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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Condition of youth on fast-unto-death in Kalimpong worsening

SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 28 JUL:

The condition of the three youth who are sitting on a fast-unto-death for Gorkhaland is deteriorating. Among the three, 42-year-old Ajit Roka's condition is said to be more critical than the others. Today is the eighth day of the fast.

The District Magistrate along with the Sub Divisional Officer and other magistrates visited the spot and had a word with the family members and made an appeal for the trio to be admitted in hospital for treatment.

From drops in sugar level to blood pressure, now the trio is showing symptoms of kidney failure as they are not being able to pass urine.

District Medical Officer, Dr Ankan Simlangdi, who conducts regular check-ups of the trio from the administration's side, said that the symptoms of kidney failure have been observed from the samples of urine and blood collected on Thursday.

The trio declined to give blood samples today.



"Kidneys will get damaged if there is continuing lack of water. They have been refusing to take water or medicines. We have been advising them to undergo treatment but they are not willing. In the worst case scenario, dialysis is the only option," said Dr Simlangdi.

District Magistrate, Dr Viswanath, spoke to the

trio saying that their condition is worsening and they need to go to the hospital immediately. However, Ajit Roka in return assured his family that there is nothing to worry about since whatever he is doing is for the aspirations of 1.5 crore Gorkhas residing in the country.

His wife also tried to convince her husband to

take medical assistance but he refused.

"Don't listen to him [DM]. I'm fine, you need to go home. If I withdraw from this fast, they will suppress us more," said Mr Roka to his wife and mother.

Ajit Roka is a carpenter by profession and stays with his parents, two sisters, brother, wife

along with a school going son and daughter.

Later, the DM briefly spoke to the reporters, "We are sending a medical team on a regular basis from the administration's side. The team gave a suggestion of medical treatment in the morning today. We have asked them to go for a medical check-up and we have also approached their

family to which they have agreed. And according to the medical team, the condition of two of the hunger strikers was very bad today, they require medication immediately."

Meanwhile, vice president of Gorkha Janmukti Yuwa Morcha, central committee, Anil Lopchan, condemned the statement of the District Magistrate regarding the family of the trio agreeing to medical assistance.

"The statement which the DM gave is wrong and we condemn it. He is trying to bring down their willpower. He is working on the directions of the West Bengal government," said Mr Lopchan.

Later, Geeta Barailay, Ajit Roka's sister who is an active Gorkhaland supporter and an active member of Nari Morcha [women's wing of GJMM], said, "Ajit is my brother. He has been refusing treatment. The family members too are not forcing him to take medication. The DM said that the family has agreed to persuade those fasting but that is not true."



Former North Zilla Adhyakshas and Upadhyakshas felicitated

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 28 JUL:

Former Zilla Adhyakshas and Upadhyakshas of North Sikkim were felicitated during the annual day function of North District Zilla Panchayat held at Zilla Bhawan in Mangan today.

The NDZP also felicitated the present Zilla Panchayats and the staff of NDZP.

The function was attended by Speaker SLA, KN Rai, as chief guest in the presence of Deputy Speaker SLA, Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Forest Minister, Tshering Wangdi Lepcha, and MLA Kabir-Lungtsok, Ugen Nedup Bhutia.

Zilla Adhyaksha-North, Anguli Lepcha, in her address, stressed on working for

the people and highlighted the development brought about by the present government.

Delivering the welcome speech, District Magistrate-North, Karma R Bonpo, presented the detailed report of activities undertaken by NDZP in different sectors in the past five years.

Representing Rural Management & Development Department, Director MN Dhakal underlined the accolades and appreciation received by NDZP in various fields and informed about the role and mission of the government.

Former Zilla Adhyaksha-North, Lobzang Tenzing, expressed gratitude on behalf of all the former Zilla Adhyakshas.

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Chief Minister inaugurates Udyog Bhawan at Tadong

GANGTOK, 28 JUL [IPR]: Udyog Bhawan, the office building of the Commerce and Industries Department, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at Tadong today. The Chief Minister was accompanied by his council of Ministers, MLAs, advisors, chairpersons, councillors, retired officers and government employees.

The ceremony started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the CM and other people on the dais.

The Chief Minister said that Sikkim is one of the few states where people enjoy the basic minimum needs. He stressed that the State today has crossed many milestones of development making it



the most-sought after destination of the Country.

"Sikkim has paved its way into history by being

the first Organic state and thus we should put

optimum stress on it and take the Organic mission forward," he said.

The CM stated that though industrialization in the world started in 1760, the State got its first glimpse only in 2005. He said that the sector has not developed in isolation but it has been a result of the positive environment and opportunities created by the government.

He elaborated that the industrial sector has been complemented by peace, security, law and order, hygiene and eco-friendly policies.

Mr Chamling said that the state government has earned a unique name in the entire region and the country for its innovative policy formulation, in-

stitution building, infrastructure development and many other projects in the pipeline like the pilgrimage centre in Central Pendum and Namthang, golf course at Pangthang, biggest library which will be known as Gyan Mandir, study centre at Dzongu and Bermiok will further catapult the image of the state as a model for others to follow.

Stressing that the government sector had become exhausted, he asked the youth to be self sufficient so that they put their energy in creative and constructive enterprises, making them self employed, responsible and accountable.

Stating the contribution of the state govern-

ment in progress and development, he highlighted that till now more than Rs 50,000 crore has been invested in different sectors of the state.

Earlier, Principal Secretary-Commerce & Industries Department, Arvind Kumar, gave the welcome address wherein he said that though Sikkim was a late entrant into the Indian mainstream, it took an early lead under the guidance of Mr Chamling.

New Acts, Rules, Regulations and policy initiatives of the state government started indicating a paradigm shift in the development course and the state took a giant leap on the futuristic development initiative for a

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West Midnapore district admn seeks IAF assistance for rescue

KOLKATA, JUL 28 (PTI): Twelve more people died in the last 24 hours in flood-affected districts of West Bengal taking the toll to 28, a senior government official said today.

Around 23 lakh people have been hit in over 165 villages inundated by heavy rains and the water released by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), the official said, adding the weather conditions showed signs of improving.

"Some of them died due to snake bites, lightning, drowning and a few after walls fell on them," the official told reporters

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Unstable Pakistan not to India's advantage

SUDIPTA CHANDA

SILIGURI, 28 JUL:

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is down and out on corruption charges. What now? Does a lame duck fill up the post to preserve the Trojan horse called democracy in a politically unstable Pakistan or would martial law prevail?

Pakistan will have to live through its hour of shame, but what does it mean for India? An unstable Pakistan has every possibility of hurtling towards extremism and plunge into chaos at break-

neck speed.

Most worryingly, terror networks across Pakistan and in the border areas could take advantage of the out of control Pakistani dispensation and increase attacks on India. Notoriously known for providing logistical and other support to the terrorists, the Pakistan army could also intensify the asymmetrical war on India to divert its population's attention.

Although Sharif's ouster as the outcome of proven corruption charges against him and his

family members is essentially a Pakistani problem, which may manifest in a number of ways, an unstable Pakistan is not to the advantage of India militarily or diplomatically.

So, for this country, Pakistan's current discomfiture is not an hour to relish, but to raise the guard like never before. The political crisis in Pakistan could very well see its army and by extension the Inter-Services Intelligence aka ISI take over the country's reins. Pervez Musharraf had done so with Sharif earlier. A

red alert therefore must have already gone out to the defence forces from the Centre.

The Pakistani Supreme Court verdict against Sharif could also be the first signal that the Pakistani civil society was dropping its overdependence on the country's army and was coming of age at last. That would be the most positive take from the otherwise embarrassing development.

So what is this 'Panamagate' or 'Panama Papers' that has brought down Sharif and ushered a Constitutional

crisis in Pakistan?

On April 3, 2016 the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) revealed 11.5 million secret documents of the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca containing confidential attorney-client information for over 2,14,488 off-shore entities.

Of those, eight off-shore companies were reportedly linked with the family of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his brother the chief minister of Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif. The PM's children were

owners and had the right to authorize transactions to several of the seedy companies clearly indicating siphoning off the country's wealth.

On hearing the case and satisfied with evidential support, the Pakistan Supreme Court unanimously deemed Sharif unfit for holding office and ordered an accountability court to open references against him and his family, and other respondents. Sharif stepped down following his disqualification by the Supreme Court.

Boy missing from children's home

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

A missing report of a 14-year-old boy was registered at Kaluk Police Station on 27 Jul. The missing boy, Prakash Roka was reportedly living at Kaluk Children's Home in West Sikkim. He originally hails from Neya Mangzing, South Sikkim. According to the Children's Home in-charge the boy went missing on 26 Jul.

It was revealed that the home in-charge along with his team had carried out an intensive search before registering the missing case at the police station. The police have deployed sources and alerted the nearby police stations to trace the missing boy.

Tulasa Devi Memorial Foundation annual award giving ceremony

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Tulasa Devi Memorial Foundation of Lower Tumin in East Sikkim observed its annual award giving ceremony here at Saraswati Vidya Niketan playground in Aapgachi Tumin on 27 Jul.

The programme was attended by educationist, Dr Sunam Gyamtsö Tenzin, as chief guest. He is also a recognized Bhajan singer and composer and a close disciple of Sri Satya Sai Baba.

The foundation organizes this annual event as a tribute to Late Tulasa Devi, wife of Pandit Dharmananda Nepal of Lower Tumin. Established in the year 2007, the Foundation honours students who stand first in Class V in each academic year from two schools namely Lower Primary School, Barang, and Saraswati Vidya Niketan, Aapgachi Tumin. The award comprises a certificate and



cash prize of Rs 5000.

Anupama Sharma and Meena Devi Sharma walked away with the awards in today's programme for their performance in the academic year 2016 from Saraswati Vidya Niketan, Lower

Tumin and Lower Primary School, Barang Lower Tumin, respectively.

An Inter-School Quiz Competition was also organized on the occasion which had the participation of students of four schools namely

Secondary School Lower Samdong, Senior Secondary School Tumin, Senior Secondary School Upper Samdong and Senior Secondary School Makha.

The competition was conducted by member of Tulasa Devi Memorial

Foundation, Indramani Adhikari.

