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IPFT threatens movement over modality committee

AGARTALA, APRIL 25 /--/ The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), an ally of the ruling BJP in Tripura, threatened to launch a movement today unless an "inter-ministerial modality committee" was formed within the next three months and also demanded another Cabinet berth in the Biplab Kumar Deb ministry. The "inter-ministerial modality committee" would study the socio-economic and cultural issues of the indigenous people of the north-eastern state, IPFT vice-president Ananta Debbarma told reporters here.

He claimed that the Centre had, on January 8, announced to form the committee after an IPFT delegation met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh in this regard. "We are waiting to be updated about the inter-ministerial modality committee, to be formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs. If it does not start functioning within the next three months, we shall launch a democratic movement," Debbarma said. Demanding one more cabinet berth for the IPFT, he said, "There is a provision for a 12-member cabinet. Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has filled up nine positions and kept three vacant. We were given two berths in the cabinet, we can get one more."

In the 60-member Tripura Assembly, the BJP has 36 legislators, the IPFT eight and the CPM 16. To a question, Debbarma said the demand for a separate "Twipraland" had emerged in the state in the late 1990s over the issue of backwardness of the tribal people, living mainly in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) areas. "We cannot just turn away from our demand, but now it remains to be seen how the modality committee studies our problems and how the Centre addresses our grievances," he said. IPFT president NC Debbarma is the revenue minister and party general secretary Mevar Kumar Jamatia has been allotted the tribal welfare portfolio in the BJP-IPFT alliance ministry in Tripura.

Asked if the IPFT did not trust its own ministers as regards tackling the issue of backwardness of the tribals, Debbarma said, "It is not a question of trust. The government will act in its own way and we will work in our own way. Ours is a political party and we shall continue with our movement till our goal is achieved." (PTI)

Renewable energy road map for Sunderban homes

KOLKATA, APRIL 25 /--/ As part of its continued efforts towards sustainable development, WWF India has enabled alternative energy access to a cluster of households at Gosaba block in the Sunderbans.

The organization, under its 'Sahasra Jyoti' project, had been working extensively with local communities in the mangrove forest area of West Bengal to provide them cost-effective energy solutions - while reducing the pressure on surrounding environment, a WWFI official said.

A solar project at Satjelia Island in the area has already covered five hamlets, he said.

"We have installed five micro grids in three phases with the installed capacity of 56.18 kW," senior coordinator-energy access and communities, Climate Change and Energy Programme, Subhro Sen said.

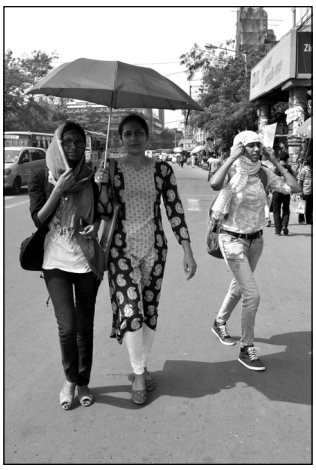
The number of establishments covered under the project in Gosaba block included 25 shops, eight institutions and 512 houses, he said, adding that over 2100 individuals have benefitted in the area.

"Sixty per cent of the households that got electricity belonged to BPL families. We have also installed 50 street lights as part of the initiative," he said.

Four village energy committees, with local people as members, have been formed in the area to monitor the project implementation and eight persons have been trained to function as system operators, he added.

The project has improved the living conditions of people in the rural areas, a senior official at the Kolkata chapter of the organization said.

"The village folks can now keep their shops are open till late in the evening and children can study after sunset," the official added.



Women protect themselves from the scorching sun as summer heat soars in the city on Wednesday---------Arijit Ganguly

Police rescue minor from Bihar

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25 /--/ Police have rescued a 16-year-old girl, who was brought to Delhi on the pretext of a job and was subsequently "sold" and sexually exploited for a year, from outer Delhi's Nihal Vihar. Three persons, including two women, were arrested by the police after the girl managed to flee from the clutches of her tormentor and sought help from an acquaintance, police said. The girl, who belongs to a village near Begusarai in Bihar, was brought to Delhi in March last year by a woman after assuring her family that she would work here as a domestic help.

The woman kept her at her house in Nihal Vihar where her live-in partner sexually exploited the girl for a month. He worked as a driver and after a month left the house. The woman then took the victim to another woman in Paharganj and "sold" her. The girl was told by the woman, who had brought her from Bihar that she would return soon to take her back, according to the police.

The girl was pushed into prostitution by the other woman, who used to pay Rs 10,000 to the woman who had brought the girl from Bihar, said a senior police officer. The girl was kept captive in a room in Nabi Karim and was not allowed to meet or talk to anyone. Whenever she would ask for the woman who had brought her there, she would be given vague answers, he added. Last week, the girl managed to flee from Paharganj and reached Nihal Vihar. The girl was sold by the woman again, this time to one Vivek, who sexually abused her three-four times, he added.

