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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Integrated Command & Control Centres launched for Gangtok and Namchi

GANGTOK, MAR 7 (IPR): In a major development for the State of Sikkim, the Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) of Gangtok Smart City was digitally launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi from New Delhi today.

The digital launch program was joined here by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Chintan Bhawan.

The program was organized by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in coordination with Gangtok Smart City Development Limited and Department of Urban Development & Housing.

The Prime Minister simultaneously laid the foundation stone of the Integrated Control & Command Centre for five smart cities namely Namchi and Gangtok in Sikkim, Pasighat and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, and Agartala in Tripura through live video conferencing. The video conference was also joined by Chief Ministers of Tripura and the Urban Development Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.



An Integrated Command & Control Centre (ICCC) is a centre for information collection, analysis, decision making and management. Its primary purpose is to gather and process all the information required to plan and respond quickly and effectively to potential emergency incidents.

The Smart City Mission is an innovative and new initiative by the Government of India to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart

outcomes for citizens.

The objective of the Smart City Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' solutions.

Hence, the Smart City Development Limited (Gangtok and Namchi) in its endeavour to provide citizens with facilities that resonate with overarching principles and objectives of Smart City Mission of Government of India, have finalized a system integrator for implementation of project that will deliver ICCC and its backbone infrastructure for residents of the two cities.

The Prime Minister interacted with Chief Ministers of the three States before launching the Integrated CCCC for the five smart cities.

The Chief Minister, while interacting with the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude on behalf of the people of Sikkim for laying the foundation stone of the Integrated Command & Control Centre for Gangtok and Namchi Smart Cities.

Terming the program as historic, Mr Chamling credited the Prime Minister for catapulting the image of the country in the global arena through his noble initiatives.

turn to pg02

PM lays foundation stone of ICCC and NOC at Namchi via video conferencing



BIKASH CHETTRI NAMCHI, 07 MAR:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally laid the foundation stone of Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) for Namchi City-Namchi Operation Centre (NOC), Sikkim via video conferencing from New Delhi today.

The program was held at Community Hall wherein the Minister for UD&HD, NK Subba was the chief guest.

Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling speaking via video conferencing from Gangtok thanked the PM for selecting two smart

cities for Sikkim and said that this project will bring more growth to the State. He also assured the PM that the project will be implemented properly and Sikkim will have a model smart city of the project.

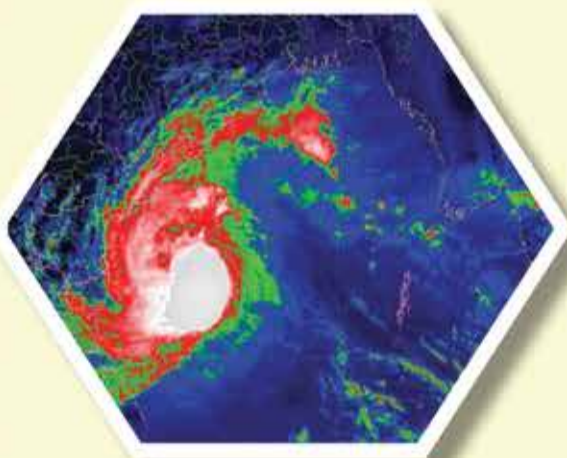
Also present today were Chairperson Namchi Municipal Council, Uday Rai, DC (South), Ragul K, SP (South), Manish Verma, CEO Namchi Smart City Limited, Ganzezy Tshering Bhutia, Joint City Town Planner (Smart City) alongside various other councilors of NMC, officials and public



Earth System Science making lives better

Delivering world-class weather, climate, ocean and seismological services

Marching towards weather ready and climate smart India



Skillful and accurate weather forecasts and warnings on natural disasters to save the lives and reduce the economic losses.



Real time, location specific, high quality Tsunami warnings to 25 Indian Ocean Rim countries.



Indigenized Green Desalination technologies for clean drinking water in Lakshadweep Islands.



Scientific exploration of the Arctic, Antarctic and Himalayas for strategic reasons.

- Crop specific Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services to 40 million farmers and Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisories to 6.75 lakh fishermen in regional languages.
- Contribution to Blue Economy by exploration and harnessing of Marine living resources, Energy, Water and Minerals from the Oceans.
- Restoration of the lost beaches in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu using innovative coastal engineering techniques.

- Real time Earthquake monitoring for quicker mitigation, network increased to 115 from 86.
- Deep Drilling in Koyana, Maharashtra for better understanding of reservoir triggered earthquakes.
- Research Station "Himansh", to monitor Himalayan glaciers, at 13,500 ft in Himachal Pradesh.
- Commissioning of the High Performance Computing (HPC) facility of 6.8 Petaflops, now placed at the 4th position in the world.

NAMUMKIN AB MUMKIN HAI

SAATHI extends battle against addiction to colleges



SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Sikkim Against Addiction Towards Healthy India [SAATHI], a project under the Chief Minister's Youth Empowerment and Self Reliant Mission, organized an awareness program at Sikkim Government College, Burtuk, today. The program had the participation of 149 students.

The program started with a welcome address by SAATHI president, Tempo Bhutia, highlighting how SAATHI was started, its aims and objective.

Thereafter, the principal of Sikkim Govt. College [Burtuk], Dr S Dutta, welcomed team SAATHI for extending the initiative to colleges after remarkable success at the school level.

Addressing the students, she said, "We are all full of problems but taking substances is not

a solution or to take our life as life is too precious to lose. One should go out and spread this message and stop this menace of addiction".

HOD of Psychiatry, STNM Hospital, Dr CS Sharma, explained the medical aspects of addiction. He invited the students to "say no to drugs" by being "bold, militant, and not running away."

"The peddlers are enjoying at your cost, be bold to stop this fast growing addiction disease in Sikkim," he said.

The program was taken forward by SAATHI peer educators from Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School, Deorali, with a skit based on how a child chooses the path of addiction because of the parent who don't give time to their child, and because of peer pressure.

Udai Rai of Serenity Home briefed the participants about cases related

to substance abuse with the case studies from the past 17 years.

He added, "The ultimate effect of substance addiction is it hijacks the reward system of the brain after damaging the organs of the body and also all the creativity and will power that is in you".

He said, "Addiction is a symptom, let us address this symptom to the society and cure this disease".

He added, "Develop the skill of saying no to drugs. There are three ways to solve this problem of substance addiction - first, keep yourself safe from this addiction, second, support and provide help to the people in need of professional help and finally, tackle the problem collectively.

The program ended with a vote of thanks by Assistant Program Manager, Himanjali Pradhan, SAATHI.

Integrated Command...

He said that it is because of the Prime Minister that the world looks at India with a lot of respect. He added that the State Government will continue to implement the Smart City Projects earnestly and lead by example.

The Prime Minister credited the development of India to the strength and determination of the people of the country. He lauded the initiatives taken by Sikkim under the Smart City Project and said that Sikkim was a leading developmental partner of the Government of India.

After launching the Integrated CCC digitally, the Prime Minister, in his address, expressed happiness on being part of the new beginning for smart governance in the five smart cities of the north east.

He said that the launch of the ICC is a welcome step where the urban centres of North East India will use its pool of skilled human resources to explore the potential to emerge as a growth hub. He said that the Integrated CCC will enable the cities to identify their potential and challenges and catalyse smart solutions to tackle them.

He added that digital technology will be used to integrate different service networks to facilitate ease of living. The ICC will enable real time collaboration between different departments and agencies of the Government, he added.

