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The Largest Circulating Daily of A&N Islands

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INR / 1 Euro : 75.7326	Nifty 50 : 7404.00*
INR / 100 YEN : 57.9100	* as on previous day
INR / 1 GBP : 98.4720	Bullion Rate
	22ct Gold per 10 gram 25990
	Silver per 1 kg 41000

Regn. No. 34190/47

No. 35

Port Blair, Saturday, February 06, 2016

Web: dt.andaman.gov.in

Rs. 3.00

6 pages

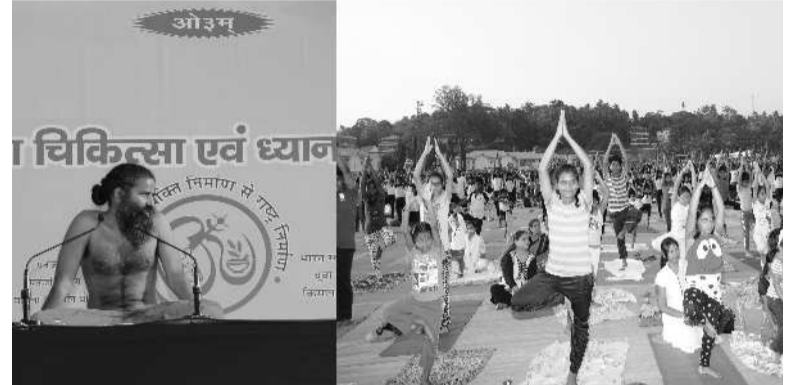


Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution laying wreath at the Martyrs' Column during visit to the National Memorial Cellular Jail on 05.02.2016.



Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, called on the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Lt. Gen. A.K Singh (Retd), at Raj Niwas on 05.02.2016

Special 'yog shivir' for students at Netaji Stadium Swami Ramdevji exhorts students to practice yog and inculcate good habits



Staff Reporter
Port Blair, Feb 5

It was a treat to watch the large number of children, who turned up to participate in Swami Ramdevji's special programmes of 'Yog Chikitsa' and 'dhyani Shivir' for students at Netaji Stadium here this evening.

During the course of the special camp, Swami Ramdevji also gave some useful advice to the students. He asked the students to refrain from

indulging in unhealthy habits which will hinder their mental and physical development. Swami urged the students to inculcate good habits such as respecting elders, parents, eating healthy food and being honest in their conduct etc. He stressed that for a healthy body, sharp mind and strength to work, one needs to practice Yog daily. Swami also offered tips on how to improve memory power, and concentration.

Students from various schools in Port Blair were seen actively participating in the special camp. Under the guidance of Swami, students were keenly doing different Yog asans, Surya Namaskar, Pranayam and Dhyani which was appreciated by him. Earlier, the Chief Secretary, Shri Anand Prakash inaugurated the special programme for students by lighting the traditional lamp. The Secretary

(Contd. on last page)

Union Minister launches National Food Security Act in A&N Islands; lauds Administration for early implementation of the Act

Port Blair, Feb 5

The Government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 with the objective to provide food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The eligible persons will be entitled to receiving 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3 per Kg for rice and Rs 2 per Kg for wheat. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population, said the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan while

interacting with the media person in the conference hall of the Megapode Resort here today.

Addressing a press conference soon after formally launching the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Minister showered all praise upon the UT Administration for making it possible to launch the NFSA in these Islands much ahead of the target set i.e the month of April, 2016. In A&N Islands, 63,620 people will be benefitted under this National Food Security Act. The Minister further stated that so far the NFSA has been implemented in 27 States and only 9 States are yet to implement it. He further said "I appeal to the left out States to implement the same by April 2016 so that the benefits of this Act accrue to the beneficiaries



at large. The Minister said that Chandigarh and Puducherry are implementing the Act and they are also providing Direct Cash Transfer (DBT) of food

subsidy to the beneficiaries. Shri Paswan further informed that the Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to people

belonging to ST and SC category besides women and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers, during

(Contd. on last page)

A&N Islands-Icon of Idea of India: Shri Tarun Vijay

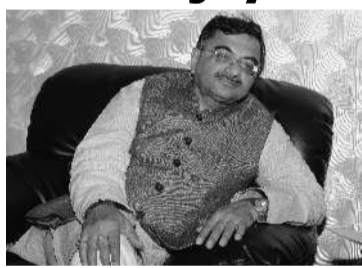
(Marry Pee)

Port Blair, Feb 5

The Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, Shri Tarun Vijay, who is currently on a visit to the Islands, has hailed the supreme sacrifices made by the freedom fighters here at Cellular Jail. In an interview with 'The Daily Telegrams' here today, Shri Vijay said the Islands are a pilgrim centre of our freedom struggle.

