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First With The News

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THE RETURN OF NATHULA



A young Motilal Lakhotia (third from left), a trader from Sikkim, with his Tibetan counterparts at a halt along the trade route march from Gangtok to Yatung over Nathula in the 1950's.

REMUNA RAI

GANGTOK, 05 July: Nathula and the trade mart before it at Serathang will be abuzz with VIP presence and media persons from all over the world on Thursday. A significant pointer to how things have changed since the days when the pass was officially opened for bilateral trade back in 1953 - to no media frenzy, no ceremonial inaugurations, just traders on a business trip.

Yes, Nathula, till 1953, was mostly traversed by traders from Tibet on their way to Gangtok. Traders based here did not pay return visits because most of the commerce at that time was concentrated in Kalimpong, the nearest Indian town to the border passes to Tibet in Sikkim.

Sikkim was an independent kingdom [a protectorate state of India] at that time and although Sikkim and Tibet always had bilateral relations, it had not been formalized

whereas the only trade agreement extant at the time was between India and Tibet which had allowed for trade over Jeplela since it was closer to Kalimpong than Nathula. Things have changed now with Gangtok becoming the closest Indian town and Serathang the closest possible trade mart to a border pass.

Motilal Lakhotia, who figures in just about every curtain-raiser to the reopening of Nathula, is the lone survivor of the delegation of Indian businessmen who called on the then Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1953 and urged him to persuade the Tibetan Government to allow traders from Sikkim to use Nathula [which is closer to Gangtok than Jeplela] for trading with Tibet. They had the option of Jeplela, but the only possible routes to it were either too long or in extremely poor repair.

The permission came through and was much better

than the traders here had bargained for. Traders based in Sikkim could get a trade pass issued from the Political Office maintained by the Government of India here and this pass allowed them to travel through Yatung in Chumbi Valley up to Gyantse from where the Tibetan plateau opens up. Traders could also continue up to Lhasa on a pilgrimage.

Gangtok traders would set out for the journey around three in the morning [much like the journalists who have been briefed to leave for Serathang by 4AM on Thursday] on mules and continue northwards for about eight hours, after which the high winds made it impossible for them to continue their journey. This meant a halt at any small hamlet or settlement on the way till the next morning, whence they would commence the journey. Consequently, the traders would reach Yatung, the hub of the

Army welcomes reopening



a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 5 July: The Indian Army stationed here has welcomed the opening of the trade route through Nathula as a historically significant development.

A press release issued by the Indian Army reiterates that the reopening of the trade route is being seen as a positive step towards the growing economic ties between the two countries. The release further informs that the responsibility of conducting trade, including various modalities of transportation, customs clearance immigration and trading at marts, would rest with the civil administration as per the agreement signed by the countries.

Meanwhile, the ITBP has been incorporated by the administration to ensure security of Border Trading Mart of Serathang and the Customs/Immigration out post at Nathula and also to provide necessary guidance and security for the movement of traders.

the release adds. The Indian Army will continue to man the international boundary including Nathula and the security concerns in carrying out as the primary tasks have been adequately addressed in light of the trade activity across the pass, the release adds.

The thawing of relations between the two countries and the armies continues to glow warm with the twice a year border personnel meetings between the two sides. The cordiality continues with issues of concern being promptly addressed through the telephone hotline or through flag meetings between the two military garrisons, the release adds.

The Army, the release states, will provide "all possible assistance" being on the spot at Nathula, as requested by the administration and the whole procedure for control and movement of traders has been finalized by the civil administration in close consultation with Army.

DC [North] holds coordination meeting, stresses punctuality

DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, 05 July: A district level co-ordination community meet was organized today by the District Collector (North), TN Kazi, which was coordinated by the SDM, BK Lama, and also attended by the DDO, N Thapa, Senior SP, ST Bhutia, CMO, IL Sharma and all the officers of different departments.

DC [North] informed that the meeting has been called to discuss various inter-departmental problems and to sort out these problems.

It was also directed that DAC Building roof was leaking and that the Building and Housing department should make necessary repairs. All the departments were directed to maintain their toilets and bathrooms properly.

AE, PHE department was directed to provide proper water supply and it also suggested that PHE water supply bills should be borne by all departments instead of the Land Revenue department alone.

The DC also advised that government land should be properly identified by all departments and regularized at the earliest.

All the departmental officials should be punctual and inform the DC while proceeding on official tours of leaving the station for meetings. The departments were also directed to submit monthly reports to DC.

