

RPL Certificate Distribution Ceremony under PMKVY in Upper Gom, South Sikkim District, Sikkim regarding.

IT News
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Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), special focus is given to RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) by recognizing prior competencies of the assessed candidates and provides a certificate and monetary reward on successful completion of assessments. RPL is an important step towards getting formal acceptance and respect for informally acquired knowledge and skills. Recognition brings respect, increases productivity, creates options for growth through RPL. It is a platform to provide recognition to the informal learning or learning through work to get equal acceptance as the formal levels of education. Chanu Creations, Thangmeiband, Imphal trained RPL-PMKVY skill training to 191 weavers in



South Sikkim District on the job role "Two Shaft Handloom Weaver" as Project Implementing Agency (PIA) under National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Today the 18th December 2018, the certificate distribution ceremony for the certified RPL trainees of South Sikkim District was held in Upper Gom, South Sikkim.

The event was attended by Smt. Devika Rai, President, Sorok Shyampani Gram Panchayat (Upper Gom), Smt. Chirom Indira Proprietor/CEO Chanu Creations, Mr. Jigme Pinto Bhutia, Asst. Director (Production), Directorate of Handicrafts & Handlooms (DHH) Govt. of Sikkim, Mr. W.

Joyshankar Luwang Project Manager Chanu Creations, Smt. Sarita Chettri, Member Sorok Shyampani Gram Panchayat (Upper Gom) and Smt. Pam Maya Tamang, Member Sorok Shyampani Gram Panchayat (Upper Gom) were grace the function as Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honours respectively. The

objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youths to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. RPL also shows them a path to bridge their current knowledge and skill levels to reach a competency level or go for higher skills for professional growth. The small loom industry has been making all possible efforts to not only provide livelihood but also promote the traditional products. By giving women skills and new opportunities, we can unlock their full potential and enable every woman to find a new meaningful place in society. It is truly gratifying that the efforts of Chanu Creations bring smiles to thousands of women weavers in the region and moving towards the fruitfulness tomorrow's generation with a new identity.

Services men win nine gold medals as Haryana women account for five to claim team titles

Sumit and Saroj declared best boxers, Anuj promising pugilist

Our Correspondent
Chandigarh, Dec 18

Services emerged the top team as their men bagged nine gold medals on the concluding day, while Haryana's women topped the chart with five gold medals at the BFI's second Junior National Boxing Championships at the University Hall here today. Twelve of the Services boxers had reached the final and all but three had to settle for the silver medal. In contrast, Haryana who bagged nine medals in all failed to win any silver though they added four bronze medals to boost their overall tally. Manipur and Punjab women had finished behind Haryana. Among the men boxers, two gold medals went the way of

Haryana—Sumit (70kg) and Vinit (75) while one each was won by Uttar Pradesh's Manish Rathore (48) and Chandigarh's Younam Kamboj (80). In the bargain, Haryana's Sumit was adjudged the best boxer of the tournament. For Services, the winners were Biswamitra (48kg), S. Victor Singh (50), A. Naoba Singh (52), Yaithaba (54), TH Lakhamani (57), L. Bilotson Singh (60), Ajay Kumar (63), Aakash Sai (+80). In women section, there were some topsy-turvy results as Lipakshi of Rajasthan emerged a surprise winner to claim the gold against Alifa Pathan of Maharashtra in super heavyweight (+80) category. The two international medal winners fought as fiercely as they could but the Maharashtra pugilist lacked sting in her attack while Lipakshi, who won a silver medal in Poland early this year, made most of the occasion to win the final on points (5:0). In middleweight class, Manipur's Sanamacha Chanu was a clean winner as he defeated Punjab's Kushi 5:0. Both international medalists started their final on a slow note only to raise the tempo towards the second round to preserve stamina. It was a good ploy to adopt but what went in favour of the Manipuri was her quick feet movement and landing punches on target areas of her opponent. The Punjab girl, on the other hand, was lacking in attack as she mostly backtracked throughout the final and it marred her chances.

