SummitTIMES

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Pages 8 | ₹ **5**

CM's Jan Sampark Abhiyan reaches Temi

TEMI, 02 MAY [IPR]: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling attended the 132nd International Labour Day 2018 celebration as part of his 32-day State-wide outreach tour Jan Sampark Abhiyan at Lamey Taar in South Sik-kim on 01 May. The Chief Minister

was accompanied by Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, KN Rai, Area MLA cum Minister for Roads and Bridges Department, GM Gurung, Cabinet Ministers, Chair persons, Advisors, Head of Departments, public and students at large.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Chamling spoke about the historical sig-nificance of May Day and its celebration in Sikkim. He spoke about how the is observed globally to mark the labour movement and worker's rights and shared that it is an occasion that pays gratitude and respect to



workers and their contributions in building the society.

He spoke about labour union movement, specifically the eightmovement advocates eight of work, eight hours of recreation, and eight hours of rest. The CM also highlighted the Bonded Labour System which he informed has

been abolished in Sikkim. The CM also announced that the State Government will soon be constituting laws keeping in view the welfare and educational demands of the labourers.

The law will aim for 90% local employment in factories and industries, abolishing of labour contractors and encouraging direct employment," he

informed

In addition, announced that ex-gratia for labourers will be increased to Rs 05 lakh. The CM informed that female labourers and workers engaged in various organizations and industries established in Sikkim will be entitled to avail maternity leave for six months with full wages.
The CM emphasized

children should be eligible for vocational train-ing so that they can be skilled workers

He spoke at length about Organic Farming and urged the progressive farmers and the public not to leave farmlands fallow. In five years, Sikkim will transform into a self-reliant State in terms of production of food grains, said the CM further urging the youth to tap benefits through Sikkim Organic Mission.

Speaking about education sector, the CM articulated that students should shift to concept based education rather than the traditional form of education. He also announced various vacan-cies being created by the State Government to provide avenues of employment for the youth.

He briefed about establishment Horticulture College in Temi Tarku Helipad and upgradation of roads. Panchayats fi

Temi-Namthang Constituency submitted a list of public demands to the Chief Minister wherein he announced that the State Government will build quarters for workers of Temi Tea Garden.
The CM announced to

begin the repair work of Whosel Choling Gumpa at the earliest and assured that the demands placed by the panchayats will be looked into and worked

upon accordingly.

During the course of the program the Chief Minister along with the dignitaries felicitated registered workers and three established indus-tries located in Sikkim. The Chief Minister was also felicitated by All Sik-kim Democratic Labour Front [ASDLF] for his commitment in elevating Sikkim in various fields.

be documented and a re-

port will be prepared and the same will be submit-

ted to the concerned au-

thorities at the centre, he

off on 03 May and will conclude on 04 May. The inaugural session

will have the presence

The summit will kick

added.



SKM celebrates Labour Day in South, welcomes host of new members

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:
Cikkim Krantikari Mor Sikkim Kranuss...
Cha celebrated International Labour Day in grand manner at Maniram Bhanjyang in South Sikkim on 01 May. The celebration was chaired by SKM act-ing president, KN Lepcha, and was attended by se-nior leaders, party work-

ers and supporters from across the State. SKM chief coordi-nator and MLA, Sonam Lama, was felicitated by the party for pursuing the issue of the Kar-mapa's visit to Sikkim successfully. The acting president also launched online membership registration on the occasion. Members from different political parties, social workers, Panchayat, re-

workers, Fanchayat, te-tired employees and in-tellectuals joined SKM. Former Deputy CM, PT Lucksom, former MP, Nakul Das Rai, retired Principal Registrar, DN Tiwari, retired Joint Reg-istrar, NL Bhandari, senior politician, Amar Lal Pradhan, and eight other individuals including former president, Bhim Kumari Sharma, and for-mer general secretary of BJP State women's wing, Chimi Doma Bhutia, re tired police officer, Ragbey Bhutia, BJP South district general secretary, Madan Tamang, and other BJP members joined the party.

A founder member

and popular leader of SDF party from Nam-chi-Singhithang, Ganesh Rai, along with 60 fami-lies also joined the party on the day.

It is further informed that 14 families from Rumtek, 60 families from Soreng-Chakung led by Prem Bhandari, 30 fam-ilies from Martam-Rumtek led by Prashant Thapa, 24 families from Poklok-Kamrang led by Khagendra Chettri, 38 families from Maniram-Bhanjyang led by Dhiren Gurung, 48 fam-ilies from West Pendam led by Rai Biswakarma. 12 families from Martam Rumtek led by Ashok Rasaily, 32 families from Rabitar, Melli led by Tenturn to pg03

Sikkim Summit about restoring lost rights of 11 left out communities The entire event will

ARPAN PRADHAN

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 02 MAY:
The Sikkim State Commission for Backward
Classes and the Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Wel-fare, Government of Sikkim, in association with the Eleven Indigenous Ethnic Communities of Sikkim [EIECOS] is organising a two-day National level summit here in the capital.

Speaking to Summit-Times, one of the members of the organizing body and the chairperson of the Sikkim State Com-



mission for Backward Classes, TN Sharma, has urged everyone to attend the important event to give their individual inputs and make the event a success

Mr. Sharma has said much importance as the issue needs to be discussed with views and feedback from every level.

The demand of the 11 left out communities of Sikkim is genuine and not a new demand but it is a provided to the communities before the merger with the Indian union.

But due to a mistake made by the previous gov-ernment, these communities were deprived of their rights which they were enjoying when Sikkim was an independent kingdom, said Mr. Sharma.

With the guidance

of the visionary leader, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, the concerned department and authorities have been working on these issues very seriously and pursuing the matter with the Union government.

All the related and documents important have already been submitted to the concerned authorities and are un-der consideration and the SDF Government is very much hopeful that the centre will very soon restore the Tribal status to all the left out communities, said Mr. Sharma.

The national level summit will have speakers from different parts of the country which includes former Union ministers, central gov-ernment officials and of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as the chief guest and the closing ceremony will have the Gov-ernor as the chief guest. The summit is to be

held at Manan Kendra in

Tourist season, traffic snarls and need for alternatives

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:

For 28-year-old Tshering Bhutia, a government employee and a mother, juggling office and manag-ing her school-going child's daily routine is already stressful and run ning after taxis on Gangtok's roads only makes things worse. Time management becomes especially difficult during the tourist season, when taxis prefer tourists over locals and traffic snarls are aplenty.

"Due to bad traffic management we [commuters] are the worst suf-ferers," she says. With the ongoing tourist season in the State, most of the taxis are reserved for the guests with a very limited number of vehi-

cles plying in and around Gangtok. For driver, Akash Sewa, this is a money minting month. He says in order to feed his family of five, he needs to slog hard in the "season" and often he does not take up any local service deliberately as it may adversely affect the yearly budget of his family.

always Transportation has been a challenge for Sikkim particularly in the capital.

"We definitely need alternatives now," says a stakeholder in tourism industry, Bhumi Ravi.

A college student, Rahul Rai, who is also a daily commuter, feels



that something like the monorail project proposed some years ago, is the need of the hour as monorails are cost effective and cheap but a comfortable mode of travel.

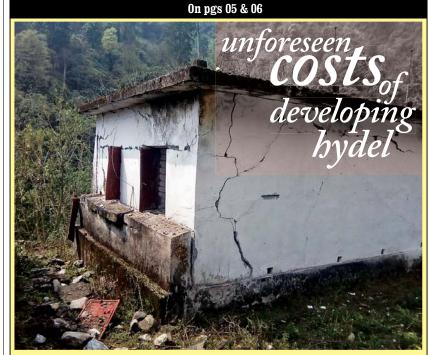
He further appeals to the government to initiate such a project. The proposed monorail planned to cover the Ranipool-Gangtok stretch, a particularly traffic heavy stretch.

"Monorail is safer, it is quick and it is cheap, let's hope this projects kicks off," says another daily commuter who is an insurance agent, Renuka Pradhan. Some government employees have demanded more transport facilities in the wake of the ongoing tourist season which has meant daily struggles for many especially in the peak office

hours of morning and evening. Another commuter. Dhiren Rai, who is a local entrepreneur in the hospitality sector, has also questioned the responsibility of all the taxi drivers' associations in delivering service to passengers, be it tourist or local.

"They should also create a chanism which can address such problems, just leaving everything to

the government is not fair," he says.
"Bad traffic also has a bad effect on the human body. Long traffic jams can cause acute stress men-tally which may lead to headache and other mental or psychological effects. Time management prob-lems arising out of traffic jams may lead to stress," states psychologist, Nitesh Shrestha.



"Development" comes at a cost, which is why calls are so often made to "contribute" and "sacrifice" for the nation-building process. Not all costs are, however, tangible. There is a lot that is lost which cannot be easily quantified or compensated. And then there are costs which are not even projected. The final episode of the Spotlight series looks at some hydel costs which caught Sikkim by surprise..



es.com | letters@summittimes.com | Summit TIMES Daily

Journos protest extension of traditional broadcasting rules & restrictions to the Internet

release informs.

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:
A group of over 100 journalals related to the online media today wrote to the Information & Broadcasting Minister. Smriti Irani, to register their concerns over the Ministry's proposal to extend traditional broadcasting rules and restrictions to the Internet, a press

The journalists include both veterans of the industry like Raghav Bahl, MK Venu, Madhu Trehan, Nalini Singh, Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, Shivam Vij, Sanjay Pugalia, An-

eration media entrepreneurs like Dhanya Rajendran [The News Minute], Seema Mustafa [The Citizen], Ritu Kapur [The Ouintl. Tanmay Bhat [All India Bakchod] and Bharat Nayak [The Logical Indian].

In their letter, the journalists and media professionals expressed concerns that bringing legacy media structures --such as licensing and content regulation -- could have a drastic impact on a medium that is widely credited with making the media and information landscape more open and

democratic across the world.

"Internet based media, by its very nature, promotes democratic globally and cannot be dealt with in the way national governments try to regulate or control traditional media," said founding Editor at The Wire, a new-generation, online-only publication, MK Venu.

"Internet based media and global media aggregators like Facebook, Google have changed the content and distribution landscape in ways that national governments cannot easily control. Nor should they try to. It is a free democratic space and must remain as such," he added.

Journalist and media an-

alvst. Geeta Seshu, too called on the government to embrace the change the spirit of freedom brought about by the Internet in media and communication sectors.

She expressed disappointment at the government's at-tempt to 'regulate' online media by setting up a committee comprising mostly of government officials.