LEO, Labour Department, KR Limboo, updated the meeting on the Labour Department notification of the Sikkim Labour Protection Act, 2005 to regulate the employment and conditions of services and employed workers or labours and individual workers and to protect them from exploitation and also for statistical purpose, by registration of individual workers or labours.

The Act was enforced in the State on 01 June 2006, so all the labourers should take the forms from the Labour Department, Mangan, and submit the same after filling in the required details.



SPINNING HISTORY!

A photograph from the 1860's shows a Sikkimese spinning wool onto a distaff. This photo probably taken by Sir Benjamin Simpson in the 1860s [and a copyright expired photo in the Royal Geographical Society collection] highlights well what used to be at one time the largest export from Chumbi valley in Tibet - wool. Chumbi is renowned the world over for the quality of the wool it produces, which is incidentally one of the items allowed for duty-free import from Tibet Autonomous Region over Nathula.

State Congress has reservations over Nathula

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 July: A press release issued by the Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee president Nar Bahadur Bhandari has highlighted the party's concerns regarding issues related to the opening of the border trade through the Nathula on 06 July.

The party lists its concerns about the 'impending threats' to the country resulting from the revival of the Indo-China border trade route and it feels that certain issues have not been addressed before initiating the reopening.

One of its concerns permeates over the venture of the State Pollution Control Board, whether any, to avoid environmental hazards and protect the rare species of flora and fauna of Sikkim.

The SPCC has also raised queries on what steps have been initiated to check the influx of people into Sikkim from across the border and a yardstick to protect the rights of the indigenous Lepchas, Bhutias and Nepalis from the new influx.

Also, it raises the issue of the benefits which the

It is notified that **TELEPHONE ADALAT** for Gangtok, Singtam and Mangan areas (East and North Districts of Sikkim) will be held on **22.07.2006 from 1100 Hrs to 1400 Hrs** in the Office of the **General Manager Telecom, Cherry Building, Gangtok**. The subscribers are requested to **FILE THEIR COMPLAINTS ALONG WITH COPIES OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING 1. Excess Billing 2. Service etc. by 17.07.2006** addressed to the Accounts Officer (TR) O/o The General Manager Telecom, Cherry Building, Gangtok, Sikkim.

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Tibetan Govt-in-Exile welcomes resumption of border trade

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 July: It is understandable for the Tibetan community in exile in India to view the reopening of Nathula for trade between India and China with suspicion. They have few reasons to trust the Chinese government and anything that it does. The Tibetan Government-in-Exile, however, is responding to Historic Thurs-

"BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ASIAN GIANTS WILL HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE RESOLUTION OF TIBET ISSUE"

day in a more positive light. "We welcome the opening of Nathula for trade," said Thupden Samphel, the official spokesperson for the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, while speaking to NOW! over the phone today.

"We believe that this is a positive development between the two most populous

countries in the world and are convinced that better commerce will cement better relations between the two Asian Giants, which will, in turn, have a positive impact on the resolution of the Tibetan issue," Mr. Samphel, who is also the Secretary, International Affairs, with the Government-in-Exile based

in Dharamsala, explained. His views were also echoed by the incharge, Bureau of His Holiness The Dalai Lama in New Delhi, Tempa Tsering, who said, "We welcome better relations between India and China."

What has also not escaped the notice of most observers is the timing of the reopening of

Nathula which coincides with the 71st birthday of the Dalai Lama. While some see it as a deliberate attempt of the Chinese government to rub in the fact to Tibetans the world over and in Tibet about who decides things for Tibet, some others are seeing it as an attempt to sidetrack the public sentiments which are expected to soar on

Dalai Lama's birthday by giving them something big which competes for their interest on the day. Ask Mr. Samphel on how the Tibetan Government-in-Exile responds to the picking of the date, and he says, "This is a bilateral issue between China and India. If the timing has more significance than just coincidence, then only the Chinese and Indian governments will be able to comment on it, not us."

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NOW!

First With The News

Today is Also Dalai Lama's Birthday

Media attention will be singularly focused on the events at Nathula and Serathang today. And even as the resumption of trade over Nathula gets a warm and high-profile inauguration, the Tibetans of Gangtok will be gathering at Chandmani to celebrate the Dalai Lama's 71st birthday. There is a major development underway in the place that is their real home – the Tibet Autonomous Region now – and none of them were included in the negotiations that led to his historic moment.

