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First Time In Isles History Jarawa Lad Appears In Court As Eye-Witness To An Accident

PORT BLAIR, OCT 11.

A unique has indeed happened. And it was exemplary too, when a Jarawa boy named Raja appeared as a witness in a hit and run case, in the Court of the Judicial Magistrate First Class II here today. He in fact has become the first ever person from the Jarawa community to do so. This boy (13) of Lakra Lungta virtually sprang a surprise to everyone with his determination and steadfastness as he kept calm and stood by his statement even in the midst of cross-examination in the Court room.

According to a report, Raja was witness to a ghastly accident on Kadamtala-Port Blair stretch of the Andaman Trunk Road which passes through the Jarawa reserve. The accident that took place an year ago, involved a speeding Jeep that hit another Jarawa, boy called Tahai. Appearing before the Judge the tribal boy Raja gave an eye witness account of the accident that took place in near-fluent Hindi and ever signed his name in English on the witness papers.

In fact, what set Raja apart from other lads of his age in our country or perhaps the entire world is the fact that he belongs to a primitive tribe of Negroid stock of Andamans who are considered to be wrapped in time warp. The Jarawas, who hitherto lived in the stone-age conditions, are perhaps one of the most ancient tribes in the world. This tribe which is presently trying to take a giant leap of ten thousand years or more to join the mainstream of civilization, is the topic of intense national and international debate on whether or not the Jarawas be allowed to blend.

Later, interacting with presspersons in SHO Aberdeen, Shri. Tarsem Singh's chamber, Raja went at length to explain how the accident had occurred and that how he was bathing in a nearby stream when the jeep hit him and crippled him for life.

When asked about his future plans, he pointed towards the men uniform and disclosed that he would do the Khaki and he like the 'Saabs' when he grew up. He followed the SHO's baton to put up a brief parade and saluted all those around.

India Will Work Towards Flushing Out J&K Militants: PM

VARANASI, OCT. 11.

Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee today hinted that there could be increased military action to flush out terrorists in Kashmir. "We are discussing the matter and an operation to this effect might be launched after considering all options", Shri Vajpayee said here today. This is the first time the Prime Minister has suggested the possibility of carrying out such strikes.

Asked about J&K Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah's suggestion that the drive against militants be stepped up, Shri Vajpayee said his government would not shy away from intensifying security forces' operations against them. Terrorism is a mindset which is anti-human and can manifest itself in any country and at any time.

The Centre would take appropriate decisions after

deliberations and wide-ranging consultations, the Prime Minister said before leaving for Ballia for the centenary celebrations of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan. Shri Vajpayee said India would never back out of the fight against terrorism, which affected it directly. However, he cautioned that terrorism should not be linked to Islam.

IDA Meeting On Nov. 2:MP

PORT BLAIR, OCT. 11.

The Member of Parliament, Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray today said that the next meeting of the Island Development Authority will be held on November 2, 2001 at New Delhi. He received an assurance to this effect from the Prime Minister, Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he met the PM in New Delhi recently.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the Zila Parishad Adhyaksh and Up-Adhyaksha here, the MP said that in the proposed meeting suggestions for the further development of the island will be put forth. The last meeting of Island Development Authority, he said, was held in 1996.

Shri. Ray further said that the Standing Committee meeting of the IDA will be held on October 17 in

Nobel Literature Prize

STOCKHOLM, OCT. 11

Trinidad-born British author V S Naipaul won the Nobel Literature Prize today for works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories, the Swedish academy said.

which the Adhyaksh, Zila Parishad and the Chairman Port Blair Municipal Council will participate.

JP's Birth Centenary Celebration

NEW DELHI, OCT. 11.

The long centenary celebration of the birth of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan begins all over the country from today. A National Committee has been constituted by the government to make it a grand success. It is headed by the Vice President Shri Krishan Kant and the Minister for Culture, Smt. Maneka Gandhi is its Vice Chairperson. Several sub-committees have also been constituted for this purpose.

Hostel Day Celebration

PORT BLAIR, OCT 11.

The Girls Hostel of Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) will be celebrating 'Hostel Day' at JNRM auditorium at 5.00 pm tomorrow. The Lt. Governor, Shri. N.N. Jha and the First Lady Smt. Chhaya Jha will grace the occasion, a communication from the Principal JNRM said.

Inauguration Of State Level Prog.

PORT BLAIR, OCT. 11.

The Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri. S.S. Sharma will inaugurate State Level programme 'Ham Karen Rashtree Aradhana' at Guptapara village at 10 am on October 13, 2001.

