

# Limbu-Tamang seat demand to be taken up soon with concerned authorities in consultation with State Govt, assures Kyndiah

SUBASH RAI

**NEW DELHI, 05 Nov:** Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region [DONER] and Tribal Affairs, PR Kyndiah has said that development of North Eastern

Region was a national priority and the UPA government was totally committed to the accelerated development of the NE so that it finds a level playing field with the rest of the country in the area of economic growth and prosperity.

Mr. Kyndiah was addressing the concluding day's function of the 3-day 5th Editors Conference on Social Sector Issues organised by Press Information Bureau here at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi, today. Mr. Kyndiah said, "One of the pri-

ority areas of the Common Minimum Programme is to ensure special assistance to the region to upgrade and expand infrastructure and strengthen the North East Council."

Replying to NOW!'s query on the reservation of seats for

Tamang and Limboo communities in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the Minister assured that the matter would be soon taken up with the concerned authorities in consultation with the State Government.

The sectoral allocation of funds for the NEC in the Xth Plan gives top priority to Transport and Communication

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## GNLF infighting leads to murder

BIRENDRA SHANDILYA

**DARJEELING, 05 Nov:** 55 year old Krishna Bahadur Rai lost his life due to infighting in the GNLF camp. Last night Rai was hacked to death in Dhajia under the Sukhia Pokhari Thana.

SP [Darj], Rajiv Mishra, revealed that primary investigation pointed towards CB Rai, a cousin of Krishna's. Nine people have been arrested in this connection.

Both CB Rai and KB Rai belonged to the GNLF party. Incidentally, Krishna worked as the Provident Fund Clerk at the Dhajia Tea Estate. He was also a GNLF leader and the Unit Secretary of the Himalayan Plantation Union affiliated to the GNLF. Senior GNLF leader

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## GUILTY UNTIL THE CULPRITS ARE CAUGHT!

### Mistaken identity causes month-long torment for local cabbie

a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 Nov:** Deepak Pradhan, 20, became the victim of mistaken identity when he was identified as someone else who had allegedly beaten up one Palden Lachungpa on the night of 04 October. This mistaken identity led to a harrowing time for Deepak, both in the hands of the friends of the beaten up person and the Sadar Thana cops.

**DEEPAK, 20, WAS FIRST BEATEN UP BY PERSONS HE DID NOT KNOW AND THEN LOCKED AWAY FOR SIX DAYS ON CHARGES OF HAVING ASSAULTED A PERSON HE DID NEVER MET**

For Deepak, his descent into the vortex of Palden's friend in a vengeful mood and indifferent cops unwilling to hear his side of the story, began a day after Palden was allegedly assaulted. Deepak, a taxi driver by profession and a resident of Middle Sichey Busty, was on duty playing his taxi towards DC Court on 05 October when, at around 1:30 pm, a black jeep followed him till Suren Dhara, DC Court

road and blocked his way. From the black jeep emerged one Namgyal Lachungpa accompanied by some more friends. Without any warning Namgyal started abusing Deepak referring to the Palden episode of the day before. Deepak of course had no idea of what was happening.

This group then sat inside the taxi and forcefully took Deepak to Syari via District Court, where they assaulted Deepak with kicks, blows and fists. After inflicting such grievous injuries, Namgyal and his gang took Deepak to STNM where they showed him to



Palden Lachungpa, admitted there, for identification. Palden, informs Deepak, identified Deepak as the person who had attacked him the previous night.

Soon after, Deepak was

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## STNM SELECTION PROCEDURE UNDER FIRE

RANJIT SINGH

**GANGTOK, 05 Nov:** The selection procedure of new doctors to STNM Hospital has raised much acrimony between the selected candidates and the SPSC on the one side and the rejected candidates - particularly one Dr. Phur Lamu Sherpa - on the other. In fact Dr. Sherpa has approached the High Court to verify whether the selection procedure was proper and also to quash the impugned selection of the selected doctors.

Examinations for candidates aspiring to work as doctors at the STNM hospital were called by the SPSC on 17-18 June this year. Of the total 49 candidates who appeared for the 30 seats, 29 were selected while one seat

### Petitioner wants High Court to verify whether selection process was "proper"

was carried over for the next examinations in 2005.

Incidentally, in 2003, 10 seats were filled of the total 30 while 20 seats were brought forward for 2004. While 14 of the 30 seats fell in the unreserved category the rest were reserved for STs [5], MBCs [8], SCs [2] and OBCs [1]. And while the old roster system for selections was used for the 20 seats which were carried over from 2003; the new roster system was applied for selection procedure of the remaining 10 seats of which 9 were filled. This is what the selected doc-

tors contend.

