



The 200-year-old Durga Puja of the Lahabari of Kamarapur in Hooghly—EOI Pix

Parents of school children alarmed, POSCO case filed in Billiground

V. SENTHIL KUMAR

RANGAT, SEPT 26 /— Yesterday saw something we always dreaded, but never thought it would happen here in the islands. A case under the POSCO Act (The Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act) was filed against a contract School Lab Assistant, Ram Hazam, son of late Jaldar Hazam, resident of Panchwati near JNV school, on the complain of minor 11 year old girl of class VII of Government Middle School,

Panchwati. Such cases seem to be on the rise in North and Middle Andaman, but due to fear of social stigma, they have been hushed up. This means, we cannot say we are safe from the tentacles of child molesters anymore and cannot just brush it off as a mainland syndrome. Parents of school going children are advised to be extremely careful and to advise their wards about dos and don'ts when they are venturing out of their homes, as the devil could be even someone we know.

Andhra CM's pep talk to IAS officers

DEHRADUN, SEPT 26 /—

The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers have a key role to play in building a developed India and they can do wonders if they learn continuously. Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said. Addressing senior IAS officers, who had gathered at the prestigious Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie near here, he said he still considers himself as a student. "Those who can learn continuously can do wonders...I learn from society, common man and administrators like you," Naidu told the officers yesterday during the inaugural session of 11th round of a three-week mandatory mid-career training programme for them. Talking about the three advantages India can make the most of in pursuit of its development goals, Naidu spoke of demographic dividend, largest English speaking population and information technology. Another factor, he said, which is sure to work in the country's favour is a stable government at the Centre. "After so many years, we have a stable government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Naidu said. "One out of four IT professionals in the world is an Indian and out of every four Indian IT professionals, one is from Andhra Pradesh," he said. Highlighting how technology can help in the country's overall development, the chief minister presented the case study of Andhra Pradesh and spoke about various technology related reforms being implemented in the state.

Varun counters Modi govt, says don't deport Rohingya Muslims

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /—

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Varun Gandhi's appeal to provide shelter to the 'illegal' Rohingya Muslim refugees residing in India, hasn't gone down well with the government, with minister of state for home affairs Hansraj Ahir saying, national interest should come first.

Gandhi, in an opinion piece published in a Hindi daily, called for not deporting Rohingyas from India, saying that the country should continue to provide them shelter. In his article, the BJP MP urged the government to look back into India's rich history of helping the refugees and help the Rohingyas. As the

Member of Parliament from Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh came under severe criticism, he took to Twitter to express his views on his article. "As for the Rohingyas, I've called for empathy, leading potentially to asylum, while vetting each applicant for national security concerns," Gandhi tweeted. "My recent piece focused primarily on defining India's asylum policy, with clear demarcations on how we would accept refugees," his another tweet said. Union home minister Rajnath Singh had last week reiterated that government is firm in its decision to deport Rohingya Muslim refugees to Myanmar. The

Centre has urged the Supreme Court not to interfere in the Rohingya issue as the move to deport them was a policy decision in the country's larger interests and that some of them were linked to Pakistani spy agencies ISI and other terrorist groups. The government had informed the Parliament on August 9 that according to available data, more than 14,000 Rohingyas, registered with the UNHCR, were staying in India. However, some inputs indicate that around 40,000 undocumented Rohingyas were staying in India, mostly in Jammu, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi-NCR and Rajasthan regions.

UP govt initiates work to stop flow of garbage in Ganga



LUCKNOW SEPT 26 /— A massive work plan has been initiated to ensure that garbage and waste stop flowing into the River Ganga before the 2019 'Arthkumbh', chief minister Yogi Adityanath today said. The river flows through 25 districts of Uttar Pradesh. "Before the 2019 Prayag (Allahabad) Arthkumbh not even a single drain or garbage will flow into the River Ganga...a large scale work plan has got underway to ensure this," the chief minister said at a programme organised here by the Isha Foundation. "A work plan worth Rs 30,000 crore has been started under

the Prime Minister's 'namami Gange' project to make Ganga and its tributaries 'aviral, nirmal (ever flowing and clean)', Adityanath said. "In the coming two years no one will be allowed to release garbage or waste in the river and treatment plants will be set up at different places to first treat the discharge before it is allowed to flow into the river," he said. "In the first phase we have resolved to make all villages falling on the river's banks open defecation free (ODF) and have also succeeded in it," the chief minister said in the presence of founder of the Isha Foundation,

Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev. Referring to Sadguru's 'Save the Rivers' campaign, the chief minister said that it was not just a campaign or a slogan but an attempt to save the human creation. A vast plantation drive has also been launched in the areas falling on the banks of the River Ganga.

