

# REVERBERATION

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**A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday**

## CS Lays foundation stone for 5.5 km. 'all-weather road' from Chunna Bhatta to North Bay



Port Blair, Aug 27:

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS said that the Administration is committed towards providing better road connectivity in A&N Islands. He stated this addressing the gathering, after unveiling the plaque to mark the foundation stone laying ceremony for a new all-weather road from Chunna Bhatta to North Bay- a popular

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## GREETINGS

On the occasion of National Sports Day, I extend my heartiest greetings to all sportspersons, gurus, coaches, and every sports-loving person.

National Sports Day celebrates the importance of sports in our daily lives and is observed on the birth anniversary of sporting legend Major Dhyana Chand who is also known as 'Wizard of Hockey'.

Sports helps in building self-confidence and promotes a healthy lifestyle, especially among the youths and can be an excellent source of employment.

On this day, I salute all sportspersons of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, who have participated in National and International sporting events.

Kuldeep Rai Sharma,  
Member of Parliament,  
A & N Islands.

## A&N Islands bags yet another prestigious tourism award 'Radhanagar Beach' bestowed with Silver Award for 'Best Beach Destination in India' at Annual Outlook Traveller Award ceremony

Port Blair, Aug. 25

Yet another feather has been added in the cap of A&N Administration as the most popular tourist destination- Radhanagar beach at Swaraj Dweep in A&N Islands has bagged the Silver Award for 'Best Beach Destination in India' at a glittering Outlook Traveller Awards-2022 ceremony held at The Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi on

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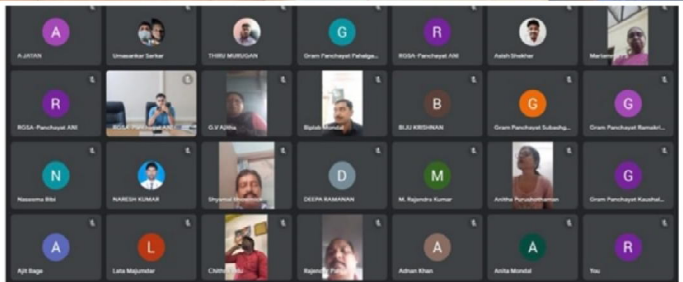


## Virtual orientation programme on Revamped National Panchayat Awards held

Port Blair, Aug 27:

The State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, Marine Hill, Port Blair conducted virtual orientation programme on Revamped National Panchayat Awards for the Block Development Officers (BDOs), Pradhans & Panchayat Secretaries of all the Gram Panchayats across the Islands.

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## National Sports Day to be celebrated in Isles

Port Blair, Aug 29:

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs in collaboration with Education Department is organising a week-long different sports activities from Aug. 22 to Aug. 29 in connection with the National Sports Day -2022 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Major Dhyana Chand (Hockey Wizard) on 29th August, 2022.

As a part of the programme, Table Tennis, Open Men & Women, Badminton U- 14 & 17 Girls & Boys, Running Open Men & Women, Cycle Race Open Men & Women & Swimming Open Men & Women and U-17 Boys & Girls were held from Aug. 22. The valedictory function will be held today Aug. 29 at 4 pm at TGCE Auditorium.

## Interested entrepreneurs willing to set up food processing units may apply online

Port Blair, Aug 28:

The Department of Industries is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme christened 'Prime Minister's Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprise (PM FME)' launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Govt. of India under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan with the objective to strengthen backward/ forward linkages, common infrastructure, packaging, branding & marketing of products pertaining to micro food processing enterprises. Under this scheme, financial assistance in the form of credit-linked subsidy @ 35% of the eli-

gible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit would be provided to individual entrepreneurs/ Proprietorship Firms/ Partnership Firms/ Farmer Producers Organization (FPOs)/ NGOs/ SHG's/ Co-operatives/ Pvt. Ltd. Companies who have established or propose to establish micro food processing unit.

The scheme is implemented through the District Resource Persons engaged for each district to provide handholding support to micro-food processing enterprises including assistance in preparation of Detailed Project Report,

*contd. page-6*



## EDITORIAL



## Govt should reach out to farmers to resolve MSP impasse

*Farmers are back on the borders of Delhi with a renewed resolve to force the Union government to provide a legal guarantee to the minimum support price for the purchase of farmer's produce. MSP has become the Central government's bugbear. A fresh round of tussle between the government and farmers is on the cards. While withdrawing the three controversial farm laws following protests by thousands of farmers on Delhi's borders, the government had assured them that the MSP would not be withdrawn and would find ways to strengthen it further. It has, however, been non-committal on giving it legal sanction.*

*Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar dashed whatever hopes the farmers may have had when he said in Parliament that the government had never committed to giving MSP a legal cover. He said all the government had promised was forming a committee to make MSP more effective and transparent, promote natural farming and change crop patterns, and keep the country's changing needs in mind. A committee was accordingly constituted. The government invited representatives of farmers to join the committee. But they rejected the committee for two reasons.*

*One, a legal guarantee to MSP was not on its agenda. And two, the committee was packed with people behind drafting the three controversial farm laws. Representatives of Samyukt Kisan Morcha—the umbrella body of the farmers' organisations—have said that unless making a law on MSP is part of the terms of reference, it would not join it. The views of the government and the farmers on MSP remain as divergent as they have always been.*

*The government should take the farmers into confidence to find a mutually accepted solution to the vexing issue. Farmers and representatives of state governments, especially from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, should be invited for consultation and included in the committee. It was farmers from these states who had spearheaded the last agitation. Rumblings have started again in these states. The national capital can ill afford yet another blockade and round of violence.*

## Food Safety Department conducted a special drive

Port Blair, Aug 25:

To ensure the availability of safe & hygienic milk to the general public, the officials of Food Safety Department conducted a special drive to check the quality of fresh milk being sold by various milk vendors.

In the morning & evening hours milk samples were collected and tested on the spot with the help of milk analysis instruments provided by FSSAI. 37 samples were collected and tested out of which 35 samples were found satisfac-

tory and in two samples added water was detected.

As per the direction of FSSAI, a surveillance campaign was also held on adulteration of edible oils in the District of South

Andaman, 26 Nos. of edible oil samples were collected and submitted for analysis to the laboratory specified by FSSAI. Analysis reports are awaited.

Further from April onwards the department collected 330 Nos. of Regulatory Food



Samples of various food articles and analysed through FSSAI notified laboratory. Results of 210 Nos. of samples have been received and no samples were found unsafe/adulterated or of substandard quality. 20 Nos. of

contd. page-6

## e-KYC verification for PM-KISAN beneficiaries extended till Aug. 31

Port Blair, Aug 29:

The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the GoI during the financial year 2018-19 to augment the income of the farmers. Under the Scheme, eligible farmer families receives financial benefit of Rs. 6000/- per year payable in 3 equal installments of Rs. 2000/- each, every

four months.

The Govt. of India has made mandatory the e-KYC verification for all the registered PM-KISAN beneficiaries before the release of 12th Installment (period August –November), if e-KYC is not done then the benefits of the next installment will not be transferred to the account of the beneficiary.

The Ministry of Agriculture

and Farmers Welfare has further extended the date for e-KYC verification till 31st August, 2022. Therefore, all the PM-KISAN beneficiaries who have so far not done their e-KYC have been once again appealed to complete their e-KYC before 31st August, 2022 and make themselves eligible to get the benefits of the scheme.

## VIRTUAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON SOLID & LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT HELD

Port Blair, Aug 25:

As part of the capacity building initiatives under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, Marine Hill, Port Blair is conducting a two days virtual orientation programme on Solid & Liquid Waste Management on 25th & 26th August, 2022 for the Pradhans and Sanitary Supervisors of all the Gram Panchayats across the Islands.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Radhey Shyam Meena, DANICS, Director (RD/Panchayat). In the inaugural address, he exhorted all the Pradhans to keep the villages clean. He also expressed that the Gram Panchayats must focus on the areas alongside the roads as well as the tourist sites and must ensure that wastes are not openly dumped lying unattended. He also stressed on clearing the drains and its surrounding areas so that stagnation of water are avoided.

Shri Mohammed Yunus M, State Nodal Officer (RGSA & SBM) in his presentation expressed that, it is very resounding achievement that Andaman



& Nicobar Islands is the first State/UT to achieve the title of Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+) across the country. He urged that efforts must be made to sustain the ODF Plus status. He also informed that third party verification as part of the Janbhagidari initiative of the UT Administration is also being parallelly undertaken by the Self Help Groups (SHGs). Further, he said that any innovative or good works carried in the Gram Panchayats should be documented and must be shared with the state team. He informed that the Gram Panchayats working towards a Cleaner and Greener village can also be rewarded under the National Panchayat Awards by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India.

Thereafter, technical session were conducted by the Domain Expert (Health & sanitation) and Consultant (SBM) in which they gave a detailed presentation on the Solid and Liquid Waste Management prac-

tices highlighting the different types of waste, ways by which it can be treated, impacts of the waste on health, importance of hygiene, shared case studies from different parts of the country to make the Pradhans aware that such type of initiatives can be taken in our islands. They were also apprised and requested to make sure that the villagers must follow the simple mantra of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle so that we can reduce the turnover of plastics to a lesser level. The banned SUPs items as per the amended Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2022 were also discussed and PRIs were requested to promote alternative products against these banned items as much as possible in their Gram Panchayats. Further, PRIs were requested to create mass awareness, Jan Andolan among the Villagers, General Public, Schools, Anganwadi Centres, Commercial Institutions about the importance of Solid & Liquid Waste Management.