"I believe that with the system in place, administration will be able to respond to emergencies and exigencies in real time and give smart solutions wherever nec-

essary," he said.

The Prime Minister informed that the implementation of Integrated CCC is gathering pace all over the country. The centre has already become functional at 15 centres and work is underway at 50 upcoming centres.

The Prime Minister lauded the effective implementation of the Smart City Project in Namchi and Gangtok.

He mentioned the implementation of the LED street lights, footpaths and integrated water supply in Namchi and the rain water harvesting and multi-level car parking cum recreation mall in Gangtok, in this regard.

He also highlighted the various components of the Smart City Project which will be covered by the Integrated CCC and concluded by stating that the Smart City projects will help improve the quality of life and boost the economy of the region.

The Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister for making special mention of projects under Namchi and Gangtok smart cities.

"We have to understand from the Prime Minister's statement that Sikkim is a development-oriented State and is leading the way," he said.

Directing his address mostly at the younger members of the audience, the Chief Minister shared his vision of making urban centres of the State exemplary and citizen-friendly in all respects. He reminded that the vision for modern cities and urban spaces in Sikkim has already been realized with modern facilities like the MG

Marg in Gangtok, and the re-modelled markets throughout the State.

He shared his Government's vision to create underground cities throughout the State which will de-congest urban areas and will ensure optimum utilization of the limited available resources. He also shared that the Government will create underground water tunnel from the sources to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the people.

He stated that the Government will explore several ways to store water and make them available for people.

About roads, the Chief Minister stated that Sikkim has the highest density of roads among all states. He shared that in one year's time, all the State highways will be world class.

He also reiterated the Government's idea of creating tunnel roads in state highways connecting all the four districts. He informed that the Sirwani-Legship tunnel road is at implementation stage.

Speaking on education sector, the Chief Minister announced that the Government will introduce Sex Health Education in school curriculum from the next academic session. He also spoke about the incentives being provided to bring about quality in education and to ensure that every single person in the State has access to education. He concluded his address with a word of advice to the students, "Each one of us is special in our own way and it is futile to compare ourselves with others. At the most, we can take inspiration from others."

Solve problem, don't play politics, says Save Sikkimese Soul to political parties

SAGAR CHETTRI GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Save Sikkimese Soul [SSS] has lashed out against both ruling and opposition parties of Sikkim for indulging in vote bank politics instead of resolving issues of casual workers of private companies. The organisation has further alleged that lackadaisical attitude of both ruling and opposition parties in Sikkim has led to the exploitation of Sikkimese people by private companies.

Addressing a press conference here today, SSS coordinator, Passang Sherpa has alleged that instead of providing permanent solution to end the growing apprehension, the political parties are only engaged in vote bank politics and trying to misguide the people of Sikkim without understanding root cause of the problem. He stated that if any controversy arises within a company then it should be dealt as per the laws related to companies.

He was referring to the ongoing protest of



Alembic Pharmaceuticals Limited casual workers. He added that it has created lots of confusion and apprehension among the people of Sikkim.

To end the current problem it is important to first understand what and which company law is applicable in Sikkim, said Mr Sherpa. He added that unfortunately the State does not have any company law in Sikkim.

"SDF government in Sikkim has not implemented the Registration

of Companies Act, 1961 since 2013 and Companies Act 2013 is yet to be applied to the state of Sikkim," he informed.

Mr Sherpa alleged that political parties that remained silent all these years are now suddenly acting as saviours of casual workers but such attitude of political parties in Sikkim has further escalated the problem.

"The state government undertaking such as Gangtok Smart City Development Limited

and Namchi Smart City Development Limited are both registered from Darjeeling which is a classic example of the lack of any company law in Sikkim," he stated.

On the same, he suggested that if all the political parties are sincere towards achieving a permanent solution to this problem then they should develop common consensus regarding the application of law relating to companies in Sikkim.

Mr Sherpa mentioned

that the proposed law to ensure permanent employment for Sikkimese people in private companies adopted by State Assembly has been rejected by the President of India in 2015.

"Though the legislative body of ruling SDF decided to amend Rule 4/4 to protect local employment in private sector in the month of May 2018, it is yet to be tabled in the state Assembly," he said.

While lambasting the opposition MLAs, he mentioned that as far as opposition parties are concerned they choose to boycott the Assembly sessions rather than speak out on such crucial issues. Such lackadaisical attitude of both ruling and opposition parties in Sikkim is the root cause of exploitation of Sikkimese people by companies, he stated.

Responding to media queries, Mr Sherpa mentioned that the Registration of Companies Act, 1961 is in the interest of local workers and only this old law of Sikkim can safeguard the interest of local workers.

HSP inaugurates Election HQ; Forms candidate selection committee

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

Hamro Sikkim Party [HS P] inaugurated their State Election Headquarter at Development Area today. The office is situated next to Sangram Bhawan.

During the function, HSP also announced the constitution of a six-member committee to select candidates for the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in Sikkim.

The committee is headed by HSP president, Dr Bina Basnett while senior leaders Bhaichung Bhutia, Biraj Adhikari, DS Limboo, HC Rai and Nima Lepcha are the other members.

The party said that the selection process would be transparent as only those candidates



with unblemished and proven track record of public service would be entertained.

"We want to bring to Sikkim a new brand of clean politics with a new democratic way of doing things that connects the party with the electorate at all times," said Mr Bhutia, who is the party's working president, during the inaugura-

tion of the state election headquarter here.

He said that he was confident that people would join the "revolution of cleansing the politics of Sikkim" and building a new, prosperous and happy Sikkim for all.

The HSP has said it will contest in all the 32 Assembly seats and the lone Lok Sabha seat in Sikkim.

LTVC claims its pressure won land protection for Limboos

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 07 MAR:

The Limboo Tamang Voluntary Committee [LTVC] has stated that Limboo community's Land Protection Act was a gift to entire Limboo community of Sikkim from LTVC.

Finally, due to the hard work of LTVC, the Chief Minister and Government of Sikkim were forced to implement the

Land Protection Act for the protection of Limboo community's land against alienation in Sikkim, informs an LTVC

Wants similar protection of Tamang land as well

press release.

"But we are not happy as the said Bill does

not cover protection of Tamang community's land," the release adds.

It is informed that LTVC will soon write to the State government, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Tribal Affairs requesting that a Land Protection Act for protection of Tamang community's land is also enacted in Sikkim at the earliest.

Gelling School celebrates upgradation to senior secondary level



NAMCHI, 07 MAR [IPR]: Health and IPR Minister, AK Ghatani, today attended the school upgradation program of Gelling Senior Secondary which was secondary school till the last academic session.

The program was also attended by Headmaster, Gelling Government SSS, GK Bista, SMC members, Panchayat and Zilla members, staff and students of Gelling Government Senior Secondary School.

Addressing the program, the Minister congratulated the staff and students of Gelling School for the elevation of their school.

Citing the upgradation as a much needed respite for students residing in the four GPUs in the periphery of Gelling, the Minister urged the school authorities and people of the area to work in coordination to ensure sustainability of the school by assisting upkeep of the school

infrastructure, social fencing, establishment of peer education programmes, and formation of NCC and NSS units in the school.

He called on the junior students to aspire to be selected under the Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme (CMMSS) and pursue studies in top schools within and outside the State.

He also assured to take up the demands of the school with the concerned authorities and called upon the Panchayat bodies to imbibe and spread positive messages of organic farming, literacy and holistic growth and development in their respective GPUs.

