



**TRAINING ON SUBSTANCE
ABUSE DISORDER AND TB FOR
SOUTH DIST STAKEHOLDERS**
pg02

**HOW JAIR BOLSONARO USED
'FAKE NEWS' TO WIN POWER**
pg04

**SDF DRIVERS FRONT GIFTS
AMBULANCE TO RONGLI
DRIVERS ASSOCIATION**
pg03



SummitTIMES

Vol 04 | Issue 10 | Gangtok | Friday | 11 January 2019

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Training on substance abuse disorder and TB for South dist stakeholders

NAMCHI, 10 JAN (IPR): A daylong training on Substance Use Disorder and Tuberculosis, organised by the Health Department for Panchayat Presidents, Municipal councillors, Medical Officers of PHCs/ CHCs and health workers of PHSCs was held at the District Hospital conference hall here today.

NJMC Chairperson Tika Gurung attended the program as chief guest accompanied by DC South Prabhakar Verma. The program also saw the attendance of District Nodal Officer South, Dr Urgan Sherpa, Mission Director, NHM, Dr Bimal Rai, Panchayat Presidents, municipal councillors, medical officers, health workers, police personnel and other stakeholders from South district.

Mr Gurung lauded the initiative of the Health Department, stressing

turn to pg02

Army rescues snowbound tourists from North Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

In yet another swift humanitarian operation, Army rescued over 150 tourists stranded by heavy snowfall in North Sikkim, saving precious lives in sub zero temperatures on 09 Jan 2019.

Unprecedented snowfall within a span of two hours cut off Lachung rendering the tourists helpless, a press release informs.

The troops of Trishakti Corps immediately launched Quick Reaction Teams including medical staff to locate the tourists in stranded vehicles, provide medical care and bring them to the nearest army camps.

Within four hours, the soldiers, risking their lives, reached out to all stranded persons. One lady with fractured hand was given immediate medical care amongst many others who complained of dizziness, breathlessness



and other high altitude related symptoms.

All rescued tourists are being provided food, shelter and medical care at the army camps keeping in view the unabated snowfall and temperatures dipping down to minus 10 degrees.

Choked with emotions, the tourists fell short of words to thank

the soldiers, but the smile on their faces said it all.

As per army sources, the rescue operations will continue through the night to locate any other tourists still stranded in the area.

It may be recalled that earlier on 28 Dec 2018, Indian Army had evacuated over 3,000 stranded

tourists from Nathula area in the biggest ever rescue operation carried out in Sikkim.

In fact the social media is still flooded with messages of the rescued tourists, expressing their gratitude to the Indian Army soldiers who vacated their barracks and provided them with food, shelter and medical care.

Boys' Club's Evan and Kushan in India U-16 team in Dubai



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

Two skilful Sikkimese footballers are in the India U-16 Boys squad for the Tri-Nation Tournament in Dubai.

Evan Thapa and Kushang Subba are already in Dubai with the U-16 national team for the tournament. Both hail from Gangtok and are products of Boys Club, Gangtok.

Evan Thapa has already played for the national team in the first match against UAE which had ended in a 3-3 draw.

After the first match, in his Facebook post, Evan posted, "It was a great #experience playing against a reputed team #uaenationalteam ...as a #indian it's a proud moment for me! We played and

we got a draw 3-3".

Next, India will be playing against Saudi Arabia on 12 January and another friendly match against UAE on 15 January.

Boys Club officials have expressed happiness on Evan and Kushang being a part of the national team and have conveyed their best wishes to the duo and the national team.

SKM criticizes Lok Sabha MP's address in Parliament

Parliament not the place to praise CM: Khaling

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today criticized Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai's address in the Parliament during the discussion of the Bill for 10 per cent quota in jobs and education to candidates who belong to economically weaker sections in the general category.

Addressing a press conference here today, SKM spokesperson, Jacob Khaling stated that MPs from other States placed their suggestions and arguments on their support to the bill but the only MP from Sikkim, PD Rai just supported the bill without any comments.

Instead of speaking about the bill and reason to support it, the lone Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim highlighted that SDF was all set to form the government for the sixth consecutive time and praised the Chief Minister Pawan Chamling in the Parliament session, said Mr Khaling.

On the same, Mr Khaling asserted that the Parliament is not the place to praise the CM but to raise issues of the people of Sikkim. He added that it was an insult of the people of Sikkim and against the dignified session of the Parliament.

The SKM spokesperson alleged that Mr Rai

has totally failed to bring the bill for the LT Assembly seat reservation in the Parliament during this five-year tenure as Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim. Even though SDF is an ally of the NDA, the SDF MP has failed to convince the Centre on this issue, he added.

Mr Rai has confused everyone by talking on the Limboo Tamang Assembly seat reservation issue during the discussion on the general category reservation bill in the Parliament, said Mr Khaling. Accusing the MP of pulling a stunt just to show people that he raised the issue, the SKM

turn to pg03

CM inaugurates Police Composite building, applauds Sikkim Police



**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling inaugurated the newly constructed Police Composite Building below Paljor Stadium in Gangtok today.

Chief Engineer (Buildings & Housing), Kuldeep Chettri provided a detailed technical report of the structure. He informed that the Educated Unemployed Youth

Co-operative Society Ltd. Development Area, Gangtok, was given the contract for construction.

The four-storeyed structure has two basements with dormitories and attached washroom and the two floors have multipurpose hall with pantry as well as visitor's lounge, storerooms, office rooms, armory room etc. The roofing is on GCI sheets over tubular truss

with PVC ceiling. The cost of the structure, which is spread over 15688 sq ft, is Rs. 330.45 lakh.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that this building will directly benefit the police fraternity.

"Our Police are the most secured lot, free from any kind of fear psychosis. Unlike their counterparts in other states, they do not face

any kind of political terrorism, extortion or any kind of interference from the Government while discharging their duties," the Chief Minister said.

Applauding the services delivered by Sikkim Police, the CM said that if any research or survey is conducted by any international agency on Sikkim Police, it has the potential to be declared

turn to pg02

Post Matric scholarship disbursement to begin with Janta Mela

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

The Human Resource Development Department today announced that post matric scholarship will be released to beneficiaries directly into their respective bank accounts after the Chief Minister hands over the scholarship to five beneficiaries each at the Janta Melas to be held later this month.

An HRDD press release informs that the

State Government has approved and sanctioned an amount of Rs 8.55 crores in the current financial year to provide the post matric scholarship to 1,578 beneficiaries till the financial year 2016.

The release informs that the State Government has awarded Post Matric Scholarship to all local students under the Merit and General categories pursuing various courses within and out-

side the State since 1994.

The scheme was amended in the year 2017 with an enhanced rate of scholarship for all courses. The Merit scholarship amount ranging from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 2,000 per month is awarded to students who secure 80% and above marks in class XII Board examination or equivalent in a single sitting.

Further, annual reimbursement of a maximum Rs. 10,000 per an-

nium is also awarded to some of the Notified subjects (MBBS, B Tech and Honours courses).

General scholarship is granted to all local students securing less than 80% but more than 60% marks in a single sitting in selected courses as notified, subject to both parents' combined income being less than Rs 10,000 per month.

Further, annual reimbursement of maximum

turn to pg02

Villagers mourn crocodile's death, take out funeral procession

Raipur, Jan 10 (PTI): An entire village in Chhattisgarh assembled to bid an emotional adieu to a crocodile, whom they used to worship as their protector, after the animal died.

For residents of Bawa Mohtara village in Bemetara district, the around 130-year-old crocodile, whom they had fondly named as 'Gangaram', was next to God.

After the reptile died in a village pond, the grief-stricken residents took out its funeral procession and did not cook food that day.

They also decided to set up a memorial on the pond's bank where it was buried, sarpanch (village head) Mohan Sahu told PTI, adding that they were also thinking of constructing a temple in its memory.

The 3.4 metre-long crocodile was found dead on Tuesday in the village pond, located around 80 km from here, following which locals informed the forest department and the carcass was taken out of water, he said.

Around 500 villagers took out its funeral procession and performed the last rites. They touched the carcass to seek its blessings, he said.

"The villagers had so much affection for the reptile that many of them did not even cook food that day it died.

Locals had long back named it 'Gangaram'. They used to worship it as a deity and the protector of the village," he said.

Alok Verma shunted out as CBI chief

NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI): Alok Verma was shunted out as the CBI chief after a marathon meeting of the high-powered selection committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday, officials said.

Verma, a 1979-batch AGMUT-cadre IPS officer, has been removed from the high-profile post on the charges of corruption and dereliction of duty, making him the first chief in the history of the agency to face such action, they said.

His future assignment is yet to be decided, they said.

There were eight counts of charges against him in the CVC report presented be-

fore the Committee also comprising Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Justice A K Sikri, appointed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi as his nominee.

The decision was taken by a majority with Kharge opposing the move, they said.

Verma was sent on forced leave by the government in a late-night controversial order on October 23, 2018 in the wake of a feud between him and his deputy Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

He had challenged the order in the Supreme Court which had quashed the government order Tuesday.

The apex court had set aside Verma's forced

leave but restrained him from taking any major policy decision till the CVC probe into corruption charges against him was over.

The apex court had said any further decision against Verma, who was scheduled to retire on January 31, would be taken by the high-powered committee which selects and appoints the CBI director.

The Supreme Court in the Vineet Narayan judgment had fixed a minimum tenure of two years for the CBI director to give him immunity from any political interference. Later, through the Lokpal Act, the process of selecting the CBI director was handed over to a selection committee.

**Gangtok on
Friday,
11 Jan**

Temp: 010°C/06°C
Forecast: Sunny
to partly cloudy
with a little rain in
the evening, then
a shower in spots

Sunrise: 07:01 AM
Sunset: 03:49 PM

**HAVE A
STORY TO
SHARE?**
email us:
**news@
summittimes.
Com**

Raise one voice for LT seats: Sikkim Tamang Organisation



**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

A co-ordination meeting of Sikkim Tamang Organisation was held today at Sukhapool, Upper Sichey, Gangtok to discuss various ongoing programmes. The meeting was chaired by the STO president, Advocate, Dr. BC Tamang, a press release informs.

Dr Tamang observed

that the people of Sikkim should try to find out reasons behind the delay in granting LT seats reservation in Sikkim Legislative Assembly and Tribal Status to the eleven left out communities.

If people from different political parties, communities and associations/organisations go on submitting different or adverse reports, mem-

orandums and information before the Central Government, people of Sikkim shall always remain deprived of constitutional rights and privileges, he stated.

"Despite continuous efforts of our State Government and various associations/organizations, the bill for Tribal Status to the eleven communities could not be tabled in the

winter session of parliament," said Dr Tamang.

He further observed that the people of Sikkim shall further suffer if wrong messages go to the Central Government from anti-Sikkim elements with regard to Sikkim's developmental activities. He maintained that the people's voice if raised from one platform under the State Government's leadership

would definitely be heard by the Central Government.

He appealed to all organizations/associations and people belonging to all communities of Sikkim irrespective of any caste, religious faith and political base to come under one banner to raise voice against such discrimination and injustice for the accomplishment of a common goal.

EVM and VVPAT awareness and sensitization for political parties, media and NGOs in West Sikkim



Gyalshing, 10 Jan (IPR): An EVM and VVPAT awareness and sensitization for representatives of political parties, media and NGOs under the Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) by the District SVEEP Nodal Officer was held at the New Warehouse, Kyongsa, West Sikkim on 10 Jan 2019.

