

What we love about the official website of the Government of Sikkim

On Page 18



SARAH comes to the aid of strays

On Page 16



# MIDWEEK

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

20 - 26 SEPT, 2006, GANGTOK

sikkim.midweek@gmail.com

VOLUME 1 NO. 3. Rs. 10

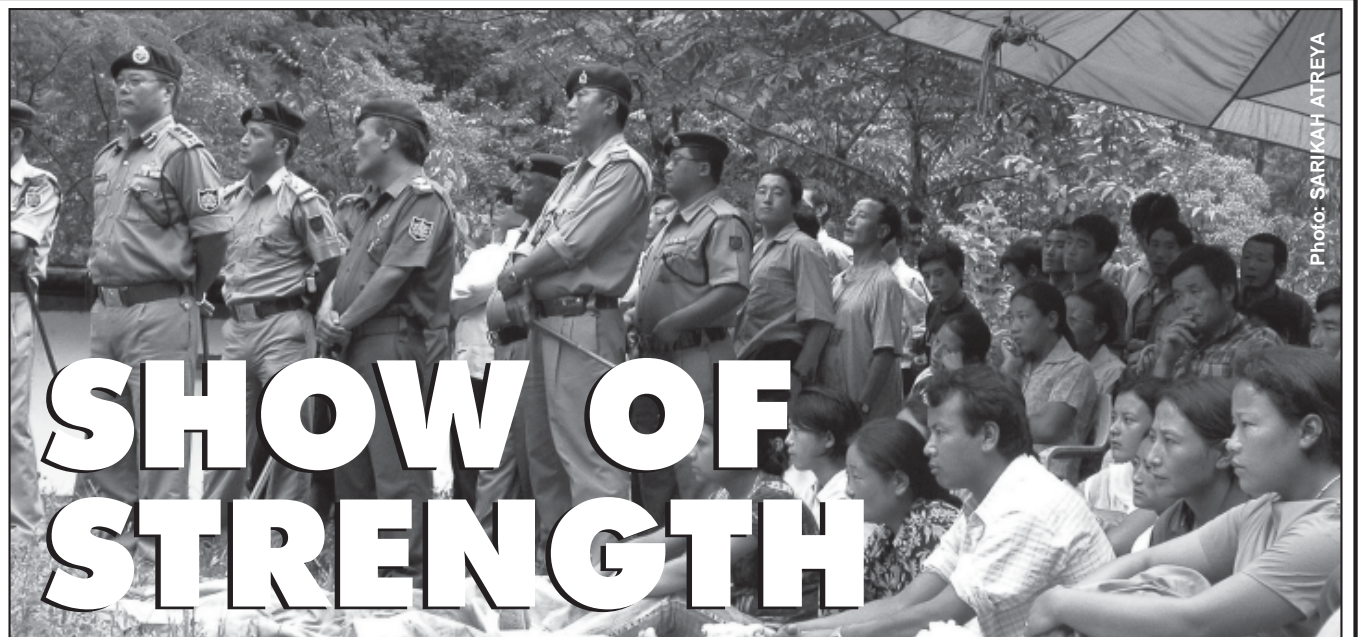


Photo: SARIKAH ATREYA

## SHOW OF STRENGTH

### DZONGU DIVIDED OVER PANAM

On Page 4

## HOW ONE MAN FOOLED AN ENTIRE TOWN

### THE VISHAL TELEFILMS CON - THE COMPLETE STORY

RHEA SHARMA

Debashish Mukherjee arrived in Gangtok on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Checking into Hotel Sernya at New Market, he stayed here for two days. This pattern was repeated the next month and again the month after that. On his third visit he borrowed Rs. 2000 from the manager of the hotel, claiming some problem with his ATM card. And thus began a journey of lies that finally culminated in his arrest on 13 September 2006, exactly a year after his arrival. In that

one year Debashish had conned a large number of people into loaning him big amounts of money. He projected himself as a successful media personality and even negotiated with Nayuma Television for a programming tie-up. With much fanfare he launched Vishal Telefilms' talent hunt 'Voice of Sikkim' from Chintan Bhawan in the company of HRD Minister GM Gurung and DIG, Range, Akshay Sachdeva.

But his carefully crafted web of deceit came crashing down when Chandra Shekar

Pradhan, a resident of Convo ground, Tadong, filed an FIR against him, alleging that the accused had cheated him of Rs. 1, 78,800 on the pretext of getting the complainant's daughter admission in a medical college in Pune. When Pradhan travelled to Pune, he discovered that no admission had been secured at the college. Upon his return to Gangtok, Debashish handed him a cheque which subsequently bounced. After Pradhan lodged a complaint in this regard, Sikkim Police arrested Debashish. Thus ended a journey that saw Debashish hog the limelight, in more ways

than one. Today, as he cools his heels at Sadar Thana, Debashish will have ample time to contemplate on how his grand scheme went so terribly wrong. Earlier than he would have anticipated, perhaps.

That the man was a charmer is no longer in doubt. How else can we explain the sheer number and variety of people that he conned into giving him lakhs of rupees on the basis of vague promises made by him. Although very few are willing to come forward in public against him, it is believed there are dozens of people who have been robbed of their money.

continued on page 3



photo courtesy: NOW!



SDF supporters at the White Hall complex waiting for the CM's darshan. A MIDWEEK Photo

## Much Hungama about Janata Mela

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** "Yo pali ko Dasain tapai haru sabaiko lagi ramro hos. Tapai haruko khushi mai mero pani khushi cha."

With these words, Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had kicked off the first of the series of Janata Melas from the East District at the Guards Ground here on October 3, last year.

And this year too, the Mela of benefits for the Janata was slated to make its debut for both the East as well as North Districts at the Paljor Stadium here on September 22.

The Janata Mela this year was planned to be grander in scale as it was to be organised for both the East

and North Districts. According to the District Development Officer, East District, nearly 3,500 beneficiaries had been identified for various benefit schemes from the East District for this year's Mela. There are 11 Constituencies in the East District.

During the Janata Mela, the Chief Minister was to hand out benefits to token beneficiaries which included schemes under the Rural Housing Scheme, Old Age Pension, land compensation, land bank scheme, grants to religious institutions and incentives to sports person.

But even as the state government was making preparations to hold this year's Janata Mela, it came under heavy criticism from the opposition parties. In a meeting held on 18 September at the Congress Head Office, the party demanded a White Paper from the State Government on the organization of the Janta Mela. The party has asked the government to declare the benefits it proposes to distribute as well as ensure that the government distributes the benefits to genuine beneficiaries and not on the basis of political allegiance. The party has also

threatened to take legal action against the Indian Oil Corporation which is supposed to provide a huge quantity of new LPG connections for public distribution during the Mela at one go when IOC has been refusing to provide the same to the general public.

Earlier, the state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] raised objections regarding the manner in which the benefits are disbursed. The BJP is of the opinion that since the economic benefits distributed during the Mela does not come straight off the pockets of the Chief Minister or his ministers and MLAs, the distribution of the same should be carried out by the government officials. The party has further suggested that since the beneficiaries have to go to the district headquarters to receive the benefits, they should also be paid in advance all the expenditure incurred on account of their travel and stay in these areas.

But, in a sudden turn of events the Mela has now been postponed, with the new dates yet to be intimated. One does not know what prompted the change in dates but events

that unfolded on Monday, September 18 may have something to do with it. The day saw hundreds of SDF supporters from far flung villages thronging to Mintokgang, for the 'Dasain kharcha' they believed was being doled out. Ministers, legislators, district officials and police had a tough time controlling the crowd.

By late afternoon people crowded the entire area surrounding Samman Bhavan, the Whitehall complex and the circular divider of J. N. Marg.

The fact that the chief minister was in fact away on a two day tour of Darjeeling did not deter the large number of people, who refused to budge until late in the evening.

Despite being informed the chief minister was away, the public refused to leave.

Some cabinet ministers, legislators and officials from the chief minister's office had to intervene and ask the people to leave. The District Collector R. Telang, Superintendent of Police MS Tuli and senior district and police officials all had assembled in the area to control the situation which threatened to get out of hand.

## Forest Deptt made resource agency for awareness campaign of the North East

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** Sikkim's Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management department has been made the resource agency by the Union Ministry of Forest and Environment for coordinating the National Environmental Awareness programme in the North-Eastern region.

According to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests TR Poudyal, the programme, whose theme for the current year is solid waste management, is to be taken up in collaboration with various NGOs, state

government departments, joint forest management and eco-development committees and educational institutions.

Proposals have been invited from the local NGOs, educational and training institutions, scientific bodies and government institutes for taking up concrete action-oriented activity on solid waste management in different areas of the region and also generating awareness to ensure effective management of

solid wastes, he said.

The proposals, to be prepared on a prescribed format, may include conducting of rallies, camps, competitions and preparation of educational resource material on environment issues. The proposal must also include an action-oriented component which involves environment improvement to benefit local community, Mr. Poudyal said adding that the completed proposals should reach the department latest by 10 October.

## NOTICE

A General Body Meeting of the newly registered Goethals Alumni Sikkim will be held on Sunday the 24th September 2006 at 5.30 pm at Hotel Chumbi Residency, Tibet Road Gangtok. All ex-students of Goethal's Memorial School, Kurseong, whether registered or not are cordially invited.

The meeting will amongst other points discuss the outcome of the recent meeting of various Alumni held at the school with the Principal Brother Beddoe and the plans for the coming Centenary Celebrations of the School. It will also focus on past and future activities of the Alumni and ways of strengthening the Association.

The meeting will be followed by dinner.

All ex-Goethalites are urged to attend and to confirm their participation to

**Mr. J. D. Barfungpa**  
**Asst. General Secretary. Mobile : 9434410202**  
**OR**  
**Mr. Aswin Oberoi**  
**Treasurer. Mobile : 9434022313**



continued from page 1

The game plan was simple. First he had to create an aura of wealth and success around him to be credible. So Debashish tied up with some finance companies to procure luxury vehicles for himself. Soon he had seven of these. He started projecting Vishal Telefilms as a top notch media company which had a tie-up with Star One. In fact, he was always seen wearing the Star One ID card. But according to new revelations, these were made locally in a well known photo studio here. Vishal Telefilms then started negotiating with Nayuma Television for providing five hours of programming daily, for which they would pay Nayuma Rs. 5 Lakhs a month. If Nayuma Television had bothered to check they would have found out that not only did Debashish not represent Star One but his company Vishal Telefilms was not even registered and had no trade license. But Mukherjee was in business and soon he took up a new office at a building owned by former Chief Secretary SW Tenzing in Development Area. He had a staff of twenty, and seven luxury vehicles. Yogesh Pradhan of Alphabets Book Shop supplied furniture worth over a lakh, which he is yet to be paid for. By now Mukherjee had created an aura of wealth and success around him. Enough to inspire trust and make people believe in his tall tales. One of these was about his background. Mukherjee

claimed big business investments back home in Jamshedpur and a huge mansion. But according to his driver, this was all a bunch of lies. His mother, sister and brother lived in a small flat there. As for Mukherjee, he entered the area only at night and only after ensuring that 'Aslam' was not around. Police investigations so far have revealed that Debashish is a resident of Swarn Vihar, Sonari-Jamshedpur but his claims of being a cameraman with a leading national entertainment TV channel is doubtful.

One of the many frauds Debashish played was of promising to get Scorpios which were supposed to be auctioned at New Delhi at a cheap rate, for people here. Nearly ten persons bought into this story, including teachers and bureaucrats who paid up to Rs. 2 lakhs each as advance. A gentleman is said to have hurriedly sold family gold in the hope of getting a Scorpio cheap. However, not all are willing to come forward and make official complaints.

Only last month, on 29 August, Vishal Telefilms launched 'Voice of Sikkim - Pratibha ko khoj,' a talent hunt at Chintan Bhawan. The winner was promised a Maruti Alto car, Rs. 1 lakh in cash award, a Bangkok tour and an audio-video album contract with Vishal Telefilms. On the occasion the HRD minister promised all help from his department as well as from the

## HOW ONE MAN FOOLED AN ENTIRE TOWN

### THE VISHAL TELEFILMS CON - THE COMPLETE STORY



The Vishal Telefilms office, now sealed.

state department to make the event successful. The muharat of 'Sapna Sapna Bhayo', the next venture of Vishal Telefilms was also given by the HRD minister. Guest of Honor, Akshay Sachdeva, DIG, Range also addressed the gathering.

In the meantime, Deo Ashis Mothay, a graduate from Vishwa Bharati Shantiniketan was also lured into the doubtful world of Vishal Telefilms, with its promise to create stars out of everyone. Mothay alleges that promises made to him about

money and contract all turned out to be fraudulent.

Sikkim Police are now on the lookout for Paromita Mukherjee, Debashish's wife and MD of Vishal Telefilms. A mistake the police seem to have made was in delaying the search of the flat where the couple stayed. This was done three days after his arrest. It is believed that Paromita, who is in an advanced stage of pregnancy, is now absconding along with her and her brother. They have allegedly destroyed all documents and photographs that were in the flat.

Even as the scam is slowly unspooling, more and more cases of fraud are emerging but locals are wary about coming out in the open. Meanwhile, the twenty employees who resigned from the company after Mukherjee's arrest now want to carry forward the 'Voice of Sikkim' talent hunt themselves. Towards this end they are meeting various officials to garner support.

As for Debashish Mukherjee and the Vishal Telefilms scam, the drama is still to be played out in its entirety.

## Seven SCS officials promoted

a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** Seven members of the State Civil Services, who were holding various posts in various State Government departments, have been promoted to the ranks of Special Secretaries in their respective departments.

The promoted officials are Tenzing Gelek, Additional Secretary, Ecclesiastical Affairs Department; CP Dewan, Director, Information and Public Relations Department; Lhendup Dorjee, Additional Secretary, Raj Bhawan; Dawa Sandup, Additional Secretary, Energy and Power Department; DP Sharma,

Additional Secretary, Home Department; PR Poudyal, Project Director, SRDA, Rural Management and Development Department; and Wangmu Tenzing, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department.

As per an office order issued by the Department of personnel on 16 September, the officiating promotion shall not confer any right for regular promotion and shall not be counted towards seniority. Regular

promotions will be made only after consultation with Sikkim Public Service Commission.

## Two weeklong Hindi Diwas celebrations in North

a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** While all other parts of the state witnessed a daylong observance of Hindi Diwas, a Lingchom-Tingda based non governmental organisation has decided to take a step further and make the event into a two weeklong extravaganza. The celebrations organised by Nature Conservation and

Social Welfare Organisation in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra [Mangan], which had started earlier on 14 September at Community Hall, Lingchom, will continue till 28 September.

The two weeklong celebrations will witness various activities such as quiz and essay writing competitions as well as *antakshari*, besides various

other cultural presentations. On 26 September, a rally from Lingchom to Youngang [Kabi] will be taken out whereas the prize distribution ceremony will be held on the concluding day.

Nature Conservation and Social Welfare Organisation was formed recently with the twin objectives of preserving the natural and cultural heritage of North Sikkim and development of the society.

Send in your feedback, queries and mail to [sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)

OR post it to:

Midweek, Near Hotel Yatung, Nam Nang, Gangtok - 737101

Phone: 03592 320169

# DZONGU DIVIDED OVER PANAM

Police personnel with protesters at the public hearing.  
Photo: SARIKAH ATREYA



## Show of strength by all at Panam hearing

SARIKAH ATREYA

**NAMPRIKDANG:** The tension in the air was palpable. The turnout at the Namprikdang Ground was clearly divided into two groups, one in favour of the Project in the belief that it would bring in a new era of prosperity to this economically backward region of North Sikkim and the other opposed to it, believing that it would forever change their lives, for the worse.

The North District Police was present in full strength; clearly in anticipation of clashes between the two groups. The presence of the North District administration, led by the DC, North, along with senior officials of the power and forest Departments, the Dzongu area MLA and a senior Cabinet minister who also heads the Steering Committee for hydel projects in North Sikkim did little to deter the enthusiasm of the protesting group, who were determined to not let go of this opportunity to voice their concerns vehemently.

The Public Hearing meeting, organized by the Sikkim State Pollution Control Board, for the 300 MW Panam hydro electric power project here on September 18 had both the groups indulging in a verbal show of strength. The District Police was not taking any chances-the protesting group had earlier stopped a team

consisting of officials from the Forest Department and developers of the Project from entering the area for joint inspection. The protesters, supported by members of the Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT) and its supporters blocked the road at the Sankhalang Bridge on September 3. The Police allegedly had used intimidation to force the protesters to clear the way. "The police threatened to trap us in some severe charges and legal cases if we did not stop the blockade. We were only demonstrating in a peaceful and democratic manner. But some of us were even later detained up by the Police and questioned," a protester from Dzongu told MIDWEEK.

Supporters of ACT had earlier said that they would boycott the Public Hearing in protest. "We are all aware of the fact that Public Hearings are just eyewashes and hardly address the real concerns of the affected people," an ACT supporter said.

However, ACT supporters were present in full strength at the Panam Public Hearing, clearly defiant and determined to prove a point. Even as the Public Hearing began with the welcome speech by Dr. Gopal Pradhan, senior scientist, State Pollution Central Board, some protesters began booing. As he began to sum up the objectives for this Public Hearing, he requested the Project Affected

People (PAP) to come forward with their opinions and suggestions to ensure successful implementation of this Project.

Next to speak was Ms. CC

Shangderpa, chairperson, SPCB, who made it clear that this Project was a part of the "Government's plan for the prosperity of the poor and marginalised janata of North Sikkim" and everyone had to contribute their bit in this "national building efforts." Her comments that once this Project would be commissioned, the people of Dzongu can "run hotels" in their houses and "eat an abundance of fish," were greeted with loud jeers. Around that time, some protesters who were booing were silenced by the Police and their names

### 300 MW PANAM HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

#### PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Project is being developed by the Himagiri Hydro-Energy Pvt. Ltd, which proposes to tap the waters of the Tholung Chu, one of the great tributaries of the Teesta in the Upper Dzongu in North Sikkim.

A Concrete gravity dam will come up on the confluence of the Tholung Chu and Rangyong Chu at Lingza village, while the power house will come up near the Panam village, connected by a 9.8 km head race tunnel along the right bank of the River. Three adit tunnels will also come up along the right bank.

noted down. One person was put to "car arrest" by the Police for his alleged alliance with the protesters and deemed a "trouble maker." He was locked inside a Police car till the end of the meeting.

The GM of the Himagiri Hydro-Energy Pvt. Ltd, talked about the Project components and said that the MoU with the State Government was signed in December 2005. "We are here because your Government invited us to develop this Project. We are determined to work in close coordination with the locals at the same time ensuring maximum social and economic benefits to the villages in the Project area."

Former Minister, social activist and President, ACT, Athup Lepcha did not mince his words when his turn to speak came. "We are deviating from the real and pertinent issues concerning us. The Government is clearly not sensitive to our problems. The Project is being forced upon us without addressing the real concerns of the people," he said.

