

## PBMC SVC, JVC elected

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /- At a special meeting held under the chairmanship of Smt Anusila Devi, Chairperson of Municipal Council, Smt Protima Banerjee, Councillor, Ward no. 6 and Mr S



Karunakaran, Councillor, Ward No. 1 were elected Senior Vice Chairperson (SVC) and Junior Vice Chairperson (JVC) for the fourth year term commencing on Sept 29.

## Swachhta Ambassador pays homage to Bapu



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /- While the country is celebrating "Swachhta Hi Seva" from Sept 15 to Oct 2, Ambassador of Swachhta Bharat Mission, A & N Islands, Mr Naresh Chander Lal visited Raj Ghat and

paid homage to the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It was a Karyanjali to Bapu by an islander from the far flung islands of Andaman Nicobar, Mr Lal in a release to EOI.

## Parrikar clearing files from hospital, claims Goa minister

PANAJI, SEPT 29 /- Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar's hospitalisation has not hampered administrative work in the state as he is clearing official files from New Delhi's AIIMS, a senior minister said today.

Parrikar is undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, for a pancreatic ailment. "The chief minister is clearing all the files from the hospital. Whatever files are being sent, he is clearing them within two-three days.

No files are pending," said Goa public works department (PWD) minister Sudin Dhalavalkar. He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function, where a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with the Portuguese government on water supply and sanitation.

Dhalavalkar said as per directions of Parrikar, state cabinet members will hold a review meeting every Wednesday to discuss administrative issues. After that, a report on the meeting will be placed before the chief minister, he added. "We all ministers are capable of holding the (respective) charge. We are handling all the issues of the state," he said, adding that "the administrative work is being monitored by the chief secretary." Parrikar, 62, is admitted in the AIIMS since September 15. He earlier underwent treatment in the US. The political situation in Goa has attracted a lot of attention in the last few weeks due to Parrikar's absence from office following ill health.

Over a week ago, a three-member BJP team visited Goa to assess the political situation. After the visit, the BJP said Parrikar will continue to head the party-led government. The Maharashtratrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), to which Dhalavalkar belongs, the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and three Independents are backing the BJP-led government in the state. A few days ago, Congress legislators in Goa had met Governor Mridula Sinha and demanded a floor test by the BJP-led government to prove its majority in the Assembly in view of Parrikar's absence.

## Stalin not to take part in MGR centenary event

CHENNAI, SEPT 29 /- Accusing the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu of using late leader M G Ramachandran's birth centenary for "political mileage", DMK president M K Stalin today said he will not take part in the centenary function to be held here. "I am not in agreement with using MGR's name for political mileage and party politics in the garb of government event... I have decided not to participate in it," he said, referring to the valedictory slated to be held on Sunday. Stalin, the leader of opposition in the state Assembly, dubbed as "pompous" the event being organised by the government using taxpayers' money to further the "remaining political journey" of the incumbent All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader said he, however, respected the "political culture" of including his name into the list of invitees for the function. The DMK

## Oil Pollution Response drill by CG

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /- The Pollution Response Team (A&N) of the Indian Coast Guard conducted an Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation Convention Level-I Course for the first responders recently. The course was structured to impart training on preparedness and response technique as a first responder against any marine oil pollution scenario. In addition to 29 personnel of the Indian Coast Guard, 07 Officers from various stake holders including Department of Environment & Forest, Police Marine Force and IOCI participated in the course.



All participants were exposed to various theoretical aspects of oil spill response, behavior, fate and response techniques for containment and recovery. Participants were also given practical demonstration of handling of oil spill response equipment. An exposure was also provided for Health and Safety precautions to be exercised during such operations. Wildlife being highly prone to any oil spill, methods required for recovery and rehabilitation of wild life were also covered during training by the expert from department of Environment & Forest. The participants were also exposed to techniques for aerial dispersal of OSD and visited Coast Guard Air Enclave at Port Blair for practical demonstration of such equipment.

## NGGOA submits demands to CS

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /- A delegation of the Non-Gazetted Govt. Officers' Association, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, led by Mr P. Satyapal, President and Mr T. S. Sreekumar, General Secretary met the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Mr Chetan B Sanghi and submitted a memorandum on long pending issues of employees working under the A & N Administration. The Association demanded formation of a UT-Level Grievance Redressal Mechanism for the employees under A&N Administration for the timely settlement of various demands. The Association also pointed out that the issue of exemption of Island Special Duty Allowance (ISDA) from taxable income is pending with Government of India and requested an early intervention by the Administration. The delegation further demanded immediate steps by the Administration for the continuation of Central Govt. Health Scheme (CGHS) facility to the pensioners of A&N Administration.

The delegation conveyed serious concern over a large number of vacancies in various departments under the A & N Administration and requested to expedite measures to fill up the vacancies. The undue delay to fill up promotional posts in Departments like Health, Agriculture, Rural Development and Education was also brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary. The other issues discussed in the meeting were Regularization of Ad hoc Services of teachers from the date of their initial appointment, Non-Functional Selection Grade to Clerical Cadre employees, Restructuring of Statistical Cadre and IT Cadre employees, Separate Directorate for IT,



Construction of sufficient number of quarters, Timely settlement of pension cess and shortage of boats/helicopter services to Southern Group of Islands. The Chief Secretary assured the delegation to take appropriate action on the issues raised by the Association. The other members of the delegation were Mr D. N. Banerjee, Mr R.D. Yadav, Mr R. Surendran Pillai, Smt Suma Nair and Mr R. Raji.

