

Residents of Nilambur suffer due to pothole-ridden Village Roads

John Wilbert & Rabindranath Biswas

Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Nov 17: The residents of Nilambur in Baratang area in Middle Andaman are in considerable distress due to the very poor condition of the roads in the region.

As per report, the stretch of road between Rajathgarh village to Katta Khari measuring length about 04.550KM, Baludera to



Roglachang village length 1.575 KM and Police Out Post to BaluderaBaratang are in pathetic condition. The residents of Nilambur

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Member of Parliament donates dead-body freezer box to the Gram Panchayat of Mithakhari from MPLADS fund

Port Blair, Nov 21: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma today donated a dead-body freezer box to the Gram Panchayat of Mithakhari, Ferrargunj, South Andaman from MPLADS fund.

Since a long time there was a huge demand for a dead-body freezer box from various panchayats of the South Andaman region.

In absence of a dead-body freezer box in the area, often people of South Andaman villages had to face



a lot of difficulties in arranging a freezer box, which is not easily available in these Islands.

Considering the demand of General Public, the Member of Parliament today

donated a dead-body freezer box to the Gram Panchayat of Mithakhari, Ferrargunj, South Andaman today, which will be available for the people of the area as well as all nearby panchayats.

Vishal Jolly Meets Chief Secretary with Issues Pertaining to Nicobar District



Port Blair, Nov 21: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member, BJP & Former State President BJP-ANI met the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration and highlighted many burning issues pertaining to Nicobar District. Mr. Vishal Jolly placed that there is a serious requirement of proper village roads as all roads in Car Nicobar are in a

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Mobile App for Online Booking of ATR Express Bus Tickets and Online Vehicle Permit Module



Port Blair, Nov 21: It has been the consistent endeavor of the Transport Department under A & N Administration to leverage the latest technology for delivering better quality of services to the Citizens at their doorstep. As part of this vi-

sion and in order to provide efficient and easy facility of ticket booking, Transport Department in association with NIC Uttarakhand has developed a Mobile application "ANTS PATHIK" for commuters trav-

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2.5 meter long crocodile captured from Nilambur area of Baratang

Ganesh
Sheekha News Service

Baratang, Nov 21: A crocodile of approx 2.5 mtr in

length has been captured by the Forest Department of Baratang Island this evening. According to reports the crocodile got trapped in a net,

which was placed by the Forest Department after crocodile was sighted in Nilambur jetty area. The crocodile was reported captured at 7.00 pm.

National Book Week 2022-23 Closing Ceremony

Port Blair, Nov 21: National Book week was observed in Govt. Senior Secondary School Kapangakatchal, from 14th November 2022 to 20th November 2022.

The Teacher Incharge Mrs. Joselyn Samuel inaugurated the function by lighting Deepak. In her address she focused on the need and importance of books and regular use of the Library in day to day life. A short speech was also delivered by Mr. Suresh, J. Panicker, and Librarian and

highlighted the importance of the Week.

Books on different subjects and topics were displayed for the students, Drawing, Essay writing, Reading and elocution Competitions were organized for the students of various groups. During the week teachers addressed the students on various topics in the morning assembly and highlighted the importance of Library and reading habits. First, second and third prizes were distributed to the winners.

The concluding function of the National Book Week was held in the school in which National awardee teacher (Retd.) and First Captain of Meenakshi Ram Nagar, Kapanga Katchal Mr. Aron was the Chief Guest. He spoke on the importance of books and lauded the efforts for organizing such a wonderful exhibition. The SMDC members were also present at the closing function.

Vishal Jolly Meets...

completely damaged condition and not motor able at all. He further said that 95% of the street lights are not working. School infrastructure is completely in a bad shape and students don't even have benches to sit and study. During the rainy season, the rain water flows directly upon them due to damaged roofs. He further highlighted the poor & damaged condition of water pipelines due to which the villagers face acute shortage of water round the year. Furthermore, the issue regarding construction of the Sea Wall at Mus was also discussed elaborately.

Mr. Vishal Jolly further raised the issue of Copra and informed the Chief Secretary that despite the Government of India fixing a MSP (Minimum Support Price) of Rs. 105.90/-, in the month of December 2021, the ground level implementation of copra procurement at MPS has not started yet. Hence, the poor farmers are forced to sell their copra in a meager price of Rs. 35 to Rs. 39/- only, causing immense hardship to earn their livelihood. Appointment of Surveyors by NAFED at copra collection points was also

placed and discussed elaborately.

