

# THE BULLET OF ANDAMAN



THE WEEKLY IN ENGLISH & TAMIL  
CHIEF EDITOR: A. TAMIL SELVAN

ISSUE - 43 PORT BLAIR MONDAY, 25-OCTOBER, 2021  
Vol-14 RNI Regd. No. ANDBIL/2008/25676 PAGE 06 Rs. 2/-

## Member of Parliament takes up 21 core issues of A&N Islands with the Home Minister

**Shri Kuldeep called on the Home Minister at Rajniwas during his visit to A&N Islands**

Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma called on the Union Minister of Home Affairs & Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at Raj Niwas and highlighted some core issues concerning the Andaman and Nicobar Islands & demanded their implementation in the larger interest of these Islands.

Among the issues he highlighted before the Hon'ble Home Minister, laying of second OFC line connecting Diglipur and Digha Island in West Bengal along with development of an IT Park in these Islands featured prominently in the list besides some other core issues concerning the welfare and development of these Islands. Excerpts from the letter are reproduced below:-

### 1. Establishment of IT park in A&N Islands and laying of 2<sup>nd</sup> OFC line from Diglipur to Digha in West Bengal, IT Park:

In order to protect and preserve the fragile biosphere of A&N Islands several environmental restrictions have been imposed by the Central Government and UT Administration of A&N Islands. This has caused restrictions on setting up of industries like Wood based industries, Sea sand extraction, stone mining and quarrying etc which were the major source for providing employment to the Islanders. Hence, there is a need to identify such industry which does not cause any environmental hazard and pollution capable of restricting the biosphere of the Islands. Unemployment is the major

concern for the Islanders, hence to solve the unemployment problems of the youths of the Islands and also to protect the environment, it is proposed to make A&N Islands an Information Technology hub with the development of Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs) /Call Centres/ Software Park under schemes like Digital India, Scheme for promotion of IT & ITes industries. A&N Islands will be conducive for fast pace development as an IT Hub/ IT Park due to its strategic location and proximity to several South East Asian countries like Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar etc. Such a step will be a big boost to employment generation, revenue generation and holistic development of A&N

Islands and will also aid the Act East Policy of the Government of India.

It is proposed that in the event of Govt. consideration for setting up of IT Park in A&N Islands, the place most suitable for the purpose would be Rutland Island which is in close proximity to Port Blair and having sufficient land and water for developing the said IT Park as Port Blair and other parts of South Andaman not having any vacant land available for development of the proposed IT Park. For this purpose approximately 3000 Acres of land may be earmarked with a budgetary provision of Rs.10,000 Crores for the project which will solve unemployment issue & generate revenue.

**Laying of 2<sup>nd</sup> OFC line from Diglipur to Digha in West Bengal :**

At present the internet facilities in A&N Islands is provided through Submarine Optical Fibre Cable System (CANI) laid between Chennai and Port Blair which has facilitated high speed and reliable connectivity in the Islands. The high bandwidth internet connectivity which the CANI network provides can hopefully usher in the arrival of a large pool of mainland-based IT & ITes investors into these islands. This will surely cater to the employment requirement of the local educated youth who are now working in various cities in mainland like Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi etc for IT & related jobs. While the high bandwidth internet would be a core requirement for the IT & ITes industry, the single

(Contd/-page.2...)

## Civil Society appeals for disbursal of unpaid salary to teachers of aided schools

**Alleged differences between management & Admn led to the non-release of Grant-in-Aid to schools: Sources**

Port Blair, Oct.24: In India, teachers are traditionally revered as Gods. Literatures have praised the teachers as patient like the earth; gentle like a flower; stable like a mountain only because of the onerous and noble job they undertake in nurturing the future of the Nation. It is literally said that, "he who is guided by a good guru will be able to realise God". Such is the relevance of teachers that the Government of India has placed them at a decent

pay level during the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC pay revision. But, a group of teachers working in the Island's two aided schools are left without pay for the last seven months. Nirmala Senior Secondary School in Port Blair and MES School in Stewartgunj are the two aided schools under the aegis of the Administration. These schools are getting grant in aid from the Administration ever since they were brought under the purview of government aided schools. Unfortunately, the

teachers at both these schools have not received their salaries for the last seven months.

In the meantime, sources privy to the matter alleged that, there are some issues between the respective management of schools & the Directorate of Education which has led to non-release of grant in aid to these schools for the last seven months. As it overlapped with the second wave of Covid19 lock down, the situation further

(Contd/-page.3...)

## CCS, Refurbished Main Branch Port Blair Inaugurated by Shri. Kuldeep, MP

**CCS launches Bumper Offer- Never before**



**Inauguration of Refurbished CCS, Main Branch, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair**  
By  
**Shri. KULDEEP RAI SHARMA**  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, A & N Islands  
On  
**23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2021 at 05.00 pm**  
In Presence of  
all the Board of Directors of CCS Ltd, Port Blair  
Smt. P. VEMANNA  
Chairman, CCS Ltd. Shri. P. VEMANNA  
Vice Chairman CCS Ltd.  
Shri. ABDUL SIDDIQUE  
Secretary CCS Ltd.

Port Blair, Oct.24: and Prabhari of Karnataka Hon'ble MP, AICC Secretary (Contd/-page.3...)

