



A memento of the ticket and the boarding pass for the first flight from Pakyong airport scheduled to be launched on October 8 was presented to Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling by SpiceJet Regional Manager (East) Bhaskar Borgohain on Friday. The Chief Minister suggested that Sikkim should be connected with Bangkok, Nepal and Bhatnagar—EOI Photo

### 73,000 Biharis in Assam submit NRC documents: Sushil Modi

**PATNA, SEP 7**—/ About 73,000 people from Bihar, currently living in Assam, have sent their documents for verification to get included in the NRC being prepared in the northeastern state. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said in Patna Monday. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is being prepared under the supervision of the Supreme Court with a view to enlisting Indian citizens living in the north eastern state.

"About 73,000 people from Bihar have sent documents like certificates of birth and caste, Aadhar cards, voter identity cards, certificates of educational qualifications, land records and driving licenses etc. to the Bihar government for verification through the government of Assam," Modi said in a release.

### IN BRIEF

**NIT hunger strike**  
**GANGTOK:** The indefinite hunger strike started by students of NIT Sikkim for a permanent campus continued on its third day on Friday with the health conditions of two students causing concern. The number of participants in the hunger strike has increased to 25. Of them four are girls. EOIIC

### Sikkim Students Welfare Board

**GANGTOK:** The Chief Minister has announced a grant of Rs 1 crore for the Sikkim Students Welfare Board to assist students facing crisis situations, an IPR release has said. An earlier release had put the figure at Rs 1 lakh. EOIIC

## Beats of Dhimi soon to resonate in the hills of Darjeeling

DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

**MIRIK, SEP 7**—/ Dhimi, a traditional musical instrument of the Newar community, will be introduced soon in the musical scene of the hills of Darjeeling in a big way. Youths will be given training to handle the instrument and they will help maintain an age-old tradition at the West Bengal Newar Development and Culture Board office in Kurseong.

Board chairman Sunil Pradhan has assured that Newari girls and boys will be part of these magical moments as the musical instrument is practiced under the supervision of renowned mentors from

## Meghalaya tribal councils pitch for passage of lineage bill

**SHILLONG, SEP 7**—/ Toeing the line of Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC), the two other self-governing bodies in Meghalaya are striving to pass a bill that proposes to strip women of their tribal status upon marriage to a man outside the community. The councils also want to debar constitutional rights of children born out of the wedlock between a tribal woman and an outsider.

The bill states of Meghalaya is divided into three autonomous councils - Khasi, Jaintia and Garo.

The KHADC has passed the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (Khasi Social Custom of Lineage) (Second Amendment) Bill in July to "protect the lineage and indigeneness" of its tribe in the districts of East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills and Ri Bhoi.

Former governor Ganga Prasad, who is now in Sikkim, had returned the bill for a thorough deliberation. "A committee has been constituted earlier this month to hold

discussions with legal experts, heads of traditional bodies and women organizations for the smooth passage of the bill." KHADC chief executive member H S Shylla told PTI.

Taking a cue from KHADC, the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC) and the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) are pitching for the passage of a similar bill to strip their women of ST status upon marriage with a non-tribal man.

"After last week's consultations with Shylla, the Jaintia council has also decided to pass a similar bill in areas under its jurisdiction," JHADC chief executive member Madonba Kymbal told PTI. D R Marak, the chief of GHADC, said a legislation proposing similar measures were passed in 2016. "The then chief minister Mukul Sangma (present Leader of Opposition) had returned the Garo Customary Law Codification Bill passed by the council. Now we are working to pass the bill again," Marak added.

## Campaign for Gorkhaland planned in Sikkim

SANJAY AGARWAL

**RANGPO, SEP 7**—/ The Gorkhaland Janandolan Tewa Manch has decided to start a campaign for a separate Gorkhaland movement and for securing "the status of the Gorkhas." At the 5th meeting of the

Manch in Rangpo on Tuesday, president of the Manch Chandan Gurung distributed a book titled "The Story of Gorkhaland."

It was decided at the meeting that the book would be distributed all over Sikkim for people to know about the Gorkhaland

movement. Gurung said the book contained the history of Gorkhas and the Gorkhaland movement. Morcha member Tshering Din Sherpa in his address appealed to all members and Gorkhas in Sikkim to come forward for the cause of a separate state.



Tewa Manch supporters with the book — EOI Photo

## Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal

Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2019

Under the direction of Election Commission of India, Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls with reference to 01.01.2019 as qualifying date has commenced on 01.09.2018 (Saturday) in West Bengal. Applications for inclusions/deletions/corrections in Electoral Rolls may be filed on all working days till 31st October, 2018 (Wednesday) at respective polling stations. The qualifying age for inclusion of name is 18 years as on 01.01.2019.

