

## Massive Fire Reported from Swaraj Dweep five shops damaged

**John Wilbert  
& Vikramaditya**  
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Nov 24: A massive fire was reported at 05.58 AM at Panchayat Shopping Complex building near Govind Nagar main Bazaar Swaraj Dweep this morning. Five shops in the wooden building reportedly sustained damages due to fire. However there is no report of any injuries.

The control room of the Swaraj Dweep Fire Brigade received the fire call at around 05.58AM and soon,



fire tenders were pressed into service along with a team of firefighters.

The building reportedly had around 12 shops and it is believed that fire started from a fast food shop and

soon the fire spread to nearby Barbar shop, Cold Drink Shop and two other stationary shops.

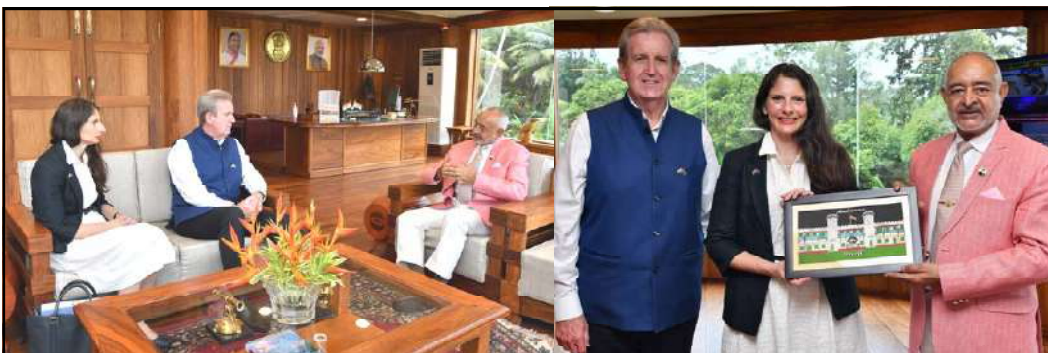
Massive flames were seen rising out of the (See page 6)

## Why Such Cover-ups? Who is Ashamed of Port Blair city?



**Vikramaditya**  
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Nov 24: When- (See page 6)



Delegation led by Australian High Commissioner to India and Ambassador to Bhutan Hon'ble Barry O' Farrell, including Australian Consul-General, Chennai Ms Sarah Kirlaw & 4 members currently on visit to A&N Islands for G20 India briefing event, 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 avenues for furthering interaction with Andaman & Nicobar Administration, including Education links, Trade & Investment relationship, under aegis of the India Economic Strategy and Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement.



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## PRI members of South Andaman region meet Secretary (Health) to Discuss Problems of Non- Availability of Ultrasound Facility in CHC Bambooflat

Port Blair, Nov 24: A delegation led by Miss V.K.Mariyam Bibi Zilla parishad member, Bambooflat along with Mrs. Dhana Rekha, ZPM Shorepoint, Mr. A. Ummer ZPM, Wimberlygunj and Mrs. Rasheeda bibi Pradhan Hopetown met Mr. Arjun Sharma, IAS Secretary (Health) yesterday and discussed about the problems being faced by the patients due to non- availability of ultrasound facility in CHC Bambooflat for last few days due to transfer of doctors from CHC Bambooflat.

They requested one Radiologist to take ultrasound at least once in a week as the public has to wait for a long



time to get a date for ultrasound at GB pant hospital. They also demanded for one Pediatrician to be appointed at CHC Bambooflat for taking care of child's health. They expressed their gratitude towards the Secretary (health)

and DHS for providing Gynecologist, Surgeon at CHC Bambooflat for giving better health care facilities to the people.

The Secretary assured the delegation to do the needful at the earliest.

## Mr. Vishal Jolly Conducts Meeting at Katchal Island

Port Blair, Nov 24: As part of the 05 days tour to Nancowry Group of Islands, Mr. Vishal Jolly National Executive Member-BJP held a series of meetings at Katchal Island on 22.11.2022 in MRN Tribal Village, E-Wall Tribal village, Sri-Lankan Settler community.

During the interaction, Mr. Arun 1st Captain, Mr. Shankar Samsung, Vice Chief Captain and Mr. Philip 1st Captain and Tribal community members were present in the meeting. During the interaction, the villagers put forth their grievances in the meeting and he assured them of making all the efforts to redress their grievances at appropriate level.



