

SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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CM meets pro and anti Teesta Stage-IV HEP groups of Dzongu



WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 15 JUL:
Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling today held a meeting with both the pro and anti Teesta Stage IV hydel power project groups at Zilla Bhawan in Mangan, North Sikkim. The affected land owners and affected people who are in favor of the project highlighted that they have been waiting for the last 11 years for the project to be implemented.

Speakers from the group in favor of the power project mostly spoke about the change in stance of the area MLA who is now opposing the implementation of the hydel power project in Dzongu. Pro-project speakers, Mingma Lepcha from Tarenga ward informed that their ward panchayat is being targeted by other panchayat members as she had attended the meeting for the FRA Gram Sabha while Ugen Lepcha from Hee-Gyathang informed that they have sacrificed their land for the development of the nation.

"Our people were confused at first but we decided to stand with the government's decisions. However, in case the project is abandoned then the landowners must be compensated for losses incurred due to the land being left barren for the last 10 years," said Panchayat Secretary, Hee-Gyathang GPU, Tshering Doma Lepcha.

Another landowner from Mangan, Karma Jigdel informed about the benefits in implementing the project and also added that the people have faith in the government.

'Stage-IV will take all aspirations and sentiments into consideration'

Mangan, 15 Jul [IPR]: Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, who is on a two-day visit to North Sikkim for the Gram Swarajya Abhiyan, interacted with the affected landowners of Teesta Stage IV NHPC Power Project today.

A delegation comprising of about one thousand people from Dzongu approached the Chief Minister requesting him to start the Stage IV project. The CM assured that

State obligated to consider regularization of temp employees: HC

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

The High Court of Sikkim today directed the State Government to "consider" the regularization of 117 temporary employees working in different government establishments within three months.

During the hearing of the petition filed by the 117 temporary employees seeking regularization, the Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court pointed out that, "...the petitioners were initially appointed on muster roll. Thereafter, upon completion of about 10 (ten) years, the Government granted a sanction for creation of posts in various departments exclusively for appointment on temporary basis, belonging to Group-C and Group-D, wherein the petitioners herein have been working, as is manifest from the Notification dated 22.02.2014."

The state government then decided to regularize the temporary employees who have been

working against sanctioned posts in accordance with guidelines laid down in Circular dated 20 August 2014.

Since the government has granted benefits of the Circular to other employees similarly placed, it is obligated to also consider the cases of the 117 employees in accordance with the Circular dated 20.08.2014, the Court observed.

Despite the state government's objections to the claims of the petitioners, the High Court considered the petitioners case without touching the validity of the 2014 Circular as the petitioners have not challenged the said circular for appointment of other temporary employees who had been regularised earlier.

The Sikkim Government had issued a notification in August 2014 for the purpose of regularization of its Muster Roll, Work Charged and employees appointed under consolidated pay as per

turn to pg03

Sikkim to play Karnataka in semis of Oorja U-19 tourney

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:
Sikkim will take on Karnataka in the semi-final match of the final round of Oorja CAPFs U-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament 2017 at New Delhi on 16 Jul. The semi-final match will be kicked off at 2 p.m.

It has to be mentioned here that Sikkim went down to Punjab 1-2 in its first league match, while it defeated Mizoram 3-2 in its second league match.



The Politics, Law and Economics of Blockades and Bandhs

SD TSHERING
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

The Indian Freedom movement gave birth to the idea of nonviolent forms of protest like Non Cooperation and Bandhs. These were the methods employed by Gandhiji during the freedom struggle to gain independence from the British. The justification of these methods was the fact that the British would never have the best interests of Indians, and therefore needed to be ousted.

After Independence, Dr. Ambedkar insisted that such methods were not to be employed.

However, these methods of protest continue to be used for all purposes from social issues to political causes by individuals, groups and political parties even today.

The method of calling for Bandh to highlight issues has now been transformed by some parties to implement economic blockades to force their ideas on opposing parties. This method of economic blockading has been imposed in some states to force neighboring states to concede to their demands.

Economic blockades have been effective in areas where states depend on neighboring states for their economic activities. The North Eastern States of India have witnessed many such blockades which had tremendous effects on them.

The Assam agitation in 1979 had a negative effect on the economy of all North East states since the Bandh cut off

the whole transport system to the states sharing the National Highway with Assam. The recent Naga Council Blockade of Manipur for 139 days saw prices of petrol rising to Rs 500 per liter in Manipur. The Jat agitation brought Delhi to its knees by stopping the flow of water from Haryana. It is said that Delhi also suffered a loss of Rs 700 crore due to the Gujarat Bandh.

Though the Supreme Court in 1998, upholding the Kerala High Court verdict, observed that these "Bandhs" are "illegal and unconstitutional means for protest", the verdict has done little to stop Bandhs in

the country.

When Shiv Sena and the BJP organized Bandhs in July 2003 to protest against the Ghatkopar blasts, it was estimated that the Bandh had cost the city a Rs 50 crore loss.

In July 2004, the Bombay High Court directed the Shiv Sena and the BJP to pay a fine of Rs 20 lakh each to make up for the loss. This verdict of Bombay High Court was upheld by the Supreme Court.

If past events are to be considered, problems which lead to most of the economic blockades have either been solved by courts or by the intervention of the Central Government. That

said, the Assam agitation still remains though an accord has been signed and the Manipur issue has seen a temporary truce with the signing of a tripartite treaty between Naga Council, Central Government and Manipur Government.

The recent blockade of Sikkim is similar to other cases from the North East where a neighboring state's problem affects the other due to its landlocked situation. Even though states like Meghalaya have set up special courts to enforce the Supreme Court verdict declaring Bandhs illegal and the Mumbai Police Act provides recovery of compensation from

Bandh callers, compensation claims for economic loss would be difficult since there have been very few verdicts granting compensation for loss due to Bandhs.

The Kolkata High Court has already declared the bandh in Darjeeling as illegal and the state government has been directed by the court to estimate the loss to public property. The loss in GJM bandhs in 2013 was estimated at Rs 69 crore, but recovering the amount from GJM will be another story.

If similar problems in the North East states are taken into consideration, the solution would lie in a meeting

between West Bengal, Sikkim Government and Central Government. Aggressive posturing towards West Bengal will not do any good since the Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee is known to be unyielding towards threats and her ongoing war with the Central Government and recently her Governor shows her unflinching stance towards her opponents. Therefore, cordial relations with neighboring states would prove more beneficial for Sikkim.

[The writer is former Secretary of the Department of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring and Evaluation, GoS]

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Signatures on Gram Sabha attendance register forged, alleges Save Dzongu Committee

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

Save Dzongu Committee has alleged that the Gram Sabha held on 13 May for Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU on Forest Rights Act [FRA] for Teesta Stage IV was illegal and invalid.

The committee alleged that it cannot be considered legal as the attendance register of the Sabha has names of people who are not in the voters list of the village and also includes some who were not even present during the meeting. The committee further alleged that it has been found that more than

10 signatures have been forged.

Regarding the same, Panchayats of Lum-Gor-Sangtok, Hee Gyathang-Sangdong and Passing-dong-Saffo GPUs wrote to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 14 Jul.

Save Dzongu Committee also stressed that forging of signatures of the Gram Sabha members was a serious crime and fraud. The committee has further demanded a thorough investigation and legal action against those in the district administration and who have allegedly

conspired to commit fraud to benefit NHPC which has been awarded the Teesta Stage-IV hydel project.

Addressing a press conference today, Save Dzongu Committee member, Gyatso Lepcha, alleged that an awareness programme on FRA for Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU held on 13 May 2017 was later termed as Gram Sabha by the North District Administration.

He added that after verifying from Panchayat records it was found that the attendance register of the Sabha contained names of people who are not on the vot-

ing list of the village and were not present during the meeting.

Mr Lepcha mentioned that two signatories, Sonam Dorjee Lepcha and Passang Lepcha, of Sagyoung village under Lum-Gor-Sangtok GPU were found to be underage.

He mentioned that the Gram Sabha which was subsequently held on 30 May in the presence of SDM and BDO unanimously rejected the diversion of forest land for the proposed project. He added that resolutions passed during this Gram Sabha have not been sent to the Ministry till date. On the same, he questioned

the role of the district administration and their intention.

"We are expecting positive response on our representation by the concerned authorities," he said.

Hee Gyathang Panchayat, Kalzang Dorjee Lepcha, stated that the Gram Sabha should have quorum of Panchayats and should have the presence of at least 70% of public of the area to make it valid.

"But the Gram Sabha on 13 May was attended by just one Panchayat and even the attendance register shows the presence of people who are under age and non-vot-

ers," he said.

Likewise, Lum-Gor-Sangtok Panchayat Secretary, Topgay Lepcha, mentioned that as per rules the Panchayat Secretary gives notice for Gram Sabha but in this case it was the North District Administration that called the Sabha.

Chewang Lhamu Lepcha stated that she was not present in the Gram Sabha held on 13 May, however, her signature was taken at her house the next day. She added that signatures of other people were also taken this way including her sister, Passang Lhamu Lepcha.

Meeting discusses I-Day celebration at Bermiok Tokal

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

The Independence Day Celebration Committee of Bermiok Tokal in South Sikkim held a meeting today at the premises of Bermiok Tokal Senior Secondary School to discuss the upcoming 71st Independence Day celebration. The meeting was chaired by the committee's president, Karma Thinley Bhutia [Topgay], a press release informs.

The meeting expressed deep condolence on the sad demise of the founder member of Bermiok Tokal SSS, Bishnu Prasad Bajgai, at the age of 102 years on 12 Jul this year. He was also one of the land donors.

The 23rd Bermiok Athling Rai Bahadur TD Den-sapa Memorial Football Tournament and the 3rd Dil Karna Gurung Memorial State Level Women's Football Tournament will not be organized this year due to the sad demise of Bishnu Prasad Bajgai.

The celebration of the 71st Independence Day this year will be at the school level and the school will organise the celebration at its own discretion, the release adds.

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Lachen and Lachung to be made Rhododendron kingdoms: CM

WANGCHUK BHUTIA
MANGAN, 15 JUL:

"PEOPLE SHOULD EVALUATE the sincerity and dedication with which I have worked for the people of Sikkim," said Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling while addressing the people of North Sikkim yesterday at Mangan public ground during the Janta Mela organised by Rural Management and Development Department under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

The Chief Minister also stressed on making Lachen and Lachung, Rhododendron kingdoms and developing Yumesamdong which, he said, will be a boon for tourism in the district.

He urged government officials to be more dedicated and people friendly in delivering

services to the public. He informed that the Bhutia-Lepcha Assembly seats have been protected by the Sikkim Democratic Front government and that the government has been safeguarding BL reservation since its formation.

He also announced that the Central Government has assured to allow the 17th Karma Ogyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim soon and urged people to be positive.

"Limboo and Tamang communities have been provided tribal status by the state government which has not been done by any previous governments," said the CM while highlighting on the issue of LT Assembly seat.

"The MLAs of the three constituencies may discuss and demand the next scheme that needs to be disbursed

once the construction of homes scheme is over in North Sikkim. Whatever we have distributed so far to the people was just as a form of support. People should now make an earning from that grant which will contribute towards development of the State," said the CM.

He also encouraged the young generation to generate interest in organic farming and look at exporting local produce.

The CM also informed that Sikkim has started a Buddhist University which is also a historic development in the education sector.

"I have requested the Central Government to ensure smooth traffic along NH 10 as Sikkim has been suffering for the last 32 years wherein the state has lost Rs 60,000 crore

so far," he added.