The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration after hearing & discussion reportedly assured that he would soon visit Nicobar District and ensure that all these issues are sorted out at the earliest.

He further assured that on the issue of COPRA, he would soon convene a meeting with officials of NAFED and all procurement agencies for effective ground level implementation & grant of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to all farmers.

(From page 1)

Mobile App for...

elling in STS Express buses on ATR route between South Andaman and N & M Andaman. The application was launched by Mr. Keshav Chandra, IAS Chief Secretary, A&N Islands on 21.11.2022 in the presence of Mr. Nikhil Kumar, IAS Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Transport) and Mr. Vishwendra, Secretary-cum-Director (Transport). This app will enable the commuters to make online reservation/cancellation of Express bus tickets using Android Mobiles. The mobile app can be downloaded by visiting <https://ants.andaman.gov.in>. The mobile application will also be made available in the

Google Play Store soon.

Further to enhance efficiency and transparency, the Transport Department had made the services online related to Registration of vehicles and Driving Licenses by implementing National software 'Vahan 4.0' and 'Sarathi 4.0'. In order to minimize the visit of vehicle owners to the RTO office for permit related services and to eliminate the citizen-Government office interaction, the Transport Department has under the ease of doing business through adoption of e-Governance developed an online permit module within the 'Vahan 4.0' application. This application will enable the applicants to apply for all sorts of transactions related to Permits of commercial vehicles in online mode.

The Chief Secretary also launched the online Vehicle permit module by carrying out a citizen centric activity through online mode. Now the vehicle owners can avail the online services i.e. Issue of New Permit, Renewal of Permit, Issue of Temporary Permit, Duplicate Permit, Replacement of Vehicle, Change of address, Transfer of Permit, Permanent surrender / cancellation of Permit, Permit endorsement etc. by visiting the portal <https://parivahan.gov.in>.

(From page 1)

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Residents of Nilambur .. (From page 1)

Panchayat told Andaman Sheekha Daily that most of the link roads in Baratang area have been in a very bad condition and the Administration has failed to improve the condition of these roads in the last couple of years.

They staged protests against the miserable road conditions several times and after every protest, the concerned authorities manifested an amount of initiatives and embarked on some trivial works of repairing potholes which are abundant on these roads.

Several years ago these roads were repaired but thereafter these roads witnessed only minor repairs which, over the years drove these roads to such a condition, the irked villagers rued.

In fact, these roads have become a death trap; many vehicles get trapped during the rainy season while on other oc-

casions, vehicles are seen drifting and sliding and causing undesired accidents on these very roads.

Speaking to Andaman Sheekha, Mrs. Sumari Roy, Pradhan Nilambur Panchayat, Baratang said that It is really pathetic that the Administration is turning a blind eye towards the issue, while the people especially the school students, aged people and patients of Nilambur Panchayat and Baratang are facing numerous problems due to this miserable road conditions.

The roads are in need of immediate repair as the pothole-ridden roads are making the lives of the people here miserable with bumpy and risky rides, she observed. Further Mrs Kumari urged the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to repair the roads on priority so that people have a sigh of relief.

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SMOKING & PASSIVE SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

CAMPAIGN BY ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

Awareness Programme Organizes by Central Bureau of Communication at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Manglutan

Port Blair, Nov 21: Girl students should give more priority for their health and hygiene and take more nutritious food to improve their mental ability, says Smt. Pramila Kumari, Zilla Parishad Chairman, South Andaman in an awareness programme organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Port Blair during the Integrated Communication Outreach Programme on *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan & Central Welfare Schemes* at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Manglutan South Andaman today.

While addressing the gathering Mrs. Pramila Kumari praised the students for their achievement particularly to girl students and narrated the sacrifices of great freedom fighters during the freedom struggle. So they should know the great history and culture of this country. Teenagers, especially girls, should eat more nutritious food to improve their



mental ability and physical condition. Also she elaborated various schemes implemented for women and child development by the Central Govt.

Dr. Anni Das, Medical Officer, PHC, Manglutan delivered a special address and emphasized the importance of nutritious food to students, particularly girl students. She also added the importance of hand washing and demonstrated how to wash our hands.