Further interaction with Katchal Sri-Lankan Settler community he enquired about the difficulties faced by them and they asked about the

resettlement progress, Jolly assured and informed that the resettlement process is in final stage, it will be implemented as early as possible.

## BJP senior leaders discuss burning issues of Great Nicobar Villages

Port Blair, Nov 24: Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, BJP A&N Islands along with Mr. Sanjay Singh, State Vice President during their ongoing visit to Nicobargroup of Islands along with Local Leaders chaired Organizational meet of party workers at Gandhinagar Village, Laxmi Nagar village, Shastri Nagar Village and discussed



various burning Issues concerning the villagers.

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## No COVID positive cases detected

Port Blair, Nov. 24: No COVID positive case has been detected today in A&N Islands. Today, 16 flights with 2,413 passengers arrived, out of which,

2302 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 64 passengers and the reports are awaited.

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## Mr. Vishal Jolly Hoists BJP Party Flag at Katchal

Port Blair, Nov 24: Mr. Vishal Jolly National Executive Member BJP hoisted BJP party flag at Katchal Settler Basthi Milder Village, on 23.11.2022 in presence of representatives of Katchal Settler Welfare Association, residents and party workers. Party ideology reaches even the remotest part of the Country.



## Arms license holders directed to deposit their arms & ammunition

Port Blair, Nov. 24: In view of the upcoming VVIP visit, all the arms license holders under the jurisdiction of South Andaman District have been directed to deposit their arms & ammunition to the con-

cerned Police Station with immediate effect till Nov. 27 as per section 21 (1) of the Arms Act, 1962. Action as per law will be taken, in case of non-compliance/ violation, a press release from DM (SA) said.

## Change in Sailing Programme of MV Swaraj Dweep

Port Blair, Nov. 24: Due to administrative reasons, the scheduled sailing programme of MV Swaraj Dweep from Port Blair to Vizag on Nov. 25.11.2022 has been postponed. Now, the vessel will sail for Vizag on 26.11.2022 at 1000 hrs from Haddo Wharf. Excess baggage will be loaded from 1400 hrs to 1600 hrs on Nov.25, 2022 i.e. one day prior to sailing of the vessel.

Embarkation of passengers will commence from 0800 hrs to 0900 hrs on Nov.26, 2022. The embarkation of passengers will be closed one hour before the schedule time.

Passengers reporting late will not be allowed to board the vessel. Passengers are strictly advised to reach well in time as the embarkation of passenger and excess baggage will be closed one hour before the scheduled time. Similarly, the vessel will sail for Port Blair on 30.11.2022 at 1600 hrs from Vizag Port instead of 29.11.2022. Passengers can also get update/status from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by dialing phone number 03192-245555/232714 & Toll Free Number 18003452714 & Vizag Counter Number 0891-2565584/2562661/2569404.

## Mr. Vishal Jolly Express Gratitude towards the Chief Secretary

Port Blair, Nov 24: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP-ANI has expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration for considering the request for

allocation of more seats in Port Blair CTET Examination & more Examination Centers in order to ensure & allow all aspiring students to appear for the CTET exam, by pursuing the matter with CBSE. Accordingly, ca-

capacity has increased by allocation of additional 3000 seats in Port Blair CTET examination center.

Now all the candidates of our Islands can appear for this examination in Port Blair without any hurdle.

## CITU State Conference at Port Blair

Port Blair, Nov 24: The 9<sup>th</sup> Andaman & Nicobar State Conference of CITU will be held at Port Blair on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The Conference will begin with the Open Session at Tiranga Park in the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. A massive procession will take out from Tiranga Park at 3.30 p.m on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 which will converge into a public meeting at 4.30 p.m. at Tiranga Park Mr. AK Padmanabhan, All India Vice President of CITU will inaugurate the Open Ses-

sion. The Delegate Session

of the Conference will begin at Atul Smriti Samity Hall (Bengali Club), Port Blair at 9.30 am on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The venue of the Conference has been named after late. Ranjana Nirula, the former leader of the CITU while the Manch of the Conference has been named after late VK Krishnadas, a prominent trade union leader of Middle Andaman. About 125 Delegates and Observers from different parts of the union territory representing a number of trade unions will attend the Delegate Ses-

sion. General Secretary, State Committee will present the report on the functioning of CITU for the last 3 years while the Treasurer will present the Audited Accounts. Delegates will participate in the discussion on the Report and Audited Accounts. The 9<sup>th</sup> State Conference is being held after 3 years of the last Conference held in November, 2019. The Delegate Session is expected to discuss various demands of the working class and adopt resolutions on it. The new State Committee of the CITU will also be elected in the Delegate Session.

