To clean up rivers, GPCB issues notice to municipal bodies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MAY 26

AIMING to clean up rivers in the state, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) has started issuing notices to municipal corporations and various nagarpalikas across the state to treat the domestic waste water before releasing it into rivers and to dispose off solid waste in a scientific manner after its segregation.

"As per norms, these institutions of self-governance are required to first treat the domestic waste water and also to dispose off the solid waste in a scientific manner. However, most of them are not following it up. And, therefore, we have started issuing them notices to build pressure on them to adopt the green measures," said a senior GPCB official.

According to GPCB officials, every municipal corporation and nagarpalika is supposed to have a treatment plant for domestic waste water. Also, they are required to dispose off the solid waste in a scientific manner at a special landfill site.

However, barring a few such bodies, most were not adhering to these norms which, among others, results into the pollution of rivers, officials said.

The officer said similar notices were issued to all nagarpalikas and municipal corporations earlier. "However, they didn't comply. Now, we are putting the pressure on them with fresh notices," he said. There are more than 140 nagarpalikas and eight municipal corporations in Gujarat.

People take out an anti-tobacco rally, ahead of World No Tobacco Day (May 31), in Ahmedabad on Sunday. JAVED RAJA

6 held for kidnapping

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, MAY 26

HOURS after they allegedly kidnapped the cleaner of a truck, six persons were arrested by the Junagadh police and the victim was rescued late on Saturday evening, police said on Sunday. The incident took place when the victim Gulabshah Kamdar and his uncle and the driver of the truck, Dawoodshah Kamdar, halted at Dolatpara Chowkadi on the outskirts of Junagadh at around 5 pm for a cup of tea. However, while the uncle-nephew duo were sitting at a roadside hotel, six men came riding two motorbikes, beat up Gulabshah, pushed him in an auto-rickshaw and drove away.

As the kidnappers sped away, Dawoodshah called up police. Acting swiftly, Junagadh police blocked all the major junctions and rescued the cleaner after arresting the six alleged kidnappers. The arrested men were identified as Anjum Kureshi and Imran Juneja of Junagahd and Kasim Garala, Ali Garala, Moishkhan Sama and Anish Pathan, residents of Dhoraji taluka of Rajkot. Police on Sunday said the kidnapping bid was result of an old dispute between the cleaner and Kasim.

GUJARAT CONFIDENTIAL

GNLU 'LEAKS'

A document, purported to be a review report of the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) in its 10th year, has gone viral online after a blog posted it. The post, picked up by other websites, has attracted several comments, largely unkind, about the university. The "leak" has alarmed university authorities who have made several calls and even sent an email to some of these websites that have have published reviews of the review report. The authorities have also written to one of the authors who reviewed the report, asking himwhy the document was put online without verifying its authenticity. The university authorities' worry is not surprising given the "review" has had few good things to say about them. Some of the unflattering findings are: The GNLU chairman's post has been vacant for the last eight years; under a clause, the executive council can overrule the names shortlisted for the director's position by a search committee; the registrar's post has been held junior academics and the university's entire faculty are juniors, with not a single professor on its rolls.

There are further comments about various committees being headed by "junior" academics. Another comment takes a jab at the contentious subject of disciplining the students: "Commanding attendance in class under the threat of detention does not speak well about the quality of teaching."

Apparently, the document's authors were only impressed by GNLU's Rs 150-crore campus and its well-stocked library. However, it remained a mystery as to who were the authors of the report. The mystery deepened with Professor N R Madhava Menon, chairperson of the review committee, stating, "I am not supposed to disclose the report's content until the Chancellor has taken appropriate action. I can't say whether the report in circulation online is the same the Commission has submitted or not."

'GUJARATI KRISHNA'

Leaders have a way with rhetoric. It was evident at the inauguration of the country's first yoga university in Ahmedabad recently. Inaugurated by Chief Minister Narendra Modi, the event saw many speakers wax eloquent before him, delivering lengthy speeches. The audience, however, was taken by surprise when a speaker called Lord Krishna as one of the "six crore Gujaratis".

The speaker argued that although Lord Krishna was born in Mathura, he ultimately settled in Dwarka as a king and, therefore, he could be called a "Gujarati".

LEGENDARY INDIFFERENCE

The State Government organised an awards distribution function in Ahmedabad for prominent writers and literary figures. Called Gujarat Gaurav Awards, they were given to seasoned humorist Tarak Mehta and veteran journalist and author Bhagwati Kumar Sharma. The function, however, saw few people turn up to witness the moment of joy in the twilight years of these great writers. The general public's indifference towards such legendary figures in Gujarati language doesn't bode well for the future of regional literature in the state.

DASHED HOPES

Three top officers of the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) reportedly decided to cancel their proposed official tour to Sweden after they allegedly did not get the permission.