Mr. K. Anandha Prabu, Field Publicity Officer delivered the keynote address. Mr. Durlav Das, Pradhan, Manglutan Panchayat and Mr. Prakash Howladar, Principal Incharge, GSSS, Manglutan participated and Mr. M. Murali, Technical Assistant proposed a vote of thanks.

Competitions like Painting and Essay writing on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Swatchh Bharat Mission were held for women and winners were awarded prizes.

69th All India Cooperative Week Celebration-2022

Port Blair, Nov 21: Along with the rest of the country, the 69th All India Cooperative Week Celebration-2022 was being celebrated and concluded on 21st Nov, 2022 at the Conference of A & N State Cooperative Bank Ltd. Mr. Raajesh Goyal, Secretary (Coop)-Cum-RCS as the Chief Guest, in the presence of office Bearers of various Apex and Primary Level Cooperatives, Govt. Officials, and a huge gathering of cooperators.

Mr. Raajesh Goyal, Secretary (Coop)-Cum-RCS, Port Blair as the Chief Guest of the programme addressing on the topic "Financial Inclusion, Digitalization of PACS". He appreciated that the A&N State Cooperative Union, Cooperative Societies and Staff Members of Cooperative Department for successful conduct of Cooperative week across in A&N Islands. He put a light on the theme "India @75 growth of Cooperatives and Future ahead. He informed that the Coop-



eratives has done tremendous growth in A&N Islands and it started way back from 1946, the first Cooperative Society registered is 1946 in the name & style of Rangachang Land Syndicate Cooperative Society. They have almost 2200 societies are registered in 30 various sectors touching construction, shipping repairs, Consumer, Bank, credit etc. He further informed that the comparing to mainland we have to do more businesses and He cited the examples of successful cooperatives like AMUL the Milk cooperative is doing Best Business in all over India as well as abroad and a construction cooperative of Kerala having 26,000 Crore turnover cooperatives

of Andhra Pradesh also doing well.

Mr. Raajesh Goyal, Secretary (Coop)-Cum-RCS handed over the accreditation of Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training Centre received from C-PEC, BIRD Lucknow as center for "Professional & Excellence of Cooperatives" to Mr. P. G. Paul, General Secretary, A&N State Coop. Union, Teylerabad.

During the weeklong celebration the A&N State Cooperative Union Ltd has organized various competitions like Essay writing and Quiz competition among the College, School students and Employees of Cooperative organization in order to inculcate the spirit of cooperatives. Mr. Raajesh Goyal, Secretary

(See page 4)

Admission to M.A Political Science in JNRM for the Academic Session 2022-23

Port Blair, Nov 21: Due to non-declaration of result of B.A Political Science from Pondicherry University, the Counseling for admission to M.A Political Science Schedule to be held on 29th

November, 2022 is being postponed till further orders.

However, during this period, the candidates can submit their application form mentioning the result is awaited.

R Kashthuri Bhai Brings Laurel to the Islands Once Again



Port Blair, Nov 21: It is a proud moment for Islanders as R Kashthuri Bhai, a class VIII student of GDMS Middle point, Port Blair has brought laurels to the A & N Islands once again by winning the Best Female player award in the 1st TMCA Open Fide Rating

Chess Tournament 2022, held in Pune, Maharashtra from 15.11.2022 to 20.11.2022. She was awarded with a Trophy and cash prize for her brilliant performance.

Around 220 players from different states across India participated in this prestigious event.

Andaman College Teachers Association (ACTA) Pays Courtesy Call to Education Secretary



Port Blair, Nov 21: The newly elected Office Bearers of the Andaman College Teachers Association (ACTA) led by Mr. N. Bakrishnan, President, ACTA, Dr. K. Venkatesan, Secretary ACTA, Dr. Vivek Kumar Sahu, Treasurer, Ms. Jochibed Vincent & Dr. Ratna Kushwah Executive Members paid courtesy call to Ms. Veditha Reddy, IAS, Secretary (Education) A&N Administration on 21.11.2022.

During the meet-

ing the delegation has submitted a detailed memorandum of demands containing issues of promotion of faculty members of JNRM, ANCOL and MGGC under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) as per UGC 2018 regulations, infrastructure development for providing conducive learning environment to the students. Further the delegation has apprised the Secretary about the activities carried out by JNRM, MGGC & ANCOL for the betterment of the student community.