## Food Processing Training Organizes by Unnati with the Support of NABARD at Chouldhari

Port Blair, Nov 24: The valedictory function of Food Processing training organized by Unnati with the support of NABARD at Chouldhari concluded on 22-11-2022. On this occasion Mrs. Pramila Kumari Adhyaksha Zilla Parishad was the Chief Guest and Mr. H. Manoj General Manager NABARD was the Guest of Honour.

Mrs. Tapasi Saha Pradhan Chouldari Gram Panchayat while welcoming thanked NABARD and Unnati for imparting Food Processing training as excellently

(See page 6)



## 10 days workshop for teachers teaching Hindi

Port Blair, Nov. 24: The Central Institute of Hindi, Hyderabad Centre in collaboration with State Institute of Education, Port Blair will be conducting a 10 days workshop for teachers teaching Hindi (GTTs) under Education Department A & N Administration on the T o p i c 'Navikaran Patyakram' to be held from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in the conference Hall of Shiksha

Sadan Port Blair from 8:30 am to 4pm.

Fifty-six GTTs from nine Educational Zones will be participating in the training programme. As a resource person - cum -coordinator, Dr. Gangadhar Vanode, Regional Director and 2 other resource persons of Central Institute of Hindi, Hyderabad Center will be performing their duties. The objective of this

programme is to introduce modern techniques related to language teaching. Various aspects related to the state-of-the-art tools and techniques of language teaching will be discussed during the workshop covering the courses viz. General linguistics; Structure of Hindi Language; Teaching of linguistic skills; Language Comparison Method and teaching and lesson planning; Textbook analysis and project work etc.



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## Annual Science fair 'ASTHRA' of VKZPV Port Mout held

Port Blair, Nov. 24: Vivekananda Kendra Zilla Parishad Vidyalaya, Port Mout conducted its Annual Science Fair titled 'ASTHRA-2022' recently along with the celebration of Vivekananda Kendra's founder Mananeeya Eknathji Ranade's Birth Anniversary as 'Sadhana Diwas'. 'ASTHRA - 2022' was inaugurated by Smti. Pramila Kumari, Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman as the chief guest. Shri. Abdul Bashir, Up-Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman was the



guest of honour.

In her address, the Adhyaksha appreciated the efforts and good team work of the students, teachers and parents.

Earlier, the Principal, VKZPV, Port Mout, Shri S. Rajkumar welcomed the gathering. A total of 98 models were exhibited in the ASTHRA for competition which were evaluated by Post Graduate Teachers of GSSS, Port Mout. Large number of visitors from neighboring school students, parents and public visited the fair.

## Special 3D show by Science Centre

Port Blair, Nov. 24: The Science Centre at Goodwill Estate, Corbyn's Cove Road will be organizing a Special 3D show at 5 pm & 6 pm on 26th November, 2022 with entry fee of 20/- per head. Further, there will be a

'Bubble show' on 26th November, 2022 at 5.30 pm. This is a fun filled show specially designed for all age group to enjoy with their kids.

During the programme, the demonstrator will prepare varieties of

bubbles right from tiny bubble to giant bubble, children's most favorite doraemon bubble to the cubic bubble caterpillar bubble, fire bubble & many more. The entry fee for the bubble show is Rs. 10/- per head.

## Advisory for B.Tech students

Port Blair, Nov. 24: As per the communication received from the Pondicherry University the B.Tech students admitted from the academic year 2006-07 to 2014-15 (Serial 27, 28, 29, 30, 10, 10T, 11T, 12T, 13T, 14T) who could not complete the course within the maximum duration prescribed in the respective University regulations are being granted two additional chances to complete the programme in the University Examination to be held for July 2022 and Dec 2022 session. The registering students have to pay a fee of Rs. 5000/- as Registration Fees and Rs. 1000/- as fee for each theory / Practical

Paper.

The students who are willing to appear for the exam are informed to contact their respective Academic Member of concerned Department of the Institute / Academic Cell to register their name for the above schedule examination before 28th Nov 2022. Further that the students who are willing to register for the above mentioned exam may contact the Academic Member of the concerned department for examination registration and also pay the examination fees as prescribed by the University during the time of examination registration.