Founder editor of The Cit-izen, Seema Mustafa, warned that chances of 'online content regulation' being used for suppression of opinions critical of high

It may be mentioned here the journalists organized themselves using social media, particularly WhatsApp, spontaneously after news broke that the government had set up a committee to come up with a regulatory structure for online media "on the lines applicable to print and electronic media".

website, onlinefreedomfoundation.org, has also been set up to allow ordinary citizens to oppose the move to regulate online



CCCT conducts awareness prog on digital village, cyber security, and E-banking

SUMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 MAY:

Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering [DECE] of the Centre for Computers and Com-munication Technolomunication gy [CCCT], Government Polytechnic at Chisopani in South Sikkim, organized a daylong aware-ness campaign on digital village, cyber security, and E-banking at the Village Administrative Centre of Denchung-Poklok GPU in Nandugaon, South Sikkim on 28 Apr, a press release informs.

Twelve 2nd year DECE students con-ducted the event in association Panchyat Panchyat members of Denchung-Poklok which had the participation of 40 students from Nandugaon Senior Secondary School and Gram Panchyat members along with the general public

Donal Rai and Prerna Rana from CCCT presented the concept of digital village wherein connectivity, ease of access, app hased office and paper less documentation were the focus area of the presentation while Nitiesh presented various knowhow on "Cyber Security".

Acabu Vupru and Sub turn to pg03

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI TAURAS

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:01/05/18 1st Prize Rs.10.000/- 1379

2nd Prize Rs.1.000/- 5423 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2238

4th Prize Rs.300/- 5780 5th Prize Rs. 201/- 1752

The Director , Mizoram State Lotteries,

For result please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES MUMBAILAXMI LAXMAN

5733 5739 5794 5852 5873 5902 5904 5943 6081 6082 6086 6103 6113 6119 6283 6307 6321 6344 6352 6355

6361 6431 6436 6489 6496 6506 6539 6567 6591 6602

6631 6659 6696 6704 6728 6765 6795 6836 6888 6982

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:01/05/18

1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 2018 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 3738 3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 3475 4th Prize Rs. 501/- 1508 5th Prize Rs.200/

1082 1089 1170 1171 1177 1205 1216 1296 1368 1631 1638 1686 1692 1695 1893 1908 1924 1953 1997 2016 2154 2219 2241 2279 2373 2516 2539 2570 2620 2627 2630 2680 2712 2725 2727 2767 2824 2878 2944 2983

996 3031 3034 3057 3063 3153 3200 3256 3306 3415 3034 3034 3034 3037 3003 3133 2200 3230 3300 3413 3629 3638 3641 3673 3687 3707 3735 3745 3998 3999 3022 4040 4054 4068 4109 4127 4192 4220 4407 4467 4524 4668 4725 4726 4738 4816 4825 4830 4895 4914 5005 5037 5187 5194 5236 5239 5428 5432 5450 5546 6th Prize Rs.100/-

Commissioner, NACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

5726 5728 5777 5783 5821 5845 5865 5896 5909 5914



Landslide warning system vandalized in Chandmari, again

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:
The landslide warning The land installed researchers la-based from Kerala-based research institute, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, has been severely vandalized with cut wires and broken equipment strewn at the site, a press release

The release informed that that the landslide warning system has been 'damaged beyond repair and has destroyed two years of field work by the Amrita Vishwa Vidy apeetham team. The net-work of sensors installed at the site were equipped to reportedly help pro-vide early warning to villagers if a rainfall-induced landslide was deemed imminent.

Project Lead and Director of Amrita Center for Wireless Networks and Applications, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Dr Maneesha Sudheer, informs that because of the vandalism, the insti-tute has lost more than Rs 40 lakh of project funds, along with non-re-producible meteorological, geological and hydrological data, and all the equipment integrated with their scientific and engineering outputs

"Our team's goal here is only to the save the lives of Chandmari residents, as this area is prone to rainfall-induced andslides. However, vandalism is affecting the project's on-time deliv-ery to those who need it the most-the residents of the community," Dr Sudheer has said.

The vandalism reportedly came to light when researchers visited Chandmari for the final deployment of the complete system.

"The system represented years of research work, continuous long-distance travel and time spent away from family, months of data collected and now lost, fund-ing gone to waste, and over 7,000 hours of man-

ual fieldwork carried out by the team, which faced challenges with varying climate patterns, treacherous terrain, and even attacks by local wildlife to make the system operational. Despite facing and overcoming these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the biggest iminsurmountable pediment to our success seems to be man-made," Dr Sudheer rues.

According to Dr Sudheer this is the second time in the last one year that the system has been vandalized in Chandmari

State Govt not sincere towards tribal status to left-out communities: SKM

SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:
Sikkim Krantikari
Morcha has asserted that the State government has not been sincere towards the issue of the securing Scheduled Tribe status for the 11 left-out communities of Sikkim. The party has further alleged that the State government has failed

repeatedly to provide the correct argument and documents to the Centre on this issue.

Referring to information re-ceived from Ministry of Tribal Affairs through a recent RTL SKM senior vice-president, TN Dhakal, while addressing a press conference here today, mentioned that the Office of Registrar General, India [ORGI] has not supported the proposal of the State government on tribal status for the left out communities. The RTI was filed by Navin Kumar Chhetri of Chhamga-on, Upper Mamley, Namchi in South Sikkim that received a reply on 13 Mar 2018.

Mr Dhakal argued that it was included in the Central OBC list



before getting the tribal status. On the same, he alleged that Chettri, Bahun and Newar have still not been included in the Central OBC list as the State government has not been sincere towards the issue.

He further alleged that the matter of the inclusion of Chettri, Bahun and Newar was not even passed in the Cabinet or in the Assembly.

Mr Dhakal stated that the RGI has repeatedly written to the State government to send the right argument and documents on the matter to pro-vide tribal status to left out communities but the government has failed

to send the correct documents.

He mentioned that the State government has been asking for tribal status on the basis of the Burman Report. On the same, he alleged that Burman report has

information on different communities of the State. He added that the Burman report was the main reason for the repeated cancellation of the proposal sent by the State on tribal sta-Mr Dhakal add-

ed that in a letter to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs dated 21 Feb

2018, the Deputy Registrar General [SS] of ORGI has written, "The ORGI reiterated its earlier comments of not supporting the said proposal as it is not bound to examine the same proposal afresh

Responding to media queries, he mentioned that the door for the issue has not been closed yet but it needs dedicated intention and effort. He asserted that SKM has the ula to provide tribal status to the left out communities of the State.

He also alleged that Sikkim mmit for Tribal Status scheduled to begin on 03 May in Gangtok was just eyewash. The government does not have the clear intension to provide tribal status to left out communities, he reiterated.

Annual training camp of 04th Sikkim Btn NCC kicks-off at Kamrang

NAMCHI, 02 MAY [IPR]: source and Development Department, RB Subba, attended the annual training camp of 04th Sikkim Battalion National Cadet Corps at NCC Training Centre in Kamrang as chief guest today.
The program, orga-

nized under the aegis of the 04th Sikkim NCC Bat-talion, was also attended by Commanding Officer DS Dahiya and Lieu-tenant Colonel Gulshan Chadha along with officials and trainers from NCC, HRDD officials, principals from different schools and colleges and students from schools in South and West Sikkim.

This is the first ever camp for the cadets of South and West Sikkim



and is scheduled to conclude on 11 May.

The chief guest along with the officials inspected the training facility and oversaw various cadet activities.

Addressing the gathering, Mr Subba extended his best wishes to the students and highlighted that the training will provide opportunities for the cadets to experience camp

life, outdoor activities and community living. He added that the camp will also assist them to develop teamwork, self-confidence. self-reliance and dignity of labour which will help

them in the long-run.

The Minister also informed the students that they will further get the opportunity to hone their skills in the National Trekking Camp that will take

place in November. He also urged them to prepare diligently for the National Detions and called on them to have an ambitious approach towards enhancing their life skills further.

Mr Subba also underlined the numerous opportunities in the field of education available in Sikkim in educational institutions such as CCCT Chiso-

certificate examinations as well as inculcate leadership qualities. Additionally, he mentioned that the participating cadets are the

youngest battalion that NCC Kamrang has ever had. He shared that lectures and demonstrations will be organized as part of the training camp and that the cadets will also participate in vari-ous community development programmes.

pani and ATTC Bardang. Lt Col Gulshan Chadha

spoke in brief about the training discipline and motto of the camp. He underlined that during

the course of the training the cadets will be impart-

ed with valuable training

which will prepare the NCC cadets to do well in

NAGALAND STATELOTTERIES

DEAR SINCERE MORNING

Draw Time : 11:55 am onwards Draw No:22 DrawDate on:01/05/18 1st Prize Rs.26.01 Lakhs/- 95B 73044 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 73044 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

16019 19998 25752 34954 42804 34397 59436 75919 81532 92952 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 2003 3624 3703 5123 5313 5554 5863 5991 6596 8726 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0146 0522 1977 3341 3681 4386 4731 5145 6451 7422

4th Prize Rx.250/- 0.146 0522 1977 3341 3681 4386 473 5th Prize Rx.120/-0105 0274 0286 0396 0487 0494 0882 0930 1002 1016 1055 1262 1288 1299 1421 1665 1745 1870 1880 1957 1996 2.126 219 2339 2634 2684 2706 2777 2839 2956 2961 2969 3067 3157 3180 3201 3222 3228 3336 3347 6364 3754 3848 2488 4349 4451 4469 4692 4701 4909 4885 5095 5084 5188 5224 5337 5543 5623 5676 588 731 2976 316 178 672 672 673 676 767 678 2678 4688 7032 7036 7219 7232 7240 7318 7415 7539 7655 7692 757 77769 7934 7388 2428 4305 8626 8690 8703 8906 8917 8982 9136 9268 9316 9334 9501 9640 9751 9845

DEAR LOVED

DEAR PARROT EVENING

Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 46113 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

Gangtok on 03 May

Temp: 24°C /11°C Forecast: Mostly cloudy with a shower or thunderstorm around. **Sunrise:** 04:56 AM Sunset: 6:10 PM

CCCT conducts awareness prog on...

contd from pg02

arna Sharma presented awareness on E-banking while faculty members, Deependra Adhikari and Kabita Nepal, summa-rized all the presentation and delivered the objective of the campaign.

Denchung-Poklok

Gram Panchyat and Nan-dugaon SSS students acknowledged the initiative of the department and provided feedback, suggestion and good wishes to the CCCT students.

SKM celebrates Labour Day in South...

Contd from pg01

zing Lepcha and 12 families from Yangthang led by Sancha Raj Limboo

officially joined SKM.

The celebration was addressed by senior leaders of SKM and new join-ing leaders who lashed out on the failure of the State government in different areas and for misleading the people of Sikkim.

