

## Training for mathematics and science teachers

● LOCAL CORRESPONDENT

**GANGTOK, JULY 9 /-** A six-day training programme for science and mathematics teachers of Eklavya Model Residential Schools of West and North districts concluded at SCERT on last Saturday. The programme was organized by the State Council of Educational Research and Training and was funded by the Social Justice, Women Empowerment and Welfare Department, said an IPR release.

The prime objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of teachers on content and methods of teaching science and mathematics.

It was also aimed to help teachers effectively deal the difficult concept



of science and mathematics through activity. Teachers were also trained to design content and methods of teaching science and mathematics. The valedictory session of the workshop began with a presentation of report of the weeklong training programme by Deputy Director SCERT Dr Shanti Ram Adhikari. He urged teachers to motivate students and arouse interest in them for learning to learn science and mathematics. He also requested teachers to translate the knowledge and experience gained in the training to actions during their classroom transactions. In the interactive sessions, participants not only shared their reflections about the training but also raised their problems and challenges.

## Punjab CM defends decision on dope test for govt employees

**JAHAN KHELAN, JULY 9 /-** Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh today defended his decision on dope test for government employees and police personnel, saying such tests were also conducted in the Army as a precautionary measure.

The current situation in the state, where addicts were resorting to the use of concoctions due to scarcity and high price of drugs, had warranted such harsh steps, he said, while talking to media after the passing out parade at the Police Recruit Training Centre here.

The pressure mounted on the drug smugglers and mafia had choked the supply lines, forcing addicts to go for concoctions, which were resulting in instantaneous deaths, the chief minister reasoned. Singh reiterated that as far as dope test for police and other government employees was concerned, he would leave the decision to their conscience. Replying to a question he said, the proposal for death sentence in the first instance of offence was also aimed at the elimination of the drug menace. The state cabinet had recently recommended to the Centre to allow death penalty for drug peddlers and smugglers. The increase in tip-offs received by police and the large number of youth coming to drug treatment and rehabilitation centres showed that the people were also worried about the deaths being caused by the use of concoctions by the youth and were actively joining the government campaign against drugs, the chief minister added.

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## TN govt tables Lokayukta Bill in Assembly

**CHENNAI, JULY 9 /-** The Tamil Nadu government today tabled a Bill in the state Assembly for putting in place a Lokayukta to inquire into corruption allegations against public servants.

The Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Bill, 2018 was tabled in the House by minister for fisheries and administrative reforms, D Jayakumar. The Bill, after being adopted, would pave the way for creation of the body that would look into graft charges against government servants. The jurisdiction of the Lokayukta would cover serving and former ministers, sitting/ex-MLAs and state government employees. In the statement of objects and reasons, Jayakumar said the Centre had earlier enacted the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 which provides for setting up the office of Lokayukta in every state. "Accordingly, the government has decided to establish the Lokayukta for the state of Tamil Nadu to inquire into allegations of corruption against public servants," he said.

## MoU signed on training of elementary teachers



The signing of the MoU

● LOCAL CORRESPONDENT

**GANGTOK, JULY 9 /-** A memorandum of understanding between the Sikkim government and the Centre was signed in Delhi on Monday to successfully carry out the Union ministry of HRD-sponsored 18-month long online and

open distance learning mode of the Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed), said an IPR release. As per the Right to Education Act, implemented in 2010, the basic minimum qualification to become a Primary teacher is D.El.Ed, a two-year course to be

pursued after Class 12 through NCTE recognised institutes like the DIET and to become a Graduate teacher is BA/BSc with B.Ed. The RTE Act categorically specifies that elementary teachers must have these professional qualifications as the Act guarantees Right to Education freely and compulsorily up to the age of 14 years to be imparted by professionally trained teachers. A total of 4405 such untrained teachers from government and private schools in Sikkim enrolled themselves in the NIOS for this programme in 2017 and their 1st year examination has already been conducted. They are currently registering for their 2nd year programme. The programme in Sikkim is being conducted by the Kamagra Shikshain collaboration with the SCERT.



University of Cambridge representatives Manish Puri, who heads the India and South Asia part of Cambridge Assessment English, and Madam Saraswathi, who is Consultant, are in Sikkim to introduce the Cambridge Examinations for students in schools, colleges and universities for higher studies and employment abroad. They are partnering with the Sikkim government to improve the standard of English language of students so that they can meet the international standards. On their arrival at Rangpo, the gateway to Sikkim, on Monday they were welcomed by Sikkim Democratic Student Front leader Anu Paryar, Councillor Pinku Prasad and SDF members Buddha Tamang and Dhiren Chhetri. --- SANJAY AGARWAL

## Amarnath Yatra resumes

**JAMMU, JULY 9 /-** The Amarnath Yatra resumed from Jammu today after a day-long suspension allegedly due to apprehensions of law and order problems on the second death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani.

The resumption of the yatra came as a major relief to thousands of pilgrims who were left stranded here for the past several days due to various reasons, primarily the inclement weather in the area around the 3,800-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath. A fresh batch of 1,62 pilgrims, including 1,360 women and 222 Sadhus today left the winter capital for the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam in Kashmir, officials said.

## MP soldier killed in J&K cremated

**DATTIA, JULY 9 /-** The body of an Army jawan, who was killed in an operation against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir last week, was today cremated with full military honours at his ancestral Rev village in Madhya Pradesh's Dattia district. Ranjeet Singh Tomar, a soldier of the 28 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) of the Army, died in the operation in Kupwara district on July 6. A large crowd, comprising military personnel and civilians, assembled today to pay homage to the soldier.

