

## SLSA organizes sensitization on Registration of Marriages



**Geyzing, June 10:** A sensitization programme on Registration of Marriages for different religious communities in Sikkim was organized by Sikkim State Legal Services Authority in co-ordination with District Legal Services Authority, West Sikkim at Kyongsa Girl's Sr. School auditorium hall today.

The programme was chaired by Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan. Sr. Advocate N. Rai, the resource person of the programme, spoke elaborately on the Registration of Marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and other relevant legislations.

Panel Advocate, SLSA Umesh Ranpal highlighted the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 and Rules to provide for Registration and Solemnization of a Form of Marriage in Sikkim notified via Notification No. 1520/H dated 03.01.1963.

Panel Advocate, Sikkim SLSA R. Barfungpa gave a lecture on solemnization of all forms of marriages in Sikkim.

## SPC Youth Ministry organizes gospel musical night

**Rangpo, June 10:** The Chosen Generation Youth Ministry formed under Sikkim Pentecostal Church organized a gospel musical night at Rangpo.

The event was attended by area MLA cum Parliamentary Affairs Secretary Gopal Baraily as the Chief Guest in the company of Rangpo Nagar Panchayat President Maya Cinchury, Vice President Laal Kumar Rai, Councilor Savitri Pradhan, Pinku Prasad, HRDD Joint Director Subbaiya, Film Producer Kishore Dzungmali, Film Artist Sneha Rai and AE Power

Rajendra Gupta as special guests and members from Sikkim, Darjeeling and Mirik.

The programme commenced with a prayer by Pastor Jonah Ball, Rev C.K. Rai from New Harvest Church, Rev Pema Nuri Sherpa from EPCS and Pastor Taarzen Chhetri from Masiha Mandali.

Rev Pastor Bharat Rai mentioned the aims and objectives of the Ministry while Pastor Silvanus Tamang from Gangtok delivered the key note and appealed everyone to pray for a better tomorrow and serve the society.

## Bengal's tea industry unions on 2-day strike from Monday

**Kolkata, June 10:** The joint forum of trade unions of the tea industry in north Bengal on Saturday called for a two-day industrial strike from Monday (June 12), demanding implementation of minimum wage among other things.

The forum, comprising 24 trade unions, also called for a 12-hour general strike on June 13 in the tea garden-based areas of West Bengal like Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Islampur and Mekhliganj.

However, a trade union-backed by the ruling Trinamool Congress -- will be opposing the strike.

"After a failed tripartite

meeting held on June 9 between trade unions, tea garden owners, the State Labour Minister and Labour Commissioner, we have decided to go on strike," Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) state General Secretary Anandi Sahu told reporters here.

The trade unions have been demanding the implementation of minimum wage, reinforcement of entitlement for tea workers and distribution of land holding among tea workers for residential purpose, said Ramen Pandey, state president of Congress-backed Indian National Trade Union Congress

(INTUC).

According to the plantation act, tea labourers are entitled to subsidised rations along with cash wages, Sahu said. "Currently, they receive Rs 132.50 daily wage in cash while they are deprived of the subsidised rations," he alleged.

"We have demanded Rs 660 per worker per month as part of entitlements (ration)," Pandey said.



## Plantation, cleanliness drive by NSUO

**Gangtok, June 10:** Members of National Sikkimese United Organisation (NSUO) conducted a plantation drive at Palden Thondup Namgyal Memorial Park, Chorten Deorali in Gangtok today as a part of the month long "World Environment Day

2017" celebration, which is being observed with the theme "Connecting to People with Nature".

The members in the presence of Sikkim Prince Zigme Wangchuk Namgyal also cleaned the surroundings of the park.

NSUO Coordinator Tshering Wangdi Lepcha while speaking to media persons highlighted the need of proper maintenance of the park and urged the concerned department to undertake initiatives to further develop the park.

## TMC MLA seeks more time from CBI in Narada case

**Kolkata, June 10:** Trinamool Congress MLA Iqbal Ahmed, who was summoned by the CBI as part of the Narada sting video probe, on Saturday sought time citing ill health and the ongoing Ramadan fast.

Kolkata Deputy Mayor Ahmed had received a notice from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) asking him to appear at its office in South Kolkata's Nizam Palace on Saturday.

Ahmed instead sent a letter through his lawyer seeking "seven to ten days' time".

"I just came to give a representation that we want seven to ten days' time. He is indisposed and Ramadan is also on," said the lawyer.

"We have given a written submission. I am sure they will consider it," he said.

