

Hindu – Baudha sammelan in Jorethang on Dec 23



SANJAY AGARWAL Tika Gurung was the president. Organizing committee president R. P. Pouday conducted the meeting.

The committee would invite Sadgurudev Sri Satpalji Maharaj, Sri Sri Ravishankar Ji along with many Hindu and Buddhist spiritual leaders for their blessing and speech. Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling would also be invited to the programme. Hindu and Buddhist families would also be invited to witness the programme on December 23. On Sunday, delegates and members from more than 16 spiritual, social and religious organizations were present in the meeting and assured support for the event.

Poshan Mash programme in Dzongu



DEEPAK SHARMA and teachers. The programme started with a rally in which students, ASHA members and officers participated.

CDPO Dzongu, in his address said the Poshan Mash programme meant healthy nutrition for mother and child. Students were taught proper hand washing methods to avert disease. Sr. Sister, DHM, in her address informed all on anti-natal and post-natal cases, health of mothers and how to care for baby and healthy nutrition.



Central Institute for Arid Horticulture employees participating in 'Swaachha Hi Seva' campaign, in Bikaner on Sunday

Cost of replacing clinical with diagnostic medicine

DR. ARUN MITRA information from the patient which many a times the patient does not feel as important. No doubt each and every patient wants that she/he be properly listened to by the doctor with empathy even though many a times the information being given may not be important to reach clinical diagnosis. A few words of sympathy, encouragement through proper dialogue do help the patient feel better most of the times.

History taking is followed by examination of various systems of the body as needed for the particular disease. These may be followed by investigations relevant to the case. The new investigative facilities have helped a lot in diagnosing and giving proper treatment, which was not possible till a few years back. This has also

569 booked under Gangsters Act in 17 months Admin targets their finance sources

NOIDA (UP), SEPT 30/--/ Murder accused, mining mafias, rogue builders, liquor and drug traffickers are among 569 people from 150 gangs who have been booked under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act in last 17 months, according to officials.

The administration has now begun the process to attach their property and stop their bank transactions, in a major "paradigm shift" in the policy so as to hit their source of funding. District Magistrate Brajesh Naray Singh told PTI Sunday. "Since May 1, 2017, 569 anti-social elements including 150 gang leaders and their 419 associates who have become a threat to citizens and law and order in the district have been booked under the UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986," according to an official document.

GAUTAMBUDDHNAGAR

He said earlier the district magistrate would have to wait for reports from the station house officers (SHOs) and local police in such matters, that caused delay. The official document detailing the cases showed that 76 of these gangs were booked under the act on May 1, 2017 till December 31, 2017, while 74 have been booked since January till September this year. The booked include

those related to mining mafia, rogue builders involved in cheating and frauds, robbery, dacoity, murder, liquor and drug trafficking, rape, kidnapping, electricity theft, rioting, and culpable homicide, it showed.

Besides Gautam Buddha Nagar locals, those booked

included men hailing from Delhi, Ghaziabad, Jajpur, Meerut, Bareilly, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Mathura, Amroha, Hapur and Saharanpur, according to the document. Singh, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal Sharma, had on September 27 announced initiating the process to attach properties of these 150 gangs and stop their financial transactions. The administration has written to all banks in the district to freeze the accounts of the listed gang leaders and their associates and also monitor their

transactions. It has also written to all government departments including local authorities, Income Tax, Sales Tax, sub-divisional magistrates and also the police stations to keep a check on their transactions and properties. Singh said, "We have asked them to stop the financial transactions of these people, in case of movable properties, and sought details about their properties within 15 days so that we can take further action against them," he added. SSP Sharma said the gangs to be acted upon are decided by the local police. "We have booked criminals with different sorts of modus operandi in the crime under the Gangsters Act," he told PTI Sunday, adding that the latest action "must have a wide impact".

On the cut-off date for the action being May 1, 2017, Singh said he had assumed the charge as the district magistrate on April 27 last year and therefore all the cases that have emerged since then have been taken up. According to section 14 of the Gangsters Act, if a district magistrate has reason to believe that any property, whether movable or immovable, in possession of any person has been acquired by a gangster as a result of the commission of an offence triable under this Act, he may order attachment of such property whether or not cognizance of such offence has been taken by any court.

Singh said the administration is also sharing the full list of these gangsters with the public and requesting them to share any documentary proof against these people in any case with the officials, assuring the names of those helping will be kept confidential. "We are asking the public to share with us any documentary evidence that they have so that we can ensure stringent action against them under the law," he added. He said the similar action would continue in future also to reign in crime and improve law and order. (PTI)

Tech executive cremated in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, SEPT 30/--/ The executive of a private company who was allegedly shot dead by constables in Gomti Nagar locality here was Sunday cremated in presence of his family members. Vivek Tiwari (38) was shot Saturday by constables Prashant Chowdhury and Sandeep Kumar while he was going to drop his colleague Sana Khan. His body was Sunday cremated at Bhaishakund in presence of state minister Brijesh Pathak and local MLA Ashutosh Tandon and others.