He opined that all Members of Parliament must visit the Islands to see the Cellular Jail and witness its historical importance. "We should all understand that the fruits of freedom we are enjoying today have been made possible because of the ultimate sacrifice of our revolutionaries", he said. This will inspire them to contribute for the national progress, he added.

The Chairman of the Committee also appreciated



the communal harmony and serene environment of the Islands and said that A&N Islands are a living example of Idea of India. "The striking feature of these Islands is that one can see the face of Mother India in Andamans, as if she has chosen this place for reflecting peaceful co-existence, tranquility and patriotism", he said.

Expressing his views about the Islands and its people, Shri Vijay exulted that he was deeply impressed with the conduct of

(Contd. on last page)

DPC meeting of ZP North & Middle

Mayabunder, Feb 5

The District Planning Committee meeting of North & Middle Andaman will be held in the conference hall of Zilla Parishad, Mayabunder from Feb 8 to 10, 2016. The meeting will deliberate draft district plan proposals formulated by Govt. Departments under A&N Administration and Panchayati Raj Institutions in North & Middle Andaman for its incorporation in annual plan 2016-17, a communication said.

Encroachment Eviction Drive continues by District Administration

Port Blair, Feb 5

The Revenue Department, in an ongoing encroachment eviction drive today removed 21 encroachments at Austinabad and Brookshabad village which had occurred recently. During the eviction drive, One RCC permanent structure, 12 semi permanent houses, 5 PCC structures and 3 hutments were removed from Austinabad and Brookshabad village. Two huge retaining

walls were also pulled down using JCBs.

Moreover, 2 trucks and 1 hitachi involved in illegal earth cutting at Kamraj Nagar village were seized by the revenue officials.

Criminal complaint has been lodged under the provisions of Indian Penal Code against the offenders covered under the jurisdiction of PS Pahargaon for taking penal action under IPC.

(Contd. on last page)

Euphoria prevails since launch of Chennai-PB chartered flight

Extremely indebted to Lt. Governor for the landmark initiative, say passengers onboard AI 3788

VIJAY ROY/BIJU NAIR
(Camped at Puducherry)
Port Blair, Feb 5

Launched in the month of January 2015, the chartered flight service between Port Blair- Chennai sector has bestowed islanders with affordable air travel. The affliction of inflated air-fares charged by private airlines got eliminated as the national

carrier Air India sanctioned the service initially in the Chennai sector following constant persuasion by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration under instructions from the Lt Governor. Thousands have so far availed the service. Informal interaction with some passengers on board AI Flight 3788 on Feb 3, 2016 made it apparent as all were eloquent

as to how the flagship initiative of the Administrator of A & N Islands, Lt. General AK Singh (Retd) has become a boon for locals, particularly those from the middle and lower sections of the society. Recounts N. Jayapandian, resident of Protrapur, "I need routine medical check up at mainland for which I had spent thousands of rupees since

2010. Being from a business family, I somehow managed to travel by air over the years for specialised treatment at Chennai. But after the launch of the chartered air service in the Chennai- Port Blair sector, I have been able to save my hard earned money being an Islander. Scheduled service and transparent ticket issuance

(Contd. on last page)

Andaman media team explores more places of historical interest in Puducherry

Puducherry, Feb. 5

The eight member media team on exposure tour to mainland on Friday visited the Danish Fort, Tranquebar in Tamil Nadu on their way to Karikal in Puducherry. The team witnessed the renovation works being undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India at the heritage site.

The Danish Fort was constructed by the Danish Royal Navy (IRCA) when they captured the place in the year 1620. The Danish had captured the place after 240 years of French occupation. The media team on exposure trip later visited the nearby Ozone Free Beach. Later on arrival at Karaikal, the team visited Velankanni



Picture shows Mr. Yuvaraj of the Tourist Information Department, Puducherry briefing the media team on the historical importance of the Danish Fort.

