

NGGOA registers protest over indiscriminate power-cuts in city, SA

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30 /- The Non-Gazetted Government Officers' Association, Andaman and Nicobar Islands registered its strong protest over indiscriminate power disruption at Port Blair and a vast rural areas of South Andaman for the last few months. In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, a copy of which was also addressed to the Secretary to Lt. Governor and the Commissioner-Secretary (Power), the general secretary of the Association, Mr

T. Sreeekumar invited the attention towards intermittent power cut, up to 4-5 times a day, without any public announcement that is badly affecting the studies of students and working of all establishment including government offices. The arbitrary power cut by the electricity department is causing grave concern and anguish among the parents and students as the students appearing for Board examinations are unable to prepare for their examinations. The general secretary

also drew the attention towards the lack of proper planning and under-preparedness of the electricity department to face such exigencies of power shortage. He further stated that crores of rupees invested from exchequer through M/s Surya Chakra Power Corporation is a mere waste as they failed to provide steady power supply as per the agreement. The Association has requested the Chief Secretary to intervene into the matter and take appropriate decision for installation of additional diesel generator sets at Govt. Power Houses at Chatham, and Phoenix Bay to tide over the crises on long-term basis and possibilities of installing portable diesel generator sets may be explored on war-footing in view of the existing Board Examinations and summer months. Meanwhile, the Association in its meeting has decided to organise agitational programmes against the frequent disruption of power supply in Port Blair city and adjoining areas.

ANCOL's Chaucer Literature Club celebrates annual day

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30 /- Chaucer Literature Club (English Department) of Andaman College celebrated its first annual function on January 28. Dr. R. Dev Das, principal of Andaman College inaugurated the function. Dr. C. Pushpakumar, HOD welcomed the gathering and said that ANCOL is an institution which has been famed to always take the road less travelled. In his presidential address, Dr. R. Dev Das appreciated the club activities and said that "be a go-getter and make the life meaningful". PINNACLE, the yearly magazine of the club was released during the function.

A case was registered against Rana under IPC Section 505 (Making a statement with intent to incite) and Section 125 (Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election) of the Representation of the People Act for his controversial remarks, Thana Bhawan circle officer Sunil Kumar Tyagi said. The officer said that it was found that the MLA's statement violated the model code of conduct for elections. Rana today tried to do some damage control claiming that his remarks were meant for goons who have spread terror in the state.



Function, vibrant and colorful programmes by students, vote of thanks. The students were also the part of the programme culminated the function. Ms. Sonia with the National Anthem.

BJP MLA Suresh Rana booked for hate speech

MUZAFFARNAGAR, JAN 30 /- Controversial BJP MLA Suresh Rana was today booked by Uttar Pradesh Police on charges of inciting hatred after he said that curfew will be imposed in Kairana, Deoband and Moradabad if he is elected again in assembly polls next month. Rana, an accused in the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots and the party candidate from Thana Bhawan seat in neighbouring Shamli district, had made the remarks at a gathering in his constituency on Saturday, evoking criticism from opposition. "If I emerge as the winner (in UP polls), curfew will be imposed in Kairana, Deoband and Moradabad," he said.

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Mariyam meets BSNL CGM

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30 /- Former Adhyaksha of Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, Ms V. K. Mariyam Bibi along with Pradhan of Stewartgunj, Wimberlygunj, Kanayapuram and Mr. Deva Kumar, Zilla Parishad member, Mananghat met the Chief General Manager of BSNL on Monday and highlighted the problems being faced by the rural population due to poor mobile and internet services of the BSNL. "Subscribers have to wait for hours for uploading small messages in their whatsapp or downloading urgent photo messages which are even of 100 kbs only hours are lost for sending a small email of urgent nature. In today's era when smartphones are being used for monetary transactions and communication, reliable telecom services have become a necessity for the subscribers," she said requesting BSNL to provide 3G facility in the rural pockets. After giving a patient hearing, the BSNL chief assured to address the problems and provide 3G facility in Ferrargunj Tehsil by the end of March this year.

Rural roadwork inaugurated

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30 /- The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Mr. Udit Prakash Rai inaugurated the work for "construction of road from Jeewan Halder house to Mahindra Dhali Plantation at Collapara-01 today in the presence of Mr. Subir Chandra, Zilla Parishad Member, Mr. Mahadev Majhi, Pradhan, Samiti Member and villagers. The work is for an estimated cost of Rs. 41,10,000 and will create 1761 mandays. The Deputy Commissioner also visited Herapatad village and inspected the widening of road by APWD.

ZP Adhyaksh interacts with children

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30 /- The Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, Mr. Jaydeep Kumar Dey and senior officers interact with children in the age group of 12 to 18 who visited Zilla Parishad, South Andaman along with representatives of NGO, Butterflies, recently as part of Child Led Plan. During the interaction, the children raised various issues like bad rural roads, ban on child marriage prevalent at Little Andaman, lack of proper furniture, computer lab with teaching and practical facilities, clean toilets with water facilities in schools, establishment of English speaking classes, provision for career guidance courses at regular intervals, provision of boundary walls to all school premises, to avoid misuse of school premises at night hours, introduction of more streams like Home Science, Fine Arts, Physical Education etc. provision of transport facility etc. Mr. Dey assured children that necessary steps to fulfil their needs/demands will be taken up at his level and also with the authorities of A&N Administration.

