

# AGP delegation meets Bihar CM

PATNA, SEPT 29/--An eight-member delegation of the Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) Saturday met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar here and sought the JD(U)'s support against the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, in Parliament.

The delegation was led by AGP president and Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and former Assam chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta. The party is an ally of the BJP in the Assam government.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to Nitish Kumar, who is also the JD(U)'s national president, urging him to extend his party's support and cooperation, both inside and outside Parliament, to prevent the

passage of the Bill.

The Bill is likely to be tabled in the Winter Session of Parliament. It is learnt that the Janata Dal (United) under your leadership is raising objection against the passage of the Bill. "We urge you to do the needful so that the Bill can not get through Parliament. We solicit your kind cooperation both inside and outside Parliament," Bora said in the memorandum.

AGP leaders Keshab Mahanta, Phanibishan Choudhary, Birendra Prasad Vaishya, Brindavan Goswami, Ramendra Narayan Kalita and Kamia Kant Kalita were also part of the delegation.

JD(U) national general secretary K C Tyagi and party MLC Sanjay Kumar Singh were also present at

the meeting that took place at Nishik Kumar's official residence at 1 Aney Marg.

The JD(U), after disintegration of the grand alliance in Bihar in July

## Seeks JD(U) support against Citizenship (Amendment) Bill

2017, joined hands with the BJP to form a NDA government in the state. The memorandum said the AGP expects JD(U) MPs to protest against the Bill.

In a resolution passed at its national executive meeting in New Delhi on

July 8, the JD(U) had opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, terming it a clear threat to the indigenous languages and the culture of Assam.

Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan eligible for Indian citizenship after a stay of six years. "The provisions of the Bill is quite obnoxious and detrimental to the greater interest of the people not only of Assam but also of India," the AGP memorandum said. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 is passed in the Parliament, it will certainly frustrate the very purpose of the National Register of Citizenship and if the six communities referred to herein above are given citizenship it will affect the language, culture and economy of Assam and as such, we as a regional party strongly oppose the aforesaid Bill," it said. (PTI)

The JD(U) in its resolution had asked the Centre to work towards mitigating the people's concerns about the Bill.

Brought by the government in Parliament in 2016, the Bill seeks to make Hindus, Sikhs,

# UK, India fashion designers to boost NE women textile workers

ITANAGAR, SEPT 29/--Fashion designers from the UK and India are set to come together to be part of a project aimed at benefiting women textile workers of the north-east.

The British Council and IMG Reliance ensured an agreement last month to help exotic indigenous textile products of the region get a global platform through the project - 'A Telegram from Tripura', a senior official of the Council said. "The project will bring UK designer Bethany Williams and Indian designer Aratrick Dev Varman together to explore new fashion systems and approaches with women textile workers of the north-east region in focus." Director of the British Council in India, Alan Gemmill, told PTI in an interview.

IMG Reliance is a joint venture between IMG Worldwide of the US and Reliance Industries. However, it is not immediately known when the UK designer would reach India and meet Dev Varman, who hails from Tripura.

The final work, to be presented at the

Lakme Fashion Week in February next year, will showcase female textile artisans and demonstrate how design innovation can promote a fairer, more inclusive fashion industry, Gemmill said. "We want friendship between India and the north-east, in particular by bringing art and culture, and educational opportunities from our country," he said.

The British Council has given scholarships to 500 students from India for academic exchange programme in 44 universities of the UK, the official said.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Council in India, it also awarded scholarships to 100 Indian women, to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects at premier higher education institutions in the UK, Gemmill said.

Out of these 100 women, six are from the north-east. This year we want to inspire young people across Arunachal Pradesh and the north-east region to think about the UK as a place to study...," he added. (PTI)

# BJP comes up with 'Bharatiya' banners as riposte to Cong casteist poster

PATNA, SEPT 29/--In an apparent riposte to poster depicting castes of Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other party leaders that had come up here two days before, banners with 'Bharatiya' (Indian) written against images of top leaders of the BJP were seen on the streets of Patna Friday. The posters, put up by the BJP's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), also had big pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah, both of these left unlabelled. Besides Modi and Shah, the posters carried images of BJP leaders of various ranks with the adjective 'Bharatiya' besides a congratulatory message to the Prime Minister upon his being chosen for the 'Champions of the Earth' award. Maintaining that the BJP was "not involved in a poster war" with the Congress, the party spokesman Nikhil Anand, nonetheless, underscored that the posters were reflective of "the difference between mentality and ideological commitment of ordinary workers associated with the two national parties". "While the BJP lives by the motto

of sabka saath sabka vikas as elucidated by the Prime Minister, the Congress believes in corruption, dynasty rule and casteism," Anand alleged. Notably, the BJP had stayed the Congress over the posters that had come up on Wednesday where in Rahul Gandhi was called a 'Brahmin' and respective castes of other leaders were mentioned against their images. The BJP spokesman had even urged the Election Commission to take note of the posters. State Congress president Madan Mohan Jha, however, clarified late yesterday that these posters were "not officially put up by the party but by some enthusiastic supporters in the same capacity and these have been removed upon our request".

