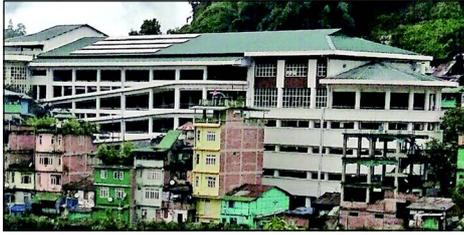


# SKM wants shopping complex and parking plaza in Singtam

SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, AUG 20 --/ The constituency level committee Khamdong Singtam of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has demanded for the allotment of a shopping complex cum parking plaza in Singtam as soon as possible as people are facing a big problem in parking their people. People visit Singtam for medical purposes and shopping. Singtam bazaar being a business centre. But they are facing problems of parking. SKM leader Suresh Tamang blamed the ruling Sikkim Democratic Front Party for trying to use



The unused shopping complex in Singtam --- EOI Photo

the shopping complex as a "vote converter." SKM youth leader Sanjay Regmi has demanded that the shopping complex be used for the benefit of the public.

# Land donors' association formed



SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, AUG 20 --/ Supporting government mission and vision of the Sikkim government, a new body named School Land Donors

Association has been formed with N S Gurung as president. A meeting organized at Singtam was attended by a large gathering of land donors in Sikkim. At the meeting the government

decision to provide government service to one of the family members of the land donors has been welcomed; but the association has requested to provide permanent employment not ad hoc one.

# Diversion of Mahadayi water by Karnataka to impact Goa: NGO

PANAJI, AUG 20 --/ Environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar said today a tribunal's decision to allow Karnataka to divert water outside the Mahadayi river basin will prove detrimental to the environment, ecology and the people of Goa.

Last week, the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT) gave its verdict in the decades-old water sharing row between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Kerkar, secretary of the Mahadayi Bachao Abhiyaan (MBA), said the reduction in Goa's share of the Mahadayi water will have an adverse impact on the coastal state's eco-system, agriculture and fisheries. As per the August 14 MWDT verdict, Karnataka will get 13.4 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water from the river, while Goa and Maharashtra will be allowed to use 24 TMC and 1.38 TMC, respectively. The tribunal has allowed diversion of a part of share of Karnataka from the Mahadayi basin. Goa had demanded 122 TMC of water for its use.

"The diversion of water outside the Mahadayi basin, allowed by the MWDT (to Karnataka), will prove detrimental for environment, ecology as well as safeguarding the interest of Goans," Kerkar said. He said Goa is India's smallest state, but it has been blessed with an astonishing diversity of endemic species, habitats and ecosystems. "Out of the total 111 km length of the Mahadayi, 76 km lies in Goa and only 35 km in Karnataka. It is pertinent to note the river, in its upper reaches, plays an important role in adding nutrients into the food chain," said Kerkar, whose NGO has been campaigning against diversion of the river water.

If Karnataka implements the diversion plan, it would result in change in hydraulic characteristics of the Mahadayi and reduction in flow of its water, thereby disturbing the delicate balance required for sustenance and growth of habitat in the region, he said and added: "The water flow and moisture content presently available in the region would get considerably reduced, adversely affecting the flora and fauna."

# 4 killed as landslide hits vehicle in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, AUG 20 --/ At least four passengers were killed and nine others injured when a landslide struck a hilly road in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir today, a senior police officer said. The incident took place at Kulligad on the Kishtwar-Paddar road when huge boulders and debris came down from a hillock, trapping a passenger vehicle plying on the road, senior superintendent of police, Rajinder Kumar Gupta, told news agency PTI.

Four persons were killed and the spot. Nine other passengers were rescued and rushed to a hospital where the condition of some of them was stated to be critical, the officer said.

# Prisoners prepare chapathis to feed flood victims in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 20 --/ The inmates of Central Prison here are toiling hard to feed those staying in relief camps across Kerala, where the worst flood of the century has claimed 210 lives since August 8 and displaced over 7 lakh people. Ever since the torrential rains started lashing the state causing massive destruction across its length and breadth, the prisoners are preparing large number of chapathis and vegetable curry for

relief camp inmates and those stranded in marooned houses. The Central Prison at Poojappura here has been selling a number of food items including chapathi, vegetable and chicken curries under the brand name 'freedom' on a commercial basis for some years now. The low-cost dishes sold through a number of outlets in the capital city have many takers. According to jail authorities, an average of 40,000, 50,000 chapathis were prepared for flood victims during the peak days last week. Though the work load is too high, around 50 convict prisoners of the chapathi unit were working round the clock in different shifts to meet the demand, they said. The neatly-packed chapathi and curry were handed over to the district authorities to be distributed to the relief camps. "Our food packets were used mainly for aid-appopping to the people stranded in roof tops and isolated building," a senior prison official told news agency PTI.

