

# ANDAMAN SHEEKHA

True Mirror of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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## Illegal Earth Cutting at Diglipur; District Administration of NMA takes swift Action

Trinath

Sheekha News Service

Mayabunder, Dec 26: An incident of illegal earth cutting and transportation was reported in Subhasgram village

(See page 6)



## CPI (M) Demands Shifting of Crocodiles from Inhabited Areas

Port Blair, Dec 26: CPI (M) has demanded to shift the crocodiles from all residential areas of A & N Islands to the Crocodile sanctuary. In a letter sent to the Lt. Governor,

(See page 6)



## Four Suspects Detained for Stealing Gold in pretext of Polishing Gold Ornaments



John Wilbert  
& Vikramaditya  
Sheekha News Service

involved in duping Islands and stealing gold in the pretext of shining the gold ornaments.

Port Blair, Dec 26: Four people have been detained by the police team of PS Pahargaon after it was reported that these people are

The matter came to light when two people went to various houses of Beadnabad area of South Andaman in order to offer their service of (See page 5)

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3.	AIRHOSTESS TRAINING	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
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7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
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## Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Visits Diglipur



**Rabindranath Biswas**

Sheekha News Service

Diglipur, Dec 26: The Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L. Murugan visited Diglipur on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. Dr. L. Murugan was given a warm reception by the local BJP leaders and the District Administration at Helipad here at about 10.00 AM.

As per report, Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, BJP State President, A & N Islands, Mr. Vishal Jolly, Ex-State Presi-

dent, BJP, A & N Islands and Member of Home Advisory Committee accompanied the Union Minister on his trip from Port Blair to Diglipur by chopper.

After a brief meeting in the Helipad Passenger Hall at V.S. Pally with the Deputy Commissioner, N & M Andaman, the Dr. L. Murugan directly proceeded to Durgapur Fishermen Colony where he was given a grand welcome by the Fishermen Community.

Though the joy among the fishermen was overwhelming at the visit of

the Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in the tiny colony, they had a number of grievances to submit before Dr. L. Murugan.

Presenting their grievances, fishermen of Durgapur said that they had come to Andamans before the colonisation of settlers of these islands, but reportedly much negligence was shown to them and no viable initiatives were taken for the development of these fishermen community. They also submit-

(See page 6)

## Swachtha Abhiyan Conducted by the AHHANI

Port Blair, Dec 26: On 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022, The Andaman Helping Hands, A&N Islands (AHHANI) has conducted the Swachhta Abhiyan in collaboration with Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC), GIZ Port Blair (India), Sree Sakthivel Murugan Youth Club (SSMYC), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and Allu Arjun Army Andaman (AAAA) at Marina Park Beach, Port Blair.

During this drive, 31 Vol-

unteers participated with a futuristic thought and total 23 bags of garbage were collected from Marina Park Beach which consisted of all types of mixed garbage like plastics materials, Alcoholic bottles, Juice bottles, Water bottles, Gutka wrappers etc.

Ocean sustainability is only the path of global prosperity. Cleanliness is the responsibility of every citizen of this country for healthy living and their

(See page 6)



## Beach Clean Up At Corbyn's Cove Beach

Port Blair, Dec 26: Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, Marine life, and local economies. A problem as big as plastic in the ocean requires a big response! So, by continuing the mission for a plastic-free and sustainable environment, Yuva Bharat Samaj Seva Charitable Trust organized a cleanliness drive on 25/12/2022 in collaboration with Naval NCC Cadets of JNRM College and Port Blair Municipal Council [PBMC] at Corbyn's Cove Beach.

Together they collected 223 Kg of Waste from the Seashore and segregated and collected it into 10 bags

(See page 6)

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## Mock Drill on COVID-19

Port Blair, Dec 26: As per the direction of GoI, all the Health Institutions across these Islands will be conducting Mock Drill on COVID-19 along with the rest of the country on 27.12.2022. The focal point

for the drill will be GB Pant Hospital Port Blair. Further, it is informed that Dr. Bharati P. Pawar, Hon'ble MoS (H), GoI will be the observer for the mock drill to be held at 11.00 AM at GB Pant Hospital Port Blair.