Present in the program were DC-cum-RO, Dr AB Karki; ADC (West), Karma Lodey Lepcha; SDM Tushar Nikhare; Officials from the Gyalshing Municipal Council; Principal and staff along with students from ITI.

Also attending the program were representatives from Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) and Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM).

Returning Office Dr Karki mentioned that the program was conducted under the guidelines of the Election Commission of India and under the orders of the Chief Election Officer (CEO), Sikkim.

He informed that the awareness program was conducted to showcase and sensitize the political parties and media along with students on how the EVMs and the VVPAT work. He stated that the West District adminis-

tration is working towards conduction of fair and unbiased elections for which the participation and cooperation is sought from political parties and media.

The meeting also decided and finalized on the place of conducting public meetings and banners in West Sikkim unanimously. He also asked the political parties to be in touch with their respective Booth Level Agents and the BLOs in order to avoid any missing voter issues and update accordingly in time.

He also mentioned that the SDMs and BDOs will continue to display and sensitize the EVMs and VVPATs in their respective jurisdictions for the public to become familiar with the voting apparatus.

He then called on all political parties for co-operation in the election process and enjoy the festival of democracy peacefully.

He further announced that the 1st Draft Publication of Electoral Roll would be available from 18 Jan, 2019 which would be available for political parties and the general public to avail and cross check their respective names.

Post Matric scholarship...

Rs 10,000 per annum is awarded to some of the notified subjects like MBBS, B Tech and Honours courses.

For Diploma, the scholarship is Rs. 800 pm is awarded under Merit and General Categories.

The Post Matric scholarship is also awarded for pursuing Ph. D courses at Rs 6,000 per month for regular candidates with subjects related to the State of Sikkim with a contingency grant of Rs 15,000 per annum for a maximum period of three years and Rs 3,000 pm for in-service candidates with reimbursement of Rs 12,000 per annum.

Post Matric scholarship is also awarded for M Phil at Rs 5,000 pm for regular candidates and 50% of this rate for in-service candidates for a maximum period of 18 months.

The details of beneficiaries are as below:

- MBBS & BDS Courses, 2012 batch: 52
- All Courses, 2013 batch: 664
- All Courses, 2014 batch: 486
- All Courses, 2015 batch: 178
- All Courses, 2016 batch: 198
- Total: 1578 beneficiaries

Issue by:

Bhim Thatal

State Project Director/Samagra Shiksha

Nodal Officer for Public Relations and Publicity/HRDD

CM inaugurates Police...

'The Best Police' in the world.

Addressing women police officers, the CM said that the government has provided all possible help and support for making women police force stronger. He also said that the government has provided various reservations for women further adding, "I want to see a woman CM in the state in the future".

"Being in a powerful post I have never misused the power of the Chief Minister but have always used the power for the benefit of Sikkim and its people. There has been huge misuse of power in other parts of the country but I have never interfered in the working of the Police," said Mr Chamling.

Speaking about the upcoming election the CM urged all police personnel to maintain peace and security to help conduct the election peacefully.

Mentioning that threats may arise as elections approach, he also requested the police to provide security to him as well as leaders of the opposition.

He also assured to fulfill all the demands placed by the Police Department during the programme. He suggested that domestic and foreign study tours be organised for police personnel in order to develop their skills.

However, the CM also said that he fails to understand why some are still not satisfied with the government when it has provided all possible help to the police.

He congratulated the police department for the new infrastructure and also congratulated the co-operative society of contractors for successfully completing the construction.

The function was also addressed by ADGP, A Sudhakar Rao, who requested the Chief Minister to look into the expansion and growth of the various sectors of the department, like the cyber crime cell where IT experts and technical professionals are required; the management of vehicles to carry out operations and patrolling; installment of DNA fingerprint machines, grant for a well-equipped gym in the police premises, fund for the "Safe City Project" where numerous cameras are required for surveillance of traffic and crime and maintenance of housing complexes and quarters.

Also present were Upper Burtuk MLA, DR Thapa, other officials and large number of police personnel.

The CM also gave Rs 5 lakh for the state level police picnic.

Training on substance abuse disorder and TB for South dist stakeholders



NAMCHI, 10 JAN (IPR):

A daylong training on Substance Use Disorder and Tuberculosis, organised by the Health Department for Panchayat Presidents, Municipal councillors, Medical Officers of PHCs/ CHCs and health workers of PHSCs was held at the District Hospital conference hall here today.

NJMC Chairperson Tika Gurung attended the program as chief guest accompanied by DC South Prabhakar Verma. The program also saw the attendance of District Nodal Officer South, Dr Urgen Sherpa, Mission Director, NHM, Dr Bimal Rai, Panchayat Presidents, municipal councillors, medical officers, health workers, police personnel and other stakeholders from South district.

Mr Gurung lauded the initiative of the Health Department, stressing that the initiative could act as a catalyst to bring positive change in society towards eradication of drug abuse.

He spoke in detail about the immediate need to generate mass awareness regarding the hazards of addiction and

illegal trafficking.

He also informed the meeting about the OST and health centre in Jorethang established for the benefit and welfare of both TB patients and substance abusers.

He highlighted that the revised SADA have been fetching positive results as addicts were now being helped to socialise and reintegrate into the society.

He further proposed prevention programs that are properly implemented by schools and communities where teachers, parents, family and the society come together to eradicate and uproot the drug hazard from its source.

The DC-South in turn emphasised the responsibility of stakeholders in curbing TB as well as drug abuse.

He appealed to the Panchayats to work in coordination with the Health Department to identify, monitor and refer people who have fallen prey to substance abuse or patients who have been diagnosed with TB to rehabilitating centres and hospitals.

Likewise, he urged the civil society, religious

organizations, students, teachers, educators and youth and media to shoulder collective responsibility to make Sikkim a drug-free state and asked each of them to shoulder the responsibility to motivate drug users towards leading a healthy life.

Resource person for the technical session, Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Bibhusan Dahal gave a comprehensive power-point presentation on Substance Use Disorder.

State Programme Officer (SADA) Dr Tekendra Rai explained how SADA works in controlling, regulating and preventing abuse of prescription drugs and controlled substances. He explained how the Act understands the societal challenges posed by addiction.

Similarly, SI Prashant Rai spoke about the role and responsibilities of police in addressing drug abuse, drug peddling and drug smuggling.

He detailed on the search and seizure procedure adopted by the police during various drug busting operations and also addressed the misconception held by society at large against

police personnel in terms of disposal of seized drugs.

He also informed the participants about the social media handles of Sikkim Police and South District Police where people can report cases of drug peddling or consumption in their vicinity anonymously.

DTO (East) Dr Shanti Mishra meanwhile spoke about prevention and control of Tuberculosis and about the prevalence of social stigma against TB patients and urged society at large to redress this attitude of ostracism.

She earnestly called upon the panchayats to publicize the aim of the State Government to make Sikkim free of MDR-TB by the year 2022 and shared that a monthly grant of Rs 3,000 to every TB patient as nutritional support and cash award of Rs 5 lakh for the TB-free gram panchayat unit and Rs 10 lakh for a zilla panchayat territorial constituency free from TB has been declared by the State Government.

The program also saw an interactive session between the participants of the training and the resource persons.

Shah Faesal resigns from IAS

SRINAGAR, JAN 9 (PTI): IAS officer Shah Faesal, who has been in the limelight since becoming the first Kashmiri to top the exam in 2009, resigned Wednesday, protesting the "unabated" killings in Kashmir and the marginalisation of Indian Muslims.

In a brief statement on Facebook, the 35-year-old said his resignation was

also to protest "the marginalisation and invisibilisation of around 200 million Indian Muslims at the hands of Hindutva forces reducing them to second-class citizens; insidious attacks on the special identity of the state and growing culture of intolerance and hate in mainland India in the name of hyper-nationalism".

Faesal, who recently

returned from a foreign training and was awaiting posting, said he had decided to resign from Indian Administrative Service, "to protest against the unabated killings in Kashmir, and lack of any sincere reach out from the Union government".

Without naming it, Faesal launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led government at the Centre, say-

ing the "subversion of public institutions like the RBI, the CBI and the NIA has the potential to decimate the constitutional edifice of this country and it needs to be stopped".

"I wish to reiterate that voices of reason in this country cannot be muzzled for long and the environment of siege will need to end if we wish to usher in true democracy," he added.

SDF Drivers Front gifts ambulance to Rongli Drivers Association



**NITESH R PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 10 JAN:**

On the occasion of the 17th Foundation Day celebration of RN Road Drivers Welfare Association, Rongli, East Sikkim under Chujachen Constituency, All Sikkim Democratic

Transport/Drivers Front gifted a Bolero ambulance vehicle to the association on behalf of Sikkim Democratic Front. Senior vice president, East District Incharge of SDF, DB Thapa, was present on the occasion as a chief

guest along with area MLA, Bikram Pradhan, Zilla Adhakshya (East), S Bokhim, Chairperson Denzong Cooperative, Puran Gurung, State Incharge of ASDTF, GM Gurung of Rangpo, general secretary of ASDTF, Karma

Tashi Bhutia of Bhusuk. State Incharge of ASDTF, Mr Gurung was felicitated during the event for his contributions to the Rongli Drivers Association while six experienced drivers were also felicitated.

Triple talaq ordinance to lapse this month; may get repromulgated

NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI): The triple talaq ordinance, which seeks to make the practice of instant divorce a penal offence, will lapse later this month as a bill to convert it into a law is stuck in the Rajya Sabha.

Sources in the government said the ordinance is set to be reissued, but its timing is yet to be decided.

An ordinance has a life of six months. But from the day a session begins, it has to be replaced by a bill which should be passed by Parliament within 42 days (six weeks), else it lapses.

The government is at liberty to repromulgate the ordinance if the bill fails to get through Parliament.

The ordinance will lapse on January 22, the 42nd day after the Winter

Session began on December 11 last year; the sources pointed out.

"The ordinance lapses just a week before the Budget Session commences on January 31... government will push for the bill in the session. But whether the ordinance be repromulgated soon after it expires is yet to be decided. Another option would be to wait till the end of the Budget Session in mid February. If the bill is not passed, the ordinance could be reissued then," a senior functionary explained.

A fresh bill to make the practice of triple talaq among Muslims a penal offence was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17 last year to replace an ordinance issued in September.

LOST

I, Manjana Rai d/o Shri Sudhan Rai and Mrs. Santu Rai have lost my original marksheet of Class X bearing Roll No. 3157715 and Registration No. G615055210020(JNV Ravangla, South Sikkim) in and around Namchi. If found kindly contact the nearest Police Station.



MARUTI SUZUKI DEALERSHIP REQUIRES:-
Service Advisor, Supervisor & Warranty Manager with Degree/Diploma in Automobile Engineering and minimum 3yrs experience in Automobile Industry.
EDP Executive - Degree/Diploma in Computers. Resume can be submitted to
HR Manager
Entel Motors (P) Ltd
6th mile Tadong, East Sikkim-737102
9933031828, 9933009938

FLAT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 Bedroom flat available for rent at Church Road, Near Diesel Power House. Conveniently located by the roadside and a 5-minute walk from M.G. Marg. Suitable for Corporate Office and Guest House.