The program also included the felicitation of the Minister by the Panchayats and Gelling Government SSS SMC for initiatives taken in favour of Zoom Salghari constituency in terms of development. He was also feted for his efforts at expediting the school upgradation programme.

SummitTIMES IN NEPALI



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Facebook at the Summit Times Daily Page.
Please like, Share, Comment and let us know how we
can improve.
Thank You



Primitive
Tribe Welfare
Board convenes
annual general
meeting

GANGTOK, 06 MAR (IPR): The Annual General Board meeting of Sikkim Primitive Tribe Welfare Board was held at the conference hall of Samaj Kalyan Bhawan, Lumsey today. The Chairperson of Primitive Tribe Welfare Board, Sonam Dupden Lepcha chaired the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Chairperson of Social Welfare Board, Phurmit Lepcha, Principal Secretary of Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department (SJE&W), K. Sreenivasulu who is also a Member Secretary of Board, Director Human Resource Development Department, Sonam Lepcha, Director of Health Department, Dr. K. J. Topgay, officials of Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department, representative of Lepcha associations, non-official members of board and students of Sikkim University (Lepcha Department).

The state government has constituted the Primitive Tribe Welfare Board to oversee various welfare schemes meant for the socio economic and educational development of the tribe in Sikkim.

Addressing the gathering, Chairperson, Mr Lepcha informed about the various steps taken by the board for the welfare of primitive tribe in the state and further mentioned that the board is going to take up various projects in Sikkim which is related to primitive tribe in collaboration with various agencies.

Highlighting the various measures and policies of the board, Mr Lepcha asked for support and participation for the betterment of the primitive tribe and board in the state.

Chairperson of Social Welfare Board, Phurmit Lepcha said that for the development of primitive tribe, the state government has implemented numerous schemes to fulfil our dreams and thus we must all work together with better coordination and cooperation.

Principal Secretary of SJE&W Department, K. Sreenivasulu highlighted various schemes and initiatives taken by the state government for upliftment of the tribe. He informed that the state government has already recognized Dzongu as Indigenous Habitat and urged everyone to come forward to preserve and protect the culture, customs, tradition and language of the primitive tribe.

During the meet, Annual Report of Sikkim Primitive Tribe Welfare Board was also released by the dignitaries.

Earlier Director of HRDD and Health also shared their ideas, views and put forth their suggestions for the betterment of the board.

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www.summit-times.com

DC South holds meeting with
various political parties



NAMCHI, 07 MAR (IPR): A meeting with the representatives of various political parties was held at the chamber of DC cum DEO (South) today. The meeting was chaired by DC cum DEO (South), Ragul K alongside ADC South, Satyen Pradhan and SP (South), Manish Verma, present amongst others were SP (Traffic), Linda Palmo, SDMs and SDPOs from the South District.

Addressing the meeting, the DC highlighted the need for proper rules for issue of venue permissions for conducting various meeting. He

also elucidated that it is imperative for the concerned political parties to take prior venue and mic permission from the office of DC and SP.

Additionally, Mr Ragul emphasized certain circumstances wherein prior No Objection Certificate (NOC) will be required by the political parties and also informed the attendees that the window period for them to submit an application requesting venue and mic permission has been reduced to three days before the meeting. Moreover, the officials and the

representatives also identified the various venues which can be used for election purposes in the future.

During the course of the meeting, various suggestions and feedback were sought from the representatives. Based on all the suggestions a set of new rules will be issued for issue of venue permissions.

The meeting ended with the DC requesting all the representatives of political parties to co-operate during the election period for the peaceful conduct of elections.

Election awareness cum sensitization held in Kamrang

NAMCHI, 07 MAR (IPR): As part of the continued SVEEP activities of South District on election related matter, awareness cum sensitization program was held today with the students of Namchi Government College, Kamrang, Heads of Departments and Campus Ambassador of the College. About 200 students from different streams who are going to cast their votes for the first time in the forthcoming election participated.

The SDM (HQ), Namchi spoke about the election process beginning with the preparation of electoral rolls and updation and modification of Polling stations. He has urged the students to participate in the election ethically giving the background on how the educated voter has to act during election time.

He also spoke about the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct for the conduct of election and also spoke about the NOTA option.

Hands-on session for use of EVM and VVPAT was held with each student casting a mock vote in the session. The students were also administered a pledge by the SDM (HQ), Namchi and they were issued with stickers for pasting in the front cover of their books and their school bags which contained the message


of their time to hear their voice by casting a vote.

Similar program was held in the morning time with the NYK of South district where there was a congregation of youth of South

district in Namchi. The SDM (HQ) also deliberated on the election process that the District follows urging them to participate in the election process ethically.

The 2nd round of training for Presiding

Officers and Poling Officer-1 for South district has been held today. A doubt clearing session was also followed with the participants giving their feedback on the training program being organized for them.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

No:31(a)/ENTENDER/BHD/2019

Dated:04/03/2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

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

IMPORTANT EVENTS

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

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

Sd/-

Additional Chief Engineer (N&E)

Buildings & Housing Department

Government of Sikkim.

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

Date: 05.03.2019



OFFICE OF THE ASISTANT ENGINEER

ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

NAMCHI SUB-DIVISION

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

Date: 02/03/2019

NOTICE

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

The details of work are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value put to tender (Rs.)	Completion on time (in months)	Cost of tender documents (rs)	Amount of Earnest Money@ 2.5% for issue of tender form (Rs)	Grade of contract or	Name of GPU	Name of Constituency
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Constructi on of Road from Donak to Linkhimtar (Km 1)	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Turung Mamri ng	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
2.	Constructo n of road from Phongla to Jaubari (Km 1)	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Chuba Phong	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
3.	Constructi on of road from Siktugolai to Middle Chuba							
a.	KM 1 st	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Chuba Phong	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
b.	KM 2 nd	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Chuba Phong	Namthang Rateypani Constituency
4.	Constructi on of road from Phongla to Dong village							
a.	KM 2 nd	42,38,496.00	12 months	1500.00	105962.00	Grade IV	Ramen g Nizram eng	Namthang Rateypani Constituency

NOTE:

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

The Re-scheduled Dates are as follows:-

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

Sd/-

Assistant Engineer

Roads & Bridges Department

Namchi Sub Division.

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

Date: 4.3.2019

Sikkim Needs to Do Right by its Daughters

Privileges can wait, give them independent identities first

Daughters of Sikkim married to non-locals and relegated to less than second-class citizen status is a denial that Sikkim has allowed for far too long. The practice has settled so deep that most Sikkimese, including too many women, have internalized it to an extent that they accept this offensive regulation as required. There are also some regressive minds which even see it as desirable. While nothing can be done about minds so deeply infected with insecurities, at least when Women’s Day comes around, as it does on 08 March, perhaps some earnest discussions are in order. A group of Sikkimese women married to non-Sikkimese recently approached the Chief Minister, reminding him of his announcement that the humiliation, yes it is humiliation, requiring Sikkimese women to submit unmarried certificates while applying for government jobs or claiming their identity will no longer be required. At the root of this practice is Sikkim’s insistence that a woman draws her identity from the men in her life. She is Sikkimese because her father or brother is one, but should she marry a non-Sikkimese, she loses her Sikkimese identity, and with it her rights and privileges as a Sikkimese. While there is no justifying this reasoning, given that it was first promulgated nearly fifty years ago, one can understand that those were different times. However, to still think that Sikkimese women are gullible and/or not as proud of their Sikkimeseness as the men-folk and would allow Sikkim’s interests to be compromised by their non-Sikkimese husbands is offensive. That said, it is wrong to have different sets of rules for men and women. It is about time to have this important discussion.