A group of children from Lingmoo in South Sikkim representing a Bhajan troupe and dressed in traditional attire added colour to the event with presentation of bhajans in

Nepali language.

The chief guest, Dr Sunam, in his address, spoke about the need to recognize the innate leadership quality that every human being is blessed with. He took reference from various religious scriptures and texts and explained the universal knowledge of the self.

Dr Sunam congratulated the students who were awarded on the occasion and also those who participated in the quiz competition. He further stressed on the importance of religion and spirituality in one's life.

He stated that the initiative taken by the Tulasa Devi Memorial Foundation is exemplary and added that he will go back with fond memories and new experiences.

Earlier, president-Tulasa Devi Memorial Foundation, DR Nepal, in his welcome address, gave a brief background and

objectives of the annual award giving ceremony of the Foundation. He thanked the chief guest for his valued presence and urged the gathering to make the most of his deliberations.

Later, the chief guest handed over mementos to the schools participating in the quiz competition and certificates to the students and the members of the bhajan troupe.

An important segment of the programme was the screening of a short documentary film 'Shraddhanjali' prepared by the Foundation as a tribute to a learned Hindu Guru of the area, Pandit Laxmi Prasad Bhattarai [Achyutananda Giri Ji], who passed away after a brief illness in the year 2016. A copy each of the film was presented to the chief guest and son of the Late Guru by the president of the Foundation.

Inter-school scholastic competition held at Bering Tareythang

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Bering-Tareythang Gram Panchayat in collaboration with Wandering Soul of Sikkim organised an inter-school scholastic competition on 26 Jul at Government Secondary School Tareythang in East Sikkim.

A press release informs that students studying in classes 6-10 in the schools of Amba and Bering-Tareythang GPUs participated in quiz, essay writing and elocution competitions.

In the quiz competition, Mamring Senior Secondary School stood first with Amba Secondary School taking the second position.

Tanuja Adhikari of

Mamring School stood first in the elocution competition on the theme 'Talking about Gorkhaland' followed by Sushang Lepcha of Amba School bagging the second position.

Neechenmith Lepcha of Mamring School secured first position in the essay writing competition on the topic 'Educational Development in Sikkim since 1975'.

President of the Bering-Tareythang GP, Nareish Chettri, attended the function as chief guest accompanied by Headmaster of Tareythang School, BN Khatiwada, Panchayat Secretary, Bhola Rizal, Rural Development Assistant-Bering Tareythang, Jamuna Sharma, along

with teachers, parents and students.

Pranay Khatiwara of the Wandering Soul of Sikkim said, "Our group is working with an objective of providing a platform for students in the villages of Sikkim and this event was held in line with our objective."

Wandering Soul of Sikkim has extended gratitude to Block Development Officer-Pakyong, Chiran Rizal, Bering-Tareythang Gram Panchayat, Tareythang School, judge of the events, author Yuva Baral, teachers, Dinesh Bhattarai & Rohit Chettri, and all others who put forward their support in successfully coordinating the event, the release adds.

Governor visits Norbugang during Yuksam stopover

GEYZING, 28 JUL [IPR]:

Governor Shrinivas Patil and First Lady of Sikkim, Rajanidevi Shrinivas Patil, today visited Norbugang, the sacred grove where the coronation of the first Chogyal of Sikkim was held in the mid-Seventeenth century. They also visited the Khangchendzonga National Park Interpretation Centre at Yoksum during their stopover here.

ACF Sonam Norden Bhutia presented a souvenir to the Governor.

The Governor was then accorded a warm welcome at the Village Administration Centre of Gerethang-Labing GPU where he visited the photo gallery and library and suggested that the



library be opened at evenings so that readers and students received a quiet environment for reading.

In a brief meeting at the VAC, the Governor

applauded the initiative taken by the GPU and said every individual is given a responsibility here and that the contribution of every individual can set a

new milestone in future.

He congratulated the GPU having its own website and setting a laudable example.

The programme was

also attended by Honda-la Gyatshen, ADC-West, SDM (Yuksam), Nikhey Bhutia, BDO (Yuksam), officials and panchayat members.

Chief Minister inaugurates Udyog Bhawan at Tadong

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cleaner, greener, healthier, brighter outlook for the present and future generations of the State, he added.

He also summarized that the growth saga of the state in Commerce and Industries sub-sector in the last two decades could be aptly summarized in the existence of 6 manufacturing units then to the current number of 92 units.

"The latest available statistics of Sectoral Contribution of GSDP of Sikkim for the year 2015-16 pegs the contribution of manufacturing sector in state GSDP at 36.36%, the highest by any sector in the state's GSDP," informed Mr Kumar.

He also shed light on the Chief Ministers Start up Scheme [CMSS] which is made for the upliftment of the unemployed Sikkimese youth and added that

the Department has already prepared the draft guidelines and is awaiting the state government's approval for the formal launch.

The technical report was presented by Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary, Building and Housing Department, RB Thapa, who informed that the Udyog Bhawan was sanctioned in 2011 at a total cost of Rs 906.98 lakh and was funded under the Special Plan Assistance with a funding pattern of 90:10. The building is a four storied RCC structure with a total built up area of 26,972 sq ft. and constructed as per the design of the Architectural Wing of the Buildings & Housing Department with scope for future vertical extension.

Contractor of the building, Sonam Topden Bhutia, was also felicitated during the programme.



ICAR conducts training on orchids in Manipur

GANGTOK, 28 JUL [PIB]:

'Capacity building training on Orchids' was conducted at Ukhrul in Manipur jointly by ICAR-NRC on Orchids, Sikkim and KVK, Ukhrul on 18 Jul. The training was conducted in collaboration with Ukhrul Flower Society [UFS] at Earl E Brock Training Centre, Tangkhul Baptist Churches Association, Ukhrul. Nearly 80 participants attended the programme followed by interaction session and planting material distribution.

The programme was inaugurated by Advisor-UFS, Artex Simray, along with Chairperson-UFS, Ningshian Shaiza.

Introductory lecture on ICAR-NRCO and 'Propagation techniques of Orchids' was given by Principal Scientist [Plant Breeding], Dr R Devadas, while Young Professional-II [Plant Breeding], AL Meitei, presented two lectures on 'Year round cultivation of Orchids' and 'Value addition of Orchids'.

Later, the live demon-

stration on orchid media preparation, re-potting of plants and disease control measures was done. During interaction session, the Advisor-UFS requested for conducting on campus training programmes and exposure visit for Ukhrul farmers in the near future.

Farmers enquired on licensing and CITES permit for export of orchids, in view of commercialization. TSP planting material viz., Zygopetalum plants and Cymbidium hybrids were distributed to participants.

SKM raises concern over condition of Yangang-Rabongla road

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has raised concerns over the condition of the Yangang-Rabongla highway which has been causing inconvenience to the people of Rangang-Yangang constituency since the road was shut down in July 2014. The party has alleged that the concerned department this year has shown no signs of addressing the persisting problem.

An SKM press release issued by its press & publicity secretary, Bikash Basnet, claims that the said road has been closed for the last three years and has consequently cut off commuters from travelling to commercial towns like Namchi and Rabongla. The only viable option is a long detour via Temi Tarku which is time consuming and also hits hard on the commuter's pocket. Organic farmers and tour-

ism stakeholders of the area have also been deprived of potential economic gains, the release adds.

The release further adds that the landslide at Dojak has been persisting since many years and the department has not addressed the problem till date. The party alleges that the departmental attitude has been half hearted with not even a single stone being cleared off the road in these three years.

The party has, in the release, urged the concerned Roads and Bridges Department and District Administration to find an immediate solution to restore the Yangang-Rabongla road as it is one of the major roads in the constituency. If the concerned authority is unable to reopen the road, they should come up with an effective alternative solution for daily travelers, the release adds.

made from waste materials.

Also present in the function were Zilla Adhyaksha-South, CL Gurung, Zilla member-East, Bimal Dawari, Panchayat members and the district officials.

A colorful culture programme was also presented by the students of North Sikkim Academy. The function ended with the vote of thanks delivered by Upadhyaksha-North, NT Lepcha.

Former North Zilla...

contd from pg01

shas and Upadhyakshas for organizing such a programme.

The chief guest, KN Rai, in his address extended his gratitude to NDZP for organising such a function for former members.

"Since SDF government came to power, the Panchayati Raj system has been fully im-

plemented," he said.

Speaking on the issue of the visit of the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to Sikkim, Mr Rai said that owing to the ongoing controversy between India and China, his visit has been delayed.

A magazine published by NDZP was also launched during the function.

Earlier, the chief guest and other dignitaries also visited the stalls showcasing products

out-of-the-box SALE!

BOOKS
new releases,
old favourites
going at a
DISCOUNT

visit
RACHNA
Above Cafe Fiction
Development Area
Gangtok, Sikkim

Gangtok on Saturday, 29 July

Temp: 25°C / 18°C
Forecast: Considerable clouds with a shower or thunderstorm in the area.
Sunrise: 04:57 AM
Sunset: 06:26 PM



Shortage of safe drinking water in Singtam

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 28 JUL:

People of Singtam Bazaar have been facing acute shortage of clean and safe drinking water as many pipelines and connections been adversely affected due to incessant rainfall. The installation of new PHE pipelines which had started before 13 Jul has been put on halt owing to rainfall.

"The concerned authority and department need to provide an alternative so that we get clean water. Our health and hygiene is at risk right now," said one of the locals of Singtam.

Gorkhaland Sanyukta Sangharsh Samiti conducts sabhas in Delhi

GANGTOK, 28 JUL: The Gorkhaland Sanyukta Sangharsh Samiti [GSSS] Chennai Unit conducted three grand sabhas on 25-26 Jul with social worker from New Delhi, Vandana Rai, at three different locations in Chennai namely Nuggambakkam, Anna Nagar and Adyar - Thiyvanmiur.

A GSSS-Chennai Unit press release informs that the sabhas were held in order to create awareness regarding the demand for statehood and Gorkhaland movement. More than 400 Gorkhas participated at each venue, the release mentions.

Activities included

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The umbrella men

REBYNA RANA GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Rainy season for some means romance and poetry, some curse it for traffic jams, leaking roofs and flooded roads. But for those who repair and sell umbrellas, it is the time to earn a bit of money.

