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Regn. No. 34190/47 No. 86 Port Blair, Tuesday, March 31, 2015 Web: www.and.nic.in Rs. 2.00 4 pages

Union Minister inaugurates Geophysical Observatory at Shoal Bay

Our Country now well equipped to tackle any eventuality due to disaster: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Port Blair, Mar 30
 The Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan today said that India can now boast of being one of the most scientifically advanced countries and as a result of this, it is now well equipped to tackle any situation effectively arising out of natural calamities and disasters. Inaugurating the Multi-Parametric Geophysical Observatory set up by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism at Shoal Bay No. 8 today, the Minister attributed this to the invaluable contributions made by our scientists who, he said, continue to make relentless efforts for their scientific innovations for the development of the country.

The Union Minister inaugurated the Observatory in the presence of the Lt Governor, Lt Gen. AK Singh (Retd), Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief Secretary, Shri Anand Prakash, Adhyaksha Zila Parishad, Ms VK Mariam Bibi, Smt. Rupa Ray, the State BJP President, Shri Vishal Jolly, senior officers from the A&N Administration, PRIs, besides a good number of general public and school students.

Dr. Harsha Vardhan further stated that after taking charge of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, he got a chance to see for himself the work & innovation done by our scientists. The world recognizes it and the whole country is proud of our scientists and their scientific works, he added.

of Parliament and the local BJP leadership by regularly meeting him in Delhi to get the Medical College project sanctioned.

Dr. Harsha Vardhan said it was his dream from childhood to visit these islands which was fulfilled today. He highlighted the contribution of Veer Savarkar in the freedom struggle who was incarcerated in the Cellular Jail. One can imagine the inhumane tortures meted out to the freedom fighters, who fought for the Country's Independence. Dr. Harsha Vardhan opined that A&N Islands is a place of pilgrimage where the freedom fighters have made supreme sacrifices in the cause of the motherland. "If there is a sacred place in the country it is Andamans where the National Memorial Cellular Jail is a testimony to the great suffering of the freedom fighters", he added.

The Minister also presented mementoes to the heads of the Departments who have contributed towards the setting up of the new Multiparametric Geophysical Observatory at Shoal Bay. The dignitaries also planted saplings at the precincts of the Observatory, adding greenery to the campus.

In his address on the occasion, the Lt. Governor briefed the Union Minister about the significance of A&N Islands pertaining to its historical, geological & ecological importance. He said, the A&N Islands which consist of 556 Islands out of which 37 are inhabited, is one of the best hot-spots in the world. The Lt. Governor also touched upon the supreme sacrifices made by our freedom fighters, who withstood all sorts of challenges and fought valiantly to attain independence for our country. He also recalled the contributions of settlers for the development of these islands.

these Islands are rightly called 'Islands of good fortune' and it is a pride for all of us that despite challenges, the Islands have developed and progressed well- the credit goes to the freedom fighters, settlers, the Member of Parliament, the PRIs, the party workers and of course the administration for their constant and untiring efforts towards all-round development of the Islands.

The Lt. Governor also reiterated the resolve and commitment of the Administration to work in synergy to take the Islands on the path of faster progress and this can only be achieved by a concerted team effort by all. He appreciated the move made by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) for setting up of the Geophysical Observatory here in the Islands, considering that



(More photo on last page)

these Islands lie in Seismic Zone 5 and that the setting up of such Laboratory is going to be immensely beneficial to the Islands. The Lt. Governor also lauded the efforts of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Science (INCOIS), Hyderabad for their frequent updates and early warnings on natural disaster such as earthquake, cyclones etc.

The Lt. Governor also urged the Union Minister to help the Island Administration to set up a Desalination Plant at Mayabunder or Chowra on a pilot project basis in order to

overcome water scarcity in these places. He also requested for setting up of Biotechnology Research Centre and said the Administration is ready to extend help, if needed, in this regard.

