

## Community resource centre for disabled planned

EOI CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, JULY 6/-/ A meeting was organised to establish Community Resource Centre for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Children and Adults with disabilities at the conference hall of Paryatan Bhawan on Friday, according to an IPR release. The Centre will be established at Sandong Kambal Gram Panchayat Unit (E) under the banner of local based Non Governmental Organization - Kalpataru Prathisthan.

Sikkim Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Ugen T. Gyatso Bhutia who is also the Area MLA of Tumin Lingee Constituency expressed his gratitude for the initiative to establish a centre of rehabilitation for disabled persons in his constituency and to extend all possible support and cooperation from different levels to



The meeting at Paryatan Bhawan -- EOI Photo

accomplish the project. Minister for Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Arjun Kumar Ghatani applauded the initiative and stressed upon collection of data of ASHAs, panchayats and disabled persons from the entire state of Sikkim. He suggested Kalpataru Prathisthan should coordinate with the nodal departments of Health Services and Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Deptt and to involve ASHAs, panchayats and stakeholders in future course of action. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) P.D. Rai coordinated with the participants and underlined assignment to be taken up further under the supervision of Consultant Dr. Man Bdr Chhetri. He advised to submit a DPR of the project to the concerned

## Gujarat: After Bavaliya, another OBC leader hints at quitting Cong

AHMEDABAD, JULY 6 /-/- After Kunwarji Bavaliya's exit, another senior OBC leader, Vikram Madam, today said he may quit the Congress if the party's state leadership did not address his grievances.

"I will raise several issues and questions that are bothering me on the party forum and will expect answers. If I am not satisfied, I can leave the Congress," Madam told newsmen before meeting the party leaders here. The OBC leader, who represented Jamnagar in the Lok Sabha twice, is now the MLA from Khambhalia. However, he also said that unlike Bavaliya - who joined the BJP and was made a minister - he would not join the ruling party. "I can leave the Congress, I can leave politics, but I will

never join the BJP. I will never wear a saffron scarf," Madam said to a question.

He declined to reveal what issues he wanted to raise with the party leadership, saying it will not be appropriate to do so before he speaks to the state Congress president. "I will raise the issues only on the party forum," (Congress president) Rahul Gandhi is coming to Gujarat on July 16 and 17. I will also meet him and raise these issues," he said.

According to party sources, senior state Congress leaders are disgruntled after Gandhi appointed Amit Chavda and Paresch Dhanani as the state unit chief and the Leader of Opposition (LOP) in the Assembly. Senior leaders consider Chavda

and Dhanani as relatively new-comers, sources said.

Madam was elected as MP from Jamnagar in 2004 and 2009. He won the Assembly election from Khabhalia in 2002 and again in 2017. He is considered to be a prominent leader from the Ahir (Yadav) community in the state.

According to party sources, he was a contender for the post of LOP after the last year's elections, but in the wake of Patel quota Congress decided to give the post to Dhanani, who belongs to the Patel community. The party received a blow earlier this week when Bavaliya, a five-time MLA and senior OBC leader, joined the BJP and was made a cabinet minister in the state government. (PTI)

## Sikkim DIPR website launched



EOI CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, JULY 6/-/ The Official Website of the Sikkim Department of Information and Public Relations was launched by Minister DIPR A.K. Ghatani in the presence of the Principal Secretary DIPR Bhagwan Shankar and Director DIPR Tashi Choppel at the conference hall of the Department at Soochna Bhawan, Tadong, on Friday.

In his welcome address Director DIPR Tashi Choppel said the department had always been IT friendly and that the launch of the website furthered the commitment of the Department towards a digitized Sikkim.

The Minister, in his address, congratulated the department on efforts towards marking a digital milestone and stated that this was a historic day for the department and

the State Government as well.

He extended his gratitude to the members of the Press Club of Sikkim for supporting the endeavors of the department by being present at the launch function and solicited suggestions for better delivery of information services to the people.

He mentioned that all information related to the growth and progress of the State would be featured in the website.

## Police access call detail records of Burari family

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /-/- The Delhi Police has accessed the call detail records of the 11 members of a Burari-based family who were found dead under mysterious circumstances on Sunday.