"Most people hate the monsoon season. But our job depends on this season and life without rain would be difficult for us," says umbrella repairman, Mohammad Shrajuli.

Mohammad hails from Bihar and has been residing in Gangtok for many years now. Accompanied by his friend, Is-har Ahmed, the duo sits at one corner of Tibet Road near the Axis Bank ATM in the capital and fixes broken umbrellas.

During off-season, they either go back to Bihar or stay back at Gangtok and set-up temporary abode for making quilts at roadsides. They often tour around in various colonies with cotton thrashing machines in tow in order to earn a livelihood. Come rain and



they get back to repairing umbrellas for people.

The duo says repairing umbrellas is their main source of livelihood.

"Umbrella repairing is not a high paying job but the money we earn from this job is just

enough for our daily needs. Earning big in this job does not mostly depend on the season but it is determined by the good reputation we have established with our customers in these past years," the duo informed.

They charge their customers Rs 30-40 depending on the damage the umbrella has been through. At the end of the day, after repairing 12-13 umbrellas, they earn approximately Rs 200-500 per day.



UCWSS organises prayer meeting for peace in Darjeeling

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim [UCWSS] has organised a prayer meeting for peace in the neighbouring hills of Darjeeling at Aeon Church in Deorali

on the evening of 27 Jul. Leaders of various churches from in and around Gangtok prayed together for peace and security of the people in Darjeeling.

The prayer meeting, which was conducted by UCWSS general

secretary, Reverend Peter Samsh-er, was also addressed by UCWSS president, Elder Patrus Gurung.

On the occasion, UCWSS also expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of the former Chief Minister of the State, NB Bhandari.

SKM alleges partiality in distribution of government benefits

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party has said that the distribution of government benefits underway at present should be done without partiality and should reach those who need it.

The party has also alleged that left over benefits of the 2014 as-

sembly elections are being distributed at present since the Panchayat elections are coming up.

An SKM press release issued by its publicity secretary, Arun Up-preti, alleges that the party has been receiving grievances from the people of West Sikkim that the SDF party workers have been asking supporters of opposition parties

to remove party flags from their houses in order to get government benefits.

SKM general secretary in-charge, Lok Nath Sharma, has alleged that SDF workers are engaging in such activities because they are threatened by the increasing popularity of SKM in West Sikkim.

Dancer Mingma D Lepcha on life after Dance plus

NITESH R PRADHAN GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Sikkim's dancing star, Mingma D Lepcha, was recently in the capital to attend the Miss Sikkim 2017 event. After leaving his mark at the reality dance show Dance plus, Mingma has now started choreographing songs in movies and has several projects coming up.

While speaking to SummitTimes, the Sikkimese star said, "People's love and support has been constant. I couldn't have asked for more."

Among his recent projects, his choreography in the Nepali film Darpan Chaya 2 has met with wide appreciation from the audience.

"I hope people will like my work in Sikkim. I am very happy with the response abroad," he says.

Darpan Chaya 2 has not yet released in Sikkim and Darjeeling.

Performing all over the country and the State, Mingma has not only carved a unique identity as a dancer but has also given Sikkim's name a resonance.

"Many people are unfamiliar with Sikkim out-



side. I feel honoured that through me many came to know about my beautiful State," he remarked.

He is also slated to perform in an upcoming dance related show on a national channel which will be announced officially later.

"Mumbai is a dream city where your dreams do come true. I am rock solid in my determination and my dream did

come true when my hard work paid off in Dance plus," says Mingma.

However, at the home front, he is most excited about Sikkim's upcoming dance competition Sikkim's Dancing Icon-Season 1 where he will be a part of the judges panel.

"The auditions will be held throughout the State. So be prepared," he has appealed to all dancers.

West Midnapore district admn seeks...

contd from pg01

at the state secretariat.

Out of the 104 blocks in 11 flood-affected districts of the state, 13 have been hit badly, he said.

The state government has opened around 2,067 relief camps in the affected districts wherein around 44,542 people have been provided shelter, the official said.

"Besides distributing dry food, water pouches and tarpaulin, we are also keeping an eye on the districts so that there is no epidemic in the flood-affected areas. We have kept enough medicines there," he said.

Talking about crop losses, a senior official at the department said, "The estimation can only be done after water re-

cedes. It also depends on the number of days the crops or saplings are submerged. But it seems that it could be a huge amount."

The official said the state government will definitely look into the losses of the farmers and chalk out a plan to compensate them.

Meanwhile, Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee described the current flood in West Bengal as worse than the one which hit the state in 1978.

"This year's flood condition is worse than that in 1978.

There are so many places where there is so much water ... It's so deep at some places," Banerjee said.

The state did not have so many dams in 1978, she said.

Referring to the project that Bengal has taken up along with the World Bank that will reform the lower basin of the Damodar river, Banerjee said the state government was trying to come up with more dams to address the flood problem.

Blaming the DVC for releasing water during the monsoon leading to the "man-made" flood in West Bengal, she said, "Every year they release water and we have to face the problem. And because West Bengal is shaped like a boat it creates flood here."

Asked whether she would write to the Cen-

tre regarding the DVC problem, the chief minister said, "I have been writing to them for so many years, but the problem has not been addressed."

Referring to the IAF helicopter deployed to rescue a family from a house in West Midnapore district's Ghatal, Banerjee said, "Because the area has so many trees they (the IAF helicopter) could not rescue them today. They will resume the rescue operation tomorrow morning. A NDRF team is already there."

An Indian Air Force Mi17 V5 helicopter was sent from the Barrack-pore air force station to rescue a family stuck at a house in Ghatal, a Defence spokesperson said.

Several areas in West Midnapore, Howrah, Bankura and West Burdwan districts of the state have been flooded due to incessant rains and the release of water by the DVC from its barrages owing to heavy precipitation in upper catchment areas in Jharkhand.



Northeast Career Guide

ACCELERATOR ACADEMY

INVITES APPLICANTS FOR

LDC COACHING

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| GENERAL ENGLISH 85M | GENERAL AWARENESS 35M | BASIC COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE 15M | VIVA! 15M |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|

COMPLETE PACKAGE - CLASSES STARTS FROM 10TH JULY, 2017

ALSO CONTACT FOR UNDERGRADUATE & MASTER'S COLLEGE ADMISSION

OFFICE ADDRESS
DEVELOPMENT AREA, OPP. SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
GUEST HOUSE

CONTACT
9002920828 / 9734829753
9735030778 / 03592-20828

It's Not Always Literal

***Indefinite is not forever and fast-
unto-death does not actually
require people to die***

The indefinite strikes underway in the neighbouring Darjeeling Hills is now the longest that the region, and by “general strike” yardsticks, any place has ever seen. Of course, one will need to Google to verify whether this is the case, but the veracity of the statement is not important, its message is. Or is it?

The impromptu indefinite strike call was obviously not to set records, but to power the long-held and deeply-desired aspiration for statehood. Everyone involved should however realize that the tag of “indefinite” is not to be taken literally because once the indefiniteness of a general strike stays on too long, it becomes the new normal and with that it loses the moral pressure it seeks to exert on those who are refusing to address the demand of the people. On the same note, promoters of the fast-unto-death underway at three venues in the neighbouring hills should also be told that it is not really a hunger strike in which the satyagrahis are expected to actually die if no response is forthcoming. The youth sitting on the fast-unto-death are obviously motivated and willing to lay down their lives for Gorkhaland; that is no longer in question because even after their bodies started feeding on its own organs and long term damage to their health became a reality, they still refuse to receive medical aid. But that does not mean that their leaders and the society at large wait on them to become “martyrs”. The leaders have to insist that the youth accept medical attention, and even if they do not break their hunger strike, receive every medical assistance that will keep them alive. One needs only to look at Irom Sharmila's protest or the sacrifice of Dawa and Tenzing of ACT in Sikkim to realize that the purity of their protest is not blemished one bit if they are force-fed through nasal tubes. The hunger strikers are too deep into their protest to accept such assistance, which is why their leaders need to take the decision for them and convince them and their supporters let the doctors save them, something that can be done without them technically ending their hunger strike.

And while records are being broken, it also becomes important to take stock of what has been achieved. Unfortunately, nothing really that could have been achieved without losing lives, livelihoods and futures. Of the three agencies which can begin the process of resolution, one is pretending that nothing has happened while the other two talk only to their constituencies or across each other; none of the three is engaging the other in a dialogue about the situation. This, after 44 days of an indefinite general strike! The obduracy has cemented hard and needs to be smashed. That too will eventually happen, and one hopes without asking for more blood. The problem is refusing to unravel primarily from the urge, nay obsession, to lump all the blame on someone else. Has anyone noticed, no one has admitted to any, repeat any, mistake for anything that has transpired over the past one and a half months. Do the actors calling the shots in the neighbouring state not realize that blame and responsibility cannot be as neatly packaged out as they see it in their heads? If one were to speak of the WB CM and the GTA chief executive, they are in offices where the buck stops. They have a moral obligation to take responsibility for the intractable collapse in the region. This is the bare minimum expected of leaders, and in these times of whataboutery and projections, even this tokenism could maybe help ease the knots enough to begin getting somewhere. Look at it, the Hills were literally instigated into protesting by the WB Govt, and then the people, for all practical purposes, ambushed into staying shut. Since then, lives have been lost with not even agreement on how many have died as a result of the situation. This is the scale of miscommunication and mutual distrust, and people seriously expect talks to work out just like that, without even lip-service level confidence building measures!

Accept it, the political map, media priorities and ground realities have changed since this latest agitation began. Has the movement adapted or taken these into consideration while planning the next move? An agitation should ideally be about active engagement, not reactive bluster alone, but that is essentially all that has been delivered. Yes, the WB Government has been mean to the point of provocation; the aloofness of the Centre has slapped home a rude awakening but the Hill leaders have also been stiff to the point of paralysis. Now that the milestone of a new record has been reached, maybe it is finally time for some stock-taking and some hard questions all around.

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

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Shadows and silhouettes

MONALISA CHANGKIJA

To comprehend what is happening politically in Nagaland, especially since early July, we need to look much beyond party and electoral politics because the State of Nagaland is a political creation and the shadows of the politics that led to its creation have never dissipated despite almost fifty-four years of statehood.