F.No.1-9/Store/2021-22/1768/

Dated 18, Oct' 2021.

## **CORRIGENDUM / EXTENSION OF DUE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER**

This is with reference to e-Tender Notice F.No.1-9/Store/2021-22/1615 Dated 25/09/2021 vide Tender ID: 2021\_BRAIT\_3934\_1 uploaded in eProcurement portal <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in> for "Upgradation, Retrofitting of HMT CNC Lathe STARTUN Model, HINUMERIK 2000T CNC System with latest make of CNC controller for turning centre, operating system windows 10 and above" at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Port Blair. The last date of submission of eTender has been extended up to 25/10/2021.

The details are as under:-

**Last date and time of tender submission: 25/10/2021 at 3:00 PM**

**Date & Time for Opening of Tender:- 26/10/2021 at 3:00 PM**

All other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.

R.No.IP:8137/21

**PURCHASE SECRETARY  
DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
PAHARGAON**

### **Member...**

CANI OFC Network will not boost the investor's sentiment in the absence of a parallel network as believed by industry veterans. Aspiring industria lists in IT & ITeS sectors are apprehensive of sudden breakdown or failure of the CANI OFC network which will paralyze the IT & ITeS industries. Even a single day of breakdown of CANI OFC would prove costly for the industry against temporary outages and connectivity failures. In view of the above, if a parallel net connectivity to A&N Islands through undersea OFC cable between Diglipur Islands in North Andaman and Digha in West Bengal which is the shortest distance between the two places, is provided, it will ensure uninterrupted connectivity even if the other grid fails due to any reason.

### **2. Setting up of Fisheries College in A&N Islands:-**

The A&N Islands have vast potential for fisheries development in view of its coastal length of about 1,962 Km which is approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of total coastal length of India and Continental shelf area of 35,000 Sq Km. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around this islands is about 6,00,000 Sq Km with an estimated Fishery potential is 2.43 lakh MT which is around 6% of our Country's total Fishery Potential. Of this 2.43 lakh MT, the coastal Tuna has the potential for the harvest upto 1 (one) lakh MT and Oceanic tuna and Tuna like fishes upto 0.82 lakh MT per annum. Tunas alone constitute 74.74% (1.82 lakhs MT) of total potential which remains unexploited in A&N waters which has tremendous demand in the international market and can be a source of revenue generation for the Islands besides generating employment opportunities. For augmentation of Fish production and to harvest the untapped fishery resources without affecting the fragile ecosystem, there is a need to have human resources development in fisheries sector in these Islands.

This can be achieved by setting up of a Fisheries college in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which can produce professional having knowledge in fish harvesting, processing, production, marketing and other fishing practices in

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the field of capture fishing and aquaculture.

### **3. Extension of the validity of documents related to Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 & Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989:**

The lockdown imposed by the GOI vide Ministry of Home Affairs Order No.40-3/2020-DMI(A) dated 24.03.2020 & subsequently by various State Governments and UT Administrations to prevent spread of COVID-19 pandemic has casted severe impact on the earnings of the people involved in the transport sector particularly for the auto rickshaw owner, small cab operators, van and bus owners etc. To cope up this and to have unhindered transport connectivity during the lockdown period, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had issued advisories dated 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, 24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020, 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 regarding extension of validity of documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and has advised that the validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), License, Registration or any other concerned document(s) might be treated to be valid till 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 and also consider relaxation in Permit fees and taxes etc.. In the above context, I am to submit that in A&N Islands as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of COVID-19, the lockdowns were imposed upto 25.08.2021. Hence, in these Islands unlike the other States and Union Territories the lockdowns imposed by the Central Government and the UT administration of A&N Islands stretched for a considerably longer duration of around 1 ½ (One and half) year. During this period of lockdown the earning for the commercial vehicles got marginalized or completely seized due to restrictions imposed on movement of men and materials. In A&N Islands the major source of earning for the permit vehicles are from the tourist visiting these Islands, which in real terms is yet to be picked up due to COVID-19 restrictions still being applicable for the visiting tourists and also because of very high cost of airfare which is due curtailment of numbers of flight

being operated in this sector. Hence, the permit vehicle owners approximately numbering more than 5,000 are still facing acute financial crises in sustaining their livelihood besides meeting other financial liabilities such repayment of loan taken from the banks for purchase of vehicles, payment of fees for their children etc. Further for renewal of tourist permit, obtaining fitness for the vehicles by attending to repairs and for other documentations under the relevant rules, the vehicle owners need to spend around Rs.40,000/- to Rs.60,000/- which is beyond their reach without having much income. Hence, it is requested that for A&N Islands considering the above peculiar circumstances, the extension of validity of documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and the validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), License, Registration or any other concerned document(s) may kindly be given upto 31.03.2022.