## ‘Familial relationships may take form of domestic, unmarried partnerships or queer relationship’: SC



PTI, NEW DELHI, Aug 28:

“Familial relationships may take the form of domestic, unmarried partnerships or queer relationships”, the Supreme Court has observed, while noting that an “atypical” manifestation of a family unit is as real as its traditional counterpart and deserves protection under the law.

The predominant understanding of the concept of a “family” both in the law and in society is that “it consists of a single, unchanging unit with a mother and a father (who remain constant over time) and their children.

“This assumption ignores both, the many circumstances which may lead to a change in one’s familial structure, and the fact that many families do not conform to this expectation to begin with. Familial relationships may take the form of domestic, unmarried partnerships or queer relationships,” a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna said in an order uploaded on Sunday.

The observations are significant as activists have been raising the issue of recognising LGBT marriages and civil unions as well as allowing live-in couples to adopt after the apex court decriminalised homosexuality in 2018.

The apex court made the remarks in its verdict that held that a working woman cannot be denied her statutory right to maternity leave for her biological child only because her husband has two children from a previous marriage and she had availed the leave to take care of one of them.

The bench said that a household may be a single-parent household for any number of reasons, including the death of a spouse, separation, or divorce.

“Similarly, the guardians and caretakers (who tradition-

ally occupy the roles of the “mother” and the “father”) of children may change with remarriage, adoption, or fostering,” it said.

It said that these manifestations of love and families may not be typical but they are as real as their traditional counterparts and such atypical manifestations of the family unit are equally deserving not only of protection under the law but also of the benefits available under social welfare legislation.

“The black letter of the law must not be relied upon to disadvantage families which are different from traditional ones. The same undoubtedly holds true for women who take on the role of motherhood in ways that may not find a place in the popular imagination,” said Justice Chandrachud who penned down the verdict on behalf of the bench.

The bench said that unless a purposive interpretation were to be adopted in the present case, the object and intent of the grant of maternity leave would simply be defeated.

“The grant of maternity leave under Rules of 1972 is intended to facilitate the continuance of women in the workplace. It is a harsh reality that for such provisions, many women would be compelled by social circumstances to give up work on the birth of a child if they are not granted leave and other facilitative measures” it said.

It added that no employer can perceive childbirth as detracting from the purpose of employment and childbirth has to be construed in the context of employment as a natural incident of life and hence, the provisions for maternity leave must be construed in that perspective.

It said that the facts of the present case indicate that the spouse of the appellant (a nurse by profession) had a prior marriage that had ended as a result of the death of his wife after

which she married him.

“The fact that the appellant’s spouse had two biological children from his first marriage would not impinge upon the entitlement of the appellant to avail maternity leave for her sole biological child.

“The fact that she was granted child care leave in respect of the two biological children born to her spouse from an earlier marriage may be a matter on which a compassionate view was taken by the authorities at the relevant time”, it said.

The bench said that gendered roles assigned to women and societal expectations mean that women are always pressed upon to take a disproportionate burden of childcare work.

It referred to a ‘time-use’ survey conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and stated that women in India currently spend up to 352 minutes per day on unpaid work, 577 per cent more than the time spent by men and time spent in unpaid work includes childcare.

“In this context, the support of care work through benefits such as maternity leave, paternity leave, or child care leave (availed by both parents) by the state and other employers’ is essential.”

“Although certain provisions of the Rules of 1972 have enabled women to enter the paid workforce, women continue to bear the primary responsibility for child care. The grant of child care leave to the appellant cannot be used to disentitle her to maternity leave under Rule 43 of the Rules of 1972”, it said.

The top court said that the facts of the present case, too, indicate that the structure of the appellant’s family changed when she took on a parental role with respect to her spouse’s biological children from his previous marriage.

“When the appellant applied to PGIMER for maternity leave, PGIMER was faced with facts that the law may not have envisaged or adequately accounted for. When courts are confronted with such situations, they would do well to attempt to give effect to the purpose of the law in question rather than to prevent its application”, the bench said and set aside the Punjab and Haryana High Court order.

## ‘India has joined 100-metre building demolition club’: Foreign brain behind Noida twin tower success



PTI, NOIDA, Aug 28: With the successful demolition of the Supertech twin towers here on Sunday, India has joined the club of countries that have razed buildings taller than 100 metres, Joe Brinkman of South African firm Jet Demolitions said.

