

# REVERBERATION

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

## PM Modi receives Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award

PTI, MUMBAI, April 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award on Sunday and remembered the iconic singer as an artiste who was an integral part of nation-building and will be missed on Rakhi.

Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray skipped

*contd. page-5*



## 13<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ OBSERVED WITH GREAT FERVOR ACROSS THE ISLANDS

Port Blair, April 24:

National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is observed on 24<sup>th</sup> April every year to celebrate the constitutional status accorded to Panchayati Raj system in the country. It is celebrated to commemorate the passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992. The 73rd Amendment Act, also known as the Panchayati Raj amendment act allowed the state governments to take necessary steps and measures that can help in the



formation of Gram Panchayats and allow them to operate as “Units of Self-Governance”.

This occasion provides an

opportunity for direct dialogue with Panchayat representatives from all over the

*contd. page-6*

## Water Sports Operators, Boat Association and Tour Operators briefed about EOI to be floated by Tourism Department

Port Blair, April 24:

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Jitendra Narain has recently directed the Tourism Department to issue Expression of Interests (EOIs) for events and activities related to development and promotion of Tourism in A & N Islands. In line with this initiative, the Directorate of Tourism held a meeting with representatives of Water Sports Operators, Boat

Association and Tour Operators to brief them about the EOI to be floated by the Department was held under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (IP&T), Shri Hari Kallikkat. The Director, IP&T, Shri Alok Kumar also attended the meeting.

During the interaction, the representatives of Associations provided valuable suggestions for boosting tourism in Isles.

The EOIs intend to

attract new ideas into the Tourism Industry, investment etc. besides finding out market interests for new activities and events as well as locations to conduct them in the Islands.

The initiative to float EOI for Tourism related events & activities will play a catalytic role in the development of tourism facilities as it would open up new avenues in tourism sector.

## Special Gram Sabha conducted at Panchayat Market Hall at Calicut to finalize Sustainable Development Goal themes



Port Blair, April 24:

A Special Gram Sabha was conducted at Panchayat Market Hall at Calicut on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 on the occasion of National

Panchayati Raj Day to finalize the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) themes as Sankalp by passing resolution in the Gram Sabha and Launch

*contd. page-2*

## MP demands to establish a Fisheries College of International Standard in A & N Islands

Port Blair, April 24:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to establish a Fisheries College of International Standard in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

so that more and more youths of Andaman and Nicobar Islands get benefitted from fisheries.

In a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament mentioned that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated

*contd. page-6*

## Joint Secretary, MoEF & CC visits BS

Port Blair, April 24

The Joint Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Smti. Manju Pandey, currently on visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, visited the BSI Port Blair and discussed various matters related to the documentation and con-

servation of plant diversity as well as economic and ecological significance of the threatened species of these Islands. She also planted saplings of rare, endemic and threatened Nicobari palm species: Bentinckianicobarica (Kurz) Becc.

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## EDITORIAL

## Tackling challenge of weak credit growth amid rate hike cycle

*The twin balance sheet problem (bad loans of banks and high corporate debt) is nearly behind us, yet robust credit growth appears to be a low percentage shot during the current fiscal. Latest RBI data pegs FY22 bank credit at 8.6% or thereabouts, indicating an extremely slow recovery and miles behind the 14–16% growth seen in the last decade. While improved asset quality of banks and deleveraging corporate balance sheets are encouraging, rising inflation could throw a nasty surprise.*

*We are heading into a rate hike cycle amid weak credit growth, which has been below the trendline for over five years on a trot. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian economy slowed down due to a weakening corporate capex cycle, and this was accentuated by demonetisation, GST implementation and the NBFC crisis. In FY22, loan growth did recover, but signs of a complete rebound in the capex cycle are still not visible. Interestingly, lenders appear bullish, but big borrowers are yet to warm up to the so-called 'capex mahotsav' theme. It means demand uncertainty and high inflation only point to slower loan growth and higher pressure on margins.*

