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DAILY

First With The News

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## Militants attack Ayodhya temple complex

**LUCKNOW, 05 July:** Suspected militants blew up a security wall with a car bomb and stormed the Ram Jannabhoomi temple complex in Ayodhya this morning, triggering a gunbattle in which security forces killed five attackers.



The wreckage of a jeep that was used to blow up part of a wall of the high-security complex at Ayodhya. Unidentified militants blew up a security wall with a car bomb and stormed the Ram Jannabhoomi site setting off a fierce gunbattle with police and paramilitary forces that left all five attackers dead.

Police also found the torn body of a sixth man, who was believed to be the suicide bomber, said Jyoti Sinha, chief of the paramilitary force that guards the disputed Ram Jannabhoomi temple complex, a religious site claimed by both Hindus and Muslims.

This is the first major attack on a Hindu temple site since 2002 when Akshardham was attacked.

An Indian security official said more bloodshed was prevented because authorities had been warned that militant groups were planning to target religious sites.

"We had already taken

some preventive steps. That is why our security forces were able to successfully repulse the attack," said V.K. Duggal of the Interior Security Ministry.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh condemned the attack and said the government would deal firmly with any terrorist acts.

The RSS in turn said the violence proved India's recent

peace overtures with Islamabad were a failure and they called for peaceful protests.

"It is an attack by jihad terrorists ... there should be protests against this across the country, peacefully," said Ram Madhav, spokesman of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

The sprawling 80-acre complex that was attacked is

where Hindu nationalists demolished an ancient Muslim mosque in Ayodhya, 345 miles east of New Delhi, was built by Mogul rulers at the site of a Hindu temple. They believe the site is the birthplace of Ram, but Muslims say there is no proof of that claim. The dispute is still working its way through the courts.

Alok Sinha, the home secretary of Uttar Pradesh state, where the temple complex is located, said the assault lasted nearly two hours.

Hindu leaders claim the mosque in Ayodhya, 345 miles east of New Delhi, was built by Mogul rulers at the site of a Hindu temple. They believe the site is the birthplace of Ram, but Muslims say there is no proof of that claim. The dispute is still working its way through the courts.

Alok Sinha, the home secretary of Uttar Pradesh state, where the temple complex is located, said the assault lasted nearly two hours.

## Kalam expected to visit Sikkim in third week of July

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is likely to visit Sikkim in the third week of July this year. This was informed by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling during his meeting with Ministers and heads of various Government departments held yesterday at Tashiling.

In this regard, he asked all the departments to prepare

themselves and keep the activities of their departments up-to-date in areas such as presentation on medicinal plants to be presented by Forest Department, cultural value to be presented by Culture Department, and updating of Sikkim Study Series which is to be released by the President during his visit to the State.

He also asked the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs and UD&HD to prepare themselves

for the inauguration of Paljor Stadium and Khangchendzonga Plaza; they are to be inaugurated by the President.

Other departments directed by the Chief Minister to prepare themselves were Forest Department which is to prepare/update its presentation of glaciers and lakes; Human Development which is to correct and update all data in the Human Development Report, including its positive indica-

tors, that is to be kept ready for presentation to the President by P&D Department.

The Tourism and Forest departments were also directed by the CM to make its presentation on eco-tourism ready, while Horticulture, Agriculture and HRD departments were directed to prepare for the President's visit to Orchid Farm, cardamom fields and a school during his scheduled Sikkim-visit.

## Nathula trade to mean more than just exchange at Trade Mart

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** Chairing a meeting held to discuss infrastructural requirements for the Nathula trade yesterday, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling informed that an important meeting on the Nathula Trade

Route is being convened on 11 July at New Delhi, which will be chaired by the Union Cabinet Minister and attended by a high-level delegation from Sikkim Government headed by Chief Secretary ND Chingapa.

In this context, the CM asked all the concerned departments to keep themselves up to date with all their requirements and prepare a joint and compact proposal, which could be presented in the meeting in New Delhi for discussion.

Widening of roads, con-

struction of bridges and halting places, including offices and quarters for those manning the trade route and fencing of the corridor, the CM said, should be included in the estimate and proposal besides earmarking provisions for environment protection, power and water supply, health facilities and security arrangements.

Mr. Chamling also stressed that the infrastructure proposed to be created for the Nathula trade route should not be confined within the trade mart but should be fashioned

right from Rangpo and other check points to Nathula.

Laying stress on maximising the benefits from this trade route for the people of Sikkim, the CM urged the departmental heads to spare no effort to create infrastructure of international level commensurate with the importance of this historic trade route.

The CM also asked the departments to project their requirements based on actual requirements and get them ready by 07 July, so as to en-

turn to pg 3

## ACT widens its net, builds opinion against hydel projects

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** After thorough discussions on the negative impact of the mega hydroelectric power projects on River Teesta and its tributaries, which outweighed the positive aspects, Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT) and various Panchayat members and the Dzumsa of North Sikkim today unanimously resolved that such projects should not be allowed to be implemented at the cost of human existence, informs an ACT Press release.

At an ACT meeting held today at the Chungthang Community Centre, Pemzang Tenzing and Tseten Lepcha, founder members of the ACT, gave a brief account on the pros and cons of the power project.

The chief guest of the meeting, Kunphel Lachenpa, the Lachen Papon, highlighted the problems faced by the people of Lachen due to non-attestation of the land documents in Lachen and no prior consultation and information about the projects to the people or their representatives.

