

Dearth of female EEG technicians irks GB Pant Hospital patients

John Wilbert &
Rabindranath
Biswas

Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Oct 07: The main Electroencephalogram (EEG) machine of G.B. Pant Hospi-
(See page 5)



Vishal Jolly highlights two crucial issues with Chief Secretary

Port Blair, Oct 07: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member-BJP today met the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration and highlighted before him the following few crucial issues:

Placed & discussed

the sufferings of Islanders & the damages caused due to constant disruptive power supply, since months together.

In response to this, the Chief Secretary reportedly informed about certain

(See page 6)

Durga Puja celebrated with pomp and gaiety in Diglipur



Rabindranath Biswas
Sheekha News Service

Diglipur, Oct 07: Celebration of Durga Puja is one of the distinguishing features of the
(See page 6)

General Body meeting of MWEU of Government Dockyard affiliated to INTUC held under Chairmanship of Member of Parliament

Port Blair, Oct 07: The General Body meeting of the Marine Works Employees' Union (MWEU) of Government Dockyard affiliated to Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) was held at 9 AM on 07.10.2022 in the Labour Welfare Centre of Directorate of Shipping Services under the chairmanship of Member of Parliament Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, President INTUC (A&N Islands) and MWEU.

Mr. Kuldeep Rai



Sharma while addressing the gathering expressed gratitude to the employees of Dockyard, afloat and other operational staff of DSS for the service rendered by them in keeping the shipping services live during the lockdown period of COVID-19 Pandemic period for transportation of es-
(See page 2)

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GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC
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 Fellowship in Liver Transplant and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery
 Consultant Liver Transplant Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon

NEURO CLINIC
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Dr. M. BALAMURUGAN
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 Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon

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Cultural Fest 'Jai Maa Durga' by Sarbajanin Durga Puja Committee - 2022, Marine & Electricity Department



Port Blair, Oct 07: A 2-Day Cultural Fest 'Jai Maa Durga' was organized for the first time by Sarbajanin Durga Puja Committee - 2022, Marine & Electricity Department

in association with Socio-Cultural Society Jhumurr, Port Blair on 2nd & 4th October, 2022 at the Marine Community Hall premises. The Marine Department's Durga Puja

is one of the oldest Durga Pujas of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, started way back in 1958.

The Main attraction (See page 6)

Crackdown on Bootleggers and Drug Peddlers

Port Blair, Oct 07: In fight against bootlegging, illicit liquor and drug abuse, Andaman and Nicobar Police has adopted multi-pronged strategy coupled with zero tolerance against this menace. On supply front, Police is cracking the whips against bootleggers and drug peddlers. On demand side, mass public awareness campaign has been launched to spread awareness about ill-effects of alcohol/drug abuse.

Cracking down on bootlegging, as many as 118 cases under 32 Regulation III of 1876 were registered in the month of September, 2022 as compared to 61 cases in July and 85 cases in August, 2022. 892 bottles of liquor, 327 Kgs of Handia and 127.5 ltrs of illicit liquor were recovered

from the possession of bootleggers. Apart from this, search and combing operations were carried out in jungle in which as much as 5,570 ltrs of Lehan (fermented wash to prepare illicit liquor) was destroyed.

Similarly, in fight against drug abuse, 13 cases under NDPS Act were registered in September, 2022, in which 16 accused were arrested. From their possession, 11.7 Kgs of Ganja and 3.18 kg of Methamphetamine were recovered.

During August, 2022, more than 50 Awareness programmes on "Alcohol/Drug Abuse" were conducted in Schools/ Colleges, with Community leaders, PRI members and other stakeholders. To reach out to the youth, A&N

Police has joined hands with David Beckham, a rising athlete and international cyclist from Nicobar, as role model to spread awareness against drug abuse and alcoholism. The message of hazardous impact of alcohol/drug abuse on physical, mental, social and financial health is disseminated in a simple and entertaining manner with the help of Skit/NukkadNatak enacted by Police Team. The A&N Police is committed to take stern action against bootleggers, illicit liquor, drug peddlers and other illegal activities. The public is requested to share information pertaining to any crime or other illegal activities to Police at 100,112 & 03192-233077. The identity of the informant will be kept secret.

2 army personnel killed, 1 hurt in T-90 tank barrel burst near Jhansi

Two personnel of the Indian Army were killed and another was injured on Thursday after the barrel of a T-90 tank burst during a field exercise near Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. "During the Annual Firing at Babina Field Firing Ranges on 06 Oct 2022, a tank barrel burst took place. The tank was manned by a crew of three personnel. The

crew was provided immediate medical aid and evacuated to Military Hospital Babina," read an official statement issued on Friday.

