

## Hardik announces 'last fight' for quota, to sit on indefinite fast from Aug 25

**AHMEDABAD, JULY 8** /-/- Patidar quota agitation leader Hardik Patel today announced that he will sit on an indefinite fast from August 25 to press for reservation to the community members in government jobs and education. The 24-year-old activist, who shot to prominence in 2015 with his agitation over the quota issue, vowed to continue his fast till his demand for reservation was met. In a video message posted on his official Facebook page, Patel said getting reservation for the members of his community was his primary concern. He added that the fast would be his "last fight". "This is our last fight. Either I will give my life or we will get reservation. I need your support for this. The fight has come to the last phase. Reservation is our primary is-

sure and we will continue to fight for it. From August 25, which is observed as the Patidar Kranti Divas, I am going to sit on an indefinite fast and will not eat anything until we get reservation," Patel said, interacting with his supporters via a video-streaming feature on Facebook. On the same day three years ago, the Patel-led Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) had organised a mega rally here to put forth the demand for reservation to the community members. The rally had turned violent, leading to a police crackdown on the participants and the eventual detention and incarceration of Patel on sedition and other charges. Around 14 Patidar community members were killed in the violence.

Making an emotional appeal to his supporters and the Patidar com-

munity members, a section of whom had criticised him recently for "diverting" from the core issue of reservation, Patel sought their united support. "We will get reservation, but only when we come together to fight for it. If we are fighting among ourselves, then this is not going to happen. We are lagging behind due to unnecessary debates and opposition (from within the community)," he said. Patel also defended his decision to support Congress MLA Alpesh Thakor on the issue of prohibition, saying it was his responsibility to fight against the menace of liquor. The Congress MLA, who represents the Kshatriya Thakor community in Gujarat, has been a vocal critic of the way prohibition has been implemented in the state.

Thakor, Independent legislator

Jignesh Mevani and Patel were yesterday booked by the police on charges and other charges after they allegedly led a "raid" of a house, where they claimed liquor was kept stored illegally. Patel said fighting for reservation was his top priority, but he will also continue to raise issues related to farmers, prohibition and unemployment. PAAS convener Alpesh Kathia said the venue for Patel's fast next month was yet to be decided. "We will soon inform about the venue, where the indefinite fast will be organised. Patel's supporters will also join him," he added. From August 25, every day one of Patel's supporters would get his head tonsured to highlight the issue of reservation and make the government take note of their demand. Kathiriva said. (PTI)

### EVENTS TODAY

**BROADCAST:** Secretary (RD, PRI & ULB) to will be LIVE on AIR on Apne Panchayat Se from 7.15 am.

**CLASSES:** First year classes of D.El.Ed. course to commence at Dr. S. R. DIET.

**SAILING:** MV Kalighat scheduled to sail for Car Nicobar via Hut Bay at 10 am from Haddo wharf.

**EXHIBITION:** 34 photographs on display in the month long Photography Exhibition-cum-Competition on Heritage at Art Gallery & Studio, Gandhi Park.

## 'BJP has set example by breaking alliance with PDP'



**JAMMU, JULY 8** /-/- Weeks after the fall of Mehbooba Mufti government, Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said BJP has set an example by breaking its alliance with PDP without any pressure as discrimination with Jammu region was not acceptable to the party. He said the decision of the BJP has baffled the opposition parties in Jammu and Kashmir which have never witnessed such a thing in their political history. BJP is the only party which can become part of any government to carry forward developmental agenda or can break away if it is not satisfied with the pace of developmental works. It is not acceptable to the BJP to stay in power while compromising with the interests of the people of Jammu region, he said. Singh, the minister of state in Prime Minister's office, was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a party function in Kathua district. BJP broke its alliance with PDP last month leading to the collapse of the coalition government and imposition of Governor's rule. Whatever the circumstances, there will be no compromise with the interests of the Jammu region, he said, adding BJP has set an example by walking out of the government.

He said the opposition parties are frustrated because they are not able to understand what had happened that led to the decision. Their tradition and their politics have not seen such an example in the past. They have not learnt it. The opposition is puzzled when without any pressure you come out of power because you feel you are not able to fulfil your developmental agenda for the people, he said. BJP is the only party which can be part of the government for the interest of the people of Jammu region and can say goodbye to the power for the sake of the people, he said. Singh addressed party workers at Barnoti village in the district.