Meanwhile, some media reporters pointed out that in the BJP posters, while all Union ministers hailing from Bihar had figured, the Minister of State for Health and Buxar MP Ashwini Kumar Choubey was conspicuous by his absence. However, Anand dismissed the reports saying "the posters have been put up not by the party itself but the youth wing,

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# Patnaik asks Odisha Police to be polite as well as stern

BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 29/--Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday asked the state police to be polite as well as stern while dealing with public issues.

Stating that the state government is committed to provide all its citizens safety and security, Patnaik said any one approaching the police should be treated with respect. "In modern times, police is expected to be stern but polite. This does not require any investment in money or resources. This just requires an investment in attitude," he said in a message at a programme of the Odisha Police Association. Patnaik was scheduled to attend the programme but could not make it due to fever. Finance Minister S B Behera read out the chief minister's message at the function.

Patnaik asked the police personnel to keep improving their professional skills by learning and training as "This will enable you to align your skills with the present day requirements". He said policing has become very complex with increasing cyber crimes, financial frauds and insurgency issues. He said the state government has extended its support towards modernising the force by upgrading its technological, logistic and infrastructural requirement. Lauding the work of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force, the chief minister said the force has rendered excellent service not only in Odisha, but also in other states.

# Mizoram unit of NPP launched

AIZAWL, SEPT 29/--The Mizoram unit of the National People's Party (NPP) was formally launched here Saturday by its president Conrad Sangma who is also Meghalaya Chief Minister.

The NPP is a north eastern and tribal-centric party with objectives to improve the welfare of the people of the region is heard by Delhi, Sangma told PTI. The party will contest the coming elections to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly later this year, he said. "We will fight the elections without forging any pre-poll alliance with other political parties," he said. (PTI)

# Training for women and transgenders to make cotton bags: BeMC

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), SEPT 29/--Ahead of the proposed ban on plastic bags in parts of Odisha from October 2, the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) has started imparting training to women self-help groups and a transgender batch on making cotton bags.

About 100 women are taking training on making cotton bags which will be required after imposition of ban on use of plastics, BeMC Commissioner Chakravarti Singh Rathore said Friday. The training is being provided under the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) programme. The state government has announced to ban the use, stock and manufacture of plastic or polythene bags from October 2 in five municipality corporations, including Berhampur and Puri municipal area in the first phase. "As an alternative to plastic bags, people and shop owner can use the cotton bags," he said. "The basic training on cotton bag making is being given a person for three to five days," nodal officer of NULM, Geetanjali Samantary said.

Samantary said the members of SHGs and the transgenders were very much interested in taking training on the making of cotton bags and to supply them in market. "Most of the members have swinging machines and there is no problem on their parts to make cotton bags in the houses and to earn some extra money," she said. (PTI)



On Saturday, in two separate significant programmes, senior commuters inaugurated toilets (one for Ladies and one for Gents) at Shahid Khudiram and Noapara Metro Stations as part of the observation of "Swachh Prasadhan" day. Toilets at other two stations viz. Belgachia, Soabazar-Satanuti are almost ready and will be opened for the commuters very soon. This will be a great help to passengers in general and the aged commuters in particular. Commuters have expressed their satisfaction for providing this amenity at Metro Stations--EOI Photo

# B'deshi exporters resume fish supply to Tripura

AGARTALA, SEPT 29/--Bangladeshi exporters Saturday resumed supply of fish to Tripura traders after a gap of 25 days following a meeting of exporters and importers of Agartala and Akhaura sub-division in Bangladesh Friday and both the parties agreed to resume fish supply from Bangladesh.

A seven-member exporters group of Akhaura came here and discussions were held. The problem was solved at the intervention of the Vice-president of Tripura unit of BJP Pratima Bhaumick," he said. He said "Pratima Bhaumick, who was present in the meeting, assured the Bangladeshi exporters that if any such incident occurred arises in future it will

be dealt with firmly. The Bangladeshi exporters accepted her words." The supply was stopped after goons stopped some exporters from entering the state after they refused to pay extortion money at the Agartala-Akhaura integrated-checkpoint on September 4.

A sizeable quantity of fish enters the markets through the checkpoint, a customs official said. The joint director of the state fisheries department Abani Debbarma said about 70 per cent of the total consumption of fish was produced in the state and Bangladesh. West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh supply the rest. (PTI)

# IPFT hails Centre's move to form panel for tribal welfare

AGARTALA, SEPT 29/--The Front of Tripura (PFT), the alliance partner of the ruling BJP, has welcomed the Centre's move to form a high level committee to look into the social, economic and linguistic development of the state's indigenous population. The Centre had on September 27 issued a notification to announce the formation of the thirteen-member committee, with special secretary of internal security, Ministry of Home Affairs, as its chairman.

