

Safe Drive Save Life campaign in Mirik

DEEP MILAN PRADHAN

MIRIK, AUG 2 /- / The Mirik sub-division police and the Panigata police out post on Wednesday organized an awareness programme on 'safe drive save life' at Panigata Bazaar in the presence of Mirik BDO Amitabh Bhattacharya, Mirik traffic officer Bikash Chamling and out post-in-charge Tapan Kumar Das shared information on traffic rules. People should always be alert about the possibility of accidents and control speed, they said. "If we are careless while driving, it may cause fatal accidents." Motor cycle riders should always wear helmets and car drivers safety belt for protection, said the traffic officer. On the occasion, students from surrounding schools and members from different NGOs organized an awareness rally.



Senior journalist from Sikkim Amalendu Kundu (second from right) at the launch of his book "Sikhion of The Dragon and Recent Developments" in Delhi earlier this week. --- EOI Photo

Goa's tourism master plan, policy to be ready in 4 months: Minister

PANAJI, AUG 2 /- / Goa's tourism master plan and policy would be ready in the next three to four months, state minister Manohar Aijaonkar told the Legislative Assembly today. Aijaonkar, who is the state tourism minister, said the master plan as well as the policy would be prepared keeping in mind the draft Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification, 2018. He said the master plan and the policy were currently being drafted by a consultant, who would submit them to the Goa government in the next three to four months. The minister was responding to a question tabled by Congress MLA Philip Neri Rodrigues in the House. Rodrigues said the tourism industry needs to be given specific directions, for which proper planning is required and a policy needs to be framed. Responding to the question, the minister admitted that there had been a delay on the part of the state government to formulate the master plan as well as the policy. "But now we are working actively. The policy will give proper directions to the tourism industry in the state," he said. According to the minister, the tourism policy is taking into consideration the guidelines and aspects in the draft CRZ notification, prepared by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change and sent to the state governments for their suggestions. The Goa government has already issued the draft CRZ notification, 2018.

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HPV vaccine programme in Mangan



DEEPAK SHARMA

MANGAN, AUG 2 /- / On Thursday, a cervical cancer awareness programme and launching of HPV vaccine programme was held at Mangan Sr Sec school of North

district. The programme was chaired by District Magistrate (North) K. R. Bonpo. Principal MSS, B. M. Pradhan, guardians and girl children between 9 and 14 years were present. The guardians and children were made aware on HPV vaccine and its importance. Sikkim State is first state to implement the programme in the entire state at the same time. In the past four days, a total 10, 614 HPV vaccination processes had been completed under the state government.

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Permanent accommodation for homoeopathy research unit requested

EOI CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, AUG 2 /- / A three-member delegation from Central Research Unit Homoeopathy led by Chairman of Northeast Advisory Committee and Former Culture Minister Manipur Dr. M. Nara Singh, called on Minister for Health Care, Human Services and Family Welfare Department Arjun Kumar Ghataani at his office at State Guest House on Thursday, said an IPR release. Dr. Nara put forth his proposal for permanent land or accommodation of the existing Clinical Research Unit (CRU) for Homoeopathy in Gangtok.

Ghataani informed that the Health department had already apprised the Union Minister of AYUSH in that regard and assured to extend full support and cooperation from the Sikkim Government to fulfill the requirements.



The delegates from Homoeopathy Research Unit

J&K Govt asks experts for help on Dal lake issues

SRINAGAR, AUG 2 /- / The famous Dal Lake has shrunk to less than half its original size with its capacity down to 40 per cent, officials said today as Governor N N Vohra invited the Navy and other experts to tackle issues faced by the water body.

Vohra had spoken to Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lamba, during his visit to the state last month, for his help in identifying experts who could undertake a benchmark survey of the Dal Lake and later, also of the Wular Lake, an official spokesperson said here. Vohra has also asked his adviser, B B Vyas, to get in touch with chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) Rajesh Tripathi, he said.

The Navy Chief had said Vice-Admiral S K Jha (Retd), former chief hydrographer, could assist the Jammu and Kashmir government in formulating an approach to deal with the problems faced by the Dal Lake, the spokesman added.

"At the request of the state government, Vice-Admiral Jha (Retd) and Tripathi visited Srinagar on 30 31 July and undertook separate surveys and assessments to identify the problems," he said. The spokesman said the Governor chaired a meeting at the Raj Bhavan today where Jha and Tripathi presented their assessments.

"From the assessment made by the CMD of DCI, it was learnt that the size of Dal has shrunk from its original area of 22 sq km to about 10 sq km, that the water quality of Dal has deteriorated due to intense pollution caused by untreated sewage and solid wastes that flow into the lake, encroachments of war channels and clogging has diminished the circulation and inflows into the lake, leading to extensive weed growth of water hyacinth which has emerged as a health hazard.