PM Modi to distribute 71,000 appointment letters at Rozgar Mela on Tuesday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to distribute about 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits on Tuesday under the flagship Rozgar Mela scheme as part of the Centre's efforts to abate unemployment in the country. "The Rozgar Mela is a step towards the fulfilment of the commitment of the Prime Minister to accord the highest priority to employment generation. The Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development directly," said a government release.

Under the Rozgar Mela scheme, 71,000 vacant posts of teachers, lecturers, nursing officers, nurses, doctors, radiographers, pharmacists, and other technical and paramedical posts would be filled. The Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) would fill a significant number of posts in various Central Armed Police Forces. PM Modi will also launch the Karmayogi Prarambh module, an online orientation course for all appointees in various government departments. The instructive module would provide a code of conduct for gov-

ernment servants, including directives on workplace ethics and integrity.

The Karmayogi Prarambh module falls under the ambit of Mission Karmayogi, which is a national programme for civil services capacity building. The Centre has designed the program to improve the functioning of civil services through online instructive modules.

The newly appointed government employees would be able to access courses on the website of Karmayogi Bharat platform to enhance their knowledge, skills and competencies. Through the Karmayogi Prarambh module, the government would provide government servants with ready access to human resource policies along with benefits and allowances for acclimatising them to these policies and facilitating their smooth transition into their new roles.

With the exception of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where the Election Commission of India (ECI) has enforced the Model Code of Conduct ahead of the assembly elections, physical copies of the appointment letters will be handed over at 45 locations across the country to the new appointees, said the government's press note.

PM Modi launched the "Rozgar Mela" on October 22 with the aim to recruit 1 million people and dampen the impact of the global economic crises on the Indian economy.

On the inaugural day of the employment scheme, over 75,000 people were provided with appointment letters for various posts in government departments to mark the 75th year of Independence. The Prime Minister noted that the large economies were struggling under the global economic situation, highlighting problems such as high inflation and unemployment.

Referring to the "Rozgar Mela" as an essential milestone for creating employment in the country, Modi emphasised, "Despite this global crisis, India is undertaking new initiatives to save our country from being affected by these problems. We are working to soften this impact on our country."

Meanwhile, the Opposition flagged the 'Rozgar Mela' as a "publicity stunt" launched by the Modi government to cover up its failures in job creation. The Congress demanded that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) deliver on its promise of two crore jobs every year and asked when the promised 16 crore jobs would be provided to the youth.

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69th All India...

(Coop)- Cum-RCS, Chief Guest handed over the Certificates and Mementos to the winners of various competitions. He also felicitates the Best working Cooperatives in various sectors and also handed over the certificate to the candidates who successfully completed Beauty parlor, Tailoring, Fashion Designing and Computer courses.

Mr. Suresh Babu, Principal, Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training College (RGCTC) also spoke on the topic "Financial Inclusion, Digitalization of PACS and Strengthening of Cooperative Database". He informed that, Financial Inclusion meant for including all sections of the community is financial services of

banks. He briefed as to how PACS can play a pivotal role in financial inclusion, Financial inclusion helps the rural poor to access banking facilities to meet the economic needs of its members as well as to help them to save their money Govt. has taken many initiatives like DBT, opening of no frills account, branch expansion of bank and appointing business correspondence, introduction of KCC, ATM card and GCC etc.

He further informed that PACS is going to Digitalization in all over India and in A&N Islands 46 PACS are going to Digitize with this rural populace will benefit and Govt. of India has prepared Model Bye law for the PACS for doing as a multi service center. He further informed that

the A&N State Cooperative Union has brought momentum in Cooperative development & training in A&N Islands through Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training Centre, Teylerabad.

Earlier, Mrs. Jolly James, General Manager (Dev), A&N State Cooperative Bank Ltd welcomed the Chief Guest and other delegates to the 69th All India Cooperative Week Celebration 2022. She further informed the main theme "India@75:

Growth of Cooperatives and Future ahead" and expressed her views on today's topic "Financial Inclusion, Digitalization of PACS and Strengthening of Cooperative Database". The programme ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Elizabeth Marry, AGM (WDC), A&N.

National Book Week 2022-23 Closing Ceremony

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Aaftab paid Rs 20,000 to move belongings from Maha flat to Delhi in June; police probing transaction

Aaftab Poonawala, the accused in the case of brutal murder of his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar in May this year, shifted belongings from his flat in Maharashtra's Palghar district to Delhi in 37 boxes in June and paid Rs 20,000 for it, a police official said on Monday.