Dr. Sherpa, the petitioner, contends that the new roster system should have been applied for the entire 30 seats which is vehemently challenged by the selected doctors who have been named respondents no 5-33.

"The new roster system can only be applied for the 10 seats of 2004 as was done by the SPSC, the old method has to be applied for the 20 seats carried over from 2003," says one of the selected doctors.

The composition of reserved seats, if the new roster system is applied, is also an-

nexed to the petition which the other party says is totally false and prepared by the petitioner herself. As pointed out by the respondent doctors, the document shows an MBC reservation for a person with "locomotion disability or cerebral palsy in 9th cycle". "How can a person with cerebral palsy ever become a doctor," they question.

It has also been revealed by another selected doctor that Dr. Sherpa has sought for the existing pattern of reservations be scrapped in favour of the dictum of the Supreme Court. This implies that 74% reservation

practised at present be replaced by the 50-50 formula.

The petitioner has also contested that candidates with connection and influence have been able to secure selection in spite of their academic records being poor. She also contends that these candidates have only passed MBBS and have only one year rotatory internship while she has more experience.

Incidentally, Dr. Sherpa passed her MBBS from Patna Medical College and Hospital in 2002.

Her other point that a couple of the respondents had even

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# NOW!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS

## Nothing Without The Rod

It has been quite some time now since Gangtok's main thoroughfare, MG Marg, was declared a litter and spit free zone. And yet, those involved in making sure that this initiative succeeds are still trying hard to "inform" the people of MG Marg's new status. Nothing amplifies the absence of a Civil Society in Gangtok more than this. And if the capital, where all the so-called "intellectuals" converge cannot conceive a Civil Society, it is little surprise then that the society in general is rarely even civil. Call it the hangover of the monarchical times or plain disinterest, but nothing seems to work here unless it is enforced. Continuing with the litter & spit issue, look at how well the no traffic rule worked. Many were opposed to the idea and many still want to break it, but as the first siren blows to clear MG Marg of all vehicles, owners and drivers rush to their rides to empty out of the Marg. They don't do so because they want to leave the streets free for pedestrians, they do so because they don't want their vehicles towed away. Look at the general callousness that has descended on the drivers now that the cops are not as strict about where they park or stop to off-load passengers. Taxis and private cars stop on the roads at will, uncaring of the traffic they are impeding or the near accidents they are causing. All these are signs that people, at least in Gangtok, don't care for anything beyond their personal space. This does not go to say that the affliction of indifference is universal. Surely there are many individual members of the society who rue the absence of a community feeling at times. There only shortcoming is that they don't express themselves. Till such time that such people stand up, only pressure tactics will work in Sikkim.

## Dzongu's role in Khangchendzonga Conservation discussed

### a NOW REPORT

**DZONGU:** A six-day consultation programme to deliberate on preservation issues concerning the region was held here from October 29-03 November.

It was organized by local NGO Mutanchi Lom Aal Shezum [MLAS] in collaboration with the Mountain Institute, Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim, Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee and the Sikkim Forest Department.

Meetings organized in Salim Pakhel, Lingzaa and Namprithang to explore feasible conservation and livelihood options for sustainable development had active participation from 125 community representatives, informs a press release issued by MLAS.

This planning exercise of the project, "Mountains, Mar-

kets and Biodiversity in the Sikkim Himalaya" is an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], Global Environment Facility [GEF] and the Ministry of Environment and Forests [MoEF].

The Mountain Institute [TMI], the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, along with the Sikkim Forest Department will be preparing the detailed action plan for the long-term conservation of the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.

At the end of the six-day programme, an action plan was formed which included feasible income generation and conservation options for Dzongu area, building on the existing strengths of abundant natural wealth, traditional skills, cooperation and unity in the community.

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## Our Cult of Violence

The victory of good over evil must be enacted in the triumph of peace over violence

There was a time when brutal violence was something that happened elsewhere. Indeed, Nepal is known as peaceful and non-violent. But after 10,000 deaths in less than a decade, many more missing and brutalised, creeping religious and ethnic violence, we have to question whether we were ever as non-violent and peaceful as commonly represented.

Is it that our culture of peace has always co-existed with a culture of violence? Doesn't the viciousness of everyday life and the symbolic brutal violence of religious myths and rituals feed into the magma of cruelty hidden in the bowels of our culture, waiting to erupt? And have we begun to localise the global culture of violence?

Many Nepalis experience structural violence in their everyday lives. Women, ethnic groups and Dalits suffer social exclusion, discrimination and oppression, and are often physically and verbally abused. The desperate struggle for existence and dignity by the poor is surely one of the most pervasive forms of structural social violence. It is a part of our history, social structure and culture, and until recently were not seriously questioned but considered a normal part of our tradition or culture. Even now, we do not aim to eliminate or reduce structural violence, but rather escape from it, be part of the oppressors instead of the victims. Perhaps physical violence always lurks in the wings of

history to either suppress resistance against structural violence or overthrow it.