It included Narottam Mishra, the state's public relations and welfare secretary minister, who is also the MLA from Dattia. Meanwhile, MP chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1 crore, a government job and a flat for Tomar's family.

## Maharashtra MLC polls may be unopposed as BJP's extra nominee withdraws

**NAGPUR, JULY 9 /-** Prithviraj Deshmukh of BJP today withdrew his nomination as the sixth candidate of the party for the July 16 Legislative Council polls, paving the way for the unopposed election to 11 seats that are falling vacant.

Today (July 9) was the last date of withdrawal of the nomination papers. A BJP leader today said the party had asked Deshmukh to withdraw his candidature to ensure that the elections become uncontested. Jankar under brought in Deshmukh, a party leader from Sangli in western Maharashtra, after state Animal Husbandary Minister Mahadeo Jankar filed his nomination papers as a candidate of his Rashtriya Samaj Paksh (RSP), a constituent of the BJP-led state government. Apart from Jankar, the BJP had announced candidature of Vijay Girkar, Ram Patil Ratolikar, Ramesh Patil and Nilay Naik.

The elections to 11 seats became necessary as the sitting MLCs are retiring on July 27. Elections, if needed, will be held on July 16. The BJP had earlier nominated Jankar under its quota of five seats.

Of the eleven seats, the BJP can win five seats and Shiv Sena two seats given their respective numerical strength in the 288-member Legislative Assembly. The Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) together have fielded three candidates. The BJP has maximum 122 MLAs in the House, followed by Shiv Sena (63), Congress (42), NCP (41), PWP (3), Bahujan Vikas Agadhi (3), Independents (7), CPM (1), RSP (1), AIMM (2), Samajwadi Party (1), MNS (1), BBM (1), and a nominated member from Anglo-Indian community.

The Legislative Council has 78 seats. The Shiv Sena has fielded Anil Parab and Manisha Kayande. The Congress nominees are Sharad Ranpise and Wajahat Mirza. The NCP's lone candidate is Baba Jani Durant. The Peasant and Workers Party (PWP) candidate is sitting member in council Jayant Patil. The members of the state assembly meet today to vote to decide the fate of the council members. The monsoon session of the state legislature is currently underway in Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra. (PTI)



The fifth batch of Kailash-Manasarovar yatris via Nathula arrived at Rangpo, the gateway to Sikkim, on Monday. There are 38 yatris and two officers in the batch, a total of 40, of whom 13 are women. They were welcomed at Rangpo by the Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation. --- SANJAY AGARWAL

## Taxi drivers' welfare association election

● SANJAY AGARWAL

**RONGPO, JULY 9 /-** The election to the posts of president and general secretary of R.N. Road All Taxi Drivers Welfare Association was held on Monday at Rangli. Jeewan Gurung was elected president and Hem Kumar Pradhan the new general secretary of the association. It was stated in a Press release. Robin Kumar Pradhan, Gopal Biswakarma and Deepak Tamang were elected committee members.

The committee has been appointed for a tenure of three years. The oath-taking ceremony was also organized during the day. After taking oath, the



committee members visited of Dalapchand and the families of fire victims contributed Rs 5,000.



The galleries at the Public Ground, Mangon, in North Sikkim have collapsed under the impact of a landslide. The public gallery walls were already cracked at several places at the time of construction and expansion work of the ground. Now it's the season of rainfall and natural calamities and the gallery walls have not withstood the pressure. --- DEEPAK SHARMA

## Chhattisgarh farm woman denies being tutored for video interaction with PM

**RAIPUR, JULY 9 /-** A farm woman of Chhattisgarh today said her income had doubled after she shifted from paddy cultivation to 'sitafal' (sugar apple) farming and denied that she had been tutored for a video interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month. The comments by Chandramani Kaushik came in the form of a clarification after a media report claimed that she had been tutored by officials to claim doubling of her income during that interface. Chandramani's clarification prompted ministers and BJP leaders to ridicule a section of the media, saying there was "an agenda of deriding" the Prime Minister. During the interaction with Modi last month, the farmer from

Kanker district had said that paddy farming on a piece of two-acre land had not benefited her much as she could earn just about Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 which was not enough for the family. Chandramani told the Prime Minister that she, along with 10-15 other women in her village, then got together to do the farming of 'sitafal', which is known as 'shareeta' in Delhi. "We started working on that project. It used to yield Rs 50-60 per 25 kgs. We then got associated with 'Krishi ATMA (Agriculture Technology Management Agency) yojana and from Rs 50, our income jumped to a profit of Rs 700," Chandramani said. The Prime Minister then asked her how much growth her income had registered.

## Training programme on value addition for fruits



TRAINING CUM DEMONSTRATION VALUE ADDITION OF FRUITS & VEGETABLES (WITH KRISHI KALYAN ABHIYAN) IN SUBSIDIARY DISTRICT (WEST SIKKIM) (RANGPO) (10.07.2018) (11.07.2018)

● SANJAY AGARWAL

**RONGPO, JULY 9 /-** A training-cum-demonstration programme on value addition of fruits and vegetables under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan at Martam village was organized by Krishi Vikas Kendra on Monday. Around 50 farmers from the village attended the programme.

Resource person from KVK Sangay Palmu Bhutia made the audience aware of marketing strategies of secondary products for better income. Different fruits and vegetables within our villages have potential to gain better income if we go for secondary production of those crops and vegetables," she said. She highlighted the importance of packaging for marketing. Later on a skill demonstration on making banana chips was given to the members of women self-help groups.

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- Sub-editors (2 nos.):** Good command over English: Proficiency in translation from Nepali/Hindi to English. Place of Posting: Gangtok
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