Three days ago, the girl again manged to free herself and sought help from a woman who lived near the accused woman's house. The neighbour brought the girl to the police station, following which the girl was sent for medical examination and a case was registered, he said.

Rajender Singh Sagar, additional deputy commissioner of police (Outer), said, "Three of the accused have been arrested in the case. We are on the lookout for the man who had sexually exploited her last year. The girl has been sent to Nirmal Chhaya (shelter)." Police said that they have found the girl's address in Bihar and will be contacting her family. (PTI)

Nagaland CM asks VDBs to use technology

KOHIMA, APRIL 25 /--/ Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio has asked Village Development Boards (VDBs) and village councils to use technology to improve the quality of implementation of schemes and projects.

The use of technology by the VDBs will benefit villagers and reduce spillage at various levels, Rio said at the state level conference of VDBs and Village Councils on Tuesday. The chief minister urged the VDBs to ensure that all VDB secretaries are well educated and literate and conversant with IT and ITes.

"We need to adapt to the rapid ever changing facets of development," he said. Funds should not be diverted by the VDBs for recovery or payment of community loans nor used for contrition/repair, maintenance of churches, temples, or mosques buildings, he said.

As the VDB handle enormous amount of fund, Rio suggested that the Rural Development department frame rules and procedures for handing over charge of VDB secretaries since the tenure is just 3 years. Considering the vast amount of record keeping required at the block and VDB level, a stringent methodology has to be evolved immediately to ensure transparency and accountability, the chief minister said. (PTI)

NTCA asks Assam to ban mining, stone crushing in Kaziranga

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25 /--/ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has written to the Assam government seeking an immediate ban on mining, quarrying and stone crushing in the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape, saying it was seriously affecting the wildlife habitat, including that of tigers.

In a letter to the Assam chief secretary, NTCA has said that mining and stone crushing activities were seriously hampering the survival and conservation of tiger. The NTCA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, also annexed a report regarding mining and said these activities were responsible for drying and siltation of several natural streams and rivulets that flow from Karbi Anglong hills towards the Kaziranga forests.

"Considering the destructive impact of quarrying/mining activity, all stone mining/quarrying and crusher units need to be closed down immediately. If these destructive activities are not stopped immediately, then there is a high risk of Kaziranga National Park may lose its corridor and habitat connectivity with the larger Karbi Anglong landscape permanently.

"Lack of corridors and habitat contiguity for wildlife dispersal will have serious implications for long-term conservation of wide ranging species like tigers and Indian elephants of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve," the NTCA said. The NTCA report was submitted to the state government in response to a complaint by wildlife activist Rohit Choudhury seeking action against illegal and rampant stone mining activities in the Karbi Anglong Hills adjoining Kaziranga National Park (KNP) and Tiger Reserve.

The complainant had alleged that significant environmental degradation and habitat destruction has been happening in the foothills of Karbi Anglong hills, which is a prime elephant habitat and also part of the Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve. Suggesting a slew of measures, the NTCA has recommended constitution of a committee by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to review all permissions and clearances given to all stone crushing, quarrying and mining units operating in the Kaziranga Karbi Anglong landscape.

"The Assam Forest Department may take necessary steps for preparation of Tiger Conservation Plan for core, buffer and corridor and for notifying Eco-sensitive Zone around Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve," it said. The NTCA also said that keeping in view the long-term conservation of mega herbivores like Indian rhinoceros, India elephant and mega carnivores such as tiger, "the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve boundary may be rationalised by including areas of Karbi-Anglong adjoining Kaziranga," NTCA recommended. (PTI)

Mock exercise on earthquake in 3N-E states today

GUWAHATI, APRIL 25 /--/ The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will conduct a mock exercise on earthquake preparedness tomorrow in Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram, the agency said in a statement. "The exercise, which is being held in collaboration with the respective State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), will help participating agencies and stakeholders in evaluating the effectiveness of their disaster response plans," the release said. The exercise is significant as the participating states fall under seismic vulnerability Zone-V, it added.

"The mock exercise will be followed by a detailed debriefing session, where gaps and shortcomings, if any, for improving preparedness, will be discussed. Independent observers will be deployed to monitor the entire exercise," the statement said. In the run-up to the exercise, orientation-cum- coordination conferences were held on April 12 with different stakeholders at the respective state capitals for working out the detailed modalities and preparations required for the mock exercise. "NDMA experts briefed the stakeholders on the Incident Response System (IRS), which attributes roles and responsibilities at each level to improve coordination.