Speaking to this cor-respondent, founder member of SDF from Singithang who joined SKM yesterday, Ganesh Rai, said, "I had served SDF throughout my life and helped Pawan Chamling bring in his government and run it. I believed him. I believed in his principles and his attachment with grass-roots and his dream of development for our society. I myself and my fellow friends of Singithang followed his dream and principles and always worked for the SDF party and for Pawan Chamling but after these long years of our sincere work and dedication for the party, I have no belief left in him and in his party so I decided to leave SDF and join SKM."



Ghewa

The 49th Day Ghewa of our mother Late Indra Maya Lama w/o Harka Singh Lama who left for her heavenly abode on 18th March 2018 falls on 5th May 2018. We request all friends, relatives and vell wishers to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at

our residence at Chongey Busty (below POC, School) , Gangtok, East Sikkim. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Harka Singh Lama (husband), Urmilla Lama & Passang Pakhrin, Sharmila Lama & Samden Dorji Lama (daughters & sons in law). Ph 9733029453, 9933733062, 8945812246.

Nathula trade opens for 2018

SHMMIT REPORT GANGTOK, 02 MAY:

he 12th edition of the The 12th edition of the bilateral border trade between India and China from Nathula border resumed on 01 May for the scheduled period of 01 May to 30 Nov, 2018. The opening function was organized at Nathula to mark the resumption of trade and was attended by officials from Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Sikkim, Customs, ITBP, Immigration and Traders

However, traders have decided to start transactions from 07

May.

On behalf of the Government of Sikkim, Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department,

SUMMIT REPORT

of Holy Cross

Chettri

GANGTOK, 02 MAY: Two Standard X students

Tadong, Rishal Pandey

and

Chettri, have received

certificates and other prizes from the Election

. Commission of India for

being among the first-50

School.

Aditya

Quiz



Pradhan, formally declared the trade open for this season of the year 2018 in the pres-

Holy Cross students

receive certificates of

appreciation from ECI

ence of Joint Secretary, N Jaswant, officials and traders from both the sides. The trading days

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY: In a special function

In a special function held at Raj Bhavan to-

on the occasion, a press

communiqué received from Raj Bhavan informs.

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY: Entrepreneurs Hub

Consultation Centre orga-

nized a session on entre-preneurship 'Ideation Sik-

kim' at Samman Bhawan

in Gangtok on 01 May, a press release informs.

tended by the students of

Sikkim Government Col-

lege, Tadong particularly of Commerce and Eco-nomics Department along

Coordinated by re-searcher and Co-Founder

of Sikkim Chronicle, You-

gan Tamang the session was addressed by Found-

er, Fidgety Fingers, Devi-

NE Taxi, Rewaj Chettri.

with faculty members.

The session was at-

are from Monday to Thursday and the trade

Governor confers Rajya Puraskar to 16

Bharat Scouts & Guides contingents

Patil, State Chief Com-missioner, Bharat Scouts

& Guides Sikkim Dr HP

Chettri, State Secretary

and Treasurer of the

organisation, Assistant State Training Commis-

sioner of Guides were

present for the event.
Dr Chettri briefed
the Governor who is also
the Patron of the Bharat
Scouts and Guides, Sik-

kim, about the activities

and camps of the Bharat Scouts & Guides and the

competition from which

the selected contingents are being awarded Rajya

Ms Gurung highlight-

First Lady Rajanidevi

Purashkai

he added.

Entrepreneurs Hub and Consultation Centre begins ideating

organisation

remain consistent in

grooming the youth to be

self reliant and continue

be a platform to moti-

vate and encourage the

student to aim big in life.

The organisation should train the scouts and guides in leadership and

selfless service in society,

now compete for the next year's Rashtrapati Award

through National Level

Testing Camp, the release

The awardees will

Despite inclement weather in the last few days, the trade opening was blessed with sunny weather and officers and traders of both sides reached Nathula for the resumption of

Officials and traders from India and China wished each other and assured to extend the best possible help to each other for smooth and peaceful trade.

It may be mentioned that trade across the Nathula border had been stalled last year after the Doklam standoff be-tween the Chinese and Indian army. 2017 saw only two weeks of trade take place across the



Gangtok, Rongkup and Ong Tsher-ing Lepcha, have helped

shares that the tournament was a great learn-ing experience for him and helped him understand the game better.

"It was my first time playing in a big tourna-ment. I was nervous at first but to be able to

visit us at



Nima, who plays as a striker and scored a goal in the tournament,

July. Ong Tshering Lepcha had also played for Gang-

tok Himalayan FC.

Football

tournament was played

over 45 days and was participated in by 12 teams, two of which are

I-League regulars.
Nima hails from Kon-

gri. West Sikkim, and

used to earlier play for Gangtok Himalayan FC.

The 24-year-old consid-

ers Sunil Chettri, Bikash

Jairu and Nirmal Chettri

in Kolkata trying for the

Kolkata League which is scheduled to kick off in

present, Nima is

as inspirations.



the India Bank team win the Chennai Football Association [CFA] Senior Division 2018 tournament held at Nehru Sta-dium there recently.

represent my State in the team and on top of that win the whole thing was

is serious about entrepre-



ANTHEYESTI KRIYA Antheyesti

Bikash falls 2018, 05 May, Saturday, will the Nepali Singtam

Uncle (9932963921) (8670689403)

day, Governor Shriniwas respondents to correctly answer audience questions asked during Patil conferred the "Rajya Puraskar" on 16 Bharat Scouts & Guides continthe episode 04-05 of the National Elections gents from five schools of East district. 2018 conducted The Governor also handed over National Level Trainer certificate by ECI earlier this year and which was also broadcasted on Rajya to Dhan Raj Gurung and National Level Hima-Sabha TV, a press release layan Wood Batch certifi-cate to Khem Raj Sharma



Review meet held for 'transforming' West Sikkim by 2022

GVALSHING. 02 MAY [IPR]: A review meeting regarding NITI Aayog's initiative of transforming "aspirational district" was chaired by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Upma Srivas-tava, at Mount Pandim Hotel in Pelling, West Sikkim on 01 May.

It may be mentioned here, West district is among the 115 "aspirational districts" of the country identified by the NITI Aayog for

within 2022. The covers 5 sectors viz Health & Nutrition Education, Agriculture & Allied Areas, Basic Infrastructure, Skill Development & Financial inclusion. The district has come up with various indicators prevalent

turn to pg06

ed various aspects of entrepreneurship in the state. She stressed on the differences between business and entrepreneurship. She further highlighted on how one can realize a dream and passion of turning to entrepreneurship and cre-ate avenues for self-reliance and employment opportunities for others. She also spoke on how one can use traditional knowledge and crafts and create an enterprise.

Rewaj Chettri, the honoree of Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list enlightened the students on how Sikkim is proving to be a land of op-portunities for young en-

Dated 1st May 2018

trepreneurs. He highlighted on how the Entrepre-neurs Hub and Consultation Centre is an initiative taken by the Government to help and guide young entrepreneurs in the state He further talked about creating an entrepreneurship ecosystem in Sikkim and working together to grow entrepreneurship environment in the State. He also shared about his entrepreneurship journey as a motivation and encouragement to the students.

Yougan Tamang spoke on how the Government

neurship in the State. He further stressed on inculcating the ideas of being an entrepreneur and create employment opportunities not just for oneself but for many in the state. He also stressed on Chief Minister Startup Scheme and how the scheme has been initiated with the prime motive to help entrepreneurs in the state. He stressed on how young people should explore entrepreneurship nd not just limit oneself to Government jobs, reads





RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM GANGTOK

Memo No. 301/RM&DD/MGNREGA/18-19

Dated: 30/04/2018

SHORT NOTICE FOR RE-TENDER

NIT Reference No: - 124/RM&DD/MGNREGA/17-18 dated 01/03/2018

The re-tender for supply materials for MGNREGA works for Rhenock B.A.C. and date of submission of tender documents is on 11/05/2018 till 12.00 Noon. The tender shall be opened on same day at 2 pm at BDO office, B.A.C. Rhenock, East Sikkim. All other terms and conditions shall remain un-altered.

Sr. Accounts Officer-MGNREGA RM&DD, Gangtok

R.O. No: 60/IPR/PUB/Classi/18-19 Date: 30/04/2018

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM FINANCE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT **GANGTOK**

NOTICE

This is for general information to the candidates who have qualified for appointment to the post of Accounts Clerk/Junior Storekeeper under Sikkim Sub-ordinate Accounts Service vide notice no 15/EXAM/SPSC/2018 dated 6th April 2018, to collect their Memorandum for appointment from Finance Revenue and Expenditure Department, Mannan Kendra, Gang-tok. Memorandum for appointment shall be issued only to the candidates on production of Admit Card or any other proof of identification. The memorandum shall be issued during working hour w.e.f. 4th May 2018.

> PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, FINANCE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT **GANGTOK**

R.O. No. 64/ipr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 1.5.18

Opinion

Summit TIMES

Feel Free to Disagree ...but don't deny yourself access to free voices

M ay 3rd is observed the world over as the Press Freedom Day. It is a day when the fourth estate, forever reporting on others, indulges in some vanity. But the day is much more than just an exercise in mutual back-slapping. It is more about remembering and recording the continuing struggle of those in the media to keep people informed.

The fact that in every continent, journalists, editors and publishers are murdered, assaulted, detained or harassed is proof that constant efforts are always underway to curtail free speech. And now, as governments around the world turn increasingly insular and restrictive, the responsibilities on the media to help the saner voices reach a wider audience has grown even heavier. The UN has recognized this situation and hence themed Press Freedom Day this year as, "Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law". While keeping power in check as the society's watchdog was always part of the media's role, it has grown in significance in these, well, "critical" times. In times when insecurities have become political votebanks, agencies are always at work to tease out paranoia and the only defence against such propaganda is free flow of factual information. A better informed people, better informed even about the threats facing them, is a more secure population because they can prepare better instead of just jumping at shadows. They are also less paranoid because they have access to factual updates instead of fake news curated to reinforce their fears. Access to factual and professional information also builds trust in institutions because it also enforces accountability; the crisis of the times then get resolved through informed decision-making instead of growing worse due to neurotic fear-mongering. These are also times when the powers-that-be are increasingly indulging in dangerous mechanizations to seed distrust, paint imaginary enemies and threats and corralling people into scared groups so that they remain distracted and also vote en bloc. These powers need to be kept in check because allowing them a free run also compromises justice and mocks rule of law. The agenda for today is simple; as the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, appeals in his message: "On World Press Freedom Day 2018, I call on governments to strengthen press freedom, and to protect journalists. Promoting a free press is standing up for our right to truth."