# Sidhu to give strong reply on his Pak visit when needed

CHANDIGARH, AUG 20 --/ After drawing flak from Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh and the Opposition for embracing the Pakistan Army chief, cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu said today that he was prepared to give a strong reply to all when needed. "Whenever the reply has to be given, I will give it and I will give it to all... It will be a strong reply," Sidhu, the only Indian to attend Imran Khan's swearing in ceremony as Pakistan's Prime Minister, said here. His comments come after Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh had on Sunday ticked off his cabinet colleague for hugging Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. "I think it was wrong for him (Sidhu) to have shown the affection he did for the Pakistan Army chief. I am not in its favour... The fact is that the man (Sidhu) should understand that our soldiers are being killed every day. My own regiment lost one major and two jawans a few months ago," Amarinder had said. On his return from Pakistan on Sunday, Sidhu had defended his action, asking what was he supposed to do when someone tells him that "we belong to the same culture" and talks of opening the route to the historic Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib.

# Teen ends life after rains destroy school certificates in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG 20 --/ A 19-year-old man allegedly committed suicide in an finding that his Class 12 certificates were damaged in the devastation caused by monsoon in Kozhikode district, police said today. With his house fully waterlogged in the downpour, the man, Kailash, and his parents, hailing from Karanthur in Kozhikode district, had moved to a relief camp three days ago. Kailash had got admission for a course in the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and had purchased new clothes and set apart some money for higher studies, they said. As the rains abated for a while, he returned home yesterday to take a look at the house and was shocked to find his plus two certificates soaked in water and in tatters. A police officer attached to the Kummamangalam station said the man's death came from light later in the day when his parents came to clean up the house as the water receded. They were shocked to see him hanging, police said. His shattered father, a labourer, had pinned all his hopes on his son as all their belongings had mostly been destroyed in the rains.

# Awar lynching: SC asks Rajasthan govt to state action taken within a week

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 --/ The Supreme Court today asked the Rajasthan government to state within a week what action it has taken in the case of the alleged lynching of dairy farmer Rakbar Khan on July 20, following its directions on the incidents of cow vigilantism. A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra considered the plea of Congress leader Tejseena Poonawala seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the state's officials including the chief secretary and the DGP for alleged violation of the top court's verdict in the Alwar lynching case. The apex court had on July 17 said that "horrendous acts of cow vigilantism are being allowed to overrun the law of the land and issued a slew of guidelines to deal with mob lynching and cow vigilantism, besides asking the Centre to consider enacting a new law to sternly deal with such cases. The bench, which also comprised Justices AM Khanwilkar and D Chandrachud, also took note of the fact that only Maharashtra, Punjab and Chandigarh had filed compliance reports after the court had directed all states and union

territories to take steps to deal with the offences of mob violence and cow vigilantism and file a compliance report by today. It directed Rajasthan's principal secretary of home department to file an affidavit within seven days detailing the action taken by the state government in the case. It also asked the remaining states to file their compliance reports by September 7. At the outset, senior advocate Indra Jaising sought criminal action against those police officers who had failed to take the Alwar victim to hospital in time, which had led to his death. Poonawala, in his plea, said the 28-year-old dairy farmer Rakbar Khan was attacked by a group of cow vigilantes in Lalwandi village of Ramgarh district in Rajasthan on July 20, three days after the apex court had delivered a detailed verdict. Khan, a resident of Haryana and his friend Aslam, were transporting two cows to Kolgaon through a forest area when the mob attacked them apprehending that they were taking the animals for slaughter, it said.

While Aslam managed survive as he hid in the fields, the crowd killed Rakbar, it said, adding that there was a considerable delay in taking the deceased to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. The contempt plea has alleged that the incidents of mob lynching and vigilantism were taking place despite the apex court verdict in this regard. The court had issued a slew of directions to the government to provide "preventive, remedial and punitive measures" to deal with offences like mob violence and cow vigilantism. It had asked the state governments to designate a senior police officer, not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, as nodal officer in each district. These nodal officers should be assisted by a DSP rank officer in the district for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching, it said. The officers shall constitute a Special Task Force to procure intelligence reports about the people who are likely to commit such crimes or were involved in such crimes. It also asked the officers to issue speeches, provocative statements and fake news.