Basilica, Thirunallar Temple and Nagore Dargah before concluding the day's trip.

On the third day of their trip

to Puducherry, the team will be visiting other historical and heritage sites before departing for Chennai.

Fire accident at Havelock; District Administration provides immediate relief

Port Blair, Feb 5

A fire accident was reported at about 9 am at Havelock Island at the house of Shri. Bimal Krishna Mondal, S/o Late Prafulla Mondal, R/o Radhanagar Village today. Acting swiftly on report, the officials of District Disaster Management Authority

Patwari (Havelock), Revenue Inspector (Havelock) and JE, APWD immediately reached the spot and found that a house (semi-permanent) was fully gutted permanently damaging/destroying all house hold items including furniture, cash and jewellery. The fire accident triggered two blasts in LPG

cylinder kept in the house damaging the complete house. Immediate relief was provided to the house owner viz. tent, tarpaulin sheets, dharis, bed sheets, buckets, mosquito net, steel plate and water glass.

The Deputy Commissioner, (Contd. on last page)

SPORTS

No major surprises in World T20 and Asia Cup squads: Shami recalled; Pandey, Bhuvneshwar miss out

New Delhi, Feb 5
Mohammed Shami and Pawan Negi made it to the Asia Cup and World T20 squads but Manish Pandey and Bhuvneshwar Kumar were left out as the BCCI's selection panel headed by Sandeep Patil announced the squads on Friday in Delhi. Other than that there were no major surprises as Mahendra Singh Dhoni had hinted after the Australia T20 series.

The selectors clearly thought better than going against the wishes of Team India skipper. "When selectors pick a team, we always give importance to domestic performance. It is not that we are only looking at seniors, we have looked at the performance, fitness and record of the domestic players as well. We have taken into account all the performances of not just 15-16 guys but all the domestic players and then picked these 15," he added. Yuvraj's last-over heroics in the third T20 against Australia have ensured his place in the team. Also, the 15 wickets he took during the 2011 World Cup with his slow-left arm spin will also be taken into account. Baroda all-rounder Hardik Pandya — who didn't get a chance to bat in the Australia series and

impressed in bits with the ball, retained his place in the squad. Dhoni had said after the end of the Australia T20 series that the core of team is more or less set and that there could only be minor changes in the squad of 15. India start off their Asia Cup campaign, against Bangladesh in Fatullah on 26 February and World T20 against New Zealand in Nagpur on 15 March.

"This is the best combination of 15 we can think of," Chairman of the committee, Sandeep Patil, said in a

XXII Vice President of India Cup Soccer finals today

Car Nicobar, Feb 5
Car Nicobar 'A' will clash with Car Nicobar 'B' in the finals of the XXII Vice President of India Cup Soccer Championship to be played at 2 pm at BJR Stadium tomorrow (Feb 6). Meanwhile, in tomorrow's 2nd runner up match, Chowra will clash with DSS at 6 am. In the matches played today being the seventh day of the XXII Vice President of India Cup Soccer Championship 2015-16 Car Nicobar 'A' defeated Chowra by 1-0 goals in the first semi final match while Car Nicobar 'B'

defeated DSS in tie breaker by 5-4 goals in the second semi final match played at BJR Stadium.

Inauguration of Unity Cup Volleyball C'ship

Port Blair, Feb 5
The opening ceremony of 'Unity Cup Volleyball Championship' - 2016, season-III will be held in the Forest ground Tushnabad at 6 pm onwards on Feb 6, 2016. The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman, Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri will be chief guest on the occasion while Shri Ingit Pratap Singh, Director Sports & Youth Affairs will be the guest of honour.

Altogether, 12 teams are participating in the mega event which is being organized by Youth Club Ograbraj (YCOB) in association with GP, Mithakhari & Nehru Yuva Kendra, Sanghathan, Port Blair supported by National Union of Seafarers of India.

Ankita wins 2 matches in India's 3-0 win over Uzbekistan

Hua Hin (Thailand), Feb 5
After two consecutive losses the Indian team finally tasted success in Fed Cup as it outplayed Uzbekistan 3-0 in Pool A with Ankita Raina winning both her singles and doubles matches on Friday. Prerna Bhambrani provided a solid start with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Sabina Sharipova in just 57 minutes as India took a 1-0 lead.