Press Freedom Day also exists to recognise the sacrifices made in the struggle to keep press free and to exert pressure on the numerous countries that continue to deny their citizens this basic human right. The 2018 World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), reflects growing animosity towards journalists. Hostility towards the media, openly encouraged by political leaders, and the efforts of authoritarian regimes to export their vision of journalism pose a threat to democracies. The theme for the year becomes relevant because hostility towards the media from political leaders is no longer limited to authoritarian countries but is also infecting democracies where leaders are increasingly fanning a "media-phobia." More and more democratically-elected leaders no longer see the media as part of democracy's essential underpinning, but as an adversary to which they openly display their aversion. So yes, reporting from ground comes at a cost, and there can be no better homage for those who still persevere than to inculcate a genuine respect and support for press

Freedom of speech is a tricky issue and perhaps this is the right time to debate it. While it is easy to guarantee freedom of speech, since only censorship can deny it, it takes much more resolve to tolerate and respect it. Given the democracy we live in, freedom to report cannot be denied, it is the reaction to free voice which can leave a bad aftertaste. Threats and attacks are the physical reactions and economic restraints the more subtle forms of clamping free voice and while these are deplorable, little can be done to contain them unless the society matures some more. As journalists, such pressures, not always from the outside, have to be accepted as unpleasant weeds which come with the territory. Just as the media's right to report cannot be curtailed, the reaction to what it reports cannot be denied either. All that remains to be worked out is the limit within which such reactions should be vented. As the society grows more tolerant of its image that the Press reflects, this will automatically tone down to acceptable limits and till then the Press will have to run the proverbial gauntlet in its attempt to remain free. Since the world we live in spans various shades of grey, reporting in black and white will have its limitations and there will always be those with a

different recollection of what newspapers report.

At the end of the day, it also needs to be accepted that pressure keeps journalists sharp and their copy tight. It is in the absence of such pressures that newspapers lose accountability and few things can be more dangerous than a Press that misleads.

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India's holiest city tried 'pro-poor' tourism - but for young people, it's still a struggle for survival

Anmol, 17, slips 500 rupees into his pocket as he swaggers down the stairs on bowed legs, after escorting American tourists to the pizzeria in Assi. Anmol reads faces to survive. If a tourist has a good face, he approaches, tests the waters in his broken English, and buys them a chai. "Trust is most important because tourists don't trust ou fast," explains Anmol.

In Assi, a neighbourhood of bustling cafes and temples in Varanasi -India's most holy city – most people depend on tourism to make a living: building up that trust allows them to eat. According to the Uttar Pradesh Department of Tourism in 2017, over 300,000 foreign and 5m domestic travellers visited Varanasi. During the peak tourist season between October and March, Anmol earns between 2,000 to 7,000 rupees as a guide (that's £22 to £77). In the low season,

he earns little or nothing.

"I also know how to do ceremony," says Anmol, pulling out his smartphone to show shots of himself vaving a lamp in front of a goddess. For a few hours, he helps his father, a priest, at a shrine, earning 50 rupees a day. Now, he has hatched another plan with advice from his Peruvian friend on Facebook – to learn how to play traditional tabla drums, so that he can make a little money teaching tourists keen on Indian culture. If all else fails, he will get a driver's license.

WHO BENEFITS?

Like many others his age, Anmol is struggling to claw his way out of poverty. The average monthly income the cobbles together is just above the World Bank's poverty line of US\$1.90 a day. Anmol is trying to acquire valued skills, and he is not among the "abject poor", nor accounted for in government statistics about poverty. Yet he remains vulnerable, at constant risk of slipping backwards.

When Anmol moved to Varanasi



nine years ago from Bihar, his family circumstances were so strained that he had to choose between education and food. The locals have a cautionary say ing about Biharis like him: "Ek bihari sau pe bari" - one Bihari is shrewder than hundred local people. Largely disdained by locals for corrupting their culture, most Bihari migrants in Assi work in the informal economy

When I ask Anmol who bene fits from economic development, he replies, "Everybody benefits, but especially the hotel-wallah, restau-rant-wallah, boat-wallah". Those who own prime real estate, or are directly tied to the tourist industry – such as the boatmen who ferry visitors to watch the sunrise – have gained the most. But there has been no systematic effort to document who benefits and in what ways

Across India, tourism accounts for nearly 10% of the GDP, and is the third largest foreign exchange earner. One advantage of the tourism industry is that it can absorb even unskilled workers. The UN World Tourism Organisation has long held that tourism can be a key agent in the fight against poverty. But some experts are more sceptical, arguing that tourism's value is overstated: it creates menial, seasonal jobs and mainly benefits the skilled elite.

Inclusive "pro-poor" tourism, which creates employment for vulnerable residents is a priority in the government of Uttar Pradesh's 2016 tourism policy and India's 12th fiveyear plan. Yet there is a lack of clarity around what "pro-poor" tourism should actually achieve. For Avinash Mishra, joint director of Uttar Pradesh Tourism, it means building skills for those in the sector. For others, tourism is only "pro-poor" if it reduces absolute poverty or inequality.

The local government has not thoroughly mapped how much mon-ey from tourism goes to the poor in Varanasi, or other areas. Nor has it identified the bottlenecks preventing the poor from earning a greater share, which vary from one destination to another. A "value chain anal-ysis" – which describes the full range of activities required to bring goods or services from conception to com-pletion – could help the government decide whether to invest in skills development or marketing, strengthen local food supply chains or reform local laws

DREAMING BIG

Research by the Overseas Development Institute, an international development think tank based in the UK, suggests that there are many ways to help spread benefits of tour-ism. In general, the poor do better when tourists spend on local prod-ucts, rather than "big ticket" items such as accommodation and tour operators. They also benefit when tour ist establishments buy supplies locally, and when they can get jobs where the wages are set relatively high. En-forcing a minimum wage can ensure the benefits are more widespread.

According to Mishra, in Varanasi nearly half of foreign tourists come through package tours, so much of the profit will never reach local com-munities. Foreigners travelling inde-pendently are more helpful to locals. It is hard to regulate private sector devel-opment, says Mishra, but government intervention comes with its own issues

"Once the government comes in, there's corruption. So we have the principle of the survival of the fittest," he told me. A family of upper-caste priests, who own much of the local land, are well-equipped for competition. But young people such as Anmol must fend for themselves; if they survive, it's because of their own ingenu-

ity, resilience and risk-taking.

Many of the young men who came of age in the wake of India's economic liberalisation now find that the opportunities and lifestyles represented on the internet and television linger just beyond their reach. They are often more educated than their parents, yet they lack the connections and money which could enable them to fulfil their aspirations.

Globalisation and tourism has opened up their imaginations to a world beyond Assi. One day Anmol hopes to go Australia. "I like Austra-lia because the weather is good there. They also play cricket. I can survive there, but it will take a little time to adjust. I used to be scared when I first moved here too.

[the writer is PhD Can-didate in Social Anthropology, University of Sussex)

Nike's #MeToo moment shows how 'legal' harassment can lead to illegal discrimination

FI I7ARETH C TIPPETT

econversation.com

N ike's having its #MeToo moment – and it illustrates plainly what's still missing from our discussion of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Women at Nike, fed up with the status quo, recently undertook a covert survey asking about sex-ual harassment and gender discrimination, which eventually reached the CEO of the world's largest sports brand. Six top executives have resigned or announced their departure.

Nike employees interviewed by The New York Times described being marginalized and passed over for promotion. One recounted a supervisor that called her "stupid bitch." Another reported an email from a manager about an employee's breasts. There was the manager who bragged about condoms in his bag and racy magazines on his desk. Oh, and of course there were trips to strip clubs, tacked on to the end of staff outings.

This happened over a period of years. All the while, human resources sat on its hands. The managers kept their jobs. The complaints piled on.

In some ways, it's the familiar story of how com-nies have long turned a blind eye to harassment. But it also illustrates, perhaps better than any other example from the #MeToo era, how harassment can be a symptom – and precursor – of workplace discrimination.

And, as I explain in a forthcoming article in the Minnesota Law Review, understanding that link is critical for companies hoping to improve upon past

EASY VS. HARD

The #MeToo movement has rightly brought attention to questions of sexual harassment and assault. The types of cases that result could be divided into two buckets - what in law school we would label easy cases" and "hard cases."

One of the first thing students learn in law school is that "easy cases" refer to those in which the facts are really extreme – where a rule clearly applies or it doesn't. Here, that would mean egregious examples of sexual harassment, such as alle gations of Matt Lauer's lewd and aggressive behav ior toward subordinates.

"Hard cases" refer to situations where it's harder to figure out whether the parties involved have violated the rule. There might be arguments on both sides, and it might be hard to predict how a court would rule. Or – a favored trap on the bar exam - the conduct might seem really bad as a matter of common sense but doesn't meet the technical requirements of the legal rule.

The stories coming out of Nike are the hard cases. They do not clearly meet the legal standard for

THE PROBLEM OF NOT-QUITE HARASSMENT

The law governing workplace harassment is quite unforgiving. The offensive conduct must be so severe or frequent that it creates an abusive working environment. The conduct must also be motivated by the victim's membership in a protected category, like their gender or race.

Some legal scholars have argued courts have

been too unforgiving in applying this test and that it should be brought closer to commonsense un-derstandings of harassment.

Lawyers and human resources experts have long known that the legal standard for harassment is incredibly high. So companies worked around it by defining harassment very broadly in their policies. This gave companies the power (but not the obligation) to punish employees for violations of the policy. But pre-#MeToo, it seemed companies chose not to act, even when they had the power to

As we now know, this just-do-nothing ethos was a terrible judgment from a moral and public relations standpoint. And while companies may have been correct that a claim may not have beer harassment, legally speaking, they completely overlooked their potential liability for future discrimination claims

Here's why. A supervisor's derogatory comments about an employee's gender, race or religion may not amount to a harassment claim. But they are a smoking gun in a later discrimination claim.

THE DISCRIMINATION BLIND SPOT

Discrimination claims are all about the supervi-

sor's frame of mind when he or she made a decision about an employee promotion, compensation or firing. But since we can't read someone's mind, the only thing we have to go on is their comments and behavior.

If a supervisor makes objectifying comments about a woman's body and then later denies her a promotion, those comments may later be used to show his decision was biased.

The Nike story offers a great illustration of this principle. A manager who views women primarily in terms of condom consumption is probably not also thinking of them as a potential vice president candidate. Nevertheless, it is unsurprising to me

that Nike's human resources department seeming ly failed to identify the problem as discrimination when employees complained.

And that's because, in all likelihood, the discrimination had not yet happened. When the woman complained, it probably wasn't yet about a lost promotion, unfair compensation or a termination. It was "just" a comment.

Of course, to the employee, it was never just a comment. She would have been keenly aware that her career was in her supervisor's hands. And that

he could no longer be trusted.

