

Government projects in East District reviewed

EOI CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, JULY 10 /-/-/ Lok Sabha Member from Sikkim P.D. Rai chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at East District Zilla Panchayat Conference Hall on Tuesday.

The meeting reviewed the progress of Centrally sponsored projects, schemes, flagship programmes and social security schemes in terms of physical and financial achievements.

The meeting was attended by DC (East) Kapil Meena, Mayor of Gangtok



Shakti Singh Choudary and MLA Syari Kunga Nima Lepcha, an IPR release said. Rai spoke about the significance of smooth and effective co-ordination between the stakeholders and the State government

departments concerning the execution and timely completion of various schemes and projects formulated by the State government.

He inquired about the implementation and

outcome of different Central and State flagship programmes which were currently under execution in the east district. The MP highlighted the need to document the outcome of these flagship programmes.

Rangpo I-Day celebration committee



SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, JULY 10 /-/-/ Rangpo the main entry point of Sikkim, is gearing up to celebrate the 72nd Independence Day at Rangpo Bazar playground in a grand manner. On Tuesday, a meeting was held at Rangpo, attended by officers from different departments, delegates and members from different organisations, youths, Rangpo police representatives, councillors,

businessman and local residents. A committee was formed for making the programme a success.

MLA Mr Gopal Baraily was nominated as the chief patron of the independence day celebration committee Rangpo 2018.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer Rangpo S. R. Senga is the patron of the committee. More than 30 schools of the area are going to participate in different types of event and competition.

SC paves way

for criminal proceedings against Rajnikanth's wife, quashes HC verdict

NEW DELHI, JULY 10 /-/-/ The Supreme Court today paved the way for criminal proceedings against superstar Rajnikanth's wife Latha Rajnikanth, on a complaint by a medicine agency, by setting aside a Karnataka High Court order quashing the process.

The agency had alleged in its private complaint that they had ventured in the post-production of the 2014 film 'Kochadaiyan', which was produced by Mediawone Global Entertainment Ltd, on Latha's personal guarantee and had funded Rs 10 crore for it. She was a director of the production company. A bench headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi said the high court was "not justified" in quashing the proceedings against Latha, which were initiated following a trial court's order on the complaint by the advertising agency, Ad Bureau Advertising Pvt Ltd.

"This is a case which should have gone for trial. You (Latha) can apply for discharge at an appropriate stage," the bench, also comprising Justices R. Banumathi and Navin Sinha, said. The court's order came on a plea filed by the advertising agency against the March 10, 2016 order of the Karnataka High Court quashing the proceedings against Latha. The advertising agency had claimed that Mediawone Global Entertainment Ltd was required to refund Rs 10 crore plus Rs 1.2 crore being the "guaranteed profit", but the amount was not refunded. During the hearing today, Latha's counsel told the bench that they had argued before the high court about "breach of agreement" by the agency since they had agreed to pay Rs 20 crore to Mediawone Global Entertainment Ltd but later paid only Rs 10 crore. "Just because they (agency) did not give you Rs 20 crore, will you retain whatever they had given you?" the bench asked.

At the outset, the counsel for the agency told the bench that Latha had not paid the money to them as per the undertaking given by her in the apex court earlier.

J&K cops' tales of honesty leaves internet buzzing

SRINAGAR, JULY 10 /-/-/ The internet here has been left buzzing with two tales of honesty of Jammu and Kashmir policemen after a special police officer and a constable returned two lost bags with huge cash to their rightful owners.

Special police officer Umar Mushtaq, who works for a meagre salary of Rs 6,000 a month, returned a bag containing Rs 90,000 cash to its rightful owner here on Monday. Honesty is ingrained here as an organisational value. SPO Umar Mushtaq posted at Qamarwari today returned a bag containing Rs 90,000 cash to its rightful owner Abdul Aziz Malla of Palpora (Noorbagh), Kashmir Zone Police said in a tweet, which was used and shared by numerous 'tweeters'.

Malla, who had recently retired from Srinagar Municipal Corporation, had lost the bag containing his retirement savings and had lodged a report in the concerned police station.