Sunday Market at Junglighat

PBMC cautions defaulters; to impose fine for littering

Port Blair, Feb 5
It has been observed that in the Sunday market at Junglighat the street vendors are not maintaining bins/bags for keeping the area clean and which is resulting in heavy littering in the area. The Port Blair Municipal Council has viewed it very seriously and resolved to take strict action against the defaulters. In this line, the PBMC has decided

Closure of multipurpose hall at Feb 6

Port Blair, Feb 5
The multipurpose hall of the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs will remain closed on Feb 6, 2016 from 3 pm to 7.30 pm in connection with conference of Baba Ramdev Ji Maharaj. The members and non-members have been requested to co-operate with the Department, a communication said.

Lecture at DBRAIT

Port Blair, Feb 5
Prof. Satish Vasu Kailas, from Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, will be delivering a Lecture in BRAIT Auditorium on Feb 6, 2016 at 9 am on the topic 'Closing the loop, Sustainability and well Being' for the students and staff of BRAIT. He is presently carrying out research in Tribology, Friction Stir Welding and Metal Forming and has published over 100 peer reviewed Journal articles and chapters in books.

Interested students, faculties from colleges and teachers' can also attend the Lecture on the above said time and shall be seated by 8.45 am in BRAIT Auditorium, a communication from the Training & Placement Office, DBRAIT said here today.

Administration ...

(Contd. from page 1)
It is hereby appealed to the general public not to pay heed to such rumors/messages and also to refrain from spreading such rumors/messages further by any means. The miscreants doing so will not be spared and would be dealt as per law, a communication from the Home Secretary, A&N Administration said here today.

Fire accident at ...

(Contd. from page 1)
South Andaman accorded sanction for ex-gratia relief to the tune of Rs. 98,900/- which has been released as financial assistance in favour of Shri. Bimal Krishna Mondal as per the SDRF norms approved by the Government of India, a communication from the Assistant Commissioner (R & DM), South Andaman District said here today.

Euphoria prevails ...

(Contd. from page 1)
system has now enabled me to chalk out my medical trips to Chennai in advance." Interacting with the 8-member media team deputed on exposure tour to Chennai and Puducherry, many others shared how the chartered flight has proved beneficial for them since launch. "Chartered flight service in the Port Blair-Chennai sector is a remarkable feat of the Administration led by a proactive Lt. Governor. Introduction of the chartered flight service has provided us much needed relief from the exorbitant air fares charged by private airlines. Subsequently, inclusion of Port Blair-Vizag sector in the charter flight segment by Air India left Islanders, settled in these Islands, elated as air travel has now become considerably reasonable. After the chartered flight in the Port Blair-Kolkata sector becomes a reality as already committed by the Administration, Islanders will be left completely relieved of air journey pangs they have been suffering for decades," said Venkat, an employee of Port Blair Municipal Council.

to impose fine @ Rs.50/- for normal littering and Rs.100/- for bulk littering and to collect fees amounting to Rs.50/- & Rs.100/- from small & big street vendors respectively from the

Sale of fruit and vegetables

Port Blair, Feb 5
Sale of onion @ Rs.28/- per kg and potato Rs.20/- per kgs besides white onion, fruits and vegetables will also be available for sale to the general public from Feb 8, 2016 onwards in the ANCOFED Green Shop, Goalghar. For more details one can contact over ph. no.237508, a communication said.

individual street vendors putting their shop according to the space they occupy in the Sunday Junglighat market, a communication from the Joint Secretary, PBMC said.

Counselling camp

Port Blair, Feb 5
Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS), Deen Street Housing Colony will be organising a counselling camp for de-addiction of alcohol and other drugs on Feb 7. Dr. M.K. Mahato, an expert in de-addiction from Sydney (Australia) will provide the counselling. Willing persons may contact over ph. no.9474200757 for participation, a communication said.

Union Minister launches...

(Contd. from page 1)
pregnancy and six months after the child birth will be entitled to receive maternity benefits. Children up to 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards, he said. The Minister also distributed NFSA Beneficiary Cards to the some of the beneficiaries present on the occasion. Earlier in the morning, the Minister held the Inter-Session meeting of the Consultative Committee of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution at the same venue.

