

Damaged Steel Bridge Plagues Residents of Kishorinagar; Public Demands for Early Repair of the Bridge

John Wilbert & Rabindranath Biswas

Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Nov 16: It has been a decade since, especially North Andaman, was affected severely in terms of infrastructural damages.

As per report, until September 2008, a number of families of the ward Number 04 and 05 under Gram Panchayat Kishorinagar, Diglipur, had an access

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DNA celebrates National Press Day



Port Blair, Nov 16: The Daily Newspaper Association (DNA) celebrated National Press Day at Hotel Mansha Residency here on Wednesday. Mr. Abdul Salam, Managing Director, Hotel Mansha was the chief guest and lit the traditional lamp to mark the occasion. The topic for this year was 'Media Role in National Building'. National Press Day is celebrated every

year on November 16 to celebrate the foundation day of the Press Council of India and to discuss the role of media in the society.

Addressing the Journalists, Mr. Abdul Salam greeted the mediapersons on the occasion of National Press Day. He praised the Journalists for taking up vital issues concerning the people and society through

the columns of their newspapers. He said the media is the voice of the voiceless and should continue to rake up issues of the general public before the authorities. He said with rapid development of internet services, Youtube channels are fast making inroads in the news casting services posing more challenges to the print media which has

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MP demands ship service on 18 November night from Little Andaman to Port Blair for the students appearing for the Combined Recruitment Written Examination for filling various group 'C' posts

Port Blair, Nov 16: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Director of Shipping Services to schedule a ship sailing on 18th night of this month from Little Andaman to Port Blair for the students appearing for the Combined Recruitment Written Examination for filling various group 'C' posts.

In a letter addressed to the Director of Shipping Services, the Member of Par-

liament mentioned that the Combined Recruitment Written Examination for filling various group 'C' posts is scheduled for 20th November, 2022.

A lot of aspirants have applied to appear for this exam even from far off places like Little Andaman, he pointed out.

Given the importance of this exam for all the students who need to appear for it from Hut bay, the Member of Parliament requested

the Director of Shipping Services to make a ship sailing from Little Andaman to Port Blair on the night of 18th November 2022.

He added that the night sailing will reduce the expense they might have to spend on lodging here if they reach Port Blair by the 19th November.

Also this will provide the aspirants ample time to prepare and appear for this exam without any stress of travel and lodging.

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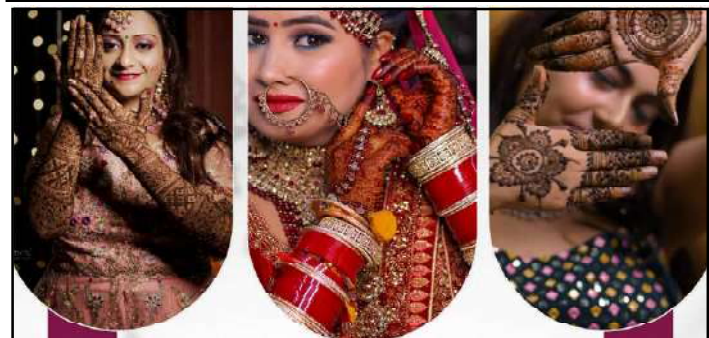
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CS acknowledges prestigious award of two Health Professionals



Port Blair, Nov. 16 : Two health professionals from A&N Islands, Smti Vijaya Saigal, Retired Matron, GB Pant Hospital and Smti Chandra Mallick, ANM, GB Pant Hospital were awarded with National Florence Nightingale Awards-2021 for their meritorious services in the field of health services by the President, Smti Droupadi Murmu during the award ceremony held at (See page 6)

ANTCC President demands to provide Regular Bus Services at the Villages of Campbell Bay

Port Blair, Nov 16: In a visit to Campbell Bay by the ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder along with Chairman-Campaign Committee ANTCC Mr. G. Bhasker to know the ground reality of the Islands. In a communication with the General Public, they have raised their Demand for the problems being faced in availing the Bus Services at the Villages of Campbell Bay, Nicobar District.

In addressing the Concern matter, Mr. Rangalal Halder wrote a letter to the Director of Transport,

Andaman & Nicobar Administration and highlighted the Condition of the STS Buses which is in a very precarious stage and hence becomes difficult for the Commuters to travel in this medium of transportation, as no maintenance and repairs of the STS Buses has been taken granted so far.

