

MB residents seethe over erratic BSNL mobile services

KURMARAO

MAYABUNDER, JAN 30/-/ Erratic network of the state-run, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, has put the residents of Mayabunder and adjoining areas in North Andaman in a state of extreme unrest. According to reports, the premier telecom service provider has failed miserably to ensure consistent mobile services in the region for the past three days rendering the handsets of hundreds of subscribers as mere show pieces. Sources claim, the mobile signals remain intermittent in the headquarter region, while some remote hamlets in the region from Webi remained completely cut-off from the telecom network for the past more than three days.

"Despite a good subscriber base and mobile towers at Mayabunder, most of the time signals remain out of reach. Residents of the headquarter region of the North and Middle Andaman district have been facing the brunt of being cut off from the rest of



the world for the past three days. The BSNL mobile services have become totally undependable as one fails to connect to others despite repeated attempts. It becomes extremely difficult for subscribers to get in touch with their near and dear ones at times of emergency due to the intermittent network. The service

provider has not been living up to the expectations of scores of subscribers here. The administration should take serious steps to address the woes of the people and instruct the BSNL office here to ensure reliable services in the North Andaman region," said some residents of Mayabunder.

Constitute societies to prevent cruelty to animals: Calcutta HC to Admn

EOI BUREAU

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30/-/ In a notable judgment, the Calcutta High Court has directed the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to constitute societies in all the three districts of these islands in accordance with the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Establishment and Regulation) Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules, 2001 with March 31, 2017. Noting that no society has yet been formed in any of the districts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in compliance of the provisions of the 2001 Rules, the bench of Justice Debashish Kumar Gupta and Justice Ranjith Kumar Bag ruled that the issue of prevention of cruelty to animals cannot be ignored in view of promulgation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in 1960 and subsequent framing of rules in 2001.

Disposing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Zarina Nikhat Islam, Life Member of a registered Society named "People for Animals" on January 9 this



year, the High Court also directed the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to discharge the functions relating to the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and submit monthly reports to the administration till the

Societies are constituted in all the three districts within the specified time frame.

According to reports, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) started initially in the year 1983 with a few doctors from the Department of Animal Husbandry. However, the society remained dormant for years due to lack of manpower and other infrastructure. Animal rights activists, Zarina Nikhat Islam and Dr PM Murali took up the issue with the then Lt. Governor of these islands following which the Director of Animal Husbandry in his capacity as the General Secretary of SPCA conducted the managing committee elections in 2015 ignoring the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Establishment and Regulation) Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules, 2001. The activists had challenged the constitution of the SPCA in the public interest litigation.



Pictures show Shahid Ditas being observed at Rangat near Police Station building on the January 28. The function was organised by Island Development Council. Dr Halder informed the gathering about the incident when two students of Rangat School, Amal Mondal and Bishnu Mallick, were shot dead 30 years ago. (Pic: V Senthil Kumar)



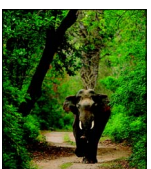
Seized tobacco products stolen

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30/-/ Seized tobacco products have been allegedly stolen from the Directorate of Health Services recently. In the complaint to the police, District Food Safety Officer, Mr Mammen Abraham said that the three accused, two security personnel of the Directorate of Health Services, Jagdish, resident of Shadigpur, Rajesh Mallick, resident of Bambooflat and V Pandian of Syndicate Bank ATM, removed the window air-conditioner installed in the chamber of the District Food Safety Officer and decamped with around 28 sachets of tobacco leaf seized during raids in the city. The Police have registered a case under section 380 IPC.

Forest tusker crushes labourer to death at Baratang

EOI CORRESPONDENT

BARATANG, JAN 30/-/ In a tragic incident, a 90-year-old forest labourer, identified as Ghuran Tirkey, was trampled to death by an elephant in the forest of Baratang on Monday. According to sources the victim seated on the elephant, was carrying out routine lumbering activities at around 12.30 pm today when the angry tusker tossed the mahout and crushed him under its foot. Desperate efforts by other forest workers present on the spot to save Ghuran proved futile. The Sundergarh Panchayat immediately rushed a tractor to the remote location as the approach path is unfit for other vehicles and Ghuran was shifted to the Primary Health Centre here for necessary examination. According to reports, the forest labourer, a resident of Rokha Chang, in remote Baratang, was engaged on ad hoc basis by the Forest Department and was entrusted the responsibility of a mahout. About five forest tuskers in the Baratang forest



division are engaged in lumbering activities with just one regular trained mahout, while labourers on ad hoc or daily rated basis find it difficult to command the giant mammal without proper training. The ill-fated forest labourer is survived by his wife and two small children. Speaking to this correspondent, the Pradhan of Sundergarh Panchayat, Mr Biju Gurudasan demanded appropriate monetary compensation for the deceased labourer. "It's a tragic incident and the Department of Environment and Forest should provide adequate compensation for the family of the forest worker. The agency, which employs a

EVENTS TODAY

HEALTH CAMP: By Ayurveda doctors of Regional Centre of Ayurveda at Arong and Sawai villages of Car Nicobar. Till Feb 5.