### **4. Subsidy in airfare for the Islanders between mainland and A&N Islands.**

A&N Islands being distantly located from the mainland of India and situated in the Bay of Bengal is circumstanced with various limitations and one such being the mode of transportation/communication between Island and mainland and its high cost. The people residing in these Islands for various obvious reason are very often required to visit mainland be it a social commitment, higher/professional education, medical treatment, employment etc. Journey by ship though being cheaper is inconvenient as it consume 3 to 4 days and the frequency is also very less i.e. once in a week or so. Hence, for Islanders, performing journey by flight has become a necessity owing to reasons stated above. Perhaps perceiving this, various air lines operating in the Andaman – Mainland sectors are changing exorbitant fares. A flight journey of approximately 2 hours in mainland sector at any given point of time will cost around Rs.5000 or so, whereas in Port Blair – Mainland sector it average around Rs.10000 and goes as high as upto Rs.50000. Such high cost of air fare also circumsvents flow of tourists and our Islands are witnessing appreciable increase in the tourist traffic.

Hence, in view of the above given explanation, you are requested to look into the matter and prevail up on the authority concerned to extend subsidy in the air fare. Ideally, airfare of Rs.5000 for Port Blair–Chennai/Kolkata/ Visakhapatnam would be reasonable for the Islanders and justified for the Airlines too.

### **5. Construction of bridge over sea connecting Chatham & Bamboo Flat.**

There is an eminent need for constructing a bridge from Chatham Island to Bambooflat to facilitate uninterrupted and fast movement of men and materials through road transport which is presently being carried out by means of boats and vehicle ferries. Construction of said bridge will also save the recurring expenditure now being incurred on operation & maintenance of the boats/vehicle ferries and port infrastructure. Considering the need of large number of office goers, students, general public including medical patients etc traveling to and fro from the rural area of Ferrargunj Tehsil and Port Blair, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Shri

Nitin Gadkari during his visit these Islands in the month of February 2015 promised to construct the bridge over the sea between Chatham Island and Bambooflat. Also the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during his visit to these Islands on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 while addressing the public gathering at Netaji Subash Stadium at Port Blair committed the people of the Islands to construct the said bridge. Therefore, it is requested that the commitment made by the central government at the highest level may kindly be honoured in view of eminent requirement for the bridge.

### **6.Setting up of Central University in A&N Islands:-**

Presently, the Institutions of higher education in the Islands are affiliated to the Puduchery Central University. Increase in number of higher educational institutions from the lone Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkanya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) to 06 (six) numbers consisting of Degree Engineering College, Medical College and Law College, besides 02 (two) Degree Colleges has necessitated the need to have a separate Central University for A&N Islands.

The absence of a full-fledged University in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is depriving the local students belonging to poor or marginalized sections of the society since they have very limited higher educational opportunities in the Islands and have to travel to mainland for higher education purpose which is a costly affair and difficult to bear. In order to realise the true potential of students of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there is an eminent requirement to establish a Central University in A&N Islands. The Government of India is requested to take necessary steps in establishing a Central University in Islands instead of a Deemed University which is an autonomous entity having complete liberty to decide the admission procedure and fees structure as well.

Hence, to revolutionize Higher Education and to provide a level playing field to the students of the Islands in comparison with other States and Union Territories of India, a Central University fully funded by the GOI and established by an Act of Parliament is the need of the hour. Such step of Govt. will also facilitate in making these Islands as an educational hub for the South East Asian countries which will lead to socioeconomic development of the A&N Islands and will also generate more employment opportunities for the Islanders.

### **7. Resettlement of Tamil settlers of Katchal Island.**

The GOI under the rehabilitation package scheme had settled around 48 Tamil families (229 members) of Indian origin in the tribal Island of Katchal during the period 1974 to 1976 and given undocumented half an acre of land, accommodation and employment on daily wage basis in rubber plantations of A&N Forest Development Corporation Ltd. According to a recent survey, the resettled Tamil population has reached around 1,000 in Katchal Island. Katchal, is declared as Aboriginal Tribal Reserve Area (ATRA) under the A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 meant to protect indigenous Nicobari tribes from economic exploitation by outsiders, hence cannot be accessed by

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## Civil...

worsened as many of these teachers are single earners of their respective families and non-payment of salary have pushed them into a state of impoverishment. According to sources, the teachers had initially believed to get their salaries soon as the delay were more common in aided schools. Now, the situation is something different with their salaries being put on hold for the last seven months.

According to a teacher of Nirmala School, she is the lone earning member of his family and non-release of salary for the seven months has left her traumatized as she is unable to meet the routine family expenses. She managed to run the family with the savings which hardly lasted for five months. Now, she is dependent on monetary

help from friends and relatives to run the family. Many families are in financial distress as passing every day has become an ordeal for them. Similar is the story of many other teachers too as the non-payment of wages have pushed them into a state of impoverishment, one of the teachers told this newspaper on condition of anonymity.

Now, the teachers have been constrained to stage a hunger strike demanding regularisation of salaries. It is very painful to see the Gurus being forced to sit outside the schools gates under torrential rain and scorching sun. Just because of the differences of opinions or any other procedural issues between the school management and the Directorate of education, helpless teachers cannot

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be held scapegoat. The Directorate of Education, being the regulating authority of private schools have the right to streamline the systems if found with any lapses. At the same time, their action should not deprive any one of his livelihood. What happens now is sheer deprivation of livelihood of poor teachers, a social worker on seeing the plight of the teachers said.

According to sources, there is no immediate solution at sight and the Directorate of Education is noncommittal about solving the issue. Its high time, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor & the respected Chief Secretary intervene into the matter and put to rest all differences between the management and Directorate of Education so as to protect the livelihood & interest of poor teachers.