He has pointed towards the Village of Chingam, Campbell Bay where the School goes and Medical Patients suffered Amite as there is only one bus operating in morning and evening hour which can't able to fulfill the welfare of the residents in Campbell Bay.



Mr. Halder further requested the Director, Transport in replacing the old Buses with new ones to overcome the issues and grievances being faced by the Commuters of Campbell Bay.

Vishal Jolly Conducts the Meeting with Eminent Persons and Villagers of Kakana & Malacca

Port Blair, Nov 16: Mr. Vishal Jolly National Executive Member BJP, Former State President BJP – A & N Islands holds meetings with eminent persons and villagers of Kakana & Malacca village as part of his 03 days tour to Nicobar District. The meeting was attended by First Captain Mr. N. Paul, Third Captain Mr. L. Heada Thomas of Kakana Village and Third Captain Mr. Milang, Fourth Captain Mr. DN. Benefit of



Malacca village. Mr. L. Davidson, Ex- Member Tribal Council & Mr. George Anthur was also present in the meeting. During the interaction, the villagers put forth their grievances in the meeting and he assured them of making all efforts in fulfilling their aspirations at appropriate level.

Death Mourned

Port Blair, Nov 16: CPI (M) Andaman & Nicobar State Organizing Committee deeply mourned the demise of Mrs. MG Lalitha, retired

Assistant Accounts Officer of Andaman & Nicobar Administration today (16.11.2022) early morning at her home town Guruvayur

in Kerala. She was 79 years old. CPI (M) conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family members.

Heavy Rain Warning

Port Blair, Nov. 16 : As per Indian Meteorological Department's weather forecast, heavy rain (07-11 cm) is likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Is-

lands on Nov. 17. For further enquiries/ information, one may contact helpline of State Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No. 1070 & District Emergency Op-

eration Centre at Helpline No. 1077. For any emergency/assistance at sea, call Coast Guard SAR Agency at Toll Free number 1554.

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ANTCC appoints Office Bearer and Members in ANTCC Media Cell



Port Blair, Nov 16: ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder Congratulates Mr. Anick Das for being Appointed as a State Co-Ordinator, ANTCC Media Cell and along with ANTCC Media Cell Members Mr. Sumit Kumar Sil,

Mr. Ashok Kumar, Mr. Mohammed Sohail, Mr. Akash Bobby, Mr. Mohammed Zubair, Mr. Mukesh, Mr. Sheikh Mohammed Farukh to give their utmost efforts to work Sincerely with the responsibilities being appointed.

Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Andaman College Campus, Port Blair



Port Blair, Nov 16: Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) coordinated the Voluntary Blood Donation camp which was organized by Red Ribbon Club (RRC), of Andaman College,

ANCOL, Port Blair in coordination with G. B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair on 16/11/2022 at ANCOL campus. A total of **40 units** of blood were donated by voluntary donors.

The Blood Donation
(See page 6)

Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-22'

Port Blair, Nov 16: The third edition of pan India Coastal Defence Exercise "SEA VIGIL-22" was conducted by Headquarters, Andaman and Nicobar Command in coordination with A&N Administration on 15-16 Nov 22. The aim of exercise was to validate the efficacy of the Coastal Defence Organization against threats arising from the sea in the Andaman and Nicobar region

It involved wholehearted participation of 17 different stakeholders including Andaman and Nicobar Command, Civil Administration, A&N Police, Police Marine Force (PMF), DSS, Special
(See page 4)



Third day of 69th All India Cooperative Week 2022 celebrates Today

Port Blair, Nov 16: The Third day of 69th All India Cooperative Week 2022 celebrated today (16/11/2022) at Tagore Govt. College of Education, Middle Point, Port Blair by A & N State Cooperative Union along with Cooperative department and Cooperative Institutions of A & N Islands. This day was earmarked as "Mainstreaming Cooperative Education, Professional Management and Re-orienting Training". In this connection a seminar was organized. Mr. P.



