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SummitTIMES

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

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Sikkim's Organic commitment shortlisted for FAO's Future Policy Award

YOSHITA SINGH

NEW YORK, OCT 10 (PTI): Sikkim's State Policy on Organic Farming and Sikkim Organic Mission have been short-listed for an award conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations for the world's best policies promoting agroecological approaches.

The 2018 Future Policy Award (FPA) will commend proven policies that effectively scale up

agroecological approaches at local, national and international levels. It will celebrate outstanding examples for accelerating the transformative change in the way food is produced and consumed.

In total, 51 policies from 25 countries were nominated and among those shortlisted as the world's best policies in the support to scale up agroecological approaches include Brazil's National Policy for Agro-

ecology and Organic Production, Organic Action Plan for Denmark: Working together for more organics, Sikkim's State Policy on Organic Farming (2004) and Sikkim Organic Mission (2010), the From Arms to Farms Programme in Philippines and Los Angeles' Good Food Purchasing Policy (2012).

According to information about the Sikkim Organic Mission online, Sikkim became the first

state in India to officially announce adoption of Organic Farming in the year 2003 to ensure long term sustenance of soil fertility, protection of environment and ecology, healthy living and decreasing the risk of health ailments.

In 2003, Sikkim stopped imports of chemical fertilizers in the State and since then the cultivatable land there is practically organic and farmers of Sikkim are

traditional users of organic manure.

Winners of this year's Future Policy Award will be announced on October 12 and celebrated during World Food Week in a ceremony this week at FAO headquarters in Rome.

The Future Policy Award 2018 is co-organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Future Council and IFOAM

International, with the support of Green Cross International, DO-IT Dutch Organic International Trade and Sekem Group, Egypt.

The organisations said with their holistic approach and impressive impact, these eight legal frameworks and policies create enabling environments for the implementation of agroecology, help achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and contribute directly

to multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

"Agroecology is a key pathway to support the transition towards healthier and more sustainable food systems. The selected policies are outstanding examples featuring important agroecological elements that support such transitions. Leadership and political will are key to achieve them. FAO encourages such leadership and is com-

mitted to join hands to accelerate the needed transformation," FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo said.

The potential of agroecology to achieve healthy nutrition for all and to address social injustice, climate change and biodiversity loss has been internationally recognised, World Board President of IFOAM Organics International Peggy Miars said.

Five killed as New Farakka Express derails near Rae Bareilly in UP

LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI): Five coaches and the engine of the New Farakka Express derailed near Rae Bareilly early Wednesday, killing at least five people and seriously injuring nine, officials said.

The accident on the New Farakka Express (14003) that was on its from Malda in West Bengal to New Delhi took place in Harchandpur area of Rae Bareilly district at 6.10 am, Uttar Pradesh Additional Director General (ADG), Law and Order, Anand Kumar said.

About 30-35 people received minor injuries, Kumar, who had put the toll at seven earlier in the day, said.

Confusion prevailed for hours among senior police and railway officials over the death toll and the number of coaches that had derailed. While initially the death toll was said to be six, then seven, it was finally fixed at five by early

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Mock exercise tests Sikkim's preparedness for earthquakes

GANGTOK, 10 OCT [IPR]: A massive state-level mock exercise to test Sikkim's preparation for an earthquake scenario was played out to perfection today at different pre-designated locations in the State capital and in all the four districts of Sikkim.

The mock exercise was planned and executed through an Incident Response System protocol designed by the National Disaster Management Authority followed to tackle disasters throughout the country.

The exercise at the State level was headed by the Chief Secretary who was the Responsible Officer [RO] along with the State Relief Commissioner as the Incident Commander in charge of issuing all the orders.

They were assisted by a set of officers and field staff and all stakeholders.

A similar protocol was followed at the districts, with the District Collectors being the Responsible Officers aided by the ADC or SDM as the Incident Commanders



and other officers of the district administration taking various roles and responsibilities.

A mock scenario was created where an earthquake of magnitude 8.7 on Richter Scale struck at 11:15 am, with its epicenter at Shillong, Meghalaya. Strong tremors felt across Sikkim and West Bengal triggered situations of landslides,

toppling of buildings, stampede, fire and challenges of evacuating large number of people from a campus.

The State Emergency Operation Centre, or the Main Control Room, was setup at the SSDMA office in Manan Kendra. The staging area was set up at Paljor Stadium from where all men and resources were mobilized

to all the locations.

The five locations were – a landslide scenario at Sichey, building toppling near Vajra Cinema Hall, Fire outbreak at Khadi Bhawan in Deorali, Stampede at Reliance Trends Store at MG Marg and mass evacuation at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Degree College, Tadong.

Apart from these locations, STNM Hospital

and CRH were roped in for medical emergency services.

At the district level, all the incidents were staged in and around Rangpo town while the Control Room, the Staging Area and the relief camp were set up at mining ground Rangpo.

A scenario was created where a major fire

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Parliamentary Committee on Petitions recommends ST status for 11 left out communities

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 OCT: The Parliamentary Committee on Petitions has recommended and referred the case of 11 left-out communities of Sikkim and other Gorkha populated States for granting of Scheduled Tribes status on the grounds of backwardness in the backdrop of Bishu Mohini Committee report which is expected to be submitted to the Government of India ahead of the Dasain break.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is expected to take a final decision on this at the next meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi just after Durga Puja, inform official sources. The 11 left out communities are Khas, Gurung, Mangar, Thami, Dewan [Yakha], Bhujel, Rai, Jogi, Sunuwar, Newar and Dhimel.

In this regard, BJP lawmaker, Ram Charitra Nishad, has also forwarded his recommendation on the petition of BJP Central Committee Member from Sikkim Padam Prasad Sharma that these

11 communities are socially and economically backward and minorities in terms of population in India.

The State Government's proposal for inclusion of these 11 communities has been rejected twice - in Aug 2014 and again in Mar 2017 - with the advise to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to take action as deemed appropriate.

On the intervention of Minister for Tribal Affairs in Jul 2017, the Ministry had once again sought justification on the comments and observations of the Registrar General of India [RGI] and in September 2017, the State Government, through the Social Justice, Women's Empowerment & Welfare Department, furnished the justification on the comment and observations on RGI.

The final comment is still awaited from the Registrar General of India.

In the meantime, the State Government had organized a two-day summit on Eleven Indigenous Ethnic Communi-

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Mental health programmes launched for govt employees

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 10 OCT:

Sikkim State Legal Services Authority under the directions of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also the Executive Chairperson of Sikkim SLISA, organized the launch event of "Mental Health Programme for the Employees of the Government Departments" on the occasion of World Mental Health Day at the newly constructed Sikkim Judicial Academy at Sokeythang here today, a press release informs.

The programme was chaired by Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan, who is also the Judge-in-Charge at Sikkim Judicial Academy.

Also present during the launch programme were Member Secretary, Sikkim SLISA, Suraj Chettri, Direc-



tor, Sikkim Judicial Academy, Samita Sharma, Special Secretary, Sikkim SLISA, Matilda Isaacs, Head of Department of Psychiatry, STNM Hospital, Dr CS Sharma, officials from Sikkim Police Department, Press & Media and staff of Sikkim SLISA.

Resource Persons for the programme were Senior Psychiatrist/General Secretary, SSB-IPS, Dr CL Pradhan, and Clinical Psychologist, Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim, Nancy Palmu Chankapa.

Justice Pradhan, in his address, delved on the fact that mental health is one of the greatest resources which can help build the society. He also informed that individual dignity is fundamental and a part of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which

guarantees life and liberty, and that mental illness could be a part of a family, or relatives or friends or neighbors. Awareness with regard to the same is the key solution to such problem, he added.

Justice Pradhan also informed the police officers

about the role and responsibilities they require to undertake with regard to the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, which is already in place and enforced for providing mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness.

He further urged the participants to first understand mental health, mental illness and mental retardation which will later help in properly handling situations they come across.

The programme commenced with the welcome note by Member Secretary, Sikkim SLISA, Mr Chettri, who informed that under the direction and guidance of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, the Sikkim SLISA in co-ordination with the Sikkim State Branch of Indian Psychiatry Society, is organizing a series of positive mental health programmes for employees of different

Government Departments starting with Sikkim Police today.

During the working sessions that followed, resource person, Dr Pradhan [Senior Psychiatrist/General Secretary, SSB-IPS], highlighted on positive mental health wherein issues on mental disorder, personality traits, mental hygiene, the ABC Rules of managing stress, cause, set of causes, or manner of causation of the disease or condition, signs of depression and coping skills were deliberated on.

Likewise, other resource person, Ms Chankapa [Clinical Psychologist], elaborated on effective ways to reduce stress in workplace wherein the knowhow of stress signals and coping with stress were highlighted. This was followed by interactive session between participants and the resource persons.

Lack of legislation helping private sector deny jobs to locals: Save Sikkimese Soul

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:

Save Sikkimese Soul coordinator, Passang Sherpa has said that only a legislation in line with Rule 4[4] of Sikkim Government Establishment Rules can guarantee employment of locals in private companies.

He has stated that the inability of the State government to take appropriate constitutional remedy after the rejection of 'Local Employment Protection Bill 2010' by the President of India has made it easy for private companies to deny jobs to the local people.

Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Sherpa claimed that the absence of a law is why private companies can choose to ignore meetings like the one called recently by the concerned departments on the implementation of notification of the State Government regarding 90% job reservation for Sikkimese people in private companies.

"Having realized the lack of legal and constitutional standing of such incompetent notification, the private companies paid no heed to the meeting called by the government," he expressed.

The State government has issued a notification in haste without any legislative backup, he added.

According to Mr Sherpa, private companies can ignore such notifications because of the fact that Companies Act, 2013 repealed the Registration of Companies [Sikkim] Act, 1961, an old law of Sikkim protected under the Article 371F.

In order create awareness on these issues, he informed that Save Sikkimese Soul will be organising public meetings in various parts of Sikkim to protect Registration of Companies [Sikkim] Act, 1961.

Multi-State earthquake mock drill staged in West district

GYALSHING, 10 OCT [IPR]: A Multi State Mock Exercise on Earthquakes in relation to disaster preparedness in West district was conducted in Gyalshing today under the directions of the Chief Secretary.

The exercise was a simulation scenario of a massive earthquake in the Northeast which caused massive devastation. The entire mock exercise was conducted at five locations here selected to sensitize and create awareness among the public during similar situations.

The District Control Room for the West district was at DAC Conference Hall in Rabdentse where all the heads of line departments were stationed and the mock exercise began at 11:15 am sharp. Prior to the mock exercise, a table top exercise was also conducted at the DAC Conference hall on 09 Oct, 2018.

During the exercise, a scenario depicting an earthquake magnitude of 8.7 RS with intensity 8.9 MSK with epicenter at Shillong, Meghalaya was taken into account. An Emergency Control Room was set up at DAC Conference Hall where in all heads of departments reported within 15 minutes of the earthquake striking. Simultaneously, the public were made aware of the mock exercise through siren and PA system of Fire and Police Personnel.

A staging area at Kyongsa ground was set up by 11:45 am wherein



50 personnel from SSB, 30 from IRB, 50 volunteers from NYK, 07 from ITI Gyalshing along with Police personnel and 03 ambulances were stationed.