Mr. Lepcha used the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report prepared by the developers to raise some valid points. Apart from environment and social concerns, he raised the question of land acquisition and land rates. "Our lands have been taken by disregarding the special provision that no outsider can buy or sell Lepcha-Bhutia land. And we are expected to sell it at dirt cheap rates. The Government recently decided that the land rate would be just Rs. 2 Lakhs per acre from Rs. 7 Lakhs per acre for grade I land in Dzongu, when other Project developers in North Sikkim are giving better rates. Moreover, the land does not just belong to us. It is our ancestors. When most

*continued on page 7*

## Concerns of ACT

1. The extensive drilling and excavation during the construction period may release dust particles in the air which may cause lead to some serious health problems.
2. The presence of large migrant labourers near the river bank would lead to deterioration in water quantity and subsequent changes in the aquatic biota due to discharge of waste into the river. These migrants might be probable carriers of various diseases not endemic to the region resulting in health risks for the locals.
3. Since the migrant workforce are generally from outside of the State, with diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, they are bound to affect the local socio-cultural and value systems
4. 10 kms of river from the dam site till the power house will virtually dry up as it will flow in the tunnel. It will lead to low evaporation and subsequently affect the rainfall pattern and vegetation in the area. Reduced water in the Rangyong Chu is likely to affect the fish population downstream, which is very important component of any Lepcha social or religious ceremony.
5. The EIA Report has not taken into consideration of active landslides in the area, especially around Panam village, where the power house will come up. The survey of the Project area is incomplete and inconclusive. The Report has not included the fact that the Project area falls under the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve. The global phenomenon of global warming and receding glaciers in Sikkim have not been studied properly.
6. The Project area falls entirely within the Lepcha Reserve of Dzongu. The Lepchas have been declared a Primitive Tribe by the State Government. Given these facts, how can a major project come up within the Reserve?
7. The Tholung Gompa, one of the most sacred and important monasteries of the State lies in the vicinity of the Project. Any mega project involving large influx of migrant workers and increased human activity can be a security threat to the Monastery and its sanctity.



## Namchi teachers file FIR against principal

### a MIDWEEK Report

**NAMCHI:** Five lady teachers of New Light Academy, Namchi lodged a First Information Report against the principal of the school, Lobzang Lama on Tuesday accusing him of underpaying them their salaries as well as alleging several malpractices and irregularities in the school.

A crisis had erupted in the school last week with the five teachers having tendered their resignation on 15 September creating problems for the students in the middle of the academic session.

Today the teachers took the war against the principal further by filing the FIR. Namchi police have been investigating into the complaints.

New Light Academy, a higher secondary CBSE co-educational school is located above Jorethang road, here. The five teachers who have resigned are Bandana Subba, Roshna rai, Catherine Dewan, Karma Doma Bhtutia and Nirvika.

The teachers claim that

while they were promised Rs. 5000 as monthly salaries they were only paid Rs. 3500 per month. They further alleged that the principal asked them to sign on blank revenue stamps with the obvious intention of manipulating the accounts. They also alleged that while the registered number of students appearing for the final examinations totaled between 60 to 70, students from outside the state were brought in to appear for examinations so as to make money out of the registration fees which was between Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 per student.

When questioned on their decision to resign, the teachers claimed that the principal threatened to terminate them while they were taking classes in full view of the students. They were also asked to leave the school premises but before the principal could issue them the termination letters they tendered in their resignation. Meanwhile, the students are suffering the most with this mass resignation of the teachers in the middle of the academic session.

## Two drown during Bishwakarma immersion

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** The celebration of the Bishwakarma puja this year saw two young lives being claimed during the bisarjan (immersion ceremony) of the idol yesterday at Rorathang.

20 year old student Hem Kumar Gurung and 24 year old Sudish Roy who were part of two separate groups were swept away by the currents in the Rangpo khola in Rorathang yesterday. The two were supposedly drunk

during the immersion ceremony.

Gurung, a resident of Pachey Samsing near Pakyong was said to have gone for a swim in the rivers when the current swept him away. His body was found a kilometer downstream.

Roy a resident of Ambari, Jalpaiguri was presently residing at Chalumthang also near Pakyong. He is said to have slipped and fallen into the river.

One arrested, a unit for printing fake notes recovered

## COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY RACKET BUSTED

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** It seems to be the flavour of the month. Forgeries and scams are making headlines in the State, the latest one involving currency notes.

A racket involving fake currency notes has been busted by the Police, thus uncovering a scam that could have devastating consequences on the State economy. It has exposed the fact that printing and counterfeiting of currency notes had taken deep roots in the State.

Singtam Police on September 16 busted this racket. Acting on a Police source tip off, a team led by SDPO (Rangpo), Sonam Bhtutia and Singtam OC Soloman Rai carried a raid at Upper Sawney, West Pendum, leading to the arrest of one person and recovery of a unit involved in the printing of fake notes. However, when the Police arrived at the house used as a printing unit, the four gang members had fled the scene

taking with them most of the materials used for printing the fakes. All the Police could get hold was some paper used for printing. 16 blank papers were recovered along with a sample of a forged Rs. 100 note, along with some bottles containing chemicals and dyes used for printing.

The Police managed to later arrest one of the suspects. Tsewang Singh Subba, a 35 year old resident of the Upper Sawney village. The other three members of the gang-Krishna Pradhan, Vikram Rai and Jashang Subba, had already managed to flee from the village and reportedly took with them most of the printing equipment, including a photocopier which is vital tool in counterfeiting. "The gang, in all likelihood, used a high-resolution printer for printing the fakes. We are tracking the whereabouts of the other three," DIG Range Akshay Sachdeva told MIDWEEK. The three absconding suspects may have fled to Nepal. A look-out notice for the three has

already sounded in Siliguri and the border town of Kakarvitta in Nepal," the DIG said.

Police believe that the gang counterfeited notes of Rs. 100 and Rs. 50 only. Tsewang Singh Subba has been booked under section 489 (a) (c) (e) and (d) of the IPC and placed under Police remand.

"We are now in the process of determining how big the racket was and if there are other parties involved in this. It is also important to find out how big the business was and the areas of circulation. We are also trying to track if any of the fakes were already in circulation in Sikkim," Mr. Sachdeva said.

Terming the Police raid as a success, DIG Range said that it has been through the efforts of the Police that the racket was busted. "We were only helped by a tip off given by one of our own sources. We had been working on this case for some time now. The raid was well-planned and well orchestrated. It is a big success for us," he said.

## Goals rain at sub junior meet, Home team continues winning streak

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** The home team continued their winning streak in the eastern leg of the 29<sup>th</sup> national sub junior football championship being played at the Palzor stadium here thrashing Jharkhand 10-1 in the match played on Monday.

Sikkim skipper Engphohang Subba shone again scoring three goals in the match.

Earlier Sikkim had routed Orissa 6-1 in the inaugural match of this national championship being hosted by the Sikkim football association. The Sikkim captain had scored two goals

in the inaugural match.

In the second match of the league Jharkhand had won against Bihar 2-0 in the match played on 16 September.

Orissa routed Chattisgarh 7-0 in the match played on 17 September. Chattisgarh also lost to Bihar 6-1 in the match played on Tuesday.

**ALL THE LATEST HANDSETS @ THE MOST COMPETITIVE RATE IN TOWN!**

**PLUS a host of other Mobile Accessories & Gadgets**

**Subham**  
for all things cellular

**Subham**  
ENTERPRISES

Near Sikkim Sarda, MG Marg, Gangtok  
Phone: 03592 220522

**SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY**  
A State Government University incorporated under the State Legislative Act IX of 1995  
Recognised by UGC, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India  
Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical & Technological Sciences Distance Education Wing

**ADMISSION NOTICE FOR AUGUST 2006**  
**BCA, MBA, B.Sc IT, MCA, MBA, M. Sc. IT**

**DIT PGDIT PGDCA**  
Short term courses in Computer, Computer Hardware Courses, Spoken English & Personality Development

**SMART ACADEMY** LC No: 1760  
Bangar Building, Deorali, Gangtok. Phone: 03592 281043 / 280313

## NE commerce ministers to meet PM to seek more incentives under NEIP



Commerce & Industries Minister R B Subba, part of the delegation headed for Delhi

**PEMA L. SHANGDERPA**

**GANGTOK:** A joint delegation of commerce and industry ministers from the North east including Sikkim will leave for New Delhi on 21 September, to lobby for more incentives to make the North Eastern Industrial Policy (NEIP) attractive for investors to the region. The demand also includes the extension of the Excise subsidy which expires in March 2007.

Speaking to Midweek, Sikkim Commerce & Industries Minister R. B. Subba, who is a member of the NE Commerce and Industries Minister's Forum said that they were slated to meet the Prime Minister on 21 September itself with a joint memorandum. Subba leaves for New Delhi tomorrow where he will join his colleagues from the north east.

"We aim to make the NEIP further attractive and will put our suggestions before the Prime minister so that the region can woo more

investors" Subba said.

The delegation will seek extension of several subsidies and incentives under the new industrial policy which expires in March 2007. The most important being the extension of excise subsidies which expires next year. While separate notifications had extended the excise subsidies for Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and J&K, it was not done in the case of Sikkim and the NE states. At the recent meet held in Guwahati, the commerce ministers from the various NE states had adopted and passed a resolution to take up the matter in New Delhi. The joint delegation will also call on union Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram and Commerce Minister, Kamal Nath.

A new industrial policy on the lines of the NEIP was extended to Sikkim in 2002 through an office memorandum by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce,

### SOME OF THE PROPOSED SUGGESTIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EXISTING NEIP

1. Inclusion of Power Generation (both Hydel & Thermal), Hospitals and Nursing Homes and Tourism infrastructure (fixed assets) as thrust sector units under Annexure A.
2. All areas within the region of North east to be declared as identified location for all exemption
3. Subsidy at 25 % of the investment in plant and machinery and technical civil work which is largely fixed assets (building and warehouses) without any ceiling limit.
4. Service sector to be included in Annexure A
5. 90 per cent Central Transport subsidy (CTS) to be extended upto March 2017
6. Road Transport Subsidy at 50 % to be provided to the units if the value addition is reasonable
7. CTS should also be applicable to existing units after substantial expansion/diversification for a fresh period.
8. CTS be available for Capital Goods also
9. Tea as a sector to be included
10. 50 % subsidy to be included on Air Freight transportation
11. An interest subsidy of 3 % on working capital loan and term loan to be provided for a period of ten years.
12. Income Tax exemption to be extended by another 10 years for industries set up on or before 31. 3. 2007.
13. Complete Income Tax holiday for all types of industries located anywhere in the North eastern region.
14. Exemption from Service tax for 10 years.
15. Exemption of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT).
16. Excise exemption to be provided if the units reinvest in the NER especially in capital infrastructure
17. 50 % grant on purchase of power generation set without ceiling
18. 25 % power tariff rebate subsidy on existing tariff in each state to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lacs per annum.
19. Income Tax not to be charged on the reimbursement of central excise/subsidies etc.
20. A policy should lay down a time frame for disbursement of incentive within one year
21. All Industrial infrastructure development centres (IIDCs), Special economic zones Export processing and Industrial zones (EPIP) should be 100% financed by the GOI.

Government of India. The policy package for Sikkim to develop its industries was based on the NEIP notified in December 1997 for the NE states. The union government had made the decision after discussion on strategy and action plan for development of industries and generation of employment in Sikkim

held in various ministries interalia infrastructure development, financial concessions and easy market access. The industrial policy was also extended to Sikkim keeping in view that it lagged behind in industrial development and to accelerate growth and boost investor confidence. The

new initiatives would provide the required incentives as well as create an environment for industrial development. At the same time it will improve availability of capital and increase market access to provide a fillip to the private investment in the state.



**Read & Advertise in**  
**MIDWEEK**

[sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)  
MIDWEEK, Near Hotel Yatung  
Nam Nang, Gangtok - 737101  
Phone: 03592 320169





## Jhora Cleaning resumes in Gangtok

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** After achieving considerable success in their Jhora Cleanliness Drive held between November 2004 and February 2005, the Gangtok Task Force [GTF] is all set to resume the drive in the capital. The drive starts Wednesday, 20 September, from Arithang.

In the upcoming drive, GTF

also plans to educate people on the need for connecting their sewerage lines to the main sewerage system of the PHE Department. The drive, GTF informs, was resumed after it received a number of requests and complaints from the public.

GTF also informs that for the success of this drive, it aims to solicit wholehearted

community participation from the residents of Gangtok. The membership of GTF will also be made open for the public at the venues of cleanliness drive. Keeping this in mind, the GTF has requested residents, voluntary organisations and self help groups of the concerned areas to come forward and cooperate and make this drive a success.

## Free Medical Camp held at Uttarey

**GANGTOK:** Under its Special Medical and Veterinary Civic Action Programme, Sashastra Seema Bal [SSB], Uttarey circle, provided free medical treatment and medicines to 550 patients and 557 livestock at Uttarey, Mukrung, Simphok, Sophaka, Begha and intake villages in West Sikkim from 13 to 15 September.

The free medical camp, inaugurated by RC Sharma, area organiser of SSB, on 13 September at Uttarey Government Senior Secondary School, saw chief medical officer of SSB and the veterinary and homoeopathy staff of the SSB Department administer free treatment to the needy local population. Besides these, talks on subjects like health and hygiene, livestock management, environment and population control were also held.

Meanwhile, on 14 September, the SSB officials celebrated Hindi Diwas by organising various competitions for the students of Uttarey Government Senior Secondary School. Winners of these competitions were later handed over certificates and prizes by the area organiser, school principal M Gurung, and teacher KM Subba.

During the programme, motivational talks were also held to spread awareness among the locals regarding various topics, including national integration, AIDS, polio, leprosy prevention among others.

## Pondicherry University comes to Sikkim

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** Pondicherry university, a reputed central university well known for its wide variety of courses in various streams has appointed D.S.College, Samdur, Tadong, as it's spot admission centre for all it's courses being offered through Distance education mode.

The university offers 3 years degree course in business administration, Corporate Secretaryship, Commerce, Foreign

Trade, Computer Application at graduate level and 2 years P.G. courses in Business Administration, Marketing Management, Financial Management, Foreign Trade, Human Resource Management, Public Management, Human Rights, History, Sociology, Hindi and Political Science at Masters level.

It also offers 1 year P. G. Diploma courses in Business Administration,

International Business, Marketing Management, Financial Management, Portfolio Management, Operational Research, Banking & Finance, Human Resource Management, Tourism Administration, Agricultural Marketing, Co-operative management, Insurance Management, Pharmaceutical Marketing, Software marketing and Computer applications.

continued from page 4

## Show of strength by all at Panam hearing

families here have not yet divided the ancestral property amongst themselves, how can the Government expect us to do it now? Even the land survey was carried out hurriedly. Cardamom fields did not even come under the purview of land compensation," he said. "We totally disregard this Public hearing until we get a written clarification from the Government," he added.

The DC, North TN Kazi said that the Government reviewed the land rates and the prices were brought down "due to a technical problem." He added that the new revised rates did not applicable to all but was subject to negotiation between the land owners and buyers.

Area MLA Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, hailing the Project as a harbinger great economic boom for the locals, said that those opposed to the Project were only talking about the negative impacts but about its immense rewards. "A majority of the people from Dzongu are in favour of this Project. Let us endorse and support the decision taken by the SDF

Government. Cabinet Minister and chairman, Steering Committee for hydel projects in Sikkim Hissey Lachungpa echoed very much the same sentiments.

Although enough noise was made by the protesters, they believed that the answers that were provided to them by representatives of concerned Departments, developers and North District administration were "not sufficient enough." ACT general secretary Dawa Lepcha later expressed his unhappiness over the entire proceedings, accusing the state Government representatives of using it as a platform for political propaganda. "We are conditioning our protests. We will be holding several meetings in Dzongu and gather momentum amongst the PAP. Later, we will be holding a press conference in Gangtok in this regard," he told MIDWEEK. ACT also submitted a memorandum to the SPCB expressing concerns on the EIA Report's findings and recommendations for the Panam Project.



## The Art of Conservation and Restoration

**GANGTOK:** Some 50 participants from Sikkim, most of them monks from the various monasteries and Lharipas [mural and thanka painters], are currently being trained on the techniques of conservation and restoration of illustrated manuscripts, *thankas* [religious wall hangings and scrolls], monastery murals and frescoes and metal artifacts.

The two week long workshop is jointly organised by the Sikkim State Archives, Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department in collaboration with the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property [NRLCCP], Lucknow. The workshop was inaugurated by Cultural and Heritage Affairs Minister GM Gurung at the Youth Hostel here in Tadong on 19 September.

One of the aims of the workshop is to create home bred experts for conservation

and restoration of such priceless murals, paintings and *thankas* and metal artifacts, which are being destroyed by age and ignorance.

Speaking to MIDWEEK, Joint Secretary of the department, K Basnett, said that Sikkim lacked expertise in this field and the workshop was aimed to rope in exports and train the monks, Lharipas and Gendrungs [master artistes] to expose them on such techniques. At the workshop, they are given broad ideas on conservation techniques so that they are able to take care of these priceless items in their respective monasteries and institutes, he added.

Among those who have been imparting the knowledge include US Lall, VC Sharma, both senior scientists in the NRLCCP, Virendra Kumar, head of the conservation section of the NRLCCP, and Ganshyam, senior scientific assistant.

This is the second such workshop conducted here. The last one was held in Namchi in 2001. During the Namchi workshop, the experts from this institute had also helped restore some of the murals, artifacts of the old Nagadak Monastery in South Sikkim.

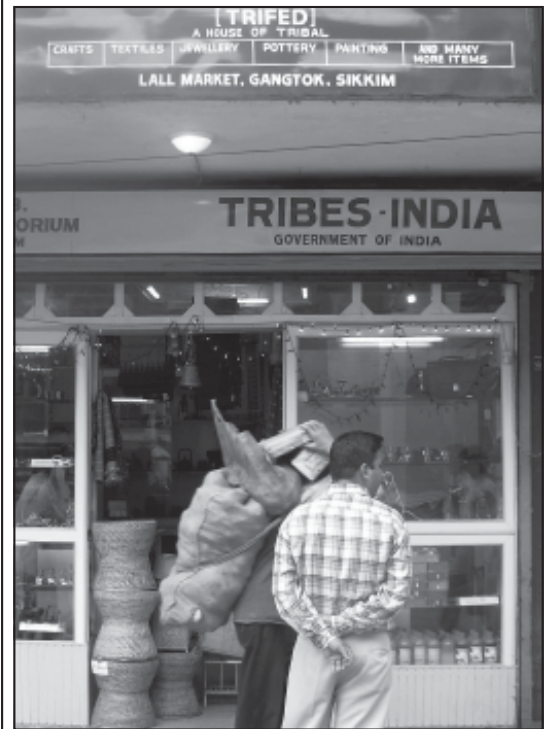
Virendra Kumar told MIDWEEK that the institute's involvement with Sikkim dates back to 1976 when they were engaged in similar restoration works in the Phodong Monastery in North Sikkim. Later they also helped save old murals and wall frescoes on mud walls in the Shinon Monastery in South Sikkim.

Mr. Kumar said that on the course of this workshop, they would also visit Sangha Choling Monastery in West Sikkim to find out if it required restoration works there.

In the workshop, factors and type of decay, general aspects of conservation, role of light, humidity, deacidification and bio agencies would be discussed. Demonstrations, documentations would also be part of the activities at the workshop.

At the inaugural function, the Cultural and Heritage Affairs Minister, who was the chief guest, asked participants to make the most of this workshop and use it as an opportunity to gain expertise. "At present, we require our own experts in each of the institutions and monasteries so that conservation efforts are taken up independently by you all," he told the participants.

## TRIFED - SHOP FOR A CAUSE



**GANGTOK:** The tribal population of India comprises of almost 8 per cent of the total populace and is spread across the length and breadth of the land from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Kerala in the South and from Nagaland in the East to Gujarat in the West. Such a wide variety in agro-climatic and geographical conditions of India's tribal areas ensures availability of an equally wide range of natural products.

To pay specific attention to the marketing requirements of tribal forest and agricultural produce, the Government of India set up the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India [TRIFED] - an organisation committed to serving the needs of the tribals and contributing to the upgradation of their living standards.

Keeping in this mind, the first TRIFED sales outlet was opened in Gangtok on 26 August. Present on the occasion were DD Bhutia, Minister, UD&HD, and Wilfred Lakra, MD, TRIFED. The shop became the 30<sup>th</sup> sales outlet in India, second in the North East and the first in Sikkim.

