

NOTES

1 dead, 100 ill

RANCHI, AUG 31/--One student died and around hundred students fell ill after consuming mid-day meal at a school in Koderma district of Jharkhand, a police officer said today. Koderma Deputy Commissioner Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh has ordered an inquiry into the incident. "All the hundred students have recovered and are back to school," Koderma Superintendent of Police M Tamilvanan told PTI. The students of Upgraded Middle School were admitted to the local Sadar Hospital after they complained of stomach ache and vomiting on Wednesday, the SP said. They were taken to hospital taking their meal of rice, paneer and potato curry, the SP said. (PTI)

Post-docu theft, Bru body for fresh revision of electoral rolls

AIZAWL, AUG 31/--The newly-formed Mizoram Bru Displaced Persons' Coordination Committee (MBDPCC) has appealed to the Election Commission and the Mizoram government to conduct revision of electoral rolls in the six relief camps in Tripura again. The request followed a burglary at the election office of Mizoram's Mamit district following which enlistment forms duly filled in by the displaced Bru people in the relief camps in the neighbouring Tripura have gone missing. The August 23 burglary took place two days before the final phase of registration of Bru families from Tripura to Mizoram started on August 25. In a statement issued yesterday evening, MBDPCC president Laldingliana asked the poll panel and the Mizoram government officials to conduct revision of voters list expeditiously and hand over the electoral photo identity cards to the voters personally. Mizoram, the last remaining congress based in the northeast, is due for polls this December. The MNDPCC president condemned the theft of filled in election forms and praised the EC and the Mizoram government for conducting revision of voters lists in the relief camps earlier. The Mizoram election department has conducted revision of voters lists of Bru refugees in their Tripura camps before the registration, despite opposition from the civil societies. Mizoram police arrested five persons, including two women, in connection with the burglary. All of them work in the district election office. Thousands of Bru refugees from Mizoram to Tripura after ethnic clashes of 1997. The clashes broke out after a forest official was killed by Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF) militants. Over 32,000 Bru people have been living in six temporary camps in North Tripura district since then. (PTI)

Arms smuggler arrested in Manipur: Police

IMPHAL, AUG 31/--An alleged arms smuggler was arrested by security forces at a check post near Lilong bridge in Thoubal district of Manipur, the police said. The 26-year-old Md Amjad Khan was caught during an operation by a team of state police commandos and Assam Rifles jawans under the supervision of Thoubal SP S Gautam Singh on Wednesday. Acting on a tip off, the security forces launched the operation at the vehicular check point and nabbed the man. One 9mm pistol with magazine and a car were seized from the possession of Khan, they said. (PTI)

Union ministers criticise Naveen Patnaik for staying away from function



BHUBANESWAR, AUG 31/--Union ministers Jugal Kishore Singh and Dharmendra Pradhan criticised today Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and two other state ministers for staying away from a event marking the inauguration of National SC-ST Hub State Conclave here. They also accused the Odisha government of not supporting Centre's programmes and schemes in the state. National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) sources said the Union MSME Minister had invited Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha's MSME Minister Prafulla Samal and Odisha's ST & SC Development Minister Ramesh Chandra Majhi to the function. "It is unfortunate that none of the Odisha ministers turned up at the MSME event here even

though they were invited with due respect," Oram said, adding that Odisha government's additional chief secretary, MSME, L N Gupta, however, attended the event. "Recently someone remarked that leaders from the Centre and state came together to pay homage to Atalji, but when will they join hands for development of the state. It seems like a distant dream," Oram added. Expressing his displeasure towards the Odisha government, Oram said though his ministry had proposed the state government to spend Rs 50 crore for procurement of minor forest produces, it has not been taken up.

As a result, the tribals are deprived of getting minimum support price on minor forest produces, he claimed. "I sent two secretaries to discuss the matter with the state government, but they (state government) did not respond to the Centre's offer," he said. Oram also said that his proposal to revive Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (TDCC) has not been taken seriously. "Though I have sanctioned some funds for OMPED, a major portion of it has been misappropriated and inquiry is going on," Oram said. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Though the people are getting skill training in Odisha, they are not getting employment in the state. The people

are migrating to other places in search of jobs as they state government failed to create facilities."