The SSB installed three tents immediately at the staging areas after their arrival. The entire DAC was evacuated within 6 minutes after the earthquake and the two injured persons were also rescued and treated at the spot.

A team in the District Control Room had the ADC West as the Responsible Officer, SDM Gyalshing as the Incident Commander, SP West as the Operation Section Chief, DPO Zilla as the Liaison Officer, ADC Development as the Planning Section Chief, Senior Accounts Officer as the Finance Chief, DCSO as the Logistic Chief, SDPO Gyalshing as the Safety, Law and Order Officer, DIO (IPR) as Information and Media Officer. The Staging Area was headed by SDM Yuksam along with CDPO and Senior Welfare Officer as in charge of the Relief

Section. The staging area also had a medical officer and health staffs to give the necessary aid.

During the mock exercise, various scenarios were depicted wherein a fallen tree near Zumsa Phatak blocking the traffic was shown which was cleared by the Forest Department. A fire had broken out at the MEO Office and a building had toppled at Gyalshing Bazaar where later the rescue teams were deputed by the District Control Room to carry out the necessary actions of safety. It was also shown that few children were feared to be trapped at Kyongsa Girls School and a section of wall housing the male patients at the District Hospital were shown to be partially damaged. Information of patients pouring in was also received from the hospital.

The dedicated task force of 05 SSBs, 05 IRBs, and 05 volunteers at the 05 locations were dispatched who were successful to bring the situation under control within 20-25 minutes of their arrival at the spot.

From the 05 scenarios, 19 victims were reported as casualties unfortunately one person succumbed to the injuries, 08 critically injured, 05 moderately injured and 05 minor injuries. For all these patients first aid was administered at site after which they were sent to the nearest hospital for treatment. Male patients in the hospital were shifted in to another ward and SSB installed two tents in the hospital to accommodate increasing numbers of patients.

The blocked road was cleared by cutting the tree by the Forest Departmental personnel and the debris were cleared by the Roads & Bridges team. Minor damages were reported by the Power and PHE Department which were immediately restored.

The mock exercise brought in the essence of the importance of coordination amongst the different departments and to work swiftly with ease under pressure when faced with similar situations in future.



Earthquake mock exercise held in North

MANGAN, 10 OCT [IPR]: State level Mock exercise was held in North district today wherein the response of the District Administration to tackle an earthquake of 8.7 Richter scale with its epicenter at Shillong was carried out. The mock exercise was simultaneously carried out in all four districts of the State and 10 districts of West Bengal under the supervision of National Disaster Management Authority.

In North district, the mock exercise was commanded by Additional District Magistrate, Somnath Adhikari. Immediately after the earthquake at 11.15 hrs, the District Emergency Operation Center at the District Administrative Center was activated. All the heads of departments assembled at the EOC to take stock of the situation. Messages on mock devastations were received through the wireless set.

The EOC received information that the earthquake has triggered landslides at Rafong Khola and Ambithang and both the roads were blocked due to fallen trees and debris.

A second scenario was fire outbreak at Mangan Nagar Panchayat building due to short circuit. It was reported that two out of four people trapped inside were dead and the other two have sustained injuries.

A third report also poured in about collapse of a four-storeyed building at Mangan Bazaar at 11:38 hrs with five family members trapped in the building.

It was also reported that landslides triggered by earthquake severely damaged a house near Church road and nine people were injured and trapped inside the debris.

After receiving the messages, the response was planned by the Planning Section headed by ADC Development under the Incident Commander and coordinated by SDM Mangan. The operation for tackling the situation was carried out by Senior SP, North. Information and Media was handled by District Information Officer, North.

A staging area at Mangan public ground was set up under the charge of SDM Kabi. All resources and task force for tackling the disaster like fire and rescue team units, ambulances and medical teams, ITBP, District Police force, Machinery and JCB teams, Power restoration teams, Forest, food and civil supplies gathered at Mangan public ground along with their task heads.

The teams were briefed about the situation and were accordingly deputed to several locations along with the medical units.

A relief camp and medical posts were set up at Mangan Community Hall under the charge of DCSO North, Medical Officer and NYK volunteers.

Search and rescue operations were carried out at different locations by ITBP, District Police and Quick Response teams. Nine people who were injured and trapped inside the house at Church road were rescued by ITBP and the North Sikkim Youth Organisation volunteers. People who were trapped in the Mangan Nagar Panchayat Building, where reportedly a fire broke out, were evacuated by Fire and Emergency Services Department.

Search and rescue was carried out in the collapsed building at Mangan Bazaar by ITBP

and the trapped people were evacuated. The injured were given first aid on spot by the mobile health staff and were taken to District Hospital for further treatment.

The forest and police team reached the site at Ambithang and Rafong Khola and cleared the fallen trees and cleared the road for traffic. A mock exercise was also carried out in Mangan Senior Secondary School where the students did the drop cover hold exercise. The NSS volunteers and school faculties ensured safe evacuation of the students.

Elsewhere in the subdivision of Chungthang, a scenario was enacted wherein the road at Theng tunnel was blocked and due to panic, five people jumped in the dam out of which three were injured and two died on the spot due to drowning. The dead bodies were retrieved by search and rescue team of the Indian Army while the injured were taken to PHC Chungthang.

It may be mentioned here, the mock exercise was conducted to improve disaster preparedness in the district. A team of observers from the Indian Army was stationed at various locations to monitor the response efforts and to identify the gaps for further improvement. The entire mock exercise was carried using HF and VHF frequencies of the wireless sets. This was done to simulate real life scenarios where all communications are down. The communication with State EOC was also done through wireless mode. After conclusion of the mock exercise, the briefing session was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary through video conferencing.

Eye operations conducted at Gyalshing Hospital

GYALSHING, 10 OCT [IPR]: Eight post-screened eye patients underwent vision restoration and cataract operations today at the District Hospital here.

A team comprising of Specialists and Assistants, namely Dr Mayal Lepcha [Ophthalmologist] and two Ophthalmic assistants from District Hospital, Singtam along with the District Hospital Gyalshing team comprising of Dr Sonam Gelek Bhutia [Ophthalmologist] with Ophthalmic Assistants, Technicians and Staff Nurses conducted successful operation at Gyalshing District Hospital.



Mock exercise tests Sikkim's preparedness for earthquakes

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broke out at Khadi building located in Deorali immediately after the earthquake struck. In the scenario, a short circuit in the main electric box of the building led to the outbreak of fire.

Real time scenario was played out where people were trapped inside the building and the Energy and Power Department was asked to cut the power supply immediately. The relief and rescue operation was neatly choreographed giving a feel of a real life disaster. Police, Fire & Emergency, the SSDMA and all line Departments participated in the mock exercise.

At the stampered situation created at Reliance Trends Store in MG Marg, Civil Defence and disaster management teams demonstrated the mock exercise on the situation and offered the gathering a practical demonstration on first aid, evacuation, mock drill, and emergency

response. The drill was coordinated by Sikkim Police, SAI Organization, Health Department, RTO [Motor Vehicle], Tourism Department, Civil Defence and local volunteers.

Similar activities were staged and played out at three other locations where coordinated efforts were seen from all response teams and composite task force constituted for executing the rescue and relief work.

At the District level, reports of earthquake incident that was stated to have occurred at Rangpo started flowing in from the various areas of Rangpo. The SDM, Rangpo and other senior officials reached the Control Room at Mining Ground, Rangpo. They analysed the situation and issued instructions for responding to the earthquake.

Five multiple incident areas were selected in Rangpo Sub Division for the purpose of this mock exercise such as Building Collapse at Rangpo

Bazaar, Fire out break at Slum Area, Drowning at Rangpo Khola, Blockage of Rorathang road due to landslide and Blockage of Duga road due to tree fall near Chanatar.

Simultaneously, officials also assembled and formed response teams which swung into action immediately. The exercises were conducted in coordination with Police, Fire Service, Forest Department, Army, Health Department, State Disaster Management Authority, Civil Defence and all line Departments.

In Rangpo, Mining Ground was selected as staging area to deploy the task force. The team of SDRF, police, army, civil defence and medical reached the staging area within 15-20 minutes of the information being relayed.

Expressing his views, District Collector [East], Kapil Meena, said that these drill efforts were made to ensure effective participation of local bodies to deal with any eventuality and to take pre-

ventive measures in case of an earthquake. He also applauded the role and responsibility of the officials.

Later, while debriefing the State Level Mock Exercise, mock drill observer, Captain Pritam Reddy, said that the mock exercise was excellent and appreciated the efforts of the disaster management authority and other line departments concerned along with the district administration for working in coordinated manner.

After the Mock Drill and Debriefing session, rally was conducted by the students of Rangpo Senior Secondary School, Mining Senior Secondary School and Rangpo Junior High School, Chanatar on earthquake safety tips and do's and don'ts during earthquake.

In Rangpo Mazi Goan, incident of fire break out and building collapse was conducted. Blockage of Duga road due to tree fall near Chanatar and Blockage of

Rorathang road due to landslide were also reported followed by drowning incident at the riverbank of Rangpo River.

The control room and the relief camp for the said mock drill was set up at Mining Ground wherein the incident report of all the areas were reported to the SDM [Rangpo] and the concerned officers of line departments.

During the debriefing session, the SDM [Rangpo], who was the Incident Commander, gave an overview of the mock drill conducted at various places of Rangpo. He informed that these mock drills were conducted to create awareness on how one should react when an earthquake occurs.

After the State level mock exercise, all the stakeholders, the observers from the army and responders on the ground gathered at the mini auditorium at Manan Kendra for de-briefing on the day's exercise. The independent

observers deputed at various locations gave feedback and suggestions on the mock exercise. The Site Supervisors assigned at each location also shared their experiences and the learnings from the exercise.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary, Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department cum State Relief Commissioner, Tsegyal Tashi, congratulated and thanked all the officers and stakeholders to simulate a major disaster situation. He said that the exercise has given practical experience to the stakeholders to deal with any real life disasters.

Senior Consultant [ME & IRS], NDMA, General VK Datta, who was instrumental in designing the mock exercise and guiding the SSDMA, commended all the participants for good coordination and execution. He stated that lessons learnt from this mock exercise can be used to improve upon the Response

System in the State.

Later, Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, interacted with the District Collectors and officers of the district administration through video conferencing and took feedback about the mock exercise carried out in the Districts. Commending the efforts of everybody involved in the mock exercise, he stated that this was the biggest mock exercise staged in the State as it was spread over the whole day and throughout the State. He said that all the feedback and the gaps have been noted and will be addressed on priority.

State Relief Commissioner, Mr Tashi, in his concluding remarks thanked the CS for guiding and supporting the exercise right from the co-ordination meeting held on 25th September to the table top exercise on 09 Oct and the final mock drill today. He also thanked General Datta for his guidance and help to make the exercise possible.

**Gangtok on
Thursday,
11 Oct**

Temp: 25°C/10°C

Forecast: Sun and clouds; a morning thundershower in parts of the area, then a couple of showers.

Sunrise: 05:33 AM

Sunset: 5:12 PM

Parliamentary Committee on Petitions recommends...

contd from pg01

ties of Sikkim [EIECOS] in collaboration with Sikkim Commission for Backward Classes and Social Welfare Department to justify the State Government's recommendations for inclusion of these communities in the Scheduled Tribes list in the backdrop of the conditions of the Merger with India and the provisions of Article 371F of the Constitution.