He also highlighted about the different developmental schemes like old age pension, pension for traditional healers, pension for physically challenged, pension for unmarried women, pension for farmers, etc. and further added that every household in North Sikkim will be provided with homestay, fisheries and milch cow schemes. He announced that after 15 days, the Janta Mela for monks and urban areas will be held.

In addition, the CM also announced the establishment of girls' school in Mangan, reconstruction of Mangan Hospital, second phase upgradation of Mangan public ground, and marketing centre at Phidang, Sangdong and Mangshilla. He has appealed to the people of North Sikkim to have a sense



of ownership and ensure that every infrastructural development in the area is implemented properly.

Earlier, while delivering the welcome speech, Secretary-RMDD, DR Nepal, underlined about Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. He also highlighted about the achievements of the State in different fields.

Further, it was informed during the programme that

Mangan Nagar Panchayat has been nominated as the first open defecation free Panchayat by the Central Government. Also in the function, NHPC Teesta-IV handed over Rs 20 lakh to the district hospital at Mangan.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by cabinet colleagues, Chief Secretary, MLAs and the heads of various departments.

Sikkim's Mangal Jit Rai to head NCDFI



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 14 JUL:

National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd [NCDFI], the apex body of dairy cooperatives, elected the Directors and Chairperson of the NCDFI in a special general body meeting

held at Anand in Gujarat on 13 Jul. Mangal Jit Rai who has been representing Sikkim Milk Union on the Board of NCDFI since February 2014 has been elected unanimously as Chairperson of NCDFI, a press release informs.

Mr Rai has conveyed his sincere appreciation

and gratitude to the Directors of the NCDFI for reposing faith in him and also thanked the millions of milk producers who are the grass root members of the dairy cooperatives affiliated to NCDFI for their continuous support to the NCDFI's activities.

DSA condemns CM's statement on BL land protection since it ignores Sherpas

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

Denzong Sherpa Association [DSA] has strongly condemned the statement of the Chief Minister given during the Janta Mela programme at Mangan in North Sikkim on Friday. The association believes that the statement was irresponsible and unconstitutional.

The Association has referred to the CM's statement wherein he had said that Bhutia-Lepcha land cannot be bought by members of other communities.

DSA has been demanding the protection of land belonging to Sherpa community under Revenue Order No 1 which provides such protection to land belonging to the Bhutia-Lepcha communities of the State. The Sherpa community is one of the communities that falls under the Bhutia definition but has been left out of the purview of the Revenue Order No 1.

Addressing a press conference today, DSA spokesperson, Passang Sherpa, stated that the ill informed argument placed by the CM has

immensely hurt the sentiments of Sherpa community of Sikkim.

"The inclusion of Sherpa community within the definition of Bhutia is a historical fact dating back to 1891, when the first ever popular census was conducted in Sikkim. The Land Revenue Order No 1 came into existence much later in the year 1917. Therefore, the Sherpa community is well within the definition of Bhutia even before the Land Act was introduced in 1917," he stated.

Mr Sherpa mentioned that if the CM is of the opinion that only Bhutia and Lepcha communities are covered by Revenue Order No 1 then it is a threat to other communities such as Lachungpa, Lachenpa, Chumbipa, Dothapa, Dukpa, Kagatay, Khangsarpa, Tromopa, Sherpa, Yolmo and Tibetan as they are not defined under Revenue Order No 1.

"The demand for protection of the land belonging to Sherpa community under Revenue Order No 1 is a legitimate demand which is pending for last 40 years," he stressed.

He added that as the CM is an ad-

vocate of Article 371F and Old Laws, he should be aware that the Land Acquisition Act 2005 introduced by his government in Sikkim has given freehand to outside companies and outsiders to buy land belonging to any community in Sikkim.

He stated that the ill conceived statement made by the CM was because of the recent representation made by the Sherpa community to the Union government. He added that the Union government has taken the demands of Sherpa community seriously and has assured the protection and restoration of illegally transferred land back to the Sherpa community.

The DSA has also appealed to all BL MLAs to table a bill in the upcoming monsoon session to provide land protection to the Sherpa community under Revenue Order No 1. He added that the failure to bring such a bill in the next Assembly session will amount to betrayal and they will be completely responsible for any resulting fissures within the BL communities.

Officers review DAAV work at Mamley Kamrang

SUMMIT REPORT
NAMCHI, 15 JUL:

A team led by District Collector-South and comprising of Sub Divisional Magistrate Headquarter, Deputy Director-Human Resource Development Department, Child Development Project Officer-Namchi, Block Development Officer-Namchi, Assistant Engineer-Namchi BAC, Training Officer and other field staffs visited Mamley Kamrang GPU in South Sikkim today to review the ongoing works under District Administration's Adopted Village [DAAV] programme.

As per a press release from the South district administration, a series of landslides were seen along the stretch of the under construction Chamgaon road under PMGSY.

Reckless dumping of debris was also observed

along the stretch causing threat to some houses of the area.

Further, the footpath has been washed away due to dumping, thus forcing commuters to use a dangerous slide area to walk through. A meeting to resolve the issue will be held on 17 Jul with all the stakeholders.

Some portion of the Chamgaon Primary School was found damaged by the recent heavy rainfall for which repair works have been sanctioned through DLRC in convergence with MGNREGA.

The roof of the ICDS centre at Upper Mangley had also been damaged and the repair and restoration works for the same have also been sanctioned.

The DC South also conducted a meeting with the Panchayats of Mamley Kamrang GPU during the

visit in order to review the status of the ongoing works sanctioned under DAAV.

The DC South has directed SDM HQ to call a meeting with all the departments and ask for the work plan as well as current status of progress. The next visit for inspection is scheduled after 15 Aug.

The DC has directed the concerned BLO to conduct a special drive for electoral inclusion of the new eligible left out voters. Similarly, Aadhaar enrolment will also be done in consultation with the Panchayats. A day long programme for LED purchase will also be conducted as per the demands of the public for total LED village.

The public of the GPU reiterated about the stalled Fossil Park Project. In this regard, a meeting with the Tourism Depart-

ment, Mines and Geology Department and the concerned Contractor will be conducted soon to kick start the stalled work.

The Panchayats have also requested the DC South to direct the Roads Department to clear the blocked drains so that the cleanliness drive can be conducted by the public, the release adds.

Further it was found that there was no footpath connecting Chamgaon PS and Upper Mamley PS. The terrain seemed to pose danger as the entire stretch was slippery. Hence it has been decided that a footpath will be constructed through MGNREGA considering the difficulty in commuting along the stretch.

It was decided during the visit that renovation of the GPU will be done

turn to pg05

Contd from pg01

On the other hand, the anti-project people requested the Chief Minister to scrap the project and let the 6 km stretch of free flowing Teesta remain as it is.

Norden Tshering Lepcha from Hee-Gyathang said that people of the area have still not recovered completely from the 2011 earthquake and this project would only pose further threat to the area and its population.

Panchayat president, Samroo Ugen Lepcha, informed that they have already submitted a petition calling for the project to be scrapped and do not even want to conduct the

Gram Sabha on FRA as the majority of the people have opposed the project.

People of Lum have been suffering for the last 17 years due to the devastation caused by Teesta Stage V and NHPC has always failed in fulfilling its promises, alleged Panchayat Lum, Tshering Gyatso Lepcha.

Representatives of Self Help Groups and government employees of Dzongu also addressed the meeting opposing the project.

Speaking to the pro-project people, the Chief Minister said that the state government has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Teesta

Stage IV project. The project has been delayed because of public opinion on its implementation being divided, he said and urged for coordination amongst the public.

"We will provide maximum benefits to the people from the project," said the CM further urging people to maintain peace in the area.

While addressing the anti-project group, the CM said that the MoU for the Teesta Stage IV was signed along with the Teesta Stage III during the year 2006 with National Hydroelectric Power Project (NHPC).

Now, without the consent of the people this project

cannot be implemented, he stated.

The CM also held a meeting with the Panchayats, Pipons and Mangan Nagar Panchayat Councilors.

He also announced that nine affected villages of Teesta Stage III will be adopted by the government for 35 years and 1 MW electricity will be provided free to these villages and all the affected workers holding Sikkim Subject engaged in Teesta Urja will be provided employment in the Power Department.

The Chief Minister also met the public of Dzongu, Lachen-Mangan and Kabi-Lungtsok constituencies.

Gangtok on Sunday, 16 July

Temp: 27°C / 20°C
Forecast: Interval of clouds and sunshine with chances of showers and a thunderstorm.
Sunrise: 04:50 AM
Sunset: 06:32 PM

Delhi's Momo festival returns with much more fun and a bar

NEW DELHI, JUL 15 (PTI): City's annual momo festival is back -- this time with over 100 variants of the round steamed South Asian delicacy.

From mayo to garlic chutney, and bhel chat to beetroot, the three day festival that began yesterday, has momos for everybody.

25 momo koisks have been set up to offer anything from momo burgers in creamy sauce to Italian momo pizzas.

"Being one of the best street food for Delhiites, the restaurants and vendors serving momos are experimenting with different food items and with this festival they get recognition on a larger scale.

"We will soon be taking it to other cities," says Shantanu Verma, founder of GoBuzzinga, which is organising the festival.

With Yudin- Darjeeling Steamers offering 'open momos', visitors can customise the dumplings with stuffing of their choice, along with four different sauces.

"We are trying to mould this dish from our native land into a healthier option," says Shivangi, the owner of the stall.

Poku, that draws its inspiration from Himachali cuisine while experimenting with European dishes at the same time, is serving soft dumplings coated with Italian white and red sauce.

Pradeep Kumar, co-founder of Poku says, such festivals help us promote our brand.

"During such festivals our joint grabs much more eyeballs and there is possibility of doing better business. We try experimenting with momos in every possible way to give our customers a unique experience," says Kumar.

From spicy lemon momos to sweet pan and shrimp and achaari momos, the festival has a good balance of steam, fried, tandoori, gravy, vegetarian and non-vegetarian options.

The festival is set to continue till July 16.

State obligated to consider regularization of temp employees: HC

Contd from pg01 policy decision taken by the state government.

Since 2014, more than 6,000 temporary employees have been regularised on the basis of the government policy. It may be recalled that the state government had decided to regularise temporary employees in three phases. In the first phase, temporary employees who have served in the state government for more than 15 years and above were to be regularised and in the second phase, those with 10 years and above of service were to be regularised.

In the third phase, employees who have served for 5 years and above will be regularised.

GANGTOK, 15 JUL [IPR]: The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs organised a general meeting with various members of the Sports Association of Sikkim at the conference hall of Paljor Stadium today. The meeting was conducted to discuss the agendas put forward by the Department and was chaired by Secretary-S&YAD, SD Dhakal.

Highlighting the main issues regarding sports sector in the state, he



talked about the 'Khelo India' programme of the Center which aids the upliftment of sports in the State. Various agendas

were discussed during the meeting including the planning of the annual calendar of activities by the member associations and S&YAD. The prepared calendar of events is to be later published so that public can be notified in advance about the various programmes.

Suggestions were put forward on infrastructure, equipments and technical resource persons by presidents of various associations and

officials of the Sports Association of Sikkim.

Annual activities report, audited balance sheet, achievement of National and International event, role of Sikkim Olympic Association and participation at National Games and International Events 2016-2017 were also discussed for which the reports are to be submitted to S&YAD by the various associations of Sikkim.

The general meeting

saw a positive response from members of various sports associations who spoke and assured to work in close association with the concerned department.

The Secretary of S&YAD assured to provide comprehensive support to the different sports associations and work in close union with quarterly meetings being held so that suggestions and close alliance can be maintained.

State level coordination committee for NTCP holds first meeting

ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

The first meeting of the state coordination committee was conducted by the Health Department here today for effective implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme [NTCP] in the State.

The meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, in the presence of Secretary-Health, Dr K Bhandari, Director-Health Services III, Dr Sarita Lama, HODs and senior officers from line departments of the Government of Sikkim.

State Nodal Officer-NTCP, Dr Sarita Lama, gave a brief presentation on various aspects of NTCP and its implementation in the State.

Dr Lama explained the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 and various other rules and regulations that

have been implemented to control the usage of tobacco and its harmful effects on human life.

She further informed that the Health Department has been facing a lot of challenges due to fund related issues as there has been no funding from the Centre since last year.

Secretary-Health Department, Dr Bhandari, in his address said that Sikkim had been declared Smoke Free State in the year 2010. Since then, public smoking has reduced considerably in the State.

"The implementation of NTCP is quite challenging but the department is really working hard to make it a success. And for that controlling the usage of tobacco products and cutting down on its availability is important," he added.

Highlighting on the importance of organising the coordination meet-

ing, Dr Bhandari said that the Health Department alone cannot effectively implement NTCP in the State.

Dr Bhandari further put forward his suggestion to the Transport Department to display anti-tobacco messages on its properties including bus panels, bus stands, bus tickets, etc.

He urged the Tourism Department to develop awareness campaign materials and anti-tobacco messages for display at tourist spots.

The RMDD has been advised by Dr Bhandari to enforce COTP Act via three tier Panchayat Raj Institution in rural areas while the UDHD has been urged to develop "No Smoking" for display at identified places in towns and to ensure these conditions are incorporated in the trade licenses.

Further, the sale of cig-

arette and tobacco products within 100 yards of any educational institution is to be prohibited.

Chief Secretary, AK Shrivastava, said that for proper implementation NTCP requires the involvement of everyone and every department has a different role to play for the same.

He raised concern over the challenges being faced by various departments over the increasing issue of drug abuse.

He also suggested that a regular report on violation of any of the laws should be presented at every meeting.

He also emphasized on conducting various sensitization programmes and urged the concerned departments to involve Panchayats to sensitize people in the rural villages including Primary Health Centres.

Pema's Gym felicitates strength lifters



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

Pema's Gym in Martam, East Sikkim felicitated its members today for their outstanding performances in the recently held 2nd Senior, Junior and Masters Strength Lifting & Incline Bench Press Championship held at White Hall gym.

In the championship, Pema's Gym members, Tika Ram Lohar, lifted the

title of junior champion and Homnath Shivakoti was adjudged as master champion. Pema's Gym was also awarded with the runners-up trophy in the team championship.

Pema's Gym was started by former Mr Sikkim and international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia in 2013 at Martam in East Sikkim. The main objective behind establishing the gym in a rural area was to encourage the youth of

Martam towards healthy and productive activities.

It is informed that Pema's Gym members, Homnath Shivakoti, Khem Adhikari, Milan Sharma, Tashi Topden Bhutia, Thinley Dorjee Bhutia, Pural Laishom, Ishan Gurung, Thinley Wangdi Bhutia, Kalzang Sangay Bhutia and Abishek Pradhan have also been selected for the upcoming national competition to be held in Guwahati later this month.

NALSA tribal rights and legal services schemes launched in Mangan

MANGAN, 15 JUL [IPR]: National Legal Services Authority [NALSA-Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights] Scheme, 2015 and NALSA [Legal Services to Senior Citizens] Scheme, 2016 was launched in North Sikkim today at the community hall in Mangan by Judge, High Court of Sikkim-cum-Executive Chairperson, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, in the presence of Judge-High Court of Sikkim, Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan.

District & Sessions Judge-cum-Chairperson, DLSA [North], Prajwal Khatiwada, in his welcome address, informed that the scheme is to facilitate the tribal people's access to justice, social, economic and political as mentioned in our Constitution so the scheme is aimed at ensuring that their rights are protected.

Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, in her speech,



expressed happiness over active participation of students and local dignitaries in the programme.

She added that sexual assault and drug abuse have become a menace and every individual of the society needs to join hands to combat these evils.

Meanwhile, Panel Advocate, SSLSA, Jorgay Namka, spoke on NALSA [Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights] Scheme 2015 while Panel Advocate Rita Sharma spoke on NALSA [Legal Services to Senior Citizens] Scheme 2016.

The programme, or-

ganized by the SSLSA also saw sensitization on Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 and Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 by the Panel Advocates, SSLSA, TR Barfungpa and Zola Megi, respectively.

The programme also saw interaction on legal issues wherein judges along with resource person answered the queries put up by the participants.

Judicial Magistrate, Mangan/ Chungthang, Secretary, DLSA/N, Bebi-ka Chettri, coordinated the programme and delivered the vote of thanks.

AFFIDAVIT

By this deed I, the undersigned Rukmani Ghyongtep previously called Rukmani Pradhan, Rukmani Bhutia & Ruk Mani Ghyongtep doing as a retired Government Employee and permanent resident of Below Kessang Hotel, Upper Singithang, Namchi, South Sikkim 737126, P.O. & P.S. Namchi, South Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That for and on behalf of myself and my parents and remitter issue, I wholly renounce/ relinquish and abandon the use of my former name/surname of Rukmani Pradhan, Rukmani Bhutia & Ruk Mani Ghyongtep and in place thereof. I do hereby assume from this date the name /surname Rukmani Ghyongtep so that I and my parents and remitter issue may hereafter be called, known and distinguished not by my former name/surname, but assume name/surname of Rukmani Ghyongtep.

2. That for the purpose of evidencing such my determination declare that I shall at all times hereafter in all records, deeds and writings

and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name of Rukmani Ghyongtep as my name/surname in place and in substitution of my former name/surname.

3. That I express authorise and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular, at all times hereafter to designate and address me, my parents and remitter issue by such assumed name/surname of Rukmani Ghyongtep accordingly.

4. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my former and adopted name/surname of Rukmani Ghyongtep and affix my signature and seal, if any, this 14th day of July 2017.

Signed sealed and delivered by the above name
 Former Name: Rukmani Pradhan, Rukmani Bhutia & Ruk Mani Ghyongtep.
 Date: 14th day of July 2017.

Sd/-
 DEPONENT



SIKKIM URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
 GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK
 FILE NO:1(158)NULM/17-18

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Request for proposals invited from reputed firms for setting up and operating a State Mission Management Unit (SMMU) under Deendayal Anthyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission in Sikkim.

1. The RFP document can downloaded from www.sikkimurbandevelopmentagency.org and should be submitted alongwith a D.D of Rs 1000/- drawn in favour of the Director, SUDA, Urban Development & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim.
2. The last date for receipt of RFP is 19.07.2017 at 1600 hrs. It can be sent through speed post/registered post/courier/submission by hand, however no drop box facility is available. It should be addressed to the Mission Director, DAY-NULM, UD&HD, Govt. of Sikkim-737101.
3. Date and time for opening RFP: 21.07.2017 at 1100 hrs.
4. The proposals shall be accompanied by a TDR amounting to Rs. 20,000/- as EMD. The Director, SUDA, UD&HD reserves the right to change the terms and conditions, select or reject any application without assigning any reason thereof.
5. For further information:-

MISSION DIRECTOR, DAY-NULM
UD&HD, Government of Sikkim
Gangtok, Sikkim-737101
Phone No: 9434410804
Email: udhdsikkim@gmail.com

SummitTIMES

Repairs Alone Will Not Do

For the long run, roads here need customized solutions

The monsoon, even though the drizzle has been sustained, has been relatively weak thus far. Its lashings have been varying in intensity over various parts of Sikkim and the region as over the rest of the country. And yet, even this subdued season of downpours, has been strong enough to convert culverts into raging rapids and jhoras into torrents bringing down boulders, washing away alignments, sweeping aside retaining walls, pouring down at least one landslide of enormous volume and catching the concerned agencies wrong-footed yet again.

The monsoon remains moody, but its impact on daily life in Sikkim remains consistent in its ability to impose disruptions. The fragility of Sikkim's mountains contribute to the instability of the roads and the precariousness of the houses here, but the most substantial role in the annual ritual of blocked drains and roads is played by the continuing prioritizing of repairs over solutions and the triumph of ignorance over science. Deploying work gangs to clear drains, bull-dozer to clear away debris and investing tonnes of stones and crores of rupees in erecting retaining walls are at best, short-term measures providing immediate relief. Unfortunately, these have been the only engineering skills applied to the annual assault of slush and debris that roads here come under. Much more refined science should have been applied to fortify Sikkim's roads by now. The level of preparedness should have evolved into a multidisciplinary exercise by now. The problem is obviously not only in the intensity of the monsoons or the vehicular stress on the roads. Worsening the situation is the degradation of the catchment areas, the weakening of the jhoras [through quarrying and encroachments, for example], the obvious seismic activity [which, it appears, no one bothers to keep track of or share information about anymore], and, of course, the still only sketchily understood reasons behind load limits for different roads.

Those responsible for the care of roads have to realize that roads can be tended properly only if all these aspects are factored in and the reasons behind at least the traditional trouble-spots understood better. Solutions will have to then be devised through interventions from all fields and disciplines and not just by throwing more stones and more crores into repairs. Even the technology deployed for repairs appears to be as archaic, if not even older, than the vintage of the roads themselves.

The alternate highway supposedly sanctioned for Sikkim will be helpful, but remains still an assurance, and one must still bear in mind that even this alternative will snake through the same hills, and will be managed by the same agencies, ergo, will be beset by the same problems and limitations. Repairs are necessary, but for the long run, customized solutions are required.

Now is the Summer of Our Discontent: Memes, National Identity and the Globalisation of Rage

MICHELLE MIELLY
theconversation.com

Memes may be all the rage in these heady days of digital trending, but they're not a new thing. Ever since Richard Dawkins coined the term in his popular 1976 book *The Selfish Gene*, scientists have been putting memes under the microscope.

For Dawkins, memes were discrete units of cultural inheritance (gossip, images, fashion fads, catchphrases) that, by virtue of their rapid dissemination and adoption, drive cultural evolution, just as genes propel forth our biology.

In other words, memes can change the world with "likes" and "shares".

GLOBAL MEME WARS

There's even a field dedicated to their study: memetics considers how certain cultural artefacts go "viral". Mentally and socially "contagious", memes provide immediate, visual expressions of our common humanity as they jump from brain to brain.

Since memes are simplified versions of reality, their intended meaning can be easily subverted or simplified to serve a new political purpose. Hitler's appropriation of the sacred Hindu swastika, which symbolised well-being, is a prime example.

Once the brain makes the memetic association, it's next to impossible for it to restore the original content. What traveller doesn't think of the Nazis when they see swastikas at holy sites across Southeast Asia?

This is how memes are helping to redraw the boundaries of what constitutes acceptable political discourse, particularly since the 2016 US presidential election, when meme wars raged between left and right.

These online battles, which continue today in America, skewering everyone from the news network CNN to Trump supporters and Hillary enthusiasts, came to France, too, just in time for its 2017 election season.

Memes failed to sway the French citizenry, as several commentators have noted. But France's meme wars demonstrated the transnational influence of the so-called "alt-right" hate groups that managed to transform Pepe the Frog into a racist mouthpiece and, in doing so, set a precedent for future memetic wars.

THE ALT-RIGHT RISES ONLINE

The meme maelstrom is pushing us to rethink questions of national identity that have been with us for quite some time.

Since the Enlightenment, Western scholars have largely been sympathetic to the notion of an international, cosmopolitan identity shared by a global citizenry. This was the view promoted in Martha Nussbaum's 1994 essay on cosmopolitan education, in which she promotes the "embrace of humanity" wherever it is encountered, "undeterred

by traits that are strange", and an eagerness to "understand humanity in its 'strange' guises."

