim have lost my original Class XII PASS Certificate of CBSE Board bearing Roll No. 3643784 of Mangan Sr Sec School (MSSS), Mangan North Sikkim on 27.12.2018 in around Mangan Bazaar (MNP area).

So, if found kindly handover to MSS School authority or nearest Police stations.

ANTYESTI KRIYA

The Antyesti Kriya of late Seeta Gautam, wife of I.K Gautam (Ex Jt. Commissioner, Excise Deptt.), who left for heavenly abode on the 8th of Feb. 2019 falls on the 20th of February 2019 (Wednesday).

All relatives, friends, family and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence opposite Tamang Gumpa, Sichey, Gangtok.

Sons: Pramod Gautam, Binod Gautam, Subodh Gautam

Daughters-in-law: Dr. Tara Gautam, Mala Gautam, Dr. Kritika Sharma

Dewars: S.K Gautam, R.P Gautam, R.K Gautam, H.K Gautam

Daughter, son-in-law: Roma Gautam, Suresh Adhikari

Cont: 9434126851, 9647206717, 9775972426, 9434866889



The Indomitable History of Gastroenterology at STNM Hospital

Dr. SURESH MADAN RASAILY, MD

Thirty-four years ago, a dire need was felt to start Endoscopic procedures to intervene during gastrointestinal bleed and the complications induced by alcohol or otherwise in a society where alcohol use is socially and culturally accepted.

Hence, on 02 October 1985, the Department of Gastroenterology was established at the STNM Hospital under the able stewardship of Dr. MR Kotwal, MD, who was then a Medical Specialist. After a brief training and with a small dedicated team, he ventured into the intra-luminal diagnostic procedures and to think the Endoscopic machines were primitive in yonder years.

Dr. Kotwal’s foray into the diagnostic Endoscopic invasive procedures 34 years back brought in an avalanche of changes in the management of gastrointestinal diseases leading to a definite curtailment in referrals outside the state. In this period, he managed to publish many international studies on Gall stones and Gall bladder diseases, Gastroesophageal reflux diseases and many more.

In the latter half of 2005, after my specialized training in Gastroenterology, I joined the Gastroenterology team. By then the department was equipped with Olympus Evis Exera 160 series machine, the latest for that era and we are still using it.

Unfortunately, in 2008 Dr Kotwal decided to hang his gloves and move on. We had to carry on and we did prevail. It was felt that the Unit should take further initiation in starting Therapeutic Endoscopic procedures. So with the permission of the competent

authorities we initially started with sclerotherapy for esophageal varices and hemorrhoids. With the passage of time, we introduced Esophageal Variceal band ligation at a very low cost compared to the mainland India. It was a watershed era where bleeding upper and lower gastro intestinal patients were not referred outside the state to Siliguri or elsewhere. There was a drastic reduction of referrals lessening the burden to the Government exchequer. Other basic procedures for Gastric and Duodenal ulcers, Carcinoma diagnosis, foreign body removals continued. Balloon Dilatation of Gastric Outlet Obstruction, Esophageal dilatation with Savary Gilliard dilators for Achalasia Cardia was initiated, though palliative.

In 2009, we felt that Viral Hepatitis infection was not being addressed to properly. So a protocol-based treatment and management was initiated for Viral Hepatitis B and C infections. This intervention too curtailed the referrals outside the state which was a prevailing practice. We started with Nucleotides and Nucleosides therapy for Hepatitis B infection and for Hepatitis C infection although very expensive we had to use Pegelated Interferon, the cost which ran over lakhs of rupees but the Government was philanthropic to reimburse the cost to the patients. As the years have passed on, newer, novel and cheaper drugs are available and patients are being managed. It would be appropriate to declare here that a National Programme, National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme is being launched in coming months and the STNM Hospital Gastroenterology department is designated as the Model

Treatment Center for the State of Sikkim.

It was about this time with the help of Corporate Social responsibility we were able to lease a Fibro scan machine to the State. Fibro scan evaluates the liver stiffness to assess the liver damage. We screened over 4000 individuals under the SILVER programme (Sikkim’s initiative on Liver Diseases) all over the state over a period of 2 years.

Since the formative years intestinal worm infestation was a big menace. But over the years it has gradually decreased to once in a while finding in endoscopies which reflects the holistic inter and intra departmental work done in the State.

In the latter half of 2010 the department was provided with the state of art Endoscopy machine Olympus Evis Exera 180 series with a Narrow Band Imaging. NBI is a special feature where in early cancerous mucosal changes can be detected in esophagus, stomach and the intestines. So the families with the history Gastric and Colonic cancers were motivated for screening and are still being screened. However as a team we have to emphasise and convince the society to screen themselves for early cancerous lesions. Information, Education and Communication has yet to be strengthened in this field.

Team Gastro continued introducing more therapeutic procedures and continued with small polypectomies, fundal glue applications, foreign body removals, luminal dilations. We were the first in North Bengal and Sikkim to start palliative esophageal metallic Stenting without the luxury of a fluoroscopy x ray machine. It is a humble feeling to be able to

bring respite to those suffering from end stage diseases.

We as a Department have been evolving despite financial crunch, machines breaking down for months together. However these set back did not deter us from evolving more. We started addressing to large and small bowel disorders like Malabsorbtion syndromes, Celiac disease, Tropical Sprue, Crohns disease, Ulcerative Colitis, abdominal Koch’s and the rest.

Now the additional good news is that more members from the Gastroenterology fraternity will be joining us in the New Multispecialty STNM hospital. The Gastroenterology Department is now equipped with a large well designed Endoscopy suite with latest state of the art machines that can be availed. In addition to the procedures already being done we intend to start other procedures like ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangio pancreaticogram), Colonic Stenting, PEG etc

The vision for the years to come with the support and guidance from the Government we hope to move on to newer frontiers in Gastroenterology like

- 1. Fibroscan : study elasticity of the liver
- 2. Capsule Endoscopy: study the entire bowel particularly the small intestine
- 3. Endoscopic Ultrasound : a diagnostic as well as therapeutic procedures
- 4. Esophageal manometry
- 5. Eventually third space endoscopy : example POEM

We hope with the blessings of the almighty the Department of Gastroenterology STNM Hospital will be able to venture into newer frontiers for the benefit of the people of Sikkim and the mankind.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

No: 34/ETENDER/BHD/2019

Dated: 12/02/2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

Sl.No.	Name of works	Bid security 2.5% of the bid value (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Value (Rs in Lakhs)	Cost of tender/ bid form (Rs in Lakhs)	Completion period.
1.	Construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office at DPH Road Gangtok, East Sikkim.	8.67	346.61	0.30	30 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS


I)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	:	12 th February, 2019
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	:	12 th February, 2019
iii)	Document download/sale state date and time	:	13 th February, 2019 11:00am onwards.
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	:	20 th February, 2019 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	:	11 th March, 2019 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	:	12 th March, 2019 at 12 Hrs.

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

Sd/-

Superintending Engineer (PROJECT)
Buildings & Housing Department
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

R.O. No. 696/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 15.2.19



GANGTOK SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

SOKAYTHANG, GANGTOK

SIKKIM – 737102

CIN – U9309090WB2017SGC223807

Email: gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com

Ref No. :09/GSCDL/Tender/NIT/MLCPDA-PPP/2019

Date: 14-02-2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) NO.:GSCDL/TENDER/NIT/MLCPDA-PPP/2019

Competitive Bidding (Manual Bidding)

For and on behalf of Gangtok Smart City Development Limited, Chief Executive Officer, invites sealed tender under single envelope two bid system (1E2B) from the eligible contractor's/ construction firm enlisted with the Government on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode on **Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) Mode.**

Sl. No.	Contract Package No.	Title of work	Bid security (In INR)	Period of completion	Cost of Bid Document (In INR)
1	SIK-GAN-065	Implementation of Multi-Level Car Parking cum Commercial Development at JeevanTheeng Marg, Development Area, Gangtok – East Sikkim on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis	53.13 lakhs	Construction period - 36months Operation and Maintenance period/Concession Period – As per the issued RFP document.	2,00,000.00 (Two Lakhs Only)