*As history shows us, borrowers' confidence influences the credit cycle more than policy rates themselves. Companies take out loans even during a rate hike cycle provided they are confident about cash flows. Even though banks' overall loan books are better than during the pandemic years, recovery isn't uniform with at least two key segments, namely corporates and the self-employed, especially in the services sector, yet to overcome the financial trauma caused by Covid lockdowns.*

*Disappointingly, we are witnessing high inflation well before loan growth has begun in full strength or even before it has regained pre-slowdown levels. Liquidity is abundant and interest rates have generally been benign, but the question is to what extent will the RBI's action to curb inflation through interest rate hikes delay the recovery in bank credit, which in turn depends on strong economic growth. Policymakers must ensure that rate hikes as a response to inflation doesn't eventually hurt demand.*

## Andaman Islands Scuba Diving Association, Swaraj Dweep expresses gratitude to CS for prompt redressal of issues pertaining to water sports activities

Port Blair, April 23

A delegation of Andaman Islands Scuba Diving Association, Swaraj Dweep comprising of its President, Vice President and Joint Secretary called on Shri Jitendra Narain, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration to apprise him on the issues of Scuba Diving Operators of Swaraj Dweep on April 20. The Director, Tourism, A&N Administration was also present in the meeting.

Wide range discussion was held on development of Tourism especially on water sports activities, primarily focusing on the world famous scuba diving activities at Swaraj Dweep. Patient hearing

was given to the delegation by the Chief Secretary and necessary directions were issued to the concerned officials to address the points raised by the Association on priority.

On the direction of the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Suneel Anchipaka, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman immediately took action to resolve the long pending issue of approach path leading to the world famous shore diving spot 'Nemo Reef' at Swaraj Dweep where a large number of tourists undertake scuba diving activities. This path was under the possession of a neighbouring resident who

used to charge the Scuba Dive Centres rent on a monthly basis. This issue was resolved upon the intervention of the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration as the path constructed by the local Gram Panchayat has been made free from all encumbrances and is to be used free of cost from now on.

This has come as a huge relief to the tourists visiting 'Nemo Reef' and the Association has expressed their gratitude to the Chief Secretary and the Administration for this proactive step, a press release from President, Andaman Islands Scuba Diving Association, Swaraj Dweep said.

## Towards enabling further growth of Tourism in A&N Islands Interactive meet with stakeholders held; briefed about intent of EOIs to be floated by Tourism Department

Port Blair, April 23

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Jitendra Narain has recently directed the Tourism Department to issue Expression of Interests (EOIs) for events and activities related to development and promotion of Tourism in A&N Islands. In line with this, Tourism stakeholders were briefed about the EOIs during a meeting held by the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Shri Suneel Anchipaka and Special Secretary (IP&T), Shri Hari Kallikkat today with the representatives of ACCI, Hotel Association, Shipping Association and other stakeholders.

During the interaction, the representatives of Associations provided valuable suggestions for boosting tourism in Isles. In the meeting, it was also decided that all ships and big hotels shall promote music, especially live music for the entertainment of the tourists as well as promotion of tourism. The EOIs intend to attract new ideas into the Tourism Industry, investment etc. besides finding out market interests for new activities and events as well as locations to conduct them in the Islands.

Tourism is already a major source of employment for the Islanders and this EOI

is expected to attract private investment in tourism sector and create new job opportunities for the Islanders. The EOI for Tourism related events & activities will be a game changer in the development of tourism facilities as it would open up new venues for tourism like sky dining, submersible scooters, bungee jumping etc. and new events to enhance tourism engagement and night life in the Islands. The transparent bidding process would allow new activities at fair prices, propelling Andamans among the most prominent Island destinations across the globe.

