

Dalai Lama visit, refugee, border issues kept Arunachal in news in 2017

ITANAGAR, JAN 5 (PTI) Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama's visit and China's protest, the Chakma-Hajong refugee issue, boundary dispute with neighbouring Assam and IAF chopper crash were some issues that kept Arunachal Pradesh in news during 2017. Amidst strong protest from China, the Dalai Lama on April 4 visited the state and delivered sermons and engaged in religious discourse during his seven-day stay in the state. A few days later, the Arunachal Pradesh government strongly denounced China's move to 'standardise' official names for six places in the state, which Beijing claims to be part of its territory, in an apparent retaliation to the Dalai Lama's visit. Old resentments ran high in September after the decision of the Centre to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajongs in the state following a Supreme Court directive in 2015.

Politicians and activists, cutting across political allegiances in the state, claimed the move undermines the rights and interests of Arunachal's indigenous tribes. The All Arunachal Students' Union (AAPSU), which has a long history of anti-Chakma agitations, called a state-wide strike on September 19 to protest against the Centre's decision. It led to sporadic violence, with vehicles being set afire, and the state nearly coming to a halt, as government offices, schools and markets remained closed. In a letter to Union home minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the matter was of deep emotional concern and his state was not ready to accept any infringement of the constitutional protection given to the tribes of the state. The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly also resolved to call upon the Centre to take urgent steps to protect the territorial and other consequential rights of the state tribal population as protected and guaranteed under the Constitution.

The predominantly Buddhist Chakmas and the Hindu Hajongs are among the earliest persecuted groups to have sought refuge in India. Tragedy also struck the state as it reported two helicopter crashes during 2017. An IAF chopper pressed on flood rescue mission went missing near Sagalee in Papum Pare district with three crew members and IRB personnel on board on July 4. Police recovered the bodies after three days of intense search operations. In the other incident on October 6, an Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17 V5 helicopter crashed near Tawang killing all seven on board. In addition, an IAF chopper with Union minister Kiren Rijju on board made an emergency landing at a college ground here on July 4 due to poor visibility. The year also

witnessed crisis in the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APSSC) following a question paper leak in the preliminary examination of combined exams. Trouble began when four Chakma candidates name were figured in list of candidates for the preliminary examination. However, after strong protest by various students' bodies in the state their names were omitted. After the preliminary examination, aspirants accused the commission of providing erroneous question papers and setting questions from a Pakistan-based website.

The candidates even staged a dharna in front of the commission's office in the preliminary examination. The commission decided to re-conduct the preliminary examination.

Another issue that hogged the limelight in the state during 2017 was the inter-state boundary dispute with Assam. Assam forest officials on December 8 demolished four under construction tourist resorts at Dullungmukh in Lower Subansiri district, a move which evoked strong resentments among various students' bodies of the state. After a news portal made public the contents of a 60-page booklet allegedly written by former chief minister Kalikhola Pul before committing suicide on August 9, 2016, his eldest wife Dongwimsai Pul demanded the Centre to initiate a CBI inquiry into the death of her husband. The inter-state boundary dispute in the state during the year remained grim with underground cadres laying an ambush on 13 Assam Rifles near Jairampur in Changlang district on January 22 which led to death of two security personnel. Intensifying its operation against underground groups active in Tirap, Changlang and Longleng districts of the state, security forces during the year apprehended 14 NSCN (IM) rebels, 12 NSCN (K), one NSCN (U), 7 NSCN (R) and three ULFA cadres during the year besides recovering a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

To tackle the insurgency problem in three eastern districts of the state, the Centre sanctioned a special package for strengthening the security apparatus. Flood and landslides lashed several districts in the state during the year claiming several lives. The state also witnessed political crisis during the year with the ruling BJP on August 11, parting ways with its North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) partner - the Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA). On August 7, the state unit of the NCFP was dissolved after resigning of all its leaders from the party who later joined the National Peoples Party (NPP). The BJP formally welcomed Chief Minister Khandu into the 'parivar' on January 7. (PTI)

Bangla minister hopes for early repatriation of Rohingya

KOLKATA, JAN 5 /- Bangladeshi Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has expressed hope that the repatriation of Rohingya refugees from his country will start "very soon". Myanmar had in November last year agreed to take back tens of thousands of Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh following a military crackdown. "There is an agreement between the Myanmar and Bangladesh governments. We hope the repatriation will start very soon. Although there is no time frame but those who have recently crossed over to Bangladesh, they have been scrutinised and Myanmar has agreed to take them back," Inu told reporters here last night. He lauded Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership for the way it tackled the Rohingya crisis. Any refugee crisis is a stress on the economy but the Bangladesh government has passed the test, he said. Over 6,00,000 Rohingyas Muslims have fled Myanmar's violence-hit Rakhine state to neighbouring Bangladesh since August 2017 when the military intensified crackdown on their alleged militant outfits. Asked about the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, Inu said there had been no incident of violence in bordering districts of Bangladesh which might have forced migration to India in the last 40 years. "There has been no major incident of violence in the last 40 years that might have forced migration from bordering districts of Bangladesh to Assam or Tripura. Also, there are no family connections (relatives) in those areas," Inu said. The NRC of 1951 is being updated in Assam under the supervision of the Supreme Court to identify original residents of the state in order to check illegal migration. On the issue of terrorism, Inu said Bangladesh had adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and Dhaka would not allow its soil to be used for terror acts against any country. (PTI)