"I myself had gone to Garh Mukteshwar for it...all ministers, MPs, MLAs took part at different places...officials of all departments, administration took part. We have planted six crore saplings in the state...this work was being done in different phases," Yogi said. The chief minister said the practice of planting eucalyptus has been stopped and instead other plants like eucalyptus, mango, bargad, neem, bel or medicinal plants or plants having religious significance. Hailing the 'Rally for Rivers' programme, he said the new UP government has already started implementing programmes aimed at this. "The government has started the project to treat the waste flowing into Gomti in Lucknow so as to save the river; the project for it has already started," he added.

MESSAGE

I am happy to note that along with rest of the world, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also celebrating the World Tourism Day with great vigour and enthusiasm. The celebration of World Tourism Day is to foster awareness on the role of tourism and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide.

The theme of this year's World Tourism Day is "Sustainable Tourism - a tool for development. World Tourism Day has been celebrated since 1980 on September 27, the day in which the statutes of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) entered into force.

The question, as we celebrate World Tourism Day 2017, is how we can enable this powerful global transformative force, to contribute to make this world a better place and to advance sustainable development. This World Tourism Day, whenever you travel, remember to respect nature, respect culture and respect your host.

Tourism is unmistakably a thrust sector for economic development, revenue and employment generation in the Islands. Keeping in view the fragile ecology and limited carrying capacity of the Islands, the objective of Andaman and Nicobar Administration is to strive for sustainable tourism, a special brand which is aligned to ecology, water spots and is round the year. Historical pilgrimage is an important attraction.

I am hopeful that with the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, these Islands will emerge as a 'shining example' of 'sustainable' and responsible tourism in the country.

Sd/-
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Last date for payment of electricity bill extended

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 26 /— The Electricity Department has initiated a step to "Go Green Paperless Electricity Billing".

Therefore, electric bills for the month of August, 2017 of consumers from Phoenix Bay, Aberdeen Bazar, Haddo and Prem Nagar site offices was sent only through SMS alert(s) on their registered mobile

numbers. However, the Electricity Department has received grievances from some of the consumers of above mentioned site offices that they have not received their Bills sent through SMS alert(s). So, the department has extended the last date of payment of electricity charges of Phoenix Bay, Aberdeen Bazar, Haddo and Prem

Nagar sites up to September 29. Hence the consumers of the above sites of offices can pay their electricity charges at their respective site offices along with their Electric Meter Account Numbers up to September 29.

The department also appeals all the electricity consumers to kindly register their mobile phone number(s) at their respective site offices if not registered till date. In future, all the electricity bills will be sent through SMS alert only and the consumers are requested to cooperate with the Electricity Department for paperless services. In case of any queries consumers may kindly approach to their respective site office(s) for redressal.

Rahul hits campaign trail in Patidar belt



JAMNAGAR, SEPT 26 /— Eying the support of the influential Patel community, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi today hit the campaign trail in the Patidar-dominated areas of poll-bound Gujarat. Some members of the National Students Union of India (NSUI), the party's student wing, greeted him as he left Jamnagar for Rajkot this morning. The Congress leader urged the NSUI members to work hard to bring the party to power in Gujarat. Taking a dig at BJP governments in the state and at the Centre, Gandhi said if the Congress was voted to power, his party's government would function from Gujarat and not on orders from Delhi. On his way, at Falia village in Jamnagar, locals welcomed him by raising the slogan 'Jai Patidar, Jai Sardar'. People were also seen wearing caps with the same slogan. Gandhi, who is on the second day of his three-day tour of Gujarat, is slated to visit several villages and towns, such as Dhrol and Tankara that have a sizable Patel population. The Congress is hoping to get the support of this decisive vote bank during the polls due later this year. On Monday, on the first day of his visit to the state, Gandhi was greeted by Hardik Patel, leader of the Patel quota agitation. "A warm welcome to Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi in Gujarat," Patel tweeted in Hindi on Monday when Gandhi landed at Dwaraka. Patel had earlier hinted that he may consider supporting the Congress in the Assembly polls to achieve the goal of reservation to the Patel community under OBC quota. Rahul had attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over issues like note ban, GST, farm policies and Gujarat model of development, during his campaign from Dwaraka to Jamnagar yesterday. He also expressed confidence about winning the upcoming Assembly elections, claiming that there was a strong undercurrent in favour of the Congress in Gujarat and the people regretted having voted for the BJP.

Road nightmare at Brookshabad



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 26 /— Massive potholes stare at you threateningly on the road near the Kamarapur School at Brookshabad making it difficult and in some areas, almost impossible to drive especially children to the schools there. When it rains the road is flooded rendering to a slushy river, forget driving, even walking is a nightmare. Bad roads have become a major problem around the city but, this road will take a prize for the amount of damage. Concerned authorities of the department are requested by all users of the road to take matter seriously and repair or relay the road and make it safe for use. One cannot say who is to blame, but this has become a recurring theme, every time it rains, even recently laid roads get damaged very soon.



Officers from the National Defence College, New Delhi on a visit to the Islands, called on the Lt Governor, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at Raj Niwas on September 26.