That is unfortunate. And how does the Dalai Lama-led Tibetan Government-in-Exile respond to it?

Positively. They look at the bright side of things. Resumption of trade between India and China has been officially welcomed by them because they see better relations between India and China as leading to a quicker resolution of the Tibetan issue. They are not very far off the mark. Thus far, India has never really stared China down on any issue; if commerce becomes a prolific involvement between the two countries and Nathula became the lifeline for supplies to TAR [which it could very well become], then India will be able to negotiate with China with some advantage. Tibet would definitely gain. If, as the Tibetan officials believe, trade leads to genuinely better relations between the two countries, then India will be able to lobby for Tibet with a friendly nation.

This is the positivity with which Dalai Lama swathes everything and this makes him more than just the spiritual leader of Tibetans all over the world.

He is the spiritual king of a displaced people in a foreign land. The Dalai Lama was barely 24 when he was thrown into the outside world, of which, not only he, but most Tibetans knew little. He adapted well and even though he has now crossed the age of seventy and still finds himself in exile, heading a government that even the host nation does not recognize, he manages to not only remain optimistic, but also keep his flock together in optimism. He knows time is running out and must be experiencing the worry of an unresolved Tibet issue everyday. And yet he manages to remain positive. An aspect which appears to be in short supply even in Sikkim which stands to the gain the most from Nathula at present.

His birthday needs to be celebrated with prayers that more people learn from his compassion and ability to sight a silver lining in everything.

THE RETURN OF NATHULA...

Contd from pg 1

trading activity – a journey that would take about five days – exhausted from the wearisome journey and battered by the merciless cold. Fast-forward to the present and Mr. Lakhotia says that now of course, there are fast and comfortable SUVs to make the journey a sheer joy.

Yatung at 9,000 ft. made for a better choice for the traders to dwell in and conduct their transactions, rather than Gyantse or Phari whose weather conditions at 12,000 ft. had the Indian traders giving it a wide berth.

Yatung had about 200 or more shops along with Tibetan and Chinese settlements, warehouses, rented accommodations of the traders, Indian offices like the Indian Consulate and Indian travel agencies, and of course, the People's Bank of China, which housed the bank accounts of the traders.

Mr. Lakhotia has a bank account with this bank and although he has lost his pass book, he remains convinced that his money is safe!

Yatung was this major centre of trading activity, witnessing traders from Sikkim, Nepal and Tibet and from India, the Bengali, Punjabi and the Marwari traders. Coolies to help with the load usually came from Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan.

The centre for trade this time is Rinchengang.

Mr. Lakhotia recounts that when he traveled this route as a trader, Rinchengang was just a small settlement with some houses and cultivated fields and something they would just pass by on their tedious journey. He remembers though that this village had the largest tract of flat land that he has seen in Chumbi valley.

Mr. Lakhotia is one of the sharper businessmen that

Sikkim has seen, and although he obviously plans to resume Tibet trade, at present, he is more excited about the reopening of Nathula. What he can trade in and how, he will work out once he interacts with traders from the other side in a process that begins Thursday.

For now, its reminiscences and memories and coming true of a conviction that Nathula made too much sense to be kept closed for trade for always.

It is perhaps this conviction that made Mr. Lakhotia retain his company's name – Sikkim Tibet Company – which, for the past 44 years made very little sense.

"Deep down, I always believed that the route would be reopened some day," he says. About the lighter memories of the days he spent in Tibet, Mr. Lakhotia remembers the friendly volleyball matches that the Sikkimese traders would play with their Chinese and Tibetan counterparts. When the Indian trader lost the match, the Chinese would invite them over for tea and snacks and the Indians would accept grudgingly, angry at themselves for having lost.

"When the Chinese trader lost, we also invited them for tea, but they never showed up," Mr. Lakhotia chuckles. Interestingly, last year the Indian and Chinese army deployed at the border pass also played a friendly match on the Indian side of the border which the Chinese side lost. There has not been a rematch since...

Mr. Lakhotia recalls that though he had many friends and acquaintances on the Tibetan side, sadly, after the trade was brought to a halt in 1962, he has not been in touch with them since. He is hoping that when he travels to Rinchengang on Thursday, he will find at least some faces he recognizes from the old times. We hope so too...

