

## Presentation on mock disaster exercise on Oct 10



### EOI CORRESPONDENT

**GANGTOK, OCT 6 /--** A Presentation on Multi-State Mock Exercise on Earthquake Disaster was held in the Conference Hall of DC Office by the District Disaster Management Authority on Thursday.

The meeting was held to brief all the representatives present for the upcoming Multi-State level Mock Exercise on Earthquake Disaster by National Disaster Management Authority on October 10, to be held

simultaneously in Sikkim and the hill districts of West Bengal. A comprehensive mock exercise on earthquake scenario will be stimulated. All the mechanisms of the state will be put into action thereafter. Various possible scenarios at different places will be staged like building collapse, fire accident, blockages of roads, hospital preparedness, evacuations, relief camps, communication lines and setting up of control rooms. A staging area will also be

set up for pooling of all resources as per Disaster Management Rules.

DC East instructed that this mock exercise should be taken seriously as earthquakes are natural hazards and did not come with any warning so preparedness of any unfortunate incidents was important. He asked for cooperation from all the line departments and suggested for noting the Real Time response so that the districts could take better measures in case of any emergency.



A six-day long photo exhibition was inaugurated by Chairman of Culture Heritage And Communal Harmony Board S.W. Bhunia at White Memorial Hall on Wednesday to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

## I don't recognise extreme right or extreme left: Fadnavis

**NEW DELHI, OCT 6 /--** Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said today his government will "crush" those who act against the Constitution irrespective of their political or ideological leanings.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, Fadnavis said he does not recognise "extreme left or extreme right". "The person, or individual, or institution which is acting against Constitution, I am bound to act against them. They may belong to any class, may belong to any caste...any religion, any institution, they may have any leaning but I am going to crush them," Fadnavis said. "That is my raj dharma. That is what I am doing. I don't recognise extreme right or extreme left," the chief minister told a gathering of business leaders, diplomats, political leaders and commentators at the summit.

Fadnavis said government was at the centre of a political row after the Maharashtra police raided the homes of prominent Leftwing activists and arrested five of them for suspected Maoist links on August 28. The arrest of the activists, who

were termed "urban Naxals", had sparked outraged protests from human rights defenders. Critics of the government insisted that the five were punished for their views critical of the dispensation. The police raids were carried out as part of a probe into the violence between Dalits and the upper caste Peshwas at Koregaon-Bhima village near Pune after an event called Elgar Parishad, on conclave, on December 31 last year.

"There are some people who want to pitch two communities against each other so that a situation like civil war is created...not just Bhima Koregaon they are in touch with Naxals in Chhattisgarh and other places...they are plotting several things." It's a much larger conspiracy that we have unearthed. So many pseudo liberals came together and went to the SC and still the court ruled in our favour," he said. Speaking on the violence in Koregaon-Bhima village in Maharashtra in December last year, Fadnavis said it was a larger conspiracy and the state government was acting against those who were going against the Constitution.



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav being presented a garland at the teachers sammelan, in Lucknow on Saturday.

## Southern Rly becomes unmanned level crossing free zone

**CHENNAI, OCT 6 /--** The Southern Railway today said it has become "Unmanned Level Crossing (ULC) Free Zone" by implementing a 2010 policy decision, eliminating over 1,000 such level crossings. In Southern Railway, Palakkad,

Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai Divisions became UMLC free during the first quarter of the current year," it said in a release. As on September 1, 2017, there were 311 UMLCs on the Southern Railway system which were targeted to be eliminated by this

September as per Railway Minister Piyush Goyal's directives, it said. "Accordingly, as on September 30, 2018, Southern Railway has eliminated all the remaining 311 UMLCs. With this, all the Unmanned Level Crossings in the zone have been

# NGO Habitat for Humanity India to build, repair 6,000 homes in Kerala

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 6 /--** With an aim to rebuild Kerala, devastated by unprecedented floods in August, NGO Habitat for Humanity India would build and repair 6,000 homes of those affected by the deluge.

The initiative is being taken up by the NGO as part of the second edition of Jacqueline Builds - a unique campaign featuring Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez. The second edition to be held in Kerala this year, would focus on rebuilding homes that were fully or partially damaged by the deluge, a press release said. The campaign would have Jacqueline Fernandez visiting few flood-affected areas in Kerala and volunteering to construct and

repair flood-affected homes. She would also urge her fans to come together to rebuild Kerala, the release added.

The Habitat for Humanity India is actively involved in the relief operations in response to the floods and landslides in Kerala. In the first phase of the relief operations, the organisation provided First Responders' Kit, humanitarian aid kit and bottled drinking water to 93,889 families.

In the second and third phase, it would construct and repair homes for 6000 flood-affected families in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad districts and rehabilitate them. The release quoting her said: "The

recent flood in Kerala has severely affected thousands of families and damaged homes. This is the time when the people in Kerala need our whole-hearted support to bring life back on track.