## Special Gram Sabha conducted at Panchayat..... from page 1

of PM Svamitva Scheme in A&N Islands.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman and Secretary (RD/PRI) Shri. Suneel Anchipaka, IAS launched the Svamitva Scheme in the presence of Smti. Pramila Kumari, Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman and other elected PRI members along with Gram Panchayat members of Calicut, Revenue Officials, Line Department offi-

cials and villagers from different gram Panchayats of Calicut, Naya Sahar, Humphrygunj, Manjery in the Special Gram Sabha meeting held at Calicut Gram Panchayat.

The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman briefed the gathering about the details of the Svamitva Scheme which is a reformative step towards establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) ar-

eas by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing a Record of Right to village household owners with issuance of legal ownership cards (Property Cards/Title Deeds) to the property owners. He explained that the scheme covers multifarious aspects viz. Facilitating monetization of properties and enabling bank loan, reducing property related disputes, comprehensive village level planning that would be the stepping stone towards

achieving Gram Swaraj in true sense.

The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman and the Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman handed over the Property Cards/Title Deeds to some of the property owners of different villages at the Gram Sabha.

Thereafter, a pledge on achieving the goals of 3 themes of SDGs (Healthy Village, Water Sufficient Village and Engendered Develop-

ment in Villages) was administered to the august gathering in the Gram Sabha.

### Hands-free greetings





## ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ Block Health Mela was organized at Community Hall, R.K. Pur, Little Andaman

Port Blair, April 22:

As part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’- Ayushman Bharat, the Block Health Mela was organized at Community Hall, R.K. Pur, Little Andaman Block by the District Administration through its District Health Society (SA) today. During the mela, various awareness stalls of Departments were displayed on the theme ‘Health, Nutrition & Sanitation’ besides facilitating health screening of general public at the Mela.

The Block Health Mela was inaugurated by Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, A & N Parliamentary Constituency in the presence of Pramukh, Panchayat Samiti Little Andaman, PRIs & other officials. The MP visited all the stalls and appreciated the initiative of the Administration under the flagship programme of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. He urged the general public to avail the services providing in the community level.

◆ The Cultural activities along with the awareness programme such as songs, dance, skits, yoga demonstrations and other activities were conducted.

◆ Awareness on various Health programme focusing on AB-HWC and Ayushman Bharat Card under AB-PMJAY were displayed.



played.

◆ Apart from this, awareness stalls were set up for prevention of various communicable and non-communicable diseases.

◆ Food Safety stall was also setup to generate awareness on ‘Eat Right Movement India’ along with food safety testing demonstration.

◆ The mela also featured display of nutritious food for prenatal & postnatal women besides Ayushman School Health & Wellness Ambassador, health

and wellness day in schools were displayed.

◆ The Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Day, displaying IEC on PoshanAbhiyan were also promoted during the Health Mela.

◆ Health Department provided non-communicable disease clinic services, specialist services of general medicine, communicable disease, oral health care, vision testing, TB screening along with awareness on Dulari Scheme and dispensation of medicine.

## First Sub-Committee of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language holds review meeting with officials of A&N Administration

Port Blair, April 22: The First Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language headed by its Chairman, Shri Ramchander Jangra held review meetings with the officials of A&N Administration regarding the implementation of the Official Language Policy in the conference hall of the Hotel Sinclair’s Bay Viewhere today. The other Members of the Committee present in the meeting were Shri Shyam Singh Yadav, Shri Dharmendra Kashyap and Shri Irranna Kadadi.

The Principal Secretary, A & N Administration, Dr.



V. Candelou and other Senior Officers attended the review meeting. The Committee Members also witnessed the documentation of the works done for the implementation of the Official Language Policy. Earlier, the Committee Mem-

bers headed by its Chairman also held review meetings with Officers of Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair, Directorate of Census Affairs, Port Blair and Dy. Commandant CISF, VSI Airport Port Blair at the same venue.