While at one level, the imbroglia within the Naga People's Forum looks like a simple case of dissent within the party spilling over to a contest in the state Assembly, several other political levels also co-exist and entwine here, which are not merely corollaries of the seemingly soundless shadows of Nagaland's political past but are also indelible silhouettes continuously predominant on party and state politics.

So, while ostensibly the accusations of nepotism has been hurled at Nagaland Chief Minister Dr Shurhozelie Liezietsu when he appointed his son as Advisor, his style of functioning, etc., which his supporters refute, there appears to be much more than meets the eye.

Recently, in an interview to a news agency, Dr. Liezietsu too has conceded that he heads a minority Government but he also insists that those opposing his leadership are from within his own party therefore the issue is party-related, not a constitutional issue. His perspective may have prompted him to go to court vis-à-vis Nagaland Governor's call for a floor test. Further, his supporters maintain that Dr. Liezietsu's fight against the rampant corruption in the state has turned some of his party's Legislators against him. But that is also hard to swallow because this explanation attempts to reduce the NPF imbroglia to a corrupt versus anti-corrupt battle ~ untenable considering corruption has always been an indelible stamp of governance in Nagaland. Moreover, being the NPF President, Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietsu has also been a part of the NFP-led DAN Government since 2003 and it is hard to believe that he just woke up to the rampant corruption in Nagaland only now.

So while much attention is focused on the numbers game in this imbroglia, there is no or little attention focused on what Dr. Shurhozelie Liezietsu and his supporters stand for, and what TR Zeliang and his supporters stand for ideologically ~ although ideology is one word very difficult to associate with Nagaland politics and politicians.

While, Nagaland's politics and politicians have the reputation of being more focused on power and pelf, there is also the issue of muscle power that has become an integral part of our politics, perhaps as



the main stairway to power ~ paving the way to pelf.

Now, who provides the muscle power is another issue that cannot be separated from who gets elected ~ because muscle power does not come without strings attached. And, it would be naïve to believe that the lumpen elements are the only ones available for a fee. Despite disavowing the Indian Constitution, all sections of what we now call Naga Political Groups (NPGs) have always “participated” in Nagaland's electoral politics however the nature of such “participation” has changed since the Assembly 1998 elections. No longer is cash the main consideration for “participation” in electoral politics ~ the fee apparently also includes a greater say in government formation and portfolio allocation.

Then there has always been a “middle-ground”, hob-nobbing within the parameters of our electoral politics, which also has its own price. The middle-ground is generally perceived to consist of our NGOs and civil societies, which are sometimes even daubed as frontal organizations of one or another of our NPGs, as also the “socio-cultural wings” of political parties. Particularly since the late 1990s, the middle-ground has been mainstreamed into the state's governance and since 2003 governance was more or less out-sourced to them so they also have an imprint on electoral politics, perhaps government formation too ~ all elections to the Nagaland Assembly since 2003 point to that.

So no, the revolt within the NPF is not a simple matter of numbers and dissatisfaction with the Chief Minister. There are numerous compulsions that have already existed all these decades and newer ones that continuously emerge, especially with a changed political dispensation in the country, as well as compulsions of forces that seek a dominant role in Nagaland's all levels of state politics.

Then there are comparatively newer entrants, e.g. the BJP, to “conquer” all states, which with just four MLAs, is already a part of the NPF-led DAN



Government. It also wants a greater say both in the state Assembly and the larger political discourse in the state ~ keeping its sights firmly on the 2018 Assembly elections with the hope of changing equations with the NPF in Government formation. So, if the BJP is on the course to remove hurdles, it shouldn't be surprising. And possibly Dr. Liezietsu is perceived as a hurdle ~ his staunch regionalist credentials could be a factor although him having recently said that the NPF and the BJP are “natural allies” is a mystery, and portentous, for such a die-hard regionalist. Now, with the NPF severing ties with the BJP on July 18, the shadows and silhouettes of Nagaland politics are likely to be reshaped.

Then there is the Framework Agreement of August 3, 2015. During his recent visit to Nagaland, the Centre's Interlocutor for the talks with the NSCN-IM reportedly said that the Government of India wants to arrive at a settlement before the 2018 Nagaland Assembly elections. Now, this is another compulsion that would definitely impact on politics in Nagaland ~ considering that Nagaland NGOs and civil societies have demanded that details of the said Agreement be disclosed and all sections of Naga society, including all NPGs, be included in the talks with the Centre to settle issues pertaining to Nagaland.

Under the circumstances, two questions arise: what and how much would be the NPF imbroglia's impact on the Central Government's wish for a settlement before the 2018 Assembly elections? And, is the same wish impacting on the NPF now? There is much more than meets the eye here and to clearly see through the opaqueness and ambiguity of politics in Nagaland, much more than conventional political analyses is required.

(The article was first published in the Assam Tribune and is reprinted here by arrangement with the writer. Monalisa Changkija, a journalist and poet, is Editor, Nagaland Page)

What's Brewing in Darjeeling

THE DARJEELING STUDIES
COLLECTIVE

The Darjeeling hills are in crisis. A resurgent Gorkhaland movement and subsequent state crackdown have infused life with violent uncertainty. Visitors to the ‘queen of the hills’ will be hard-pressed to find the idyllic tea plantations, mountain views, and quaint footpaths that characterise Darjeeling. Challenging these figments of the postcolonial imagination has always been another side to Darjeeling, now undeniably visible in the tear gas, burning vehicles, crippling strikes, tourist evacuations, foreboding police and military presence, and deaths at the hands of both state forces and political activists.

The current crisis was born of a perfect storm. In May, the West Bengal government announced Bengali as a compulsory language in schools across the State. By June, this triggered protests and claims of ‘linguistic imperialism’ in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts (where the lingua franca is Nepali). Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee then decided to hold a Cabinet meeting in Darjeeling for the first time in over 40 years. Little effort was made to include representatives of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) or the three hill MLAs, eliciting protests. The ensuing clash with police left government property destroyed and many protesters injured. The Army was brought in to staunch unrest, but it escalated instead. Subsequent protests and crackdowns have led to further destruction and deaths.

With ‘Jai Gorkha, Jai Gorkhaland’ reverberating through the hills, Darjeeling has plunged again into the throes of agitation. Internet and cable television have remained suspended since June 18. Strikes and security threats have devastated the local economy at the peak of tourist season. While fear is rampant, so is a

shared sense of resistance and solidarity. Uncertainty notwithstanding, the crisis has made clear: Darjeeling is not what it's often made out to be.

The time has come to take a deeper look at the histories undergirding Darjeeling's latest crisis. This requires asking: What is Gorkhaland? And why is it deemed necessary by those who call the region home?

THE CRUX OF THE MOVEMENT

The Gorkhaland movement is a long-standing quest for a separate State of Gorkhaland within India for Nepali-speaking Indian citizens (often known as ‘Gorkhas’). With roots dating back over a century, Gorkhaland is a classic subnationalist movement, not unlike those that have produced other States, most recently Telangana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Beyond all else, Gorkhaland is a desire for the recognition, respect, and integration of Gorkha peoples in the Indian nation-state. Contra popular misunderstanding, the movement is neither separatist nor anti-nationalist; it is about inclusion and belonging in India. As Gorkha National Liberation Front founder Subash Ghisingh explained during the first Gorkhaland agitation in the 1980s, “We Nepali-Indians who have nothing to do with Nepal are constantly confused with ‘Nepalis’, that is, citizens of Nepal, a foreign country. But if there is Gorkhaland then our belonging to an Indian State, just like your identity, will be clear.”

With those demands unrequited, a second Gorkhaland movement emerged in 2007 under the leadership of Bimal Gurung of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) and has flared intermittently. Heralding self-governance, recognition, and belonging in India, Gorkhaland remains the dream for Darjeeling citizens and many Nepali-speaking Indians across the country. It stands as a key means

to redress the Gorkhas' enduring history of discrimination, misconception, and marginalisation in India. Herein lies the rub — and primary antagonism with West Bengal. By demanding Gorkhaland, the people of Darjeeling-Kalimpong are opting out of West Bengal's domination, and opting in to the democratic frameworks of India writ large.

Understanding Gorkhaland requires understanding its underlying histories. In many ways, the Gorkhas of Darjeeling have yet to taste the liberation of India's Independence. The local economy illustrates the continuities between the colonial and post-colonial eras: Gorkhas remain pegged to the lowest levels of employment, while outsiders own the tea industry, meaning its profits flow out of the hills. These economic constraints are exacerbated by the misunderstandings Gorkhas face when they seek education and work in places like Kolkata, Bengaluru, and New Delhi. Called ‘foreigners’, ‘outsiders’ and ‘chinkys’, racial discrimination affects aspiring Gorkhas at every turn.

REASONS FOR RESURGENCE

The political circumstances are equally frustrating. Since 1947, the Darjeeling-Kalimpong region has remained under the thumb of West Bengal, despite no substantive pre-Partition evidence to support West Bengal's territorial claims to this region. Conciliatory set-ups like the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (1988-2012) and the GTA (2012-present) have failed to provide meaningful autonomy. These problems don't emanate solely from the hands of Bengalis, yet much of the marginalisation coalesces under the shadow of West Bengal's domination. Thus, when Ms. Banerjee and others stridently lay claim to Darjeeling, insisting that Bengal will never be divided, it strikes a nerve for the Gorkha peoples of India, evoking painful, yet ever-present, histories.

Instances like the attempted imposition of compulsory Bengali are not read as one-off events or mere slights in Darjeeling. They are seen as extensions of precisely the histories of domination that the Gorkhas are trying to escape. Ms. Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) has lately made significant inroads into the hills. West Bengal's recent creation of the Kalimpong district (2017) and the State's doling out of Tribal Development Boards to ethnicities within the Gorkha conglomerate (Tamang, Sherpa, etc.) might appear well-intended gestures but in paving the way for the TMC's electoral gains, they appear to many as clear examples of ‘divide and rule’ — causing splits in the Gorkha electorate and undermining the already-limited authority of the GTA. Indeed, the GJM's instigation of the current agitation was at least partly in response to TMC encroachment. GTA elections were imminent, but the GJM's popularity was waning in the face of considerable rewards flowing from West Bengal's coffers. By summing thousands to the streets, the GJM demonstrated its ability to evoke the emotional force of Gorkhaland. But then violence took hold, and the Gorkhaland movement once again became something else — something bigger than any one party.