There is an information overdrive on Nathula at present. Most of the news is current, there are some reminiscences and some history. NOW! recounts here the first reasonably detailed reference to Nathula by a British officer in a document that dates back to 1874. What he recorded at the time is of more than archival interest as it bears out that Nathula has always been used for trade. In going with the mood of the article which narrates a tour undertaken in 1873, we have used here archival photographs taken between 1860 to 1890 to give readers a sense of who lived in Sikkim at that time and how...

British interest in Sikkim started in the 1830's when the East India Company mediated in the skirmishes between Nepal and Sikkim. The Company worked out a solution and took away Darjeeling from Sikkim expressing an interest to set up a sanatorium for convalescing British officers. What the British were really interested in was the commanding position Darjeeling enjoyed over three countries – Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan, and through the latter two, over Tibet which lay beyond. The East India Company was, well, a company and its first priority was trade. Even though India passed on to the British Empire in 1857, the priorities remained unchanged and after the Indian markets had been satiated, the one blank spot on British India's trade map was Tibet. Trade with Tibet had been monopolized by the businessmen on Kathmandu and the traders of Ladakh. Even Bhutan had trade relations with Tibet, but British India continued to be denied a direct involvement. They were keen to change this and after some failed attempts to negotiate directly with Tibet, decided to first work out viable access route to the Roof of the World.

In 1873, the British India government decided to use the subtle, yet persuasive negotiating skills of J. Ware Edgar, the then Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, to first convince the Sikkim durbur to allow Indian traders free passage through Sikkim and also lobby for it with Tibet to initiate direct trade. On receipt of the orders, Edgar traveled through Sikkim between October to December 1873. Unlike the Western visitors who preceded him to Sikkim, who were mostly anthropologists or botanists [like JD Hooker in the 1840's], Edgar was a bureaucrat and his job description was clear – "collect the state of affairs there [Sikkim] – the condition, extent and prospects of trade with Tibet; the desirability of making a road or roads through Sikkim; the best route or routes to be taken..."

His orders could not have been more explicit. And the report he filed on his return was equally detailed. Edgar recorded details of his visit in a document titled "Report On a Visit to Sikkim And The Tibetan Frontier In October, November and December, 1873."

The document makes for interesting reading, but we focus here only on the portions that deal with Nathula.

Edgar found himself near Nathula after winding his way through Rhenock, Kukup and

Gnathang. We join his narrative on the morning he made the final push for Nathula [spelled by him back in 1873 as "Gnatui Pass."]

"Next morning, I started for the Gnatui Pass. For a little way the route lay along the level plain of Kophu [known nowadays as Kukup] in a northerly direction; but then went down a very steep descent, for perhaps a thousand feet, into a fir-clad valley, in which was a long lake called the Nemtzo [Memnecho]. I do not think that I have seen anything in India so beautiful as this gorge, with its lake surrounded by hills covered with fir-wood and partly-frozen streams falling over precipices through a network of ice tracery. There are many similar valleys between the comparatively level uplands of this part of Sikkim. They form very singular features in the landscape, looking from a distance like huge earthquake-rents in the grassy plains. From the valley we had a stiff climb to the flat on the other side, which was more than usually marshy, with a large sheet of water fringed with sedge in the middle. My coolies went along the west side of this marsh to Sharab [Serathang now, where the trade mart on the Indian side has been set up], where I meant to encamp, while I took a path leading in a north-easterly direction to the Gnatui Pass..."

From Gnatui... the view of Phari is much less extensive than that of Jeylep, but it gives one a better idea of the villages and cultivation about Choombi. A rather considerable stream flows from the Gnatui to the Mochoo, or Ammochoo, near Rincheingong [the trade mart in the Tibet Autonomous Region for the border trade that begins 06 July]."

While Edgar was at Nathula, he ran into a husband-wife team who could be considered the first recorded traders of Nathula. This is how Edgar describes the meeting, his focus also on the items of trade:

"While we were at the Pass [Nathula], a man from Gantuck [Gantok, the capital of Sikkim], with his wife, came up with murwa [millet] of their own growing to the value of about six rupees, which they were taking to Choombi for sale. They said that they meant to take the proceeds to Phari, where they would buy salt, which they would bring in to Darjeeling, where they might probably lay out the proceeds of the sale in an investment for the Tibet market, if they found time to do so before next year's sowing season. I mention this case, as it is a typical one. There was scarce a day during my stay in East Sikkim that I did not meet people either coming from, or on their way to, Darjeeling with goods, the value of which at first sight seemed quite disproportionate to the labour that had to be undergone in taking them to the market; but I have no doubt they find the traffic pays for them. These murwa-sellers expected to get six rupees for their murwa at Choombi, and with this sum to be able to buy