**Special Campaign Days:**

9th September (Sunday) & 23rd September (Sunday), 2018

6th October (Saturday) & 28th October (Sunday), 2018

Forms will be available at polling stations free of cost and at our website [www.ceowestbengal.nic.in](http://www.ceowestbengal.nic.in)

To know about your polling station, part and serial in the Electoral Roll by SMS Type WB-SPACE-EC-SPACE-Your EPIC No and send SMS to 51969  
URL for filing complaints through SAMADHAN : <http://wbceo.in/wb-samadhan> or [eci-citizenservices.nic.in](mailto:eci-citizenservices.nic.in)  
For online submission of forms please visit [www.nvsp.in](http://www.nvsp.in)

To know about electoral rolls and lodge complaints, call TOLL FREE 1950  
Issued in public interest by Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal

## Mamata orders repair of Darjeeling Govt. College building

EOI CORRESPONDENT

**DARJEELING, SEP 7**—/ The Students' Council of the Darjeeling Government College has expressed its gratitude to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her prompt action in directing the Darjeeling District Magistrate to visit the college to verify the requirements for repair of the building.

The Students' Council had expressed the fear that the Physics Department building could collapse anytime because of its dilapidated condition. The Physics Department building had developed cracks after the earthquake in 2015.

During the recent visit of the Chief Minister to Darjeeling, the student body had appealed to her to spare time to visit the college within her short stay because of the collapse of the Majherhat Bridge in Kolkata, Mamata Banerjee had to cut short her stay in Darjeeling and return on September 5. Even then, she had ensured before her departure that Darjeeling District Magistrate Joyshil Das Gupta visited the Government College on September 6.

"We express our gratitude to the Bengal CM for directing the D.M. to visit the college. The C.M. herself could not because she had to cut short her stay in Darjeeling and return on September 5. Even then, she had ensured before her departure that Darjeeling District Magistrate Joyshil Das Gupta visited the Government College on September 6."



Cracks in a pillar of the Physics Department building —Pranab Chhetri

Mukhia said that the Darjeeling D.M. had assured to renovate and repair the damaged portion of the Physics Department building but the Students' Council was of the view that a complete overhaul was required. "We don't want just patch-work. The lives of the students are in daily risk. What if something like Majherhat happens? We therefore request the Chief Minister to completely dismantle the Physics Department building and construct a new one," she said and requested the C.M. to visit the college when she would be in the hills in November later this

year. Built in 1948, the Darjeeling Government College located in the northern fringes of the town is affiliated to the University of North Bengal and caters to students of the hills and also of the plains. It offers under-graduate courses; and also post-graduate courses in Nepali, Botany and Zoology.

The Students' Council also thanked Mamata Banerjee for establishing a new university in Munggo saying it would help the students of the hills and nearby region. "A university has been our long pending demand. We thank the C.M. and the State Government for creating one in the hills, after such a long time. We are sure students will be highly benefited," Mukhia said.

On the occasion of the Teacher's Day celebration earlier this week, Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation for the Darjeeling Hill University, which has already been approved by the State Assembly. The State Government has handed over 25 acres at Joghait in Munggo.

The Students' Council also thanked Mamata Banerjee for appointing teachers in the Mathematics Department and in the library section. "There was a dearth of teachers in the Mathematics Department for over a year. We also don't have a librarian for about three months which is causing inconvenience to students. However we are grateful that the Chief Minister has intervened to appoint new teachers," Mukhia said.

## Youth outreach programme of SDF in East Sikkim



Youths with SDF leaders — EOI Photo

SANJAY AGARWAL

**RANGPO, SEP 7**—/ In an interaction programme in Mining, East Sikkim, on Thursday, representatives of the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front listened to grievances of the youth. SDF leaders Nima Thengh and Sumati Chhetri discussed with the youths on how to get justice from the party as well as the government.

Held at the conference hall of Eco Paradise Resort, more than 50 youths participated in the programme. The youths

focussed specially on social issues like sports and culture, employment to the underprivileged, and absorption of educated youths in multi-national companies based in Majhitar-Basyekhola region. They also raised issues of basic needs like water and power supplies. Youths had specially focussed on social issues mainly in the basic needs like water and power supplies, sports and cultures, employment to the underprivileged and educated youths in the Multi-National companies based at Majhitar-Bageykhola region.

## Pakistan could emerge as world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state: report

WASHINGTON, SEP 7

—/ Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads and the stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 if the current trend continues, according to a latest report by authors keeping a track of the

country's nukes. The current estimate of 140 to 150 nuclear warheads exceeds the projection made by the US Defense Intelligence Agency in 1999 that Pakistan would have 60 to 80 warheads by 2020. "We estimate that the country's stockpile could more realistically grow to 220 to 250 warheads by 2025, if the current trend continues. If that happens, it would make Pakistan the world's fifth-largest nuclear weapon state," Hans M Kristensen, Robert S Norris and Julia Diamond said.

## Tourism festival in Pelling to focus on specialized themes

PRASHANT ACHARYA

**SILIGURI, SEP 7**—/ Stake-holders in tourism from Sikkim and West Bengal would celebrate the World Tourism Day 2018 in a function at Pelling in Sikkim on September 26 and 27. Convener of Association for Conservation of Tourism said in Siliguri on Thursday that the theme of the festival would be "Digital Transformation." The tourism society in West Sikkim and the Sikkim government would also participate.

Executive member Nosang M Limbu said: "Every year the tourism festival is celebrated in Gangtok but this year we have decided to celebrate it in Pelling so that tourism can flourish in every district."

He also informed that during two days festival specialized tourism themes like 'Bike & Bird', 'Bike & Butterfly', marathon, photography and painting competition, paragliding, ethnic craft, and handicraft displays would be organized.