



THE ECHO OF INDIA



News conference by members of Tibetan parliament-in-exile – Shekhar Khawas

Tibetan parliament-in-exile members appeal for campaign on Tibet issue

SUJAL PRADHAN

GANGTOK, OCT 8/-- A team of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, Central Tibetan Administration, met Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhavan on Monday and put forward an appeal that whenever meetings were held between the governments of India and China, the issue of Tibet should be included in the discussions. Ways should be explored to lend support for reviving talks between envoys of the Dalai Lama and the government of China to resolve the critical situation in Tibet on the basis of the mutually beneficial middle way approach.

Since the natural environment of Tibet was directly concerned with the life of billions of people in neighbouring countries, including India, the Chinese government should be persuaded to protect the environment in Tibet. Because of the brutality of the policies followed by the Chinese government in Tibet, a total of 152 Tibetans had carried out self-immolations in protests, starting with the monk Tapey who torched him-

self on February 7, 2009, and Tsekhon was the last to do so on March 7, 2018. Tibetans demanded that "His Holiness the Dalai Lama should be invited to Tibet; that freedom should prevail in Tibet," the parliamentarians said and requested that the Chinese government was prevailed upon to respect these sentiments of the Tibetan people and take them up for proper consideration. They requested the Indian Parliament, different state legislatures and political parties to adopt resolutions on Tibet and take part in campaigns relating to Tibet. "The government of China is exercising tight control on religion in Tibet; destroying the Tibetan people's linguistic heritage and culture; persecuting and torturing the Tibetan people held for political reasons; encouraging a massive influx of Chinese immigration into Tibet and has carried out large-scale deployment of armed forces in Tibet's border areas. We, therefore, urge that these issues be taken up with the government of China with a view to hold serious discussions on them and to convince Beijing to put an end to these abusive practices," they said in their appeal.

Sikkim prepares for 15th Finance Commission visit

EOI CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, OCT 8/-- Principal Secretary Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department V. B. Pathak chaired on Monday a co-ordination meeting to prepare for the coming visit of the 15th Finance Commission to Sikkim. Heads of departments and other officials concerned with the visit attended the meeting.

Pathak took stock of the responsibilities assigned to the departments in preparation of the visit and issued directives to ensure that the visit of the Finance Commission was a fruitful one for the state of Sikkim. Directions were also issued for presentations and compliance reports of the participating departments. The 15th Finance Commission will be in Sikkim on an official state visit from the November 3 to 6 and would hold conferences with state officials, representatives of the concerned departments and also interactive meetings with members of urban and rural local bodies. The Commission members would also tour different locations in the State.

Rangpo gears up for Oct 10 mock drill



The preparatory meeting in Rangpo --- EOI Photo
SANJAY AGARWAL

RANGPO, OCT 8/-- All over Sikkim, preparations are now on for staging the mock drill for meeting emergencies by earthquake and other natural disasters on October 10. A preparatory meeting was held at Rangpo on Saturday, attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Rangpo Prem Kamal Rai, Deputy Director Human Resource Development Department B. K. Gazmer, Station House Officer Rangpo Keshang D Bhutia and other representatives of concerned departments.

Representatives from different industrial units were present in the meeting. SDM Prem Kamal Rai distributed responsibilities among all attended delegates. He said everyone would have to react as if it was a real emergency that had hit the area, for fine-tuning the ability to meet natural calamities. Students of different schools would also participate in the mock drill on October 10. They would organize small awareness rallies, taking placards in their hands, spreading messages about how to take initiatives when calamity struck. The mock drill would start from Rangpo Mining Ground on October 10 at 11.15 a.m.

Veteran speakers reveal secrets behind the "Audacity to Mould" in SMIT platform

SANJAY AGARWAL

GANGTOK, OCT 8/-- Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology organized on Sunday TEDxSMIT Fourth Edition with the theme, "Audacity to Mould." It was a platform for spreading ideas, in the form of short and powerful talks from erudite speakers. The talk session started with the first speaker of the day, Managing Director, Ericsson Global Services Amitabh Ray. He deliberated his talk on the topic, "Doing Things Right v/s Doing the Right Thing" with intriguing real-life examples and several noteworthy points. Founder, Aferglow Tech, Ashish Anand spoke about "The Power of an Idea." He began it by putting light on the subject of changing ideas to reality. The speaker then cited that in every downswing in life, an individual tended to question himself and get demotivated in the process. When they were in their high points, they must prepare for the worst, he argued.