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

- A Limboo lady from East Sikkim photographed in 1879-80.
 - Lepchas in front of the Residency [now the Raj Bhawan] in Gangtok [Date unconfirmed]
 - Bhutia peasants of East Sikkim sometime between 1860-70.
 - Nepali peasants in Sikkim in the 1860's.
 - A photograph taken in 1909 captioned "Tibetan Coolies (note the shell ornaments on the woman's wrist and the Buddhist prayer paper carried by the man) in Sikkim, East India."
- [All photographs from the Royal Geographical Society collection on Sikkim and accessed from a website offering their free use for educational and informational purposes]



at Phari four maunds of salt, which they could sell in Darjeeling for Rs. 32, while the value of their murwa at Gantuck was only Rs. 4-8."

Locals made sharp traders more than a century back, one must add here. As the extract bears out, Nathula was always being used for trade. Only by locals and limited to trading with Chumbi Valley at the time though, but trade nevertheless. Till 1953, only Tibetan traders would cross over from Tibet to

Gangtok and conduct trade and from that year on, till 1962, Indian traders also started crossing over from Nathula keeping a busy traffic of trade. Jelep-la, ever since it was opened by the Younghusband Mission in 1904 continued trading till 1962 from the trade hub based in Kalimpong on the Indian side and Yatung in Tibet. Kalimpong was an obvious choice in 1904 because at that time, it was the closest Indian outpost to the Tibetan border [Sikkim was an independent kingdom] and Jelep-la the closest

pass to Kalimpong. Today, Gangtok is the closest Indian town to the border and Nathula, 52 kms away, the closest border pass. It becomes the obvious choice for a move which has started as a show of good faith between the two countries and will definitely live up to its history of commerce and become an important trade route. We end this recap on that note and with images that were captured in Sikkim at around the time when Nathula was first reported to British India.

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SIRD hosts workshop on Total Sanitation campaign

PURAN TAMANG

JORETHANG, 04 July: A day long workshop on Total sanitation campaign organized by State Institute of Rural Development [SIRD] was held today at the conference hall of the institute. The programme was attended by SI Dorjee, Joint Director, SIRD, Karma Namgyal, Consultant, Information Education, Communication [IEC] Deputy Director, SIRD, Bishal Rai, DT Bhutta, DDO(S) and Bishal Mukhia, faculty Economics/ Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

Commenting on the current scenario of TSC in Sikkim, DDO (S) stated that the aim of the Government was to make the people habituated to use proper toilets.

Stressing upon the role of the Panchayats in the total Sanitation Campaign, he said that, they should make the people aware about the necessity of well constructed toilets. He also informed that the Panchayats could also manage a garbage bin in their respective wards for proper collection of waste.

He further informed that toilets in the schools should be better with two separate rooms for girls and boys and water should also be maintained properly.

According to him, it was the duty of the Ward Panchayat to maintain the drainage systems properly and the fund allotted through SGRY could be utilized for it.

He further stated that for the toilets in private homes, the Government has fixed the expenditure at Rs. 2960 of which the State Government provides Rs. 1125 and the Centre Rs. 375 and the rest was to be borne by the beneficiaries.

Similarly for institutional toilets, a sum of Rs. 20, 000 has been fixed with a state-share of Rs. 4000, Centre Rs. 12,000 and the rest, Rs. 4000 to be paid by the beneficiary.

Aganwadi toilets should be constructed at a cost of Rs. 10,000 with the Centre providing Rs. 6000, Rs. 3000 from the State and Rs. 1000 to be borne by the beneficiary. At public places like play grounds, the budget was Rs. 2 lakhs, of which the Centre would assist with Rs. 1.2 lakhs, the State with Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 40,000 to be contributed by the community. These facilities should be maintained by the people through pay and use revenue.

The campaign which was started in 2005 needs to be completed by the year 2009, he added. As per the baseline survey, a total of 8,970 toilets for households, 438 for schools, 82 for ICDS, 155 for institutional and 100 (approx) for community Sanitary Complex need to be constructed under total Sanitation Campaign implemented at Jorethang Constituency, which includes 137 wards of 13 G.PUs of these two constituencies.