It is also learnt that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also sought certain clarifications from the Parliament Secretariat on Sikkim's status and conditions of merger along with certain documentation for consideration of Sikkim's case.

Five killed as New Farakka Express...

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evening. There was similar confusion over the number of coaches that had derailed. The railways said five coaches went off the tracks after earlier putting their number at nine.

According to railways officials, five people, including a one-year-old and a seven-year-old, were killed. All of them were from Bihar.

Ten women and six minors are among the injured, the officials said.

"It is a fluid situation and updated information is being provided by Northern Railways periodically," said railways spokesperson Smita Vats Sharma.

Four of the seriously injured are being treated at the trauma centre of Lucknow's King George Medical University and two at the city's Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, UP government spokesperson Shrikant Sharma told reporters.

The other injured were taken to Rae Bareilly, about 80 km from the state capital Lucknow, for treatment, officials said.

A special train, which was arranged for the stranded passengers, left Lucknow for New Delhi at 2.45 pm with 1,369 passengers on board, railway officials said, adding that they were given food packets to sustain them through the journey.

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal announced compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the dead, Rs 1 lakh for the injured and Rs 50,000 for those with minor injuries. "I offer my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and those injured in the accident near Rae Bareilly. I am in touch with officials for relief work," Goyal tweeted.

Following renewal of empanelment, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital looks forward to serving patients from Sikkim

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 OCT**

Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Kolkata, has announced the renewal of its empanelment with Sikkim Government.

Under the terms of the contract, the Hospital will be offering services to the State government in key super-specialty treatment areas. This is the third time that Apollo Gleneagles Hospital has been empanelled by the State government to treat patients from Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital CEO, Rana Dasgupta, stated that the renewal



was a reaffirmation of the confidence the State government has in the quality of treatment offered at the hospital.

"We look forward to serve the people of Sikkim who would come to the hospital for treatment under the scheme and offer them of world

class healthcare," he said. It is informed that the empanelment with the State government covers services in key specialties including cardiology & cardiac surgery, orthopedic joint replacement, medical and surgical and oncology, nephrology including kidney trans-

plant, neurosurgery and urology.

The CEO stated that the renewal of the empanelment follows numerous national and international awards and recognitions won by Apollo Gleneagles Hospital in the recent past.



West DLSA conducts Legal Services camp

GYALSHING, 10 OCT [IPR]: The District Legal Services Authority, West, in coordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, organized a legal services camp under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority on NALSA [Legal Services to the Mentally ILL and the Mentally Disabled] Scheme, 2015 and NALSA [Legal Services to the Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace] Scheme, 2015 at the District & Sessions Court Complex in Gyalshing,

West Sikkim.

The programme was chaired by District & Sessions Judge cum Chairperson, Jiwana K Kharka, Secretary cum Chief Judicial Magistrate, Subarna Rai, ex-officio Chairperson cum Judicial Magistrate, Zamyang Choden Bhutia, Dr Kunzang Ongmu from Gyalshing District Hospital, Project Co-ordinator cum Senior Counsellor from Sanjeevani Rehab Society [Namchi], Moses Serena, and Panel Advocate, Pujan Kharka.

A legal aid clinic was set up at the camp which provided assistance in drafting petitions and providing free legal aid services.

The gathering was also informed about the various provisions of law including Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Sikkim Anti Drugs Act and free legal aid services.

The Legal Services camp concluded with an interactive session wherein 150 participants raised various queries with regard to different issues of law.

Group of advocates extend support to SKM

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

A group of 26 advocates extended their support to Sikkim Krantikari Morcha today in a meeting with the SKM president, PS Tamang [Golay]. A retired Sub Inspector, Raghunath Lohar also formally joined the party.

SKM president, Mr Tamang stated that SKM has been working since nine years in the interest of people and future generation of the State. He mentioned that MLAs, leaders and workers of SKM have always worked for Sikkim and its people even in his absence and the party has won the trust of the people with its work.

Mr Golay mentioned that the decision of advocates to support the party is a bold decision and it



would help the party to work more effectively for the people.

He added that the State government's claims of development are confined to MG Marg while rural parts are in pathetic condition.

"Seeing the present condition of the State I am happy about my decision to leave the ruling party and to raise my voice for the people of Sikkim," he expressed.

Mr Golay announced

that after coming to power, the SKM government will constitute an 'Advocates Welfare Fund' to provide stipend to junior advocates.

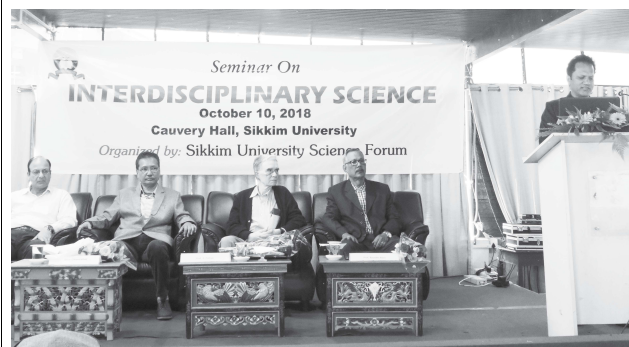
SKM acting president, KN Lepcha expressed immense happiness on the decision of advocates to support the party. He stated that their decision was in the interest of the people of Sikkim. The support from the legal fraternity will help the party to work

more effectively for the people, he added.

Advocate, William Tamang accused the government of exploitation, injustice and favouritism. He stated that advocates have been compelled to raise their voice against the misdeeds of the ruling government. "We will be supporting SKM to fight against these misdeeds and to work in the interest of the people," he said.

Another advocate, Dilip Tamang mentioned that looking at the active role played by SKM as the opposition party, advocates have come forward to extend their support to the party.

"We are also supporting the party for its policies and programmes for the State and its people," he said.



Seminar on interdisciplinary science at Sikkim Univ

GANGTOK, 10 OCT [PIB]: Sikkim University Science Forum [SUSF] organized a seminar on "Interdisciplinary Science" today at Cauveri Hall here under the chairmanship of Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jyoti Prakash Tamang, in the presence of Professor Basudev Basu from the Department of Chemistry, North Bengal University, as special guest.

The SUSF seeks to establish, acquire and manage the university research units and gardens for the benefit of the general public. It also aims at propagating scientific culture and awareness through education and research and to

educate the common people about the environment and ecology.

The daylong seminar sought to witness deliberations on subjects like "Heavy Metal Pollution and Plants", "National and International Status of Organic Farming and Policy", "Science at Small Scales: Nano Science and Nano Technology" and "Nano Structured Carbon Materials and Catalysts".

Prof Tamang spoke on the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to research and congratulated the University Science Forum for organizing the seminar.

Tourism Day celebrated in ICAFI University

**REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

ICFAI University [School of Management Studies, Department of Hospitality & Tourism] celebrated the "World Tourism Day 2018" today here in the premises of ICAFI University. Minister for Roads & Bridges Department and Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, Garjaman Gurung attended the function as the chief guest. In his speech, the Minister spoke about the significance of tourism and culture. He added that education is a lifelong process which has no end so it is to be a good human being as well.

Stating that tourism is the second largest industry in the world, he urged the students to ensure that Sikkim's tourism future is secured. The Minister also said that taxi drivers need to be more aware about the history of the state because they play an essential role in engaging tourists visiting from all across the globe.

In his speech, Vice Chancellor, ICAFI University, Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, said, "We must be aware about our culture and we have to be united to preserve our culture." He also spoke about the main purpose of celebrating the World Tourism Day which is to raise awareness about tourism.

"With the growth in tourism we face many challenges hence it is important to address global challenges and sustainable development," he



said.

Cultural Affairs Secretary, Ambika Pradhan, also addressed the function.

On the occasion, the Minister felicitated 07 representatives from Taxi Drivers Association and Travel Agents Association of Sikkim. Altogether 17 representatives were to be felicitated but only 07 were present today. The felicitation will also be sent to the rest, it is informed.

The function also had

a presentation on tourism planning and policies being presented by CEO, Eco Tourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim [ECOSS], RP Gurung followed by a group dance [culture fusion], and visual on Sikkim tourism by sponsors.

ICFAI university expressed gratitude towards the sponsors [Summit Hotel of Namchi] and national media as their partners for supporting the entire program.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Thubten Lodoe Bhutia, son of Chenga Lama Bhutia, resident of Deorali, P.O. Deorali, East Sikkim, solemnly declare that **THUPDEN LODAY BHUTIA** or **THUPDEN LODEY BHUTIA** is the same person i.e. **THUBTEN LODOE BHUTIA** vide affidavit No. Sl. No. 1065/DEC dated 12th May 2010 before the Oath Commissioner, East Sikkim, Gangtok.



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
JORETHANG SUB DIVISION
SOUTH SIKKIM**

Memo No: 989/R&B/SC/18-19/(Part-II) Date: 5/10/2018

NOTICE

The Notice Inviting Tender for the works falling under Namthang Rateypani Constituency published vide NIT No. 04/R&B/Jort./2018-19, dated :- 26/09/2018 vide Sl. No. 4,5,6 & 7 has been kept in abeyance till further notice.

Sd/-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
JORETHANG SUB-DIVISION.
R.O. No. 407/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 5.10.18**

GPU level prog on organic farming at Assam Lingzey

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 10 OCT:**

A GPU level programme was conducted by International Panaacea Ltd in association Sikkim Organic Mission on 09 October at Assam Lingzey Gram Prashasan Kendra here in East Sikkim.

Sushila Pradhan, ADO, briefed the farmers about the various schemes for farmers such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikash Yojana,



Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichai Yojana, Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana etc.

She detailed the present market value of leafy and leguminous vege-

tables and of how the Department has several schemes to be implemented for the benefit of farmers.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
BALUWAKHANI, GANGTOK-SIKKIM
No: Elec/875 Dated: 09/10/18

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all registered- unrecognized political parties of the State of Sikkim to provide the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Sikkim, Baluwakhani, Gangtok, East Sikkim, with their correct and updated postal address, e-mail Id, contact number and name of the office bearer for all future election related correspondences latest by 31.10.2018.

In case the above details are not furnished within the stipulated time, the O/o the CEO, Sikkim will not be liable for failure of communication of any election related correspondences.

R.O. No. 415/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19 dt. 10.10.18

SummitTIMES

Insularity vs Diversity

Take Your Pick

In the current times of overbearing rightwing mo-no-culturalism, be it in the form of Brexit, Trumpettes or gau-rakshaks, comes evidence that when it comes to divisions, no sliver is small or pure enough. The reference here is to the madness that continues to be Gujarat, where Hindi-speaking North Indian workers are being violently targeted. The Rightwing patriarchy from which this latest violence is born is ironically common to governments where the hate is being perpetuated and from where the victims hail. These states tick all the boxes of majoritarian boorishness and have displayed shared weakness for their own form of Puritanism, and yet, now stand divided. Then there is the Sabarimala episode which is back in the Courts and most parties are fighting shy of even extending support for the Court order on the issue. Now that elections are nearing, Ayodhya too will return more strongly to political rhetoric. The point being made is that once divisions are teased, they do not end with religion and spread to all other aspects of identity, from race to community to region to language to caste to class.