Products from all over India

are available here, with goods coming from as far as Gujarat, Ladakh and Chattisgarh. Exquisitely woven sarees with prices ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 vie for shelf space with Angora and Pashmina shawls. Table mats, home decoration items, jute file covers, office stationary, bags, metal products are some of the other tribal produced items available here.

"People in Sikkim have a love for cane products which come from Mizoram," informs AD Mishra, Regional Director, TRIFED, and former General Manager of STDC. Mishra, who has recently taken charge is full of enthusiasm about this 'shop for a cause' venture and says the shop is already quite popular amongst Gangtokians. He plans to launch TRIFED's next venture at Namchi shortly, with a sales outlet opening there next month.

To give impetus to local creativity and tribal produce, artists from Sikkim were recently taken to New Delhi where TRIFED had requisitioned the whole of Dilli Haat and invited artisans from all over the country. "It attracted a huge crowd and was very encouraging," adds Mishra.

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY**

**AVAIL UPTO 100%  
DISCOUNT ON ALL  
COURSES**

**SCHOLARSHIP EXAM GOING ON**

**HURRY UP! LIMITED SEATS!!!**

**FOR DETAILS CONTACT:  
CITI Computers, Tibet Road  
Gangtok - 737101, Sikkim  
Ph: 201119 / 9832025675 /  
9832005613**

*send your FEEDBACK to [sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)*



# Non- implementation of scheme denies benefit to poor

**THE CAG FILES**

**Due to indecisiveness of the Health Department to finalize eligibility criteria for the scheme the entire fund of Rs. 87.61 lakh remained unutilized for more than four years besides denial of intended benefits to the deserving poor.**

Government of India introduced a scheme in November 1996 for establishment of a fund at the State level to which Government of India was to contribute upto 50 per cent of the contribution made by the State Government, subject to a maximum contribution of Rs. 2 crores. This was meant for providing financial assistance for specialized treatment for life-threatening illness to the bona-fide people living below the poverty line [BPL]. Accordingly, the State Government constituted in October 1998 the Sikkim State Illness Assistance Fund

Association [SSIFA] and later released Rs. 50 lakh in March 2000 and Rs. 25 lakh in May 2000 towards State contribution and Central share respectively. The rules framed in 2001 for the Fund provided for assistance to the deserving poor people holding BPL certificate or Vikas Patrika.

Though the SSIFA was formed in 1998, the State Government released the share of Rs. 50 lakh only in March 2000 after a delay of more than a year. The Central share of Rs. 25 lakh received in May 2000 was belatedly released to the Association in March 2001. Even after the delayed transfer

of funds as well as framing of rules for the scheme, not a single person was assisted till July 2004 towards life-threatening illness by the Association on the plea of non-finalisation of BPL list by the State Government. This was despite the fact that identification of beneficiaries under the BPL category was completed in July 2000 by the Government for distribution of food grains under Public Distribution System. The Association, as late as in July 2004, decided in consultation with Government of India that the income certificate issued by District Collector or sub-

divisional Magistrate would suffice to identify the beneficiaries under the scheme. However, no wide publicity was given by the Association to inform the public living below the poverty-line about the facility available under the scheme as directed by Government of India.

Thus due to delay in providing funds to the said Fund, finalizing the criteria for eligibility for extending the benefit and tardiness of the Association and the department to give wide publicity of the scheme, the entire amount of Rs. 87.61 lakh including interest

[Rs.13.23 lakh] remained unutilized for more than four years. The non-implementation of the scheme deprived accrual of intended benefits to the deserving poor people living below the poverty line besides non-availing of the potential contribution of Rs. 2 crore from Government of India to a significant extent.

In reply, the Association informed in August 2005 that the scheme has taken off from November 2004 and seven beneficiaries had been provided with the assistance Rs. 2.33 lakh so far.

## Tourism in Sikkim vis a vis Nathula

How many tourists will come to Sikkim from Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) & Mainland China once the Nathu La route opens for tourists in 2011? It is difficult to put exact numbers at this hour. But we can estimate and gauge the future.

After the Qinghai-Tibet Railway started between mainland China to Tibet's capital Lhasa, one can start guessing the future. This guessing is essential when we formulate plan for tourism infrastructure development in Sikkim. By 2011, domestic tourist inflow to Sikkim will be around 9 lakhs, three times of what we are getting now. The reason being the opening of land route thru Nathu La

for Tibet and Mainland China will attract a huge number of domestic tourists from the plains of India to Sikkim who will further like to visit Tibet & mainland China enjoying the land route of scenic cold desert and monasteries. Visit to Mt Kailash and Lake Mansarovar is another great attraction for the Hindu & Buddhist pilgrims of India as the journey to these holy places from Nathu la route will be more comfortable and less time consuming as compared to the difficult and costly route thru Kathmandu in Nepal. Sri Lankan Buddhists will also take this route to visit Monasteries in Tibet. Further, from the Tibetan side, we will get tourists and traders coming to Sikkim who will also like to visit the plains of India through this land route.

Currently, more than 1 lac passengers are traveling from Mainland China to Tibet by the Qinghai-Tibet railway which started formally on 1 July 2006 connecting Mainland China with Lhasa. The Qinghai-Tibet railway line has carried 272,700 passengers and 37,400 tons of freight since entering service on July 1. About 40 percent of the passengers were tourists, 30 percent business people and the rest students,

transit workers and people visiting relatives in Tibet, according to Jin Shixun, director of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee of Development and Reform. "The Qinghai-Tibet Railway has turned Tibet into one of the most coveted travel destinations in China," said Jin.

In July and August, Tibet played host to 913,000 domestic and overseas tourists and raked in 942 million yuan (about 117.75 million U.S. dollars.) in revenue. Average occupancy for three-star and four-star hotels in Tibet over the past two months was 83.7 percent. Food and drink sales rose 55.7 percent.

A train ticket from Chengdu to Lhasa is about 331 yuan (41.375 U.S. dollars) and a sleeper ticket is about 712 yuan (89 U.S. dollars). About 390,000 tourists visited Tibet in this July, up by 50 percent year-on-year. They spent over 83.75 million US dollars in Tibet, up by 43.7 percent year-on-year..

Statistics from Tibet Tourism Bureau show that, Tibetan tourism income reached 1.46 billion yuan (about 182.5 million US dollars) by receiving 15 lacs tourists from January to August in 2006.

The yearly tourist flow to Tibet from mainland China is thus around 30 lacs. A good number of them will like to visit Sikkim and rest of India once the infrastructure on the Indian side is complete in the next 4 years. Border Road Organisation is about to start the launching of road widening work from this November this year between Nathu la and Gangtok and National Highway Authority of India will take up widening job of Gangtok-Siliguri highway.

Even if 10% of the tourists visiting Tibet from Mainland China plan to visit Sikkim and further down the Indian plains, we will get extra 3 lacs tourists inflow into Sikkim from the Dragon country.

Are our Hotels and other infrastructure capable to take this much load down five years from now. We have to reassess and plan for tourism infrastructure based on the changing situation following the tourist rush from mainland China and Tibet Autonomous Region through the Nathu La Pass to Sikkim and down to Indian plains. The planners in Sikkim have to keep this in mind while making the strategic tourism plan for the next decade..

It is worth noting that China's first air route to Tibet was started from Chengdu in 1965. Each year over one million passengers fly the route. There are three airports in Tibet and fourteen air routes to the "Roof Of The World". Further, Chinese Railway Ministry has decided to launch two rail connections linking Shanghai, Guangzhou with Lhasa in early October this year.

World has become a village now. We in Sikkim will also be affected by the rolling sound of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway over the Tibetan Plateau and have to open our ears and mind to hear and understand what is happening beyond Nathu La and how we in Sikkim are affected. Positive mind can bring a lot of laurels to Sikkim.

The writer is S.K.Sarda, President, Sikkim Chamber of Commerce.



S. K. SARDA

### Masters Education Point

Tibet Road, Gangtok

**WINTER CRASH COURSE  
STARTS FROM 1st WEEK OF DECEMBER 2006**

**REGISTRATION GOING ON FOR CLASS X & XII**

**CBSE, ICSE & ISC 2007**

**LIMITED SEATS ONLY!!!  
& ALSO REGULAR CLASSES FOR CLASS VII TO XII  
GOING ON IN FULL SWING**

**CONTACT: 201161 (O)**

**9232514579 (O)**

**9434357076 & 9434143925**

## MIDWEEK

Vol. 1 No. 3

## Why Blame the People

The recent episode of how Debashish Mukherjee of Vishal Telefilms conned an entire town is only one of a long list of scams pulled on the people here. From the Pacific Blues con case which duped 20 job aspirants into paying lakhs of rupees as advance in exchange of jobs abroad, to the more recent West African Advance Fee scam which saw a Ranipool couple dish out Rs. 3 lakhs on the promise of winning a \$20 million legacy, the instances are numerous. Educated and unemployed youth have become one of the main targets of recruiting agencies for whom Sikkim is proving to be a rich playing field. The general public may be naïve and trusting but the web of deceit that Debashish wove has ensnared even the high and mighty. First of all, it was Nayuma Television, almost a semi-government organization that granted legitimacy to Vishal Telefilms by announcing a media tie-up wherein the latter would produce five hours of daily programming for the channel. Did the mandarins at Nayuma even bother to check out the antecedents of the company before going public with their agreement? No, they did not, because if they had bothered to do some background check they would have found out that claims made by Debashish were a whole lot of baloney. Even Star One, the channel that Debashish claimed to represent has now said that they have had no dealings with him. Secondly, how did this non entity of a television company get to host the launch of its talent hunt from the hallowed environs of Chintan Bhawan? Present there as Chief Guest was HRD Minister GM Gurung and gracing the occasion as Guest of Honour was DIG, Range Akshay Sachdeva. These are serious issues at stake here. The government and the police department cannot wash its hands off by simply passing the buck to the people. After all they are there to look after the interests of the citizens of the state. If they give a con man legitimacy, why then blame the people for being taken for a ride. The fact is that a lot of people lost a lot of money by putting their faith on a person whom they perceived as having the blessings of the authorities. Some accountability is surely called for here.

## YUMTHANG NOT GREEN

I am a student of SMIT. Last season, I'd visited Yumthang, Katao, etc., and was very upset with the condition of these places. Why are these places neglected? There are no green trees anywhere. Please write about it.

Rupam Sil  
Rec'd over email

## CONGRATULATIONS

Midweek is something I had been long waiting for. It's a joy to read. My congratulations to the Midweek team for the wonderful effort.

Nikhil Subba

Midweek has become my favorite bedtime reading. So much to read... Lage Raho Midweek!

Sonam Doma  
Rec'd over email

## COMMUNITY LIBRARY?

Let me congratulate you on the successful launch of Midweek and its subsequent issue. The articles are really very precise and the style of writing is the best I've ever read, and I'm



Yumthang valley

sure that by reading it regularly, I and others like me will be able to improve our writing skills. I sincerely request you to provide a column for the people where they can write about their problems to the government and seek solutions for the same. At this juncture, let me not forget to request you to cover what's happening with the State Community Library. It has remained closed since the past few months, at the expense of the members and people like us, and the government is yet to find a new location to shift the library.

Khagesh Agarwal  
BBA 2nd year,  
Gangtok.

Without going about the usual rounds of congratulating Midweek and expressing my views on what makes the paper appealing, here's a question I ask the Traffic Officials and the entire Police Department. Is there a different set of laws for the common man, the bureaucrats, the VIPs and the Police Officers? Or is there a specific law that says bureaucrats, VIPs and police officers can park their cars anywhere, anytime and as long as they wish? Perhaps the much flouted new traffic accessory 'The Red Lock' only applies to us.

Last week my friend's car was locked in Tadong where he had parked just for 5 minutes. He agrees he broke the law, Rs. 500 fine justified. But he parked his car there only after he saw another vehicle parked a little further down, which was not locked. After he went to the DC office, paid the fine, got

somebody to unlock his car, even then the other car was still parked there. When asked the driver said that it was high-ranking police officer's car. Is that ok? Is it legal for a police officer to park his car at an illegal spot, regardless of whether he is there on duty or for personal reasons? Are all vehicles driven by a police official (be it his aunt's new Bolero or his in-laws' Wagon R), in uniform or not, on duty or not, immune to parking laws?

Another case in point is the stretch in front of Blue Sheep restaurant. Don't you think it's time you officially declare the stretch a VIP car park? And does the red light being covered signify something? Another question is whether everyone can apply and request for an allotted parking space and then get a 'Parking allowed only for SK-O2 XXXX - by order Traffic Police' in blue painted on the wall along the road where

no other vehicles are allowed to park? Or maybe there is a pre-requisite for that too, you'd either have to be a minister's kin or a red light man yourself, then you get to park your official car, your own car, your sister-in-laws car and so on.

These are questions I am sure a lot of Gangtokians want answered. Is it possible to apply the Right To Information hype here? Maybe not. Maybe this letter will never see the light of day if I do not mention my name, which is not quite a big name but I do not want to lose the only job I have (you know the trend!).

Midweek, I leave it to you and see if you can relay my questions to the authorities or rather not print it in case an ad coming your way from the department fails to come in.

Pseudo Name  
Gangtok  
rec'd over email

## "The correct picture" - Forest Deptt.



Midweek has headlined in its second issue a news item which states that "170 Heritage Trees to be Sacrificed for New Raj Bhavan - Keeping Sikkim Green?"

While fully appreciating the concern of the paper for protection of trees in the state in general and the Raj Bhavan in particular, the Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department would like to point out a few distortions in the report and request the paper to again publish the correct picture.

Some trees will definitely have to be removed from the work site for enabling the new Raj Bhavan to come up. Not as many trees will be felled. A fact sheet of enumeration made by the East Territorial Division reveals that there are 50 trees which may ultimately go. Rest of them are poles, bushes and unimportant shrubbery. Even the trees that are currently proposed to be cleared for removal will be minimized, for which this department is in active consultation with the SPWD [Buildings & Housing] Department.

Species like *Jhingeny*, *Asaray* and *Angeri* are inferior vegetation and cannot be termed as valuable or indispensable. These and others such as bamboos and *Utis* can be easily replaced by new plants of the same type as they regenerate luxuriantly in the altitude and climate of Gangtok. Even though some trees would have to be removed there is no other alternative land in Gangtok suitable for the construction of a Raj Bhavan which requires a large plot of land given the security and protocol requirements.

The Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department has already decided in consultation with the Sikkim Public Works Department [Buildings] to fell as less a number of trees as possible and mainly by avoiding hacking down the Rhododendron trees.

The Government have always strongly advocated and pursued conservation oriented policies over the past several years. There is no casualness or negligence on the part of the department to abide by such

policy stipulations. Development is a dynamic concept and cannot stagnate which is our bounden duty to facilitate. This small loss of trees that will so occur has been adequately taken care of in the proposal in the building of the Raj Bhavan itself whereby the Forest Department will be realizing costs from the concerned Sikkim Public Works Department [Building] for raising what we call compensatory afforestation.

The State Green Mission is a unique experiment launched by the Government this year. It has resulted in broad basing [not broadcasting as reported in the paper] greening activities at the people's level, at all bureaucratic level.

While the print media in general have been lending their support for this programme over the past several months, this Department urges Midweek too to kindly understand and similarly help strengthen the cause of conservation in the State.

TR Poudyal, IFS  
Principal CCF-cum-  
Secretary Forests



# Crime Stares Through Gaps

It is not rare for a newspaper office to get besieged by anonymous phone calls making complaints or voicing protest. Sometimes these calls are against the establishment and sometimes against the newspaper reports. Almost always, these phone calls are personal in nature, in that the complaints are protests about personal affronts suffered by the callers; rarely do matters of policy or trends make it through the phone lines via anonymous callers. While agreeing that individual sufferers rarely have the support base of organisations to make a noise about their problems, it is disconcerting to note that most times these reactions are individual and lopsided reactions to incidents that could have larger ramifications than just the individuals painted in negative light by the developments as they unfolded.

We speak here of crime – both, white collar and the nefarious and violent kind.

There was a lot of protest, some hushed, some overt, some emotional, when newspapers started reporting on the plethora of thinly-veiled downline chit fund schemes which were finally getting investigated by the Crime Branch. Under the same series of investigations, several established finance companies were also under the scanner when doubts were raised about their professionalism which was reflected in their failure to secure the required official clearances before starting operations in Sikkim. While some earnestly defended the downline prize money schemes as viable options for self employment [!], others, employed as marketing agents with finance companies complained that their jobs had been placed at risk. What they fail to appreciate is that while the former is downright illegal, no matter how many chairpersons or MLAs they bring as chief guests to their seminars or senior government officials they bring as introducers. The latter's commitment to job-security is suspect if it is not even serious about starting operations in Sikkim in a legally appropriate manner. And yet, individual reactions remain emotional.



## FRINGE BENEFIT

PEMA WANGCHUK

Then there is corruption. Every time the Vigilance Police makes a corruption-related raid or arrest, there are murmurs that newspapers play up only the travails of out-of-favour small fries who get ensnared in such busts. "There are so many more people who are corrupt, why don't newspapers report on them?" is a common query. For one, the age of sting operations have thankfully not debuted in Sikkim yet, for another, police action and subsequent penalization are not just punishments for individual offenders, but also examples for others indulging in similar activities to desist. Not reporting on even the little that is being done to contain graft would make the transgressors more blatant.

And then there are the excesses that we know simply as 'crime.'

The operations of the masked gang that attempted to rig the lottery results last month are now revealing themselves to be more complicated, intricately conspired and meticulously schemed. When the news broke, there were those who complained against the

use of photographs of the accused. There was a similar argument – why were the photographs of this group being circulated when murderers and rapists are allowed to get arrested and sentenced in anonymity? While every crime is distressing news, this one, even if no one was hurt and no real damage caused, came as a harbinger of the levels of gumption achieved by the criminally inclined. When the news was prominently played out, it demanded of the readers to ponder on the possibility of a future spiraling out of control. It asked of the readers to realise that it is crime, and not the oft-repeated possibility of agitation that the society and its caretakers needed to be wary of.

The examples and reactions cited above are to illustrate the point that individual interests are outweighing societal concerns too often in Sikkim. So much that rhetoric is out-shouting the saner signals that these trends point at. What the rise in cheating and violent crimes reflects is that social involvement required as the first line of defence is developing too many cracks. Those who complain about either police action or newspaper reports on crimes are almost always associated with accused, not as co-conspirators but as relatives and friends. When they defend a wanton act with weak excuses [like 'why them and not everyone else indulging in similar activities?'], they almost condone the acts. From there on, it multiplies and soon delinquent behaviour gets encouraged into more serious offences against the state and the society. This is not an expression of frustration brought on by unemployment as many would have us believe, these are situation created by societal indulgence and neglect; the indulgence for the wrong reasons and the neglect of real concerns. These are the portions where the social fabric needs urgent repair. Everyone has an anarchic streak, if the fabric rends too much, too many will slip through the seams, many more than can be recovered.

[The writer is Editor, NOW!]

# RED ALERT in the capital

Well well well whaddya know! I get this letter of appreciation from your dear editor! She tells me that you folks out there are really enjoying the stuff I dole out. My heartfelt gratitude for your plaudits; or should I say condolences for your insanity at praising my frivolous words. Anyway for better or for worse lets get on with it shall we...

Let me begin with a farce called TV news and a story of one who brings it to us. In addition to misinforming you guys, I also happen to teach visual communication at a few schools in Delhi. A scam I've assiduously worked on for the past seven odd years with considerable success. So one of my erstwhile students now working for a well known production company in Dilli feeding Zee TV, gave me a frantic call the other day begging me to provide her access to a cocaine dealer, in the wake of the great contribution that a Mr. Rahul M. has made in this regard. All of a sudden pushers seemed to be in great demand and the only problem was that the heat had made all these denizens disappear into the woodwork. As I have been quite indulgent in many ways and

have seen this sordid world from up close I volunteered to play the role...incognito of course, for lack of a genuine candidate and as the research that I had on the subject was quite formidable. So in good faith I called the girl over, lets call her Sita (actual name withheld, a la news channel style), promising her sensational bytes posing as a coke dealer if you please. Needless to say, all I asked for in return for this information was anonymity which was promptly assured. So yours truly went to town fabricating a story on how I scored coke from Nigerians (actually I've yet to meet one of those) at a throwaway price and then made a killing by selling it to the rich and famous in the capital. Having played the Good Samaritan and after providing some really explosive stuff, I left town for a couple of days to research a subject for a film blissfully unaware of what was cooking back in good of Dilli.

