

LG seeks public support in implementing welfare schemes under 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan'

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Nuzhat Hassan, Adhyaksha, ZPSA, Smti. Baby Fareeda, other senior officers of the Administration, PRIs, PBMCC councillors and ward members and general public also attended the programme. The Lt. Governor followed by floral tributes at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar followed by floral tributes by the Member of Parliament, Chief Secretary, DGP, other dignitaries and citizens. Addressing the gathering, the Lt. Governor remarked that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was an accomplished jurist, economist, politician and a social reformer whose life has been a quest for equality and justice. He devoted his life and efforts towards bringing a positive difference in the lives of the poor, marginalized and the lesser privileged. Multifaceted and multi-talented that he was, Dr. Ambedkar left behind his marks on various domains, said the Lt. Governor, adding that his views will continue to remain a source of motivation and propel us to do more for socio-economic empowerment, to take our nation towards greater heights. His caution, while our Constitution became operative was that "at one stroke, we will have equality in Political domain but the same may not apply to social and economic domain with such ease. In Politics, we will be recognizing the principle of one man, one vote and one vote, one value. In our social and economic life, we shall by our social and economic structure continue to deny the principle of one man, one value. And if it is denied for long, we will be doing so only by putting our political democracy at peril". This very thought remains a touchstone for assessing our development process and progress, every time, awakening us from our slumber and invigorating us towards harder work as a community to attain higher social goals, said the Lt. Governor. The Lt. Governor further remarked that Dr. Ambedkar was a nationalist to the core. He wanted our loyalty as Indians to be effective and to rise above any competitive loyalty, whether these loyalties arise out of culture or out of our language. He wanted all people to be Indian first, Indian last and nothing else but Indians. The Lt. Governor congratulated the Prime Minister for dedicating Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at Delhi to the nation on April 13, where Baba Saheb's life and works will be showcased through modern technology, he said. The Lt. Governor also lauded the efforts of the Union Government towards the implementation of 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan' which, he said, is a praiseworthy initiative which will be undertaken for reaching out to the poor households, spreading awareness about Govt. welfare schemes and people centric initiatives, he added. The Lt. Governor further said that a special initiative of universal coverage under several welfare programmes in 21058 identified villages across the country has been contemplated. The 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme has also begun yesterday and will assure health facilities and services to the citizens. The day also marks the launch of the scheme 'Van Dhan Yojana' which aims at empowering tribal communities and helping them monetize from forest produce. The schemes envisage the promotion of marketing of minor forest produce through a minimum support price and development of value chain for minor forest produce, the Lt. Governor stated. He also reiterated the commitment of the Administration towards the betterment of the people of life to all the citizens of these Islands. He also urged all the Islanders to render their full support to the initiatives through 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan', 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme and 'Van Dhan Yojana', without which, the success of these laudable schemes cannot be accomplished. The Member of Parliament lauded the tenets of the Constitution which he said, should be implemented in the right earnest. He also highlighted the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar towards the country's socio-economic development. The Chief Secretary threw light on the contributions and academic accomplishments of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who is commonly known as the architect of the Indian Constitution. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is a multifaceted personality whose background was just not limited to Political Science alone but he was also a professional Economist with a wide range of interest. He contributed to the development of RBI besides being the champion of the rights of the down trodden people and for any oppressed section of the society cannot be forgotten, said the Chief Secretary adding that we must all strive to live up to his virtues. The Secretary, Bodhi Satva Ambedkar Cultural Association, Mr. Kameshwar Rao, while speaking highlighted the life history of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his notable contributions for the country. The Secretary, PBMCC, Smti. Vinika Mahotra briefed about the significance of the day and the notable contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The programme culminated with the vote of thanks proposed by the Adhyaksha, ZPSA, Baby Fareeda.