In that sense, Sikkim is genuinely an oasis. It is not as if divisions don't exist here, they do, but so does pragmatism and empathy which ensure that hate never spills beyond the homes into the streets. Yes, there are some who try and tease these divides, but the people are not as easily provoked. Public acceptance of hate has still not arrived here even as individuals and their cliques tend to be spiteful and paranoid. Sikkim should work more on sustaining this amity. The reason Sikkim's normalcy and investment in diversity is a relief is because the national mood is of offensive insularity as is being displayed by the brazenness with which some groups are trying to model the nation along the tastes and preferences of upper-caste snobishness.

In Sikkim, community identities are being expressed not just at the macro, religious levels, but also through micro expressions of individual communities and regional quirks. Of course, some groups continue to see such individuality at the community level as somehow diluting a larger identity, but they are clearly hamstrung by regressive narrow-mindedness which continues to see empowerment and confidence as somehow detrimental to cultures and identities. Thankfully, such mindsets remain in minority in Sikkim. In an India where boorish religious heads want to hound certain idols out of temples, and certain diets out of the tables, the fact that Sikkim celebrates Holi, Dasain, Pang Lhabso and Christmas with almost matching excitement should remain engagements that are never allowed to dim. And let's accept it, if we allow too many regressive purists to start dictating cultural aspects of life and inter-community exchanges, we will be heading for isolated pockets of suspicions.

Clichéd as it may sound, Sikkim should never stop celebrating its diversity, its people should never hesitate from supporting expressions of cultural diversity by other groups, and even as such cultural expressions are made by individual groups and communities, the celebrations should be joined by all. Make it a habit and an instinctive response, and troublemakers keen to sow differences by fanning paranoia will find themselves out of jobs. And make no mistake, agent provocateurs, given the chance, will tease out hesitations and feed on suspicions thereby weakening the collective society.

Agreed, "unity in diversity" is an overused line and everyone has heard it so often that it fails to elicit either pride or passion anymore. Hence, it is perhaps time to turn the approach on its head and reinforce unity. "Diversity in unity", as some thinkers have proposed for the country in the past, carries a nice spin to it and also acknowledges the fact that confident diversities mean self-assured identities which was the best safeguard for unity. Unencumbered diversity inspires confidence which powers empathy; forced identities and ideas, on the other hand, fan fear which breeds intolerance which is a debilitating, self-defeating handicap.

Once ingrained, diversity provides diverse people with the ability to be okay with and open to those things that set them and others apart – religion, culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, language (the list goes on). People then become more understanding and accepting of others for who they are instead of trying to mould everyone into people they would like them to be. Being culturally aware provides an opportunity to stand back and consider that there are certain backgrounds, personal values, beliefs and upbringings that shape the things we all do. Something that is considered inappropriate behavior in one culture may be perfectly acceptable in another. Learning about other cultures helps people relate to one another and be okay with different perspectives. Everyone and every community can benefit from such attributes...

Why more women don't win science Nobels

MARY K. FEENEY
theconversation.com

One of the 2018 Nobel Prizes in physics went to Donna Strickland, a major accomplishment for any scientist. Yet much of the news coverage has focused on the fact that she's only the third female physicist to receive the award, after Marie Curie in 1903 and Maria Goeppert-Mayer 60 years later.

Though biochemical engineer Frances Arnold also won this year, for chemistry, the rarity of female Nobel laureates raises questions about women's exclusion from education and careers in science. Female researchers have come a long way over the past century. But there's overwhelming evidence that women remain underrepresented in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Studies have shown those who persist in these careers face explicit and implicit barriers to advancement. Bias is most intense in fields that are predominantly male, where women lack a critical mass of representation and are often viewed as tokens or outsiders.

When women achieve at the highest levels of sports, politics, medicine and science, they serve as role models for all of us, especially for girls and other women. But are things getting better in terms of equal representation? What still holds women back in the classroom, in the lab, in leadership and as award winners?

GOOD NEWS AT THE START OF THE PIPELINE Traditional stereotypes hold that women "don't like math" and "aren't good at science." Both men and women report these viewpoints, but researchers have empirically disputed them. Studies show that girls and women avoid STEM education not because of cognitive inability, but because of early exposure and experience with STEM, educational policy, cultural context, stereotypes and a lack of exposure to role models.

For the past several decades, efforts to improve the representation of women in STEM fields have focused on countering these stereotypes with educational reforms and individual programs that can increase the number of girls entering and staying in what's been called the STEM pipeline – the path from K-12 to college to postgraduate training.

These approaches are working. Women are increasingly likely to express an interest in STEM careers and pursue STEM majors in college. Women now make up half or more of workers in psychology and social sciences and are increasingly represented in the scientific workforce, though computer and mathematical sciences are an exception. According to the American Institute of Physics, women earn about 20 percent of bachelor's degrees and 18 percent of Ph.D.s in physics, an increase from 1975 when women earned 10 percent of bachelor's degrees and 5 percent of Ph.D.s in physics.

More women are graduating with STEM Ph.D.s and earning faculty positions. But they go on to encounter glass cliffs and ceilings as they advance through their academic careers.

WHAT'S NOT WORKING FOR WOMEN

Women face a number of structural and institutional barriers in academic STEM careers.

In addition to issues related to the gender pay gap, the structure of academic science often makes it difficult for women to get ahead in the workplace and to balance work and life commitments. Bench

science can require years of dedicated time in a laboratory. The strictures of the tenure-track process can make maintaining work-life balance, responding to family obligations, and having children or taking family leave difficult, if not impossible.

Additionally, working in male-dominated workplaces can leave women feeling isolated, perceived as tokens and susceptible to harassment. Women often are excluded from networking opportunities and social events and left to feel they're outside the culture of the lab, the academic department and the field.

When women lack critical mass – of about 15 percent or more – they are less empowered to advocate for themselves and more likely to be perceived as a minority group and an exception. When in this minority position, women are more likely to be pressured to take on extra service as tokens on committees or mentors to female graduate students.

With fewer female colleagues, women are less likely to build relationships with female collaborators and support and advice networks. This isolation can be exacerbated when women are unable to participate in work events or attend conferences because of family or child care responsibilities and an inability to use research funds to reimburse child care.

Universities, professional associations, and federal funders have worked to address a variety of these structural barriers. Efforts include creating family-friendly policies, increasing transparency in salary reporting, enforcing Title IX protections, providing mentoring and support programs for women scientists, protecting research time for women scientists, and targeting women for hiring, research support and advancement. These programs have mixed results. For example, research indicates that family-friendly policies such as leave and onsite child care can exacerbate gender inequity, resulting in increased research productivity for men and increased teaching and service obligations for women.

IMPLICIT BIASES ABOUT WHO DOES SCIENCE All of us – the general public, the media, university employees, students and professors – have ideas of what a scientist and a Nobel Prize winner looks like. That image is predominantly male, white and older – which makes sense given 97 percent of the science Nobel Prize winners have been men.

This is an example of an implicit bias: one of the unconscious, involuntary, natural, unavoidable assumptions that all of us, men and women, form about the world around us. People make decisions based on subconscious assumptions, preferences and stereotypes – sometimes even when they are counter to their explicitly held beliefs.

Research shows that an implicit bias against women as experts and academic scientists is pervasive. It manifests itself by valuing, acknowledg-

ing and rewarding men's scholarship over women's scholarship. Implicit bias can work against women's hiring, advancement and recognition of their work. For instance, women seeking academic jobs are more likely to be viewed and judged based on personal information and physical appearance. Letters of recommendation for women are more likely to raise doubts and use language that results in negative career outcomes.

Implicit bias can affect women's ability to publish research findings and gain recognition for that work. Men cite their own papers 56 percent more than women do. Known as the "Matilda Effect," there is a gender gap in recognition, award winning and citations. Women's research is less likely to be cited by others and their ideas are more likely to be attributed to men. Women's solo-authored research takes twice as long to move through the review process. Women are underrepresented in journal editorships, as senior scholars and lead authors, and as peer reviewers. This marginalization in research gatekeeping positions works against the promotion of women's research.

When a woman becomes a world-class scientist, implicit bias works against the likelihood that she will be invited as a keynote or guest speaker to share her research findings, thus lowering her visibility in the field and the likelihood that she will be nominated for awards. This gender imbalance is notable in how infrequently women experts are quoted in news stories on most topics.

Women scientists are afforded less of the respect and recognition that should come with their accomplishments. Research shows that when people talk about male scientists and experts, they're more likely to use their surnames and more likely to refer to women by their first names. Why does this matter? Because experiments show that individuals referred to by their surnames are more likely to be viewed as famous and eminent. In fact, one study found that calling scientists by their last names led people to consider them 14 percent more deserving of a National Science Foundation career award.

FEMALE PHYSICS LAUREATE NO. 3

Strickland winning a Nobel Prize as an associate professor in physics is a major accomplishment; doing so as a woman who has almost certainly faced more barriers than her male counterparts is, in my view, monumental.

When asked what it felt like to be the third female Nobel laureate in physics, Strickland noted that at first it was surprising to realize so few women had won the award: "But, I mean, I do live in a world of mostly men, so seeing mostly men doesn't really ever surprise me either."

Seeing mostly men has been the history of science. Addressing structural and implicit bias in STEM will hopefully prevent another half-century wait before the next woman is acknowledged with a Nobel Prize for her contribution to physics. I look forward to the day when a woman receiving the most prestigious award in science is newsworthy only for her science and not her gender.

[The writer is Associate Professor and Lincoln Professor of Ethics in Public Affairs and Associate Director of the Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Studies, Arizona State University]



Nobel award recognizes how economic forces can fight climate change

ANDREW J. HOFFMAN & ELLEN HUGHES-CROMWICK
theconversation.com

Yale economist William Nordhaus has devoted his life's work to understanding the costs of climate change and advocating the use of a

carbon tax to curb global warming.

It's no small irony, then, that on the same day his research shared in the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, a United Nations panel released its latest report on the mounting dangers of climate change. In fact,

the report builds upon much of Nordhaus' work and warns that we have only about a dozen years to keep temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid environmental catastrophe.

This warning – and the award – come at a time when it appears that some Americans are not listening. The U.S. is no longer a signatory of the Paris accord to address climate change, a broad swath of the country still denies the existence of the problem, and some state and federal policymakers don't incorporate climate science into their decision-making.

But Nordhaus' work is not about whether or not people and policymakers "believe" in climate change. It's about the market and its ability to address the most serious issue facing humanity in the coming years.

As scholars of economics and management who are passionate about finding smart solutions to the challenge of a changing climate, we believe his research offers hope that humans can still prevent global calamity.

THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

One of Nordhaus' most significant contributions was perhaps his ability to unpack and explain the complex issues surrounding climate change.

In "Climate Casino," for example, Nordhaus explained the many inter-related topics when talking about climate change, from science and energy to economics and politics, while clearly identifying the steps necessary to prevent catastrophe. Or as The New York Times put it, "It is a one-stop source on global warming, seen through the prism of a brilliant economist."

Although his writing was accessible, he showed that he was still grappling with the uncertainty of his and other projections, allowing us to see the honest complexity of outcomes related to how humans harm the environment through greenhouse gas emissions.