## Admission counseling for B.A.LL.B Degree Course

Port Blair, Nov. 24: Admission counseling for B.A.LL.B., (Five Year Integrated) Degree Course offered in Andaman Law College will be held on Dec. 2 at 9 am in Andaman Law College Auditorium. Interested candidates who had already

applied for the course have been requested to be present for the counseling at the designated time, date and venue with all original certificates. Failure to attend the counseling on the date mentioned above will forfeit their claim for admission.

## Three-day residential training- cum -hand holding program for Middle Management



Port Blair, Nov. 24: A three-day residential training- cum -hand holding program for Middle Management (L-2) Laboratory Staff of Water Quality Testing Laboratories of A & N Islands was organized by Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Delhi from Nov. 22 to 24, 2022 at Chief Engineer Office, APWD, Port Blair. The training program is a part of capacity building program under Jal Jeevan Mission funded by National Jal Jeevan Mission MoJS to strengthen Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance in rural area to ensure safe drinking water to rural area of A & N Islands.

Training program was attended by the Chief Engineer, other higher officials of APWD and resources persons from Shriram Institute. Director (Water), NJJM, MoJS, New Delhi and Director, Shriram Institute of In-

dustrial Research, Delhi also attended the inaugural program online.

During inaugural ceremony, the Director, NJJM, New Delhi expressed happiness for organizing this training program at Port Blair and requested all participants to learn from experts team during training session and implement in the field so that they can lead in water quality surveillances in the country.

Dr Mukul Das, Director, Shriram Institute for Industrial Research in his introductory speech elaborated on the need of regular training and role of his institute being played in this field. He expressed happiness over appointment of Shriram Institute as KRC by MoJS, New Delhi for the challenging task for organizing training on water quality all over India.

The Chief Engineer, APWD in his address thanked

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

No. PN/DB/CD-I/RGT/2022-23/3936 dated 21<sup>st</sup> November'2022

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division-I, A.P.W.D., Rangat invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate bid from the approved and eligible Contractors of the Andaman PWD or for all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks: -

**NIT No. 26/DB/CD-I/RGT/2022-23e-Tender ID No. 2022\_APWD\_8219\_1**  
**Name of work.** Desilting of old dam at Kadamtala (Phase-II) in lieu of providing and fixing chain link fencing around old dam catchment area camp-3 at Kadamtala( 3<sup>rd</sup> call). **Estimated Cost:Rs. 44,60,666/- Earnest Money Rs. 89,213/- &Time of completion: 03 Months, Last Date of Submission of bid 12.12.2022 at 3.00 PM.**

**NIT No. 40/DB/CD-I/RGT/2022-23e-Tender ID No. 2022\_APWD\_8220\_1**  
**Name of work.** Improvement of rural road from NH to VKV School (L-520) under SD-II, CD-I, Rangat. **Estimated Cost:Rs. 47,55,435/- Earnest Money Rs. 95,109/- &Time of completion: 03 Months, Last Date of Submission of bid 12.12.2022 at 3.00 PM.**

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [eprocure.andaman.gov.in](http://eprocure.andaman.gov.in)

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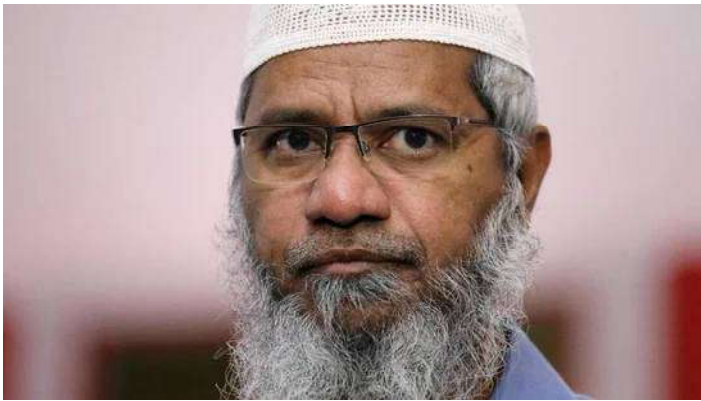


## What Qatar told India on 'invite' to Zakir Naik for FIFA World Cup

The Narendra Modi government on Thursday said it has raised the issue of fugitive Islamic preacher Zakir Naik with the Qatar authorities, this after reports of him receiving an invite for the 2022 FIFA World Cup by Doha sparked a controversy.