G Paul, Asst. Commissioner (Rtd), A & N Administration and General Secretary, A & N

The 201 State Cooperative Union graced the occasion as
(See page 4)

'Forest Station, South Andaman Forest Division Inaugurated'

Port Blair, Nov 16: In a simple function, Dr.R.S.C Jayaraj, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Islands inaugurated the newly constructed building of Forest Station, South Andaman Forest Division at Wimberlygunj on 15th November, 2022 in the presence of



Dr.S.Senthil Kumar, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Territorial and Mr.

Ashok Kumar Paul, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, South
(See page 4)

Awareness Programme on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan & Central Welfare Schemes at Port Blair Today

Port Blair, Nov 16: Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Port Blair organized an awareness Integrated Communication Outreach Programme on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan & Central Welfare Schemes at Community Hall – Ward No.1, Haddo
(See page 4)



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Awareness Programme...

today.

Mrs. Kavitha Uday Kumar, Chairperson, PBMC while delivering the Chief Guest address said that Govt. under leadership of PM Narendra Modi has successfully run various schemes like PM Ujjwala, PM Kisan, Har Ghar Jal etc. to uplift the status of common masses. People should be aware and get benefitted from these schemes. Such programs would be beneficial to take all such schemes to ground level.

Mr. Aziz Ur Rehman, Sr. Vice Chairperson in his speech, Govt. led by PM Narendra Modi has schemes for every section of

the society. He urged citizens to be updated about these schemes through the use of the internet, which got better after the CANI project.

Govt. is taking up core issues prominently. Schemes have made a positive change in the lives of common people. This is how people are taking the nation forward. Emphasizing on Jal Jeevan Mission he exclaimed that people are getting safe drinking water by tap. Andaman Nicobar has done a good job in Jal Jeevan Mission and achieved 100% target.

Mr. Shahul Hameed, Counselor Ward No.1 emphasized on the importance of cleanliness in daily life and

urged fellow citizens to be aware about sanitation in surroundings and practice it in daily life. Sharing his recent visit experience of Coimbatore as counselor he felt amazed of cleanliness status of the city. Learning from his visit, he requested citizens of Port Blair to make personal efforts to keep the city clean and to make it go ahead in the Swachhta Survey.

Earlier Mr. K. Anandha Prabu, Field Publicity Officer welcomed the gatherings and Mr. M.Murali, Technical Assistant delivered the vote of thanks. Painting competition was held for the students and winners were awarded prizes.

(From page 3)

Rishi Sunak says China 'single biggest threat to UK's economic security': Report



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Tuesday that China posed a threat to Britain but it was also right to have dialogue with Beijing over global challenges such as climate change and the war in Ukraine.

"I'm very clear that China poses a systemic challenge to both our values and our interests and it represents the single biggest state threat to our economic security and that's why it's right that we take the steps that are necessary to protect ourselves,"

he told Sky News on the sidelines of the G20.

Sunak also said he was hopeful he could meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping while at the summit in Indonesia.

"If we want to solve big global challenges like public health, Russia and Ukraine, fixing the global economy, or indeed climate change, it's important to have a dialogue and to engage with China as part of solving those challenges," Sunak said.

Missiles hit Kyiv residential buildings in 'attack' on capital: Mayor

Two residential buildings in the Ukraine capital were hit by missiles on Tuesday, the mayor of Kyiv said, following reports that air raid sirens were sounding in all regions of the Ukraine. "There is an attack on the capital. According to preliminary information, two

residential buildings were hit in the Pechersk district. Several missiles were shot down over Kyiv by air defence systems. Medics and rescuers are at the scene of the strikes. More details later," Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a statement on social media.

Pentagon 'looking into' reports Russian missiles hit inside Poland

The US Defense Department said Tuesday it was unable to corroborate media reports that two Russian missiles had landed inside NATO member Poland, but added it was investigating the claims. "We are aware of the press reports alleging that two Russian missiles have struck a location inside Poland or the Ukraine border," said Pentagon spokesman Pat Ryder.

"We have no information right now to corroborate that there has been a missile strike," Ryder told reporters, adding that the Pentagon was "looking into this further."

Poland borders Ukraine, which Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded on February 24, and has welcomed thousands of Ukrainian refugees displaced by the fighting. Moscow pounded

Ukrainian cities with missiles on Tuesday, plunging seven million homes into darkness, dampening jubilation over the humiliating Russian retreat from Kherson city.

