

SummitTIMES

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

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Section of SKM MLAs were in talks with BJP HQ discussing crossover in 2015, letter reveals

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 NOV:**

Seven Sikkim Krantikari Morcha MLAs, not all of those who eventually shifted to the SDF, had expressed their desire to join Bharatiya Janta Party back in 2015, a letter from the MLAs addressed to BJP nation-

al president, Amit Shah, reveals.

In the letter dated 10 Sept 2015, that was accessed by SummitTimes from a senior central BJP Sikkim functionary, seven SKM MLAs including KN Lepcha and Sonam Lama, expressed their willingness to join BJP without any conditions.

Other SKM MLAs who had signed the letter were Gopal Baraily, Pintso Chopel Lepcha, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, TW Basnett and Shyam Pradhan.

The letter accused the state government of corruption stating that, "Corruption in Sikkim involving the incumbent

Chief Minister, his present and past ministers and close associates has reached its nadir. Our sincere resolve to make Sikkim a corruption free state is in conformity to the campaign launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister."

However, it is learnt that BJP was keen on a

seat-sharing arrangement ahead of the municipal elections which the MLAs could not deliver. After SKM's poor show in the Municipal elections held in Oct the same year, the BJP headquarters went cold on the negotiations.

Soon after the negotiations with BJP failed,

seven SKM MLAs excluding KN Lepcha and Sonam Lama joined SDF in Nov 2015, it may be recalled.

SummitTimes tried to contact MLAs KN Lepcha and Sonam Lama for comments, but they could not be reached on phone.

CM reaches out to people through SMS

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 NOV:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today thanked members of the public who sent their phone numbers to him through his Facebook page. In a bid to reach out to the public, on 15 Nov the Chief Minister had asked people to send him their phone numbers on Facebook to receive 'personal SMSs' from him.

"I would like to inform you that you will be receiving personal SMSs from me. The sender will be VK-CMSKPC (CMSKPC is the abbreviation for CM Sikkim, Pawan Chamling). In fact, messages have al-

ready been sent on the occasion of Diwali and Children's Day," the CM wrote on his Facebook page.

In his message today, the CM writes, "The response has been tremendous; and I express my sincere regrets on not being able to thank you individually due to time constraints. Every number has been recorded and I look forward to keeping in touch with you. Please remember that each and every one of you is dear to me and close to my heart. My concern and support towards the well-being of every citizen is unwavering and constant. I am there for you at all times!"

Rape case filed against Alok Nath

MUMBAI, Nov 21 (PTI): A rape case was registered against actor Alok Nath by the Mumbai Police on a complaint filed by a writer-producer, who had accused him of raping her nearly two decades ago, police said Wednesday.

A First Information Report (FIR) was registered at the Oshiwara police station in suburban Andheri on Tuesday night, a senior police official said.

Nath has been booked under Indian Penal Code section 376 (rape), Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone IX, Paramjit Singh Dahiya, said.

The complainant, best known for a 90s TV show, had in a social media post last month alleged that the actor had raped her 19 years ago.

She had given an account of the alleged sexual assault in the post, soon after actor Tanushree Dutta's complaint of harassment against Nana Patekar sparked of what is known as India's #MeToo movement. Patekar denied the allegations.

In recent months, #MeToo has been gaining momentum in India with women calling out come-

turn to pg02

New Pabyuik Monastery ready for inauguration

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 21 NOV:**

The newly constructed Pabyuik Monastery in East Sikkim is all set to be inaugurated on 27 Nov. Established in 1715, the monastery, which is one of the oldest monasteries of the State, had been damaged during the 2011 earthquake.

The State Government had sanctioned funds for the construction of a new monastery at the same complex.

Speaking to media persons at the monastery premises on Tuesday, Monastery Management Committee president, Sonam Tenzing Lepcha, said, "We were very happy when the State Government sanctioned funds. The construction works had commenced in 2013. The monastery is now complete and is being inaugurated on 27 Nov by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling."

He further informed that the State Government had sanctioned Rs 1.5 crore for the construction of the new monastery.

The committee also mentioned that the total cost for complete construction of monastery



with inclusion of statues and other religious items came to Rs 2 crore. The extra funds required for the completion of the construction was contributed by the then Divi-

sional Engineer, Tenzing Lamtha [retired].

"Mr Lamtha has been very helpful for the successful completion of the project. He has retired but he is still working on

the project while providing extra funds when required. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to him," the committee expressed.

All the monks and devotees have also extended

gratitude to the Chief Minister and the State Government for sanctioning funds for the newly constructed monastery.

98 mn Indians may have diabetes by 2030: Lancet study

BOSTON, Nov 21 (PTI): Nearly 98 million people in India may have type 2 diabetes by 2030, according to a study unveiled Wednesday which found that the number of adults with the disease worldwide is expected rise by over a fifth.

The study, published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology journal, found that the amount of insulin needed to effectively treat type 2 diabetes will rise by more than 20 per cent worldwide over the next 12 years.

Without major improvements in access, insulin will be beyond the reach of around half of the 79 million adults with type 2 diabetes who will need it in 2030, said researchers from Stanford University in the US.

The findings are of particular concern for the

African, Asian, and Oceania regions which the study predicts will have the largest unmet insulin need in 2030 if access remains at current levels.

Results showed that worldwide, the number of adults with type 2 diabetes is expected rise by more than a fifth from 406 million in 2018 to 511 million in 2030.

Over half of them will be living in just three countries -- China (130 million), India (98 million), and the US (32 million), researchers said.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), India had 69.2 million people living with diabetes in 2015.

At the same time, global insulin use is projected to rise from 526 million 1000-unit vials in 2018 to 634 million in 2030, and will be highest in Asia

(322 million vials in 2030) and lowest in Oceania (4 million), they said.

The analysis underscores the importance of tackling barriers to the insulin market, particularly in Africa.

The researchers warn that strategies to make insulin more widely available and affordable will be critical to ensure that demand is met.

"These estimates suggest that current levels of insulin access are highly inadequate compared to projected need, particularly in Africa and Asia, and more efforts should be devoted to overcoming this looming health challenge," said Sanjay Basu from Stanford University, who led the research.

"Despite the UN's commitment to treat non-communicable diseases and ensure univer-

sal access to drugs for diabetes, across much of the world insulin is scarce and unnecessarily difficult for patients to access," said Basu.

"The number of adults with type 2 diabetes is expected to rise over the next 12 years due to ageing, urbanisation, and associated changes in diet and physical activity.

"Unless governments begin initiatives to make insulin available and affordable, then its use is always going to be far from optimal," he said.

Insulin is essential for all people with type 1 diabetes and some people with type 2 diabetes to reduce the risk of complications such as blindness, amputation, kidney failure, and stroke, researchers said.

As global rates of type

2 diabetes soar and people with type 2 diabetes live longer, a comprehensive picture of global insulin need is required because insulin treatment is costly, and the international insulin market is presently dominated by only three major manufacturers, they said.

Using data from the International Diabetes Federation and 14 cohort studies (representing more than 60 per cent of the world population with type 2 diabetes), researchers estimated the burden of type 2 diabetes in 221 countries and territories between 2018 and 2030.

They estimated the potential number of insulin users, amount of insulin required, and the burden of diabetes complications under varying levels of insulin access and treatment targets

(from 6.5 per cent to 8 per cent HbA1c, a measure of blood glucose), in adults aged 18 or older.

The researchers calculated that compared to current levels of insulin access, if universal global access was achieved, the number of people with type 2 diabetes worldwide using insulin in 2030 would double (from around 38 million to 79 million).

The estimates suggest that making insulin widely accessible would have the greatest impact in the African region -- increasing insulin use 7-fold from around 700,000 people with type 2 diabetes at current levels of access to over 5 million -- whilst universal access in Asia could more than double numbers of insulin users from 21 million to 48 million people.

Temi Tea Estate becomes Sikkim's first Food Safety Supervisor

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 NOV:**

Temi Tea Estate, South Sikkim conducted training for its staff and other food business stakeholders on Food Safety, Training and Certification [FoSTaC] under Food Safety Standard Act 2006 at Temi in South Sikkim today. With this, Temi Tea Estate becomes first in the State to qualify as Food Safety Supervisor.

A total of 40 candidates including representatives of various homestays, local restaur-

ants and food business operators from Temi, Tarku, Singtam and Bermiok participated in the programme.

The training had resource persons from leading food certification body under FSSAI, OneCert International Private Limited, Jaipur.

During the programme, the resource persons highlighted good hygiene & manufacturing practices, food safety management plan and seven principles of hazard analysis & critical control points.



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BJP holds meet to strengthen organizational structure



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

A meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party Sikkim, West district was held at its district office in Gyalshing today which was chaired by BJP State president, DB Chauhan.

A BJP press release informs that the meeting mainly discussed strengthening of the organisation structure in the State and to spread the party's vision amongst the general public.

The Sikkim Democratic Front government

claims development by distributing merely Rs 700 pressure cooker to people in last 25 years, the release states. The party stressed on educating the people on their financial, educational, social and political rights.

The meeting has also decided to officially inaugurate the district office of the party in West Sikkim soon. The party workers will be focusing on taking all 127 welfare schemes and programmes of the Central Government to the people in all constituencies.

Kabi Lungchok MLA hits back at SKM MLAs

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Kabi Lungchok MLA, Ugen Nedup Bhutia, today refuted allegations made by two sitting MLAs of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha during an SKM party meeting held at Phensong in North Sikkim on 18 Nov and said

that all the allegations were unfounded and without any substance.