The illegal twin towers in Noida’s Sector 93A were grounded by waterfall implosion technique in a matter of 12 seconds, Brinkman told reporters.

The Apex (32 storeys) and Ceyane (29 storeys) towers of Supertech had a height of 103 metres each, according to officials.

Mumbai-based Edifice Engineering, which was tasked with the demolition, had selected Jet Demolitions as its expert partner for the job.

The two had together previously demolished four residential complexes in Maradu municipal area of Kochi, Kerala in a similar fashion.

“India and Edifice have now joined the 100-metre club of countries which have buildings over this height that have been demolished and that too with residential buildings standing so close to them, making the project extremely challenging,” Brinkman, 62, said, heaping praises on the Edifice-Jet team.

“All credit goes to the entire team,” he said.

Jet Demolitions holds a distinguished position globally for demolition works.

In November 2019, the firm had grounded the 108-metre-tall Bank of Lisbon building in Johannesburg within a few seconds in an eye-popping event and ensured that a structure barely seven metres next to it was safe too.

Brinkman said the whole process for demolishing the Noida twin towers took 12 seconds.

He said the team’s first priority was to ensure that there were no injuries to people during the implosion and no structural damages caused to any of the buildings around.

He added that very few buildings taller than 100 metres have been demolished in a controlled manner across the world.

Edifice Engineering partner Utkarsh Mehta described Brinkman as the “mastermind” of the successful demolition.

Mehta said around 35,000 cubic metres or approximately 80,000 tonnes of debris was left after the demolition.

Around 50,000 tonnes of it has been absorbed in the basements of the now-demolished towers while the remaining would be disposed of in 90 days, he said.

“We will have to coordinate with the Emerald Court and ATS Village societies for the disposal since the debris would have to be first processed at the site only and then it would be taken to construction and demolition waste processing centres.”

“Coordination would be needed for fixing the timing for work at the site to cause least disturbance to residents,” said Mehta.

Jigar Chheda, another Edifice partner, said they took a full six months to plan the clean execution of the demolition and the whole exercise was a “very challenging” process.

“Days and nights went into the preparation for this day. Over 9,000 holes were drilled for explosives in the two buildings; they had to be most accurate and all this was challenging,” Chheda told PTI.

“Getting permission from all authorities concerned,

*contd. page-6*



## An Awareness programme on Eye Donation at Forest Club, Haddo



Port Blair, Aug. 25

Under National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment, 37<sup>th</sup> National Fortnight on Eye Donation is being observed from 25th August, 2022 and will continue upto 8<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2022 throughout the Islands by conducting IEC activities to create awareness about the importance of eye donation and to motivate people to pledge their eyes for donation after death. As part of the activity, an awareness programme

on eye donation was arranged at Forest Club, Ward No. 2, Haddo in coordination with the Health Education Bureau, Directorate of Health Services, A&N Islands.

Shri. Someshwar Rao, Counsellor, Ward No. 2 who was the chief guest expressed his views on donation and appealed to the public to come forward to register for eye donation. A large number of general public attended the programme. Dr. Navin Govind,

CMO, NFSG (JS-NPCB&VI) delivered a detailed talk on eye donation and motivated the public to pledge their eyes after death. Shri. S.S. Venkateshwar, Optometrist has informed the procedure of eye donation.

Earlier, the programme began with welcome address by Smt. Vasantha Devi, Health Education Officer(i/c). The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by the Shri. P. Abdul Salam, Health Educator.

## Applicants for various Group 'C' posts under A & N Administration advised to register online applications within the time period

Port Blair, Aug. 26

With reference to Vacancy Notice No. 1-3/2022-R & E dated 01.08.2022, the updated vacancy position has been uploaded on the Portal: <https://ls.and.in:8080&https://andaman.nic.in>.

Accordingly, the applicants may visit these portals and register online applications for various Group 'C'

posts under A & N Administration within the time period as provided in the vacancy notice i.e. w.e.f. 03.08.2022 11.00 AM to 02.09.2022 midnight with due care and diligence; before the closing date. No further extension shall be granted.

OBC candidates who have applied or are in the process of getting non-creamy layer certificate from the concerned au-

thorities will be able to apply for and appear at the examination. They however, must apply for this certificate to the relevant authorities on or before 2nd Sept, 2022 that is the date of closing of application. They will have time upto 31st Oct, 2022 to obtain the certificate to avail the benefit of OBC reservation else they will be treated as general/UR category candidates.

## Agriculture Department celebrated World Coconut Day

Port Blair, Aug. 26

World Coconut Day is celebrated every year on 2nd September across the world. The day is celebrated to highlight and raise awareness about the importance and benefits of coconut. Coconuts have multiple benefits and are one of the most versatile fruit. This day is celebrated every year in A&N Islands too. Like every year, this year also, the World Coconut Day will be celebrated by Agriculture Department in South Andaman.