Physical violence is an important part of the religious discourse, practice and imagination of many Nepalis. Take Dasain, which at one level is a harvest festival, when we visit relatives to receive blessings from seniors and feast. At another level, it reinforces and

unable to defeat them. The gods combine to create a feminine force, Shakti, to destroy the evil forces. The goddess can destroy evil only when she herself takes on an even more fierce form and ultimately is able to slay the demon Mahisasura who has taken the form of a buffalo. The goddess sometimes appears no different from the evil she fights. In sacrificing animals during Dasain, Hindus are both slaying evil as well as propitiating the fierce goddess, whose thirst for blood has to be quenched.

If the gory slaying of animals is one of the central elements of Dasain, then surely violence is one of the central motifs of Nepali Hinduism. Perhaps this ritualistic violence has been secularised such that people considered evil (class enemies, enemies of the state or whoever) are to be slaughtered. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the two forces when both claim to be fighting evil.

Physical violence is a normal daily occurrence around the world brought to us by a voyeuristic media: bombings, burnings, beheadings, not only of soldiers, insurgents, freedom fighters and rebels but also unarmed civilians.

This combination of structural social violence, secularisation of religious violence, and localisation of the global culture of violence through media has fostered a 'new' culture of physical violence in Nepal that threatens to engulf us. We can only overcome it by reinvigorating a culture of peace, tolerance and co-existence.

-Nepali Times

## ELSEWHERE

### NEPAL



legitimises the authority of the king, the power holders and senior family members. Yet at another level, the carnage of animal sacrifices, the open flouting of naked khukuris associated with Dasain glorify bloodshed.

According to one katha, evil forces, represented by various danabs and asuras, threaten the cosmos and gods who are

## Club formed to rescue Paiyong Busty from economic gloom

### KARAN SHAH

**KALIMPONG, 05 Nov:** With the inauguration of the Naba Jagriti Kishan Club at the Paiyong Busty here, it is hoped that some of the financial problems faced by farmers in the region will be addressed. The Club which is affiliated to the West Bengal State Co-Op Agricultural and Rural Development Bank will offer easy loans at a subsidised rate of interest.

"This is the first farmers club in Darjeeling district initiated by WBSCARD Bank," informed Managing Director, Nilesh Ganguli.

The club has been started with twenty members, who in

turn will apprise others of the various subsidies offered by the bank.

"The main reason for starting the club here is because Kalimpong is well known for its floriculture and horticulture industry with many people earning their livelihood out of these. More money invested in these sectors will improve on the overall development of the place," adds Mr. Ganguli.

The WBSCARD Bank in the past three years has invested almost 6 crores in the farming, non-farming, housing and non-priority sector.

"In view of the growing potential of tourism in places like Lava and Loleygaon, the bank

has also extended financial support to the local entrepreneurs for construction and running of lodges and hotels. This has also generated employment opportunities for the local youth," said a bank official.

Says Saral Dev, Chairman, WBSCARD Bank, "Establishing the Farmers Club here will not only provide better facilities and guidance to the farmers but will also help in bringing the bank closer to the people of this hilly region."

The bank has disbursed loans amounting to almost Rs. 14 lakhs to 26 beneficiaries.

It is believed that a second Farmer's Club will soon start at Mirik.

# Can Mickey keep MG Marg clean?

## a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 Nov:** An aggressive awareness campaign to keep the MG Marg litter and spit free began with rallies and street plays. In continuation of this campaign, the Green Circle which is spear-heading the project has now come up with some novel ideas.

Every evening from 5 to 6, one of the safai karmacharis who has been designated as "Gangtok Beautifiers," goes around the MG Marg making announcements on a mega phone, both in Nepali and Hindi exhorting the pedestrians including the tourist not to lit-



ter and spit as this is banned.

In order to attract attention to the cause, the Green Circle has also hired the services of a person who is attired as Mickey Mouse with a no litter message emblazoned on the front and back.

Mickey Mouse walks along the Marg every evening and spreads the message of a cleaner MG Marg.

However, in spite of all these efforts, litter on MG Marg, although less than before is still far from being absent. Green Circle and others associated with the No Litter No Spit campaign will have to keep the heat on for people to finally get the message that they are indeed serious about implementing the fines.

# THE SHIMMER AT CHANDNI

## a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 04 Nov:** "Chandni" an exclusive electrical showroom opened for business here today at Marda Building, near Forest Secretariat, Deorali here.

For sale at the showroom are fancy wall lamps, table lamps, chandeliers and all kinds of household electrical appliances.