The Members of the Consultative Committee of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the lone Member of Parliament from these Islands, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anand Prakash, the Adhyaksha Zila Parishad, South Andaman, Smt. Minati Biswas besides senior officers from the Govt. of India, Food Corporation of India and A&N Administration were present during the launch of NFSA in A&N Islands.

Earlier, the Secretary, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Smt. Rashmi Krishnan informed the gathering about the benefits of the Act.

The MP, on the sidelines of the NFSA launch function, while interacting with media, informed that he personally has urged the Union Minister to increase the number of beneficiaries under this Act from these Islands so that better coverage can be made in A&N Islands as is done by several other States.

A&N Islands... (Contd. from page 1)

the common people here and has great appreciation for the Armed Forces for their concerted effort in taking care of the Islands' security.

Shri Vijay also lauded the efforts of the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Lt. Gen. A.K.Singh (Retd.) for all his initiatives in taking the Islands forward in every sphere and materializing the dreams of the Islanders by establishing a Medical College here. He also expressed his gratitude to the Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Shri Nithin Gadkhari for sanctioning two major Bridge projects here in the Islands and the Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy, Shri Piyush Goel for major solar Power projects being planned for the Islands.

Shri Vijay opined that infrastructure development in Islands will further pave way for boosting tourism here in the Islands. He appreciated the Islanders for their dedication, grit, courage and commitment in braving all odds, despite challenges.

Talking about the strategic location of the Islands, Shri Vijay said the Islands are strategically important and are a gateway to the East. "We can have a collaboration with neighboring countries for boosting tourism in Andamans", he said, adding that Andamans can be developed as the most sought after knowledgeable hub of the East due to its rich histories and excellent ecology.

He also stressed that proper communication facility and a medical air ambulance must be stationed here for providing emergency medical help. He suggested that Andaman must have a full fledged Central University for empowering students which will also pave way for students from mainland to come and study here and experience the uniqueness of the Islands.

Shri Vijay also mentioned that special subsidy on air fare must be provided to the Islanders so that they can visit mainland for various purposes.

Besides being a thinker, social worker, and a Parliamentarian, Shri Tarun Vijay has also authored as many as 22 books so far.

WEATHER
Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 23°C respectively on Saturday 06/02/2016
Observational data for Port Blair in last 24 hours
Maximum Temperature (°C): 31.0
Minimum Temperature (°C): 22.6
Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST: 075
Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST: 071
Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0543
Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1724
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 16: 71.0 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

CINEMA
DIVIYUM TALKIES
Following is the Schedule for Week Feb 5 - Feb 11
Ghadyal Once Again - (Hindi UA) - 1:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Sanam Teri Kasam - (Hindi U) - 12:00 PM & 3:30 PM
Aranmanai 2 - (Tamil U) - 7:00 PM
Airlift - (Hindi UA) - 4:00 PM
Online booking at www.ticketnet.com
For queries only 8373010002

SEVA SUCHNAYEIN
ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

The cargo vessel MV Badam will sail for Campbell Bay via Nancowry on 13.02.2016 (Sat) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo/Chatham Wharf and will sail for Port Blair immediately after discharging/loading of Cargo at respective ports.
Note: Booking of cargo tickets for the above sailing will commence from 08.02.2016 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 Jolly Buoy will sail for Havelock on 06.02.2016 (Sat) at 1330 Hrs from Rangat Jetty and will sail back on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Havelock Jetty. (Additional Service).
MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Havelock on 08.02.2016 (Mon) at 1330 Hrs from Rangat Jetty and will sail back on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Havelock Jetty. (Additional Service).
MV Jolly Buoy will sail for Havelock on 10.02.2016 (Wed) at 1330 Hrs from Rangat Jetty and will sail back on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Havelock Jetty. (Additional Service).
Note: Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 06.02.2016 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.
MV Sentinel will sail for Car Nicobar via Hut Bay on 12.02.2016 (Fri) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 13.02.2016 (Sat) at 0700 Hrs from Car Nicobar via Hut Bay. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 10.02.2016 (Wed) at STARS Ticketing Counters.
06.02.2016 (SATURDAY)
HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 06.02.2016 (Sat) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.
MV Bambooka will sail for Neil Island on 06.02.2016 (Sat) 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 Neil Island on 06.02.2016 (Sat) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island.
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 06.02.2016 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock.