But that is unlikely to happen even on International Women’s Day. Do not expect the larger issues to be addressed as unbridled male chauvinism will remain routine affairs in our midst. Unless the society accepts ambition in women as a normal progression of initiatives like the “beti padhao” undertaking, everything will remain superficial lip-service. The relegation of women in second-class citizens with limited access to identity, ownership, and, yes, ambition, is unfortunate because that is not how things began.

Women have had an eventful march through history. At the start of humankind, women were edified and almost all prehistoric legends refer to a Mother Goddess as the Creator. We find this in Sikkim too. But man remained a hunter-gatherer at heart and as civilizations grew, he started embodying the idea of god with traits of himself. Soon, everything that could not be understood was given a female form, perhaps because most aspects of womanhood remained inscrutable to men. Whatever they could not understand, they applied a negative female force to. Soon, the woman started getting seen as the corruptor. These instincts continue to inform contemporary rules and regulations.

It is this prejudice that occasions like the International Women’s Day should strive to eradicate. It has had but limited success and more often than not, ended up celebrating stereotypes instead. This, despite the fact that women are not demanding much. They do not want to be returned to their original position of reverence. All they ask for is an equal standing, but even that is proving difficult. Things have changed though. At the turn of the last century, when automobiles were first introduced to the world, the policy makers refused to allow women to drive, saying that they did not have the wherewithal to handle machines. Until a decade ago, a woman driver was a rare sight in Sikkim. Now, they do not even attract a second look. What survive though are the snide comments that women don’t make good drivers. That is a bad enough attitude and gets internalized into imposing stereotypes. It is this attitude which perhaps explains why women disappear after college. Even if they enter the job market, end up in positions that are not important enough. This is even more ironic in Sikkim’s context given the fact that the first Sikkimese to have passed the IAS exams was a woman. And yet, when it comes to making a mark at the work-place, women are pushed to the background; referred to as the weaker sex!

The problem is not with the people at the work-place alone or men at large, it is the manner in which the role of women has been stereotyped even at home that holds women back. It is this stereotype that needs to be broken. Ambition should not be seen as an unwomanly trait. Then, we would be looking at real change. But before one can even begin walking towards that goal, the society needs to wake up and realize that Sikkimese women deserve an identity independent of men and equal rights and privileges independent of their personal decisions.

Venezuela’s economic collapse is laid bare when you look at how little energy the country is consuming

ANTÓNIO CARVALHO & JAN DITZEN
theconversation.com

The country with the most oil reserves on the planet is facing a total economic crash, with wildly conflicting inflation estimates – as high as 10,000,000% if the IMF’s projections for this year are correct. There has been much discussion about the collapse in Venezuela’s oil exports, intensified by US sanctions against the state oil company PDVSA, which substantially prevents any oil trading between the two countries and takes away a steady income stream for the country. To understand the scale of the crisis, however, it is vital to look at what has been happening to energy consumption inside the country itself.

Oil consumption in Venezuela fell 37% in five years up to 2017, a reminder that the country was struggling under the Maduro administration long before the latest sanctions, which came after opposition leader Juan Guaidó announced himself the country’s rightful president in January. Unfortunately, the oil decline is not an environmental achievement but a worrying symptom of Venezuela’s economic conditions – GDP is expected to have fallen 50% between 2015 and 2019.

In a country where economic data is scarce, different oil products can be used as proxies for different kinds of economic activity. Venezuela’s oil and fuel oil export numbers give insights into the country’s incoming cash flow from abroad, for instance, while diesel consumption is a partial indicator for transport, industry and the power sector. Gasoline is a proxy for transport activity as well.

Diesel consumption declined by 11% on average each year in 2013-17, and gasoline shows a similar pattern with an average annual decline of 7% or by 27% over the same five-year period. Together, the two fuels account for approximately 70% of total oil demand in the country. From the graphic below, you can see that the collapse in oil consumption and GDP are staggeringly similar.

This is not to say that the oil consumption esti-

mates from the likes of BP are anywhere near perfect. Multiple Venezuelan official energy statistics ceased to be published between 2012 and 2015, leaving experts to build the best possible estimates from multiple sources.

BP figures for total oil consumption have been consistently revised downwards every year in recent history, as reality always punches below expectations. You can see this in the following graph, where each coloured line represents a different year of the BP Statistical Review and the estimates included for Venezuelan oil consumption: the yel-



low line represents the 2018 edition, whose numbers are mostly lower than the estimates in previous years’ editions.

THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND

People are not driving around anymore in Venezuela. To make things worse, 90% of buses were reportedly out of action by mid-2018. This is a society that just doesn’t go out for work or travel. Businesses are also using less transportation, since they produce fewer goods than they used to – including food. The last implication is terrifying, and can easily be missed when solely looking at numbers. It is possible to survive without a car, but not without food. A litre of milk can now easily cost a tenth of a monthly salary.

Energy prices have been severely distorted by

Changing morals: we’re more compassionate than 100 years ago, but more judgmental too

NICK HASLAM, MELANIE J. MCGRATH & MELISSA A. WHEELER
theconversation.com

Values such as care, compassion and safety are more important to us now than they were in the 1980s. The importance of respecting authority has fallen since the beginning of the 20th century, while judging right and wrong based on loyalty to country and family has steadily risen.

Our analysis, using the Google Books database and published in Plos One, showed distinctive trends in our moral priorities between 1900 to 2007.

How we should understand these changes in moral sensibility is a fascinating problem. Morality is not rigid or monolithic. Moral Foundations Theory, for instance, puts forward five moral grammars, each with its own set of associated virtues and vices.

These are:

- purity-based morality, which is rooted in ideas of sanctity and piety. When standards of purity are violated, the reaction is disgust, and violators are seen as unclean and tarnished
- authority-based morality, which prizes duty, deference, and social order. It abhors those who show disrespect and disobedience
- fairness-based morality, which stands in opposition to authority-based morality. It judges right and wrong using values of equality, impartiality and tolerance, and disdains bias and prejudice
- ingroup-based morality, which esteems loyalty to family, community or nation, and judges those who threaten or undermine them as immoral
- harm-based morality, which values care, compassion and safety, and views wrongness in terms of suffering, mistreatment and cruelty.

People of different ages, genders, personalities, and political beliefs employ these moralities to different degrees. People on the political right, for instance, are more likely to endorse the moralities of purity, authority and ingroup loyalty. Those on the left rely more on the morality of harm and fairness. Women tend to endorse

harm-based morality more than men.

We used these five moral foundations in our analysis. Put simply, our culture, at least as revealed through moral language in the books we read and write, is increasing the emphasis it places on some moral foundations and decreasing its emphasis on others.

HISTORICAL CHANGE IN MORAL CONCEPTS

Moral psychologists know a lot about how people today vary in their moral thinking, but they have largely ignored how moral thinking has changed historically. As cultures evolve and societies develop, people’s ways of thinking about good and evil also transform. The nature of that transformation is a matter of speculation.

One narrative suggests our recent history is one of de-moralisation. On this view, our societies have become progressively less prudish and judgmental. We have become more accepting of others, rational, irreligious, and scientific in how we approach matters of right and wrong.

A contrary narrative implies re-moralisation. By this account, our culture is increasingly censorious. More things offend and outrage us, and the growing polarisation of political debate reveals excesses of righteousness and self-righteousness.

We wanted to find which of these stories best captured how morals have changed over time, and we used an emerging field of inquiry to do so – culturomics. Culturomics uses very large text databases to track changes in cultural beliefs and values. Changing patterns of language use over time may reveal alterations in how people have made sense of their world and themselves.