For further details please
Contact: 9434117687 / 9083826462

WB govt to pull out of PM's Ayushman Bharat scheme: Mamata

KRISHNANAGAR (WB), JAN 10 (PTI): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday announced that the state has decided to pull out of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme, accusing the Narendra Modi-led NDA government of making "tall claims" under the health coverage programme.

A top government official said that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government has written to the Centre to notify about its decision to withdraw from the scheme.

The ambitious Ayushman Bharat or the National Health Protection Scheme, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August last year, aims to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable fami-

lies (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) by providing health cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.

The expenses incurred is to be shared between the Centre and the state in 60:40 ratio.

The TMC supreme alleged that the prime minister was "politicising" the health scheme by sending letters about its provisions to every household of the state with his picture and a lotus symbol on top.

The Centre is "using" post offices to dispatch these letters, she said.

"You (Narendra Modi) are sending letters with your photograph on them to every household in the state, making tall claims to take credit for the scheme. Then why should I bear 40 per cent? The NDA government should take the

entire responsibility," she observed at a programme here.

"I have seen the document with the PM's picture and a logo resembling BJP's party symbol. You (BJP government) have already destroyed the banking system with demonetisation and GST implementation. Now, you are using government money to campaign for the party," Banerjee said.

According to reports, the Centre is sending out a two-page customised letter, highlighting the importance of the Ayushman scheme, to every beneficiary.

"In West Bengal, people do not need to pay for treatments. At state hospitals, people from Bihar, Jharkhand and even Nepal and Bangladesh receive free medical assistance. Then why is

that the prime minister of the country is playing dirty politics?" the CM questioned.

She also accused the Union government of making "false claims" about crop insurance benefits to the farmers, even as the state government was bearing 80 per cent of the cost.

Last year, the state has spent Rs 625 crore for the purpose, Banerjee claimed.

"The Centre is making false claims about bearing crop insurance cost of farmers. In reality, the Union government pays just 20 per cent of the incurred cost," the chief minister said.

Banerjee claimed that the Modi government was deducting taxes from people's accounts in the state without doling out adequate benefits to them.

"You are deducting money from people's accounts in West Bengal and other states as income tax and customs and using just a percentage of it for their welfare. That is not a favour. Why is Narendra Modi acting as 'dalaal (agent)'? I do not favour the politics of cheating people," the TMC chief said.

Questioning the role of the central government, she also alleged that the Modi government was trying to "run a parallel government" in all the states, including West Bengal.

"We were elected to power by the people, just like them. Do they (Centre) consult me when they set up any deal in the defence sector. Why is that they are interfering in the state matters? They do not enjoy the rights," she added.

www.summittimes.com
news@summit-times.com
advertise@summit-times.com

Lalramzauva appointed adviser to Mizoram CM

AIZAWL, JAN 10 (PTI): C Lalramzauva, a senior advocate, has been appointed adviser to Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, according to an official notification.

He had unsuccessfully contested against former

state chief minister Lal Thanhawla in Serchhip constituency thrice.

The notification issued Wednesday by joint secretary for department of personnel and administrative reforms said the new adviser will draw an honorarium

of Rs 30,000 per month. He would enjoy the rank of principal secretary to the state government.

Lalramzauva would be entitled to an official car with a driver, air travel, daily allowances and a household peon.

Journo's father passes away

GANGTOK, 10 JAN: Tek Bahadur Rai, the father of a senior cameraman of Nayuma Samachar, Prem Kumar Rai, passed away at the age of 73 on Thurs-

day morning. He leaves behind his wife, Purnima Rai, and four sons. The final rites are scheduled for Friday morning, family members inform.

Bollywood playback singer Papon opposes Citizenship Bill

GUWAHATI, JAN 10 (PTI): Bollywood playback singer Angarag Mahanta (Papon) Thursday opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill as it hurts the Assamese sentiments. He also supported popular Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, who has written to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to withdraw the Bill and respect the sentiments of the Assamese. "We promote Assamese culture across the globe and if we cannot present it in our own state, it will be lost and we cannot allow it to happen", the singer, who hails from Assam, told reporters.

"There can be no two opinions that the Assamese sentiment has been hurt and I extend my full support to Zubeen da on the stand he has taken on the Bill", he added.

Zubeen had two days back threatened to launch an agitation on his own, if Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal fails to take measures to scrap the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

He also said that if everyone is opposing the Bill, then why is the government not re-considering it.

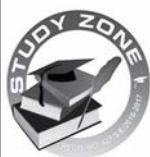
to book
advertisements in
SummitTimes
call
03592-208698
9734152541
9647102692
advertise@
summittimes.com

SKM criticizes Lok Sabha...

spokesperson said that it was a meaningless act. He appealed to the SDF MP to understand the law and process before raising a voice.

Mr Khaling also accused the State Law Minister, RB Subba of giving a controversial statement in a recent meeting wherein he allegedly aid that the government has been conducting digital trainings in the State through which data regarding who has voted for which party will be revealed.

He added that it is a serious crime and against the law of the land to threaten and terrorise general public. He informed that SKM will send a memorandum and complaint letter to the Election Commission of India within a few days. He also demanded that the CM immediately dismiss him and take action.



**ADMISSION
OPEN**

STUDY ZONE
Mr. Dawchung Lepcha (Chairperson)

OUR COURSE OUTLINES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Winter Crash Courses running successfully for classes X, XII (CBSE, ICSE, ISC) | 4. Revision notes for the students to make them much more effective |
| 2. Study Materials provided according to the standards of the board. | 5. Doubt clearing Sessions held by respective teachers |
| 3. Mock Test and Pre Board examinations | 6. Separate hostel facilities for boys and girls. |

OUR COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. To give clear concept of the chapters | 4. Greater emphasis would be to excel. |
| 2. To give the students proper guidance to excel in their examinations | 5. Last minute suggestion tips as per board requirements |
| 3. To Prepare and deliver answers effectively and efficiently | |

For further details please contact: 9002163719, 7319565616, 7432036651
Address: P.N.G Road, Opp. City press, Gangtok

Entel Motors (P) Ltd Finance MGA MARUTI GENUINE ACCESSORIES V-SPEED FOREVER YOUNG EXCHANGE

Enjoy this New Year with Maruti Suzuki
Festive still remains

Mega offers on Limited Stock only



Special Offer: Discount upto ₹ 70,000/-* Discount upto ₹ 33,000/-* Discount upto ₹ 60,000/-*

- * ₹ 5000/- gift cheque for Govt. Employees on Vitara-Breeza
- * ₹ 3000/- Additional offers for Divers cum owner on purchase of Omni
- * Gift cheque Rs. 10000/- on Desire Purchase

Exclusive Exchange Deals & Authenticate Pre-owned Car Sales Outlet: Entel Motors Tadong.

Join with us Car Carnival at Singlam
Time: 10:00-04:00
Date: 11/01/2019

*Condition Apply



ENTEL MOTORS (P) LTD.
GANGTOK | JORETHANG | MANGAN

JUST DIAL: 9933009930 / 9933009943
9933009926 / 9933009924

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Let's Give the Young a Library

Private collaborations to help children access the world of books

The weather is chilly and the winter break is still holding strong. What the peak of winter should also be alleviating is the guilt the Sikkimese must collectively feel for not having factored in anything for the young when crores were being apportioned for infrastructure development. Children in Sikkim do not have much to choose from by way of safe and healthy outdoor spaces. And now that the children are forced indoors, another denial that the younger generation is suffering comes into focus – it is bad enough that Sikkim denies its young with convenient outdoor spaces, but the situation only worsens in the face of the fact that they are even denied literary escapes.

Not only is there no presence of children's literature either in the local publishing scene or substantially enough in the book-stands (we speak of 'local' reading material here), even access to a decent public library remains largely non-existent. The largest library in the State, the one housed in the erstwhile Gangtok community hall continues to be pushed into a corner of an establishment appropriated by the VIPs. Hopefully, the secretariat will move out, eventually, and allow the multipurpose Manan Bhawan to serve more purposes for the young than its current single-purpose to house drab government offices. Till that happens, one continues to miss reading rooms and libraries in Sikkim.

This is not a new theme for this section and has been visited often and will definitely keep resurfacing until things improve. The absence of libraries is unfortunate because libraries, even though they are going under the world over, remain the only window available to most children to access the world of words and inspire creative thinking. And no, Facebook and Wikipedia cannot make up for that loss. The failure, like with most things in the State, is not so much of the government as it is of the society at large. Libraries and reading rooms or even child-specific activities need not necessarily come from the State exchequer. In fact the more successful endeavours have come from private initiative.

It is apt here to cite the example of the Bakul Children's Library in Odisha. This library in the Satya Nagar residential area of Bhubaneswar houses some 20,000 books, includes a multimedia section, has internet access and stocks substantial educational material. All of these have come from community partnership. Everything is donated, children are charged no membership fees and access is free for every child. When it started about a decade ago, it was single-unit operation. Within a few years it had 8,000 books. Now, as mentioned, it has 20K titles and has opened its doors to general readers, yes, even grown-ups. It is managed by volunteers and children throng to it, as much to browse and borrow as to attend story-reading sessions, creative thinking workshops, staging of plays by other kids and everything else that children do. The library was born from a campaign in the year 2006 to collect books for free sharing with children. In its first attempt itself, the volunteers received pledges for book donations from 1,000 people! Not just books, people also pledged time and professional skills to set up the library and sustain it. Its operations now include a mobile library which routinely services 24 villages in Odisha. The model works because the society got involved. They operate on the motto: "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

The feeling to do something for the young surely exists in Sikkim as well, but like in Bhubaneswar, it requires a core group to take the initiative and harness the desire. Surely, there are enough 'donors' around to stock a decent library to begin with. What will a library achieve? It will open a window for the young in what is becoming an increasingly claustrophobic and consumerist environment. A children's library is not only about books, it is about sharing, learning and even escaping; experiences and options that every child should have access to.

How Jair Bolsonaro used 'fake news' to win power

ED BRACHO-POLANCO
theconversation.com

Jair Bolsonaro's election in October 2018 as president of Brazil marked a major shift in Latin American politics, ending nearly two decades of left-wing governments. On January 1, the far-right populist officially took power and is set to introduce new policies on virtually all fronts.

Many of these policies – his plan for the environment, for example – are problematic, especially given Brazil's status as the world's eighth largest economy and one of the five most populous nations in the globe. But the deeper and most pressing concerns – both at national and global levels – are arguably the negative aspects of his discourse of discrimination, intolerance and misinformation.

During the 2018 presidential campaign Bolsonaro's speeches were notable for offensive and discriminatory remarks about women, native Brazilians, Afro-Brazilians, the LGBT community and progressive intellectuals. Some of these comments were so offensive that Brazil's attorney general charged Bolsonaro with inciting hate and targeting specific minority groups.

Now, as president of one of the world's largest economies, Bolsonaro is a ruling figure whose words and actions will have global repercussions. This can only be viewed as a threat to diversity, inclusiveness, tolerance and democracy – even more so when one considers the manner in which he and his team used misinformation or "fake news" in a systematic manner as a central part of his strategy in achieving power. This has been denounced in Brazil's mainstream media, but it's unlikely that will represent a setback for Bolsonaro now. He has the backing of a majority of Brazilians, and most media outlets – fearing backlash from the new president – are curbing critical opinions and news pieces.

Like many of his fellow populist leaders – Donald Trump in the US and Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela spring to mind – Bolsonaro relied heavily on social media, and his most potent

weapon was his WhatsApp account. Brazil has around 120m WhatsApp users – 44% of the electorate is said to have used it during the elections for political purposes.