## Protima, Karunakaran congratulated



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /- Mr Vishal Jolly, state president BJP, A&N Islands, congratulated Smt Protima Banerjee, Ward No.6, Councillor for being elected as Senior Vice-Chairperson and Mr S. Karunakaran, Ward No. 1, Councillor for his election as Junior Vice-Chairman of Port

Blair Municipal Council on Saturday. He also expressed gratitude to BJP and alliance party Councillors for their support. Mr Jolly expressed hope that the new Senior Vice-Chairperson and Junior Vice-Chairman for 4th year term will work for the development of the Municipal area.

## Newly-wed woman gang raped by husband's relatives in Karyana

KURUKSHETRA, SEPT 29 /- A newly married woman was allegedly gang raped by her husband's relatives and a "tantrik" in Karyana's Yamunanagar, police said today. According to a complaint filed by the woman's father in Kurukshetra today, she was married to a resident of Yamunanagar on September 12th year. Soon after the marriage, her in-laws called her father and said she was mentally sick. When the father reached her home, he found her lying in an unconscious condition. After gaining consciousness, she narrated him the whole incident. She was made to involve herself in some activities with the occultist for next three days, during which she was gang raped several times, he said.

## Death mourned

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /- The State President of BJP, A&N Islands, Mr Vishal Jolly and Mr Sanjiv Rangaliah, President, Rajya Sarkari Karmchhari Maha Sangh, A&N Islands have deeply mourned the demise of Smt Kamal Kumari, aged 86, W/O Late. Shyam Nath, R/O Aberdeen Bazaar. She passed away on Thursday. In a release, the party leaders prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and for enough strength for the members of the bereaved family to bear the irreplaceable loss.

## BJP seeks action against parties boycotting J&K local body polls

JAMMU, SEPT 29 /- The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit today demanded de-recognition and withdrawal of symbol of the parties which have announced that they will boycott the upcoming urban local bodies (ULB) and panchayat polls in the state. ULB elections are scheduled to take place in four phases beginning October and the panchayat polls will be held in November-December in nine phases. Four parties - National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Bahujan Samaj Party - have announced that they will be boycotting the polls. "The BJP and the CPM chief ministers should de-recognise those political parties which have announced (their decision to) boycott ULB and panchayat polls," the party's state spokesperson Anil Gupta told newsmen here. Gupta said, "Suppression of the democratic process by these parties also amounts to gross violation of human rights." The chief electoral officer needs to immediately take up the issue with the Election Commission of India to de-recognise these parties and freeze their election symbols, he said.

The BJP leader added he has already filed a petition in this regard. The NC and the PDP are boycotting the polls over Article 35(A), which grants special rights and privileges to the "permanent residents" of the state and is facing legal challenge. The CPM and the BSP have slammed the Centre for going ahead with the polls despite the state's two main parties opposing them and the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

## FIR filed after national flag displayed upside down in BJP rally in Kathua

JAMMU, SEPT 29 /- The national flag was allegedly displayed upside down during a rally led by senior BJP leader Rajiv Jasrotia in Kathua district, following which an FIR was lodged for insulting the tricolour, police said today.

The FIR was registered on Friday against unknown persons in Kathua Police Station under Section 2 (insulting the national flag or the Constitution) of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, a police official told news agency PTI. A local resident, Vinod Nijhawan, in a complaint alleged the national flag was disrespected during the rally led by Jasrotia, who is a former minister, and BJP candidate Rahul Deshmukh Thursday, the official said. Jasrotia, who is the BJP MLA from Kathua constituency, had accompanied Sharma in a procession from his Shiv Nagar residence to file nomination papers for ward number 19 Thursday for the Urban Local Body polls.

## Khattar cancels gurdwara visit over authorities' refusal to remove Bhindranwale's photo

KARNAL, SEPT 29 /- A day after a group of Sikh devotees in Dachar village here protested the cancellation of chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, scheduled visit to a local gurdwara, he said the decision was taken after the shrine authorities refused to remove a picture of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a separatist militant. Khattar understood a day-long visit to 19 "hirths" (pilgrimage sites) in Karnal, his constituency, on Friday. In addition to these sites, he was scheduled to visit the gurdwara in Dachar village. "I had allotted time to visit the gurdwara. However, later when I got the information about Bhindranwale's picture there, I asked them (Gurdwara committee members) to remove it. I told them I will certainly visit if this picture is removed, but they did not agree to it. The visit was cancelled at 9 am yesterday," the chief minister said today. Replying to a question about protesters damaging a fire brigade,

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## Executive 'refuses' to stop car, shot dead by constables in UP; CM hints at CBI probe

LUCKNOW/GORAKHPUR, SEPT 29 /- A 38-year-old man was shot dead early this morning by a policeman when he allegedly refused to stop his car for checking in Lucknow's posh Gontli Nagar neighbourhood, police said.

Two constables were arrested on the basis of an FIR lodged by Apple executive Vivek Tiwari's colleague and Sana Khan, who was travelling with him. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said a CBI inquiry will be recommended if needed. Hours after the 1.30 am shooting, Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) P P Singh called it a criminal act and said the two con-



Vivek Tiwari

stantables will dismissed by service. Senior superintendent of police (SSP) Kalanidhi Nathani said the policemen on patrol duty had asked Tiwari to stop the SUV, which had their motorcycle and injured them. Constable Prashant Chaudhary noticed "suspicious activity" and opened fire when the man allegedly tried to speed away. A bullet pierced the windscreen as the car rammed into a pillar, police said. The

SSP had said the actual cause of death, whether it was bullet injuries or injuries suffered by the "Tiwari" when the car hit the pillar, will be known only after a post-mortem. The autopsy report later confirmed the death was caused by gunshot injuries. The constable, however, said he opened fire in self-defence when Tiwari tried to run over him, according to police. A special investigation team (SIT) has been formed to investigate the

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