In this connection, a programme is being organized on 2nd September, 2022 at Com-

munity hall, Ograbraj, Mithakhari Gram Panchayat by Agriculture Department in coordination with Rural Development, Coconut Development Board, Industries Department and an NGO named Hand-in-Hand India. The main focus in the programme is 'sensitization on FPO (Farmers Producer Organization)'. The Hand-in-Hand India, NGO which will conduct the sensitization programme and will explain the role of Community Based Business Organization (CBBO) in formation of FPO. Various Schemes of Agriculture Department and Coconut Development Board will be highlighted on the occasion.

The other attractions of the celebration are Exhibition-cum-Sale of coconut based products, coconut recipe competition and Rangoli Competition for general public, SHG and entrepreneurs. Those who want to participate in these events have been requested to contact Smti Adilakshmi, Agriculture Assistant (9434274933) / Smti Beena Neogi Agriculture Assistant (9434266093) / Ms Priyanka Dakuya (7063965470) or Miss. Ashima Biswas (9531842028) latest by 30th August, 2022 for registering their names for participation and clarification of any queries.

## Third party ODF Plus verification through SHGs completed



Port Blair, Aug 27:

In pursuance to the directions of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India and subsequent to the achievement of ODF Plus status by the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 16th February 2022, the Directorate of RD, PRIs and ULBs, Andaman and Nicobar Administration has successfully completed the third party ODF Plus verification as mandated under the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II. The third party assessment of all ODF Plus villages was conducted through the Village Organizations/Self Help Groups formed under DAY-NRLM scheme. Also under the Janabagidaari initiative of the UT Administration, the Self Help Groups (SHGs) conducted field assessment to gauge the reach and impact of implementation of 86 Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Govt. of India.

In continuation of the Janabagidaari initiative, the VOs/SHGs actively conducted random sample survey of 5 percent households in each villages and also made visits to the public institutions such as Schools, Anganwadis and Panchayat Bhawans. During the assessment, verification with regard to the five broad components of the scheme i.e. (1) ODF Sustainability (2) Solid

Waste Management (3) Liquid Waste Management (4) Visual Cleanliness and (5) Display of IEC messages were undertaken.

Four members team were assigned to each of the 189 villages and were allocated villages block-wise. Two rounds of orientation programme for the Officials and SHGs were conducted by the State Swachh Bharat Mission Management Unit, Directorate of RD, PRIs and ULBs. The assessment commenced in all the blocks on 16th August, 2022 and has been completed within 10 days due to the rigorous follow up and overall monitoring by the RD Department. Regular review regarding the progress of the assessment were undertaken with all the BDOs and field officials. The sample survey report prepared by the team in the prescribed format has been uploaded in the SBM (G) Integrated Management Information System.

It is worthy to mention that the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the first State/UT to achieve the coveted ODF Plus status under the SBM guidelines. The Secretary (RD/Panchayat) appreciated the efforts of the field SHGs and officials involved in the third party verification exercise and exhorted to maintain and sustain the ODF Plus status of villages in the UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

## PRESS RELEASE

Port Blair, Aug. 26

The Science Centre, Goodwill Estate, Corbyn's Cove Road organized a 'Bubble Show' on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 at 6.10 pm. This was the fun filled show specially designed for all age group to enjoy with their kids. During the programme, the demonstrator prepared varieties of bubbles right from Tiny Bubble

to Giant Bubble, Children's most favorite Doraemon Bubble to the Cubic Bubble, Caterpillar Bubble, Fire Bubble & many more. The entry fee for the bubble show is 10/- per head.

Further, special 3D Show at 5.30 pm and 6.10 pm with entry fee of 20/- per head.



# Mainstreaming Training Prog. on HIV/AIDS & Blood Donation held



Port Blair, Aug. 26

A&N AIDS Control Society (ANACS) conducted a mainstreaming training programme on HIV/AIDS for the in service Police Personnel of A&N Islands from the rank of PC to Inspector and Home Guards yesterday at Police Training School. 55 police personnel participated in the training programme. The programme commenced with welcome address by M.K Shukla, Vice Principal, PTS. ShriGirish Kumar, AD (SPM), ANACS conducted the training programme. He informed about Human Immuno-

deficiency Virus (HIV) is an infection that attacks the body's immune system, specifically the white blood cells called CD4 cells. HIV destroys these CD4 cells, weakening a person's immunity against opportunistic infections, such as tuberculosis and fungal infections, severe bacterial infections etc. Shri Kaushik Kumar Halder, AD (IEC) spoke about condom promotion objectives. Shri S. Senthil Nathan, AD (CST) also spoke on the occasion. The participants were informed to come forward for 'Knowing their HIV Status' by voluntarily getting themselves tested which will be kept confidential. Shri Girish Kumar, Inspector.