A premise of his research was that the environment is a public good, shared by all and yet not paid for in

turn to 05



5 Indian workers injured in explosion at iron plant in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Oct 10 (PTI): Five Indian workers were injured in an explosion at an iron plant Wednesday in southern Nepal, bordering India, a media report said.

All the injured were working as daily wage labourers at the iron plant in Simara Sub-Metropolitan City-2 of Jitpur, Bara, The Kathmandu Post reported.

Four of the injured are said to be in critical condition and undergoing treatment at the Birgunj-based Health Care Hospital, the paper said.

The injured have been identified as Kamlesh Raya, 22, Naresh Sahani, 23, Sandeep Kumar, 23, Pankaj Kumar, 20, of Sitamadi, Bihar and Binayak Singh, 35, of Motihari, Bihar.

According to the police, the incident occurred when they were melting the iron in the run-down furnace. Police have suspected that the incident might have occurred due to excessive heat.

Most of the equipment being used at the plant were old and in sorry state, the paper said.

Nine persons were killed and more than a dozen injured when a tank used to store molasses exploded in Bidyanagar of Bara four months ago.

"Factories show the maintenance of equipment only in paper," a worker said, adding, "But they never repair the equipment."

More than 500 factories are being operated in Pathliya-Birgunj Industrial Corridor.

Govt clears closure of National Jute Manufactures Corporation, subsidiary

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (PTI): The government Wednesday approved the closure of loss-making PSU National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJMC) and its subsidiary Birds Jute & Exports Ltd (BJEL).

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

The decision will benefit the government exchequer in reducing recurring expenditure incurred in operating both the sick CPSEs in running their activities.

"The proposal will help in closing loss-making companies and ensuring release of valuable assets for productive use, or for generating financial resources for developmental

progress," an official statement said.

BJEL has no staff and as the factory is not in operation; closure does not have any adverse implications, the government said in the statement.

The available land with both the CPSEs will be put up for public use/ other government use for overall development of society.

The Disposal of fixed assets as well as current assets will be in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises and the proceeds from the sale of assets, after meeting the liabilities, will be deposited in Consolidated Fund of India.

In accordance with the norms, a Land Management Agency (LMA)

will be engaged for disposal of assets.

The LMA will be directed to carry out a thorough verification of the assets before undertaking their disposal in accordance with the DPE guidelines.

Ministry of Textiles does not propose to use any land or building of BJEL for its own purposes or for any of its other CPSEs and the Land Management Agency will be informed upfront accordingly, the statement said.

NJMC has been incurring losses for several years and was under reference to BIFR since 1993.

The company's primary product was hessian jute bags used for packing of food grain used by the vari-

ous state governments.

Over the years, the demand for hessian bags has eroded and to that extent, it has been found to be no longer commercially viable to run the company, the statement said.

Mills of NJMC which were proposed for revival, namely, Kinnison Mill at Titagarh, Khardah Mill and RBHM Mill at Katihar are under suspension since August 2016. The last mill to be closed was Kinnison Jute Mill on August 31, 2016 because of the failure of the job contractor to execute the job efficiently and problems with the local labour.

The different models of outsourcing operations which were attempted have not been successful.

Looking at its past performance, market conditions and the competition from plastics and the capacity of private jute mills, it was noted that NJMC would not be in a position to recoup its negative net worth through operational profits. Also, NJMC has no staff/workers on its rolls, the statement said.

BJEL, the subsidiary of NJMC, was referred to BIFR, which had considered a Revival Scheme. The Draft Revival Scheme could not be implemented because conversion of land use was not agreed to by the West Bengal Government and the representative of the State Government to the ASC was nominated after a three year delay.

WB grants land to TCG at Haldia

KOLKATA, Oct 9 (PTI): The West Bengal cabinet on Tuesday granted 98.53 acres to Purnendu Chatterjee-led The Chatterjee Group (TCG) to set up a new plant at Haldia, state Transport minister Suwendu Adhikari said.

TCG has a majority stake in Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation's (MCC) Indian unit at Haldia in East Midnapore district.

"The state cabinet

granted 98.53 acres to the Chatterjee Group to set up a new plant at Haldia," the minister told reporters at the state secretariat.

The work for the Rs 4500 crore plant would start from December, he said.

The MCC PTA India (MCPI) will set up the plant to produce purified terephthalic acid, Adhikari added.

YMA holds rallies in Mizoram demanding scrapping of CADC

AIZAWL, Oct 10 (PTI): Thousands of people took out rallies here and different areas of Mizoram Wednesday demanding scrapping of the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) established in 1972.

The rallies were organised by the Young Mizo Association (YMA) president Vanlalruata said.

He claimed that the CADC was created by the

Centre in 1972 without consulting the people of Mizoram and said the Council has become a safe haven for Bangladeshi infiltrators.

While the union government was alert in the event of intrusion from other border sectors, it seemed to have welcomed illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, especially Chakma Buddhists, he said.

Manipur University acting VC apologises to governor for making 'inappropriate' statement

IMPHAL, Oct 10 (PTI): Acting vice-chancellor of the Manipur University K Yugindro Singh has apologised to Governor Najma Heptulla for stating that she extended "overt support" to agitators during a recent stir at the varsity, a Raj Bhavan official said Wednesday.

The acting VC wrote to the Officer on Special Duty/secretary to the governor on October 8 and apologised for his "incorrect and inappropriate" remark, he said.

Singh, in a letter written to the the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development on October 3, had claimed that Heptulla questioned his taking charge as VC of the central university and expressed her support in favour of the agitators, during a meeting on September 21.



"I, hereby, humbly and respectfully tender my unconditional apology to the Hon'ble Governor of Manipur for incorrect and inappropriate statements made by me including breach of protocol and propriety related to the governor," Singh said in the letter, a copy of which is with PTI.

He said during the meeting the

questions asked by the governor were not fully understood by him because of "mental stress".

"I had inadvertently made incorrect and inappropriate understanding of the questions of the governor," he said.

The university has been on the boil for several months. After a 85-day strike by students, it had opened on August 23. The agitators had been demanding removal of the then VC A P Pandey for alleged administrative and financial lapses.

President Ram Nath Kovind had recently placed Pandey under suspension as an inquiry was underway into the allegations of irregularities against him.

Singh was appointed as the acting VC soon after the suspension of Pandey.

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TIMES

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District Level Mock Exercise held in South District

NAMCHI, 10 Oct [IPR]: A District Level mock drill exercise on earthquake induced disaster for South District organised by National Disaster Management Authority [NDMA] in collaboration with District Disaster Management Authority [DDMA] was held across various points in Namchi today.

Under the administration of Incident Commander [DC South] Prabhakar Verma and Logistic Section Chief [ADC South] Satyen Pradhan the mock drill exercise was held with an objective of planning, co-ordination, logistics, monitoring disaster prevention, mitigation, search & rescue, preparedness and management in an earthquake disaster scenario. The exercise took place across various points namely Singithang Ground, under construction building Kisan Bazaar, Parking Plaza, all schools, offices and educational institutions under South District, Ravangla bazaar and major highways across Melli Jorethang road.

The entire operation was conducted under the guidelines of Incident Response System [IRS] which organizes a coordinated response mechanism at all levels of administration. Under such circumstances, the first scenario of earthquake disaster was held across schools and offices where Drop Cover Hold followed by evacuation drill and assembly was observed.

Meanwhile, Singithang Public Ground served the staging area



where the rescue team supported by NGO members, Quick Response Team [QRT]] health representatives, police and fire personnel were briefed by Staging Commander [ASP South] Linda Palmu.

Thereon, a scenario where collapse of building slabs was reported from Kisan Bazaar where Fire Fighter Commander Bishal Rai and his team carried out search and rescue operation and triage with the assistance of Police Personnel. SDRE,

medical experts, fire and emergency support personnel and safety managers played a crucial role in pursuing their roles and coordinating with one another during the real time disaster in the said area.

Similarly, real time disaster situations were established in Namchi Parking Plaza and Government Senior Secondary School.

The mock drill exercise saw the Quick Response team [QRT] render assistance in to

evacuate and rescue the injured from sensitive and vulnerable zones in order to reduce chaos and confusion during actual incident management.

Later, a briefing session was held at DAC Conference Hall which also served as the District Control Room during the mock exercise. In the briefing session various officials from concerned departments shared their learning and findings based on their roles during the mock drill.

Discussions on effective communication, availability of rescue equipments, crowd control and segregation of casualties were discussed at length. They also underlined the imperativeness of such drills at regular intervals in the future to equip the public and to avert and minimise casualties of any kind.

Upon completion of the drill, Observer Major Ankit Thapliyal presented a detailed evaluation of the mock drill assessing them on various criteria such as communication, resources made available for the rescue operations, awareness of responsibilities, nodal agency's ability to co-ordinate with support agencies and overall co-ordination amongst various stakeholders.

He lauded the immaculate execution of all the stakeholders and also gauged the effectiveness of the participants during the mock exercise and provided valuable inputs to avert chaos and risks in the future. Overall the mock drill exercise in South District was conducted in a smooth and effective manner.

Nobel award recognizes how economic forces can fight climate change

contd from pg04

any adequate or appropriate way.

In other words, we all benefit from it, though we don't necessarily pay for it. And we are all harmed by its degradation though the value of that damage is not captured in standard market exchange.

MODELING THE ECONOMY AND CLIMATE

Nordhaus argued a tax on carbon – say US\$25 a ton – or a cap and trade scheme that allows companies to exchange pollution credits – offers the best and most economically efficient way of putting a value on that public good and thus doing something about the problem.

Nordhaus showed this by perfecting models that simulated how such taxes and other inputs affect both the economy and climate, depicting how they co-evolve – known as “integrated assessment” models.

A noteworthy example is his Dynamic Integrated Climate-Economy Model, which provides a consistent framework for using knowledge borne from economics, ecology and the earth sciences. The model allowed for a deeper understanding of how certain policy changes affect long-term economic and environmental outcomes.

This is how he realized that schemes that rely on markets with some guidance from governments – such as by instituting carbon taxes – would work best to tackle the problem.

And thus he was able to show, with great clarity, that the most cost effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is by lifting the price of fossil fuels with a carbon tax. This in turn would provide the appropriate incentives for consumers and businesses to use less of those fuels.

Nordhaus was also able to estimate the economic damage from climate change if such policies weren't adopted. He found that the people who would

lose the most were the poor and those living in tropical regions.

MARKETS AND A GUIDING HAND

Fundamentally, Nordhaus recognized that solutions to the great challenge of climate change can most efficiently and effectively come from the market, one of the most powerful systems on earth.

While he understood markets needed to take the lead, at the same time, they needed assistance from informed government policy. Carbon pricing, Nordhaus found, is one powerful tool for bringing those solutions to the fore.

Even Adam Smith, the 18th-century economist who coined the “invisible hand of the market,” knew that market capitalism needed “rules imposed upon it by legislators who understand its workings and its benefits.” As National Affairs editor Yuval Levin reminded us in 2010, markets need a guiding hand.

That is, Nordhaus has showed how capitalism is capable of rising to the challenge of climate change, just as it has to other problems in the marketplace, such as monopolies, ozone depletion and the dangers of cigarette smoking.