Following a thorough discussion among all present during the meet, where it was pointed out the people did not have any idea about the mega



projects nor any prior notice or consultation was made with the people and their representatives before issuing of Letter of Intent, it was resolved that no further activity should be undertaken without the

prior consultation and consent of the people, informs a press release issued by Tsering Dorjee Lachenpa of ACT.

It was also demanded that the attestation of all land surveyed in the last cadastral

resurvey in Lachen, Lachung, Chungthang and Shipgyer be completed before any further discussion is initiated with the people and its representatives. It was further resolved that all the Gram Panchayats will depute representatives in the ACT and constitute an All North Sikkim Executive Body to 'struggle for the rights of the people'.

Stating that the BSNL had failed to provide effective communication in the region, it was resolved that the private cellular companies like Reliance, Hutch and AirTel would be requested to provide mobile/cellular service to the region at the earliest.

The meeting conducted by Lendup Lepcha, Panchayat president of Chungthang, was attended by representatives of the monk community and senior Dzumsa members of Lachen; members of Zilla Parishad and other Panchayats and local gentries of Chungthang GP; Ringzingmu Lepcha, Panchayat president Ship Gyer along with Panchayat members; Gyapon and representatives of Lachung Dzumsa; Tsering Wangdi Lepcha, Zilla Member of Singhik GP; Norzing Lepcha, Panchayat secretary, Hee-Gyathang GP, Dzongu; and Chophel Lepcha, former chairman of SITCO.

## Sikkim to soon produce 1.2 crore seeds per year

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today stressed that Sikkim should be a seed producing State and that agriculture and horticulture products should be marketed extensively along with value addition at the grassroots level.

He was chairing a high-level meeting with the Ministers and

turn to pg 3

## Drugs trigger 24% of Sikkim's suicides: Expert

**Namchi learns on the link between addiction and suicides**

**PURAN TAMANG**

**NAMCHI, 05 July:** Twenty-four per cent of all suicide cases in Sikkim are related to depression caused by drug abuse and addiction and proper counseling and guidance is the only way to help drug users overcome their dependency, informed Dr. CL Sharma, psychiatrist, Namchi General Hospital.

He was speaking today at an awareness programme on 'Drug Addiction and Suicide - Psychological Problems and Solutions' at the conference hall of Namchi Senior Secondary School. The programme was organised by Health Department, Namchi, in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Namchi.

Informing the students of the negative effects of drug abuse, Dr. Sharma said that youth got trapped into addiction mainly due to family

problems, adjustment problems, bitter childhood experiences, parental neglect and lack of guidance, stress and mental problems, including depression and mania.

Though drugs initially provide relief, the negative impact manifests in the long-term, Dr. Sharma said. Peer pressure and use of drugs by other family members also led young people to experiment with drugs and eventually habituated them to substances of abuse, he added.

To help these users overcome their addiction or to prevent would-be users from experimenting, proper counseling by parents at home and teachers at schools was needed, he stressed.

"The only solution to tackle this problem is by informing these people of the negative impacts of drug use on their health and overall well being. They should be encouraged to take up activities they are interested in, such as indoor

turn to pg 3

## Dalai Lama turns 70 and the whole world rejoices

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** Seventy years is a milestone in any individual's life. When it is the Dalai Lama one is speaking of, the significance of the 70th birthday multiplies manifold and this is apparent in the manner in which Tibetans around the world are fervently preparing for His Holiness' 70th birthday on Wednesday, 06 July.

As the Tibet's government-in-exile gears up for the birthday bash for the spiritual leader, a State delegation comprising of two members of the Himalayan Buddhist Association and Additional Secretary of Ecclesiastical Department are already on their way to Dharamsala to offer *Tenshub* on His Holiness' birthday.

Meanwhile, determined to make the Nobel Peace

Laureate's 70th birthday celebrations the most memorable ever, the Tibetan Welfare Office and the entire Tibetan community of Sikkim are all set to make the celebrations continue for an entire week, starting tomorrow.

The main celebrations will be held here at Bhola Solsa, Chandmari, tomorrow; colourful Tibetan cultural shows are also to be a part of tomorrow's programme. Resplendent in their best of clothing, the members of the community will spend the day in gaiety, singing and dancing being the order of the day.

Officially, the day will begin with the offering of juniper incense and the flying of prayer flags in the morning. The portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama will then be received at Sera Gonpa, followed by Indo-Tibetan



Students of Thumi Sambhota School and members of 22 Buddhist associations [jyiduk] undertake plantation work at Bhola Solsa, Chandmari, on 04 July as part of the festivities to mark the 70th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama which falls on 06 July.

National Anthem by the students of Thumi Sambhota Tibetan School and a song in honour of His Holiness.

Other highlights of the day will be poetry recitation by students of Thumi Sambhota Tibetan School and prize distribution to two

best students of the school by the chief guest. The prizes for these two students, who have secured highest marks in Tibetan, are sponsored by the Department of Education, Dharamsala.

A half an hour-long cultural show to be presented

**ragtime** by PANKAJ THAPA

WHEN YOU EVER  
SEEN THE RAIN.

# NOW!

First With The News

## Why the World Needs to Celebrate the Dalai Lama's Birthday

The Tibetans are planning a year-long celebration to mark the Dalai Lama's 70th birthday. They have reason to rejoice. Even a cursory perusal of the history of the institution of the Dalai Lama will reveal that few Dalai Lamas have reached this age. Given the importance of the XIVth Dalai Lama to the Tibetan cause and the need for his charisma to keep the issue alive in international circles makes every prayer for the Dalai Lama's long life meaningful and important. In fact, it would be unfair to suggest that only the Tibetans are celebrating the Dalai Lama's 70th birthday, every person influenced by Tibetan Buddhism, every person inspired by the struggle of the Tibetans to preserve their way of life and every person who respects nonviolence, should join the Tibetans in celebrating the event.