It was not clear if the missiles which may have hit Poland were part of the same wave. Some 10,000 US personnel are on rotation in Poland, which is a regular contributor to NATO missions, according to official government sources. Ryder said protecting those troops would be taken "very seriously." "We're very confident in any force protection measures that we take, whether it be Poland or elsewhere," he said. "But again, we're not going to get ahead of ourselves here. We're going to get the facts. And then when we have more to provide, we will."

Forest Station...

Andaman and local PRI members.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest Dr.R.S.CJayaraj, IFS, PCCF informed that Forest Station, South Andaman Forest Division is first of its kind in the territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and also highlighted the necessity of developing a Forest Station, which will mainly function towards protection activity, human animal conflict issues, disaster management related issues in the entire jurisdiction of South Andaman Division, so that, the territorial Range Officers could concentrate on the developmental activities like construction of building, harvest-

ing of timber, minor forest produce, nursery works, plantation and eco-tourism activities besides redressing the public related issues.

Dr.S.Senthil Kumar, IFS, CCF, Territorial also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, Mr. Ashok Kumar Paul, IFS, DFO, South Andaman while welcoming the gathering informed that the Forest Station building for South Andaman Forest Division was constructed under the Scheme: Protection of Forest & Coastal Eco system at a cost of Rs.77,71,331/-.

He also added that this building will play a significant role in protection and conservation of rich forest and wildlife resources of this territory.

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Mr. A.Soundrapandian, Assistant Conservator of Forests proposed vote of thanks to the guests.

Earlier, a welcome song was presented by the Forester trainees of Forest Training Institute, Wimberlygunj and a NukkadNatak giving the message of man-crocodile interface was also presented by Mr. Sukumar Dey, Head Forest Guard and his team of small children on this occasion. All the PRI members appreciated the efforts of the Forest Department and availed the opportunity to bring up various developmental issues of the locality related to Forest Department with the senior officers of the Department.

Third day of 69th...

Chief Guest who inaugurated the Seminar by lighting the lamp in the presence of other dignitaries/guests and a large number of Co-operators. While addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest briefed the role of A & N State Cooperative Union under the leadership of Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament & Chairman of A & N State Cooperative Union for straightening the cooperative movement of A & N Islands. In order to enhance the hu-

man resources of cooperative personnel, the chief guest said, the A & N State Cooperative Union established the Rajiv Gandhi Coop. Training Centre. He appealed to all Co-operators/Cooperatives to explore the training benefit being provided by RGCTC.

Dr. N. Rajvel, HOD Commerce, JNRM and Mr. Suresh Babu, Principal RGCTC was the resource persons to talk on today's subject "Mainstreaming Cooperative Education, Professional Management and Re-orienting

Training". Mrs. Elizabeth Mary, AGM, A & N State Coop. Banks also spoke on the occasion.

Few Cooperative leaders from different cooperatives shared their views and issues being faced by their cooperatives.

Earlier Mr. M. Veeranna, Director ANSCU welcomed the Guest and the assembled people while the programme was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Mrs.Pushplata Kumari, Director ANSCU.

(From page 3)

Coastal Defence...

Bureau, Intelligence Bureau, PMB, CISF and Forest Departments. Additionally, NCC cadets were also provided exposure to the nuances of coastal defence. The exercise was controlled from the Joint Operations Centre (Coastal Security) at

Headquarters, Andaman & Nicobar Command.

Conducted in two phases, the exercise demonstrated coordinated and synergised actions by all stakeholders, achieving seamless exchange of information and timely sharing of actionable

intelligence. All stakeholders undertook extensive deployment of their personnel and assets to guard against any threat from the seas. A multi-agency audit was also undertaken to identify aspects which would further strengthen our coastal defence apparatus.