The SKM MLAs, Kunga Nima Lepcha and Sonam Lama, while addressing the gathering at Phensong had accused the Kabi-Lungchok MLA of betraying the public and had termed him as a 'fraud'

who sold his conscience for money ['Rs 4 crore'].

It may be mentioned that the Kabi Lungchok MLA was elected on an SKM ticket and in 2015 switched to SDF.

While addressing party workers, SKM MLA, Mr Lepcha, had reportedly described the

Kabi- Lungchok MLA as a 'fraud candidate' who had damaged the image of SKM.

The Kabi-Lungchok MLA has demanded an apology from the two MLAs or substantiate their allegations with proof.

He has said that if they fail to apologise

publicly or prove their allegations, he will sue them in appropriate court of law for maligning his image.

"The Indian Constitution has guaranteed freedom of speech. However, being public representatives, they shouldn't have crossed their laxman

rekha," said Mr Bhutia.

He further added, "I have no ill-feelings for them or their party but they should not have crossed the limit. People know me. If I had cheated my people, they would not have voted for me."

Gyalshing ITI holds second convocation ceremony



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Gyalshing, West Sikkim organised its 2nd convocation programme at its premises today in the presence of Gyalshing Municipal Council Chairperson, IK Neopaney, as chief guest and District Collector, West, Dr AB Karki, as special guest, a press release informs.

Principal, ITI Gyalshing, TN Sharma, in his welcome address, pre-

sented the Annual Report of the institute.

The function featured cultural performances presented by students followed by Live Quiz competition for the trainees conducted by the DC West.

The institute also conferred social worker Rajen Kumar Chettri with the All Rounder Instructor Award. Budha Maya Subba received the Best Trainee of the Year Award while BL Nirola received the Best Employee Award.

Bru refugees to vote in Mizoram's Mamit district: Official

AIZAWL, Nov 21 (PTI): The Election Commission has decided to hold polling for Bru refugees in Mizoram's Mamit district, even as the leaders of the tribal community maintained that they fear for their safety in their home state.

The place of voting for 11,232 Bru voters, who are residing in neighbouring Tripura, has been a bone of contention, leading to the replacement of the then chief electoral officer, S B Shashank, less than two weeks ahead of the election to the 40-member House.

Shashank had been accused of facilitating voting by Bru voters in the relief camps of Tripura.

"We have been informed by the Election Commission that the polling for the Brus must be arranged at Kanmun village inside Mizoram territory. We have started our preparations for that," an official in the CEO office told PTI. Kanmun is an interstate border village between Mizoram and Tripura.

A written order to this effect is likely to be received by Mizoram CEO Ashish Kundra in a day or two, the official said. "In the last three years, there was no revision of electoral rolls. This time we did it. The Bru refugees are registered in nine Assembly seats and we'll place different voting machines accordingly at the special booth in the village," he said.

Kundra had on Tuesday visited Naisingpara -- the largest Bru camp in Tripura -- to meet the refugees and inform them about the EC's decision.

An election official, who accompanied the CEO to Tripura, said the Bru leaders claimed that the voter turnout from the community might be zero if the EC did not change its decision to hold polling in Kanmun.

"Kundra tried explaining to them that the decision was taken by the Election Commission, but the Bru refugees said they fear for their lives in Mizoram. They also cited various reasons, including bad-road condition, to justify their demand for polling-booth arrangement in the relief camps," he added.

Rape case filed against Alok Nath

Contd from pg01

dians, journalists, authors, actors and filmmakers.

The writer-producer had submitted a complaint against the actor at the police station on October 17.

Nath had refuted the allegations and filed a civil suit against the complainant in a court here. He had also sought Re 1 as damages for allegedly defaming him.

The actor's wife Ashu had also recorded her statement before a magistrate in connection with her complaint against the complainant and sought that defamation proceedings be initiated against the writer-producer.

She told the court that their (Nath and Ashu's) reputation has been damaged because of the allegations levelled by the writer.

The complainant had alleged that the actor had raped her 19 years ago.

Though she did not

name Nath in her social media post, she referred to him as the actor who is known as the "most Sanskari person" in the field of acting.

Nath is known for playing characters endorsing 'moral values' in films such as "Maine Pyaar Kiya", "Hum Aapke Hain Koun!", "Hum Saath Saath Hain" and "Vivah".

The Cine and TV Artists Association (CINTAA) had earlier this month expelled Alok Nath in view of the rape allegations against him.

The #MeToo movement, which began in Hollywood a year ago, has seen thousands sharing their stories of sexual harassment.

The movement has resulted in the fall of Bollywood stalwarts such as Patekar, Sajid Khan, Subhash Kapoor, Vikas Bahl, Subhash Ghai, Anu Malik and Rajat Kapoor.

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK

Ref. No. 17 / SSTRB/18

Dated: 20/11/2018

NOTICE

On the basis of the Written Examination held on 4th November 2018, the following candidates in order of Roll Nos. given below are declared qualified for the viva-voce (interview) for selection to the post of Post Graduate Teacher (Language) under Human Resource Development Department.

BHUTIA		LEPCHA		LIMBOO			
SL.NO	ROLL NO.	SL. NO	ROLL NO.	SL. NO	ROLL NO.	SL.NO	ROLL NO.
1	20210011	1	20210145	1	20210236	35	20210318
2	20210017	2	20210147	2	20210237	36	20210319
3	20210018	3	20210154	3	20210238	37	20210320
4	20210026	4	20210156	4	20210242	38	20210331
5	20210027	5	20210164	5	20210245	39	20210332
6	20210029	6	20210168	6	20210254	40	20210333
7	20210030	7	20210171	7	20210263		
8	20210033	8	20210176	8	20210264		
9	20210034	9	20210180	9	20210270		
10	20210039	10	20210181	10	20210272		
11	20210043	11	20210185	11	20210273		
12	20210045	12	20210186	12	20210276		
13	20210046	13	20210187	13	20210278		
14	20210047	14	20210190	14	20210282		
15	20210048	15	20210191	15	20210285		
16	20210049	16	20210195	16	20210287		
17	20210051	17	20210198	17	20210288		
18	20210059	18	20210199	18	20210290		
19	20210064	19	20210200	19	20210291		
20	20210068	20	20210201	20	20210293		
21	20210080	21	20210212	21	20210294		
22	20210089	22	20210214	22	20210295		
23	20210090	23	20210218	23	20210297		
24	20210092	24	20210220	24	20210298		
25	20210093	25	20210221	25	20210301		
26	20210095	26	20210223	26	20210302		
27	20210096	27	20210225	27	20210304		
28	20210097	28	20210226	28	20210306		
29	20210099	29	20210227	29	20210309		
30	20210100	30	20210339	30	20210310		
31	20210101			31	20210313		
32	20210102			32	20210314		
33	20210107			33	20210315		
34	20210112			34	20210317		

The selected candidates are requested to appear for the classroom demonstration and viva-voce (interview) on the following dates at the Conference Hall of SSTRB, Upper Syari, Gangtok.

28.11.2018 – Sl. No. 1 to 34, Bhutia Language
29.11.2018 – Sl. No. 1 to 30, Lepcha Language
30.11.2018 – Sl.No. 1 to 40, Limboo Language

Sd/-

(Mrs. Annapurna Alley, SCS)

R.O. No. 486/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 Secretary- cum-Controller of Examinations,
Date: 20.11.18 Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board



WATER SECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK - 737101

No: WS&PHED/1806/SEW/18-19/182 Dated: 21/11/2018

CORRIGENDUM FOR E-TENDER

Reference invitation for e-tender vide Memo No: WS&PHED/1806/SEW/18-19/02, dated: 20/11/2018 floated by Water Security & Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Sikkim for the work **"Setting of Sewerage collection and disposal system and construction of approach road to Sewerage Treatment Plant for Gangtok Town, Zone III, East Sikkim under National River Conservation Plan"**. It is to inform all the bidders that there has been change in the dates of e-tender, which is re-scheduled as follows:-

1. Last date for submission of bids online by the Bidders : 28/11/2018 1100 hours.
2. Date of opening of bids : 28/11/2018 1400 hours.
3. Declaration of result : 29/11/2018

Sd/-

Chief Engineer

Water Security & PHED

R.O. No. 491/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19

dt. 21.11.18



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM HEALTH CARE, HUMAN SERVICES & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT GANGTOK

HC, HS & FW Department is conducting walk-in-interview of twenty (20) post as per job vacancy Notice No 894/HC,HS & FW, published in Sikkim Express and SummitTimes dated 25/10/2018.

All applicants are requested to attend the walk-in-interview on the under mentioned dates along with the original documents.

Date for Walk-in-Interview

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Venue	Date & Time
1.	Receptionist	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	28.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
2.	Hospital Administrator	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
3.	Electrician	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
4	Plumber	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.
5	Carpenter	Conference Hall, Health Secretariat	29.11.2018/ 9:30 am onwards.

R.O. No. 490/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19

dt. 21.11.18.

Gangtok on Thursday, 22 Nov

Temp: 22°C/08°C
Forecast: Mostly sunny; pleasant with clear evening
Sunrise: 6:01 AM.
Sunrise: 05:44 AM
Sunset: 04:42 PM

West cops nab thief cook

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Gyalshing Police arrested one Arun Chhetri allegedly involved in a theft case.

The accused, who hails from Darjeeling, was employed as a cook for Keshav Chhetri in Yaksom, West Sikkim. He reportedly made away with Rs 11,67,150 from Mr Chhetri's resident.

After receiving a complaint, four teams were formed by Gyalshing Police. One team was sent to Darjeeling while other teams were deployed for extensive search in the area.

Today, the Police nabbed the accused from Gyalshing stand in a taxi vehicle bound for Siliguri along with the aforementioned amount.