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## District President, BJP Diglipur Pays Tribute to Former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his Birth Anniversary



Port Blair, Dec 26: The District President, BJP, Diglipur, Mrs. Suniti Halder and BJP's other local leaders paid floral tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 98th birth anniversary.

Mrs. Suniti Halder spoke a few words on the occasion.

Atal Bihari

Vajpayee was born on December 25, 1924 in Gwalior. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday is celebrated as the 'Good Governance Day'. Vajpayee served three terms as the Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, (See page 4)

## Ration Rasheed Foundation Felicitates 02 Medalists of Federation Cup 2022



Port Blair, Dec 26: Members of Ration Rasheed Foundation felicitated 02 Medalists who participated and represented A&N Islands in the Federation Cup 2022 held at Agartala from 15 to 17 December. The team congratulated Mr. M Deepak Krishnan and Mr. Aman

Kumar Sharma who have secured silver medals in -71 kg and +91 kg respectively in Muaythai bouts. Mr. Shaikat Biswas, General Secretary also encouraged them to bring more laurels for our Islands and assured his all possible help in future, if needed.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tsunami

## Lt. Governor pays homage to those who lost their lives in the devastating Tsunami of 2004



Port Blair, Dec. 26: Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Vice-Chairman Islands Development Agency, Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.) today led the Islanders in paying homage to those who lost their lives in the devastating Tsunami of 2004.

At a solemn function organized by A&N Administration on the occasion of 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tsunami at the Tsunami Memorial at Water Sports Complex, the Lt. Governor placed wreath and offered floral tributes at the Memorial. This was followed by offering of floral tributes by

the First Lady of these Islands, Smt. Chitra Joshi, the Chief Secretary, A&N Islands, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, Adhyaksha, ZPSA, Smt. Pramila Kumari, DGP, Shri Neeraj Thakur, Chairperson, PBMC, Smt. U Kavitha, Councillors of PBMC, Senior Officers of A&N Administration. (See page 4)

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## CITU Union Wins 1/30<sup>th</sup> Pay Plus DA Case – Thousands of Workers to get Benefits

Port Blair, Dec 28: In a great relief to thousands of daily rated mazdoors working in various departments under the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, the Division Bench of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court sitting Circuit at Port Blair while disposing of the Appeal filed by the Govt. of India & A & N Administration has directed the Administration on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 that all DRMs under the Administration shall be granted the benefit of the 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA irrespective of the sanctioned posts/vacant posts.

The Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) vide their OM No. 49014/2/86-Estt dated 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1988, among

other things, had directed all the Ministries and departments under it that the casual workers be paid 1/30<sup>th</sup> of the pay at the minimum of the relevant pay scale plus DA. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration on receipt the said OM from Govt of India had forwarded the same to all the departments under it with the directions to implement it immediately. However, when the workers claimed this benefit, in individual cases, the Administration opposed to grant the benefit and the litigation went upto Hon'ble Supreme Court which rejected the contention of the Administration/Govt. of India. The matter was taken up with the A & N Administration and Govt. of India several times by the CITU A & N State Committee and A n d a m a n Sarvajani Nirman Vibhag

Mazdoor Sangh (ASNVMS), affiliated to CITU urging them to implement the 1988 OM of the Govt of India but no favourable decision was taken on the issue.

The ASNVMS had conducted a series of agitation including strike throughout the islands from 2014 onwards with the demand for grant of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA to all the DRMs working in APWD. But the BJP government at the centre and A & N Administration did not consider the demand of the workers to implement the Govt. of India's order of 1988.