Upon returning I called my daughter

and was received with a very cold response indeed and along with that came a question. How had I procured my computer and mobile phone she wanted to know? The conversation ended with her informing me that my in laws had asked her to view my frugal assets with suspicion as I had been featured on the Zee News, 'RED ALERT' programme holding forth on the virtues and economic benefits of being a coke pusher! What's more my daughter even identified the exact location where the fake interview was conducted. My first reaction



was blind anger and some of my more belligerent friends asked me to take this scam story to a rival channel as a sting operation. The prospect did seem attractive at first but wisdom prevailed and I decided to let sleeping dogs lie. I can't blame the ambitious climber Sita either as the irony is that the owner of the production house; daughter of an erstwhile Congress Minister and wife of a well known scribe, knows me personally! So that's investigative

television journalism for you. So the next time you have Prince, winner of a million hearts plastered live all over your TV screens for the better portion of 48 hours, ask yourselves just two questions...Is this for real and if so where the hell is Prince today? That's the kind of instant nirvana that news channels dole out day in and day out.

Now I'd like to tell you two instances of what was NOT reported. The first is an anecdote related by one of my more gifted students who at the time was working in Zee Business channel. Rewind to the time when the last elections in Haryana were about to be held. This guy was summoned by the big boss and asked to make 40 copies of a CD handed to him under strict secrecy. The unsuspecting soul dutifully returned to his edit bay and upon playing the CD discovered the top contender for the CM's post cavorting around with a nubile nymphet in a series of near impossible positions. It turns out that he was cajoled into this by the wily nymphet who had herself prearranged to put this memorable union onto tape. That's why the poor guy lost out to the

- continued on page 18

## First instalment of Rs.25 lakh comes in for KNP



Tsoka, one of the villages within the Khangchendzonga National Park.  
Photo: Karchoong Diyali

### a MIDWEEK report

**GANGTOK:** The State Cabinet recently sanctioned an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs to implement the Management Action Plan (MAP) for the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve in the State.

This is a 100 percent centrally-sponsored scheme of the Central Government and envisages effective and sustainable socio-economic development of the people living in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, which is part of the Khangchendzonga National Park.

Spread around an area of 1784 sq kms, the Khangchendzonga National Park covers nearly 38 percent of the total area of Sikkim, in North and West Districts. The buffer area around the KNP comprises of the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, with 21 villages in its vicinity.

The total forest land of the state is 5765.10 sq km, while total area under tree

cover is 3129 sq km, i.e. 44.1 percent. 2173 sq km or 30.62 percent of the total geographical area of the state is under wildlife protection, which is perhaps the highest in the country. The Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve was notified in February 2000. It is spread over North and West districts encompassing 1784 sq km of Khangchendzonga National Park and 835.92 sq km over four buffer zones totalling an area of 2619.92 sq km. These buffer zones are Lhonak Valley, West Chungthang-Lachen, Tholung Valley and Rangit and Teesta Catchments.

The Management Action Plan for the KBR was launched in February 2000 and comprises mainly of socio-economic activities for the villagers, encourage community participation in environment conservation and reduce dependency on the forests for fuel and livelihood.

There are various economic development committees in the villages of KBR which play an active role in deciding and developing economic activities suited for them. Under the MAP, piggery farming, cardamom rejuvenation and distribution of milch cows are part of the economic development activities for the villages of KBR. Other components include horticulture development, distribution of LPG connection, cattle immunization, upgradation of mule tracks and organising health camps for the villagers. Building of community toilets are also on the cards under this instalment of grants. Focus is also on habitat management which includes forest protection, setting of forest check posts and boundary demarcation of the KBR.

A total of Rs. 80 Lakhs has been sanctioned by the Central Government, of which Rs. 25 Lakhs is the first instalment.

## Capacity building training for youth

### a MIDWEEK report

**GANGTOK:** A total of 41 youth from Soreng, Chakung, Daramdin, Rinchenpong and Hee-Bermoik constituencies undertook a weeklong training in the field of tourism guide from 11 to 16 September at the Community Hall, Soreng. The training falls under the capacity building programme initiated by the Tourism Department.

The topics covered in the training included importance of good guide, tourism resources of Sikkim, eco-tourism initiatives in the state, religious shrines and monasteries, thankas and iconography, flora-fauna and wetland of Sikkim, dances, art, culture of the state, food patterns, handicrafts, special interest tours, adventure tourism, rescue and relief operation of tourists, connectivity system, personality development, etc.

The resource persons were from various state government departments, including Tourism, Ecclesiastical, Forest,

Culture, Industries, Agriculture, Horticulture, Mountain Institute, and Travel Agents' Association of Sikkim.

At the end of the training programme, a trekking to Varsey was undertaken to give the trainees some practical experiences.

Another weeklong capacity building programme on 'Cooking Skill' was organised by the department at the Institute of Hotel Management here at Tadong from 11 to 16 September, which was attended by 46 youth from Rinchenpong, Soreng and Chakung. The programme saw faculty members from Institute of Hotel Management train the participants on subjects such as cooking skills and hygiene for food handling. They further held practical demonstration on preparation of Indian and continental cuisines salads, soups and desserts.

This training is third in the series being organised by the department in pursuance of the decision of the state government to observe the year 2006-07 as the Capacity Building Year.

## Dhup and khada making training begins

### a MIDWEEK report

**GANGTOK:** 11 September saw a number of inaugurations and valedictory functions of various training programmes launched by the state government under the Skill Development and Training Programme sponsored under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yozana [SJSRY].

A four month-long Dhup and Khada Making Training was inaugurated at Kewsing [Bakhim] in South Sikkim on 11 September. Twelve unemployed persons belonging to the economically weaker section of the society are currently undergoing this training aimed at making the local unemployed youths self-sustainable.

The valedictory function of a similar four months'

programme conducted earlier was held the same day where the newly trained batch consisting of 12 unemployed women were awarded certificates by the Joint Secretary-II, Urban Development & Housing Department who is also the project director of SJSRY. Further, another two months' skill upgradation training, which again started the same day, is currently being given to these trainees.

Meanwhile, the valedictory function of the two month-long Motor Car Driving Training was held the same day at the Motor Training Institute at Gyalshing. Fourteen beneficiaries who had undergone this training were awarded certificates and driving licenses by the project director, SJSRY.





P. LAMA

**NAMCHI:** At a time when getting a job in the government sector is akin to finding the Holy Grail for the local job seekers, a young man from South Sikkim has chosen to take the path less trodden. Despite having received ample opportunities to get employed in the government sector, 34-year-old Topzor Dorjee Bhutia has opted to work for the welfare of his society. His relentless efforts have today borne fruit – he has successfully established various clubs devoted to bettering the standard of living of the people of South Sikkim.

Born on 15 October, 1972, at Kewzing, a remote village in South Sikkim, Mr. Bhutia received his junior level education from Kewzing Junior High School and then went on to finish his senior secondary school education from Namchi Senior Secondary School. His caliber got him noticed by the authorities, and, as a result, offers to work as a government employee started flooding in even before he could complete his school education.

“Besides teaching job offers, I was even called to join the Police Department as a Police Inspector directly. But I chose to ignore such offers and instead put my heart into social service,” recalls Mr. Bhutia.

In 1990, he formed the Kewzing Youth Club to raise the standard of living of the people of Kewzing. The remote village of Kewzing, at that time, did not have a single club or organization that was committed to the welfare of the society. Mr. Bhutia, along with a few members of the newly formed club [which was later registered in 1994], took great

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



### Topzor Bhutia leads by example

pains to improve the standard of health, education and economy of the area. His efforts did not go to waste and soon he was able to start 15 farmers' clubs and 95 self-help groups at Kewzing, Rabong, Sanganath, Tinkitam, Rayong, Sangmoo, Zarong, Lingee, Lingmoo and Tingmoo gram panchayat units.

The results are visible now: farmers of the area have made good progress in the agricultural sector; they now sell their agricultural products at the nearest markets of Rabong, Jorethang and Singtam, and earn enough not only to sustain themselves but also to educate their children.

The club has also helped several farmers' clubs and SHGs in procuring loans amounting to Rs. 11 lakhs from various financial institutions under the micro income generation programme on agriculture and animal husbandry. Kewzing Youth Club has, till date, also organized a number of exposure tours and trainings outside the state for the local villagers.

With the help and cooperation of these farmers' clubs and SHGs, Kewzing Youth Club is

further actively involved in strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institution in Asia [PRIA] besides

participating in the planning process of the North East Council for the Northeastern states. Further, for the upliftment of the labourers, the club is at present working with the National Labour Institute, Delhi.

Besides giving a much needed push to the development of agriculture in South Sikkim, Mr. Bhutia also takes time out to work in the health and environment sectors. He is the Joint Secretary of Voluntary Health Association of Sikkim, and a member of Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim, and also of the newly formed Kewzing Village

Tourism. He further actively lends his support to programmes held by other organizations like Nehru Yuva Kendra, Ravangla Tourism Development Society, Sikkim Development Foundation, etc.

In recognition of his work in the social sector, Mr. Bhutia was awarded the District Youth Award for the year 1999-2000.

“Our aim is to work for the socio-economic development of rural areas. Apart from this, empowerment of women and youth also features on our agenda. We also feel it is our duty to point out to our youth that agriculture is the only income generating sector in Sikkim,” he says.



## 'Cheerful And Complete Living' in Jorethang

a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** When there is a will, there is a way. Overcoming financial constraints, the members of CARE [Concerned for Complete Life] recently took their mission to save lives out of the confines of the capital and to the districts. After successfully holding awareness camps on 'probable prevention of suicide' in various schools in Gangtok, CARE held a similar programme at Jorethang Senior Secondary School in South Sikkim on 14 September.

Under the programme, which has 'Cheerful and Complete Living' as its theme, the organisation presented a radio-play before the school children, staff, local gentries and local NGOs, where metaphors of fear, doubt, worries and discouragement were dramatically presented by members of Christian Student Fellowship of Sikkim. This radio-play, which depicts the

factors and elements of suicide, has enjoyed massive success among the students who feel it is an easy instrument to reach the message to all levels of people.

In his address, Dr. CS Sharma, Psychiatrist, Namchi Hospital, who was the resource person for disease control, talked about various reasons of mental ailments, depression and its negative and sometimes fatal consequences in a very interactive manner. The process of globalisation and a transition in life style of Sikkim, he said, played a major role in depression among the youths, which led them to end their own lives. He also informed the gathering about various belts of Sikkim where suicide rates had gone up and dwelt on how timely intervention and help could save lives.

Later during the interaction session, a panel comprising of Dr. CS Sharma, TN Sharma [Rt. Educationist] and Norzang Sandhyang [Rt. Educationist]

answered the queries of the student. An evaluation format for the same queries was distributed for the same purpose among the students.

Also to address the gathering were MN Dahal, Under Secretary, HRDD; Ongdup Lepcha, general secretary, CARE; Tika Gurung, a renowned social figure of Jorethang and also a member of Purba Mazigoan Sudhar Samaj; and S Khatri, principal, Jorethang Senior Secondary School, who extended his gratitude toward CARE for coming forward and organising such awareness camps in various schools.

The entire awareness programme was facilitated by Dr. Solomit Lepcha, MO I/C, Jorethang Hospital, and Combined Christian Youth Fellowship, Jorethang, and sponsored by Yeti Construction Limited, Purba Mazigoan Sudhar Samaj, Variety Fast Food Corner, Jorethang and Darjeeling Store, Adventure Tours and Travels, Gangtok.

### MIDWEEK CLASSIFIEDS

Midweek announces a section for CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.  
**LOST / FOUND / WANTED / FOR SALE**  
**TO-LET / JOBS / VACANCIES**  
 for ONE COMPLETE WEEK  
 comes at only Rs. 100  
 (WORD LIMIT 50)



### SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

A State Government University incorporated under the State Legislative Act IX of 1995  
 Recognised by UGC, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India  
 Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical & Technological Sciences Distance Education Wing

#### ADMISSION NOTICE FOR AUGUST 2006

**BCA, MBA, B.Sc IT, MCA, MBA, M. Sc. IT**

#### DIT PGDIT PGDCA

Short term courses in Computer, Computer Hardware Courses, Spoken English & Personality Development



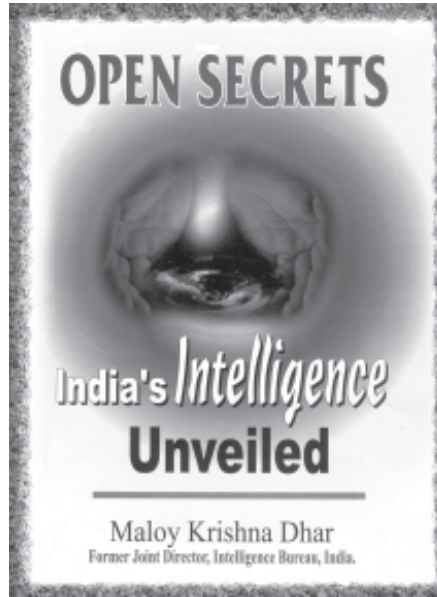
### SMART ACADEMY

LC No: 1760

Bangar Building, Deorali, Gangtok. Phone: 03592 281043 / 280313

# Back to Shangri-La

**Open Secrets - India's Intelligence unveiled, is the story of an intelligence operator, who worked for 30 years in the country's prime intelligence agency. MALOY KRISHNA DHAR brings out stories of blatant and brutal misuse of the Indian intelligence, security and investigative agencies by the ruling establishment. In the book Dhar talks about the manipulated and rigged referendum conducted in Sikkim in favour of India. He says, "Barring a handful of collaborators most Sikkimese had no illusion that the referendum was manipulated and rigged. It indeed was. It is presumed that the true history of the 'merger' of Sikkim would be chronicled by a non-partisan historian in due course of time." Speaking to MIDWEEK, he confessed "I could not afford to be that brutal in writing the Truth, though I wanted to. I was afraid of kicking up too much dust. Dust, as you know, has a unique quality. These particles can bury civilizations."**



Excerpts from his chapter Back to Shangri-La and Inside the Kalachakra

The IB unit in Gangtok was endowed with the facility of a full-fledged and well-equipped medical dispensary and regular doctor. This outfit was primarily used for the staff members of the border checkpoints and those of the Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute, IB's in house mountaineering school that trained all the new entrants in the skill of climbing and surviving in the remotest border checkpoints. I'd diverted, with permission of the IB, some medical facilities to some of the Chogyal loyalists and some of them were even supplied with daily kitchen needs from the ration items meant for the checkpoints.

One of the most important beneficiaries was Nar Bahadur Bhandari, who had suffered most while defending the Chogyal and opposing the Indian sponsored moves to 'annex' the small kingdom. He lived on the meager income of his wife and I took advantage of supporting him with his daily needs and medical

facilities. He was not a paid agent, but he did not decline to associate with me. I discovered that Bhandari was not a secessionist and

he did not want to fight back for the Chogyal. He too understood the realities of the situation and bided his time to build up mass base. I did not see any harm in his open and democratic political activities, though some of his speeches were directed against the 'desh bechoas' and 'corrupt deputationist officers from India'. Having grown up in democratic India I learnt

**The Kazini's milk of human kindness dried up after Khatiwada started questioning the propriety of outright merger of Sikkim with India.**

to respect the voices of political dissent and I refused to fall in line with the police commissioner to book NB Bhandari under the defence of India Rules [DIR] and the maintenance of Internal Security Act [MISA].

Bhandari later managed to ride on the crest of the anti-India feelings and the failings of the government of Kazi Lhendup Dorji and grab political power. I am not here to sit on judgement on the intrinsic honesty of Bhandari and follow the tails of the CBI to unearth the mountain of black money that he allegedly managed to pile up. Bhandari did nothing new. The

**I discovered that Bhandari was not a secessionist and he did not want to fight back for the Chogyal. He too understood the realities of the situation and bided his time to build up mass base.**

political breed in India enjoys almost constitutional protection in their acts of plundering the national coffers and the pockets of the poor. He simply followed the illustrious footsteps of his senior partners in Delhi and elsewhere in India.

Bhandari is not a lone thug. He is good company. However, I cherish the memory of the honest school

teacher Bhandari who had the courage of conviction to oppose the Indian takeover of Sikkim.

Narbahadur Khatiwada and his band of fiery youth had helped Kazi Lhendup in mobilizing the much needed Nepali support to his movement. Young Nepali leaders like Khatiwada and NK Subedi had wholeheartedly supported Kazi out of expectation that in a constitutional monarchy of the Nepalis would get a better deal and be treated as equal to the Bhutias and Lepchas. Khatiwada's youth brigade had successfully opposed the pro Chogyal forces represented by Narbahadur Bhandari and others. Even Ram Chandra Poudyal, another Nepali youth leader, and a minister in Kazi's cabinet, did not measure up to the popularity of Khatiwada. But the Kazini's milk of human kindness dried up after Khatiwada started questioning the propriety of outright merger of Sikkim with India. He preferred a loose tie with the big neighbour and constitutional monarchy. Kazi Lhendup too had not bargained for total merger, but he was outwitted by Delhi. Kazi was not undiplomatically curt to the youth leader. But Kazini's options varied between extremes. After being lodged at the Mintokgang she discovered that Khatiwada had become an agent of the Chogyal and his close friend Mohan Gurung of Rhenock had developed Communist links. The Police Commissioner

took Kazini's orders rather seriously and started haunting Narbahadur Khatiwada.

Orders for me from Delhi were very clear. They wanted me to win

over the turbulent youth leader and bring him back to the proximity of Kazi. His mischief potential could not be allowed to whip up Nepali sentiment and destabilize the Kazi government. Besides the Nepali youth Khatiwada had made inroads into the Sangha constituency that gave him added strength. His strategy of uniting the Nepalis and the Bhutias against Delhi's winning horse Kazi should be frustrated. These assessments acquired new dimensions after Narbahadur Khatiwada initiated a process of challenging some of the actions of the governor.

Kazi and his legislators were described by the common people as 'desh bechoa' and Alibaba and 31 thieves. The latter allusion was directed at the elected representatives to the Sikkim Assembly, who behaved less responsibly than wayside minor thieves. They were used to give stamps of approval to all major decisions formulated by the Governor and implemented by Kazi's cabinet. They were a frustrated lot. With the merger they had lost their relevance and were denied the crumbs they received from the agents of Delhi. They had to depend on the mercies of Kazi and Kazini and the fringe loots that came their way. The Governor and his men failed to measure the degree of frustration of these elected people. The village folks hated them and the integrated socio-political forces of Sikkim had abandoned them. All was not hunky-dory with the Kazi government. There were serious charges of corruption against some of the ministers.

The merger of Sikkim, I argued, should not wipe out the Sikkimese identity of its political forces. The Indian states are states within the State and enjoyed their distinct political character, linguistic and ethnic identity. Kazi's merger with the Congress would cast deeper shadows on his personal integrity and his capability to uphold Sikkim's uniqueness. The fear of 'Indian influx' inside Sikkim was stalking the minds of the hill state.