Bolsonaro's followers created hundreds of WhatsApp groups to share text messages, images, videos and memes – most of which echoed and disseminated Bolsonaro's misinforming and misleading content against his political rivals and the minority groups he attacked.

LIES, DAMNED LIES

One clear example of the way Bolsonaro used "fake news" to spread his message of, discrimination, and homophobia, was a story mainly dissem-

and combat homophobia.

On another occasion during the campaign, an image was circulated of actress Beatriz Segall with a black eye. The WhatsApp post falsely claimed that Segall had been beaten up by rival Workers' Party supporters while she was rallying in favour of Bolsonaro – in fact she sustained the injury in a car accident.

One month before the election, in September 2018, Bolsonaro was stabbed during a campaign rally by a man called Adélio Bispo de Oliveira, who said God had sent him. The Bolsonaro campaign circulated an image of Oliveira alongside Workers' Party leader Lula da Silva, at a street demonstration

with the caption: "How can anyone doubt that the aggressor was not given orders by the Workers' Party?" The "aggressor" had a history of mental illness, but no evidence was offered to show any formal links to the Workers' Party.

CONTINUING STORY

Bolsonaro's litany of racist, homophobic, sexist and xenophobic comments is long and well documented – and sadly, the president's discourse of falsehood and his distribution of misinforming contents via social media has not stopped with his

election. Ironically, having promised during his inaugural speech to steer the country "without discrimination and division", Bolsonaro followed this with a threat to cut government advertising funds to any outlet that he judged to have spread fake news about himself or his policies.

In his inaugural speech, Bolsonaro promised to build a "society without discrimination or division". But, after just a week – and the first few policy initiatives including handing management of the Amazon to the agriculture ministry – this would appear to be yet another misleading statement from the controversial new president.

[the writer is Lecturer in Journalism and Media, University of Westminster]



inated via WhatsApp concerning his main political rival, Fernando Haddad – who stood for the Workers' Party after the original candidate, the former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, was banned because of a conviction for corruption and money laundering.

The story that was spread via Bolsonaro's social media channels was that Haddad had created a "gay kit" which he planned to introduce in primary schools so that children from the age of six "would be encouraged to become gay". In fact, Haddad, as Brazil's former minister for education – and alongside other politicians – had promoted an educational programme for primary school students to understand sexual diversity

The more women in government, the healthier a population

EDWIN NG & CARLES MUNTANER
theconversation.com

In November 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau formed the first gender-balanced cabinet in Canadian history. In announcing his cabinet, he ensured that half of his closest advisers (15 out of a total of 30) were women.

Canada's gender-equal cabinet vaulted the country from 20th to fifth place in the world in terms of percentage of women in ministerial positions.

When reporters asked Trudeau about why gender parity was important to him, he retorted: "Because it's 2015." His simple yet momentous response resonated with those committed to equity, diversity and inclusion.

As public health researchers, this got us thinking – if increasing the number of women in positions of power promotes gender equity, could it also promote population health and well-being?

Our findings, published recently in the journal *SSM - Population Health*, support the argument that yes, women in government do in fact advance population health.

MORE WOMEN IN POWER, FEWER DEATHS

We first dug into the research literature to see how male and female politicians might differ from each other. Compared to their male counterparts, female politicians are more likely to hold left-wing attitudes (with regard to issues such as civil rights, social equality and egalitarianism) and substantively advance women's rights in areas such as pay equity, violence against women, health care and family policy.

Also, research has shown that women in government tend to work in more collaborative and bipartisan ways and employ a more democratic leadership style compared to men's

more autocratic style. Women are also more effective at building coalitions and reaching consensus.

Next, we examined whether there's a historical association between women in government and population health among Canada's 10 provinces. Between 1976 and 2009, the percentage of women in provincial government increased six-fold from 4.2 per cent to 25.9 per

cent, while mortality from all causes declined by 37.5 per cent (from 8.85 to 5.53 deaths per 1000 people).

Using data from provincial election offices and Statistics Canada, we found that as the average percentage of women in government has historically risen, total mortality rates have declined.



WOMEN SPEND MORE ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION

This link does not of course mean that the increase of women in government has directly caused the decline in mortality.

To assess this, we regressed mor-

ality rates on women in government while controlling for several potential confounders. Our findings support the hypothesis that women in government do in fact advance population health.

Interestingly, women in government in Canada have had a bigger effect on male mortality rates than on female rates (1.00 vs 0.44 deaths per 1,000 people).

We also found a pathway that connects women in government, population health and the potential role of partisan politics. In an earlier study, we found that four types of provincial government spending are predictive of lower mortality rates: medical care, preventive care, other social services and post-secondary education.

When we tested government spending as a mediating factor, we found that women in government in Canada have reduced mortality rates by triggering these specific types of health-promoting expenditures.

WOMEN WORK IN MORE COLLABORATIVE WAYS

We also found that there was no relationship between the political leanings of women in government – whether they belonged to left-wing, centrist or right-wing parties – and mortality rates.

Ideological differences among social liberal (e.g., NDP), centrist (e.g., Liberal), and fiscal conservative (e.g., Conservative) political parties seem to be less important to mortality rates than increasing the actual number of women elected to government.

This finding supports the idea that women in government tend to work in more collaborative and bipartisan ways than their male counterparts.

It's now 2019 and leading public health scholars still tend to downplay the potential effects of political determinants such as gender politics on population health. Instead, they opt to focus almost exclusively on individual and social determinants of health.

We believe gender politics matters in public health because it helps to determine "who gets what, when and how."

We believe that electing more women in government not only promotes gender equality and strengthens democratic institutions but also makes real and substantive contributions to government spending and population health.

Given that women in government can bring about desirable changes in population health, let's figure out how we can genuinely level the political playing field for women.

[Edwin Ng is Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Waterloo; Carles Muntaner is Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto]

Over 10 lakh children in Meghalaya given MR vaccine

SHILLONG, JAN 10 (PTI): Over 10 lakh children were given Measles-Rubella vaccines in Meghalaya taking the vaccination coverage in the state to over 92 per cent, a senior Health department official said on Thursday.

“Out of 11.56 lakh children, 10.67 lakh were vaccinated during MRVC with the coverage of the vaccination to over 92 per cent,” Health secretary Pravin Bakshi said.

He was addressing at the state level workshop on the MR vaccination and Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation programme here.

“Though the state has achieved 92 per cent, the target is to achieve 95 per cent by intensifying in the days ahead,” Bakshi said. The health secretary has also stressed on the need to give special focus in areas where vaccination was refused and also the check the size of the population of such areas.

In districts where coverage percentage is low, Bakshi said dedicated cells would be created to make calls to private hospitals, schools and community about the importance of the vaccination.

In the last couple of years, about five outbreaks have been investigated in the state in which three cases were confirmed positive for Rubella while the other two cases were confirmed positive for Measles, according to Health department statistics.

Citizenship Bill: Sedition charges against Sahitya Akademi awardee, RTI activist, scribe

GUWAHATI, JAN 10 (PTI): Sedition cases were registered Thursday against Sahitya Akademi awardee Assamese litterateur Hiren Gohain, RTI activist Akhil Gogoi and a senior journalist for their comments on the citizenship bill, a police official said.

They were booked by the Assam Police for their remarks against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill at an event three days ago, even as the state witnesses protest against the legislation. The administration has also imposed prohibitory orders in parts of the city.

Police suo motu registered a case against them at the Latacil police station here under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) -- including 124(A) that deals with charges of sedition and 120 (B) dealing with criminal conspiracy, Guwahati Police Commissioner Deepak Kumar told reporters.

Gohain, Gogoi and journalist Manjit Mahanta have also been booked under IPC sections 121 and 123 -- relating to waging or trying to wage war against the government, he said.

Kumar said the case was registered against the trio for the comments they made against the bill during a meeting. The matter is under investigation, he said.

“A case has been registered against them. I am investigating what they spoke during a Nagarik Samaj meeting here on January 7. As of now, this is all that I can tell you,” Kumar said.

The trio are part of a civil society group -- ‘Nagarik Samaj’ -- which is protesting against the bill. Gohain, an eminent litterateur and retired Gauhati University professor, said he has come to know that a sedition case has been filed against him, but was not aware on what basis it was registered.

“I don’t know the details or on what basis, the case was filed but have heard that allegations have been made against me that I had ‘Independent Assam’ in my speech at the protest meeting on January 7 by the Forum Against Citizenship Act Amendment Bill (FACAAB),” he said.

Gogoi is a prominent RTI activist and head of the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS), while Mahanta is a former executive editor of a prominent Assamese daily and a columnist. The KMSS along with its 70 partner organisations is on the forefront of protests against the bill in Assam. “I had spoken thrice at the meeting and on all occasions, I had

highlighted that citizenship should be on the basis of secular principles and the rightly demand of the Assamese on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill must be achieved by democratic means,” Gohain said.

“The gist of my speech was that if all democratic struggle by different parties and organisations in the country fail to protect the interest and identity of the Assamese within the framework of the Indian Constitution, then the people will have no choice but to demand an Independent Assam”, the octogenarian left-leaning intellectual said.

Gohain asserted that the people of Assam are fighting for their “rightful honour” (uchit maryada) and “we are also fighting to safeguard the constitutional framework of our secular country”.

Advocate Aroop Borbora, who rushed to Gohain’s residence after the case was registered, alleged that “police has done this suo moto under the provocation of the government and this is an absolutely fabricated case to douse the fire currently engulfing the entire state following the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha”.

“I was also present in the January 7 meeting that police has cited in the FIR. There was nothing

seditious in their speeches. I have asked for a copy of the FIR, which I expect to receive by this evening and proceed accordingly after going through it,” Borbora, who is the lawyer for Gohain, Mahanta and Gogoi, told reporters.

If these three persons are “touched, then the current raging fire will be inflamed further,” he feared. All Assam Students’ Union chief advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya accused the BJP government in the state and Centre of “indulging in anti-national activities by going against the interest of the indigenous people and giving protection to Bangladeshis”.

“We condemn the sedition case filed against a learned intellectual like Dr Gohain whom we hold in high esteem and respect”, he said.

Describing Gohain as “Assam’s great thinker”, Nagen Saikia, also a Sahitya Akademi awardee, said, “I may not agree with him on various issues but what he thinks is right and he says it with courage”.

“Ignoring the people of Assam against the bill, the central government is trying to stoke thoughts of cessation in the minds of people”, the former president of the Asom Sahitya Sabha, the apex literary body in the state, said.

Govt for new methodology for data collection

KOLKATA, JAN 10 (PTI): The government is contemplating to initiate a new methodology for data collection in future for meeting sustainable development goals, a senior official said Thursday.

There was a need for bringing in revolution in data collection with more algorithms, Statistics and

Program Implementation Secretary Pravin Srivastava said.

“We need to meet the targets of sustainable development goals for which new methodology for data collection is needed,” Srivastava said.

The government is looking at avenues such as artificial intelligence,

big data and data analytics, Srivastava said at the convocation of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) here.

“Data comes at a cost. It is used in policy making,” he said.

Srivastava urged the graduating ISI students to go for researches in the regard.

IIT KGP to launch 6-month Artificial Intelligence course

KOLKATA, JAN 10 (PTI): The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur will launch a six-month Artificial Intelligence (AI) course at three centres in the country, a top official of the institute said Thursday.