## Vaccination drive continuing smoothly in A&N Islands

Port Blair, Oct. 23 The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As per data available, a total of 4,79,802 beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, out of the target beneficiaries of 2, 81, 603 (approx.). A total of 1,72,384 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till date. A total of 2833 people were vaccinated today in

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. 1696 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which 108 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. Similarly, 808 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District out of which 9 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44. 329 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District out of which 3 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44.

## "Swachh Bharat Campaign by Indian Reserve Battalion, A&N Islands"

A&N Police is organizing 10 days Police Commemorative events from 21<sup>st</sup> October till Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

These programmes are being held to spread awareness about the role, contribution and sacrifice made by the Police personnel in maintenance of internal security of the nation. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, India Reserve Battalion of Andaman and Nicobar Police organised a cleanliness drive at Mazar Pahad sea shore area in the presence of brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission, Padma shree awardee, Shri Naresh Chandra Lall, as part of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. A total of 70 IRBn personnel

of various ranks actively participated in the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' event after the office hours and removed the plastic and other garbage to make seashore area plastic free by disposing off all waste material in a systematic manner.

The motive behind cleanliness drive was to promote cleanliness, hygiene & also to sensitize the general public about the services rendered by Police personnel to the nation. Staff of IRBn segregated dry waste from wet waste and disposed off as per norms in coordination with PBMC. Efforts were made to involve local residents and to sensitize them. All protocols related to prevention & contain ment of spread of COVID-19 were observed during the event.

## CCS...

Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has inaugurated the refurbished self service CCS Ltd of Aberdeen Bazar on 23.10.2021 at 5.00 pm in presence of the Chairman, Secretary and board of directors of CCS Ltd and Shri. Ranglall Halder PCC President and the gathering of share holders and well wishers of the Society. The then Managing Committee of CCS was handed over it to the new committee as an empty gunny bag with huge unwarranted liabilities. However by the intervention of our MP the CCS has started its new journey to grab the market towards profits and faith of the share holders, a Director says. Along with this, the CCS, Port Blair is also launching one Bumper Offer. The offer shall commence from 23rd October, 2021 and shall be in force till 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. During the offer period, customers making a shopping of Rs. 2500/- and above from any of the CCS branch in South Andaman shall be issued a lucky coupon. A draw shall be taken on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at our main Branch Aberdeen at 5.00pm and the first few lucky winners

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can win exciting prizes.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - 02 Nos. Gold coin 8 grms, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - 02 Nos. 43" Mi Led TV, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Fridge 190 ltrs Kelvinator, 20 Consolation prizes 5Ltr Pressure Cooker. Prizes are

Sponsored by Spahj India

Trading Pvt Ltd, Chennai. CCS, Port Blair requests all Islanders to avail the offer and be a part of this momentous journey of regaining its lost glory.

## A&N State Cooperative Bank introduces Micro ATM Services at Bakultala



The Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank Ltd., has filled the digital gap by launching Micro ATM services on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Bakultala branch which is inter operable among all

branches and banks. This is the first ever Micro ATM services ever introduced by any bank in Bakultala.

It has lead the bank to provide door step banking services in the rural populace especially in the Bakultala region which will empower the customer to perform digital transaction like cash withdrawals, remittance & fund transfer through digital mode.

## **A&N Police observed Police Commemoration Day on 21<sup>st</sup> October to be followed by Commemorative events from 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021**



On 21.10.2021, Andaman and Nicobar Police held commemoration parade at Parade ground, Police Lines, Port Blair to pay homage to valiant Policemen who laid their lives at the altar of duties.

Senior Police officers led by Shri Satyendra Garg, DGP, Andaman and Nicobar Island laid wreath at Martyrs Column, Police Lines. Name of two Police personnel of Andaman & Nicobar Police, namely Y.Rama Krishna, ex-HC and Kawaldhari Yadav, ex-PC who lost their lives during the year were read out by DGP, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, during the mention of Police personnel who sacrificed their lives during the year in

the country. Police Commemoration Day is observed across the nation in memory of all the Police personnel who lost their lives in discharge of their duties. The history of Police Commemoration Day goes back to 1959 when on 21<sup>st</sup> October a patrolling party of CRPF was ambushed by Chinese soldiers at Hot Springs in Ladakh. Since then, every year, 21<sup>st</sup> October is observed as the Police Commemoration Day. As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in the year 2020, 377 Police personnel made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. From 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, Andaman and Nicobar Police will hold various commemora-

tive events including painting/drawing competition, Essay competition, Tree plantation, Police Band Shows, Awareness programme on Fire safety & security and Cleanliness drives to bring awareness in the general public about the services rendered by Police personnel in ensuring maintenance of public peace and tranquillity. Police forces work round the clock to maintain law and order, act as the first responder to natural disasters and general safety and security of the citizens. All citizens are requested to observe and participate in the events to respect the Police personnel who serve the society day and night for their safety.