That's the reason why I will be coming to Kerala reconstruct homes, rebuild lives. I am looking forward to meeting people in Kerala and work with the volunteers in Kerala." Previously with Jacqueline Builds, she helped us in reaching out to celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan and Hrithik Roshan to help flood-affected families in Tamil Nadu. Based on the detailed field assessments, 8 severely affected districts have been identified for immediate and future interventions, said Managing

Director of Habitat for Humanity India, Rajan Samuel. As many as 491 people have lost lives in the state since the onset of the monsoon on May 28.

The Jacqueline Builds campaign played a key role during the relief and rehabilitation process after the flood in Tamil Nadu in 2016. Jacqueline travelled to Tamil Nadu to volunteer her service to the cause of rebuilding homes of the flood-affected people. Habitat for Humanity India built and repaired 871 homes, constructed 356 sanitation units and distributed about 7,000 humanitarian aid kits containing items such as tarpaulin sheet, nylon rope, water filter and a personal hygiene kit in Tamil Nadu. (PTI)

## Prominent human rights lawyer Girish Patel dies

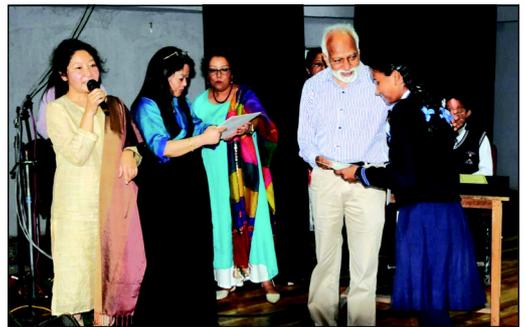
**AHMEDABAD, OCT 6 /--** Prominent human rights activist and lawyer Girish Patel died today at his residence here due to age-related ailments, people close to his family said.

Patel (86), a Harvard University alumnus, is survived by his wife and two daughters. He died around 4 am today, people close to his family said, adding that he had been recently discharged from a private hospital where he was admitted for age-related ailments. After completing a Master's in Law from Harvard University, Patel taught at a law college before starting practice in the Gujarat High Court where he championed the

cause of the marginalised and filed hundreds of PILs on issues concerning the poor, Dalits, farmers and labourers.

Among his notable PILs was the one demanding minimum wages for sugarcane farmers of Surat. Patel was also involved in the Narmada Bachao Andolan and fought for the rights of the tribals displaced by the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam project. Patel fought cases for those displaced by various government projects, including the Sabarmati Riverfront. He was selected in 1972 as a member of the Gujarat State Law Commission for a period of three years.

## Quiz competition to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti



### EOI CORRESPONDENT

**GANGTOK, OCT 6 /--** The State Central Library, Cultural Affairs and Heritage Department conducted a quiz competition as a kick off programme on Tuesday at Manan Bhawan to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Chief Guest of the event Indira Sharma, seniormost member of the Central Library, Mr. Pramod Kumar

Sharma, Prof. Mathematics Department Sikkim University. Teachers and students of various schools including Neel Tara Academy School were also present.

In his speech Prof. Mathematics Department Sikkim University Pramod Kumar Sharma said that knowledge is gained by reading, in order to become successful and achieve great things one needed to read influential books. He urged the students to be a

member of the library and also added that reading books makes one build their personality.

Students of Bojoghari Sr. Sec School, Penlong Sr. Sec School, West Point Sr. Sec School, Arithang Jr. Sec School and Rongnek Jr. Sec School participated in the quiz competition. The competition was divided into five rounds including audio and visual. All the students participated in the competition with great zest and zeal.

## State Notes

### Clash over property dispute; 1 die, 6 hurt in UP village

**BHADOHI, OCT 6 /--** One person was killed and six others were injured in a clash between two groups over a property dispute in Mehjoda village under the Suryava police station here, police said today. The incident took place on Friday night, when the two groups, armed with lathis, clashed with each other, leaving Rama Chaudhary alias Ramae (58) dead and his wife and two sons injured, circle officer (CO) Abhishek Pandey said. Three members of the group that assaulted Chaudhary were also injured. In the incident, he said, Chaudhary had to be admitted to the district hospital, where the condition of two of them was stated to be serious.

### Illegal arms unit busted in UP

**MUZAFFARNAGAR, OCT 6 /--** Three people were arrested and an illegal arms manufacturing unit was busted at Khanpur village here, police said today. Eight pistols, 10 semi-finished pistols, two guns and 15 barrels were seized from the unit during a raid on Friday evening, senior superintendent of police (SSP) Sudhir Kumar said. He said Vijaypal, Rahul and Israr were arrested on charges of smuggling arms.