Instructions to Bidders

- For complete eligibility and qualification requirement, criteria in the Bidding document(RFP) as specified should be followed. Financial instruments: Bid Security will be deposited in separate envelope mentioning the amount and the name of Bank either in the form of Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft payable at Chief Executive Officer, GSCDL, Gangtok in the main envelope. Offers for partial bids will not be considered and summarily rejected as non-responsive. Summary of criteria are below vide complete instructions/ bidding process/ submission shall be available to the intended bidders on the bidding documents (RFP).
- Interested eligible bidders may go through the bidding documents and obtain further information if any needed, from the Office of the undersigned as stipulated in bidding document (RFP) issued for this project.
- A complete set of bidding documents (RFP) in the ENGLISH language, may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders on submission of bidder application to Chief Executive Officer, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) and on payment of the non-refundable cost of bidding document as specified in Column no. 6 of above during normal office hours and all working days from Date-25.02.2019, to Date-02.03.2019, 11:00 hrs to 14:00hrs
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on Date- 20.02.2019 at 14:00 hrs in the Office of the undersigned to clarify the issues and queries raised on the proposed bid. Bidders may seek clarification from the Office of the undersigned on the bid on or before 14:00 hrs of Date-20.02.2019, if required.
- Sealed bid in duplicate duly signed by authorised signatory must be delivered to CEO, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) on or before 14:00 hrs of Date-04.03.2019. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as specified in the bidding document (RFP) for an amount as specified above in Column no. 4. Late bid will not be accepted by tendering authority. Bids will be opened as stipulated in bidding document (RFP) at 15:00 hrs on Date-04.03.2019 by tendering authority for GSCDL in the presence of bidders or bidders' representatives who chose to attend the process. Successful Technical Bidders will be informed for attending opening of the Financial Bidding as stipulated in bidding document (RFP). The details of bids can also be viewed through the website of www.gmcslsikkim.in and www.smartnet.niua.org
- The purchaser/ intending bidders will be responsible for all costs/ expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or delivery of the bids and site visits.
- GSCDL reserves the right to change or postpone above schedule, reduce the scope of work and reject any non-responsive tenders/ bids without assigning any reason thereof.

R.O.No.699/IPR/Pub/Classi/18-19
Date: 15.2.2019

Chief Executive Officer

Gangtok Smart City Development Limited



SOKAYTHANG, GANGTOK

SIKKIM – 737102

CIN – U9309090WB2017SGC223807

Email: gangtoksmartcity@gmail.com

Ref No. :10/GSCDL/Tender/NIT/CC/2019

Date: 14-02-2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) NO.:GSCDL/TENDER/NIT/CC/2019

Competitive Bidding (Manual Bidding)

For and on behalf of Gangtok Smart City Development Limited, Chief Executive Officer, invites sealed tender under single envelope two bid system (1E2B) from the eligible contractor's/ construction firm enlisted with the Government as per criteria specified in published Request for Proposal.

Sl. No.	Contract Package No.	Title of work	Estimated Cost (In INR)	Bid security (In INR)	Period of completion	Cost of Bid Document (In INR)
1	SIK-GAN-022/CC	Construction of Cultural and Convention Centre at Gangtok, East Sikkim	2370.50 lakhs	59.26 lakhs	30months	2,00,000.00 (Two Lakhs Only)

Instructions to Bidders

- For complete eligibility and qualification requirement, criteria in the Bidding document(RFP) as specified should be followed. Financial instruments: Bid Security will be deposited in separate envelope mentioning the amount and the name of Bank either in the form of Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft payable at Chief Executive Officer, GSCDL, Gangtok in the main envelope. Offers for partial bids will not be considered and summarily rejected as non-responsive. Summary of criteria are below vide complete instructions/ bidding process/ submission shall be available to the intended bidders on the bidding documents (RFP).
- Interested eligible bidders may go through the bidding documents and obtain further information if any needed, from the Office of the undersigned as stipulated in bidding document (RFP) issued for this project.
- A complete set of bidding documents (RFP) in the ENGLISH language, may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders on submission of bidder application to Chief Executive Officer, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) and on payment of the non-refundable cost of bidding document as specified in Column no. 7 of above during normal office hours and all working days from Date-26.02.2019, to Date-27.02.2019, 11:00 hrs to 14:00hrs
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on Date-20.02.2019 at 13:00 hrs in the Office of the undersigned to clarify the issues and queries raised on the proposed bid. Bidders may seek clarification from the Office of the undersigned on the bid on or before 13:00 hrs of Date-20.02.2019, if required.
- Sealed bid in duplicate duly signed by authorised signatory must be delivered to CEO, GSCDL, Gangtok 737102, Sikkim (India) on or before 13:00 hrs of Date-03.03.2019. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as specified in the bidding document (RFP) for an amount as specified above in Column no. 4. Late bid will not be accepted by tendering authority. Bids will be opened as stipulated in bidding document (RFP) at 14:00 hrs on Date-03.03.2019 by tendering authority for GSCDL in the presence of bidders or bidders' representatives who chose to attend the process. Successful Technical Bidders will be informed for attending opening of the Financial Bidding as stipulated in bidding document (RFP). The details of bids can also be viewed through the website of www.gmcslsikkim.in and www.smartnet.niua.org
- The purchaser/ intending bidders will be responsible for all costs/ expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or delivery of the bids and site visits.
- GSCDL reserves the right to change or postpone above schedule, reduce the scope of work and reject any non-responsive tenders/ bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Executive Officer

Gangtok Smart City Development Limited

Death Due to Disengagement

When a society refuses to engage, the shocking becomes the new normal

Suicides have become so frequent, and the general response to them so uninvolved that this newspaper has stopped reporting on suicides on a day to day basis, fearful that the commonplace nature of such deaths will convince those contemplating such ends that this is a “normal” means to opt out. But there is nothing normal about a suicide. It is a traumatic experience for everyone touched by it – the victim, the families, the friends and even the police personnel who have to recover the bodies and draft reports about the incident. Why, even journalists who have to report on these incidents are left disturbed. Why then is it that suicides do not figure in public and political discussions? Is it not worrying that something which can be addressed and is yet allowed to take away so many lives from Sikkim’s midst is not attracting the attention of leaders beyond the occasional lip-service?

Speak to any cop, especially the ones posted at the more remote out-posts where they respond more to recover bodies of suicide victims than law & order situations, bringing down limp bodies of lives that could have been saved and one does not sense disinterest from the routineness of the matter but a frustration over why lives end in this manner so often in Sikkim. They return to this thankless task every day, reporting to their beats knowing that their policing of yesterday has made no dent in the nexus of disinterest and insensitivity that spawns suicides in Sikkim. What is worse, the society at large is not only disinterested, but also complacently dismissive, reading of social challenges like suicides and drug busts with shallow comments of this being caused by corruption and materialism.

This is a dangerously uninvolved attitude. These are social challenges, situations that need to be met with social engagement and supported by a political will which creates the enabling laws and environment to redress the situation. Those who pass superficial judgements, blaming these societal trends on law & order failures and not the society, are causing perhaps even more damage than the indifference with which the community at large is responding to the challenges. Among all the factors that sustain substance abuse, societal indifference contributes the most. Suicides in Sikkim manifest in the failure of adequate awareness, or even interest, about mental health. Economic destitution has not claimed lives here yet. Lives are being lost and put in harm’s way because a civil society refuses to come together in Sikkim.

Community engagement, when genuinely crafted, automatically leads to spontaneous involvement. And one is referring here not only to substance abuse and suicides. Look at how consistently mute the people and their organisations have remained in Sikkim in the face of every situation that has confronted the State. There is neither any spontaneity in jubilant celebrations nor any instinctive revulsion when misfortune comes visiting. The only voices that find comment indulge in rounds of condemnations and counters and are exclusively politically inspired. The lay citizens remain aloof because they have not cobbled together organisations which are not only not politically compromised, but also neither forceful nor forthright. In this vacuum, issues are manufactured and forced on the people and genuine problems remain unaddressed. Also manifesting because of this involvement deficit are social challenges which grow ever more staggering and confounding. Superficiality and token gestures do not solve any problem, and the situation with suicides is much too pervasive to even be called a “problem” any more – they have become the new normal for Sikkim. Unless the society invests some real involvement, this “normalcy” will keep getting worse and the State the poorer.

And no, don’t look at the government to solve this problem. It cannot do so on its own because those who are harm’s way are around families and their immediate circle of friends and only they can catch the warning signs in time. The government could help by arranging proper awareness and access to experts, but it will have to be the lay people who walk the way to help and encourage others to do the same. Given how things have been, even the first step has not been taken. As a result, by the time you finish reading this, chances are, that a panic call has gone through to another police out-post reporting an unidentified body found hanging in a neighbourhood somewhere in Sikkim...

