

NOTES

Meghalaya disabled people

SHILLONG, AUG 30 /- Meghalaya Social Welfare Minister Kyrmen Shylla today said over 80 per cent of 44,317 disabled people were living in rural areas in the state and there was a need to rehabilitate and empower them. Inaugrating a two-day national seminar on Strategic Plan for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities here, he said that a strategy would help mobilise support for disabled people in the north eastern region and thereby creating an inclusive society. Additional Chief Secretary, Hector Marwein said that the Unique Disability Identity Card (UID) was yet to be issued to disabled persons in the state and requested the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to expedite the process so that the beneficiaries could get several benefits. The joint secretary of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dolly Chakraborty quoting Census 2011 said there were 2.68 crore people with disabilities in the country, of which 7.33 lakh were in the North-East. (PTI)

Arunachal seeks Landing System for Pasighat ALG

ITANAGAR, AUG 30 /- Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig (Retd) Dr B D Mishra today requested Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu for installing Landing System, which will round-the-year operation of commercial flights at Advance Landing Ground (ALG) at Pasighat in East Siang district. In a letter to the minister today, the governor said that ALG Pasighat is the only operational airport for fixed winged aircraft passenger service in the state. He told the minister that at present, Alliance Airt ATR-42 aircraft were operating from Guwahati thrice a week on alternate days. Referring to recent media reports, Mishra said that the only fixed winged air service, which is in operation in May this year, is undergoing frequent cancellations. "In the interest of our national defence also as the one of public interest like medical emergencies, suitable landing system at the Pasighat ALG is an inescapable requirement," the Governor pointed out. (PTI)

Marriage certificate mandatory in Meghalaya

SHILLONG, AUG 30 /- The Meghalaya government has made it mandatory to furnish marriage certificates by married couples for all official purposes, an official said today. The government has issued instructions to all government departments to ensure that individuals submit the certificates for all official purposes, registration department under secretary Syiemlieh said in a letter to social activist Michael N Syiem. "The government has made it mandatory for married men and women to furnish marriage certificates for all official purposes as notified under the Meghalaya Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act, 2012," the official said. The social activist, who spearheaded a movement for compulsory registration of marriages in the state, had written to the chief minister earlier this year seeking immediate implementation of the said Act in view of the fact that cabinet approval of the rules had been accorded in 2015. He argued that compulsory registration of marriages would solve the issues of increasing number of broken families and various other social problems. (PTI)

Odisha flood: Govt monitoring situation in Mahanadi river basin

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 30 /- With the water level in Mahanadi river rising after release of flood water from Hirakud Dam, Odisha government today geared up and closely monitored the situation to deal with any possible flood in 11 districts of the river basin, officials said. The present level in Hirakud dam is 622.71 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet. While the flow of water into the reservoir is 4.21,431 cusec, the outflow is 4.10,388 cusec, a dam official said. Around 6.5 lakh cusec of water is now

flowing through Mundali gauge station in Mahanadi near Cuttack after release of flood waters through 25 gates of Hirakud dam. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi said. This has led to steady rise in the water level of Mahanadi as well as its tributaries in several areas, he said. The dam authorities had on Tuesday opened 25 sluice gates following release of huge volumes of water in the river from the e i g h b o u r i n g Chhattishgarh. There is, however, no threat of any major flood despite

the release of water from Hirakud and the situation is being monitored constantly, Sethi said. We are maintaining a close watch on the situation. It is being monitored round-the-clock," he said adding that the collectors of the 11 districts located in the Mahanadi river basin and other officials are keeping watch. All preparations have been made. The state government has deployed rescue teams in the vulnerable areas and has already deployed the ODRAF, NDRF and fire service personnel for immediate rescue operation in Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack and Bhadrak districts, Sethi said. Meanwhile, the flood water of Mahanadi and Tel rivers have inundated several areas in Boudh district where a number of villages in Harabhanga block have been marooned and vast agricultural lands submerged, said an official. The water level in Mahanadi River at Naraj near Cuttack has risen to 25.87 metre but it is much below the danger level of 26.41 metre, he said. With the flood waters submerging

several areas, road connectivity is affected in some places like Birmaharajpur in Sonapur and Purunamantri under Athamalkote tehsil, officials said. Several villages in Athagarh and Banki areas of Cuttack district have also been inundated after flood water of Mahanadi gushed into low-lying areas, they said. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who took stock of the situation yesterday, has asked the administration to remain alert to deal with the situation. The district collectors have been asked to ensure that there is enough stock of food materials, besides water, medicines and other essential items. Instruction was also issued to evacuate people from the low-lying areas as flood water could enter into villages tonight or tomorrow morning, an official said. The average rainfall in the state recorded during the past 24 hours was 2.7 mm. 28 districts have received sporadic rainfall, the highest being 18.8 mm in Kalahandi district. There was no rainfall during the past 24 hours

in the Bhadrak and Deogarh districts, the officials said. There is enough rain in Kalahandi district have recorded rainfall of more than 50 mm. The highest rainfall of 59.4 mm has been received in Kalampur block and 55.0 mm in Dharmagarh block. The Met centre here said rain and thundershower is likely to occur at many places over the state till tomorrow, while heavy rainfall may lash one or two places in Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts. (PTI)