That same year, Homi K. Bhabha's *Location of Culture* theorised that cosmopolitans inhabited a hybrid "third space", comfortably in the interstice between two national cultures or passport identities.

The historian and anthropologist James Clifford, too, saw that Western identity was at a crossroads in the late 20th century. His *Predicament of Culture* (1988) described modern identity as one that "is always, to varying degrees, 'inauthentic': caught between cultures, implicated in others".

What these cultural critics missed as they gazed across the planet at the height of globalisation was that some elements then just barely on the horizon – including the pain and anger of a less privileged, untraveled, often rural electorate – would soon build serious momentum.

Nor did their visions include the digital advent of an array of anti-cosmopolitan provocateurs,

those who remain beyond the reach of liberal cosmopolitanism.

Triggered by the influx of new and diverse populations, the conservative instinct seeks out familiarity and attempts to ward off foreignness more intensely than the average. Now, thanks to memes and social media, these defensive impulses can spiral outward much faster, and hit a lot harder.

FREE SPEECH OR HATE SPEECH?

The use of memes to promote hate complements more traditional forms of communication, such as physical poster boards, signage and advertising. We can see their confluence at universities around the globe.

In May 2017, leaders of an Anglo-Afrikaaner student group at South Africa's Stellenbosch University updated, in meme-like fashion, old Nazi propaganda posters to publicise their group.

Spurring a debate on privacy, free speech and social media, the college meme war has even gone

Ivy League, a surprising twist in the narrative of the dispossessed.

In June 2017, Harvard announced that it would withdraw offers made to ten admitted freshmen for starting a Class of 2021 Facebook group that promoted offensive memes that "mocked sexual assault, the Holocaust and the deaths of children".

Harvard is not alone. Across the United States, college campuses are ablaze with the debate over what constitutes free speech versus hate speech, demonstrating that we are not at the beginning of something new here, but rather well immersed already in a cultural identity war.

BANALISING EVIL

Unlike Nussbaum and other cultural critics, American philosopher Richard Rorty (1931-2007) foresaw the dangers of turning a blind eye to America's underprivileged.

In the 1990s, he envisioned an environment of "sadism[]" which the academic Left has tried to make unacceptable to its students, will come flooding back".

Ten years after his death, Rorty's dual predictions that "the gains made in the past forty years by black and brown Americans and by homosexuals will be wiped out" and that "contempt for women will come back into fashion" are now bearing out.

While many of his contemporaries dismissed or ignored Rorty's dire predictions, philosopher Hannah Arendt had also foreseen these identity wars, as early as 1963.

Dissecting the trail of war criminal Adolf Eichmann, Arendt observed the systemic failure to think among Nazis and their followers and concluded, famously, that evil can easily be banalized.

As we now know only too well, evil can easily become banal online, too.

[the writer is Associate Professor in People, Organizations, Society, Grenoble École de Management (GEM)]



from conservative intellectuals, hackers, reactionaries and anarchists to anti-Semites, fascists, Islamophobes and homophobes, who would eventually form the alt-right.

Fake news and dark memes are not limited to the West, nor to any one political leaning, of course. Many other democracies, some of them secular, are struggling with their own multicultural identities.

The disenfranchised of the world don't celebrate their global citizenship; they take their political rage to the internet. The Arab world is grappling with online calls to jihadism, and India with violent nationalism that has spawned a wave of Hindu attacks on Muslims.

From Reddit to 4Chan, the anti-cosmopolitans can voice their anti-establishment views anonymously loosening or dispatching entirely with the straitjacket of political correctness.

All of this reflects what author Pankaj Mishra calls the "globalisation of rage". His new book, *Age of Anger*, explores the paranoia, hatred, and pain of

Explainer: What are 'creepshots' and what can we do about them?

ANDREA WALING
theconversation.com

The "creepshot" is the latest trend concerning the non-consensual image-sharing of women. A creepshot – a photo taken discreetly of women in public by men – is provoking questions concerning rights to privacy in public, and ethical concerns about technology and bodily autonomy.

WHAT ARE 'CREEPSHOTS'?

MetaReddit/Creepshots defines creepshots as: "... the natural, raw sexiness of the subject without their vain attempts at putting on a show for the camera... Use stealth, cunning and deviousness to capture the beauty of your unsuspecting, chosen target."

A creepshot is focused on women's clothed bodies. Images are sexually suggestive rather than sexually explicit, and are different from other forms of technology-facilitated sexual violence like revenge pornography, upskirting, and unsolicited dick pics. However, the term may be used interchangeably with sexually explicit practices.

The advent of technology has paved the way for devices like the shoe spy camera, camera pens, and Google Glass. These have made it easier for men to photograph unsuspecting women and share those images widely.

There are creepshot websites where men share and compare their images with other men.

WHY DO MEN DO IT?

There is limited research that looks at why men engage in this practice. However, a recent study exploring men's sexual street harassment found that men felt it was a harmless and fun activity, that women enjoyed it, and that women deserved it.

Research has also found men engage in masculine bonding activities involving the sexual denigration of women. Such activities allow men to demonstrate hegemonic masculinity.

At this time we can only speculate why men might choose to take a creepshot. Perhaps it is a way they can bond with men and demonstrate masculinity. Perhaps they view it as harmless, or they have sexual entitlement to women's bodies.

Or, perhaps it is another way to limit women's access to public spaces.

IS IT LEGAL?

As MetaReddit/Creepshots contends: "... there is nothing here that breaks any laws. When you are in public, you do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. We kindly ask women to respect our right to admire your bodies and stop complaining."

Creepshots are not illegal in Australia. The reasonable expectation to privacy does not include public spaces, nor are they considered sexual violence unless involving people under 18.

The secretive nature of the creepshot also means women do not have the opportunity to confront perpetrators, and may put themselves at risk of aggressive retaliation.

Current legal options are limited, but include:

- asking/reporting websites to take material down; or
- demonstrating that the image is defamatory, has violated reasonable expectation to privacy, is an image of a person under 18, or is harassing and offensive.

Despite what some men say, the creepshot is harmful and not a victimless crime. Effort should be made to consider the role creepshots have in the denigration of women, and broader questions concerning privacy, the body, and public spaces.

The claim that admiration is the motivation seems wholly undermined by the effort that goes into hiding the practice.

[the writer is Research Officer, La Trobe University]

SC orders CBI probe into extra-judicial killings in Manipur

New Delhi, Jul 14 (PTI): The Supreme Court today directed a probe by the CBI into the alleged extra-judicial killings by the Army, the Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police in the insurgency-hit state.

A bench of Justices MB Lokur and UU Lalit asked the CBI director to appoint a team of officers to conduct the probe into the alleged killings.

The court was hearing a PIL seeking probe and compensation in the alleged 1,528 extra-judicial killings in Manipur from 2000 to 2012 by security forces and police.

On April 20, the Army had told the apex court that it cannot be subjected to FIRs for carrying out anti-militancy op-

erations in insurgency-prone areas like Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur, while alleging local bias in judicial inquiries conducted against it in these regions, which have tarnished its image.

"In every military operation, the Army cannot be disbelieved. Every judicial inquiry cannot be against the Army. The alleged extra-judicial killing cases in Manipur are not cases of massacre, rather these are cases of military operations," the Centre had told the court.

The bench had also pulled up the Manipur government for not taking action on such alleged fake encounters by armed forces and asked was it "not supposed to do anything".

The Army had told the court that the judicial probes conducted into alleged extra-judicial killing charges were "biased" and slanted against them due to local factors.

It had alleged that the district judges, who were locals, had conducted the judicial inquiries into the alleged killings and local factors came in the way of the probe reports which went against the armed forces.

The court was earlier told that there were 265 cases of deaths which have to be examined and there were various reports of the commission of inquiry in which serious allegations have been levelled against armed forces personnel.

The apex court had earlier

asked the Centre to segregate the cases related to the armed forces from the list of 265 incidents of extra-judicial killings in Manipur.

The Centre had said that out of the 282 cases, which were referred to it for verification, 70 matters were found to be related to the Army and Assam Rifles, while the rest concerned the state police.

In July last year, the apex court had directed a thorough probe into the alleged fake encounter killings in Manipur saying the use of "excessive or retaliatory force" by the armed forces or police was not permissible in 'disturbed areas' under the controversial Armed Force Special Powers Act.

Cattle smuggled from India harming economy of Bangladesh: BGB

SHILLONG, JUL 15 (PTI): Cattle smuggled from India is harming the economy of Bangladesh, a senior officer of Border Guards of Bangladesh said today and formally requested the Border Security Force (BSF) to stop it.

"Actually it (cattle smuggling) is harming our economy.

If it doesn't come from India then our dairy farmers can go up and we can take care of ourselves," BGB Region Commander Addl Director General Md Zahid Hasan told reporters here.

He said, "We have requested BSF to stop smuggling and a lot of other related issues

can be resolved by that."

The BGB officer who attended the four-day BSF-BGB Border Coordination Conference here also admitted that cattle smuggling was one of the agendas of the conference.

Stating that cattle all by itself cannot walk across the border, Hasan said, "We have requested that such kind of smuggling be stopped because these cattle are coming from deep inside from within India and from West of India."

The BGB region commander and the Meghalaya frontier BSF IG P K Dubey also met Meghalaya's Director General of

Police S B Singh and discussed about the issue of cattle smuggling and cross border crimes.

"Action plan has been drawn on intelligence sharing on real time basis on criminal activities on either side of the border, both the forces will promptly act," Hasan said.

The BGB commander has also raised the issue of firing by BSF personnel on Bangladesh nationals.

"There are few in our areas of concern which we have discussed. Some of the incidents categorically were brought before the discussion. We have discussed the issue and we have

agreed on certain issues on that and hopefully that will come down to zero," he said.

The Meghalaya Frontier BSF IG P K Dubey said border related issues were discussed in details and efforts have been taken to curb trans-border crimes.

"Our main concerns were killing of innocent Bangladeshi nationals and smuggling of drugs, and also to find out the modalities to build our relationships," he said.

The BSF-BGB conference takes place twice a year and the last one was held in Sylhet in November.

PD Rai calls on Centre to recognize Sikkim's sandwiched situation

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim, PD Rai, urged the Centre to take cognizance of the state of Sikkim being sandwiched between the Gorkhaland movement and the Doklam standoff in the meeting called by Union Minister for External Affairs, Sush-

ma Swaraj with all Members of Parliament on the ongoing Doklam standoff with China.

Also present in the meeting were Minister of Defence and Finance, Arun Jaitley and former Prime Minister, HD Deve Gowda.

A press release informs that Mr Rai also pointed out the shortage

of essential commodities like sugar and rice in Sikkim and Chinese media reports fueling anti-national feelings in Sikkim and elsewhere which is a matter of great concern.

MP Rajya Sabha, Hissay Lachungpa also brought out the need for infrastructure development at the border areas

to ensure quick response to any exigency. Both MPs reiterated that the issue of Gorkhaland needs to be resolved at the earliest to bring stability in the region. This is the view expressed by the CM, Pawan Chamling in all his letters to the Government of India, the release mentions. The Foreign Secre-

tary, S. Jaishankar stated that there were differences but no tension at the border and the Government is using all diplomatic channels to resolve the matter. The Indian Government is effectively engaging with Chinese counterparts to maintain status quo at the border and ensure that the

Batangla tri-junction between India, Bhutan and China is not disturbed.

The unanimous view of leaders of all political parties present was to ensure restraint on both sides and the resolution through negotiations via diplomatic channels with the Chinese Government at the earliest, the release adds.