DDO (S) also sought help from NGOs to make TSC a successful venture. The topic on social mobilization was taken by Deputy Director SIRD, Bishal Rai, while Consultant IEC Karma Namgyal gave a brief speech on TSC.

The subject of WAT-SAN a general overview and Formation of core Group and Action plan was undertaken during the workshop by Bishal Mukhia. The training under Capacity and Communication Development Unit (CCDU) was attended by around 50 participants including teachers and panchayats of Damthang and Jorethang Constituencies.

The programme also witnessed an open discussion during which the participants put forth several queries which were fielded by the resource person.

BJP sees State Govt's request for deferred delimitation as "timid and deceitful"

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 July: The State-unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party today termed as 'timid and deceitful,' the SDF Government's decision to pass a resolution in the State Assembly to request the Delimitation Commission to

defer the delimitation of State Assembly seats until the finalization of the reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang and submit the same with the Commission during the CM's recent visit to New Delhi, when this has already been achieved by the BJP. The party informs that the

BJP submitted a written statement to the Delimitation Commission on 12 September 2005, saying that if the delimitation process was not deferred, the BJP would move the court of law.

This was done through the joint efforts of all the opposition parties viz. Congress, CPI

(M), SHRP and GPP, when the Delimitation Commission held public hearing in September last year wherein it had agreed to defer till December. The party had also filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court of India on the matter, BJP adds.

The release proclaims that the BJP is confused as to whether 'such unwanted and eyewash' resolution is an outcome of the discussion of the legislators of the SDF party or a resolution placed by unilateral decision when the case is already pending in the Supreme Court of India.

The release confirms of the BJP assurance to the SDF Government that the party is willing to talk to all the state units of national parties and also regional parties and help get the reservation of seats in the State Assembly by means of Ordinance by making the UPA Government, led by Congress and the main oppo-

sition NDA led by BJP at Centre to agree, if the SDF Government sends the proposal immediately (in response to the letter from the Ministry of Home, Government of India on reservation of seats in State Assembly) based on the percentage of population derived from the voter list as already agreed by all parties and accepted by the Government of India.

Alternatively, the SDF Government can use population percentage available from the survey conducted and completed by Department of Economics, Statistics and Monitoring in December 2005, the release offers.

The release also informs that the petition filed by BJP for the disqualification of two MPs from Sikkim has been referred by the President to Election Commission of India and received on 23 June 2006 by the latter.

State Congress has reservations over Nathula...

Contd from pg1

Sikkimese people can derive from the border trade and the goods which are to be exported to China, which are not "worthy of mention," the party contests. It hopes that the Sikkimese people will not be mute spectators to the rumbling trucks plying between Rangpo and Nathula.

The SPCC also believes that the opening of the trade route, being an international high profile event, should have been inaugurated by a Union Minister or any of the leaders from the Centre.

The party has also expressed concern over the provision of adequate basic amenities, including medical facilities to cater to the needs of the large number of the visitors to Sikkim from across the border.

The release further claims that bilateral relations and the growth of the economy cannot be achieved at the cost of the nation's security. Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had established friendly relations with China on the basis of the principles Panchasheel but it was breached within a short while in 1962, the release states.

The party expressed its apprehensions about a similar situation arising in the future, which might place Sikkim along the lines of Arunachal Pradesh.

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Application along with certificates may be submitted to the Administrator between 9:30 AM to 11 AM on all working days with immediate effect. Last date of receipt of application is 7.07.2006

Administrator. Ph.204274

FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

All higher education aspirants and vocational students are requested to attend seminar organize by Indian Institute of Professionals Gangtok Branch in presence of representatives from University of Madras and Vinayaka Missions Research Foundation (Deemed) University.

Date: 8th July 2006
Venue: Tadong Government College

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TATA INDIGO MARINA, model- 2005 in good running condition. For further details contact: 9832035196, 9832480628, 9232498660

REQUIRED/WANTED:
Maruti Alto in good condition. Contact: 9434174490, 9733098466

WANTED: Marketing Executive for Overnite Express Limited (A Courier Service), minimum qualifications graduate with knowledge of marketing and computer application. Send bio-data to: Rakesh Somani, Overnite Express Ltd., Somani Bldg, New Market, Gangtok. Ph: 9434023813, 9832013133

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HOUSE site measuring 40'x50' situated at Middle Burtuk near Helipad, contact: 094347-50333