## **Covishield may offer over 90% protection against death from Delta variant: Study**

Two doses of Covishield and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines may be 90 per cent effective at preventing deaths from the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Thursday. The study, using data from the Scotland-wide EAVE II COVID-19 surveillance platform, is the first to show across an entire country how effective vaccines are



at preventing death from the Delta variant, the dominant form of the virus

in many other countries. The research team from Universities of Edinburgh

and Strathclyde and Public Health Scotland analysed data from 5.4 million people in Scotland between April 1 and September 27, 2021.

During this period, 115,000 people tested positive for COVID-19 through a PCR test conducted in the community, rather than in hospital, and there were 201 deaths recorded due to the virus. The study found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is 90 per cent effective and the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India, is 91 per cent effective in preventing deaths in people who have been double vaccinated, but who have tested positive for coronavirus in the community.

"With the Delta variant now the dominant strain in many places worldwide and posing a higher risk of hospitalisation than previous variants seen in the UK, it is reassuring to see that vaccination offers such high protection from death very shortly after the second dose," said Professor Aziz Sheikh, Director of the University of Edinburgh's Usher Institute, & EAVE II study lead.

"If you still have not taken up your offer to be vaccinated, I would encourage you to do so based on the clear benefits it offers," Sheikh said.

The researchers defined death from COVID-19 as anyone who died within 28 days of a positive PCR test, or with COVID-19 recorded as a cause of death on their death certificate. The study analysed a dataset as part of the EAVE II project, which uses anonymised linked patient data to track the pandemic and the vaccine roll out in real time.

The researchers said to increase confidence in these early findings, the study needs to be repeated in other countries and settings, and with longer follow-up time after full vaccination. They noted that because of the observational nature of the study, data about vaccine effectiveness should be interpreted with caution and it is not possible to make a direct comparison between both vaccines.

"Our findings are encouraging in showing that the vaccine remains an effective measure in protecting both ourselves and others from death from the most dominant variant of COVID-19," said Professor Chris Robertson, from the University of Strathclyde and Public Health Scotland. "It is very important to validate these early results in other settings and with a longer follow-up study," Robertson added.

**தேரியம் என்பது  
அறிந்ததிலிருந்து சில அறியப்படாத  
இலக்குகளுக்கு  
சங்கடமான கடினமான  
யாத்திரையில் பயணிப்பது.  
ஒருவர் அதை செய்ய முடியுமா  
அல்லது இல்லையா என்பது  
ஒருவருக்கும் தெரியாது.  
இது ஒரு சூதாட்டம்,  
ஆனால் சூதாட்டக்காரர்கள் மட்டுமே  
வாழ்க்கையை அறிவார்கள்.**

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outsiders except through a special tribal pass that too with lot of restrictions. The restrictions associated with ATRA deny the settler population the opportunity to possess land and engage in any commercial activities in the place of their settlement. Further, the A&N (Tribal Council) Regulation, 2009, protects Tribal political institutions by denying the resettled population any form of representative politics and access to many government schemes. The Tribal Development Council of the A&N Islands is also demanding that the administration to shift the resettled population to non-tribal areas, as they see them as a threat to their traditional life and culture. The Tamil settler population at Katchal Island are facing existential crisis due to limited facilities for transport, health and education and to add to their agony closure of Rubber Board of A&N Forest Development Corporation in November 2017 has left these Tamil settlers with no means of earning livelihood.

Though a policy decision was taken by the Lt. Governor of the A&N Islands in 2003 to shift the resettled Tamil population out of the Tribal Reserve Area and also Calcutta High Court in the year 2012 has directed the A&N Island administration to evolve a scheme to resettle these Tamil settlers in a non-tribal area but nothing could be achieved on this account as of now. Various Member of Parliament from the Islands including me has also taken up this issue in the Parliament but yet could not find any fruitful results. Hence, your honour is requested to look into the matter and bring an end to misery of Tamil settlers which they are subjected since the time of colonial migration and bring an end to this by evolving a meaningful solution a through resettlement plan.

**8. Regularisation of excess land of Pre 1961, Old inhabitants, settlers and providing land to landless Islanders and regularise encroachment prior to 2012.**

A long cherished dream for regularisation of excess land held in possession of the inhabitant of pre-1942 penal settlers could be fulfilled with the approval of the Government of India. However, there are pre-1961 inhabitants and other settlers whose cases for regularisation of excess land held in their possession are still pending for solution which is creating discontentment and social and economic problems for them. It will be in the fitness of thing, if all the cases of excess land held in possession of Pre 1961 settlers and other settlers are regularised as per the survey and records of excess land held with the A&N Administration. It is also suggested to regularise 200 sq. mtrs of land those who have encroached land prior to 2012. It

further suggested to allot atleast 200 sq. mtrs of land to all landless Islanders. Further, the Government under various settlement schemes has brought several peoples from mainland and settled at various parts/Islands in A&N Islands under rehabilitation scheme by allotting a small portion of land for their livelihood. However, the size of their family has been enlarged to the extent of 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> generation as of now and due to which, they are facing hardship for livelihood since not having any other source of income. Hence, for the livelihood of the extended settlers' family, atleast 5 Acres land to each settlers' family may be allotted.

