

Pelang Sangri: The living rocks

-by Donik Lamang, DACO

Arunachal Pradesh is a state filled with natural wonders, often undiscovered or known only to the locals, which can, with exploration and necessary development, pave the way for greater tourists' footfall in the state.

Pelang Sangri ('Living Rock' in Nyishi), situated in Yangte circle of Kra Daadi district, is one such natural marvel that deserves greater publicity and exploration.

Pelang Sangri is a group of rocks, magnificently and intriguingly erected on a little plain land on the thigh of the Tane Giabe hill and the adjoining Bungliso stream, 7 kms from Yangte, towards the Tali road. Situated at a height of 1,700 metres above sea level, Pelang Sangri can be reached via a short trek of around 1 km from the road between Yangte and Tali.

This group of six standing rocks, the smallest of which is around 4 metres and the biggest around 14 metres, mirror a scene of an ongoing local parlay in appearance. One can vividly picture these grand standing rocks as being an old family discussing a grave matter, or enjoying a feast, except that they have been accursed into rocks for eternity.

Several stories surround this mystic structure; local village heads tell how the villagers never trespassed these rocks prior to 2013, out of fear of being possessed by the forest spirits called Yakso and Yapam. These spirits are believed to possess trespassers and seclude them into the confines of the deep forest, never to be found again or alive. The villagers recount numerous stories of such possessions or 'Yapam joha' in the vicinity of Pe-



lang Sangri.

The villagers tell of how earlier only the largest of the rocks was visible while the rest of the rocks were covered under sharp thorny creepers and cane, which are aplenty in the area even today. The villagers also tell of the mesmerising view of the standing rocks during full moon, when the rocks shine remarkably under the moonlight.

The largest of the rocks is deemed to grow every year, and hence the name Pelang Sangri (The Living Rocks).

Various objects of interest have also been routinely discovered in the area encompassing these rocks, such as a strikingly beautiful polishing stone (star rock), where tigers have been sighted sharpening their claws. Various rare animals, such as a black python, have been reported to have laid eggs near the rocks, and a large species of frog, locally termed arba barung, reside around the area.

The rocks are monolithic in nature and have astounding features that have long piqued the curiosity of visitors. One of the rocks pos-

sesses an imprint which uncannily resembles a sketch map of Yangte valley. Another one of the rocks possesses marks that resemble female organs. Most interestingly, one of the rocks display sonorous properties, wherein hollow sounds emanate when tapped. All of the rocks are sharply pointed and boast of extremely sturdy geological properties, which can be a treasure trove for further geological research.

During a visit to Pelang Sangri, Kra Daadi Deputy Commissioner Sunny K Singh, accompanied by numerous administrative officers, on 19 May assured to work towards generating greater publicity and development of this marvelous natural monument, and urged the villagers to maintain the pristine nature of the rocks.

Pelang Sangri is a gem of an undiscovered tourism potential in Kra Daadi district in particular and Arunachal in general. With wider publicity, Pelang Sangri can become another popular tourism site in Arunachal.

(The writer is DACO and DIPRO (i/c), Kra Daadi)



Commerce Conclave cum Workshop on Reshaping Commerce Education held

RONO HILL, May 1:

A two-day "Commerce Conclave and Workshop on NEP: Reshaping Commerce Education" commenced at Rajiv Gandhi University on May 1 which was organized by the Department of Commerce.

Vice Chancellor of RGU, Prof. Saket Kushwaha, while inaugurating the programme conveyed his profound delight and praised the Dept. of Commerce in spearheading such an initiative.

He emphasized the pivotal role of such Conclave cum Workshop in preparing course curriculum for enriching students of Arunachal Pradesh for competitions beyond the state borders. He also emphasized the imperative of MOOC, SWAYAM courses and internship for student employability in compatibility with NEP 2020.

Prof. Ranjit Tamuli, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Management & Law, highlighted the significance and objective of the Commerce Conclave to prepare a new course structure for UG level in the subject of Commerce in his speech.

Prof. R.C. Parida, Head of the Department of Commerce of RGU, extended a warm welcome to

Commerce Faculties, HoDs from all affiliated colleges of RGU including JNC, DNGC, Don Bosco, GCB, IGGC, VUBC, Saint Claret, WRGC and highlighted the objectives of conclave.

Prof. Otem Padung, Finance Officer, RGU and Special Guest shared insightful perspectives and anticipated positive outcomes from the conclave and extended best wishes for designing commerce education in view of NEP 2020.

Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar of RGU and Special Guest encouraged the faculty participants to present their best ideas and suggestions to enhance the course curriculum of Commerce subjects for undergraduate degrees as per NEP 2020 under Rajiv Gandhi University.

Tribute to Lt Sangay Lhaden on her birth anniversary

ITANAGAR, May 1:

Lt Sangay Lhaden IAS, was paid tribute on her birth anniversary on May 1 by her batchmates (IAS officers of 1992 batch) by dedicating a bust of Lt Lhaden to Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy in the august presence of her family members, two of her batchmates Barun Kumar Ray Additional Chief Secretary West Bengal and Deepak Kumar Singh Additional Chief Secretary Bihar and a host of senior officers led by Kaling Tayeng I/c Chief Secretary Arunachal Pradesh.

The Incharge Chief Secretary appreciated the effort of Lt Lhaden's batch mates in commemorating her birth anniversary and hoped that the effort would inspire the students in putting their best forward in the coming days. He hoped that the students and

the authorities will ensure that the memory lives on by focusing on Olympic sports which could bring laurels to the state and will be a tribute to the institute, named after her.

Barun Kumar Ray remembered his late batchmate as the most ebullient, effervescent and free spirited individual in the batch.

She had worked in Goa and Delhi before coming to Arunachal Pradesh where she lost her life in a tragic accident in 2001. Soon after her demise, her batch mates instituted an award in her memory to be given to probationers at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, informed Ray.

He on behalf of his batchmates thanked the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh for naming the institute after her. He thanked her family members and other colleagues who witnessed the event online, adding that each one of them contributed in their own way in making the event successful.

He also thanked the department of Sports and Youth Affairs led by Secretary Abu Tayeng and Secretary Sadhana Deori for their cooperation in making the event successful.

Sonam Paljor, family member of Lt Lhaden expressed her gratefulness to the GoAP for honoring her late niece with SLISA and her colleagues for commemorating the day with a statue which she believes has made her immortal in the history of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

She hoped that the institute will be an inspiration for generations to come.

Earlier, Sadhana Deori remembered her association with late Lhaden since the year 1984 where both of them had met as

freshers and studied at Lady Ram College Delhi. She recalled how her late friend had donned the role of a daughter, sister, friend and a proud professional with pride and how during her stint in the state, she would tirelessly tour the districts in her endeavor to learn from people first hand of their expectation of her department and how she could value add to their dreams and lives. Her humility in service and positivity in nature is what she has left behind. I am sure that she has touched many hearts, not only amongst her batchmates but also the state and the people, said Deori.

Deori on behalf of family and friends of Lt Lhaden thanked her batchmates for the honourable initiative in dedicating beautiful bust of Lt Lhaden to be enshrined in SLSA for the young and talented children of AP who are the future torch bearers to look upon her as a role model and emulate her tasks.

The event had begun with prayers and blessings by monks and was attended by senior officers, bureaucrats of the State and family members of Lt Lhaden.

Capacity Building workshop on Specific Learning Disabilities

RONO HILLS, May 2:

The education department of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) here, in collaboration with Naharlagun-based Hills College of Teacher Education (HCTE), on May 2 launched a two-day workshop themed 'Sensitisation of departments for capacity building on specific learning disabilities (SLD)'.

Addressing the inaugural function, RGU Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said that "SLD is a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, either in spoken or written (form)."

He said that it is the need of the hour to "identify the special ability that a child possesses and help them develop it."

He gave the example of suicide cases in Kota, Rajasthan, and termed it "situational learning disability that must be addressed."

The VC expressed hope that the participants would gain a lot from the workshop.

Stressing on the significance of SLD, RGU Registrar Dr NT Rikam said that "emotional therapy is the best remedy to deal with disabled children, as compared to use of technology and new methodology to address their problems."

He added that "SLD inhibits the ability to learn or apply specific academic abilities."

HCTE principal Dr MM Mohapatra explained "how we as teachers can handle learning disabled children and help them develop like other normal children."

Dr Babli Choudury from Shillong (Meghalaya)-based North Eastern Hill University's education department stated that special attention is required for children with learning disabilities.

She gave the examples of Albert Einstein and Tom Cruise, who suffered from dyslexia and later rose to new heights in their professions.

She conducted two technical sessions on dysgraphia, dyspraxia and dysphasia.

RGU Education Faculty Dean Prof T Lhungdim highlighted the initiative of the education ministry in sensitising both faculty members and students to specific learning disabilities.

RGU Education HoD Prof PK Acharya, programme coordinator Prof C Siva Sankar, and deputy coordinator Dr Varsha Patnaik also spoke.

About 50 teachers of various departments and 100 PG students, including research scholars from all departments of RGU, are participating in the workshop.

HCTE NSS volunteers represent state at NE NSS fest

ITANAGAR, May 3:

NSS volunteers of Lekhi-based Hills College of Teacher Education (HCTE) represented NSS Arunachal Pradesh at the North East NSS Festival-2024, held at the Jaintia Eastern College in Khliehriat, Meghalaya, from 29 April to 3 May.

A total of 30 volunteers, led by HCTE Assistant Professor and NSS Programme Officer Dakngam Riba, attended the festival, which was aimed to showcase and exchange cultural diversity among the eight states of North-east India.

"The volunteers actively participated in all activities and showcased the diverse culture of Arunachal Pradesh in the festival," Prof Riba informed in a release.

HCTE NSS volunteer Punam Das bagged the first position in the extempore speech on 'Yuva Samvad – India@2047', she added.

Discussion on mental health and wellbeing held

RONO HILLS, May 4:

A panel discussion on mental health and wellbeing, as part of a two-day workshop on 'Sensitisation of departments for capacity building on specific learning disabilities' was held at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) on May 4.

It was focused on promoting students' wellness in terms of "good physical and mental health, psychosocial wellbeing, and sound ethical grounding for high-quality learning," the university informed in a release.

RGU Education Department Prof C Siva Sankar, Prof Renu Malaviya from Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, Prof Gowramma IP from NCERT, RIE, Bhubaneswar (Odisha), and RGU Psychology HoD (i/c) Assistant Professor Dr Dharmeshwari Lourembam were the panelists of the discussion, which was moderated by RGU Social Work HoD Dr Ravi Ranjan.

Dr Ravi Ranjan Kumar explained that "the programme was conceptualised the day before, when secretary, department of higher education, ministry of education, K Sanjay Murthy, virtually chaired the orientation session on 'Integrated approach to promoting positive mental health, resilience, and wellbeing in centrally-funded HEIs'."

He emphasised the need for "designing programmes to foster sustained capacity building among faculty in HEIs and facilitate the exchange of best practices," and suggested "prioritising collaboration with a panel of experts to address the psychological and emotional wellbeing of students."

During the discussion, Prof Renu Malaviya emphasised that both mental health and physical health are essential in human life and they both cannot be compromised. She highlighted "the significance of face-to-face interaction for better social life" and addressed the challenges posed by "the increasing reliance on technology transforming human beings into digital entities, which affects mental health."

She also emphasised "the importance of empathy in a society that increasingly talks about tolerance."

Prof Gowramma IP said, "Mental health is needed for developing psycho-social competencies, and it should be part of every system of education."