The four-day sponsored tour was to begin this week and the officers were to study the technology that helps generate electricity from solid waste. The officers were invited for the study tour by a Swedish energy firm which has developed the technology. However, the civic officers now might not get the opportunity to escape to the cool climes of Europe even as Rajkot sizzles.

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER

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Gujarat court grants bail to bookie in IPL betting case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, MAY 26

A LOCAL court Sunday granted bail to an alleged bookie, who was arrested along with cash and gold worth Rs 1.54 crore and charged with accepting bets on IPL matches. Vinod Mulchandani, who was nabbed on Saturday, was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate K S Trivedi by the crime branch, which sought his custody for five days.

His lawyer, Chetan Raval argued that police had registered a case against Mulchandani for 'cheating by impersonation' (section 419 of Indian Penal Code) which is a bailable offence.

VINOD MULCHANDANI was produced before Metropolitan Magistrate K S Trivedi by crime branch

Police contended that as Mulchandani was using someone else's SIM card to accept bets, they had to find out in whose name the SIM was issued, and who else were involved. But after the court rejected the remand application, Mulchandani moved bail plea, which was granted.

On Saturday, Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) arrested Mulchandani, a resident of Satellite area, and seized Rs 1.28 crore cash, gold biscuits worth Rs 26 lakh and 12 cellphones from his possession.

The arrest followed Gujarat government's advisory to district police chiefs to crack down on bookies. After his arrest, the police had first registered a case under Gambling Act and sought his custody for interrogation.

NewsTRACK

CSR Activities of JHANOR-NTPC

NTPC Jhanor as a part of their CSR activity conducted a Village Health Camp at Dharmashala, to find out cases of Tuberculosis / COPD & Lung Cancer. The camp was inaugurated by Mr. K.Sreedhar, GM(J) in presence of Senior officials of JGGPP, village Sarpanch and elders of village. All 43 children of the village primary School were examined and advised appropriate treatment. ■

D K Sharma takes charge as State Head at Indian Oil Gujarat State Office

MR. Deepak Kumar Sharma has joined as General Manager I/C, at Indian Oil's Gujarat State Office. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Sharma was General Manager (Retail Sales) at Punjab State Office. An MBA in Marketing Management, Mr. Sharma has over 30 years experience in downstream Petroleum sector. ■

Matrix Comsec to participate in Engineering EXPO 2013

MATRIX COMSEC, Vadodadara will showcase its Office-in-a-box, Android mobile softphone, Branch office gateways, Access control and Video surveillance solutions at Engineering EXPO 2013, to be held at Hyderabad. During the event, Matrix will also showcase office-in-a-box solution 'NAVAN CNX200', targeted for small business and branch offices, COSEC DOOR PVR, a unique contact less palm vein reader based door controller ideal for hospitals, chemical organizations, mines, factories and corporate houses and SATATYA NVR400 – IP based network video recording solution for IP camera surveillance and centralized management. ■

ONGC Ahmedabad Felicitates Director (Exploration), ONGC

ONGC's Director (Exploration), Mr. N K Verma was felicitated by ONGC Ahmedabad Asset during his maiden visit recently after assuming the charge of the 'Maharatna' corporation's Exploration Chief. Addressing a large number of ONGCians, the Director complimented Team Ahmedabad led by Mr. Anil Johari, Executive Director, for maintaining production despite several constraints and challenges faced due to ageing fields. The Director also urged ONGCians to relentlessly and aggressively work towards nation's energy security and reinforce ONGC's position as Nation's 'Energy Anchor'. ■

ONGC's CMD attends technical meet at ONGC IRS, Ahmedabad

MR. Sudhir Vasudeva, CMD ONGC & Chairman, ONGC Group of Companies inaugurated and attended the Technical Meet "PP2030: 35 Years History for 17 Years Prediction" organized by ONGC's premier R&D Institute, Institute of Reservoir Studies (IRS), Ahmedabad. The event witnessed large participation from ONGC's Top Management, Key Executives of ONGC's different Assets, Basins, R&D Institutes and senior executives from various ONGC Work-Centers. The CMD stressed on aggressive exploration & production efforts and urged ONGCians to work towards achieving the Perspective Plan 2030 – ONGC's ambitious plan to meet the rising domestic energy demand, vital for India's Economy and Energy Security. ■

IANT organises seminar on Cyber Security

INSTITUTE of Advance Network Technology (IANT), recently organised a seminar on Cyber Security, where country's finest IT Experts from IANT, Ec-Council, Redhat & Comptia shared a common stage to share their experience and need of cyber security. IANT, under the leadership of Mr.K.R.Kerani has successfully turned out to be the No.1 institute in IT training, Infrastructural development, international certification, manpower outsourcing & recruitment. ■