Modi walks up to Manmohan in RS, shakes hands

NEW DELHI, JAN 5 /- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today walked up to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh soon after the Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die. The cordial "handshake" came barely weeks after the duo had been locked in a bitter war of words over Gujarat elections. As soon as Chairman Manmohan Singh adjourned the House sine die and 'Vande Mataram' was rendered, Modi was seen moving towards the opposition benches shaking hands with some members, including his predecessor. He reached the seat of the former premier, shook hands with him for quite some time and spoke to him. Among others with whom the Prime Minister was seen shaking hands were Deputy Chairman P J Kurien and veteran Congress leader Karan Singh, who was bid farewell by the Upper House today as his tenure ends on January 27.

The show of cordiality between the incumbent and the former premier follows a rare row that broke out last month after Modi insinuated that

Notice Inviting e-Tender
NIT No. ALHW/DCE-IEE (N&S)/ 2017-18/Tend-61

The Executive Engineer (N&S) Division, O/o Deputy Chief Engineer-I, Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works, Port Blair invites on behalf of the President of India, online item rate tender for the following work.

Attending routine maintenance of Phoenix Bay Harbour Complex (Stage-II, III, IV Jetties & Fishries jetty) at Port Blair for a period of one year
Estimated Cost : ₹. 9,17,730.00
EMD : ₹. 18,355.00

Start date of Uploading of tender document: 12.01.2018 at 09:00 Hrs.
Opening date : 25.01.2018 at 15:30 Hrs.
www.Tenderwizard.com/ALHW
1208/18
Executive Engineer (N&S)
For and on behalf of the President of India

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited for annual contract for supply of provision items for Hornbill Nest Resort, Port Blair for a period of one year.

The scheduled of items and the terms & conditions can be obtained from Sr. Manager (H&N), Vikas Bhawan, ANIDCO Ltd., Port Blair on all working days upto 23/01/2018 or it may be downloaded from the website www.andnfc.in

The quotation in sealed cover should be placed in the tender box kept in the Corporate office latest by 24/01/2018 at 3:00PM which will be opened on the same day at 3:30PM in presence of the qualification or their authorized representatives if any at the time of opening tenders.

The General Manager (Ism), ANIDCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason therefor.

General Manager (Tourism), ANIDCO Ltd.,
(F.No. 3/34/ANIDCO/IB/2017-18)
Unique No.: 52253

1199/18

No.DB-TN/PBSD/2017-18/27

Dated. 03/01/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Port Blair South Division, APWD, Port Blair on behalf of the President of India invites separate sealed item rate tenders (in form C.P.W.D.8) from the approved and eligible experienced contractors of appropriate class of APWD for following works.

NIT No.50/EE/PBSD/2017-18 Name of work:- Construction of Double storied New Modular OT at G. B. Pant Hospital. **Sub work:-** Balance work of Lift shaft and Machine Room. **Estimated Cost:-** Rs.10,95,596/- **Earnest Money :-** Rs.21,912/- & **Time of Completion :-** 01 (one) Month.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the O/o Executive Engineer, PBSD on payment of Rs. 500/- The last date of receipt of application to purchase tender form will be 10/01/2018 upto 4:00 PM. Other details/ information can be seen on website www.andnfc.in

1183/18



:- NOMINATIONS OPEN :-
The most widely circulated newspaper in the isles, THE ECHO OF INDIA is announcing EOI ISLES ICON award 2018 for a person, organisation or group who have excelled in making Andaman and Nicobar Islands proud nationally or internationally in the field of culture, social, sports, journalism, business or in any field deemed right. To be selected by an esteemed jury, the award will be presented in a glittering ceremony at Port Blair in the month of March, 2018 to be attended by the crème de la crème of the islands.

Please fill this form with the name, address, phone number and email of the person, organisation or group you would like to Nominate and see the first EOI ISLES ICON 2018 (It also could be you!). Attach photograph (you can download picture from the internet too) of the nominee along with the cut out of this form.