IIT-KGP, Director, Partha Pratim Chakrabarti told a press meet here that the certified programme is aimed at strengthening India’s talent pool in Machine Learning and AI.

Chakrabarti said the courses, which will begin from March this year will be offered at IIT KGP’s Kolkata facility, at IIT KGP’s Kharagpur campus and at a rented premise at Bengaluru.

He said thousands of new jobs were being created in AI sector every year with AI growing at 10-15 per cent on annual rate and there was need to have more skilled people in the AI sector.

“AI is the future which will more invade our

lives in the coming days,” Chakrabarti said.

Head, Centre for Artificial Intelligence, IIT KGP, Prof Sudeshna Sarkar said, the course with 300 students will consist of 16 modules - each having 12-hour duration.

Around 2 lakh jobs in AI are expected to be created by 2020 in India, Sarkar said.

She said the classes will be taken by IIT KGP faculty, reputed academic institutions and industry experts. There will be 60 per cent from the IIT KGP faculty and academics and 40 per cent from industry who will be teaching the students in the 16 modules, Sarkar explained. She said the demand is getting higher in AI in the country than the total number of AI-skilled professionals and there was need to bridge that gap.

The course modules have been carefully designed to cover mathematical and algorithmic foundations, AI funda-

mentals and statistical and machine learning methods. “The courses will have a blend on fundamental theoretical principles as well as hands-on component and industry use cases and students will have the opportunity to work on live projects.

“Every course module will be based on assignments and exams and a certificate will be awarded based on successful completion of the modules. It will be rigorous,” she said.

The students will be selected competitively from working professionals and senior students. Tools and platforms will be introduced to make the students, from working professionals and senior students, technologically competent and ready for jobs.

The AI course, application for which commenced on January 2 for screening and shortlisting, will start from March 10, this year.



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

Ref. No. 18/ SSTRB/19Dated: 07/01/2019

NOTICE

On the basis of the Written Examination held on 25th November 2018, the following candidates in order of Roll Nos. given below are declared qualified for the viva-voce and classroom demonstration for selection to the post of Graduate Teacher (Language) under Human Resource Development Department.

The selected candidates are requested to appear with their original documents for verification, classroom demonstration and viva-voce on the following dates at the Conference Hall of SSTRB, Upper Syari, Gangtok.

BHUTIA									
SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO
1	20220001	20	20220025	39	20220071	58	20220101	77	20220140
2	20220002	21	20220031	40	20220073	59	20220104	78	20220147
3	20220003	22	20220032	41	20220074	60	20220105	79	20220154
4	20220005	23	20220033	42	20220078	61	20220108	80	20220157
5	20220006	24	20220034	43	20220079	62	20220109	81	20220160
6	20220007	25	20220036	44	20220080	63	20220111	82	20220166
7	20220008	26	20220037	45	20220081	64	20220113	83	20220172
8	20220009	27	20220042	46	20220083	65	20220115	84	20220175
9	20220010	28	20220043	47	20220084	66	20220116	85	20220178
10	20220011	29	20220045	48	20220086	67	20220117	86	20220182
11	20220012	30	20220047	49	20220087	68	20220118	87	20220183
12	20220013	31	20220057	50	20220088	69	20220121	88	20220184
13	20220015	32	20220058	51	20220089	70	20220122	89	20220185
14	20220016	33	20220063	52	20220090	71	20220124	90	20220187
15	20220018	34	20220064	53	20220091	72	20220131	91	20220190
16	20220019	35	20220065	54	20220095	73	20220134	92	20220206
17	20220020	36	20220066	55	20220096	74	20220135	93	20220207
18	20220021	37	20220069	56	20220099	75	20220136	94	20220223
19	20220022	38	20220070	57	20220100	76	20220139	95	20221031

LEPCHA									
SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO
1	20220659	17	20220726	33	20220799	49	20220888	65	20220945
2	20220669	18	20220727	34	20220801	50	20220890	66	20220954
3	20220678	19	20220731	35	20220804	51	20220893	67	20220962
4	20220682	20	20220733	36	20220805	52	20220898	68	20220965
5	20220690	21	20220736	37	20220808	53	20220903	69	20220976
6	20220691	22	20220741	38	20220813	54	20220905	70	20220979
7	20220694	23	20220743	39	20220816	55	20220915	71	20220980
8	20220696	24	20220749	40	20220826	56	20220919	72	20221000
9	20220698	25	20220751	41	20220831	57	20220920	73	20221004

10	20220708	26	20220752	42	20220832	58	20220923	74	20221009
11	20220710	27	20220759	43	20220833	59	20220924	75	20221011
12	20220713	28	20220761	44	20220837	60	20220928	76	20221012
13	20220714	29	20220777	45	20220844	61	20220929	77	20221026
14	20220716	30	20220783	46	20220845	62	20220930	78	20221027
15	20220722	31	20220787	47	20220873	63	20220933		
16	20220724	32	20220789	48	20220883	64	20220944		

LIMBOO									
SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO
1	20220431	19	20220461	37	20220500	55	20220544	73	20220582
2	20220433	20	20220463	38	20220501	56	20220545	74	20220583
3	20220434	21	20220470	39	20220504	57	20220547	75	20220587
4	20220438	22	20220471	40	20220507	58	20220548	76	20220590
5	20220439	23	20220473	41	20220508	59	20220551	77	20220591
6	20220440	24	20220477	42	20220512	60	20220553	78	20220593
7	20220442	25	20220479	43	20220513	61	20220554	79	20220598
8	20220443	26	20220480	44	20220514	62	20220555	80	20220604
9	20220444	27	20220484	45	20220518	63	20220556	81	20220606
10	20220445	28	20220485	46	20220520	64	20220557	82	20220614
11	20220446	29	20220488	47	20220521	65	20220561	83	20220626
12	20220450	30	20220490	48	20220523	66	20220562	84	20220628
13	20220452	31	20220492	49	20220524	67	20220566	85	20220638
14	20220453	32	20220494	50	20220526	68	20220572	86	20220641
15	20220455	33	20220495	51	20220530	69	20220575	87	20220656
16	20220458	34	20220496	52	20220532	70	20220578	88	20220658
17	20220459	35	20220497	53	20220541	71	20220579		
18	20220460	36	20220499	54	20220543	72	20220580		

NEPALI									
SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO	SL. NO	ROLL NO
1	20220230	33	20220278	65	20220311	97	20220355	129	20220390
2	20220231	34	20220279	66	20220312	98	20220356	130	20220391
3	20220232	35	20220281	67	20220313	99	20220357	131	20220392
4	20220233	36	20220282	68	20220314	100	20220358	132	20220393
5	20220235	37	20220283	69	20220315	101	20220359	133	20220394
6	20220236	38	20220284	70	20220316	102	20220360	134	20220395
7	20220237	39	20220285	71	20220317	103	20220361	135	20220396
8	20220240	40	20220286	72	20220318	104	20220362	136	20220399
9	20220241	41	20220287	73	20220319	105	20220363	137	20220401
10	20220242	42	20220288	74	20220320	106	20220364	138	20220402
11	20220244	43	20220289	75	20220321	107	20220365	139	20220406
12	20220246	44	20220290	76	20220322	108	20220366	140	20220407
13	20220248	45	20220291	77	20220323	109	20220367	141	20220408

14	20220249	46	20220292	78	20220324	110	20220368	142	20220409
15	20220250	47	20220293	79	20220325	111	20220369	143	20220411
16	20220252	48	20220294	80	20220326	112	20220370	144	20220412
17	20220253	49	20220295	81	20220327	113	20220371	145	2022041
18	20220255	50	20220296	82	20220328	114	20220372	146	20220414
19	20220256	51	20220297	83	20220329	115	20220373	147	20220417
20	20220258	52	20220298	84	20220330	116	20220374	148	20220418
21	20220259	53	20220299	85	20220331	117	20220375	149	20220419
22	20220260	54	20220300	86	20220333	118	20220377	150	20220420
23	20220262	55	20220301	87	20220334	119	20220378	151	20220422
24	20220263	56	20220302	88	20220335	120	20220379	152	20220423
25	20220264	57	20220303	89	20220336	121	20220380	153	20220424
26	20220265	58	20220304	90	20220340	122	20220382	154	20220425
27	20220268	59	20220305	91	20220341	123	20220384	155	20220426
28	20220269	60	20220306	92	20220346	124	20220385	156	20220427
29	20220270	61	20220307	93	20220347	125	20220386	157	20220429
30	20220272	62	20220308	94	20220352	126	20220387	158	20221029
31	20220275	63	20220309	95	20220353	127	20220388		
32	20220277	64	20220310	96	20220354	128	20220389		

Serena handed tough draw in quest for record 24th Slam

MELBOURNE, JAN 10 (AFP): Serena Williams has been handed a challenging draw in her quest for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, starting with Germany's Tatjana Maria in the first round. The American, seeded 16, is gunning to match Margaret Court's record of singles majors and claim an eighth Australian Open crown.

But Williams is in a tough half of the draw and could meet world number one Simona Halep in round four, and if she gets through that Karolina Pliskova in the last eight.

Before those potential ties, either Chinese wildcard Peng Shui or Canadian Eugenie Bouchard would await Williams in the second round. Halep, who enters the tournament having played just one game in four months after a back injury, was handed a chance to avenge Estonia's Kaia Kanepi, who beat her in the first round of the US Open in August.

Dhoni is our guiding light, will play crucial role in World Cup: Rohit

SYDNEY, JAN 10 (PTI): Veteran wicketkeeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni's indifferent form has come under the scanner in recent times but India vice-captain Rohit Sharma Thursday backed him to the hilt, saying he will play a pivotal role in the World Cup later this year.

Rohit said besides his finishing abilities, Dhoni's mere presence lends calmness to the team, especially youngsters, and that would be crucial in a big tournament like the World Cup, which starts May 30 in England.

"Over the years we have seen what sort of presence he (Dhoni) has in the dressing room and on the field. With him being around, there is a sense of calmness in the group, which is very important, and also a bit of help to the captain because he stands behind the stumps," Rohit said ahead of the first ODI against Australia on Saturday. "He has captained India for so many years



and been successful. So him being around with the team always is helpful. He is like a guiding light around the group," he said.

Dhoni's much-vaunted finishing skills are under scrutiny but Rohit said the former captain has it in him to continue being useful with the bat.

"...batting down the order, getting us through the line, his finishing

touch is very important and he has finished so many games for us. His calmness and advice, what he thinks about the game and what we should do right now is very important.

"His presence around the group is a massive factor for us," said the 31-year-old right handed batsman. Rohit said young bowlers like

Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav can benefit from Dhoni's presence behind the stumps.

"Chahal and Kuldeep are both doing really well so somebody like Dhoni standing behind the stumps and helping those guys about what the batsman is trying to do, it makes a huge difference I think.

"These guys started

playing for India in 2017 and since then they have done really well in and outside India. And one of the reasons for that is MS and how he has guided these two guys in the middle about how to keep things tight and field placements.

"He has played a massive role ever since the time he has left captaincy," he added.

Never seen a batsman concentrate like Pujara and that includes Tendulkar, says Langer

CHETAN NARULA

SYDNEY, JAN 10 (PTI): Australia coach Justin Langer Thursday said he has never seen a batsman concentrate as hard as India's Test star Cheteshwar Pujara, who beats even the great Sachin Tendulkar in that aspect.