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual king of a displaced people in a foreign land. Although he dismisses any reference to him as a 'God King' and prefers to be known as a 'Simple Buddhist Monk', his contribution to how the world conducts itself cannot be ignored. The Tibetan issue could have snowballed into a cold-war incinerator to implode like Afghanistan, had it not been for the Dalai Lama's commitment to peace and rational approach to a historical wrong. The Dalai Lama was barely 24 when he was thrown into the outside world, of which, not only he, but most Tibetans knew little. While this culture shock would have been too much for lesser minds to handle, the Dalai Lama conducted himself well. Not only did he learn and adapt well, he also kept his flock together and even managed something that had eluded Tibetans even in Tibet - unity. But he gave the world peace. By keeping to the middle path, he also brought peace to India and despite all the restrictions now being imposed on his people's right to free expression by an India bending over backwards to please China, the Dalai Lama never ignores a chance to thank India for provide refuge to the Tibetans. It is the Dalai Lama's self-effacing humility that makes him tower over other powerful and important people. The world does not have enough people like the Dalai Lama around, which is why it is so important that he stays around for as long as is possible. He will probably not live to see a Free Tibet, he might not see peace prevail in the world in his lifetime, but every day that the Dalai Lama lives among us, he will bring that possibility closer.

# China through a Heavenly Path

The much-debated issue on Indo-China trade route through Sikkim has eventually settled, showing clear indication that both the countries are ready to deliver on their responsibilities towards this epoch-making venture. This is indeed one of few instances where the Central Government has not shown any kind of lethargy in pursuing policies initiated by the previous government despite their ideological differences.

Equally significant is the magnitude of the impact on trade relations hitherto not experienced in the entire South Asian region. Because, despite the fashionable slogan of 'global trade' and 'global markets', the aspect of regional hegemony is bound to persist even in the age of so-called 'Economic Globalisation'. As such, the billion dollar question would be whose hegemony on trade will survive - India or China - in future; Indian goods have not been able to beat the Chinese products in the world market so far.

Against such a background, if we are being able to conceive the future probability of the trade between India and China, our perception on it will definitely be more clear and intelligible. However, keeping these aspects aside, when we have to deliberate over our participation and think in terms of the prospects for Sikkim, our consideration and priorities should not fail to encompass the structural and necessary features, which are supposed to be the basic components of prosperous and blooming trade. For instance, what are the basic features a commercial centre must take into account if it has to flourish as a business centre? The answer

- (a) Maintenance of peace and security; unfortunately the major Indian business centers have miserably failed in this respect.
- (b) Engrossing participation of the local people and
- (c) Safe and reliable connectivity for transactions.

Perhaps, there may be other numerous factors that will surely play a vital role in bringing any business centre to its glory. But in the hilly region like Sikkim, better roads and safe passage are the basic factors, which guarantee a successful and smooth operation of business undertakings.

Now, Sikkim becoming the promised Gateway to China, her nature of participation in the trade between the two countries would obviously be very crucial. It is also necessary that the State Government, through various measures, ensures that its citizens are prepared to embark upon the new adventure, lest they should feel that it is something that has been thrust upon them.

Characteristically undismayed, Sikkim alone has the potential to thrive both in trade and tourism sectors simultaneously. So our people will have greater things at stake if they choose to ignore one of these sectors and promote the other, which implies that both trade and tourism should go hand in hand.

Just to excel in these two sectors unwearingly, our priority should be on better roads having connectivity to different beautiful places.

When we talk about better roads and safe passages, it would not be unwise to think about an alternative

trade route to China. The existing road from the State capital to Nathula although bears a historical value, it is understood to be very steep and narrow and due to the mountainous terrain, further expansion of roads is yet another difficult proposition.

According to the latest Times of India news, China has constructed about 589 kilometres of new roads in the Tibetan

Autonomous region keeping in mind the proposed

trade and some more are in the offing. However, India has to do more about it to fit in with this developmental situation.

In this context, Sikkim has a role in helping the nation build infrastructure and more so by even giving its viable route to China from its land. In this context, Assam Lingzey in the East District offers a possible alternative route to China. Besides the viability and stability of this region, it has various attractive tourist destinations having the potential to get explored into a yet another thrust area for industrialisation and trade.

There are many factors that favour Assam Lingzey. The place is centrally located in the context of trade to China due to its geographical location such as boundaries with China. It is near to the State capital which provides the centres to facilitate business undertakings for people coming from different constituencies such as Losing Pachykhani, Assam Lingzey, Pathing and Ranka besides people from Gangtok. This route happens to be the shortest to China and thus, for infrastructure development, this is an ideal place. This is also near to the airport and railway station, besides providing

proximity to the five star hotel coming up at Pangthang and one coming up in Pakyong. Being close to the capital, it directly connects the heart and soul of Sikkim. When it comes to trade and business, certainly we require a place conducive to accommodate double lane roads. And this place gives you exactly this primary aspect. The land above Assam Lingzey has a flat surface around and there are no sinking areas there. Since this is a new adventurism on the part of the Government, this issue can be debated and heard in public. In any case, given the instances above, there cannot be any ideal place than Assam Lingzey in the East. This has been announced by the Chief Minister on many occasions in his speeches. In fact, this is one major thrust area that the Chief Minister has been advocating time and again and we need to participate in his epoch-making venture. To proceed with its road map, taking commerce and tourism along, take any point from the existing road of Assam Lingzey to Pakyong-Bhusuk Road to open a very breath-taking adventure indeed. Take an hour long journey from there and one reaches a place called Utarey Kharka, *kharka* meaning a barren field, a place known for its mythological values. The local people believe that Sita had walked into it this field during the Ramayana era leaving behind her footprint. The local people worship this. Taking an hour-long walk, you will find a place called Dhungel Kharka, another unique landscape with reddish-brown mountains like hills with green luster around the surface. A horde of yaks and other animals take shelter in it. **turn to pg3**