On a day when the world's leading scientists have issued their latest dire warning on the impending doom of climate change, Nordhaus' deeply thoughtful, methodical work – for which we are thankful – is a reminder that there is hope. That human ingenuity and resourcefulness can guide the market to a solution and a better form of capitalism for structuring our commerce and interaction.

[Andrew J. Hoffman is Holcim (US) Professor at the Ross School of Business and School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan; Ellen Hughes-Cromwick is Senior Economist and Interim Associate Director of Social Science and Policy, University of Michigan Energy Institute, University of Michigan]

Real Kashmir: Changing the goalpost in Valley for better, 'jaldi jaldi'

MANIK GUPTA

SRINAGAR, OCT 10 (PTI): "I learned all about life with a ball at my feet," was Brazil legend Ronaldinho's take on what football meant to him. And it's a sentiment that Real Kashmir FC would probably identify with after adjusting to the valley's "curfews and cordons" courtesy the 'beautiful game'.

The first club from Jammu and Kashmir to qualify for the I-League is slowly building up to that dream debut on the big stage when they take on Churchill Brothers on November 6 at home turf.

"We can be the positive story coming from Kashmir. I appreciate the media for putting out the good word. Now it is for us to do all the hard work and shine, we have no other option," says the team's veteran mid-fielder Khalid Qayoom.

Qayoom and the rest of the squad enjoyed a day out in Srinagar recently, cheering on the players of an under-18 state championship match at the TRC Turf Ground recently.

The two-year old club, started by two friends -- Sandeep Chattoo and Shamim Meraj -- initially just for "fun", became the first club from the valley to qualify for the I-League by beating Delhi's Hindustan FC



3-2 in Bengaluru.

Qayoom spoke about the many reasons why football has a "huge following" in the valley.

"Mehraj (former India player Mehrajuddin Wadoo) and Ishwaq Ahmed are the reason so many people want to become footballers. They are our role models. People see them as stars of the valley. God willing if we do better in I-League people will think the same way for us also," he said.

The crowd at the practice

match he watching was rather thin, mostly outside thanks to the weekly flea market -- starting from the ground to the Hari Singh High Street.

Inside the ground, the decibel levels were significantly lower. Though not empty, the stands were mostly vacant.

"Buck up", screamed Qayoom, joined by fellow mid-fielders Shahnawaz Bashir and Danish Farooq.

This got the spectators involved, and what followed was a goal by Maharaja Sports.

"And now you will see the goalkeeper of Maharaja Sports team bowing down in direction of the mosque and thank the lord," whispered a spectator to his young child, pointing to the mosque next to the stadium.

And this is exactly what happened a moment later.

"This photograph should make for the sports pages in local newspapers tomorrow," murmured another fan.

It was game on for everyone present in the ground now. "Because of the cold there

are less spectators today, otherwise in summer, and also when we will play the I-League matches here by God's will, you will see the stadium jam-packed," Qayoom, an ardent Cristiano Ronaldo fan, said.

His father was also a footballer though not a professional one like Danish's father. Qayoom said after long there is excitement in the valley.

"Right now I think of myself as the luckiest person in the valley who is getting to live

his dream, he said gleefully.

Building the team up for the big challenge ahead is coach David Robertson -- ex-Rangers and Aberdeen player. The Scot said it feels like home here.

Robertson is keen to improve not just players' skills but also his Hindi and loves to flaunt the new words and phrases he has been picking up -- sometimes without even asking.

"Jaldi, jaldi... I use that a lot," he said smiling.

That said, making football a career in J&K is easier said than done. Qayoom knows all about it.

"Had things been peaceful in the valley, had the administration supported us, had the government supported us, I would have achieved this thing (making I-League cut) eight years back," said Qayoom, who will be turning 30 next year.

Khalid rued the fact that state has literally no infrastructure for any sport.

The TRC Turf Ground, the club's home ground for the upcoming I-League season which boasts of an imported synthetic turf, had nothing else to offer for the longest time and is now being spruced up.

The facility, however, is

yet to receive clearance from officials as a venue to host I-League matches.

"The infrastructure here has only gone from bad to worse. We have the Bakshi stadium, which is now being turned into an international ground, but that could have easily been done 10 years ago. We are lagging far behind when compared to other states," he added.

For someone who started playing football at the age of 14, Qayoom, a resident of downtown Srinagar, also spoke about the political turmoil and the "curfews and strikes" that affected his growth as a player.

"They harm your day-to-day life, not only football," he pointed out.

"We have been facing this situation all our life now. So yes we now know the tricks, we know how to tackle curfews, we know how to escape from the cordons," he said.

"We had to adjust somehow. Like, here also usually our practice starts at 9 in the morning, if there is a curfew or strike we come at 7 only," he said.

But that stopped bothering Qayoom and other players of the team long back. All they want to do is shine, and shine now.



Gold for archer Harvinder at Asian Para Games

JAKARTA, OCT 10 (PTI): Archer Harvinder Singh notched up the men's individual recurve gold, while track-and-field athletes added a silver and a bronze to India's tally in the Asian Para-Games here on Wednesday.

Monu Ghangas claimed the silver in the men's discus throw F11 category, while Mohammed Yasser fetched a bronze in the men's shot put F46 category.

Harvinder defeated China's Zhao Lixue 6-0 in the W2/ST category final to claim the top honours and take India's gold tally

to seven.

The W2 category of impairment covers athletes with paraplegia, diplegia or double leg amputation below the knee, requiring wheelchair. The ST category is for archers with limited impairment and who may take aim without having to need a wheelchair.

In the track and field events, Ghangas claimed his silver with a throw of 35.89m, an effort which he managed in his third attempt.

He finished behind Iran's Olad Mahdi, who came up with a new

Asian as well as Games record throw of 42.37m.

The F11 category deals with visual impairment.

In shot put, Yasser's throw of 14.22m got him the bronze behind Kazakhstan's Mansurbayev Ravil (14.66m).

The gold in this event went to China's Wei Enlong, who established a new Games record with an effort of 15.67m.

The F46 category of disability covers upper limb deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired range of movement.



Sindhu too comes out in support of #metoo movement

NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI): Badminton star PV Sindhu on Wednesday lauded people from different spheres coming forward in exposing personalities who sought sexual favours from their colleagues.

Reputations, especially in Bollywood, took a beating when people such as Tanushree Dutta and Vinta Nanda named Nana Patekar and Alok Nath for alleged misconduct years ago.

The journalist-turned-politician MJ Akbar, who is a junior foreign minister in the NDA government, was also accused of misconduct by many journalists.

"I appreciate that people have come forward and spoken about it. I respect it," Sindhu said on the sidelines of the Vodafone event, where the telecom company launched a woman-specific service 'Sakhi'.

Asked if she was aware of any such incident in sports, Sindhu replied, "I don't know about seniors and coaches. As far as I am concerned, I have been on sports circuit for years and it has been good and fine with me." Sindhu's badminton colleague Jwala Gutta on Tuesday without giving any names, alleged mental harassment by a coach.

ODI Squad: Dhoni's cover, Kohli's workload key issues

HYDERABAD, OCT 10 (PTI): Mahendra Singh Dhoni's poor batting form might force selectors to include the flamboyant Rishabh Pant when they pick the ODI squad for the limited-overs leg of the ongoing home series against the West Indies, here Thursday.

It is still not clear whether the squad will be announced for the first three games or the entire series, which comprises five ODIs and three T20 Internationals and starts on October 21.

Skipper Virat Kohli's presence may be another key issue even though it's unlikely that he will be inclined to rest for the entire series.

However, the primary bone of contention will



be whether the selectors and the team management will at least agree on having a cover batsman for Dhoni, whose wicketkeeping remains sharp but batting form has been on the slide.

"We all know that Dhoni will play till the World Cup but there is no

harm in grooming Pant, who could be a terrific No.6 or 7 batsman, who has the ability to finish games," a senior BCCI official privy to selection matters told PTI today.

Since his debut Test hundred at the Oval followed by a stroke-filled 92 in Rajkot, calls for the

20-year-old's inclusion have only grown louder.

While Dinesh Karthik is already there, his consistency and inability to finish matches at crucial junctures will keep the team management worried.

There are a few other permutations that the se-

lectors might consider.

Kedar Jadhav's dodgy hamstring will rule him out of the limited-overs leg which opens up one potential middle-order batting slot.

Ambati Rayudu, after a good Asia Cup performance, will retain his place even if Kohli decides to play.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are set to come back after a much-needed break during the ongoing Test series.

Ravindra Jadeja is also expected to make it after his lion-hearted show as Axar Patel's replacement.

The axe might just fall on Manish Pandey, who has had a poor run of late since getting a chance against Afghanistan.

No time for celebrations, Jeremy looks to bulk up for Tokyo dream

APARAJITA UPADHYAY

NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI): He is living an Olympic dream at 15 but Indian weightlifting sensation Jeremy Lalrinnunga has no time to stay in the moment as he has to bulk up in pursuit of a bigger Olympic goal in less than two years.

The Mizo teen, touted as the next best thing in Indian weightlifting, came up with a personal best effort in the 62kg category to clinch India's first gold medal at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires on Monday. He is happy beyond words but does not have the time to sit back and relish the moment for too long.

"I am feeling really happy that I won the gold medal here," Lalrinnunga told PTI from the Argentine capital.

"I am returning to Patiala on October 21. I have to train hard now for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. I am going to change my weight category to 67kg for the Olympics so I have to work harder," he added.

Son of a national-level boxer Lalneithlunga, Lalrinnunga aspired to don the gloves too but shifted to weightlifting as it involved



just power to excel, something he found fascinating.

"A new weightlifting academy opened in my village. The moment I saw it I wanted to try out the sport. I used to do boxing when I was younger but when I tried weightlifting I loved it. It's a sport that involves strength and that is the reason I love it," Lalrinnunga said.

He was eight when Lalrinnunga was enrolled at the Mizoram Weightlifting Academy. A year later he was picked by the scouts of the Army Sports Institute in Pune.

"I have been training at the Army Sports

switching to 62kg."

However, weight issues were not the only obstacles in Lalrinnunga's Youth Olympics preparation, the teenager also contracted chicken pox months before the big event.

"I suffered from chicken pox in May so I had to gain back my strength for 62kg. My focus was on the Youth Olympics so I had to work very hard to recover and start training.

"I learned a lot of new techniques in the process. We focused mainly on strength training and perfecting the technique," Lalrinnunga said.

B'desh court gives death penalty to 19; sentences Khaleda Zia's fugitive son to life

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, OCT 10 (PTI): Opposition BNP chief Khaleda Zia's fugitive son and political heir Tarique Rahman was sentenced to life and 19 others, including a former home minister, were given death penalty by a Bangladesh court Wednesday for their role in a plot to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2004.

An attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004 targeted Hasina, the then opposition leader, when she was about to finish a speech in front of thousands of supporters.

While Hasina survived the attack with a partial hearing loss, her party's women front chief and former president Zillur Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman was killed in the blasts.

Special court Judge Shahed Nuruddin awarded the death penalty to 19 people including former junior home minister Lutfuzzaman Babar, ex-deputy education minister Abdus Salam Pintu and several



former army intelligence officers.

Rahman and 18 others were sentenced to life. Eleven others were jailed for different terms.