This is not really a rare occurrence for wo in the U.S. In representative samples, around 25 percent to 40 percent of women report having ex-perienced unwanted sexually based behaviors at work, and 60 percent said they encountered hos-

tile behaviors or comments based on their gender.
It's as though the employee can see the gun
and anticipates the bullet to come. But all human resources sees is a weak harassment complaint unworthy of intervention

A BETTER WAY

The #MeToo movement has generated discussion around "zero tolerance" harassment policies, containing perhaps the implied threat that even minor transgressions of the policy will be met with strong

But because harassment policies already cover the waterfront, they don't really provide mean-ingful behavioral guidance. A Pew Research study published in March found that half of all adults surveyed thought that #MeToo made it harder for men to know how to interact with women in the workplace.

I actually think a more sustainable approach which actually better aligns with a company's true legal risks - would be to beef up anti-discrimina-

These policies would explain that supervisors are placed in a special position of trust regarding their subordinates' careers and that supervisors act as the company's proxy in carrying out the employer's duty to provide equal employment oppor-

When a supervisor engages in low-level harassing behaviors or makes derogatory comments based on a employee's gender, race or religion, it is a breach of that trust.

And it is the company's duty to make it right.

[the writer is Associate Professor

School of Law, University of Oregon)

How do you explain to someone that the loss of their livelihood was not factored into projections drawn up about possible impacts of a hydel project? Why are preventive measures or warning systems almost always an afterthought? Really, why are there so many surprises? Answers to these questions remain awaited even as new unforeseen situations develop on ground...

Unforeseen COSTS of developing hydel

spotlight

STORIES THAT MATTER

Features on Hydropower and Climate Change issues



Lepcha couple carrying dokos [bamboo bas-kets] on their backs leave home to gather fod-der for their cattle. It is just like any other day. Today, however, they are stopped by guards from entering the land that had once been theirs, and their forefathers' before them. The land that had been passed down from generations was acquired by hydel power project developers for the 300 MW Panan hydel project in Dzongu, North Sikkim. The couple could not understand why they were being stopped from even collecting fodder on this land on which nothing had yet been constructed. It had not dawned upon them that when they sold the land to

the developers, they had given up their rights to whatever grew on that land as well; even some-thing growing wild like fodder.

This, amongst many others, is a telling example of the difficulties involved in com-prehending the costs at which hydel projects are built.

Before construction of a hydel power project begins, the power developers, stakeholders, gov-ernment and other agencies involved draw up all possible impacts the project can have on the environment and the lives of the people of the area. More often than not, benefits trump the possible harm to environment. So, all negative impacts are accounted for and measures put in place to counteract them. Even so, the effects can never be foreseen in their entirety.

Take the case of Environmental Impact Assess-

ment (EIA) Reports which are meant to assess the likely impact on environment due to a power project, and based on which Environment Management Plans are drawn up to mitigate such impacts. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its 2016 Performance Audit on Environ-

The Rangchang Bridge collapse of 19 Dec 2011. The bridge could not handle the load of a 48-wheel truck carrying 60 tonnes of load. The maximum capacity allowed on Sikkim roads at the time was 10 tonnes. Ten lives were lost in the mishap



mental Clearance and Post Clearance Monitoring', stated that EIA Reports in River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects are of the 'poorest quality'. Poorly done EIAs mean surprises and in this particular context, there are no pleasant surprises.

Falling on the border of North and East districts of Sikkim is the town of Dikchu, one kilo-meter away from where a river by the same name meets Teesta. Dikchu means 'noisy river' in the vernacular. It is also where the reservoir of the 510 MW Teesta Stage V hydel project is located. The reservoir also backs into the Dikchu river and consequently, the river is no longer noisy. This, at least initially, meant sleepless nights for some residents of the town. People were used to the gush of

the river lulling them to sleep. The river's sounds - an unfore-

seen cost.

Meanwhile, people in Sikkim are all too familiar with the decreasing volume of the Tees-ta. Every trip along National Highway 10 towards the plains of West Bengal will elicit a com-

ment on the drying Teesta. The 510 MW Stage V dam holds back most of the Teesta's water which is why the river downstream of the dam has hardly any water running through it.

A BRIDGE, A SCHOOL AND A TOWN

Hydel projects entail the movement of a large number of labour and construction supplies and a tragedy concerning the latter brought to light something very few had considered to be related to these projects.

On 19 Dec 2011, ten people were killed in a bridge collapse at Rangchang Khola, about 18 kms from Singtam towards Dikchu on the Singtam-Mangan highway. The incident took place when a 48-wheel heavy trailer, engaged by the Teesta Urja company, was attempting to cross the bridge. Just as the vehicle arrived in the middle of the bridge, the entire span collapsed, taking with it the vehicle and all inside it along with four pedestrians who happened to be crossing the bridge

The trailer was taking supplies to Chungthang where Teesta Urja was constructing the Teesta Stage III hydel project.

Although, the bridge had been constructed just two years ago and was thought to be sturdy, many others in the State have not been constructed for transporting such heavy loads. 48-wheeler trucks

do not regularly ply on Sikkim's roads. Soon after the incident, the State Transport Department resolved to take "strict and stringent action" against any transporter ferrying more than 10 tonnes of load which is the prescribed load limit allowed on all Sikkim roads. The ill fated trailer was carrying around 60 tonnes.

Meanwhile, on the border of South and West Sikkim is the 96 MW Jorethang Loop HEP which considers itself a smaller and harmless project.

"Jorethang Loop HEP is a run-of-river scheme with minimal storage of 0.63 MCM and no people rendered homeless or landless. The submergence area that will be created due to the construction of

One of the houses (top of page) damaged by an explosion that occurred on the night of 24 March 2018, at around 8 p.m., which rattled the villages of Laven and Lingzya in Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim. Tremors caused by the explosion damaged several houses, smashing window panes and creating cracks on the walls. It was later learnt that "expired explosives" at a Magazine house of the Himagiri Power Project at Lingzya had exploded.

(above) Homes and property damaged by the Teesta Stage-V reservoir at Dikchu and nearby Aap Dara were eventually acquired by the NHPC.

the diversion structure is only 14.48 ha (at FRL [full reservoir level]), none of which comes under private land or renders anyone homeless or landless."

That is what the website of the project developers, Dans Energy, says about the Jorethang Loop HEP under a section labeled 'Environment'. How-ever, in August 2017, the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Rohtak in Jorethang had to be shut down for about 10 days because continued toe-erosion by the reservoir had washed away a portion of the boundary wall and endangered one of the hostels in the school. Ever since the project was commissioned in Oct 2015, toe erosion caused by the rise and ebb of the reservoir had been cleaving away at the boundary of the school.

"Dans Energy put no thought into the effects

the reservoir would have on the school and did not implement any measures to protect the school, says Vice-Principal of JNV Rohtak, Parshuramaiah.

When the project began in 2015, he was the Principal In-Charge of the school and when water started collecting in the reservoir, he began speak-ing out against the dangers this could pose to the school. He shot off numerous letters to the project developers and the administration, but it was only after the school actually sustained damages and the High Court of Sikkim issued directions that the power developers started repair works. However, this too, Mr Parshuramaiah terms as 'eyewash' because Dans Energy is only repairing the damaged portion of the boundary wall and not investing in protective works.

"They are only working on a small area. 90% of the damages are not being addressed by the pow-er developers," he says.

Last year, Dans Energy was also directed by the

District Collector to construct a borewell for the school as an alternative to the pipeline, also damaged by the reservoir, which supplies water to the school. Work on this is yet to begin.

"With the rainy season about to begin, we fear that water supply is again going to be badly affect-ed," the vice principal adds.

For now, around 100 boys are living in two temporary sheds constructed by the power developers after one of the hostels was rendered unsafe by toe-erosion by the reservoir last year.

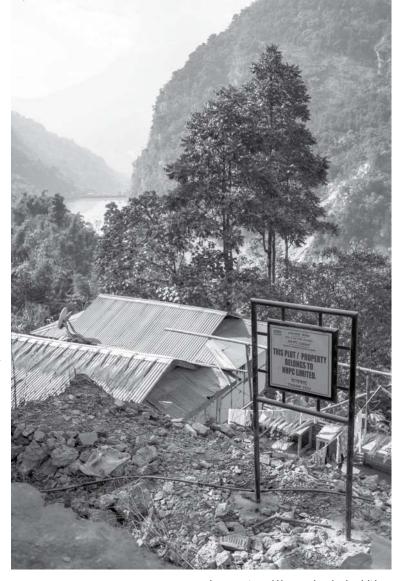
SPOTLIGHT - Stories that matter

SummitTimes presents a month-long series focusing on hydel projects and climate change in Sikkim and West Bengal.

The series has been made possible with support from Wageningen University, NWO and UK Department for International Development [DFID] under Conflict and

Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change research project 'Enhancing mediascapes for sustainability and justice in the Eastern Himalaya' coordinated by DLR Prerna, a Darjeeling-based NGO.

We will be featuring two articles every week



UNFORESEEN COSTS OF DEVELOPING HYDEL

Contd from pg05

Even to a layperson, it seems obvious that manmade dams holding back huge volumes of water are likely to have all kinds of impact on the river and land. However, predicting how nature will behave is not something we humans are very good at, so those behind such projects fail to foresee many such impacts and can only offer stopgap solutions later.

Take for instance the case of Dikchu, a small

town which now lives lapped by the massive Teesta Stage V reservoir. In 2011, people of the area complained that around 20 feet of private land holdings had been washed away by landslides that occurred at the base of the Dikchu New Market which sits right above the reservoir. They blamed the lack of rim treatment for the damages. Similarly, landslides at Jang village, located on

the left bank of the Teesta near Dikchu, also caused major damages to houses and other property with 24 of the 45 houses in the village being declared unsafe for habitation. All of them had suffered wide cracks induced by landslides which have been tearing away from the slope below into the Stage-V reservoir. A study conducted by Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority of landslides in Sikkim [Inventory and GIS Mapping of Landslides in Sikkim] reported that this slide "has been compounded by the lack of rim treatment at Teesta V reservoir".

The Mangan-Dikchu highway below Dikchu New Market is also now at risk of collapsing due to the instability tugging at it from the reservoir below. The affected blame improper Reservoir Rim Treatment measures adopted along the reservoir by NHPC for the landslides.

LIVELIHOODS STOLEN

"The Teesta feeds thousands of people so she is like a mother to us," says Anit Chettri, owner of Everest River Rafting located at 7th Mile, Kirney [West Bengal] along the National Highway 10. He is referring to how river rafting and quarries [sand and stone] help people settled along the highway eke out a living. According to Anit, the rafting business employs around a 1000 people. The Teesta-V dam, however, has taken the thrill out of river rafting, or more literally, taken the white out of the white water.