Too much screen time linked to an epidemic of myopia among young people

LANGIS MICHAUD
theconversation.com

Ask anyone about the benefits of technology and it probably won’t take them long to rhyme off a list of examples: it helps broaden your knowledge, connect with friends, both new and old, and allows you to see things you’ve never seen before.

But what about the drawbacks? Here’s a major one: increased screen time is hard on your eyes.

In fact, more and more young people are wearing glasses to correct their nearsightedness. This trend has prompted optical health experts to determine if the use of electronic devices such as computers, tablets and smart phones is leading to a deterioration in sight that is reaching epidemic proportions.

Let’s take the example of Pauline — although she could just as easily be a David or a Jason. She is 10 years old and a studious child, doing well in school. Like any young person her age, she loves to use her tablet computer to study or have fun. She’s on it two hours a day, plus weekends.

Pauline may be in for a change, however. She has recently been diagnosed with nearsightedness and her optometrist has strongly recommended that she — and her parents — limit her use of electronic devices and spend more time playing outside.

Pauline isn’t happy. She thinks it’s not fair.

But her case raises the question: what is the link between the use of electronic devices and the appearance of myopia?

A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

Forty per cent of North Americans are affected by myopia. The number of cases doubled between 1972 and 2004 and continues to grow at a rate that qualifies the phenomenon as an epidemic.

In Europe, myopia is prevalent among 42.2 per cent of adults aged 25 to 29 years, almost twice that of adults aged 55 to 59 years.

This suggests there is a real public health issue facing us — and not just the common problem of an error in the refraction of the eye which shows up as blurred vision when looking into the distance.

In fact, high amounts of myopia significantly increases the risk of major ocular health disorders such as retinal tearing (21 times greater), glaucoma (40 times) or cataracts (six times).

An eye that becomes short-sighted becomes longer. The stretching is proportional to the increase in myopia. The more the eye stretches, the more the retina, which lines the inside of the eye, becomes thinner. Symptoms such as cracks, abnormal development of subretinal blood vessels and bleeding may appear.

Ultimately, the very nearsighted patient has a more than 50 per cent risk of spending the rest of his or her life legally blind — in other words living with vision reduced by 60 per cent. This means that the length of their eye exceeds 28 mm (the normal length is 23 mm) or that the myopia levels exceeds six diopters. (Diopters is a unit of measurement used to calculate eyesight — the further away from zero indicates a worsening in vision.) It is important to intervene before this happens to avoid these levels.

(In Canada, legal blindness is defined by a visual acuity of less than 20/200 in the best eye with the help of glasses or contact lenses. A legally blind person therefore sees, at best, 20 times worse than a person with normal acuity.)

WHAT’S BEHIND THE EPIDEMIC?

There are many causes of onset myopia. Genetics plays an important role but epigenetics — the environment in which the child evolves — is a more important factor.

And what has changed in our environment to explain the recent myopia epidemic? The impact of technology, which has seen a boom in recent

years, is being closely examined.

For example, a rapid increase in visual problems has been noted since the introduction of the smartphone in 2007. While the device itself does not emit harmful radiation, it requires the user to read its screen at a distance of 20 cm rather than the normal distance of 45 cm to 50 cm. It has been suggested that this close distance boosts the risk of developing myopia by eight times, especially if both parents are myopic.

Ambient lighting also plays a role because the use of fluorescent, such as in classrooms, also promotes myopia. When a tablet is used in such an environment, the effect is multiplied tenfold.

Unlike books printed on paper, tablet and computer screens are optically associated with so-called chromatic aberrations. The shortest wavelengths (blue light) are perceived in front of the others by the eye, which generates a myopia stimulus. There is a dose and response effect here, suggesting that prolonged use leads to more negative effects.

Today’s young people don’t play outside as much as their predecessors and are heavy users of electronics. However, exposure to daylight has a protective effect against myopia. These beneficial effects are decreased, but not negligible, during less sunny months or when myopia is already present.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The purpose of myopia treatment is to reduce the rate of progression of the dioptric, but above all to slow down the elongation of the eye. If, obviously, we cannot play with genetics, it is imperative to influence epigenetics and therefore the environment in which the child evolves.

Therefore, using any electronic media before the age of two should be avoided, even if it’s only for a few minutes. A limit of one hour per day should be the rule for those between two and five years of age and

the emphasis should be put on educational sites or applications that promote interactions between the parent and child.

While school requests should be taken into consideration, the use of electronic media should continue to be limited as the child gets older. A maximum of one hour, besides school work, must be observed for good eye health. A two-minute break after every 30 minutes of device use will also lessen harmful effects and exposure to a device should be avoided at least one hour before sleep.

Children should also get a minimum of 45 minutes of daylight per day. They can get this by walking to school or participating in such activities as regular outdoor sports.

The next step is to ensure the co-ordination of both eyes, from far away but especially close up. An optometrist will need to perform an orthoptic check-up and correct, by exercise or optical means, any anomaly that may have been detected.

Finally, optical correction must be chosen with the goal of slowing down the progression. In rare cases, glasses with anti-myopia lenses may be prescribed. They provide a deceleration rate of about 30 per cent. Specialized contact lenses are often preferred and offer control ranging from 50 per cent to 80 per cent. The contact lens treatment is available from the age of seven, and will be periodically reassessed according to the child’s changing needs.

In short, myopia is not just a commonplace vision defect. It is a significant risk factor for serious eye disease. We must therefore do everything possible to slow its progress and protect our children’s vision — and that means also reviewing their relationship with electronic devices.

[the writer is Professeur Titulaire, École d’optométrie. Expertise en santé oculaire et usage des lentilles cornéennes spécialisées, Université de Montréal]



Polar bear ‘invasion’: how climate change is making human-wildlife conflicts worse

NIKI RUST
theconversation.com

The ten hottest years on record were all during the past two decades and the hottest global ocean temperatures ever were recorded in 2018 – a heat increase from 2017 equivalent to 100 million times that of the Hiroshima bomb. Climate change is here and it’s already wreaking havoc.

The polar bear – something of a poster child for climate change – is just one of countless victims in this warming world. It’s thought that if global temperatures continue to rise by an average of 4.5°C since pre-industrial times, which is likely to happen if we do nothing to reduce our carbon emissions, half of the world’s wildlife could be lost from Earth’s most biodiverse places.

As ocean temperatures melt ice sheets – the hunting grounds of polar bears – these large carnivores have to search new areas for food, which is why 52 polar bears “invaded” a Russian town in February 2019, looking for their next meal. Locals were frightened to go outside – with good reason: polar bears can, and do, hunt people.

Unfortunately, climate change is only going to make these negative interactions between humans and wildlife more common. Already, while Australia heats up, wildlife is seeking refuge in towns. Kangaroos have swarmed human settlements in search of food and flying foxes have had to be hosed down by locals to stop them from overheating.

In southern Africa, more frequent droughts have meant thirsty elephants have raided villages to eat crops and pilfer water from storage tanks. Most wild animals are naturally averse to being so close to humans, so their incursions into our lives shows how desperate they are getting.

As climate change begins to take its toll on humans, by reducing crop productivity for example, we are likely to become less tolerant of these sorts of human-wildlife conflicts. Poor African villagers who have had their entire yearly crop destroyed by a herd of hungry elephants can hardly be blamed for wanting to get rid of the problem by killing the animals.

Sadly, elephants – like most other species – are already experiencing precipitous declines in their populations and this is almost exclusively due to human activities.

Climate change will exacerbate conflicts over natural resources between and within species – ourselves included. For example, some observers have suggested climate change was partly responsible for the Arab Spring uprisings, as droughts forced people from rural areas into overcrowded cities and inflamed tensions. If conflicts within our own species can’t be overcome, there is little hope for mitigating conflicts with other species – especially as resources become scarcer.

But there is a small glimmer of hope – there are effective methods to reduce damage caused by wildlife. Polar bears can be scared away from

human settlements by flares and water tanks can be made elephant-proof. These technical fixes can help limit immediate conflict between wildlife and humans in the short term, providing much-needed relief in poor communities from the damaging effects of intruding wildlife.

Realistically however, technical fixes to human-wildlife conflict are only a temporary stop-gap. To truly address the issue, we must focus on the root cause. Carbon emissions must be reduced – not only for the sake of wildlife but for the survival of humans too.