The sudden resurgence of Gorkhaland has caught many by surprise. But today's turmoil mustn't obscure deeper histories. For Gorkhas, the troubling realities of colonial and present-day Darjeeling are eerily similar: linguistic chauvinism, ethnic and racial discrimination, resource extraction, unilateral territorial claims, the denial of self-governance, political suppression; and ultimately, an unwillingness to respect the ‘native point of view’. This double bind of colonial nostalgia and neocolonial regional domination produces a sense

turn to pg05

Each Friday Field Day team visits schools nominated for Best School award

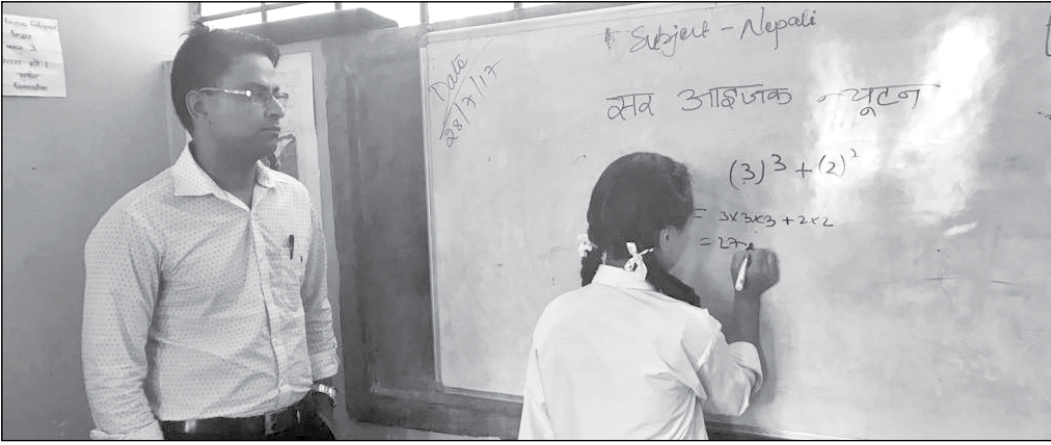
SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 28 JUL:

Under Each Friday, Field Day, a team led by DC South visited Phongla, Daring, Thangsing and Temi for assessment of schools nominated for Best School Awards.

At Phongla Senior Secondary School, Deputy Director HRDD conducted the assessment of all the enlisted performance parameters prepared by the administration. During the visit it was found that the school awards its best students yearly and there have been no drop outs in the school's history. Students of the school were well versed in Maths and English. The students' copies are well checked and mistakes rectified.

In the end, DC South informed about change in the exam pattern. He informed that now it has become difficult to clear the boards, therefore the students need to be more focused and pay full attention towards studies.

The DC has requested the Head Master to conduct regular weekly tests so that students lose the



fear of tests and exams and they become well prepared for boards.

At Thansing JHS, it was found that a unique concept of forming a Creative Club has been initiated. It was learnt that the number of school dropouts have lessened. It was noted that the SMC members have been issued ID Cards which has not been seen in other schools.

One special and encouraging initiative is the Bal Panchayat wherein students conduct Pan-

chayats by themselves and solve simple issues without the help of any teachers. It encourages them to be self aware and learn leadership. One student who had dropped out was also brought back as informed by the HM.

Panchayats have requested for a new transformer as power cuts are frequent in the area. It was informed that several electricity poles are about to collapse. Repair of weak areas has been sanctioned as the area is damaged by

heavy rainfall.

At Pabong Senior Secondary school, which is identified under DISHA, the DC South conducted a meeting with Class 10 students and teachers. In this school on Friday all students and teachers wear traditional dress.

The DC South informed about the DISHA initiative and informed about the change in pattern of board exams. He informed that schools now have to give certain marks out of 20 and those students who score

less marks have to be helped. The board exams would be held for the remaining 80 marks.

Here too the DC asked the school to conduct regular weekly tests in order to remove the fear of exams amongst the students. Deputy Directors will conduct two tests in a month to assess the quality of tests being conducted by the school. The answer script shall be checked by teachers of different schools, so that there is no favoritism.

Three achievement

tests will be conducted by the district level team. The paper shall be prepared in consultation with resource persons. Chances are that most of the questions may feature in the board exams.

The final test will help the students to start believing that they can score very high in boards. Target is to get cent per cent results he informed.

For average and below average students subject-wise remedial classes have to be con-

turn to pg06



Gopalkrishna Gandhi seeks televised discussion with Naidu

NEW DELHI, JUL 28 (PTI): Opposition's vice presidential nominee Gopalkrishna Gandhi today pitched for a televised discussion with NDA candidate Venkaiah Naidu, and said he has approached the Rajya Sabha TV to arrange such a dialogue.

In an interview to PTI, Gandhi said such a discussion on issues of national importance would make people aware of their perspectives and allow the MPs to consider their suitability.

The 71-year-old former ambassador, who also served as the West Bengal governor between 2004-2009, said he believes that the vice presidential election is about the "safeguarding of our republican values", above and beyond party politics.

"I therefore welcome the opportunity to share the ballot paper with Naidu and I look forward to discuss important national issues from the constitutional perspective with him.

"I have requested the Rajya Sabha TV to arrange a joint discussion, not a debate, between us two on RS TV so that our perspectives can be shared not just with the electors but with the public at large in an atmosphere of cordiality and frankness," he said.

Asked why he chose to contest despite the numbers stacked against him, Gandhi said he did so as a "united opposition" made an "earnest request, overcoming their own regional and political differences for re-affirming the country's republican values and democratic ethos.

Eighteen parties, in-

cluding the JD(U) which has just entered into an alliance with the BJP in Bihar, had supported the candidature of the Mahatma's grandson.

"I would like to believe there is no change in the JD(U) decision to support my candidature," Gandhi said, when queried about the recent political churning that saw Nitish Kumar resigning and then taking oath as Bihar chief minister with the BJP's support.

Political experts believe Kumar's decision has exposed the fragility of unity among the non-BJP forces, but Gandhi feels the unity has already been projected to the masses, even during the presidential poll.

"And the fact that (opposition presidential candidate) Meira Kumar got the largest number of votes that any opposition candidate in presidential election has ever got, is a very welcome sign for democracy.

"That coming together is for me in itself a very welcome sign, a welcome initiative, for democracy and for the unity of secular, republican forces. And as a person who belongs to no party, as an independent candidate I look to all the MPs to consider my suitability and vote as autonomous electors," he said.

If elected, Gandhi said, his endeavour would be to follow the examples of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Zakir Husain, Justice Hidayatullah, R Venkataraman, K R Narayanan, Bhairon Singhji Shekhawat and the incumbent vice president Hamid Ansari in discharging his duties, including as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Gorkhaland...

Contd from pg03

meeting with the Members of Parliament from Chennai and submission of memorandum to garner support for Gorkhaland. The activities also included condemning and criticizing the human rights violation like blockade of food and other basic amenities, internet ban, press censorship and lock down of ABN Channel which is the only satellite News Channel in Nepali language in India, the release informs.

The Gorkhas of Chennai including other South Indian cities have expressed solidarity with the people of Darjeeling and promised to stand by them by proving all sorts of support from Chennai, the release adds.

The release further informs that programmes are being planned like census of Gorkhas in Chennai, arranging relief material for the people of the Hills, etc.

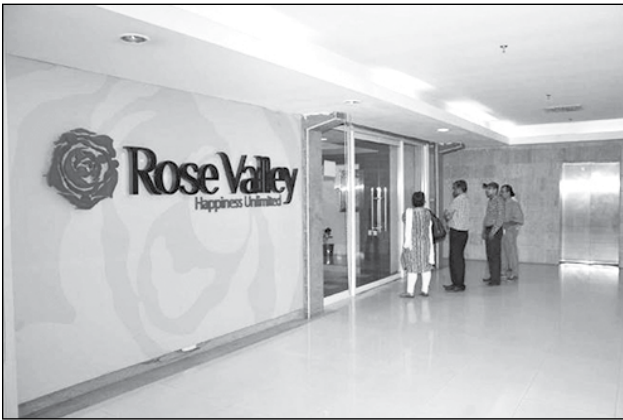
KOLKATA, JUL 28 (PTI): The ED today attached assets worth Rs 293 crore in connection with the Rose Valley chit fund scam case in which thousands of people were allegedly cheated in West Bengal and Odisha, officials said.

The central probe agency's regional office here issued a provisional attachment order under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and with this fresh action, the total attachment in this case stands at Rs 1,950 crore (market value).

"The latest attachment order is on assets worth Rs 293 crore (market value)," senior officials in the agency said.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had registered a criminal

Rose Valley: ED attaches assets worth Rs 293 crore



FIR against the firm, its Chairman Gautam Kundu and others in 2014 under the PMLA.

Kundu was arrested by the agency from here in 2015 and he is currently in judicial custody. Multiple charge

sheets have been filed in the courts in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar by the ED in this case.

The group had allegedly floated a total of 27 companies for running the alleged chit fund operations out of which

only half-a-dozen were active.

It is alleged that the firm had floated the scheme by promising inflated returns on investments between 8 and 27 per cent to gullible investors in various states.

The company had allegedly promised astronomical returns to depositors on land properties and assets and bookings done in the real estate sector. It is alleged that the company had made "cross investments" in its various sister firms to suppress its liabilities towards investors.

The SEBI had probed the company before the ED and the CBI registered cases against the group.

The ED has pegged the total volume of the alleged irregularities at Rs 15,000 crore.

An attachment order under PMLA laws is aimed to deprive the accused from getting benefits of their ill-gotten wealth and it gets confirmed after an order by the Adjudicating Authority of the said Act.

What's Brewing in Darjeeling

Contd from pg04

of constant déjà vu, leading to the desperate feeling that genuine progress is out of reach. These unsettling truths demand some soul-searching.

A reconsideration is in order. Brisk air, Himalayan vistas, and beautiful tea plantations may be Darjeeling's enduring attributes, but these do not define the life experiences of those who call this embattled place home. Today's unrest makes this painfully clear — and calls out in intermittently poignant and frustrated voices for a new kind of engagement.