"Just imagine having to push a grounded raft free from the middle of the Teesta! That's how it is. Our rafts get stuck and damaged because the river is too shallow," he says of how the dam has affected the river's flow. He says he's scared that rafting will be completely dead one day. "We have to lie to tourists when they point out the low water levels in the river. We tell them an-

other tributary will join the Teesta lower down and the water levels will increase. We have to do that. This is how we earn our livelihood," shares Anit.

During peak season which is from April to June when the rains have set in, one can expect 3 plus - 4 plus grade of rapids in the Teesta. At other times there are hardly any rapids at all, he says. It wasn't like this before but since the dam in Sikkim came

up, the Teesta is no longer how she used to be.
"The thrill of rafting is gone. You won't even get some water on yourself during the ride. So I tell my guides to make sure that the tourists get wet a bit ven if they have to swim or take a dip in the river r just splash some water on themselves," says Anit.

At 29th Mile, NH10, Bina Tamang, previously a

quarry worker, now runs a tea stall.

She is among the hundreds of workers who have been forced to find an alternative source of livelihood after the quarries had to be shut down when the Teesta Low Dam IV was constructed 18.3 km downstream of Teesta Bridge near Teesta Bazaar and flooded their work-site.

Bina, along with many of her family members, worked at the quarry for 30-40 years. When the reservoir was filling up, quarry workers continued working, moving up the river until the banks got completely submerged. When asked if they were told that the quarries

would be flooded out of business after the dam came up, Bina says, "NHPC didn't tell us

anything."

Two years after the quarry shut down, the workers were paid a measly Rs 48.000 each as compensation.

[TMC] pursued the

matter and got us Rs 48,000 in compensation even-tually. That amount was nothing, we just spent it. Earlier, NHPC had said we would get Rs 4-5 lakh per person. Later, GJM had promised to get us Rs 2

lakh," says Bina.

She adds that for this too, the affected had to run from pillar to post paying for the travel from their own pockets.

Quarry workers used to take home between Rs 500-600 per week, so it looks like NHPC worked its compensation as per their wages lost for two years between when the quarries were shut till the com-pensation was paid out. Now, many of the quarry workers have moved to different places or collect and sell firewood. Bina sells tea.

They didn't provide us the full details of what would happen if the dam came up. All of a sudden water levels rose, we weren't aware that would



He adds many houses including his own have developed cracks due to the reservoir.

"We didn't know the project would have this kind of impact. They told us it is a small project. The river scares us now because it used to be down there... Now it has come up so high. It is 60 feet higher than where it used to be. I have worked on constructing the protective wall so I know.
Water used to flow before and not stagnate

A lot of land was also taken by the NHPC, he informs, and adds that the compensation rates were not determined following any prop-

"It was according to their whims and fans. Some got Rs 35,000, some Rs 50,000. We don't have proper documents of land ownership so we couldn't do anything ei-

A sidenote that begs mention here is the role of compensation money or rather the lack of a role it plays in actually compensating for the loss of the project-affected. In the case of the quarry workers, the loss of livelihood could never be compensated for by the amount they were given. Meanwhile, in Dzongu, those that had to part with their land got generous amounts as compensation, in a way due to the sustained protest against the projects there. However, villagers who are not accustomed to handling even small amounts of cash were suddenly overflowing with it and the money just bled away.

Dawa Lepcha, the torchbearer of the protest against hydel projects in North Sikkim, narrated the story of how a relative squandered more than half of his compensation money. This relative had received around Rs 27 lakh as compensation and on advice from an insurance agent put in Rs 18 lakh in insurance schemes for his three sons and a daughter. Unaware of the workings of insurance schemes, he failed to pay the premium installments

DELAYS EMPTY STATE'S COFFERS

Fiscal stress on the state exchequer is another aspect of the hydel projects in Sikkim that only manifested later. According to the CAG Report 2016, the total

A sidenote that begs mention here is the role

of compensation money or rather the lack

of a role it plays in actually compensating

for the loss of the project-affected.

III project that was commissioned last year, was Rs 8,265

What means is that an extra Rs 8,265 crore went into building the project in addi-

tion to the original estimated cost of Rs 5,700 crore. The report says that the cost overruns were mostly due to the time overrun which in turn were due to various reasons including the 2011 earthquake, flash floods, increase in the project costs due to unforeseeable geological surprises and so on.

Time overruns automatically result in cost overruns because cost of supplies is always on the rise in the market and of course the more time it takes to complete a project the more man-days it means, so labour costs also go up. We also know that construction projects are always flush with allegations of developers deliberately causing delays to up the costs. Coming back to Teesta III, the project ran into three cost overruns and time overrun of more than

four years.

Athena India, a consortium of companies, formed a Special Purpose Vehicle [SPV] by the name of Teesta Urja Limited to develop the Tees-

ta III project. The consortium, how have the financial capability to fund the project. This came to light only when it refused to fund the second cost overrun forcing the state government through [SPICL] Sikkim Power Investment Corporation Limited to take over 51% equity shares [Rs 266.56 cr at the rate of Rs 8.53 per share] of Teesta Urja Limited in 2015.

The state was to contribute only 26% in TUL's

Fiscal stress on the state exchequer is another aspect of the hydel projects in Sikkim that only manifested later...

capital with the private consortium contributing the remaining 74%

HUMAN COST

On 18 April 2014, sisters Chandra, Maya and Radhika Gurung were swept away by the Teesta near Bardang when water was suddenly released from the reservoir of the 510 MW Teesta V Hydropower

While Chandra and Maya were rescued by locals, Radhika could not be saved.

No warning sirens or alarms were sounded

before the water was released from the reservoir, locals said

This incident led to a PIL being filed in the High Court of Sikkim in the same year. In 2016, the court finally directed the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, the developers of Teesta V to set up proper warning system and protocol, install scientific and technical instruments necessary for ensuring the safety of the Dam and the life and property of people in the area and downstream and pay the family of the victim compensation of Rs 5 lakh.

Despite this tragic incident, project developers continue to ignore safety regulations as was made evident in May last year. On 26 May 2017, four youths were nearly washed away when the 96 MW Dikchu hydel project released water from its reservoir without any warning. The four managed to escape, but their belongings like bag, camera and mobile phones were carried away by the river forced into sudden spate by those managing the dam. They were at the riverside at 12th Mile that is downstream of the dam and the reservoir of the said power project located at the confluence of Ratey Chu and Bakcha Chu below Lingdok, 9th Mile,

Following the incident, the High Court stepped in with a suo moto Public Interest Litigation and di-rected that proper warning systems be put in place. As the respective DCs made the rounds of project sites, they discovered that none of the hydel projects had adequately functional sirens in place!

ENDANGERING THE 'VULNERABLE'

"The river's volume has reduced because of the dam. It holds and releases water so the fish have vanished. Some old species have disappeared and the rest don't grow any more. I have caught small fish like gadela, smaller than a dot pen, lohri which is also small, buduna, phageti, chaaley is long," says Dal Bahadur Bhujel, a fisherman from Najok, Ka-

It is no surprise that damming rivers will have an effect on the aquatic life it supports, but it has been treated as a sort of collateral damage that cannot be helped. However, the Teesta III project did

spare a thought for the snow trout even though it

me to naught in the end.

The Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA] for the 1200 MW Teesta Stage III had said that the dam on the river would act as a barrier to the free movement of migratory fish species, especially the common snowtrout [Schizothorax richardsonii], and could lead to adverse impact on the survival

and free movement of migratory fish species. The snowtrout is listed as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Hence, the EIA recommended the provision of a fish ladder, which was also incorporated in the Environment Management Plan [EMP] for the project. However, the fish ladder was not found to be a suitable option and in-stead, a trout farm was set up at Rabum, North Sikkim. Ironically, this farm mainly facilitated breeding of other species of trout and not the endangered snow trout.

The CAG 2016 report notes that fish ladder was one of the conditions for the Environmental Clearance and the harm to migratory fish species remained unaddressed. The project was commissioned on 17 Feb 2017 which means that the snow trout has already lost at least one breeding cycle (as of April 2018).

Angling enthusiast, Dr SK Dewan, says that the Farakka dam has caused major damage in terms of the migratory pattern of fish in the Teesta and other rivers in the hills.

"Sport fishes are fresh water fishes, they take time to mature. They are migratory and the ones found here originate in the Brahmaputra and Ganga delta. When they mature they swim up towards the Himalayan foothills stretching from Nepal, right up to near Manipur, to lay eggs during monsoons. They return after laying their eggs. The inflow of such fish into Sikkim went down due to the Farakka barrage because of which fish could not migrate up. They say there are fish ladders through which they are supposed to come. And now with so many dams coming, another 5-10 years we'll have nothing," he says.

CONCLUSION

Most of the incidents in this article are ones that made it to the headlines and there most certainly must be many which have not. Of these, the socio-cultural impacts of power projects are some that could not find space in this article. However, here is one that could perhaps illustrate what such impacts are about. Residents of 29th Mile on NH10 used to perform rituals for festivals like Chhat Puia and Maghe Sakranti on the Teesta's banks, but be-cause of the Teesta IV Low Dam the banks have been submerged and they now perform the rituals on the road or from the protective wall. It is such intangible costs that 'development' comes at that are difficult to reconcile with, the loss being so final.

Massive construction projects are bound to have adverse impacts and it would be a difficult, almost impossible, task to predict all of them; however, what is imperative and possible is to ensure that mitigation measures already in place are implemented in earnest. Mired by politics and big money, the debate on development versus environment continues - the divide between the groups lobbying for either only growing wider with time. In the case of Sikkim, the price for development has been high but how high exactly? Only time can tell.

FPO-Sikkim welcomes ban on non-organic veggies as being in interest of local farmers

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:

Garmer Producer Organisa-Farmer Frouder Co. stressed that the recent ban on the import of non-organic vegetables from outside the State was in the interest of the farming community of Sikkim. While welcoming the decision of the State Government (which came into effect on 31 March 2018), the organisation has appealed to all political parties and the people of Sikkim to support the organic

Addressing a press conference here today, FPO-Sikkim president, Karma Dichen, said, On not getting the right price for our organic produce, farm-ers of Sikkim had repeatedly requested the State Government to ban non-organic veg-etables from the outside. We express our gratitude to the State government for having accepted our request and for taking this historic decision in the interest of farmers of Sik-

He added that farmers here have been getting the right price for their produce since the ban.

He also expressed his sur-prise over the protest by political parties and some indi-

Review

contd from pg03

interventions.

for...

meet held

in these sectors as of to-

day and what the district wants to achieve by 2022

through various technological, administrative, fi-

nancial & infrastructural

trate, Tushar K Gajanan,

gave a presentation on district plan for trans-forming West Sikkim.

Karki, urged the Heads

of Departments to take

ownership and personal involvement so that the

initiative is successfully

Ms Srivastava, asked the

HODs present to pool in efforts and requested the

DC to work collectively to quicken the pace of activ-ities at district level and

help the district achieve the targets well within set target time.