Mahindra Marda, proprietor, informs that the shop has a wide range of products to satisfy every need and pocket. From gas stoves to switches and accessories to very fancy items, you can get all these here. Prices range from wall lamps at Rs. 70 to chandeliers for Rs. 8,000.

In the home appliances range there are mixers, irons, pizza-makers, toasters etc. Gey-



sers, generators and heaters are also available to keep you warm this winter.

The shop also offers the facility of ordering your own de-

signs. So next time you are looking to replace appliances or buy new ones for your home or office, remember you have another option to check out.

# Legal Services Week begins today

**GANGTOK, 30 Nov:** "Legal Services Week" will be observed throughout the State from 03-09 November. In this connection, the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority in co-ordination with District Legal Services Authority [East] will be organizing Legal Literary Awareness programme at Sichey High School on 06 No-

vember, ICDS Centre, Chandmari and Sikkim State Jail, Rongyek on 08 November and at the office of the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority on 9 November, informs a press release issued by SSLSA.

## CORRIGENDUM

In the report headlined "CS proceed on leave..." carried in yesterday's edition of NOW!, the outgoing Chief Secretary, SW Tenzing is inadvertently referred to as Mr. Wangdi later in the report when it should have read Mr. Tenzing. The error is regretted.

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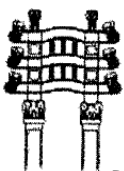
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# CM ON A SPRING-CLEANING DRIVE, AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION, IT'S THE PARTY

## a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 Nov:** The Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has often announced that his third term in power would be action-oriented towards delivering real development to the people. No quarters would be spared towards meeting this end, he has said and the requirement to push the State policy along the right track has been voiced often. Those who don't subscribe to the expressed policy, don't just get left behind, they get pushed aside. This is already obvious in the shake-up in the administration and now even the party is headed for some spring cleaning.

The SDF Central Executive Committee meeting held on 04 November decided to dissolve the present CEC and form a new one, informs a party press release.

This is not just a routine affair. Senior SDF members confide that the party president has been less than happy with the way the party organisation is functioning. The formation of a new CEC is expected to rid the party of some dead wood and infuse fresh spirit into a party machinery which many believe has gone lazy after ten years of more or less relaxed stay in power.

Not just party organisation, what also seems to have peeved the SDF president is the obvious lack of discipline among

the ranks, including some senior members who appear to be growing increasingly casual.

Speaking to media-persons after the CEC meet, the CM admitted that even senior leaders were coming unprepared and with half-baked information to the CEC meetings, which he pointed out were the highest policy-making body of the party.

"Take for instance the suggestion that we don't have enough teachers in Sikkim. This is wrong. In fact, we have more teachers than required and yet schools in rural Sikkim continue to go through the year without

the adequate number of teachers. The influential teachers use political clout to get their transfers around Gangtok, Geyzing or Namchi. As a result we have too many teachers in schools around these towns and too few in the remote areas. We have to set this anomaly right," he said.

The party also seems to be serious about accountability now. A press release informs that as far as accountability goes, the CEC meeting decided that in case of delay in execution of public works by any department, the concerned Minister would be held answerable.

While the party and administrative snags can be ironed out by Mr. Chamling, the attitude of the Opposition is something that continues to irk him.

The Opposition in Sikkim, Mr. Chamling reiterated, fails to understand that they, like the ruling party, should prioritise people's interest. "Emotionally harming and communally inciting issues should not be thrown about just because you don't have anything else to talk about. To keep people first is our duty towards our calling as politicians. The Opposition does not seem to realise this

and continues to play up personal interests," he said.

"But this can only be expected of them. They have after all been publicly discarded by the Sikkimese people in the last elections. They can't sell their lies to the people any more so they are looking for other avenues to keep misguiding the people," he concluded.

On a more positive note, Mr. Chamling announced that a modern and spacious Old Age Home will soon be constructed in Sikkim. Also coming up shortly are two meditation halls [one each for men and women] at Samdrupche.

## Dissident Congress alleges denial of membership forms by Bhandari

### a NOW REPORT

**GANGTOK, 05 Nov:** With the Congress central high-command directing all state-units to complete their membership drives by 15 November, it would be expected that the Sikkim unit was eagerly taking in new members, but if the dissident group of the SPCC [I] is to be believed, there is much left to be desired in the membership drive as is being carried out under the

SPCC [I] president Nar Bahadur Bhandari in Sikkim.

In a letter sent off to AICC member Oscar Fernandes, several frontal organisations of the Cong [I] in Sikkim have informed the central leadership that Mr. Bhandari was denying membership forms to many who wanted to join the party. They allege that forms are being distributed only to those whom Mr. Bhandari believes to be his supporters.