Those who spoke to the phone would be asked to appear for questioning, officials said. Over 100 people, including the other family members and neighbours, have been questioned so far in connection with the deaths. The police are scanning the call detail records of the 11 family members. The focus is on the CDRs of the last four-five months. It was around this time that the notes, confiscated by the police from their house, make a mention of "badh tapasya" or Banyan tree puja rituals.

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On the basis of these records, a list of more than 500 people to be questioned has been prepared and different teams will

question them," the officer said. Ten of the 11 members of the family were found hanging from an iron mesh in the ceiling on Sunday, while the body of 77-year-old Narayan Devi, the head of the family, was lying on the floor in another room of the house. Her daughter Pratibha (57) and two sons Bhavnesh (50) and Lalit (45) were among the deceased. Bhavnesh's wife Savita (48) and their three children - Maneka (23), Neetu (25), and Dharendra (15) were also found dead.

The others who were found hanging were Lalit's wife Tina (42), their 15-year-old son Dushyant and Pratibha's daughter Priyanka, who was engaged last month and was supposed to get married by year-end. On Wednesday, the police had recovered CCTV footage that showed some members bringing stools and wires that were used for their hanging. They had also found 11 diaries which had "psychological musings" and things about attaining "road to God".

## State Notes

### Non-payment of tax: BMC stops water supply to club

MUMBAI, JULY 6 /-/- The Mumbai civic body has disconnected the water supply to an elite club over non-payment of property tax of Rs 221 crore, an official said today. Established in 1937, the United Services Club (USC) at upscale Colaba in South Mumbai offers memberships to serving and retired officers of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. An official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) confirmed the action against the club over non-payment of property tax.

### Amarnath Yatra resumes from Pabalgam route

SRINAGAR, JULY 6 /-/- The Amarnath Yatra resumed today from the Pahalgam route after a gap of two days while it remained suspended for the third consecutive day from the Bahal route due to landslides. The yatra was suspended on Wednesday on both routes in the wake of landslides and shooting stones at several places and intermittent rains in the Yatra area. A spokesman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) said here today that the yatra resumed from the Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district this morning.

### Jailer shot at outside prison, escapes unhurt

PUNE, JULY 6 /-/- A jailer was allegedly shot at by two unidentified bike-borne assailants outside the Yerawada central prison here today, police said. Mohan Patil (40), who is a jailer at the central prison, escaped unhurt in the incident, police said. "The assailants came on a bike and fired a round at police sub-inspector Mohan Patil. The incident took place when he was about to enter the jail premises," a senior police officer said. "Patil escaped unhurt in the incident. We have recovered an empty cartridge from the spot," he said.

### American tourist molested by yoga teacher in Rishikesh

RISHIKESH, JULY 6 /-/- A yoga teacher has been arrested here for allegedly molesting an American tourist during a yoga session in the town, police said today. Manoj Badhani was arrested on Thursday on the basis of an FIR lodged by the woman, accusing him of molesting her during a yoga training session at a tourist home in Lakhman Jhula area on July 4, police said. The accused who worked as a yoga trainer at the tourist home has been sent to jail, they said. The woman is in India on a tourist visa. (PTI)

## Fadnavis announces stayon transactions in NaviMumbai land

NAGPUR, JULY 6 /-/- A day after ordering a judicial probe into the Navi Mumbai land deal case, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis today announced stay on all transactions related to that land. Making a brief statement in the Legislative Council, Fadnavis said the land cannot be sold or leased out till the judicial inquiry is complete. He also instructed the revenue department to ensure that no third party interest is created and no further transactions are done in this case till the inquiry is done. The business of the Council, which began at noon, lasted only for seven minutes as it was adjourned soon afterwards. Flooding in the switching centre that provides power to the Vidhan Bhawan forced the authorities to turn off the electricity supply for security reasons in the morning hours. "A judicial inquiry has been ordered into the Koyna PAP land issue and sale and leasing of that land has been prohibited till the inquiry report comes," the chief minister said.