**9. Grant 1/30<sup>th</sup> Pay + DA to the left out 3000 DRMs out of 7000 DRMs under the concept of "Equal Pay for Equal Work".**

There are altogether 7000 odd Daily Rated Mazdoors, Casual Workers, Contractual & Adhoc workers who are working in the various departments under A&N Administration such as Andaman Public Work Department, Health, Forest, Information & Publicity, Education, Shipping, Transport, Revenue, Agriculture, Civil Supplies, Tourism, Fisheries, Municipal Council, Panchayat Raj Institutions etc. for considerably long period i.e. more than 8 to 10 years at a stretch. As the nature of the work entrusted to these workers are similar to that of the regular employees, the A&N Admn. vide the OM No.289 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017, has granted 1/30<sup>th</sup> of minimum Pay of the duly sanctioned posts against the DRMs are engaged plus Dearness Allowance (DA) who were on roll as on 01.09.2017.

Accordingly, around 4000 DRMs could get benefit of the above said OM against the existing vacancies lying in the respective departments. By doing so, the remaining 3000 DRMs could not get the benefit of 1/30<sup>th</sup> Pay + DA due to non availability of sanctioned vacant posts in their respective departments. In this regard, it is to bring to your kind notice that in view of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as regard to "Equal Pay for Equal Work" for Casual workers, the DoPT, Gol, vide OM No.49014/1/2017-Estt.(C) PF dated 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 while reiterating the promulgation made under its OM No.49014/2/86-Estt (C ) dated 07.06.1988 has mentioned that "where the nature of work entrusted to the Casual workers and the regular employees is the same, the casual workers may be paid at the rate of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of Pay at the minimum of the relevant pay scale plus Dearness Allowance for work of 8 hours a day". Since these leftout 3000 DRMs are entrusted with the work similar to that of the regular employees, they also need to be given the benefit of 1/30<sup>th</sup> of pay at the minimum of the relevant pay scale

plus DA irrespective of availability of vacant sanctioned posts.

**10. Relief to Tsunami affected farmers:**

More than 16 years has passed since occurrence of devastating Tsunami in these Islands during December 2004 but the plight of the farmers whose land were affected by inundation of sea water still remain fresh in their memory and in reality no fruitful and suitable solution could be evolved. In absence of any permanent sources of livelihood, the affected farmers are still unsure about their livelihood. As an immediate relief to compensate loss incurred caused by Tsunami, the Govt. of India provided cash compensation of Rs.9.33 lakh per hectare agricultural land which is considered very low as provided in the report submitted by the "Committee on land matters in A&N Islands" constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide their order No.U-13018/1/2010 - ANL dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 headed by Shri Vivek Rai, Ex-Chief Secretary, A&N Administration. The Committee in its report submitted in the month of December, 2017 has recommended Rs.35.73 lakhs per hectare of submerge land as compensation. In this context, the following are proposed for acceptance :-

1. The difference of amount between Rs.35.73 lakhs and Rs.9.33 lakhs amounting to Rs.26.40 lakhs may be paid as compensation for per hectare of submerged land to the affected farmers.

2. The farmers who doesn't intend to receive the enhanced amount of compensation may be permitted to retain the land/ the land acquired by the Admn. may be returned to them.

**11. Regularisation of services of DRM/Casual/Adhoc & Contract employees working under A&N Admn. for more than 10 years.**

There are appreciably large number of workers engaged temporarily as DRMs, Casual workers, Adhoc and Contractual employees in various departments under A&N Admn. who have continuously served for more than 10 years performing work similar to that of regular employees. Taking into consideration of the long length satisfactory service rendered by these temporarily engaged workers, it is requested that the Govt. of India, may draw a policy to regularize their service as one time measure so that the future of these temporarily employed workers gets secured and they comes out the dilemma of uncertainty.

**12. Creation of Assembly for the A&N Islands.**

The people of A&N islands, various political parties, associations and civil societies are continuously demanding for full-fledged democratic rights for the Islanders as being enjoyed by the people in other parts of India. We therefore request your

Honour to recommend the GOI to enact an appropriate legislation to constitute a Legislative Assembly on the lines of Puducherry with the Council of Ministers so that hopes, aspirations and democratic rights of the people of A&N Islands are fulfilled. In the interim as stop-gap measures, the Pradesh Council which used to function in these Islands may be restored with executive powers.

**13. Creation of A&N Public Service Commission.**

Unlike past, the present generation of the Islanders are well educated possessing professional degrees such as MBBS, Engineering, Law etc. besides Doctorates and Post Graduates in arts, science, commerce etc. These qualified youths of the Islands are capable of holding the reins of the administration and can bring prosperity & development in the Islands at much faster pace if given opportunity by the Union of India. Presently, direct recruitment to all gazetted posts belonging to the UT Administration of the A&N Islands are filled by the UPSC on all India selection basis which deprive the educated youths of the Islands of their legitimate right to serve the Islands. The candidate from mainland of India selected to the posts of UT Cadre of the A&N Admn. consider their postings as stepping stone in their career advancements and relinquish the job as soon as they get postings in mainland of India. Hence, creation of A&N Public Service Commission will put an end to this fiasco and will provide opportunity to well educated youths of the Islands in the UT Civil & Public Service, Medical Services, Engineering Services etc.

