

Dzongu youths want to cultivate herbal medicinal plant

DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, JUNE 28/-/ Unemployed youths of Dzongu in North Sikkim have approached Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and Speaker of Sikkim Assembly Sonam Gyatso who is the legislator from the area for farming, cultivation and marketing of Stevia plants.

The managing director of Stevia Biotech earlier this week in a visit to Guwahati explained the details of cultivation of Stevia herbal medicinal plant and the marketing of the finished product. It is a herbal product for diabetic patients and help develop an immune system that can control diseases and cholesterol.

Farmers from North Sikkim should register their names with co-ordinator and president of Ramon Educated Unemployed Co-operative Society Tenzing Lepcha, he said. North Sikkim areas were suitable for cultivation of the organic herbal plant. It can be cultivated four times a year.



The medicinal plants - EOJ Photo

Nine BSF jawans go AWOL during train journey

CHANDAULI, JUNE 28 /-/ Nine BSF jawans were on their way from West Bengal to Jammu and Kashmir by a special train have gone missing during the journey, their platoon commander said in a complaint to the railway police. The jawans were found missing without official permission between Bardhaman and Dhanbad railway stations. The platoon commander has filed a complaint in this connection when the train reached Mughalsarai railway station on Wednesday night, a Government Railway Police (GRP) official said here. The commander has complained that nine jawans were not found on their respective seats during the journey, Rajesh Kumar Mughalsarai GRP sub-inspector, said. As many as 83 Border Security Force jawans were travelling by the train to Jammu and Kashmir and during counting near Mughalsarai, it was found that nine of them were missing, the official said.

UP CM refuses to wear cap at Kabir mausoleum

SANT KABIRNAGAR, JUNE 28 /-/ Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath refused to wear a cap offered to him at the mausoleum of Sant Kabir Das here. Adityanath was here on Wednesday evening to oversee preparations for the Prime Minister's visit to the mausoleum. The news chief Rahul Gandhi offered a fur cap by Khadim Hussain, the caretaker, which he politely refused. "As per tradition I offered the cap to chief minister Yogi Adityanath when he visited the mausoleum of Kabir saheb but he politely refused," he said. However, Adityanath agreed to keep the cap, he said. In 2011, then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi had refused to wear a skullcap offered to him by a cleric during a fast for social harmony in Ahmedabad.



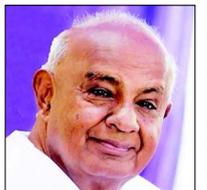
The Mirik Badminton Club on Wednesday felicitated Nima Rida Bhuttiya, Mirik Municipality chairman L. B. Rai and Mirik police officer Sujji Lama in the presence of club president Bishal Gurung and other office-bearers of the club. Bhuttiya was recently nominated as a member of the games and sports committee from Mirik by the West Bengal government. Rai and Lama were felicitated for their help and support for sports, club secretary Ritesh Gupta said. --- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

All parties that attended Kumaraswamy's swearing-in may not contest together in 2019: Deve Gowda

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 /-/ Six non-BJP parties may have attended the swearing-in ceremony of H D Kumaraswamy as Karnataka chief minister to present a united opposition face, but it does not mean that they will contest together in all states in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, JD-S supremo H D Deve Gowda suggested today.

However, Gowda favoured formation of a third front to take on the BJP at the earliest, saying there were clear "signals" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling party to their cadres in states to be ready for Lok Sabha polls as early as in November-December. "It is not necessary that the parties which attended the swearing-in ceremony of Kumaraswamy as Karnataka CM - will fight together in all states," the former Prime Minister told newsmen here. He was here to attend a meeting of a parliamentary panel on defence issues which got postponed. Presenting a united front, top leaders of the Congress, TMC, BSP, ACP and TDP had attended the ceremony last month in Bengaluru. Gowda said the Samajwadi Party and BSP are discussing sharing 40 seats each

in general elections in Uttar Pradesh. "In Karnataka, we will fight with the Congress despite having small issues with them," he said. However, Gowda refused to comment when asked about remarks made by former chief minister and Congress-JD-S coordination committee chairman Siddaramaiah that the current Karnataka government will survive for only an year. "It is his feeling," he added. The seat-sharing for 2019 Lok Sabha polls has not yet been decided though there are rumours



that Congress will fight from 18 seats and the JD(S) will get the rest 10 in Karnataka. "So far, there has not been any discussion on this issue... Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and Kumaraswamy will discuss and finalise that," he said. Gowda also said his party was willing to give away one Parliamentary seat in Karnataka to its ally BSP. "In return, I will ask BSP to give one seat in Uttar Pradesh to Danish Ali (who is JD-S Secretary General). In Kerala, LDF will give one seat to us," he added.