Prof C Siva Sankar highlighted how thinking process, brain structure, problem-solving abilities, self-awareness, self-concept, and self-actualisation are vital for overall mental health and wellbeing. He also emphasised "the association of mental health and wellbeing with skill development, aligning with the vision of NEP-2020 to make education vibrant and promote sustainable development as well as global wellbeing."

"Knowing self, managing self, knowing others and managing others are core aspects for emotional wellbeing," he added.

Dr Dharmeshwari Lourembam stressed the importance of acknowledging and seeking help if persistent negative feelings occur, highlighting that "consulting a counsellor should not be taboo but rather seen as positive."

The panel suggested MAN-ODARPAN, an initiative of the union education ministry, and Tele MANAS, a comprehensive mental healthcare service, as available resources for psychosocial support.

After the panel discussion, the workshop continued with a technical session on dyslexia, which is one of the specific learning disabilities. Prof Renu Malaviya explained "dyslexia, with regard to identification of individuals with dyslexia, causes for dyslexia, assessment procedure for dyslexia, and treatment and intervention strategies to deal with individuals with dyslexia," the release said.

Approximately 180 participants, including faculty members and students from various departments of the university, attended the programme. Six technical sessions were conducted, covering the concepts of specific learning disabilities, reading disabilities, writing disabilities, developmental coordination disorders, communication disorders, and calculation deficits, it said.

Hangpan Dada memorial football and volley ball begins at Khonsa

KHONSA, May 6:

The 7th district-level Hangpan Dada Memorial Football and Volleyball Tournaments (U-16 boys and girls) began in Tirap district on May 6.

The opening boys' football match was played between United 57 and 57 Strikers of 57-Borduria-Bogapani assembly constituency and United 57 beat 57 Strikers 5-4 in penalty shootout.

In girls' football, Ranglamja beat United 57 in penalty shootout.

In boys' volleyball, United 57 defeated Ranglamja, Lonyan beat United Kothin, and Kolam beat Tutnu Youngster.

In girls' volleyball, Ranglamja beat United 57.

Earlier, veer nari Chasan Dada, who kicked off the tournament, lauded the state government for renaming the CM's Trophy as Martyr Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy. She appealed to the participating teams to maintain a sporting spirit throughout the tournament.

ADC Tana Bapu urged all the participants and students of the district to stay away from drugs/opium and concentrate on studies, games & sports and other co-curricular activities like yoga and physical exercises.

The ADC on behalf of the district administration assured to extend all possible help to martyr Hangpan Dada's family, whenever necessary.

Organising committee member Gawang Sumpa administered the pledge to the players and advised them to maintain sporting spirit and discipline.

DSO Noah Mongku informed about the tournament, and said that the CM's Trophy tournament was renamed as Martyr Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy to commemorate his supreme sacrifice.

DC capital inspects works of NH Package B

ITANAGAR, May 7:

The Deputy Commissioner Capital Itanagar cum Nodal Officer NH-415, Shweta Nagarkoti Mehta inspected the work of Highway (Package B) from Pappunallah to Nirjuli yesterday along with the officers of Highway led by EE Er Tadu Takhe, representatives of TK Engineering and Consortium Pvt Limited led by Mohan Bora Proj-

ect Manager, Highway Authorities and others on May 7.

The DC expressed her disappointment over the slow progress of the work on NH-415(Package-B) and took a detailed stock of the condition of the road. She urged the team of TKECPL to speed up the work as the slow progress of the work is causing inconvenience to the commuters.

The representatives of TKECPL informed that the balance work on the road from Pappunallah – Jollang trijunction will begin from 8th May next to which the DC warned that there should not be any compromise of the quality of work and the work should be completed expeditiously.

They also informed the DC that the work on the flyover and the service road is in progress to which the DC asked them fill up the digging around piers of flyover for making the road smooth and motorable for the commuters.

The DC informed that teams would be constituted to monitor the work on the highway. Team 1 will monitor the work on bitumen concrete layer from Nirjuli to Mithun Gate and Pappunallah- Jollang trijunction to the opposite of Niba Hospital.

Team 2 will monitor work on potholes from Yupia tri junction to Mithun gate.

Team 3 will fill up digging around piers of flyover for making the road smooth and motorable for the commuters.

Team 4 will look after the work on service road.

The DC informed that she will personally monitor the progress of work along with EAC and CO Naharlagun.

The DC also directed them to ensure that the potholes are filled up regularly to avoid inconvenience to the public.

The DC also took stock of the work on Lagoon bridge.

She also urged all the stakeholders to give their best in carrying out their responsibilities despite the arrival of the monsoon season.

The Project Manager of TKECPL was also instructed to create a detailed plan to implement the aforementioned decisions in a timely manner so as to resolve the issue of traffic congestion across the Naharlagun-Nirjuli stretch.

Additionally, the road quality across the Yupia trijunction till Mithun gate to be improved to make rides through the stretch more comfortable.

Coordination meeting on project SMILE held

NAMSAI, May 7:

A coordination meeting on project SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprises) with all the stakeholders was held at the deputy commissioner's conference hall here in Namsai district on May 7.

Presiding over the meeting, deputy commissioner C.R. Khampa urged the project implementing agency 'Dhama Foundation,' an NGO, to prepare roadmap for rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging.

Khampa suggested the secretary of the NGO to coordinate with the other appropriate rehabilitation centres and provide skill training to persons engaged in begging as per their age, capability and eligibility.

He also requested all concerned to work sincerely towards achieving the goal under the project "so that no individual, engaged in begging in the district, is left

without being benefitted under the scheme.”

Project manager of the Foundation, Chow Dinesh Chowlik gave a power-point presentation on the activities under project SMILE in the district.

EAC-cum-nodal officer Oni Padun spoke on the issues faced by the SMILE project implementing agency “during rescue operation and overall management of the project.”

During the meeting, the house resolved to work in coordination for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in begging.

Government officials from concerned departments and representatives of the NGOs also attended the meeting.

Radio Talk on TB & HIV at Community Radio Centre

NAMSAI, May 8:

A Radio Program was held at Community Radio Centre, Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai on 26th April last. The radio talk was broadcasted centred primarily on TB & HIV by Dr. Padi Tala (DTO-cum-DACO Namsai) & Dr. Sweta Namchoom (MO OST cum FIART Centre).

The DTO-Cum-DACO Dr. Padi Tala gave a brief overview of the NACP and spoke at length about TB, types of TB and its symptoms, treatment and TB-HIV co-morbidity. He also spoke on co-morbid conditions which may lead to increased chances of getting diseased with TB. Any chronic disease such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Thyroid Disease, Kidney Disease, Liver Disease, Cancer, HIV Infection, old age(>60 years) and

< 10 years of age etc.

The DTO-Cum-DACO also spoke on schemes under NTEP viz. Nikshay Poshan Yojana, Tribal Support Scheme, Treatment Supporter's Honorarium, and Informant Incentives. He also spoke on Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan under which the consenting TB patients are provided free food basket by Nikshay Mitras. Lastly the DTO-Cum-DACO elaborated the many ways to stay safe and prevent infection from this deadly disease.

Later the Medical Officer OST-cum-FIART Centre Dr. Sweta Namchoom spoke about HIV/AIDS. She informed the transmission of HIV happens through Blood transfusion, transmission from mother to child during pregnancy period, sharing of syringes between injectable drug users, & through unprotected sex with an infected partner.

The MO OST-cum-FIART Centre also spoke on how HIV spreads, clinical stages of HIV, difference between HIV & AIDS, and its treatment. She informed about free screening service provided by at Hospitals & Community Health Centres functioning at Namsai district.

The MO OST-cum-FIART Centre also informed the services provided by various NGOs present in the district as per the norms & conditions laid by the National AIDS Control Organisation.

The DTO-cum-DACO urged the listeners of the talk show to share the information of TB and HIV/AIDS with others so that maximum numbers of people in the community become aware about these diseases.

World Red Cross Day celebrated

Governor urges volunteers of Red Cross to make their activities purposeful and effective

ITANAGAR, May 8:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) participated in the World Red Cross Day celebration at TRIHMS, Naharlagun on May 8.

The Governor lit the inaugural lamp and paid floral tribute to the founder of Red Cross Movement Sir Jean Henry Dunant and all those Red Cross volunteers who sacrificed their lives for the cause of humanity.

The Governor, who is the President of Indian Red Cross Society, Arunachal Pradesh State Branch called upon the volunteers to spread the cause of Red Cross and make their activities purposeful and effective. He suggested organizing seminars and interactions, involving education institutes to educate people the best ways to mitigate challenges at the time of natural disasters, epidemics and accidental emergencies.

Exhorting the Red Cross volunteers to reach out to destitute, orphans and neglected societies and TB, HIV, drug affected people. Let us endeavour to make Arunachal Pradesh a healthy, happy and compassionate State, who cares for each other, he said.

The Governor exhorted the people, particularly the youth, to imbibe the spirit of volunteer service and be part of the Indian Red Cross. He also called upon educational institutes, tribal organizations and corporate houses to join the Red Cross initiatives.

The Governor recommended reorganizing the society

in a more structural manner to make it efficiently respond to any exigency. He said that IRCSAPSB should emulate other volunteer organizations, like NGOs of Tirap and Changlang Districts working for rehabilitation of drug addicts and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh rendering service in every emergency at national level. The Red Cross Society must become a bridge between affected people and the Government during the time of relief work, he said.

The Governor commended the State Indian Red Cross Society for organizing a volunteer blood donation camp to commemorate the World Red Cross Day. He conveyed his gratitude to the voluntary blood donors from various organizations and establishments, participating medical officers, nursing officers and para medic staff.

The Governor presented certificates of appreciation to the Principal, PTC, Banderdewa, Commandant, ITBP, Yupia, Vice Chancellor, Global University, Naharlagun, Vice Chancellor, Arunodaya University, Lekhi, Chairperson, Oju Welfare Association, Naharlagun and Chairperson, Arunachal Shining Mom & Dad, Naharlagun, for their contributions in World Red Cross Day celebration and voluntary blood donation camp on the occasion.

Earlier, Honorary Secretary, Indian Red Cross, Arunachal Pradesh State Branch, Dr. Emi Rumi presented a brief report on the activities of the State Branch in the last few years during COVID-19, fire accidents and natural disasters.

Director, TRIHMS, Dr. Moji Jini, Director, Family Welfare, Dr. Wangdi Lama, State Mission Director, National Health Mission, M. Sora and Chief Medical Superintendent, TRIHMS, Dr.

D. Raina were present during the inaugural function. Large numbers of volunteers from State Police, ITBP, NSS and educational institutes turned up to donate blood on the occasion.

Governor visits TRIHMS, interacts with doctors and patients

ITANAGAR, May 8:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) visited Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Science (TRIHMS), Naharlagun on May 8. He saw various departments and care units, including Intensive Coronary Care Unit, Intensive Care Units, Indoor patient wards, reception and registration sections, doctor consultation areas and the emergency wards.

During his visit, the Governor interacted with indoor patients, doctors and nursing officers. He also interacted with OPD patients and their guardians to get the firsthand knowledge about the effectiveness of the facilities provided to the patients. Pleasantly surprised, the patients and their relatives gladly shared their views and experiences with the Governor.

In his maiden visit to the institute, the Governor advised the TRIHMS Director to provide him the periodic reports of the ailments and lifestyle causes, so that causes can be addressed to improve the health index of the State. He said that automation of health data will assist the State Government to effectively frame policies and programmes and focus on key areas. These should be shared with the State Department for Health.