Maratha stir: 3 arrested from Goa over Navi Mumbai violence

PANAJI, AUG 2 /- / Three persons were arrested today in Goa for their alleged involvement in the violence during the Maratha reservation agitation on July 25 in Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, police said.

The Maratha reservation stir in Navi Mumbai had turned violent on July 25 and it also led to the death of a 21-year-old man, Rohan Todkar, who was allegedly assaulted by a mob on that day.

Todkar succumbed to his injuries in state-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai's Byculla area on July 27. A murder case was registered in this connection at Kopar Khairane police station and the probe was later transferred to Navi Mumbai Crime Branch. Bhusan Bhagwan Agaskar, Ashish Kale and Chandra Shekhar Vishwanath Patil were arrested in the morning today from a village near Calangute beach after Navi Mumbai police intimidated their Goa counterparts and also passed on photographs of the accused, a Calangute police official said.

Calangute police inspector Jytha Dalvi said that the three were wanted by Navi Mumbai police for offences including murder, hurting using dangerous weapons, unlawful assembly and rioting. "They were arrested in the morning today after we received inputs from Navi Mumbai police that the three, accused of committing offences during the Maratha reservation agitation in Navi Mumbai, were possibly hiding in Goa," Dalvi informed.

He said that the three had got wind of police action against them and had escaped from the hotel where they were hiding. "However, one of them was nabbed from Calangute beach and two others were also apprehended a little while later," Dalvi said. "Navi Mumbai police arrived here this morning and took custody of the three accused and left for Maharashtra," the police officer added.

Separate north Karnataka will not happen during my, my son's lifetime: Deve Gowda

NEW DELHI, AUG 2 /- / Opposing any move to divide Karnataka, former Prime Minister and JD-S supremo H D Deve Gowda today appealed to the people of north Karnataka not to get provoked by the BJP, and said the demand for a separate statehood for the region will not be met during his or his son and chief minister H D Kumaraswamy's lifetime.

Gowda's remarks came on a day the Uttara Karnataka Pratyeka Rajya Horata Samiti, a committee fighting for a separate statehood to north Karnataka, called a day-long bandh in 13 districts. "No injustice has been meted out to north Karnataka in allotment of funds in the state budget," he said and hit out at BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa for trying to create unrest through "malicious propaganda". "The provocation made by Yeddyurappa will not come true. We will take care of it... If some people demand a separate north Karnataka, I want to tell them it will not happen, not during my lifetime and not during my son's lifetime," the JD-S chief told PTI in an interview. He alleged that the BJP state president is "provoking" people of north Karnataka, as his "anger has not cooled down" after failing to form the government despite winning substantial seats. Gowda further alleged that the former chief minister has started "intimidating" people on the farm loan waiver, state budget and other issues, with the sole motive to create unrest. The former Prime Minister said many leaders have made sacrifices for the unification of the state and appealed to people not fall prey to provocation and to "trust the current government". Chief minister Kumaraswamy has already ordered the shifting of some key government departments to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, the secretariat building in Belagavi, Gowda added. The Samiti gave the bandh call to press for statehood for the region, alleging that successive governments discriminated against it. The Samiti leaders have also alleged discrimination in the allocation towards the region in the budget presented by Kumaraswamy on July 5 and also inadequate representation in the cabinet.

Rajputs, Dalits clash over youth sporting moustache in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, AUG 2 /- / Members of Dalit and Rajput communities clashed in an Ahmedabad neighbourhood after Karadia Rajputs, an OBC group, allegedly objected to a Dalit youth wearing shorts and sporting a moustache, police said today.

The clash took place in Kavtha village on Tuesday night, following which members of both the groups have filed complaints against each other at Bavla police station, P D Manvar, deputy superintendent of police, said. Manvar added that up to five people from the Rajput community have been detained for questioning. In his complaint, Ramanbhai Makwana has alleged that he, along with others, who attacked them, Rathod has nephew Vijay held a grudge against them following a verbal spat between Dalit and Rajput youths at a primary school belonging to the Rajput community, made casteist slurs against Vijay for wearing shorts and keeping a moustache, a Bavla police official said.

The complainant stated that later a few Rajput men came in a pick-up truck and attacked Makwana's brother Vinubhai and the latter's sons Vijay and Sanjay. Another police official said a few Rajput men, including Gambhairsinh Rathod, were booked on charges of attempt to murder, criminal intimidation and relevant sections of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. In his counter-complaint, Rathod has alleged that it was Vijay, along with others, who attacked them. Rathod has told police that Vijay held a grudge against them following a verbal spat between Dalit and Rajput youths at a primary school belonging to the Rajput community, made casteist slurs against Vijay for wearing shorts and keeping a moustache, a Bavla police official said.