Wildlife habitat must be protected to ensure that species have space and food without needing to enter human settlements. Equally, societies must address their insatiable demand for natural resources, reduce overconsumption and excessive waste.

Much of this is easier said than done, of course. Without political will and sufficient funding all of this falls short. Global leaders must step up to the task – and it is partly up to ordinary people to pressure them to act. Movements such as the Extinction Rebellion and the school students organising global strikes against climate change are an encouraging start and must be built upon.

We need to cause an uproar like our lives depend on it – because they do. We have no planet B, as the refrain goes – and neither do the planet’s 8.7m other species.

[the writer is Postdoctoral Researcher, Newcastle University]

Two lynched in Meghalaya’s village, another critically injured

SHILLONG, FEB 15 (PTI): Two persons were lynched by an angry mob in Meghalayas West Garo Hills district and another was critically injured, police said Friday.

The incident took place at Chanangpara village after the locals were alerted about the suspicious movement of the trio in their car, they said.

A mob of over a 1000 people stopped the car and when they found weapons- a dagger and rods- inside the car trunk, the occupants of the car were fatally attacked leaving two of them dead and one seriously wounded, according to eyewitnesses.

While the victims ran to take shelter in the house of the Nokma (village chief), the crowd barged into the house and dragged them out before thrashing them.

One Mokibul Akond died on the spot while Mikseng Marak was declared brought dead at the Hospital, district Superintendent of Police M G R Kumar.

He said Akond had been charged in a kidnapping case earlier and police are now verifying if the other two also had any criminal antecedents.

The police team that arrived at the village could do nothing but retrieve the bodies of the three and rushed them to the nearest hospitals, according to the SP.

Sonia, Lovlina advance to quarters of Strandja Memorial

NEW DELHI, FEB 15 (PTI): Former world silver-medallist Sonia Lather (57kg) was among the three Indian women boxers who advanced to the quarterfinals but the men were off to a disappointing start at the 70th Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

World championships bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pwilao Basumatari (64kg) also made the quarters of the prestigious European event on Thursday night.

Lather, who is also a two-time Asian silver-medallist, defeated Serbia’s Jelena Zekic 5-0. She will square off against American Yarisel Ramirez in the quarters.

Borgohain, a gold-medallist from the Indian Open last year, got the better of Australian Jessica Messina.

Basumatari endured a stiffer challenge in Bulgarian Melis Yonuzova before prevailing 3-2. She has Croatia’s Marija Malencia coming up in the quarterfinals.

However, there was disappointment for the country’s men with former Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Mandeep Jangra (69kg) and rookie Harsh Lakra (81kg) bowing out following opening round losses.

Jangra lost 0-5 to Ukraine’s Viktor Petrov, while Lakra was beaten by Azerbaijan’s Rauf Rahimov.

TMC leadership seeks report on security threat to MLAs, party leaders

PRADIPTA TAPADAR KOLKATA, FEB 15 (PTI): In the backdrop of the killing of ruling TMC MLA Satyajit Biswas, the party leadership has sought reports from all district presidents about the threat perception of its MLAs and important leaders, Trinamool Congress functionaries said.

Apart from enhancing the security of MLAs, TMC district leaders also want official security for key people in the party organization ahead of the elections.

“We are preparing a report on the security status of MLAs in the district. We are preparing a separate report on our key organizational leaders who may not be MLAs or elected representatives but need to be provided security cover,” a senior minister and district president of TMC told PTI, wishing not to be named.

The party leadership will finally submit a report to the state administration and police, and they will take a call on it.

TMC chief whip in the state assembly Nirmal Ghosh said most party MLAs have voiced concern



about their security and either appealed for enhanced cover or made their own arrangements.

“I am more cautious now and have taken steps to strengthen my security. I have also asked MLAs to be more careful,” Ghosh said.

Biswas, the TMC MLA of Krishnaganj, was shot dead by unidentified assailants inside a

Saraswati puja marquee in Nadia district on Saturday evening. Biswas was gunned down in the presence of a host of party workers when he was climbing down the dais at a puja pandal at Phoolbari within Hanskhali police station limits in the district that borders Bangladesh.

There were allegations of complete lack

of security at the scene of the crime despite the presence of the MLA and a minister.

A TMC MLA of South 24 Paraganas district was attacked by unidentified gunmen last year. The MLA escaped unhurt but two of his associates were killed.

Nadia district TMC president and MLA Gouri Shankar Dutta said he

was in discussion with local leaders for preparing the report.

Senior TMC leader and state food and civil supplies minister Jyotipriyo Mullick said enhancing security of elected representatives and party leaders is a must as they apprehend more such attacks in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls.

“The way the BJP

is making provocative statements, there are apprehensions that there will be more such attacks on our leaders. The BJP can't defeat us politically, so they have taken this route of physical attacks. But we will foil these attempts,” Mullick told PTI.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh, however, said instead of blaming his party for the violent

attacks, the TMC should take steps to check infighting in West Bengal's ruling party. “The BJP doesn't believe in politics of violence. In Bengal, it is the BJP which is at the receiving end of the TMC's reign of terror. Instead of blaming us they should take steps to control infighting,” Ghosh said.

The TMC currently has 213 MLAs. The government also has the support of 18 other MLAs from the Congress and the Left Front who switched over to the TMC but are yet to resign as lawmakers.

Apart from the chief minister and ministers who are allotted Y+, Z and Z+ security cover depending on the threat perception, MLAs of the ruling and opposition parties are allotted 1-2 personal security officers (PSO) by the state government.

The TMC follows the practice of dividing each assembly constituency into 6-7 organizational areas, with a local leader being appointed in-charge. “I need security cover for some of these leaders as they are valuable assets of the party,” Mullick said.

Tripura govt approves Rs 6000 assistance to farmers

AGARTALA, FEB 15 (PTI): The BJP-IPFT government in Tripura approved the Rs 6000 financial assistance to farmers having upto two hectares of cultivable lands under the Pradhanmantri Kissan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMK-SNY), state Agriculture minister Pranajit Singha Roy said Friday.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the council of ministers held here on Thursday evening, he said.

The assistance would be given in three instalments a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the programme on February 24, he said adding all the MLAs, public representatives, BDOs, SDMs and district collectors were request-



ed for wide publicity of the scheme.

The money for the first instalment would enter the farmers' bank accounts before March 31, Singha Roy said.


The first phase of the programme begins on Dec 31 and ends at March 31, he said.

The forms for it would be available in the offices of the gram panchayats, the agricul-

ture department, nagar panchayats, municipal councils or corporations from February 18 and the farmers availing the scheme were required to fill them up, the minister said.

The government would also help in expeditious mutation of the farmland in case the owner is dead and it was not partitioned, he added.





ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

GANGTOK

Memo No:622/ SD IV/R&B/ R&B/2018-19/202

Date: 13/02/2019

NOTICE INVITINGTENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam , invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction **of the Concern Ward of the GPU/ULB** 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 road from Namin PWD Road to Chuba JHS under Martam Rumtek constituency	Namli GPU			
	Km 1 st	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	12 months.
2	Construction of link road from Rumtek Old Monastery to Manay Dara under MartamRumtek constituency	Namli GPU			
	Km 1 st	42,38,496.00	1,06,000.00	1,500.00	18 months.
3.	Construction of raod from Sajong to Pangu Manay Dara under Martam Rumtek Constituency	Rawtey Rumtek GPU			
	Km 1 st & Km 2 nd	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	12 months.
4.	Construction of road from Hitti Dara to Dispensary under Martam Rumtek constituency	Rawtey Rumtek GPU			
	Km 1 st & Km 2 nd	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	12 months.
5.	Construction of road from Chinzey PMGSY road to NH 10 under Martam Rumtek constituency	Rawtey Rumtek GPU			
	Km 1 st & Km 2 nd	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	12 months.
6.	Construction of link road from 14 mile GRBA road to Upper Changthang under Syari constituency	Bhusuk-Naitam GPU			
	Km 1 st & Km 2 nd	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	12 months.
	Km 3 rd & Km 4 th	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	18 months.
7.	Construction of approach road to Yen Gaon under Tumin Lingee constituency	Rakdong-Tintek GPU			
	Km 1 st & Km 2 nd	84,76,992.00	2,12,000.00	5,000.00	12 months.
	Km 3 rd & Km 4 th	42,38,496.00	1,06,000.00	1,500.00	18 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with (i) Demand Draft/deposit slip for cost of tender documents drawn against of respective GPU/ULB an (ii) TDR of SBS as Earnest money to be drawn in favour of Sr. Accounts Officer, R&B, for issue of Tender Forms.	(Bank account number for DD can be obtained from respective GPU/ULB).
	For all works	1 st & 2 nd March 2019 from office of respective GPK's and ULBs.
2.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender	
	For all works	6 th March 2019 (10:00 am to 1:00 pm) at respective GPKs/ULBs.
3.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender	
	For all works	6 th of the March 2019 (2:00 pm) at respective GPKs/ULBs.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

1. Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors of appropriate Class and Area.