The Governor, while expressing his happiness at the large numbers of local doctors in TRIHMS in various posts emphasized that TRIHMS must endeavour to train more nursing officers and increase the quota for doctors. He said that having medical officers of the State will mitigate the shortage or absence of healthcare in rural areas.

The Governor, who has been advocating for the setting up of village volunteers, particularly womenfolk, who can be trained in health care, hygiene and sanitation suggested that TRIHMS take up this challenge in districts through their doctors and nursing officers. He said such initiatives will mitigate minor health issues at rural areas and help villagers to maintain cleanliness by reinforcing the national Mission of Swachh Bharat campaign, launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, he said.

The Governor was supportive to getting additional advanced medical equipments to assist in treatment of neurological disorders and stroke.

TRIHMS Director, Dr. Moji Jini and Chief Medical Superintendent, Dr. D. Raina conducted the Governor in the TRIHMS complex. They also briefed the Governor about the accomplishments and challenges of the first medical institute of the State, while expressing gratitude for the important visit.

DC assesses tourist prospects at Muktowa village

MOKTOWA, May 9:

Tirap Deputy Commissioner Ira Singhal, accompanied by IAS probationer Namneet Singh, Dadam CO Dr Metung Taku and DTO T

Rigio, visited Muktowa village in Dadam circle on May 9 to assess its tourism potential.

During the visit, Singhal held discussions with the head gaon burah, the gaon burah, PRI members and villagers, and assessed the feasibility of developing the village as a tourist destination.

The assessment marks a significant step towards harnessing the tourism potential of Muktowa village to contribute to the economic growth and cultural preservation of the region.

CPR and First Aid Training imparted by CRTC AIIMS

ANINI, May 10:

Altogether 150 participants, including medical professionals, administrative officers, ITBP and police personnel, trekking guides, homestay and hotel owners, teachers, heads of offices, and community volunteers participated in a 'CPR and first aid training' programme conducted here in Dibang Valley district on Thursday, May 9 by the AIIMS New Delhi's Comprehensive Resuscitation Training Centre.

Resource persons Dr Shailendra Kumar, Dr Dhruv Jain, Dr San Yasmin Hussain and Sonali Kumari from AIIMS New Delhi imparted training in basic first aid during minor or major accidents, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Deputy Commissioner Pagli Sora highlighted the importance of CPR, which is an emergency life-saving procedure and extremely effective in countering cardiac arrest when administered at the right time.

District Medical Officer Dr Hangkham Tangjam expressed

gratitude to the resource persons for training the medical staff on the latest protocols and use of updated technology. The resource persons were also taken on a visit to the district hospital here.

District level Hangpan Dada Football and Volleyball kick starts

TEZU, May 10:

District Level Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy of Football and Volleyball for Boys & Girls under 16, 7th edition is being held at Jubilee Ground, Tezu. Organized by Department of Sports in collaboration with District Administration, the tournament kicked started on May 10 and will end on May 17.

The tournament kicked off with the opening match between Boys Football match United Dangglat Vs. Lullum FC. United Dangglat won by scoring 5 S -0 and first Volleyball match of the tournament was played between Girls team Samurai Vs. Tezu Phantom team. Team Samurai won the match by 2-0 set.

The Opening Ceremony was graced by Sotailum Bellai, EAC, Lohit District as Chief Guest, Nyatum Doke DIPRO, Lohit district as Guest of Honour.

DC inaugurates Model Immunisation Centre

ITANAGAR, May 10:

In a major step towards vaccine preventable diseases, a Model Immunisation Centre at PHC Chimpu was inaugurated on May 10 by the Deputy Commissioner Capital Itanagar, Shweta Nagarkoti Mehta

in the presence of DMO ICC Dr Kipa Tuglik and a host of doctors, health care workers and others.

The DC hoped that the centre will cater to the needs of a large number of people and urged the officials of health department to carry out mass awareness regarding vaccination involving ASHA and Anganwadi workers. She also stressed on door to door vaccination for people who are not willing to come forward while stressing that efforts should be made for proper counseling to make them understand the importance of vaccination.

The doctors assured that efforts would be made to educate the parents about the importance of vaccination while collaborating with all the stakeholders.

The representatives from JSI informed that the initiative aims to spotlight best practices in service delivery by strengthening the immunization service experience. Initiatives include several quality improvement steps, such as capacity building for staff, strengthening the immunization centre to be more user-friendly, and other person-centered approaches such as counselling and effective communication and outreach in communities.

USAID-supported MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity Project developed the Model Immunization Centre at PHC Chimpu of Itanagar Capital Complex, Arunachal Pradesh.

After inauguration, the DC also inspected the health centre and took stock of its functioning.

Later, the DC inspected Health and Wellness Centre at Ganga and Lobi and UPHC Itafort.

She held a detailed discussion with all the Incharges regarding the facilities available at their respective centres and discussed ways for the improvement of health delivery under Capital Itanagar. She urged all the medical officers and health workers to be diligent and regular in performing their duties.

She said that even though health services are being delivered in the facilities, data are not properly entered and uploaded into the portal and hence asked them for timely updation of data. She also enquired about the Outreach programs, awareness, door to door vaccination, availability of generic medicines etc.

The incharge raised few grievances to which the DC assured to look into the matter.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Dr Giri Tali is DSO and Dr Lokam Dominic

Review meeting on projects under RUSA, PM USHA held

RONO HILLS, May 10:

Union Education Additional Secretary SK Barnwal convened a review meeting on the completed and ongoing projects under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM USHA) in Arunachal Pradesh at Rajiv Gandhi University on May 10.

Barnwal lauded the state's RUSA functionaries for their efforts in implementing the RUSA projects efficiently, and urged the state government and the RUSA functionaries to avail of the central

government schemes to strengthen the state's education sector.

He said that "the matter of post creation is to be prioritised for sanctioning manpower for engineering colleges; the projects for which the final installments were released are to be finished within September or October this year; and pending DPRs for PM USHA projects should invariably be finalised and approved within June this year."

Barnwal added that the Centre is "giving extra consideration for Arunachal Pradesh and, taking into consideration the educational backwardness, sanctioning the proposals submitted by the state government on priority."

He further informed that "funding under PM USHA will be according to the timelines of projects, and if the timelines are not adhered to, the projects may be cancelled or terminated without any further extension of time for completion."

He also suggested that all the higher and technical educational institutions be brought under the SAMARTH portal, "which is available free of cost at present."

State Education Secretary Pige Ligu assured Barnwal that, once the new government assumes office, the pending matters will be taken up on priority.

7th Hangpan Dada Memorial tournament concludes

KHONSA, May 11:

The final district-level selection tournament for the seventh edition of the Hangpan Dada Memorial trophy, under 16-year age group for both boys and girls in football and volleyball, concluded

at Nehru Stadium on May 11.

The valedictory function was graced by Deputy Commissioner Tirap, Ira Singhal, as Chief Guest, along with Superintendent of Police Singjatla Singpho as Guest of Honor.

In her address, DC Tirap, Ms. Ira Singhal, congratulated the players, emphasizing the potential of Tirap's youth in sports and games. She stressed the importance of hard work, discipline, and dedication required to enhance their talents.

Singhal assured all possible support from the District Administration for the young players of Tirap.

Encouraging the young athletes, she acknowledged that victory and defeat are inherent in sports. She urged them to participate at the state and national levels, bringing pride to their parents and district.

Remembering the sacrifices of Martyr Hangpan Dada, AC(P), a son of Tirap soil, she fervently appealed to the youth to uphold his fighting spirit for the nation's greater good.

SP Tirap, S. Singpho, echoed the sentiment, urging players and youth to refrain from drugs, kaani addiction, and other anti-national activities, emphasizing their role as responsible citizens.

Earlier, Organizing Committee member, Gawang Sumpa, highlighted the successful conduct of the tournament at block and constituency levels since May 6, 2024, inaugurated by Veer Nari Chasan Dada. The formal valedictory program concluded with vote of thanks from DSO (Sports) Noah Mongku.

Cash prizes of Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty thousand) along with trophies and certificates

were awarded to the champion teams of both Football and Volleyball in Boys and Girls categories.

Runners-up received cash prizes of Rs. 25,000/- (Twenty-five thousand) each. Individual prizes of Rs. 5,000/- (Five thousand) each were presented to the best players by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor, respectively.

Sigar Spearhead Gunners observes International Plant Health Day

PASIGHAT, May 11:

Spearhead Gunners organized a series of events including an informative lecture and plantation drive on May 11 at Sigar Military Station (SMS), commemorating the International Plant Health Day.

According to SMS, Armed Forces have always been on the front-foot in promoting awareness on environmental issues and creating a long term impact by active public engagement.

The main objective of the event was to curb the century old farming practices being followed in the surrounding villages and to encourage the local farmers to initiate measures to conserve plant health and foster the overall ecosystem.

The event witnessed participation of around 111 (one hundred eleven) farmers from the villages of Mebo Tehsil. The initiative by the Spearhead Gunners was instrumental in promoting plant health and biodiversity conservation.

Gujarat CS visits Malinithan

LIKABALI, May 12:

Gujarat Chief Secretary Raj Kumar visited Malinithan and offered prayers at the Malini temple in Lower Siang district on May 12.

Kumar spoke on the unique link that Gujarat and the Malinithan temple had in the past. "It is believed that Lord Krishna had tied the nuptial knot with Devi Rukmini in Malinithan while on his way back to Dwarka," he said.

"Every year in Gujarat we celebrate the marriage of Lord Krishna and Devi Rukmini at Madhopur Ghed in Porbander district, where cultural troupes and craftsmen from other states, including Arunachal Pradesh, participate, and I wish that the Malinithan temple would be a part of the festival in Gujarat in the coming days," he said.

Kumar expressed hope that "the Krishna-Rukmini epic link would form a strong base for cultural tie between the two states, with Arunachal Pradesh at the easternmost tip and Gujarat at the westernmost end bonded with the link."

Malinithan, nestled in the foothills of Likabali, is an archaeological site of the mediaeval period of 10-12 century AD and is adorned with the famous twin Hindu temples – the Malini temple and the Rukmini temple.

The CS also visited the district archaeological museum before his departure.

Kumar was accompanied by his wife during the visit.

Project on suicide risk reduction and improving mental well-being launched

RONO HILLS, May 13:

Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha launched a 'Multistate project on suicide risk reduction and improving mental wellbeing', funded by New Delhi-based Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on May 13.

The VC in his address said that RGU is already carrying out multiple projects on mental health, sponsored by various government agencies, and emphasised on the importance of "working in a collaborative manner and utilising the resources in optimum way with the support of state government and central government agencies," a release from the university informed.

RGU Registrar Dr NT Rikam said that the meeting was necessitated to "orient the key individuals to the objectives of the ICMR project titled 'Multistate implementation research study on suicide risk reduction and improving mental wellbeing among school and college students'," while Social Sciences Dean Prof Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri emphasised on "identifying biological marker of suicide" and highlighted "building of a resource base on the suicide-related research in RGU."

He also dwelt on "the cultural attributes in relation to suicide."

Joint Registrar Dr David Pertin spoke about "the importance and relevance of the project in Arunachal Pradesh vis-à-vis India," and expressed hope that the project would be completed on time, "as

it is a participatory-based research and will bring out workable and applicable way forwards to cut the suicide rates.”

He informed that the duration of the project is three years in its first phase, “and it shall be carried out in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.”