"The issue of Zakir Naik being wanted has been raised with Qatar", Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson, ministry of external affairs, was quoted by ANI. "Qatar has told India that no invitation was extended to Zakir Naik to attend the FIFA World Cup 2022", Bagchi added.

Hindustan Times had learnt that The Modi government had clearly told Doha that New Delhi would be forced to call off the visit of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to attend the FIFA World Cup opening ceremony if the reports of Naik being formally invited for the event was true. Qatar through diplomatic



channels informed India that no invitation was extended to the banned Islamic preacher and the entire 'disinformation' campaign was being carried out to spoil ties with India. Dhankhar did attend the event on November 30 and left for India the next day after meeting the Indian blue collar workers who helped build the stadiums for the marquee event. Zakir Naik is wanted in India for money laundering and hate speech charges. He fled India in 2016 after terrorists who attacked a cafe in Dhaka and killed 22 people, said they were his ad-

mirers. In November that year, the Centre banned him and his organisation Islamic Research Foundation for five years. He is currently in Malaysia and has secured a permanent residency. In March this year, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declared his IRF an unlawful organisation under UAPA. India has also sent a request to Malaysia for Naik's extradition as he is believed to have been involved in the 2020 Delhi riots. He is banned in the UK and Canada for his hate speeches and is among the 16 banned Islamists in Malaysia.

## Priyanka Gandhi, her son, husband join Bharat Jodo Yatra



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, her son, Raihan Vadra, and husband, Robert Vadra, on Thursday joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra on the second day of the Madhya Pradesh leg of the party's biggest public outreach Rahul Gandhi is leading in years from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

The march resumed from Borgaon village on Thursday amid tight security as hundreds of Congress supporters flocked to catch a glimpse of the members of the Vadra-Gandhi family. Sachin Pilot also joined the foot march amid calls for leadership change in Rajasthan, where polls are due next year. The Congress is left with a small window for any possible change of guard even as a section of the party is opposed to the change close to polls.

An attempt to replace chief minister Ashok Gehlot and to install Pilot as his successor failed in September after the proposed meeting of the legislative group could not be held. Pilot loyalists expect a decision would be taken before the yatra's Rajasthan leg begins in the first week of December. The yatra will cover 380 km in Madhya Pradesh before entering Congress-ruled Rajasthan. The main yatra will cover six districts. Fifteen "sub yatras" each covering close to 300 km across 52 districts will also be taken out.

The yatra will cover Madhya Pradesh's Malwa-Nimar region, where Congress performed well in the 2018 polls. The Congress went on to form the government before chief minister Kamal Nath lost power following a rebellion in 2020.

## 'Sachin Pilot a Gaddar... Rs 10 crore was distributed': Ashok Gehlot

Ashok Gehlot's angst against Sachin Pilot is out in the open again. In one of the sharpest criticism of the fellow Congress leader, the Rajasthan chief minister on Thursday called Pilot a "gaddar" (traitor), during an interview with NDTV. "A gaddar (traitor) cannot be chief minister... the Congress high command cannot make Sachin Pilot the chief minister... a man who doesn't have 10 MLAs. Who revolted. He betrayed the party, (he) is a traitor," Gehlot said. Infighting between Gehlot and Pilot over the post of chief minister has been going on for a long, an issue which has triggered two political crises in four years of the Congress government. Gehlot's statement comes days after Vijay Singh Bainsla, the Gurjar Arakshan Sangharh Samiti leader, threatened to oppose Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Rajasthan unless his demands, including making Pilot, a prominent face from the community, the chief minister are accepted.

Gehlot also attacked Pilot for not apologising to the party's high command over the revolt in 2020. The veteran leader also said the Congress can replace him with any of its 102 MLAs in Rajasthan except Pilot if the

top leadership feels that the prospects of the party would improve in next year's assembly poll. When asked about the rebellion by Gehlot's loyalists in September, the chief minister said, "I am telling you. They (Rajasthan Congress MLAs) were angry because the news was spread that Sachin Pilot will be made chief minister. He himself also behaved this way. People thought he is going to be chief minister... Pilot called many MLAs, he said you leave it to the high command, an observer will come to take your views. So, the MLAs felt that there may be a one-line resolution today, tomorrow will be the swearing-in (of Pilot). Because of this rumour, all of them gathered there." Gehlot alleged that Pilot had met in Delhi with two senior Union ministers. "Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan were involved. They (Pilot included) had a meeting in Delhi," Gehlot alleged, adding that "some got ₹5 crore, some ₹10 crore".