State Notes

Kuladhar Saikia appointed as next Assam DGP

GUWAHATI, APRIL 25 /--/ Assam government today appointed senior IPS officer Kuladhar Saikia as the new director general of police of the state. Saikia is also a well-know short story writer and recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award. "Kuladhar Saikia, Special DGP (Law & Order), is promoted and posted as Director General of Police, Assam," an official order from the Home Department said. Saikia, a 1985-batch IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, will take charge from present incumbent DGP Mukesh Sahay on his superannuation on April 30, it added. Saikia, a Ph. D from IIT-Guwahati, has 20 published short story collections under his credit. He got the Sahitya Akademi award for his Assamese short story collection, "Akashar Chhabi Aru Anyanya Galpa", in 2015. (PTI)

Man sentenced to 7 yrs in jail for rape

NEW DELHI, APRIL 25 /--/ A Delhi court has sentenced a man to seven years in jail for raping of a 20-year-old woman in 2014, observing that rape is one of the most barbaric and heinous crimes and the loss suffered by the woman cannot be forgotten or forgiven. The court, which awarded a compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the woman, an east Delhi resident, also termed rape as a "gruesome" and "abhorring" act which instills a feeling of fear, insecurity and a brooding sense of shame and guilt for no fault of the victim. Additional Sessions Judge Anurag Sain awarded seven-year rigorous imprisonment to Bihar-resident Md Javed and said it was a "devastating moment" in the woman's life which can neither be repaired nor forgotten or forgiven.

Heroin seized

AIZAWL, APRIL 25 /--/ Mizoram Excise and Narcotics department officials seized 172 gram of heroin worth around Rs 7 lakh in two districts and arrested four persons in this connection, a department spokesman said. In the first case, officials in Champhai district bordering Myanmar seized 56 grams of heroin in Champhai town this morning and arrested two persons for allegedly possessing the contraband. In the second case, the spokesman said, 116 grams of heroin was seized at Leitan locality in Aizawl last evening and two persons were arrested. The accused persons were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. (PTI)

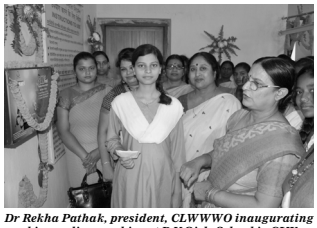
Security forces arrest militant in Manipur

IMPHAL, APRIL 25 /--/ Security forces have arrested a militant of proscribed outfit United National Liberation Front (UNLF) in Manipur's Bishnupur district, a government press release said. A combined team of Manipur police commandos and Gurkha Regiment arrested the militant from Ninghthoukhong town in Bishnupur district on Sunday, the release said. A case has been registered at Bishnupur police station and further investigation was on.

Idols stolen from temple

KHAGARIA, APRIL 25 /--/ An ashtadhatu idol of Shree Radha and a crown of same metal of Lord Krishna were stolen from a temple at Chautham bazaar in Khagaria district, the police said. The ashtadhatu (an alloy of eight metals) idol of Sree Radha and the crown of Lord Krishna were stolen from the Ram Janki Thakurbari temple in the night of Monday, they said. There was an attempt to steal the idol of Lord Krishna, but they could not, the police said. The idol and the crown were valued at around Rs three lakh, the police said adding that the locals claimed that the idols were 70 to 80 years old. The people came to know about the theft when they had come to the temple to offer their prayers in the morning on Tuesday and informed the police. (PTI)

Expansion of 'Dastak' in Deshbandhu Girls' School by CLW-WWO



Dr Rekha Pathak, president, CLWWWO inaugurating napkin vending machine at D V Girls School in CLW on Tuesday---------EOI Pix

CHITTARANJAN APRIL 25 /--/ For ensuring safe hygiene of the girl students of the Deshbandhu Vidyalay, girls' in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), 'Dastak' Yojna has been extended today in D. V. Girls' school premises under the leadership of Dr. Rekha Pathak, President, Chittaranjan Women's Welfare Organisation (CLW-WWO). Central Women's Organization of Indian Railways had initiated a project named "Dastak" for the betterment of lady employees. CLW-WWO extended this facility by inaugurating a sanitary napkin vending machine and a napkin destroyer machine in the school premises today. Under the 'Dastak' scheme, sanitary napkins will be available to girls' at a very low cost. This is a very important step towards the safe hygiene of girls' student.

