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Partially cloudy sky and light rain is likely at one or two places over Sri Vijaya Puram. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31.5°C and 24.5°C respectively on Sunday 17/11/2024.
 Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 31.4
 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 24.8
 Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST: 081
 Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST: 080
 Sunrise time on 17.11.2024 (in IST): 0517
 Sunset time on 17.11.2024 (in IST): 1651
 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 2024 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm: 3103.5 mm

Weather Report



Regn. No. 34190/75

No. 311

Sri Vijaya Puram, Sunday, November 17, 2024

Web: dt.andaman.gov.in

Rs. 3.00

Pages 4

Yet another dream takes flight and fructifies!

Air Asia's historic maiden landing in Sri Vijaya Puram: Opening a new gateway to international connectivity

Tourists receive heartfelt welcome with traditional fervour on arrival



Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands in his X post has termed the occasion as the Red Letter Day and historically most significant in civil aviation. In his post on X, he wrote:

Lt. Governor's Secretariat-Media Cell, A&N Islands
 @MediaRN_ANI

#Gateway2IndoPacific

A Red-Letter Day and historically most significant event in #CivilAviation segment of #NewAndamans today. After consistent efforts of @Andaman_Admin during last 5-6 yrs, mainly through #IslandsDevelopmentAgency, the inaugural direct #InternationalFlight of @airasia operated today in presence of Snr. Management functionaries of Airline from #KualaLumpur to #VSIAirport, scheduled thrice weekly in the beginning. This will fundamentally transform the #Tourism & #Hospitality sectors, potentially opening up #Global access. Efforts will continue to increase frequency, identify additional Destinations and Airlines, to position #SriVijayaPuram as an aviation hub for #Tourism in the wider #IndoPacific region. Incentives for such flights like Zero #VAT on #AviationFuel already in place & Zero landing fees, Zero parking fees under consideration.

@rashtrapatibhvn @VPIndia

Staff Correspondent

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov.16

The landing of the first international flight, Air Asia today in Veer Savarkar International Airport, Sri Vijaya Puram marked a momentous milestone and was celebrated with grandeur and heartfelt enthusiasm. As passengers disembarked, they were met with an extraordinary reception at the arrival terminal, embodying the spirit of traditional hospitality. Guests were warmly welcomed with garlands, vibrant flowers, and the rhythmic beats of drums that filled the air with joyous energy. They were accorded a warm reception at the arrival ceremony and were treated to a traditional dance. 156 passengers with 3 captain and 4 cabin crew arrived by Air Asia from Kuala Lumpur and 113 passengers flew from Sri Vijaya Puram to Kuala Lumpur today on this maiden international flight.

The smiles on the faces of the welcoming crowd reflected their pride and excitement in hosting their first-ever international guests. In their remarks, the passengers expressed their delight at the warm reception and shared their eagerness to explore the destination, immersing themselves in its culture and charm. They also highlighted the significance of this direct connection, which opens doors to unique experiences and promising opportunities.

This inaugural international flight not only marks a transformative chapter for the region but also serves as a beacon of future possibilities, fostering global connections, cultural exchange, and economic growth. It is a day etched in history, brimming with optimism for the road ahead.

This momentous occasion was graced by Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice Chairman, Islands

Development Agency, Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Chief of Staff, A & N Command, Rear Admiral Biplab Hota, VSM, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, DGP, A&N Islands, Shri Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal, other senior officers from A&N Administration, A&N Command, Civil Aviation and tourism stakeholders.

Due to paucity of time, as there was a window of only 40 minutes between arrival and departure of the flight, function was held with limited addresses & felicitations.



While briefing the gathering, MD, Air Asia, Dato' Captain Fareh stated that it is a proud day for Air Asia marking its maiden flight an important milestone in air connectivity for both India and Malaysia to

(Contd. on last page)

Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal & Chairman, EZCC inaugurates 'Sagar Bandhan' Programme at DBRAIT A&N Islands witnessing transformational change in various sectors in the recent past: Hon'ble Governor

Hon'ble Governor to institute 5 Governor's Award of Excellence for brilliant students of A&N Islands in the fields of Art, Sports etc. as encouragement

Staff Correspondent

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16

The Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India organized 'Sagar Bandhan' Programme at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Sri Vijaya Puram today. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Chairman, EZCC, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose as the chief guest by lighting the traditional oil lamp.

In his address, Hon'ble Governor appreciated the transformational nature of the changes taking in A&N Islands in the recent times



under the able leadership of Lt. Governor, A&N Islands. He further expressed his happiness that International Flight started its operation today marking a transformational change in the Islands.