The SPO, who found the bag, informed his superior officer who, in turn, ensured that it is returned to its owner after proper verification. "Honesty is the rarest wealth anyone can possess. Hats off to Umar Mushtaq of @JmKmpPolice who found a bag containing Rs 90k at Qamarwari (Srinagar) and then returned it to owner Abdul Aziz Malla, a former employee of SMC. It was his superannuation savings," a tweeter user wrote.

Heavy rains lash Mumbai; hit local train services, dabbawalas suspend work

NDRF begins rescue operations in Vasai; Govt closely monitoring situation, says Fadnavis

MUMBAI, JULY 10 /-/-/ Suburban train services of the Western Railway were suspended today after heavy rains lashed the metropolis through the night, an official said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy rain till Thursday. "Since last night, over 200 mm rainfall has been recorded. This has led to water logging on railway tracks and keeping in view passengers' safety, train services have been stopped till the water level on the tracks recede," the railway official said. Train services between Churchgate and Borivili were, however, normal as the pumps are being used to drain out water from tracks.

Local train services of the Central Railway (CR) were not affected despite the heavy rain. Trains are running normally on the main, harbour and trans-harbour lines, the CR said. It also tweeted to thank its passengers for offering their gratitude.

"We received innumerable messages and tweets yesterday from you all bestowing accolades on us that despite heavy torrential rains for the past 72 hrs, we provided uninterrupted services. We thank you all for the faith, confidence and immense support



A local train passing through the flooded tracks after heavy rain in Mumbai on Monday.

shown by each one of you," it tweeted with a video attachment.

Mumbai's dabbawalas have also suspended their services today. "We did not collect tiffins today, because of the water logging across the city. Our people find it hard to wade through knee-deep water on their cycles," Mumbai Dabbawalas Association's spokesperson Subhash Talekar said. Maharashtra

chief minister Devendra Fadnavis today said Maharashtra government is keeping a close watch on the situation in Mumbai and its neighbouring areas, especially in Palghar district, following heavy rains.

Palghar district has received unprecedented rainfall, he said in the Legislative Assembly here.

The chief minister said in

Computerized billing for power in Jorethang

DEEPAK SHARMA

JORETHANG, JULY 10 /-/-/ An e-service portal and computerized billing system was on Sunday formally launched at the Jorethang Power Office, South Sikkim, by Power Minister D. D. Bhutia. After the state capital of Gangtok, Jorethang now becomes the second town in Sikkim to have this facility. It would benefit about 4,233 electricity consumers in and around Jorethang.

Consumers of Jorethang can now look forward to paying their bills online using debit cards, credit cards or net banking services of any bank. Using the e-service portal, the consumers can view and print their monthly electricity bills and also file electricity billing or supply related complaints online. By registering with the portal, the consumers will also receive sms and e-mail notifications.

UP DGP rules out lapse in security provided by police to Bajrangi

LUCKNOW, JULY 10

/-/-/ A day after Munna Bajrangi was shot dead allegedly by another gangster inside a jail in Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh DGP O P Singh today said there was no lapse on part of the police force in providing security to the mafia don.

Talking to newsmen here, he said adequate security was provided to Bajrangi while transferring him from Jhansi jail to Bagpat, and that the transit time between the two locations was nearly 12 hours. "There was no laxity on part of the UP Police in providing security to Bajrangi," Singh said. Mafia don Prem Prakash Singh, alias Munna Bajrangi, was shot dead, hours before he was to be produced in a local court in a case of extorting money from a former BSP legislator, police said. The UP DGP said a judicial probe was on in the matter and the guilty would not be spared. Bajrangi was reportedly killed by Sunil Rathi, who is lodged in Bagpat jail since July 31 last year, officials said.

On media reports claiming that Rathi killed the mafia don for calling him 'chubby', Principal Secretary (Home) Arvind Kumar said, "A number of versions have come out...magisterial and judicial probe is on. It will come in the probe report". Also commenting on a couple of photographs showing Bajrangi being shot on his head and then on his chest, the official said, "It has come to my notice. It will be included in the probe".