Syndicate Bank to resume ATM services at Great Nicobar soon

BALRAM SINGH
CAMPBELL BAY, APRIL 15/- / In a big relief for customers, Syndicate Bank branch operating in the southern most part of the country has initiated steps to resume services of its Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in the region. According to reports, necessary official procedures are underway for installation and commissioning of a new ATM in the branch and respite is expected for the remote residents within the next six months. Syndicate Bank commissioned its first ATM facility at Campbell Bay in the year 2014. The initiative brought huge relief for a population of about 18000 in the Great Nicobar Island having 3

panchayats, over 250 commercial establishments, besides administration and central government officials. However, recurring shortage of cash in the facility soon started inviting criticism for the bank management. Some months ago, the ATM services were completely stopped after some corruption in the process of restocking cash in the ATM came to light. "After launch of the Syndicate Bank ATM, the facility was expected to relieve people from the long queues at the Bank counters and help round the clock availability of cash. However within months, the ATM failed to cater to the needs of the citizens. The ATM remained cash-strapped round the month and people are forced to wait in long queues to withdraw cash. Presently, only one ATM fa-



cility is available at Campbell Bay run by the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank. However, the Cooperative Bank ATM too runs out of cash most of the time and has added to the miseries of the bank customers and ATM users here," said some residents of Jetty Bazar area. When contacted, the Branch Manager of Syndicate Bank branch, Campbell Bay said that the senior management of the Bank is appraised of the situation and steps are being taken to resume ATM services in this region. "Tenders for procurement, installation, calibration and commissioning of ATM has been floated by the corporate body and ATM services are likely to resume at Campbell Bay in the next six months." (File Pix)

Celebrate Baisakhi with delectable Punjabi Food at Keys Select Hotel Aqua Green

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, APR 15/- / To celebrate the festive occasion of Baisakhi, Keys Select Hotel Aqua Green has organised a Punjabi Food festival in its premises at Lamba Line from April 12 to 21. As festivals and food go hand-in-hand, the hotel chain has come up with a Punjabi themed special buffet. The visitors took this opportunity to taste many mouth-watering Punjabi dishes during the festival. Special discount is also on offer for children, senior citizens and on group dining from 7.30 pm to 11 pm. "Think of Baisakhi and it's hard not to imagine a wonderful, celebratory mood marked with music and big feasts. The initiative of Keys Select Hotel Aqua Green is drawing huge crowds at the food festival. On Sunday, a sizeable gathering was found at the hotel relishing delectable Punjabi dishes. This is probably the first time a downtown hotel has come up with a novel idea of hosting a Punjabi food festival. The hospitality staff dressed in traditional Punjabi attire serves customers with a smile. For an amazing ambience and mouth-watering Punjabi dishes, most of the visitors have rated the festival as best," said a guest speaking to EO1 at the festival.



CAG raps DSS for needless payment of customs duty on procurement of spares

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Although DSS functioned as an SRU, it failed to avail exemption under the provisions of the Customs Act cited above which resulted in avoidable payment of Rs 57.99 lakh towards customs duty on procurement of imported spares for routine repair and maintenance of MV Campbell Bay. "In terms of Customs Notification No.12/2012 dated 17 March 2012 issued under Section 25(i) of the Customs Act, 1962, Ship Repair Units (SRUs) registered with the Directorate General of Shipping were exempted from payment of customs duty on import of capital goods and spares thereof, raw materials, parts, material handling equipment and consumables when such procurement was required for repairs of ocean-going vessels. Subsequently, by Customs Notification No. 42/2015 dated August 2015, the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) removed the requirement for registration of SRUs with Directorate General of Shipping for availing of the exemption," as per the CAG report, its reply on May 2017, DSS stated that though Article 12 of the agreement empowered the Administration to avail exemption of customs duty on spares, availing of such exemption was not possible since it was a time consuming process and delay in supply of spares could have adversely affected the operational availability of the vessel. However, the matter has been taken up with the appropriate authority for availing such exemption. In July 2017, DSS added that the Marine Dockyard under the DSS was responsible for repairs and maintenance of the fleet of ship/boats and there would not be any savings to the Government exchequer since the pricing of the spares were as per the price list of original equipment manufacturers. "The reply of DSS is not tenable since customs duty on spares for ocean going vessels was exempted by the Government of India that should have been availed of by the company and the benefit passed on to DSS. The matter has been referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs," concluded the audit report.