**14. 100% job reservation for Domicile of the Islands in Govt. appointment under UT Administration of A&N Islands.**

In A&N Islands one of the major concern for the Islanders particularly for the youths is lack of sufficient employment opportunities in the region especially given high literacy rate among the Islands' population. In absence of major private industries in the Islands and uncertainties prevailing in the tourism sector, the departments of Andaman and Nicobar Administration and of the Central Government are major and most reliable source of providing employment to the Islanders throughout the Islands' territory.

The candidates from other States and Union Territories applying and securing employment in the Group 'C' and Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) of A&N Admn. has further aggravated the problem of unemployment for the residents of A&N Islands. It is for these obvious reasons, time and again almost all political parties & social organizations prevailing in the Islands had raised the issue of growing unemployment in our Islands at

local as well as national arena and to ease out the unemployment to certain extent have demanded for 100% job reservation for domicile of the Islands in public/ government appointments under the A & N Administration and Central Government departments functioning in the Islands. It is imperative to bring to the kind knowledge of your honour, that on the basis of an executive order of Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI, the requirement of being a 'local candidate' for the purpose of employment, in the case of A&N Administration did existed with the following domicile criteria:

(a) For appointment to the Group 'D' posts, the person should have been staying in the Island continuously for a period of 10 years.

(b) For appointment to the group 'C' and group 'B' non gazetted posts belonging to A&N Administration, the applicant should have done 10 years of continuous education in the Islands.

However, in absence of law made by the Parliament under Article 16(3) of the Indian Constitution for requirement as to residence in the territory of A&N Islands for securing public appointments, the constitutional legality of being a 'local candidate' for securing public appointments in A&N Admn. couldn't withstand the judicial scrutiny. Hence, for nearly past three decades the public appointments under the A&N Administration are open to all Indians in accordance with the provisions laid under Article 16(2) of the Indian Constitution thereby ceasing the privilege which the Islanders were having in the public appointments under the A&N Administration.

In the above context, reference is invited to the very recent decision of the Central Government to extend 100% job reservation in public appointments to the local residents of the newly created Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and that of Ladakh in their respective Union Territories. For the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir the reservation has been implemented by an order of MHA issued on April 3, 2020, which provides protection to the domiciles of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir to "any post" in the government including senior level positions in Group A and Group B category. Also similar order for public appointments in Union Territory of Ladakh is issued through its Lieutenant Governor on 08.06.2021 stating that "No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of Union Territory of Ladakh." Taking into cognizance of the above made submission, it is requested to grant 100% job reservation for the domiciles of A&N Islands in public appointments for jobs meant for the Union Territory of A&N

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Islands in the fashion similar to the decision taken in respect of the newly created Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh. Alter natively 100% job reservation for the domiciles of Andaman and Nicobar Islands may be enacted under "The Public Employment (Requirement as to Residents) Act 1957.

**15. Enhancement of pension/Allowances for Oldage/ Widows/ Destitute women/Divyangs.**

At present the Andaman and Nicobar Administration under the Social Security Schemes is paying Rs.2500/- per month as Pension/Allowances to the Oldage, Widow, Destitute women and Divyangs persons. Due to abnormally high cost of essential commodities in the Islands as compared to the mainland, the above mentioned category of the persons are facing immense difficulties in sustaining their life. Hence, it is requested to enhance the pension/allowances to Rs.5000/- per month for Oldage, Widow, Destitute women and Divyangs persons.

**16. Regularisation of services of Anganwadi Workers.**

Anganwadi workers and helpers are employed by the Government of India under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. ICDS is a community based outreach programme which offers a package of health, nutrition and education services to the children below six years and pregnant and nursing mothers through Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. Anganwadi workers and Helpers are presently burdened with more work than that of in the initial days. So far as the officers, supervisors and drivers are concerned all are recognised & considered as Government employees but not the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. As the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers are main ingredient of ICDS implementing the scheme on field they also need to be recognised as Government employees with wage structure and law governing their service conditions. Hence, your kind attention is drawn towards 800 odd Anganwadi Workers and Helpers engaged in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for implementation of

ICDS scheme at Anganwadies and request your goodself to look into the issue and consider the genuine need of regularisation of services of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. Further, till such time decision is arrived in the matter of regularisation of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers the honorarium presently being paid be increased to Rs.12000/- for Anganwadi Workers and Rs.9000/- for Anganwadi Helpers from the existing honorarium of Rs.9000/- and Rs.6000/- respectively.

**17.Enhancement of honorarium for the AHSA workers:**

Asha workers are first port of the call for any health related demands of deprived sections of the society especially women and children who find difficult to access health services. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there are around 340 Asha workers engaged under National Health Mission and are being paid honorarium of Rs.2000/- per month since 2019. These workers form the crucial link between citizen and the healthcare system. Their tasks include motivating women to give birth in hospitals, bringing children to immunization clinics, encouraging family planning (e.g., surgical sterilization), treating basic illness and injury with first aid, keeping demographic records, and improving village sanitation. The ASHA's workload was supposed to be just two-three hours for four days a week, along with some extra events. However it is seen that most ASHAs are working between 25-28 hours a week, and even beyond that. In 2020, it was found that because of additional COVID-19 pandemic duties, ASHA workers have been working at an average of 8-14 hours a day in the field, including on weekends.. Therefore, it is requested that the honorarium for ASHA workers presently being paid at the rate of Rs.2000/- per month may be considered for enhancement upto Rs.5000/- per month.