"In fact, the money was picked up from the BJP office in Delhi," Gehlot claimed, adding that the Pilot camp was visited by Pradhan at a time when the Congress emissaries were not given access. When asked what was their issue if Pilot becomes

chief minister, Gehlot said, "How could they bear making Pilot chief minister? People who suffered for 34 days, we know how we survived the 34 days. We had to protest at Raj Bhavan. I was also present there. We worked hard to save the government... A man who doesn't have 10 MLAs.

Who revolted, who has been called a traitor. He betrayed the party and is a traitor. How can people accept him?" He said one will never find an example where a party president "tries to topple his own government". "The whole game was theirs. ₹10 crore was distributed by the BJP. I have proof," Gehlot said. Rajasthan BJP chief Satish Punia has, however, denied the charge that the saffron party was involved in paying money to Congress legislators in 2020 to defect. There have been murmurs in the Rajasthan Congress over a possible change in the leadership, but the same is being resisted by another section too. Gehlot has been saying that the 90 MLAs who had saved the government during Pilot's rebellion are loyal to the party's high-command and not to him. He said the legislators wanted Pilot to at least apologise to the party's high command and the people of Rajasthan.

## Indian-origin teen stabbed to death in Canada's high-school parking lot



An 18-year-old man of Indian descent was stabbed to death Tuesday in a brawl at a high school parking lot in Canada. According to news agencyh PTI, Mehakpreet Sethi was attacked outside the Tamanawis Secondary School in Surrey after a fight with a 17-year-old boy.

"Police arrived within minutes and immediately began life-saving measures," spokesperson Vanessa Munn said. Sethi was subsequently rushed to a hospital but died from his injuries. Police believe Sethi and the boy who stabbed him

knew each other and the killing is being treated as an 'isolated incident', Sgt Timothy Pierotti from the police's Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), was quoted in the PTI report.

The suspect was apprehended after being identified by witnesses. The principal said Sethi was not a student at the Tamanawis Secondary School, and that students who saw or feel they have been affected by the act will receive support. HIT has called on these students to come forward with any information they may have.



## Supreme Court to unveil portal for RTI information today: CJI DY Chandrachud

The Supreme Court's online Right To Information (RTI) portal will be fully operational from today, chief justice DY Chandrachud said Thursday morning. The portal is expected to make it convenient for people to access information about the court. At present, RTI applications aimed at the Supreme Court have to be filed via post. The chief justice is also the chairman of the e-committee, which works towards adoption of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by the judicial system in India. One of the

committee's primary objectives is to make information easy to access for stakeholders. Earlier this month the court said that since the portal is 'practically ready for being launched', it was disposing a petition filed by two law students seeking a mechanism to file Right To Information applications about the court online. The PIL said the committee had provided a mechanism for filing petitions online but did not provide the same when it came to filing of RTI applications. In 2019 the court stressed it is 'undebat-

able' that it is a public authority under the RTI Act as it said the office of the Chief Justice of India would be covered under the ambit of the law. "The Supreme Court of India, which is a 'public authority', would necessarily include the office of the Chief Justice of India and the judges, in view of Article 124 of the Constitution." "The office of the Chief Justice or, for that matter the judges, is not separate from the court, and is part and parcel of the Supreme Court as a body, authority and institution," it had held.

## Three-day residential...

Shriram Institute for Industrial Research for organizing the program at Port Blair said Engineers of APWD will be greatly benefitted from rich experience, deep knowledge and understanding of subject on water quality of the KRC.

The key resource persons/course coordinator from SIIR, Delhi who imparted the training were Dr. Vivek Narayan Singh, Head, Environment Division, SRI, Dr. Jagdish

Kumar, Senior Assistant Director and Shri Gaurav, Scientist, SRI.

The training programme comprises of theoretical lectures on standard laboratory procedures for testing of 11 parameters of water quality as per IS 10500 and hand holding session was organized at State Laboratory, CE's Office, APWD, Port Blair. About 42 Engineers and Laboratory

Staff from different Divisions of APWD participated in the program.

The participants expressed their happiness over the content of the training programme, especially the hand holding part which will help them in keeping their knowledge updated in the laboratory procedure. During the concluding session, certificates were distributed to all the participants.