The most common platform for examining such cultural shifts is the Google Books database. Containing more than 500 billion words from 5 million scanned and digitised books, the database is a rich source of information on the rising and falling popularity of words.

Studies using English-language books, for example, have shown increases in individualist values, revealed through decreases in “us” and increases in “me”. Studies in Chinese-language books have shown similar declines in words associated with collectivist values in recent decades.

To date, there has only been one culturomic study of moral language. The researchers examined changes in

the frequency of a set of virtue words such as “conscience”, “honesty” and “kindness” over the 20th century. As the de-moralisation narrative would predict, most of these words showed a significant decline in popularity, suggesting ideas of moral virtue became less culturally salient.

In our study, we explored changes in 20th century morality in greater depth. Each of the five foundations was represented by large, well-validated sets of virtue and vice words. We also examined changes in a set of basic moral terms such as “good”, “moral”, “righteous”; and “bad”, “evil”, and “wrong”.

We extracted the relative frequency of each word in a set for every year, standardised it so that the year in which this frequency peaked scored 100, and then averaged the words in the set. The trajectory of these averaged values over time reflects broad changes in the prominence of each form of morality.

DIFFERENTLY MORAL

We found basic moral terms (see the black line below) became dramatically scarcer in English-language books as the 20th century unfolded – which fits the de-moralisation narrative. But an equally dramatic rebound began in about 1980, implying a striking re-moralisation.

The five moral foundations, on the other hand, show a vastly changing trajectory. The purity foundation (green line) shows the same plunge and rebound as the basic moral terms. Ideas of sacredness, piety and purity, and of sin, desecration and indecency, fell until about 1980, and rose afterwards.

The other moralities show very different pathways. Perhaps surprisingly, the egalitarian morality of fairness (blue) showed no consistent rise or fall.

In contrast, the hierarchy-based morality of authority (grey) underwent a gentle decline for the first half of the century. It then sharply rose as the gathering crisis of authority shook the Western world in the late 1960s. This morality of obedience and conformity, insubordination and rebellion, then receded equally sharply through the 1970s.

Ingroup morality (orange), reflected in the communal language of loyalty and unity, insiders and outsiders, displays the clearest upward trend through the 20th century. Discernible bumps around the two

a combination of explosive inflation and heavy fuel subsidies. By mid-2018, you could buy 3.5m litres of gasoline for a single US dollar, but could barely buy any basic food item. Yet even if you have enough money to fill up your tank, it is increasingly difficult to find fuel – and the cost of spare parts is exorbitant.

The future of oil output looks equally bleak. Production is quickly collapsing, with refineries only running at an incredibly low 22% of capacity. The power system is actually taking a double hit: the part that depends on fossil fuels in the form of natural gas, diesel and some fuel oil is crumbling

while the part driven by hydropower is being undermined by very low rainfall caused by changing climate patterns. The net result has been thousands of power failures. A dry year could aggravate things further, requiring extra fossil fuels that the country is incapable of producing or affording.

As the sanctions continue to bite and hyperinflation rages on, Venezuela’s oil consumption decline lags set to reach levels last seen in the 1990s. The country began rationing gasoline in February, and is now in the awkward position of importing refined fuels from Russia, India and Spain at “horrific” premiums, according to an executive of PDVSA. One consequence of the sanctions is that they have affected Venezuela’s ability to transport heavy oil from its own oil fields, since this is made easier by adding diluting agents that are often imported from the US.

The perfect storm of sanctions, inflation, production problems and climate change risks to power supply leaves us wondering how long it might take before the energy system comes to a total halt. As new oil statistics are published in the coming months, everyone from energy analysts to Washington policy hawks will be poring over them to try and understand where the country goes from here.

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world wars point to passing elevations in the “us and them” morality of threatened communities.

Finally, harm-based morality (red) presents a complex but intriguing trend. Its prominence falls from 1900 to the 1970s, interrupted by similar wartime bumps when themes of suffering and destruction became understandably urgent. But harm rises steeply from about 1980 in the absence of a single dominating global conflict.

WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT THIS?

The decades since 1980 can be seen as a period when moral concerns experienced a revival. What has driven this revival is open to speculation. Some might see the election of conservative governments in the US, UK and Australia at the start of this period as a pivotal change.

That might explain the rise of the typically conservative purity-based morality but not the even steeper increase in the typically liberal harm foundation.

Others might point to the rise of social justice concerns – or “political correctness” to critics – as the basis for the upswing in harm-based morality. The surge of harm language during early- and mid-century wartime may point to the late century rise being linked to the so called “culture wars”. Certainly, the simultaneous rise in conservative (purity) and left-liberal (harm) moralities since that time is a recipe for moral conflict and polarisation.

Our research has its limitations. Books are windows into only some aspects of culture. The population of English-language books is dominated by American and to a lesser extent British volumes, and we cannot isolate patterns specific to different English-speaking nations. The Google Books database does not allow us to examine changes in morality over the past decade.

Even so, this research points to some important cultural transformations. How we tend to think about matters of right and wrong is different now from how we once did and, if the trends are to be believed, how we will in the future.

[Nick Haslam is Professor of Psychology, University of Melbourne; Melanie J. McGrath is PhD Candidate in Social Psychology, University of Melbourne; Melissa A. Wheeler is Research Fellow, University of Melbourne]



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

Memo No: N.I.T No:- 06/R&B/Jor/2018-19 Date: 06.03.2019
For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer, Roads & Bridges Department, Jorethang Sub Division , invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of **Class IV Grade** enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No. 515/R&B/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification no. 556/R&B PWD/Secy dated : 28.08.2018 & 584/R&B/PWD/Secy, Dt:08/10/2018 through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of **Gram Panchayat / Urban local bodies** where the work is to be executed.
The works are listed as under:

Sl.No	Name of Work	Value put to Tender (Rs.)	Completion time (in Months)	Cost of Tender Docu-ments (Rs.)	Amount of Earnest Money @2.5% for issue of tender form	Grade of Contract or	Name of G.P.U	Name of Constitu-ency.
2	Construction of road from Lower Gom PWD road to Meli Jorethang PWD road.							
a.	KM: 1 st (o.oo-500m)	2,118,833.00	6 months	1500.00	52971.00	Grade IV	32-Sorak Shy-ampani GPU	Poklok Kamrang.
b.	KM: 1 st (500m-1000.00m)	2,118,833.00	6 months	1500.00	52971.00	Grade IV	32-Sorak Shy-ampani GPU	Poklok Kamrang.
c.	KM: 2 nd (00.00-500.00m)	2,118,833.00	6 months	1500.00	52971.00	Grade IV	32-Sorak Shy-ampani GPU	Poklok Kamrang.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents,(excluding Tender Form)	25th March, 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPKJ).
2.	Date of issue of Tender Form and submission of TDR (As Earnest Money)	26 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at respective GPKJ).
3.	Last Date and Time of submission of Tender	27 th March 2019 (from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm) at respective GPKJ).
4.	Date and Time of Opening of Tender	27 th March 2019 (1.30 pm at respective GPKJ).