## ‘Earth Day’observed by Science Centre Organizes ‘Nature Study Tour’ to Biological Park for school students

Port Blair, April 22

Every year, April 22 is celebrated as ‘Earth Day’ throughout the world. The celebration reminds us to protect Mother Earth in every possible ways. The events started on April 22, 1970 in the United States and since then the ‘Earth Day’ has become an annual event. As part of the observance, the Port Blair Science Centre organized a ‘Nature Study Tour’ for the school students. Around 40 selected students from various schools in and around Port Blair were taken on a study tour to Biological Park, Chidiyatapu. A good number of flowering & fruit bearing saplings were planted by the students inside the park. Thereafter, the students walked through the park, during which they saw varieties of plants & animals. Shri A.C. Tilak, Deputy Director attached to Biological Park ac-

companied and briefed the students about the flora & fauna and its ecological importance. A documentary film on Biodiversity was also screened for the participating students in the auditorium.

This was followed by a competition on ‘Smell the Nature’ and accordingly, Anandini Kumari of Govt. Middle School, Corbyn’s Cove, M. Naveen Kumar of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Rangachang and Navia of Invent Public School, Prothrapur were adjudged the first, second & third position winners while Vinod Kumar of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Rangachang was awarded consolation prize. The event was organized in association with the unit of Biological Park, Chidiyatapu, Deptt. of Environment & Forests, a press release from Science Centre said.

## PRESS RELEASE



Port Blair, April 24: Shri Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman along with Smt. Pramila Kumari, Adhyaksha ZP inspected the beach area of Rangachang village in Beodnabad Gram Panchayat. The officials of line departments also accompanied the team during the visit. While inspecting the beach area, the Deputy Commissioner (SA) was of the opinion that the beach has a great potential to attract tourists if basic amenities such as change rooms, toilets and drinking water facilities are made available to the tourists.

He directed the officials of the RD department to frequently arrange to clean the beach areas and also requested the general public to not litter around the beach area. He further mentioned that the footfall of tourists is increasing manifold and it’s high time to develop alternate sites and beaches for tourism activities, which in turn will help boost the economic condition of the local populace.







Port Blair, April, 21: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, A&N Islands called on Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency today at Raj Niwas. Discussed various mega infra projects being steered through Islands Development Agency to boost Tourism and Hospitality sector in the Islands.

## Zero tolerance towards encroachment on Govt. land



Port Blair, April 23:

Continuing its zero tolerance policy towards encroachment on government land, the revenue department of South Andaman District carried out eviction drive committed over Government land situated near the beach area at Shaheed Dweep, recorded road at Carbyn's Cove junction and from Brookshabad road side area with in Port Blair tehsil under South Andaman District.

On 21.04.2022 encroachment eviction drive was carried out in Shaheed Dweep at Lakshmanpur beach near parking area upon land bearing SY No. 138/1, stands recorded as Tree Forest, a total of 13 Nos. of temporary sheds/ hutments were removed and an area of 500 sq. mtrs; restored to its original status. Similar drive carried out at Bharatpur beach and encroachments in the shape of temporary shed and



fencing were removed from land bearing Sy No. 147 recorded as Path.

During the drive on dated 22.03.2022 at Carbyn's Cove junction, Brookshabad village, the road side temporary sheds / gumties and other temporary hutments were removed from land bearing Sy No. 1/P situated at Brookshabad recorded as Government Revenue Land restoring an area of 400 Sq. Mts out of Sy No. 1/P.

It is further submitted that the encroachment eviction drive will continue in coming weeks within Port Blair tehsil.

## 'Industry Drive & Apprenticeship Mela' to be held at ITI Dollygunj, ITI Arong & VTI Bakultala on April 26

Port Blair, April 23:

The Apprentices Act, 1961 was enacted with an objective to provide training to the apprentices in the industry by utilizing the facilities available therein. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), GoI is the administrative ministry responsible for the implementation of the Act for skill-based trade apprenticeship with the assistance of State/UT Governments.