However, in 2017, the A & N Administration came with a scheme for grant of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA to the DRMs and accordingly an Office Memorandum bearing No. 289 dated 22nd September (See page 6)

## "Jagriti" an initiative of N&M Andaman district police on "POCSO Act, Drug Abuse with special focus on carrier guidance" at Diglipur



Port Blair, Dec 28: "Jagriti" an awareness programme on the POCSO Act, Drug Abuse with Special focus on Carrier Guidance to school students of class IX to XII was organized on 23/12/2022 by North and Middle Andaman District Police in association with Sub-Divisional Legal Service Committee, N&M Andamanat school auditorium of VKZPV Diglipur. Hon'ble Additional District & Sessions Judge, Mayabunder Shri JimutBhan Biswas was the Chief Guest and Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, Superintendent of Police, N&MA District was the guest of honour. A gathering of 450 people constituting school students of VKZPV Diglipur, Govt. Senior Secondary School, Kishori Nagar, Diglipur & Subash Gram, Pradhans & PRI members, Anganwadi workers & Helpers, Police offi-

cials, representative of Medical field, Media persons and general public attended the awareness programme. Shri Lakshya Pandey, DANIPS, SDPO, Diglipur, Shri. R.P Pandey, Deputy Education Officer, Diglipur and Shri Mahadev Gain, UP-Adhyakash, N&MA and Zila Parishad Member of Subash Gram and R.K Gram constituency joined to make the programme successful. Hon'ble Additional District & Sessions Judge Shri JimutBhan Biswas emphasized on POCSO Act especially the safeguards of victim. Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, Superintendent of Police (D), Mayabunder highlighted on Carrier Guidance, drug abuse and POCSO Act. Hon'ble Additional District & Sessions Judge, Mayabunder Shri JimutBhan Biswas & Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, Superintendent of Police (D), Mayabunder interacted an

open interaction session with students, parents, PRIs and local media and addressed their question & issues. The School students of Govt. Senior Secondary School Kishori Nagar & Diglipur presented two "NukkadNatak" on the theme of Drug Abuse & POCSO Act. Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, Superintendent of Police (D), Mayabunder distributed presents & certificates to the students who performed NukkadNatak & to the teachers to encourage them to come forward for a societal course. 04 local fishermen who helped police in various activities were also felicitated by SP. At the concluding session Shri. Manimohan Hira, Principal of VKZPV Diglipur & PRI members expressed their gratitude to District Police for organizing such programme for the motivation and guidance to students. The program concluded with national anthem.

## LOST

I S SHIVA GANESH, S/o Shri K SHANMUGAM, R/o SUBHASHGRAM, DIGLIPUR, NORTH & MIDDLE ANDAMAN-744202 lost my ISLANDER IDENTITY CARD, bearing No.10103210214606 somewhere in PORT BLAIR on 11-11-2022. Finder may please contact: 9531987202.

## All missing people found alive after Austrian avalanche



The last two people unaccounted for after an avalanche in the Lech/Zuers skiing area in western Austria contacted authorities late on Sunday, and a search and rescue operation was suspended, the Austrian Press Agency (APA) reported on Monday. The avalanche occurred shortly before 3 p.m. (1400 GMT) on Sunday,

APA said, adding the initial suspicion that 10 people were buried by the avalanche was based on a skier's video. The avalanche occurred shortly before 3 p.m. (1400 GMT) on Sunday, APA said, adding the initial suspicion that 10 people were buried by the avalanche was based on a skier's video.

## Lt. Governor...

(From page 3)

tion, prominent citizens, school students and general public.

An all Religions Prayer Meeting (Sarva

Dharma Prarthana Sabha) and a two-minute silence were observed to remember those who lost their lives in the devastating Tsunami.

## District President...

(From page 3)



then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004. He was the first-ever

leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party to have become the nation's Prime Minister.





## Kavi Sammelan to mark the Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Port Blair, Dec 26: State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party, A&N Islands organised a Kavi Sammelan on 25/12/2022 at Kannada Sangha on the auspicious occasion of the Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the auditorium of Kannada Sangha. The programme was coordinated by Mr. M. Vinod, State Convenor of the programme along with Dr. R. Devdas and Mr. P. Sanna Rao, Co-Convenors. The following poets presented their poems on



the life of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Hindi, Bangla, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. Mr. A.K. Shukla, Mr. Ashok Kumavat, Mr. Karthiga Nathan, Mrs. Jharna Halder, Mr. Chandran Kokadan, Dr. Manju Nair, Miss Anita and

Mr. Bhanu Pratap Yadav. Mr. M. Vinod has thanked all the Kavi and Kaviyatri for their great support and to make the Kavi Sammelan a grand success. He also expressed gratitude towards President, Kannada Sangha for all their support.