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors / Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.
- The intending tenders/ contractors should apply in writing for issue of Tender documents. The application would invariably be signed by the contractor himself/ herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.
- The applications should enclose attested copies of the Validated / Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/ Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/ issue of the Tender Document for verification. Selected bidder should produce No objection certificate/ Tax clearance certificate from the commercial taxes division, Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department prior to the issue of Work Order.
- The prescribed Non- Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (As above from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, cost of Tender Document form shall be deposited to the revenue of respective GPU. Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedules Bank which includes deposit in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Namchi. Tender Form shall be issued from the respective Gram Prasasan Kendra, only on production of the deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.
- The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the Tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it. Supporting documents listed at SLNo. 3e should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the concerned Gram Prasasan Kendra, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders will be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderness on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tenders documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/ Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate (s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents rates as per approved Scheduled of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/ analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account shall be entertained whatsoever. If any extra claim is made, it shall be as per the agreements rates.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages(if any), including accidents to labourer at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of work order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to be a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest produces shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates or Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- In case the man powers employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under.
 - Transportation, handling, storage and use of explosive (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guideline, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
 - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportations, storages, handling, and use of explosive at all times. Proper daily record of receipt and issue of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.
- Damages to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- Expenditure involved for material testing, cube strength of concrete, crushing strength of road metals etc., at site or in laboratories shall be borne by the contractor. The contractor shall make necessary arrangements accordingly as and when instructed to do so.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The contractor will have to pay all taxes and duties as applicable and notified by the State/ Central Government and no claim shall be entertained in this regard whatsoever.
- The cost of stock materials supplied from the departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills us per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the CONCERED GRAM Panchayat unit where the work is to be executed.**

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



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

Memo No: 584/R&B/PWD/Secy.

Date:08/10/2018

NOTIFICATION

The State Government is hereby pleased to notify the following further to amend the Sikkim Public Works Manual, 2009, published in Extraordinary Gazette Number, 381 dated: 8th October 2009 namely:- In the said Manual, in 'Annexure B', in the Notification No 07/Fin/Acctt dated: 18th September, 2009 for the existing entries under the items A, SLNo. 1, the following entries shall be substituted, namely:-

A.	ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS		
Sl No.	GRADE OF CONTRACTOR	LIMIT	JURISDICTION
1.	All Class IV Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department	UPTO Rs.1.00 Crore	Competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Ward of the GPU/ ULB where the work is to be executed.

NOTE:

- Further, all the other details except the above in Notification No. 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12/06/2016 remains unchanged.
 - This amendment shall be deemed to have come into force w.e.f the 8th day of October, 2018.
- Sy order and inthe name of Governor.

Sd/-
(G.T. Dhungel)
PCE cum Secretary
Roads & Bridges Department.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

Memo No: 556/R&B/PWD/Secy.

Date:28/08/2018

NOTIFICATION

The State Government is hereby pleased to notify the following further to amend the Sikkim Public Works Manual, 2009, published in Extraordinary Gazette Number, 381 dated: 8th October 2009 namely:- In the said Manual, in 'Annexure B', in the Notification No 07/Fin/Acctt dated: 18th September, 2009 for the existing entries under the items B(1,2) and C(1,2), the following entries shall be substituted, namely:-

B.	CALL OF TENDER	
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION
1.	For work costing UPTO Rs.1.00 Crore	Assistant Engineer concerned. The tender shall be held in the premises of the GPU Office/ ULB in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer concerned.
2.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Divisional Engineer concerned. The tender shall be held in the premises of the GPU Office/ ULB in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer concerned.
C	OPENING OF TENDER	
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION
1.	For works costing upto Rs.1.00 Crore	Committee comprising of BDO/Municipal Commissioner/Municipal Executive Officer/ Any Gazetted Officer within their respective jurisdiction, concerned Assistant Engineer and Accounts Officer or the respective as nominated by the above Officers and representative of respective GPU/ULB.
2.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Committee comprising of BDO/Municipal Commissioner/Divisional Engineer, concerned Assistant Engineer within the Sub-Division and Accounts Officer or the respective as nominated by the above Officers and representative of respective GPU/ULB.

NOTE:

- The cost of tender form circulated by respective Department would henceforth be deposited to the revenue of the respective GPU for works costing upto 2.00 crores.
 - Further, all the other details except the above in Notification No. 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12/06/2016 remains unchanged.
 - This amendment shall be deemed to have come into force w.e.f the 26th day of August, 2018.
- Sy order and in the name of Governor.

Sd/-
(G.T. Dhungel)
PCE cum Secretary
Roads & Bridges Department.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK

Memo No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy.

Date:12/06/2018

NOTIFICATION

The State Government is hereby pleased to notify the following further to amend the Sikkim Public Works Manual, 2009, published in Extraordinary Gazette Number, 381 dated: 8th October 2009 namely:- In the said Manual, in 'Annexure B', in the Notification No 07/Fin/Acctt dated: 18th September, 2009 for the existing entries under the items A, B,C, D, E, F, G and H the following entries shall be substituted, namely:-

A.	ELIGIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS		
Sl No.	GRADE OF CONTRACTOR	LIMIT	JURISDICTION
1.	All Class IV Contractors enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department	UPTO Rs.1.00 Crore	Competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Ward of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed.
2.	All Class II Contractor enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department.	ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned Ward of the GPU/ULB where the work is to be executed.
3.	All Class I-B Contractor enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department.	ABOVE Rs.2.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Within the district through e-tendering system.
4.	All Class I-A Contractor enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department.	ABOVE Rs.5.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.7.00 Crore	Within the district through e-tendering system.
5.	All Class I-B Contractor enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department.	ABOVE Rs.7.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Within the district through e-tendering system.
6.	All Class I-A Contractor enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department.	ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.20.00 Crore	Within the district through e-tendering system.
7.	All Class I-AA Contractor enlisted with the Sikkim Public Works Department.	ABOVE 20.00 Crore	Within the district through e-tendering system.
8.	E-tendering is mandatory for all works costing above Rs.2.00 Crores.		
9.	For works costing more than 10.00 Crore and up to 30.00 Crore, tender under two-cover systems shall be invited from the eligible class of Contractors elisted with Sikkim Public Works Department.		
10.	For works costing crore than 30.00 Crore, pre-qualification of contractors shall be invited from the eligible class of Contractors.		
11.	For all works awarded to the Co-operatives Societies, the onus of third party Physical Monitoring shall be with the Department of Co-operation.		
12.	In due regard to the existing system of the traditional institution of Dzumsa prevalent in the two villages of Lachen And Lachung in the North District of the State, the existing rule of Dzumsa's may be followed.		
13.	e-tendering is not mandatory by tendering of works falling within Dzumsa area of Lachung and LAchen costing upto Rs.20.00 Crore.		

B	CALL OF TENDER		
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION	
1.	For works costing upto Rs.1.00 Crore	Assistant Engineer concerned.	
2.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Divisional Engineer concerned.	
3.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.2.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer concerned.	
4.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.5.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer/ Additional Chief Engineer	
5.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore	Chief Engineer/PCE/PCE cum Secretary.	

1.	For work costing upto Rs.1.00 Crore	Committee comprising of BDO/Municipal Commissioner/Municipal Executive Officer/ Any Gazetted Officer within their respective jurisdiction, concerned Assistant Engineer and Accounts Officer within the jurisdiction.
2.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Committee comprising of BDO/Municipal Commissioner/Divisional Engineer, concerned Assistant Engineer within the Sub-Division and Accounts Officer within the jurisdiction.
3.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.2.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Committee comprising of Superintending Engineer/Divisional Engineer, and Accounts Officer and Assistant Engineer concerned.
4.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.5.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Committee comprising of Additional Chief Engineer/ Superintending Engineer, Divisional Engineer, and representative of the Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department.
5.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore	Committee comprising of Chief Engineer/ Additional Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineer, and representative of the Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department.