Ahmed was one of the Trinamool leaders purportedly seen receiving money in exchange of promise to dole out favours to a fictitious company in a video footage uploaded by the Narada News portal last year.

## 'India-Pakistani trade can flourish even without major bilateral breakthroughs'

**Kolkata, Jun 10:** Stating that Indian-Pakistani trade has thrived in spite of their "often-strenuous" bilateral ties, Pakistani political economist S. Akbar Zaidi on Friday said the two countries can improve their trading relationship without the Most Favored Nation (MFN) status or other major breakthroughs in mutual relationships.

"I think, India and Pakistan can do away with the Most Favoured Nation status nomenclature and still achieve trade prosperity with each other.

"We do not really need major breakthroughs in the bilateral relationships to improve the trade. Basic things like better infrastructure, better road facility, and better protocols from both countries like increasing the trade transportation time at the border etc can help the trade automatically flourish," he said.

The economist said it was a sign of hope for both nations that in spite of such hostility, lack of proper communication, tension at the borders and general misconceptions about each other, a substantial amount of trading has taken place between the two nations.

"The official trade between India and Pakistan is stuck at about \$2.2 billion now and it is very much in India's favour as India exports much more than it imports from Pakistan," Zaidi said.

"There is also a part of unofficial trade between the two countries that happens through places like Dubai and Singapore which is worth another two billion dollars," he noted, adding that the growth potential would be much more if the India-Pakistani relationship normalises.

"If the trade opens up between the two countries, the trading potential would be at least \$10-15 billion," he said at a seminar on "Trade and economic possibilities and constraints between India and Pakistan" here.

Termining the business relationship between the two nations as "one of the oddest in the whole world",

Zaidi said there should be better communication and real man to man connectivity in order to utilise the full trading potential.

"It's interesting that the India-Pakistan trade is on for nearly 70 years and it was only stopped for nine years from 1965-1974. However, there are still major issues with visas, telecommunication or frequent flights between the two nations.

"This has to change to utilise the full trading potential," he added at the programme organised by the Bengal Chamber and the Indian Institute of Management (Calcutta Alumni Association).

## Will improve Railways infrastructure: Prabhu

**Kolkata, Jun 10:** The government is focusing on improving the infrastructure of Indian Railways to make it more profitable, Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu said here on Saturday.

"Indian Railways was in a vicious circle. We want to change it. We have been focusing on bringing investments and improving the financial health of the Indian Railways with an efficient service provider," Prabhu said here, while dedicating a slew of projects.

He said the railways prepared an investment plan of more than Rs 8 lakh crore and it finalised Rs 3.75 lakh

crore of capital expenditure to ramp up the infrastructure.

"Around 16 per cent network (of railways) used to handle more than 60 per cent traffic while the rest of the network handles 40 per cent traffic. Capacity utilisation becomes 150-160 per cent. That is why we have decided to invest where it is required the most," he said, adding the work for doubling or tripling of railway lines of 16,500 km has been approved in the last three years.

The minister said 42 per cent of railway lines are electrified. "We have decided to double it in the

next five years."

He said the speed of implementation of projects has increased more than two times.

Emphasising on improving railway tracks and rolling stocks, Prabhu said Indian Railways will be retrofitting 40,000 coaches.

Under Eastern Railway, Prabhu on Saturday dedicated projects like double line between Beldanga and Cossimbazar in Sealdah division, third line between Gadadharpur and Tarapith Road Stations in Howrah division, foot over bridges, 2X50 KWp solar plant at Howrah area,

provision of LED lights at 175 stations and others.

Under South Eastern Railway, he has dedicated a number projects at Keshabpur-Mahishadal section and Santragachi-Amta suburban line.

Prabhu also inaugurated commencement of work for an underground station at Esplanade under Kolkata East-West Metro and new escalator at Rabindra Sarobar station under Kolkata Metro Railway.

He said budgetary allocation to West Bengal has been increased to Rs 6,336 crore in 2017-18 from Rs 1,604 crore in 2013-14.

## West Bengal government wants job-oriented courses in private colleges

**Kolkata, Jun 10:** Education minister Partha Chatterjee wants private professional colleges to include job-oriented and vocational training in their curriculum to help students in their careers. The minister hoped this will help

institutions retain students from other states like Bihar and Jharkhand.

"Colleges must provide quality education. It will help them compete at national and international levels. Colleges will also have to approach

companies and convince them of campus recruitment. They must also have proper infrastructure and all the necessary information about the faculty and management must be given to the government, in order to run in sync with us," said the minister.