RS MP meets Gorkhaland activists at Rangpo

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 15 JUL:

"SAFETY TO SIKKIMESE public and vehicles should be a priority always," said Rajya Sabha MP, Hissey Lachungpa, during his meeting with some Gorkhaland activists of Kalimpong at Rangpo today.

Mr Lachungpa was accompanied by SDF general secretaries, GM Gurung and Tenzing Sherpa, and vice convener [youth], Sandeep Chettri.

Mr Lachungpa talked about the bill passed in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in 2011 supporting the demand for separate state of Gorkhaland. The Gorkha representatives also requested the MP to place their demand and the current situation of Hills to Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh.

He further added that the SDF government under the leadership of Pawan Chamling had given a very responsible

statement on the demand for a separate state for Gorkhas.

"We all are in support of his statement which is based on constitutional rights and historical facts," he added.

Mr Lachungpa suggested that constructive agitation and not destructive would help the movement. He strongly condemned the act of hooligans who had vandalized and looted Sikkimese vehicles at Siliguri.

"For the safe passage of Sikkimese vehicles carrying essential commodities and for national security reasons as well, the West Bengal Government should give highest priority to secure movement along NH10," said Mr Lachungpa.

Before leaving for New Delhi, he had a small meeting with the Taxi Owners and Drivers Association of Bagdogra and appealed to them to cooperate with Sikkim vehicles.

EFFD team visits schools, ICDS and PHSCs in South

SUMMIT REPORT

NAMCHI, 15 JUL:

Under Each Friday Field Day programme, a team of officials led by the District Collector-South visited schools, ICDS centres and PHSCs in South District to make an assessment for the Best School, ICDS and PHSC Award today.

The team comprised of Joint Director-HRDD, Chief Medical Officer-South, Deputy Director-HRDD, Sub Divisional Magistrate-Yangang, Block Development Officer-Yangang, Child Development Project Officer-Ravangla, Assistant Director-Yangang, Training Officer, Junior Engineer and other field staffs of various departments.

A press release of the DC-South informs that the condition of Mangley PHSC had improved with clean environment. However, due to recent incessant rainfall, the roof of the PHSC was found to be leaking. Accordingly, repair and restoration work will be sanctioned through DLRC in convergence with MGNREGA. This was the second round of verification of the PHSC for the Best PHSC Award.

The PHSC at Sripatam was

excellently maintained. The protection wall on the back side was found to be sinking, as such, restoration and repair works was sanctioned through DLRC.

Further during the visit, the school structure of Upper Neh Primary School was found to be in a dilapidated condition. It was learnt that there was only one unit toilet in the school. Hence, JD HRDD was requested to look into the matter and see if Swachh Bharat toilet was sanctioned for the school or is stalled due to some reason.

The JD also informed that one structure sanctioned for Brum School had been canceled. The Secretary HRDD will be requested to include the same construction of structure for Neh School. The school footpath has been washed away due to water logging and its repair work will be sanctioned through MGNREGA.

Lingmoo Senior Secondary School was also included for 2nd round assessment under Best School Award. It was learnt that the NSS unit of the school had come 1st amongst 10 schools at the National level and student had also partici-

pated in Yoga Conclave at New Delhi during International Yoga Week.

It was observed that the school was well run by the Principal. The facelift was pleasing with a huge transformation as compared to last year. The school had made tremendous progress in each sector and had further secured CCTV camera at the school premises.

During the visit to Lingmoo, it was learnt that the outpost had been provided with table and chair by the Panchayats which was encouraging. The team also inspected the auditorium hall sanctioned during the CM's 40-day Sikkim tour.

Further during the visit, a meeting was conducted by the DC South at Lower Niya Secondary School with all teachers and students of Xth standard. The DC South briefed the gathering about the main motive of District Integrated School Help by Administration [DISHA]. He emphasized the fact that DISHA focused less on infrastructures.

He informed that eight schools from each Block were selected under DISHA. He re-

quested the teachers to have a different approach in teaching towards good students and below average students. He urged the school to conduct weekly tests to make the students well acquainted with exam style. Diagnostic test with strategically focused topics which were of utmost importance during Boards will be asked in the tests.

The routine for teaching pattern was also divided with certain target given to teachers to complete the syllabus so that the diagnostic test could be conducted for students to assess the progress and help improve accordingly.

It was also informed that monthly tests will be conducted by Deputy Director-HRDD and the answers will be checked by teachers of other schools. The DC South urged the students to focus more on studies as 10th standard marks will decide their future.

He informed that students securing 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions along with schools and teachers will be awarded at District Level. He requested the school to start painting the walls as the classrooms look dull. The school structure was

damaged in many sections. The MDM kitchen was also in dilapidated condition and needed repair. Hence the fund for repair and restoration would be sanctioned under DLRC in convergence with MGNREGA.

The team found the roof at Lower Niya PHSC to be leaking and damaged by heavy rainfall, hence, the same would be sanctioned through DLRC.

The team later visited SDM Office Yangang. The SDM informed the DC that the inverter was not functioning. The DC has assured that the same will either be repaired or procured as the SDM Office is one of the Control Rooms identified under Incident Response System in the District Disaster Management Plan.

The roof of the ICDS centre at Lower Samruk was also leaking and needed urgent repair. The work will be taken up under DLRC. At the Lower Niya ICDS, it was found that the centre was operating from a rented building. The Deputy Director-Nutrition Cell checked the health of all the children and found that there was no malnourishment in any child.

Landslide hits NH 2 in Nagaland

KOHIMA, JUL 15 (PTI):

A major portion of the National Highway 2 between Nagaland and Manipur was completely washed away today after a landslide occurred near Viswema village in Nagaland's Kohima district, police said.

The landslide occurred in the morning about 200 meters away from Viswema village, a police officer said.

Traffic movement came to a standstill since 70 meters of the road was washed away by the landslide.

National Highway 2 happens to be the lifeline of Manipur since all goods vehicles, passenger vehicles and supplies reach the state through this route.

The villagers have constructed a temporary footpath after the landslide so that people could cross the affected portion.

Efforts were on to repair the road with the help of Border Road Task Force, the police officer said.

Bhanu Jayanti at Modi Public School



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 14 JUL:

The 203rd Birth Anniversary of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya was celebrated at Modi Public School in Siliguri on 13 Jul. Trustee Mem-

bers and Principal paid tribute to the renowned poet by lighting the ceremonial lamp and offering garlands to the portrait of the Aadi Kavi, a press release informs.

Students of Classes 6-10 participated in the Ramayana recitation

session followed by Nepali group songs and dance performance by students of classes 4-5. The poetry recitation programme had the participation of students of Classes 5-10, the release adds.

Officers review DAAV work at Mamley Kamrang

Contd from pg02

soon along with Bamboo beautification. The room for setting up Disaster Management Control Room was also identified.

The visiting team found Tinzir PS to be excellently maintained with 88 students and 14 staff. The computer sets were found to be non functional in the school, hence the same will be repaired through Panchayat Fund as informed by BDO Namchi. The footpath leading towards the school ground was also damaged and its repair work has been sanctioned.

The ICDS centre at Tinzir was also well maintained in the old school building. The CDPO Namchi has been requested to transfer the building to ICDS. The wall and roof were also damaged and will be repaired through DLRC in convergence with MGNREGA.

'Stage-IV will take all aspirations and sentiments into consideration'

Contd from pg01

the project would be implemented taking into consideration the aspirations and sentiments of the people. Gram Sabhas for Forest Rights Act have been conducted and other procedures for acquisition will be conducted in consultation with the people.

Speaking for the project, the landowners said that some of them had opposed the project initially as they were not aware of the benefits of the project. But now having fully understood the benefits of the project, the landowners had

come forward to offer their lands as per government norms.

The representatives of the landowners said that Hydro Power Projects is a clean source of energy and will open a window of opportunities and employment to the local people. The landowners reiterated that the said project will not dilute the rights of the local people as the present Government has taken many initiatives and brought out enough legislations and notifications protecting the rights, culture and heritage of the people of Dzongu.

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India basketball team loses to Iraq in William Jones Cup

BANGALORE, JUL 15 (PTI): Indian men's basketball team suffered a 68-86 loss to Iraq on the opening day of the William Jones Cup here today.

The Indians raced to an early lead after the end of the first quarter, but relinquished it after being outscored 28-13 in the second quarter.

Power forward Amijot Singh Gill put in another standout performance, continuing his good form from the BRICS Games, with 22 points and 6 rebounds.

There were also enthralling displays

from youngsters Gurvinder Singh Gill (10 points and 5 rebounds) and Ambati Prudhishwar Reddy (11 points and 4 assists).

Collectively, the Indian team's shooting from beyond the arc was also very impressive, making 12 three pointers at a 55 per cent conversion rate.

For Iraq, Demaro Aquan Mayfield scored 19 pts, while Ali Hamad and Omar Alazawi scored 17 and 15 points respectively.

The Indian men will play South Korea on Sunday.

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Sanju FA and North Sikkim FA in semis of U-15 football tourney

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:**

Sanju Football Academy has also secured its place in the semi-final round of the ongoing Sikkim Football Association Under-15 knock out Football Tournament 2017 here at Paljor Stadium today.

In the quarter-final match played today, Sanju FA thrashed JVC Football Club, Singtam 4-0. Mingo

Hang Subba scored a brace in the 13th and 26th minute, while his teammates Sudesh Limboo [5th] and Tamchok Hang Subba [17th] added one goal each in the team's victory.

In another quarter-final match played on Friday, North Sikkim Football Academy, Mangan outplayed Gangtok Football Club 3-1 to make its place in the semi-final round. Jho-

pono Lepcha scored a brace for North Sikkim FA in the 26th and 34th minute, while his teammate Goshan Nongomba added one goal in the 51st minute. The solitary goal of Gangtok FC was scored by Pema N Bhutia in the 35th minute.

The first semi-final match will be played between North Sikkim FA and Sikkim Himalayan Sporting Club, Gangtok on 16 Jul.

SFA C-Div Sikkim League update

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:**

Helipad Football Club went down to United Nandok Football Club 1-2 today in the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C Division Sikkim-League here at Paljor Stadium. Norzang Lepcha and Zigdal Lepcha scored a goal each for United Nandok FC, while the only goal for Helipad FC was scored by Sonam Tshering Sherpa.

In the second match, Korinthain Football Club thrashed North Hill United 5-1. Kaziman Thapa scored a hat-trick for Korinthain FC, while his teammate Smile Diwali and Moses Namchoy contributed a goal each.



Likewise, Passang Sherpa scored a brace for North Hill United FC.

On 14 Jul, Tathangchen Football Club had outplayed Tadong Yargay Football Club 4-1 in the first match. Bishok Subba, Wangchuk Dorjee, Tshering Dhendup and Rinzing Chopel contributed a goal each for Tathangchen FC, while the lone goal of Tadong Yargay FC was scored by Zigmi Bhutia.

In another match, Kumar Sporting Club defeat-

ed Gangtok Sporting Club 4-1. S Thapa scored a hat-trick for Kumar Sporting Club, while one more goal was added by his teammate, Dipesh Mangar. Likewise, Rapden Lepcha scored a goal for Gangtok Sporting Club.

On 16 Jul, Almost 30 will take on United Sports Culture Association in the first match, which will followed by another match between Khatarnak FC and EPL.



Karman one win away from maiden ITF singles title

NEW DELHI, JUL 15 (PTI):

Karman Kaur Thandi earned herself an opportunity to win her maiden ITF singles title by breezing into the final of the USD 25000 ITF event in Niman, China on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian stormed past fifth seed Xinyu Gao 6-1 6-1 in a matter of 68 minutes to reach her third singles final and first at this level.