[Excerpted with permission]

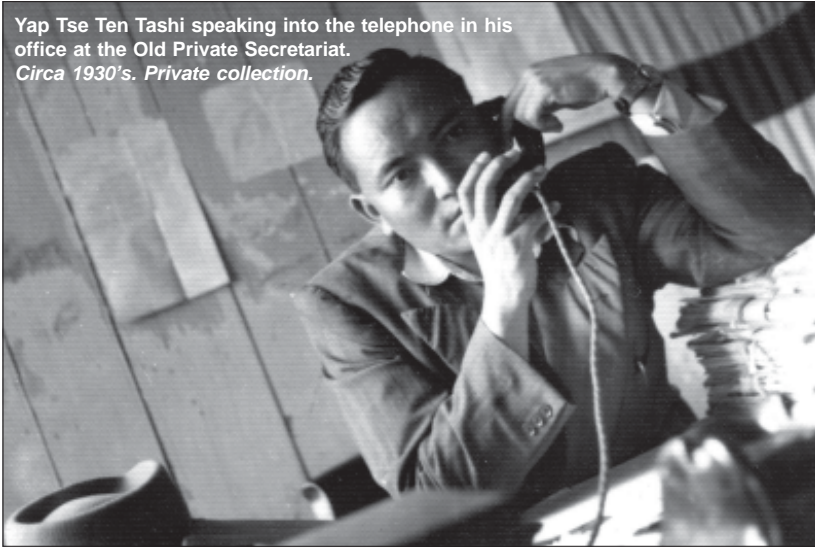
**ZIGGY**  
**INFOMEDIA**

ADVERTISING / PRINTING / PUBLISHING / DESIGN / EVENT MANAGEMENT

CONTACT: 98320 31929 EMAIL: pelsh23@gmail.com



Yap Tse Ten Tashi speaking into the telephone in his office at the Old Private Secretariat. Circa 1930's. Private collection.



# Going, going, gone

TENZIN C. TASHI

I made three trips to Tsuklakhang inside of one month for various reasons. I wanted to work on a feature on the royal chapel, now the Tsuklakhang Dratsangs and I wanted to see how much havoc time and altered circumstances had wreaked on the Tsuklakhang enshrined in my memory. I also wanted to check out a particular structure in the Tsuklakhang complex that I had seen several times before but had just connected with a special meaning.

Thus I found myself in front of the old building bearing the now defunct identification number, W-III/ 436(2). Local people visiting the chapel to make their 'koras' or rounds will recollect seeing a few stray CRPF personnel there not so long ago. To the casual observer, the structure's wooden cum stone architecture is nothing spectacular. But it is a piece of history, a relic from the past, a piece of the history of Sikkim and a piece of my own family history.

Yes, I'm talking about the Old Private Secretariat of the Chogyal of Sikkim. The inscription on the side of the building reads 1931. An old family friend, late Aunt Vicky, the daughter of David Macdonald, of the Himalayan Hotel in Kalimpong, once told me anything above 75 years of age is considered an antique. This building is exactly 75 yrs old when I seek to satisfy my curiosity that August morning.

It is a sluggish day, with no breeze even. But the winds of change are very much in evidence, tearing hard at the entire Tsuklakhang complex. The old building that used to house the Pang Lhabso costumes is razed, in its place stand two new Drashags, monks quarters, two storied, very utilitarian, bright yellow and maroon facades contrasting sharply with the faded hues of the Yabring opposite the portal of the royal chapel.

Each Drashag houses about 60 young monks. Any young monk from any monastery in Sikkim is eligible for admission here. And there are plenty of them here already, kicking a football around on the lawn beyond. The young monks, our Drachungs, for all their religious vocation, are still young boys like any other and football is a good way to let off energy.

Below the Old Private Secretariat is its more familiar successor, the New Private Secretariat. From below, this structure seems almost to grow out of the wall and many tourists stop to form their own conjectures about what it could possibly house.

A true power triangle, a cluster of Secretariats, I think, as I look out at Tashiling, the present Secretariat of the Government of Sikkim, all cemented repairs marring its façade. It looks like a war veteran nursing his battle scars, I think inconsequentially.

What piques my interest is the Old Private Secretariat. 1931. The then

Chogyal was Sir Tashi Namgyal, 15 years into his reign. His Private Secretary was my paternal grandfather, Yap Tse Ten Tashi, of the Rhenock Dhakarpa family which provided several generations of Ministers to Sikkim. And this was where he worked, I think excitedly. I really need to get a fix on the physical remnants of the past to help me better understand the family history and fill in other gaps.

Interestingly, my own father also served as Deputy Secretary to Chogyal PT Namgyal in the kingdom's twilight years. He also occupied this selfsame office.

The door locked, the only alternative open to me is to peer through the grills that frame the window. It's quite dark inside and my eyes, getting gradually acclimatized to the darkness take in the general somnambulant air within right to the archaic wiring with old naked bulb. It's obvious no tubelight or CFL ever made an entry here.

In the far corner, it's an eerie scene that greets my eager eyes. There's a table near the window, with its chair and a cushion and another chair close by. The two chairs are at odd angles, as if the owner of the desk and his visitor had just got up to say their goodbyes. There's a black bag perched on the chair and a plastic water jug and two mugs on the desk, all of which is covered in layers and years of dust. Time hangs heavy, the only motion is that of motes dancing in the few stray sunbeams that have managed to

pervade the gloom. I can imagine my grandfather sitting at that desk, my father's association with the IPR Department is too strong for any other association to supersede it. It always helps to get one's physical bearings right, and my grandfather's life and times remain an ongoing obsession, with my file on him growing fatter and fatter.

Craning my neck, I make a startling discovery. For a long time, I have personally wondered what happened to all the Pang Lhabso costumes and swords and shields after the last religious dances at Tsuklakhang. This was sometime back in the early eighties. Was it 1982? Inside the office, above the motley collection of things bundled up in old sheets, I discern a bamboo pole strung across the breadth of the room, weighed down by the Pangtoed helmets. All fifteen of them, including the special ones of the 'Champon' and 'Chamjug' are intact, though the brocade banners are but naturally faded.

Just the sight of the helmets brings alive memories of another day, of the proud Pangtoed warriors shouting, 'Ki-hu-hu' as they performed the mystical steps. Will we ever see them swirling with sword and shield in their traditional venue, I wonder. The logistics seem a bit daunting with the Drashags carving up a lot of available space and everybody now so self important I can't imagine them being happy standing to watch the performances. Do people really care one way or the other?

The second time I make a trip to Tsuklakhang, to visit Khentse Sangyum, I wander over to have another peek at the historical treasures. I am sorely disappointed that everything has been cleared out. The empty room magnifies and echoes my disappointment. The labourers working on a Drashag stop their work mid stroke trying hard to see what it is about the old building that is so fascinating.

7 September, Pang Lhabso sees me shepherd two little kho clad boys past the newly erected gate near the Tashiling gate and up to Tsuklakhang. We climb up the bend to be greeted by a mound of rubble where the Old Private Secretariat was standing not so long ago. It was knocked down to pave way for more Drashags! A historical building now reduced to a heap of mangled remains, so much like our culture itself. I wish I'd flouted the 'No photography' rules and clicked away to my heart's content while it still stood, old, decrepit maybe, but still standing.

I think only the pigeons understand that they are the only constant there.



## SARAH comes to the aid of strays

SARIKAH ATREYA

**GANGTOK:** "A nation and its moral progress can be judged by how it treats animals," said the Mahatma. Gandhiji's observations ring true even today. Stray animals are today one of India's biggest problems, with the Western world often portraying India as a country with cows roaming on the streets. And stray dogs infesting each gully, each neighbourhood.

Here in Sikkim, particularly in Gangtok, the presence of stray dogs is taken for granted. And they are in hundreds. They are the loathed lot, homeless and despised by a society that keeps their more fortunate cousins as "pets". They are everywhere- in the streets, underneath a parked vehicle, in the neighbourhood, in dark, dingy corners, living off the garbage bins and dumps and the occasional generosity of you and me, throwing them stale leftovers.

Ours is a society that generally sees them as a "menace and a nuisance". They are in the news only when a rapid dog starts to traumatize a certain neighbourhood and dog bites are reported. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department then responds to the demand of the hour and orders mass culling of stray dogs. Until recently, the local Police, along with the Veterinary Officers from the State Veterinary Hospital would shoot the dogs. Earlier, it used to be the most barbaric method of killing strays - noose them with aluminium wires and strangle them to death.

The department doesn't seem to have any other method to control the stray canine population. Killing is no longer an option because of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Sterilization, or spraying the strays to control their population and vaccination is not on the list of the Department.

Till recently, Sikkim could not boast of a NGO or an animal's rights organization working for the cause of these stray dogs. There were no animal shelters or animal welfare organizations or individuals involved in care, rescue and rehabilitation of stray animals in the State. And adopting the strays is definitely not a trend here.

However, there is hope now. Through the consistent efforts of local NGOs and young, dedicated veterinarians, stray dogs are now seeing better days, thanks to Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health Programme (SARAH), a project run by VetCharity, an Australian-based, not-for-profit organisation, established by veterinary professionals to promote the inception of animal-welfare programmes in developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and to co-ordinate the veterinary volunteers working in such projects.

In conjunction with the Government of Sikkim and major sponsor, the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, VetCharity has established a State-wide anti-Rabies and animal health programme, believed to be the first Government-sanctioned initiative to adopt a state-wide and sustainable approach to address these serious health issues. Through SARAH, stray dogs are sterilized and vaccinated before being sent back to their neighbourhood. And SARAH has been a resounding success.

According to Dr. Ian Douglas, president VetCharity, and Director Sikkim Project, the magnitude of the problem of stray dogs here in Gangtok is huge. "Rabies is endemic to Sikkim. Although some useful figures have been published with respect to humans, limited statistical information is available regarding disease incidence in



Dr. Ian Douglas, president of VetCharity



Meet Sauraj Pradhan and his best buddy Nikki, a beautiful light brown stray mongrel who is friendly, agile and devoted to his master. This friendship is very new, just a month old, but one that speaks of unconditional love and loyalty. Had it not been for Sauraj, Nikki would probably have died a painful death on the streets.

Sauraj, a Class IV student of Baha'i School, found Nikki in a badly injured state on the road near his house about a month ago. One of her hind legs was badly broken, possibly by a speeding car and she was left to die. Sauraj brought her to the vets at SARAH center, who fixed her leg and treated her till recovery. Soon, Sauraj developed a bond with Nikki and when she was well enough to leave the center, Sauraj volunteered to adopt her. Today, Nikki is slowly regaining the use of her leg and has found a loving home with Sauraj's family, while this little boy with a golden heart now has a best friend in Nikki.

You can also adopt a stray dog. Not only are they more devoted and dedicated to their families, they are actually sturdier, healthier as well as being excellent watch dogs. They are also not so high on maintenance as pedigrees. Anyone interested in adopting a stray can contact the SARAH center for more details.

domesticated animals and street dogs, and there is an extreme paucity of data regarding the populations of Rabies prevalence in feral canids and other non-domesticated carnivores, including the jackal and the fox, which act as Rabies reservoirs. There is the dread of

being bitten and contracting Rabies, or having to consider a protracted and expensive course of post-exposure Rabies vaccinations. An additional factor driving the killing of dogs is the high incidence of transmission of the disease from dogs to livestock, with subsequent mortalities in farm animals," he says.

In accordance with WHO recommendations, VetCharity is directing its efforts at implementing a carefully coordinated humane programme of anti-Rabies vaccination, animal birth control and health-care clinics, and clinical training of local veterinary and para-veterinary personnel; implementation of wildlife conservation measures and public education campaigns.

A pilot project was carried on for four months in 2005. This comprised of desexing surgeries, training local surgical staff and organising anti-Rabies vaccination camps in Gangtok and various regional centres. During this period, 731 street-dogs were surgically sterilised and 1,131 dogs vaccinated against Rabies. The SARAH project is funded through a match grants scheme of the State Government. VetCharity has set up its clinic just next to the Veterinary Hospital here with a fully equipped surgical unit and post-operation recovery and observations shelters.

With the state-wide project now being implemented, teams of volunteer veterinarians and veterinary nurses work in collaboration with local volunteers and the Veterinary Department. Since June this year, about 1700 stray dogs have been desexed and vaccinated and returned back to their neighbourhoods where they came from. Neighbourhoods with the most stray population are identified and these are caught using special nets. "The strays when they come here are usually skinny, diseased and unhappy. We ensure that they are well-fed twice a day and also treated for diseases while they are here," says Dr. Douglas.

After the surgery, the dogs are fitted with a yellow plastic collar with identification number and date of surgery. One can also notice the small notch cut on one ear that they have.

However, it has been noticed that some people remove the collars when the dogs are back in the streets. "We request the local people not to remove the collars as it helps us to track the dogs as well as maintain our records," Dr. Douglas pleads.

The project will soon move to Namchi, the South District headquarters, where the stray dog population is a major concern.

The SARAH project not only needs the moral support of the public but also funds to run the unit. Donations can be made to the programme, in the form of cash or kind. Rice, meat and yellow collars can be donated as well.

**For details contact:**  
Dr Ian Douglas  
President VetCharity  
Director Sikkim Project  
Email: [sikkimproject@vetcharity.org](mailto:sikkimproject@vetcharity.org)  
Phone: 97331 50056  
[www.vetcharity.org](http://www.vetcharity.org)



# Pharma companies eye Sikkim

**Last week Sun Pharmaceuticals announced its intention of investing upto Rs. 100 crore in Sikkim for the current fiscal year, with a new plant that would cost upto Rs. 50 crore. The Sikkim unit will have a capacity to produce 300 crore tablets and capsules per annum, which will be 20% increase over its existing capacity. PEMA I SHANGDERPA spoke to RISHI KUMAR MITTAL, MD Mount Distilleries and Spokesperson, Confederation of Industries, Sikkim about the interest shown by pharma companies in Sikkim. Mittal, who is liaising Sun Pharma operations in Sikkim has played an instrumental role by intervening and lobbying to bring in other pharma giants to Sikkim.**



## Can you tell us about Sun Pharmaceuticals interest in Sikkim?

Sun Pharmaceuticals is the sixth largest drug pharmaceutical company in the country. They became interested in Sikkim because of various factors which includes climatic conditions and the special incentives the state has to offer. Initially it will invest around Rs. 50 crores and the unit at Setipool will be operational by February 2007.

## Sun Pharma has sparked off a chain reaction....

Yes, Sikkim has now become polarized as the centre for pharma companies. It has gained momentum as the newest destination for pharma companies to start operations here and Sun pharma was in the

lead. Cadila-Zydus is starting a unit here at Bardang, Alchem Laboratories, one of the largest injection manufacturing companies in the country will start one such unit at Kumrek. Of course Godrej is starting with a hair dye unit at Mamring, IndChime Health specialists are the others who have decided to start their units.

## There were talks of more such companies coming...

Yes, there are several in the pipeline who are willing to invest Cipla, Ranbaxy, Nicolas-Piramal and Pune based Emcure are some of them interested to come. There is a strong lobby within the pharma companies and it is this that has set off the chain reaction.

## What is the total

## investments these companies are willing to invest?

In the initial phase the total investments could be to the tune of 500 crores. Most of the companies are investing between Rs. 50 to 100 crores for the units to manufacture medicines both tablets, capsules, injections.

## What about the infrastructure?

An interesting aspect is that these companies are taking land on long term deals on their own. Something that was an unlikely in the past without any intervention by the state government. They are also compensating well for the land.

## What attracts these companies?

Foremost it is the climatic conditions. The units require

low temperature for which Sikkim is ideal. Despite these units being fully air conditioned it pays in the long run since the operating costs comes down. Then there is the big market of the north east zone to be captured since manufacturing and catering to the needs from Sikkim would be advantageous both in terms of economics and logistics. Peace and security and lack of labour unrest are the other added attractions. Exports through Nathula is also the chief reason with the list of items for trade to China to be upgraded to include medicines.

## What are the subsidies on offer from the state government?

The state government has a large number of benefits to offer under the new industrial policy. There is investment subsidies upto Rs. 30 lakhs, 90 percent transport subsidies

from the nearest railhead and 100 % subsidies in insurance. Power is also provided at subsidized rate of Rs. 3 per unit and each of these pharma companies require atleast 2 megawatt of power. These are some of the benefits.

## What is your take on the new industrial policy and its extension?

We have been informed that at the recent meet of the Commerce and industries ministers meet at Guwahati, which was attended by our Hon'ble Minister R. B. Subba they had decided to approach the union government for extension of the North East Industrial Policy which is a welcome move. It would benefit if the policy was extended with more incentives since it expires in March 2007. The central excise benefits was withdrawn in 2004 while Uttaranchal and Himachal have been granted further extension of the policy and special incentives for another three years. We in Sikkim have been left out. We have also been informed that the Hon'ble Chief minister recently took up the matter of the extension of the new industrial policy with Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh in his last tour of New Delhi. The CM was verbally assured of a positive signal in the matter by the PM.

## No takers yet for SBI exit option scheme in Sikkim

### a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** The State Bank of India's offer of an exit option scheme [EOS] to its staff has not yet found any takers in Sikkim. SBI had recently offered the EOS to its older clerical staff so as to induct younger, better trained manpower. Those above 50 years of age are eligible for the scheme. According to PT Bhutia, Deputy Manager, SBI, Gangtok, the Scheme has been on offer from 1 September 2006 and will continue till March 2007.

The State Bank can fill the vacancies caused by those opting for the scheme unlike in the case of those who had opted for the earlier voluntary retirement scheme [VRS],

where the bank was barred from filling up vacancies.

"The scheme is towards increasing productivity of the organisation by hiring fresh talent," adds Mr. Bhutia

Earlier in New Delhi, top finance ministry officials had said the scheme could be extended to other banks based on how it fares in SBI.

The EOS says clerical staff who have not been promoted as officers to the junior management grade scale-I after four chances will be eligible for the scheme. All subordinate cadre employees will be eligible for the scheme.

Apart from the normal terminal dues, employees opting for EOS will receive ex-gratia of 50 per cent of their

total salary for the remaining tenure of service, subject to a maximum of 36 months. Under VRS, employees were paid two months' salary for every year of service or for every remaining year of service, whichever was less.

The bank has also decided to give the exiting employees the benefit of repaying housing loans after retirement. All other outstanding dues to the bank would, however, have to be paid or would be adjusted against ex-gratia.

Employees availing of the exit option can also take up assignments with any other subsidiary, associate or joint venture of SBI, subject to prior approval of the competent authority, the SBI circular adds.

## MIDWEEK

### JOBS JOBS JOBS

Required trainee reporters for MIDWEEK. Interested candidates call 320169 or email [sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)

### FOR SALE

A Sony PD150 3CCD camera in good condition. Contact: 99332233032

### WANTED

A flat for sale in and around Gangtok for residential purposes. CALL: 320169

**Pepe Jeans**  
LONDON

**NEW ARRIVALS**

AT:

**STYLE**  
MG MARG, GANGTOK



### HEALTH THERAPY

Well trained Masseurs available for both men and women. CONTACT: 9832054928

**Pamper**  
THE COMPLETE BABY STORE



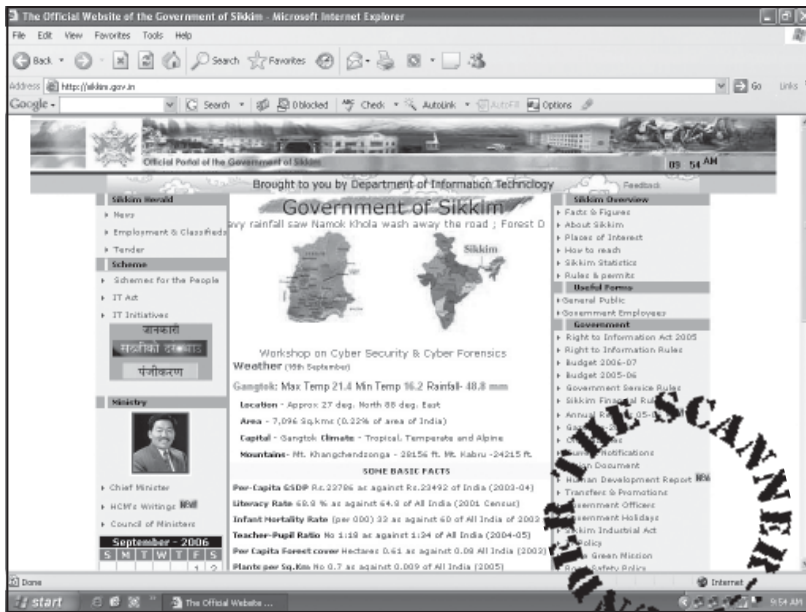
the only complete

**FARLIN**

store in town!