# Eight men, one world

## G8 MUST TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

Saturday's Live 8 marked the culmination of an extraordinary effort, witnessed by billions across the world, to pressure governments to alleviate global suffering. The organisers, musicians and participants who crowded the streets and parks, from Delhi to Edinburgh, to demonstrate their determination to make poverty history and change the future of mankind deserve our praise. This was the biggest event of its kind that the world has ever seen and would not have happened without the determination of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. They earn our admiration for the political and diplomatic gamble they took in promoting the cause of Africa and climate change. Credit goes too to celebrities such as Bono and Bob Geldof for their stubborn refusal to abandon their vision of a better world.

Now the focus switches to the leaders of the richest nations who are set to lock themselves in what the world has signalled it sees as the most important negotiations of our age. The G8 leaders gathering at Gleneagles have the solemn task of translating the hopes of millions into policies to lift Africa out of poverty and to halt global warming. Both have proved intractable in the past. Must we, and the G8 leaders, fall into the paralysis of believing that nothing can be done? The question for Gleneagles, and for us, is: 'Is lasting change possible?'

The answer has to be an emphatic 'yes'. Africa and

climate change are now talked about with unprecedented intensity. Saving the world from greenhouse gases and ridding African nations of the albatross of debt have become real, practical concerns for many people. We should not forget that the children wearing white Make Poverty History wristbands today will become the voters and politicians of tomorrow. Whatever else happens, Africa and global warming will be etched on young minds. In the longer term, the challenge is to keep up pressure and not lose the momentum of these days. It would be a hollow victory if Live 8 had a more lasting effect on record sales than on political engagement. G8 must start the process of spelling out achievable goals. On Africa, for example, world leaders must not stumble over labyrinthine arguments concerning trade versus aid or governance and conditionality. These are vital issues, but complexity and failure to reach quick agreement are not excuses for lack of action in other areas, for example, where individual countries and businesses can act unilaterally.

In a report published ahead of the G8 summit, the Royal African Society highlights measures the rich world could start to take right now. Its 'Message to World Leaders' is that helping Africa is 'not just about thinking up good things we should do to Africa - it is about the bad things we should stop doing'. This includes clamping down on the complicity by Western banks and companies **turn to pg3**

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# RAJDHANI

# Bhanu Jayanti to celebrate youthful talent this year

## a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** In keeping with the declaration of the ongoing year as the Youth Revolutionary Year, the 191st Bhanu Jayanti celebrations this month will be a platform for the youth to showcase their talent and actively participate in the celebrations through various competitions and cultural programmes.

The Bhanu Jayanti Celebration Committee today offered a brief insight into what this year's celebrations would be like. Kuber Chandra Dahal, vice-president of Nepali Sahitya Parishad, explained that the celebration would showcase the cultural, traditional and social heritage of the State.

"Since the Government has dedicated this year to the youth, the committee has also made a decision to make these celebrations a 'Yuva Pratibha Diwas' (youth talent celebration) where students and youth will play an active role in the celebrations through various competitions

and cultural programmes. This will further encourage the youth to be more inclined to their roots and change their outlook towards the celebrations. It would also give them a platform to showcase their talents," Mr. Dahal said.

Echoing similar sentiments, Assembly Speaker, DN Takarpa, who is also the president of the celebration committee, said that this year's celebrations would focus on developing the talent within the youth.

"The State Government has been doing everything possible to preserve and showcase the culture, tradition, language of literature of the State; this year's Bhanu Jayanti celebrations also intends to do the same. For our society to survive, we need to protect our history and get to know our roots; only then can we have our own identity and also set an example to others," the Speaker stressed.

Speaking on the contributions made by Adi Kavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya to Nepali language and literature, Mr. Takarpa said that all

questions related to why Bhanu Jayanti is celebrated in Sikkim in such a grand manner will be answered during this year's celebrations.

Highlighting the main events of the celebrations, Padmashree awardee GS Lama, president, Sikkim Sahitya Akademi, said that the celebrations would start from 06 July onwards and various State-level competitions like quiz, essay writing, Ramayana Path recitations, debates, poetry recitations will be held. The winners of these competitions will be awarded on the main day on 13 July.

The final celebrations on 13 July will start from 8 AM where everyone will assemble at Bhanu Path. The chief guest for the morning session will be Governor V. Rama Rao with the Chief Minister present as the Guest of Honour. The *Shova Yatra* will start from Bhanu Path through Tibet Road and conclude at Titanic Park.

The second session of the celebrations will be held at TNA auditorium, which will



have the Chief Minister as the chief guest. Various cultural programmes will be the highlights of the programme. Gagan Gurung and Ashok Rai, both singers and musicians, will also be awarded with the 'Mitrassen Award' during the programme that will be attended by representatives from Darjeeling, Kalimpong and people from Nepali-speaking hill areas. Last year, the Bhanu Jayanti celebrations coincided with Sikkim Samman Sammelan, making it a star-studded event. Unlike last year, there will be no eminent and famous personalities to join in the celebrations; however, like always, the charm and festivities of Bhanu Jayanti will still remain with the people of Sikkim with celebrations being held all over the State.