"The ranking of the district changes every day and to meet the tar-

get, concerned officers

need to review prog-ress on regular basis at

departmental level and

ensure submission of re

ports to the district ad-

ministration timely," she

in Gyalshing, Ms Srivas-tava visited the District

Hospital, ICDS centre at

Upper Kyongsa, Tikjek Primary School and Ling-

chom Primary Health

Contact

Sub Centre

In a series of visits

Additional Secretary,

implemented.

District Collector, AB

Sub Divisional Magis



viduals on the decision of the

"Although some sections of the people are not ready to understand the value of this decision at present, they will get convinced upon seeing the fruits of this decision in the coming years," he expressed.

Mr Dichen stated that the organic mission of Sikkim has been acknowledged in the national and international levels and to question its veracity was to doubt the credibility of

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:
All Sikkim Democratlic Labour Front cel-

Labour Day in a grand

manner at Lamey-Tar in

Temi-Tarku, East Sikkim on Tuesday. The celebra-

tion was joined by work-

ers from hydel projects and industrial units in

the State, workers from

governmental, non-gov-

ernmental organisations

and army cantonments.

local hotels and different units of Central govern-

ment along with farmers and workers of Temi Tea

Estate, informs an ASDLF

The release has thanked the manage-

ment of different compa-

press release.

International

the farmers of Sikkim

He also demanded that the State Government provide insurance of vegetables and medical support to local farmers. He asserted that local farmers will come out on the streets if non-organic vegetables are smuggled for sale in

Human Life Reformation & Capacity Building Society president, Kishor Sharma also appreciated the decision of the State government today.

ASDLF celebrates Int'l Labour Day

nies and governmental

and non-governmental organisations for ar-

ranging transportation.

ASDLF has also thanked MLA and the Minister,

GM Gurung and par-ty workers in different

committees, panchayats and people of Temi-Nam-

phing constituency for their support and active

participation in the cel-

ebration. The Front has

also thanked every per-

son and groups for their participation and service in the celebration.

The release informs that the SDF party pres-ident, Chief Minister

Pawan Chamling has tak-

en all proposals serious-

ly which were placed in

the interest of workers

and farmers of Sikkim.

In his message, the par-ty president suggested that workers should take

their responsibilities seriously and increase

The proposal placed by workers to end the

labour contract system

was accepted by the CM and announced an end

to the labour contract

system and to take out a

notification on the same.

This decision of the gov-

ernment was welcomed by workers with huge

round of applause and this decision will be a milestone in industrial

history of Sikkim, the re-

lease adds.

The CM stated that

workers are the archi-

their capacity.

"Organic farming is now movement of the farmers of Sikkim. Our society has been working to promote organ-ic farming and to make each farmer of Sikkim an ambassador of organic farming to take this mission to every house-

Responding to media queries, he stated that the State has the surplus production of seasonal vegetables and added that farmers have been working hard to ensure surplus pro-

tects of the physical world

and play a big role. He stated that workers have

been given full rights to

live a respectable life and

the State Government has

taken all required and

possible initiatives and decision in the interest

and welfare of workers

of Sikkim. He also urged the labour front to work

continuously in the inter-

est and for protection of workers of Sikkim.

ASDLF has expressed its gratitude to the CM for being the longest serving

CM of the Country and for leading the State to-

wards the development

and for working for the

protection, upliftment and welfare of workers

and farmers of the State

hold in Sikkim," he said.

duction of every vegetable

He added that the ban was a big opportunity for farmers to do well in organic farming. He also held that middlemen were responsible for higher price of vegetables in the mar-ket and the opening of Kisan Bazaar and organic stalls in the State have been addressing this issue.

The press conference was also addressed by FPO treasur-er, Dawthi Lepcha and member. Amrit Pradhan.

Hamro

Sikkim

forms

declaration

committee

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 02 MAY:

Ameeting of newly formed Hamro Sik-

kim Party was held at the

residence of Bhaichung

Bhutia at Pangthang in East Sikkim on Tuesday.

The meeting was chaired

by former Minister, RB Subba, and discussed the

organisational structure

of the party and consti-tuted a declaration com-

mittee of the party under the convenership of Mr Subba, informs an HSP

The release adds that

the meeting also con-

demned the statement of

a Minister that HSP was

seeking to defame Sik-

kim by holding a press conference in New Delhi.

that despite being in of-fice for 24 years, the SDF

party still cannot accept the existence of opposi-tion parties in the State.

On the same, the party

stated that the ruling party leaders are scared

by revelation of the bad governance in Sikkim at the national level.

The release alleges

press release.

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

LABHLAXMI GEMINI

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:02/05/18

2nd Prize Rs.1.000/- 4513 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 1911 4th Prize Rs.300/- 2638 5th Prize Rs. 202/- 5172

DLSA-North celebrates Labour Day at Manul worker with

WANGCHUK BHUTIA

MANGAN, 02 MAY:

District Legal Services
Authority [DLSA], North Sikkim, conducted a micro-legal awareness programme at Manul, under Toong-Naga GPU, here on the occasion of International Labour Day

Chairperson, DL-SA-North, District Judge Prajwal Khatiwada, and Labour Inspector, Sonam Pintsho Lepcha, attended the programme as re-

source persons.

The camp had the participation of GREF labourers and other workers who were apprised about the various



provisions of the Sikkim Protection 2005, Sikkim Labour Protection Rules, 2006, Workmen Compensation

Act 1923 and the Sikkim Workmens Contion Rules, 1986. Compensa-

Provisions regarding registration of every

Registering number of Officer, number of working hours/ working days, need for payment of equal remuneration; time limit for payment of wages, need for token or receipt of registration, payment of wages in cash and the provisions regarding provisions regarding medical services were also brought to the notice of the participants.

The provision of NALSA [Legal Services to the workers in the Organised Sector] Scheme, 2015 and the relevant provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act. 1987 were also discussed during the programme.

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NAGALAND STATELOTTERIES

DEAR FAITHFUL MORNING

Draw Time : 11:55 am onwards Draw No:22 DrawDate on:02/05/18 1st Prize Rs.26.02 Lakhs/- 93G 62025 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 62025 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

Rs.9000/-902 16204 22505 29043

6008 6092 6274 6519 6475 6540 6543 6627 6674 6711 6872 6909 7070 7273 7371 7446 7712 7862 7997 8364 8558 8636 8717 8744 8836 8883 8896 8930 8937 9147 9237 9265 9293 9327 9401 9491 9523 9652 9929 9944

Draw Time : 04:00 pm onwards Draw No:22 DrawDate on:02/05/ 1st Prize Rs.26.02 Lakhs/- 93G 331 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 33140 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

Rs.9000/-560 18422 23914 39584

67 6325 6470 6602 6660 6730 6613 6634 6535 6537 97 6693 7070 7132 7224 7244 7264 7342 7485 7902 15 8163 8258 8419 8424 8716 8821 8834 8939 8955 60 9003 9053 9124 9145 9322 9384 9486 9715 9926

DEAR EAGLE EVENING

ze Rs.9500/- 45891 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

Rs.9000/-406 10380 16722 20055

» Prize Rs.120/. 0822 1552 178U = 9100 = 1... 19 0094 0179 0333 0448 0534 0774 0807 1178 1501 103 1520 1575 1578 1771 1775 1821 1951 2042 2118 904 2271 2306 2333 2373 2478 2510 2657 2719 2755 90 3095 3217 3288 3387 3406 3483 3508 3633 3826 539 4006 4079 4162 4168 4327 4424 4474 582 4631 112 5124 5548 5568 5710 5832 5886 5895 6097 6138 137 6660 6689 6817 6827 6939 6887 7083 7319 7393 37 0600 0609 0617 0627 0933 0967 7063 7519 759: 05 7529 7599 7761 7801 7831 7832 7861 8033 809; 30 8371 8375 8516 8583 8598 8747 9022 9056 921: 72 9310 9408 9417 9563 9630 9652 9787 9872 998:

com



South District Officers Club bids farewell to 10 officers

NAMCHI, 02 MAY (IPR): South District Officers Club (SDOC) organized a grand farewell for the outgoing officials and administrators of South District at SDOC, Namchi, today.

The program also saw former DC (South), Raj Yadav and former SP (South), Dr. Y Shiv Prasad handing over the charges of SDOC president and vice president to the present DC (South), P Verma and SSP (South), S Rai, respectively. Ten outgoing South district officials were felicitat-

ed on the occasion by various departments for their contribution in effective administration and management during their course of tenure in the district.

Former president of SDOC, Raj Yadav was felicitated by executive members of SDOC, children of Mayal Lyang Children's Home and various other departments of South district for his dynamic vision and farsightedness in running the office which in turn metamorphosed the system of administration in the district. He was lauded for bringing in fresh ideas, his spirited leadership qualities and public acclaim for kick starting a slew of popular initiatives as the collector of South District.

The program also saw cultural performances.

1st Prize Rs.10.000/- 3866 6th Prize Rs.100/-

The Director , Mizoram State Lotteries, For result please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES MUMBAILAXMI SEETA

Draw No:13 DrawDate on:02/05/18 1st Prize Rs.10,000/- 3576 2nd Prize Rs.2,000/- 2690 3rd Prize Rs. 1,000/- 2340 4th Prize Rs. 502/- 3361 5th Prize Rs.200/

1154 1174 1184 1287 1325 1331 1355 1367 1394 1410 1421 1501 1569 1628 1677 1749 1754 1772 1790 1905 1938 1994 2040 2111 2115 2133 2206 2291 2306 2390 2531 2552 2605 2646 2667 2674 2771 2802 2834 2863 2885 2908 2960 3070 3096 3112 3118 3146 3152 3183 3219 3290 3365 3374 3377 3389 3392 3422 3498 3501 3533 3559 3736 3762 3920 3931 4023 4027 4082 4177 4243 4267 4286 4287 4403 4487 4502 4660 4666 4745 1850 4869 4884 4911 4957 4982 5097 5135 5144 5245 th Prize Rs.100/-

e Commissioner, UNACHAL PRADESH STATE LOTTERIES,ITANAGAR.

Summit TIMES at 9832556698 9832369520



VIDEO CALLS ARE COMING TO INSTAGRAM

Instagram is set to roll out a host of new features, including video chat and a reducioned First to the content of the content designed Explore page.

The Explore page will now feature buttons on the top of the page in a carousel, giving users the option to swipe through subjects like animals, photography, and architecture to see more posts about that particular topic.

The new update means you'll be able to browse more content related to your interests. Instagram's Explore page is traditionally a page where Instagram compiles posts it thinks you might like, and the page is designed to let users discover new content, people, or brands to follow. Explore has been rejigged several times in the past, including updates to show photos from people you actually know, bringing Stories onto the page, and making videos re prominent.