Poonawala had told Delhi Police that before moving to the national capital, he and Walkar fought about who would pay for shifting the items from their house in Vasai area of Palghar, according to police sources. A police official said they will find out whose account was used to pay Rs 20,000 for the transportation of furniture and other household items in June through the Goodluck Packers and Movers company. After a Delhi Police team on Sunday recorded the statement of an employee of the packaging company in Maharashtra's Palghar district, it came to light that Poonawala had shifted belongings in 37 packages from his flat at White Hills Society in Evershine City of Vasai to his residence in Delhi's Chhatrapur area in June, the official said. The Delhi Police team is in Manikpur in Vasai, the native place of the victim and where the couple had stayed before shifting to the

national capital.

The police on Sunday also recorded the statement of the owner of the house where Walkar and Poonawala stayed in 2021 and the owner of the flat in Mira Road area near Mumbai where the accused's family members were staying till a fortnight ago (before becoming untraceable), officials said. Walkar (27) was allegedly killed by Poonawala in Delhi in May. He chopped her body into multiple pieces and preserved them in a fridge for almost three weeks at their flat before disposing of them over several days. On Saturday, the Delhi Police team recorded statements of four persons in Palghar, including two men from whom Walkar had sought assistance after she was assaulted by Poonawala in 2020, officials earlier said. The Delhi Police on Friday sent teams to Maharashtra, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to hunt for evidence in the case. According to officials, after leaving Mumbai, Walkar and Poonawala travelled to several locations, including Himachal Pradesh, and police are visiting these places to ascertain whether any development during those trips prompted the accused to kill his partner.

Is China serious on disengagement and de-escalation along LAC?

While the Indian Army's transition to a winter posture all along the 3,488km Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China is underway, a watch is being kept on the PLA's western theatre command and movement of three combined armed brigades brought in as reserves by the Chinese army one month before the 20th Party Congress of Communist Party of China (CPC) in the eastern sector, according to officials.

External affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has time and again maintained that peace and tranquillity on the LAC is the only key to restoring bilateral relations, which took a severe blow after PLA transgressions in East Ladakh in May 2020. On November 12, Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande publicly made it clear that there was unabated infrastructure development by China all along the LAC and there was no significant reduction of PLA troops in Occupied Aksai Chin in Ladakh.

While the dates for the 17th round of senior military officials' meeting are still to be finalised, the winter pos-

ture of the Indian Army will also be dependent on whether the three combined armed brigades (each brigade has 4,500 troopers with support elements of nearly a division) go back to their bases or continue to be positioned in the depth areas in the western theatre command, according to the officials quoted above.

It is understood that one combined armed brigade is deployed as reserve by PLA around Phari Dzong area across the Silliguri Corridor near the China-Bhutan border and two other PLA brigades are deployed across Arunachal Pradesh. These three brigades were inducted into Western Theatre Command from Eastern and Southern theatre commands of the PLA. Now that the 20th Party Congress has concluded and Xi Jinping has been elected President for the third term, the national security planners expect the PLA brigades to move back to their original bases. Or else, the Indian Army deployment through the winter will also have to take into account these additional forces in the depth areas.

The PLA is fully de-

ployed in occupied Aksai Chin, with two divisions of troops plus border guards division along with rocket, armour, artillery, and missile support regiments. The Indian Army is also deployed in strength in East Ladakh, with armour and support elements. The PLA Air Force is also on standby at Gar Gunsa air base apart from fighters at Hotan, Kashgar, Lhasa and Nyingchi air bases, according to one of the officials.

While the Indian diplomatic and military officials have raised the question of disengagement and then de-escalation at the previous India-China meetings, the LAC issues will be resolved slowly with detailed bilateral deliberations. The resolution of LAC issues such as the Indian Army's right to patrol at Depsang Bulge, south of Daulet Beg Oldi, and CNN junction at Demchok in East Ladakh is also dependent on the strategic guidance that the PLA's western theatre commander gets from the newly appointed Central Military Commission headed by President Xi Jinping. The Indian Army, meanwhile, is prepared for a long haul.

Arun Goel takes charge as election commissioner



Former bureaucrat Arun Goel took over as an election commissioner on Monday two days after his appointment.