Veteran journalist Karma S. Paljor, hailing from Sikkim, took the center stage to give his talk on the topic, "My Birthplace Does Not Define Me". In his talk, the speaker deliberated on how one must get away from their comfort zones, shatter the stereotypes that generalized a group of people

and strive forward in the path to success. NDA alumnus author and digital marketing consultant Alcatraz Dey spoke on the topic, "Change in Perception". The speaker kept the audience's attention intact by answering the biggest question of

the stage and spoke on the topic, "Stop the Cringe" wherein he shared his experiences at school and college. He explained how the four years of his engineering gave him the clarity on what he wanted to pursue further. Author, poet and a depression sur-

phasis on seeking therapies and sensitizing mental health by refraining from comparing pains of different individuals. The seventh and the final speaker of the day was none other than actor and writer Shivankit Singh Parihar who talked on, "To be Different and Stand Out". In his talk, the speaker highlighted on his urge to stand out from others and have a distinctive voice, whilst sharing his journey of discovering his admiration for the field of acting, eventual venturing into writing and how he used his biggest weakness of baldness as his strength, thereby reflecting upon the theme of the event, "Audacity to Mould."

The event began with Director, Prof. (Dr.) Ashis Sharma and the Associate Director of Academics and Lead Faculty Coordinator, Prof. (Dr.) BB Pradhan introducing TEDxSMIT and the aim behind organizing the event. All the speakers were felicitated after the address with a certificate and khadas by the Director and Associate Director. Prof. (Dr.) Ashis Sharma, Director, SMIT said SMIT had always ventured to provide best exposure to the students and this event was aimed at that. He termed it a great opportunity for the students to get to listen to the elite speakers. Santosh Gandharva also presented a Sarangi performance.



One of the speakers at TEDxSMIT --- EOI Photo

modern age, "What is the purpose of life," while simultaneously sharing the experiences of his life. Founder of FB Page, The Frustrated Engineer and FOSLA Media Rajendra Rathore, graced

vivor Sangeetha Parameswaran spoke on, "Mirage of the Mind" in which she shared her account of the time when she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and borderline personality disorder. She laid em-

Binay Tamang threatens 'massive' rally in Delhi

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, OCT 8/-- Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president and chairman of Gorkhland Territorial Administration Binay Tamang has threatened to organize a "massive" rally in Delhi after the pujas to protest against he not being allowed to address a meeting in the national capital on the foundation day of GJM. Tamang who landed Bagdogra airport on Monday on his return from Delhi was welcomed by thousands of his party supporters shouting slogans against the BJP government and Darjeeling M. P. S. S. Ahluwalia. According to Tamang a letter reached in the hands of Morcha leaders from Hauz Khas police station on Saturday, the evening before the meeting, about permission being denied for the event due to law and order problems. Talking to newsmen, Tamang



Binay Tamang at Bagdogra airport on Monday --- EOI Photo

Panchayat meet for co-ordination of people-centric programmes

EOI CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, OCT 8/-- A one-day district level coordination workshop between Zilla and Gram Panchayat was organized by the East District Zilla Panchayat (EDZP) on Saturday at the conference hall of Tourism and Civil Aviation Department on Saturday to generate awareness at zilla and gram panchayat levels for smooth implementation of different people-centric programmes introduced by the Sikkim Government.

An initiative of the EDZP towards Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas, the programme had the presence of Zilla Panchayat Adhyakshya, EDZP S.S. Bokhim, as the chief guest accompanied by Upadhyakshya, EDZP along with Secretary, Rural Management Development Department C.S.Rao and District Collector East Cum Sachiva, EDZP, Kapil Meena RMDD. The day long programme included technical sessions in which various resource persons in different fields highlighted on the importance of coordination

between gram and zilla panchayats in the context of Sikkim Panchayat Act 1993, Mission Anthyodhyaya and Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas. A cohesive approach was required of zilla and gram panchayats and the concerned departments of the State Government, E-Panchayat and findings of various workshops held earlier targeting the cooperation of gram and zilla panchayats for strengthening the Panchayati Raj System in the state and for the holistic development of the state. The technical session also included interactions where the panchayats dealt on various problems faced at the implementation level of the schemes which were discussed to find amicable solutions.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest Bokhim said that the protocols were a set of rules which were implemented during the government function and programmes from the zilla panchayat down to the gram panchayat level to serve the people of the state. Zilla Adhyakshya emphasized on strengthening Zilla and said