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The Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Top Floor, HRD Department, Tashiling, Gangtok, 737103, West Sikkim.  
Application forms can also be downloaded from <http://www.stkppa.org/download>.  
SCHEDULE  
• Issue of Prospectus and Application forms : 24th May 2005 onwards.  
• Last date for receipt of completed forms : 11th July 2005.  
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• Commencement of new session : 18th August 2005.  
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**Baichung's team warms up with friendly against TNA**

**a NOW REPORT**

It was also a warm up match for USSC before they play against Namchi Sports Hostel in the SFA Senior Division League on 09 July. Star footballer Bhiaichung Bhutia, who is the chief patron of Sleepwell USSC, also sat through the entire match. USSC won the match 5-1.

**Hewlett Packard briefs Gangtok on smart office possibilities**

**a NOW REPORT**

Speaking on the occasion, Anup Kanti Deb, an HP representative, informed that the company owns 21,000 patents and had introduced around 650 new products in the last fiscal. The presentations included HP Smart Office, desktops and notebooks, HP infrastructure solutions, imaging and printing solutions, special offers and promotions, and products demonstrations. The meet was also attended by other authorised dealers, including Nayuma Infosys, Envision, Ramesh & Brothers.

**Sikkim to soon produce 1.2 crore seeds per year**

**Contd from pg 1**

heads of the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forest at Mitokgang today and briefing them on his recent meeting with the Planning Commission in New Delhi. He also mentioned that in the near future, two tissue culture centres would be set up in the State and each centre would produce 60 lakh seeds. Collectively, both these centres will produce about 1.20 crore seeds, he added. The CM further mentioned that two agriculture

**All reserved**

**SHRP DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF NOTIFICATION TO FILL 65 VACANCIES FOR TEACHERS**

**a NOW REPORT**

Pointing out that 28 seats had been reserved for ST, seven for SC and 30 for MBC, the party today said that by leaving out OBC and general candidates, the State Government had revealed its 'partisan policy'. "If the State Government has truly accorded OBC status to Bahun, Chettri and Newar communities, it should immediately withdraw the notification, otherwise, the party will be forced to approach the courts of law," the party states in a press release.

**Check Post cops on a plantation mission**

**a NOW REPORT**

Around 250 saplings of dhuppi, payong, garash, okhar and phuntay were planted yesterday at 3rd Mile, 15 Mile, Tamzey and Sherathing by the police personnel posted at the respective police check posts, under the guidance of DIG [Check Post], Bhupendra Thapa. PI Bishnu Rai, SI Anjana Silwal, SI Tashi Lenday, junior accountant, Krishna Pradhan, writer, Amal Subba, and five other constables from the Police headquarter also took part in the plantation pro-

gramme along with the staff of respective check posts. They informed that the drive was undertaken to strengthen the initiative taken by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling to make Sikkim a 'Green State'.

The team has further decided to plant 500 more saplings at Tung and Chungthang Check Posts within this year.

**TO BOOK AD-SPACE IN NOW! DIAL**  
**9832022533**  
**9832374580**  
**9832323401**

**Committee to study municipal revenue prospects meets**

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** After its formation on 25 June, the six-member committee formed to examine the precision of part IV on Municipal Revenue in the Preliminary Draft of Sikkim Municipal Act held its second meeting today here at Janata Bhawan. The first meeting having been held earlier on 30 June. The terms of reference of the six-member committee, which has Land Revenue Secretary, KN Sharma as its chairman, includes the examination of provisions incorporated in the Preliminary Draft of the Sikkim Municipal Bill, 2005, such as source of internal revenue, tax on lands and buildings, as well as other taxes and tolls, to ensure self-sufficiency of municipal finances; examination of the base and rate structure for levy of tax on lands and buildings with regards to the deficiencies of the rent-based valuation system and taking due note of the new area-linked system now being adopted in the Municipal law in various states. The committee is also to specify the basis for defining the unit of assessment and the basis of self-assessment and propose a strategy for implementation of tax and non-tax revenue proposals of Sikkim covering different levels of Municipalities, different classes of bazaars as also the rural marketing centres to be declared as Nagar Panchayats and premises used for non-residential purposes. The committee is also to

provide a mapping to ensure full coverage of all those liable to pay taxes by use of the unique premises numbering system. It further has to give special regard to the political, economic, revenue and administrative implications, on considered together, on the basis of which the recommendations for revising the provision in the Preliminary Draft of the legislation may be made. The other committee members are Special Secretary [Finance], IT&CT, KN Bhutia; Contoller of Finance and Accounts, P. Wangdi; Special Secretary, UD&HD, HK Karki; and Joint Secretary, Law and PA Department, Phukhyam Bhutia; as well as Deputy Secretary [A/T], UD&HD, MN Dahal, who is the member secretary.