Informing about the importance of Art, Hon'ble Governor said, the presence of artistes along with Administrators,

(Contd. on last page)



Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal on 4 days visit to A&N Islands from 15th-18th November, 2024 met Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency today at Raj Niwas. Hon'ble Lt. Governor apprised him about the mega infrastructure, Tourism, Hospitality projects of Andaman & Nicobar Administration being steered under the aegis of Islands Development Agency. In the immediate time-frame, highlighted the historic achievement of first ever commencement of Air Asia International Flights to Veer Savarkar International Airport, Sri Vijaya Puram from Kuala Lumpur today and scheduled trials of Sea-Plane operations set for 17th November onwards, both of which will potentially transform fundamentally the Tourism & Hospitality sector profiles of A&N Islands entirely, globally.

Air Asia's historic maiden landing in Sri Vijaya Puram: Opening a new gateway to international connectivity... (Contd. from page 1)

further strengthen aviation industry, making travel affordable and sustainable; also SVP is an emerging destination with immense potential and thanked the Government of India, A&N Administration for this historic and important connection in aviation history. Secretary, Tourism & Civil Aviation, Shri Vishwendra expressed happiness and pride in witnessing the initiatives and highlighted efforts taken by the Administration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, GoI. Airport Director, VSI Airport, Shri Devender Yadav while welcoming the dignitaries said, this day marks a historic moment in Civil Aviation sector.



Interacting with DT Correspondent, Kyle, a Malaysian tourist said, "This is my second visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but my first time traveling directly. Previously, I came through a transit route, but flying directly from Kuala Lumpur to Sri Vijaya Puram has been such a smooth and convenient experience. The shorter distance made the journey even more enjoyable. The Islands hold so much potential, and I'm always struck by their diversity and charm. The culture here is so vibrant, and some of the beaches remain untouched, offering a pristine and serene escape. I'm really looking forward to exploring more of what these beautiful islands have to offer this time around."



Sunny, another passenger from Malaysia said, it was a smooth journey and he can't wait to explore and experience the beautiful landscape of A&N Islands.

Farhan, who is also from Malaysia said this maiden flight from Kuala Lumpur to Sri Vijaya Puram opens up a whole new world of opportunities and possibilities. He expressed his excitement to explore the Island. Datin Vickie Yong from Malaysia said this direct connectivity is a good start and she looks forward to a wonderful stay in the Islands.

Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal & Chairman, EZCC inaugurates 'Sagar Bandhan' Programme at DBRAIT... (Contd. from page 1)

Statesmen and Politicians are vital for the glory of the Nation. Art can transform an individual and society. He said, Hon'ble Prime Minister has proclaimed that India is already a cultural superpower adding that "Our Country is moving fast in the path of progress". Mentioning about the 'Sagar Bandhan' Programme launched in A&N Islands, he said, it will be organized in all States which comes under EZCC and will not be confined to East Zone alone; it has also tie up with other Cultural Centres and started performing in other States too. Similar programmes have been conducted in Kerala, Odisha and next month, it will be held in Jharkhand. "We want to unite India through Art & Culture and here we can witness the reverberation", the Hon'ble Governor said.



The Hon'ble Governor also appreciated the native and traditional talents of the youth of A&N Islands which came alive with the mesmerizing dance performances of various genres. Impressed by the talents of the youth, the Governor announced that he will institute 5 Governor's Award of Excellence for the brilliant students of A&N Islands in various fields of Art, Sports, etc. The Award will comprise of a Trophy, Citation and Rs. 10,000 each. He further urged the officials of A&N Administration to send teams of students from A&N Islands as honoured guests of the Governor of West Bengal, so that they can come and stay at Kolkata & Darjeeling, fostering continued association, the Governor added.



Earlier, welcoming the chief guest and others present in the Auditorium, the Director, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Ministry of Culture, GoI, Shri Ashish Kumar Giri said, EZCC under the aegis of Ministry of Culture is engaged for the promotion of cultural heritage throughout India. Covering the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Manipur, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal, the Union Territory of Andaman and

Nicobar Islands, is one of the seven such Zonal Cultural Centres set up by the Government of India with a view to culturally integrate the States and Union Territories as part of the Program of National Integration, the Director added. Special attraction of this programme was a dance choreography based on the poem written by His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose. A very special performance- 'Kabor Dao', a soul stirring Bengali patriotic song was also presented on the occasion. Apart from this, various art forms formed part of the cultural programme 'Sagar Bandhan' which included Bengali Folk Song and Dance, Patriotic Classical Song and Dance, Nicobari Tribal Dance and Song, Bhojपुरi Folk, Deshbhakti Geet, Shiv Tandava Stotram etc.