Apprenticeship training is one of the most efficient way to develop skilled manpower for the industry by using training facilities available in the establishments without putting any extra burden on the exchequer to set up training infrastructure. The unemployed youth, after undergoing apprenticeship training can easily adapt to the industrial environment at the time of regular employment. The other advantages of apprenticeship training are that, it is one of the most important schemes in terms of quality of training, experiential learning and the enhanced employability that it provides and it also the most promising skills delivery vehicle in the industrial / training ecosystem of the country. It

also extended structured and rigorous training programme which helps apprentices becomes skilled and stimulates apprentices a real chance to put skills into practice and helps them to gain confidence in a working environment.

The establishments can engage 2.5 to 15% apprentices of their overall sanctioned strength including contractual staff. A prescribed stipend has to be paid for engaged apprentices. However, the reimbursement of 25% of prescribed stipend, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- per month per apprentice shall be paid by the Government of India (GoI) to all registered establishments who engage apprentices under "National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NPAS)". The employers having 4 or more workers shall only be eligible to engage apprentices. However, it is mandatory for an establishment to engage apprentices, who have 30 or more number of workers as per the Apprenticeship Act.

As the GoI is promoting the said scheme in a large way, it shall be an obligatory to engage apprentices in every Department/Establishment, so as to provide a platform for unemployed youths for their

gainful employment. In this regard, a one day 'Industry Drive and Apprenticeship Mela' to be organized on April 26 from 9.30am to 5pm at ITI, Dollygunj, ITI, Arong and VTI, Bakultala with a view to facilitate onboard of the MSMEs, Industries, PSUs, Govt. Departments, other eligible establishments and registration of aspirational candidates under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme. This Mela shall give a comprehensive knowledge session on National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for all the stakeholders alongwith new guidelines, increased understanding and clarity on the system, process, roles and structure of implementation helping stakeholders into their outreach and support and key recommendation to plug the gaps in portal, policy performance system to the industry.

All the establishments and aspirational candidates/ students have been requested to register their names at GoI's weblink <https://dgt.gov.in/appmelaapril22/> and participate in the 'Industry Drive and Apprenticeship Mela' on the above mentioned date and venues.

## Capacity Building training programme under PMFME Scheme held



Port Blair, April 21:

"Prime Minister's Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME)" is being implemented in the Islands under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan with the aim to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the

sector. Capacity Building is one of the important components of PM FME scheme for the aspiring entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups /Farmer Producers Organization /Cooperatives, workers and other stakeholders connected with food processing sector or doing food business in the Islands.

The Directorate of Industries in association with ICAR-CIARI conducted three days

Capacity Building training programme classified under category-2 of PMFME Scheme. The programme was held in the ICAR-CIARI Fish Training Centre at Marine Hill, Port Blair from 19th to 21st April, 2022. The training was imparted by Dr. Deepitha RP, Scientist, ICAR-CIARI & Master Trainer under PMFME Scheme.

The training programme  
*contd. page-6*



## Induction training and interaction session with the newly elected Representatives of Gram Panchayats

Port Blair, April 23:

The Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, A&N Administration organized an induction-cum-interaction program for the newly elected representatives of the Gram Panchayats, in which the Gram Pradhan and Panchayat Secretaries of almost all the Gram Panchayat of Andaman and Nicobar Islands participated in the program.

The program was inaugurated by Shri Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, Secretary (RD) and in his opening remarks congratulated the newly elected Pradhans and requested all of them to work effectively for the rural population residing in the Gram Panchayat as it is the key focal point wherein all the grass root developmental activities are done. He requested them to have a localized vision for the development of Gram Panchayat. He also requested Pradhans and the Panchayat Secretaries to work in coordination for effective implementation of flagship schemes and utilization of public funds within the legal framework of law in a transparent and accountable manner. He further emphasized to work towards achieving financial self-sustainability of the Panchayats, which is vision of the A&N Administration.

The Secretary (RD) also informed that the Chief Secretary of Andaman Nicobar Administration has given direction to start competition among the Gram Panchayats on basis of cleanliness in the Gram Panchayat, source segregation, waste collection, plantation of vegetable & fruit bearing trees, rainwater harvesting activities and rural tourism promotion in the Gram Panchayats. As such he urged



the Gram Panchayats to work in the said lines to prove their respective Gram Panchayat as the best.