"They (who are sentenced to death) will be hanged by neck until they are dead," Justice Nuruddin said.

Thirty-one of the 49 convicts were present in the court while

others including 51-year-old Rahman, now the acting BNP chairman as his mother is serving a five-year imprisonment in a graft case, are on the run abroad to evade justice.

Rahman was tried in absentia with the court declaring him a "fugitive". He now lives in London where he is believed to have sought asylum though the British

authorities have declined to reveal his immigration status.

He leads the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) from exile after Zia was jailed in February. Zia was not made an accused in the case.

Rahman, two former ministers and former top police and intelligence officials of the then BNP-led four-party alliance government were among 49 accused in the case.

The judge also made 12-point observations on the background, motive and consequences of the attack, mainly targeting incumbent Hasina.

"The attack was intended to eliminate the Awami League leadership, including Sheikh Hasina," the judge ruled.

The court had wrapped up the hearing on September 18 after a protracted investigation and trial process.

Investigations found an influential quarter of the then BNP-led

government, including Rahman, masterminded and sponsored the attackers -- the operatives of militant Harkatul Jihad al Islami (HuJI). Commenting on the verdict, BNP secretary general Fakhru Islam Alamgir expressed the party's deep frustration saying it was a "politically motivated" verdict. "It's a naked expression of political vengeance," he added.

However, Law Minister Anisul Huq said Rahman, the mastermind of the attack, deserved the death sentence.

His Cabinet colleague and the ruling Awami League general secretary Obaidul Qader echoed him, saying "we are not fully satisfied with the verdict".

"We may take steps to challenge his (Rahman's) lenient punishment once we get the copy of the entire judgment," Huq said.

Those who were sentenced to death were fined Taka one lakh each. The High Court must confirm their death penalty after a manda-

tory review.

Other political figures, who were given life sentence include former prime minister Zia's political adviser Haris Chowdhury and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad.

Law enforcement agencies earlier covered Dhaka with a security blanket while armed guards stood outside the courtroom in the old part of Dhaka to quell possible protests.

A key-accused in the case, HuJI chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, was dropped from the convict list along with two of his associates as they were hanged by now after trial in a separate case.

"We are taking steps to bring back the fugitive convicts," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters as the verdict was announced.

The verdict comes ahead of the parliamentary elections in December. Zia's party had boycotted the 2014 elections.



Hurricane Michael strengthens to 'extremely dangerous' Category 4: US forecasters

WASHINGTON, OCT 10 (AFP): Michael has strengthened to an "extremely dangerous" Category Four hurricane as it rumbles toward the Gulf Coast of Florida, the National Hurricane Center said Wednesday.

It said the storm is now packing maximum wind gusts of 130 mph

(210 kilometers), could grow even more and is expected to make landfall later in the day along the Florida Panhandle or Big Bend area as a "life-threatening event".

A storm surge of up to 13 feet (four meters) is expected in some areas, the center said.

Separately, the Na-

tional Weather Service in the state capital Tallahassee issued a dramatic appeal for people to comply with evacuation orders.

"Hurricane Michael is an unprecedented event and cannot be compared to any of our previous events. Do not risk your life, leave NOW if you were told to do so," it said.

Maldives strongman challenges election defeat

COLOMBO, OCT 10 (AFP): Maldives strongman President Abdulla Yameen's party Wednesday filed a legal petition challenging his landslide election defeat last month despite major international pressure for him to step down.

Lawyers for Yameen's Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) told reporters that they are alleging that the September 23 vote was rigged by the independent election commission.

It was however unclear whether the Supreme Court would agree to consider the challenge.

The election in the Indian Ocean archipelago, which has seen a tussle for influence between India and China, was won



by Ibrahim Mohamed Solih with 58.4 per cent of the vote.

Solih was little known before the election but was backed, in a remarkable turn of events given the island nation's turbulent recent political history, by all opposition parties, All of Yameen's other main rivals were either behind bars on charges that critics said were trumped up, or in exile.

Yameen had reluctantly conceded defeat amid international pressure from regional superpower and immediate neighbour India and others, but has been publicly urging his supporters to challenge the results.

Constitutionally, he can remain in office till November 17 when he has to hand over to Solih, barring any last minute court intervention.

Lt Gen Asim Munir appointed head of Pakistan's ISI

ISLAMABAD, OCT 10 (PTI): Lt Gen Asim Munir was appointed on Wednesday as the new chief of Pakistan's powerful spy agency ISI, the Army's media wing announced.

Munir, who previously served as the head of the Military Intelligence (MI), was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General by the Army Promotion Board headed by Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa.

He replaces Lt Gen Naveed Mukhtar.

Mukhtar assumed the office of the Inter-Services Intelligence director general in December,



2016. Munir has also served as the commander of the Force Command Northern Areas. He was conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz in March 2018.

The Army also announced several key top level transfers after army chief promoted five major generals to the next rank last month.

Haley became a popular UN diplomat despite Trump policies

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 10 (AP): Nikki Haley came to her job as the top US diplomat at the United Nations with no foreign policy experience, but in less than two years she made many friends - even among ambassadors from countries at odds with the Trump administration's policies.

Tuesday's sudden announcement that she was leaving by the end of the year ricocheted through UN headquarters like a lightning bolt, with many expressing shock, and some sadness and dismay.

"It was a surprise, not a very pleasant one for me personally," said Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, whose country has clashed with US positions including on Syria, Iran and Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The ambassadors on the powerful UN Security Council who worked closely with Haley praised her - a testament to her skills and success as a diplomat - though many of their countries, including America's traditional allies, have serious issues with her government's foreign policy.

When Haley arrived at the UN on Jan 27, 2017, she was the former governor of South Carolina and a novice at international affairs but she wasted no time in announcing a new way the US was going to do business.

The Trump administration's goal was to show US strength, speak out, and defend its allies - and as for countries opposing America, "we're taking names" and will respond accordingly, she said.

Haley has kept to that goal, but she has also honed her diplomatic skills, which were recognized by half a dozen members on the 15-nation Security Council as they headed into a closed meeting Tuesday afternoon on chemical weapons in Syria.

Nebenzia said he and Haley have "good working and personal relations despite all the differences that



we were and are having." "She's a charismatic personality," he said. "She was a friend to all of us, and ... beyond the doors of the Security Council we as a group were very friendly."

Bolivia's U.N. Ambassador Sasha Llorentty Soliz said the Security Council "is like a family - sometimes a dysfunctional family - but nevertheless we care about each other and I really like Nikki very much."

The good personal relations, however, could never mask the sharp differences over a host of issues ranging from US policy toward Syria to Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, the Paris climate agreement and the U.N. Human Rights Council. Washington's decisions to halt to funding for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees and to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem also upset some council members.

Llorentty Soliz stressed the separation, echoing Bolivian President Evo Morales, who launched a blistering critique of US policy toward Iran, the Mideast and Trump's immigration policies at a Security Council meeting the American president presided over on Sept. 26 during the annual U.N. gathering of world leaders.

Sweden's UN Ambassador Olof Skoog said "there are issues that relate to the UN where we don't always see eye to eye, but with Nikki there has always been a very close relationship, respectful and very frank." While Haley's speeches in the council can sometimes "be very strong,"

he said, council members were often invited to her apartment afterward.

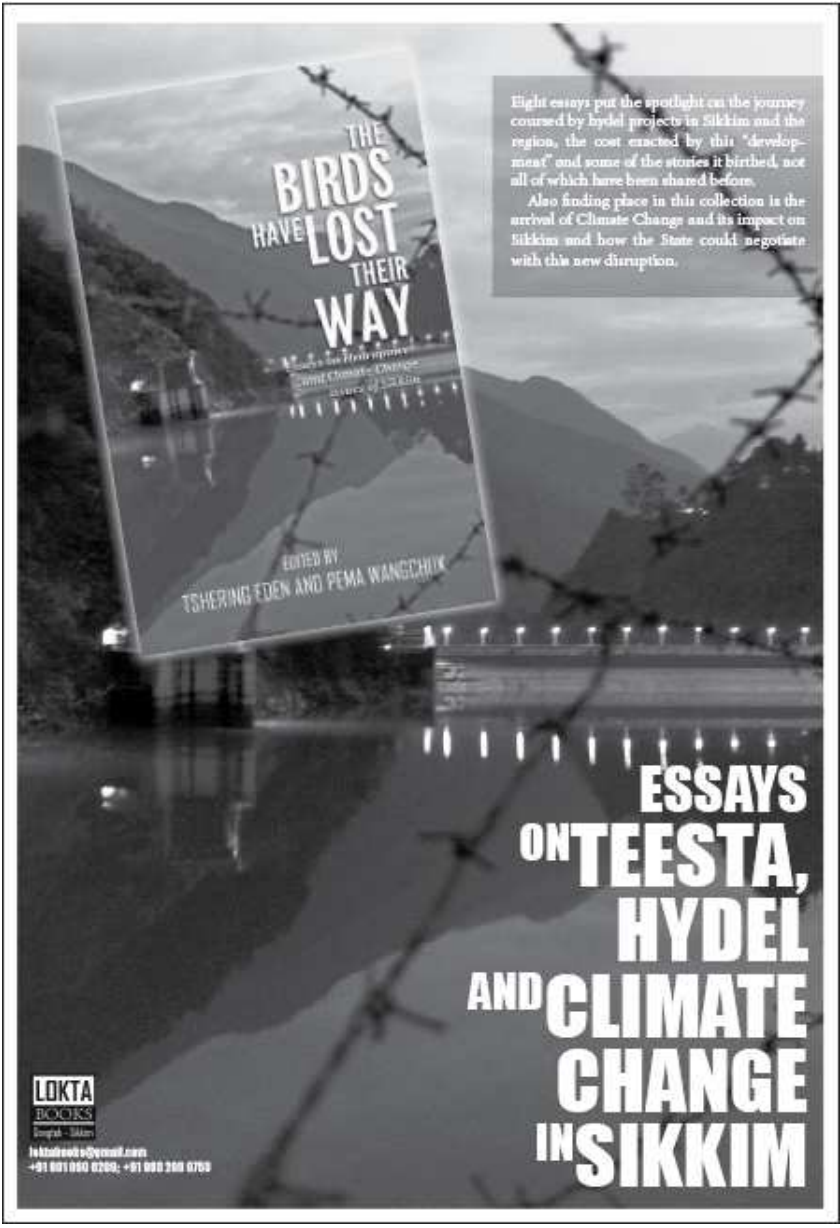
France's U.N. Ambassador Francois Delattre, who met Haley when she was governor of South Carolina and he was ambassador to Washington, said "even though we didn't agree on everything, we had established a particularly close and constructive working relationship based on trust." "Nikki Haley is one of the most talented, most authentic U.S. government officials that I have ever met," he said.

At a White House event, seated near Trump in the Oval Office, Haley told reporters that her six years as governor followed by nearly two years at the UN has been an "intense time, and I'm a believer in term limits."

"I have given everything I've got these last eight years," she said. "I think you have to be selfless enough to know when to step aside and allow someone else to do the job." Trump told her: "Hopefully, you'll be coming back at some point." The daughter of Indian immigrants, Haley, who is 46 and not personally wealthy, hinted in her resignation letter to Trump that she is headed to the private sector.