India won the four-match Test series 2-1 against Australia with Pujara fetching the man of the series award with a total of 521 runs, including three hundreds.

Speaking for the first time since the visiting team's maiden Test triumph on Australian soil, Langer said Pujara's concentration was a challenge for his bowlers.

"...I have never seen a batsman watch the ball as closely as he (Pujara) does, and that includes Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. His concentration was a challenge. And we have to keep getting better just like him, all our batsmen and bowlers," Langer said.

Langer said his bowlers were stretched to the limit in the Test series, especially in Melbourne and Sydney.

"The guys are working very hard and they are going okay. The first innings in Melbourne and Sydney, honestly, sucked the life out of us because when you are in the field for two days, with only one spin bowler, that takes energy out of the group," he said ahead of ODI series starting Saturday here.

"We have the best spinner and three outstanding pace bowlers, against the outstanding Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli. So it takes some mental and physical energy out.

"There are new players and new staff for these three games, so that brings new energy to the group..." he added.

Australia's fast bowl-

ers drew all-round criticism for failing to be as effective as India's pace battery but Langer backed them. The home team will be missing Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins in the ODI series, who have been rested to manage workloads.

"...they copped some pretty strong criticism throughout the series. But on two very flat wickets they kept running in hard and having a go and in this instance they were beaten by some a brilliant Indian side. We were beaten by a better side," he conceded.

Langer said the challenge is ever present for his side despite a change in format as the Indian ODI team is just as strong as the Test team. Both sides get down to their respective World Cup preparations with the upcoming series.

"After losing in 2001, in 2004 when we finally beat India in India at Nagpur, without doubt that was the Everest moment of my cricket career. So I am sure for most of the Indian players, especially Virat Kohli, it feels the same but when you are at the top, things are on the way down," he warned the visitors.

"They will be very buoyed and excited but we plan to fight for every thing. They have a good one-day team and we are up against it. Let's hope we are better than we were in the Test series," Langer said.

The Australian coach felt his side has the talent but just needs to apply itself a bit more.

"It's the exciting thing, when you lose a series to India, it's disappointing but it helps you get better and it's the same where we are at the moment.

"It is an unbelievable opportunity for us in Tests and ODI cricket to

get better and we have to do that. We have the talent, now we have to look at the experience and ability, and aspire to do it," he said.

Australia have made an addition to their squad with batsman Ashton Turner coming in for Mitchell Marsh who is suffering from gastroenteritis and is not available for the first ODI.

Australia have recalled off-spinner Nathan Lyon to their ODI squad, and Langer said that this is a move keeping the World Cup in mind, but didn't commit if the hosts would play two spinners in the first match of the series itself.

"Lyon's record in white ball cricket is very good and he is the best spinner in the world. So it would be a waste of opportunity if we don't play him in white ball cricket particularly with the World Cup coming up.

"He is also a gun fieldsman. He is nice and fit, and a gun fielder. I cannot wait to see how he goes and he is also excited about it," he said.

In addition, he spoke about Australia's World Cup preparations, and how they are close to finding the group of players in a bid to retain their 2015 title this summer.

"No one ever feels locked in. We have a clear plan how we will play our one-day cricket between now and the World Cup.

"It will be a great opportunity for Lyon and for our batsmen, as we have 10-15 games before the World Cup. So we will pick our (final) side after that. As always we will look to prepare well and win the World Cup," he said.

"In the next few months we will have a group of players together and build towards the World Cup, for which we have a clear idea of who we would like to have but we will have to wait," he signed off.

Real Kashmir renew title challenge away at Aizawl

AIZAWL, JAN 10 (PTI): Real Kashmir FC renew their dream debut campaign, aiming to grab the top spot on the points table in a 12th round I-League clash against Aizawl FC here on Friday.

There can be no better illustration of the different directions that the campaigns of the two opposing teams have taken than the evident gulf on the points table. Kashmir are third while Aizawl are a rung above the bottom in the 11-team league.

Aizawl have a new coach in Stanley Rosario appointed in place of Gift Raikhan, who resigned earlier after a string of poor shows, while Real Kashmir coach David Robertson has never looked more certain of what he was trying to achieve with his team.

The Srinagar-based debutants have been built on the foundation of a sturdy defence and a strong and sound goalkeeper. Available local resources have been

cleverly used with a mix of foreign recruits at crucial positions.

The focus has also been on fit and young players and all have been shuffled around cleverly to get the maximum out of them.

"We come to play well in every game. As we are a new team in the league, it's difficult for us to set our foot. As long as we do what we do, we should not have any issues but anything is possible here. We have started well and our aim is to stay in the league. For us, it's more about enjoying the league," Scotsman Robertson said at the pre-match press conference.

Aizawl, on the other hand, have been blowing hot and cold, more cold than hot rather, resulting in the parting of ways with Raikhan eventually.

They have good players in Mapuia and David, while foreigners like Kromah, Dodoz and Jaryan have been producing decent perfor-

mances, but somehow the team has not been able to gel well.

New coach Rosario will have the services of new signing Richard Kassaga of Uganda to bolster his defence and it remains to be seen how much of a difference he is able to make, given it has been Aizawl's weakest link conceding a whopping 18 goals till now. Only Shillong Lajong have leaked more.

"We will fight for three points as it is our home match and we don't want to lose this game. Stanley will arrive today and will be there for the practice. We will be planning the game strategy as it will be a challenging match for us," assistant coach Jonathan said.

"Real Kashmir are high on scoring and there defence and passing are strong. Our players are also motivated and we will be giving our best."

He also ruled out Ivorian striker Ansumanah Kromah due to injury.

Next course of action will depend on what people of Kashmir want: Shah Faesal

SRINAGAR, JAN 10 (PTI): A day after quitting the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Shah Faesal, who topped the exam in 2009, Thursday said his next course of action will depend on what the people of Kashmir, especially the youth, want him to do. Faesal said he received both abuse and adulation over his decision to quit the government service but he had "totally expected this".

"As of now I have quit the service. What I am going to do hereafter also depends on what people of Kashmiri want me to do. More so the youth," he wrote in Facebook post.

Faesal asked people if they have any ideas for him before he takes a final decision about his future.

"If you are ready to come out of Fb/Twitter and show up in Srinagar tomorrow (Friday), we could think this through



together. My choice of politics will be decided by real people not Fb likes and comments," Faesal added.

The MBBS degree holder said he would share the venue details after he knows who all are coming to meet him.

"Let's see out of those hun-

dreds and thousands how many are ready to walk the talk. Type yes in the comments below. Don't tell me later that I should have asked the youth first," he said. The former IAS officer is widely tipped to join the National Conference but his Facebook post has given rise to

Rai recommends 2-ODI ban for Pandya, Rahul; Edulji seeks legal view

KUSHAN SARKAR

NEW DELHI, JAN 10 (PTI): The Committee of Administrators chief Vinod Rai Thursday recommended a two-ODI ban on India players Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul for their controversial comments on women in a TV show but fellow COA member Diana Edulji referred the matter to the BCCI's legal cell.

If the ban is imposed, the duo could miss the first two matches of a three-ODI series against Australia starting Saturday in Sydney.

"I am not convinced with Hardik's explanation and I have recommended a two-match ban for both players. However the final decision will be taken once Diana gives her go ahead," Rai told PTI. Pandya's comments on 'Koffee with Karan' were slammed as misogynistic and sexist, prompting the CoA to issue a show cause notice on Wednesday. The all-rounder, in response, said he was sincerely regretful and would not repeat the behaviour.

On the show, he had boasted about hooking up with multiple women and also how open he has been about it with his parents.

Rahul, the more restrained of the two during the interview by film-maker Karan Johar, has not yet reacted to the social media storm. The two players were given 24 hours to explain themselves by the BCCI.

"Diana has sought legal opinion whether the duo can be banned. So, obviously a decision will be taken once she gives her nod. As far as I am concerned, the comments were crass, in bad taste and unacceptable," Rai said.

Edulji also sought the opinion of BCCI acting president CK Khanna, acting secretary Amitabh Chaudhary and treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry on the issue. Responding to her query, Anirudh recommended a suspension for the two and a gender sensitisation programme for them. He also took a dig at BCCI CEO Rahul Johri, who was cleared of sexual harassment charges but advised to undergo gender sensitisation by an inquiry committee.

"The players must be immediately suspended pending a proper inquiry and must be allowed to join the team (if selected) only once they have gone through a proper sensitisation in addition to serving a ban, if imposed upon them," he said. "In any case the entire team and support staff must go through a sensitisation process. The CEO may join them in the sensitisation as well as recommended by Ms. Veena Gowda, Advocate," he added. Anirudh said there should also be an investigation into how the two players appeared on an entertainment show.

"...the provisions of the earlier contracts and the practice in place would have required these contracted players to seek permission to appear on the show. Was such a permission sought? Was such a permission granted? If so, by whom?" he asked in his response to Edulji.

"...I question the situation where the sports journalists are kept at bay while access to the players is given to entertainment shows," he said referring to the provision of players needing the Board's approval for routine media interviews.

Anirudh said the loose talk on women could also make the two players susceptible to approaches by bookmakers through "honey-traps".

"...the comments such as the ones that have been made would definitely have painted a large, red target on the back of the players for potential recruiters for the organized syndicates who attempt to indulge in match fixing across the globe," he said.

"The very first caution that the ICC Anti-Corruption officers give in briefing to the players is to beware of situations of honey traps and the comments made on the show make it seem that the players may just be ripe for the plucking," he added.

more speculation. Faesal had resigned Wednesday, protesting against the "unabated" killings in Kashmir and a "lack of sincere reach out" from the Union government.

The 35-year-old said his resignation was also to protest "the marginalization and invisibilisation of around 200 million Indian Muslims at the hands of Hindutva forces reducing them to second-class citizens; insidious attacks on the special identity of the state and growing culture of intolerance and hate in mainland India in the name of hyper-nationalism".

Without naming it, Faesal launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led government at the Centre, saying the "subversion of public institutions like the RBI, the CBI and the NIA has the potential to decimate the constitutional edifice of this country and it needs to be stopped".

Trump walks out of shutdown negotiations after Democrats reject wall funding

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JAN 10 (PTI): Talks between Donald Trump and the Democrats to end a partial government shutdown have collapsed after the president stormed out of the White House meeting as the opposition leaders refused to allocate USD 5.7 billion funding for his controversial US-Mexico border wall.

The Democrats accused Trump of slamming his hand on the table before he exited, and they said he ignored their pleas to reopen the federal government as they continue to negotiate over his border wall demand.

Funding for a border wall to prevent the entry of illegal immigrants has been the main sticking point in negotiations with Democrats to reopen parts of the federal government.

A wall along the US-Mexico border was one of Trump's signature campaign promises. The Democrats are refusing to allocate the money, arguing that a wall would be costly and ineffective. Mexico has rejected Trump's demand to pay for the border wall.

The standoff triggered a partial government shutdown on December 22, shuttering nine federal departments and several smaller agencies and forcing some 800,000 workers to go on unpaid leave or work without pay. The shutdown entered its 19th day Wednesday, making it the second-longest in history after the 21-day shutdown in 1995-96.

The president's walk-



out from the meeting at the White House with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer starts a new phase of political uncertainty in the US.

Trump was furious that Pelosi said no when he asked the Democratic leaders on Wednesday would they support the move to fund the border wall within the next 30 days if he ends the partial government shutdown that has crippled many offices.