The statement said the commander and gunner of the tank succumbed to their injuries, adding the injured personnel, who was the driver, is out of danger and undergoing treatment. Thursday's firing



incident is being investigated.

The army expressed its deep condolence to the bereaved families of the two personnel who died in the tank burst.

General Body...

sential commodities, ration items, medicines etc. to various distant inhabited Islands. Sharma assured the dockyard's employees to get their grievances resolved in the most pragmatic manner

and shall ever endeavour for the welfare of the employees.

In the General Body meeting the issue of strengthening and modernization of workshops, timely conduct of work test for filling up of vari-

ous promotional posts, providing 1/30th of the pay at the minimum of relevant post plus Dearness Allowance to the contractual employees, timely grant of MACP etc.

(See page 6)

MESSAGE

Today, on this special occasion of the 22nd Raising Day of the only Operational Quad-Services Command of the Nation, it is my proud privilege & a matter of great honour that my thoughts in the form of this message are reaching out to each & every valiant soldier, sailor, airman and navik serving under the proud flag of ANC. I have been fortunate to have had the singular privilege of having been the CINCAN and CNS, wherein I have been operationally and now, administratively closely associated with the functioning of this prestigious Command.

The significance and importance of unified operations to handle current day conflict under a centralized Command structure emerged in the aftermath of the Kargil War of 1999. The Group of Ministers' (GoM) report on National Security recommended the replacement of the FORTAN, with a unified Andaman & Nicobar Command, which would control the assets of the three services and the Coast Guard on the Islands.

Based on these recommendations, the Government approved the establishment of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) as a Quad-Services Command on 11 May 2001. Accordingly, the Command was raised on 08 Oct. 2001 under the first Commander-in-Chief Andaman & Nicobar (CINCAN), Vice Admiral Arun Prakash, AVSM, VrC, VSM. All components of the three services and the Coast Guard positioned at the Islands were placed under operational control of the CINCAN. In another pioneering foresighted move of the Government in 2017, all individual component lands of the Army, Navy, Air Force & Coast Guard in A & N Islands were merged under the common and singular custody of the CINCAN, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

The Command has progressed further towards better integration by creation of integrated Station Headquarters in May this year to bring Estate Management, works services, budgetary control all under one roof, thus freeing the Components Commander to focus on operational tasks.

I also congratulate the ANC for undertaking recruitment of more than 300 Tradesmen (SK) in a short span of time, thus strengthening the NSRY with much needed manpower.

I feel proud to be a part of the glorious history of this fledgling Command and extol all officers and personnel to continue to serve with synergy and professionalism which is showing the way for the larger theaterisation endeavor at hand. May the flag of the Command always keep soaring high and achieve greater laurels to create a name for itself. Best wishes and heartiest compliments to one and all on this proud and memorable day.

Jai Hind!

Sd/-
(Admiral D K Joshi)
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lt. Governor, A&N Islands
& Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency



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Actual Plots

Varshik Adhiveshan by APWD Karmachari Sangh

Port Blair, Oct 07: APWD Karmachari Sangh an affiliated association of Andaman Nicobar Rajya Karmachari Mahasangh is conducting Varshik Adhiveshan to discuss the issues of working class in APWD. The adhiveshan will sum up with awareness of labour laws, impor-

tance of organisation and interactive sessions.

The Adhiveshan will commence from 9.30 am onwards at Community Hall, Dairyfarm. All members of APWD Karmachari Sangh and other affiliated associations are requested to join the Adhiveshan.

Jolly Demands to fill up huge vacancies of Teachers in Education Department

Port Blair, Oct 07: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member-BJP together with a delegation of qualified CTET candidates, today met the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration and requested him to fill up huge vacancies of Teachers in the Education Department & placed the present statistics regarding vacancies of several posts.

In response to this, the Chief Secretary has report-



edly informed that very soon the vacancies would be advertised as per the Recruitment Rule & the

administration is making all necessary endeavors to do the same in a fair & proper manner.

Our Islands get two more Yoga Referees

Port Blair, Oct 07: The Yoga Federation of India conducted National Yoga Referees Diploma Examination on 25th September 2022 (Sunday). Two candidates from Our Island qualified in the said Examination. They are P. Malleshwari R/o Dairyfarm and G. Venketeshwari R/o Lambaline. Both the candidates started their journey of yoga in the year 2009 when they were in Class VIII at GSS Junglighat.