**Nathula trade to mean more than just exchange at Trade Mart**

**Contd from pg 1**

able the Industry Department to prepare a compact proposal for Delhi discussion by 09 July. During the meeting that was attended by various Ministers and heads of departments, the Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries, briefed the participants of the meeting about the various estimates and proposals received from different departments totaling around Rs. 16.66 crores which, he said, may not be adequate if one takes into account the infra-structure required. Important departments like PHE and Health are yet to submit their plans and estimates. PHE Secretary told the meeting that owing to difficult terrain, it may not be possible for his department to take water pipes to the area and may have to take recourse to other water supply systems. Moreover, he said, the volume of water required for the area can be ascertained only after his department receives the ap-

proximate estimate of consumers. The Chief Secretary asked him to take care of the sewerage system of the area too. Roads and Bridges Secretary apprised the meeting of the discussion he had with the Central officers on the numbers of warehouses required in the area. Power Secretary informed the meeting that DPR is ready for installation of 2 KV line and another 11 KV line of modest capacity in the area. He also told the meeting that a Diesel Power Station may also be needed for the area as a substitute line. DGP also briefed the meeting about the security arrangement being proposed for the area and the requirement of manpower and equipments to man various checkpoints. Health Secretary also informed the meeting about the proposal of his department to set up a Primary Health Centre and the Principal Chief Engineer, SNT, opined that more trucks, especially the container trucks used for such trades, may be required to keep ourselves prepared for the oncoming rush once the trade begins. Tourism Secretary apprised the meeting about the increased flow of tourists in Sikkim and also the preparation made by his department for the Nathula trade route though his department wished to adopt the wait and watch policy and for the present restrict to Monday and Friday trade between April and September.

Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, however, expressed his view that we should cash on the opportunity provided by the opening of the trade route and should not confine ourselves to Monday and Friday trade and try to come out of the restrictions. IGP [SB] also spoke on the requirement to provide CCTV coverage of the Mart area and on opening a Foreigners' Cell. General Manager, BSNL, informed that he was ready to provide telephone connection and mobile facilities in the area.

**Drugs trigger 24% of Sikkim's suicides: Expert**

**Contd from pg 1**

before setting out to change the society, one should change himself first. "There must be positive thinking among the youth; we should also create a competitive atmosphere first so that young people do not think of temporary relief and waste their lives away," he said. An open discussion was

also a part of today's programme wherein Dr. CL Sharma answered to various queries of the students. The awareness programme was also attended by the principal, staff and students of Namchi Senior Secondary School and Girls' Senior Secondary School, Namchi.

**China through a Heavenly Path**

**Contd from pg 2**

place that nurtures and breeds yaks [hence the name Chawrey which means yak in Nepali], meaning the breeder and protector of yaks there. This has a landscape very unique in character wherein you can see a wide range of birds such as Munal, etc. The people there are so helpful that they are ready to help visitors whenever they venture into this area. Another hour's walk and one reaches Kedi, another very spectacular landscape bestowed with a large green barren field. It has a number of small pond-like lakes around it. There are flow-

ers and rhododendron that add to its beauty. Nathula and old Silk Route are at a very short distance from this place. The road map is clear but there are other environmental issues bound to come up for debate. As the project involves huge fresh land, they may get denuded. However, to give this project a go-ahead, new planning and rehabilitation process for restoring environment, its natural vegetation and plants could be initiated as part of the project itself to make the area more beautiful and tourist centric. It is a direction towards building a new State as dreamt by our Chief Minister. Other issues are just a matter of formality. But as this issue is not alone confined to our State, we should not shy away from our dreams and commitments in the interest of Sikkim and the country to make this journey through our heavenly path to China possible.

**Eight men, one world**

**Contd from pg 2**

are growing signs that many US states will unilaterally take action over greenhouse gases. A change in policy must come, even if not for years. Meanwhile, the rest of the world must not deviate from its carbon-cutting course. To that extent, the British government must reinvestigate policies that will boost the cause of renewable energy and reduce our output of carbon dioxide with maximum enthusiasm. This nation gave birth to the Industrial Revolution which has been the cause of our climatic undoing. We have special responsibilities that need to be tackled, both at government level and with individual actions, cutting unnecessary car journeys, energy waste and cheap flights. The G8 summit will not make poverty history, nor will it undo the damage we have done to our natural environment. But if the issues stay on the agenda

for future summits and if they remain the focus in classrooms, newsrooms and pubs, so that action on Africa and climate change can sway elections as well as concert crowds, all the sound and fury from Hyde Park and Edinburgh will have signified something great. [editorial featured in The Guardian, London]

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**Kutse Shegu**  
 The 49th day Kutse Shegu of late **Onghen Lhamu [Damthang Amla]** who left for her heavenly abode on 25 May 2005 falls on 12 July 2005. All family members, friends and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul on the said date at our residence at **Kazi-Tar, Namchi, South Sikkim**. We also take this opportunity to thank all those who stood by us in our time of bereavement and regret our inability to do so individually.  
 B.L. Kazi [son],  
 Diki Namgyal, M. Wangyal and Lucy [daughters]

**Anthesi**  
 Our beloved Yogen Gautam left for his heavenly abode on 27.06.2005. All friends, well wishers and relatives are requested to attend the prayer function [ANTHESI] for the departed soul at our residence at **Naya Bazaar, Pakyong** on 08.07.2005. We would also thank all those who attended the funeral and stood by us at the time of bereavement.  
 Laxman Gautam [grand father], Bishnumaya Gautam [grand mother], N.P. Gautam [father], Hem Kumari Gautam [mother] & Yogesh Gautam [brother]  
 Ph: 9434057852, 03592-257852

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 SHOP SPACE available for rent. Location: Basar Residency (Opp. Sadar Thana), Next to New Lall Market, Gangtok. Contact: 9434164801, 9832348099, 202859  
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**3-STORIED BUILDING** with Ground Floor completed at 5th Mile, Tadong. Total area 50ft X 40ft with lawn. Contact: 94341-03690

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**ARCHITECT** full time. Minimum 2 years experience, should be familiar with CAD & ACAD. Draughtsman, Junior Engineer for a registered architectural firm. Contact: 284408 / 94340-67628 email-panarchitect@hotmail.com

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today in  
**History**  
06th July

**1862: MARK TWAIN BEGINS REPORTING IN VIRGINIA CITY**

Writing under the name of Mark Twain, Samuel Clemens begins publishing news stories in the Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*.