In this programme, Sadhna Gupta, Priya Raj, and other members of CLW-WWO were also present. The principal, teachers and students of this school are very happy and satisfied with this initiative. It is expected that this initiative of CLW-WWO will prove useful in the direction of women's empowerment and girls' awareness. (EOIC)

ER observes 63rd railway week celebration

Harindra Rao, general manager, Eastern Railway presenting the Overall Efficiency Cup to Asansol Division on the occasion of 63rd Railway Week Celebration at Dr. B C Roy Auditorium, Sealdah, on Wednesday-------EOI Pix

KOLKATA, APRIL 25 /--/ Harindra Rao, general manager, Eastern Railway (ER) handed over the prestigious Overall Efficiency Cup to Asansol Division for outstanding performance while Sealdah Division bagged the Overall Efficiency Runners Up Cup on the occasion of 63rd Railway Week celebration, organised by Eastern Railway, at B C Roy Institute, Sealdah today. Howrah station won the Best Kept Station Cup, Safety Shield went to Howrah and Malda Division jointly, security shield was awarded to Asansol Division and Environment Management Shield to Liluah Workshop and Sealdah Division jointly. Apart from this, 28 shields and cups were presented by Harindra Rao, General Manager, Eastern Railway. Suchitto Kumar Das, additional general manager and Sanjiv Agarwal, senior deputy general manager to different departments of Eastern Railway.

Apart from those shields and cups, individual medals and cash awards were handed over to the selected band of staff and officers for their dedicated and outstanding performance during the year 2017-18. Moreover, staff of eight (8) departments of Eastern Railway including Electrical, Engineering, Mechanical, Operating, Personnel, Signal and Telecom, Security and General Administration were given Group Awards.

Speaking on the occasion, Harindra Rao, general manager, Eastern Railway, said that during 2017-18, Eastern Railway was able to load 62.12 MT of goods which was 3.17% more than that of the last year. This is the best ever loading performance of Eastern Railway. Eastern Railway earned 4933 crores during 2017-18 from freight traffic which was 5.72% more than that of the previous year. Moreover, during 2017-18, Eastern Railway carried 122 crore passengers and earned 2671.54 crore in comparison to 118 crore passengers carried and 2579 crore earned during the last year.

Rao said that Eastern Railway has put an additional thrust on cleanliness drive all over its jurisdiction in the line of Swachh Bharat Mission of Government of India.

The Railway has also taken initiatives to tap solar energy in a big way at various installations. Solar panels have been provided at different level crossing gates. To ensure safety, Eastern Railway eliminated all the unmanned level crossings in its system. Security of the passengers is an important area of Eastern Railway's concern. As many as 338 trains of Eastern Railway were being escorted by RPF personnel every day. RPF, Eastern Railway has already launched security helpline no. 182 for security of passengers during the time of exigencies.

Rao further added that Eastern Railway has taken a number of steps for enhancing passenger amenities at stations and on trains. These include SMS/Web based on Board Housekeeping System, Monitoring System, Launching of Paperless Un-Reserved Ticketing through Smart Phones and installation of Point of Sale (POS) machines at different PRS and UTS counters. Rao also pointed out that the introduction of Kolkata – Khulna Bandhan Express from International Passenger Terminal, Kolkata, completion of 30 years of PRS in Eastern Zone and completion of 60 years of EMU services are among the remarkable achievements of Eastern Railway during 2017-18. He also said that since human resource is its asset, Eastern Railway is committed to create better working environment and introduced multi-faceted staff welfare measures for the benefit of the employees.

This is to mention that, six officers and employees of Eastern Railway's have been awarded in recently concluded 63rd National Railway Week Celebrations at Bhopal for their remarkable performance. Bimala Rao, President, ERWWO, DRMs of Sealdah, Howrah, Asansol and Malda and all the Principal Heads of Departments graced the occasion. Inaugural function was followed by a colourful cultural extravaganza. (EOIC)

Notice Inviting Quotation No.:- **93 of 2018-19 of E.E. KOLKATA EAST DIVISION, P.W.D.** Quotation are invited by Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata East Division from bonafied outsider having credential of same nature of work for above mentioned NICs. **Last date of application is 04.05.2018.** Further Corrigendum are addendum, if issued, will be published only on departmental website. All other details are available in etender.wb.nic.in & www.pwdwb.in as well as in this office notice.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,PWD
Kolkata East Division

AFFIDAVIT

I, DR. BIPIN MONDAL S/O SRI NIMAI CHANDRA MONDAL, R/O SUNVIEW PARK 2 NO.MOHISILA COLONY P.O. ASANSOL -3 P.S ASANSOL (S) DIST. PASCHIM BARDHAMAN (W.B) DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE APPLIED BEFORE THE ASANSOL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR A TRADE LICENCE OF RETAIL MEDICINE SHOP UNDER THE NAME AND STYLE AS ECOMED PHARMACY AT MILAN APARTMENT SAHAPARA 2 NO. MOHISILA COLONY P.O. ASANSOL-3 P.S ASANSOL (S)DIST PASCHIM BARDHAMAN (W.B)BEING HOLDING NO . 456 (NEW). SO I INTEND TO CORRECT AND RECTIFY THE NAME OF MY SAID RETAIL MEDICINE SHOP AS ECOMED MEDICAL INSTEAD OF ECOMED PHARMACY AS PER AFFIDAVIT I.D.EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE AT ASANSOL ON 24.04.2018

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