(From page 1)

## Four Suspect...

polishing gold ornaments. As per details a few ladies agreed to polish gold but after they left the ladies realized some weight loss in the gold ornaments. Later on, people of the village caught both the accused and when they accepted that they were involved in duping people, information was passed to PS

Pahargaon. Soon both the people were detained and brought to PS Pahargaon. Later it is learnt that there are two more people involved in this scam and all four people are living in Garacharma area.

Soon all four people were detained and police are reportedly conducting further inquiry in this regard.

When contacted Mr. M. Varadharajan, Social Worker of Beodnabad said that both the accused, who were caught at Beodnabad were handed over to police by the local residents however, he demanded a detailed inquiry in this regard as the accused person had already visited many areas of South Andaman.

(From page 2)

## Union Minister...

ted a letter to the Union Minister, and according to their letter, they demanded for allotment of sites to the bona fide fisherman family and immediate action/step on "Model Fishermen Colony" at Durgapur. They also demanded in the letter to release the Subsidy amount against the purchase of D.A.T by all individual fishermen. Installation of C.C. camera in the premises/campus of Fishermen Jetty and their maintenance by the Dept. of Fisheries while providing street lights, pipelines lines and other basic facilities at Durgapur Fishermen Colony were other demands of the fishermen. The fishermen also demanded to increase the height of the Ramp of the Jetty. Further they stressed the need to stop the fishermen of the neighbouring countries who ventured for deep sea fishing activities crossing our International Maritime Boundary Line.

The beneficiaries from the locality shared their views with the Union Minister about how the various welfare schemes of the Union Government were useful to them, as well.

Dr. L. Murugan addressing the fishermen community in presence of the Deputy Commissioner, N &

M Andaman and other officials of the Fisheries Dept. said that under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana Scheme, an allocation of Rs 7.06 crore has been approved for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the financial year 2022-23.

The Union Minister of State Dr. L. Murugan instructed the Department Officials concerned to look into the grievances and make the fishermen's demands fulfilled within 3 months. Later speaking to the fishermen, he said that the Union Government has been implementing the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana Scheme to improve and ensure the livelihood of the fishermen in the country. This would bring about the Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the Fisheries sector in India during the financial year 2022-23, he added.

He further said that the Union Government has allocated a total of Rs. 32,000 crore for the welfare of fishermen, including Rs 5,000 crore for the Blue Revolution Project, Rs 7,000 crores for upgrading and modernising ports and Rs. 20,000 crore for the Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana

scheme.

Establishment of new Freshwater Finfish Hatchery, construction of new Rearing Ponds and new Grow-out ponds, construction of 10 ton capacity storage warehouse, development of cold storage and processing plant, provision of boats with refrigeration facilities to fishermen, provision of motorcycle with ice box, development of deep sea and traditional fishing industry would be considered by the Centre he added.

Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan said that Rs 7.6 crore have been allocated and approved for Andaman Nicobar Islands in the financial year 2022-23 for such works. Later the Minister visited the fish landing platform in the area.

Then, the Union Minister interacted with representatives in a program held in Radhagobinda Temple's Community Hall, Diglipur. District and Gram Panchayat leaders participated in this programme.

Later, Dr. Murugan went to Mayabundar where he addressed a public meeting in the evening and in which he listed out the various welfare projects being carried out in the respective areas, the report further said.

## ANTCC pays Shradhanjali to Tsunami Victims



Port Blair, Dec 26: The Andaman Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee has paid Shradhanjali to the Tsunami victims on 26th December 2022 at ANTCC Headquarter Gandhi Bhavan, Port Blair to deeply mourn silence for the people who have lost their lives in the Tsunami earthquake on 26th Dec 2004.

ANTCC President Mr. Rangalal Halder along with Chairman- Campaign Committee Mr. G. Bhasker garlanded the portrait of the

"Tsunami Memorial" followed by a Candle light & floral tribute by all Congress Senior leaders, BCC Presidents, TCC Members, Frontal Organizations, PBMC Councilors and the general public present there.

This day was observed with prayers given by the Priest, Pandits, Molana and Sikh Guru to mark with silences as nature has killed thousands of lives in the Tsunami Earthquake. All Congress Family prayed for the departed souls to be in eternal peace.