V.P. Pathak, director general (railway stores), Railway Board in a meeting with principal chief materials managers of Eastern Railway, S.E. Railway, East Coast Railway, East Central Railway, NE Railway and South East Central Railway and other principal officers at Eastern headquarters, Fairlie Place on Thursday afternoon. Harindra Rao, general manager and S.K. Das, additional general manager, Eastern Railway were also present on the occasion. Pathak, DG (RS) discussed about the disposal and sale of scraps in the most efficient manner —EOI Photo

METRO RPF recovers an unclaimed bag and returns to its owner

KOLKATA, AUG 30 /- An on-duty RPF Constable of Kalighat Metro Station recently recovered one in the interest of our national defence also as the one of public interest like medical emergencies, suitable landing system at the Pasighat ALG is an inescapable requirement," the Governor pointed out. (PTI)

Child trafficking: Jharkhand Police arrest man from Ludhiana

LUDHIANA, AUG 30 /- Jharkhand police said today that they have arrested a man, who ran a shelter home for children in Punjab's Ludhiana district, in connection with a case of illegal trafficking and conversion. Satyendra Prakash Musa, 58, ran the shelter home on Pakhowal road. He was arrested on Wednesday. The police team rescued four children from another shelter home in Doraha area of Ludhiana district, where they were shifted after a raid on the shelter home on Pakhowal road on August 20, police said. Another four rescued children are from Bihar. Ludhiana commissioner of police Sukhchain Singh Gill said the local police have not registered any case against Musa, Jatinder Pal Singh, who heads the district child welfare committee, said preliminary investigation has revealed that the shelter home run by the Musas Packiam Mercy Cross Trust was running illegally for more than 10 years. Moreover, the building housing 38 inmates was unsafe, he said. In July, the shelter home was sent notice by the committee for registration, he added. He said Deputy Commissioner Pradeep Aggarwal has ordered a detailed inquiry in the matter. In reply to a question, Singh said it is difficult to say whether religious conversion was taking place there until the inquiry is completed. He, however, said Musa collected money in the name of the children, but used it to meet his family expenses. (PTI)

Patna HC asks Bihar exam board to revise girl's result, slaps Rs 5 lakh cost on it

PATNA, AUG 29 /- The Patna High Court today ordered the Bihar School Examination Board to give "one mark" for an unchecked answer in Hindi paper of a girl, who had secured the second rank in the state in matriculation examination last year. A bench of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh also slapped a cost of Rs five lakh on the board, "which, instead of fairly accepting the claim of petitioner had chosen to invite a verdict from the court". The bench passed the order on the plea of Bhavya Kumari, a resident of Begusarai district and alumni of a girls' residential school at Simultala in Jamui. She had secured 460 marks out of 500 in the examination, the results of which had been declared in June 2017. The girl had moved the court after perusing her answer scripts secured through a transparency plea under the Right to Information Act. The girl had claimed under-evaluation of her Hindi, Sanskrit and Social Sciences papers, seeking a direction to the Board for their re-evaluation, but the court made it clear that it would not interfere with the correctness of the experts' decision in evaluating the paper. The court, however, took exception to the fact that the Board, despite conceding that one of the questions worth one mark in her Hindi paper had not been evaluated, it "put the blame on the child for not applying for scrutiny of her answer sheets." "The Board... as a statutory body has acted in most irresponsible manner while contesting the case of the petitioner," said the bench, while allowing the girl's plea and imposing the "exemplary cost" on the Board. The court ordered the payment of Rs 5 lakh to the principal of the girl's alma mater "within three months", stipulating its use for purchasing books and computers for improvement of the school library. As a parting note, the court also ordered the BSEB for placing on its website "the answer-sheets of all the top ten scorers in the Board examinations for classes 10 and 12 in future" to minimize the scope for recurrence of such controversies". (PTI)

ER introduces MEMU rake between Asansol, Bardhaman



DRM/Asansol inspecting the interior of modernized MEMU rake at Asansol on Wednesday —EOI Photo

KOLKATA, AUGUST 30 /- Eastern Railway introduces an upgraded MEMU rake between Asansol and Bardhaman for more comfort to the passengers. This rake is provided with aesthetic interior and better passenger friendly amenities. The complete interior and exterior paintings has been done for better look. LED based destination board provided at both ends of the rake displaying train number, number of coaches, name of the destination etc. Toilets have been provided with modern fittings, wash basins, mirror, rubber mat and vinyl sticker pasted on the interior walls. Cushion type passenger seat provided in the ladies coach, walls of ladies coach also provided with natural & historical sceneries. Mobile charging facility provided in the train coaches. LED luminaries are fitted in the train compartments for better visibility and saving in energy consumption. This modernized rake has started running between Asansol and Bardhaman and gradually all other MEMU rakes will be upgraded for providing better service to the passengers.