BJP,YSRConghitout Naidu over proposed fast

AMARAVATI, APRIL 15/- / The BJP and the YSR Congress today criticised Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's decision to observe a day-long fast on April 20 to the Centre's stand towards the state's issues. In separate press conferences here, BJP State president Kamhampati Haribabu and YSRC political affairs committee member Ambati Rambabu wondered why the Chief Minister was seeking to go on the protest when he himself took exception to the fast observed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 12. Naidu had yesterday announced that he would observe a day-long fast on April 20, his birthday, on the state's problems and the Centre's stand towards the state. "The Prime Minister observed the fast while carrying out his duties. (He visited Chennai to inaugurate the defence exposition) Naidu criticised this, but now he himself is getting ready for a fast. He owes an explanation to the people on this," criticbaba, a BJP MP, said. Modi and BJP MPs had observed the fast to protest against the disruption of Parliament proceedings by opposition parties during the recent budget session. (PTI)

75 pc of those who skipped UP board exams were outsiders: Dy CM

LUCKNOW, APRIL 15/- / About 75 per cent of the nearly 11 lakh students who skipped the year 12 Uttar Pradesh board examinations were from neighbouring states, and some of them were even from foreign countries like Nepal and Bangladesh, state's Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma has said. The startling fact came to the fore when details of those who skipped the examinations were analysed by the education department, Sharma, who also holds the education portfolio, told PTI in an interview. The state board exams were in news earlier this year as a large number of students did not turn up due to 'strictness' and effective use of a special task force and local intelligence by the government to keep a tab on the cheating mafia. "We have come to know that 75 per cent of those who skipped the examinations were from neighbouring states. Also candidates from Nepal, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and the UAE were among them," Sharma said. He said the state government took the help of the Special Task Force (STF) and local intelligence to curb the activities of the copying mafia with an aim to "continue with our motto of ensuring sanctity of the examinations". "The copying mafia used to take contracts guaranteeing success in class 10 and 12 state board examinations. Impersonators were made to appear in the examination in place of real candidates and centres were earmarked where

copying could be facilitated easily," he said. The government had also decided, Sharma said, to install CCTV cameras at all examination centres to keep a hawk eye vigil on the activities going on there. "However, installation of cameras in over 10,000 schools would have cost over Rs 400 crore

and the state did not have that budget. So, we decided that only schools having CCTV cameras, boundary walls and other relevant facilities will be used as exam centres," he said. "I personally monitored the examinations and as soon as got any input, I shared it with the STF and immediate action was taken," he said. He said the government had studied all possible unfair ways and means that could be resorted to by students during the examination. "Those impersonating others or involved in replacing answer sheets before they reached evaluation centres were not able to do so due to these effective measures," said Sharma. The UP board examination for class 10 and class 12 were held between February 6 and March 12. A total of 66,37,018 students had registered themselves for this year's exam 36,55,691 for class 10 and 29,81,327 for class 12. (PTI)

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KIDS CORNER

Cornered
"Lashed out at my boss. Got suspended a week without pay."

WordWheel
No. 262
Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution: C.O.D. ERMESSE

5x5
Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down the cross.
No. 162
TO PUZZLE 161
(Other combinations may be possible.)
Reference: C.O.D. 1995

B	E			
B	R			
S	L	O		
S	I	E		

WORD BUILDER
162
O H R I
E S
How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or ones beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.
TODAY'S GOALS:
Good - 9 Excellent - 13 Amazing - 19
SOLUTION 161: wrp, wpt, arm, art, map, mar, mat, mef, cor, par, pat, pram, pre, ram, ramp, rap, rapf, rat, ramp, tap, tar, tram, tramp, trap