# Isles Celebrated World Ozone Day

Port Blair, Aug 29:

World Ozone Day is celebrated every year on 16th September commemorating the date on which Montreal Protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed in 1987. The Day is observed with the objective of creating awareness regarding importance of Ozone Layer and India's commitment to the Montreal Protocol to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). As part of the celebration of the Day Department of Science & Technology, A & N Administration is organising a Poster making competition (size of 56cmx 35cm (half chart paper)) for school (Senior Secondary

level) and college students on the theme: 'Ozone for Life' on virtual mode.

Students may post the posters in WhatsApp number 9474213985 latest by 14th September, 2022. Only one entry per student will be considered for the competition. The participants may write their name, class/course, school/college and contact numbers at the right side bottom of the poster. Winners will be awarded with certificate and prizes during the valedictory function to held on 16th September, 2022, a press release from Department of Science and Technology said.

# CS Lays foundation stone.... from page 1

tourist spot having a stretch of 5.5 Km at Panighat in Ferrargunj Tehsil. The foundation stone was laid in the presence of the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (PWD), Ms Nandini Paliwal, IAS, senior Officers of Administration, PRI members of Ferrargunj Tehsil and villagers of the area. The construction of the road will fulfill the long felt need of the residents of the area.

The Chief Secretary stated that this road which was damaged during tsunami will now be newly constructed. He mentioned that the road which comes under the Andaman Marine Drive Project of A&N Administration will further boost tourism in this area and thereby improve the socio economic status of the people residing in this area. The Chief Secretary directed the APWD to ensure timely completion of this project avoiding time escalation. He said, the rural roads in nearby areas which have been damaged due to rain will be repaired as soon as the weather condition improves. The construction of the road work, once completed will provide smooth access to North Bay and further contribute towards the development of the area and subsequently more facilities will be added.

The Chief Secretary remarked that the A&N Administration is always committed towards the welfare of its citizens and the grievance of the general public is heard and sorted out without any discrimination. He also directed the Officers of the Administration to visit rural areas to have a first-hand knowledge of the problems/grievances, if any, being faced by the common

people for its early redressal.

In his address, the Secretary (PWD), Shri Kishore Kshirsagar Lakshman said that this work which comes under the 'Andaman Marine Drive' project will provide a better road connectivity upto North Bay. The road once completed will further increase the scope of tourism and also benefit the local entrepreneur of this area, he added.

Informing about the salient features of the project, the Chief Engineer, APWD, Shri M. Sivarama Subramaniyan said this 5.5 KM road will be a double lane road and it will be built at a cost of 23.59 crores. The road construction work which include development of culverts, RCC retaining wall and gabion wall is expected to be completed by 2024. The EE, RCD Wimberlygunj, Shri Subbaraj proposed the vote of thanks.

Thereafter, the Chief Secretary visited the Hope Town Jetty and discussed about further expansion of the Port with the officials present.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary also visited the site where 10MW containerized Power Plant operational at Bambooflat under Power Purchase Agreement. He made an observation that future power plant installation should take

care of pollution norms. He also advised to plant fruit bearing trees all around the area which will also add to the green environment.

The Chief Secretary also visited Stewartgunj and inspected the site inundated with water. The APWD officials informed the Chief Secretary about the proposal for the development of a 'Sweet Water Lake' there. He directed APWD to expedite the work for the development of the 'Sweet Water Lake'. As per the demand of the PRIs present there, he directed the APWD to undertake the beautification of the entire stretch so that people can visit the area and spent their leisure time.

Thereafter, the Chief Secretary visited the Kamsarat Dam at Stewartgunj where the APWD officials informed the Chief Secretary about the distribution of water to adjoining 5 villages from the Dam. The Chief Secretary also visited the site where 50 MW LNG Power Plant will be set up near Hope Town Port. On enquiring about the progress of the project, the Chief Secretary directed the Secretary (Power) to follow up with the NTPC for finalization of the tenders. The Chief Secretary also visited Mount Manipur and spent some time at 'North Bay View Point'.

# PRESS RELEASE

Port Blair, Aug. 25

All students of DBRAIT have been informed that as per Pondicherry University communication, the exam registration for 19T, 20T series regular batch students and 18TDL, 18TCL, 18TAL series batch students of ECE, Civil and CSE branches has been completed by respective Department on Aug. 25.

As regard the exam registration for other students of lateral entry for 2nd, 3rd year and 1<sup>st</sup> year regular students will be intimated on receipt of communication from Pondicherry University.