Cong-JD-S 'differences' would be resolved, says Parameshwara

BENGALURU, JUNE 28 /-/ Karnataka deputy chief minister G Parameshwara today said that differences between the ruling coalition partners, if any, would be discussed and resolved at a Congress-JD-S coordination committee meeting, which is likely to be held here on July 1. On the raging controversy over former chief minister Siddaramaiah's remarks doubting the longevity of the coalition government, Parameshwara, who is also the Pradesh Congress chief, said the issue was left to the party high command. "There is a possibility that the coordination committee will be meeting on July 1, and anything related to the differences between the two parties' leadership will be discussed, and we will resolve all those issues to strengthen the present coalition government," he told newsmen here. Stating that no discussion took place

regarding any statements by anybody including "our leader" Siddaramaiah at his meeting today with Congress ministers, Parameshwara said: "All that is left to the party high command..." A video showing Siddaramaiah reportedly expressing doubts over the longevity of the JD-S-Congress government had surfaced on Tuesday, adding the strains in the coalition. Parameshwara also accused the BJP of attempting to destabilise the coalition government and said, "It is not going to be possible." The Congress leader said, "Whatever little murmurs (are there in the coalition), the BJP is trying to magnify it and trying to destabilise our coalition. I can tell them, it is not going to be possible for them. We are very strong in our coalition. Initial little hiccups will be there... we will resolve them."



The newly constructed building of Sarswati Vidhya Niketan run by Vidhya Bharati Sikkim at Malbaisey Namphing, South Sikkim, was inaugurated on Thursday. Minister G M Gurung inaugurated the second building named as Sarala Devi Khetan Bhawan. --- SANJAY AGARWAL



The school managing committee of Rangpo Mining Senior Secondary School on Thursday felicitated two social personalities of Rangpo, U Narayan Sharma and Mohammad Khalid, for supporting the development of the school. They were felicitated especially for supporting in the installation of CCTV in school campus. The two were presented with Khadas. --- SANJAY AGARWAL

Over 2,500 TN fishermen chased away by Lankan Navy at Rameswaram

RAMESWARAM, JUNE 28 /-/ Over 2,500 Tamil Nadu fishermen were allegedly chased away by the Sri Lankan Navy while they were fishing near Katchatheevu today, a fishermen association leader said.

The fishermen from this island town had ventured into sea in 626 boats and were fishing off Katchatheevu islet when the Sri Lankan naval personnel came to the spot and chased them away at gun point, Rameswaram Fishermen Association President, S Emerit alleged. Following this, all of them returned to shore without a catch, he said. On April 8, more than 2,000 fishermen from here were allegedly chased away by the Lankan Navy while they were fishing near Katchatheevu.



Darshan Tamang who climbed Mount Everest on May 20 this year was felicitated by Lower Pasang Gaon Nagarik Samaj at Gopalthara tea garden under Sukhija Pokhri block on Thursday. --- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN



Bridge of Hope, Rangpo division organised on Thursday a school bag distribution programme. A total of 100 school bags were distributed to 100 students. --- SANJAY AGARWAL

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Punjab CM criticises Centre for 'politicising' surgical strikes

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28 /-/ Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh criticised the Union government today for allegedly politicising the "surgical strikes" across the LoC in September 2016, a day after TV channels aired a video purportedly of the Army action.

"I agree that one should not take advantage of something the Army has done. The Army does it all the time," Singh told newsmen on the sidelines of a programme organised to distribute cheques to the Jodhpur detainees, who were sent to Jodhpur prison following "Operation Blue Star" in June 1984. The ex-Army man, however, said he has not seen the video. Echoing the Congress party line, the Punjab chief minister said Army actions should not be used as fodder for political or electoral gains. It was unfortunate that the surgical strikes were

being "repeatedly politicised" by the Centre, he added.

The surgical strikes against militant launchpads across the LoC were conducted by the Indian Army in response to an attack on their base in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18. Nineteen Indian soldiers died in the militant attack on the Uri base. It was one of the deadliest attacks on the security forces. In response to another question, the Punjab chief minister slammed Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly and AAP MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira for what he said was his attempts to secure political and personal gains on the drugs issue. Singh said his government was working to eliminate the menace from Punjab. He said one of the kingpins of the trade is a Hong Kong prison and efforts are on to extradite him.

Church land deal: I-T raids at 20 places in Kerala

KOCHI, JUNE 28 /-/ Income-Tax (I-T) sleuths carried out raids today at around 20 premises associated with middlemen and real estate dealers allegedly involved in the controversial land deal in Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese of the Syro-Malabar Church, officials sources said. Sources said the raids started at 6.45 am.

Raids are being carried out at least 20 premises, mostly in Ernakulam district, they said. However, no raids were carried out in the church premises, they said without elaborating. A church committee, which

probed alleged irregularities in financial and land transactions of the archdiocese, had said it found numerous instances of violation of canon and civil laws and recommended necessary action against those responsible.

The six-member inquiry committee had also said that Cardinal Alencherry "seems to have fully known and involved" in the alienation and purchase of lands by the archdiocese between April 1, 2015 and November 30, 2017. The panel, comprising priests, was

appointed by Alencherry, who is also Major Archbishop of the archdiocese, after some priests and faithful accused him of selling prime land of the archdiocese for "a very low price".

The Syro-Malabar Church has over 30 dioceses in the country and four outside - in the US, Canada, Australia and Britain - serving over five million faithful.

A division bench of the Kerala High Court had recently set aside a single bench order which had directed the police to book Syro-Malabar Catholic

Church head Cardinal George Alencherry and three others over alleged irregularities in land deals in the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese. The single bench had passed the order to register a case on the complaint lodged with the police by Shine Varghese. The Cardinal had said the property transactions the archdiocese had were not in conflict with the applicable laws of the land or canon laws. Under the canon law, the archbishop has the power and authority to administer properties of the archdiocese, he had said in the court.