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DAILY FROM KOLKATA • PORT BLAIR • SILIGURI

**'WILL BE READY FOR CAPTAINCY WHEN OPPORTUNITY COMES'**  
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# Elected SVC: Protima assures welfare of all

## ■ Thanks Jolly ■ Public welfare, my priority



■ Support grant of one-time relaxation of building violations; will ensure proper vigil for future lapses: Protima

■ G+7 structures with adequate safety measures need of the hour"

we'll both work for the welfare of the citizen as we have pledged to work for the overall community in these islands. We are reachable during office through the Council's centralized communication centre. Or else people can call me over my personal number," said Smt Banerjee.

On the commitment of the Municipal Council, Smt Banerjee asserted that the civic body is well aware of the problems being faced by citizens in the urban areas. "In our bid to make Port Blair a Smart City, we're facing teething problems to convince people to support the government in this endeavour. Unwarranted chaos will lead us nowhere and the objectives will never be fulfilled. I solicited support of the Administration, my fellow islanders and all other to support me in this venture," said Smt Banerjee, in her first exclusive chat with Mr Vijay Roy. Asked to comment on the proposal of one-time building relaxation, the newly elected SVC supported the proposal. She lamented that since 99 percent of buildings in the city are constructed in violation of existing norms, the only option for the Council is to grant one-time relaxation; so as to give an opportunity to violators of our buildings byelaws. Smt Banerjee, however, sounded a caution on that after granting such relaxation, the Council will ensure buildings are being constructed in the city as per the norms and take appropriate action against tenants violating the. "As regard G+7 structures, they should be built after taking all safety measures," she said adding that skyscrapers have become the need of the hour owing to the shrinking space for residential colonies in the city.

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /--/ The BJP backed TDP Councillor, Ward No. 6, Smt Protima Banerjee was elected as the Senior Vice Chairperson of the Port Blair Municipality on Saturday. The newly elected SVC, with former Councillor, Mr Azizur-Rehman of the civic body, in a chat with the Editor-in-Chief of EOI expressed her sincere gratitude to Mr. Vishal Jolly, president, state BJP unit for supporting her candidature for the top post reposing faith on women empowerment. "It is believed that an understating

### CHIEF'S DESK

has been arrived between the ruling BJP with the TDP and DMK to share top posts of the Council. While the post of Chairperson was supposed to fall into the bag of BJP, the TDP got the SVC, Mr. S. Karunakaran was elected as the JVC," said Protima. About TDP coming into some understating with the BJP for the SVC post in Port Blair while at the national

level the party had severed ties with the BJP, she said that at the local level TDP Councillor and the State TDP unit decided to support the BJP for smooth running of the Council. "Before supporting the BJP at the local level, the local TDP party had made it clear that certain post should go to them."  
"I have the full support of the present Chairperson and together



Fed up of official apathy, villagers in Middle Andaman embarked on a 'Do It Yourself' campaign to fix pothole ridden stretches on the Andaman Trunk Road at Kadamtala in Middle Andaman. On Friday, the villagers fix some battered stretches using earth and stone aggregates, which made commute comfortable for motorists to some extent in the region. (Pix: SUBRATA)

### IEI to celebrate World Habitat Day

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /--/ Since 1986, first Monday of October is celebrated every year in the country as "World Habitat Day", draws attention to UN-Habitat's mandate to promote sustainable urban development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all. To mark the occasion, the United Nations has selected the theme as "Municipal Solid Waste Management". Along with all State & Local Centres of The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), the Andaman & Nicobar

State Centre (ANSC) has proposed to celebrate the day at 3.30 pm on Oct 1 in the conference hall of the ALHW office by having 2 technical talks / PPT presentations by Engineers / Officers from PBMC and DST, A & N Admn.. Engineering Fraternity from various departments / organizations & students from schools and colleges will take part in the proceedings. Mr Suneel Anchipaka, Secretary, PBMC will be the chief guest on the occasion.

### EVENTS TODAY

- **PLAY:** All India Radio to broadcast a play titled 'Mrigatishnika' in its Bangla programme from 5.30 pm to 6 pm.
- **WORKSHOP:** Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT), in association with the Tech Cryptors Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai organizing workshop on "Raspberry Pi". Till Oct 1.
- **SAILING:** MV North Passage to sail for Hut Bay at 6.15 am from Haddo wharf.
- **COURSE:** Department of Environment & Forests conducting Refresher Course for Forest Guards at Forest Training Institute, Wimberlygunj.
- **OBSERVANCE:** Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Education, Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Art & Culture and Information Publicity & Tourism celebrating Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout these islands.
- **SURVEY:** Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs conducting door to door survey to identify PHH and AAY beneficiaries under National Food Security Act.

## Crumbling wooden structures spell peril in city

### ■ Eyesore for city ■ Most buildings under litigation ■ Authorities helpless

RP SHARMA

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29 /--/ While the civic body is striving to develop the capital city of these islands under the Smart City Mission of the Union Government, a series of old and dilapidated wooden buildings in the different parts of the city are denting the efforts in this regard. In many locations in the city, such wooden buildings standing on their last legs can be spotted, giving a dirty picture of the city. While some have been abandoned by owners, some still are occupied by dwellers putting themselves to grave risk of mishap. After the catastrophic tsunami that ravaged many wooden government quar-

ters in the city's low-lying areas, the APWD and Municipal Council took the initiative to demolish the dilapidated structures and rebuild them using concrete. At many locations in the city, government accommodation facilities have been given a facelift. In short, Port Blair, which once had numerous wooden buildings, is now become a concrete city. But some wooden structures in extremely dilapidated state have become eyesores for residents. Those abandoned wooden structures have been reduced to sheds for stray animals and dens for anti-social elements, while people still residing old and perilously crumbling wooden structures are risking their lives. Falling

“Old abandoned wooden structures standing in a precarious condition in city pose serious threat to the people besides presenting an appalling picture of neglect. These crumbling structures are being used by anti-social elements to execute unlawful activities like gambling, boozing etc besides sheltering stray animals”, opined some residents.

under the highly seismic zone, these old structures can come down crashing any moment causing huge loss of lives and property. However, the authorities have done little to address these concerns. "There are many private wooden buildings in the city which are not in use and have been abandoned a long time ago. These old structures are standing in a precarious condition posing serious threat to the people. An appalling picture of neglect, these age-old structures have continued to escape from being pulled down, thanks to the official inertia. As a result, these abandoned spaces are reportedly used by anti-social elements to execute unlawful activities like gambling, boozing etc besides sheltering stray animals. While the mess created inside and at the periphery of these abandoned quarters has become a perennial problem for the urban population. Apathy of the authorities is also encouraging thieves to trespass into the abandoned wooden buildings to steal doors, windows and other equipment," said some residents.

Speaking to EOI, owner of a wooden building at Junglighthat said that many of such wooden buildings could not go for necessary repairs and maintenance for the past many years owing to dispute among the family members. "There are cases pending before the Court pertaining to land and building dispute because of which building owners are unable to pull down the wooden structure and rebuild it," he said. Densely populated areas like Dairyfarm, Junglighthat, Haddo, Buniyadabad, Prem Nagar etc are dotted with many such dilapidated wooden buildings, which can cause a serious accident any time. The Municipal Council should take a strong note of the situation to address it on priority basis to prevent any untoward incident, opined a resident of Junglighthat.



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