# Guj Cong's youth wing to launch drive against unemployment

AHMEDABAD, AUG 20 --/ The Gujarat Youth Congress will begin a drive from August 25 for unemployed persons in the state demanding that they be given jobs or an allowance from a senior party functionary said today. The party's youth wing president Gulabshin Rajput said that rallies and protests are being held as part of the drive which will end on September 15. "We demand monthly allowance of Rs 3,000, Rs 3,500 and Rs 4,000 for unemployed persons who have studied till Class 12, have completed graduation and post graduation respectively," Rajput said. He claimed that 10 lakh unemployed persons were registered with the state government, the actual numbers were much higher and he called for Rs 20 lakh. He said that the party would approach district collectors to provide employment to these persons as well as demand removal of contractual system from the government sector. The Gujarat Congress had, in its election manifesto from the Assembly polls in 2017, promised an allowance to unemployed persons. (PTI)

# 2 booked for sharing obscene audio about Vajpayee, 1 held

BAHRAICH, AUG 20 --/ Two persons were booked for allegedly sharing an obscene audio clip about former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on social media following which one of them was arrested, police said today. A case was registered against them following a complaint by social worker Sunil Singh, superintendent of police Sobharaj said. "Azad Khan, a resident of Bhopatpur village, had on Saturday posted a nearly two-minute indecent audio about the former Prime Minister on WhatsApp, and forwarded the same to his friends and various groups," the SP said. Anwar-ul-Haq was posted as a pharmacist at a government hospital in Bahraich encouraged people to spread it further, the official said.

# Court grants bail to former Himachal CM's in money laundering case

NEW DELHI, AUG 20 --/ A Delhi court today granted bail to former Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh's son in a money laundering case. Special judge Arvind Kumar granted the relief to Vikramaditya Singh on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of like amount. The court has put various conditions on the accused, including that he will not leave country without its prior permission and he will not try to influence any witness in the case. Special public prosecutors N K Mittal and Nitesh Rama appearing for ED opposed the bail application, saying he will misuse the liberty. The court has now put up the matter for further hearing on September 19. The court had on July 24 summoned Vikramaditya Singh and others to appear before it on August 27 in a money laundering case. The court was considering a charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 21 against Vikramaditya Singh in the money laundering case, which also involved the former Himachal Pradesh chief minister. The chargesheet also named the managing director of Farani Infrastructure, Vakamulla Chandrasekhar, and one Ram Prakash Bhatia as accused. Both Chandrasekhar and Bhatia are also accused in a CBI case related to the matter, along with Virbhadra Singh, his wife Pratibha Singh and others.

# Arms seizure: Ex-Shiv Sena corporator remanded in ATS custody for probe

MUMBAI, AUG 20 --/ of a large cache of explosives, the prosecution said, adding that Pangarkar's bank transactions also need to be probed. On August 10, the three persons - Vaibhav Raut, Sharad Kalaskar and Sudhanva Gondhalekar - were arrested by the ATS from Palghar and Pune districts in connection with the seizure of a large number of bombs and weapons. All three men are in the ATS custody till August 28. The state's anti-terror agency had alleged that the accused were planning to carry out blasts in the state ahead of the Independence Day and the Bakri Eid. The ATS also said it would probe if the accused had any connection with the killings of rationalists Narendra Dabholkar and Govind Pansare, and journalist Gauri Lankesh. The accused have been booked under relevant provisions of the Explosives Act, the Explosive Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. (PTI)



Social worker Dadhiram Ghimirey being felicitated in Mirik on Monday by Sahitya Sunau Parivar on the occasion of day of recognition of Nepali language -- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

# UP govt to name states, roads after great personalities: By CM

LUCKNOW, AUG 20 --/ UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya today said the UP government will name roads after BSP founder Manuvar Kanishram and socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia. Maurya explained that every great personality irrespective of his lineage must be respected. "To honour Maharaja Suheldeva we could construct a huge statue of him in Bahraich. Similarly, we could name roads after Karpooi Thakur, former Bihar chief minister. I have no hesitation in saying that in the future we will name roads after Manuvar Kanishram," Maurya, who also holds the public works department (PWD) portfolio, told news agency PTI in an interview here. Maurya said signage with names of great in persons and a high-minded message to the people. Maurya said criminals in Uttar Pradesh must expect harsh punishments as it would deter others from such activities. "We do not believe Uttar Pradesh is 100 per cent crime-free. However, crime cases are being solved now. No criminal can be saved."

He accused the previous state governments of SP and BSP of weakening the law and order mechanism in the state over the last 15 years. "We want to assure the common people that the UP government is always vigilant and standing by them," the deputy chief minister said. Speaking on Kumbh arrangements, he said preparations are going on in full swing and a grand festival awaits the tourists. "Allahabad will be renamed as Prayagraj. I hope that before the Kumbh begins Allahabad is renamed Teerthraj Prayag," Maurya said.



Social worker Dadhiram Ghimirey being felicitated in Mirik on Monday by Sahitya Sunau Parivar on the occasion of day of recognition of Nepali language -- DEEP MILAN PRADHAN