(From page 3)

Unnati Organizes Interaction Programme for the Food Processing Industry Department with support of NABARD



Port Blair, Nov 16: A special session of interaction programme organized by Unnati at Chouldari with the support of NABARD for the trainees of Food Processing by involving official of Industry Department and Pollution Control Committee on 15.11.2022 at 10:30 AM considering the problems of Food Processing of more than 1500 trainees already trained by Unnati with the support of ENI-India, RGF, ATMA and NABARD from the 03 Districts of A&N Islands. At the outset at one hand Mr. Janak Rao Nodal Officer Food Processing Industry Department explained various concessions being extended by the Industry Department for setting-up Food Processing units and he further said that Unnati is working in the field of Food Processing associating Industry Department since last 20 years and also conducted various training programmes in the remotest part of the Islands including Nancowry group of

Islands, Diglipur etc. and on the other hand Mr. Raj Babu Technician A & N Pollution Control Committee narrated that the clearance of pollution is mandatory before starting any Food Processing units for which the entrepreneurs will have to submit 11 documents for pollution clearance. The problems raised by the trainees are in obtaining food license, various clearances including pollution clearance, arrangement of packing materials and preservatives, assured marketing outlet, adequate 02 separate spaces required for preparing veg and non-veg Food Processing items etc. After hearing both sides i.e. Industry Department and Pollution Control Committee, the trainees became upset and expressed that unless after-support of training are assured, they would not be in a position to adopt Food Processing as a self employment venture easily. Mr. C. Mohammed President Unnati assured that the needful could be done after tak-

ing necessary follow-up action. He further mentioned that Unnati has already taken up the issues on the demand of the trainees which are as under:-

1. Arrangement of Preservatives, Packing Materials and Other Concessions:

This issue was taken with the Chief Secretary and the Chief Secretary in a meeting on 08-07-2011 decided to extend the facilities to Food Processing entrepreneurs but when no action was taken by the Department, the matter was brought to the notice of the Lt. Governor who directed Secretary (Ind) to take immediate action accordingly Secretary (Ind) convened a meeting on 18-01-2017 and initiated necessary action and decided to extend the facilities but thereafter no further action was taken by the Industry Department.

2. Various Clearances for Obtaining License:

The Single Window System for obtaining various clearances to set-up industrial units needs to be arranged by the Industry Department for which Single Window System was set-up in the year 2000 by the Department.

3. Marketing Support: For providing marketing support to women groups a marketing outlet was set-up by the Administration/ Directorate Of Social Welfare at Goalghar on the representation of women groups

under plan schemes of Directorate of Social Welfare which need to be started besides SHGs may be permitted to display their products at Sagarika Emporium of Industry Department at concessional rate.

4. Setting-up Common Production Centre:

The Food Processing trainees/ entrepreneurs particularly from weaker section may not set-up Food Processing units at their own considering the requirements to be fulfilled to obtain license and construction of 02 separate rooms for preparation of veg and non-veg items/ marine and coconut based products may not be able to afford by entrepreneurs/ trainees. Earlier, these groups used to utilize the infrastructures of Unnati's Food Processing

training center at Industrial Estate Dollygunj which was closed due to some disputes between the Industry Department and Unnati. Now either the Industry Department or Panchayat may create necessary production centers with the provisions of all Food Processing machines and equipment to be used by the trainees at commercial scale.

Mrs. Tapasi Saha Pradhan Chouldari Gram Panchayat in her address thanked NABARD and Unnati for arranging such excellent Food Processing training programme and also demanded to start another training programme for which a number of women are pressing for undergoing training seeing the quality of training being imparted.

Public hearing Postponed

Port Blair, Nov. 16: The public hearing for preparation of Draft Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Plan for South Andaman scheduled on 17.11.2022 at 11 AM in the Auditorium of Tagore Govt. College, Port

Blair has been postponed due to administrative reasons. The fresh date and time for the public hearing will be published/broadcasted for the information of the general public and stakeholders.

Counseling for Admission to B.Ed in TGCE

Port Blair, Nov 16: Due to non-receipt of final year results of some courses offered by JNRM as reported by its Principal, the final merit list of only Zoology, Mathematics, Geography, Economics, History, Home Science and Physics for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the session 2022-23 in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair have been published in the online portal on 16th November 2022 and is available at <http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in> under "Announcements" for information of all concerned. The counseling for admission to only these subjects will be held on 18th November 2022 (Friday) from 9:30 a.m. at Tagore Auditorium in the TGCE premises.

Inter-island candidates who are unable to attend the above scheduled counseling in person due to the ensuing Common Recruitment Examination scheduled on 20/11/2022 are requested to either represent their candidature through an

authorized person or send their details showing Application No., Name, Subject, Category etc. through WhatsApp or text message @ 9531831281, 9531808308, 9933277071 before 5:00 p.m. on 17/11/2022. All such messages will be acknowledged.