The minister was speaking at the inauguration of a fourday pre-counselling event for e-admissions organized by the Association of Professional Academic Institutions, West Bengal (APAI, WB) at Netaji Indoor Stadium on Friday.

"Guardians should be able to interact with colleges directly. It will also keep them informed," said Arup Das, a guardian. According to Abhijeet Dey, assistant faculty member of pharmacology and toxicology: "While the response was good today, we expect a spike over the weekend."

BP Poddar Institute of Management and Technology professor Arijit Saha felt such interactions will help institutions get a better understanding of a guardian's requirement.

majority is Bengali visitors, he added.

Sources said Darjeeling had an occupancy rate of almost 100% this tourism season, touted by many as the best in several decades. Several film shootings were also taking place. According to Lama, at any given time, Darjeeling can accommodate around 8,000 tourists a day, but this year, the number had outscored by several thousands.

May is supposed to be the peak tourist season in the hills. This season usually

## From July 1, Aadhaar...

given to those who do not have Aadhaar and who do not wish to obtain Aadhaar for the time being, that their PAN will not be cancelled so that other consequences under the Income Tax Act for failing to quote PAN may not arise," the CBDT said.

If the PAN is cancelled, then a person cannot do his normal banking and financial operations and hence this relief is given. But, it has been made clear that for filing of ITR or to obtain a new PAN, Aadhaar will be mandatory from July 1, a senior I-T official explained.

Senior officials said the apex court's order issued on Friday was "studied" by a high-level team of authorities from the Law Ministry, Finance Ministry, CBDT and

the Income Tax Department after which this clarification has been issued.

Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act provides for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar or enrollment ID of Aadhaar application form for filing of income tax returns and making application for allotment of PAN with effect from July 1 this year.

While announcing Friday's judgement, the Supreme Court bench had noted that the purpose behind enacting section 139AA of the Income Tax Act is to check the menace of black money as well as money laundering and also to widen the income tax net so as to cover those persons who are evading tax payment.

## Kolkata Police arrests another fake doctor



**Kolkata, Jun 10:** The Kolkata Police has arrested a fake doctor from the city's Panchasayar area, a senior officer said.

The sleuths arrested Mohammed Akbar Ali from Sahid Smriti Colony yesterday after the Panchasayar police station lodged a suo motu complaint against Ali, he said. "Mohammed Akbar Ali was arrested from his chamber in Sahid Smriti Colony under the jurisdiction of Panchasayar police station," a senior officer of Kolkata Police said.

"He had been practising as MBBS doctor there without having a valid registration from the West Bengal Medical Council. We are looking into the matter and an investigation is on," he said.

Ali was booked under several sections such as punishment of criminal conspiracy, cheating by personation and forgery of

fake doctors. They were attached to different state-run and well-known private hospitals in the state.

The state Medical Council had lodged complaints with the police, on the basis of which the arrests were made.

The Council had also appealed to people to inform it if they suspected anybody to be a fake doctor. The Council had issued a directive to doctors to register themselves afresh, renew and update their credentials with them after the CID insisted.

The medical council had directed hospitals to provide it with names of registered doctors since that would help the council screen the list of doctors practising in the state.

Tapash Roy, CMOH,

## Over 115 people suffer food poisoning in West Bengal's Nadia, after eating contaminated 'prasad'

**Kolkata, Jun 10:** Altogether 115 people were taken ill after eating prasad of a puja at a house in Nakashipara block in Nadia district of West Bengal, officials said on Saturday.

The puja was organised at the house of one Sailendra Singh Roy at Dogachhi-Tegharia and local villagers were invited on Friday.

After taking the prasad, they fell ill within hours, Nakashipara BDO Samar Dutta said.

About 50 people, including children and women, were hospitalised on Saturday, he said adding that family members of the host too were admitted to hospital.

Nadia said, "Our health team rushed to the spot on Saturday morning and set up a camp at the area to treat the patients."

The symptoms of the patients were loose motion, nausea, head ache, stomach pain and fever, villagers said.

**Sikkim unaffected while...**

begins from mid-March and stretches till the first week of June. The next season starts from around Durga Puja and goes on till December. The hills usually receive around 4 lakh visitors a year.

"There have been over 70% cancellations since Thursday night. All my rooms were booked till June 30. I tried to give them assurance that things would get better in a couple of days, but none was willing to hear," said a senior official of Hotel Himalayan Brook.

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