Foundation Day of Jharkhand enthusiastically celebrated in Raj Niwas as part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16 As part of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative and as per directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, the Foundation Day of Jharkhand was celebrated enthusiastically in Raj Niwas. Persons hailing from Jharkhand

participated in the function. During the event, an interaction and experience sharing session was also conducted. A short documentary on Jharkhand was screened. The function ended with high tea, group photograph and presentation of mementos to invitees. The participants thanked MHA, Govt. of India and Raj Niwas for the initiative and for providing them opportunities and platform for interaction, a press release from Raj Niwas said.

DC (SA) visits GSSS Mohanpura for inspection

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16 Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman along with Shri Vikram Singh, Director of Education visited GSSS Mohanpura today and inspected and discussed with the officials of Directorate of Education regarding the development of the School playground. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officials for the face lifting of the school entrance and also to construct another gate near the school canteen for easy accessibility.

The Deputy Commissioner and Director of Education assured Shri Abdul Islam, Councillor of Ward No.04, that a Cricket tournament will be organized shortly after the development of the playground. The Principal of the School, Smti S Bhawani was also present during the visit. She highlighted about the school infrastructure and other issues related to the school, a press release from GSSS Mohanpura said.



Legal Awareness Camp organised by DLSA Speakers emphasized pivotal role of legal empowerment in ensuring equality, justice and protection for women

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16 In line with the directives of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to promote legal awareness and empower women, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, successfully organized a Legal Awareness Camp today at the Working Women's Hostel, Attam Pahad, South Andaman.

The program aimed to strengthen women's understanding of their legal rights, equipping them to confront real-life challenges with confidence and dignity while inspiring collective efforts toward achieving gender equality.

The camp was led by Smti Arkabradi Neogi, Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Port Blair-cum-Secretary, DLSA, A&N Islands alongside Shri Anupam Sircar, Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class-II, Port Blair. During the camp, the distinguished speakers elaborated on the comprehensive support



provided by legal services institutions to women. This includes free legal aid, counseling, and guidance to address critical issues such as domestic violence, workplace harassment, property rights, matrimonial disputes, and other violations of women's rights.

The speakers emphasized the pivotal role of legal empowerment

ensuring equality, justice, and protection for women. They urged the participants to utilize the services provided by the DLSA and other legal aid institutions to safeguard their rights and uphold their dignity.

The DLSA reiterated its commitment to fostering an inclusive society by empowering women and bridging gaps in access to justice, a press release from DLSA said.

National Press Day celebrated in Isles

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16 Along with the rest of the country, National Press Day was also observed in A&N Islands today. The theme for this year's celebration was 'Changing Nature of Press'. In this connection, a function was organized by the Directorate of IP&T, A & N Administration at Andaman Teal House here. Media persons from various print/electronic media attended the programme. The programme began with the lighting of lamp by the senior mediapersons of the Islands.

Speakers from the media fraternity shared their views on the theme of this year's celebration 'Changing nature of Press'. The speakers included Editor, News Spotlight, Shri Anadiranjana Biswas, Editor, Andaman Murasu, Shri Karikal Valavan, Shri Rajesh Kumar Lall from Sahil ki Oar, Editor, The Mini India, Shri Yadagiri Rao and Editor, Andaman Today, Shri T. Kumaran.

India becomes 3rd Most Powerful Nation in Asia, Surpasses Japan in Asia Power Index

In a major shift, India surpassed Japan to become the third-largest power in the Asia Power Index, reflecting its increasing geopolitical stature. This achievement is driven by India's dynamic growth, youthful population, and expanding economy, solidifying its position as a leading force in the region.

One of the most significant findings in the 2024 Asia Power Index is India's steady rise in the regional power rankings. Witnessing a gradual rise, India is looking to achieve its full potential and exercise its influence in the region.

Key Factors Behind India's Rise:

1. **Economic Growth:** India has shown remarkable post-pandemic economic recovery, contributing to a 4.2-point rise in its Economic Capability. India's massive population and strong GDP growth reinforce its standing as the world's third-largest economy in PPP terms.

2. **Future Potential:** India's Future Resources score increased by 8.2 points, signalling a potential demographic dividend. Unlike its regional competitors, particularly China and Japan, India benefits from a youthful population that will continue to drive economic growth and labour force expansion in the coming decades.

3. **Diplomatic Influence:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has garnered greater international recognition. India's non-aligned strategic posture has allowed New Delhi to navigate complex international waters effectively. India ranked 6th in terms of diplomatic dialogues in 2023, reflecting its active engagement in multilateral forums.

Further, India's large population and economic capabilities offer it substantial promise. India's score in Cultural Influence has also remained relatively strong, underpinned by its global diaspora and cultural exports.