"Just left a meeting with Chuck and Nancy, a total waste of time. I asked what is going to happen in 30 days if I quickly open things up, are you going to approve Border Security which includes a Wall or Steel Barrier? Nancy said, NO. I said bye-bye, nothing else works (sic)!" a furious Trump tweeted.

Trump earlier said imposing a national emergency to build the wall is the last option and threatened to use it if the Democrats do not

allocate USD 5.7 billion funding for his plan.

He argued that the current situation, wherein people are entering the country illegally and there is a massive smuggling of drugs, poses a national security threat.

"I have the absolute right to impose national emergency if I want," Trump said.

To a question why he did not declare an emergency during his prime-time address to the nation on Tuesday night from the Oval Office, the president said, "Because I think we might work a deal and, if we don't, I may go that (national emergency) route."

Talking to reporters after Trump's walkout from the meeting, Pelosi and Schumer asserted that under no circumstances the Democrats are willing to fund a border wall.

Blaming Trump for the partial government shutdown that has badly hit the functioning of the federal government, the two leaders indicat-

ed that their party is not going to change its stand over the issue.

The Democratic party enjoys a majority in the House of Representatives.

Vice President Mike Pence said their doors are still open for the Democratic party leaders to come up with their own proposal.

However, Trump has made it clear that there will be no moving forward without funding approval for a wall. In recent days, the president has showed signs of some flexibility by proposing a steel barrier instead of a 30-foot-high concrete wall.

The meeting with Pelosi and Schumer took place in the Situation Room of the White House. Trump entered the room and shared candies with the Congressional leadership, but walked out soon after getting 'no' for an answer from the House speaker.

"It's cold out here and the temperature was not much warmer in the

Situation Room," Pelosi told reporters outside the White House after the meeting.

Schumer alleged that Trump "sort of slammed the table" as the talks fell apart.

"He couldn't get his way and he just walked out of the meeting," he said, adding, "We saw a temper tantrum because he couldn't get his way."

Alleging that the Democrats are unwilling to change their position over the issue, Vice President Pence said the Democrats want to reopen the government before negotiations can begin.

Declaration of national emergency based on the ground that the crisis at the southern border with Mexico poses a security threat would give Trump presidential powers to divert necessary federal fund for the construction of the border wall.

Trump is scheduled to travel to the southern border in Texas to have a first-hand assessment of the situation.

Bangladeshi man sentenced for altering photos of Hasina, former Indian PM

DHAKA, JAN 10 (PTI): A 35-year-old Bangladeshi man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for circulating photo-shopped images of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other politicians including former Indian premier Manmohan Singh, amid criticism that her government is using tough internet laws to silence dissent.

Monir Hossain from Tangail was jailed by Bangladesh Cyber Tribunal judge Mohammad As-Shams Joglul Hossain on Wednesday.

Monir had been on bail and appeared in court for the verdict, bd-news24.com reported.

Alamgir Hossain and Subrata Shil -- two others accused in the case started under the the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act -- were acquitted as charges against them were not proved, the report said.

Monir used to run his 'Monir Telecom' shop at Tangail's Nagarpur. He had sent doctored images of Hasina, late president Zillur Rahman and former Indian premier Singh to mobile phones of users in 2013, said the verdict.

Saturia Police arrested Alamgir after finding out that he was showing around the vulgar 'pho-

toshopped images' on his phone. Following his arrest, Alamgir told police he got the images from Monir Telecom.

Rights groups have criticised the government for using the the ICT laws to silence criticism. Critics have lashed out at the government for cracking down on free speech and an increasingly authoritarian rule. Some the recent strengthening of defamation laws with a new Digital Security Act (DSA) has spread a climate of fear.

The DSA also penalises obtaining papers, information, or pictures from government offices without official consent.

More than 30,000 flee Boko Haram violence in NE Nigeria: UN

LAGOS, JAN 9 (AFP): Tens of thousands of people have fled their homes in northeast Nigeria after an increase in violence in the Boko Haram conflict, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

"More than 30,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) have arrived in Maiduguri, mainly from Baga, in recent weeks," said the UN's humanitarian coordinator in Nigeria, Edward Kallon.

Baga, on the shores of Lake Chad, has been repeatedly hit in the nine-year conflict, which has killed more than 27,000, left 1.8 million people homeless and triggered a humanitarian crisis.

Fighters from the self-styled Islamic State West Africa Province faction of Boko Haram overran two military bases in and around the fishing town on late December.

Kallon said fighting on December 26 triggered a "massive displacement" of civilians, with men, women and children flocking to already overcrowded camps in Monguno and Maiduguri.

Monguno is a garrison town 65 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of Baga while the Maiduguri, the Borno state cap-

ital, is 200 kilometres away on the same road.

Both are considered key prizes for the jihadists, who have increased their attacks on military bases and soldiers since July last year.

A second attack on Monguno on December 28 forced IDPs to Maiduguri. Some 20,000 arrived at one camp, Teachers Village, stretching its capacity beyond the limit.

Kallon said it was unclear how many remained in Monguno but "tens of thousands of people are in need of humanitarian assistance, notably shelter, food, water and sanitation."

"The impact of the recent fighting on innocent civilians is devastating and has created a humanitarian tragedy," he added. Local and international aid agencies have been providing life-saving assistance to IDPs for several years in the remote region, which has been devastated by the fighting.

But since November, some 260 aid workers have had to withdraw from three local government areas in northern Borno near Lake Chad where ISWAP are known to operate. Kallon said

"hundreds of thousands of people" had been affected and the withdrawal was the largest since the international response was increased in 2016.

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said in December 2015 that Boko Haram was "technically defeated" after a sustained counter-insurgency by Nigerian and regional troops.

Tens of thousands of IDPs who had previously fled to Maiduguri have in the last year been encouraged to leave after the authorities maintained it was safe to return home.

On Wednesday Buhari acknowledged setbacks, including "battle fatigue" among soldiers from a persistent wave of guerrilla style hit-and-run tactics and suicide bombings. Buhari was elected in 2015 on a promise to end the conflict and security has again become a major election issue as he seeks a second term of office at polls next month.

Troops on the ground have increasingly complained about conditions, including a lack of relief and support, as well as equipment to fight the better-armed militants.

Pak anti-terrorism court sentences cyberstalker to 24 yrs in jail

M ZULQERNAIN

LAHORE, JAN 10 (PTI): An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan has sentenced a cyberstalker to 24 years in jail for blackmailing 200 lady doctors and nurses through their social media accounts - the maximum punishment awarded to a convict in the offence related to social media crimes in the country's history. Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore Judge Sajjad Ahmad on Wednesday sentenced Abdul Wahab to a total of 24 years in prison along with a fine of Rs 7 lakh.

The judge sentenced Wahab to 14-year imprisonment along with Rs 500,000 fine. In addition to this, he was sentenced to seven-year in jail along with Rs 100,000 fine. He was awarded a further three-year jail term and fined Rs 100,000.

"All the sentences will run concurrently and benefit of section 382-B of CrPC shall be given to convict," the court ruled.

The section 382-B says that the length of any sentence of imprisonment imposed upon an accused shall be treated as reduced by any period during which he/she was detained in custody for such an offence.

Wahab, a resident of Punjab's Layyah district, was arrested in 2015 from Naran after the scam surfaced that nearly 200 women, including lady doctors and nurses of some government teaching hospitals of Lahore.

Congo: Opposition leader Tshisekedi wins presidential vote

KINSHASA (DR CONGO), Jan 10 (AP): Congo opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi has won the long-delayed presidential election, the electoral commission announced early Thursday, as the vast country braced for possible protests over alleged rigging.

Tshisekedi, who received more than 7 million votes, or 38 per cent, had not been widely considered the leading candidate and is relatively untested. The son of late opposition leader Etienne, who pursued the presidency for many years, he surprised many last year by breaking away from an opposition effort to unite behind a single candidate.

Some observers have suggested that President Joseph Kabila's government sought to make a deal as hopes faded for a win for ruling party candidate Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, who received more than 4 million votes, or 23 per cent.

It is not immediately clear whether opposition candidate Martin Fayulu, who had vowed to clean up Congo's widespread corruption and led in polling, will contest the results. The constitutional court has 14 days to validate them. Fayulu received more than 6 million votes, or 34 per cent. This is Congo's first

peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence in 1960.

Kabila has ruled since 2001 in the troubled nation rich in the minerals key to smartphones around the world and has amassed vast wealth.

He is barred from serving three consecutive terms, but during more than two years of election delays many Congolese feared he'd find a way to stay in office.

"This is the coronation of a lifetime," the deputy secretary-general of Tshisekedi's party, Rubens Mikindo, said above the cheers at party headquarters.

"This is the beginning of national reconciliation."

Scores of people in the capital, Kinshasa, danced after the election results were announced long after midnight, but observers waited to see how other Congolese would respond, especially after Fayulu this week warned that the results were "not negotiable."

Activist groups on Wednesday urged people to "be ready to massively take to the streets" if results didn't match "the truth of the ballot boxes."

Attention turns to Congo's powerful Catholic church, which has said its 40,000 election observers at all polling stations found a "clear

winner" but was barred by electoral regulations from saying more.

If the church found Fayulu won, "how will population react?" Stephanie Wolters, analyst with the Institute for Security Studies, posted on Twitter ahead of the announcement.

She added, will the African Union "consider a power transfer 'enough' or will they push for investigation and real result?"

The delayed results come after international pressure to announce an outcome that reflected the will of the people. The United States threatened sanctions against officials who rigged the vote. The largely peaceful election was marred by the malfunctioning of many voting machines that Congo used for the first time.

Dozens of polling centers opened hours late as materials went missing.

And in a last-minute decision, some 1 million of the country's 40 million voters were barred from participating, with the electoral commission blaming a deadly Ebola virus outbreak.

Defiantly, tens of thousands of voters in one of the barred communities held their own ballot on election day. Fayulu won easily.

Congo's government cut internet service the day after the vote to

prevent speculation on social media. As the electoral commission met this week, anti-riot police moved into place outside.

Some Congolese weary of Kabila's long rule, two turbulent years of election delays and years of conflict that killed millions of people said they simply wanted peace.

Some said they would be happy as long as Fayulu or Tshisekedi won, while recalling the violence that followed past disputed elections.

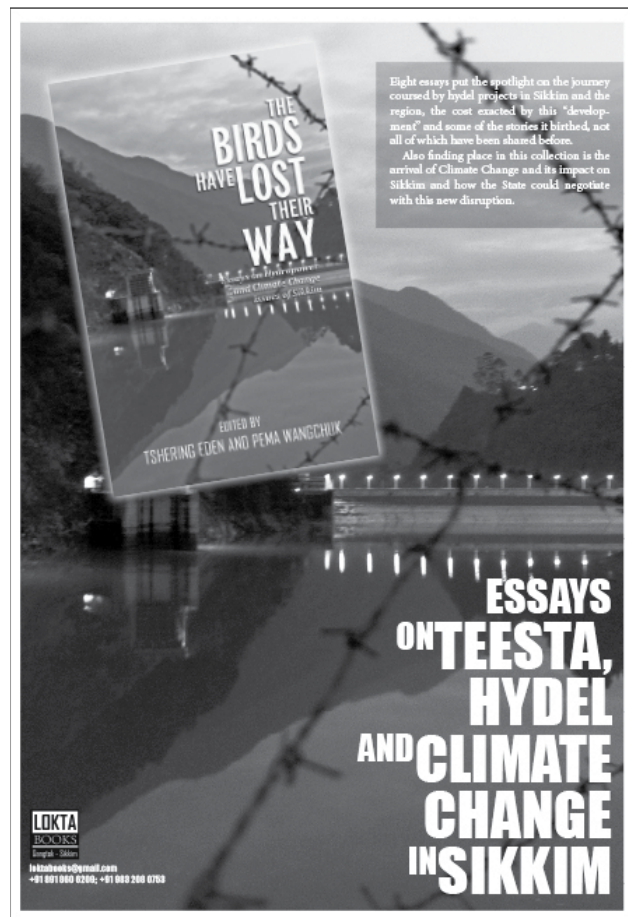
Many Congolese objected to Shadary, suspecting that Kabila would continue to rule from behind the scenes.