Twice she has reached the singles finals but those were USD 10,000 events in Hua Hin (October 2026) and Indore (December 2015).

She has won three ITF doubles titles so far.

The 19-year-old broke her rival five times in the match and saved the only breakpoint she faced.

Karman said the

scoreline suggests an easy win but the reality was different.

"It was not easy, she's ranked 210. I was very focussed and calm on the court since I knew it won't be easy. I knew I can't get loose on any point and have to keep intensity high and fight every point," Karman, a Delhi University student, told PTI after her match.

Further elaborating on the match, the 413th ranked player said, "I served well and was dominating the match. I didn't give her any chance to dominate. Even on her serve my returns were good and deep."

She will now battle it out with China's Jing Jing Lu, who ended the run of Japan's Miyabi Inoue 6-4 6-4 in a tight semifinal.

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 15 JUL:**

New executive committee of Football Clubs Association of Sikkim [FCAS] has reiterated its commitment towards working for the betterment of the sport and to bring more professionalism in Sikkim football.

The committee has also decided to immediately start working from the grassroots level onwards to provide a better platform to promising and skilled footballers from all corners of the State.

The new executive committee of FCAS is led by Devendra Gurung as president and has Sumeet Thirani as general secretary. They were elected during the annual general meeting of FCAS held on 08 July. The AGM was at-

tended by representatives of different football clubs of the State.

Likewise, Subash Tamang, Palden Bhutia, Pawan Rai and Ugen Lepcha have been appointed as vice-presidents, Khituk Tongden Lepcha and Nim Tshering Lepcha as joint secretaries, Pravash Sewa as coordinator [west], Shisil Karthak as treasurer and Susant Subba as legal advisor. The executive members include KC Dadul and Tara Pradhan. It is informed that other vacant posts will be filled up in days to come.

Addressing a press conference recently, the FCAS general secretary, Mr Thirani, stated that the main objective of the FCAS is to work for the betterment of Sikkim football and to further improve the standard of football in the State. He added that the FCAS will also work towards bringing professionalism in Sikkim football.

"We will immediately start working from the block level in the State. Our main focus is to work from grassroots and school level to bring skilful footballers from

all corners of the State," he said.

Mr Thirani stated that Sikkim Football Association also assures to work on the suggestion of the FCAS to amend its constitution in order to make it player and people friendly.

"We are also going to the districts to meet officials and representatives of various clubs to discuss and deliberate on various issues related to football in the state," he said.

He added that the FCAS will take various issues faced by the clubs in different districts to the SFA and Sports & Youth

Affairs Department.

FCAS is not a rival or parallel body to any association but is only working for the betterment of Sikkim football, clarified Mr Thirani.

He suggested that the SFA should conduct league football from the district level next year. A proper online centralized registration system that will maintain proper records and data of footballers was another suggestion.

FCAS has also suggested that the SFA head towards professional football and not remain confined to amateur

football. It has suggested that only registered clubs should be allowed to play in the State league and other tournaments of the SFA from next year onwards to improve the standard of football.

FCAS president, Mr Gurung shared plans to promote professionalism in clubs and to bring our more professional footballers from the State. He encouraged various clubs of the State to complete their registration process to promote professionalism in the club and also assured support in the registration process.

Pattnaik resumes agitation after discharged from hospital

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 15 (PTI): A day after he was discharged from hospital, renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik resumed his agitation on the Puri beach today demanding immediate steps to make the area pollution free.

The globally acclaimed sand sculptor went on a hunger strike on Puri beach since Tuesday protesting beach pollution near Bankimuhan.

He was admitted to a private hospital here after he became ill on Thursday.

Pattnaik today said that his students continued with the dharna when he was in hospital. "I visited the dharna site yesterday evening after I was discharged from the hospital. I have now joined them since I have recovered from illness," he said.

The artist said he was happy that his efforts



yielded results since the government swung into action and initiated steps to clean the 'highly polluted' beach.

A tender has also been floated for divert-

ing the waste water at Bankimuhan, he said.

He also said that the agitation would continue to ensure that the area is made completely pollution free through speedy action.

Stressing that temporary measures would be of little use, Pattnaik said the problem was primarily caused due to the defunct waste water treatment plant at Bankimuhan.

The sand artist also said that he had decided to launch the agitation after his request to Odisha government for measures to save the area from pollution went unheeded.

Bindra seeks helpline for touring Indian athletes

NEW DELHI, JUL 15 (PTI): India's lone individual Olympic gold-medallist Abhinav Bindra has requested the Sports Ministry to set up a helpline for athletes travelling abroad to avoid the kind of hardships that para-swimmer Kanchanmala Pande faced recently due to lack of timely help.

Pande was forced to borrow money from fellow swimmers during the Para Swimming Championships in Berlin after the funds sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India did not reach her on time.

Bindra helped Pande get a scholarship after the incident through a Foundation, he is part of.

"The recent incident of our paralympic athlete in Berlin raised a larger question of athlete management. Things like these continue to happen in Indian sport and leaves everyone in a bad taste and overshadows a lot of good work that is done," Bindra said in his letter to Sports Minister Vijay Goel.

"In this regard I have a suggestion: The creation of a helpline for all athletes especially when in a foreign country to solve matters of extreme concern and having a contingency fund for unforeseen situations to provide just in time support to athletes would be a fantastic initiative to be taken up by the sports ministry," he added.

Climate change to have devastating effect in Asia: Study

NEW DELHI, JUL 15 (PTI): Climate change would bring devastating consequences to countries in the Pacific and Asia, a new report has warned and said Southern India may witness a decline in rice yields by five per cent in 2030s.

Unabated climate change could severely affect the future growth of these countries, reverse current development gains, and degrade quality of life, the report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) claimed.

According to the report,

Asia has the highest number of people exposed to flooding from possible storm surge events, particularly in the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.

It said meanwhile, 130 million people in low-elevation coastal zones in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, are at risk of being displaced by the end of the century in worst-case scenarios.

"While rice yields could potentially increase in the northern states of India, rice yields may decline by 5 per cent in the 2030s, 14.5 per

cent in the 2050s and 17 per cent in the 2080s in the southern states," it said.

The report, titled 'A region at risk: The human dimensions of climate change in Asia and the Pacific', also said different modeling approaches are relatively consistent in terms of projecting a yield reduction in wheat production of 8 per cent in India.

Flood exposure is apparently increasing in coastal cities due to growing populations and assets and subsidence, it said.

"Studying the 136 largest coastal cities, the authors es-

timate that the average global flood losses in 2005 were approximately USD 6 billion per year and will increase to USD 52 billion by 2050.

"Of the top 20 cities with the largest increase of annual losses between 2005 and 2050, 13 are located in Asia-Guangzhou (PRC), Mumbai, Kolkata, Shenzhen (PRC), Tianjin (PRC), Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), Jakarta (Indonesia), Chennai, Surat, Zhanjiang (PRC), Bangkok (Thailand), Xiamen (PRC), and Nagoya (Japan)," it said.

The report said recent studies reveal that flood risk

is projected to increase significantly in Southeast Asia and India under global warming.

"The global climate crisis is arguably the biggest challenge human civilisation faces in the 21st century, with the Asia and Pacific region at the heart of it all," said Bambang Susantono, ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development.

Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, PIK Director said that the Asian countries hold Earth's future in their hands.

Noting that the challenge is two-fold, he said Asian greenhouse-gas emissions have to be reduced in a way that the global community can limit planetary warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, as agreed in Paris 2015 while on the other.

"Yet even adapting to 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature rise is a major task.

"So, on the other hand, Asian countries have to find strategies for ensuring prosperity and security under unavoidable climate change within a healthy global development," he said.

Director uploads 'The Argumentative Indian' trailer

KOLKATA, JUL 15 (PTI): Director Suman Ghosh has uploaded the trailer of his documentary on Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen on Facebook in defiance of the censor board, which has not certified the film.

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) chief Pahlaj Nihalani has objected to four words -- "cow", "Gujarat", "Hindutva" and "Hindu India" -- in the film "The Argumentative Indian".

The trailer does not contain the words but Nihalani has reportedly refused to allow even the release of the preview because the film, due to hit the screens yesterday, has not been cleared.

Ghosh said he decided to share the trailer with the public because he was not allowed to release the film.

"The 14th of July we were supposed to release our film THE ARGUMENTATIVE INDIAN. Of course we were not allowed to. We had prepared a trailer

for the release. Please share if you like it. The Tagore poem is recited by Victor Banerjee," Ghosh posted on his Facebook page yesterday.

"And I am indebted to the countrywide support from the people and media," his post said.

He posted again today with the link of a news report quoting Nihalani as saying that uploading the trailer without certification of the film is "illegal".

"So now curbs are being made about uploading a trailer on the Internet. Wonder where is all this going. Mr Nihalani's attack," Ghosh said.

Nihalani told the newspaper that Ghosh should not have uploaded the uncensored trailer online as the Cinematograph Act states that certification is required for public exhibition.

"The CBFC cannot dictate if I post a trailer on the Internet. It is not against the law," Ghosh added when contacted by PTI.

Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo cremated; China says wife ‘free so far’

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JUL 15 (PTI):

China’s Nobel Peace Prize laureate and prominent dissident Liu Xiaobo was cremated today after succumbing to cancer while in custody, even as Beijing said his wife was “free so far” but must “avoid trouble” amid international pressure to let her leave the country.

The 61-year-old human rights activist died due to multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer on Thursday.

Family members and friends of Liu bade farewell to him at a private ceremony in northeast China’s Shenyang city, an official told a media briefing in the city.

Liu’s body was cremated in accordance with the will of his family members and local customs, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Prior to the cremation, a simple ceremony was held with the attendance of Liu’s wife Liu Xia and his friends.

“The cremation of Liu’s body on Saturday accords with local customs and respects relatives’ wishes,” Zhang Qingyang, spokesperson for Shenyang’s information office, said.

Liu’s relatives, including his wife and brother Liu Xiaoguang, decided to cremate the remains and hold a simple funeral after consultation, the report said.

An official said Liu’s body had been cremated, and that plans for the ashes would be finalised later.

The Chinese government, which had long banned Liu’s



work and even his name, continues to censor the story of his death, deleting social media posts mourning him and blocking online searches containing variations of his name and famed quotes.

China’s media outlets, all controlled by the ruling Communist Party, mostly ignored the news on Liu.

The death of Liu, who was sentenced in 2009 for 11 years on the charges of sedition and incarcerated since then has brought the focus on the future of his activist wife Liu Xia, who has also been confined to house detention.

Liu Xia, who was also an artist, poet and a long-time associate of Liu in his uncompro-

mising fight for democracy in China, was allowed to be with him after he was granted medical parole last month.

After Liu’s death pressure was mounted by the international community on China to allow Liu Xia to travel abroad to receive the Noble Prize awarded in absentia to her husband in 2010. It was symbolically presented to an empty chair.

Asked about Liu Xia’s condition, Zhang said, “Liu Xia is a Chinese citizen, and Chinese relevant departments will protect her legal interests and rights in accordance with the law.”

“Liu Xia is free so far, and we want her to avoid trouble because she was in grief after losing a relative,” Zhang was

quoted as saying.

According to north Chinese customs, the remains of the deceased should be cremated and a funeral held within three days after his or her passing away.

“The remains of Liu was surrounded by plain coloured petals, with wreathes laying around his body at a funeral parlor in southern Shenyang,” the Xinhua report said.

“At 6:30 AM Saturday, Liu Xia was the first to bid farewell to her husband to the rhythm of Mozart’s Requiem, then Liu’s relatives and friends bowed three times in front of his body during the ceremony,” it said.