D.	ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER		
Sl.No.	LIMIT		
1.	For tenders received AT PAR on works value upto Rs.1.00 Crore where no additional financial implication is involved, the tender opening committee shall accept the tender.		
2.	For tenders received AT PAR on works value upto Rs.2.00 Crore where no additional financial implication is involved, the tender opening committee shall accept the tender.		
3.	For tenders received AT PAR on works value exceeding Rs.2.00 Crore where no additional financial implication is involved, the tender inviting authority shall forward the tender documents to the next higher authority for acceptance.		
4.	Where additional financial implication is involved and the same can be met up from the overall provision of the project approved and sanctioned by the Government through Development Planning, Economic Reforms and NEC Affairs Department and Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department approval of the Head of the Department is necessary.		
5.	Where additional financial implication is involved and does not have approval/ sanction of the Government approval/ sanction of the competent authority is necessary.		

E.	TECHNICAL SANCTION: NOTE: It is mandatory to submit a copy of the technically sanctioned estimates in the Office of the Chief Engineer and Additinal Chief Engineer.		
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION	
1.	For works costing upto Rs.50.00 Lakhs	Divisional Engineer concerned. For works to be executed under BAC's Assistant Engineer concerned subject to confirmation by the Divisional Engineer during passing of bills.	
2.	For work costing UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Divisional Engineer concerned.	
3.	For work costing UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer concerned.	
4.	For work costing UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer/ Additional Chief Engineer	
5.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore	Chief Engineer/ Principal Chief Engineer /Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary.	

F	WORK ORDER.		
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION	
1.	For works costing upto Rs.1.00 Crore	Assistant Engineer concerned.	
2.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Divisional Engineer concerned.	
3.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.2.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer concerned.	
4.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.5.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer/ Additional Chief Engineer	
5.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore	Chief Engineer/ Principal Chief Engineer /Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary.	

G	CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT		
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION	
1.	For works costing upto Rs.1.00 Crore	Assistant Engineer concerned.	
2.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.1.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.2.00 Crore	Divisional Engineer concerned.	
3.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.2.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer concerned.	
4.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.5.00 Crore and UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer/ Additional Chief Engineer	
5.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore	Chief Engineer.	

H.	PASSING OF BILLS		
Sl No.	LIMIT	JURISDICTION	
1.	For works costing upto Rs.2.00 Crore	Divisional Engineer concerned.	
2.	For work costing UPTO Rs.5.00 Crore	Superintending Engineer concerned.	
3.	For work costing UPTO Rs.10.00 Crore	Additional Chief Engineer	
4.	For work costing ABOVE Rs.10.00 Crore	Chief Engineer/ Principal Chief Engineer /Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary.	

I	EXIGENCIES		
	In case of exigencies like natural calamity, immediate restoration, urgent works, the Department may carry out mitigation of such damages either through engaging labourers, resourceful Contractors/agencies, Job order or by calling Short Notice item rate quotations (one week)/ Supplying materials to work etc. On account of funds not being available with the Department for such works, the Chief Engineer would give approval for execution of such work through Job Order in anticipation to sourcing of funds. The works in all cases shall be initiated only after prior approval of the Head of the department.		

Sy order and in the name of Governor.

R.O. No. 771/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19
Date: 7.3.2019

Sd/-
(G.T. Dhungel)
PCE cum Secretary
Roads & Bridges Department.

China ‘commends’ Pakistan for showing restraint amid Indo-Pak tensions

KJM VARMA
BEIJING/ISLAMABAD, MAR 7 (PTI): China Thursday “commended” its close ally Pakistan for showing restraint after the Pulwama terror attack and urged New Delhi and Islamabad to refrain from aggravating the situation as Beijing weighed its options to take a stand on the fresh move in the UN Security Council to declare JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

China on Wednesday despatched its Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou to Islamabad to defuse the Indo-Pak tensions.

Kong held in-depth talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, besides Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua, regarding the Indo-Pak tensions, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told the media in Beijing.

In Islamabad, Pakistan’s Foreign Office said that both Pakistan and China reaffirmed their “time-tested and all weather strategic cooperative partnership.”

“Pakistan thanked China for its steadfast support. Vice Foreign Minister was briefed on Pakistan’s efforts to resolve all issues with India through dialogue,” the FO said in a statement.

“He underscored that Pakistan and China are close friends and partners. He reiterated China’s support to Pakistan for peace and stability in the region. He also acknowledged Pakistan’s



measures against terrorism,” it said.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the strong bonds in their bilateral relations and agreed to further enhance cooperation and coordination at all levels, the FO statement added.

Kong’s visit coincides with the US, the UK and French application in the 1267 counter terrorism committee of the UNSC to declare Azhar as a global terrorist. If listed by the committee, Azhar would face a global travel ban and asset freeze. JeM has already been banned by the UN.

China thrice blocked efforts to list Azhar as a global terrorist by the UNSC by putting up technical holds. However, expectations are high that Beijing may take a different stand this time considering JeM has admitted its role in the

Pulwama attack. Also, China’s relations with India improved after the first informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Wuhan last year.

In an interview early this week, Qureshi said the Pakistan government will consult all parties before approaching China while responding to a question whether Islamabad would request Beijing to veto the proposal to designate Azhar as a global terrorist by the UNSC. While Lu has not stated whether the issue figured in Kong’s talks with the Pakistani leaders, official Chinese sources told PTI in Beijing that China is trying to work out a solution acceptable to both India and Pakistan to permanently resolve the issue.

In his talks with Pakistani leaders and of-

ficials, Kong “stressed that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners,” Lu said.

“We commend that Pakistan has been restrained and calm and tried to ease the tension. He also stressed that China believes the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country should be upheld. We are not willing to see any action that is violating international law,” Lu said.

“China calls on both Pakistan and India to refrain from aggravating the situation, to uphold regional peace and stability through dialogue at an early date,” he said, adding that China will continue to play a constructive role.

He said, “Pakistan also appreciates China’s unbiased attitude and Pakistan also stressed that it is not willing to see rising tensions. It

is willing to resolve the problem with India and hopes that China and other members of the international community can play a constructive role in this process.”

Asked whether Kong in his talks with Pakistan leaders raised the question of terrorism emanating from Pakistani soil and the need to eradicate the breeding grounds of terrorism, Lu said, “so the major concern is the security situation in the region. Recently a lot has happened in this region and there are many issues. China has stated our position.”

“The first, the sovereignty and territorial integrity should be upheld. And as to specific issue like whether we believe, we should take positive measures to ease the tensions, so as to maintain peace and stability in this region. This is a general issue,” he said.

Lanka PM Wickremesinghe, President Sirisena at loggerheads over war crime probes

COLOMBO, MAR 7 (PTI): Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday appeared to be on collision course with President Maithripala Sirisena over Sri Lanka’s commitment to the UNHRC on war-time atrocities against Tamils as he reiterated the government’s commitment to implementing the UN resolution.

The Prime Minister’s Office in a joint statement with the Foreign Ministry on Thursday said Sri Lanka will continue to demonstrate its commitment and determination towards a steady and long-lasting reconciliation process through a co-sponsored resolution.

It said the government will seek an extension of the timeline of the UHRC resolution 30/1 of October 01, 2015, through a co-sponsored roll-over resolution at the ongoing 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

The statement stands in contrast with President Sirisena’s comments on Wednesday that he would send his own team to the UNHRC session later this month to seek a reprieve. He said the UN must allow Sri Lanka to resolve its own issues without digging into past.