## 35th National under 09 Chess Championship 2022 Begins



Port Blair, Dec 26: The MPL 35th National under 09 Chess Championships-2022 begins today, the 25th December 2022 at Indore Public School, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

More than 300 players across India are participating in the prestigious event in which 3 young budding chess players, (two Boys and one Girl) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands viz Rohan Singh, a student of class III, Carmel Sr. Sec. School Port Blair, J

S Virat, a student of class IV VKV Lambaline Port Blair and Parnita, a student of class IV, Carmel Sr. Sec. School Port Blair are taking part in the prestigious event.

The event will be held for 9 days over 11 rounds under Swiss System in Classical time control from 25th December 2022 to 02nd January 2023. The total Prize money for the championship is Rupees five Lakhs which will be awarded among top twenty players in Boys & Girls Category.

## Illegal Earth...

(From page 1)

of Diglipur Tehsil where estimated quantum of 2125 cbm of earth material has been extracted from hilly land bearing survey no 49/P and was then transported to and dumped over land S No 292/1/3/2 by R. Rajashekhara.

District Administration took a swift action initiating a revenue case against the reported violation under Andaman and Nicobar Is-

lands Minor Minerals Rules, 2012 and penalty as deemed fit according to law will be levied against the violator.

The District Administration of North and Middle Andaman has adopted a zero tolerance policy against violation of such kind. A robust mechanism has been created to check illegal earth cutting operations across the district. All such incidents in the future will also be dealt with firmly hand.



# Ramolon Store: A Vocal for Local Initiative Inaugurated

Port Blair, Dec 26: Ramolon Store, a vocal for local brand and its flagship store was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Mr. Keshav Chandra IAS on 26 December in Port Blair. The store promotes local craftsmanship, art, culture, organic products of the islands. Many items such as artwork, organic soaps and oils, padauk wood items, bamboo handicrafts, Nicobarese mats, miniature models of important landmarks



of the islands, and sarongs are available for sale in the store. The concept is a pet project of Ms. Zainab Jadwet and Mr. Ebrahim Jadwet; in

coming years more retail outlets of the brand is expected to open in various islands. The brand is also available online soon at [www.ramolon.in](http://www.ramolon.in)

## Beach Clean...

(From page 2)

and handed it over to PBMC for appropriate disposal of collected waste. The cleanliness drive was graced and participated by Mr. P. Umamaheshwar Rao, JE, PBMC, and Mr. Aviral Saxena, Technical Expert, Giz. Further Mr. Aviral Saxena distributed cot-

ton bags among the participants to minimize the use of plastic bags and one-time-use shopping bags. And it's a good initiative by him to encourage people to use cotton bags during their shopping hours.

The members felt content that they could make a small

impactful contribution towards nature and its inhabitants. The aim to take the initiative further and create awareness among the families and societies so that all can contribute to keeping beaches and water bodies clean and not polluting them by throwing plastic and debris into them.

## CITU Union Wins...

(From page 4)

ber, 2017 was issued by the Additional Secretary (Labour)-cum-Labour Commissioner. In this OM, the benefit was sought to be granted only from the date of issue of the OM i.e. from 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017. It was also laid down in the said OM of 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 that the benefit of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA will be granted to DRMs against the vacant sanctioned posts. Accordingly, a large number of DRMs of APWD were extended with the benefit of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA while more than half of the workers were denied of the benefit.

In 2018, the Andaman Sarvajanik Nirman Vibhag Mazdoor Sangh (ASNVMS), affiliated to CITU, had filed a Writ Petition before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court, Circuit Bench at Port Blair, praying for direction to the Govt. of India/A & N Administration to extend 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA benefit to all the daily rated mazdoors working under the APWD. The Govt. of India/A & N Administration vehemently opposed the prayer of the Union. However, on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, the Circuit Bench of the Hon'ble High Court had directed the Administration and Govt. of India to extend the financial benefit of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of

pay plus DA Scheme to all the DRM workers from the date of their initial appointment as per the Govt. of India's order of 1988 irrespective of the stipulation of sanctioned/vacant posts, etc.