Yesterday, while replying to a barrage of questions on Liu and Liu Xia, Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Geng Shuang told a media briefing here that no “pre-judgements” need to be made about Liu Xia’s future.

Asked whether China would permit Liu Xia to visit Norway to receive the Noble Peace Prize, Geng said, “Let’s not make any prejudgements here,” without elaborating.

“As for situation of Lu Xia, I am not aware of that. I can tell you that China is a rule of law country. We will handle relevant case in accordance with law,” Geng said.

Liu’s death led to international criticism of China’s handling of the issue. The leader of the Norwegian Nobel committee Berit Reiss-Andersen said the Chinese government bore a “heavy responsibility” for Liu’s death.

Yesterday, Geng also refuted criticism of the treatment meted out to Liu, saying that awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to him amounted to “blasphemy”.

He said China lodged protests with several countries, including the US, for making “irresponsible statements” on the death of the prominent dissident.

He said China had lodged protests with the US, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and “certain countries” for interfering in its “judicial sovereignty”.

“Liu is a prisoner who was sentenced to imprisonment in accordance with Chinese law... Conferring the prize to such a person goes against the purposes of this award. It’s a blasphemy of the peace prize,” Geng said.

‘Cancer Clinics’ launched in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, JUL 15 (PTI): ‘Cancer Clinics’, a start-up venture for dedicated cancer treatment, was launched here today.

It offers screening, information, advice on nutrition, relaxation classes, psychologist and nursing support, among others, for cancer patients, Managing Director Sonali Srungaram said.

Cancer Clinics is a speciality facility that provides a set of curated services for cancer patients to enhance their wellbeing through integrative care.

“Our aspiration is to solve cancer patients’ needs for integrative care and to ease their struggle to find it,” she said.

‘Cancer Clinics’ follows Srungaram’s first pan-India venture ‘Cancer Helpline’ that “exposed her and her team to challenges of navigating the health system for cancer treatment,” a release issued by the promoters said.

Cancer Clinics, estab-

lished with a planned investment of Rs 3.5 crore, was launched by CEO and co-chairperson of Dr Reddy’s Laboratories, GV Prasad.

Noting that “navigation” of the healthcare systems in hospitals is often confusing, Prasad lauded the promoters for offering different services under one roof.

“To really integrate many aspects of treatment, psychological counselling, financial counselling; cancer is not only a difficult disease, financially it is burdensome.

“We make a lot of drugs, we see how difficult it is for a patient... people sell their homes, there is nobody to guide them after the first cycle, nobody tells them what is the journey like. Even educated people find it difficult. So, something like this is fantastic,” he said.

Early detection is very important in treating cancer, Prasad stressed.

Govt asks businesses to register under GST by July 30

NEW DELHI, JUL 15 (PTI): The government on Saturday asked traders to get registered under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime by July 30.

However, traders with turnover of below INR 20 lakh or those engaged exclusively in the supply of exempted goods or services need not register under the new tax regime which has kicked in from July 1.

“As per the GST laws, one is required to take registration on or before July 30, 2017. All traders are requested to register now without waiting for the last date,” a finance ministry statement said.

Listing the benefits of getting registered under GST, the ministry said that input tax credit can be passed on in the value chain and due taxes collected will come to the exchequer.

“Therefore, traders are requested to register under GST immediately without wasting any more time,” it said.

“If one is carrying out any business and has an annual aggregate turnover in the preceding financial year exceeding INR 20 lakh, you need to register in all the states/ Union Territories from

where you are making taxable supplies,” it said.

Excise, VAT or service tax payers who have already migrated to the GSTN portal and have been issued provisional IDs need to complete the registration process by September 22, 2017, by giving all the documents following which GSTIN will be issued.

Those taxpayers who need not register under the GST regime can cancel their registration by July 22. Those who have not migrated but are liable for registration will have to do so by July 22, it added.

For new taxpayers who are not registered under any of the erstwhile tax regimes, they will have to get themselves registered by July 30.

If anytime during the course of the financial year a business crosses the INR 20 lakh turnover threshold, then it will have to apply for registration within 30 days from becoming liable for registration.

The finance ministry said if a business has a valid PAN, email ID and a mobile number, then it can file an online application on the common portal <https://www.gst.gov.in/> and get registered for GST.

US House passes defence budget; seeks enhancing ties with India

Sister-state partnership between Goa, Hawaii soon

NEW YORK, JUL 15 (PTI):

A sister-state partnership will soon be announced between Hawaii and Goa, US Congressman Tulsi Gabbard has said, underlining the many similarities shared between them in the economic, agriculture and education sectors.

She said such a partnership is just one example of where there is a lot of “unexplored opportunities” for the 50 American states to be able to build upon the India-US relationship on a state-to-state level and increase awareness in both countries.

Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, said a sister-state partnership will soon be announced between Hawaii and Goa.

“In a few months, we will be announcing the sister-state partnership between my home state of Hawaii and Goa,” Gabbard said.

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JUL 15 (PTI):

The US’ annual defence budget of about USD 621.5 billion for the 2018 fiscal has been passed by the House of Representatives and among other things it seeks advancing of military cooperation with India, already a major defence partner of America.

An amendment on enhancing cooperation with India was moved by Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera and was adopted by a voice vote by the House as part of the National Defense Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2018, beginning October 1 this year.

The India-related amendment passed by the House requires the Secretary of Defence, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the

United States and India.

“The United States is the world’s oldest democracy and India is the world’s largest democracy. It is vitally important to develop a strategy that advances defence cooperation between our two nations,” Bera said.

“I am grateful this amendment passed and look forward to the Defence Department’s strategy that addresses critical issues like common security challenges, the role of partners and allies, and areas for collaboration in science and technology,” he said.

“Cooperation between the US and India enhances our own defence and our ability to meet the evolving security challenges of the 21st century,” Bera said.

Following the passage of the National Defence Authorisation Act, the Secretary of Defence and Secretary of State

have 180 days to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the United States and India.

NDAA needs to be passed by the Senate before it can be sent to the White House for the US President Donald Trump to sign into law.

As passed by the House, NDAA-2018 asks the State Department and the Pentagon to develop a strategy that addresses common security challenges, the role of American partners and allies in the India-US defence relationship, and the role of the defence technology and trade initiatives.

It also asks them to address how to advance the communications interoperability and security memorandum of agreement and the basic exchange and cooperation agreement for geospatial

cooperation.

The previous NDAA-2017 had designated India as a major defence partner which brings India at par with closest American partners in terms of defence trade and technology transfer.

Meanwhile, a senior defence official yesterday said that India and US defence relationship is on positive track.

“(As) we look at the global order, and when we look at the evolving security environment within Asia, India’s rise and role (is) evolving, (and) we see the United States and India increasingly viewing the region in the same way, and our interests are very much aligned,” said Cara Abercrombie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and Southeast Asia.

Addressing a New York audience, she said

the relationship creates a high level of dialogue in the Pentagon on a range of issues.

“This is all rooted in when we look at the region and (what) we share. We have the same (aerial) security interests, the same counter-proliferation, counter-piracy, and counter- terrorism (interests),” she added.

“We have the same interests in upholding this international system that upholds the rule of law that favours freedom of navigation, open sea lanes of communication, and freedom of over flight.

Those are values that are critically important to the United States and India to our economic prosperity and to our access in the region,” Abercrombie said during a panel discussion at the 2017 Global Business Forum in New York City.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES	NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES
SINGAM EMERALD MORNING	DEAR TENDER EVENING
Draw time: 11:55 am onwards	Draw time: 08:00 pm onwards
Draw No:11 DrawDate on:15/07/17	Draw No:116 DrawDate on:15/07/17
1st Prize Rs.10 Lakhs/- 99H 46854	1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 87D 71765
(Including Super Prize Amt)	(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.9,100/- 46854 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)	Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 71765 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9,000/-	2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
01564 20516 22886 23806 26701	04372 36725 51020 68230 77525
29069 37771 42286 49529 65880	85246 87484 94125 96076 98345
3rd Prize Rs.500/-	3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
0586 4221 4783 7101 7113 8288 8981 9090 9324 9644	00837 04967 37187 40783 41018
4th Prize Rs.300/-	42336 74946 75846 89033 89316
0134 1530 1791 2821 4064 5014 5366 6210 7583 9187	4th Prize Rs.1000/-
5th Prize Rs.130/-	0952 2444 3800 5266 6323 7803 8121 8438 9619 9863
0011 0039 0058 0067 0279 0475 0563 0578 0690 0770	5th Prize Rs.600/-
0821 0867 0887 0909 1004 1012 1020 1122 1191 1467	0437 1866 5150 5538 6184 7739 8863 9358 9852 9907
1578 1743 1753 1757 1909 1938 2071 2086 2773 2954	6th Prize Rs.250/-
3066 3211 3233 3309 3338 3423 3512 3533 3651 3780	0025 0322 0329 0662 0672 0696 0721 0723 0851 0860
3920 4058 4124 4203 4421 4512 4621 4798 4842 4902	0928 0973 1033 1160 1209 1252 1263 1359 1361 1424
4947 5016 5035 5292 5297 5345 5381 5580 5601 5639	1489 1739 2021 2284 2334 2371 2440 2663 2708 2801
5829 5830 5928 6118 6127 6148 6228 6297 6397 6456	3076 3156 3301 3313 3340 3435 3439 3505 3630 4176
6467 6472 6474 6657 6675 7352 7486 7560 7644 7858	4287 4298 4343 4841 4876 4977 5055 5166 5181 5204
7863 8007 8019 8044 8063 8414 8450 8460 8524 8755	5312 5464 5481 5528 5627 5795 5820 5841 5987 6164
8778 8917 9004 9017 9044 9147 9165 9263 9722 9830	6305 6317 6354 6397 6413 6547 6650 6674 6680 6776
Issued by:	6811 6823 7221 7333 7600 7678 7714 7741 7813 7852
The Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima, Nagaland.	7924 7959 7994 8082 8174 8231 8314 8366 8380 8627
For Results, please visit: www.nagalandlotteries.com	8767 8801 8823 9015 9146 9548 9743 9765 9781 9933
KINDLY CHECK THE RESULTS WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE.	

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES
DEAR HONOUR
Draw No:52 DrawDate on:15/07/17
1st Prize Rs.50 Lakhs/- 70K 89227
(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 89227 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
15734 44894 52016 63454 64167
65289 71972 88543 90928 97750
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
04001 10154 17041 23051 61270
70829 75112 88310 88500 98172
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0966 1785 1796 2562 3986 4863 6084 6308 6989 7883
5th Prize Rs.600/-
1350 2495 2760 3251 4831 6530 8111 8378 8644 9565
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0271 0307 0373 0489 0711 0739 1596 1600 1756 1830
1970 2146 2150 2354 2356 2443 2449 2662 2721 2903
3073 3080 3143 3145 3155 3224 3360 3499 3540 3677
3722 3741 3743 3769 3806 3824 3850 3931 4028 4030
4138 4219 4285 4304 4427 4548 4830 4848 4876 4961
5057 5288 5313 5364 5413 5522 5737 5991 6123 6134
6158 6495 6502 6587 6720 6864 6865 6870 7034 7087
7301 7392 7451 7599 7660 7851 7952 7958 7982 8126
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(Including Super Prize Amt)
Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 34400 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
2nd Prize Rs.9500/-
00882 03406 11544 42768 67317
69544 81793 84581 84610 85292
3rd Prize Rs.9000/-
00959 07447 12236 25287 36688
42085 62269 71286 80876 86791
4th Prize Rs.1000/-
0297 0646 3310 4621 6257 6702 7212 7404 7870 8937
5th Prize Rs.600/-
1023 1848 2190 2497 2975 3129 3257 5957 7773 8123
6th Prize Rs.250/-
0153 0195 0581 0854 0958 1024 1054 1062 1071 1271
1318 1437 1441 1474 1592 1647 1665 1803 1870 1880
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3047 3053 3239 3835 3967 3995 4024 4094 4124 4233
4296 4320 4731 4770 4851 5081 5396 5405 5423 5576
5644 5697 5733 6102 6212 6245 6449 6473 6635 6705
6767 6813 7042 7078 7151 7220 7314 7469 7503 7587
7680 7753 7776 7839 7858 7877 7993 8086 8125 8520
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Priyanka Chopra reveals why singing has taken a back-seat in her career...