Born in Missouri in 1835, Clemens followed a circuitous route to becoming an observer and writer of the American West. As a young man he apprenticed as a printer and worked in St. Louis, New York, and Philadelphia. In 1856, he briefly considered a trip to South America where he thought he could make money collecting coca leaves. A year later, he became a riverboat pilot apprentice on the Mississippi River, and worked on the water for the next four years.

In 1861, Clemens' brother Orion was appointed secretary to the territorial governor of Nevada. Clemens jumped at the offer to accompany Orion on his western adventure. He spent his first year in Nevada prospecting for a gold or silver mine but was no more successful than the vast majority of would-be miners. In need of money, he accepted a job as reporter for a Virginia City, Nevada, newspaper called the *Territorial Enterprise*. His articles covering the bustling frontier-mining town began to appear on this day in 1862. Like many newspapermen of the day, Clemens adopted a pen name, signing his articles with the name Mark Twain, a term from his old river boating days.

Clemens' stint as a Nevada newspaperman revealed an exceptional talent for writing. In 1864, he traveled farther West to cover the booming state of California. Fascinated by the frontier life, Clemens drew on his western experiences to write one of his first published works of fiction, the 1865 short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The success of this classic western tall tale catapulted Clemens out of the West, and he became a world-hopping journalist for a California newspaper.

In 1869, Clemens settled in Buffalo, New York, and later in Hartford, Connecticut. All told, Clemens spent only a little more than five years in the West, and the majority of his subsequent work focused on the Mississippi River country and the Northeast. As a result, Clemens can hardly be defined as a western writer. Still, his 1872 account of his western adventures, *Roughing It*, remains one of the most original and evocative eyewitness accounts of the frontier ever written. More importantly, even his non-western masterpieces like *Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *Huckleberry Finn* (1884) reflected a frontier mentality in their rejection of eastern pretentiousness and genteel literary conventions.

**1971: SATCHMO DIES**

Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century, dies in New York City at the age of 69. A world-renowned jazz trumpeter and vocalist, he pioneered jazz improvisation and the style known as swing.

**1957 PAUL MCCARTNEY MEETS JOHN LENNON**

On this day in 1957, 15-year-old Paul McCartney attends a church picnic in the village of Woolton, near Liverpool, where he meets 16-year-old John Lennon. Lennon had formed a band called the Quarrymen, which was playing at the picnic. Between sets, McCartney played a few songs on guitar for the band, and a few days later Lennon invited him to join. At first, McCartney didn't take the group seriously in fact, he missed his first performance with the band because he had a scouting trip.

Soon, however, the group had a loyal following. The group changed its name to Johnny and the Moondogs and recruited McCartney's friend George Harrison. After bassist Stu Sutcliffe joined, they changed the name again, to the Silver Beetles, eventually modified to the Beatles. Tommy Moore joined the band as drummer and was replaced by Pete Best in 1960.

**CHUNG YIN**  
the chinese contest

Guess the correct meaning of the following Chinese characters

大蒜

- baseball
- garlic
- golf ball

One correct guess wins lunch worth Rs. 250/- at Chung Yin Restaurant, Denzong Inn, Gangtok

Last week's answer: fish sauce. Winner: Gyalyag Gyatso. Underline the correct answer, attach your name and rush entries to the NOW! office at Gairi Gaon before Monday

CORRECT ANSWER AND WINNER NEXT WEDNESDAY

**SUCHANA BHAWAN FOR LOCAL MEDIA SOON**

**a NOW REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 05 July:** The local media might soon get its own Suchana Bhawan [media house] if the land is provided by the State Government. This was assured today by Dr. Sakuntala Mahawal, the Principal Information Officer of PIB, who is on a four-day visit to the State, following a request for the same made by IPR Secretary, Gyurmey Goparma and the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers [IFSMN], Sikkim unit.

The Secretary, accompanied by Director, IPR, CP Dewana, and Under Secretary, Nhim Thatal, requested the PIO to arrange training programme for young and upcoming local journalists of the State at the Indian Institute of Mass Communications, New Delhi, study tour for local journalists beyond NE states and special training package for media persons of IPR Department.

Mr. Goparma also requested for the grant of RNI registration for local newspapers, as at present, only a score of local newspapers are registered with RNI, whereas there are about 70 local newspapers. The Secretary also requested holding RNI Camp in Gangtok at least once or twice a year so that the local journalists could avail of the facility at their doorsteps rather than going to Delhi.

Appreciating the suggestion put forward by the Secretary, Dr. Mahawal said that a senior official of PIB would be deputed to Sikkim in September-October this year to study the possibilities. She also agreed to depute faculty members of IIMC to conduct training programme for local journalists in the State.

Regarding construction of Suchana Bhawan, she assured to make the funds available from Planning Commission and at the same time requested the State Government to provide suitable land measuring about 25,000 to 30,000 sq. ft. in and around Gangtok.

Dr. Mahawal stressed on enhancement of duration of local news broadcast from AIR [Gangtok] and also suggested that IPR publish *Sikkim Herald* in Hindi. She also assured to make the Gangtok Doorarshan Kendra fully operational.