When asked about the incident Pathak said, "It's an unfortunate incident and we are with the family members of the victim. We will try to fast track the case so that the family can get justice. I will also request Principal Secretary Home and the IGP to post sensitive policemen in big cities." "We will ensure strict action against the guilty. If needed, a CBI probe will also be recommended," he added. Expressing grief over the incident, UP DGP OP Singh said no amount of apology would suffice for the loss of a precious life or heal and wounds of the devastated family. "My heart goes out for the little daughters, wife and family members of Vivek Tiwari. I share my grief with them," he said, adding such deviant, "criminal behaviour" was reprehensible and deserved the strictest punishment. "We are determined to punish and wean out such rogues in uniform who hang our heads in shame, at the same time we will also crack down on gunshot injuries. District behavioural training and humanisation of the force," the DGP said. "As we are striving hard for a 360 degree reform of UP Police, it's my request to all of you to not consider the aberration of Lucknow incident as a reflection of what we truly stand for. I solicit your forgiveness, best wishes and cooperation in the journey of reformation ahead," he added. The two constables were arrested and dismissed from the job and an FIR was registered in the matter on the basis of a complaint by Sana Khan. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had Saturday said a CBI inquiry would be recommended if needed.

Constable Prashant Chaudhary, however, said after noticing some "suspicious activity", he asked the victim to come out of the SUV but he did not and instead tried to hit him and he had to open fire in self defence. A fired bullet pierced the windscreen as the car rammed into a pillar, police had said. The autopsy report had later confirmed the death was caused by gunshot injuries. District Magistrate Kaushalraj Sharma has ordered a magisterial inquiry in the case and a SIT was also constituted by the DGP to probe the matter. UP Congress chief Raj Babbar also visited the victim's house Sunday and said, "You (CM) might be busy in political management of the incident but otherwise you should come to meet daughters of the victim." Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to corner the BJP government in the state and said he also spoke to the victim's wife Kalpana over phone. (PTI)



A preliminary meeting was held on Saturday for conducting a mock exercise for earthquakes on October 10. The preliminary coordination meeting was chaired by District Magistrate (North), K. D. Sandeep. Bongo in his address asked the concerned departments to carry out mock drills and display management exercises. They would have to assess danger zones and damage to property. --- Deepak Sharma

Woman IAS officer trekked Sabarimala with court order 2 decades ago

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 30/--/ Over two decades before the Supreme Court allowed entry of women of all ages into the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, a woman IAS officer had visited the hill shrine as part of her official duty, armed with a special order from the high court. Braving threats from conservatives and the tough terrains of the hillock, K B Valsala Kumari, then collector of Pathanamthitta district, visited the temple complex at least four times during 1994-95, aged 41. Though women in the 10-50 age group were barred from entering the hill shrine then, the Kerala High Court allowed Kumari to visit the shrine to coordinate the activities of various agencies as part of the preparations of the annual pilgrim season.

The court, however, had observed that her visit would not be connected with her official duties as the district collector. The woman officer was also asked not to climb the 'Pathinettam Padi', the sacred 18 gold-plated steps, leading to the sanctum sanctorum. "I could visit Sabarimala at that age, thanks to the high court order. Now the apex court has thrown open the doors to women of all age groups. The verdict is really good," she said. An ardent devotee of Lord Ayyappa, Kumari was the first woman to visit the Sabarimala shrine with legal backing. The officer had ignored threat letters against visiting the shrine. Kumari, who has retired from the service now, said she climbed the sacred steps and offered worship to Lord Ayyappa only after she turned 50. "I had no permission to go and see the Lord Ayyappa idol when I reached Sabarimala with the court order. But, I prayed with folded hands and meditated for a while standing below the holy steps," she told PTI. The former bureaucrat welcomed the recent Supreme Court order opening the portals of Sabarimala to women of all ages, and said anyone whose mind and body was pure can visit the shrine. Recalling her visit to the temple, she said in 1994 the high court had sought details of the preparatory works being carried out at the shrine by the government departments as part of the next pilgrim season. Kumari said she was told by her higher-ups that she could not go to the temple as there was a court order preventing the

entry of women aged between 10-50 years. "So, I informed the high court that I really wanted to visit the temple and collect details. But I am unable to go (because of the bar)," Kumari said. Based on a request by her, the court granted her special permission to visit the temple and inspect the arrangements. An excited Kumari said she still has vivid memories of the hour-long trekking to the abode of Lord Ayyappa. "It was really thrilling to experience the places and sights that we had heard a lot from others," she said.

The journey also had given the officer an opportunity to have first-hand knowledge about sanitation issues and a grave garbage problem at Sabarimala and the temple premises. "Heaps of garbage could be seen even near the temple.

Decayed flower garlands, pooja articles and clothes being dumped for years could also be seen there," Kumari, who was later entrusted with the massive sanitation drive at the shrine by the government, recollected. Realising the fragile ecosystem of Sabarimala hills, the officer had introduced nature-friendly toilets in the region. Instead of concrete structures, trenches with reusable aluminium covers were brought in as makeshift toilets, she said, adding no tree was cut. She also took the initiative to clean the Pamba river at the foothills and make available safe drinking water in Sabarimala. The woman officer also conceptualised and set up the Sabarimala Sanitation Society (SSS), an exclusive cleaning machinery for the hillock shrine. "I myself took part in various drives carried out by the SSS volunteers in cleaning the river and removing the left over clothes by devotees," she said. Kumari said she could perform her duties in a better way only because she got a chance to visit Sabarimala and experience the ground reality there.

The former IAS officer, who garnered accolades for various initiatives as the head of all-women network Kumbhar, said the infrastructure and the facilities at Sabarimala should be made "women-friendly" in the wake of the apex court order. "We can ensure women devotees a smooth darshan through better planning. Special queue system can be put in place for them. Certain days or weeks can be reserved only for women to offer worship," she suggested. (PTI)