Actress cum producer Priyanka Chopra, who has also tried her hand at singing, says she does not have sufficient time to produce music and

so, has not released any single for a while now. She has lent her voice to films, including her Marathi production Ventilator, which released in 2016. But in terms of non-film music, her last single, I can't make you love me, came out in 2014.

When asked about her sabbatical from music, Priyanka revealed at the press conference of her upcoming Marathi production – Kay Re Rascala, "It is deliberate. When you do music, you have to have the time and ability to promote it. I am doing so much work in terms of acting and producing so, I am not getting sufficient time to produce music. I always want to complete things. Last time I sang in Ventilator, but as of now, there are no plans to produce music."

What about writing autobiography? The former Miss World said, "Right now, a lot of chapters are remaining in my life, but anyone who wants to write a book on me, it would be titled as Unfinished."

Priyanka even mentioned that she is currently considering to produce

some Hindi as well as English films.

"I have produced Marathi and Punjabi films, and now in the future. I will be producing Sikkimese, Assamese, Bengali and Bhojpuri films. I am developing Hindi and English films as well, but as of now, nothing has been finalized because I feel it has to be the right one. For my each film, it is important to have the right combination of things."

On the professional front, Priyanka will be seen in two Hollywood films – A Kid Like Jake and Isn't It Romantic. Apart from that, she will

CONFESIONS!!!

also start working on Quantico season 3 soon.

It was not fair to compare me to SRK: Shahid Kapoor

Shahid recalls his earlier days, says it was not fair to compare him to Shah Rukh Khan. He followed his successful debut Ishq Vishk with back-to-back romantic movies that led to him being labeled as the next SRK.



Shahid Kapoor was compared with Shah Rukh Khan in the beginning of his career and the actor said while it bothered him for some time, he has now grown comfortable in his own skin as a performer. Shahid, son of veteran actors Pankaj Kapur and Neelima Azim, started his Bollywood journey with college romance-drama Ishq Vishk. He followed his successful debut with back-to-back romantic movies that led to him being labeled as the next SRK, who is considered the 'king of romance' in Bollywood.

The actor finally revamped his image with Vishal Bhardwaj's Kaminey, where he appeared in a dual role.

Films such as Jab We Met, Kaminey, and Haider have established Shahid as one of the reliable performers in the industry and the actor says he prefers to take more risks with his choices rather than trying to meet the expectations of others.

"Every actor needs to find himself... It was not fair to compare Shah Rukh Khan with a newcomer. Having said that, I feel comfortable

with who I am today. I am discovering myself as an actor. I think today is a good actor is what makes you a star. People now want to see good content and performance. You also need to have the X-factor," he said.

According to Shahid, his biggest USP is that he is willing to experiment without any fear of failure. The actor, who is all set to perform at the 18th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards, recalled his first award function. "I won an award for 'Ishq Vishk' and I had never been to a big award function before. I did not know what to wear. I thought I would get it wrong and I did get it wrong. I felt out of place and nervous."



16 July
WORLD HISTORY
622: 16th July is considered as the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

1945: Winston Churchill, Harry S Truman and Josef Stalin gathered at Potsdam to discuss the fate of a defeated Germany.

1945: The Manhattan Project came to an explosive end as the first atom bomb was successfully tested in Alamogordo.

1979: Iraqi President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr resigned and was replaced by Saddam Hussein.

INDIAN HISTORY
1856: Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar, on the request of Governor Lord Canning, instituted a law announcing the right of Hindu widows for re-marriage

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY
Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College

1905: Owing to the decision of the British Government for the Partition of Bengal, a decision was taken by the people to boycott British goods at Bagarhat.
1929: Indian Council of Agricultural Research, an autonomous apex national organisation which plans, conducts and promotes research, education, training and transfer of technology for advancement of agriculture and allied sciences, was established.
1954: French rule ends in Mahe. De facto power was transferred to the people and the Indian flag hoisted.



TIMEOUT WITH THE FANS! The "Love Myself" singer, Hailee Steinfeld, takes a cell phone image of her fans as she performs on NBC's "Today" at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City.

Princesses, assemble!



No, you're seeing this right — there were 10 Disney princesses present at the D23 Expo on July 14th and they made one hell of an announcement: they're all going to be in a movie together in 2018!

Two words for this: HELL YES. So here's the scoop: At the D23 Expo Walt Disney Feature Animation panel presentation, the first sneak peek of Wreck-It Ralph 2 was unveiled to an understandably overjoyed crowd.

What made the moment even more special was the surprise appearance of Vanellope Von Schweetz herself Sarah Silverman, who is yes, technically a Disney Princess. She shared the very first look anyone has had of the movie, and it was loaded with surprises.

In the clip, Ralph and Vanellope visit a site called "OhMyDisney.com", which looks a lot like Disneyland. Cue the on-slaughter of jokes made at the expense of Disney itself and cameo after cameo of

legends like Stan Lee and Star Wars characters.

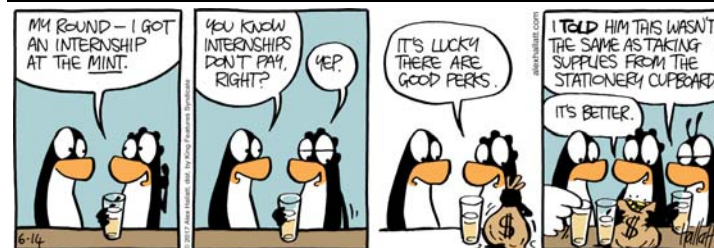
And then, Vanellope finds herself face-to-face with nine other Disney Princesses, all who have speaking parts in the clip.

And when the clip was finished, who should show up on stage but all 9 of the talented actresses who play all your favorite royals: Paige O'Hara (Belle), Jodi Benson (Ariel), Linda Larkin (Jasmine), Anika Noni Rose (Tiana), Mandy Moore (Rapunzel), Irene Bedard (Pocahontas), Kelly MacDonalld (Merida), Kristen Bell (Anna), and Auli'i Cravalho (Moana). This is perhaps the biggest gathering of Princesses ever. EVER. And if that weren't great enough, there's also a selfie of them all — WITH OLAF!

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



ARCTIC CIRCLE - HALLATT



BABY BLUES - KIRKMAN & SCOTT



Leonardo DiCaprio-Martin Scorsese for a crime thriller film

The celebrated director-actor duo Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio will team up once again on an upcoming true-crime thriller. The project is based on the bestselling book by David Grann, "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI", reported Variety. According to Scorsese's long-time production designer, Dante Ferretti, the filmmaker hopes to start shooting "Flower Moon" in the spring of next year.



with Scorsese on nine movies from "The Age of Innocence" through "Silence," said he was going to "go to Oklahoma" to do preliminary location scout-

ing for "Flower Moon."

The story, set in the 1920s, focuses on a string of murders of members of the Osage nation in Oklahoma after oil was discovered beneath their land. The chilling series of slayings was one of the fledgling FBI's first major homicide investigations.

Scorsese and DiCaprio have been eyeing the project for months, and are developing it together with Dan Friedkin and Bradley Thomas, co-founders of Imperative Entertainment.

Rights to "Flower Moon" were snapped up by Imperative last year for a reported USD 5 million, and a script has reportedly been drafted by veteran Oscar-winning scribe Eric Roth.

Ferretti said that "the whole 1920s world of the Indians who lived there needs to be reconstructed" for "Flower Moon," adding that he expects to "start preparing this film in September, because Scorsese will shoot it immediately after finishing 'The Irishman.'"

ARIES: A despondent friend may need some cheering up. Your ability to nurture and listen sympathetically will definitely prove beneficial, Aries. Take care not to absorb any of this person's dejection. Your life should continue to go well with professional successes leading to new friendships and goals. Hang on to your enthusiasm and optimism while showing compassion for others.

TAURUS: Many projects to complete before a deadline might have you feeling pressured, Taurus, but your determination is likely to drive you to try to get it all done even if it seems impossible. Don't try to do it all yourself. Ask for a little help. You can accomplish your ends without

putting undue pressure on yourself. Try to relax today.

GEMINI: You've been doing very well, Gemini, but today you might feel more focused than ever. The path ahead seems clear and well defined. You're anticipating the future with motivation. You might be considering a long trip abroad or perhaps going back to school for an advanced degree. This is a good day to research and finalize your plans.

CANCER: Some kind of settlement, grant, or bonus that you've anticipated for a long time may finally show up. Cancer. This should make your day! You may want to celebrate. A chance to attend a large social gathering might come your way. Have fun! Tonight

don't be surprised if vivid dreams - some great, some sad - come your way. Keep a notebook and pen by your bed so you can write them down.

LEO: Today you may put a lot of energy into your romantic relationship, Leo. The astral energy is encouraging you to focus on romance. Give your significant other a special gift to show how much you care, and spend some time alone together. Any romance initiated or advanced today is likely to prove stable and long lasting. Don't let fear stand in your way. Move ahead.

VIRGO: Too much work and the resulting pressure over the past few days may have you feeling too tired to do anything more, Virgo,

although your optimism and enthusiasm are still intact. Don't be too hard on yourself if you're dragging by the end of the day. If you take care of yourself, you will soon recharge and be your old self again. In the evening, read a good book.

LIBRA: Romance blossoms for you, Libra, perhaps after a long standstill. A new stability and security may settle on love relationships as well as close friendships. Children could be a great source of warmth and pleasure. You might want to channel some of this blossoming positive energy into a creative activity of some kind, which should increase even further your sense of contentment and well-being.

SCORPIO: You might host a social

event in your home tonight, Scorpio. You may be nervous at first, wondering if all will go well. Your efforts should produce the results you want. You might be introduced to new contacts, which could lead to increased professional opportunities. Take a walk after everyone has gone. Your mind will be going a thousand miles an hour and you will want to clear your head.

SAGITTARIUS: Paperwork, perhaps contracts or other legal documents, might need attention so you can move ahead with your projects, Sagittarius. These projects could involve writing or speaking. Your mind is in just the right space to participate in anything involving com-

munication, so doors of opportunity may open for you in this area. Lift your chin and get going. You will be glad you did.

CAPRICORN: Your financial picture continues to improve. At some point during the day, Capricorn, you might have the feeling that you aren't working hard enough to keep up your current forward motion, and you might worry. This could be a good motivator, but you don't need to push yourself much harder than you are now. You're on a roll and it's likely to continue. Keep moving, but pace yourself.

AQUARIUS: Even though all continues to go well for you, Aquarius, your mood may vacillate today. In

spite of all the great things in your life, at some time during the day you might feel a little blue. Don't read too much into it. It's probably just the result of low biorhythms. Try to distract yourself with physical activity. Go out with some friends and have a good time this evening.

PISCES: Trying to get too much work done in the course of the day could prove self-defeating, Pisces. Your energy isn't what it usually is, and you're probably operating on adrenaline. Consider the situation carefully and list your tasks in order of urgency. The world won't come to an end if you don't get them all done by the end of the day. In the evening, watch a movie and order a pizza.