FIRING PRACTICE: By 15 FBSU, AF, C/o 99 APO Port Blair at Chinthe Long Range from 8 am to 7.30 pm.

More Local news on pages 2 & 3

LG, others pay tributes to martyrs' of Indian Independence League

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30/-/ A solemn function was held at the Balidan Vadi - the State Martyrs' Memorial at Homfraygunj on the occasion of 73rd martyrdom anniversary of 44 Martyrs of Indian Independence League (Andaman Branch), who were shot dead and buried by the Japanese forces on January 30, 1944 for charges of espionage.

The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi placed a wreath and offered floral tributes at the Memorial, followed by floral tributes by Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Mr Anindo Majumdar, Director General of Police, Mr Rajesh Malik, senior officers of Administration, grandchildren and family members of the martyrs, prominent senior citizens from the city and Humfraygunj area and public representatives. A two-minute silence was observed by the gatherings as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi and the departed souls, who laid their lives for the freedom of our motherland. The chief guest also gave away the



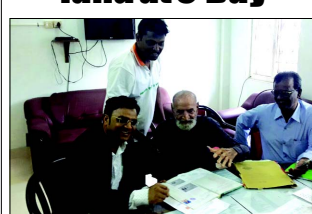
Martyrs Memorial Awards to the students of Govt. Middle School, Homfraygunj in honour of Martyrs Pokhar Singh Chawla, Prem Shanker Pandey, Raj Ratan Das and Malkhan Singh, to the Headmistress of Govt. Middle School, Humfraygunj, who received it on behalf of the students. The awards were sponsored by the families of the martyrs. Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the member, Humfraygunj Martyrs' Memorial Committee, Port Blair, Mr V.K. Murthy briefed about the significance of the day, which also coincides with the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. An all-religion mass prayer and Ramdhan presented by the students of Govt. Middle School, Humfraygunj formed part of the solemn function. The Lt. Governor also visited the Humfraygunj Museum to inspect the work in progress.

POLICE FILES

Class XI student commits suicide
A 16 year old student of Diglipur in North Andaman committed suicide on January 26. Abhishek Sarkar, son of Ajit Sarkar, resident of RK Gram, a student of Class XI, took the extreme step after being scolded by his father for a haircut. He consumed weed-killers in his room in the afternoon and was rushed to CHC Diglipur. He died during the course of treatment. A case under section 174 CrPc has been registered.

Fire mishap
Leakage from the rubber tube of an LPG stove caused fire at an Anganwadi school at Mayabunder bazaar on January 27. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Government property worth around Rs 5000 was saved due to the prompt action of the fire team.

90y old receives compensation for land at C'Bay



PORT BLAIR, JAN 30/-/ The Campbell Bay administration disbursed compensation for submerged land to Mr Gangaram, 90 year old resident of Shashtri Nagar. The Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay, Dr Mohd Rehan Raza handed over the cheque of compensation of Rs 38,02,950 on January 28 in his office. Mr Gangaram approached the office of Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay in 2008-09 when the actual process of monetary compensation in lieu of submerged land to claimants/beneficiaries to the tune of Rs 9.39 lakh was initiated. After being posted as Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay four months ago, Dr Raza processed the claim for compensation as per the orders and guidelines issued by the administration and GOI from time to time. He was assured for timely settlement of claim and ultimately received the compensation on Saturday. Mr Mohd Rehan Raza expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar, Mr Nihal Bansal and the revenue team for expediting the case.

44 prisoners granted state remission on Republic Day

PORT BLAIR, JAN 30/-/ Republic Day was celebrated in the District Jail, Prothrapur befittingly. On the occasion of Republic Day, the Superintendent, District Jail, announced state remission to 44 prisoners for their good conduct, awarded by the Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Convict No. 10161 Kuhnru son of Budwa, resident of Mill Dera, Katchal remitted his remaining portion of sentence by the Lt. Governor (Atrator). A&N Islands in exercise of the powers conferred upon

him under section 432 Cr. P.C & 433 (A) Cr. P.C, 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974) read with the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. U-11011/2/74-UTL (i) dated 20.03.1974 and released him from jail on 26.01.2017. Mr B.L. Meena, Superintendent of District Jail, Prothrapur unfurled the National Flag in front of the Jail Office Main Gate on January 26. The CRPF and police personnel, medical staff, guarding staff/office staff and family members of the staff attended the function.