The accused then accepted that due to heavy nakabandi and checking, he could not escape so he stayed in Pelling on 20 Nov and had planned to escape today.

Man found dead with bullet wound near Lava

SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 21 Nov:

The body of one Kamal Rai (55) was found about 5 kms away from Lava Block 2 today. The deceased was reportedly shot dead by a country made pistol last night. A bullet wound was found on his chest. The deceased is said to have been mentally disturbed for the past week and had gone to his field on Tuesday. When he did not return last night, his family went searching this morning and found his body in the field. The family and locals informed the police after which IC Kalimpong along with his team recovered the body and sent it for post mortem at Kalimpong Hospital. A case of unnatural death has been registered by Kalimpong Police.

RM&DD and Power Deptt register wins

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Rural Management & Development Department [RMDD] and Energy & Power Department have registered wins at the ongoing 6th Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium today. RMDD edged past BAC Khamdong 2-1 to secure full three points in its first match in the tournament.

Likewise, Land Revenue Department went down to Energy & Power Department 0-2 in its first match of the tournament. Energy & Power Department has also secured full three points from its first victory.



Transport Department will take on Human Resource Development De-

partment in its first league match on 22 Nov while another match will be played

between Roads & Bridges Department and Finance Department.

First Level Checking of EVMs & VVPATs for North district concludes

MANGAN, 21 Nov [IPR]: First Level Checking [FLC] of Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails [VVPATs] in North district concluded today at Zilla Bhawan in Mangan, North Sikkim. The FLC of the EVMs and VVPATs was done under the supervision of District Collector; North, Karma R Bonpo, who is also the District Election Officer, in the presence of representatives of various political parties.

A total of 159 EVMs and 156 VVPATs were checked by the engineers from Bharat Electronics Limited [BEL] wherein one Ballot Units, three Control Units and eight VVPATs were found defective. The defective EVMs and VVPATs will be sent to the company in Bangalore for repairs. The team of District



Election Officer led by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Mangan, PW Lepcha, conducted mock poll in 5% of the machines in the presence of political

parties. The representatives of the political parties expressed satisfaction over the mock poll.

The FLC certified EVMs and VVPATs are

stored in the strong room and will be under round-the-clock supervision of Police Department.

Training of Trainers held on Community Action & Health

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

National Health Mission [NHM] under Department of Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare, Government of Sikkim organized a two-day workshop-cum-Training of Trainers [ToT] on 19-20 Nov here in Gangtok, a press release informs.

The training was conducted for monitoring by Rogi Kalyan Samiti [RKS] and Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committees [VHSNC] and also to strengthen community action for health and its wider determinants [water, sanitation and nutrition].

The workshop was attended by district officials, development partners and selected RKS members from all the four districts of the State.

Additional Director cum Nodal Officer, NHM, Dr ML Lepcha, who is also in-charge of Community Process in the State, chaired the workshop with Programme Managers from Secretariat of Advisory Group of Community Action [AGCA], New Delhi, Sanjoy Samaddar & Seema Upadhyaya, as resource persons.

The participants were introduced to a mobile based community monitoring tool and a facility assessment tool for the purpose of mon-

itoring and formulating annual action plan to improve health indicators.

On the second day of the workshop, the participants field-tested the tool with hospital staffs, PRI members, RKS members, VHSNC members, Anganwadi workers and ASHAs at Pakyong Primary Health Centre and Changey Primary Health Sub Center in East Sikkim.

The State training will be followed up with District level ToT and these trained staff will then train the VHSNC and RKS members to enhance community participation to improve indicators of health and its wider determinants in the State, the release adds.

Skill Training for rural youth on farm machineries concludes



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 Nov:

Six-day training programme on Skill Training of Rural Youth [STRY] on 'Repair and Maintenance of Farm Equipments' concluded today at State Agriculture Management & Training Agency [SAMETI] hall in Gangtok, East Sikkim, a press release informs.

In order to empower the educated unemployed youth in maintenance and repairing of farm equipments, this training programme was organized by Agriculture Technology Management Agency [ATMA-East] in association with SAME-TI under Food Security & Agriculture Development Department and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management [MANAGE, Hyderabad], Government of India from 16-21 Nov.

Fifteen educated unemployed youths from Gangtok Block had participated in the training programme with Depu-

ty Project Director, ATMA-East, Rachna Gurung, as Course Director and Block Technology Manager, Gangtok, Pratima Shilal, as Course Coordinator accompanied by Divisional Engineers, FS&ADD, Reep Lepcha & Passang Tamang, as resource persons.

The valedictory function was attended by Adhakshya, East, SS Rai, as chief guest and Executive Engineer, FS&ADD, Passang Sherpa, as special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, DPD, ATMA-East, Ms Gurung, mentioned that a detailed report on the impact of the training will be made after six months and the same will be provided to the concerned departments as well.

Executive Engineer, FS&ADD, Passang Tamang, while addressing the gathering, informed that similar training programme will be organized by the Engineering Cell of the department in Kolkata and College of Agri-

culture Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology [CAEPHT], Ranipool for the interested farmers in the near future.

Joint Director, Agriculture, Bina Kumari Rai, congratulated the trainees for successfully completing the training. She informed about similar training programmes being conducted by ATMA-East on Bee Keeping.

Adhakshya, East, Mr Rai, urged the participants to be role models and share the knowledge and information gained during the training with fellow farmers of other districts as well.

Encouraging the youth, he shed light on several programmes under Chief Minister's Start Up Scheme and expressed happiness over one of the participants opening a workshop for farm machineries.

The programme concluded with distribution of certificates to the participants by the chief guest.

SummitTIMES

BE TOP OF THE NEWS

informed, inquisitive, relevant

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SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Caught in Quotas

Inspire ambitions for bigger, not nooks and corners

It is never out of season to talk about the near obsessive ambition of communities across the board to get included in some reserved category or the other. We have, in our country, quite a wide range of categories to choose from – there is the ST list, the SC recognition, the OBC, now even MBC, Bihar introduced us to the EBC grouping as well – and one can rest assured that more such segregations will be dreamed up in the coming years. Communities vie to fit in somewhere, speculate to move across to reservation-enjoying groups and seek out more quotas in newer avenues.

Why these categorizations and why this keenness for reservations?

Given the history that India emerged from in 1947, where caste alienation was extreme and jan-jatis genuinely underprivileged, a policy was required to overcome this legacy of injustice and to provide all in this country with a broad measure of equal opportunities. Since equal opportunities would not have been willingly granted and communities with centuries of oppression behind them could not be expected to benefit from an equal footing standpoint, reservations were eked out. Over the years, reservations were extended to include more communities and even women. The idea was to provide these communities/ genders with the first stepping stone to equality – access. Access to education, to jobs, to positions of power and wider exposure. This target has been met relatively well and as far as access is concerned, a wide swathe has been covered. That said, new elites have emerged within the reserved groups, from those who benefitted first from the ‘quota’ and thus became the more privileged among the disadvantaged. The obvious next step would have been to pull communities which have benefited “enough” out of the reserved categories and make space for those which still lag behind. If not that, at least consider extending the creamy layer segregation to reserved categories which currently have no such differentiation.

This, obviously, is easier said than done. For one, there is no easily quantifiable way to decide when a community has developed enough to make it on its own steam sans reservation, and for the other, there is the vote-bank politics in which saner decisions in genuine public good would be political hara-kiri. So, the nation is left with an ever overflowing bouquet of reserved sections and shrinking opportunities.

This is where the whole policy has failed. Instead of making people competitive with improved access, it has made them lazier with increased quotas. Little wonder then that more and more communities want to fit into some reserved category or the other. In fact, in the present times, when jobs are rare and competition even for education is tough, it would be foolish of community leaders not to work for a quota for their people. And so the demands keep pouring in. This is not to belittle the aspirations of any community to find a new grouping for itself, but just a suggestion that maybe it is time the country and Sikkim paused to re-read the principles why reservations and special categories were first created, whether its expressed aims are being met, and also whether the people who genuinely require reservations are receiving it or not.

WRITE US:

Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: news@summittimes.com

NEVE GORDON & NICOLA PERUGINI
theconversation.com

The “migrant caravan” is making its way towards the US border – and is facing countless obstacles and much opposition along the way. Most recently, protests erupted when a large group of the migrants reached the Mexican border town of Tijuana. Unsurprisingly, Donald Trump was quick to join the clamour, accusing them of causing “crime and big problems in Mexico”.

The men, women and children in the caravan are travelling as a large group because in the past individuals and small groups who have fled central America to escape political violence or to find a better livelihood have been kidnapped by traffickers and drug gangs. Travelling en masse offers them a degree of protection.

US president Donald Trump has long lambasted the migrants. He first characterised them as “invaders”, who sheltered among their ranks “unknown Middle Easterners”. Later, Trump admitted that this thinly veiled attempt to portray the migrants as terrorists was not based on any “proof” but nevertheless went on to calm the public by declaring that the US military would be waiting for the caravan at the Mexican border. Initially announcing that he would send as many as 5,200 troops, he later upped this number to a possible 15,000 soldiers.

US secretary of state, Michael Pompeo, joined the bandwagon, warning the American people that the migrants are “putting women and children in front of this caravan to use as shields as they make their way through”.

As if to add credibility to this claim, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) then released a factsheet stating that among the marchers are hundreds of individuals who “have criminal histories”, and adding that, in Central America, they have put “women and children to the front to act as human shields as the caravan pushes against [the Guatemalan] military forces”.

AN OLD STORY

Interestingly, the president, secretary of state, and DHS did not pluck these allegations out of thin air. They are simply repeating claims made in a 2014 report published by the US right-wing Tea Party organisation.