These letters have been des-

patched by the Sikkim Pradesh Mahila Congress and Cong [I] presidents of three districts.

The letters say that depriving many genuine people interested from becoming primary and active members was a great injustice on the party's future prospects in Sikkim.

It has been further alleged that the non-issuance of forms smacks of ulterior and self interest motives on the part of Mr. Bhandari. Denying senior party

leaders membership forms was being done so that people of Mr. Bhandari's choice take over the reins of various party organisations, the dissidents allege.

The letters request the intervention of Mr. Fernandes so that necessary directives are issued to the SPCC [I] president to ensure availability of membership forms to all as soon as possible and without any bar on the number of forms and the person who collects them.

## IRB SEPOY COMMITS SUICIDE ON DUTY

### a NOW REPORT

**BALUTAR, SINGTAM, 05 Nov:** Gurchung Bhutia, 28, a sepoy of the Indian Reserve Battalion [E Company] committed suicide by shooting himself with his service 7.62 SLR Rifle at Balutar, NHPC Dam-site today.

Gurchung was on sentry duty at the Central Store of the NHPC, when, at around 5.45 am, he shot himself under the chin. The force of the bullet was such that it came out through the left side of his

skull and even pierced through the ceiling of the sentry box where he was on duty from 4 am to 8 am.

"As a precautionary measure, the magazine of the rifle is not loaded at the time of duty. The person on duty has a spare pouch where a loaded magazine and ammunition is kept. Gurchung took out a single bullet from the pouch, loaded it into the empty magazine and shot himself. Death was in-

stantaneous," reveals DIG [Range], SD Negi, who visited the site to personally conduct an enquiry into the circumstances that led to the suicide.

The enquiry revealed that the constable was given to bouts of drinking and of late was attempting to give it up but it seems he was also suffering from mental depression. Gurchung had been heard telling friends and others

that both his parents had expired and that he was thus feeling very lonely. He had also been talking about a compulsive urge to commit suicide.

The dead body has been sent for autopsy to STNM Hospital, Gangtok and the case is being handled by the Singtam Police under the supervision of SP East, Sridhar Rao. Gurchung, who was a bachelor is survived by four brothers and three sisters.

## Limbu-Tamang seat demand to be taken up soon...

### Contd from pg 1

projects [41%] followed by Health [15%] and Power [15%].

Renuka Chaudhari, Minister of State for Tourism, in her address emphasised on quality tourism in the country. Referring to the development of tourism in North Eastern regions, she said that 8 states have proposed to be connected under the Buddhist Circle.

Speaking to NOW!, GS Dhar, Joint Director General, Ministry of Tourism said that village eco-tourism projects have been emphasised for Sikkim.

Regarding continuous demands of the State to recognize Bagdogra Airport as an International Airport, Mr. Dhar said that his Ministry has taken up the matter with Civil Aviation

Ministry several times and they were making a physical assessment of the project at present.

Human Resource Development Minister for State, MAA Fatmi informed that the increasing number of dropouts was because of social and economic problems persisting in the Indian society. Referring to various schemes like mid-day meal, free textbooks, etc., Mr. Fatmi urged the parents to enroll their children in the schools. He informed that according to the 10th Plan target of the UPA government, a minimum of 10% of the relevant age-group [17-23 years] needs to be enrolled for Higher Education.

Regarding the absence of a University in Sikkim, Mr. Fatmi revealed that this was the prerogative of the State Government and that his Ministry

could play the role of a facilitator. On the reduction in the State quota in the field of higher studies, the HRD Minister assured that the matter would be taken into consideration in future.

## GNLF infighting leads to murder

### Contd from pg 1

ers today visited the house of the murdered.

Deepak Gurung, GNLF Darjeeling Branch Committee President, admitting the murder to be the fallout of GNLF infighting in the area, said, "It was an inhuman act and the culprits have to be brought to book immediately."

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# NCW members on 3-day fact-finding mission on status of women in Sikkim

SAGAR CHHETRI

**GANGTOK, 05 Nov:** Representatives of the National Commission for Women are on a 3-day visit to Sikkim to evaluate the progress of the development of women under the State government.

In this connection they visited the State Jail at Rongyok on 04 November to see conditions there. Today, a Consultation Meeting with NGOs and Panchayats was held here at Community Hall.

The programme was organised by the Sikkim State Commission for Women to allow Baby Rani Maurya and Nandini Thakchuk, Member of National Commission to interact with members of NGOs and rural representatives.



Also present during the course of the meeting was Manita Pradhan, Chairperson, SSWC, CK Cintury, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Namrata Thapa, Deputy Secre-

tary, Social Welfare Department who conducted the entire programme.

The programme started with a welcome speech by Rinzing Ongmu, advisor RDD

and Member, SSWC.