(From page 4)

## Food Processing...

as she observed during her visits a number of times while training was on. She also said that the feedback received from the trainees about the quality of training was also commendable. She mentioned that the trainees are full of confidence and prepared to take part in a food exhibition/Mela going to be organized by NABARD in December 2022. She assured her full support to the trainees for displaying their products after arranging them a stall by Panchayat. During the interaction session, Mr. H. Manoj General Manager NABARD, Guest of Honor explained in detail about NABARD schemes including marketing support, various training programmes, assistance for formation SHGs etc. He also interacted with each trainee and all of them spoke very highly about the quality training being impacted by Unnati with the support of NABARD. They also expressed difficulties in obtaining food licenses due to delay in getting various clearance certificates from different Departments.

Mrs. Chaitali Roy Samiti

Member said the efforts of NABARD and Unnati for promotion of self-employment in rural areas through various capacity building and skill up-gradation training programs benefiting a lot particularly women groups with active involvement of PRIs.

Mr. C. Mohammed, President Unnati mentioned that through the Food Processing programme particularly marine and Coconut based value added products, there is good scope in A & N Islands as recommended by the Experts Committee constituted in the year 2006 by Govt. of India. As a follow-up action, the Administration associated Unnati with promoting food Processing. On the suggestions of Unnati, the Administration took various decisions for popularizing Food Processing which is to be implemented by the Industry Department in coordination with concerned Departments. He further mentioned that to resolve the problem in obtaining food license, a special session was arranged in the training programme for the benefits of the trainees and officials

of Industry Department and Pollution Control Committee were invited to highlight their respective sides to the trainees. From the lectures of the officials, it revealed that various clearances are mandatory for obtaining a food license to start food processing activities. The Industry Department may assist the trainees in obtaining various clearances from different Departments through the Single Window System established by the Industry Department during the year 2000 for the purpose. Industry Department may also consider to establish a common production center Departmentally or Panchayat with all Food Processing machines to use the same by trainees for production of items on nominal rent as was being done by Unnati till they have their own units in the Industrial Estate or on the land owned by them as most candidates after undergoing training are not in a position to establish units due to poor financial condition to procure Food Processing machines and equipment and difficulty in obtaining license etc. Use of Food Processing

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## Why Such...

(From page 1)

ever VIPs or VVIPs visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it is seen that several patches along the routes of VIP and VVIP movements are covered with green garden nets or white cloths, so that VIPs can't see anything beyond that.

Shops, Drains, old buildings, land sliding areas everything is covered, to give an impression that Port Blair city is cleanest city in this world.

But the million dol-

lar question is why such coverups? Why can't the Administration accept that several areas of Port Blair city need urgent attention from the Administration?

General public questions that if the Administration is ashamed to show some of the major patches of Port Blair city to VIPs and VVIPs then why the Administration doesn't take steps to set things right, instead of cover-ups, which anyway looks horribly bad.

## Massive Fire...

(From page 1)

building, causing panic in the area.

But firefighters extinguished the blaze and brought the situation under control.

The process to find the cause behind the fire is ongoing, but it is believed that the fire broke out due to a short-circuit in the main meter Box of the shops.

(From page 3)

machines are not being demonstrated because of closure of Unnati's training center due to litigation with the Industry department.

Mrs. Pramila Kumari Adhyaksha Zilla Parishad Chief Guest expressed her pleasure for the quality of training being impacted by Unnati with the support of NABARD and also appreciated trainees for their keen interest and active participation in learning process of preparing value added products and advised them to start and continue practices in production activities without wasting time so that they could improve the quality of their products. She also complimented the trainer of Unnati for imparting training so well. She appreciated NABARD and Unnati for conducting such a useful training programme involving PRIs. She expressed her confidence that the trainees would take up food processing as a self employment venture if required support extended to them. She assured the various problems raised by the trainees with regard to vari-

ous clearances for obtaining food license, marketing support including restart of sale-counter at Goalghar by the Directorate of Social Welfare and creation of common production center fulfilling all requirement of Food Safety Department would be taken up with concerned Departments. She also mentioned due to budgetary constraints, NABARD is not in a position to meet the training requirement of all Panchayats and added that she would explore the possibilities of meeting the training requirements after discussing with concerned Departments involving PRIs and also request Administration to arrange training on coconut based products with the support of Coconut Development Board, Kochin.

Certificates were distributed to trainees by Adhyaksha Zilla Parishad, General Manager NABARD and PRI Members. A vote of thanks was given by one of the best performing trainees Mrs. Saloka Mallick whose contribution was commendable in organizing the training programme so successfully.