2009 to 2011 they have learnt all the aspect of Yoga from Mr. Mohammed Iqbal, Physical Education Teacher of that School. Between these years they learnt the Yoga as well how

to teach Yoga and how to do Referee ship in Yoga. When they were in XI and XII class, first time they did the Yoga judgment in the Inter House Yoga Competitions of GSS Junglighat. After their graduation they have done the

Diploma in Yoga Education from Amravati Maharashtra. After that they completed their Master Degree in Yoga. And now they have appeared in the National Referee Exam and in their first attempt itself they qualified the exam and became a National referee of Yoga.

Our UT now has Three National referees in Yoga and two SGFI



referees. Now the Education, Ayush and other department can utilize the services of these referees in their Yoga competitions.

As per the statement of the two girls, their Physical Education Teacher Mr. Mohammed Iqbal (qualified SGFI referee) is the inspiration and motivational force behind their success. He has been guiding them constantly in the entire journey.

Dance Program by Jhankar Dance Group

Port Blair, Oct 07: The Jhankar Dance Group organized a dance program on 02 Oct 2022 at Ferrargunj Community hall. Around fifteen students participated in the program while local residents of area, devotees and other audiences, present during the event, enjoyed the program.



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India speaks out on human rights situation in China's Xinjiang. It is a first

India on Friday formally commented on the situation in China's Xinjiang region for the first time, saying the human rights of the people of the area "should be respected and guaranteed". The remarks by external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at a regular news briefing came a day after India abstained on a draft resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) seeking a debate on the human rights situation in Xinjiang region. Bagchi said India had taken note of the assessment made by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of "human rights concerns" in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. "The human rights of the people of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region should be respected and guaranteed. We hope that the relevant party will address the situation objectively and properly," he said.

The development comes at a time when India-China ties are at an all-time low because of the military stand-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that began in May 2020. Bagchi, who was re-



sponding to a question on India's abstention in the vote at the UNHRC on Thursday, said India "remains committed to upholding all human rights".

Explaining the country's decision to abstain on the resolution seeking a debate on the situation in Xinjiang, he said: "India's vote is in line with its long-held position that country-specific resolutions are never helpful. India favours a dialogue to deal with such issues." The vote ultimately went in favour of China, with 19 members of the UNHRC opposing the resolution and 11 members, including India, Malaysia and Ukraine, abstaining. The resolution was supported by France, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands. The resolution on Xinjiang was presented by a group comprising Canada, Den-

mark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the US, and was co-sponsored by other countries such as Turkey.

The resolution was a follow-up to a recent report by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, which said China has committed "serious human rights violations" in Xinjiang in the name of countering terrorism and extremism. The report had called on Beijing to speedily release "all individuals arbitrarily deprived of their liberty".

The report further said that "allegations of patterns of torture, or ill-treatment, including forced medical treatment and adverse conditions of detention, are credible, as are allegations of individual incidents of sexual and gender-based violence".

Minor held for suspected role in May 9 Mohali rocket attack

A minor has been apprehended for his suspected role in the May 9 rocket attack on the headquarters of the Punjab Police's intelligence wing in Mohali while Arshdeep Singh, another terror suspect, has been arrested in connection with the recovery of an improvised explosive device (IED) in Haryana's Kurukshetra in August. The Delhi Police's Special Cell has taken the two into custody and said that they have also cracked the murder of Maharashtra builder Sanjay Biyani.

"The minor suspect was [also] tasked along with Deepak Surakhpur and Monu Dagar to eliminate [actor] Salman Khan by Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang," said a police officer, re-

questing anonymity.

The Delhi Police were due to hold a press conference to provide details on the breakthroughs in the investigations into the rocket attack and the IED recovery.

On May 13, Punjab Police chief V K Bhawra blamed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), local gangsters, and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence for the rocket rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack on the intelligence wing headquarters.

He identified Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh alias Landa, who reportedly provided the RPG for the attack, AK-47, and local gangsters as the key accused for providing logistic support for it.

Two groups clashed during Durga idol immersion in Chhattisgarh



Two groups clashed during the immersion of Durga idols in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur on Thursday. In the over-a-minute video shared by news agency ANI, a mob can be seen pelting stones, damaging vehicles likely meant for the procession with wooden sticks, and destroying lights. The incident reportedly took place in Bilaspur's Sadar Bazar area.

