

ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

True Mirror of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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Andaman & Nicobar Police wrestling with shortage of Drivers; Pressure mounting on existing Drivers

John Wilbert & Rabindranath Biswas

Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 20: The Andaman & Nicobar Po-
(See page 5)



A&N Islands on the International Trade Map Soon

Port Blair, Dec 20: Based on Honourable Prime Minister of India's vision of act east policy Nicobar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NCCI) and Youth Chamber of Commerce & Industry (YCCI) acted upon quick to
(See page 6)



Welcome Step by CS; Chief Secretary Directs all Senior Officers to fix public meeting time between 3 PM & 4 PM

Port Blair, Dec. 20: The Chief Secretary, A & N Administra- tion has ordered that all the DGP, Commissioner-cum-Senior Officers i.e. PCCF,
(See page 5)

Member of Parliament requests Lt. Governor to reconstruct the entire stretch of road from Wimberlygunj to Wright Myo

Port Blair, Dec 20: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to reconstruct the entire stretch of road from Wimberlygunj to Wright Myo
(See page 6)

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ANTCC President Demands Special Ship to Chennai for Ayyappa Devotees of A & N Islands

Port Blair, Dec 20: ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder has demanded the Administration for a Special Ship to Sail at Chennai from 3rd to 4th January 2023 for the Devotees of Ayyappa Puja.

In his letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, he said that around 1000 no's of Ayyappa Devotees are likely to attend the mass Gathering Puja at Sabarimala Temple, Kerala to

extend their beliefs and worship towards the Lord.

Mr. Halder Said that as the Flight Fare is much higher which cannot be affordable by the Ayyappa Devotees and most importantly the Flight Schedules are not very operational as the Construction work of the Airport is in Process. He further requested the Administration to kindly make necessary arrangements for the Special Sailing from



Port Blair to Chennai on 3rd to 4th January 2023 for the Devotees welfare and Considerations.

Curb on Illicit Liquor Manufacturing In N&M Andaman



Port Blair, Dec 20: The district police of North & Middle Andaman have been conducting intensive jungle search and combing operations to crack down on manufacturing of illicit Liquor. Adding to the spree of crackdown on illicit liquor manufacturing in the district, Police team headed by SI Deva Raju, ASI Sanjay Yadav, PC Anirudh Das, PC Mohd Saifque and PC Sudash Lal conducted

combing in Shyam Kund jungle under the jurisdiction of OP Bakultala. The team recovered a total of 60 tins in a total of 04 bhattis containing about 600 ltrs of fermented illicit liquor (lehan) and other bhatti materials at different locations within the jungle and destroyed the same in the jungle. The team searched for the miscreants in the jungle who had fermented the illicit liquor in bhattis but in vain.

Local residents have highly appreciated the proactive efforts of police. In this fight against illicit liquor, bootleggers & drug abuse the public is requested to share information pertaining to any crime / illegal activities to police over phone No.100, 112 & 03192-273344.

The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded.

Sailing of MV Campbell Bay for Little Andaman Postponed

Port Blair, Dec 20: This is to bring to the notice of the passengers that due to technical reasons the scheduled sailing programme of the vessel MV Campbell Bay

for Little Andaman on 21st & 23rd December, 2022 from Port Blair and her return voyage from Little Andaman has been postponed till further notice.

However, a fresh date of sailing of the vessel will be announced in due course. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.

Free Yoga & NAT Camp by UDDAN



Port Blair, Dec 20: On 20 December 2022, a free yoga Naturopathy & Alternative Therapy Camp was organized by Udaan NGO with the help of S.R. Arsan (M.Phil

Yoga PhD yoga) with his team at Sundar Colony in presence of Mr. Mandeep Grewal president of Guru Ki Rasoi Port Blair, Mr. Venkat (Social Worker) Mrs. M. Brindawathi

(Social Worker) & Mrs. D. Vasanthi (Udaan NGO president) in which free therapy and ayurvedic medicines were distributed to the needy person.

Central Crime Station Seized Codeine Based Cough Syrup, Tablets and Ganja, Arrests Two

Port Blair, Dec 20: Acting on a specific intelligence input received from reliable source, Police team from Narcotic Cell of CID Unit consisting of SI M.A Rasheed, Head Constable Sanjay Kujur, Constables K. Rajendran & Raja Rao intercepted two persons namely Kamal Das S/o Late. Jeevan Das R/o Kamraj Nagar & Sujit Biswas S/o Mr. Ravi Biswas R/o Calicut at VSI Airport who had arrived at Port Blair from Kolkata on 19/12/2022 by flight. During checking of their personnel belongings, 12 bottles of Codeine base syrup, 200 tablets of Nitrazepam (0.5 mg), 50 tablets of Nitrazepam (10 mg), 75 tablets of Alprazolam (0.5 mg) and 915

grams of Ganja which was clandestinely concealed in the bags were seized and accused persons were arrested observing all codal formalities.