Sushil Chandra's retirement as the chief election commissioner in May 2022 left the post of one commissioner in the three-member Election Commission of India (ECI) vacant. Rajiv Kumar succeeded Chandra while Anup Chandra Pandey is the other election commissioner.

In a statement, ECI said Kumar, who is in Nepal as an observer for their ongoing national elections, called and congratulated Goel. It added Kumar said

Goel's vast and diverse administrative experience will strengthen the commission's endeavors in ensuring the electoral process is more inclusive, accessible, and participative. Goel, a 1985 batch Punjab cadre Indian Administrative Service officer, was due to retire on December 31. But his voluntary retirement came into effect on November 18. Goel will be in line to become the next chief election commissioner after Kumar's tenure ends in February 2025. A person can hold the office of an election commissioner or chief election commissioner for six years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to hold Jan Sampark session today



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will hold a Jan Sampark session with members of the public on Monday.

"The Jan Sampark session will be held tomorrow where the Congress president would welcome members to voice their concerns. Anyone is welcome to meet Kharge ji in his office and voice their concerns and their thoughts," AICC Secretary Pranav Jha told Hindustan Times.

The public meeting will be held at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) office in the national Capital from 11am to 1pm on Monday. The initiative by Kharge comes at a time when the Congress is amplifying its efforts to gain ground in the upcoming Municipal Corporation of Delhi

polls.

Congress released its 'vision document' on Saturday, marking the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The election manifesto is titled "Congress Vision MCD-Meri Chamakti Delhi", which is based on the achievements of the Sheila Dikshit-led Congress government.

On November 14, the Congress released a list of 249 candidates for the upcoming MCD polls.

The last polls held in the national Capital saw the party securing seats in 30 wards, lagging behind the BJP and AAP, in the third position.

Out of the 249 candidates on the list, at least 129 are women candidates, including four sitting councillors contesting from their current wards.

On 2012 gang rape-murder, Delhi to challenge SC order on release of 3 accused

Days after the Supreme Court had ordered release of three men - sentenced to death - in the 2012 Chhawla gang rape-murder case, the Delhi government is set to challenge the order. Lt Governor of Delhi - Vinai Kumar Saxena - has given a go-ahead to challenge the release. Earlier this month, a three-judge Supreme Court bench - headed by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Uday Umesh Lalit - had announced the acquittal of the accused. "Having regard to the totality of circumstances and the evidence on record, it is difficult to hold that the prosecution had proved the guilt of the accused by adducing cogent and clinching evidence," the top court had said.

The acquittal came

more than ten years after a woman - who hailed from Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district - was abducted in Delhi and later found dead in a field in Haryana's Rewari district. It was on February 9, 2012, that she had got off a bus about 10 minutes away from her house at Chhawla Camp in the national capital. The woman - who worked with a private company in Gurugram's Cyber City - was walking home with two friends, when she was abducted by men in a car. Her body was recovered days later with multiple injuries and burn marks; and the autopsy report underlined the attack with car tools, glass bottles and sharp metal objects. Ravi and Vinod - the three accused - were convicted and awarded death sen-

tences by a city court on February 19, 2014.

The Delhi High Court had upheld the judgment of the trial court on August 26 the same year, noting the brutal manner in which the body was mutilated before and after the woman was kidnapped and raped, referring to the accused as "trained blood hounds picking out a scent".

Among others who had just objected to the Supreme Court order was Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. He said he spoke to Union law minister Kiren Rijiju and assured justice for the woman and the family. "The victim is the daughter of our country and we will do everything to ensure that she gets justice," Dhami had told news agency ANI.

Shraddha Walkar murder case: Plea in Delhi HC seeks transfer of case to CBI

Amid deepening probe over the murder of Shraddha Walkar, which has sent shockwaves across the nation, an advocate has moved the Delhi High Court, seeking transfer of investigation from the Delhi Police to the CBI. The petitioner - Joshina Tuli - has contended that the probe cannot be efficiently carried out due to staff paucity as well as lack of sufficient technical and scientific equipment to find out the evidence and the witnesses as the incident had taken place about six months back.