Pradhan said the people have now realised that they can not get jobs through the state government's slogans and advertisements being published every day. While highlighting the NDA government's efforts to raise status of SC and ST population in the state, Pradhan pointed out while only 66 people belonging to Dalit and tribal people were given LPG distributorship, 85 people from the communities have been given LPG distribution in last four years. Pradhan said both the state and Centre should join hands when it is the case of development. Union MSME minister Giriraj Singh alleged that the Odisha government is not doing anything nor it is allowing the Centre to do developmental works. Pointing out that the state has a coastline of 480 km, Singh said "Odisha has not been able to properly utilise the state's natural resources." "We had proposed the state government to produce biogas from cow dung and to start a project of cultivating Kewda in the coastal districts. The state government in its reply said that they will be doing it on their own. But, nothing has been done." A CMO official said that since chief minister had prior engagements he could not attend the function. (PTI)



Sudden rains lashed the city today—Arijit Ganguly

Rlys to set up short stay homes for children

KOLKATA, AUG 31/--Indian Railways, the first time will go for setting up short stay homes at stations for children found on Railway's premises for immediate care and protection. Railway Board's decision comes days after Railways issued Standard Operating Procedure in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Right for its Staff on Child Protection. Indian Railways, the National Transporter has been holding workshops across various

Zonal Railways to deal with vulnerable Children. The major Railway Stations will be taken up to build short shelter homes for Children. The Railway-owned infrastructure consisting of 1000 sq ft dormitory, a 75 sq ft sick room, a 125 sq ft store room, 2 toilets along with 2 bath rooms will be constructed. The shelter home spread across an area of 2000 sq ft having a care taker who will be responsible for taking care of the 25 children lodged in each Shelter. Station Masters of Stations have been inpressed for providing food and meals

for the Children. The Photographs of all Children lodged at Short Stay Homes at Stations would be taken with the assistance of RPF Personnel to be pasted in the register with their names so that parents are able to locate their children without any difficulty. Medical facility will be rendered to the children homed at Short Shelter at Stations. Railway Women's Welfare Organisation will be in charge of projects and will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with child-centric NGO's to be nominated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Community Child Welfare Centre inaugurated

KOLKATA, AUG 31/--International Justice Mission (IJM) and Asian Sahyogi Sanstha India (ASSI) inaugurated a Community Child Welfare Centre (CCWC) in Harichand Palli, Dum Dum. The aim of the centre will be to educate and empower the local community to protect children by rooting out crimes in the neighbourhood. CCWC is an initiative of the local community to create a safe space for children in their community. This centre will consist of community members who will raise awareness on trafficking, violence and exploitation of children. This centre will further aim to be a bridge between the local community and law enforcement agencies. "Community members will be equipped to raise their voice against grave crimes like trafficking.



Sampa Chakraborty, Councilor, Ward 17; Ananya Chakraborty, Chairperson, West Bengal State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights during the inauguration—SBI Photo

We hope that this justice aspiring model can be replicated across India," said Pradip Mondal, Area Director, ASSI. The centre will focus on supporting local Anti-Human Trafficking Clubs (AHTC) and report trafficking cases. This will strengthen the operations of Anti-Human Trafficking Units as per the initiative of West Bengal State Action Plan. Exerting on the need for reporting crimes, Ananya

Chakraborty, Chairperson, West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights said, "Community members confidently report crimes against children to local police and use the childline help number 1098. Increased reporting will stop criminals from exploiting children." The Safe Community will work further towards ensuring reporting of crimes against children.

ER's EMU special train

KOLKATA, AUG 31/--For the convenience of the pilgrims on the occasion of Holy Birth Ceremony of Sri Sri Lokeshwari of Brahmachari, which will be held at Kachua Dham near Kankra Mirzanagar Halt station, ER will run one pair EMU special train between Barasat and Hasnabad from Sept 1 to 3. The Up EMU special train leaving Barasat at 14.35 hrs will reach at Hasnabad at 15.55 hrs while the down EMU special leaving Hasnabad at 16.45 hrs will arrive at Barasat station at 18.05 hrs. The EMU special trains will stop at all stations enroute. (EOIC)

RLSP for early seat-sharing formula in Bihar

PATNA, AUG 31/--The RLSP, a constituent of the NDA at the Centre, has urged the BJP to hold a meeting of all allies in Bihar to chalk out a seat-sharing formula well ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. The Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), which is headed by Union minister Upendra Kushwaha, made the request yesterday in the wake of reports that the BJP has decided to contest 20 of the 40 seats, leaving the rest for allies including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and Ram Vilas Paswale's LJP. The reports were, however, discounted by senior BJP leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. "We demand that the BJP, as the largest constituent of the NDA in Bihar, take initiative and convene a meeting of all allies at the earliest so that the issue of seat-sharing could be resolved", RLSP national general secretary Madhav Anand said. He said, "The reports of the BJP having already taken a decision as to how many seats each constituent would contest lack authenticity. However, if there is any truth in these it is unfortunate on the part of senior coalition partners. The reports suggested that out of the 20 seats left for allies, the JD(U) will be get 12-13, the LJP five and the RLSP only two or three seats."