For Arunachal, RGU’s Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS) has been made the nodal centre, and under the project’s principal investigator (PI) and Co-PIs, the schools and colleges in the Itanagar Capital Region, Papum Pare, Lower Subansiri, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley and Lohit districts will be surveyed, the release said.

Principal investigator of the project, Dr Tarun Mene, presented the details of the project, and informed about the initiation of the project and recruitment of staff in the first phase of the project.

He emphasised on “the multilayered issue of the topic and explained the players of the project and the population and sample of the study,” the release said.

State government nominee, mental health SNO Dr Haniya Payee, who attended the programme, enquired about the policy implementation of the project and emphasised on “alignment between existing policies and outcome of the project.”

Another state government nominee, public health specialist Dr Tana Takum, spoke about the area of study and the geographical complexities in terms of cluster formation and area selection, while state government nominee, Higher & Technical Education Directorate NSS SLO Dr AK Mishra, highlighted mental wellbeing and emphasised on providing counselling

sessions in schools and colleges, and advocated developing SOPs.

AITS Prof Jumiyr Basar spoke about “the project’s cultural aspects in tribal society about mental health, by taking into consideration the cultural and ecological aspect of the state of Arunachal in the implementation of the project,” the release stated.

Among others, AITS Director Prof S Simon John, all the co-PIs of the project – Dr Lijum Nochi (Economics), Dr Dharmeshwari Lourembam (Psychology), Dr Kakali Goswami (Psychology) and Amit Kumar (AITS) – also shared their ideas about the project and its effectiveness in a larger context, it said.

1st Edition of the ‘Siang Biodiversity Meet-2024’ held

YINGKIONG, May 13:

Deputy commissioner Upper Siang Hage Lalaing graced 1st Edition of the “Siang Biodiversity Meet- 2024’ at Gobuk Village along with SP Upper Siang Token Saring, ZPC Lumgeng Litin, DFO Mouling Wildlife Division Bitem Darang, DFO Yingkiong Forest Division Annyi Boli, ABK president Tadum Libang, District Tourism Officer Tater Mize and Katan Kombom ABK president Upper Siang.

1st Edition of the ‘Siang Biodiversity Meet 2024’ is being organised by Gobuk Welfare Society in collaboration With Epum Sirum Welfare Society with the support of Titli Trust and Mouling National Park cum Wild life Division.

Video Title: Gorgeous Gobuk, Community Lifestyle, Biodiversity Conservative & Tour-

ism was release; Siang Landscape Wildlife Photography was launched by Deputy Commissioner Upper Siang.

With 10 new moth records for India, Arunachal Pradesh’s upper Siang opens doors for its first Biodiversity Meet to promote responsible tourism. Supported by the Titli Trust-Royal Enfield project for Responsible Tourism, 10 new moth records for India were recently discovered in the upper Siang district.

The Siang Biodiversity Meet will be held from 12- 18 May 2024 at Gobuk and Ramsing villages in Upper Siang District.

In a significant development in the world of biodiversity conservation, 10 new moth records for India have been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh’s Upper Siang district in the latest issue of the international scientific journal Tropical Lepidoptera Research. A first for India, the discovery and recording of these species comes on the back of two years of community-led conservation initiatives since 2022 conducted by the Titli Trust-Royal Enfield project for Responsible Tourism. Apart from the moth varieties, the 65 day-survey, conducted in the last two years, recorded more than 250 butterfly species, 650 moth species, 200 bird species, and numerous species of odonates. The butterfly “specials” include the Dark Freak, Blue-bordered Sergeant, Elusive Prince, Brown Gorgon, Yellow Gorgon, Margined Hedge Blue, and the Khaki Silverline; to name a few. The findings of the survey reaffirm the importance of the Upper Siang district, which is spread over 6,000 sq km, as a biodiversity hotspot and a welcome home for these pollinators.

“The new moth records in Gobuk reflect only a sliver of the

incredible biodiversity in the Siang landscape, which deserves to be protected and nurtured. We are driven by our commitment to community-led conservation, green livelihoods and nurturing an ethos of responsible tourism in the Himalayas. Apart from biodiversity conservation, through our partnership with Titli Trust we support climate schools and responsible tourism fellowships, equipping youth to find meaningful ways to engage with their own heritage and landscapes to become frontrunners in climate action," says Bidisha Dey, Executive Director, Eicher Group Foundation, which is the CS Rarm of Royal Enfield.

Putting their conservation learnings to action through this project, the Gobuk village banned hunting in their forests. The Green School, another initiative supported by Royal Enfield through Green Hub- Dusty Foot Foundation, is sensitising children and youth about their rich nature-linked legacy and the benefits of conserving flora and fauna for the community. Their initiative on supporting green-livelihoods is also seeing traction among local youth.

"Titli Trust's work with forest dwelling communities in Gobuk, supported by Royal Enfield is seeing a positive ground-level impact. The Adi tribe, who are a majority of the 1,200 residents here, had not earlier viewed their biodiversity as a global treasure. Over the two years of our intervention they have adopted the concept of conservation and nature-linked livelihoods rapidly and significantly reduced hunting. When biodiversity assessments in their area revealed 10 new moth records for India, no one was more surprised, and delighted than the residents of Gobuk village," says Sanjay Son-dhi, founder of Titli Trust.

In addition to the recent moth discoveries, the Siang Biodiversity Meet will be held from 12th to 18th May at Gobuk and Ramsing villages in the Upper Siang district.

This unique community-led week-long has drawn 25 nature enthusiasts and conservationists from across India and the world to explore the pristine landscape and biodiversity of the Upper Siang Valley. At the heart of the Siang Biodiversity Meet is a commitment to local communities, biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

The week-long immersion into the Siang ecosystem will be done through guided nature trails, educational presentations, and community engagement where participants will be encouraged to engage with biodiversity conservation. They will also embrace responsible travel practices such as zero waste, traditional biodegradable food packaging and experiencing local cultural diversity through homestays and green tourism initiatives.

The event aims to be a catalyst for change, inspiring collective action and forging partnerships that will shape the future of conservation and responsible tourism in the iconic Himalayan landscape.

The Siang Biodiversity Meet is organised by the Epum Sirum Welfare Society and Gobuk Welfare Society, community-based organisations based in Gobuk, in partnership with Titli Trust, a not-for-profit organisation focused on conservation and livelihoods in the Himalayas. The meet is also supported by The Mouling National Park, the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department and Royal Enfield. By supporting the conservation efforts at Siang Royal Enfield is facilitating responsible tourism

and sustainable development in the Himalayas— a region the brand considers its 'spiritual home'.

Royal Enfield's social mission is to build resilience in communities and nature in the iconic Himalayan Region. By 2030, it aims to enable 100 Himalayan communities and landscapes to adapt and thrive even in the face of climate change. The social mission also aims to catalyse a global movement of one million riders to explore sustainably and become active stakeholders in the mission.

About the Royal Enfield Social Mission: The oldest motorcycle brand in continuous production, Royal Enfield has created beautifully crafted motorcycles since 1901.

From its British roots, a manufacturing plant was established in Madras in 1955, a foothold from which Royal Enfield spearheaded the growth of India's mid-sized two-wheeler segment. Uncomplicated, accessible and fun to ride, Royal Enfield is a vehicle for exploration and self-expression. A division of Eicher Motors Limited, Royal Enfield operates through more than 2,050 stores across all major cities and towns in India. It has a presence in more than 60 countries around the globe.

The Himalayas are 'a spiritual home' to Royal Enfield. Royal Enfield's social mission is geared towards partnering with 100 Himalayan communities to drive sustainable development. It currently supports more than 50 projects across the Indian Himalayan region. Whether it is promoting rural sports and winter tourism through the 'Ice Hockey League', building a network of 'Green Pitstops' for travellers, conserving textile heritage by bringing together pasto-

ral communities, artisans and designers through 'The Himalayan Knot', supporting filmmakers and creative practitioners with fellowships, or instituting a collective learning centre called 'The Himalayan Hub', the initiatives are wired to create learning and livelihood opportunities for the local youth.

Through our partnership with UNESCO, riders are engaged to document and promote the unique Intangible Cultural Heritage of Himalayan communities. The Social Mission's goal is to enable one million riders to take action towards regenerating landscapes and empowering the communities residing there, thus forging the largest rider-led movement in sustainable exploration.

About Titli Trust: The Titli Trust is a registered non-profit NGO established with the purpose of conserving nature and protecting the environment. Established in 2009, the trust's name Titli (which means butterfly in Hindi) is selected as it embodies all that is symbolic of nature-free, beautiful, enchanting, mysterious.

About Epum Sirum Welfare Society: The Epum Sirum Welfare Society is a grassroots NGO committed to conservation and community development in Gobuk village, Arunachal Pradesh. Through innovative initiatives and partnerships, Epum Sirum strives to safeguard the natural heritage of the Society.

RGU conducts programme on educational opportunities in USA

RONO HILLS, May 14:

An interaction programme on 'Educational opportunities in USA'

with Kolkata-based US consulate was organised by the International Cell of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), in collaboration with its IQAC, career counselling cell, and placement cell, on May 14.

Chairing the programme, RGU Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha motivated the students to "expand your horizons and explore your future prospects." He emphasised on "having specific, clear and meticulous academic goals in life," and noted how the USA is "one of the advanced countries which promote transparency, fairness and inclusivity."

RGU Registrar Dr NT Rikam in his address said that the interaction would facilitate the students in pursuing further studies in the USA, and apprised the participants of how they can avail of the opportunities extended to them by the US consulate.

RGU International Cell Chairman Prof Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri, Finance Officer (i/c) Dr David Pertin, and Students' Welfare Dean Prof Hui Tag also spoke.

US Consulate Assistant Public Affairs Officer Juan Clar said, "One of the mediums through which people of India and US can come together is through education, which is one of the objectives of our organisation."

Saying that a large number of students are currently enrolled in various universities in the US in a wide range of programmes, he encouraged the students to "dream big, as the process is attainable if done through a systematic and authentic manner."

Another official from the US consulate, Aishwarya Mondal, informed about the numerous programmes available online, such as undergraduate programmes which are designed to inform the students of the application processes.

USIE Foundation adviser Sohini Jana delivered an online presentation, explaining the basic steps of applying for further studies in the USA.

The foundation has its social handles which can be accessed at @educationusaindia, where it has curated information which are easily available online for the students.

Sandhya Krishnan from YRG Care applauded the students for their active participation in the survey on awareness and attitude towards studying in the USA, and presented a brief on the importance of having a clear vision about their future career prospects.

Among others, RGU International Cell member Dr Arnab Ghosh, and Psychology HoD Dr Proshanto Kumar Saha also spoke.

Governor participates in Lt. Gen. PS Bhagat Memorial lecture

NEW DELHI, May 17:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) participated in the Lt. General PS Bhagat Memorial Lecture at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on May 17. The Governor gave a talk on 'Armed Forces contributions to realise the vision of a Rising India'.

In his talk, the Governor said the rising India would heavily be dependent on a strong professional Armed Force. He said that Indian Armed Forces which continue to play a pivotal role in nation building have emerged as a national symbol of integrity and resilience.

The Governor recollected the vision of Viksit Bharat and emphasised on the transformation of the armed forces hinges on Force Structuring and Optimization, Modernization and Technology Infusion, System, Process and Functions, Human Resource Management and Jointness and Integration. He elaborated on the kind of niche disruptive technologies, which are transforming and revolutionising the warfare in a big way, i.e. Focusing on kinetic and non-kinetic realms of modern warfare which needs to be embedded in comprehensive national power.