IMPORTANT- Please do not forget to cut this filled form from this newspaper (if you do not, then the nomination will be deemed rejected) and attach to a detailed list of the achievements, personal profile and photograph in a separate paper or document. No photocopy of newspaper cut out will be entertained.

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION- 31ST JANUARY, 2018

NOTE- Please post or courier nomination with cut out of this form to EOI ISLES ICON award 2018, THE ECHO OF INDIA, First cross, M.G. Road, Junglighat (near Mitali Book Store), Port Blair- 744103.

FORM

PHOTO

NAME

FIELD OF EXCELLENCE

ADDRESS

PHONE/CELL NO.

EMAIL

NB. No staff members or their families of THE ECHO OF INDIA group of publications can participate in the nomination process. No telephone calls or emails will be entertained.

What top editors, CEOs of publishing houses read in 2017!

NEW DELHI, JAN 5 /- When you ask CEOs, top editors and publishers whether they found time to read books published by their competitors in the year gone by, don't always expect a negative answer. For many of them managed to read a lot of books brought out by other publishers despite having a busy time in 2017. According to HarperCollins India CEO Ananth Padmanabhan, the three books he enjoyed the most were "Tom Hanks' collection of short stories 'Uncommon Type' (Penguin Random House), Tim Harford's 'Fifty Things That Made the Modern Economy' (Hachette) and Dan Brown's 'Origin' (Penguin Random House). He also read Walter Isaacson's biography of Leonardo Da Vinci published by Simon & Schuster which he found "purely fascinating". The top three reads of Meru Gokhale, Editor-in-Chief, Literary Publishing, at Penguin Random House India, were "Ants Among Elephants" by Sujatha Gidla (HarperCollins India), "Home Fire" by Kamila Shamsie (Bloomsbury India), and "Remnants of a Separation" (HarperCollins) by Ananchal Malhotra. When asked about his favourites, Bhaskar Roy, CEO of Palimpsest Publishers, said the book that cast a spell on him was George Saunders' "Lincoln in the Bardo" (Bloomsbury). "The master short story writer poignantly explores a state between death and rebirth. Soon after the end of the American Civil War, when President Lincoln is still grappling with the unsettled situation, he sees his 11-year-old son traipsing into the surreal state between life and death. In this first novel Saunders explores an area where fiction merges into philosophy," he informed.

"At the opposite end is Haruki Murakami's irresistibly irreverent 'Men Without Women' (Random House) which brilliantly explores human relationships and inner crevices of doubts, dilemmas, follies and foibles that sum up an urban man's life. This collection of short stories points to our vulnerabilities without leaving the reader sad or depressed," he said.

"My nonfiction reads were overwhelmingly topped by Rana Dasgupta's 'Notes on a Suicide', an incisive quest into the dysfunctionality and delirium of the 21st-century urban life in Europe.

QUIZ Contest

CG007

CHRISTMAS ISLAND IS IN WHICH OCEAN?

INDIAN?
 PACIFIC?
 ATLANTIC?

Yesterday's Answer : Seismograph.

Name: Rachel Mahima, Junglighat; Alan Dev, VIP Road, Port Blair; Ashish Kumar, Seemant, Seemant Road; Sandhya Swaminatha, Austinnabad; Nasren Bannu, Dignabad

We will publish your name, correct answer in this space. SMS the answers alongwith your name, address, correct answers to the following mobile number: 8334826380

'Publish your Painting' Contest for Kids

THE ECHO OF INDIA gladly announces re-launch of its weekly column for school students to promote fine arts among budding artists. Students from different government and private schools of these islands, pursuing education in the middle school level i.e Class I to VIII, can participate in the weekly painting contest by sending their artwork along with particulars like name, postal address, telephone number, by post to **The Echo of India, 1st Cross, MG Road, Junglighat, Port Blair - 744103** or a scanned copy of the painting over email to idechopress4@gmail.com. Heads of different schools across these islands are also requested to circulate the message among their wards and forward their paintings to the aforesaid address. The paintings so received will be published on Page 6 of The Echo of India every Friday w.e.f. 1st December 2017 and the best painter will be suitably rewarded.

Note: The best artwork of the week will be published in THE ECHO OF INDIA with the budding artists Name and Address.



INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, SHADIPUR
PORT BLAIR - 744106

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT BLAIR
AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID TILL 1730 HRS OF 06/01/2018

ISSUE TIME: 1730 Hrs IST DATE: 05/01/2018
Rain or thundershower very likely to occur at many places.

Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 29°C and 24°C respectively on Saturday 06/01/2018

Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date :	28.5	Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST):	0541
Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date :	23.5	Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST):	1709
Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST	087	Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm:	014.1
Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST	095	Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm:	005.0
		Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 18 upto 0830 hrs of date) in mm	59.3

M.O. Port Blair
Tele/fax: 229480