Lalu surrenders before CBI courts after expiry of provisional bail, taken to jail

RANCHI, AUG 30 /- RJD president and fodder scam convict Lalu Prasad surrendered today before two special CBI courts here on expiry of his provisional bail for treatment of various ailments, after which he was taken to the Birsu Munda Jail and then to a hospital for checkup. Prasad, who reached here from Patna on Wednesday, had been directed by Jharkhand High Court to surrender before the CBI courts by today. After his surrender before Judge S S Prasad in connection with fraudulent withdrawals from Chaibasa Treasury, Prasad's advocate Prabhat Kumar said his client had been suffering from various ailments. The judge directed doctors of the Birsu Munda Jail, where he had been lodged following his conviction in December last year, to consult doctors who were treating Prasad. The judge said Prasad can also be treated by Dr Umesh Prasad at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) here. As the provisional bail was applied for three fodder scam cases Prasad also surrendered before the court of M P Mishra in connection with the Deoghar and Dumka treasury cases. Prasad has been convicted in four fodder scam cases, the first being on September 30, 2013. After his surrender before S S Prasad's court, the former Bihar chief minister was taken to Birsu Munda Jail as per the procedure and then taken to RIMS here for a check-up after being referred to it. The Jharkhand High Court had on August 24 refused to extend the provisional bail after Prasad's counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi prayed for an extension for three months for treatment and medical care for anal abscess, kidney stone and enlarged prostate glands. Prasad's provisional bail had objected to the extension of provisional bail, saying he had already availed about 12 weeks for his treatment and required medical care was available at the RIMS as well. After being sent to jail in December last year following his conviction in fodder scam cases, Prasad had spent a considerable time at RIMS Hospital here and at the AIIMS in New Delhi for treatment of his various ailments. He was also treated at the Mumbai hospital for three weeks and was discharged on August 25. He had been released on six months' provisional bail on May 11 by Jharkhand High Court for medical treatment, but was restrained from taking part in any public function, political activity or issuing statements to the media during the period. (PTI)

Odisha home department issues guidelines to prevent honour killings

BHUBANESWAR, AUG 30 /- Adhering to a Supreme Court order on honour killing, issued earlier this year, the Odisha home department today laid down guidelines for combating the menace and asked top officers to take serious action against the offence of the crime. The Supreme Court, in a judgment in March this year, put in place a slew of preventive, remedial and punitive guidelines against khap panchayats and communal assemblies that target inter-caste and inter-religious marriages. It also directed to honour killing will invite serious consequence under the law, additional chief secretary of the home department, Asit Tripathy, said. "The guidelines or the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), laid down for the district collectors and Superintendents of police (SPs), proposes preventive and remedial measures to stop the menace," he said. The Apex Court, in its order, also asked the states to take steps to identify districts, sub-divisions and villages, where such crimes and khap panchayat meetings have been reported in the past. The home department directed the SPs to ensure that the officers-in-charge of all police stations exercise caution while dealing with cases of inter-caste and inter-faith marriages. "Any information about a proposed gathering of khap panchayats received by any police officer should be immediately shared with superior officers and district superintendents of police, who can then take steps to prevent such gatherings or meetings by talking to the individuals concerned," one of the guidelines state. The SOP also said that such meetings, if video-recorded, could be used as evidence, if need be. "The inspector-in-charge of police station shall forthwith lodge an FIR and take prompt action under appropriate provisions of law under strict supervision and personal supervision of a top officer, who is leading the investigation," the home department said in its guidelines. Despite disavowal, if a khap meeting takes place, a senior police officer will have to be present at the spot to see that no such decision was taken which may cause any harm to a couple or members of their family, it maintained. The trial in honour killing cases should be undertaken by designated court on a day-to-day basis and preferably concluded within six months from the date of taking cognizance of the offence, the home department order stated. The SOP also warned of action against district and police officers, who fail to take timely measures. "Departmental action shall be taken against officers for deliberate negligence, misconduct or failure to observe the aforesaid directions as per service rules," it added. (PTI)