Those who fail to attend the counseling in person or fail to send their willingness through message will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate in the merit list will be considered for admission. Regular classes for these courses will begin from 21st November 2022.

The candidates of the remaining subjects can submit their pending mark sheets in person up to 22/11/2022 at 3:00 p.m. The final merit list of all the remaining subjects and categories like EWS, PwD etc. will be published on 23/11/2022 at 3:00 p.m. Counseling for all the remaining subjects and categories like EWS, PwD etc. will be held on 24th November 2022 from 9:30 a.m. at Tagore Auditorium.

Voluntary Blood Donation camp organised

Port Blair, Nov. 16: Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) coordinated the Voluntary Blood Donation camp which was organized by Red Ribbon Club (RRC) of Andaman College, ANCOL, Port Blair in coordination with G. B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair today at ANCOL. A total of 40 units of blood were donated by voluntary donors. The Blood Donation was facilitated by Dr. N. R. Kodhandram, Deputy Direc-



tor (Blood Safety)/ Medical Officer i/c, Blood Bank, G. B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair. The donors were examined for

their eligibility to donate blood and briefed the donors on various aspect and importance of blood donation.

Central Government makes Aadhaar mandatory

Port Blair, Nov. 16: The Central Government has made Aadhaar mandatory to avail the benefits of all the welfare schemes implemented by the Government of India. For en-

rolment of all the eligible 0-5 years, the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs along with the other stakeholders are conducting a special drive at Anganwadi Cen-

tres in South Andaman District for enrolling left out children in the age group of 0-5. The date, time & venue of the Aadhaar Camps are detailed below:

Sl. No.	Date & Time	Name of the Anganwadi
1.	17/11/2022 to 18/11/2022 & 21/11/2022 to 24/11/2022 9 am to 5 pm	Anganwadi Dairy Farm (1-20)
2.	17/11/2022 to 18/11/2022 & 21/11/2022 to 24/11/2022 9 am to 5 pm	Anganwadi Dairy Farm (1-4) & Lamba Line (1-4)

General public have been urged to avail this facility and get their children enrolled at the respective Anganwadi.

AATO Delegation meets CPA, highlights Issues Pertaining to Facilities at Haddo Jetty and Concerns of Parasailing Operators

Port Blair, Nov 16: A delegation of AATO consisting of its President Mr. M. Vinod, General Secretary Mr. K. Hamza and Joint Secretary Mr. Saikat Biswas met the Chief Port Administrator today. The delegation appraised CPA of the problems being faced by the tour operators and tourists at Haddo Jetty. CPA was requested to either waive off or simplify the parking fee collection procedure for tourists

vehicles which otherwise is resulting in traffic congestion in front of the main gate. Mr. Vinod also requested CPA to deploy additional CISF staff to expedite the checking, scanning, and frisking procedure during busy morning hours.

AATO delegation also requested CPA to address the concerns of Parasailing Operators, who are being burdened with excess manning of the crew due to the classification

of parasailing boats as passenger vessels under IV act. Unlike other states like Goa and Karnataka, Parasailing boats in Andaman are required to have 4 crew as per IV manning and 3 crew as per NIWS manning.

CPA has assured us to look into the concerns and initiate necessary actions at the earliest. Mr. Vinod has expressed sincere gratitude to CPA for the patient hearing and positive assurance.



Port Blair, Nov 16: Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), the Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency alongwith Mr. Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary and other senior officers of Andaman & Nicobar Administration reviewed the setting up of proposed World Class Interactive Live Tribal Museum at Andaman & Nicobar Islands today at Raj Niwas.

Damaged Steel...

through a narrow road, just motorable, to a Steel bridge that connected ward number 04 and 05 with other villages of the panchayat to the main road and the rest of Diglipur area.

However, the only bridge that connected Kishorinagar ward 04 and 05 with other parts of Diglipur region is in reportedly damaged condition.

This has been the reality for the past 10 years since the steel bridge got damaged due to lack of maintenance, the residents lamented. The bridge connecting other regions of Diglipur was never rebuilt again, they incensed residents argued. The village is now totally cut off from the mainstream of development and the villagers are still facing hardships mainly due to a damaged old steel bridge that was constructed by MPLAD fund and

was a lifeline for the villagers, the residents bemoaned.