A case under relevant sections of NDPS Act-1985 has been registered at PS CCS and investigation is being carried out.

The general public is requested to inform about any credible information pertaining to sale or possession of contrabands or any other illegal activity on the following telephone numbers- 100, 232586, 233307, 9474290250.

The identity of the informer will be kept secret.

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Regional Level Red Ribbon Club Quiz Competition



Port Blair, Dec 20: Ms. Jace Jackson & Ms. Meharpreet Kaur Bijjan of ANIIMS represented Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the Regional Level Red Ribbon Club Quiz competition and won the Second place out of the total 8 teams from other

States & Union Territories. The other teams were from Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

Dr. Munni Singhania, Director of Health (See page 4)

ICAR-CIARI Conducted Hands on Training and Distributed Inputs to Augment the Production and Management of Livestock for Nicobarese of Harminderbay, Little Andaman

Port Blair, Dec 20: A three-day training program entitled "Training cum Field day on Scientific Livestock Management" was organized by ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair at Harminder Bay village, Little Andaman during 10th-12th December, 2022. The training was organized by the Scientists of Division of Animal Science of ICAR-CIARI namely, Dr. K. Muniswamy, Dr. P. Perumal, Dr. Arun Kumar De, and Dr. P.A. Bala, along with Dr. Ashish Kumar, Senior Veterinary Officer, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Hut Bay. A total of 80 tribal farmers rearing different livestock species participated in the training. The Captain Mr. Andrew Mosses and the Secretary Mr. Festus of Harminderbay graced the occasion and were the ice-breaker; they translated the gist of the programme in their na-



tive language and encouraged the participants to interact with the Scientists. On the first day, Dr. A. K. De and Dr. P. Perumal luc-

cratively explained about scientific management of pigs and bovines, respectively, later Dr. K. Muniswamy explained about the scientific rearing of backyard chicken farming. Fi-

(See page 4)

Pakistan forces storm police station seized by Taliban; hostages killed

An unknown number of hostages were killed Tuesday when Pakistan special forces stormed a police station seized by suspected Pakistan Taliban militants at the weekend, the defence minister said. More than 30 men connected to militant groups including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) overpowered their jailors on Sunday and snatched weapons. "The operation has successfully been completed," defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said at a press conference in the capital Islamabad, adding some hostages had "lost their lives". He said spe-

cial forces moved in when differences broke out between the suspected militants over how to handle the hostages. The men, who were being held on suspicion of terrorism, had demanded safe passage to Afghanistan in return for releasing the hostages -- at least eight police officers and military intelligence officials -- Muhammad Ali Saif, a spokesman for the provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, said earlier. The TTP, separate from the Afghan Taliban but with a similar hardline Islamist ideology, said its members were behind the incident and demanded authorities provide

them safe passage to border areas.

The police station is within a cantonment area in Bannu, adjacent to Pakistan's formerly self-governed tribal areas and near the border with Afghanistan. Local schools were ordered shut on Tuesday out of fear of more kidnappings, a senior government official in the district told AFP.

Offices and roads have closed and checkpoints have been set up around the area.

Pakistan had asked the Taliban in Kabul to help with the release of the hostages, the senior government official told AFP.

6.4 magnitude quake in US' California; over 55,000 homes lose power

Over 55,000 homes were left without electricity after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of California in the United States early Tuesday. The USGS (United States Geological Survey) said the quake was about 16.1 km (10 miles) deep and 12km (7.4 miles) west-southwest of California's Ferndale, which is about 260 miles from San Francisco. There is no risk of a tsunami, the United States' national tsunami warning system said. Around a dozen small aftershocks were reported in the area, USGS said. There is a low likelihood of casualties but some damage is likely. Ferndale is a town of around 15,000 people.

In the town and surrounding Humboldt County, tens of thousands of homes and businesses were without

power. "Power is out across the county. Do not call 911 unless you are experiencing an immediate emergency," the county tweeted.

NO TSUNAMI IS EXPECTED. Magnitude 6.4 #earthquake 14 miles from Fortuna. Power is out across the county. DO NOT CALL 911 UNLESS YOU ARE EXPERIENCING AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY. Local media also said California Highway Patrol has been responding to reports of cracks in a bridge over the Eel River.