# 'Radhanagar Beach' bestowed....



August 24. The Hon'ble Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DONER, Shri G. Kishan Reddy who was the chief guest on the occasion presented the Awards under various categories to States & Union Territories.

Complimenting the organisers for holding the award ceremony, Shri Reddy said that this would certainly encourage the best practices in the tourism sector. He also complimented the States and Union Territories that bagged the awards saying it would go a long way in encouraging and promoting tourism in the country.

This was the 19th year of the Outlook Awards by Outlook Group which were decided on the basis of a travel survey conducted by a research agency and the responses were scrutinized by the jury members. The Outlook Traveller Awards are the benchmark of quality in the travel and tourism industry for the last two decades and felicitate the best of the best each year. The Manager, Tourism, IP&T, Shri Basudev Halder on behalf of the A&N Administration received the Award at New Delhi.

It was a proud moment for the A&N Islands for being adjudged and to receive this prestigious Silver Award. Radhanagar Beach in Swaraj Dweep is one of the most famous attractions in

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Placed in nature's lap, Radhanagar Beach is regarded as the one of the best beaches in India. With its pristine stretch of sand backed by turquoise water and lush forest, Radhanagar beach is the first choice & attracts a large number of National as well as International Tourists every year.

Commonly known as Beach No. 7, Radhanagar has been given the title of the best beach in Asia and the 7th best beach in the world by Time Magazine in 2004. The beach is also included in the Top 25 beaches in Asia by Tripadvisor's Traveller's Choice Awards in 2016.

It may be recalled that Radhanagar beach has retained the Blue Flag certification in the Blue Flag International Jury results of 2021-2022, which was conveyed by the Denmark-based NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). This certification is also a global recognition of India's conservation and sustainable development efforts. Blue Flag beach is an eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide the tourists or beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.



## ‘India has joined 100-metre..... from page 3

coordinating with multiple agencies, and convincing residents of safety were key effort areas,” he said.

Mayur Mehta, project manager for Edifice, said 9,642 holes were drilled and 3,700 kgs of explosives were used for the demolition.

“The types of explosives used were Solar coal, with 6 gm, 10 gm, 20 gm, and 80 gm mass. Electric detonators, shock tubes and emulsions were also used. The tubes were placed in a way that some had a 0.5-millisecond explosion capacity, while others had a 7,000-millisecond capacity,” he added.

Edifice officials said nine metres of the boundary wall of ATS Village comprising some 900 bricks was damaged.

Several window panes in Emerald Court, as well as ATS Village, were cracked and they had started the process to replace them with new ones shortly after inspection at the site Sunday evening.

Meanwhile, around 100 families evacuated from residential buildings near the now-demolished Supertech twin towers in Noida returned to their homes till Sunday night.

Over 5,000 people from Emerald Court and ATS Village societies were evacuated before the demolition of the twin towers.

Apex (32 storeys) and Ceyane (29 storeys) were gone

in 12 seconds on Sunday, in the carefully choreographed and meticulously executed demolition, the biggest such exercise in the country so far.

People, who returned home, are relieved that their houses are safe.

Aarti Koppula, Bluestone resident and RWA member, said that four towers in the Supertech society haven’t received gas supply yet.

“We returned at 9 pm and there is no damage to our houses. There is just a foul smell in the basement of our buildings most likely of the explosives.”

“They have been informed that the gas supply will be restored by tomorrow. Rest is alright. There is no damage at all,” Koppula told PTI.

There was the deployment of police to ensure safe passage to people.

Police have barricaded the area around the collapsed building.

Meanwhile, even after several hours of the explosion, people gathered near the demolished towers and were seen taking selfies with the rubbles.

Meet the daredevils behind the operations

Supertech’s illegal twin towers were razed to the ground in a matter of just 12 seconds on Sunday in Noida and seven people — three Indians and four foreigners — were the only persons inside a 100-metre

radius during the demolition. As was expected, the demolition left behind a whopping mound of debris and a cloud of dust in close vicinity of the structures located in Sector 93A of Noida.

An exclusion zone of roughly 500 metres from the twin towers was created for the demolition.

No human, vehicle or animal was allowed in that exclusion zone while around 5,000 residents of nearby Emerald Court and ATS village societies were also evacuated.

Only seven people were present inside the exclusion zone to trigger the button that set off over 3,700 kg of explosives in a series of blasts separated by microseconds.

Those present inside the exclusion zone were Indian blaster Chetan Dutta, who pressed the button, Mayur Mehta, the project manager for Edifice Engineering, and IPS officer Rajesh S, who is also the local deputy commissioner of police.

Besides them, four members of Jet Demolitions — Joe Brinkkman, Marthinus Botha, Kevin Smit and Ian Ehlers — were present there.