The Pradhans and Panchayat Secretaries were made aware about the administrative & financial rules and responsibilities for effective working of the Gram Panchayat. Smt. Kakali Ghosh, Panchayat Secretary explained about the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) to be prepared for implementation of various schemes of RD as well as Line Department for the development of the Gram Panchayat and its residents. The Pradhans were requested to make proper selection of works and to take up them as per the priority of public.

Thereafter, Shri Edmond Fernandez, Panchayat Secretary explained about the technicalities and responsibilities of the Gram Panchayat in issuance of Building Permission for construction of buildings in the Gram Panchayats. Subsequently, Smt. Gurjeet Kaur, Extension Officer acquainted the participants about the role and responsibilities of the Gram Panchayat in the implementation of various Rural Development schemes of GOI such as DAY-NRLM, PMAY-G, SBM-G, MGNREGA, RURBAN, SAGY, PMGSY, RGSA.

The Sr. Accounts Officer, Shri Anil Koshi,

explained the financial powers and obligations of the Gram Panchayats and requested the Pradhans and Panchayat Secretaries for optimal utilization of fund allocated to the Panchayats. He stressed on use of GeM for procurements under the Gram Panchayats and timely submission of Utilization Certificates. Later, Sr. Accounts Officer, Shri P.S. Satish explained about the use of PFMS for utilization of funds released to the Gram Panchayats and requested to get onboard of PMFS platform.

In the end of the session, Shri Vinay Kumar Jindal, Director (RD/Panchayat) focusing on the key priority areas of Gram Panchayat such as promotion of Rural Tourism, Solid & Liquid Waste Management, taking up of revenue generation activities, preparation of GPDP, etc., requested the newly elected Pradhans to work in consonance with the rules & regulation and coordinate with the UT Administration for effective development of the rural areas of the UT. He informed the participants that the department will be organizing offline training at Port Blair for all the newly elected public representatives to have one on one interaction and learning about smooth functioning of the Gram Panchayats.

## PM Modi receives...

from page 1

the event amid a tussle between BJP and Sena.

"Lata Didi, apart from being the queen of melody, was my elder sister. She taught generations the language of love and compassion. I feel fortunate that she loved me like an elder sister. After many decades, this will be the first Rakhi when Didi won't be here," Modi said in his award acceptance speech.

Lata Mangeshkar died at 92 in February following multiple-organ failure.

Thackeray and his family members met 80-year-old Chandrabhaga Shinde, who became the face of protests by Shiv Sena workers against Independent MP Navneet Rana and her MLA husband Ravi Rana a day earlier, at her residence in Parel in the evening.

Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Jitendra Awhad tweeted the invitation card of the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award ceremony, saying it didn't mention the name of Uddhav Thackeray.

"The Mangeshkar family avoided mentioning the name of the Chief Minister on the invitation card of the Lata Mangeshkar Award Ceremony. Their role is incomprehensible. This act of the Mangeshkars is an insult to 12 crore Marathi people," Awhad tweeted.

In his speech, PM Modi said Lata Mangeshkar's voice enthralled the audience for over 80 years, from the era of "gramophone, CD, DVD, pen drive, digital music to apps".

"The journey of songs and the world ran through the journey of Lata Didi, who gave voice to five generations of actors and made India proud. Her journey on this planet came to an end at a time when our country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. She gave voice to India, even before its Independence. The 75-year journey of the country was always tied to her 'sur'. Our entire nation is grateful for the contribution of the Mangeshkar family to the country. Apart from singing, the passion of 'rashtra bhakti' that was within her, was due to her father," the prime minister said.

Modi received the award on Sunday, which marked the 80th death anniversary of Mas-

ter Deenanath Mangeshkar, the singing legend's father.

The prime minister said he generally stays away from felicitation ceremonies but made an exception to receive the first Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award named after the legendary singer whom he considered his "elder sister".