Several people have been injured in the violence and police are investigating the incident. More details are awaited,

reported Naidunia.

Meanwhile, several cases of drowning during idol visarjan have also been reported across the country. Due to flash floods in the Mal river in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri, eight people drowned and around 50 were rescued on Wednesday. Incidents of drowning were also reported from Uttar Pradesh, where three youths died during Durga idol immersion in the Yamuna river. Six persons drowned in a similar incident in Rajasthan's Ajmer district.

ED attaches assets worth Rs 1.54 crore belonging to Amnesty under PMLA

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 1.54 crore in bank accounts of Indians for Amnesty International Trust (IAIT) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

A statement issued on Friday said the ED had initiated the money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd. (AIPL) and others under Section 120(B) IPC, 1860 and Sections 11, 35 & 39 of FCRA, Foreign Contributions Regulatory Act, 2010.

In this case, Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) had been granted of permission under the FCRA, 2010 during 2011-12 for receiv-



ing foreign contributions from Amnesty International UK. However, the same was cancelled and permission/registration has been denied, M/s Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL) and M/s Indians Amnesty International Trust (IAIT) were formed in the year 2013-14 and 2012-13 respectively to escape the FCRA route and carried out NGO activities in the guise of service export and FDI.

Rs Investigation by ED revealed that upon cancellation of FCRA Licence of

M/s. Amnesty International India Foundation Trust, a new method was adopted by Amnesty entities to receive money from abroad, that Amnesty International, UK, sent Rs 51.72 crore to AIPL in the guise of export of services and foreign direct investment, however, there was no documentary proof for the alleged export such as invoices and copies of the agreement submitted during the investigation. This, the total attachment in the case stands at Rs21.08 crore.



MESSAGE

On this very special occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Indian Air Force, it gives me immense pleasure and great honour to express my gratitude towards service to the nation by Air Warriors. The impeccable record of the Indian Air Force as the savior of Indian skies glorifies its nine decade long journey to keep the sovereignty and integrity of the nation always intact.

As an integral part of the only Tri-services operational Command, Indian Air Force has demonstrated jointmanship in every sphere of its professional commitments since its inception in 2001. True to the flavor of the Andaman & Nicobar Command, integration and unification of the Quad-Services have been on the forefront throughout. Besides military assignments, the force has exhibited dedicated selfless support on various occasions including Aid to Civil power in the conduct of HADR (Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief) mission during Tsunami 2004, contribution during COVID-19 pandemic towards critical medical evacuation and tackling sub-conventional aerial threats. Support by the IAF during peace time has always been praiseworthy. I am confident that IAF is capable of thwarting any external threat to our nation's security in future and proud of its achievements towards harnessing the entire realm of our nation's aerospace in a professional manner conforming to the highest standards.

On the eve of Air Force Day, I convey my sincere greetings to all Air veterans, Air Warriors, Non-Combatants, DSC personnel, Civilians and their families and wish them continued success in all future endeavors.

Jai Hind!

Sd/-
(Admiral D K Joshi)
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lt. Governor, A&N Islands
& Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency

Admission to various UG Courses in ANCOL

Port Blair, Oct. 7: Admission to various UG Courses in Andaman College (ANCOL) for the academic year 2022-2023 will be held as per the schedule given below. It is to inform all the

candidates seeking admission in ANCOL to attend the counseling on time, date mentioned below without fail. If the candidates fail to attend the admission counseling according to merit called on the

stipulated date and time his/her candidature will not be considered in the next Counseling. The Admission Counseling Schedule for the academic year 2022-2023 are as under:

Date of Admission Counselling	Courses	No. of candidates called for admission as per merit list	Merit list called for counselling	Categories	Time of counselling
14.10.2022	B.Com (General)	200	1 to 200	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	9.30 am to 1.30 pm
	B.Com (Corporate secretary ship)	200	1 to 200	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	
14.10.2022	BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration)	400	1 to 400	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm
	B.Sc (Psychology)	400	1 to 400	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	
15.10.2022	B.A (English)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	9.30 am to 1.30 pm
	B.A (Economics)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	
15.10.2022	B.A (Sociology)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm
	B.P.A in Music (Hindustani vocal & Instrumental)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSS	

Candidates have been advised to be present at ANCOL before 9am on the admission counseling day. Candidate have also been requested to bring all original certificates viz. X Pass Certificate, XII Pass Certificate and Mark Statement, Transfer Certificate, Category Certificate (OBC/ST/Divyang/EWSs), Copy of Aadhaar card, Copy

of Local Certificate.&Copy of Bank Pass Book (First Page)for verification and one recent passport size photo and one set photostat copies of their certificates and candidate should pay the requisite admission fee on the day of counseling without fail.