Ms. Cintury in her address said that since its formation, the State Commission for Women has been doing a lot of work in various fields to look after the interests of women of the State, to improve the conditions that they live in as well as to provide social security.

She also informed that the dropout rate of girls from schools has been on the decline with a corresponding increase in literacy levels among them. She also talked about the improvement in the health sector.

Ms. Pradhan, talked about the fact that the status of women in Sikkim was very different from those of women in other states. Evils like dowry and infanticide were unheard of and women lived in relatively better conditions here, she said, adding that women in Sikkim were proving themselves in every field of operations.

Ms. Maurya in her address said that they were here on a fact-finding mission and she appealed to the participants to come forward and speak on issues that concerned them.

The Commission Members will also be meeting with the Chief Secretary and head of departments to get a clearer picture on the real status of women in Sikkim.

On 06 November a Public Hearing is being organized at Rakdong.

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## West Health Camp for awareness and treatment

a NOW REPORT

**GEYZING:** A 3-day health camp was organized by doctors and staff of District Hospital, Gyalshing, West Sikkim at Karzee, Dhupidara and Kangree from 29 October to 01 November.

The camp covered the village of Kargee, Mangnam, Dhupidara, Labdang and Kangree. More than 500 people visited the camp with different ailments.

While most were given

medical check up here, some were further referred to STNM hospital, Gangtok. Some of the patients were asked to go to district hospital, Gyalshing for further consultation and management.

A talk on leprosy was delivered by Dr. Thinley Wongyal Burfunga, DMS-cum-DIO [W] and BB Basnet. Similarly, a talk on tuberculosis was given by Dr. Tshering Laden, DTO [W].

An interactive session was organised for panchayats, teachers, Aaganwadi workers,

members of NGOs and village elders to discuss various health problems including alcoholism, malnutrition etc. in which Dr. Govind Lama, CMO [W], Dr. Thinley Wongyal Burfunga and Dr. Tshering Laden participated.

Dr. Tseten Namgyal, RCH Officers and Rikki Lamu Lepcha, Senior DPHNO [W] spoke on issues relating to maternal and child health problems including contraception and adoption of small family norms.

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**Cultural Affairs documentary film crew captures the Lepcha way of life****a NOW REPORT**

**DZONGU:** A filmmaking team from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of India recently visited Dzongu to document the tradition and culture of the Lepchas.

The team mainly focussed on the cultural heritage and the ancient tradition of nature worship which has been carried out by the Lepchas since time immemorial.

“Some of the aspects that was highlighted during the

shooting was the role played by the Bongthing in the community as well as ceremonial rituals of the Lepchas,” informs Ugen Lepcha, Executive Director, of local NGO Mutanchi Lom Aal Shezum [MLAS].

MLAS coordinated the

entire filming schedule and proudly say that this is the fourth instance when they have done so. In the past, they have been involved as programme co-ordinators for films made by Doordarshan as well as by the National Geographic channel.

**STNM selection procedure under fire**

*Contd from pg 1*

failed to clear MBBS in their first attempt is waived off by the respondents who say that it does not make any difference.

“AIIMS, Delhi, says that there is no limit to the number of supplementaries one gives though, of course, after 4 or 5 tries the college itself disqualifies you,” they retort. Further, they add, it is MCI recognition that matters and these

two named have got that.

Dr. Sherpa has sought for the Court to declare the selection illegal and also to quash the selection of the 29 candidates. She has also written to the Chief Minister alleging that the entire exercise was a big farce and simply an eyewash as the SPSC did not follow the procedure prescribed by law.

She also alleges several discrepancies in the examination

papers themselves. She also asks for the government to examine the academic records of those selected and for the appointment of a qualified committee to conduct the exams with a qualified SPSC chairman preferably an IAS officer.

Following the petition, the High Court had, on 13 October, stayed the appointment of the selected doctors to STNM Hos-

pital in an order which said that the government would not proceed with the appointment. The Court was also informed that the “impugned recommendation of the SPSC is under consideration at the government level”.

Today, the High Court directed for a counter affidavit to be filed by the respondents. The matter will come up for hearing on 08 March, 2005.

**NOTICE**

This is to notify to all members of Assam Lingzey School Alumni Association that a general Meeting of our association is being called on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

The Agenda includes accounts of association till date, the activities done by association and election of new office bearers.

All are requested to present personally in the meeting and give your valuable suggestion.

Patron-in-chief Shri N.D.Rai MP Lok Sabha has kindly consented to grace the occasion. Time 10 AM onwards.

**A P Rai (Jt.Sect Adm.)**  
**ALSA Association**

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201231, 94341-53355 (m),  
94343-81880 (m)

*Kutse Shegu*

The Kutse Shegu of our Late Mother Phumden Bhutiani [Ana Phum] who left for heavenly abode on 26 September falls on 12 November 2004. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for CHUDME and Prayer on the above date at our residence at Simick Lingzey Busty [Makhim] East Sikkim.