The report described the movement of migrants as an “offensive whereby the southern borders of America are being swarmed”, adding: “This offensive is an invasion, not led by troops, but by divisions of mothers, children and young adults marching north from Central America and Mexico”. It went on:

“Civilian women and children are directly marched into the target nation so that permanent settlement locations may be secured for more advancing insurgents. In effect, the civilians become political human shields for the insurgents coming in behind them, which are part of a much larger (and more dangerous) offensive.”

JULIA SLOTH-NIELSEN
theconversation.com

Millions of children throughout Africa don't have access to justice that's needed to realise their rights.

Simply put, they don't receive the treatment they deserve as victims, witnesses, children with welfare needs, children in conflict with the law, the subject of parental disputes about care, contact and maintenance, and as potential claimants for redress when their rights have been violated.

There are several reasons for this. For instance, African justice systems are often hard to reach; courts are usually situated in large towns. Another barrier is that in most countries children cannot approach a court in their own right.

On the continent, only South Africa has a widespread legal aid system that's available and accessible to children.

We know what child-friendly justice looks like. Its key elements were identified at a conference in Kampala, Uganda in 2011. The conference led to the formulation of Guidelines on Action for Children in Justice Systems in Africa.

But one important area has been largely overlooked: the role that informal justice systems can play in realising justice for children. People often choose these informal and largely traditional systems over more formal processes. That's because they don't trust the formal justice system, struggle to access it, cannot afford the travel costs to get to court and find the long delays in adjudication off-putting.

A recent study that I was involved in set out to understand how much

children interact with informal justice systems in selected African countries. Our findings were instructive.

It appears that when children are drawn into their countries' informal justice systems, their human rights are often threatened.

That's not to say informal justice mechanisms must be entirely abandoned. They play an important role in communities, often focusing on restorative justice and taking a conciliatory approach which serves to rebuild relationships and secure peace in communities. They are also close to the communities they serve, and familiar with local issues.

The answer to these human rights concerns is to strengthen communities' capacity to access and navigate the formal justice system. Only then will formal court structures become the preferred option for seeking justice.

WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

We know that informal justice systems are working in several countries, as shown by case studies undertaken in Egypt, Sierra Leone and Tanzania as part of the broader research report.

But there are issues with these traditional, informal settings. For instance, gender power imbalances may be reinforced so that girls in particular get a raw deal.

As an example, sexual offences may be dealt with through mediation between a young victim's family and that of their abuser. This does not secure any justice for the violated child.

Children will not enjoy legal representation or the right to an appeal. Their voices may be muted, as others speak for them (such as elders). This denies their right to participate in pro-

ceedings affecting them.

It's not entirely negative, though. One particular advantage of informal justice outlined in the study is that it does not resort to deprivation of children's liberty through detention or incarceration. In this way it upholds the injunction in the Convention on the Rights of the Child that deprivation of liberty be used as a last resort. Instead, sanctions include reparations, restitution and fines.

SOME POSITIVE STEPS

It would be incorrect to tar all African countries with the same brush when it comes to child justice. Many have made noteworthy advances. Many, among them Malawi and Mauritania, have launched specialised children's courts.

Specialised police units dedicated to dealing with offences against children have also been set up in places like Zanzibar and Namibia. These ensure that dedicated services (including forensic services) are on hand, and that the child victim's inevitable trauma is reduced. Another promising practice is the introduction of child rights focused modules in police training programmes, as seen in Namibia and Zambia.

These are positive steps in the right direction. But more work is needed. For instance, specialised children's courts tend only to be located in capital cities and a few big towns. They are not readily accessible by the majority.

And, although specialised courts ought to be staffed by specialised personnel, this is not always the case. The support of social workers is also vital, but social workers are in short supply in most African countries. Those

Migrant caravan: Branding migrants ‘human shields’ has a deadly motive



The use of military vocabulary – “invasion”, “divisions”, “insurgency”, “offensive” and “human shields” – to describe such migrants is, of course, calculated. It aims to prepare the ground for the way they will be treated once they reach the US border.

Consider the expression “human shields”. According to international law, human shields are civilians or prisoners of war whose bodies are deployed to illegally protect a legitimate military target. Whether they do so voluntarily or are forced to do so, the law states that they cannot “render an area immune from attack”.

Consequently, voluntary shields who die during an attack are responsible for their own deaths because they put themselves in harm's way. Similarly, when involuntary shields die, those deploying them rather than those killing them are to blame. In armed conflicts, when civilians are used as shields by state militaries, they lose or risk losing the protections bestowed on them by international law.

LEGITIMATE TARGETS

By using such language, Pompeo and the DHS potentially achieve two things. First, they cast the migrant caravan as an enemy that is willing to deploy human shields – a legitimate target for military action rather than a group of innocent and vulnerable individuals. Second, they suggest that if these migrant “human shields” die, it is those who use them as shields – rather than the US authorities – who must be held responsible.

Pompeo and the DHS are not alone in their attempts to frame migrants as legitimate military targets. Hungary and the Czech Republic have also

categorised migrant children as “human shields”, claiming that their parents are using them to facilitate their efforts to enter Europe.

Significantly, the use of “human shields” is also something that is projected almost exclusively on to non-white migrants, another attempt to portray them as “barbaric” people who fail to understand and respect the civilised norms of international law.

Much like the rebels in Syria, Houthis in Yemen, and Palestinian protestors in Gaza, migrants are now widely depicted as deliberately violating the distinction between combatant and non-combatant, purportedly shielding themselves behind “women and children” in order to gain an advantage against state militaries. Consequently, such migrants are depicted as perpetrators of a war crime – even though they are not waging an armed struggle and, in many cases, are simply trying to escape one.

And so by attempting to make a better life for themselves, migrants are transformed into military targets, people who can be legitimately injured or killed. As the migrant caravan works its way north, and is further demonised for doing so, the world should reflect on this and how one of the pillars of international law – the category of civilian – is being eroded.

[Neve Gordon is Professor of International Law, Queen Mary University of London; Nicola Perugini is Lecturer in International Relations, University of Edinburgh]

Children in Africa struggle to get justice. Here's how to improve their access

who are in the system tend to be over-worked and under-trained.

The jury is out on whether informal justice systems have a role to play here. Some see informal justice as entrenching human rights violations but a necessary player – for now. Others view informal justice more benignly and can tolerate its coexistence with formal systems. My view is that while informal systems have a role, access to formal justice should be improved.

WAY FORWARD

This can be done in several ways.

Children need adequate information about their rights and role in justice processes. This can happen in a variety of ways and formats, including at school. Another important step is to constantly train justice and police officials, probation officers and social workers about children's developmental and other needs.

Judicial proceedings, where these are necessary, should be adapted to enable children's meaningful participation. Children should also be informed of the outcome of justice processes, and what implications a ruling or decision might have.

Children's rights are generally not embedded in African countries' justice systems. Our recent study highlights the need for services that are truly child sensitive to be progressively augmented, and for laws and institutions that are meant to protect children's rights to be properly resourced.

[Professor, Department of Public Law and Jurisprudence, University of the Western Cape and Professor of Children's Rights in the Developing World, University of Leiden, University of the Western Cape]

Truck set on fire, driver run over during Assam bandh

Kokrajhar, Nov 21 (PTI): A flour-laden truck from Uttar Pradesh was set on fire by unidentified miscreants in Assam’s Kokrajhar district and its driver knocked down by a passing vehicle as he attempted to flee, a police officer said.

The truck, which was on its way to Tezpur in Sonitpur district, was burned down on Tuesday night on NH-31 in Narabari area of Kokrajhar during the observation of a 48-hour bandh in the state, he said.

Police suspect the miscreants were supporters of the bandh, called by members of Rajbonshi community to protest the Centre’s reported move to grant Union Territorial Council status to Bodoland Territorial Area Districts, he stated.

The deceased driver has been identified as Saddam Hussain - a 25-year-old resident of Kazuba Kemri village in Uttar Pradesh’s Rampur district.

Three other persons, accompanying Hussein, were also beaten up by the miscreants, the police officer said.

The injured, who hail from the same village as that of the deceased driver, are currently undergoing treatment at RNB Civil Hospital in Kokrajhar, he said, adding that ten persons have been picked up in connection with the incident.

Ahead of border talks, China says differences with India ‘managed properly’ through dialogue

KJM VARMA BEIJING, Nov 21 (PTI): China on Wednesday presented an upbeat picture of Sino-India ties ahead of this week’s border talks, saying the relations maintained “sound momentum” as the two countries “properly managed” differences through dialogue and consultations.

The 21st round of India-China border talks between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will be held at the picturesque Dujiangyan near southwest China’s Chengdu city from November 23 to 24.

Announcing the talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Geng Shuang said: “under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, China-India relations have maintained sound momentum of growth”.

“With ever-deepening cooperation in all areas, the two sides have maintained close communication and coordination in all border related affairs.

“We have properly managed the differences through dialogue and consultation. The border areas on the whole maintained stability,” he said, answering a question on how China viewed the progress made during the 20th rounds of talks.

Both Doval and Wang are designated Special Representatives for the

border talks.

This will be the first round of talks for Wang who earlier this year succeeded State Councillor Yang Jiechi in a reshuffle.

Special Representatives’ talks are regarded as highly significant by both the countries as they cover all aspects of bilateral relations besides making efforts to resolve the border dispute.

The India-China border dispute covered the 3,488-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC). China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of its southern Tibet.

Officials maintain that this round of talks may focus more on reviewing the progress of dialogue being held on trade and mainte-

nance of peace at borders than movement towards solution to the dispute as India headed for general elections early next year.