The candidates who are not attending the counseling according to the merit list on the

specified date and time will not be considered for admission in the respective courses. It is advised to all candidates to download the final merit list from the Common College Admission Portal (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in/>). If any candidate fails to pay the admission fee, their provisional admission summarily cancelled in the respective course.

Third Round of Counseling

Port Blair, Oct. 7: The third round of counseling for the academic session 2022-23 in Diploma in Engineering, DHMCT, Food Production and Front Of-

fice courses of DBRAIT Port Blair will be held in the Institute's Auditorium on Oct.8, 2022 for those candidates who have applied earlier.

The reporting time will be 8.30 am and candidates have been asked to bring all the original documents along with Xerox copies.

Induction Programme of DBRAIT

Port Blair, Oct. 7: All candidates who have been admitted in Diploma and Trade Diploma Courses at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of

Technology for the session 2022-23 have been informed that induction programmewill be held from Oct.11 to 14, 2022. All the stu-

dents have been advised to assemble in the Conference Hall of Auditorium Building at 8.30 am to attend the programme.

Merit List Displayed

Port Blair, Oct. 7: The category-wise provisional merit list of candidates who have applied for admission to various courses in JNRM, Port Blair for the academic session 2022-23 have been displayed in the Common College Admission portal website (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in/>).

The candidate may examine provisional merit list and submit their claims and objec-

tions, if any, to the Admission and Exam Wing of JNRM through the offline/online mode by addressing it to the Principal, JNRM or by email admissionjnrm5431@gmail.com from Oct.11 to 12, 2022 latest by 5pm.

The letter should contain documentary proof in support of their claims and objections. No case shall be entertained beyond the scheduled time period.

COVID-19 status in A&N Islands

Port Blair, Oct. 7: Four COVID positive cases have been detected today in A&N Islands from incoming flight passengers who arrived here yesterday.Today, 14flights

with 2071 passengers arrived, out of which,1836 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on177 passengers and the reports are awaited.

Dearth of...

(From page 1)

tal is being operated only by male technicians for the last several months and this has raised several questions.

As per report, ECG is a test that measures electrical activity in the brain using small, metal discs (electrodes) attached to the scalp. Brain cells communicate via electrical impulses and are active all the time, even during sleep. This activity shows up as wavy lines on an EEG recording which has left patients high and dry.

According to reports, the main EEG machine of G B Pant Hospital is operated without a female technician at morning hours for some unknown reasons. There should be one male and female technician to operate the machine so as to facilitate the women patients without any hassle.

To its contrary, two

male technicians perform this duty thereby putting the women patients in humiliated and embarrassed situations. It has been alleged that on many occasions the women requiring ECG check-up returned home without getting the ECG done as there was no female technician available at GB Pant Hospital. As such, many female patients are forced to visit private diagnostic centers for getting their ECG done by female technicians.

The aggrieved female patients contacted Andaman SheekhaDaily and rued that they feel humiliated and embarrassed when they are asked to undergo an Electrocardiograph (ECG) by a male technician. However, when contacted, the Medical Superintendent, GB Pant Hospital said that he will look into the matter to resolve the issue as early as possible.

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Rozgar mela by ANKVIB

Port Blair, Oct. 7: The A&N Islands Khadi & Village Industries Board in collaboration with Industries Department and Employment Exchange, A&N Administration will be organizing a 'Rozgar Mela' under S v a r o z g a r D w a r a AatmaNirbharta (associating with likeminded agencies implementing Govt. sponsored schemes for providing career guidance. The programme will be held on Oct.13, 2022 in the Community Hall of Gram

Panchayat, Tushnabad from 10 am to 3 pm. The programme is being arranged for the benefits of participants from 6 different Panchayats including Tushnabad, Collinpur, Mithakhari, Ferrargunj, Chouldari and Namunagar.

The main objective of the programmes is to provide a platform for elucidating the unemployed / under-employed youths on career guidance and boost up self reliance, and setup their livelihood venture duly avail-

ing benefits of Govt. sponsored schemes. The participants would be able to witness separate information kiosks for each department where they would be elaborated on the formalities and benefits of the various schemes being implemented by the departments.