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Anthyesthi Kriya
The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Capt. Shasi Bhusan Singh, who laid down his life fighting for the country falls on 9th July 2006 [Sunday]. All relatives, friends, and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Development Area, Above Sangram Bhawan, Gangtok.
Rameshwar Singh [father], Ravi Bhusan Singh [brother] & all family members

Anthyesthi Kriya
The Anthyesthi Kriya of late Maiya Shakya (1954-2006) who passed away on 28th June, falls on 10th July 2006. All relatives, friends, and well wishers are requested to join us in offering prayers for the departed soul at our residence at Upreti Building, above SBI Bank, Deorali.
Karuna Ratna Shakya (husband) Pabi Ratna Shakya (son) Subash Ratna Shakya (son) Sujata Shakya (daughter-in-law) Deepankar Ratna Shakya [grandson]
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Cricket selection in July-end

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 05 July: Sikkim Cricket Association will hold preliminary trials for selection of players for the all India Junior Nationals i.e. Under-15, Under-17, Under-19 and Under-22 Cricket team to represent Sikkim on 29 and 30 July 2006.

The trials will be held in all districts and players are required to get in touch with the relevant contact persons in their respective districts.

The venues earmarked for the East district are Gangtok, Rangpo, Pakyong and Rhenock/ Rongli while Gayzing and Chakyong will be the hosting the trials in the West. Similarly, Namchi and Jorethang in the South and Mangan in the North District. The players are expected to bring their own kits and come in proper whites or in track suits by 8.30 am at the relevant venues on the appointed days.

Workshop series on large cardamom disease management begins

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 5 June: About a hundred farmers from all over the State today participated in a day-long training on Raising Sucker Nursery and Disease Management of Large Cardamom here at the Soil testing Lab opposite ICAR complex here.

The Spices Board, in association with Sikkim State Horticulture department conducted the training programme. Gangtok was the first venue for holding the training amongst the two other venues at Karfectar, RDD Conference Hall at Jorethang on 7 July and Panchayat Ghar, Passingdong, Upper Dzongu on 11 July.

Present as the chief guest today was the Director, Horticulture, KK Singh, others present were Dr. J Thomas, Director (Research) Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Spices Board, Mysladumpara, Idukki, Dist Kerala amongst scientists,

senior officers from the Spices Board and Horticulture department.

The main objective of the training programme is to identify the problems faced by the farmers during cultivation and find solutions for future strategies.

"Last year the export of large cardamom increased, this means that there is a rising demand of our cardamom abroad and that the production had grown", said Dr. Thomas. He further said that the farmers should not only concentrate on quantitative production alone but along with doing so give more stress on quality. He also mentioned that the Spices

Board had started sending field officers to the rural areas to work at the grass root level and that they were working with the farmers, carrying out surveys and the causes of the diseases.

He further assured the farmers that all the latest technology being used in carrying out cardamom farming shall be brought to the rural areas enhancing productivity.

Mr. KK Singh while stating that 'cardamom plantation was the 'life capsule' for many farmers in the rural areas mentioned that it was since the past few years that related diseases had brought down production of the spice in the state and affected the farmers, but the work being

carried out at present by all concerned was now changing the situation. "The department is really concerned about the issue. What we need here is a research institute and a university here for which we have requested the centre. This shall greatly benefit the state and the farmers can learn and implement disease management effectively", he stated.

He also asked for the full support of the Spices Board and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research for making possible a disease free farming sector in the state.

The day long programme also saw discussions and interactions which was actively participated by the participants.

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INVITATION
 Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association is proudly announce its 1st Workshop-cum-Expansion of Membership on the completion of its 2nd successful years on **13th July 2006** at Traveller's Lodge, Opp. Panorama Color Lab, Tibet Road, Gangtok at 2 PM. All the interested individuals are cordially invited to attend the same. Preference will be given to BMC and AMC certificate holders. Willing individuals will be registered on the spot.
Publicity Secretary,
 Ph: 9832339176

INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT CATERING TECHNOLOGY & APPLIED NUTRITION
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ADMISSION NOTICE
 Applications are invited for admission to the following courses in Hotel Management for the academic session 2006-07.

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2. DIPLOMA IN FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE - 1 1/2 years
3. CRAFTSMANSHIP COURSE IN FOOD PRODUCTION - 1 1/2 years
4. CRAFTSMANSHIP COURSE IN F&B SERVICE - 1 1/2 years

ELIGIBILITY: The minimum qualifications for admission to any of the above Courses are 1. Diploma 2. Craftmanship Course Class 10 pass.