## Uttarakhand minister dubs reports of non-veg food being served at govt guest houses as rumours

NEW DELHI, JULY 6 /-/- Uttarakhand minister Satpal Maharaj today said that rumours were being circulated about non-vegetarian food being served at the guest houses and other facilities of the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam, a state government enterprise. Dismissing the rumours, Maharaj said these were the result of "professional competition". "It's unfortunate that some people are spreading such rumours. I want to assure all the pilgrims, including those undertaking the Char Dham Yatra that no such thing happened. No non-vegetarian food is served at GMVN facilities," he said. The minister said that the "Swadesh Darshan" scheme, the tourism ministry has approved Rs 20 crore for integrated development of the heritage circuit in the Kumaon region that comprises Katarmal, Jogeshwar, Devdihura, and Baijnath. Rs 5

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core has been allocated to the state to implement the "Prasad" scheme, he said. Several pilgrim centres in the country, including Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, have been identified for development under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). "I want to thank the Union tourism minister for this big amount which will help in developing tourism in Uttarakhand," Maharaj told newsmen. He said that Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Rawat has taken stock of the problems caused due to the closure of the Char Dham Yatra routes because of rains. "Equipment have been deployed to clear the routes blocked by avalanches due to heavy rains. We have also issued warnings about threat of avalanches. If pilgrims remain cautious, the yatra will conclude successfully," he said.

## Sohrabuddin case: Lawyer urges Bombay HC to consider court deposition as additional evidence

MUMBAI, JULY 6 /-/- The counsel for IPS officer Rajkumar Pandian in Sohrabuddin Sheikh case today urged the Bombay High Court to consider as "additional evidence" the recent deposition by prosecution witnesses before the trial court, wherein, they had turned hostile.

Senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani sought the HC's permission to submit a compilation of the recent deposition by prosecution witnesses. Pandian was discharged by the trial court in the alleged fake encounter cases of Sohrabuddin Sheikh and Tulsiram Pranjapati.

The HC is hearing revision petitions challenging the discharge of some senior police officials in the case. Such deposition, Jethmalani argued, must be considered by the HC as evidence that went in Pandian's favour. Earlier this week, referring to the increasing number of prosecution witnesses in the case retracting their initial testimonies and turning hostile, the HC had said that is time not to be affected by what was currently going on in the case before the trial court.

Justice AM Badar had said that the High Court was merely considering whether or not charges could have been framed against these officials. Therefore, how conduct the HC was at the stage of charges, consider evidence from the trial, he had asked.

Justice Badar is hearing a bunch of revision petitions filed by Sohrabuddin Sheikh's brother Rubabuddin and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the discharge of some senior police officials in the case. However, Jethmalani argued today that the new testimonies of the witnesses, in which they had retracted their previous statements made against some senior IPS officers, including Pandian, must be considered by HC as "additional evidence" that "fortified" their discharge.



Union Minister for Textiles Smt. Irani presenting the Handloom Export Awards, at the 84th Ex. Funct., organised by the Handloom Export Promotion Council, in Chennai on Friday.

## Punjab CM urges artistes to join govt's fight against drugs

CHANDIGARH, JULY 6 /-/- Chief minister Amarinder Singh today urged Punjabi singers, dramatists, and filmmakers to play a proactive role in complementing the state government's efforts to combat the drug menace.

Interacting with noted Punjabi comedians Jaswinder Balla, Karamjit Anmol and Bal Mukund Sharma, Singh asked them to use their popularity with people to bring about the much-needed change on this count. These artistes, being the heartthrobs of millions of viewers who follow them on social media platforms like Facebook, could help in changing the people's perception towards drugs by leveraging their

massive outreach, the chief minister said. Reiterating his firm commitment to combat the challenge posed by drug abuse, Singh said the role of the artiste fraternity was of paramount significance as they were capable of prevailing upon the common man in an emotional and persuasive manner, especially at a critical juncture when several innocent youngsters were falling prey to drugs.

Their massive potential and people connect could be effectively used to positively influence the youngsters and create awareness about the ill effects of drugs, said the chief minister. Expressing



concern over the "alarming trend of violence cult" in Punjab, the chief minister suggested that a healthy and positive content should

be encouraged on the social media to discourage such negative propaganda. He expected the artistes to evolve a consensus amongst themselves not to promote gun culture, obscenity and vulgarity songs and videos which allure the innocent impressionable minds towards crime and hatred.

To overcome this problem, the chief minister advised artistes to create jingles, promos, short films and documentaries to imbibe the spirit of goodwill, love, compassion, and brotherhood in the society. Such a move could go a long way in changing the cultural mindset of the people, he added.

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