With his prior experience of having handled transformation of Indian Army as the Director General Perspective Plans and handled operations on Northern & Eastern Borders, the Governor outlined the important operational, training, humanitarian and diplomatic activities which could contribute to realising the vision of Rising India. He stressed up the need to review the doctrines and philosophies to combat modern warfare and the need to ameliorate the leadership patterns by the armed forces.

The Governor said that the armed forces should be the biggest catalyst to facilitate the country to become a developed nation. He suggested finer points of transformation of the armed forces according to the changing face of warfare evolution, mandatory endeavours towards self reliance through industry integration, infusion of latest disruptive and Grey Zone technologies to counter cyber warfare, far sighted perception management and integration of population from far-flung areas with the mainstream India in the spirit of 'Nation First'.

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Manoj Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Di-

rector General, United Service Institution of India (USI), Major General BK Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd.), Director, Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation, USI, Major General RS Yadav, VSM (Retd.) and Major General SG Pitre (Retd.) also participated in the Memorial Lecture.

A film on Lt. General PS Bhagat, PVSM, VC was screened and a book, titled 'The Victoria Cross Icon: Vision and Legacy' authored by Major General SG Pitre (Retd.) was launched on the occasion. A number of former Chiefs, senior serving and retired officers attended the lecture.

The United Service Institution of India (USI), a national security and defence services think tank based in New Delhi, India organised the annual event. USI aims to 'furtherance of interest and knowledge in the art, science and literature of the defence services'.

Lower Siang District Veterinary Office gets new Conference Hall

LIKABALI, May 17:

The Lower Siang District Veterinary Office gets a new multi-purpose conference hall with the inauguration of the recently built hall by the lower slang deputy commissioner shri Rujjum Rakshap today. Addressing the officers and officials, and the fraternity of the department of Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and Dairy Development, in a simple but impressive function held at the premises of the veterinary dispensary in Likabali Shri Rakhap appreciated the unflinching efforts put in by the department under the leadership of Dr.

Gungte Radhe, the District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer. He exhorted on the need to equip and modernise the offices and create required infrastructures and never be constrained at the pretext of fund scarcity. He hailed the efforts of the department and assured every possible support from the district administration.

Earlier in the morning, Dr. Gungte presented an envisioned road map focussing at accelerating the development of the department and its service delivery mechanism in the district for catering to the need of the farmers and general public. He said, "Being an infant district with least infrastructures at the disposal we need to walk some extra miles to catch up with the rest of the district". He appealed to the deputy commissioner and the general public for constant support and patronage and projected that the department in the coming days is going to be a big agent to boost the economy of the area.

As usual the department has created the much needed asset for the district by dint of its judicious and meticulous utilisation of the available resources at their disposal and it would go a long way in activating extension works of the department.

Doordarshan interested in showcasing local and developmental activities

ITANAGAR, May 17:

The Director General of Doordarshan Kanchan Prasad urged for collaborative effort from the Department of Information and Public Relations and the

state government of Arunachal Pradesh the involvement of Doordarshan for the dissemination of state developmental activities. She said this while meeting with Nyali Ete, Secretary Information and Public Relations, Government of Arunachal Pradesh in his office chamber on May 17.

She also emphasized on showcasing the rich cultural heritage viz diverse cuisine, folklore, etc and places of tourism of the state through the Arun Prabha channel of Doordarshan which according to her would help in reaching a wider range of audience. Arun Prabha is the Doordarshan's second channel for the North East and the first for Arunachal Pradesh replacing the DD Itanagar.

Nyali Ete, Secretary IPR, GoAP, assured the Doordarshan team of an elaborate plan and strategy to be taken up for the collaborative effort for highlighting the developmental activities through the Doordarshan. He also put forward request for further round of talks and brainstorming sessions for the same with the members of both the Doordarshan and the Department of IPR. He was of the opinion that the collaboration would be a major development in the information, education and communication sector of the state.

Others, accompanying the Director General Doordarshan were Rajiv Bhattacharjee, Additional Director General, North East Region, Sanjay Prasad, Deputy Director General and other officers from Doordarshan Itanagar.

Also present in the meeting were officers from the Department of the IPR.

DC visits Care Me home drugs de-addiction/rehabilitation centre

KHONSA, May 17:

Tirap Deputy Commissioner Ira Singhal visited Care Me Home Drugs De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centre in Charju on May 17.

During her visit, the DC interacted with the staff and the inmates of the rehabilitation centre, and assured to provide all possible help to the centre.

She emphasised on "providing adult education facilities to the inmates and engaging them in other activities, like craft-making."

Thirty-five recovered people also interacted with the DC.

At present, there are 30 inmates under treatment at the centre.

Earlier, Care Me Home Welfare Society chairperson Son-tung Lowang Bangsia briefed the DC about the rehab centre.

The DC was accompanied by IAS probationer Namneet Singh and WCD DD Hacham Bangsia.

Joti Mane wins Golden Jubilee Dree marathon for third time

ITANAGAR, May 18:

Jyoti Mane of Shi-Yomi district won the women's marathon organised as part of the Golden Jubilee Capital Complex Dree Festival celebration on May 18.

She emerged victorious for the third consecutive year. Nedi Nyi and Yabang Tali won the sec-

ond and the third position, respectively.

Vijay Deka of Assam won the men's event. Bipin Munda and Kipa Taruh finished second and third, respectively.

Earlier, the 15-km race was flagged off from the Chimpu police checkpoint by IRS officer Bamin Tari and his wife Aido Ering Bamin.

The table tennis, arm-wrestling and tug-of-war competitions were held at the Dree ground in Papu Nallah.

In arm-wrestling, Koj Risang defeated Khoda Talyang in a nail-biting final.

Meanwhile, the tug-of-war saw a fierce contest, where Tanw United FC beat Haaki Ajing FC to defend their title.

1st Edition of the Siang Biodiversity Meet 2024 concludes

YINGKIONG, May 18:

Twenty-five guests, including researchers and nature conservationists from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Assam, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand participated in a weeklong 'Siang biodiversity meet' which concluded in Upper Siang district on May 18.

A total of 140 species of butterflies, 100 species of birds, and 300 species of moths were spotted during the meet, organised by the Gobuk Welfare Society (GWS), in collaboration with the Epum Sirum Welfare Society, and with support from the Titli Trust, the Mouling National Park-cum-Wildlife Division DFO, and the district administration.

Rare species of butterflies, such as the dark freak, brown gor-

gon, yellow gorgon, elusive prince, false Tibetan cupid, green dragon-tail and bottled argus, were spotted during the meet.

The dark freak is a rare species of butterfly found only in a few parts of Arunachal Pradesh and nowhere else in the world. Another butterfly species, the false Tibetan cupid, was also spotted. "In India, the false Tibetan cupid is found only in a few parts of Dibang Valley and Upper Siang districts of Arunachal," said Sanjay Sodhi of the Titli Trust.

Rare birds, such as the green cochoa, large niltava, black-chinned yuhina, white-naped yuhina, slaty-bellied tesia and spotted elachura were also spotted during the meet.

Rare moths *Phalera* eminens and *Macrobrochis flavicincta* were also spotted. Both moths were recently covered in a paper published in *Tropical Lepidoptera Research* as new records from India.

Asian glass lizard and twin-spotted wolf snake were also spotted during the meet. Both the species are endemic to Asia.

The organising team, led by GWS president Dubom Tek-seng, appealed to one and all to "give your hand towards conserving biodiversity."

DC inspects centrally sponsored projects

AALO, May 20:

West Siang Deputy Commissioner Hage Mamu, along with District Planning Officer Marjum Karga inspected some of the major ongoing centrally-sponsored projects in West Siang district.

Besides the multipurpose community hall here under the

Aalo PWD division, the recently started construction of the multi-storied parking lot, and the walkway along the riverfront under the urban development (UD) & housing department, the DC inspected the ongoing viaduct construction work near Takpu Bagra on the Potin-Pangin stretch of NH 13 under the Basar highway division.

Expressing satisfaction over the way the projects are being executed, she advised the site engineers of the company and the field officers of the highway department to ensure quality of work and complete the project on time.

When the three remaining viaducts are completed, travel time will be reduced substantially.

This was the DC's second visit to the projects after taking charge in November last year.

Stressing on the importance of these four projects to bring relief to the people, she said that, "these projects will be inspected bimonthly."

Present at the site were PWD Highway AE Gemar Padu, Aalo PWD EE K Siram, and the UD AE.

Wakro Sisters bring Carnatic music recitals to Arunachal

ITANAGAR, May 20:

For the music lovers of Tezu, Namsai and Itanagar, the last 10 days were a spellbinding experience, getting exposed to Carnatic music melodies from the Wakro Sisters Ashapmai Dellang and Behelti Ama, as they presented different genres of Carnatic kritis to curious listeners and music lovers in these places, Lohit Libraries informed in a release.

This was the first public performance of Carnatic music in the state, coming from the Wakro Sisters, the first two Arunachali students to pursue serious study of Carnatic music in the last 25 years, it said.

"The Carnatic recital series by the Wakro Sisters was unique and made memorable on account of the participation of two young instrumental prodigies from Kerala, Devanarayan with violin and Sreehari Bhattathiripad with the mridangam. Both boys, just higher secondary school students but brilliant with their rhythmic support, elevated the recitals to great levels of enjoyment for the listeners – even those who had no previous exposure to Carnatic music," the release stated.

"The Wakro sisters, who are senior volunteers of the Lohit Youth Library Network, conducted recitals in the state from 12 to 20 May at Tezu, Namsai, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) and the Ramakrishna Mission Hospital auditorium, Itanagar, apart from recordings at Akashvani Tezu and Itanagar, and Doordarshan Kendra, Itanagar," it added.

Attending the first recital, organised by Bamboosa Library at the Community Convention Centre in Tezu on 13 May, Lohit DC Shasvat Saurabh said that he was delighted that Lohit district had the privilege of holding the first-ever public Carnatic music recital in Arunachal.

"At the Namsai recital, organised by the VKV Alumni, Namsai, Namsai DC CR Khampa lauded the Wakro Sisters for their splendid command of songs in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam languages, and suggested that they should "try to compose songs in Mishmi language, too, in Carnatic ragas."

He presented mementoes to the artistes for their splendid performance.

Addressing a large gathering of music enthusiasts at the RGU auditorium, RGU Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Khushwaha expressed appreciation for the two boy artistes from Kerala “who could develop an admirable coordination with Arunachal singers in a very short time.”

“This is a model for others too,” the VC said, and expressed hope that “the music department would organise more such musical events.”

Speaking at the concluding recital, organised by the VKV Alumni Association in Itanagar, RK Mission Hospital secretary Swami Vedarasananda lauded the artistes and the organisers for their punctuality.

“Everyone should develop skill and proficiency in some field of knowledge to be a successful person,” he said, quoting Swami Vivekananda.

Speaking on the occasion, Indigenous Affairs Director Sokhep Kri, who is also the convener of the Lohit Youth Library Network, said that “the library network is not an organisation but a handholding of several individuals, youth groups, patrons, NGOs and institutions with government agencies to improve the educational standards of Arunachal’s rural and educationally deprived communities.”

“It is a great honour that the Lohit Youth Library Network is celebrating its 18th foundation day at the programme organised at the RK Mission Hall in the presence of several eminent VKV alumni members,” he added.

Devanarayan and Bhatathiripad said that “playing instruments for the Wakro Sisters was sheer joy. We are also very happy

that the listeners in Arunachal warmly appreciated Carnatic music.”