PBMC to award ten persons for digital payment of taxes

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30 /- The Port Blair Municipal Council has decided to award 10 persons every month for making digital payment to PBMC during the month of January, February and March 2017. The digital payment may be of any amount and for any kind of dues like Water & Conservancy Charges, Property Tax, Octroi, Rental for Shops/Kiosks and Booking of Community Halls etc. Mr. B. Eswar Rao, Chairperson PBMC informed that till January 25 the total amount of more than Rs 10 lakhs was digitally paid by more than 500 persons. The digital payment till January 31 will be included in the first draw. The amount of reward will be Rs. 1000 per person. The first lucky draw for the month of January will be held in the first week of February at PBMC HQ, said the civic chief adding that PBMC will soon provide the facility of internet banking for payment of various kinds of taxes.

Police should be proactive in tackling cyber crime: Bombay HC

MUMBAI, JAN 30 /- The Bombay High Court today said cyber crime and websites including objectionable services are a problem for the society at large, and police should be proactive in addressing the issues and initiating action. A division bench of Chief Justice Manjula Chellur and G S Kulkarni was hearing a PIL filed by city resident Ali Ahmed Siddiqui seeking action against online websites that run sex rackets in the guise of escort services. The bench was today informed by public prosecutor Purvima Kantharia that the cyber crime cell of city police has so far blocked over 200 such sites after investigation. The high court said that while it appreciates this, the police should be more proactive. "Cyber crime and such websites are a problem to the society at large. The police should not wait for someone to complain about some sites or for court to pass directions. The police should be proactive," Chief Justice Chellur said. The court, after hearing the petition for further hearing next month, said it wants the police to file monthly progress reports on the issue. (PTI)



Picture shows the Lt. Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Professor Jagdish Mukhi presenting the Republic Day 2017 Best Marching Contingent Trophy to platoon Commander, Mr MS Murugan, Sub Inspector, Indian Reserve Battalion at Raj Nivas on January 26.

If Punjab is secure, the nation is secure: Shah

AMRITSAR, JAN 30 /- BJP national president Amit Shah today asked the electorate to vote for the SAD-BJP combine in Punjab for the third time, stating that the alliance's victory was necessary for the security of the country. "The election in Punjab is an election for the security of the nation. Being a border-lying state, it is the responsibility of the electorate to choose a government which can ensure secure borders, communal harmony and peace. Punjab is the heart of India. If it is secure, the nation is secure," he said. Shah was addressing an election rally here in support of BJP candidates for the Punjab Assembly elections. Launching an offensive against Congress and A&E he said Captain Amarinder Singh and Arvind Kejriwal were "daydreaming" of becoming the Chief Minister of Punjab.

2 Patel quota stir activists held for ruckus at Dy CM's function

AHMEDABAD, JAN 30 /- Two persons associated with Patil quota agitation were arrested by Gandhinagar police for allegedly creating ruckus at a function attended by Gujarat's Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel. The Hardik Patel-led 'Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti' (PAAS) has claimed responsibility behind the incident, saying they wanted to draw attention of Gujarat government on the issue of reservation for Patil community under OBC quota, a cause for which they were fighting since more than a year. According to police, a group of persons at the venue started shouting slogans as soon as Patel started his address at a mass wedding ceremony of Kadva

Patidar community at Vihar village in Manasa taluka of Gandhinagar district last evening. "Based on a complaint filed by event organisers, we lodged a complaint against nine persons for creating ruckus. Later, during the night, we arrested two of them on charges of rioting," Manasa Police Inspector K.H. Suryavanshi said. The two arrested persons - Chandu Patel and Vinod Patel -- were released on bail today. Apart from Nitin Patel, the organisers had also invited BJP MP from Mehsana, Jayshree Patel, at the function, said the officer. "During Nitin Patel's speech, some of the persons started shouting slogans. They even started throwing water pouches indiscriminately on people at the venue. Those

who were arrested yesterday were granted bail by a court today," said Suryavanshi. Gandhinagar PAAS convener Abhik Patel said, "Though we are agitating for getting reservation under OBC quota, this government is not listening to us. Thus we protest against BJP leaders whenever we get a chance. Yesterday, we shouted 'Jai Sardar - Jai Patidar' as soon as Patel started his speech." Meanwhile, Hardik Patel came to Manasa police station this morning to express solidarity with the two arrested PAAS activists. Though he insisted on meeting the duo, police asked him to meet them after they get bail. "Hardik did not create any trouble and left after we explained our stand," Suryavanshi said. (PTI)

Punjab 'Belan Brigade' to tackle drug menace in polls

CHANDIGARH, JAN 30 /- With the drug menace emerging as a major issue in poll-bound Punjab, an NGO named 'Belan Brigade' is aiming to the rolling pin as a symbol in its fight against the social evil. "From today, we will carry a bus full of volunteers, who will travel the length and breadth of the state to raise awareness among the people in these elections against drug abuse," the NGO's chief Anita Sharma said today. She said the 'belan' (rolling pin) has always been part of every household and it is the symbol of a woman's strength.