Candidates who have appeared in the qualifying examination for the academic session-2005-06 are also eligible to apply subject to producing the pass certificate at the time of admission i.e. in the month of August 2006.

AGE: Age of the candidate should not be more than 22 years as on 1st July 2006. For candidates belonging to SC/ST, age limit is relaxable upto 3 years.

RESERVATION OF SEATS: 15% seats are reserved for SC, 7 1/2% for ST candidates and 3% for physically challenged candidates subject to their disability not proving an obstacle for ultimate employment in the service industry.

FEES RELAXATION: Special concession of 75% in Tuition fee only is available for bonafide Sikkimese Students.

HOW TO APPLY: Application form & Prospectus can be obtained w.e.f 12th June 2006 from the Institute of Hotel Management, Gangtok against Cash payment of Rs.100/- or Demand Draft of Rs.100/- drawn in favour of INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT, payable at GANGTOK.

Application form complete in all respects should reach the Institute before 14th July 2006 accompanied by Registration Fee of Rs. 300/-.

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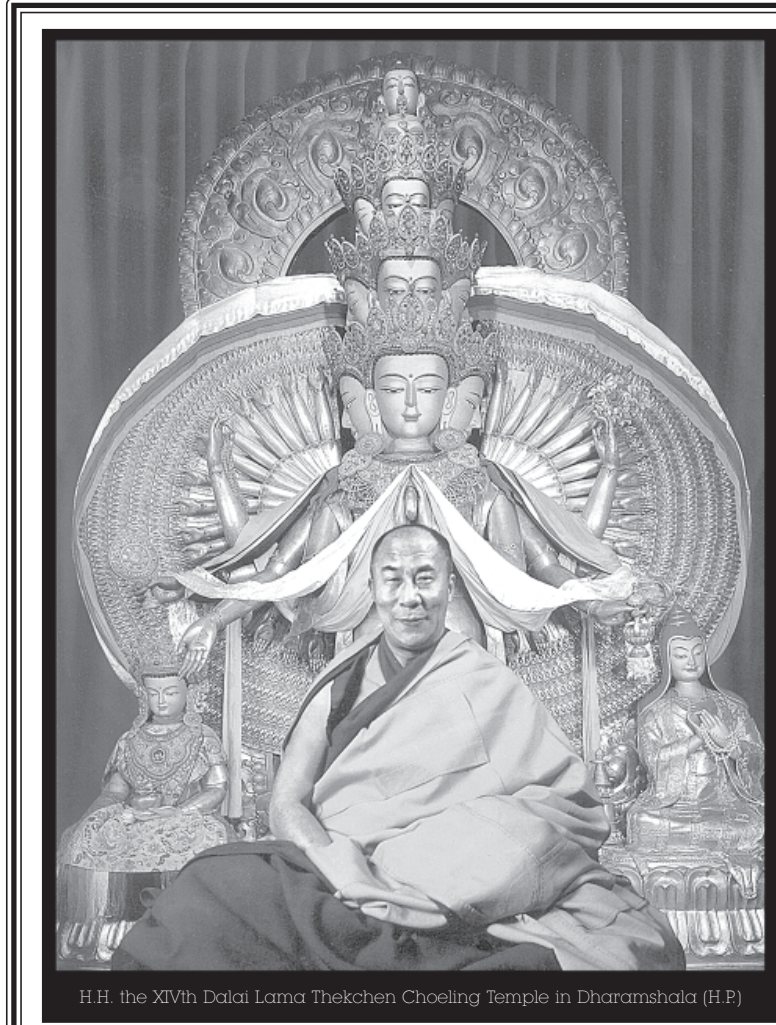
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Winners will be decided by draw of lots and announced in NOW! dated 11th July, Tuesday.

FILL ANSWERS BELOW

1.
2.
3.



H.H. the XIVth Dalai Lama Thekchen Choeling Temple in Dharamshala (H.P)

On the auspicious occasion of the **71st Birthday** celebration of His Holiness The Dalai Lama which falls on **6th July, 2006** The Tibetan Welfare Office, Gangtok, Sikkim on behalf of all the Tibetan Community of Sikkim would like to pay its deep respect by offering our warm greetings and pray that His Holiness remain as the core of the well-being of all sentient beings for aeons to come. We also request His Holiness to continue to bless us with your protection.

Tibetan Welfare Office
Gangtok, Sikkim