Elaborating further on China’s view on the border talks, Geng said the two sides attached great importance to it.

“The two special representatives will have in-depth exchange of view on border related issues. They will follow the guidance of the consensus reached by the two leaders bearing in mind the general picture of the bilateral ties and benefits of the two peoples on the basis of the outcomes that have been achieved to actively promote the negotiations.

“At the same time, we

properly manage differences, peace and tranquillity at the border areas. The two sides will also exchange views on major issue of bilateral ties and the regional and international issue of mutual interest,” he said.

Officials on both sides maintain that though a solution to the border dispute still eludes the two countries, a lot of headway has been made in the 20 rounds of talks in terms of working out mechanisms to restore peace and tranquillity along the border to resolve tensions out of the aggressive patrolling by troops.

The last round which was held in New Delhi between Doval and Yang took place in the immediate backdrop of 73-day

standoff between the two militaries at Doklam over Chinese military’s plan to build a road close to India’s strategic Chicken Neck corridor connecting the northeastern states.

It ended after the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) halted the plans to build the road.

The Doval-Yang meeting in New Delhi in December last year also prepared the ground for the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Wuhan in April, which resulted in not only normalisation of relations but gave a new fillip to the improvement of relations in all spheres of the relations notwithstanding the

border dispute.

Since then, both the countries have held several rounds of talks to enhance India’s exports rice, sugar as well as pharmaceuticals to China to reduce the USD 51 billion trade deficit as well as improving military-to-military relations.

Ahead of the border talks, top defence officials of India and China held the 9th India-China Annual Defence and Security Dialogue here on November 13 after a one year gap due to the Doklam standoff.

At the talks, both the sides agreed on enhancing defence exchanges and interactions at different levels between the two militaries.

BJP releases its Assam rural poll manifesto

Guwahati, Nov 21 (PTI): The BJP on Wednesday released its manifesto for the coming rural polls in Assam promising development schemes to the rural people.

The manifest was released in the presence of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and state party president Ranjeet Dass.

Sonowal told the meeting the manifesto was aimed to uplift every family living in Assam’s villages, tea gardens, char (riverine) and panchayat areas is economically uplifted, live with dignity and be benefited by the various government development schemes for their welfare.

“For people to get

these benefits we want to strengthen the panchayati raj system riding it of corruption so that it can work in the interest of the people of the state”, Sonowal said.

“Not allowing corruption in the Panchayati Raj System is our main aim so that Assam can develop to be one of the front ranking states of India”,

Sonowal said.

The panchayat polls were scheduled to be held in two phases on December 5 and 9 in 26 districts and 14 civil sub-divisions at 23,505 polling stations.

Counting of votes will be taken up on December 12, according to the election schedule.

Train hits elephant, derails

Guwahati, Nov 21 (PTI): An elephant died between Titabar and Mariani stations early Wednesday after being hit by an express train, which derailed after the incident, Railways official said.

There were no casualties among the passengers and senior officials of the Tinsukia division of Northeast Frontier


Railways rushed to spot with a relief train, NEF Railways chief public relations officer Pranav Jyoti Sharma said.

The incident took place at 4.50 am between Titabar and Mariani stations and the front luggage cum parcel van of the 15603 Guwahati-Ledo Intercity Express got derailed.

Traffic on the section

was ultimately restored at 7.45 am and the stranded train left the site at 8.06 am after the coach was re-railed, he added.

“While prima facie inquiry has found that the train was within its stipulated speed, a departmental inquiry has been ordered to find out details about adherence to protocols,” Sharma said.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Memo No...../MSD R&B/2018-19

Date....._

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, the Assistant Engineer (Mangan), Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 556/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 28/08/2018, & 515/R&B/PWD/Secy dated 12/06/2018, for the construction of Fair Weather road through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Ward Panchayat / Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as follows: (Dzongu Constituency)

SL. NO	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT PUT TO TENDER (in Rs)	EARNEST MONEY @ 2.50% (in Rs)	COST OF TENDER	COMPLETION TIME
1	Construction of road from Barfok School to Barfok Gumpa , Lingdong Barfok GPU Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
2	Construction of road from Barfok School to Barfok Gumpa, Lingdong Barfok GPU Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
3	Construction of road from DSM road to Bringbong , Hee Gyathang GPU Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
4	Construction of road from DSM road to Bringbong , Hee Gyathang GPU Km 1.00 to Km 2.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
5	Construction of road from CWC to Leek Village , Passingdong Saffo GPU , Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
6	Construction of road from CWC to Leek Village , Passingdong Saffo GPU , Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
7	Construction of road from CWC to Leek Village , Passingdong Saffo GPU , Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
8	Construction of road from CWC to Leek Village , Passingdong Saffo GPU , Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months
9	Construction of road from CWC to Leek Village , Passingdong Saffo GPU , Km 0.00 to Km 1.00	4238496.00	1,05,962.00	1,500.00	09 months

TIME SCHEDULE:

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Document (excluding Tender Form) from the Office of the Assistant Engineer, Mangan Sub-Division, Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan, North Sikkim.	26 Nov 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
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2	Date of issue of Tender form on submission of TDR (as Earnest money) from the office of the Assistant Engineer, Mangan Sub-Division, Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan, North Sikkim.	27 Nov 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
3	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender in the village Administrative Centre of respective Gram Panchayat Unit.	
a	For works from SI. No.01 to SI. No.02	1 st Dec 2018 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
b	For works from SI.No.03 to SI. No.04	2 nd Dec 2018 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
c	For works from SI.No.05 to SI. No.09	3 rd Dec 2018 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
4	Date and time for Opening of Tender in the village Administrative Centre of the Respective Gram Panchayat Unit.	
a	For works from SI.No.01 to SI.No.02	1 st Dec 2018 (2.00pm)
b	For works from SI.No.03 to SI.No.04	2 nd Dec 2018 (2.00pm)
c	For works from SI.No.05 to SI. No.09	3 rd Dec 2018 (2.00pm)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

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

2. The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDERER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.

3. The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) latest No objection Certificate/tax Clearance Certificate from Commercial Taxes Division, FRED, b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate and Professional Tax Clearance Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.

4. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in (as above from the office of the Assistant Engineer (mangan) , Roads & Bridges Department, Mangan , North Sikkim on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the revenue head of the respective GPUs where the work is to be executed.

5. Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Account Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan , Gangtok, Tender Form shall be issued only on production of Temporary Deposit Receipts of 2.50% earnest money.

6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with he name of the tenders and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at SI. No: 3 (a), 3 (b) and 3 (c) above should be enclosed with the offer.

7. Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the Gram Prasad Kendra of the respective GPUs where the work is to be executed on the date and within the time indicated above.

8. Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.

9. The Tenderers should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of Value Added Tax and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

10. 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 Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

11. The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.

12. The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.

14. The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issue of Work Order.

15. All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to 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 @ 5.00% of the value of work done.

16. The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigned any reason thereof.

17. The contractors are also required to submit Xerox copies of PAN card.

18. The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce 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 on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

19. Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

20. 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.

21. In case the man power employed by the contractor are from outside the State or neighboring countries ,it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department,Government of Sikkim as per the relevant labour Laws.

22. Useof explosive shall be regulated as under:
(a) Transportation ,Handling ,storage and use of Explosives (if necessary)shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines,Circulars issued by the department and other competent authoritieson the subject from time to time.

(b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation ,storage;handling and use of explosive shall be maintained by the contractor.

23. The contractor shall also make arrangement to havephotographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e.beginning ,middle and completion stages.

24. Damages of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost.The contractor shall be held responsiblefor any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.

25. It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid.there may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.

26. The cost of stock materials and bridge parts supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.

27. The bidders shall produce a certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/-
Assistant Engineer
Roads & Bridges
Department
Mangan Sub-Division

R.O. No. 488/IPR/PUB/Class/18-19

dt. 21.11.18

Saina, Kashyap win; Pranaav-Sikki lose in Syed Modi tournament

LUCKNOW, Nov 21 (PTI): Defending champions Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy crashed out in the mixed doubles opening round but Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap notched up easy wins to make a positive start at the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300 here on Wednesday.

Top seeds Pranaav and Sikki lost 14-21 11-21 to China's Ren Xiangyu and Zhou Chaomin in just 31 minutes.

Second seeded Saina, who had won the Lucknow tournament thrice in the past, thrashed Mauritius' Kate Foo Kune 21-10 21-10 in the women's singles, while former Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap disposed of Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-14 21-12 in a one-sided men's singles match.

London Olympics bronze medalist Saina will face compatriot Amolika Singh Sisodiya next, while Kashyap will meet Indonesia's Firman Abdul Kholik.

Former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth also crossed the men's singles opening hurdle, beating Russia's Sergey Sirant 21-12 21-10. He will square off against Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia.

Subhankar Dey, who had claimed his maiden title at SaarLorLux Open, beat Sweden's Felix Burstedt 21-15 21-13 to set up a clash with Lu Guangzu of China.

Former national champion Rituparna Das, seeded eighth, saw off Russia's Natalia Perminova 21-19 18-21 21-10 and will face compatriot Shruti Mundada in the women's singles.

Satwiksairaj Rankiredy and Ashwini Ponnappa, seeded sixth, also notched up a 21-10 21-10 win over compatriots Krishna Prasad Garaga and Rutaparna Panda in the mixed doubles opening round.

Among others, Prashi Joshi, Sali Rane, Riya Mookerjee, Pardeshi Shreyanshi, Reshma Karthik and Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka also made it to the women's singles second round.

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NORTH SOUND (ANTI-GUA), Nov 21 (PTI): India will be looking to erase the memories of a heart-breaking World Cup final defeat last year when they take on England in the semi-finals of the ICC Women's World T20 on Friday morning (IST).