The quake came just days after a 3.6 magnitude seismic event struck the San Francisco Bay Area, waking up thousands of people at 3.39 am Saturday. That quake was centered in El Cerrito, around 25 km from downtown San Francisco.

TENTATIVE SAILING PROGRAMME OF THE VESSEL SINDHU FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2023.

SCHEDULE OF SINDHU

ARRIVAL	DAY	PORT	DEPARTURE	DAY	VOY. NO	TIME (In Hrs)	REMARKS
--	--	PORT BLAIR	04.01.2023	WED	23	1600	
07.01.2023	SAT	CHENNAI	10.01.2023	TUE	24	1600	
13.01.2023	FRI	PORT BLAIR	--	--	--	--	

This is a Tentative sailing programme subject to change at short notice. The Directorate of Shipping Services will not bear any responsibility what so ever loses (if any) due to any change in the programme.

Advance reservation of passenger tickets for the above sailings will commence from 23.12.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

Note: The schedule for the remaining days in the month of January, 2023 in the Mainland Island Sector will be announced in due course.

Deputy Director Shipping Services
A & N Admn.

F. No. P-110RGSA/25/2022-SPRCW-RD/4148
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF RD, PRIS & URBAN LOCAL BODIES
Marine Hill, Port Blair

Port Blair, Dated 20th December, 2022

VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited for the various posts purely on contract basis for the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) and Programme Management Unit (PMUs) under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) in the Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, Marine Hill, Port Blair and 07 Block Offices (Diglipur, Mayabunder, Rangat, Ferrargunj, Prothrapur, Little Andaman & Campbell Bay). Interested eligible candidates shall submit their application in the prescribed format along with the self-attested supporting documents and certificates addressed to concerned office as per the post for which applied.

Details of the vacancy notice and other terms and conditions can be seen at <https://www.andaman.gov.in/> or can be downloaded through QR Code. For more information contact: 03192-232525 or email at sprcandaman@gmail.com.



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ICAR-CIARI...

(From page 3)

nally, the day ended after the visit to the farmer's field and collection of biological samples. The next day training was started with Dr. P.A. Bala's sumptuous deliberation on strategies to feed different livestock with local feed ingredients.

Later, Dr. P. Perumal explained about sustainable goat farming. On the final day, Dr. P. Perumal briefed about the management of reproductive health of different livestock; later Dr. K. Muniswamy and Dr. P. Perumal demonstrated the deworming procedure for various livestock species with anthelmintics. Finally, the training programme ended

with distribution of inputs like pig feed (concentrate mixture), feed supplements and health tonics after explaining them about how to use these inputs. Mr. Andrew Mosses and Mr. Festus thanked the scientists for their efforts and urged them to conduct more programmes with distribution of various inputs. They also thanked the village farmers for their active participation. The training and input distribution was done under the guidance of Dr. E. B. Chakurkar, the Director and Dr. D. Bhattacharya, the Head of Animal Science Division, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.

Regional Level...

(From page 3)

Services congratulated the students for their good performance and encouraged them to participate in more such programmes.

Regional Level Quiz Competition was conducted by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI organized at Pondicherry on 16th December 2022.

Teams representing A & N Islands were selected through various rounds of competitions at College, Inter-college/inter-youth club and State level by Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS).

All together 25

teams from 13 colleges and 9 teams from 7 youth clubs participated and went through various rounds of quiz competitions and finally one team was selected at State level to participate in the Regional round held at Puducherry along with 7 other states.

The objective of organizing this competition was to provide a platform to exchange information on issues associated with HIV & AIDS, taboos and myths and to channelize the power of our youth in a positive direction and assess the level of IEC in the territories which is matching with the national level.

MESSAGE



The MoHFW, Govt. of India has initiated a program on “Community Support to TB Patients – Nikshay Mitra (Donor)” under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan with the objectives to provide additional patient support to improve treatment outcome of TB Patients, augment community involvement to eliminate TB by 2025 and leverage the avenues for Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR). The TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was launched by the Hon’ble President of India on 09/09/2022.

In order to facilitate effective implementation of the Abhiyaan, Ni-kshay 2.0, an exclusive web portal for registration of Ni-kshay Mitra (Donors) has been developed. Ni-kshay Mitra for this program can include individuals, co-operative societies, corporates, elected representatives, institutions, non-governmental organizations, political parties and partners who can support by adopting consented TB patients in the peripheral health facilities/blocks/urban wards/districts/states. Under this initiative, nutritional support, diagnostic support and vocational support can be provided from 6 months to 3 years to all consented TB patients by Ni-kshayMitra.