"It is one thing with which every woman starts her day. We want the 'belan' as a symbol to fight against the menace of drug abuse in Punjab," she added. Sharma said they want to fight against social evils that have affected several families across the state. The bus-carrying the women volunteers was flagged off by the family members of drug abuse victims in Ludhiana, she said. "The people should drive away those who distribute or who entice the voters with drugs and alcohol because they are the enemies not only of our democracy, but society as well as the humanity." Our NGO has been fighting against various social evils like crime against women including drug trafficking, child abuse, rape and child abuse trafficking," Sharma said. The campaign against drugs and liquor abuse began during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and its main focus is to make the public aware about the menace of drugs and its consequences on health. Since drug issue is at the centre stage in this year's Punjab elections, we also want to do our bit to raise public awareness," she said. Punjab will go to polls on February 4. (PTI)

SC denies bail to Asaram in sexual assault cases

NEW DELHI, JAN 30 /- Self-styled godman Asaram, facing prosecution in sexual assault cases lodged in Rajasthan, today failed to get relief from the Supreme Court which rejected his pleas seeking regular and interim bail on medical grounds. A bench comprising Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice N V Ramana also rejected his interim bail plea on health grounds in another sexual

offence case registered in Gujarat, saying the petition was "devoid of any merit". The apex court also observed that Asaram had placed a "fictitious document" to persuade the court to grant him bail and ordered registration of an FIR against those responsible for preparing and filing the alleged fake papers. "The instant act of placing fictitious document through his 'parokar' constitutes a serious offence and it can't be let off merely by tendering an apology. We direct registration of an FIR based on the letter dated November 8, 2016 and also the affidavit filed in compliance of the order dated December 6, 2016," the bench said. "We direct the concerned investigating officer to complete the investigation thereof at the earliest and, in case an offence is

made out, initiate criminal prosecution in accordance with the law against all the concerned parties," it said while rejecting the regular bail plea of Asaram. The apex court, while dismissing the regular bail plea, noted that trial in the matter was unnecessarily prolonged and the prosecution witnesses were being attacked, which has led to the death of two witnesses. (PTI)

Jat quota stir enters second day, remains peaceful

CHANDIGARH, JAN 30 /- The members of Jat community in Haryana today continued their agitation in 18 districts of the state seeking reservation in government jobs and other demands. Amid elaborate security arrangements, the Jats held dharnas at several locations, which remained peaceful, officials said. The dharnas remained peaceful in 18 districts. "All India Jat Aarakshan Sangharsh Samiti (AIJASS) president Yashpal Malik told PTI over phone, adding from February 3 the Jats will hold dharnas in Delhi in support of those agitating in Haryana. "On February 3, we will begin with a dharna at Narela and then on the following days dharnas will be held in 11 districts of Delhi every day," he said. The call for the fresh stir has been given by some Jat outfits, especially those owing allegiance to AIJASS. Since yesterday, the mem-

bers of Jat community have been staging peaceful dharnas at Ramayan village near Hisar-Bhiwani railway track, Jollahi village on Sonapat-Gohana road, Jassia village on Rohtak highway, Kasalwala Chowk in Jhajjar, Umrakhari village near Panipat-Shamli road, Balia village near Assandh road in Karnal and at some other places. From tomorrow, the agitation will begin in a couple of more districts, Malik said. Internet services have been suspended in the vicinity of dharna sites to check spread of rumours. Authorities have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPc in some areas of the sensitive districts, banning gathering of five or more people. Paramilitary forces are out in sensitive areas while heavy police force has been deployed to maintain strict vigil. The central forces have conducted flag marches in some sensitive areas,

officials said. During a similar stir a year ago, there were 30 deaths and widespread destruction of property. This time, Haryana has been put on maximum alert, officials said. All the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police have been directed to ensure that highways and railway tracks are not obstructed and no damage is caused to property, they said. The state government has warned agitators against taking law in their hands. "People can protest peacefully, but if anyone takes law in one's hands, then strict action will be taken," a senior official said here. Rapid Action Force has been deployed at Munak canal in Sonapat district to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the national capital. The agitators had damaged the canal during last year's stir. Meanwhile, in Hisar, the dharna by Jats near Ramayan village was addressed by various leaders of the

community on the second day of the agitation amid elaborate security arrangements. Ram Bhagat Malik, spokesperson of AIJASS claimed that the dharna would continue in a peaceful manner. While addressing a gathering, the leaders said those Jat or Khatp leaders "who betrayed the community by siding with the government this time also, will have to face the consequences. The community will teach them a lesson. They have been trying to weaken the agitation". Notably, Rohtak and some of its neighbouring districts, including Sonapat and Jhajjar, had been worst-hit by the violence which broke out during last year's Jat stir. Apart from the quota demand, the agitators are demanding release of arrested Jat youths from jails, withdrawal of cases registered during last year's agitation and grant of government jobs to the kin of youths who died and those injured during last year's stir.