**G Bhutia [son]; Ph: 242245**  
**Norbu Tsbering Bhutia [son]; Ph: 220577**

*Kutse Shegu*

The Kutse Shegu of Late Yap Tempo Rinchen Wangdi [Kewzing Yapla] falls on the 17th of November, 2004. We are greatly indebted for the overwhelming sympathy and support in our bereavement and regret our inability to convey our gratitude individually.

We shall be honoured to have all our relatives, friends and well-wishers join us for the Kutse Shegu at our residence at Kewzing Kothi on 17-11-2004.

**Karma Wangdi & Family,**  
**Kewzing Kolbi**

*Kutse Shegu*

The 49<sup>th</sup> day Kutse Shegu of Lt.Norjay Lapcha, resident of Tintek Busty, who passed away peacefully on 21 September 2004 falls on 8 November 2004. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering paryers for the departed soul at our residence at Tintek Busty, Zero Point, East Sikkim.

**Ugen Lepcha [elder son]**  
**Palden Lepcha [son]**  
**Pemugen Lepcha [son]**



# History

06th November

**1572:** Supernova is observed in the constellation known as Cassiopeia  
**1844:** Spain grants Dominican Rep independence  
**1860:** Abraham Lincoln elected 16th US President.  
**1913:** Gandhi arrested for leading Indian miners march in South Africa  
**1917:** Bolshevik revolution begins with the capture of the Winter Palace  
**1918:** Republic of Poland proclaimed  
**1936:** RCA displays TV for the press  
**1944:** Hannah Senesh Jewish poetess, executed by Nazis in Budapest  
**1952:** 1st hydrogen bomb exploded (by US at Eniwetok Atoll)  
**1966:** First entire lineup televised in color [NBC]  
**1975:** 1st appearance of the Sex Pistols  
**1978:** Shah of Iran places Iran under military rule

## MANGAN'S SEEKING BANDS

### a NOW REPORT

**M**angan Music Festival 2004, on its second outing, is slated to start from 29 December. The three-day music contest is hoping to get an even better response than last year when 13 bands from the region entertained and enthralled the Manganites with a variety of performances.

The bands who want to take part in the competition this year have to fill in the entry form with details like name of band members and what they play, profile of the band, list of instruments that will be used, etc. Entry fee of Rs. 3000 is being charged which is non-refundable if the band does not show up but the prize money is pretty good with Rs. 50,000 for the first prize, Rs.

25,000 for the second and Rs. 15,000 for the third.

Food and lodging will be provided free of cost for upto six members of the band with participating bands having to report at Mangan on 28 December.

Based on a draw of lots, half the participating band will perform on 29 December and the other half will perform on 30 December. Based on their performance during these two days, six groups will be short listed to perform on the final day, 31 December. The top three bands will be chosen from amongst these six bands on their performance on the final day. "Each band will be given half an hour of performance time and fifteen minutes of preparation time before the show. Keeping in mind the target audience, the bands are advised to perform popular and lively numbers," say the organisers.

While the organizers will be providing the sound system, any band which wants to bring along their own system is welcome to do so.

And what will be the criteria for judging? "Quality of vocals and musical ability, presentation and showmanship along with popular appeal," state the organizers emphatically, adding that the band will not be allowed to "Misbehave onstage, use abusive language



The Mangan Public Ground at last year's Centenary Celebrations

Last day of submitting forms and entry fees is **15 December**. Entry forms are to be submitted at Hotel Sonam Delek, Tibet Road, Gangtok. Ph: 202566/ 228906. The forms are available at **Gangtok:** Baker's Café, Tashi Movie Club, City News, Hotel New Castle [Deorali]. **Namchi:** Multimedia, Metropoint. **Jorethang:** Hotel Chandra. **Darjeeling:** Glenary's The Buzz. **Siliguri:** Unique [Hill Cart Road] **Kalimpong:** Park Hotel. The forms can also be downloaded from <http://sikkim.nic.in> E-Mail: [slg\\_hsdelek@sancharnet.in](mailto:slg_hsdelek@sancharnet.in)

or show any vulgarity onstage."

Last year a total of 13 bands from Sikkim, Darjeeling and even from as far away as Meghalaya and Nagaland had taken part in the music contest held at the 3 day Mangan Centenary Celebrations. Gangtok's

CRABH, was judged the best band and romped home with the Rs. 50,000 prize money.

The finals saw the bands clash in a 7 hour marathon beat contest which treated Manganites to some of the best music that the region has to offer.