The programme is aimed at creating awareness among the youths about character building and self employment ventures through Self Help Groups, a communication said here.

Bharucha To Be Next CJ Of India

NEW DELHI, OCT. 11.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Sam Piroj Bharucha, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from November 1, 2001 (forenoon). He will succeed Shri Justice (Dr.) A.S. Anand, who retires on October 31, 2001 (Afternoon).

UR Rao Appointed Chairman

NEW DELHI, OCT. 11.

The Board of Prasar Bharati Corporation has been reconstituted. Professor U.R. Rao is the new Chairman. Retired Lt. Gen. M.A. Zaki, Professor Vidya Niwas Mishra and Mr. S. Kasipandian have been nominated as the part-time members of the Board. The post of the Chairman of the Board had fallen vacant due to the death of Mr. Nikhil Chakravorty.

New ZP Adhyaksh & Upadhyaksha Sworn In

Staff Reporter, PORT BLAIR, OCT 11.

Shri. Vishal Jolly and Smt. K. Kumari Raghavan were sworn in as Adhyaksh and Up-Adhyaksha of Zila Parishad respectively for the Second Year term of the Zila Parishad 2001-2002. At a function organised at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium today, the Deputy Commissioner Andamans, Dr. Sharat Chauhan administered the oath of allegiance to the newly elected Adhyaksh and Up-Adhyaksha.

Speaking on the occasion, the Member of Parliament Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray congratulated both the office bearers of the ZP and express the hope that during their tenure these islands will witness further development.

The outgoing Adhyaksha, Zila Parishad, Smt. Sovana Roy, the State President of BJP, Shri. Hari Narayan Arora and the State Convenor, DMK Shri. A.R. Marudavanan also spoke on the occasion.

In her address the Up-Adhyaksha, Smt. K. Kumari Raghavan said efforts will be made

to further gear up the development process in the rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the new Adhyaksh of Zila Parishad, Shri. Vishal Jolly said that his priority will be the overall and balanced development of rural areas in the islands. He said during his tenure all Civil works will be taken up for which the plans have already been prepared. The works which have started in the sectors viz road, water and others, will be completed expeditiously.

PRI members, Municipal Councillors and a large number of party activities attended the swearing in ceremony.

TFC Meeting

On Oct. 17

PORT BLAIR, OCT 11.

The Task Force Committee under PMRY will be holding its next meeting in the conference hall of Directorate of Industries on October 17, 2001.

All the eligible youths who intend to avail the benefits under PMRY for taking up self employment venture under industry, service, business, agriculture and allied sectors have been advised to apply and contact the Industrial Facilitation Centre in the Directorate of Industries, Middle Point for taking assistance in filling up the form and preparation of project report.

Meanwhile, the Task Force Committee is not considering any case for operating auto/shaw in Port Blair Municipal area. Interested rural youths having valid licence can apply for operation of auto in the rural area subject to willingness of the respective bank to consider the loan, a communication said here.

Trng. On Agri.

Extn. Management

PORT BLAIR, OCT 11.

The National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad in association with Department of Agriculture here will be organizing a five-day Banner Programme on "New Dimensions in Agricultural Extension Management" in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Agriculture, Haddo from 15th to 19th Oct., 2001 for the officers involved in extension work.

About 30 officers will be participating from different department like Animal Husbandry & Vety. Services, Fisheries, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, CARI, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Ltd.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Shri. S.S. Patnaik, will inaugurate the programme at 10.00 am there on Oct. 15, a communication from the Director of Agriculture said here.

52 Nabbed For Bootlegging

PORT BLAIR, OCT 11.

The Aberdeen Police Station has detected and registered a total of 55 excise cases of illicit liquor during the last 12 days from September 29 to October 11, 2001. The raids at various places have confiscated a rich haul of 1707 bottles of various capacities of illicit Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL).

One hundred Kgs. of handia was also recovered during this period. Forty-seven men and five women involved in the illegal trade were arrested and cases registered against them, Shri. Tarsem Singh, SHO Police Station Aberdeen disclosed.

According to a communication, a police team led by SHO Pahargan, St. Ajay Rai alongwith S.I. J.S. Yadav and other staff raided Bimlitan area yesterday and recovered 260 bottles of illicit liquor,

bhatty articles and five barrels. In this connection, two persons, A. Muniaswamy and R. Saravana were arrested. Besides, altogether 380 bottles of illicit liquor were recovered from the possession of one Sathendran from Bimlitan on October 8, 2001.

The police staff and the informer have been suitably awarded. The Police will continue its effort and looks forward for the cooperation from the members of general public in this endeavour.