CSR support has also been mobilized by the Health Department to help the TB patients. The Canara Bank, Port Blair has come forward to become a donor to support the TB patients under the scheme and assured to donate Rs.1.90 lacs. The Hon’ble Prime Minister in his vision, has asked all the officers to register as Nikshay Mitra. The Hon’ble PM urged every person, every organization and representatives associated with the Civil Society to takeup this resolution for playing an active role in building TB Free India. Accordingly, 20 Senior Officers and Doctors of Health Department have registered as Nikshay Mitra.

To attain the call of Hon’ble President of India, the A&N Administration has registered 59 NikshayMitras, who are providing nutritional support to 206 TB patients. The TB patients’ notification rate for the year 2022 is 101% and success rate is 86%, which is more than the national average. The Health Department is conducting active case finding for early diagnosis of TB patients and also doing follow-up management of all diagnosed cases.

I look forward to the active support of all serving Officers/Staff Associations to come forward and become Ni-kshayMitras. The interested officials/organizations can register themselves as Ni-kshay Mitra by visiting <https://communitysupport.nikshay.in>. Necessary support would be provided to all willing officers to register, by the State TB Officer & District TB Officers.

(Keshav Chandra)
Chief Secretary

Andaman & Nicobar Administration

Andaman & Nicobar...

(From page 1)

lice is reportedly grappling with the severe shortage of professional drivers at its offices in all the three districts. In some cases, this has reportedly forced the police drivers to do duty more than 15 -16 hours a day.

Police Motor Transport has a fleet of 486 vehicles (182 Four wheelers and 304 Two wheelers) deployed across the islands on the ground.

Though, according to a Police Officer, the number of PCR Vans guarding the city streets, nook and corners are balanced in number, the Department doesn’t have the required number of drivers for the PCR Vans and other vehicles.

A number of Police personnel said that the long and hectic working hours have taken a toll on their

physical and mental health, and they are unable to take out time for themselves or their families.

One of the PCR personnel, on the condition of anonymity said, “Earlier PMT had the support of around 85 number of Home Guard Drivers when the work was going on smoothly, but since 2019 there was no recruitment of home guards, while the Police Department didn’t recruit drivers for its vehicles since 2012, which has resulted the present crisis of drivers in the Police Dept. In fact, when we apply for leave, our leave is denied owing to the constraints of staff shortage,” a source said.

“As our shift lasts the whole day, our sleep cycles have been disturbed while many times drivers and other police personnel

suffer serious health issues during working hours. When the PCR motorcycle squad was launched, we used to work in eight-hour shifts, then we were asked to stretch for 12 hours and now, it has been extended to 15 to 16-hours”, the source added.

Another Police Official said that several years ago, a Senior Police Official apprised the higher Authorities of the problems of staff shortage and said that the Police Department faces the shortage of several dozens of drivers and almost the same number of other technical staff.

However, the file in respect of the recruitment/augmentation of staff required in the Police Force moved from table to table but no positive result yielded yet, the Officer maintained.

U.S. Marines Deliver Holiday Gifts to the Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children



CHENNAI, DECEMBER 20: The Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children, a Chennai-based child welfare organization, will be gifted with toys through the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program, an initiative aimed at brightening the lives of children in need during the holiday season. U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin joined the U.S. Marines to deliver new toys, school supplies, sports equipment, clothes, and books in Tamil for approximately 50 children. U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin lauded the U.S. Marines’ efforts and thanked Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children Founder and child rights activist Dr. Virgil D. Sami for her commitment to the shared vision for a just

society in which every child enjoys a childhood assured of his or her rights with dignity and happiness. Arunodhaya is a Chennai-based NGO working towards elimination of child labor in all forms; protection of child workers and street children who have been victims of abuse; and strengthening and support of their families.

One U.S. Marine stated, “The holiday season is an apt time to contribute to the community we live in. My fellow Marines and I are so happy to have the opportunity to spread the joy of the Toys for Tots tradition in Chennai.” The 2022 holiday season marks the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, a global initiative intended to spread a message of hope and caring at Christmas.

Firing Practice by Dornier Aircraft

Port Blair, Dec. 20: Firing practice by IN Dornier will be carried out on 2m Rock near Passage Island on Dec. 20 - 23, 2022 from 1500 - 1700hrs. The safe flying height is above 300 mtr AMSL. Similarly, firing practice by IN Dornier will also be carried out on 2m Rock

near Passage Island on Dec. 20-23, 2022 from 0700-1500hrs. The safe flying height is 5000 feet AMSL.

All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their vessels/fishing boat away from the firing range during the above mentioned dates and time.

Welcome Step...