2. GST registration is must for successful bidder before issuing work order.

3. The bidder shall produce Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchyat Unit/ Urban Local Bodies where the work is being executed.

4. For others General Conditions of Contract and other queried, Office of the Divisional Engineer, East I an Office of the Assistant Engineer, Sub Divisional IV, R&B, Gangtok, may be contacted during office hours.

R.O. No. 701/ipr/Pub/Classi./18-19

Date: 15.2.19

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer – IV

Roads & Bridges Department

Niramn Bhawan, Gangtok.

Chelsea edge out Malmo as Arsenal suffer Europa League setback

PARIS, FEB 15 (AFP): Chelsea claimed a 2-1 victory at Malmo in the Europa League last-32 first leg to ease some of the pressure on beleaguered coach Maurizio Sarri, while Arsenal suffered a shock loss to BATE Borisov.

Visitors Chelsea desperately needed a response after back-to-back humiliating away losses, with last Sunday's 6-0 thrashing by Manchester City following a 4-0 reverse at Bournemouth.

Ross Barkley took advantage of a defensive lapse by the home team on Thursday to put Chelsea ahead on the half-hour mark, with Olivier Giroud adding a 58th-minute second before Malmo's late goal gave them a glimmer of hope ahead of next week's return match at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea face Manchester United in the FA Cup on Monday, before facing City again in the League Cup final on February 24.

"I am happy because we played with confidence and it wasn't really very easy after the last match (the defeat by City)," Sarri told BT Sport.

"I think I am always confident but sometimes we had the wrong approach with matches so we need to be careful in every match."

Sarri named a strong team, although he did leave Gonzalo Higuain and Eden Hazard on the bench.

Chelsea found themselves up against a spirited Malmo outfit in the first half, roared on by a vociferous home crowd, but kept the Swedes at arm's length before Barkley grabbed their first away goal of 2019. Pedro swung over a cross which



Lasse Nielsen should have headed away, but the defender failed with his attempted volleyed clearance and Barkley was on hand to control and stab into the net.

Uwe Rosler's Malmo piled on the pressure at the end of the half, but Barkley twice produced crucial headers at the other end to keep Chelsea in front.

But the Premier League giants took total control of the tie in the 58th minute

with a wonderful counter-attack.

Barkley led the charge before picking out Willian, and the Brazilian powered to the byline before cutting the ball back for Giroud to flick in a cool back-heeled finish.

The French striker has now scored five goals in six Europa League games this season, despite only netting once in 23 matches in domestic competitions.

But Malmo did grab the goal their ef-

forts deserved in the 80th minute, as Anders Christiansen slotted past Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

- ARSENAL BEATEN IN BELARUS -

Arsenal face an uphill battle to progress after a 1-0 defeat by BATE in a game which saw Alexandre Lacazette sent off for elbowing Aleksandar Filipovic with five minutes remaining. Stanislav Dragun put BATE ahead just before the break in

Barysaw and Arsenal never threatened an equaliser, with Lacazette's late dismissal also ruling him out of next week's second leg in London.

Unai Emery's side have now won just two of their last nine away matches -- last weekend's victory over the Premier League's bottom club Huddersfield and an FA Cup win against third-tier Blackpool.

Elsewhere, Napoli began life without record goalscorer Marek Hamsik with a 3-1 win in a fiery atmosphere at FC Zurich.

Lorenzo Insigne, who has replaced Hamsik as captain after the Slovakian's move to China, scored the opening goal, with Jose Callejon and Piotr Zielinski also on target.

Celtic's European adventures appear to be over for another season after being outclassed 2-0 by Valencia at Parkhead.

Denis Cheryshev and Ruben Sobrino got the goals as the Spaniards extended their recent unbeaten run to six matches.

Inter Milan claimed a 1-0 win at Rapid Vienna despite Mauro Icardi snubbing the trip after being stripped of the captaincy over a contract row, with Lautaro Martinez scoring the winner from the penalty spot.

Wissam Ben Yedder's 22nd-minute strike helped record five-time winners Sevilla take a large step towards the last 16 with a 1-0 victory over Lazio in Rome, while Benfica backed up their 10-0 weekend thumping of Nacional by winning 2-1 at Galatasaray.

Salzburg, semi-finalists last season, lost 2-1 at Club Brugge, while 10-man Sporting Lisbon were beaten 1-0 by Villarreal in the Portuguese capital.

Coach Raman keen on improving Mandhana's 'patience'



MUMBAI, FEB 15 (PTI): India women's team opener Smriti Mandhana, who is in blazing form, said here on Friday that the team's coach W V Raman has set her targets to bat for a specific number of overs to develop her patience at the crease.

"He (Raman) has been telling me to play 30 overs in ODIs as he knows that if I bat till 30 overs, I will continue to bat. And in 20 over games he has been telling me to bat for 13 overs," the 22-year-old Mandhana, a Red Bull athlete, told PTI. "He's giving me targets to bat a certain number of balls, because strike rate and those kinds of things never concern me, the only problem is the patience aspect. He is helping with that and giving me targets to bat through these many balls and that is being great," said the left-handed batswoman.

Mandhana, asked specifically whether the team was too dependent on her, replied that the perception was not correct.

"No, I don't think so. We have got a lot of match-winners in our team. It is just that sometimes someone goes through a lean patch and you need to cover up for your teammate. And sometimes that would be the case, if I am not going, the middle order will look after me (help me).

"So you can't say that they (other batswomen) are too dependent, but I think the main responsibility as a batter is to win matches and dependence never comes (in the way)," she stressed.

During last year's women's T20 tri-series, Mandhana had said that she was throwing her wicket away after setting herself in.

Eleven months later, she feels that she is being able to improve 10 per cent on this aspect, but the next aim was to carry on batting till the end of the innings.

"Somewhat, yes, may be 10 per cent I have improved on that. From 50 to 60s, I have gone to 70s. But I'm still leaving 20-30 runs when we are chasing. I think it will be good if I come back not out. Hopefully I can do that against England in the (upcoming) ODI and the T20 series," she said.

"I'm really excited (for the England series) and we are playing the ICC Championships and we need six points to be up there. Hopefully we will all stick together and win the ODI series (against England). I hope that I can win more matches for India," Mandhana remarked.

The ODI series against England starts Friday next and all the three matches in the 50-over rubber will be played at the Wankhede Stadium here.

War kills over 100,000 babies a year: Save the Children



MUNICH, FEB 15 (AFP): At least 100,000 babies die every year because of armed conflict and its impact, from hunger to denial of aid, Save the Children International said on Friday.

In the 10 worst-hit countries, a conservative estimate of 550,000 infants died as a result of fighting between 2013 and 2017.

They succumbed to war and its effects, among them hunger, damage to hospitals and infrastructure, a lack of access to health care and sanitation and the denial of aid.

It said children face the threat of being killed or maimed, recruited by armed groups, abducted or falling victim to sexual violence.

"Almost one in five children are living in areas impacted by

conflict -- more than at any time in the past two decades," said the charity's CEO Helle Thorning-Schmidt in a statement.

"The number of children being killed or maimed has more than tripled, and we are seeing an alarming increase in the use of aid as a weapon of war," she said on releasing the report at the Munich Security Conference.

Save the Children said a study it had commissioned from the Peace Research Institute Oslo had found that 420 million children were living in conflict-affected areas in 2017.

This represents 18 per cent of all children worldwide and was up by 30 million from the previous year.

The worst-hit countries were Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of

Congo, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The total number of deaths from indirect effects over the five-year period jumped to 870,000 when all children under the age of five were included, the charity said.

It also issued a list of recommendations to help protect children, from steps such as committing to a minimum age of 18 for military recruitment to the avoidance of using explosive weapons in populated areas.

Thorning-Schmidt said the rising number of child casualties was very worrying.