In brief address on the occasion, the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray expressed his happiness that a useful asset has been created in the Islands by establishing the Multiparametric Geophysical Observatory at Shoal Bay and urged the Minister to upgrade this Observatory into a Regional Centre for the benefit of the Islanders.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Chairman,

Union Minister to inaugurate 'Crafts Mela' today

Port Blair, Mar 30
 The Department of Industries, A&N Administration, with the objective to promote local Artisans and give them a platform to showcase their artifacts will be organizing a 2-day "Crafts Mela" (Exhibition-cum-sale) on Mar 31 & Apr 1, 2015 at Marine Recreation Club, Mohanpura. The Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harshvardhan will

inaugurate the Crafts Mela at 9 am on 31st March 2015 in the presence of the Lt. Governor, A & N Islands, Lt. Gen. A.K. Singh (Retd.) and the Member of Parliament, Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray.

A communication from Industries Department was

that the Crafts Mela will be open for all from 9 am to 8 pm. The event will also act as a catalyst to motivate the local unemployed youths to take up handicraft activities for their livelihood.

According to (Contd. on last page)

DG Coast Guard calls on CINCAN

Port Blair, Mar 30
 Vice Admiral HCS Bisht, Director General Indian Coast Guard was presented with 50 Men Guard of Honour in an impressive ceremonial parade by the Coast Guard Region (A&N) at Port Blair today. Asst Comdt Sadhana Singh, commanded the Ceremonial Guard. The Admiral complemented CG personnel for immaculate turn out and smart drill on parade. Later, the DGICG called on Vice Admiral PK Chatterjee, Commander-in-Chief Andaman Nicobar Command and appraised CINCAN on the future expansion plans of the Coast Guard in the Island territory.

The DGICG visited Coast Guard District Headquarters No.9 at Diglipur and reviewed the progress. The Admiral inaugurated the Maritime Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) at Diglipur for co-ordination of maritime Search and Rescue operation in the North and Middle Andaman Islands.

(Contd. on last page)



PBMC Chairman to flag off pilot project

Port Blair, Mar 30
 The Chairperson, Port Blair Municipal Council, Shri M. Arumugam shall flag off the implementation of 'Pilot Project' under Solid Waste Management in ward no.13 & 14 at Netaji Club at 10 am on Mar 31, 2015. Shri Rakesh Bali, Secretary, PBMC and Smt. Jameela Bibi, Ward Councillor, Ward no.13 will also grace the occasion, a communication said.

Referring to the December 2004 Tsunami disaster which shook the entire Nation, the Minister said that Tsunami was new to all of us and our country was not at all prepared to tackle this natural occurrence. However, after that tragedy, our scientists joined together and we are now well equipped with early warning systems to tackle any eventualities due to disaster like earthquake etc. Dr. Harsh Vardhan said, India is much ahead in terms of Early Warning Systems and this is evident from the fact that about 28 nations depend and act upon the real time data provided by India, which, he said, is a matter of great pride for all of us.

The Minister, who himself is a physician, also noted with appreciation that the Medical College project for A&N Islands which was sanctioned during his tenure as the Health Minister, is moving in the right direction and it will fulfill the long pending demand of the people of these Islands. He also acknowledged the painstaking effort made by the Lt Governor, the Member

The Lt. Governor said,

Port Blair & Vizag Air India flight to start from April 9

Port Blair, Mar 30
 The much awaited flight services between Port Blair and Vishakapatnam is scheduled to commence from 9th April, 2015. As per the arrangement made by A & N Administration, Air India will operate weekly two flights on Vishakapatnam-Port Blair-Vishakapatnam sector with its 168 seater Airbus A-320 aircraft every Monday and Thursday.