(From page 1)

Secretaries, Secretaries, Heads of Departments, all field officers (DCs/SPs/ACs/S DPOs/DFOs/Tehsildars/BDOs etc.) and

all other Government Officers to fix the time between 3pm & 4pm on all working days for meeting with general public to redress their grievances.



A&N Islands...

initiate talks with trade body, Joint Business Council Aceh-India (JBC), and made a visit this August to Aceh province of Indonesia which is the closest point to the Nicobar Islands.

The business delegation from NCCI led by Mr. Rashid Yusoo (President) and YCCI led by Mr. Tanveer Singh (President) was to understand the ground reality, infrastructure and resources available with both counterparts to establish trade between the two countries.

Further, It comes as a good news to our islanders that following various interactions and events between the two governments and the stand of the present AN Administration is very much on the same line as has been spelt out by our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi on his recent visit to Indonesia and efforts from NCCI and YCCI now that the 2nd Joint Task Force Meeting was held at Port Blair from 18.12.2022 to 20.12.2022 where delegations from both side headed by JatmikoHeruPrasetyo, Director for South & Central Asian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia and Mr. Vishvas Sapkal, Joint Secretary (South), Ministry Of External Affairs by India had a 2 day meeting discussing various points to enhance connectivity between A & N islands and Aceh Province.

Subsequent to continuous dialogue and discussion between both government and trade bodies namely JBC from Aceh province of Indonesia and NCCI and YCCI from ANI, the dream of big opportunities seems to be changing to reality. The delegation's visit in August by NCCI AND YCCI was as a result of an invitation from JBC headed by Mr. Almer Havis Sandy and the



local government. On the trip the delegation was made to explore various trade opportunities in different sectors and surveyed on ground technicalities and infra available to kick start trade. There were also MOU signed between JBC and NCCI supported by YCCI to initiate first trade between Nicobar Islands and Banda Aceh/Sabang as a mark of friendship while starting trade relations. Extensive meetings were held with government bodies and Bank of Indonesia to see how could our local businessmen from islands and mainland India be facilitated to start trade and likely invest in Aceh province. Keen support and enthusiasm was shown by both sides to participate and suggest on India Indonesia policy to make it more cohesive which is now happening in the form of 2nd Joint Task Force Meeting, where both NCCI and YCCI have jointly welcomed the efforts of JBC in Aceh-Indonesia to taking this discussion further and making the suggestions and help-

ing government on both sides help formulate a policy.

NCCI and YCCI appreciated all the efforts made by A & N Administration and thanked the Andaman Nicobar Administration under the dynamic leadership of Chief Secretary Mr. Keshav Chandra, IAS that a very positive message has been sent to our counterpart JBC in Indonesia, moreover NCCI and YCCI has also thanked Government of India under the supreme leadership of Prime Minister of India. NCCI and YCCI alongside JBC are in continuous efforts to facilitate businessmen from both parts of the world to make use of this opportunity, particularly in sectors of trade & investment, tourism & culture exchange, and education for strengthening long-term partnership between Aceh and ANI, a release issued by Mr. Tanveer Singh, President, Youth Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Mr. Rashid Yusoo, President, the Nicobar Chamber of Commerce & Industry said here today.

(From page 1)

(From page 1)

Member of...

for the larger interest of the people of the area. In a letter addressed to the Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament said that during his recent visit to the South Andaman region he has observed that the road from Wimberlygunj to Wright Myo is in very pathetic shape.

He mentioned that

the road stretch has become almost un-motorable and after even a moderate spell of rain, the road, full of potholes, becomes too risky for two and three wheelers. The Member of Parliament mentioned that in the last few months several accidents have also taken place in the region due to the pathetic condition of the road.

He added that a large number of students, patients, old people and ladies cross the road on a daily basis from whom the road has become a constant source of agony. Not only this, vehicle owners are complaining that their vehicles are getting heavily damaged due to such bad roads, he pointed out.

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Guru Ki Rasoi

Appreciates Muaythai athletes with Mementos



Port Blair, Dec 20: Port Blair Guru ki Rasoi has appreciated and facilitated the Muaythai athletes Mr. Deepak Krishnan and Mr. Aman Kumar Sharma with the Mementos. Mr. Deepak Krishnan has won a silver

medal in the -71 kg category and Mr. Aman Kumar Sharma has won a silver medal in the +91 kg category. Mr. Mandeep Grewal president of Guru Ki Rasoi has appreciated both the athletes for their achievements.

Road Closure Notice

Port Blair, Dec. 20: he lar movement for 10 road portion from Teal daysw.e.f. 21.12.2022. House Jn. to Chatham Hence, all the vehicles will be diverted through Haddo and Chatham Road.



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