Expressing their joy over singing with the Kerala artistes, the Wakro Sisters expressed hope that it would inspire more Arunachal students to come forward to learn Carnatic music.

“After all, it has many common features with Hindustani music, which many Arunachali youths are already familiar with,” they said.

They expressed gratitude to the Mishmi Welfare Society, Itanagar, and other organisations and dignitaries across the state who participated in the Carnatic music events and presented mementoes to them, the release said.

DC assesses tourism potential in Borduria Circle

BORDURIA, May 20:

Deputy Commissioner of Tirap, Ira Singhal, conducted a comprehensive visit to the Borduria Circle on May 20 to evaluate the region's tourism potential. She was accompanied by Circle Officer Yowa Anya and District Tourism Officer T. Rigo, the team explored several key locations to identify opportunities for tourism development.

During her visit, DC Singhal emphasized the importance of preserving the unique cultural heritage of Borduria while developing its tourism potential.

“Our goal is to create a sustainable tourism model that benefits the local community and preserves the rich cultural and natural heritage of Borduria Circle,” she stated.

DC Singhal and her team inspected the historic Monolith site in Borduria Village. The site,

known for its cultural and historical significance, presents a promising opportunity for attracting tourists interested in heritage and archaeology.

Additionally, the team visited the Circle Headquarters in Borduria, engaging with local officials and community members to gather insights and suggestions for enhancing the area's appeal to visitors. The discussions focused on infrastructure improvements, promotional strategies, and sustainable tourism practices.

The visit marks a significant step towards realizing the untapped tourism potential of Borduria Circle. The administration plans to collaborate with various stakeholders to implement the recommendations and strategies discussed during the assessment.

Fathers of daughters felicitated by WCD

EMCHI, May 21:

Tahin Tassar, a father of five daughters and Tana Taium, father of four daughters were felicitated by the Women and Child Development Department, Papum Pare as a part of the awareness activities under the ongoing Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, at the Govt. Middle School, Emchi on May 21.

The duo was felicitated for their undivided and unwavering support in providing the best education to their daughters.

DC Papum Pare, Jiken Bomjen, who himself is the father of four daughters lauded the noble initiative of the WCD department in recognizing such fathers and said that, “In a patriarchal society like ours such fathers sets exemplary example for equality and women empowerment.”

He further appealed to all the parents to encourage the daughters to choose their fields of interest and excel. "Coercing them against their will lead to mediocre results". He added.

SDO Doimukh, Kipa Raja, while informing about the various facilities and special assistance provided to the girl child right from the birth said that, "Government is doing its part; parents need to create a good environment at the homes for the child to grow physically, mentally and emotionally."

He also highlighted the existence of the POCSO Act and implored upon all the womenfolk to create awareness and guide their girl child.

DD, ICDS JayaTaba highlighted the schemes under the WCD department and also underlined the initiatives of the government in support of the girl child.

"Inter-sectoral schemes like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Balika Samridhi Yojana, CBSE Udaan and National scheme of incentives to girls for Secondary education also endeavors to promote girl child education and overall well being," she added.

Sharing the information regarding the helplines for the women and children in distress, Smt. Taba exhorted all present to share the helpline details. The Women Helpline number is 181 and the Childline id 1098 which is operational 24/7.

Pooja Kumari, Postal Assistant, Naharlagun spoke about the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. She informed that "Any girl child below 10 years can open a Sukanya Samridhi account, with a minimum yearly deposit of Rs. 250 and maximum Rs.1.5 lakhs for a period of 15 years; with a 6-year lock in period and maturity at 21 years."

As a part of the awareness event, a volleyball match between the adolescence girls and the mothers was held, wherein the mothers emerged victorious.

Sanitary pads were also distributed to all the participants of the program, as a part of the awareness activities emphasizing on menstrual hygiene.

Earlier, in the morning DC Bomjen led the officers in planting fruit bearing plants in the school campus.

Among others CDPO Doimukh Maya Murtem, PRI members, Goan Buras, Anganwadi workers and public attended the program.

Jan Aushadhi Kendra inaugurated at Longding district

LONGDING, May 21:

Longding Deputy Commissioner Bekir Nyorak inaugurated a Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) at the district hospital here in the district on May 21.

Highlighting the major features of the Jan Aushadhi scheme, the DC said that "quality medicine at 50 to 90 percent lesser price shall be made available at jan aushadhi stores."

"The scheme also encourages the prescription of generic medicines by government doctors," he said, and asked the district medical officer (DMO) to ensure availability of generic medicines at the JAS the year.

DMO Dr Worar Taku said that the JAS shall be operated by state government nominated agencies like NGOs, charitable organisations, the Red Cross Society, and the Rogi Kalyan Samitis constituted for the purpose.

The district administration and the health department appealed to the public to avail of the benefits of healthcare schemes.

Workshop on effective academic writing begins at RGU

RONO HILLS, May 22:

A two-day workshop on 'Effective Academic Writing' began here at the mini auditorium of the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) on May 22.

The workshop of the 'G20-University Connect Hub Initiative' was organized by the RGU's education department in collaboration with Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi and NETRA Foundation.

Addressing the inaugural function, RGU vice chancellor prof. Saket Kushwaha commended the efforts made by workshop coordinator prof. Kesang Degi for the G-20 University Connect Hub initiative in RGU "which is among 53 Universities that are currently funded."

Reflecting on the essential elements of thesis, specifically on outcomes of research, the VC exemplified various types of research in different streams.

The VC said that "every researcher should be well acquainted with research design in regard to cross-sectional and time-series researches."

Stating that researcher should know all the dynamics of research, he shared his experience of using "punch cards" in research process during his tenure in Africa.

The VC also opined that researchers and educators should have a diploma or degree in journalism and education as well.

Addressing the gathering, faculty of education and sports science dean prof. T. Lhungdim said that the workshop was important for all the research scholars for writing qualitative research articles.

RGU registrar Dr. N.T Rikam stated that the workshop would be beneficial specifically, for research scholars.

"It is fortunate for the RGU to be one of the universities among the 21 universities which are associated with G-20 University Connect Hub Initiative," he said.

There are six resource persons for the workshop including prof. J.V Madhusudan, Dr. Shankar Thappa and prof. C. Sivashankar.

More than 150 research scholars and teachers from RGU-affiliated colleges, RGU and colleges in Assam are participating in the workshop.

Among others, RGU's head of education department prof. P.K Acharya and workshop coordinator prof. Kesang Degi were present in the inaugural function.

Huge garbage removed from the Yagamso River

ITANAGAR, May 22:

"Clean rivers are the lifelines of our ecosystem," emphasized Itanagar Municipal Corporation Ward No-6 Corporator GyamarTaz as nearly 3.5 metric tonnes of garbage were removed from the Yagamso River at the division four stretches on May 22.

Over 80 volunteers participated in the extensive clean-up drive.

The cleaning effort, which coincided with the International Day for Biological Diversity, was a collaborative effort between the All Abotani Colony Welfare Association (AACWA), NGOs-Youth Mission for Clean River (YMCR) and Abralow Memorial Multipurpose Society, and supported by the Itanagar Smart City Development Corporation.

Corporator Taz highlighted the critical importance of maintaining clean rivers and a healthy ecosystem. "We must protect our rivers, which are our lifelines," he stated.

He urged residents to refrain from dumping waste into the river, noting that IMC trucks collect garbage door-to-door daily.

He also called for waste segregation at home to minimize the amount of garbage sent to Holongi dumping ground. He commended the ward's youth and public for their enthusiastic participation and assured continuous support to the YMCR team's future environmental initiatives.

Tamchi Kame, AACWA President echoed Taz's sentiments, stressing that maintaining a clean colony is a collective responsibility. "It's not just up to the IMC or the government; every resident, tenant, shopkeeper, and permanent resident must contribute," he asserted.

Maga Dada, AACWA General Secretary praised the NGO's leadership in the campaign and urged everyone to embrace the responsibility of keeping their environment clean. "Collective efforts are essential for a healthier environment," he said.

YMCR Chairman S D Loda expressed gratitude for the continuous support from Corporator Taz and his team. He highlighted the NGO's mission to raise grassroots

awareness and noted the positive impact of the regular participation from the ward's residents. He also suggested reducing the use of single-use plastic products.

Keyom Doni, Vice-Chairman of YMCR, thanked the volunteers and residents for their participation. He outlined the NGO's initiatives, including awareness campaigns, literary events, social services, and plantation drives aimed at protecting the environment.

He also announced a forthcoming mega cleaning and plantation drive on June 5 to celebrate World Environment Day.

Notable participants in the clean-up included AAPSU Assistant Art and Culture Secretary Kanku Kabak, AAPSU Women Wing General Secretary Khoda Yallam, and singer Pakngam Lombi, who all contributed to the effort.

Governor participates in Acharya Vishesh Prashikshan Shivar

ITANAGAR, May 22:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) graced the concluding session of the Acharya Vishesh Prashikshan Shivar (Teachers' Orientation Camp) as Chief Guest at Vivekananda Kendra Vidhyalaya, Nirjuli on May 22. The week-long training, which was one of the manifold activities to commemorate fiftieth year of the Vivekananda Kendra, was conducted by Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas Arunachal Pradesh Trust (VKVAPT) with a focus on innovative techniques in nurturing of young minds through academic

endeavour for the resurgence of Bharat.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor outlined the importance of the role of teachers from ancient and medieval times and how it has transcended in the modern era. He appreciated the efforts of Vivekananda Kendra for serving the country through education, rural development, Yoga and Research. Their outreach on special training on organization dynamics, Karmayoga, Indian knowledge system, mind management, self-discipline and nation building were indeed laudatory, he said.

The Governor advised the teachers to instill a sense of discipline and generate inquisitiveness and problem solving ability amongst the students. They must inculcate an attitude of reasoning, passion of perusal and positive thinking amongst the students, he said.

The Governor said that a good teacher is known for the ability to teach beyond books, use outdoor space, environment, nature and scriptures to drive home lessons through descriptive excellence. He focused on innovative ways of teaching and up-skilling of training methods and use of scientific techniques, while commending the VKVAPT for conducting their programme.

The Governor emphasized that our goal is to make a student 'Shikshit, Anushasit – Prerit'.

Expressing his concerns regarding the education standard in rural areas of the State, the Governor suggested imbibing the teaching culture of VKVs amongst the educators of the State.

The Governor commended the Vivekananda Kendra for the significant contributions in the academic sector in Arunachal Pradesh. He said the Vivekananda

Kendra Vidyalaya are the beacon of excellence in education, which have facilitated the holistic development of its students, nurturing them into well-informed, cultured, social minded, disciplined, morally and physically strong individuals equipped to face the challenges of the future with the vision of Swami Vivekananda and Vivekananda Kendra founder, Eknath Ranade.

Recipient of Padma Shri Award, Kumari Nivedita Bhide, a Jeevan Vrati (Life Worker) of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, who is the Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra and Dr. Joram Begi, Prant Sanchalak, Vivekananda Kendra Arunachal Prant and Kum. Sujatha Nayak, Shivir Adhikari (Camp officer) and Secretary, VKVAPT also spoke on the occasion.

Shri Rupesh Mathur, General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas Arunachal Pradesh Trust (VKVAPT), Shivir Pramukh (Training Camp Chief) presented a brief report on the 7-day teachers' orientation training camp also spoke on the occasion.

586 teachers, including 208 lady teachers from 44 VKV institutes of Arunachal Pradesh and Vivekananda Kendra College of Teacher Education, Nirjuli participated in the camp.