England beat India by nine runs in an exciting final of the 50-over global meet, a tournament that ushered a new era for women's cricket in India.

To their credit, the 'Women in Blue' have been able to build on that momentum and a fantastic run in the ongoing World T20 is a testimony to that.

India beat two formidable teams in their group -- the 'White Ferns' from New Zealand by 34 runs and the 'Southern Stars' from Australia by 48 runs -- maintaining an all-win record at the league stage.

However, England, the reigning ODI world champions, are a quality side in the shortest format and the scars of the summit clash loss at Lord's can play on the minds of Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur, the two pillars of the women's side.

Skipper Harman-



preet's performance will be key to India's success as she is known to rise to the occasion. The Moga-born cricketer can be safely termed as someone who is a 'big match' player.

Even in the current World T20, she has performed in two group league matches -- a match-winning century against New Zealand and a quick-fire 43 against Australia --, which proved

to be decisive in the final context of the game.

She is currently leading the tournament run-chart with 167 runs from four games at a strike rate of 177 plus. Smriti Mandhana, with 144 runs, is fourth on the list.

Against England, India will have their senior-most player Mithali Raj back in the side after being rested for the final group game against Aus-

tralia as she was nursing a niggle suffered while fielding against Ireland. She will come back in place of spinner Anuja Patil.

Under new coach Ramesh Powar, India's strategy of playing a single pacer has worked wonderfully as their spinners have done well throughout the group league stages.

Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav (8 wickets) and

left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (7 wickets) have been consistent throughout the tournament.

Off-spinners Deepti Sharma (4 wickets) and Dayalan Hemlatha (5 wickets) have also kept things tight.

Indian seamers Arundhati Reddy (10 overs) and Mansi Joshi (3 overs) have only bowled 13 overs across the four league games.

However, India played all their group league matches at the same venue -- Providence in Guyana -- and will now play a day/night game at a different venue.

For England, the focus will be more on their seam attack, comprising Anya Shrubsole (7 wickets) and Natalie Sciver (4 wickets). They have been very economical and have kept Bangladesh and South Af-

rica under 100 runs.

However, Dani Wyatt (28 in 3 games) and skipper Heather Knight (31 in three games) haven't yet been tested save the game against West Indies, where England managed only 115 for 8 batting first and subsequently lost the match by four wickets.

The highest individual aggregate in this tournament is 50 from three games by Amy Jones but the semi-final will be the real test for the two teams.

TEAMS

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Mithali Raj, Deepti Sharma, Dayalan Hemlatha, Veda Krishnamurthy, Arundhati Reddy, Radha Yadav, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Mansi Joshi, Devika Vaidya, Anuja Patil.

England: Heather Knight (captain), Tammy Beaumont, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Tash Farran, Kirstie Gordon, Jenny Gunn, Danielle Hazell, Amy Jones, Natalie Sciver, Anya Shrubsole, Linsey Smith, Fran Wilson, Lauren Winfield, Danielle Wyatt.

Match Starts: 5:30 am (IST) on Friday.

India start Australia tour with four-run loss in first T20

CHETAN NARULA

BRISBANE, Nov 21 (PTI): A sloppy India failed to get an ideal start to the Australia tour, losing the rain-hit opening T20 International by four runs at the Gabba here Wednesday.

India first faltered in the field, letting Australia score 158 for four after rain shortened the contest to 17 overs a side. Glenn Maxwell was the star batsman for Australia, hammering 46 runs off 24 balls.

The 45 minute rain stoppage meant India were set a revised target of 174 runs in 17 overs.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls in the run chase before Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end but India still finished agonisingly short on 169 for seven.

It was a morale boosting win for Australia, who have endured a dismal run of late in limited overs cricket.

The second match of



the three-match series will be played in Melbourne on Friday.

Dhawan got India off to a quick start, putting on 35 off 25 balls for the opening stand with Rohit Sharma (7).

The latter was caught at long on off Jason Behrendorff (1-43) in a bid to accelerate his strike-rate. In keeping with the strategy used during the T20I series in England, KL Rahul (13) came out to bat at number three.

Dhawan and Rahul put on 46 runs for the second wicket, but it was mostly down to the left-hander's belligerence. He hit ten fours and two sixes overall, and reached his ninth T20I half-century off only 28 balls.

Rahul though was patchy at best and struggled for timing. He was stumped off Adam Zampa (2-22) in the ninth over, with the leg spinner also accounting for skipper Virat Kohli (4) who never

really got going coming down at number four.

Zampa should have had a third wicket but he dropped a return chance from Dhawan (on 65). The batsman enjoyed another life at 74, when substitute Nathan Coulter-Nile put him down at square leg off Billy Stanlake (1-27).

The asking rate was climbing up and it took a toll on Dhawan, who finally holed out of Stanlake, leaving Rishabh

Pant (20 off 15 balls) and Karthik with a mountain to climb.

They nearly achieved the impossible, putting on 51 off a mere 24 balls, toying around with the Australian bowling. But what is becoming increasingly frustrating with Pant, he played yet another loose and unnecessary stroke, throwing his wicket away.

It left Karthik to finish off things, but he found the going tough without enough support from the other end. With 13 needed off 6 balls, Krunal Pandya (2) and Karthik holed out off consecutive deliveries off Marcus Stoinis (2-27).

This was after Maxwell hit four sixes in a whirlwind knock before rain came, after Chris Lynn scored 37 runs off 20 balls to help Australia recover from a slow start.

India had won the toss and opted to bowl on a surprisingly green wicket. Kuldeep Yadav was picked ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal as expect-

ed, while the hosts also included a spinner in Adam Zampa and left out medium pacer Coulter-Nile.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0-15) and Jasprit Bumrah (1-21) got India off to a good start but Aaron Finch (27) pulled things back a bit. Khaleel Ahmed (1-42) got the initial breakthrough as D'Arcy Short (7) was caught at long on. The left-arm pacer proved expensive thereafter.

Kuldeep took a sensational catch running back to dismiss Short, and from there onwards, he had a marked influence on the game.

Later he also picked up 2-24 in his four-over spell. He dismissed Finch and then sent back Lynn as well, thus reducing Australia to 75-3 in the 11th over.

Apart from Yadav's stunning effort, India were rather poor in the field. Skipper Kohli had dropped Finch in the fourth over, a straight chance spilled at cover, and then miss fielded lat-

er on as well.

Ahmed too dropped Stoinis (33 not out off 19 balls) late in the Australian innings, while Maxwell should have been run-out.

Finch took advantage of the reprieve and put on 40 runs off 26 balls with Lynn for the second wicket.

But it was Maxwell who stole the show with his belligerent hitting as Australia crossed 150 in the 16th over. He put on 78 runs off 37 balls with Stoinis as Indian bowlers proved expensive even before the death overs began.

Krunal Pandya had a forgettable day with both bat and ball. He went for 0-55 in his four overs before rain intervened, sucking out momentum from the Australian innings and leaving them only five deliveries on resumption of play.

Bumrah bowled cleverly, conceding only five runs after the disruption, while Australia still finished with a challenging total on the board.

Pacquiao, Roach at loggerheads over reunion

LOS ANGELES, Nov 21 (AFP): Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao said Tuesday he hopes to be reunited with long-time trainer Freddie Roach for his January bout against Adrien Broner but admitted he had not spoken to the veteran cornerman about renewing their partnership.

Pacquiao ended a 16-year association with Roach ahead of his victory over Lucas Matthysse in Kuala Lumpur in July, breaking up one of boxing's most famous double-acts.

However the 39-year-old raised eyebrows during a press conference in New York on Monday when he said Roach would



be back in his corner for his January 19 fight against Broner in Las Vegas.

Roach though expressed bemusement about Pacquiao's announcement in remarks to Sports Illustrated, saying he had not been in contact with his former protege.

"I still have never di-

rectly spoken to Manny (since 2017)," Roach said. "I'm not going to make a move until Manny calls me. I've been like a father to Manny for 15 years. If he can't call me, there will be no deal."

When asked to clarify the situation by AFP on Tuesday, Pacquiao said

he hoped Roach would work as a "supervisor", with long-time associate Buboy Fernandez taking a lead role in training.

"I don't have any problem with Freddie Roach," Pacquiao said at a media roundtable.

"All I say is that I think the other work in train-

ing should be assigned or designated to Buboy. Freddie can supervise or instruct Buboy, this is what we're going to do."

When pressed on whether he had spoken to Roach however, Pacquiao admitted that there had been no contact.

"We have scheduled to talk today," he said. "My idea is to let Buboy handle the mitts, and (Freddie) should just supervise and correct the training situation, or techniques, or anything like that."

Pacquiao said he plans to divide his training camp into two parts, with the first half taking place in the Philippines and the final part in the

United States.

- 'A LONG TIME AGO' - He said Roach would play no part in the Philippines leg of his training camp.

"He can just wait here," he said. "I'll be here next month in December."

If Pacquiao and Roach are reunited, it will come after a striking and pronounced divorce.

Despite the father-son like bond they had shared for over a decade, Pacquiao said he could not remember the last time he spoke to Roach, blaming demands of his role as a Senator in the Philippines for the rupture.

"It's been a long time ago," Pacquiao said. "A long time ago that I didn't speak to Freddie. I was

busy in the Philippines.

"I don't even have time to come to United States for a vacation for relaxation. It's really busy being a Senator."

Pacquiao, who turns 40 next month, has not fought in the United States for two years. His last bout in Las Vegas in 2016 was a convincing victory over Timothy Bradley that had been billed as his retirement fight.

Pacquiao however told AFP that "loneliness" had prompted him to return to the ring.