Challenging the High Court judgement of 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, the Govt. of India & A & N Administration filed an Appeal before the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court in February, 2020. The Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 had imposed a cost of Rs. 51,000/- on the A & N Administration for dilatory tactics adopted by the Administration which was paid to the Union by the Administration promptly. Again, the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2022 has imposed a cost of Rs. 1.25 lakh on the A & N Administration to be paid to the CITU-affiliated Andaman Sarvajanik Nirman Vibhag Mazdoor Singh (ASNVMS) within one week for the dilatory tactics adopted by the Govt of India and A & N Administration in pursuing the Appeal filed by them. The cost of Rs. 1.25 lakh was paid to the Union within the period as directed by the Hon'ble High Court.

While modifying the order of the single Judge of

the Hon'ble High Court dated 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, the Division Bench said that the benefits to the DRMs under the circular dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017 will accrue only with effect from the date of circular (OM) and not before that. The Division Bench has also upheld the order of the Single Judge that no distinction should be made between the DRMs working against the sanctioned posts and DRMs casually engaged by the State. The Hon'ble High Court has directed that the benefits be paid to all the DRMs under the Administration within a period of two months from date.

The Hon'ble High Court has also ordered that the Circular and process of framing of Scheme for regularization and every other benefit under the 1988 OM of Govt of India would mandatorily and positively be brought into fore within the next three months.

The BJP-led central government with a view to deny the benefit of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay plus DA to the poor workers has been engaging the Additional Solicitor General of India to defend this case. However, the Union was represented by Ld. Advocate Shri Gopala Binnu Kumar of Port Blair, a release issued by CITU said here today.

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## WANTED

Staff wanted for Upcoming Restaurant .

Waiters/ Steward - 2

Cook Indian /Chinese/tandoor – 1

Continental Cook - 1

Assistant cook – 1

Dishwasher -1

Only genuine candidates contact.

Contact- 9679518982, 9474237754

## CPI (M) Demands... (From page 1)

A & N Islands, Mr. D. Ayyappan, State Secretary of CPI (M) has further demanded that a policy decision may be taken not to release the hatchlings/baby crocodiles in the nearby areas of human inhabitation henceforth. He drew the attention of the Lt. Governor to the incident that occurred at New Manglutan recently in which a person was killed by the crocodile while fishing in the creek near his house.

5 Mr. Ayyappan along with other leaders visited the residence of the victim on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 morning and spoke to his family members, relatives and villagers assembled there. He stated in his letter that the area is inhabited by a large number of fishermen and fishing is their only income. The villagers informed Mr. Ayyappan that the above incident occurred due to the sheer callousness of the authorities concerned as no action was taken by the authorities to shift the crocodiles from the area to the Crocodile sanctuary despite requests by the

fishermen villagers. The incident occurred at a place 1 KM away from Guptapara Fish Landing Centre. It is surprising that the crocodiles were allowed to remain at a place where fishermen are fishing and inhabit. Mr. Ayyappan alleged that no concrete step was taken by the Environment & Forest Department of the A & N Administration or by the concerned Panchayat-raj institutions to shift the crocodile from the area because of which the instant incident occurred. He informed the Lt. Governor that the rescue operation launched by the Forest Department to save the victim was also not effective and it was reportedly conducted in a very casual manner. The family members of the victim and the villagers have reported to the CPI (M) leaders that no officer from the Administration visited their home or in the area after the tragic incident and it was left at the discretion of the lower level officials of the Forest Department. CPI (M) Secretary urged upon the Lt. Governor to issue necessary directions to the concerned authorities in this regard.

## Swachtha Abhiyan... (From page 2)

green future generation.

Volunteers raised slogans with great enthusiasm and patriotism like Clean Andaman -Green Andaman and Bharat Mata ki Jai at the end of the event.

Special thanks given to all volunteers and especially to Dr. Muruganandam,

'Scientist D', RMRCPB, ICMR and Mr. Aviral Saxena, Technical Advisor, GIZ, Port Blair for their participation and support. Andaman Helping Hands extends heartfelt gratitude towards PBMC for providing vehicle facility for removal and disposal of the accumulated garbage.