(courtesy: The Hindu)

[Rune Bennike (Copenhagen University), Sarah Besky (Brown University), Nilamber Chhetri (Maharashtra National Law University), Townsend Middleton (University of North Carolina), Roshan P. Rai (DLR Prerna), Swatahsiddha Sarkar (University of North Bengal), Debarati Sen (Kennesaw State University), Jayeeta Sharma (University of Toronto), Sara Shneiderman (University of British Columbia), and Miriam Wenner (Goettingen University) on behalf of The Darjeeling Studies Collective, a group of more than a dozen scholars with long-term research experience in the Darjeeling region]

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Mixing of liquid nitrogen with drinks, food banned in Har

Chandigarh, Jul 28 (PTI):

The Haryana government has banned liquid nitrogen in drinks and food items after a Delhi man burnt a hole in his stomach by drinking a cocktail containing the chemical at a Gurgaon pub.

Commissioner (Food Safety) in Haryana's Food and Drugs Administration Department, Dr Saket Kumar, said any drink or food whose preparation involves the flushing or mixing of liquid nitrogen is harmful for people.

"Due to its low temperature, liquid nitrogen could be extremely damaging to body tissue, causing frostbite and cryogenic burning on contact. Moreover, if ingested, it could lead to severe internal damage, destroying tissue in the mouth and intestinal tract," he added.

The 30-year-old Delhi man had ended up in a hospital with his stomach "open like a book". It was reported that he apparently did not wait for the chemical, that creates a white smoke, to dissipate before consuming it.

After the gory episode, he underwent a surgery and was hospitalised for several days.

The FDA official said liquid nitrogen releases a large volume of gas as it evaporates, which could "burst the stomach" if ingested in a sufficiently large quantity.

He said the ban has been issued under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (Central Act 34 of 2006).

Liquid nitrogen is used at bars to quickly chill glasses, freeze ingredients or provide a smoky effect to drinks.

CONTACT

Summit TIMES

REPORTERS

NAMCHI

9832048410,

9775736596

SINGTAM

7699771651

MANGAN/

DIKCHU

9832612485/

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SILIGURI

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Renzong FC wins C-Division League

Kumar Sporting Club joins Renzong in promotion to Second Division



SAGAR CHETTRI

GANGTOK, 28 JUL:

Renzong Football Club has emerged champion of the Sikkim Football Association C-Division Sikkim League played here at Paljor Stadium. In a nail-biting final match of the league today, Renzong FC edged past Kumar Sporting Club 2-1 to lift the champions' trophy.

Both finalists have now been promoted to the second division Sikkim League.

It may be recalled that Renzong FC reached the finals defeating

Sadarian Football Club in the semifinal, while Kumar SC moved past Manik Football Club to play in the finals today.

Despite both teams having already been promoted to the Second Division, they still played delightfully competitive football today. The pride of moving to the next division as toppers of the league proved a strong motivation.

The teams played neck-to-neck from the first minute of the match itself, opting for an attacking game from both

ends.

Sairash Tamang scored an early lead for Kumar SC in the 9th minute itself, but Pel Rai scored the equaliser for Renzong FC in the 35th minute.

Kumar SC received a golden chance to take the lead again in the form of penalty kick in the first half, but its player, Bishal Tamang, missed the net and the first half ended with the score level at 1-1.

The second half also seemed to be ending similarly until the referee offered a penalty shot to Renzong FC in the 81st

minute for a handball by a Kumar SC defender in the D-box area.

Renzong FC captain, Chunku Sherpa, converted the penalty kick into the winning goal.

Although the match and the trophy went to Renzong FC, Cyrus Khawas of Kumar SC was adjudged the man of the match.

The final match had Rajya Sabha MP, Hishey Lachungpa, as chief guest, accompanied by Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, SD Dhakal, as guest of honour. The final match was

also witnessed by former Indian football team skipper, Bhaichung Bhutia, and international footballer, Nirmal Chettri.

The chief guest and other guests handed over the medals and trophies to both the teams.

32 teams had participated in the C-Division league and were divided into eight pools for the league round. The topper of each group and last year's relegated team, Manik FC, entered the knock-out round of the league which concluded today.



1st Kanchenjunga Open Badminton Tournament begins

GYALSHING, 28 JUL: The 1st Kanchenjunga Open Badminton Tournament commenced today at the newly constructed Indoor Stadium at Pelling Senior Secondary School in West Sikkim.

The event was organised by Pandim Shuttlers in association with Pelling SSS Alumni.

Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department, NK Subba, inaugurated the

tournament in the presence of Area MLA, Chandra Maya Subba, wherein the UD&HD Minister declared the 3-day long [28-30 Jul] tourney open.

Yuksam-Tashiding MLA, So-

nam Dadul Bhutia, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Yuksom, Dr Sonam R Lepcha, Block Development Officer-Yuksam, Nickjei Lhamu Bhutia, and other dignitaries were present at the inaugural event.

Global football camp for children launched

BENGALURU, JUL 28

(PTI): 'Campus Experience', a global football camp that provides an international platform for children in the age group of nine to 17 years, has been launched at the Real Madrid campus in Spain.

Active Club, A Sportz-Village Enterprise powered by EduSports, launched it in partnership with VIQMEDIA.

Last year, approximately 2000 children from across the globe participated in the camp. It will be held from June 19 to September 9 in Madrid.

Attendees have four modules which they can take part in: football campus, football tech-



nique, goalkeeping and goalkeeping technique.

During the camp, the children will also learn and adapt values of leadership, effort, self-control, team work and respect under the guidance

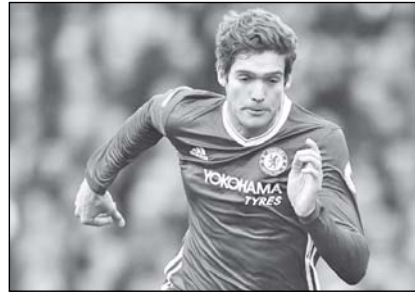
of international players.

The camp will continue for a period of 10 days, including seven days of training and three days of excursion in Madrid.

Speaking on the partnership, Saumil Majum-

dar, co-founder, Sportz-Village, said, "We are very excited to collaborate in India with Real Madrid Foundation's 'Campus Experience'. This is an exclusive opportunity for children who are passion-

ate about football to get a chance to meet the Real Madrid team, currently the UEFA Champions and the Spanish League winners, as well as interact and play with children from across the globe."



Delhi Dynamos sign Brazilian midfielder Paulinho Dias

NEW DELHI, JUL 28 (PTI): Delhi Dynamos have signed 29-year old midfielder Paulinho Dias as the club's first foreign recruit for the coming season of the Indian Super League.

Paulinho's movement, both on and off the ball, and his ability to bring his teammates into play makes him a great threat for the opposition defense.

The Brazilian could make a strong impact for Dynamos this season as he is known to find the back of the net from distance, along with his expertise in the holding midfield role.

A graduate of the Cruzeiro academy, Paulinho was last plying his trade with Joinville in Serie B.

His signing marks a

reunion with head coach Miguel Angel Portugal who had initially signed him back in 2014 at Atletico Paranaense.

"I'm very excited to welcome Paulinho to the club. This is a player the coach immediately identified when he came aboard and I'm sure he can be a defensive anchor in our midfield. He will make his mark in the ISL like the other Atletico Paranaense players who came before him," Delhi Dynamos Director Rohan Sharma said.

Paulinho has previously had stints with the likes of Ipatinga, Chapecoense and Veranopolis where he started majority of the games and helped the clubs in promotion to the top division.



Each Friday Field Day team visits schools...

contd from pg03

ducted. The below average students have to undergo remedial tests. The intelligent students are to be focused upon differently. They are to be given different and difficult questions so that they can solve them all and in turn secure more than 80% marks in boards.

The DC urged the teachers to work hard for the school and students so that the programme becomes a success. He informed that there are awards for best school, best students and best teachers under DISHA.

Best student of the month is to be started for class 10 students after assessing the results of the achievement test.

Meanwhile, the school has requested for equipments for Laboratory and the DC has assured to provide the same. The school required protection of weak areas which would be sanctioned through

DLRC in convergence with MGNREGA.

Temi Senior Secondary School was found to be wonderfully maintained. The DC while checking Mathematics copies of students requested the Vice Principal to get the copies checked by teachers. He also requested the teachers to evaluate the students properly.

DC has requested the school teachers to conduct remedial classes. It was found that students have slight problem in solving mathematical problems. Students have been participating in other co-curricular activities. The school has won several State and District awards.

Accounts of students have been opened in SBI Bank. The students of this school have been selected in CM's Meritorious Scholarship Scheme for 4 consecutive years. The Class 12 Science students have never failed since 2010.

Sc disqualifies Sharif, orders filing of graft cases against him

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD, JUL 28 (PTI): Pakistan's Supreme Court today ordered Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to step down and ruled that graft cases be filed against him and his children over the Panama Papers scandal.

It is the third time the 67-year-old veteran politician's term as premier has been cut short. As the unanimous verdict by the five-judge bench was read out by Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan inside the packed courtroom 1 of the Supreme Court, a large number of opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers celebrated outside.

The Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, in a swipe at Sharif, tweeted, "Godfather's Rule has ended for good! Truth & Justice have prevailed!" The prime minister was disqualified from holding his office as the judges ruled that he had been dishonest to Parliament and the courts and could not be



deemed fit for his office.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Captain Safdar, who is a Member of National Assembly (MNA), also stood disqualified from office, Justice Khan said. This is the third time the prime minister has been unable to complete his term as premier. However, it was unclear as to who will take over the post till the next general elections, which are scheduled for 2018.

"He is disqualified as a

member of the parliament so he has ceased to be holding the office of Prime Minister," Justice Khan said. The court ordered Election Commission to issue a notification for Sharif's disqualification.

The court also ordered the National Accountability Court to start a corruption case against Sharif, his children -- Hussain and Hassan -- and his daughter Maryam.

The Supreme Court ordered that the cases

against them be registered within six weeks and trial be completed within six months. The scandal is about alleged money laundering by Sharif in 1990s, when he twice served as prime minister, to purchase assets in London. The assets surfaced when Panama Papers leak last year revealed that they were managed through offshore companies owned by Sharif's children.