Instagram is also adding video chat for users, which is currently in a testing phase and will roll out globally "soon." To start a video chat, just tap the new camera icon at the top of a direct messaging thread with the people

Video chat allows you to you want to call.

To create a group converchat with one person or a small group, and you can min-imize the video screen during sation or direct messaging





thread on Intagram, just tap on the paper airplane icon in the top right corner of your feed, tap the + people to start a group chat.

the conversation and continue to chat while browsing Instagram. Video chat has been a rumored feature for the past few months, though Instagram hasn't specified how many people can participate in a video call at a given time. These updates adds to a host of features that Instagram has been building to turn the app into a full-fledged messaging service, rather than the photo-sharing network it began as.

Instagram says video chat and the new Explore page will be rolling out to all users over the coming weeks.

KANYE WEST SAYS SLAVERY IS 'A CHOICE' AND PEOPLE ARE 'CHOOSING TO BE ENSLAVED'

Kanye West has again courted controversy after suggesting that slavery was "a choice".

In an interview with celebrity news website TMZ he said: "When you hear about slavery for 400 years. For 400 years? That sound like a choice.

"Like, you was there for 400 years and it's all of y'all? It's like, we're mentally in

"I like the word prison because slavery goes too direct to the idea of blacks.

"It's like slavery, holocaust. Holocaust - Jews, slavery is blacks. Prison is some-thing that unites us as one race. Blacks and whites being ne race."

When asked to explain, West said: "Yeah, right now we're choosing to be en-slaved."

TMZ reporter Van Lathan told West he was "appalled" and "unbelievably hurt" the rapper was calling the mar-



ginalisation of "our people over 400 years "a choice".

The rapper then apolo-

gised to Lathan, saying he was "sorry" he hurt him.

The interview caused

an inevitable social media storm, particularly among his 21.8 million followers on Twitter.

Kanye after facing back-h then tweeted: "Once lash then tweeted: again I am being attacked for presenting new ideas.

"The reason why I brought up the 400 years

point is because we can't be mentally imprisoned for another 400 years.

'We need free thought now. Even the statement was an example of free thought. It was just an idea."

The 21-time Grammy Awards winner admitted that he became reliant on opiods after doctors increased his two pills a day in hospital up to seven when he was discharged after a liposuction operation.

In a video West, 40, pointing to his stomach as claimed he got the fat removal surgery because he did not want media calling him fat. He said Rob Kardashian,

the brother of his wife Kim Kardashian, was fat shamed so much in the media he flew back to the US from Italy before their wedding in Florence took place in 2014.

West was heavily criticised last week for his sup-port for Donald Trump, de-claring the US President his "brother" and that they share

"dragon energy".

Breaking 11-months of Twitter silence, he also wrote a philosphy book "in real time" to satisfy his "innate need to be expressive" - after deleting all his previous

The tweets included advice for budding creatives as he told his followers not to "follow crowds" and "do what you feel, not what you think".

Many fans were left puz-

zled by the sudden outburst. It is not clear if West was referring to those tweets in Tuesday's interview, but as he spoke of his opiod ad-diction, he said: "So the reason I do not want to delete those tweets is because I was drugged the f*** out, bro."

He explained that he started taking more opiods during his Pablo tour in 2016 which led to him being hospitalised and forced to cut the

JESSICA CHASTAIN SETS A-LIST CAST FOR ALL FEMALE SPY FILM 355



Jessica Chastain is teaming up with an international cast of A-list talent on an all-female spy thriller titled 355. Chastain came up with the idea and pitched it to writer/director Simon Kinberg while they were shooting the upcoming X-Men film, X-Men: Dark Phoe nix. Kinberg has since then agreed to direct the movie and will help Chastain pitch the film to buyers at this month's Cannes Film Festival.

Chastain has been actively championing gender equality in Hollywood for some time now, and not just with her film roles either. The Oscar-nominee successfully pushed for equal pay for her The Help costar Octavia Spencer on their upcoming road trip movie project and has collaborated with female directors on several occasions now (including, next month's historical drama Woman Walks Ahead). While Kinberg will be calling the shots on 355, the movie is being written by Theresa Rebeck (Smash) and features a cast of women from around the world, Chastain included.

355 cast also includes Oscar-winners Lupita Nyong'o, Penélope Cruz, and Martion Cotillard, along with Bingbing Fan (X-Men: Days of Future Past) and Chastain. The plot will revolve around

a group of female agents from organizations around the world who have to work together, in order to stop a clandestine criminal group from acquiring a weapon that could create chaos on a global scale. Kinberg further confirmed to Deadline that the hope is 355 will be successful enough to launch a franchise. Chastain says the title for 355 comes

from a conversation that she had with the CIA consultant on Kathryn Bigelow's true story based thriller, Zero Dark Thirty. As they explained to her, "Agent 355" was the code name for a famous female spy back in the American Revolutionary War (one whose true identity is still unknown) and has since become the general slang for female spies. Chastain told that the plan is for 355 to be relatively grounded in its portrayal of secret government operatives, similar to Bigelow's film:

"It's a film and not a documentary, but our goal is to make this action spy thriller as authentic as we can, with as much trade craft as we can. So when people in these organizations, in the CIA or MI6 around the world see the film, my goal is they will say, 'Wow, this is pretty authentic. They got it.' That was the thing I loved the most in making Zero Dark Thirty."

The spy genre has typically dominated by male action stars, but 355 is part of a wave of films aiming to bring some balance to the genre. Charlize Theron played an extremely deadly spy in last vear's hit Atomic Blonde and is hoping to reprise the role in a sequel. Elsewhere, director Ridley Scott is circling Fox's Queen and Country – a film based on the comic books about a female British secret intelligence agent - and Marvel Studios is actively courting directors for its Black Widow movie. There's also the Charlie's Angels reboot that Nyong'o was rumored for last year; presumably, she's no longer eyeing the project.

Male-driven spy movies haven't nec-

essarily been lacking in good female characters in recent years, but their roles have typically been supporting in nature. 355 will change that by featur-ing a diverse collection of women front and center, on an adventure that has the makings of good pulpy fun, based on everything that has been revealed so far. While everyone waits to see if that proposed all-female MCU superhero movie ever gets off the ground, 355 could offer a similar breath of fresh air in the meantime

ARIES: This is your day to shine, move in a different social circle. Aries. Just make sure you don't Don't blame your circumstances on do so at someone else's expense. others. Take responsibility. do so at someone else's expense You're feeling more self-confident than usual, which may be hard for you to believe. Nevertheless, you could be so focused on your agenda that you fail to see subtle signals put out by those around you. Other people cry out for attention, too. Make sure you shine some of your glorious light on them.

TAURUS: You may feel like you're being left out of the equation, Taurus. Perhaps you feel like the oddball, the fifth wheel who simply doesn't have a place. Don't You're feeling more self-confident

simply doesn't have a place. Don't worry. Just because you feel that way today doesn't mean it's your destiny. If you don't like your course, change your position. If you don't like the people you're with,

others. Take responsibility.

GEMINI: Take your creativity to a new level, Gemini. There are many ways to express yourself creatively, so pick one and follow through. You may have a desire to be on stage, and you want to share your dreams and inner passage. share your dreams and inner passion with the world. Your strong son with the world. Your strong emotions and dreamy perspective are assets. Don't try to stuff them inside or push them away. Listen-ing to your brain too much could deprive you of the bounty in your heart and imagination.

CANCER: Your feelings may deceive you, Cancer, so be careful of getting too wrapped up in your own drama. Perhaps you feel you're getting pushed and pulled in uncom-

fortable directions. You might tolerate this tension for a while without expressing your feelings about it. This is a dangerous policy because it could give others the impression that it's OK to continue treating you

the way they do.

LEO: In some ways, you may feel like a lost soul who isn't quite in touch with your dreams, Leo. Although you feel energetic Leo. Atthough you feel energetic and boisterous, you might also get the sense that your energy is mis-directed and you're being led in the wrong direction. The key for you now is to lead yourself. Cut through everyone else's agenda and follow your internal rainbow.
The more you take charge, the happier you'll be.
VIRGO: The best way to create

harmony among others is to first es-

tablish harmony in yourself, Virgo. Don't expect others to take care of you and attend to all your desires. At the same time, it isn't your re-At the same time, it isn't your re-sponsibility to dote on others. The boundaries may get ambiguous at times, but do your best to maintain a healthy separation. People may pull on your heartstrings to manipu-late you into doing what they want. Don't fell for it Don't fall for it.

LIBRA: You might feel as if your LIBRA: You might feel as if your powerful emotions are getting in the way of your dreams, Libra. Or perhaps you're finding that you're so wrapped up in a particular vision of the future that you're getting lost in your own brain. You're losing touch with the present simply because you're so focused on a nebulous idea that doesn't even exist yet. Take a step phies. You're eager to share your

back from your current mindset and reevaluate the situation. SCORPIO: Perhaps you're stuck

in a mindset you can't seem to in a mindset you can't seem to escape, Scorpio. Be careful about taking action based on ideas rooted more in past fantasy than present reality. Your emotions could be playing tricks on you. You could be attached to a dream that has more to do with feeding your ego than fulfilling your des-tiny. Question your motives. You might find that you're better off redirecting your energy some-

SAGITTARIUS: When you talk, you want other people to listen, Sagittarius. More than likely, your thoughts will drift toward humanitarian ideas and philosoideas with others, and you may have a utopian dream that, if ev-eryone just followed, would make world a much better place. the world a much better place. People may make fun of you for having such a perspective, but this definitely doesn't mean that you should stop dreaming.

CAPRICORN: Issues regarding

control of a situation are probably control of a situation are probably going to be your focus, Capricorn. More than likely, you adhere to a solidly planned routine. You have a set way of doing things and you want to stick to it. Other people are moving into the picture, however, and they may want to take a lead. and they may want to take a leadership role. People will be adamant and strong willed when it comes to their facts. You should be, too.

AQUARIUS: You're apt to speak and act with a great deal of power,

Aquarius, but be careful that you don't get swept away by emotion. There's a surrealistic quality to There's a surrealistic quanty to the day. It could lead you to be-lieve a mirage is real. You might get so caught up in the drama of your feelings that your power of reason gets watered down to the point where you lose track of your objectivity altrogether. objectivity altogether.

PISCES: Your concept of reali-

PISCES: Your concept of reali-ty could be based more on your emotions than facts, Pisces. This is one of those days when this could get you into trouble. What-ever comes up, you're likely to feel very passionate about it and tend to lose any rational perspec-tive whateover. Interpret ince tive whatsoever. Integrity, inner strength, and self-confidence will be the glue that holds your mind and heart together

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