Owing to this damaged bridge, residents of the village are forced to take a detour of 1.5 km through an alternative road for transportation and medical emergencies. Mrs. Rita Mazumder, a former PRI member of Kishorinagar Panchayat said that residents of dozens of villages in the area had been waiting for more than a decade for the repair of the bridge, which is vital for connectivity within villages and to the other area as well, she argued. Earlier, there was bus service in the village but because of the damaged bridge, bus service was reportedly stopped, the former PRI member further said. For the past several years villagers have been facing difficulties in emergency only due to

this damaged bridge; and important accesses such as healthcare, education and transportation of agricultural produce from villages have become very difficult, Mrs. Mazumder, rued. The cost of transportation to the main road has risen because motorists are forced to take longer routes from Kishorinagar to Pashimsagar, she further said. Several years ago, the former PRI member, during her tenure tried to repair the minor work with the help of District Administration, but due to lack of funds they couldn't carry out the major repair works the bridge required, she claimed. Meanwhile, Mrs. Rita Mazumder has urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter, and restore the bridge with necessary repairs so as to alleviate the problems of the residents.

(From page 1)

CS acknowledges...

New Delhi recently.

At a brief function held today in the chamber of the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, Smti Vijaya

Saigal and Smti Chandra Mallick who got the prestigious award were acknowledged by the Chief Secretary for their meritorious service rendered during

the COVID pandemic presence of senior officers of the Administration. The Chief Secretary congratulated them and also bestowed his best wishes to them.

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DNA celebrates...

to face the dilemma of reduced circulation and shrinking advertising business, putting unprecedented pressure on the print media to survive. He hoped that print media in the islands will continue to do the good work for the larger interest of the people and the society as a whole.

Earlier, welcoming the chief guest and others, Mr. K. Ganeshan, President, DNA spoke about the importance of National Press Day and recalled how print media was started in the islands several decades ago. He said print media in the present scenario has to face many challenges, the foremost being non-support from the administration due to preferen-

tial treatment of the official media. Secondly, the fast emerging digital portals owing to speeding internet services has come as a big challenge to the print media. However, he said that with rigorous, objective, fair reporting style and ensuring honesty with its readers, print media can still survive the onslaught from the digital portals. In his brief address, Mr. Vijay Kumar Roy, Editor-in-Chief, The Echo of India spoke about the challenges print media has to face in this digital era. He said that the development of online portals has now become a threat to newspapers and print media. The rapid development of the internet has encouraged

people to access online portals easily through mobile phones. As it is easier for the viewers to get information and news in the digital portals, more and more dedicated readers of print media are likely to turn to online portals for news and other information, he said.

The programme was moderated by Mr. Sanjib Kumar Roy, Editor, Andaman Sheekha. Mr. Roy also proposed the vote of thanks. He said that despite numerous challenges and problems being faced by print media in the islands, it will continue to play a positive role of disseminating relevant information, news and share views to its readers despite all odds.

(From page 1)

Implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Dulari Scheme

Port Blair, Nov. 16 : Implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Dulari Scheme has been successfully completed on online mode in coordination with NIC and DAB. With this, beneficiaries can now avail the services directly by visiting the website <https://eservices.andaman.gov.in/>.

Henceforth, no offline/manual applications shall be entertained for registration under the Scheme.

For any query/assistance, one may contact the nearest Health Institution or the 'Dulari Cell' functioning at OPD Complex Room No. 57, G.B Pant Hospital, phone number 03192-234570.

Voluntary Blood... (From page 3)

was facilitated by Dr. N. R. Kodhandram, Deputy Director (Blood Safety)/ Medical Officer i/c, Blood Bank, G. B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair. The donors were examined for their eligibility to donate blood and briefed the donors on various aspects and importance of blood donation.

Dr. S. Jayakumar, Principal, ANCOL, Andaman College, Port Blair to organize the camp

and made arrangements for conducting the camp successfully.

The technical team from Blood Bank, G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair and A&N AIDS Control Society ensured that the donated blood units are screened for the blood transmissible diseases. They also examined the donors for eligibility. Donors' certificates were also distributed to the voluntary donors.