The Foreign Ministry statement said that Sri Lanka’s co sponsoring of the resolution had attested to the country’s

ownership of the implementation process and to its continued policy of constructive engagement and dialogue with the UN and bilateral partners.

The UNHRC resolutions since 2013 had censured Sri Lanka on its alleged human rights abuses. They called for probing of rights abuses by both LTTE and the government troops by setting up an international investigation.

The current session is expected to review Sri Lanka’s progress since the resolution co-sponsored by Sri Lanka along with the US in 2015. Although Sri Lanka has taken some steps to implement the resolution, the Tamil community has complained about the slow speed and the inadequacy of the progress.

Taking a U-turn on Sri Lanka’s pledges to the UNHRC over war-time atrocities against Tamils, Sirisena said the country needs “space” to settle its own problems “without interference” over the issue.

Sirisena, who after coming to power in January 2015 had pledged to ensure accountability for war-time abuses, said Sri Lanka had moved on after the end of the separatist war now for over 10 years.

“We need space to settle our own problems without interference,” Sirisena said.

His team would be

appealing on behalf of the government at the UN rights body.

Sirisena sending his own men, who are not ministers, adds an interesting dimension to the issue as he and his Prime Minister Wickremesinghe are clashing with each other over the issue of governance.

In October last year, Sirisena sacked Wickremesinghe in a move seen as unconstitutional. The prime minister was later restored after the Supreme Court intervened.

The government has come under fire from the main opposition for agreeing to co-sponsor the resolution.

The government’s defense has been that this strategy will prevent international war crimes allegations being continuously levelled against Sri Lankans through strengthened ownership of the implementation process.

The Tamil groups, however, remain disgruntled that even after four years of the current government who pledged redress for Tamil grievances had achieved very little in its reconciliation agenda.

The Tamil parties have called for the setting up of a UN rights body office in Sri Lanka to monitor the progress. They urge that the government should not be given any more time to implement the resolution.

Musharraf admits JeM carried out attacks in India during his tenure

ISLAMABAD, MAR 7 (PTI): Pakistan’s former president Pervez Musharraf has admitted that Masood Azhar-led Jaish-e-Mohammed carried out attacks in India during his tenure on the instructions of the intelligence agencies.

Musharraf, 75, who is currently in Dubai, said that the Pakistan government’s crackdown on the JeM, which also tried to assassinate him twice,

was a good move.

The JeM recently claimed responsibility for the February 14 Pulwama attack that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, increasing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Last month, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi during an interview with CNN said that Azhar is in Pakistan, but the government can act against him

only if India presents “solid” and “inalienable” evidence that can stand in a court of law.

Pakistan military, however, denied the terror group’s presence in the country.

Amid mounting international pressure after the Pulwama attack, Pakistan on Tuesday detained 44 members of the banned militant outfits, including Azhar’s son and brother.

Thai court dissolves Shinawatra-linked party over princess PM bid

BANGKOK, MAR 7 (AFP): A key party linked to Thailand’s powerful Shinawatra clan was dissolved Thursday by a court, just weeks before a general election, over its ill-starred bid to front a princess as a candidate for premier. Thai Raksa Chart, which is tied to ex-premiers Thaksin and Yingluck Shinawatra, proposed Princess Ubolratana as its prime ministerial candidate if its bloc emerged with a lower house majority after the March 24 election.

It was an unprecedented move in a constitutional monarchy where royals are officially above the political fray, and prompted a rare public rebuke by her younger brother, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who issued a royal command declaring the party’s move “inappropriate”.

Thai Raksa Chart was found guilty of committing an act “hostile to the constitutional monarchy” by the nine-member Constitutional Court, which unanimously voted to dissolve the party.

Party executives -- including two Shinawatra family members -- were also banned from politics for a decade. “The monarchy is above politics and to maintain political neutrality, the king, the queen and princesses can never exercise political rights by casting votes,” judge Nakharin Mektrairat said at the end of an extensive ruling.

China’s Huawei sues US over federal ban on using its products



SHENZHEN, MAR 7 (AFP): Huawei said Thursday it was suing the United States for barring government agencies from buying the Chinese telecom giant’s products, opening a legal front in its battle against American warnings that they could serve as a tool for Chinese intelligence services.

Huawei said the suit was filed in a US District Court in Plano, Texas, challenging a 2019 US defence bill that prevents US government agencies from buying the company’s equipment and services, as well as working with third parties that are Huawei customers.

“The US Congress has repeatedly failed to produce any evidence to support its restrictions on Huawei products. We are compelled to take this legal action as a proper and last resort,” Huawei’s rotating chairman Guo Ping said in a statement. “If this law is set aside, as it should be,

Huawei can bring more advanced technologies to the United States and help it build the best 5G networks.” Guo said the company was seeking unspecified damages for what he called “unconstitutional” restrictions.

“The US government is sparing no effort to smear the company,” he said at a news conference at the company’s headquarters in the southern city of Shenzhen.

Guo even countered that the US government “has hacked our servers and stolen our emails and source code”, without providing details.

The United States says Huawei equipment could be manipulated by China’s Communist government to spy on other countries and disrupt critical communications.

Washington is urging governments to shun the company just as the world readies for the advent of ultra-fast 5G telecommunications, an ad-

vancement that Huawei was expected to lead and which will allow wide adoption of next-generation technologies like artificial intelligence.

Huawei has responded with an aggressive PR campaign to counter the US warnings, with reclusive founder Ren Zhengfei denying the claims in a series of foreign media interviews.

The charm offensive went into another gear Wednesday as Huawei welcomed news organisations on a tightly guarded tour of its massive production lines and research and development facilities in southern Guangdong province.

Huawei’s Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, Ren’s daughter, faces potential extradition from Canada to the United States over charges of Iran sanctions violations.

The US Justice Department accuses Huawei and Meng of circumventing US sanc-

tions against Iran. Two affiliates also have been charged with stealing trade secrets from telecommunications group T-Mobile.

Meng faces a May 8 hearing in Vancouver, where she was arrested while changing planes.

Two Canadians have been detained in China in suspected retaliation over her arrest.

Huawei is the world leader in telecoms networking equipment.

But its dominance has increasingly caused concern in Washington, which fears that Beijing could use security “backdoors” to gain access to networks for spying or other purposes.

These concerns have been fueled by Ren’s background -- he is a former Chinese army engineer -- and a law recently enacted by Beijing that obliges Chinese companies to aid the government on issues affecting national security.





MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Accelerating the pace of development through sincere efforts, Improving Rural India's quality of life



Rural India is witnessing remarkable transformation with the successful implementation of schemes under Ministry of Rural Development, such as black top roads, pucca houses, asset creation, programs for skilling youth for employment and livelihood options to women for financial independence.



99% Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries have received the payments directly into their accounts in the year 2018, as compared to 37% beneficiaries in the year 2014



Giving a new momentum to rural life, 91% of rural habitations have been connected with all weather pucca roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana



Housing for all by 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin, 1.07 Crore pucca houses constructed during the year 2014-18



In comparison to the year 2013-14, the amount sanctioned to Self Help Groups (SHGs) associated with National Rural Livelihoods Mission has doubled to Rs. 44,030 Crore in the year 2017-18. So far, 5.76 Crore rural women have been mobilized into 50.51 lakh SHGs



To give prominence to skilling in rural areas, 13.20 lakh youth have been registered through Kaushal Panjee. With 1217 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana skill development centres and 586 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes, rural youth are being skilled for wage/self-employment

Tarakki ki raah par...