Asked whether the meeting was part of the party's preparation for the next year's Lok Sabha elections, he said, BJP is the only political party in the country which is ready for any type of polls all the time. Such meetings are taking place all the time round-the-year to discuss current issues being faced by the people. It is not focused on elections. "BJP is the only party which holds such meetings round the year and always prepared to face all type of elections. BJP is the only party which is linked to the people at the grass-roots level, he said. The minister said there is no possibility of discrimination with Jammu region under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With full authority, I want to make it clear that over the last four years of Modi government, there was no discrimination with any part of the region as far as financial and development packages are concerned," he said.

This year, Rs 3800 crore was sanctioned under PMGSY for the state, out of which Rs 2100 crore were meant for Jammu region, he said. This included Rs 1700 crore for Kathua, Udhampur and Doda districts - three medical colleges were to be established here and two others there (Kashmir), the minister said. The Union Cabinet recently decided to seek seven acre of land at Udhampur from defence ministry and yesterday the land was identified for setting up of Kendriya Vidyalaya, he said. When there is discrimination due to some local reasons, then BJP showed it can give up power without a second thought, he said.

## Beam India's market of liquor brands in ANI mentioned in indictment report

**From page-1**  
The payment was approved and certain APSA senior manager implemented the scheme whereby the third-party bottler pay it to the Excise official, and then submit false invoices to be reimbursed for the illicit payment. After approvals were received

from the Excise Ministry. Thereafter, the third-party bottler submitted two false invoices to Beam India, purportedly for consulting services rendered at the bottling facility, in the approximate amount of the payment demand, which Beam India paid," the detailed indictment of the Commission reveals. The Canteen Stores Department was set up in 1948 to provide armed forces personnel with subsidised products. It has an annual budget of over Rs 17,500 crore and provides services to both serving and retired personnel of the

armed forces and their families. Alcohol is available at subsidised rates. However, the CSD has faced many allegations of corruption and investigations included cases of diversion of CSD products to civilian markets in the past.

## Tremor hits Nicobar

**PORT BLAIR, JULY 8** /-/- A mild intensity earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale hit the Nicobar region at around 3.20 pm on Sunday. The tremor was epicentred at 7.4 degrees North Latitude and 94.3 degrees East Longitude at depth of about 70 kms off the Nicobar Islands coast. However, no damage to properties or life has been reported, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

The A & N Islands were badly hit by the 2004 Asian tsunami, which was triggered by an earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra that sent giant waves crashing into countries around the Indian Ocean. The Andaman Sea witnesses frequent quakes caused by the meeting of the Indian plate with the Burmese microplate along an area known as the Andaman trench.

## Four fishers rescued by ICGS C-146 off Henry Lawrence Island

**From page-1**  
In the morning hours today the Indian Coast Guard Ship C-146 braving rough sea conditions located the boat in opposition five nautical miles east of Henry Lawrence Island. The fishermen were provided first-aid relief and were towed to Havlock as defect rectification was not possible at sea. The boat along with the four crew members was safely handed over to the Marine Police in the afternoon. The Indian Coast Guard is committed to provide assistance to fishermen and mariners in distress. As on date, the Coast Guard Region (A&N) has saved 3124 lives in various missions coordinated by the MRCC (Port Blair) in tune with, the Coast Guard motto "Vyam Rakshamahi".

## Municipal Council vows to end stray cattle menace in city

**From page-1**  
In spite of repeated warnings to the cattle owners by the Municipal Council, it is found that the cattle, pigs and goats are allowing their cattle to roam around freely on the roads, public places and public building premises. This not only causes hindrance to the traffic movement, public nuisance but also obstruction for the pedestrians and would lead to insanitary condition in public places, the Secretary observed.

The Municipal Council in 2016 approved the notification of the Bye-laws under section 194(b) and (p) of the A & N Islands (MB's) Regulation 1957 came into force from the date of publication in the official gazette of the UT Administration. As per the regulation called Municipal Council, Port Blair, Bye-Laws for regulation and keeping of cattle within the Municipal area, livestock owners will have to obtain a license to rear cattle or other domestic animals within the city limits. The license will be valid for a period of one year from May 31 and subject to renewability every year subject to the satisfaction of the authority. Penalties for violation of the regulations have been fixed from Rs 1000 to a maximum

Rs 5000 depending on the type of violation. Accordingly, stray cows, buffaloes, bullocks, horses, mules impounded in Cattle Pounds will be fined Rs 5000 while goats, sheep and smaller animals will be penalised with Rs 2500. Calves, heifers and kids will be charged Rs 1000 for straying on the city roads.