The Air India flight No. AI 487 will originate from New Delhi at 07:00 hrs and reach Vishakapatnam at 09:15 hrs. From Vishakapatnam the flight will depart at 10:00 hrs and arrive Port Blair at 12:10 hrs. On its return flight No AI 488, the aircraft will depart from Port Blair at 12:50 hrs to reach Vishakapatnam at 15:00 hrs. Thereafter, this flight will continue its operation upto Delhi after a brief halt of 45 minutes at Vishakapatnam and reach Delhi at 18:00 hrs.

(Contd. on last page)

Ensure adherence to building byelaws in public interest: PBMC Secretary

Port Blair, Mar 30
 All buildings in the municipal area are required to be constructed following laid down norms, standards and set of rules. The norms/rules are framed in public interest and interest of end user, building owner or occupier. The rules guide the citizens to have proper building for comfortable human habitation with optimum area, ventilation, sufficient stairs and passage width, fire safety, distance between two buildings for safe disposal of waste water, etc. Municipal byelaws are a set of norms and standards concisely put together for the benefit and use of common man.

In a press note here today, the Secretary, PBMC made it clear that the Municipal Council like any other local body is vested with the powers to regulate all construction activity. Construction beyond the rules is a threat to public safety, causing hindrance in planning of better civic amenities and also poses danger to the occupiers. On noticing any departure/ deviation / violation of the rules, the council issues notice/ orders as provided under relevant rules to stay the construction.

(Contd. on last page)

S P O R T S

Preparations for 2019 WC should start immediately: Borde

Mumbai, Mar 30
India should start preparing for the 2019 World Cup in a diligent manner similar to the way in which the triumphant Australians did for the just-concluded edition, feels former Test cricketer and ex chief selector Chandu Borde. "It's four years away. But have you noticed the way Australia prepared themselves? [Captain Michael] Clarke was not fit to play the first few matches and they gave the captaincy to [George] Bailey and not [Steve] Smith who led them to victory in the preceding Test series against India," Mr. Borde told PTI on Monday. "This shows how well they had prepared themselves. They had decided in advance that if such contingencies arise, who should lead. How nicely they had done it. This is how we should prepare ourselves,"

said Mr. Borde. The 80-year-old Borde, who played 55 Tests between 1958 and 1969, pointed out that Bailey was benched soon after Clarke got fit, an indication of the victorious Australians' bench strength. "After playing and winning a few matches, Bailey was removed from the team because Clarke was back. See their thinking and how they had prepared for the tournament. It also shows their bench strength is solid and thoughtful. In similar manner we have to prepare ourselves. We also need to plan big right from now and how we should go about it. We don't know what will happen in a couple of years from now, whether the current players will be available or not. The ground work should start now," he remarked. Mr. Borde also expressed his surprise at India

captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's criticism of the amount of domestic cricket that the country's top pace bowlers were expected to play. "It has been a problem for sometime now in our set-up. When they are not playing for India, their State Associations sometimes make excessive demands of these bowlers," Dhoni had said after India lost to Australia in the World Cup semifinal at the Sydney Cricket Ground on March 26. "Once a fast bowler completes international assignment and goes back, he is then asked by his local State associations to come and bowl in domestic cricket. However, there are no checks and balances on the number of overs they are being asked to bowl," a worried Dhoni had added.

Tiger Woods falls outside world's top 100

Maryland, Mar 30
Former number one Tiger Woods has dropped out of the world top 100 for the first time in his career as he continues his battle against injuries and loss of form. The 14-time major winner, who first broke into the top 100 when he turned pro in 1996, has fallen to 104th from 96th in the latest rankings issued after the weekend's tournaments. The 39-year-old American has spent a cumulative record 683 weeks as world number one and was last in that position in May, 2014 when he was replaced by Australian Adam Scott. Since then, a succession of injuries and swing problems have bedevilled him and are threatening to derail the rest of his career.