The assets include

four expensive flats in London. Sharif has been the prime minister of Pakistan for a record three times. He leads Pakistan's most powerful political family and the ruling PML-N party.

A steel tycoon-cum-politician, Sharif had served as the Pakistan's prime minister for the first time from 1990 to 1993. His second term from 1997 was ended in 1999 by Army chief Pervez Musharraf in a bloodless coup. In May, the Supreme Court set up a six-member joint investigation team (JIT) to investigate the charges against Sharif and his family. The JIT submitted its report to the court on July 10.

It said the lifestyle of Sharif and his children were beyond their known sources of income, and recommended filing of a new corruption case against them. Sharif dismissed the report as a "bundle of baseless allegations" and refused to quit, despite demands to do so from several quar-

ters, including opposition political parties.

On July 21, the court reserved its verdict after concluding the hearing. The six-member JIT was set up with a mandate to probe the Sharif family for allegedly failing to provide the trail of money used to buy properties in London in the 1990s. The top court took up the case in October last year on petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Awami Muslim League and Jamaat-e-Islami and reserved the verdict in February after conducting hearings on a daily basis. The five-judge bench that issued today's verdict comprised -- Justices Asif Saeed Khosa, Khan, Gulzar Ahmed, Sheikh Azmat Saeed and Ijazul Ahsan.

The court took up the case on November 3 last year and held 35 hearings spanning over more than 132 hours before concluding the proceedings on February 23. It had issued the 547-pages split judgement on April 20.

US Senate passes sanctions bill against Russia, Iran and North Korea

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JUL 28

(PTI): In a reflection of overwhelming bipartisan support, the United States Senate has passed a bill that imposes tough and additional sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea. Passed by the House of Representatives early this week, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act was passed by the Senate 98-2 votes.

The bill now heads to the White House for President Donald Trump's approval.

"This legislation finally holds Russia accountable for its brazen attack on America's 2016 presidential election by imposing new sanctions, strengthening existing sanctions, and requiring congressional oversight of any attempt to ease sanctions on Russia," said Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The Senate's overwhelming vote today sends an important message that America will not tolerate attacks on our democracy or national security interests, and that we will respond to such attacks with strength, resolve, common purpose, and action," McCain said.

Earlier in the day, the White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the Trump Administration supports strong sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea.

"The President and the administration support

sanctions against Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

We continue to support strong sanctions against those three countries, and we're going to wait and see what that final legislation looks like and make a decision at that point," she told reporters.

"The Congress of the United States has sent a clear message tonight to the governments of the Russian Federation, Iran and North Korea there will be consequences for their dangerous, destabilising activities against our country, our allies, our interests and our values," said Senator Ben Cardin, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"President Trump must sign this legislation without delay. Any equivocation or political games from the Administration after today will be completely unacceptable in the face of such overwhelming bipartisan resolve in the Senate and House," Cardin said.

The legislation, McCain said would impose mandatory sanctions on transactions with the Russian defence or intelligence sectors, including the FSB and the GRU, the Russian military intelligence agency that was primarily responsible for Russia's attack on US election. It would impose mandatory visa bans and asset freezes on any individual that undermines the cybersecurity of public or private infrastructure and democratic institutions.

Oct 2 trial date set in Kim Jong Nam's killing in Malaysia

MALAYSIA, JUL 28 (AP): A Malaysian judge set an October 2 trial date today for two women accused of murdering the North Korean leader's half brother.

Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong are accused of smearing Kim Jong Nam's face with the banned VX nerve agent at a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on February 13. He died about 20 minutes later. The women, who face a possible death penalty if convicted, say they were duped into thinking they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-cam-

era TV show.

Judge Azmi Ariffin estimated the trial will last for two months. The women appeared in court wearing traditional Malay dresses, smiling at their lawyers and embassy officials. They were handcuffed as they were led to the dock.

But after the judge left the room, Aisyah was in tears as her lawyer debriefed her. The two women are the only suspects in custody in a killing that South Korea's spy agency said was part of a five-year plot by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to kill a brother he reportedly never met.

Malaysian police have said four North Korean suspects fled the country the same day Kim Jong Nam was killed.

North Korea has a history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime. While Kim Jong Nam was not thought to be seeking influence, his status as eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's founding family could have made him appear to be a danger to his half brother's rule. Pyongyang has denied any role in the killing and has not even acknowledged that the dead man was Kim Jong Nam.



At least 39 people have been injured, one seriously, after a commuter train ploughed into the buffers at a station in Barcelona. The force of the crash at the Estacio de Franca in the north of the city crumpled the front of the carriage and tore off a sheet of metal. Emergency services said 19 of the injured, including the driver, were taken to hospital, while paramedics treated the rest at the scene.

'30 US cities held counter-terrorism workshops after 26/11'

WASHINGTON, JUL 28 (PTI):

Based on the lessons drawn

from the 2008 Mumbai attacks, more than 30 cities in the US have conducted counterterrorism awareness workshops in the past six years to handle such situations, according to an American lawmaker.

"In 2008, we witnessed members of a terrorist organisation conduct a coordinated terror attack on multiple locations in Mumbai. As the nation watched these terrorist create mayhem across Mumbai, it left our federal government wondering how to best

assist our first responders in preparing for events like this on our own soil," said Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick.

Since 2011, he said, more than 30 cities have hosted "one of these workshops" to test their current plans, policies and procedures in identifying any gaps in these capabilities.

According to the lawmaker, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Counterterrorism Centre and the FBI responded to the Mumbai at-

tacks by Pakistan-based Lashker terrorists by creating the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series.

Fitzpatrick told the House Committee on Homeland Security yesterday that the threat of a coordinated terror attack "is still very much present".

The attacks in Paris and Brussels this year were a "stark reminder" that it was essential that the first responders have the resources to protect the communities.

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Kutse Shegu



The Kutse Shegu (49 days) of **Late Sonam Wangchuk Lachungpa** who left for his heavenly abode on 13th June 2017 falls on **31st July 2017 [Monday]**. All Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in prayers for the departed soul at our residence at **Chandmari, near MP Dara JN Road**. We Would like to thank everyone who stood besides us during the time of bereavement.

Nimphuty Lachungpa (Wife) & family. Ph- 8016303146



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SIKKIM
(An Institute of National Importance)
Ravangla, South Sikkim
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA RELAXED FOR B.TECH ADMISSION (UNDER HOME STATE QUOTA)

Eligibility in CSAB Special Round for admission in Home State quota in Institutes of North Eastern States has been relaxed. For Candidates from the North-Eastern States competing for the Home State Quota seats in the Special Round, shall get a one-time relaxation in the eligibility condition. Candidates who secured at least 45% marks (40% for SC/ST/PwD) in the 12th Class marks shall be eligible to apply. More details may visit www.csab.nic.in and www.nitsikkim.ac.in

DIC (AA)

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR KIND EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:118 DrawDate on:28/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 79G 46719
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 46719 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
22170 37216 53169 54777 71860
81306 85092 97712 99814 99882
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
02089 14700 23447 31339 51807
57464 57563 59179 67452 97190
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0593 1116 1251 3258 3349 4552 5339 5588 8711 9654
5th Prize Rs.600/-
3303 3816 3892 6358 7135 7489 7525 8821 9540 9571
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0137 0166 0264 0383 0392 0439 0621 0657 0660 0691
0805 0821 0823 1032 1099 1112 1136 1139 1213 1638
1738 1796 1832 1963 1981 2032 2033 2275 2358 2557
2592 2908 3112 3133 3250 3307 3644 3702 3869 3876
3893 4268 4342 4349 4469 4580 4589 4696 4779 4850
5052 5066 5071 5215 5472 5553 5680 5741 5843 5867
5904 5919 5949 5965 6006 6084 6232 6241 6264 6500
6547 6965 7006 7235 7270 7608 7770 7817 7830 7860
7871 7991 7995 7998 8044 8091 8509 8685 8731 9104
9205 9465 9529 9690 9703 9738 9927 9933 9941 9976

Issued by:

The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland
For Result, Please Visit : www.nagalandlotteries.com
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR BENEFIT

Draw No:54 DrawDate on:28/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 92H 36469
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 36469 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
05875 10115 10569 32181 57543
83504 87216 92308 92974 94419
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
14774 30722 57265 63808 68483
75793 87015 90189 93622 98628
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0129 1202 1543 1807 3593 3872 5461 6813 7560 8230
5th Prize Rs.600/-
0153 0423 2005 3891 5035 5590 6610 7844 7957 9926
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0102 0219 0699 0718 0744 0859 0936 0939 0994 1230
1398 1519 1738 1861 1889 2001 2040 2219 2313 2338
2546 2818 2837 2911 2948 2975 3176 3392 3403 3934
3946 4007 4056 4303 4367 4609 4745 4786 4898 4921
4953 5051 5140 5239 5435 5453 5489 5498 5511 5700
5726 6592 6603 6644 6774 6784 6866 6926 7101 7148
7242 7316 7449 7510 7640 7644 7749 7798 7823 7899
7916 7922 7978 8002 8266 8326 8450 8491 8535 8644
8977 9008 9010 9074 9159 9239 9327 9334 9392 9396
9513 9721 9741 9750 9892 9900 9902 9911 9953 9969

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please visit: www.sikkimlotteries.com

MIZORAM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR OSTRICH MORNING

Draw No:50 DrawDate on:28/07/17

1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 93A 06818
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 06818 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
03544 19478 43428 51854 62090
67148 76195 80468 87288 98520
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
21746 23210 29436 33501 38079
43077 44698 45647 52103 61007
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0851 2402 2835 3570 4022 4327 5172 9229 9783 9860
5th Prize Rs.600/-
1054 2053 2054 3094 3827 6835 7487 7999 9623 9966
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0030 0038 0046 0137 0731 0732 0750 0767 0867 1069
1130 1413 1592 1600 1618 1634 1807 2333 2360 2401
2410 2430 2498 2533 2583 2704 2756 2775 3034 3042
3084 3135 3323 3360 3395 3425 3464 3566 3826 3855
3951 4138 4276 4685 4760 4889 5095 5163 5204 5319
5466 5611 5755 5962 6214 6242 6356 6403 6665 7055
7283 7285 7475 7500 7578 7595 7605 7664 7801 7942
8000 8014 8034 8271 8341 8363 8442 8445 8672 8797
8846 8862 9024 9110 9112 9153 9208 9251 9272 9322
9365 9367 9432 9471 9604 9726 9727 9780 9830 9861

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For results please visit: www.mizoramlotteries.com

JUSTIN BIEBER HITS PHOTOGRAPHER WITH PICK-UP TRUCK IN BEVERLY HILLS

The Sorry singer stayed by the injured photographer's side for about 10 minutes until paramedics arrived to take him to hospital.