As per the regulation, no cattle shed will be allowed within the municipal limits without the approval of the Health Officer of Municipal Council and livestock owners will have to furnish a health certificate in respect of their animals from the Veterinary Surgeon to obtain license for cattle rearing. Cattle will have to be fed wholesome fodder and all wastes from the shed will have to be disposed of to the satisfaction of the licensing authority. Straying of cattle on public roads and pavements will be completely prohibited and livestock owners will be required to accompany their animals to the grazing area. Animals found without owners will be considered as stray cattle and impounded in the Cattle Pound. In case of failure to release the cattle within four days from the date of confiscation, the Municipal Council will be at liberty to declare the animals as ownerless and put them to auction. (File Photo)

## TN govt opposes Centre's decision to conduct NEET twice a year

**COIMBATORE / CHENNAI, JULY 8** /-/- The Tamil Nadu government today opposed the Centre's decision to conduct NEET twice a year, while the opposition DMK slammed Union government for "creating confusion" over the exam for entry into medical colleges. School Education Minister K A Sengottaiyan said the state stand was the National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET) should be conducted only once a year. "We will take the matter to the notice of the Chief Minister (K Palaniswami) and further take it up with the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and the Union Minister concerned," he told reporters at Coimbatore. Hesaad students cannot appear for NEET twice in the same year as a "six-month period will be short". Human Resource Development Minister Prakash

Javadekar had yesterday said that engineering and medical entrance exams JEE and NEET would now be conducted online and twice a year by the newly formed National Testing Agency (NTA).

Responding to the announcement, DMK Working President M K Stalin slammed the Centre for "creating confusion" over NEET every time, and accused it of "shattering" the medical edu-

cation dreams of rural students. He also reminded the Centre of the state's demand for an exemption from NEET and urged the Centre to ensure Presidential nod for two Bills on this issue. Stalin said medical education aspirants from rural areas, especially those from government schools, hardly had computers or knowledge about computers and wondered how the BJP government at the Centre did not factor in this point before deciding to conduct NEET online. "The proposal to hold NEET online is a conspiracy to make medical education remain out of reach of rural students," the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly said. In order to ensure equality, the BJP government at the Centre should immediately withdraw the decision to hold NEET online and also get the President's approval for the two bills on NEET exemption, he said. (PTI)

## President Kovind visits iconic church, temple in Goa

**PANAJI, JULY 8** /-/- President Ram Nath Kovind today paid respects at two spiritual landmarks of Goa, including the Basilica of Bom Jesus, on the second day of his visit to the coastal state. Kovind, accompanied by Governor Mridula Sinha, this morning visited the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa where the relics of St Francis Xavier, a saint revered in the coastal state, are kept. The president was at the church, about 9km from here, for around 20 minutes before heading to the Mangueshi Temple, located around 5 km away from here. The body of the saint, who died in 1552, is encased in a silver-sketed casket in a glass container at the church, a popular attraction for the tourists and others. Fr. Patricia Fernandez, rector of the Basilica, who guided the president during his visit, said Kovind felt blessed by coming to the medieval-era heritage monument and had visited the church earlier as well. "This was also happy that he was here when he visited Goa, there are rains in the state. So he said besides the blessings from the church, God is also blessing (Goa) in the form of rains," the priest said. During his tour, the president told the rector he had been to Old Goa twice in the past. "I briefed him on his life and work in the church and its history. I also told him about the incorrupt body of St Francis Xavier (preserved in the church) which is nothing short of a miracle," he said. "So I prayed for him and so for the country. Then I took him inside and showed him the golden rose where he clicked pictures with us. The rose had been given to the Diocese of Goa by the Pope (as a token of reverence)," he said.

At the Mangueshi Temple, Kovind took blessings of Lord Manguesh (considered an incarnation of Lord Shiva) before heading back to Panaji. The shrine is perhaps the most famous of all Goa temples and attracts a large number of tourists. The president arrived here yesterday on a two-day visit to Goa. He addressed the convocation ceremony of the Goa University and attended a civic reception hosted by the state government yesterday. (PTI)

# KIDS CORNER

3 WEEKS LATER...

"I am serious about fixing our marriage. Why else would I bring duct tape?"

### WordWheel

No. 314

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No. 313: REFERRED

### 5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

No. 215

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 214 (Other combinations may be possible.)

S	W	A	R	D
M	O	L	A	R
A	S	K	E	W
R	E	E	D	S

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

### WORD-BUILDER

215

LEAGUE

TAG

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or ones beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

TODAY'S GOALS:

Good - 5 Excellent

SOLUTION 214: adept, ape, aped, apt, ate, dap, date, eat, eta, pad, pat, pate, pea, peat, pet, tad, tap, tape, taped, tea, ted

Reference: C.O.D. 1995