**18.Grant of Unemployment Allowance to the Unemployed youths.**

Growing unemployment due to diminishing employment opportunities in the Islands is turning out to be the most serious concern for the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Islands is having high literacy rate of

86.63%, hence obviously the resident educated youths are worst affected by this syndrome, as beside becoming self-reliant and to have a career for their own, they have to shoulder the responsibilities of the old aged parents and other minors in family. As per the official records available in the Employment Exchange, there are over 50,000 educated jobless youths seeking employment which by all means is a very high figure when compared to the Islands' meagre population of around 4(four) lakhs. Closure of wood based industry and severe restrictions imposed on sea sand extraction, stone quarrying & mining and environmental polluting industries in the Islands has further exaggerated unemployment scenario in the Islands as these sectors used to be the source of earning livelihood for the uneducated or less educated unskilled and skilled youths.

In absence of any major industries in the Islands, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration serve as main and most secured job provider for the Islanders. However, ban on creation of new posts in various departments of the Administration for past many years as a part of austerity measures adopted by the Government and people from mainland securing government appointment in the UT administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has further escalated the unemployment in the Islands. In these Islands, tourism and it's allied activities are having the maximum potential to provide employment to the youths, however the same is marred by various adversaries such as frequent occurrence of natural & national disasters viz. Earthquake, Tsunami, COVID-19 pandemic etc., abnormally high air fares to & fro Mainland and Port Blair etc. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has affected the tourism industry the worst which has resulted in many youths losing their employment.

Further due to the geographical remoteness from mainland and every State having their own recruitment policy and priority, the youths of these Islands find it difficult to get employment in other States of India. The youths of these Islands because of unemployment are becoming susceptible to physiological and mental health problems leading to depression, anxiety

& lowered self esteem. Hence, it is requested to evolve a scheme to provide Unemployment Allowance to the tune of Rs.3500/- to the unemployed youths of these Islands on the lines similar to that of the State of Haryana and Rajasthan.

**19.To extend Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Arecanut (supari) & paddy.**

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands coconut, arecanut and paddy are the main agricultural produce for the farmers which earns livelihood for them. The government has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) only for coconut. It is requested that MSP for arecanut and paddy may kindly be fixed to save farmers from exploitation.

**20.Resumption of air service between Port Blair and Car Nicobar.**

The Southern Group of Islands are distantly located from Port Blair. Way back in 1984 Indian Airlines used to operate flight between Port Blair and Car Nicobar which discontinued after five to six months. Again on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014, a chartered flight service between Port Blair – Car Nicobar sector was started. Later this chartered flight service was also discontinued in the month of August 2016 due to withdrawal of the CRJ Type Air Craft from Alliance Air's fleet. The chartered flight service between Port Blair and Car Nicobar was immensely helpful for the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands especially for the residents of Car Nicobar Islands and govt. servants and hence, there was always a heavy rush for tickets. This flights service was equally helpful for the students and patients too.

Considering the importance of the such a faster mode of transport connecting Car Nicobar District, I request you to kindly resume chartered flight service between Port Blair and Car Nicobar by extending the trip of any regular Aircraft from mainland to Port Blair upto Car Nicobar atleast twice in a week. It is worth mentioned here that the flight service between Port Blair-Car Nicobar connecting mainland will also be highly beneficial for the socio-economic development of Nicobar district as in that case the tribal population of Nicobar district will be able to directly export tribal handicraft items, coconut products, coconut oil and other fisheries as well as local produce directly to mainland India. As

unemployment is a major issue in Nicobar district, such flight connectivity will open new avenues of employment for the Nicobari population of the Nicobar district.

**21. Setting up of Sports School at Car Nicobar Island under "Khelo India Scheme".**

Kheelo India Scheme provides setting up of sports school to integrate Sports with education and in the process develop sports in the country and improve the overall profile and outlook of the athletics. Under the scheme, the govt. shall bear the expenses for the talented sports students of the school in terms of lodging, boarding, education expenses, competition exposure, insurance, medical expenses, training, salaries of coaches and support staff, sports equipments etc.

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Nicobar Group of Islands which are notified as Tribal area are predominately inhabited by the Nicobari Tribes. The Nicobari Tribes possess inborn talents in the field of sports and games but owing to poor socio economic conditions, these tribes are not able to pursue sports as their carrier. The Nicobari population of merely 30,000 has produced athletes and sports persons both in male and female of International repute. When given opportunity, the Nicobari Tribes have excelled in the sports of Cycling, Water Sports, Football and athletics. Cyclist Ms Deborah Herold and Mr. Esow Alben who hails from Car Nicobar are the latest cycling sensation at the International level having represented and won several medals for India. Similarly, in the game of football and Water Sports such as Kayaking, Canoeing and Rowing, many players from Car Nicobar and other Tribal Islands of Nicobar District have represented India in the International arena.

Considering the affinity and abundance of natural sporting talents in the Nicobari Tribes, it is proposed to develop a 'Khelo India Sports School' at Car Nicobar under the 'Khelo India Scheme' of Government of India, which will help nurturing of young boys and girls in the field of sports and games and in due course of time will certainly make India win much more medals in Olympic and other international sporting events.