### Man abducted by militants found dead in Baramulla

**SRINAGAR, OCT 6 /--** The body of a man, who was abducted by militants from Sopore town, was found with his throat slit in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district today, police said. Tawseef Ahmad Ganie (30), a resident of Tujjar area of Sopore, was abducted from his shop Wednesday, a police official said. The body was found in an orchard in the Check Harwan area of the north Kashmir district Saturday morning, the official said. Preliminary investigations reveal that proscribed militant organisation Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) was behind the abduction and killing, he said. The official said police have registered a case and the matter is being investigated.

### J-KBJP expels 6 more workers for anti-party activities

**JAMMU, OCT 6 /--** The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit today expelled six more workers for "anti-party" activities, taking the number of such expulsions over the past four days to 28. A majority of those expelled from the primary membership of the party have filed their nomination for the Urban Local Body (ULB) polls as independent candidates against BJP's official nominees. BJP's youth wing the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Ramban district president Amit Bharti and its district general secretary Manik Basin were expelled from the party for filing nominations for the upcoming ULB elections as independent candidates against the party's official nominees, a BJP spokesperson said.

## Maharashtra launches website, app to analyse drought situation

**MUMBAI, OCT 6 /--** The Maharashtra government has launched a website and an application for the collectively analysing the rainfall, crop situation and underground water level using modern technology.

Speaking after the inauguration of the website, Maha madat here on Friday, state rehabilitation and relief minister Chandrakant Patil said the site will help in accurate analysis of drought-like situation in villages of the state. The website has been created by the relief and rehabilitation ministry with the help of the Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC). Patil said the central government in 2016 laid down criteria for declaring drought in an area. According to it, drought is declared if there is no rain for 21 days in continuity and considering the study of humidity of soil, situation of crops, level of groundwater.

The information will be collected at the website and the analysis will be carried on. This will help in accurately taking the decision for declaring any village drought-affected or facing a drought-like situation. As a result, people can be provided immediate assistance," said Patil. He said according to the first criteria laid by the Centre related to drought, 201 talukas in the state have not received rain for 21 continuous days. The second criteria is under study and it will be completed soon and the report will be available on Monday.

## SPECIAL TRAINS FOR CLEARANCE OF PUJA RUSH

It has been decided to run following Special Trains to clear extra rush during Puja, 2018 as per details given below:

SEALDAH-KAMAKHYA-SEALDAH AC SPECIAL		Train No. 02261		Train No. 02262	
		From Sealdah on 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 18 & 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> November, 18 = 05 Trips (On Friday)		From Kamakhya on 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 18 & 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> November, 18 = 05 Trips (On Saturday)	

DAYS	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	DAYS
Friday	22:52	02:54	Sealdah	20:00	---	---
	00:25	02:28	Bardel	18:30	18:32	
	02:02	02:07	Katwa	15:58	16:00	
	06:10	06:20	Adamganj	13:57	14:02	
	08:25	08:27	Malda Town	11:05	11:10	
	08:25	08:27	Kishanganj	08:05	08:07	
	10:10	10:20	New Jalpaiguri	06:50	07:00	
	13:25	13:30	New Coochbehar	03:55	04:00	
	15:40	15:45	New Bongaigaon	02:30	02:35	
	18:45	---	Kamakhya	---	23:15	Saturday

Composition: AC-3 tier (Sixteen), Luggage Van (Two) = 18 Coaches.

## KOLKATA-ALIPURDUAR JN.-KOLKATA WEEKLY SPECIAL

Train No. 03129		Train No. 03130	
From Kolkata on 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> October, 18 & 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> November, 18 = 06 Trips (On Sunday)		From Alipurduar Jn. on 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> October, 18 & 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> November, 18 = 06 Trips (On Monday)	

DAYS	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	DAYS
Sunday	23:10	22:00	Kolkata	10:10	---	---
	00:40	00:42	Bardel	08:45	08:47	
	02:27	02:27	Katwa	05:55	06:00	
	05:10	05:20	Azimganj	04:00	04:05	
	05:10	05:20	Malda Town	02:00	02:10	
	06:35	06:37	Barsoi	00:03	00:05	
	07:19	07:21	Kishanganj	23:13	23:15	
	09:00	09:10	New Jalpaiguri	21:50	22:00	
	09:50	09:52	Siliguri Jn.	21:25	21:27	
	11:09	11:11	New Mal Jn.	19:30	19:32	
	12:07	12:09	Binnaguri	18:33	18:35	
	12:46	12:48	Hassimara	17:45	17:47	
	13:45	---	Alipurduar Jn.	---	17:00	Monday

Composition: AC-2 tier (One), AC-3 tier (Four), Sleeper Class (Six), General Second Class (Six), SLR/D (Two) = 19 Coaches.

General Manager (Operations)  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
WISHING YOU A HAPPY PUJA