"When I stopped boxing I just realised after watching some fights, I feel so lonely," Pacquiao said.

"Despite my work in the Senate as a public servant, I really miss boxing. I feel

lonely. Boxing is my passion, I grew up in boxing."

Pacquiao, 60-7 with two drawn and 39 knock-outs in a career that began in 1995, said he still hopes to negotiate a rematch of his 2015 superfight with Floyd Mayweather.

Mayweather, who won a fight widely regarded as a letdown, has frequently teased the possibility from his retirement. Pacquiao said any move for a rematch would have to come from Mayweather.

"We met in Japan. I said 'I'm the champion, I have the belt. It's up to you if you want to come out of retirement and challenge me.' I'm ready any time.

Kremlin denounces ‘unprecedented pressure’ over Interpol vote

Moscow, Nov 21 (AFP): The Kremlin on Wednesday denounced “unprecedented pressure” against a Russian candidate to lead Interpol, after a South Korean was instead chosen to lead the global policing body.

“Of course we are sorry that this was not our candidate,” Krem-

lin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

“At the same time there are no reasons not to agree with the vote result”

Peskov also condemned the pressure exerted against the Russian candidate, Alexander Prokopchuk, on the eve of the vote.

“The election took

place in the atmosphere of unprecedented pressure and interference in these elections,” the Kremlin spokesman said. “The elections were complicated.”

Earlier Wednesday Interpol announced that Kim Jong-yang of South Korea had been chosen as its new president, beating Prokopchuk, a Russian

interior ministry official whose candidacy had unnerved Western nations.

There had been growing Western calls for Interpol to reject Prokopchuk over fears Moscow could abuse the role to target political opponents.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo threw his weight behind Kim.

Critics have raised concerns over Russia’s previous applications for Interpol “Red Notices”, or international arrest warrants, to target those who have fallen foul of the Kremlin.

Prokopchuk will continue in his role as Interpol

vice president, the Russian interior ministry said.

“As before, his work will focus on strengthening the position of Interpol in the international police community and increasing the efficiency of the organisation’s work,” spokeswoman Irina Volk said.

Mobile phone services shut in Pak’s major cities

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, Nov 21 (PTI): Mobile phone services were shut down in Pakistan’s major cities on Wednesday as the authorities beefed up security to prevent terror attacks during the Eid Milad-un Nabi celebrations, in the wake of a suicide attack in neighbouring Afghanistan that killed over 50 people, mostly clerics.

people face troubles due to closure of mobile phone services which is done to stop its misuse by militants.

The suicide attack in Kabul killed more than 50 people on Tuesday.

Congratulating the nation on the occasion, President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan in their separate messages called for truly following the teachings of the Prophet to realise the objective of establishing an Islamic welfare state.

Officials said the security was tightened to avert any tragedy on the occasion of the Eid Milad-un Nabi, marking the birth anniversary of the Prophet.

“We should give preference to collective national and religious interests and bring positive change in our deeds and actions to transform the country in accordance with the State of Madina,” said Alvi.

However, internet services were available but faced periodic glitches.

Terrorists usually use mobile phones to detonate explosive devices.

Khan in his message said the nation should make firm pledge that it will follow the life of the Prophet in true spirit while rising above any petty interests.

Eid Milad-un Nabi is celebrated in Pakistan with special religious fervour. The day dawned with 31 gun salutes in Islamabad and 21 salutes at all provincial capitals.

Special prayers were held in the mosques in the early morning. Processions, religious songs, speeches and distribution of free food are the main features of the day.

However, common

California fire death toll rises to 81

LOS ANGELES, Nov 21 (AFP): The death toll from the devastating wildfire in northern California rose to 81 Tuesday with the discovery of two more sets of remains, officials said.

The number of people listed as unaccounted for in the deadliest and most destructive fire in state history jumped up by nearly 200 to 870.

This number has been fluctuating a lot in recent days amid the confusion of the search for bodies in the town of Paradise, which was largely destroyed by the flames.

The figure peaked Saturday at 1,276, and on Monday was down to 699.

Now the number has gone back up after police worked through a backlog of voice calls, Butte County

sheriff Kory Honea said.

Another three people died in a second major blaze that struck Malibu in southern California.

In the north, the so-called Camp Fire has scored 152,000 acres of land and destroyed more than 12,600 homes.

It started on November 8 and is only now 75 per cent contained.

And officials are now bracing for significant rain on Wednesday and perhaps later in the week, which will help put out the fire but could bring flash floods, turning ash and soot into a thick paste and possibly washing away human remains.

“It is the potential of dealing with one disaster and having, you know, something else pile on top of us,” Honea said.



UN environment chief resigns after audit into excessive travel

YOSHITA SINGH UNITED NATIONS, Nov 21 (PTI): UN environment chief Erik Solheim has resigned after an audit report found he had spent over USD 488,000 on excessive travel.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has accepted the resignation of Solheim, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), spokesman Stephane Dujarric said here on Tuesday.

Solheim’s resignation is effective November 22.

“The Secretary-General is grateful for Mr Solheim’s service and recognises that he has been a leading voice in drawing the world’s attention to critical environmental challenges, including plastics pollution, climate action, the rights of environment defenders, biodiversity, and environmental security,” Dujarric said.

Deputy Executive Director of UNEP Joyce Msuya, from Tanzania, will be appointed as acting executive director while the secretary-general launches a recruitment process, in consultation with member states, to find a successor to Solheim.

In a report, The New York Times said the audit of official travel undertaken by the UN’s Office of Internal Oversight Services cited “uneconomical routing of flight itineraries, opting for more expensive airlines, implementation of teleworking arrangements that were outside the existing policy on flexible working arrangements”. It also noted a failure to account for absences from the office.

The audit also found that Solheim had spent 79 per cent of his time away from the agency’s headquarters in Nairobi and

incurred USD 488,519 in travel expenses over a 22-month period. The audit found he had travelled for 529 out of the 668 days audited.

In a statement, Solheim said he has maintained throughout this process that “I have been and remain committed to doing what I believe to be in the best interest of UN Environment and the mission we are here to achieve. For this reason, after deep reflection and in close consultation with the secretary-general, I am stepping down as Executive Director of UN Environment effective Thursday”.

In his parting statement, Solheim referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “historic announcement” to phase out single-use plastics and the “incredible partnerships” on nature-based farming in countries like Indone-

sia and India, and said “we can be immensely proud of our accomplishments and the momentum for action we have created”.

Dujarric said Solheim has “led advocacy at the highest levels of government, business and civil society to drive the transformational change needed to make a real difference in the lives of people and promote the cause of environment”.

When asked about the secretary-general’s comment on Solheim’s travel expenses that triggered the audit and led to his resignation and if there would be any further action against Solheim, Dujarric said the secretary-general “is pleased to see that UNEP is committed to implementing the recommendations that are found in the OIOS (Office of Internal Oversight Services) report on the travel office”.

Prez Trump under fire for backing Saudi crown prince over the brutal killing of Khashoggi

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, Nov 21 (PTI): President Donald Trump has defended his decision not to hold Saudi rulers accountable in the brutal killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying maintaining strategic ties with Riyadh and keeping the global oil prices down were in the best interests of the US and the world, a stand criticised as a “betrayal of American values”.

The murder of Khashoggi, a one-time insider-turned critic of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and a resident of the US, in the Saudi consulate in Turkey and dismembering of his body has spurred a wave of international anger against Saudi Arabia and its rulers.

The US last week imposed sanctions on 17 individuals of Saudi Arabia for serious human rights abuse resulting from their roles in the killing of 59-year-old Khashoggi at

the kingdom’s Consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Saudi Arabia has blamed Khashoggi’s death on rogue agents but denied claims that the crown prince had knowledge of the operation.

Trump essentially argued that although the murder of Khashoggi was “terrible” and could not be condoned, it did not merit the disruption of a strategic relationship he has elevated to extraordinary levels.

Reacting to the president’s comments, Republican Senator Bob Corker and Democrat Bob Menendez issued a statement on behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The two called on Trump to focus a second investigation specifically on the crown prince so as to “determine whether a foreign person is responsible for an extrajudicial killing, torture or other gross violation” of human rights.

The Washington Post, where Khashoggi was a contributor, said President Trump’s latest statement on the dissident journalist was a “betrayal of American values”.

“President Trump on Tuesday confirmed what his administration has been signalling all along: It will stand behind Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman even if he ordered the brutal murder and dismemberment of journalist Jamal Khashoggi,” the Editorial Board of the Post said in a stinging editorial.

“Mr. Trump has betrayed American values in service to what already was a bad bet on the 33-year-old prince,” it said while terming his statement as “crude”.

Responding to questions from reporters at the White House before leaving for Florida to spend his Thanksgiving holidays, Trump said his decision

was all about America first.

He denied the allegations that this was at the expense of human rights.

“At some point, things very positive, frankly, could happen with Iran, but we also need a counterbalance. And Israel needs help also. If we abandon Saudi Arabia, it would be a terrible mistake,” Trump warned.

The President refuted The Post’s allegations that by taking such a decision, he was putting his personal and commercial interests ahead of national interests.

“Well, I have nothing to do with Saudi – just so you understand, I don’t make deals with Saudi Arabia. I don’t have money from Saudi Arabia. I have nothing to do with Saudi Arabia. I couldn’t care less,” he said.

Saudi Arabia, Trump said, is buying hundreds of billions of dollars worth of things from the US.

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'People still discovering digital platform'

MUMBAI, Nov 21 (PTI): Shriya Pilgaonkar, who currently features in the web series "Mirzapur", believes the industry is still discovering the digital medium.