NH31A, BELOW HERUKA HOTEL  
DEORALI, SIKKIM  
PH: 9733098895

## That's IT! Leading the way in the web world



### What we love about the official website of the Government of Sikkim

After deposing their own King, the Government of Sikkim murders the Queen's English. How else do you explain the blatantly incorrect punctuation of Advertisement's, Notice's & Notification's and the like liberally sprinkled all over the site. Someone should put up notification's to use correct grammar.

In the Employment News, a particular employment notice for Mechanical AE's is signed by a Mrs. Joint Secretary. Wow, GoS, talk of being gender sensitive!

The 'Places of Interest' is shoddily edited. Sample some of these inexplicable words-

'on t' 'alson'. Also, the entire introduction to the various places is very insipid and singularly uninteresting.

The spelling of our sacred mountain as 'Kanchandzonga' takes the cake, conforming neither to the 'Khangchendzonga' preferred by the people of Sikkim or even the more Pan Indian version, 'Kanchenjunga'. Talk of sitting on the fence!

While IPR seems to be the only one sweating it out to get the correct copy in print, the website links are themselves in need of an update. We love that the IT Department seems unaware still that the Sikkim Research Institute of

Tibetology was reverted back to its former name of Namgyal Institute of Tibetology by the CM on the occasion of the inauguration of the Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal Memorial Park.

An error that can claim not to be so is 'Sri' Tashi Namgyal, we could have sworn his actual title was 'Sir' Tashi Namgyal.

(Due to constraints of time, we could not do a microscopic scrutiny of the site. Our intention is not to cause concerned Department officials apoplexy but to ensure that the Google worthy GoS website is the best that it can be.)

continued from page 11

### RED ALERT in the capital

current incumbent! The other is a saucy tidbit that you can access from a blog site if you look long and hard enough. But for those who don't want to go through that, it pertains to our well known now number 2 English News channel vying to be number 1 and its star female correspondent who has reported to us from so many fronts. Well though a trifle late, it's her slip that's showing upfront now. The cute lass went to an unmanned ATM with her boyfriend ostensibly to

withdraw some moolah but the heat and dust of the capital city got to her and before you could say News, the two began exploring the art of Kama Sutra in confined spaces! Needless to say, when the poor manager came in the next day, he got the shock of his life on viewing the sexual aerobics graphically reported on tape. Of course the poor guy had no option but to dutifully package it and post haste courier it to the owner of the channel as more than half the accounts at that ATM were

held by staffers from the channel. And I'll leave you to figure out why this never came to light...until now that is.

So this my dear friends is Dilli and its TV channels...each better than the other. So while expressing regret for being unable to provide the between the lines stuff. I'll leave you intelligent folks to decide what's true and what's not. In the meantime...happy viewing.

Yours truly,  
Maddy

### SIBLAC holds condolence meeting for 'Khandrola'

a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** Sikkim Bhutia-Lepcha Apex Committee held a condolence meeting here on 11 September to pay respect to and offer prayers for late Khandro Pema Dechen of Deorali Chorten who had passed away on 5 September. She was in her early eighties.

Her funeral will be held on 26 September at Drakar Tashiding in West Sikkim which is considered the holiest of holy spots.

Also lovingly known as 'Khandola', late Khandro Pema Dechen was revered as a Wisdom Dakini. She resided at the Dorul Chorten at Deorali.

During the condolence meeting, the SIBLAC members remembered the compassionate service and all the noble activities of Khandola during her six decade-long stay in Sikkim. Born in Tibet, she had accompanied her teacher Dudjum Rinpoche to Sikkim in 1947 after the latter was invited by the then Himalayan kingdom by Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal. After the death of her teacher in the 1960s, she chose to make Sikkim her home and continued propagating the teachings of Dharma.

SIBLAC, during its meet, called upon all the Dharma practitioners to seek inspiration from the attainment of the perfect state of *Nirvana* by late Khandro Pema Dechen and appealed to all its volunteers to remain present during the final cremation. The funeral procession will be taken out on 25 September from Gangtok and her physical remains will be cremated at Tashiding the next day.

### Free eye camp at CRH

a MIDWEEK Report

**GANGTOK:** On Sunday, 24 September, Dr. Sanduk Ruit, a renowned eye surgeon from Kathmandu, will conduct surgery on people with cataracts here at Central Referral Hospital, Tadong. The free eye camp is being organised by the Dharma Chakra Center, Rumtek, in association with the Jamgong Kongtrul Centre, Kalimpong.

A day prior to the operations, a free eye screening camp will be held at the hospital for patients from Gangtok, Ranipul, Pakyong, Burtuk, Chandmari, JN Road and surrounding areas from 8 AM onwards.

Dr. Ruit is the medical director of Tilganga Eye Centre in Kathmandu and was

awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding this year for his efforts in developing safe, effective and economical procedures for cataract surgery. Besides performing more than 40,000 eye surgeries since 1988, he has also trained surgeons in India, China, Nepal, North Korea and Vietnam.

For the cataract surgery, Dr. Ruit will be accompanied by Dr. Jeff Tarbin from America and a team of four more doctors.

Since the project is meant to benefit the weaker section of the society, the Dharma Chakra Center will also make necessary arrangements for the transportation of identified patients to CRH and back, their stay and medication.

### Holy Cross to celebrate 150 years of their Congregation

**GANGTOK:** The Holy Cross School, Tadong, will be celebrating its Sequi Centennial Jubilee [150 years] of the Holy Cross Congregation here at the school auditorium on 21 September.

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling will be the chief guest of the occasion while present as the guest of honour will be PHE & Transport

Minister Menlom Lepcha.

The Congregation of Holy Cross is a Roman Catholic congregation of priests and brothers founded in 1837 by the Venerable Father Basil Anthony-Marie Moreau in Le Mans, France. Today, there are 1,670 Holy Cross priests and brothers who live and work in 15 countries, including India, on four continents.

send your feedback to [sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)



**Code Name: God -  
The Spiritual Odyssey  
of a Man of Science  
by MANI BHAUMIK**

This book has been exquisitely written. Beginning as a combination of a spiritual autobiography and a rags-to-riches story, it goes on to describe a world view of the universe that combines some of the most esoteric ideas of modern theoretical high energy physics and medicinal sciences with equally esoteric concepts in Eastern philosophy [both Chinese and Indian], blending the observer and the observed together in a precise and logical whole that seeks to quench the emotional thirsting of many seekers on the path of hard core science who yearn to see the 'big picture'.

Throughout the narrative, one gets the impression of the author as both a bystander as well as one who experiences fully the pathway life leads him. It begins with the unlikely extremes of a barefoot village boy growing up in rural Bengal, a boy, touched by extreme deprivation who is deeply influenced during his

teenage years by Gandhian ideals during India's independence struggle and goes on to describe how excellence in the mathematical sciences, led him across caste barriers from that very village over to laser research at a university in the USA, finally ending in the posh environs of Bel Air and its glitterati.

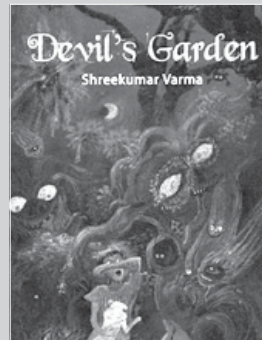
One topic, conspicuous by its absence, in the world view presented in the book is chaos and fractals. Perhaps, in a later edition... All in all, a book that would grace any bookshelf, and a stirring testimony of a life lived to its depths.

**Devil's Garden: Tales  
of Pappudom  
by SHREEKUMAR  
VARMA**

The book features three thrilling adventures featuring the indomitable cousins Dinu, Minu, Polly and Ravi. When Ravi comes from Bombay to stay with his three cousins for the summer holidays, little does he realize this is the beginning of a series of exciting events that will test their intelligence and luck.

## THE BOOKSHELF

New Arrivals At JAINCO



01. Wild Wind - Taslima Nasreen
02. The Alchemist - Paulo Coelho
03. Devil's Garden - Shreekumar Varma
04. One Night @ The Call Center - Chetan Bhagat
05. Five Point Someone - Chetan Bhagat
06. Footprints in the Himalaya - Sonam B. Wangyal
07. Code Name: God - Mani Bhaumik
08. 3 Novels - Shashi Deshpande
09. Weight Loss - Upamanyu Chatterjee

In the first story a string of audacious robberies occur in their usually quiet town. Who is the thief? Is it the sinister

Dhondu who seems to hate the children, or is he covering up for someone else?

In *The Hidden Treasure*, the

four cousins end up spending their Diwali holiday in Kaka's farm in a village. Village life is fun, especially with their broken-down ancestral mansion to explore. Gradually the children realize there is something sinister afoot. Who has been digging away in the mansion in the dead of night? Did their ancestor really bury his life's savings in their sprawling ancestral home before joining the 1857 uprising, or is it just a legend? And, if the treasure's still there, will they get to it before the crooks do?

In the last novel, it's Dinu, Minu and Polly's turn to visit Bombay and spend the summer with Ravi. There they make new friends, one of whom claims to have seen the face of a bank robber. Soon after, a spate of robberies break out all over Bombay. Is it the same gang at work? Then their friend is kidnapped and the four children find themselves in the midst of a desperate chase...

Thrilling, funny, and full of memorable characters, these three novels, first published in the 1970s, are sure to captivate a whole new generation of readers.

# HOW NOT TO SAY WHAT U MEAN!



SERAH BASNET

That title up there is lifted right off a dictionary of euphemisms by RW Holder I had picked up from Raman's private little kingdom, a.k.a. Rachna Bookshop, sometime last year. In fact, it was the book title that had grabbed my attention in the first place, simply because it sounded more of a goat than a sheep. While most 'How to...' paperbacks normally offer to give us the lowdown on how to do what we mean to do, here was this mean fat hardbound that promised to help you unlearn whatever you've learnt so far.

But am I going to wax eloquent over this dictionary I hardly use? No. So why did I waste an entire paragraph talking about it? That's because the subject matter of this piece

is our tendency to resort to euphemisms in our feeble attempt to make an offensive or awkward situation less offensive or awkward. Besides, I happen to really like that title.

So, heading straight to the crux of the matter, let me ask you - have you been paying attention to our politically correct conversations lately? We no longer get straight to the point. We take a roundabout, sugarcoat our lame conversations with unhealthy doses of artificial sweeteners and just leave a hint of what we actually mean. The end result: a large number of words, which get the message right across, are jostling to get themselves enrolled in the list of endangered vocabulary.

Take for instance the word 'fat'. It is an inoffensive word as long as it is strictly uttered in context of Garfield, the comic

strip cat. Want to lose a female friend? Try telling her she's become fat. And if someone asks you "Do I look fat?" the correct answer always is a straight-faced "No!" If honesty is still your best policy [even in this age!], you can still get away without completely lying with a little help from an inoffensive substitute word - 'healthy'. The slightly bolder ones can try 'you've put on a little bit of weight', but do it at your own risk. Reaction to this statement varies from person to person.

Wrinkles. Another endangered word. In a civilised conversation, you don't bring out that word. Ever. Even the cosmetic companies have learnt from their mistakes. Anti-wrinkle creams are no longer packaged in that name. They have now been rechristened 'anti-aging' cream. It's the same thing,

come to think of it, but it sounds a little less wrinkled.

But our double standards come to the fore whenever we see a possible piece of art or photograph featuring an old, wrinkly face. In such arty-farty instances, the face is not marred by wrinkles but marked by 'character' that 'comes with age'. And while we spend a small fortune to get rid of wrinkles on our faces, we pretend to find pleasure in drooling over the very wrinkles on someone else's face. Sadistic streak?

Petite. Another word that makes me laugh. Though many opt to use this word to describe themselves, the fact remains that using an exotic sounding French word does not make one 'not short'. 'Oriental' is another word. Nobody uses the word 'Mongolian' anymore. I tried using that word on my blog a couple of months ago and was reprimanded by a fellow blogger. Mongolian sounds ugly, uncool, I'm told. Oriental, on the other hand, suggests something exotic. Huh? Okay, let me try this. Petite oriental lady. Hmm... Short Mongoloid. Eww...

Maybe that blogger was right.

Half-pants and *chappals* sound boring, ugly and uncool. And no person in his right 'fashion-conscious' mind dyes his/her hair anymore. Hair dye is for grandma and half-pants [or *hap-pen*] for our country cousins. Cool cats like us wear shorts and flip-flops and colour our hair.

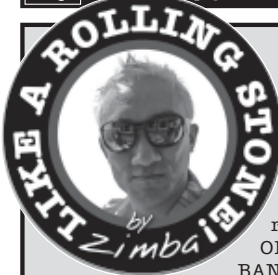
Fashion and looks departments are not the only places where euphemisms thrive. It even finds its way to our mundane everyday life. Like for instance, irregular power supply is labeled as 'temporary inconvenience due to repair or upgradation works'. Ditto with our present state of internet service, or lack thereof. What about walking/driving on bad, slosh covered roads, which are in that condition due to ongoing governmental construction works? Well, that's another 'temporary inconvenience' we lesser mortals have to suffer in the larger interest of the society.

Playing right now in my Winamp is Depeche Mode's *Enjoy The Silence*. "Words are very unnecessary..." I guess that's a cue for me to stop.

Send in your feedback, queries and mail to  
[sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)

or POST IT TO

Midweek, Near Hotel Yattung  
Nam Nang, Gangtok - 737101



### Gangtok's Very Own Bandana Bandits

It's Wednesday, so maybe I'll try to predict and write about things that will be relevant in, say, 5 days.

Ok...I predict that the BANDANA BANDITS will get bail, and I predict that Chundu will sing "PATIENCE", and that Real Monkeys in experiment laboratories will finally type 'BANANA'. AND in the long and shamefully grand tradition of restaurant owners trying to do music related things, such as sing, I did it for fun, not because I have any aspirations to become a master musician. I know for a fact that I couldn't sing my way out of a wet paper bag, which is fine with me.

I sometimes get annoyed when some of Gangtok's Finest, do overtly diletantish stuff, like singing. Why not leave the singing to the people who've spent their lives studying to be musicians? And why don't they do really interesting things, like become Zen masters? Or genetic engineers. The world could certainly use a few more zen masters and genetic engineers. Don't you agree?

Can you tell that it's late and that I'm rambling? Hmm..I just tried on my fancy new SUIT. It might be a shameful thing to admit, but I do have a soft-spot in my heart for a nice suit. I normally don't pay attention to clothes, but a really nice suit (especially a blue SUIT with gigantic Lapels. ha. ha) can be a nice thing. So if you see me on the Streets OF Gangtok and I'm wearing a fancy suit, please be kind and understanding.... I was impressionable and I watched too many movies when I was young and all of the cool guys wore nice suits....James Bond, Frank Sinatra, Al Pacino etc. Yup.. it is confirmed that George Bush is the SPAWN OF SATAN!!

# The funk is back!



I think that would be an appropriate intro for *Stadium Arcadium*, Red Hot Chili Pepper's ninth studio offering. The unmistakable funk style that has become RHCP's trademark [which, by the way, was pretty much missing in their 2002 *By The Way*] is gloriously back in this double CD album. The CDs named 'Jupiter' and 'Mars' justify the arena-size album title - it's got 28 catchy ear-candies, peppered with generous doses of funk.

The album kicks off with the very catchy *Dani California*, the first single off the album. It's a song about the early death of Dani California [the same character from 2002's *By The Way*], a small town girl who becomes a bank robber and lives a hard, fast and lonely life.

Before you are through savouring this one, the quartet hits you with *Snow [Hey Oh]*, a slow ditty with some great melody, and *Charlie* that has guitarist John Frusciante lending singer Anthony Kiedis his falsetto harmonies and simultaneous guitar solos. The title track, *Stadium Arcadium*,

is slow and melancholy, a sharp contrast, at least in terms of energy levels, to the next all out funk track *Hump De Bump*.

*She's Only 18* proves that even though on the wrong side of 40, Kiedis can still sing about undies, a la *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* days, and make it sound good. *Torture Me* starts off with Flea's solid bass line and Kiedis sounds like he's in a frenzy here. Flea delivers great bass line again in *Especially In Michigan*, another great song on the album. The funk is put back on the spotlight with *Warlocks* while *C'mon Girl* is one of the ditties with a catchy chorus.

*Tell Me Baby*, on Disk 2, is an interesting super-catchy Pepperisque song that starts funky and then goes melodic. *Hard To Concentrate* is a wedding proposal set to music, written by Kiedis for bandmate Flea and his new wife. A slow but interesting number that has muted bass, layered guitars and hand drums doing a perfect slow dance.

The first thing that you notice about *21st Century* is Flea's bouncing bass attack.

It's definitely Flea at his best. Another bouncy track is *Make You Feel Better*, a somewhat sixties influenced pop tune. An energetic track, *So Much I* has Frusciante going absolutely bonkers, and with good results. Another not-to-be-missed number is *Storm In A Teacup*, a full frontal funk attack. Fun and catchy, it's undeniably old school.

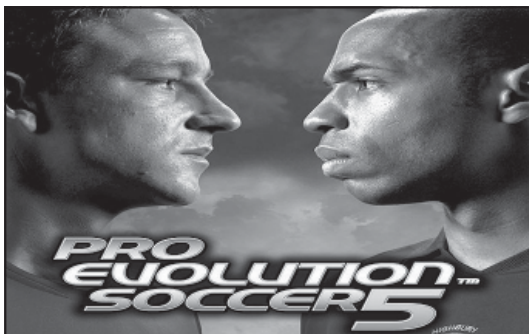
*Stadium Arcadium* is definitely not for those looking for aggressive music and it requires a couple of listens before you can appreciate it. The feel is mellow throughout the album; it's some good unpretentious music that gives you the feeling of being free. That description would sound ironic if you remind yourself that the band often communicates ideas of confusion and uncertainty, even chaos!

The Verdict: It's not RHCP's best album but still it's damn good. Spend some quality time with this giant of an album. A good set of headphones recommended.

- WYLDE



This week, MIDWEEK presents cheat codes for...



#### PRO EVOLUTION SOCCER CHEATS

- European Classic team**  
Win the European Cup with England to unlock the European Classic team.
- Holland Classic team**  
Win the European Cup with Holland to unlock the Holland Classic team.
- Germany Classic team**  
Win the European Cup with Germany to unlock the Germany Classic team.
- Brazil Classic team**  
Win the American Cup with Brazil to unlock the Brazil Classic team.
- Argentina Classic team**  
Win the American Cup with Argentina to unlock the Argentina Classic team.
- World All-Star team**  
Win the International Cup with any team to unlock the World All-Star team.
- European All-Star team**  
Win the International Cup with France to unlock the European All-Star team.



#### Rockin' Saturday

Broke on a fine weekend evening? Why *fikar* when MIDWEEK is here! This week, we've got a rockin' list of VH1 programming for 23 September, guaranteed to leave you headbanging all night long.