She said that as a businessman Trump would appreciate "my sense that returning from government to the private sector is not a step down but a step up." As for a replacement, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One he was considering five candidates and a successor would be named in two to three weeks - or maybe sooner. Among those under consideration, Trump said, is former deputy national security adviser Dina Powell.

Trump told reporters he heard his daughter Ivanka Trump's name discussed for the post, but said if he selected her he'd be accused of nepotism, and she later ruled herself out in a tweet.



Get to know Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt finalists

NITESH PRADHAN

GANGTOK, 10 OCT:

Temi Tea Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt will now have 22 finalists. The contestants now vie for the coveted subtitle Summit Times Mr Multimedia presented by the official print partner Summit Times.

This subtitle is decided by the audience on total number of likes their pictures get on social networking sites Facebook and Instagram on Mr Sikkim Manhunt page.

Get to know the contestants a little better with these brief interviews.

Contestant's name: **Palsang Lama**

Father's name: **Mohan K Lama**

Mother's name: **Pema Dolma Lama**

Residential address: **Upper Shichey, Link Road, Gangtok.**

Hobbies/Interests: **football, basketball, etc.**

Q) Why Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt?

- In my opinion, Mr Sikkim is not just about pretty face or attractive body. It's about discipline, dedication and determination along with hard work. So I believe I have the capacity and also being a professional athletic, I know I have the potential. Besides this, it's a great platform for youths.

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

- I know we all contestants are very talented and unique. However, I have strong emotion to face different challenges, open heart to share love and care, big shoulder to hold all responsibility and duties not only of Mr Sikkim but also for entire State. I'm the one who takes real pride in being a Sikkimese and will work responsibly for the State!

Q) What if you win or lose the competition of Mr. Sikkim 2018 Manhunt?



- I think winning and losing is a part of competition. However, if I win this contest, for sure, I'll get more responsibility and duties. I'll help to push innovative and scientific ideas in policy or laws making system of government to up lift people's life. I'll do bring supportive and encouraging programmes for people to help them as an individual and make better society, better State.

I will also work on State sports promotion and development along with encouraging people in sports to help them mentally and physically fit.

If I lose, definitely, I'll have wonderful experience

and memories with me that I got throughout these three months. I think it is very important and I'll move towards new challenges with my dream and new reason to help people and bring smiles.

Q) DEFINE YOURSELF?

- I think it is a good question. I'm simple ordinary, peace loving guy with ambitious, hardworking character. I love to see myself as a self-made man and love to do social work.

Q) What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

- In my opinion, humanity is primary in

our human life than others stuffs because, race, color, caste, gender, sex are different from each other but we all have one thing called "heart" which make us different than other creations. So I think, full of love of pure heart with selflessness feeling is the thing that unite humanity and make a better world.

Q) Your message or appeal?

- This beauty pageant brings new platform to define our life or discover our identity in the society which is great and I'm very grateful to the organizers, photographer, journalists and other related persons for giving us wonderful platform. Finally, I would like to congratulate for successive 1st ever male pageant and my wishes for long run of this contest.

Contestant's name: **Prashil Sharma**

Father's name: **Khem Raj Sharma**

Mother's name: **Pravitra Sharma**

Residential address: **Rangpo**

Hobbies/Interests: **dancing, singing, acting.**

Q) Why Mr Sikkim 2018 Manhunt?

- I have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Where ever I reach I look out for something that could teach me. I find no better place than manhunt.

Q) What are the qualities that make you stand out in the crowd?

- I think I do not think I have a particular quantity that makes me stand out to the crowd but I just want to keep that perfect relation with people I meet and learn from them and I too shall share my knowledge. I'm the kind of person who gets along with every person I meet. Even if someone is an outcast I can still learn something I spread love.

Q) What if you win or lose the competition of Mr. Sikkim 2018 Manhunt?

- Doesn't really matter if I win or lose. I just get to learn things and make myself productive in some ways.

Q) Define Yourself?

- I don't think I can really define myself because what I think is it is not only the thing that you can do but it's about what you can't. What is you are not being able to do is a challenge. I love accepting challenges. Challenges give me strength and with that strength I learn. I think I cannot define myself now because I think what defines one is what he does. Only his work can define himself not his cast not his religion or to what community he belongs to. I think only what a person does define him.

Q) What is that one thing that can unite humanity?

- Humanity in literal meaning is 'humans in collective'. We are humans because we live in a society. We live for each other. In my personal opinion before thinking about what unites humanity we should think of what divides it so that we can reach to a conclusion and find solution in the meantime. There are several factors like religion, caste, nationality and many more. Even wars are based on these factors which creates chaos. War is a negative result. And now that we know the factor for a negative result we need to avoid what creates it. So after knowing what divides humanity we know the solution. The only religion I think people must follow is humanity. In my opinion what unites humanity is love and respect [towards everything that exists].

Q) Your message or appeal?

- I want to say that Sikkimese 'youth' has their own goal and I want them to work hard and let their every step make noise. You know have to make yourself and your elders proud. People know who is doing best in this field of Mr Sikkim and all I wanna say is do support the best and yes I'm a contestant who has been consistently giving my 100%. Even I want to do something extra for my own people who deserves better. So janta I must say you have a great role in this field. Do support me and yes love me so that I can do exactly the way you want.



Jackie Chan to voice star in 'Once Upon a Zodiac'

TORONTO, OCT 10 (PTI): Veteran actor Jackie Chan has joined the voice cast of animated feature "Once Upon a Zodiac".

The 64-year-old actor, known for films such as "Rush Hour" series and "The Karate Kid", will also executive produce the project.

The story is set in a mystical, wondrous world populated with the animals of the Zodiac, a group of not-yet-friends are brought together by fate.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Chan will voice Zell, an elderly cat sage who speaks with wisdom and balanced charisma.

The animated feature hails from Toonbox Entertainment and GAMA Entertainment and is currently in production in Toronto.

Chan is no stranger to animation world, having voiced Mr Feng in "The Nut Job 2: Nutty By Nature" and Master Monkey in "Kung Fu Panda" series.



HAPPY B'DAY! Model Bella Hadid celebrates her birthday with The Weeknd in New York.

We are telling everyday stories of a couple: Mithila Palkar on 'Little Things'

NEW DELHI, OCT 10 (PTI): Mithila Palkar believes that audiences are eager for the second season of their series "Little Things" as it deals with the everyday problems of a millennial couple.

The actor became an overnight star after the first season of the show premiered on YouTube in 2016.

The series, also featuring Dhruv Sehgal, was recently picked up by streaming giant Netflix which also green lit it for a second season.

"We (Dhruv and her) were 23-24 when we started being in a relationship in 'Little Things' and now two years have gone by. So I guess people grew up with us. They went on this journey with us," Mithila told PTI in an interview.

The actor says people liked her chemistry with Dhruv in the show.

"We were telling the every day stories of a couples so we resonated a lot with the audiences. They became a part to our journey and as



we were growing they grew with us. Now two years later, I hope they still connect with us."

Season one explored the lives of Dhruv and Kavya, a young unmarried couple who navigate the complicated world of relationships, careers, and aspirations in the fast-paced city of Mumbai, while always cherishing the 'little things' that make life worth living.

The new season will deal with turmoil in their relationship and how they deal

with it.

"Every relationship goes through a conflict and both of us have grown up individually and the relationship has also grown up. Maybe we grew up in two different directions which is why our relationship is directionless. We are trying to streamline it and that's the struggle we are facing."

The "Karwaan" actor says she was beyond happy when she heard that their show was picked by Netflix.

"I wanted to scream at the

top of my voice and tell it to people that this is happening. We didn't announce it when we found about it. But I called up my sister and told her about it.

"The show is going to be dubbed in five different languages. The numbers are just overwhelming. We get to share the same space with 'Narcos', 'Breaking Bad' and 'Sacred Games'."

"Little Things" season two, directed by two-time National Award winner Ruchir Arun, streams on Netflix.

ARIES: You should team up with others and initiate action that resonates with your inner being. This might not be obvious now, but be on the lookout for unexpected events. These energies alert you to the fact that there's a much larger trend moving through your life that you may not be aware of right now. Stand back from your everyday routine and get a better perspective on your direction.

TAURUS: People of great power and drive may pop out of the woodwork today. They'll confront you directly and perhaps challenge you in some way. You may be at a climactic point right now, and feel like you're at a junction. Make adjustments now. Realize that change is a key ingredient for growth. Upheaval and action may be necessary.

GEMINI: You may be going through tremendous growth now. Focus on this and see where you need to make some changes. This may be interrupted by powerful energy from other people or situations. These issues are important. They're alerting you to certain changes that may be overdue. Look at how this upheaval can bring about growth and success. Opportunities await.

CANCER: There's a free-spirited energy calling your name. Latch onto it and manifest creative abundance in your life. Perhaps a major opportunity for change is knocking on your door. Look through the keyhole before you invite anybody in, but realize that the answer you seek may not be wearing the costume you expect. Explore all options and be bold. Initiate action. Don't shy away from

change.

LEO: A major force confronts you now. It may seem like this energy will never stop. It might be mental or physical, but either way, you may be letting it consume too much of your attention. Try not to get caught in drama that doesn't really involve you. Remedy the things you can change and leave the rest. Take responsibility for your actions and let others worry about theirs.

VIRGO: Keep your eyes open today. Be on the lookout for opportunities and invitations. Don't act too hastily. This is a key time in which life seems to be moving more quickly than ever. Change may be just what you need to foster your growth. Don't just grab the first thing that comes your way. Examine your options closely, make sure you're confident about the situa-

tion - then act.

LIBRA: Unexpected events may throw you for a loop today, but these incidents could be part of a bigger trend that you should pay attention to. There's great opportunity at hand, and you shouldn't ignore it. Small things may indicate some major change that needs to happen in your life before this new energy can take hold. Clear out the cobwebs and welcome a breath of fresh air.

SCORPIO: There's a powerful movement of energy in your life now. Major overhauls and subsequent undertakings are just waiting for you to give the green light. Realize the potential of instigating a significant change in your life. Don't shy away from the unknown. You understand the need for upheaval. Chaos may be necessary in order to let new oppor-

tunities in.

SAGITTARIUS: Take charge of your life. Initiate action and major change in an important area. Large trends are being activated today, alerting you to the fact that there's a great opportunity at hand. Take note of any sudden energy and unexpected events. Chaos and confusion may be the initial result, but change is a key ingredient for your future growth.

CAPRICORN: There's electricity in the air today, which may spur you to make a significant change in one area of your life. Try not to rush on this one. Don't change just for the sake of change, but really examine something that needs to shift. You have a great opportunity for growth now, so look for ways in which you can make major personal improvements.

AQUARIUS: You're at the start of a very expansive time in your life, and opportunities are available whether you realize it or not. You may get the feeling that there's an area that needs a total overhaul. Major changes are a large piece of the puzzle. Revamp that which doesn't work for you any more to make room for the future that awaits you. This is your time to shine.

PISCES: Bizarre and unexpected events lie in store for you today, so don't be surprised if not everything goes according to plan. Take note that these events may be part of a larger trend indicative of a tremendous opportunity. Heed the subtleties of this wave of energy. Latch onto it and see it as a major time of growth and expansion in your life.