Shraddha Walkar was killed allegedly by her live-in partner - Aftab Poonawala - at their Delhi flat in May. Poonawala - who was arrested last week confessed to the crime, the police said; he had also allegedly hacked the body into 35 pieces after killing



Shraddha. In the plea, the advocate has also said that the presence of media and other persons at the place of recovery and courtroom amounts to interference with the evidences and the witnesses, alleging that the place of incident has not been sealed by the Delhi Police till date, and is being continuously being accessed by the public and media personnel. The crime scenes and scenes of recoveries are being contaminated on a daily basis due to the un-

filtered disclosure of information by the Delhi Police, the petition says. It's been a week since the details started emerging on the horrific murder of the woman and accusations and Poonawala. He has been accused of assaulting Shraddha throughout the two-three years of their relationship. While he remains in the custody of police for now, cops are understood to have stepped up the security arrangements amid massive public anger

Shraddha murder case: Delhi Police files plea

The Delhi Police on Monday filed an application in the city court for the polygraph test of Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused of killing his partner Shraddha Walkar. The hearing is likely to take place tomorrow before the metropolitan magistrate Vijayshree Rathore.

The Delhi Police in its application alleged that Poonawala is misleading the investigation agency and hence a polygraph test should be conducted to ascertain whether the answers to the police's query are right or wrong, court sources told Hindustan Times.

Metropolitan magistrate Aviral Shukla, who is the concerned judge, said that since the earlier narco application was heard by Rathore, the polygraph application should also be heard by her. Aaftab Poonawala is also slated to undergo narco analysis test as di-

rected by the Delhi court after the police said it found discrepancies in his statements.

Narco analysis is also known as truth serum, and involves intravenous administration of a drug (such as sodium pentothal, scopolamine and sodium amytal) that causes the person undergoing it to enter into various stages of anaesthesia. The person becomes less inhibited and is more likely to divulge information, which would usually not be revealed in the conscious state. The gruesome killing took place on May 18 as Poonawala allegedly chopped his 26-year-old partner Shraddha Walkar into 35 pieces and disposed them of across the city over the course of several months. According to Delhi Police, the couple had fought over finances on the day of killing, which took place three days after they moved into the flat in Chhattarpur.

'An enormous tragedy': Supreme Court on Gujarat bridge collapse

The Supreme Court on Monday called the Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat an "enormous tragedy". 141 people - including over 40 children - were killed in the incident, which turned out to be one of the worst disasters in the country recently. The top court has also requested the Gujarat High Court to take up the matter suo motu on a periodical basis to ensure all aspects of a proper probe, fixing accountability and adequate damages for the victims are duly addressed.

The top court has also asked the petitioners - who brought up the matter - to approach the high court since the case has already been initiated there after the HC took note of the accident. The suspension bridge - on the Machchu river - had collapsed on October 30, just days after it had reopened following renovation.

Last week, the Gujarat High Court had asked the civic body in Morbi if the agreement - to allow a private company to maintain and operate the British-era



suspension bridge - was approved by the authority and whether it gave permission to the firm to open the bridge for public use. The Oreva Group - better known as the makers of Ajanta clock - was tasked with the maintenance of the bridge. "We hereby direct the Morbi Nagarpalika (municipality) to place on record the copy of the approval granted by its general board, if any, approving the agreement dated March 8, 2022," the bench - which comprised justice Ashutosh Shastri - had said, HT had reported.

Amid the matter being heard in the court, the civic body - in an affidavit -

had said that on December 29, 2021, Ajanta had informed the then chief officer of Morbi Nagarpalika that the condition of the bridge was critical. It had also requested the civic body to take a decision with regard to the draft agreement for the maintenance and management of the bridge which it had forwarded for approval.

"Even after communication dated December 29, 2021 intimating thereunder the subject bridge is critical, yet it seems to have been allowed to be utilised or used or permitted the public at large to use the said bridge till March 7, 2022," the court had said in return.

UAE foreign minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan begins 2-day India visit



Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on Monday began a two-day visit to India for consultations on bilateral ties, and regional and global issues.

He is accompanied by a senior-level delegation for the official visit, and will hold talks with external affairs minister S Jaishankar. "The visit will be part of regular consultations between the two countries on bilateral as well as global issues of mutual interest," the external affairs ministry

said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited the UAE on June 28 and met Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Jaishankar visited the UAE from October 31 - September 2 to co-chair a Joint Commission Meeting and the Strategic Dialogue with Sheikh Abdullah.

The UAE is a key energy supplier and one of India's most important strategic partners in West Asia. The UAE is also home to more than three million Indians, one of the largest concentrations of expatriates in the region.