In another meeting with the PIO today morning, a delegation of IFSMN, led by B. Bantawa, Sikkim unit president and member of Central Press Accreditation Committee, GoI, submitted a memorandum to Dr. Mahawal containing various demands in the interest of journalists working in Sikkim. The demands mentioned in the

memorandum include issue of more press releases in Nepali by the PIB; regular tour programmes for local journalists and foreign tours for senior journalists; and sensitisation of journalists regarding welfare schemes meant for them, besides other facilities.

During the meeting, Dr. Mahawal expressed her keen interest to develop the media in the State and offered to organise media training in the State tentatively in the month of September and October this year. She assured the members that all the demands put by IFSMN, Sikkim unit, will be looked into favourably. Later during the day, she

held a meeting with the media persons at the Press Club of Sikkim where she stressed that right to information was necessary in a democracy; hence, the media should focus on reaching information to the grassroots. She also emphasised that the media should work towards highlighting the peaceful atmosphere prevalent in the State and also its efforts towards achieving a fully Organic State status in the country.

Development of economic journalism was another issue that was stressed by the PIO who said that issues concerning wastage of energy and resources in the country should be highlighted by the media.

Observing that Sikkim had a good mixture of both senior and young journalists, Dr. Mahawal said that she had observed a great enthusiasm among the journalists here towards their work. Speaking during the function, Mr. Bantawa said that it was for the first time in the media history of Sikkim that any PIO of PIB, visiting the State has shown her concern regarding the problems faced by the local media persons.

Other PIB officers accompanying Dr. Mahawal are Dr. PK Bandopadhyaya, addl. PIO, Kolkata, and Abdul Hamid, AIO.

**Principal Information Officer keen on journalism developing in Sikkim**

**SSACS SIKKIM STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY**  
YANGTHANG BUILDING, KAZI ROAD, GANGTOK

Sikkim State AIDS Control Society is an organization registered as a Society under the Societies' Registration Act and is engaged in the implementation of Phase II of National AIDS Control Programme in the State of Sikkim to control spread of HIV / AIDS with the World Bank Assistance made available to it through the National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. To achieve, the above objective a number of programmes like General Intervention Programme, Targetted Intervention Programme, Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Tele-counselling Centre, Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing Centres, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV infection etc. which are a part of the NACP, are being implemented by the Society all over the State.

Presently the office of the Society is located in the Yangthang Building, Kazi Road, Gangtok, Sikkim- 737101.

The Society is now considering to implement another Targetted Intervention Programme as per details below:-

1. Name of Programme: Implementation of Targetted Intervention Programme among Intravenous Drug Users.
2. Location: Namchi and Jorethang, South District
3. Category / Type of NGOs needed: Non-Governmental Organizations / Charitable Companies / Public Trusts Registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1982 / Community Based Organizations formed by the Commercial Sex Workers, Men Having Sex with Men, Intravenous Drug Users.

**THE SOCIETY INVITES PROJECT PROPOSALS** from the above mentioned Organizations for implementation of the Targetted Intervention Programme as per details given above. **Expression of Interest by the organization(s) interested to implement the above project together with a brief profile of the organization and self assessment Report in the prescribed format should reach the Project Director of the Society at the address given above within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication of this advertisement.** For a copy of the Prescribed Format for Self Assessment Report and for any other clarifications about the above Project, interested parties may contact Dr. Kalzang Diki, NGO Advisor on any working day from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM in the office of the Society at the address given above.

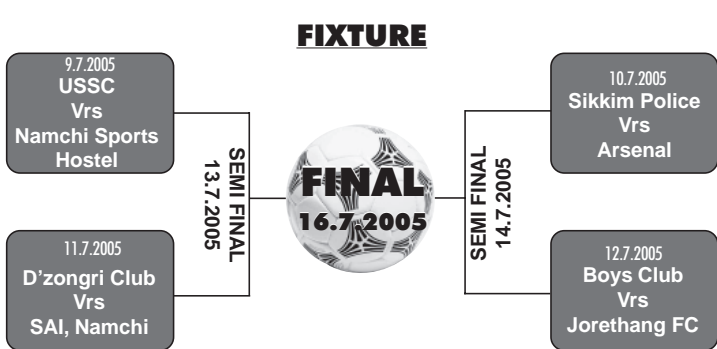
The Proposals received by the Society in response to this advertisement, will be examined by a Technical Committee with a Team of officials of the concerned organization and the organization found to be most suitable in accordance with the laid down criteria by the World Bank will be allotted the above Project initially for a period till 31.03.2006.

**COUNSELLING NOTICE**

THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF SIKKIM WILL CONDUCT COUNSELLING FOR DIPLOMA ENGINEERING FOR VARIOUS BRANCHES ON 11TH JULY 2005 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE DEPARTMENT FROM 11.00 A.M. ONWARDS. THE CANDIDATES ARE DIRECTED TO BRING ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS IN ORIGINAL. CANDIDATES WHO FAIL TO ATTEND THE COUNSELLING SHALL LOSE CLAIM ON SEAT.

DY. DIRECTOR/ SCH  
H.R.D. DEPARTMENT  
R.O. No. 214/IPR/05-06 Dated: 4/7/2005

**SIKKIM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION SENIOR DIVISION FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT- 2005**



N.B: 1. All the matches will be played at T.N.A. Ground, Gangtok  
2. Kick-off time- 2.45 P.M.  
3. All the matches will be played as per AIFF rules.

(MENLA ETHENPA)  
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