The joint secretaries of Tribal Affairs, Human Resource Development, Health and Family Welfare and advisers to the NITI Aayog and DoNER were among the nine members who have been included in the panel.

Three other members were not indicated in the panel by the state government, the MHA notification said. IPFT spokesman M. Maugl Debbarma said the party was happy to see its alliance partner stick to its poll promise to form a high level committee to look into the social, economic and linguistic development of the state's indigenous population. He said the party had struck a deal with the BJP over the formation of a panel for welfare of tribal people, ahead of February 18 Assembly elections. "We thank the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the committee. This has been one of our long-standing demands. Although Tripalrand does not come under the purview of the committee, this is a step towards fulfilling our statehood agenda," Debbarma said. The tribal party had been demanding a

separate state, Tripalrand, by withdrawing areas under the jurisdiction of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). Asked why the committee didn't have any representative of IPFT on board, Debbarma said the issue would be discussed at the next state executive committee meeting on September 30.

The saffron party, however, clarified that it was opposed to the demand of a separate state. Development would come to Tripura only if people stay united, BJP spokesperson Mrinal Kanti Deb said. "Our agenda is united Tripura. The objective of the government is to keep the state united. All issues bothering the tribal people would be taken care of by the newly formed committee," he added. (PTI)

# SER eliminates all unmanned level crossings

KOLKATA, SEPT 29/--As the fifth Zonal Railway in the country, Eastern Railway has touched the milestone of eliminating all Unmanned Level Crossings over its jurisdiction.

This Railway has eliminated all Unmanned Level Crossings in its network before the target date. The target date fixed by Railway Board for elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings is 30th September, 2018 and South Eastern Railway has achieved the target within 25th September, 2018. This will not only ensure punctuality and safety in train operations

but also will be of immense benefit to the road users. At the beginning of this financial year, there were altogether 149 Unmanned Level Crossings in S.E. Railway in its 4 divisions viz. Adra, Chakradharpur, Kharagpur and Ranchi. The railway has eliminated all the Unmanned Level Crossings in its network within 25th September, 2018. Out of the total 149 Unmanned Level Crossings, 116 Level Crossings have been Manned while Limited Height Subways have been constructed at 26 locations. There has been eliminated either through Diversion of Traffic or closure. (EOIC)

# Armed forces tackled insurgencies, calamities in Manipur: CM

IMPHAL, SEPT 29/--Armed forces have always come to the rescue of people during emergency situations - be it insurgency or natural calamities, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said Saturday.

The CM appreciated the paramilitary forces for their relief work during the recent floods in the state. "The military men have tackled insurgency and calamities in Manipur, time and again. Several people trapped during floods in July were rescued by the armed forces," Singh said here at a programme organized to mark the second anniversary of the 'surgical strike'.

The state has produced many Army officers over the years, the CM said. "We have given two Lieutenant Generals to the Army. Every Manipuri is proud of them," he said.

Singh asserted that India has always advocated for discussions and dialogue before resorting to force. "If the country's patience is tested, it would be forced to show its power and capacity to the world," he said, referring to the Uri attacks on September 18, 2016.

Major General KP Singh, the head of the Assam Rifles in the state, recounted the events that led to the surgical strikes in 2016. He acknowledged the contribution made by Manipuri soldiers in "nation building". "Pakistan has been continuously trying to engage in proxy war against the country, but we will not allow them to have their way," he added. India carried out 'surgical strikes' on September 29, 2016, on multiple terror launch pads across the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The strikes came 11 days after 19 unarmed Indian soldiers were killed in terrorist attack in Uri, near the Line of Control. (PTI)

# Calcutta Cardiology Foundation launched

ROI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, SEPT 29/--On the occasion of World Heart Day, a group of renowned cardiologists of Kolkata has come together for a noble mission to reduce the heart related disease in the Eastern India. The team of doctors today announced the launch of a non-profit foundation - Calcutta Cardiology Foundation.

This Non-profit making foundation has been formed by a group of Cardiologists who are from the same undergraduate batch of Medical College, Calcutta. The vision of Calcutta Cardiology Foundation is to prevent heart disease in Eastern India by way of promoting healthy living and addressing the risk factors which lead to heart

disease. The mission is to reduce the burden of stenting, bypass surgery and pacemakers by preventing development of diseases which require those invasive procedures.

The foundation plans to do regular free clinics for poorer segments of the society to detect important risk factors such as high blood pressure and diabetes and also to conduct public education seminars to promote healthy living. This will include healthy diet, role of exercise, avoiding smoking and tobacco and also relief of stress which has emerged as a major cause of heart disease. The foundation also wants to extend similar life style campaign to younger and school going children.



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