Swami Ramdevji exhorts ...

(Contd. from page 1)



(Edn.) Smti Tanvi Garg, Director (Sports) Shri Ingit Pratap Singh were also present on the occasion.

While speaking, the Chief Secretary expressed gratitude to Swami Ramdevji for visiting the Islands and enlightening the people about importance of Yog. The Chief Secretary also urged the students to make best use of the programmes as it is very beneficial for them. Patanjali milk biscuits were also distributed to the student on the occasion. The programme was attended by Head of the Institutions and parents as well.

A similar programme will also be held for women from 4 to 6pm at Netaji Stadium tomorrow (Feb 6). Meanwhile, a 'yog shivir' was also conducted in the morning for general public at Netaji Stadium.

Encroachment Eviction ...

(Contd. from page 1)

In a press release received here today, the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman District has again clarified that only pre-1978 encroachments were regularized and thereafter no such scheme is in force, therefore, people should not be under impression that if the encroachment on Government revenue land is done the same can be regularized, even getting essential civic amenities like water and electricity does not change the encroacher status.

In order to make the drive successful, the Revenue Department is also getting assistance from other line departments like Police, APWD & PBMC in encroachment eviction drive by providing the men and machineries.

The local people are requested to support the Revenue Department by providing information about the encroachments at any place over phone No.240127/1070, the release added.

Junglighat lifts Volley ball C'ship



Port Blair, Feb 5
Junglighat team defeated South Point team in the final match played yesterday under the league-cum-knockout Volley ball tournament at Shiv Mandir Ground, Deen Street, Junglighat. The Director (Sports),

Shri Ingit Pratap Singh was the chief guest. S.Y.Club Junglighat organised the event under the guidance of the ex-Councillor, Ward No.7, Shri Mahinder Prasad, a communication received here said.

No. DC (SA)/PA/Misc/1219
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
SOUTH ANDAMAN DISTRICT
Port Blair dated the 05th February 2016
PRESS RELEASE
An article was published by "The Andaman Express" under the caption "22 rich mine reserves untapped, quarry operators wish inclusion in current auction", wherein it has been alleged that the Administration have left several quarries rich in stone reserves unexploited which was operational before the introduction of auction process and has tremendous money generating potential. It has been further alleged that quarries on private land were also not considered for auction.
In this context, it is informed that most of the potential sites as exaggerated in the daily does not even qualify the general norms for quarrying as envisaged under the notification under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 read with Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs for Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Most of such quarry sites (7-8 nos) which were operational before the introduction of auction process are falling within the ambit of CRZ area.
It is further clarified that rest of the quarry sites as mentioned in the news report have been partly included in the auction list and the remaining portions of the sites have been left out of the area of quarrying because of non-availability of stone at the sites. Provisions were also kept for quarry sites in favour of Zilla Parishad and Port Blair Municipal Council, which they preferred not to operate.
With regards to operation of quarry by private land owners, it is to inform that the Andaman and Nicobar Minor Mineral Rules, 2012 has been notified on 20-09-2012, under which 38 quarries (18 Explosives and 20 Non-Explosives) were auctioned with due process of rule and leased out to the successful bidders and recorded tenants of private land have not been permitted to extract the Minor Mineral from their land in terms of A & N Islands Minor Minerals Rules, 2012.
In the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as per Section 38 (1) of A & N Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulations "All land in the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is vested absolutely in the Government and save as provided by or under this Regulation, no person shall be deemed to have acquired any property therein or any right to or over the same by occupation, prescription or conveyance or in any other manner what so ever except by a conveyance executed by, or under the authority of the Government.
Moreover, there is no provision envisaged in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Minor Mineral Rules, 2012 to extract Minor Minerals from any private land and only means of extraction of Minor Minerals from any land is through participation in an open bidding process. Further under Section 201 (1) of A & N Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation "The Government reserves the right in respect of every land to and over the foreshore, quarries, mines stones, slate, chalk, clay, precious stones, gold washing, coal and other minerals and mineral oils, and also to all stream water courses and public through fares within or traversing the said lands or any part thereof unless any or all of them are expressly specified for alienation in any instrument made by the Government".
Sd/-
Additional District Magistrate
South Andaman District