Another Manipur girl, N. Babyroji Sana got lucky when she won her

52 kg final against Punjab's Sandeep Kaur in a split decision. The bout raised a feverish pitch with both international gold medal-winning boxers trading blows to the target areas, the Manipuri in particular using her lefts to open up the avenues. Sandeep Kaur, who won gold in Poland, did exceedingly well to come into her own from the second round when she began with a couple of straight and a flurry of punches to the right of her Manipuri rival. The third round saw both boxers slowing down but there was no dearth of exchange of punches. Yet, the Punjab girl ended up on the losing side, having to satisfy herself with the silver medal. But it was Anuj Devi of Karnataka who sent Komal of Punjab packing in a final in 50 kg to win the gold. It was a revelation that the technically correct Karnataka lass had the measure of the Punjab pugilist right from the bell and found an early opening to make inroads. With a low guard, Anuj was good at attack and defence which endeared her to all the spectators. In the end what mattered was the 5:0 win to find of the championships. Understandably, the Karnataka girl was adjudged the most promising boxer of the championships, while Ekta Saroj of Punjab, who won her 48 kg bout against Aayusi Awasti, was declared the best boxer of the event. Earlier, gold medal winner from Poland, Arshi Khanam lost her 57kg final to Ambesori of Manipur 5:0. Other gold winners included Rajni (46 kg), Poonam (54), Yashi Sharma (60), Vinka (63), Mitka Gunele and Raj Shiba (70).

Indian drug regulator to seize samples of Johnson's baby powder to test for asbestos

Agency
New Delhi Dec 19,

India's federal drug regulator will on Wednesday seize samples of Johnson & Johnson's baby powder for testing, local media said, following a Reuters report that the company knew for decades that cancer-causing asbestos lurked in the product. Advertising The Times of India quoted an official source as saying that a team of 100 drug inspectors had been assigned to examine different manufacturing facilities, wholesalers and distributors, starting early Wednesday. "Samples of all brands of the powder will be collected and sent for testing," the unnamed official told the paper. The Mint business daily

also quoted an unnamed official as saying that the drug inspectors would visit J&J's manufacturing operations and draw samples for further investigation. On Tuesday, a spokeswoman for the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) said the Reuters report was "under consideration" but that it was too early to say if a formal investigation would be launched into the baby powder that is ubiquitous in many Indian homes, a potential market of 1.3 billion people. The CDSCO spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday. An Indian health ministry spokeswoman declined to comment.

J&J in India did not have any immediate comment on the reports of sample seizures by Indian authorities. On Tuesday the company said in a statement that the Reuters article, which was published on Friday, "is one-sided, false and inflammatory." "Johnson & Johnson's baby powder is safe and asbestos free," it added. "Studies of more than 100,000 men and women show that talc does not cause cancer or asbestos-related disease. Thousands of independent tests by regulators and the world's leading labs prove our baby powder has never contained asbestos," the company said. A Reuters examination of many company memos, internal reports and other confidential documents,

as well as deposition and trial testimony, showed that from at least 1971 to the early 2000s, the company's raw talc and finished powders sometimes tested positive for small amounts of asbestos, and that company executives, mine managers, scientists, doctors and lawyers fretted over the problem and how to address it while failing to disclose it to regulators or the public. The documents also depicted successful efforts to influence U.S. regulators' plans to limit asbestos in cosmetic talc products and scientific research on the health effects of talc. J&J said on Monday it planned to buy back up to \$5 billion of its stock, after the Reuters report wiped about \$40 billion from its market value.