Case filed against Assam MLA

NAGAON, AUG 31/--A case has been filed against Assam BJP MLA Siladiitya Dev for allegedly making controversial remarks on the official Register of Citizens (NRC). Advocate Inamul Huda had filed a case in the court of Civil Judicial Magistrate in Nagaon district on August 29, accusing Dev of frequently criticising the NRC through the media and other social networking platforms. The advocate said remarks made by the MLA could affect the "age-old peaceful atmosphere" of the state. Huda's complaint was registered under various sections of the Information Technology Act 2000. The court has fixed September 27 as the next date of hearing. Dev could not be contacted for his reaction. (PTI)

Nitish Kumar bats for prohibition

CHENNAI, AUG 31/--Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today favoured nationwide prohibition saying there could be no greater way of paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in his 150th birth anniversary in 2019 than implementing liquor ban. Participating at a memorial event for the late DMK chief M Karunanidhi, who died on August 7, he said implementation of prohibition was Bihar's tribute to Gandhi on completion of 100 years of the Champaran satyagrah. Sharing his experience in implementing prohibition since 2016, Kumar said: "It is heartening to see a seeded social transformation taking place in Bihar." Prohibition has resulted in healthy citizens, economic betterment of families, and reduction in domestic violence. "It has led to more empowered and healthy citizens the results of which are visible in the development of Bihar."

Kumar said Karunanidhi favoured a "complete ban on liquor" and recalled that the DMK had promised implementation of prohibition in its manifesto for the 2016 assembly polls. Referring to the liquor ban in Bihar, Karunanidhi had announced that if the DMK came back to power, the party would take all steps to implement prohibition for social betterment. As a successor to the great leader, it is the responsibility of M K Stalin to fulfil the wish of Karunanidhi when the party was returned to power, he said. Paying tributes to Karunanidhi, Kumar hailed the late leader for his political statesmanship and in formation of coalition governments at the Centre. He said Karunanidhi played an influential role in implementing the Mandal Commission report on reservation for backward classes. Kumar lauded Karunanidhi for initiating several welfare measures during his stint as Chief Minister. Karunanidhi took an active part in formulating a Common Minimum Programme for the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. As chief minister, Karunanidhi took effective steps for employment generation, infrastructure development, river linking projects in the state and rural electrification since the 1970s. The DMK patriarch ensured equal property rights to women, 30 per cent reservation for women in government jobs and 33 per cent reservation in panchayati raj institutions, he said. Karunanidhi was active in politics for almost eight decades and he was DMK president for 50 years, he said, adding that he started off as PWD minister in 1967. The late leader piloted widow remarriage and fought against religious hypocrisy, he said. Karunanidhi's ideals and work will continue to inspire generations of political and social workers besides leaders, Kumar said. The DMK will grow with the blessings of the late leader and able leadership of Stalin, he said. (PTI)

IAF rescues 19 people from Arunachal island: Official

ITANAGAR, AUG 31/--The Indian Air Force (IAF) today rescued 19 people stranded in an island amid the swelling Siang river in East Siang district of partially flood-hit Arunachal Pradesh, an official said. The rescue operation by the IAF followed a request by the East Siang district administration to evacuate the people stranded at rampani under Silu-Gyan circle of the district yesterday. East Siang DC Tamiyo Tatak said. The people - cattle herders from Assam - were stranded for the past 24 hours after the water level of the Siang river rose making it impossible for boats to ferry them, he said. The district administration issued a red alert advising the people to refrain from venturing into the Siang river for fishing, bathing and other purposes, as the river is in spate with unusual high tides. Chief Minister Pema Khandu personally monitored the evacuation operation from Itanagar, the DC said, adding Lok Sabha MP Ninong Ering and Pasighat West MLA Tatung Jamoh along with police and locals were helping in rescuing the cattle. Though the water level of the river is rising with high current, but it is flowing below the danger mark, Tatak said. Many low lying areas are facing the threat of flood and erosion especially in Mebo circle in the district.

Over 1,000 families living along the Siang river have been affected by the rising river at Mebo, local legislator Lombo Tayeng said. The Siang river has always been flowing with plain water, but the present muddy water clearly indicated something wrong upstream, he said yesterday. Pointing out that 15 families of Seram-Ramku village have lost their homes as the flood water washed away their houses, he said most of the inhabitants on the left bank had been rescued to safe places. Tayeng gave an assurance that Rs one lakh each will be provided for their rehabilitation. He has sent a report to Union Minister Kiran Rijju for needful action besides requesting him to facilitate visit of an inter-ministerial central team to assess the situation. State Water Resources Department (WRD) chief engineer (West Zone) Likar Angu has directed officials, who have been monitoring the situation round the clock, to alert the inhabitants of low lying Jarku, Pagleik, SS Mission, Jarkong, Benskota, Berung, Sigar, Borguli, Seram, Kongkul, Namsing and Mer. (PTI)

Retirement of CLW employees

CHITTRANJAN, AUG 31/--A total of 28 employees have retired from railway services on superannuation in Chittranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) here. Mr Sriprakash, Principal Chief Personnel Officer felicitated them in a ceremony, today and wished their happy post retirement life. Retired employees along with their family, representatives of CLW accounts dept, representatives of local banks were present on this occasion. (EOIC)