Governor congratulates Everest Kabak Yano, commends NIMAS

ITANAGAR, May 22:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) has congratulated Kabak Yano for scaling the world highest mountain, Mount Everest. He stated that this

is a proud moment for the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Governor remarked that Kabak Yano's conquest of Mount Everest demonstrates that the daughters of Arunachal Pradesh are resilient, courageous, adventurous, enterprising, and talented. He added that her accomplishment will inspire other young people in the State to excel in their chosen fields.

The Governor also commended the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang for Miss Kabak Yano's accomplishment, noting that she completed her advanced mountaineering training at the institute. He stated that the institute has successfully fulfilled its mission of identifying talented youth and helping them reach the pinnacle of mountaineering.

DC inspects ongoing major developmental projects in Koyu

LIKABALI, May 22:

Lower Siang deputy commissioner Rujjum Rakshap on May 22 visited Koyu circle to make spot verification and assessment of the ongoing major developmental projects in the circle.

The DC accompanied by the district planning officer and the concerned heads of departments, inspected the construction of the road from Koyu to Goye, improvement of the road from Kora CO headquarters to Koyu EAC headquarters, infrastructure development at Govt. HS School and the construction of Sadbhavana Mandap at Rotte village under Rammie Banggo community development block.

While the works on improvement of the existing road from Kora circle headquarters to Koyu EAC headquarters, covering a distance of 24 km being undertaken by the Nari PWD division under CRIF scheme is progressing well, the stretch from Koyu to Goye, covering 18 km under the RIDF under the same agency is going slow and needed to be accelerated, the DC said.

He directed the agency to ensure that the work is satisfactorily executed as per specification within the allotted timeline as this road is a vital inter-district road connecting East Siang, Lower Siang and Leparada districts.

The DC expressed satisfaction on the status of the construction of the Sadbhavana Mandap at Rotte village with the WRD department as executing agency under the PMJVK scheme, which is nearing completion. The works on the infrastructure development at Govt. Higher Secondary School under the UD & Housing department under the BE 2023-24 is at the initial stages of the construction.

He directed the site engineers to monitor the works properly to bring out the best possible qualitative assets.

While interacting with the youth leaders of the circle, Rakshap advised them to be a watchdog of the society and to always play supportive roles to developmental activity undertaken in the area.

“You should be facilitators to solve local issues and not be the hindrance itself,” he said and added “Only because the circle is a bit remotely located from the district headquarters should not be the reason for not being part of the development process and without incorporating the circle in the line of development process the overall

development target set by the govt. cannot be achieved.”

Indian Army joins locals for Buddha Purnima celebration at Taktsang Gompa

TAWANG, May 23:

The Indian Army and locals came together to celebrate Buddha Purnima at Taktsang Gompa near the serene Shungetsar Lake in Tawang District here on May 23.

An initiative to aimed foster goodwill, promote community welfare, and strengthen ties between the Army and local residents, the Indian Army, organized a series of events to celebrate Buddha Purnima in Taktsang village.

The celebration commenced with a comprehensive medical camp, where healthcare professionals provided free medical check-ups, consultations and essential medicines to villagers. The camp aimed to address the healthcare needs of the community and ensure access to quality medical services.

In the spirit of promoting physical fitness and camaraderie, a thrilling volleyball championship was held, drawing enthusiastic participation from local youth and fostering a sense of sportsmanship and unity. The competition was intense, with teams showcasing their skills and teamwork, culminating in an exciting final match.

The festivities continued with a community lunch, offering a delightful array of local cuisines. This communal meal not only satisfied appetites but also strengthened bonds among villagers and Army personnel, emphasizing the importance of togetherness and mutual respect.

In order to promote the rich cultural history and religious tourism, Indian Army also presented various infrastructures in the village to include Community Shed. To promote education and fitness among youth, equipment for IT Lab and Play Way Equipment were also presented.

A highlight of the day was the stirring performance by the Indian Army band. Their musical display captivated the audience, blending traditional and contemporary tunes, and reflecting the harmony and discipline of the Armed Forces. The band's performance was met with resounding applause and admiration.

The celebration concluded with a vibrant cultural program featuring local traditional dances, songs, and theatrical performances highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the region, providing a platform for local talent to shine and preserving the cultural legacy of Taktsang village.

The celebrations of Buddha Purnima were marked by religious and festive fervour, care and compassion for elders and respect for the environment true to the ethos of Indian Buddhism. It also reaffirmed the civil-military bonhomie in the area.

“This is not just about assistance; it's about building enduring relationships and fostering mutual respect and understanding. Today's events reflect our commitment to the welfare of the communities we serve. We are honored to celebrate Buddha Purnima with the people of Taktsang and look forward to many more such collaborative efforts. The Indian Army remains dedicated to its mission of serving the nation not only through defense but also by contributing to the socio-economic development and well-being of the communities across

the country", an exuberant young Indian Army officer commented at the culmination of the festivities.

7th Edition of Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy concludes in Lower Siang District

LIKABALI, May 24:

Curtains are drawn for the competition for the ongoing 7th edition of the Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy 2023-24 under-16 boys & girls in the Football & Volleyball category for the Lower Siang District being organised by the department of sports in collaboration with the lower siang district administration.

The penultimate football and volleyball matches were played on May 24 at the Chidu Chigo Ground Likabali for both the boys and girls categories.

The lower siang district deputy commissioner Rujjum Rakshap who graced the grand finale as the Chief Guest, urged the young sportspersons to adopt a planned and balanced life style for themselves by giving equal importance and time to all curricular and co-curricular activities like sports, culture including proper food and sleep besides studies.

He said, "Elders should love the Youngers and the Youngers should respect the elders and this is the most viable philosophy of life." "History is witness to the universal truth that students who had the true love and respect for their teachers and elders have found good road worth threading in their lives."

Rakshap fondly remembered the supreme sacrifice made by Lt. Havildar, Hangpan Dada on the occasion. He enriched the gath-

ering, which included the general public and the participating teams through his soul searching speech, the life and contribution of the late hero after whose name the state level trophy has been commensurately kept by the Govt.

The Chief Guest gave away the prizes to the winners.

The Telam Block and Nari Block emerged as district champions in boys and girls football respectively by defeating the boys and girls teams of Likabali block in the final matches. In the volleyball, the Kangku block defeated the Nari Block in the boy's category whereas the Gensi Block outplayed Nari Block in another scintillating match in the girl's category.

Master Riyom Taipodia of Likabali Block and Ms. Aseng Ngukir of Nari Block were adjusted as best football players of the tournament in the boys and girls category respectively.

In the volleyball, Master Pekbom Pode of Kangku Block won the best player title and Ms. Yajum Nguri of Gensi block emerged as the best player in the girls' category.

District level winning teams will represent the district in the ensuing state level championship to be held at Namsai.

CEO reviews counting preparations

LIKABALI, May 25:

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Pawan Kumar Sain visited here in Lower Siang district on May 25 to review the district's preparations for counting of the votes cast in the simultaneous elections.

Sain visited the designated counting centre – the auditorium of the government higher secondary school – and took stock of the

arrangements made by the Lower Siang District Election Officer (DEO) Rujjum Rakshap.

He instructed the DEO, the SP, the returning officers, the

EAC (election), the AROs and other officials to abide by the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India.

CCRD consultative workshop on Galo cultural heritage

RONO HILLS, May 25:

Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said that accurate and adequate documentation of heritage is the key to keeping alive the cultural ethos of Arunachal.

Emphasising on adoption of tribal cultural practices in academia, Prof Kushwaha said that "documentation of folklores as well as cultural anecdotes and making them a part of the common stream of knowledge using online sources like Wikipedia is of utmost importance."

He was speaking at the inaugural session of a consultative workshop on 'Tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Galo tribe' at RGU here on Saturday. It was organised by the Centre for Cultural Research and Documentation (CCRD), which holds the distinction of being one of the pioneering institutions to start working on the documentation of the heritage of Arunachal Pradesh.

The VC suggested adopting traditional dress code in the convocation ceremony of the universities in Arunachal and emphasised "the role of the younger generation to carry forward this legacy of knowledge, handed down to them by their elders."

Arunachal Pradesh University [APU] Vice-Chancellor Prof Tomo Riba spoke on the importance of speaking in Galo to preserve and promote the Galo culture.

“Preserving language is the foundation for propagation of any culture and this holds true for every tribal society there is,” he opined.

RGU Registrar Dr NT Rikam congratulated the team on “completing such a daunting task” and said that since Arunachal is a culturally diverse state, it is all the more challenging to take on the task of such detailed documentation, which the team has been able to accomplish.

Earlier, Moi Bagra, principal investigator of the project, of which the workshop is a component, presented a brief on the research methodology used for the project.

Stressing on the future scope for research in this area, he informed that “all the documented video and audio recordings of the project will be archived at the indigenous affairs department.”

Eminent personalities from the Galo community, researchers, faculty members and students attended the event, the prime motive of which was to instill a sense of pride among the tribal people of Arunachal about their cultural heritage.

Further, the documentation of this cultural aspect will result in a greater understanding of Arunachal Pradesh at national as well as international levels.

Three technical sessions were held post the inaugural programme, with the first session being on the sub-themes of social customs, customary laws and their significance in modern age; threats or onslaught on the state’s beautiful tradition and culture and the

way out of it; and the traditional mode of inheritance, handing over the age-old cultural practices.

Renowned experts from the Galo community, Rural Development Director Hento Karga, RGU Associate Professor Dr Topi Basar, GHCMG Chairman Karbin Kamduk, MPS Itanagar president Dumo Lollen, Industries Deputy Director Geto Orim and APU VC Prof Tomo Riba took part in the deliberations.

The session was moderated by Prof Jummyr Basar from the AITS, RGU.

The second session saw speakers such as GIFCC president Dr Emi Rumi, Dr Kirki Ori, and community elders Bai Taba and Komen Zirdo, who shared their expertise on the sub-themes on the role of the priest in the society, and moral conduct in practice and its importance in building the society.

The third technical session covered the role of women in preservation, protection of uniqueness of tradition and culture; practice of polygamy prevalent in the tribal society with reference to the past and present; and role of men and women within the particular tribal society.

Dr Rime Ngulom Potom from TRIHMS, former GWS WW president Mipu Sora Ori, and senior community leaders Gumyir Kato Taba and Gumkir Ete Jini shared their valuable inputs.

The session was moderated by RGU Assistant Professor Gomar Basar.

Coordinator of the research project, Dr Nyajum Lollen said that “the deliberations at the consultative workshop will ensure accurate documentation and data updation of the age-old heritage.”

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the

Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies (AITS), RGU and the Galo Welfare Society (GWS), under the aegis of the indigenous affairs department.

Skill development training programme held

RONO HILLS, May 25:

A skill development training programme was conducted at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) on May 25 as part of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0.

“The objective of the programme was to provide participants with fundamental skills and knowledge that will improve their capacity to find employment and succeed as entrepreneurs,” the university informed in a release.

“The institution is providing skill enhancement courses as part of PMKVY 4.0, which is administered by the skill development ministry. In the previous year, 17 students received training in various skill development courses,” it said, adding that “the current enrolment of learners has increased double.”

The current batch of learners is receiving instructions in the field of small mushroom cultivation.

“These courses encompass a wide range of topics related to mushroom farming, including fundamental principles of mycology and sophisticated methods for production,” the release said.

Addressing the participants, RGU VC Prof Saket Kushwaha emphasised “the need for developing skills in India,” and stressed on the significance of being employable and self-reliant.