that panchayats must have a role in formulating different programmes, their implementation and delivery of service to the people. Bokhim applauded the efforts of the RMDD and said that the state had received so many awards from Union government because of the hard work and dedication towards society and the state which had made possible proper implementation of government policies at the grass-root level by zilla and gram panchayats. RMDD Secretary C.S Rao said: "Our panchayats have been doing a tremendous job by bringing so many laurels for the state and they have made it more significant by recently winning the Swachh Bharat Awards where Sikkim was adjudged the cleanest state in the north-East. "I hope that the panchayats will maintain the same pace of work and make Sikkim proud by bringing appreciation and acknowledgment throughout the country." He also informed the gathering about the recent cabinet approvals for RMDD like clubhouse, community hall and crematorium.

Gangtok Road Run as prelude to Kanchenjunga Marathon

SUJAL PRADHAN

GANGTOK, OCT 8/-- The Sikkim Mountaineering Association (SMA) organized on Sunday a Gangtok Road Runners (Marathon) at Ridge Park. The event saw the 150 participants from three categories. The objective behind holding the marathon was to encourage young athletes in the sport of running and also to create awareness about the upcoming Kanchenjunga Marathon which started in 2015 with 20 participants. The participants in the run were in two categories: 10 kms (open) and three kms (for kids). The entry fee was Rs 200 for students, Rs 300 for police and army personnel and Rs 500 for the general public. The 10-km route was Ridge, Park-Zero Point-Vajra-Bakthang Falls-Zero Point-Old Secretariat and Ridge Park. The three-km route was Ridge

Park-Zero Point-Old Secretariat-Ridge Park. The top six winners of the day, three girls and three boys, directly got the entry and free registration to mega Kanchenjunga Marathon which will be held later this year. Kanchenjunga Marathon is the marathon in the second highest altitude in the world after the Mount Everest Run. One competitor from the open category also got direct entry to the Kanchenjunga Marathon. The Gangtok Road Run also helped people to engage in a healthy life and also to create awareness about the Kanchenjunga Marathon. Among those who got direct entry to the Kanchenjunga Marathon were the first, second and third position winners among both boys and girls in the 10-km category as well as the winner in the veterans' category. The seven winners would be sponsored by the organizers for the Kanchenjunga Marathon.



Participants at the Gangtok run --- EOI Photo

Protect Arunachal's unique identity : Tuki

ITANAGAR, OCT 8/-- Senior Congress leader in Arunachal Pradesh, Nabam Tuki Saturday exhorted the Congress cadres to adopt do and die mantra to protect the unique identity of the state and its people. It is time to work out a strategy under the Congress to "wipe out" BJP from the state to protect its indigenous identity, he told a Congress meeting held here to discuss strategies for the 2019 Lok Sabha and state assembly poll. Assembly poll in the BJP-ruled north eastern state is due in 2019. "Our identity is under threat... It is time to work out a fool-proof strategy under the leadership of Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Takam Sanjoy to wipe out BJP to protect the indigenous identity of this protected state and also for the all out development of the land-locked state," Tuki, the two-time chief minister said. Congress symbolizes sacrifice for the society, the state and nation, he said asked the party's front organizations like Arunachal Pradesh Mahila Congress, Arunachal Pradesh Youth Congress and NSUI to struggle peacefully for the purpose. PTI

IN BRIEF

Gujarat govt appeals to Hindi-speaking migrants to return

AHMEDABAD: Additional forces were deployed in industrial areas in Gujarat for the security of Hindi-speaking migrants after attacks on them sparked their exodus that prompted the state government on Monday to make an appeal for their return. PTI

Indian tourist killed, 2 injured in shootout in Thailand

BANGKOK: A 42-year-old Indian was among two foreign tourists killed and two Indian tourists seriously injured in a shootout between two rival gangs in Bangkok on Sunday night on a street behind Centara Watergate Pavillion hotel in Ratchathewi district. Gakhrejr Dheeraj, an Indian, and a Lao tourist died at a hospital. The Indians were part of a group of tourists who had just had their dinner at an Indian restaurant in the mall and were waiting for their bus at the parking lot. PTI