The detonation team was stationed about 100 metres close to the 50-acre city park in front of the twin towers.

The final evacuation clearance came around 12.30 pm and the demolition took place at 2.30 pm.

## Virtual orientation..... from page 1

Incentivizing the Panchayats in the form of awards is an integral part of creating a healthy and competitive ecosystem for holistic implementation of developmental plans. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been incentivizing the best performing Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through awards as an encouragement to enhance their performance in local self-governance. Revamped National Panchayat Awards will be a multi-level pyramid competition of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at Block, District, State/UT and National level under 09 themes.

The newly introduced category of awards are Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar and Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar. Both these awards will be given away to GPs, BPs and ZPs in all the 09 LSDG themes. Panchayats will be incentivized for their performance in attainment of the SDGs under each theme. Along with this there are 5 special category of awards- (1) Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, (2) Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, (3) Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, (4) Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar, (5) Best Participant (State/District Panchayat)

The virtual orientation programme was inaugurated by Shri Radhey Shyam Meena, DANICS, Director (RD/ Panchayat). In his inaugural address, he underlined that Incentivization of Panchayats has been brought about to promote competitive spirit amongst the PRIs. In order to achieve the collective goals of SDGs, the Incentivization has been completely aligned with the LSDG themes. Therefore, the better performing Gram Panchayats under each of the themes can get awarded and also project their activities at the national level. He also directed the Block Development Officers (BDOs) to closely monitor the filing of nominations and also to assist the Gram Panchayats in completing the process of award. Further, he informed that this time awards shall also be given at the Block, District and UT level as per the instructions of

the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India.

Giving a detailed presentation on the revamped National Panchayat Awards Shri Mohammed Yunus M, State Nodal Officer (Panchayat Awards) explained different categories of awards, committees at Block, District & UT level etc. He stated that the objectives of the awards is to nudge PRIs for a systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability towards achieving LSDGs at the Panchayat level. Incentivization of Panchayats scheme, through National Panchayat Awards mainly aims to assess the performance of PRIs in attainment of SDGs through 9 identified themes, promote competitive spirit among PRIs and catalyze the process of ‘Localization of SDGs through PRIs’ and sensitizing the PRIs about significance of attaining LSDG by 2030. The Gram Panchayats which compete at the National level will be awarded by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India at New Delhi on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April. In the presentation, the State Nodal Officer also informed that based on the aggregate performance of Gram Panchayats within a jurisdiction, the Block Panchayats and Zilla Parishads will also be considered for various levels of award under the relevant categories.

Technical sessions were conducted by the Domain Experts in which they explained the questionnaires thematic wise covering all the 09 thematic areas. The session concluded by the demonstration of online questionnaires filling procedure and discussing in detail the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Panchayat Awards. It was also informed to the PRIs that the State Programme Management Unit (SPMU) shall be available 24x7 on call to assist the Gram Panchayats in completing the process of awards.

## Interested entrepreneurs willing.... from page-1

documentation and getting bank loan.

The modified eligibility criteria to avail the benefits are as under:

- Existing or New micro food processing enterprises for expansion/upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises or setting up of new micro food processing enterprises.

- Beneficiary contribution should be minimum 10% of the project cost.

- Applicant should be above 18 years of age.

- Applicant/ enterprise those who have availed bank loan under other Subsidy Linked Scheme of Govt. are also eligible for bank loan under this scheme. Applicants are also eligible for Interest subvention and Top-up convergence with other relevant Government

Sponsored scheme.

- Applicants/ Entrepreneurs of existing units under stress and qualifying for restructuring by the banks are also eligible for up-gradation / expansion of the unit.

Interested new/existing entrepreneurs willing to set up food processing units may apply online at <https://pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/pmfme/#/Login>.

## Food Safety Department....from page-2

samples were found misbranded for the violation of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020. Cases for adjudication of the offences have been filed against all these 20 FBOs.

The Food Safety Department is also keeping a strict vigil on all food products arriving from mainland and samples are also collected for its analysis.

pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/pmfme/#/Login. For further details, the entrepreneurs may visit the Directorate of Industries, Middle Point, Port Blair or any other branch offices located at Bakultala, Diglipur, Little Andaman and Car Nicobar on all working days between 9 am to 4 pm or contact over Phone No. 03192-234360.

Shri Suneel Anchiapaka, IAS, Commissioner Food Safety, A&N Islands/Dy. Commissioner, South Andaman District has warned all the FBOs to refrain from using any chemicals or preservatives in food items which are not permitted under the Act. The general public may lodge any complaints or grievance on toll free No. 1077 or 03192236168, 03192236112.

## Hands-free greetings