Agricultural Sciences Dean Prof Sumpam Tangjang urged the students to “develop new skills that are relevant for employment in the 21st century.”

Itanagar-based Skill Hub Centre’s nodal officer Dr Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, along with course coordinators Drs Arindam Barman and Samikhya Bhuyan, were also present at the programme, the release said.

Workshop on "Preservation of Priesthood culture" conducted at Aalo

AALO, May 26:

The indigenous affairs department, in collaboration with the West Siang district administration, organised a workshop on ‘Preservation of priesthood culture-cum-conference of priests’ at Gumin Kiin on May 26.

Deputy Commissioner Mamu Hage, who attended the workshop along with former minister Doi Ado, urged

the priests of West Siang to pass on their knowledge to the younger generations of the society, and appealed to them to “impart your knowledge even in schools and colleges.”

The DC commended the indigenous affairs department for conducting the workshop, and urged the department to “organise the same workshop in the year to come.”

She also appealed to the priests to maintain neutrality. “Priests are taking the major role in our society. You are holding the highest position in the society,” she said.

Ado in his address urged the old and experienced priests to

“train people with knowledge to become priests,” and added that “preservation and documentation of priesthood is important.”

IFCSAP district president Mogi Ori, IFCSAP district general secretary Doi Kamduk, and Kirken Doji were the resource persons of the workshop.

All the priests, including Kargu Gamgi priests, from every circle of the district shared their opinions and experiences during workshop.

DA organise Hima- layan Clean-up at Komlighat against plastic pollution

PASIGHAT, May 27:

Joining the ongoing ‘The Himalayan Cleanup (THC)’ campaign against plastic pollution in the Himalayan states and its harmful impact on their fragile ecology, besides causing water crisis, the East Siang district administration, in collaboration with the Pasighat Municipal Council (PMC), organised a cleanup drive on May 27 at the Komlighat-Siang riverfront and collected plastic waste and other garbage weighing approximately 2.4 metric tonnes.

The waste mostly comprised water bottles, chips and other plastic packets, etc, which were later lifted and transported to the municipal solid waste plant site.

Initiated in 2018, THC is the biggest campaign for collective action the Himalayan Mountains have seen against plastic pollution.

According to official sources, since its inception, more than 35,000 individuals have so far joined in to be a part of the movement.

East Siang DC Tayi Taggu, SP Sachin Kr Singhal, ASP Pankaj Lamba, PMC Chief Okiam Moyong Borang, PMC MEO Okiam Onam Lego, and Smart City CEO D Manjuli Komut, along with more than 1,100 volunteers, including members from the APDA, JNC, RRU, APU, and the PMA, besides government officers and staffers, and members of NGOs like WASE, Mirmir Bulls, etc, participated in the drive.

Library movement’s lifetime patron passes away

ITANAGAR, May 27:

Retired captain KK Venkatraman, who was a lifetime patron of the Lohit Youth Library movement since its inception in 2007, passed away in Chennai on the morning of 27 May, the Lohit Youth Library Network (LYLN) informed in a release.

“He was 76, and was living a frugal but active life all alone. He was cremated this (Monday) evening with full military honours,” the release stated.

Venkatraman was a former secretary of the VKVs in Arunachal in the 1980s and the early 1990s, and was responsible for introducing military band training for both boys and girls in the VKVs.

“His completing the circumambulation of R Narmada in a record time of 131 days in 1987 led him to record his travelogue, Walking with the Immortals (2015) – a book which won him several admirers from all walks of life,” the release said.

“His life in Chennai since the 1990s became memorable as the local guardian of as many as 23 Arunachali girl students studying at the Kalakshetra Foundation

& the Sarada Vidyalaya, Chennai, winning respect from all parents,” it said.

“From the inception of the youth library movement in Arunachal, he was a strong patron and did everything possible for its advancement, including contributing all the sales proceeds of his book for youth library activities,” the release added.

“A man of meticulous habits and discipline, his untimely demise is a terrible loss for Arunachal and the youth library movement, and for all those who knew him,” LYLN coordinator S Mundayoor said.

Governor attends Sainik School Annual Day Function

ITANAGAR, May 29:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) participated in the annual day function of Sainik School, East Siang in its campus at Niglok, 41 km from Pasighat on May 29. The event, held at the school's premises, was marked by a series of impressive performances and activities that showcased the cadets' talents and the school's commitment to excellence in education and character-building.

In his address, the Governor said that Sainik Schools have long been synonymous with excellence, discipline, and patriotism. These schools are educational institutions which lay the foundational pillars where future leaders, warriors, and nation-builders are moulded. He said that for a ‘Viksit Bharat’, the Sainik Schools are grooming ‘educated, disciplined and motivated’ youth.

The Governor commended the Sainik School East Siang for the accomplishments in academics and co-curricular activities and extended his best wishes to the school fraternity in their future endeavours. He said that the cadets of the day are the potential future members of the Indian Armed Forces. By providing a strong foundation for them, we are building a strong line of defence for the Nation, he emphatically said.

The Governor, who is an alumnus of Sainik School Rewa, advised the students to be physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. He said that they will imbibe a spirit of camaraderie, a huge sense of self-confidence and Sainik school spirit for life.

The Governor also advised the teaching faculty to participate with the cadets in all activities. Develop a sense of oneness and strengthen the goodwill amongst the cadets, he emphasised.

The Governor complimented the parents and guardians, who came in large numbers for the annual function, for sending their wards to the Sainik School. He said that by admitting their children to Sainik School, they have done the best thing for them, as they will be the future leaders of the nation in various fields of excellence.

The Governor presented the awards to the winners of academic excellence to students of various classes and the best House trophy. He also released the annual school magazine of the School.

Earlier, the Governor visited an Art and Scientific models exhibition by the students and commended them for presentations. He also witnessed a Gymnastic Display by the cadets.

Principal, Sainik School, East Siang, Commander Praveen Kumar Pola, Indian Navy pre-

sented a brief report on the accomplishments and challenges of the school.

In the sideline of the annual function, the Governor interacted with the students, their parents and teaching staff of the school over a high tea. He exhorted them to contribute in maintaining the high standard of the Sainik Schools, while giving a patient hearing of the views of parents and school staff.

During his day-long maiden visit to the School, the Governor reviewed the infrastructural and other physical advancement of the School along with members of the Local Board of Administration (LBA) committee. He also examined other requirements of the School and Teaching Staff.

General Officer Commanding, 56 Infantry Division, Likabali, Major General Akaash Johar, Commissioner Education Amjad Tak, East Siang District Deputy Commissioner, Tayi Taggu, Chief Engineer (PWD), Central Zone-B, Pasighat, Er. Gobo Yirang, Deputy Director, School Education, East Siang District, Odhuk Tabing, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pasighat W. Kri and Parents' representative Associate Professor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh Dr. Marpe Sora were present in the meeting.

Self defence training programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao held

ITANAGAR, May 29:

A self defence training cum awareness programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was inaugurated on May 29 by the Deputy Commissioner Capital Itanagar Shweta Na-

garkoti Mehta in the presence of Guest of Honour GPC Chimpu Nabam Yajo, DD(ICDS) Jaya Taba and a host of officers and officials from the department of WCD, SHGS, AWWs, students and others.

Addressing the participating girl students, the DC advised them to attend the training sincerely and learn self-defence techniques to protect themselves from harm.

Informing the participants about the children helpline number 1098, the DC advised them to “create awareness about it among your friends, relatives and family members.”

The DC also highlighted the importance of the BBBP scheme. She informed that the scheme was first launched in 2015 in Haryana to address the issue of declining child sex ratio.

She also interacted with the students and emphasised on “developing a self-sufficient attitude and self-identity.”

Chimpu GPC Nabam Yajo and ICDS DD Jaya Taba highlighted the importance of learning self-defence techniques for self-protection.

International karatekas Rei Yadi (5th Dan Black Belt) and Bamang Yamu (2nd Dan Black Belt) will impart the training to 21 girl students.

The training is being organised by the women & child development department, in collaboration with the Papum Pare district administration. The objectives of the training are to ensure gender equality and women empowerment; ensure survival and protection of girl children; encourage education and participation of girl children; and prevent gender-biased sex selective elimination.

Later, the DC and the GPC distributed sanitary pads and comic books on the POCSO Act to the students.

CDPO Kago Asha Lod, members of SHGs, and anganwadi workers also attended the inaugural programme.

Governor interacts with troops at Military Station, Likabali

ITANAGAR, May 30:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) interacted with the troops of 56 Infantry Division at Military Station, Likabali on 30th May 2024.

The Governor said that the people of Arunachal Pradesh have huge regards and respect for the armed forces owing to the goodwill they have cultivated over the years amongst the local population. He advised them to uphold the spirit with proactive welfare measures and a positive mindset.

The Governor called upon the troops to help the local people through collaborative endeavours but at the same time instill responsibility amongst them for all Sadbhavana projects. He also suggested them to integrate the local civil population in the overall security of the border areas.

The Governor shared his views on management of the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh which is sensitive and tough to monitor. He advised the troops to remain physically fit, mentally alert and cautious about the hostile intentions across the border and ensure security and safety of the northern borders.

Major General Akaash Johar, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 56 Infantry Division, Likabali, and Deputy GOC Brigadier SD Upadhyay, VSM along with various unit Commanding Officers and troops participated in the Sainik Sammelan.

Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy Tournament begins at Daporijo

DAPORIJO, May 31:

Opening ceremonial of 7th Edition Hangpan Dada Memorial Trophy Tournament, Volley Ball & Football, both boys and girls under 16 age was kick up by DC Talo Potom and SP Thutan Jamba here at mini outdoor stadium Daporijo on May 31.

Declaring the tournament open, Potom encouraging the players to played good game to won the trophy and stressed them to keep up the spirit of sports.

Attending as Guest of honour Thuthan Jamba SP urged the players to engage themselves on sports activities so as to kept physical and mental fit as well as to expose their talent in state and national level.

Furthermore he stressed upon the youths to avail this great opportunity though this tournament. The basic objective of government is to facilitate the youths in sport field apart from curriculum activities, so as to felicitates the talented players to sportspersons in state and national levels .He urged the youth brigades to devoted their extra time in sport activities so that refrain from any drug menaces activities.

Jemar Jeram Dubi i/c DSO addressed briefly, said that his team will fairly select the genuine and talented players for the interest of district so that good game could be seen in State level he added.

Admits of rainy with moist the players were enthusiastic played the matches and numbers of team and players were registered during the opening ceremonial.

NEWS IN PICTURE



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) visiting Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Science (TRIHMS), Naharlagun on May 8' 2024.



Capital Deputy Commissioner Shweta Nagarkoti Mehta convening a meeting with all the stakeholders to check illegal mining activities and reduce risks in mining affected areas within Capital Itanagar at Itanagar on May 8'2024.



Gujarat Chief Secretary Raj Kumar visiting Malinithan temple in Lower Siang district on May 12' 2024.



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) gracing the concluding session of the Acharya Vishesh Prashikshan Shivir (Teachers' Orientation Camp) as Chief Guest at Vivekananda Kendra Vidhyalaya, Nirjuli on May 22' 2024.



Tirap Deputy Commissioner Ira Singhal, accompanied by IAS probationer Namneet Singh, Dadam CO Dr Metung Taku and DTO T Rigio, visiting Moktowa village in Dadam circle to assess its tourism potential on May 9' 2024.



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) interacting with the representatives of IRCSAPSB at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on May 3' 2024.