The unemployed / under-employed youth have been requested to attend the programme and make optimum utilization of the services being provided by the Govt. Departments.

Vishal Jolly...

(From page 1)

vital steps that are being undertaken by the A & N Administration to ensure that the situation is improved considerably.

Another burning issue of the pathetic condition of National Highway (NH-4) in the North & Middle Andaman region. The problems that are being faced by the commuters were placed elaborately.

In response to this issue, the Chief Secretary reportedly informed that this

issue is under active consideration of the A & N Administration all necessary steps are being undertaken in this regard. Furthermore, he himself had ascertained condition of NH 4 during his recent visit & said that the Managing Director of the NHIDCL would arrive soon in these Islands and all issues would be discussed & sorted out. He further assured that the Administration would ensure that the project is completed soon in the best way.

Durga Puja...

people of Diglipur. People in Diglipur become excited in the religious fervor days before Durga Puja every year.

As per report, Durga Puja were celebrated at three places in Diglipur Bazaar area- the first being the oldest one at Diglipur Vegetable Market, second at Children Park and the third one at Madhupur Road. Sharodotsav was also celebrated at Aerial Bay and Kalighat as well. Durga Puja started on 1st Oct and, though it culminated on 5th Oct, the festival continued till yesterday.

During this festival, regular puja & archana, bhog, aarti, dhunuchinaach were performed with much fervor. Apart from this, cultural pro-

grams were held in which local artists as well as astringents from the mainland performed and displayed their artistic talent on the stage in the premises of the week long Sharodotsav here.

"Indeed, the festival attracted huge crowds of devotees from different communities and languages to attend Durga Puja. From children to the elderly, everyone was seen to enjoy the Puja, while many non-Bengalis and people from other religions thronged the festival here, ensuring a cultural mingling and it was really good to watch it", opined a participant of a cultural program in the evening. However, tears welled up in the eyes of the

women devotees when the time came to immerse the Goddess Durga today in the evening. Before the immersions, women took part in the 'SindoorKhela' ritual, smearing vermilion on each other in all the three Puja pandals. Devotees offered sweets and prayers to the goddess while the women and young swayed merrily to the rhythmic beats of the dhak (drums).

People were seen exchanging greetings on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami. The local Administration deployed police to escort the processions to ensure that immersions were completed at the earliest, the report further said.

(From page 1)

Cultural Fest...

was a theme-based Dance Drama 'Jai Maa Aadishakti' presented on 4th October, 2022 (Mahanavami) by JhumurrNrityangan, Directed & Choreographed by Classical Dance Exponent Mrs. Sonali Podder. The Chief Guest on the occasion Ms. Nandini Paliwal, IAS Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Shipping), Andaman & Nicobar Administration appreciated the presentation and

congratulated one & all involved in organizing the Cultural Programmes on eve of Durga Puja/Navaratri. As a mark of appreciation, Mementos were also handed over to all participants/artists by the Commissioner (Shipping).

Capt. Atul Kumar Singh, Director of Shipping Services and Mr.B.C.Sarkar, Marine Engineer were also present alongwith other dig-

nitaries and officials. The programmes also included Dandiya and theme-based Dance Recitals by departmental staff besides Musical Show by various prominent Artists of the Islands. The programmes were witnessed and enjoyed by large gatherings on both the days. Concept, Programme Design & Coordination of the Cultural Fest was by the Creative Director, Mr.Ashees Poddar.

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GENERAL BODY...

were discussed and deliberated. The audit report of the MWEU for the period 14.08.2019 to 05.10.2022 was also presented before the General Body for concurrence. The new Committee of the MWEU was constituted unanimously by the General Body with Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, MP as President, Mr. MT Khalid,

Mr. Venkat Rao, Mr. N Akbar Ali, Mr. K Ganeshan, Mr. Aboobacker, Mr.Shadevan, Smt. Ratna Kannan, Smt. Zubaida Begum as Vice President, Mr. M Yousuf & Mr. Gyan Prakash Krishna as General Secretaries, Smt. Raswanti as Treasurer besides four Secretaries, four Organising Secretaries, four Joint Secre-

taries and 25 Executive Members. The General Body meeting of the Marine Works Employees 'Union was also addressed by Mr. MT Khalid, Mr. M Yousuf, Mr.Shadevan and Mr. Gyan Prakash Krishna who presented the activities of the Union and highlighted various needs and aspirations of the workers of the Government Dockyard.

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