"It is shocking that in the 21st century we are going backwards on principles and moral standards that are so simple -- children and civilians should never be targeted."

Saina, Kashyap, Sourabh enter semifinals of Senior Nationals



GUWAHATI, FEB 15 (PTI): Former champions Saina Nehwal, Parupalli Kashyap and Sourabh Verma advanced to the semifinals of the 83rd Yonex-Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals here Friday.

Defending champion Saina hardly broke a sweat to get the better of former India number one Neha Pandit of Mumbai 21-10 21-10 in a lop-sided quarterfinal contest.

The two-time Commonwealth Games champion will face 22-year-old Nagpur qualifier Vaishnavi Bhale, who was part of India's Uber Cup squad last year, later in the evening.

Kashyap, a 2012 winner, prevailed 21-18 21-16 over Bodhit Joshi, who had reached the finals of Iceland International last year. The former world no 6 from Hyderabad will face Lakshya Sen in the semifinals later in the day.

Both Saina and Kashyap had played their pre-quarterfinal match

on Thursday night at the newly-laid wooden court at the TRP indoor stadium after refusing to play at the Assam Badminton Academy courts due to "uneven" surface.

Earlier, former World No 30 Sourabh, who had clinched Super 100 titles at Russia Open and Dutch Open last year, eked out a hard-fought 21-11 21-23 21-18 triumph over B Sai Praneeth.

Sourabh grabbed seven straight points from 14-17 down in the decider against former Singapore Open champion Sai Praneeth in the quarterfinals.

The 26-year-old Sourabh, a two-time former champion, will meet qualifier Kaushal Dharmam of Mumbai later in the evening.

Olympic silver medalist P V Sindhu had notched up two clinical wins on Thursday and will play the other women's singles semifinal against local sensation Ashmita Chaliha later in the day.

SAI requests CBSE to reschedule exam dates of shooters Bhaker, Sidhu

NEW DELHI, FEB 15 (PTI): The Sports Authority of India has requested the Central Board of Secondary Education to reschedule the class 12 exam dates of shooters Manu Bhaker and Vijayveer Sidhu to avoid a clash with the upcoming Asian Airgun Championships.

In a letter, the SAI has asked the CBSE to consider Bhaker and Sidhu's case and give fresh dates for two subjects, as both the shooters are scheduled to participate in the Asian Airgun Championships in Chinese Taipei from March 25 to April 2.

The initiative by SAI is part of ongoing efforts of the government to help young athletes



balance their sporting career and academics. Bhaker, 16, who is an ace pistol shooter and is part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), would have to appear for her

history paper on March 25 and Physical Education exam on March 30, and both these dates are coinciding with the championships.

Sidhu, also 16, and who is

in the watchlist of TOPS and has won a silver medal in the Under-21 event at the Khelo India Youth Games, too has to take his Psychology exam on March 29 and Physical Educa-

tion on March 30. According to a statement from the SAI, it was approached by the parents of both the shooters to intervene and request the CBSE to allot fresh dates for these exams, so that the athletes could write the papers and also participate in the championships. Following their request, SAI has written to CBSE chairperson Anita Karwal to allow both the shooters to take the exams on fresh dates.

Last year too, SAI had made a similar request for shooter Anish Bhanwala, and he was allowed to take his class X board exams after the conclusion of his event in Australia.

Bangladesh PM Hasina wants to retire to make way for young leaders

DHAKA, FEB 15 (PTI): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who won a historic fourth term, becoming the country's longest-serving leader, has indicated that she will retire after the current term to promote young leaders, according to a media report.

In an interview with the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) 71-year-old Hasina, who assumed office just a month ago, for the fourth time as the prime minister, said she wanted to retire after the five-year term, the Bangladesh daily Dhaka Tribune reported. "It's the third consecutive term and before that I was prime minister (1996-2001), so it's my fourth term. I don't want to continue for more (time). I think that everybody should take a break so we can accommodate the younger generation," she said.

On Tuesday, at a cultural event in Gazipur, the prime minister said she would like to go back to her ancestral village of Tungipara in Gopalganj to spend her retirement, the daily said.

Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won the 11th parliamentary elections in December last year with a landslide victory even as Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party rejected the polls marred with violence that claimed 18 lives, making it one of the deadliest polls in the country.

The Awami League chief was pitted against a united opposition Jatiya Oikya Front (United National Front) led by octogenarian Kamal Hosain, an Oxford-educated jurist and former foreign minister. Her arch-rival ex-premier and BNP hief Khalida Zia, who has been serving a 17-year sentence for corruption, was barred from contesting the polls.

Asked about her plans about the rest of her tenure, Hasina said the fight against poverty will continue to be her first priority.

"Food security, housing, education, health-care, job opportunities; these are basic needs," she said, "Definitely, every human being wants a better life. We have to ensure that."

China again says no to back India's bid to list JeM chief Azhar as global terrorist



KJM VARMA BEIJING, FEB 15 (PTI): China on Friday expressed deep "shock" over the Pulwama terror attack carried out by a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber but did not give an assurance to India that it will back New Delhi's appeal to list the UN-proscribed Pakistan-based terror group's chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

At least 40 CRPF personnel were killed and many injured on Thursday in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

"China has noted the reports of suicide terrorist attack. We are deeply shocked by this attack. We express deep condo-

lences and sympathy to the injured and bereaved families," spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang told a media briefing here when asked about the incident.

In a carefully worded response to a number of questions on the Pulwama incident, Geng said China condemned the incident as part of its overall stand on terrorism.

"We firmly oppose and strongly condemn all forms of terrorism. We hope relevant regional countries will cooperate to cope with the threat of terrorism and jointly uphold regional peace and stability," Geng said.

Without directly referring to India's persistent demand to declare Azhar as a global terrorist, Geng said JeM has already been included in the sanctions list

of the UN committee but he was not forthcoming on why China is opposed to extend the ban on the leader of the group.

When asked about China's stand on the listing of Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council, he said: "As for the issue of listing, I could tell you that the 1267 Committee of Security Council has a clear stipulation on the listing and procedure of the terrorist organisations".

"JeM has been included in the Security Council terrorism sanctions list. China will continue to handle the relevant sanctions issue in a constructive and responsible manner," Geng said in an apparent reference to External Affairs Ministry's appeal to all members of the UN Security Council to list Azhar as a global terrorist.

If Azhar is listed as terrorist by the UN Security Council, he would face a global travel ban and assets freeze.

China, a veto-wielding member of the UNSC and a close ally of Pakistan, has consistently blocked moves first by India and later by the US, the UK and France to designate Azhar as a global terrorist by the 1267 Committee by putting technical holds.

Asked whether China would be re-looking at the issue in view of the positive momentum in bilateral relations generated by last year's Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Geng reiterated that: "JeM as an organisation has been included in the sanctions list of the Security Council.

Pak rejects India's charge on Pulwama terrorist attack



SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, FEB 15 (PTI): Pakistan has condemned the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district and said it is a matter of grave concern even as it rejected India pointing out Islamabad's link to the incident without investigations.

At least 37 CRPF personnel were killed and five injured on Thursday in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

Pakistan's Foreign Office, after keeping quiet for hours, issued a statement after midnight.

The attack in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir "is a matter of grave concern," it said.

"We have always condemned heightened acts of violence in the Valley," the FO said.

Pakistan also rejected that it was in any way involved in the attack.

"We strongly reject any insinuation by elements in the Indian government and media circles that seek to link the attack to the State of Pakistan without investigations," the FO added.

India on Thursday slammed Pakistan over the Pulwama terror attack carried out

by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and asked the neighbouring country to stop supporting terrorists and dismantle terror infrastructure operating from its soil.

India also strongly reiterated its appeal to all members of the international community to support the proposal to list terrorists, including JeM chief Masood Azhar, as a designated terrorist under the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council, and to ban terrorist organisations operating from territories controlled by Pakistan.

The White House asked Pakistan to immediately end "support" and "safe haven" to all terror groups as it strongly condemned the Pulwama terrorist attack.

"The United States calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil, whose only goal is to sow chaos, violence, and terror in the region," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a late night statement on Thursday.

Condemning the attack, the US State Department said in a statement that it was resolutely committed to working with the Indian government to combat terrorism in all its forms.

US asks Pakistan to immediately end 'support' and 'safe haven' to all terror groups

WASHINGTON, FEB 15 (PTI): In a stern message to Pakistan, the White House has asked Islamabad to "immediately end" its "support" to all terror groups and not to provide "safe haven" to them, as the US condemned the brutal Pulwama terror attack claimed the lives of at least 40 CRPF soldiers.

Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has claimed responsibility for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday that left at least 40 CRPF soldiers dead and five others critically wounded.

"The United States calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil, whose only goal is to sow chaos, violence, and terror in the region," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a late night statement on Thursday.

"This attack only strengthens our resolve to bolster counterterrorism cooperation and coordination between the United States and India," she said in a strongly-worded statement issued by the White House.

Sanders said the United States condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Pulwama by a Pakistan-based terrorist group.

"We express our deep condolences to the victims' families, the Indian government, and the Indian people for the loss of life in this brutal

attack," said the Press Secretary of President Donald Trump. Earlier, the US State Department said in a statement that it was "resolutely committed" to working with the Indian government to combat terrorism in all its forms.

"The US condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack today on an Indian Central Reserve Police Force convoy in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino said.

"The UN designated, Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad has claimed responsibility for this heinous act. We call on all countries to uphold their responsibilities pursuant to UN Security Council resolutions to deny safe haven and support for terrorists," Palladino said.

Several US lawmakers also expressed solidarity with India in the wake of a dastardly terror attack and said the two countries stand united in condemning and defeating terror.

Cutting across party lines, over 50 Congressmen and Senators took to social media to express their solidarity with the people of India and called for strict action against the JeM terror outfit and its state sponsors.

"I strongly condemn the terror attack in Kashmir. The United States stands with our friends in India, and I send heartfelt condolences to the families that lost loved ones," top Democratic Senator Chuck Schum-

er tweeted. Democratic Senator Robert Menendez said he was outraged by the terror attack, "one of the deadliest in the region since 1989".

Republican Senator Johnny Isakson strongly criticised the terror strike and pledged the US' support to India in defeating terrorism.

"Today, more than 40 Indian military police were killed by a radical Islamist terrorist group in the deadliest attack in 30 years on Indian forces in Kashmir. I send my deepest condolences to the soldiers injured and killed in this senseless attack, to their families, and to India, a critical ally in the global war on terror," said Republican Senator John Cornyn, Co-Chair of Senate India caucus.

"My heart is with the victims of the Kashmir Terror Attack. The United States stands with our Indian allies against those behind this heinous act of terrorism," Democratic Senator Mark Warner, who is co-chair of the Senate India Caucus and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, posted on Twitter.

Congresswoman and Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard said, "We stand with the people of India in condemning the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir, and send our condolences and prayers to the victims families. We must all stand up against these jihadists and their ideology. Heartbreaking. My thoughts are with the families of the victims of heinous terrorist attacks

in Jammu and Kashmir today. We must confront terror and defeat it, wherever it occurs, Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said.

Democratic Congressman Eliot Engel, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said countries must not allow terrorist groups like JeM to operate with impunity.

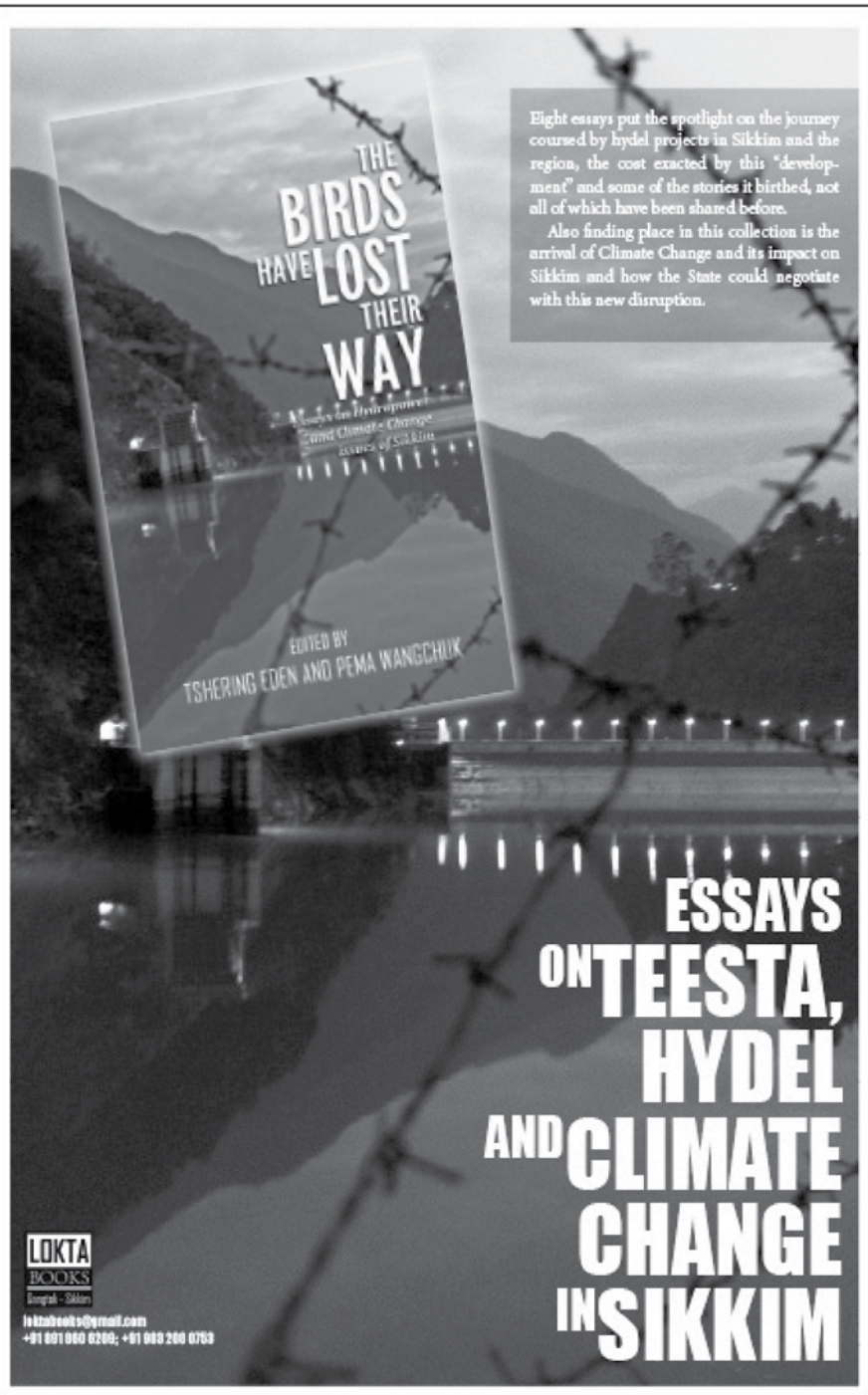
Congressmen Brian Fitzpatrick, Dan Crenshaw, Al Green, Don Bacon, George Holding, Joe Wilson, Jeff Van Drew, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Frank Pallone, Michael McCaul, Joe Morelle, Will Hurd, Brad Sherman, Ted Yoho and Congresswomen Elissa Slotkin, Paul Gosar also expressed outrage at the attack and sympathised with the affected families.

At least 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed and five injured in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

India slammed Pakistan over the attack carried out by JeM and asked the neighbouring country to stop supporting terrorists and dismantle terror infrastructure operating from its soil.

Meanwhile, Pakistan said the terrorist attack in Pulwama district is "a matter of grave concern" even as it strongly rejected Indian media and government's allegations of the country's link to the strike "without" probe.

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Always wanted to prove that women can wrestle too: Paige

She came to WWE at a time when female wrestlers were mostly considered divas but Paige broke the stereotype, fighting perceptions and drawing home a larger point: that women can wrestle too.

Paige, real name Saraya-Jade Bevis, has emerged as one of the biggest female wrestlers in WWE but she says initially she did not realise how “male dominated” the sport was.

“But the WWE never held the women back. It was actually more of the fans not taking them very seriously. They wanted to see more male characters, many years ago. That’s what they wanted. It was a male dominated sport,” Paige told PTI.

The 26-year-old says things were dramatically different when she was in FCW (Florida Championship Wrestling).

“There were only five women there and 70 men. There was a lot of struggle but WWE believed in us so much.”

Paige is considered a key figure in bringing ‘women’s revolution’ in the ring, aided by her NXT Women’s Championship in 2013 which gave a platform to several other female wrestlers to show their talent.

“When I got into the ring with the them, I wanted to prove myself and prove to the WWE, the fans and the male wrestlers that the girls can have really good matches and sometimes even better,” she says.