**6.00 PM** - Behind the Music: Kid Rock

**8.00 PM** - Behind the Music: Pantera

**9.00 to 11.00 PM** - 40 Freakiest Concert Moments [featuring Alice Cooper, Dave Navarro, Perry Farrell, Bob Dylan and others]

**11.00 PM** - The Story of Heavy Metal: Welcome to My Nightmare [featuring Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Kiss, Alice Cooper, AC/DC, Saxon]

**12.00 AM** - The Story of Heavy Metal: British Steel [featuring Judas Priest, Def Leppard, Iron Maiden, Van Halen]

**1.00 AM** - The Story of Heavy Metal: Looks That Kill [featuring Quiet Riot, Motley Crue, Twisted Sister, Warrant, Ratt, W.A.S.P., and More...]

**2.00 AM** - The Story of Heavy Metal: Seek & Destroy [featuring Metallica, Guns N' Roses, Anthrax, Limp Bizkit, Marilyn Manson]



**W**oo-hoo! My boy Lukas Rossi won the Supernova gig and I'm doing a victory dance around the TV set. So underneath all those tattoos, long hair and layers of wrinkles, those three geezers still have some sense left in them to pick up the most creative contestant to infuse some much-needed freshness in their music. All the Supernova songs unveiled so far are mediocre at best, the kind I wouldn't even bother Limewiring for free. Let's hope Lukas gets to have his creative inputs in the band's album. Now, on to the week's performances and the grand finale recap.

The performance night on the final week was more or less forgettable with Brooke Burke subjecting us to a recap of the final four's journey towards the top, right from the season's opening. Yawn. Then we are once again reminded by Brooke and the Supernova boys that a few tour dates are already sold out; I guess creating a sense of urgency will work wonders for ticket sales.

Ryan Star - the king of all things gimmicky - suddenly materialises on stage. The fans voted him for a final encore, we're told. He plays his original *Back of My Car*. First time I heard it, I thought it was good. Second time it sounded okay. Third time was an overkill. Zzzz... Anyway, post encore, he plugs his new album in the works, *Dark Horse*, and wins a Honda CRV and a Verizon Wireless LG Chocolate cell phone for being the fan's choice for the final encore. He's happy and he's standing on top of that new car. I'd be much happier if he were under the tyres of that Honda. Now get off that stage! Patrice should really have been there singing Radiohead's *My Iron Lung*. Now that was an encore-worthy performance!

Blue-eyed Aussie boy Toby finally kick-starts the show with *Karma Police*. But it's mediocre vocals at best. Did Dave Navarro just say that's the best Radiohead song? Somebody please whack that dummy on the head or gag him with those fishnet stockings he wears on his mitts.

Toby then has Magni join him on guitars on his original *Throw It Away*. Do we really have to listen to the same originals again? I found this song catchy the first few times but now I've started finding it painful. Same old arrangement.

## ROCK STAR: SUPERNOVA FINALE RECAP



# GOTHION

Same old cheerleader act. I'm bored. And enough with EVS already; writing it on back of Magni's head was a step too far down the gimmick lane.

Any doubts I had about the Canadian Goth doll Lukas were cleared on the penultimate show as he took on Coldplay's *Fix You* and showcased a voice that can be just as sweet as it can be gravelly when he lets it. Then he takes a risk of turning the tune into a rock anthem. Unlike Toby, he neither plays to a crowd nor resorts to

gimmicks but this Toronto boy sure is fun to watch, his rooster strut and all.

While other contestants are content with playing their originals the way they were first composed, Lukas changes things up and performs a stripped down, acoustic version of his *Headspin*, which, in my humble opinion, sounded better than last time. Oh, I love this guy! Look, there's Paula Abdul in the audience! Just back from her therapist's couch and on her way to the bar, methinks.

Up next is Dilana with The Police's *Roxanne*, a song that had Chris Pierson - Dilana's one time bosom buddy - ousted from the show earlier in the season. She opens with an acappella and her voice sounds good without all that grizzle. She even has her remaining three competitors join her to sing backup. Nice move but then again at one point, Lukas' backup vocals clearly cut through hers. Hah! Nice cover performance overall.

Before doing her original *Supersoul* [oh, I hate that title],

she makes sure to explain it's a 'freedom song', not an angry song. Don't know about you but I've a problem buying that. For me that line "*I could have killed you in your sleep*" definitely sounds angry. Oh, she's explaining it's about letting go of the bad and moving on. Okay, now I get it. If you're pissed with your spouse, kill him/her. Instant freedom from ol' grouchy! But I'm still not impressed with her original.

Magni's the last to hit the stage with Deep Purple's *Hush*. He does a good job but still it's not my favourite performance from the Iceman. But then, with his original *When the Time Comes*, the Icelandic madman revs things up, but that is after he - quite out of breath after his first song - momentarily forgets the title of his own song! Now his original is a rock song, and it's actually becoming more appealing to me as time goes on, nevermind Tommy Lee ripping the song as 'unmemorable'. For him, the only thing worth remembering is his days as Mr. Pamela Anderson.

The next day on the two-hour long finale show, after another yawn-inducing recap of the season, Magni is the first to land in the bottom three, followed by Toby and Lukas. Magni scorches the stage with Jimi Hendrix's *Fire*, Toby [who looks the most nervous of all] continues his cheerleader act with Billy Idol's *White Wedding*, and Lukas promises Supernova he'll reacquaint them with a *Bittersweet Symphony*. Magni's the first to get the axe. After another round of performances by the remaining three, Toby gets the boot. Now it's down to Dilana and Lukas. After endless numbers of commercial breaks and Brooke Burke's fake smiles, Tommy Lee gets up and says "Lukas, you are our boy!"

I had predicted last week it'd be a Toby versus Lukas contest, with Toby eventually winning the gig; this, despite even my mom telling me the gig was up for grabs for Lukas. Well, to repeat an old cliché, mom knows best and I happily eat my words. The best man has won!

- SERAH BASNET





the PROFILER

IN VOGUE



We thought profiling a shop with traditional Indian wear this week would make a nice change especially since Dasai is just around the corner and most women will be on the lookout for new clothes.

This shop's been around for some time, a perfect antidote to most local ladies' complaints that there's not much by way of ethnic wear here in town. Well, step into **In Vogue** near Josse n Josse in M.G.Marg and literally be in vogue. Men will probably have to excuse themselves since it's an out and out ladies store.

When it first opened, In Vogue had a lot of household items and fancy bags and wallets. Slowly the shop has reinvented itself as the destination for the traditional Indian woman. It's just been

remodeled and expanded and there's a sale going on. The owner was quite paranoid about putting rates in print and not all the discount rates were tacked up when we went there but we could glean that there are discounts starting from 15% to about 30% off on sarees, nightwear and salwar suits.

Rows and rows of intricate sarees in silk and crepe and in styles ranging from wispy creams to bright turquoise blue make a most attractive display and even those of us who do not wear sarees will find it tough to resist the impulse to finger them. You can also pick up nice readymade kurtas in flashy designs as well as some cut pieces that you can tailor to fit your style quotient. Prices range from surprisingly affordable to top drawer.

The shop's got a good stock of Jockey undergarments in 100% combed cotton in all sizes

and colours. That apart, there are some real slinky nightdresses in vibrant colours from baby pink to passionate purple. All cotton night suits- pants and tops- in interesting prints will appeal to the more sensible minded ladies.

Quick picks: •••••

- ▶ The Jockey raglan tees are good value for money and withstand the washing machine cycles.
- ▶ Blouses and Petticoats in myriad hues to match your sarees.
- ▶ Interesting looking bindis.
- ▶ Psst: Spotted ladies buying the unusual cut pieces to make 'honjus' for the whole family. Talk of native ingenuity.

**What we like:** That we don't have to drape the nine yard wonder ourselves!

# SCORCHING THE SHELVES:

the lowdown on new products



**YES, YES, YES,** we've heard time and again that packaged goods are not good. But what makes you think fruits and vegetable are 'pure', they're injected with all kinds of unnatural stuff to make them grow bigger in a short span of time, the groundwater they grow in is contaminated and so on, ad nauseum.

If you've followed most modern day ads, you'll find most of them speaking directly to kids. Yes, marketers know that kids are increasingly making the purchase decision or at most brands, and they are constantly on least influencing them to a large extent. And best of all, they exhibit a higher recall and are on the lookout for something new.

'I want Dragon Cheetos' was a constant refrain all of the last week. So killing two dragons with one stone, here's the lowdown on the **Dragon Cheetos**. They're the latest offering from the **Fritolay's Division of Pepsico** Cheetos brand. Available in two varieties:

**Spicy Cheese Dragonz** are corn meal namkeen snacks in dragon shapes, only they look more like an ancient toy from Mohenjodaro than a dragon.

**Cheesy Masala Balls** are exactly that, cheesy masala balls only Dragons seem to have eaten up Brandon Routh's Superman who was endorsing them only a few days ago!

The freebie is now a Dragon booster buildable inside the pack. There are 12 dragons and 12 gears such as Jousting Pole, Turquoise Gear, etc to be collected.

If you are at sea, watch

Dragon-Booster on Toon Disney Wednesday-Friday 6 p.m. and you'll soon be able to converse with your kids.

••••• **WHILE ON** •••••

Fritolay, here's another offering, **Kurkure New Masti Squares Sweet 'n' Sour**, and the catchphrase says it tastes great with or without topping. The pack also offers you some ideas on what toppings can make the whole Kurkure episode

more masti. All packs retail for Rs.10/- each. We checked it out at Fair Deal on PS Road which normally gets all the latest products.



All that talk of chips and savouries makes one long for a tall glass of juice. There are some new juices out in town. **Surya Fresh Foods Limited** (who own the Priyagold brand) have made a juicy entry into the packaged RTS (ready to serve) juice market with their **Fresh Gold brand of juices**. 'Hand picked from the orchards' thrills the marketing spiel while

the actual reason most people might be tempted to switch from the other brands like Real is that the pricing is quite reasonable at Rs.65 for a 1 litre pack, at least ten bucks cheaper. You could buy the juice and spend the ten bucks on a copy of MIDWEEK!

Bhutan also jumps into the juicy fray with their **Dew Fresh** brand of RTS juices. To quote makers **Bhutan Dairy and Agro Products Ltd.**, 'Dew Fresh comes from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, a land known for Nature's bounty'. A 200 ml tetrapack sells for Rs.10. Obviously this is going to compete with Frooti and the like. Taste wise its pretty much the same.

One wonders why our own Sikkim Supreme could never really break out of its tired and boring mould when they had the first mover's advantage. Cans are oh so passé and cumbersome in this world of tetrapacked convenience!

- TINA





# Morning sickness at 5 p.m!

Most women first suspect they are pregnant when they begin to feel nauseous and perhaps vomit every morning. Morning sickness is generally associated with the first trimester, i.e, the first three months but it's difficult to make generalizations.

Some women do not get morning sickness at all, after a few initial days of nausea. Others get it real bad, and are constantly retching and feeling very sorry for themselves. Though it disappears by the third month, morning sickness can last well into the third term.

Morning sickness is actually a misnomer. It can strike a pregnant woman any time of the day, or appear in the morning and last the whole day.

### HOW TO COMBAT MORNING SICKNESS:

You can ask your



gynaecologist to prescribe a medicine to combat the morning sickness if you're really desperate.

Otherwise, don't eat large meals. Eat small meals more regularly throughout the day. Your chances of retaining it are better.

Some smells e.g. cigarette smoke, coffee, pork, will make you nauseous, avoid them.

A simple remedy is to eat a plain dry toast or a biscuit even.

Ginger is part of the natural

arsenal. Either suck at a julienne of ginger or crush it in your cup of tea.

### MORNING SICKNESS WORRIES:

A little weight loss in the first three months is normal, nothing to worry about.

As for your baby, don't worry, your foetus is actually a parasite and will draw all its requirements from your body irrespective of how much you eat or don't eat.

### WHAT YOUR PARTNER CAN DO:

Quit smoking!

**OTHER PROBLEMS** you can expect in the first three months:

- Tiredness
- Bleeding gums
- Constipation
- Extreme mood swings
- Feeling faint and actually fainting

**PSST MEN!** This is also the time your normally agreeable wife develops a tendency to snap at you for no logical reason at all. It's a case of damned if you do, damned if you don't.

So what do you do? Nothing. Everything. No matter what you do or don't do, she'll still snap at you.

On the other hand, it reveals that of all the relationships on earth, marriage is the strongest when the couple's in it together.

## a note

**WELL, WELL,** it looks like I've survived being booted out of this space. This is our second edition of the Women space and Madam Editor is not looking around for a replacement...yet! But then again Pema's delimited, Karchoong is nursing a family tree, Sarikah is on a Chinese high, speaking only Mandarin and Serah is too busy performing pyrotechnics Supernova style so it looks like little ole me was the safest bet. As for Madam Editor, she's too busy being wicked.

We're hoping that this Women space will actually grow into a highly networked forum, highly interactive, with a lot of inputs from our local ladies. Yes, I'll come clean, it actually leaves me with a lot less work then.

You can get me directly at [tinatashi@gmail.com](mailto:tinatashi@gmail.com) for your inputs on what you want to see on your page. Only one thing is banned on this page, politics. What a colossal waste of time tracking the 'rato batti types', there are too many of them and familiarity breeds contempt. Have a nice day!  
Tina

## GRANDMA KNOWS ALL

# The WM woes

Most times we buy something and expect it to work like a dream without any maintenance. The Washing Machine is an incredibly fine invention, only it needs a little more attention than switching the power on, shoving in the clothes and making ourselves scarce for 30 mins.

Grandma says: Don't mix whites and coloured items unless you want to buy out the town's entire stock of bleach. Most colours bleed and you'll only rue your 'dumpitalltogether' strategy

when confronted with streaked whites.

The inlet pipe gets clogged with dirt and debris over time and the volume of water decreases thus affecting the efficacy of your WM. Use an old toothbrush to clean the inlet pipe from time to time.

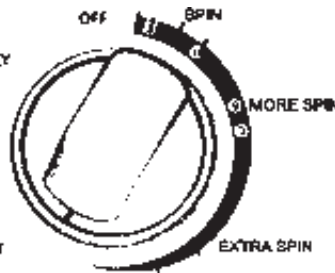
Lint is a universal problem, keep tipping out the lint bag regularly before you have a golf ball in there.

Always put off your WM when the voltage fluctuates. It can badly damage your WM's motor and the repair bill will cost a bomb.

HANG OUT TO DRY  
HYPER-SPIN

EXTRA SUPER SPIN

SUPER SPIN



Don't subscribe to the notion that 'more is better' when it comes to washing powder. Use the recommended number of scoops for different levels of wash, too much of the higher end washing powders can actually make your clothes fade.

Maids and WM's don't get along. Instruct your maid not to open the WM cover and tip in more clothes when the

machine cycle has started. Teach her to use the 'Hold' or 'Pause' button for this purpose.

Don't leave your laundry too long in the WM. Yes, it turns itself off but it continues to draw power when the switch is on in most cases.

**MIDWEEK Tip:** Take care of your WM, it will be a big help when your maid quits on you.

## HEALTH-WATCH

## MIDWEEK



Ever wondered why beverages like tea and coffee can never really slake your thirst the way only water can?

While tea and coffee do contain a lot of water, they are diuretics which in fact drain your body of fluids especially when consumed in large quantities. Maybe it's time to trade your huge mug for a tiny doll sized one.

midweek mail  
[sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com)

## trivia

**THE NUMBER** of prostitutes in India has risen by 50% in under a decade. Worse, most of the prostitutes are little more than children, joining the flesh trade at 12.

PLUTO is no longer a planet, it is now relegated to being a dwarf planet. But Disney has no plans to change the name of Mickey's faithful old friend!

# ZIGGY

## INFOMEDIA

ADVERTISING / PRINTING / PUBLISHING / DESIGN / EVENT MANAGEMENT

CONTACT: 98320 31929 EMAIL: [pelsh23@gmail.com](mailto:pelsh23@gmail.com)



**THE BIG REVIEW**

**STARRING:** Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder, Robert Downey Jr., Woody Harrelson, Rory Cochrane

**DIRECTED BY:** Richard Linklater

If you saw Richard Linklater's *Waking Life* (2001), you know the drill. He shoots his film with live actors and then computer-paints over them. The process (it takes more than 500 hours to create a mere minute of footage) is called rotoscoping, and he applies it with equal skill to *A Scanner Darkly*, from a futuristic Philip K. Dick novel well suited to the striking

visual dreamscape. Take the scramble suit worn by Keanu Reeves (free of *The Lake House*, and we're damn glad of it) as Bob Arctor, a narc working undercover. The suit turns Bob into a walking hologram so that no one can get a fix on his identity, including his pal Freck (Rory Cochrane), who gets the creepy-crawlies when he imagines bugs invading his body. It's a hallucination of dumbness, despair, desertion and death brought on by the aptly named Substance D, the drug du jour in Bob's California hood. Also hooked are Luckman and Barris, two hyperarticulate slackers who share Bob's

Anaheim abode. They are played respectively and to the manner born by Woody Harrelson and, in the film's flashiest and most ferociously entertaining performance, Robert Downey Jr. Dick wrote *Scanner* in 1977, but the theme of Big Brother surveillance has a this-just-in urgency for the Dubya era. Linklater evokes everything from film noir to the great paranoid thrillers of the 1970s, notably *The Parallax View*. Bob has gone so far undercover that he's become worse than the addicts he's spying on, to the point of bedding Donna (Winona Ryder), a dealer with an endless supply. Linklater's screenplay is far more convoluted than it needs to be, disorienting audiences when they should be focused on Bob's psychological meltdown. The breaking point is hit when he becomes the prime suspect in his own sting. The scene in which Barris rats on Bob, not knowing he's talking to Bob himself - there's that scramble suit again - encapsulates the moral lines that blur when government fights duplicity with a greater duplicity. Yes, Linklater trips on his ambitions. But this gifted writer-director isn't out to dull the masses with cinematic opium. Embedded in the visionary headtrip of *A Scanner Darkly* is a hotly political call to arms.

**SHOWING FROM FRIDAY**

**IDENZONG**  
 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX  
 11:00 AM, 2:15 PM, 5:30 PM

**FROM FRIDAY**

REVU  
 indias FROM  
 AOL ADS FROM  
 BGV FILM FACTORY'S

**Shiva**  
 A RAM GOPAL VARMA FILM

**Vajra**  
 ULTRA SURROUND SOUND  
 SHOW TIMINGS:  
 11:00AM / 2:15PM / 5:30PM

**THE  
 MIDWEEK  
 HOTLINE  
 320169**

**BOLLYWOOD snippets**

**PROTESTS AGAINST LAGE RAHO**

What good is a successful film without a controversy? On the face of it, *Lage Raho Munnabhai* has nothing objectionable. A complete family entertainer, there is no scope for any sort of controversy to be raked up. But so we think... despite the fact that the film has been hailed as one of the best family films in recent times, a certain section of the society has protested against the film. And leading the protestor is none other than Usha Gokani - Gandhiji's grand-daughter. According to Gokani, the concept of Gandhigiri which forms the central theme of the film - is disrespectful to the teachings and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. She has alleged that people are misusing Gandhiji's message and interpreting it to suit their own whims and fancies. Youth Congress members in Indore demonstrated against the film and burnt posters of the film demanding that the film be banned. Just goes to prove, no matter how good you are, you cannot please all the people.



**VISHAL SHOOTS FOR COPPOLA**

In what could possibly be the biggest honor for any Indian filmmaker, Vishal Bharadwaj recently stood in and directed scenes for none other than Francis Ford Coppola. According to reports, Francis Ford Coppola, who is currently working on a war-movie



*Youth Without Youth*, wanted some portions of the film to be shot in India. However, he could not come all the way here to shoot those scenes. He was looking for someone to direct those scenes and someone close to him suggested Vishal Bharadwaj's name. Vishal was roped in for the assignment and he just finished shooting the scenes in Mumbai alongside Coppola's second unit. For any filmmaker, Coppola is the god of the craft. His Godfather trilogy has served as inspiration for generations of filmmakers. Naturally, when Coppola queried Bharadwaj about remuneration, Bharadwaj told him that he considered it an honor to serve Coppola. If Vishal's work is anything to go by, it is clear that after Shekhar Kapoor, here is another director who is destined to go places internationally.