Haryana Municipal Election Results 2018 LIVE Updates: BJP leads in all five districts

Agency
New Delhi Dec 19,

Haryana Municipal Corporation MC Election Results 2018: The Bharatiya Janata Party is currently leading in the five municipal corporations and two municipal committees in Haryana. The elections, which were held on Sunday, saw a voter turnout of over 69 per cent. The counting of votes began this morning. The polls for Mayor and ward councillors took place in five towns — Rohtak, Karnal, Hisar, Panipat and Yamunanagar apart from ward councillor polls for two municipal committees — Jakhal Mandi in Fatehabad and Pundri in Kaithal district.

Jakhal Mandi recorded 89.5 per cent, while it was 82.1 per cent in Pundri town. In a first for the state, the mayors of the five municipal corporations will be elected directly. Earlier, the councillors used to elect the mayor. In another significant move, the Haryana Election Commission had decided to treat 'none of the above' or NOTA option as a 'fictional candidate' in the municipal polls, making it a must for winning candidates to secure more votes than those cast for NOTA. While the Congress has extended its support to the Independent candidates, the BJP is fighting the election on its party symbol.

Parliament LIVE Updates: Rajya Sabha adjourned for day over Rafale row; Lok Sabha to resume at 12 pm

Agency
New Delhi Dec 19,

The Parliament opened on a shaky note Wednesday as the Opposition's protests adjourned the proceedings of both the houses. While the Lok Sabha has been adjourned till 12 pm, Rajya Sabha had to be adjourned till 11 am tomorrow. MP's from the Congress and AIADMK shouted slogans and held up placards to register protest over Rafale and Cauvery river dam issue respectively. The Congress has been demanding a privilege motion against the Centre for allegedly misleading the Parliament and Supreme Court on the Rafale arms deal and has asked for the constitution of a Joint



Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the alleged irregularities in the said deal. AIADMK and DMK have been protesting over the construction of a dam on Cauvery river. TDP has been demanding special status for Andhra Pradesh. Extended holiday for Christmas in

Parliament Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu Wednesday announced that December 24 and 26 will be a holiday for the House to give an extended weekend break for Christmas celebrations. Previously only December 25 was declared as a holiday

for Christmas. But now even Monday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 26 have been declared as holidays, giving members a five-day break beginning Saturday, December 22. Lok Sabha: Congress demands for JPC on Rafale, government denies Congress leader

Mallikarjun Kharge demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the Rafale deal and asked the government to discuss the matter. He also accused the government to misguide the Supreme Court by giving false information. In reply, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Narendra Tomar said that there is no need for a JPC as the Supreme Court has already given a clean chit to the Rafale deal. However, the government is ready to discuss the matter, he said. Home Minister Rajnath Singh also backed his statement and said the government is ready for discussion over Rafale.

Madras HC quashes criminal defamation proceedings against Rajinikanth

Agency
Chennai Dec 19,

The Madras High Court Tuesday quashed criminal defamation proceedings initiated against actor Rajinikanth by a film financier in a lower court. The court earlier dismissed a civil suit filed by the financier against Rajinikanth with a cost of Rs 25,000, saying it was nothing but an abuse of the process of law to gain cheap publicity and keep a famous person on tenterhooks. Advertising Financier Mukuchand Bothra had alleged that Kasturi Raja, the father-in-law of

Rajinikanth's daughter, had borrowed Rs 65 lakh from him with an assurance that if the money was not repaid by him, the actor would repay it. Bothra had filed the criminal defamation complaint in a magistrate court, saying the words used by Rajinikanth that the civil suit was only to extort money and malign his name was per se defamatory. The actor sought quashing of the criminal defamation proceedings. When the plea came up, Justice Anand Venkatesh said a reading of the entire affidavit filed in application for

rejection of the civil suit would show that the petitioner wanted to establish the fact that the entire suit was intended to malign and defame him who had no dealings whatsoever with the financier at any time. "This court is of the considered view that the averment made in the affidavit by the petitioner is not per se defamatory, and the same was made as a necessary averment in order to project the conduct and character of the respondent," the judge said. The court quashed the proceedings on the file of the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, George Town here.