Now Congo faces a new leader who is little known after spending many years in Belgium and living in the shadow of his outspoken father.

On Wednesday afternoon, hours before results were announced, some Tshisekedi supporters began to celebrate at his Union for Democracy and Social Progress party headquarters, with calendars already printed saying "Felix Tshisekedi president."

The 56-year-old Tshisekedi took over as head of Congo's most prominent opposition party in early 2018, a year after his father's death.

Some Congolese have said Tshisekedi lost support by splitting the opposition.





FUNNY FACES! The Glass co-stars, Sarah Paulson & James McAvoy, share a hilarious moment at the film's red carpet premiere in London, England.

Only I could have done 'Gully Boy', says Ranveer Singh

Actor Ranveer Singh says he was born to do Zoya Akhtar's "Gully Boy" as only he could have done justice to the character of a rapper.

The film's official trailer was released on Wednesday and shows the actor in the role of an up and coming rapper who sets out to achieve his dream by rhyming about his life on the Mumbai streets.

"This is my film and I think only I could have done it. It is the coming together of so many things like rap, hip-hop music, which I have loved since I was a kid, Mumbai the city. Zoya Akhtar is my friend, confidante. Ritesh Sidhwani is like my father. I admire Farhan Akhtar and want him to direct me some day. We are lucky Alia Bhatt is part of our film," Ranveer told reporters here at the trailer launch of "Gully Boy".

"It was the most fulfilling experience. To be with these raw talent.. I was very excited," he added.

Asked about actor-wife Deepika Padukone's response to the trailer, Ranveer said she has watched the teaser and loved it.

The film has the tagline of 'Apna time aagaya' and when asked about his super successful 2018 at a time when even the three Khans -- Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir -- did not work, Ranveer bypassed the question in



his trademark style.

"If you are saying so, I will agree to it," he quipped. "I do feel bad when films fail to do well at the box office. If films do well, I am more than happy for everyone. I do feel happier when my own films do better than everyone else," he added.

The film, also featuring Alia Bhatt, Kalki Koechlin, releases on February 14.

Surprised by the criticism: Zoya Akhtar on 'elite class' filmmaker tag

Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar says she is surprised by the criticism that her films revolve around the elite class because for her, such things are just the background and not the real story.

Her last two films "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" and "Dil Dhadkane Do" were set in the high society while her upcoming feature film "Gully Boy" dives deep into the hip-hop culture of Mumbai streets through the story of an up and coming rapper.

"I am always pleasantly surprised by the criticism because I learn from it and sometimes shocked by it. I don't know what will come my way but I will continue to tell stories that excite me. I feel human beings are same everywhere, they work from a gamut of emotions the rest is just backdrop," Zoya told reporters here at the trailer launch of "Gully Boy".

Zoya said "Gully Boy" is not a biopic of underground rappers Divine and Naezy but a fictional account of the rap culture.

"It is not a biopic on Divine and Naezy. It is a fictional story. It is inspired by them and their music. They worked with us on the script to make it authentic. There are lot of things from their life but it is not a biopic."

Zoya said she was shocked when she learnt how big the rap culture is in India and feels they should be given the

right platform to showcase their talent.

"It is big in India, on YouTube the artistes have 22 million views. It is just that they are not given the platform they should be given."

When asked if with "Gully Boy" she is trying to challenge any stereotypes, Zoya said, "We did not try to challenge any stereotypes. Both when Reema Kagti and I started working on the script and realised they are honest, they talk about their life, struggle and socio-economic space. There is no cynicism and bitterness in them."

"They are extremely positive, hopeful and idealistic and out to change the world. This is very contagious. We want to put that in our film. They are artiste and they have the dream to change everything."

Zoya, who is working with Ranveer Singh after "Dil Dhadkane Do", is all praise for the actor.

"He is extremely sensitive, he is an actor and he knows what he has to do. He does his first take, gets all the energies out and then

he is ok in the second take," she added.

The film, also starring Alia Bhatt, Kalki Koechlin, Amruta Subhash and Vijay Raaz, releases on February 14.



'Cheat India' title changed to 'Why Cheat India' after CBFC objection

MUMBAI, JAN 10 (PTI): Emraan Hashmi-starrer "Cheat India" is getting a new name after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) reportedly raised concerns regarding the title.

According to the producers of the film, the movie has been rechristened as "Why Cheat India".

"The CBFC had concerns about the title Cheat India. We had an extensive conversation with the Examining Committee and Revising Committee regarding the proposed change as the film has been in public domain for a year, and more importantly, because the theatrical teaser, trailer and television promos had already been certified with the original title.

"This would lead to dual communication a week before the release. The duress of lack of time left us with no choice but to mutually agree to the new title, 'Why Cheat India'," the statement by the producers read.

The film has been co-produced by Hashmi along with T-Series Films and Ellipsis Entertainment.

In what may seem as a dig at the decision, Hashmi also changed his name on Twitter to 'Whyemraan Hashmi'.



'Nicole Kidman snub will haunt me forever'

LOS ANGELES, JAN 10 (PTI): "Bohemian Rhapsody" star Rami Malek has opened up about the hilarious snub he received from actor Nicole Kidman during the Golden Globes award ceremony.

The incident happened when the 37-year-old actor was at the stage with the rest of the "Bohemian Rhapsody" cast and crew to collect the award for Best Picture - Drama trophy.

In the video of the incident, which has since gone viral, Malek was seen moving to greet Kidman, who had presented the award. Kidman, unaware that he was trying to catch her attention, turned her back, leaving the actor standing awkwardly behind her.

Appearing on the "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", Malek recalled the incident, joking it will haunt him for the rest of his life.

"I had not seen that," Rami said after the host twice played the video to further embarrass the actor.

"I've known her for many years, despite what it may seem in that video, so I thought I could easily go up and say hi but in a moment like that... it was very awkward. I have a feel this is probably haunting me on the internet now," he added.

The actor said if not for Kidman, her husband Keith Urban showered praise on him for his gutsy portrayal of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury in the film.

"It's alright, I got love from Keith that night. He's a massive Queen fan," he said.

At the Golden Globes 2019, Malek had won the Best Actor - Drama for the "Bohemian Rhapsody". He is also nominated in the best actor category at BAFTA.

ARIES: You can lead a horse to water, Aries, but you can't make it drink—especially on low-energy days like today, when the moon's in sleepy Pisces and your restful twelfth house. If you can take a day off, do so! But if there's work to be done and people to meet and greet, brew up another cup (or pot!) of coffee and get down to business. Screen out distractions and see if you can't log out a little early. A restorative yoga class or melo-

TAURUS: Go big, scale back—or just go back to bed? You may feel pulled in opposing directions today as buzzy Mars in your intuitive twelfth house squares off with randomizer Mercury in your expansive ninth house. When you put in 110 percent, you feel spread too thin, yet when you hold back to reconsider, you fear you'll miss an opportunity. The trick? Prioritize! Step out of the office—or away from your work—and clear your head. Rather than pushing for the right answer, stay open and allow it to come!

GEMINI: Go ahead and invite a couple

extra colleagues to the brainstorming meeting or expand the guest list for an upcoming gathering! Just make sure you're not opening the door to one too many high-maintenance types. With excitable Mars in your teamwork zone getting body-checked by quicksilver Mercury in your house of intense emotions, feelings could bubble up that no one's prepared for. Before you wave people in, make sure you have at least some idea of what their agenda is.

CANCER: Upgrade to the VIP tickets, Cancer. Shortly before the ball drops on 2019, uncompromising Mars rushes into Aries and your prestigious tenth house until February 14. You've got grand plans for the year ahead, and it all starts NOW. Tonight, you practically owe yourself an upscale celebration.

LEO: You may still be digesting Christmas cookies, but you can start burning off those holiday indulgences now. Today, as the life-giving Sun links up with disciplined Saturn in your sixth house of wellbeing, you may find sticking to

an exercise routine or a healthy-eating plan easier than ever. Exploit this planetary lift by diving in headfirst. Join a gym—or become a regular at yours—and find a class that will keep you pumped up. In the food department, experiment with cutting back on just one "evil," like sugar or processed food.

VIRGO: Simmer down! You want to tune out the outer world and listen for messages from your muse today, as the creative Sun winks at structured Saturn in Capricorn and your fifth house of self-expression. If you've been taking your talents for granted, it's time to get a little more about serious about them. Withhold judgment for now and just start devoting a few hours a week (and more on weekends) to pursuing your craft—whatever it may be. Romance could reach a passionate peak, but you need to know if the object of your affections is playing for keeps. Ask!

LIBRA: You'll be in your gracious, glamorous element this NYE as passionate Mars launches a six-week tour through Aries and your seventh house of relationships (aka "the Libra house").

SCORPIO: This might not be the NYE that sees you dancing on the bar till dawn, but considering the year of wild growth that's behind you, a gentler pace is fine by you—isn't it, Scorpio? Thanks to your co-ruler Mars settling into Aries and your sixth house of self-care this evening, 2018 slinks out more like a kitten than a lion. You'll be just as happy (happier, probably) bidding adieu to the year in a meditation circle, candlelight yoga class or perhaps on some sandy beach.

SAGITTARIUS: Party costume: Check. Crazy shoes and accessories: Check! Wild hair and makeup: Up to you, Archer, but why not? This NYE gets a turbo-charge from passionate Mars. Just before midnight, the red planet bursts into Aries and your festive, flamboyant fifth house until February 14. Since the fifth house also rules fame, this NYE (and the first six weeks of 2019) could turn into one giant photo op for you and your crew.

CAPRICORN: How's this for a perfect NYE gameplan: Get yourself suitably dressed up; have everyone stop by just as the bubbly reaches the perfect tempera-

ture; cue up your killer playlist; and let the rest unfold spontaneously. With passionate Mars nestling into your domestic quarters shortly before the ball drops, you may relish the thought of staying home and turning your living room into "the club."

AQUARIUS: Wait a second there, Water Bearer. If you're about to hit Go on a team project without running your decisions up the flagpole, you need to do a rethink on that. Last we checked, democracy still rules. And with savvy Mercury in your collaborative zone connected with healer-feeler Chiron in Pisces, you have no business trying to be the whole voting committee!

PISCES: You won't have to actively launch a charm offensive today, Pisces—not with the moon lingering in your sultry sign! You'll be turning heads so hard you could induce whiplash. Bear in mind that once you catch 'em, it might not be so easy to release 'em. Be cognizant of leading people on, and let your guiding philosophy be "Do unto others..." Leave enough space in your jam-packed calendar for precious "me" time.