Justin Bieber has hit a photographer with his pick-up truck after trying to leave a church in California. The superstar inadvertently struck the paparazzo with the front right tyre of his Dodge Ram outside the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills recently.



Footage from TMZ shows Bieber injured man - asking the press pack to step back "and give us space". He stayed

by the photographer's side until he was stretchered away by paramedics and Bieber then had a brief chat with police officers at the scene.

On Tuesday, Bieber announced the sudden cancellation of remaining dates on his world tour - and said he needed to rest after being on the road for two years.

In a message to fans, the singer added: "I love you guys, I think you guys are awesome. I'm sorry for anyone who feels, like, disappointed or betrayed, it's not in my heart or anything and have a blessed day."

His manager Scooter Braun also apologised for the abandoned gigs in North America and Asia, but said the Canadian-born star's "soul and well-being" come first. Bieber has had several run-ins with the law after shedding his clean-cut teen image - and last week, he was banned from performing in China for "bad behavior".

In 2013, the 23-year-old raised eyebrows after he was filmed being carried up the Great Wall of China by his bodyguards. He also stripped on stage to reveal his torso and rode around shirtless on a Segway in Beijing.

what's
TRENDING



JACK AND ROSE FOREVER: The former costars reunited at Leonardo DiCaprio's foundation gala at Domaine Bertaud Belieu in Saint-Tropez recently in honor of the 20th anniversary of Titanic.

RUMOUR HAS IT!



DEEPIKA PADUKONE TO STAR OPPOSITE VARUN DHAWAN IN OCTOBER?

Varun Dhawan recently revealed through social media platforms that he's doing a film with Shoojit Sircar titled October.

"I have been an ardent fan of Shoojit da's work and have always wanted to work with him. The film is titled October. Shoojit da Ronnie and Juhi have always made good cinema I'm very lucky to get a chance to work with them." This was how Varun captioned the picture featuring him and Shoojit on his Instagram post.

Now, according to Mumbai Mirror, it's learnt that Deepika Padukone has been approached as the heroine. The film is said to be a romantic comedy and it will be fun to see Varun's and Deepika's fun pairing in the film.

CAITLYN JENNER CALLS OUT TRUMP OVER TRANSGENDER MILITARY BAN

"THE PRESIDENT must ask himself which side of history he will be on — and reverse his position immediately," she said.

Caitlyn Jenner responded to President Donald Trump's announcement Wednesday that he plans to ban transgender military members from serving "in any capacity."

Jenner wrote on Twitter: "There are 15,000 patriotic transgender Americans in the US military fighting for all of us. What happened to your promise to fight for them?"

She later posted an in-depth response on her website, saying, "I believe every American should be outraged by the disrespect shown to those people wearing our country's uniform." She also calls Trump's declaration a "half-baked idea" that "puts all of our service members in harm's way."

Citing studies that show that transgender people are more likely than the general population to enlist and that there are approximately 134,000 transgender veterans in the U.S. today, Jenner calls on Trump to



change his position: "The President must ask himself which side of history he will be on — and reverse his position immediately."

She concludes: "America's 15,000 trans service members and 134,000 veterans are much braver than you, Mr. Trump; my allegiance is with them and our country, not you." Earlier in the day, Jenner's name trended on Twitter as social media users called for her to speak out and take action against the news.

Jenner considers herself a transgender rights activist. The former Olympian has

defended her support for Trump, saying that she as a Republican she supports him even if she doesn't always agree with his views.

While on The View recently, Jenner said she's been reaching out to members of Trump's administration to "help them" on LGBTQ issues. She said that she had hoped Trump would be a "bit more outspoken" in his support of the LGBTQ community he had promised to protect, but Jenner said she thinks "it's a lot of the people around him" who are affecting the president.

TECH EASY!



APPLE DISCONTINUES THE IPOD NANO AND SHUFFLE

Out with the old! Apple discontinued their earliest products, the iPod Nano and iPod Shuffle, from its website and stores. "Today, we are simplifying our iPod lineup with two models of iPod Touch, now with the double capacity starting at just \$199, and we are discontinuing the iPod Shuffle and iPod Nano," a spokesperson for the tech company said in a statement to Business Insider on Thursday, July 27. The early models, which haven't been updated since 2012 — aside from new color options in 2015 — were Apple's most affordable products (the Nano was introduced on the market for \$149 and the Shuffle started at \$49). They also lacked the capacity to play songs from the company's streaming service, Apple Music.

The new and improved iPod Touch will now have two options available for purchase: a 32GB model for \$199 and a 128GB version for \$299. Apple will also continue to sell early models of the last iPod standing, with storage capacities of 16GB and 64GB. Apple is also preparing to launch the iPhone 8 this coming fall.



29TH JULY WORLD HISTORY

1588: At midnight the English set eight fire ships attacked the Spanish vessels and defeated them in the Battle of Gravelines.

1833: William Wilberforce the English abolitionist, died. He was best known for his efforts relating to the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

1858: Japan signed a treaty of commerce and friendship with the United States.

1875: Peasants in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Balkans rebelled against the Ottoman army.

1890: Artist Vincent van Gogh died 2 days following a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France, while painting "Wheatfield with Crows."

1900: Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by Gaetano Bresci. The murder was believed to be due to the king's decision to fire cannon rounds into a crowd of starving peasants and workers that had assembled asking the

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History,
Namchi Govt. College

king for assistance.

1914: Transcontinental telephone service began with the first phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

1921: Adolf Hitler became the president of the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis).

INDIAN HISTORY

1802: An Agreement regarding the army was made between the East Indian Company and the Gaekwad of Baroda. Accordingly, the Gaekwad maintained neutrality in the Second Anglo-Maratha War in 1803.

1891: Popular social reformer, writer, philosopher, educator and translator, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar passed away in Calcutta (now Kolkata) at the age of 70.

1911: Mohan Bagan became the first Indian football team to win the I.F.A. Shield.

LOCKHORNS

- HOEST & REINER



"COULDN'T YOU SAVE ALL THE PAIN AND HEARTBREAK BY PICKING A BETTER TEAM?"

ARCTIC CIRCLE

- HALLATT



BABY BLUES

- KIRKMAN & SCOTT



ARIES: Keep up your psychic shield, Aries, because you will need it. People's comments may seem harsh even if they may mean well. Your best defense against the critical tone of the day is to use other people's criticisms as constructively as you can in order to build a stronger framework from which to work. Process this energy in a positive frame of mind. Use it to get things done.

TAURUS: This isn't a day to focus on fun and games, Taurus. In fact, you may feel an annoying weightiness about your emotions, making you feel less energetic than usual. There's a sober tone asking you to look at reality and make some se-

rious decisions about your future goals and plans. You may feel like the timer is about to buzz. The minute hand is ticking, and there are many more adventures to be had.

GEMINI: There's little comfort in your emotions today, Gemini. You may want to stick to business. Concentrate on getting things done in your regular routine. Create a plan and stick to it. This isn't a day to deviate from the norm, nor is it a time in which you will find much sympathy from others. Stick close to home and take care of your personal business. Time is precious. Don't waste it.

CANCER: Try not to smother others, Cancer. You may want to seek

comfort in their company, but this will only produce grouchingness in all parties involved. Curb your tendency to find fault with the ones you love. Your best bet is to focus on tasks you have on the back burner. Tackle projects that need special attention and discipline.

LEO: There's a squeeze on your emotions today, Leo, which might leave you feeling like a pot of boiling water. Just by knowing there's a lid on things, you're likely to heat up even faster than usual. Try to hold your temper. A rage will get you nowhere. Concentrate your energy on getting your material affairs in order. Deal with finances, investments, and long-term security.

VIRGO: It may be hard for you to feel connected to anyone today, Virgo. You're probably better off keeping to yourself. If you're feeling sad or depressed, it's best to work through these feelings on your own. Other people aren't apt to be too sympathetic to your situation. You're better off sticking to your work to keep the demons out of your head.

LIBRA: You may feel a restriction to the day, but in truth, this is for your own good, Libra. Your sense of discipline comes in handy as you tackle your work with incredible enthusiasm. Your goals aren't far from your reach. Stay focused and don't get pressured by the ticking clock.

Hastiness will lead to careless mistakes. If you're going to do a job, do it right the first time.

SCORPIO: Find comfort in your work today, Scorpio. Although it may sound ridiculous, checking things off your list is the most rewarding activity today. Try not to be too critical of others. Focus on your tasks. Mountains that seem too daunting to climb will continue to grow bigger until you take the first step upward. Your perseverance will inspire others.

SAGITTARIUS: Get your head out of the clouds, Sagittarius. Nitpicky details you failed to attend to earlier may now come back to haunt you. Don't postpone your work any fur-

ther. The time to take care of the job is now. Balance your checkbook and do your laundry. Clean your bathtub and go shopping. The more you accomplish today, the better you will feel about yourself tomorrow.

CAPRICORN: Whatever you didn't get done yesterday, Capricorn, you need to finish today. Discipline and attention to the sand slipping through the hourglass are the journey's themes. The more you're able to accomplish, the better you'll feel. Stagnant energy is a sign that it's time to get moving. Don't waste a moment waiting for someone else to come up with a solution. Take the initiative.

AQUARIUS: Put aside frivolity for

a day, Aquarius. This is an important time to prepare for the future. Don't take another step before you know you're on solid ground. This is an important time to establish your goals. Writing them down will help you realize them in life. Think about the long-term harvest. Security and grounding are key themes today.

PISCES: People may be a bit critical of you today, Pisces. You would do well to listen to what they say. Be receptive of feedback so you can establish a healthy ego. Keep your sense of humility. You may feel critical as you see people moving like sloths compared to your lightning quick mind. Be patient with others.