I could feel the chief minister's genuine concern over the violent turn that the quota stir took and his early step to seek peace and welfare of the community," he said.

UP govt to take action against Akhilesh over damage to official bungalow

LUCKNOW, AUG 2 /- / The Uttar Pradesh government today warned that action will be taken against Akhilesh Yadav as he had done some damage while vacating the bungalow allotted to him in Lucknow as chief minister.

Governor N N Chatterjee's spokesperson and senior cabinet minister Siddharth Nath Singh referred to the manner in which Akhilesh indulged in "loophole" (damage) before vacating the 4, Vikramaditya Marg bungalow in June in compliance with a Supreme Court order. "One thing is clear, that he undertook some construction for which he did not take permission from the estates department. A law is there for this (unauthorised construction) and the law will take its course," Singh told newsmen.

After N Yadav had vacated the bungalow, video clips and photos had shown damage to a cycle track, on walls after air-conditioners seemed to have been removed and to the floor of what appeared to be a badminton court.

The former UP chief minister had then said it was an attempt by the ruling BJP to defame him. Singh's remarks today came against the backdrop of an investigation report by the state estates officer about the damage to the bungalow. In June, Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik instructed chief minister Yogi Adityanath to order a probe against the Samajwadi Party chief for leaving the government property damaged.

When Adityanath became UP chief minister in 2012, he was allotted the bungalow, which he retained after his party lost the assembly election last year.

The spokesperson said Akhilesh should respond to the matter as he had levelled allegations against the state government and had started "playing politics" on the issue.

Singh used a Hindi saying 'chor ki daddhi me tinka' which he loosely translates in English as a guilty conscience pricks the mind. He said rather than feeling sorry for doing something wrong, he was taking pride in it, and used another Hindi idiom 'seka to chori, upar seka zori' to drive home his point. Following the visuals of the damage inside the bungalow, a high level inquiry was ordered. The public works department (PWD) chief engineer has submitted a 206-page inquiry report to the state estates officer.

The details of the report were not immediately available. The estates officer could not be contacted immediately for comments. The report, according to sources, is said to have estimated the damage to the government bungalow running into lakhs of rupees.

State govt committed to granting quota to Maratha community, says Fadnavis

MUMBAI, AUG 2 /- / Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said today his government was committed to granting reservation to the Maratha community which stands legal scrutiny.

The assurance came when he met 22 prominent personalities from the community here to discuss the issue, after which a joint appeal was issued for exercising restraint and maintaining peace. Noted actors Sayaji Shinde and Amol Kolhe, well-known art director Nitin Desai, Shiridi

temple trust chairman Suresh Haware and water conservation activist Popatrao Pawar were among the prominent personalities who attended the meeting. The Maratha community, which constitutes around 30 per cent of the state's 12 crore population, has been agitating for reservation in jobs and education.

Over the last two weeks, the agitation has turned violent at a number of places and at least six people have committed suicide. Fadnavis held deliberations

with artists, writers, intellectuals from the community for nearly three hours to discuss the quota stir.

"Various short-term and long-term measures to provide relief to the community were discussed," he said after the meeting. "Everybody present gave valuable suggestions. We put forward to them the steps being taken by our government," the chief minister said. He said his government was committed to granting reservation which stands

legal scrutiny. "An appeal has been made to prevent violence during agitation," Fadnavis said. A joint statement issued after the meeting said the demand of the Marathas for quota was justified. In the appeal, the pro-quota protesters were urged not to indulge in violence or take the extreme step of suicide.

The statement also said that immediate steps should be taken to give reservation to the community at the earliest which will stand legal scrutiny. State revenue minister

Chandrakant Patil, education minister Vinod Tadve and other ministers were present along with Fadnavis. Kolhe, known for his portrayal of Bhaatrapatra Shivaji Maharaj earlier and currently as Sambhaji in TV shows, told news agency PTI that the meeting was positive.

I could feel the chief minister's genuine concern over the violent turn that the quota stir took and his early step to seek peace and welfare of the community," he said.



HPV vaccination in and around Rangpo schools is in full swing. Two days ago the mission was inaugurated by West Pandam MLA Gopal Baraily from Rangpo Mining Senior Secondary school. MO PHCD Dr Manoj Mishra along with all health department team, the school principal and teachers were present in the programme.

--- SANJAY AGARWAL