Shriya, daughter of accomplished actors Sachin Pilgaonkar and Supriya Pilgaonkar, made her Bollywood acting debut with Shah Rukh Khan starrer "Fan".

Shriya feels today creative people have the scope to shine in their own way through web series, which has emerged as one of the popular mediums of story telling.

"Like, in the case of Mirzapur, (web series) we (female actors) may not have as much screen time as the men but when you watch the show, you will see every person has a good role. We are not passive. However, there is (also) some bad stuff here. People are still discovering it," Shriya told PTI.



As there is no censorship on the content available on the web, Shriya says sometimes one can misuse it.

"There were two-three web shows that came my way and there was unnecessary making out scenes... Today people use this thing to gain popularity," she adds.

She believes the web space is "crowded" but one gets the time to explore oneself as an actor.

"When I do web shows, I want to do something that is

good and different," she adds.

In the Amazon Prime Video Original "Mirzapur", she is happy to play a character that is not the typical "sweet, girl next door" character.

"Sweetie is fearless, strong girl, she is loyal and fighter. Sometimes you have to spoon feed filmmakers to let them know I am capable of this. I am happy the makers saw me in this role other than sweet, girl-next-door look. And that is the success as an actor.

ARIES: Your scattered energy comes together today in a powerful laser beam of concentrated attention and effort. You will work until you drop, and no one and nothing had better get in your way! Keep up the good pace. You're going to feel more loved than usual, and this changes absolutely everything for you.

TAURUS: It seems that the new planetary lineup has just opened up some doors that had previously been shut. You revel in the confidence that people have in you. It isn't that your abilities have changed, just your attitude! People trust you because you exhibit more self-confidence. It's a wonderful feeling, isn't it? Hold on to it at all costs.

GEMINI: There is a possibility that you feel cheated or tak-

en advantage of in some way. Do you feel as if you're paying more than your fair share? The day ahead gives you an opportunity to achieve recognition for your efforts and perhaps redress some grievances. It's odd that despite your tendency to espouse fairness, you feel uncomfortable when the authorities rule in your favor.

CANCER: You're gifted at bringing people together, there's no doubt about that, Cancer. Today will be especially good for participating in or initiating group activities. It's a favorable day for any project related to fellowship and assistance. You might do the groundwork to form a team, discussion group, or charitable endeavor.

LEO: You have a promising day ahead, Leo. Finally, you

will advance by leaps and bounds in whatever needs to be done. Whatever has been causing the delays will likely be revealed today. You return to the skill and professionalism you so value after several weeks of halting progress. Don't tolerate any violation of your ethics now or in the future.

VIRGO: There's some likelihood that something you need or want has been eluding your grasp. The somewhat strained aspect of the heavens lately hasn't helped. But today everything is within reach, especially if it was material considerations holding you back. You have an auspicious day ahead, so make the most of it!

LIBRA: The day ahead will be a soothing one, Libra. Since it's auspicious for the materi-

al aspect of things, it's a good time to settle household issues like bills or repairs. But you might also take advantage of today's aspect to set in motion even more ambitious plans about your living situation. Is it time to think more seriously about that move you've been dreaming of?

SCORPIO: You will be full of ideas for improving your lifestyle, Scorpio, especially as it relates to your family. It's true that over the past few months you've experienced some hardships. You can breathe easier now. Whether it's for your career or home, today's initiatives are likely to bring great rewards. Take advantage of the atmosphere to put together a realistic plan for the future.

SAGITTARIUS: Is discipline

high on your list of priorities lately, Sagittarius? You're undoubtedly trying to inject some order into your daily life, and your behavior could benefit from some adjustment as well. Whether it concerns food, hygiene, or simply the intensity of your daily rhythm, it's possible that you will notice a real improvement today.

CAPRICORN: You can expect your mood to improve today, Capricorn. The professional and private projects that you have at the moment should be progressing well. You feel reassured, and you're encouraged to make some new plans. If you continue to keep up the good rhythm, you will have success in redefining your goals and life direction.

AQUARIUS: Some people say that you miss out on life be-

cause of your tendency to observe your life rather than experience life directly. If that's the case, then today will be a real departure for you. You will suddenly seem more in contact with your sentiments and be more present and connected to those around you. It feels good for a change, doesn't it?

PISCES: Today, Pisces, you're in the mood for commitment! Take time to connect with the social world as you seek like-minded people who can share your intimate, individualistic realm. Ultimately, we all have to figure out how to make our way in society. Today you will feel more sociable than usual. Expect to have some good ideas about ways you can enlarge your social circle.

He was tired of not being believed: Michael Pena on playing Kiki Camarena in 'Narcos: Mexico'

Mumbai, Nov 21 (PTI): "Narcos" is not the first show to explore the world of drugs and it certainly won't be the last but Michael Pena, one of the stars of its new season, believes the show stands apart with the way it presents the story.

Pena, who joined the fourth season of the Netflix show, titled "Narcos: Mexico", as DEA agent Kiki Camarena, did not become a binge watcher until he was approached for the role.

The new show revolves around the rise and eventual fall of Guadalajara Cartel in Mexico while the first three seasons focused on Colombian drug players such as Medellin and Cali Cartels.

"I was excited when Eric (Newman, showrunner) approached me but I had not watched any of it and did not know much about it. After meeting him, I thought 'this sounded really cool' so I watched two episodes and I was blown away.

"They did a really good job with the show. I binge watched the two seasons and the third one before going to Mexico for the shooting. I like the way they tell



the story. There are other shows about Narcos but the way they put it together, it goes by very fast," he told PTI in an interview.

The "Ant-Man" star, one of the most prominent Latin American actors in Hollywood, had a better understanding about what motivated Kiki to put his life in danger after he spoke to the slain agent's wife, Mika.

He realised that Kiki was someone who could not stand injustice and had a strong sense of right and wrong.

Kiki, who was tortured and killed on the orders of drug lord Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, is considered a hero in America as someone who sacrificed his life for a drug free world.

"What happened with Kiki was that there was a lot of injustice that was happening around him. It is like somebody is getting run over and you are like 'Dude, what is happening here' and people say, 'Ah, don't worry about it. Don't pay attention to it'. Why not pay attention?

"Finally, he says enough is enough. I am going to do something and make a difference. It can make anybody mad when you are not believed and you see people getting killed and bodies piling up," he said.

On his part, Pena does not believe in judging a character because "there is a reason for everything".

"This guy (Gallardo) grew up

in a very poor area and you stay poor despite the best you can do. So some of them choose different paths like drugs. They do horrible stuff to make money."

The fast-paced story, the often gory murder sequences and the unusual narrative has earned the show a dedicated audience, who do not mind that the series has more Spanish than English.

The show is often presented as a template to its Hollywood counterparts for more inclusivity, diversity and authenticity at a time when there is a lot of debate around the issue of whitewashing but Pena has a slightly different outlook.

"I understand that it needs to be specific. If I am playing an important Latin guy like (Hugo) Chavez, it should be a Latin actor. But if it is something that does not have anything to say and the character just happens to be a Latin guy, like a fireman and there is no real weight or context to it, choose the best guy, I think.

"If it is great story, it does not matter whether the character is white, African-American or Latino... Who cares? Unless it is specific, it is fair play," he said.

Margot Robbie reveals official title of 'Birds of Prey' film

LOS ANGELES, Nov 21 (PTI): Margot Robbie-starrer "Suicide Squad" spin-off has been titled "Birds of Prey (And The Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)", the actor announced on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old actor shared the news on Instagram where she posted the title page of Christina Hodson's script for "Birds of Prey", which includes a handwritten addition, revealing the full name of the feature.

Warner Bros Picture confirmed the spin-off's title and release date on Twitter.



"@MargotRobbie #BirdsofPrey (And The Fantabulous Emancipation of one Harley Quinn) hits theatres 2.7.20,"

read a tweet from the studio.

Robbie is reprising her "Suicide Squad" role of Harley Quinn, while actor Ewan

McGregor recently joined the cast as the villain, Black Mask.

The film, to be directed by Cathy Yan, will also feature Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Huntress, Jurnee Smollett-Bell as Black Canary, Ella Jay Basco as Cassandra Cain and Rosie Perez as Renee Montoya.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the film will follow Harley Quinn as she "assembles a girl gang of friends to take on a bad guy".

The film will be co-produced by Robbie along with Sue Kroll and Bryan Unkeles.

David Arquette recovering in hospital after sustaining neck injury during wrestling death match

LOS ANGELES, Nov 21 (PTI): Actor David Arquette has checked into a hospital to get treatment for a neck injury he sustained during a wrestling death match.

The 47-year-old actor had fought against Nick Gage in a death match for Joey Janela's LA Confidential on Friday.

During the battle, Arquette was smashed over the head with a light bulb tube which resulted in glass shattering over his skull and cut into his neck, causing blood to spurt out. The video of the violent encounter has since gone viral.

Arquette's wife Christina McLarty told The Blast in a video that her husband is in hospital but will be "okay".

"He's okay, thank you. After the wrestling match he looked fine, and then (his neck) was irritating him. I don't know, I didn't see the whole thing go down," she said.

The actor on Monday released a statement on Twitter, saying he "did not know the extent of what I was participating in".

"As some of you might have seen, last week I was injured in a wrestling death match. I wanted to make sure to address the photos and videos that have surfaced from the event, as this is not the type of wrestling you watch on TV," he wrote.

"I knew it was violent and potentially bloody, but I truly did not know the extent of what I was participating in. However, I take responsibility for putting myself in that situation," he added.

Arquette said he has training for the

past six months as he is passionate about wrestling and has the "utmost respect for that sport". He apologized to wrestling fraternity for bringing "any negative attention" to the sport.

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