Srinivasan hails World Cup as most popular ever

Dubai, Mar 30
Hailing the just-concluded World cup as the most popular in cricket's history, ICC Chairman N Srinivasan on Monday said the event's success has proved that the ODI format is in good health. Australia beat New Zealand by seven wickets in the summit clash on Sunday in front of over 93,000 spectators at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. Mr. Srinivasan said the ICC was delighted with the manner in which the game's pinnacle 50-over event was hosted and delivered. "On behalf of the ICC, I would like to firstly congratulate

Australia on its fifth ICC Cricket World Cup win. Australia displayed great tenacity, skill levels and consistency throughout the tournament and are worthy winners," Mr. Srinivasan said in a statement. "It was a wonderful event with many thrilling highs and magic moments, which will live long in the memory. Australia has set a new benchmark for limited overs cricket and our congratulations to them, and indeed all of the competing teams, which produced excellent cricket over the past seven weeks and thoroughly entertained the followers of the game worldwide," he added.

Holiday workshop concludes with valedictory function

Port Blair, Mar 30
The valedictory function of 10-day holiday workshops 'C' (Child+Colour+Craft) and 'MD' (Modern fusion/contemporary dance) organised by socio-cultural forum 'Kasheesh' for the children in two groups - nursery to class IV and class V and above under the guidance of expert/professional resource persons was held at its premises of RGT road on Saturday. Shri O.N. Jaiswal, Editor, Echo of India, chief guest on the occasion, expressed his happiness while interacting with the bubbly kids, and appreciated their zeal and zest. He also distributed certificates to all successful participants of the workshop during the function. Earlier, the President of



Kasheesh, Shri S. Balasubramanian welcomed the gathering and exhorted all the successful participants to continue in the same spirit while informing that due to inadequate space only about 50 students from various schools could be accommodated for attending the annual event from Mar 18 to 27. The workshop on

contemporary dance forms was conducted in association with Jhumurr Nrityanga (recognized by Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh). The art, craft & activity workshops included creative pastel-painting, colour paper-crafting etc, for junior group and traditional (patachitra) painting, deco & utility paper-crafting for the senior group.

DG Coast Guard...

(Contd. from page 1)
Search and Rescue at sea is the CG Mandate and the service has done admirably towards safety of mariners and islanders in the A&N Islands. The COMCG (A&N) briefed DGICG regarding the thrust accorded for timely creation of infrastructure for the outlying station at Mayabunder. The DGICG laid foundation stone for construction of office complex and accommodation for the men at Mayabunder, which is essential for the effective functioning of the ICG Station, a CG communiqué said

Union Minister to....

(Contd. from first page)
communication, the Department of Industries under the scheme "Entrepreneurship Development & Skill Up-gradation" is imparting various capacity building training programme through Industries Training Centres located at different parts the Islands and also conducting "Design Development workshops" in Wood carving craft, Pandanus leaf craft, Cane & bamboo Handicrafts etc. by calling experts from Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Govt. of India, Ministry of Textile, Bangalore.

Our Country now.....
(Contd. from first page)



Governing Council, IIG, Padmashree, Dr. V.P. Dimri said altogether 14 Geophysical Observatories including the one at Shoal Bay No.8 are functioning under Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) in the country for mitigating natural disaster of varied origins. He said the Geophysical Observatories are placed in different parts of the country and the country has taken a big leap in the field of Science and Technology over the past few years.

The Students of Mannarghat School presented welcome song and national Anthem befitting the occasion.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Director, IIG, Prof. D.S.Ramesh.

Closure of ANIIDCO's Petrol Pump

Port Blair, Mar 30
ANIIDCO's Petrol Pump, Junglight, will remain closed from 9.30 pm on Mar 31, 2015 to 5.30 am on Apr 1, 2015 due to annual physical stock verification, a communication from the General Manager, ANIIDCO said here today.

Rich tributes paid to seven Indian Officers



Port Blair, Mar 30
At a solemn function held at the 'Saat Sapoot Park' at Marine Hill today, the Chairperson, PBMC, Shri M. Arumugam paid rich tributes to the seven Indian Officers of the then provisional government who were shot dead by the Japanese occupying forces on Mar 30, 1943. The PBMC Chairperson also delivered his key note address on the occasion. The descendants of the seven officers were also present on this occasion.