“It was my kind of my mission from the get go to start doing that... A lot of the girls started to come out of their comfort zone and more female wrestlers were getting signed too. Now of course there’s a revolution which is incredible,” she adds.

Paige now has her life chronicled on the big screen in “Fighting With My Family”, a rousing comedy about dreams and identity directed by Stephan Merchant, co-writer and co-helmer of the popular British sitcom “The Office”. The film shows how Paige, who was born into a tight-knit wrestling family, is ecstatic when she and her brother Zak get an opportunity to try out for WWE but only Paige earns a spot in the competitive training programme and she must now leave her family and face the new, cut-throat world alone.

Paige says growing up in a family of wrestlers was “normal” for her but often people around her were left amused.

“Zak and I have been surrounded by wrestlers our entire life. Everyone else thought it was a peculiar thing, it was kind of weird. But we didn’t care. We loved wrestling and didn’t care what people thought. That’s also what the movie talks about: we didn’t care about people’s opinions,” she says.

The film features actor Florence Pugh as Paige and has been produced by Dwayne Johnson, aka The Rock, who also features in a special appearance.

Johnson is by far the most popular WWE superstar, who branched out of professional wrestling and became a global name thanks to his blockbuster movies. For Paige, there’s a lot to learn from Johnson’s journey, who, she says, “branded himself so correctly” with his motto of “staying humble and hungry.”

“Wrestling doesn’t last forever. Bodies of wrestlers are not capable to wrestle forever. So you do think ‘what am I going to do next after this.’ He was so smart, he built a brand. “People got to know a different part of him apart from the wrestling. His journey is so inspirational.



Like how he came to America with seven bucks in his pocket and now he’s the biggest star in the world. I learnt from him that you’ve to be true to yourself and you can achieve anything.” “Fighting With My Family” releases in the US on February 14 and will open in Indian market in early March.



LEGS FOR DAYS! Actress Rebecca Romijn looks fabulous as she waves to the crowd outside Build Studio in New York.

‘Ryan Adams’ album release put on hold amid sexual misconduct allegations



LOS ANGELES, FEB 15 (PTI): Ryan Adams had planned to come out with three albums in 2019, but the release of his first LP ‘Big Colors’ has been put on hold following the accusations of sexual misconduct and emotional manipulation by more than half a dozen women, including ex-wife Mandy Moore.

According to Variety, ‘Big Colors’ was suppose to release on April 19, but the musician has decided to postpone it.

On Thursday, after The

New York Times article in which multiple people including Phoebe Bridgers, Moore, singer-songwriter Courtney Jaye and an underage girl have detailed accounts of their experiences with Adams went viral, retailers began reporting that they have been notified the album has been yanked from the schedule by Universal Music Group.

Adams’ Pax-Am label has also deleted its own pages devoted to pre-orders for the CD and LP.

AR Murugadoss to write dialogues for Tamil version of “Avengers: Endgame”

MUMBAI, FEB 15 (PTI): Filmmaker AR Murugadoss has been roped in to pen the dialogues for Marvel Studio’s “Avengers: Endgame” in Tamil. “Avengers: Endgame” is a sequel to 2018’s superhero blockbuster, “Avengers: Infinity War”.

“I have always admired the story, spectacle and scale that Marvel brings to its movies, and ‘Avengers: Endgame’ is going to be one such powerhouse of a film that has the whole country excited.

“As a writer and a filmmaker and now a fan, thanks to my son Aaditya, I am thrilled to be a part of this phenomenon which brings together a galaxy of powerful characters like Iron Man, Captain America, Thor and more,” Murugadoss said in a statement.



The critically-acclaimed filmmaker said he has tried to add the local flavour to the film without “compromising on the original thought and certainly hope that fans will look forward to watching the Tamil version of the film.”

Bikram Duggal, Head-Studio Entertainment, Marvel India, said, South India has emerged as one of the crucial markets for Marvel and they always had a special focus on serving the fans in south as well.

“With the celebrated writer -AR Murugadoss, we are bringing alive the magnificence and grandeur of the film in a language that the audiences prefer. We hope all the fans will appreciate this effort and enjoy this epic spectacle in Tamil as well,” he added.

Directed by Joe and Anthony Russo and featuring Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo and Scarlett Johansson, “Avengers: Endgame” releases in Indian theatres on April 26 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

REQUIRED FOR CANADA

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



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sevenseasconsultancy5@gmail.com
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ARIES: Nurture your feelings, Ram. Today, the moon is traveling through Cancer, your homey and emotional fourth house. Your focus is on all matters personal, and your feelings may be more tender than usual. So if a coworker says something snarky, for instance, do not take it to heart. By the time evening rolls around, you might feel like skipping the glittering parties and trendy bars.

TAURUS: Write on, Taurus! With the moon in Cancer activating your communicative third house, put your pen to paper (or fingertips to iPad). Jot down the thoughts that most trouble, fascinate or move you. Could this be the plot line for a short story or screenplay? You never know. While you’re feeling this creative, it can help to bounce ideas off of other clever minds.

GEMINI: Secure yourself! Today, the moon is in Cancer and your second house of work and money, putting you in a practical mindset. Even a “live for the moment” Gemini feels best when you have your bases covered, financially and professionally. If anything is out of alignment moneywise—from your expenses to the ethics of the companies you’ve been shopping with—changes are in order.

CANCER: With the moon in your sign today, there’s zero room for negative self-talk...or self-doubt! What you need, Cancer, is to act like your own publicist, proudly letting people know what you’ve achieved and what you have to offer. If you’re worried you may sound “egotistical,” just focus on the benefits you can provide to others.

LEO: With the moon curled up in cozy Cancer and your solitary twelfth house, you might prefer a chill evening at home to fighting your way through the Friday night throngs. Tie up loose ends from the workweek as quickly as you can. Hey, you might even duck out early to grab some comfort food and kick your feet up on the couch. Tonight, your dreams could be vivid—and possibly prophetic.

LIBRA: Five-year plan alert! Today, you are thinking about your professional future, thanks to the moon roving through Cancer and your tenth house of career recognition. Your harmony-loving sign can sometimes forego your own ambitions for the sake of keeping the peace, so take full advantage of this strategic and ambitious influence. Are there moves you can make today that will help you down the line?

VIRGO: As the moon roves through Cancer and your eleventh house of group activity and connection, you’re like a one-Virgo networking machine! Step out of your comfort zone and go meet new people, swap stories and keep conversation lively. Slip a few business cards into your evening bag. You never know who might be thoroughly charmed by your authenticity and fun-loving wit.

SCORPIO: Destination: exploration! As the Cancer moon illuminates your ninth house of freedom and expansion, you will see the glory, beauty and expansive possibility in a grand plan. Whether you’re hearing the tick-tock of the existential clock or are just tired of playing small,

you’re primed for a proverbial jailbreak. Book studio time for the EP you want to record!

SAGITTARIUS: IWith the Cancer moon igniting your eighth house of investments, you’re eager to see your “market value” rise. How can you increase your net worth, Sagittarius, without sucking up every second of your time? The trick lies in putting your time and money into things that will bring you passive income, from creating downloadable products to property that increases in value over time. The trouble is, your sign is often distracted by the latest (and sparkliest) thing!

CAPRICORN: AThere’s power in partnership today as the Cancer moon sails through your relationship-centric seventh house. While the idea of joining forces sounds appealing, your stalwart sign can struggle to give up control. People can’t keep up with you or do things as effectively as you, yadda yadda. Well, that’s probably true, Capricorn, but with a little training, maybe they could get to 80 percent?

AQUARIUS: With the Cancer moon nestled in your self-care zone, you can de-escalate rising tension by slowing down and getting organized. Sure, it’s a Friday and you want to wrap things up and be out the door, but this is a day when haste will definitely make waste. Those extra 15 minutes you spend proofreading a document could spell the difference between sealing a deal and landing in the maybe pile. Bring more mindfulness to your every move, from remembering to chew (and actually taste) your food to asking people to repeat themselves if you’re not sure what they said!

PISCES: Your glamour card is officially reinstated under today’s indulgent Cancer moon. Book that salon appointment, go try on winter clothes that meet at the cross-section of cozy and flattering. And if you feel like staging an impromptu photo shoot, hey, we wouldn’t blame you. Romantically, the day is full of promise. Under this confidence-boosting cosmic energy, however, it might be up to you to make the first move.