"I generally keep myself away from such felicitation ceremonies. I cannot adjust myself (in such programmes). But when an award is named after an elder sister like Lata Mangeshkar, then it becomes an obligation for me to accept it because of the affection and right of the Mangeshkar family over me," he said.

Modi said when he was contacted for this award, he told his assistants to confirm his presence at once.

"I informed my staff that I will plan other things later. I could not say no to such an event. I dedicate this award to all Indians," the prime minister added.

He said Lata didi always used to say that a person becomes great by his deeds and not by age.

"I think we all can learn from her thoughts," the PM added.

Noted musician and Lata Mangeshkar's younger brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar couldn't attend the event as he was admitted to a hospital, his singer son Adinath Mangeshkar said at the function.

The 84-year-old musician, younger brother of Lata didi and Asha Bhosle, will be discharged within ten days, Adinath said without divulging the cause of his hospitalisation.

Modi wished Hridaynath Mangeshkar a speedy recovery at the start of his address.

The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar will be given every year to an individual who has made a "path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary" contribution to the nation, its people and society, according to the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan Charitable Trust, which has instituted the award.

## World Book Copyright Day 2022

Port Blair, April 23:

"The World Book Copyright Day 2022" will be celebrated in all the schools & public libraries functioning under the Education Department from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. On

this occasion Books Exhibition for general public will be organized by Directorate of Education in all school and public Libraries from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

All members of the Library/

users/general public are invited on this occasion to visit the exhibition from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 11.30am to 7.30pm at State Library Port Blair and all Zonal Libraries across the UT.

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## 13<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL PANCHAYATI.... from page-1

country as well as recognizing their achievements to empower and motivate them. The objective of the celebrating the National Panchayati Raj Day is to increase awareness about Panchayats and Gram Sabhas, the institutions of the local self-governments for the rural areas mandated by the Constitution, and also about their roles, responsibilities, achievements, concerns, resolutions etc.

Joining with the rest of the parts of the country, Gram Sabha's were also organised at all the 70 (Seventy) Gram Panchayats across the Islands to mark the 13<sup>th</sup> National Panchayati Raj day. *On this occasion Shri Suneel Achipaka, Secretary (RD/Panchayats), distributed the property card to the beneficiaries in Gram Sabha held at GP Calicut.*

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj also honours the Panchayats by awarding them for their relentless work. There are different categories under which the awards are conferred. This year 2022 (Appraisal Year 2020-21) five Gram Panchayats in Andaman Nicobar Islands were conferred with National Awards namely;

1. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP) to **Gram Panchayat Subhash Gram,**

2. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) to **Gram Panchayat Ferrargunj & Gram Subhashgram,**

3. Child-Friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA) to

**Gram Panchayat Paschim Sagar,**

4. Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award to **GP Mannarghat.**

National Panchayati Raj Day will serve as an important occasion as well as a significant step towards creating awareness and building momentum and also building institutional, individual, institutional, cross-organizational and operational capabilities for achieving the global SDGs agenda in local context by 2030.

This year Gram Panchayats have a pivotal role to play in integrated rural development by focusing on the 17 SDGs which are subsumed under nine themes to ensure Poverty free, Healthy, Child-Friendly, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green, Self-Sufficient, Socially Secured, Good Governance and Engendered Development in village. Three (03) such themes adopted as Sankalp by Gram Panchayats in specially convened Gram Sabhas on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

Gram Panchayats across the islands also made necessary arrangements to telecast live event of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The PM visited Palli Panchayat in Samba district, Jammu & Kashmir. Interacted with local Panchayat representatives and address the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as Gram Sabhas across the country on this momentous occasion.