Ensure adherence...

(Contd. from page 1)
The PBMC Secretary further says that whereas there may be a scope for some relaxation in case of building with minor violation especially in case of smaller residential plots, giving a carte blanche for all unauthorized buildings by regularizing them does not hold any merit. At the other end of the spectrum there are commercial establishments, hotels, bigger residential buildings, where departure from the building byelaws is absolutely deliberate and includes commercial motives. There shall be clear distinction between the violations which can be tolerated having regard to the stability and other factors and cases where regularization should be allowed under no circumstances, the release says, adding that the PBMC functions in the larger public interest to provide a planned, safe and hygienic city. The PBMC Secretary has also requested the general public to co-operate with the PBMC in its endeavour to have a smart, safe, clean city with an appeal to construct buildings as per norms of PBMC.

WEATHER

Mainly clear sky. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 33°C and 27°C respectively on Tuesday 31/03/2015
Observational data for Port Blair in last 24 hours
Maximum Temperature (°C): 33.5
Minimum Temperature (°C): 27.1
Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST: 068
Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST: 070
Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0518
Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1732
Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm: 000.0
Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0
Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 15: 131.1 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

CINEMA

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INTER ISLAND SECTOR:-
MV Chowra will sail for Nancowry via Hut Bay, Car Nicobar, Chowra & Teressa on 03.04.2015 (Fri) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 06.04.2015 (Mon) at 0600 from Nancowry via same route. Reservation of passenger tickets for the above sailing will commence from 31.03.2015 (Tue) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. Similarly booking of cargo tickets will commence from 31.03.2015 (Tue) between 0900 Hrs to 1300 Hrs at Commercial Wing. All the consigners are advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transhipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed. MV Campbell Bay will sail for Campbell Bay via Hut Bay & Nancowry on 07.04.2015 (Tue) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 09.04.2015 (Thu) 0900 Hrs from Campbell Bay via same route. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 04.04.2015 (Sat) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. Similarly booking of excess baggage will commence from 04.04.2015 (Sat) between 0900 Hrs to 1300 Hrs at Commercial Wing. All passengers are advised to carry out only the booked baggage as no excess baggage other than the booked will be allowed.

31.03.2015 (TUESDAY)
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 31.03.2015 (Tue) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.
MV Long Island will sail for Neil Island on 31.03.2015 (Tue) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.
MV North Passage will sail for Havelock via Neil Island on 31.03.2015 (Tue) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock via Neil Island.
MV Long Island will sail for Havelock via Neil Island on 31.03.2015 (Tue) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs directly from Havelock.
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 31.03.2015 (Tue) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

HUT BAY
MV Chowra will sail for Hut Bay on 31.03.2015 (Tue) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2000 Hrs from Hut Bay.
01.04.2015 (WEDNESDAY)
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.
MV North Passage will sail for Neil Island on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.
MV North Passage will sail for Havelock via Neil Island on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock via Neil Island.
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

HUT BAY
MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Hut Bay on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 0615 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1300 Hrs from Hut Bay.
RANGAT MAYABUNDER & DIGLIPUR
MV Strait Island will sail for Rangat via Neil, Havelock, Strait Island and Long Island on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 0615 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on 02.04.2015 (Thu) at 0615 Hrs from Rangat via same route.
MV Long Island will sail for Diglipur on 01.04.2015 (Wed) at 0700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Diglipur.
02.04.2015 (THURSDAY)
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 02.04.2015 (Thu) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.
MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Neil Island on 02.04.2015 (Thu) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island.
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock via Neil Island on 02.04.2015 (Thu) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock via Neil Island.
MV Rani Lakshmi will sail for Havelock via Neil Island on 02.04.2015 (Thu) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs directly from Havelock.