The photographs have since gone viral on social media. The principal secretary added that the government was also

looking into an application submitted by Bajrangi's wife accusing former MP Dhananjay Singh, gangster Pradeep Kumar Singh and some others of conspiring to kill her husband. "An application was given. We will look into it," he said. Meanwhile, former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav today slammed the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government on "lack of law and order in the state."

"In present day Uttar Pradesh, there is no law and order, just an atmosphere of panic. The perpetrators have become so confident that they have murdered someone in prison. These are the government's failures."

The people of the state are very scared. The state has never seen such misrule and chaos before," he tweeted in Hindi. Uttar Pradesh government spokesman and senior cabinet minister Sidharth Nath Singh, however, refuted the charges, saying law and order was "definitely better" compared to the SP regime in the state, and that police were hot on the heels of criminals across the state.

Meanwhile, a senior police officer today said that killing of gangster Munna Bajrangi was not an isolated case, with quite a few cases being reported in the state in the last years. Anurag Tripathi alias Annu, said he was close to a sharpshooter of the Munna Bajrangi gang, was shot at inside Varanasi jail by another murder accused Santosh Gupta on May 13, 2015.

In this case, the firearm was smuggled inside the prison in the body of an air cooler to avoid metal detectors, a senior police officer said.



A chorten at Kabi-Lungchok in north Sikkim has been vandalized by criminals. -- DEEPAK SHARMA

Charitable works by Brothers on Wheels

DEEPAK SHARMA

YUKSAM, JULY 10 /-/-/ Brothers on Wheels (BOW), a motorcycle riders' club, carried out charitable works in Yuksam on Sunday and Monday.

The members of the Namchi-based club spruced up the new ICDS centre, coloured the whole ICDS building and planted some saplings in and around the ICDS premises.

They also visited the existing ICDS centre and conducted counselling sessions on health, elementary



education and sanitation. They donated umbrellas, toiletries and stationeries to the children enrolled at the ICDS centre.

The club thanked the local administration and public for the support rendered.

Yet another Kerala priest booked over rape charge

Delhi archdiocese rejects claims by Kerala nun's family

KAYAMKULAM, JULY 10

/-/-/ A case of alleged rape has been filed against yet another priest of a church in Kerala, where a string of clergymen are facing accusations of sexual misconduct, police said today.

Binu George, a priest of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, was alleged to have raped the parishioner in Alappuzha district four years ago. He is currently serving at a church under the diocese at Koyilikkarama. The victim woman has claimed the priest sexually assaulted her at the office of the church when she approached him for help to settle some family dispute in 2014. In her complaint to the police, the woman said she had informed the church authorities about the incident soon thereafter, and was promised she would not face any harassment from him in the future. However, when the priest continued to torment her and spread "baseless gossip," she decided to take legal recourse, police said.

In a major embarrassment for the clergy, a man from

Pathanamthitta district had last month accused five priests of Malankara Orthodox Church in the state of using his wife's secret confession to blackmail and sexually exploit her. The alleged sexual abuse by the priests came to light after an audio clip of the victim's husband's purported conversation with a church official claiming rape of his wife by the clergymen was widely circulated on social media. The crime branch of the state police recently registered an FIR and slapped rape charges against four of the five priests after recording the woman's statement. Days later, the Catholic church in Kerala was hit by a scandal, with a senior nun accusing Bishop Franco Mulakkal, the head of the Latin diocese of Jalandhar, of raping her, and filed a case with the Kuravilangad archdiocese.

Meanwhile, the Delhi archdiocese has rejected the claims by family of a Kerala nun that she had informed Archbishop Anil Couto about her alleged abuse by a bishop of Jalandhar diocese.

Girl gangraped

HOSHARPUR, JULY 10 /-/-/ A five-year-old girl, daughter of a migrant labourer, was brutally raped by unidentified men in Dasuya town in this district, police said today. The girl was admitted to the Civil Hospital, Dasuya from where she was referred to PGIMER, Chandigarh, in a critical condition after the incident on Monday night, they said. Police said the girl went missing from her house last night at about 10.30 pm when there was a power shutdown in the area.