**KARAN JOHAR TO JUDGE MISS WORLD**



Come 30 September, Karan Johar will be in Warsaw, Poland to serve as one of the judges at the 56th Miss World contest. Johar is the first Indian filmmaker to be invited to serve as a judge at the pageant. He is going around saying that he needs blessings to carry out this new task efficiently.

Johar heads from Poland to Germany for the German release of 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna' and then to Japan for the Tokyo Film Festival where his film will be also be screened, after doing so at the Toronto International Film Festival last week.

**PRIYANKA IS THE SEXIEST IN ASIA**

Priyanka Chopra has been voted the sexiest Asian Woman in 2006 as per a poll conducted by a magazine. Last year the same crown was given to Bipasha Basu. Priyanka Chopra seemed quite flattered when the news was given to her but she was also surprised as she does not look at her in that sense. Other prominent Indian faces in the top 10 are Bipasha Basu, Aishwarya Rai, Mallika Sherawat, Riya Sen and Malaika Arora Khan.





## First Indian American team out of 'Amazing Race'



**NEW YORK:** A husband and wife from Florida who become the first Indian American team to take part in the popular reality television series, 'The Amazing Race' were sadly eliminated in the first round last week.

Vipul Patel, 29, and Arti, 26, of Windermere, Florida, appeared in the 10th season of the series. The pair said that they decided to join the programme to get the adventure out of their system before they have children.

"Arti is very loving. She's very caring, she's very friendly," a report in the Orlando Sentinel quoted Vipul, a salesman, as saying in the show's premiere. "Just look at her: She's beautiful." The producers of the show were raving about the couple. "They were a very interesting couple. They were funny," the report quoted executive producer Jonathan Littman as saying. "They're terrific people," another executive producer said.

Born in India, Vipul is competitive and goal-oriented, according to his sister Nilam. He speaks three languages. According to the show's rules, the participants are barred from talking to the media before their elimination. The producers, however, supplied relatives to give insights into the participants' characters.

"It was like his (Vipul's) dream to be on it," Nilam told the newspaper. "She's very charming, she's calm, she's too nice," Nilam Kanjee said of her sister Arti, who was born in South Africa and can speak five languages.

In this multiple Emmy Award-winning reality game show, broadcast in one-hour episodes, teams of two or four race around the world in competition with other teams.

According to the show's website, this new season, 12 teams will travel over 40,000 miles in under 30 days to claim the \$1 million prize.

### A M I D W E E K P R O F I L E

**WHO:** Named Tenzing by his parents 28 summers ago, today most people [at least the partying types] know him as DJ Bolo.

**WHERE:** X'cape night club. That's his official address for at least three nights a week. See that guy behind the podium, right next to the oval dance floor, flipping CDs like a professional juggler? Yup, that's our man.

**WHEN:** Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. That's where he's been DJing since the night club opened its door to the party animals on 28 December, three years ago.

**WHAT'S USUALLY ON HIS PLAYER:** I love hip-hop, and the good thing is most of the people who visit X'cape - especially those in their teens or twenties - prefer dancing to this genre of music. And then again, a section of our slightly older party goers prefer Bollywood remixes. That's why I have to keep in mind the tastes of all those on the dance floor and maintain a fine balance between hip-hop and other types of music by taking in requests and playing something for everyone.

**HOW DID HE GET INTO DJING:** I was interested in music since I was in school and enjoyed singing and playing my guitar. Then I started going to private parties and soon found myself behind the music player, taking charge of the music section and making sure to keep people on the dance floor. This was during the pre-CD era, where we had to collect dance tracks and compile them in an audio cassette! That was good fun but still I'd never thought I'd be someday DJing professionally. Then one fine day, Agya Ugen [Ladakhi] suggested I should be the DJ for the new night club he and his brothers were planning to open. I took the offer.

**BEST THING ABOUT BEING A DJ:** I love DJing. I love the vibes you get from the dance floor. It's like you're there absorbing all that energy from people around you. Were it not for the time restrictions, I could have played all night. I also love the fact that this profession gives you an opportunity to know other people and let other people know you. I've even made friends with those people now who weren't exactly fond of me earlier!

**AND THE WORST:** Sleep deprivation. Not that I'm complaining but I usually get to crash at around 3.30 in the morning. But I've now got used to these late night shifts.

**HOW HE KEEPS ABREAST OF MUSIC TRENDS:** Besides beer, internet is the second best invention till date. That's where I get all the dope on latest music trends.

**THE GEAR HE USES:** Denon 5000 Player and Denon 500 Mixer.

**I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER**

The funniest rumors go around this town. The latest is about how a heavy duty politico imported three safe vaults from abroad. The lockers landed at Delhi airport but were soon whisked off to a South Indian capital. Following the journey of the lockers was a wannabe secret agent from a local outfit here, who claims the final destination turned out to be a palatial bungalow belonging to the politico. Me no know the truth, me only hear and tell. But who would have so much loot to stash away and what the hell is wrong with our Indian lockers anyway? Watch this space for more sneaky details.



*Buzz*

repeated at other places the next day. What a sad state of affairs. This whole business of handing out dole is taking its toll, if I'm allowed to rhyme. At one level the state government asks the people to become self-sufficient and on the other is happy giving out money and stuff in this oh so feudal manner. Something to think about, surely.

**HIGH ALTITUDE COMPLEX**

There is brisk business happening at Nathula. Ok fine, the Sikkim Chamber of Commerce may not think so but I certainly do. I know dozens of people who have

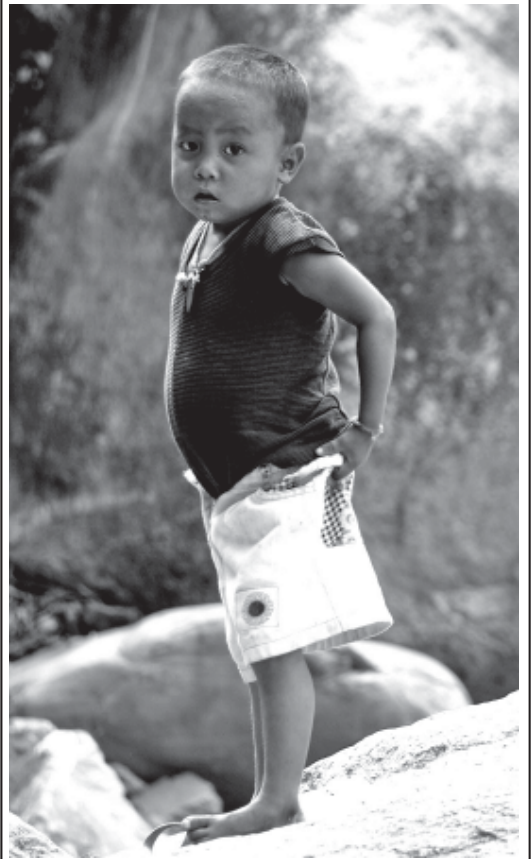
come back with fancy Tibetan hats. Yup, may not seem like heavy trading but it's a beginning. Meanwhile, all our *chumlas* are heading up these days, ostensibly to buy silk blouses at a 'discount'. But they being *chumlas*, it does not matter to them that the cost of going up would negate all the discounts in the world. However, not all are coming back happy. Apparently, the Tibetan ladies who come to sell the wares on the other side are all so well dressed and stylish that our *chumlas* are getting a mighty complex. The highest in the world, some would say.

**POLICING THE POLICE**

We all know that the police do a mighty fine job of keeping crime in check here at Sikkim. But recently, some have been raising concerns that all may not be so perfect with the force. It is believed that drug addiction amongst the rank and file is not unheard of. That may or may not be true but one thing we all would like to know is where does the haul of confiscated drugs go? Some would believe it lands back right in the market.

**THE SHUTTERSPEED CHRONICLES**

by KARCHOONG DIYALI



A little boy caught just after answering nature's call along the river banks at Nimtar.

**SLIGHTLY-OFF-CENTRE/SLIGHTLY-OFF-CENTRE/SLIGHTLY-OFF-CENTRE/SLIGHTLY-OFF-CENTRE**

**Sex strike hits Colombia gangsters**

**BOGOTA:** It's being called the Lysistrata, or 'the crossed-legs strike'. Fretting over crime and violence, girlfriends and wives of gang members in the Colombian city of Pereira have called a ban on sex to persuade their menfolk to give up the gun.

Approximately 100 females associated with the gang members launched their strike last Wednesday. The strike was organised in part through the municipal office of the city.

After meeting representatives of the mayor's office to discuss a disarmament programme, the women's group decided to deny their partners their conjugal rights and recorded a song for local radio to urge others to follow their example.

The city of Pereira, Colombia, was the most violent in Colombia in 2005, reporting 488 killings last year, and has a per capita rate of 97 murders per 100,000 residents, double the national level. Ninety per cent of the deaths are caused by fire-arms, and 87 per cent of victims are young gang members between the ages of 18 and 25.

**Pa. mom pleads guilty to giving teen pot**

**GETTYSBURG, Pa.:** A woman facing drug charges admitted in court that she smoked marijuana with her 13-year-old son, often to reward him for doing his homework. Amanda Lynn Livelsberger, 30, pleaded guilty to several misdemeanor drug charges in Adams County court and will be sentenced on 27 November.

She admitted she had been smoking marijuana with her son since he was 11 and said

she had also smoked with two of his friends, ages 17 and 18.

Livelsberger pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of corruption of minors, possession with intent to deliver drug paraphernalia, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a small amount of marijuana and possession of a small amount of marijuana with intent to distribute. The plea agreement did not stipulate a sentence.

**MAN WON'T SHAVE UNTIL BIN LADEN CAUGHT**

**EPHRATA, Washington:**

After the terrorist attacks of 11 September, 2001, Gary Weddle began following the news so closely he forgot to shave. After a week he decided not to shave until Osama bin Laden had been caught or killed. Nor has Weddle, 46, who expected the al-Qaida leader to be caught within a month or so, trimmed his facial hair in the succeeding five years as he went from substitute teacher to science instructor at Ephrata Middle School.



the perfect solution to advertise everything without the burden of a huge ad bill!

**TO PLACE CLASSIFIEDS IN MIDWEEK call 320169**

**SEND FEEDBACK AND QUERIES TO [sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com) OR CALL 320169**



# THE WEEK AHEAD



Talk and all types of communications are in the forefront. You may be involved in heavy negotiations concerning a contract. Those with partners will find they have plenty to discuss and so do you. It is time to make amends with significant people, lest your family life be disrupted by quarrels.



You are restless and somewhat weary with the norm, looking for something new to do. That is not easy for Taurus, who is prone to remain in ongoing patterns. It takes a real jolt of boredom to press you into change. Go with that flow and you will be much happier. Aspects favor partnerships.



There is so much on your agenda that you must keep lists in order to juggle the balls. Those with children will be devoting significant energy in that arena. Don't let anyone pull you into a quarrel over egos. Travel is particularly favored and news that brings healing comes from afar.



You are like a steam kettle, ready to explode. There is plenty to say and you are ready to spill all with vigor. Practice a few times in front of the mirror so you won't confuse the message by appearing to be overreacting. You want to be heard. You don't want to force someone into a defensive position.



This is a very good period for letting go of whatever or whomever needs to move beyond you. That may be a source of income, or a work related friend. It is generally a good week to clean the closets, the drawers, and make ready to spit shine your desk with plans for better weeks to come.



Either you or your partner are requesting some time early in the week to tend to personal agendas. If it is the other, it is a Voice that speaks for you also, even if you are not conscious of the need. By the end of the week you will be connecting and conversational again.



You are compelled to be honest during this period and you may have things to say that others would rather not hear. Think carefully about how to state your piece. The purpose is to improve relationships rather than split them. Your energy is increasing and your daily life picks up the pace.



Pay strict attention to the words that fall from your mouth at this time. You could sound sharp and critical even if you don't feel so. You have considerable energy to plow into the hidden side of life. You might choose to pursue deep subjects. Your dreams will be most meaningful. Study them.



You may be unveiling a project of many months. If so, it meets with enthusiasm and applause, particularly if its purpose is to "serve." A legal or ethical bind may feel as though it is dragging you down and it probably is. Any issues in that territory will require a long time to completion.



There is likely to be a lot of clutter in the career arena, with phone calls, negotiations, and talk. Don't let it twist you into a knot because this may be all flying dust that drops back onto the ground where it started. Remain at peace for best results.



If you took yourself on a dream vacation during the summer, you may be looking at all those bills now. They have a way of turning up all at once. Aspects favor travel, education, legal concerns, and publishing. You may receive good news about the healing of yourself or someone you love.



Use caution with a new relationship that forms at this time. It is not likely to be founded on permanent ground. You want to play, but leave it light and easy and don't expect life altering drama. Beware, also, of anything that appears to be dusted in gold. All that glitters is not, you know...



JEST LIKE THAT!

PANKAJ THAPA

## Green Lawn Blues

One of the most enjoyable writers in the Gangtok scene today has to be Roshan Pradhan. Those of you who read her excellent piece recently in NOW! on the high-rise menace will vouch her dexterity with the written (typed) word. I happened to be there when the cottage-with-lawn-and-blue sky-with-clouds-seeking lady was trying to figure out why her seemingly innocent query raised such an uproar amongst us. We laughed long and hard because we knew she would have to look long and hard for that little cottage and lawn. What cottage? What lawn? In Gangtok? Hoo Boy! But having said that, would a cottage and lawn be as idyllic as it sounds? Some one said somewhere, "Be careful of what you wish for, you might just get it". In this case, the cottage with the lawn and blue sky. Believe me, that stuff is good only as a poster on your wall. If this friend did find her cottage-with-the-whatsoever, it would have taken Herculean efforts to keep it looking poster-good.

Granted, nothing is more serene and visually pleasing as a manicured lawn with little hedgerows fronting your cottage. But to get the serene stage requires a whopping sacrifice of all serenity. Have you tried maintaining a lawn? Okay, I'm getting ahead of myself here...have you tried to plant a lawn? As a novice, one thought that all a lawn required was a trip to sultry Siliguri where you bought squares of lawn grass



by PANKAJ THAPA

(Mexican? Chinese?) which you dumped unceremoniously on your patch and voila! Your lawn was ready. Yeah, and Ghenghis Khan invented ice-cream.

A lawn planted properly, requires almost the same amount of time, effort, money and know-how needed to build a small runway. The layers of pebble, gravel and sand followed by the final layer of soil will keep you busy for the better part of a month. The final layer of the lawn grass will keep you busy for the rest of your life. That's because along with the grass come the weeds and they sprout like apocalypse was tomorrow. The first few weeds get uprooted quickly and efficiently with your brand new enthusiasm and trowel. So far, so good. Come the monsoons and that's when true happiness strikes. The lawn that you so lovingly trimmed, weeded and clipped

transforms into a rainforest. Alien-looking plants invade your little patch of heaven overnight. You crawl through the undergrowth to uproot a small weed that makes you burn 100 calories before you discover it has a two-foot root. Get ready to grapple with a million species of them weeds, not to mention the unmentionable creepy crawly denizens that pitch in to make your lawn life miserable.

The Star of Sikkim of course is Haemodipsa Zeylonicus, quite a fancy name for our common leech. A split-second is all it takes this little enterprising chap to latch on to your skin. And though he hardly has any space for brains, he's clever enough to anesthetize his bite till he's had his fill. The worst part of a leech bite is not when you discover your soggy, blood-soaked socks and go screeching down the street. It's when that bite itches after three days. You scratch it unconsciously and next minute you're clawing at the bite with both hands. The more you scratch, the more it itches, and the more you scratch, the better it feels while the itch keeps getting worse. Next stop, pieces of yourself under your fingernails. So the next time someone invites you to sit out on his lawn, don't hesitate. Escape through the nearest gap in the hedge. For us urbanites, the best lawn is best viewed in your neighbor's garden, from your third floor window;- take my last word for it. Ciao!

## CASH AWARDS ADDED TO GOLD CUP

## Soccer year to come full circle

SHYAM PRADHAN

The year 2006 has been a big year for sports, especially football. While the World Cup series held in Germany came as manna from heaven to football lovers a few months ago, the soccer mania in Sikkim had already started in March earlier this year with Mini SAARC Football Tourney held here. It was followed by the senior division, second division league and the Independence Challenge Cup.

After organising AFC 'C' coaching camp, Sikkim Football Association [SFA] took on the task of holding the eastern leg of the Sub Junior National Football Championship which is currently being played at the Palzor stadium. The state team, Sports Academy of Sikkim, has already gained momentum by defeating big teams like Orissa and Jharkhand by huge margins, leading us to believe it will continue on its winning streak during its matches against other teams.

While the finals of the Sub Junior National Football Championship is slated for 24 September, the SFA members don't have time to take a breather as they have to immediately get on with the task of making preparations for the 28<sup>th</sup> All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament, which will commence here from 5 October.

SFA has a record of continuously organising this prestigious tourney year after year for the last 27 years despite numerous setbacks it has faced. This

Members of the Sikkim Football Association



accomplishment is also shared by the Government, the concerned department and the football fans in Sikkim who have lent the association their full support.

The SFA further received a much-needed boost when Alberto Colaco, All India Football Federation General Secretary, and Moshin Gillani, Assistant Development Officer of FIFA, recently visited the state and observed that Sikkim was now in a position to have its own SFA Bhawan and a football ground under the Goal project II.. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we will soon be able to see these assurances materialise.

All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament is also known as the football festival of Gangtok, and it is the biggest sporting extravaganza in the state each year. This year, the SFA is all charged up to give the tourney a whole new look, starting with a new game pattern and an enhanced cash prize of whopping Rs. 5 lakhs. The

winner take away Rs. 3 lakhs as the prize money with the Gold cup while the runners up chance to win Rs. 2 lakhs.

This year, the tourney will see 12 teams playing 19 matches in a quarterfinal league pattern. Under this pattern, out of the 12 teams, the top four teams will be qualified for the quarterfinal round. The last eight teams will be divided into Group A and B and they will have to play a preliminary round [pre-quarterfinal] on knockout basis. Following this, the four remaining teams from this round will then face four teams from the seeded group on the quarterfinal league pattern. The winners and runners-up from these two groups will then advance to the semifinals, which again will be a knockout round. Double matches will be held on Saturdays and Sundays. The final match will be played on 19 October.

The participating teams are Sports Academy of Sikkim, Sikkim Police XI, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Arambagh, Assam Rifles, Tibetan National Football

team, Air India [Mumbai], Tata Football Academy, Punjab Police, BSF Jalandhar, ANFA XI [runners-up 2005/ champions 2005/ six times champion], DGHC XI, and Services XI [a special team from Nepal].

The All India Governor's Gold Cup Football Tournament

will be followed by All India Police Football Meet sometime in November. Immediately after the conclusion of this meet, the state will be getting ready for the North East Sports Festival from where, we hope, the players will bring back laurels to the state.



BHARAT

SHOES, SPORTS, LUGGAGE &amp; PHYSICAL HEALTH EQUIPMENTS

is bringing out a booklet which will provide information on all the Sports Associations of Sikkim.

Details and suggestions by the associations can be emailed to [sikkim.midweek@gmail.com](mailto:sikkim.midweek@gmail.com) OR DELIVERED TO Bharat, MG Marg, Gangtok.

- authentic mughlai cuisine & bar
- biryani : mutton & chicken [lucknow style]
- rolls : chicken & paneer
- 100% coal tandoor, always on, so tandoor items served instantly
- fast service & reasonable price is our motto
- take-away service



PAKWAAN

SNOD Shopping Arcade, Deorail, Sikkim. Ph: 320171