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**ARIES:** Remember how hard things used to seem? Thank goodness that phase has passed. You're ready to have that 'state of the relationship' meeting now - so get on with it. A happy but rather unusual solution is guaranteed.

**TAURUS:** You are surrounded by friends. Don't take them for granted. Be the first to do a favour. Change is in the air - and sudden encounters under most unusual circumstances, too. There's really no such thing as coincidence, so pay attention to everything and everyone that happens along.

**GEMINI:** You are not imagining things. Nor can you imagine your way out of this dilemma. Your focus has shifted to your internal self; so hiding out is probably your activity of choice at the moment. Don't worry about becoming a hermit. This too, shall pass. For now, indulge yourself.

**CANCER:** Don't move around too much. You might injure something. Regain your strength. Better take your vitamins, or maybe even double up on them. You'll need some added energy to keep up with today's agenda. A positive attitude wouldn't hurt, either. Ever try whistling?

**LEO:** The cameras are coming. Are you ready? Freshen your make-up. You've never been known for being shy, retiring or afraid to voice your opinion - and you'll be willing to prove that now. Just try not to alienate the person who signs your cheques. You can't eat your pride.

**VIRGO:** The climb is long, but the view will be worth it. Keep moving forward. You probably wake up in quite the fun-loving mood, and you may not be too happy that you had to rush off to work. But don't be too put out. There's always tonight; and what a night it might be!

**LIBRA:** The climb is long, but the view will be worth it. Keep trudging forward. Your emotions are so close to the surface that you're actually dabbing away tears during commercials. So sad movies are definitely out of the question. Find some appropriate human company instead.

**SCORPIO:** You can't shovel dirt with a pitchfork. Pick the right tools for the job. It's not that you're going to be fickle, exactly, but you will be easily distracted. Keep that in mind before you get ready to take even three giant steps away from the person you're with.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Work comfortably. Tension isn't part of this picture. Share with any who ask nicely. With the exception of a few possible fireworks, the day should go along quite well, and quite quickly, too. Do be prepared for traffic jams, missed communications or mixed messages.

**CAPRICORN:** Preach to the choir. Save the best for those who want it. Boost your reputation. Physical attraction will be almost overwhelming, and you should expect the feeling to be quite mutual. You may be up late, but rest assured that it will be for the most delicious of reasons.

**AQUARIUS:** You know the system. You have inside information. Beat the crowd and get first pick. The miscommunications, trouble with machinery and missed appointments are making you crazy. You, and everybody else too. So no matter where you're off to, if you get lost on the way, stop and ask for directions. Just this once.

**PISCES:** Friends seek adventure together. Your own reflexes are sharp. Pay attention anyway. If you can arrange it, this might not be a bad time to put a few of those sick days to good use, especially if you have quality company by your side.

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## NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of General Public that Share Certificate issued by Sikkim Distilleries Ltd. in respect of Late Smt. M.Dolma w/o Late Mr.Dorji Dahdul of M.G. Marg, Gangtok has been lost and request have been made to the Sikkim Distilleries concerned to issue the Xerox copy of the said Share Certificate in favour of Miss Sonam Yanchen Dahdul, Miss Yanchen Dahdul and Mrs. Lucy Chingapa as per the Succession Certificate issued reference Civil Case No. 73 of 2004 (Succession) dated 15.9.2004.

Accordingly 50% of the shares held by Late Mrs. M. Dolma is to be mutated in favour of Miss Sonam Yangchen Dahdul and Miss Yangchen Dahdul and the other 50% is to be mutated in the name of Mrs. Lucy Chingapa.

The particulars of the shares of Late Mrs. M. Dolma are as follows:-

Particulars	Share Certificate No.	Date	Serial No. of Shares	Total Shares	Value of each share	Total Value
Transferred from Late Mr. D. Dahdul Reg. III pg 26 on 1.10.88	2883	26.11.81	56, 81. 528-56 91,427	9,900	5/-	49,500
Bonus Shares 1992-93	4,807	1.10.92	76, 65, 685 7667664	1,980	5/-	
Bonus Shares 1994-95	5560	9.2.95	9171566- 9172753	1188	5/-	

In this regard on issue of the Xerox copy of the above mentioned shares certificate from Sikkim Distilleries Ltd. Rangpo: any one who wants to place any objection to the authority concerned should be made within the period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any comments/objections received after issuing the Xerox Copy of the Shares Certificate will not be entertained.

No.1 Miss Sonam Yangchen Dahdul - Lingmo House, M.G. Marg, Gangtok.  
 No.2 Miss Yangchen Dahdul - Lingmo House, M.G. Marg, Gangtok.  
 No.3 Mrs. Lucy Chingapa - C/o Lakhotia Trading Co. M.G.Marg Gangtok.