On this occasion, Prime Minister inaugurated various projects at Palli, Jammu and

Kashmir He inaugurated and laid foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth '20,000 crore and launched a new initiative named Amrit Sarovar, aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country apart from inauguration of the Banihal Qazigund Road Tunnel (8.45 km) built over a cost of over '3,100 crore and laid the foundation stone of three road packages of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, being built at a cost of over '7,500 crore, Laid the foundation stone of Ratle and Kwar Hydroelectric projects, Jan Aushadi Kendras in Jammu and Kashmir and to make good quality generic medicines at affordable prices available, 100 Kendras have been made functional and dedicated to the nation. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated a 500 KW solar power plant at Palli, which will make the country's first panchayat to become carbon neutral.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister visited the INTACH photo gallery which depicts the rural heritage of the region and Nokia Smartpur, a rural entrepreneurship-based model designed to create ideal smart villages in India.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also distributed property cards to beneficiaries under the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme steadily inching towards the objectives of socio-economic empowerment of the rural masses and making them self-reliant.

## Capacity Building..... from page-4

was concluded with its Valedictory session held on 21/04/2022, which was graced by Ms. Veditha Reddy, Secretary (Industries). During the valedictory session, the trainees expressed their happiness and expressed their gratitude for organizing such a valuable programme. The trainees were provided with training of value addition to Fish, Prawn etc using modern technology, preservation techniques, packaging techniques etc. Awareness on the various machineries, equipments and tools used in the fish processing units and practical demonstration was also provided to the trainees. During the training programme, resource persons from NABARD, Fisheries Department and Industries Department provided vital information about various schemes being implemented by Government of India and UT Administration.

Speaking on the occasion the Secretary (Inds) congratulated the trainees who attended the training which was

overwhelmingly taken up by 26 female beneficiaries out of total 32 beneficiaries and urged them to take forward the lessons learnt by setting up of fish processing units and also further sharing the knowledge among the interested persons. She informed the trainees that value added Fish products are one of the product identified under One District One Product for its promotion to ensure using the abundant available marine resources. She also informed the trainees that they should take up setting up of enterprises by utilizing the benefits provided under PMFME scheme under which Credit-linked capital subsidy @35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling upto Rs. 10 lakh per unit will be provided. She expressed her gratitude to Dr. Deepitha RP, Scientist, ICAR-CIARI for taking the initiative for imparting the training for three days from 19th to 21st April, 2022.

## Joint Secretary, MoEF... from page-1

The Joint Secretary also discussed on recently described unique species of banana, living fossil and dinosaur age tree species of naked seeded plant, zingibers including new Genus of mistletoe plant and other economically important species which have been discovered as new to science and discovery of eco-friendly reusable drinking straw made by bamboo species. She emphasized upon to avoid the use of single use plastic and to make a plastic free India. During her visit, Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director and

HOO explained research activities of the Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre on plant biodiversity and the intensive botanical explorations and authentic documentation of flora of the Islands enriching the herbarium and the museum of the Centre. Among all the units of BSI, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre holds the credit of covering one of the remote and insular floristic hotspots of the country, a press release from BSI said.

## MP demands to establish a..... from page 1

right at the middle of Bay of Bengal, which is a gold mine for fisheries but unfortunately we are unable to tap the immense potential of fisheries till date, mostly because of lack of trained manpower and technical expertise.

He said that there is an urgent need to establish a Fisheries College of International Standard in Andaman and Nicobar Islands so that Island youths as well as researchers from India and neighboring countries can get a professional degree from Andaman and also get themselves trained in the field of

Fisheries and earn from Local as well as International Market.

The Member of Parliament pointed out that as per a rough estimate there is about 1. 47 Lakh MT tonnes of fishes available in Andaman and Nicobar Sea but we are able to fish only 32,000 MT of fishes annually and once a Fisheries College is established the trained man power will be able to understand how to carry out deep sea fishing professionally from Andaman and Nicobar Sea, where to market Andaman Fishes and how to export Fishes to other countries.

He added that Fish export is a multi-million dollar business in International level and Andaman and Nicobar Islands being situated close to South East Countries, there is a huge potential for Fisheries related business in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and these Islands will surely earn huge revenue from this.

He mentioned that once the International connectivity between Port Blair and South East Countries is established the Fisheries can become a major export business for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