In addition, India's role in multilateral diplomacy and security cooperation has been a point of emphasis. India's participation in dialogues, as well as its leadership in the Quad, has allowed it to play a significant role in regional security dynamics, albeit outside of formal military alliances. India's economic outreach, though limited, has seen incremental improvements, particularly in defense sales, such as the BrahMos missile deal with the Philippines. These developments, though small in scale, suggest that India is beginning to flex its geopolitical muscles beyond its immediate neighborhood.

India's Role in Asia

The 2024 Asia Power Index shows India as a power to reckon with in Asia. The country's substantial resource base gives it immense potential for future growth. The outlook for India is optimistic. With continued economic growth and a burgeoning workforce, India is well-positioned to expand its influence in the years ahead. In particular, India's

rising Diplomatic Influence and its strategic autonomy make it a key player in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Asia Power Index

The Asia Power Index, launched by the Lowy Institute in 2018, is an annual measure of power dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region. It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific, examining their ability to shape and respond to the external environment. The 2024 edition offers one of the most comprehensive assessments of power distribution in the region to date. Timor-Leste has been included for the first time, reflecting its growing importance in Southeast Asia. The Index focuses on both the material capabilities of states and the influence they exert on the international stage.

Criteria and Parameters of Power Measurement

Power in the Asia Power Index is divided into resource-based and influence-based determinants:

1. Resource-Based Determinants:

Economic Capability: The core economic strength of a country, measured through indicators like GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP), technological sophistication, and global economic connectivity.

Military Capability: Evaluates conventional military strength based on defense spending, armed forces, weapon systems, and signature capabilities like long-range power projection.

Resilience: The internal capacity to deter threats to state stability, including institutional robustness, geopolitical security, and resource security.

Future Resources: Forecasts the future distribution of resources, including economic, military, and demographic factors projected for 2035.

2. Influence-Based Determinants:

Economic Relationships: The capacity to exercise leverage through trade, investment, and economic diplomacy.

Defense Networks: The strength of alliances and partnerships, measured through military cooperation and arms transfers.

Diplomatic Influence: The extent of a country's diplomatic reach, participation in multilateral forums, and foreign policy ambition.

Cultural Influence: The ability to shape international public opinion through cultural exports, media, and people-to-people ties.

A country's overall power score is derived from a weighted average of these eight measures, encompassing 131 individual indicators. The results offer a nuanced understanding of how countries convert their resources into influence within the Asia-Pacific. (Source:PIB)

Compulsory training course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem for IFS Officers organized by ZSI culminates

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16

The one-week compulsory training course on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Island Ecosystem for the Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers conducted by Zoological Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, A&N Islands from Nov. 11, concluded Yesterday. The training course was organized in collaboration with Department of Environment and Forests, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. Total of 21 senior level Indian Forest Officers (IFS) participated from various States & Union Territory (AGMUT, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Haryana).

The valedictory function of the five-day training course was held yesterday at TSG, Emerald View, Phoenix Bay. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India, MoEF&CC, GoI was the chief guest. Shri. Jagdish Chander, IFS, Principal



Chief Conservator of Forests & Managing Director, Haryana Forest Development Corporation, Haryana Forests Department, Government of Haryana; Shri. Raman Kant Mishra, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Department of Forests and Wildlife Protection, Government of Punjab; Dr. P.S. Easa, Former Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Kerala; Dr. C. Raghunathan, Additional Director, ZSI, MoEF&CC were the special guests. This training course on coastal and marine biodiversity was designed to achieve the objective of promoting integrated management of coastal and

marine biodiversity of Island Ecosystem of India. This course aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect, preserve, and conserve the marine ecosystem and biodiversity. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, A & N Islands for conducting such an important course in order to create greater awareness in conservation of marine biodiversity wealth of our country. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Officer-in-Charge, ZSI, A & N Islands in his welcome address, mentioned about the training course conducted over the period of five days, a press release from ZSI said.

PS Kalighat team busts illegal liquor operation in Talbagan Forest

Diglipur, Nov. 16

In a swift and efficient operation against illegal liquor activities on Nov.13, 2024, PS Kalighat team conducted a targeted search in the dense forest area of Sagar Para, Talbagan, Kalighat. Responding promptly to a tip off, SHO SI Ashok Kumar Baghel constituted a specialized team comprising of SI M.J. Indrajit, In-charge, OP Kishorinagar and

PCs Ripon Mistry and Abhijit Roy. During the search in the dense forest area of Sagar Para, the team discovered a concealed site used for illicit liquor production, recovering approximately 805 liters of Lehan and various production materials hidden within the jungle. All confiscated items were subsequently destroyed, delivering a significant blow to the illegal liquor

manufacturing network. The general public have been requested to pass and share any credible information pertaining to any crime or illegal activities to their nearest Police Station or over phone No.100, 112 & 03192-273344. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded, a press release from SP N&MA said.

Plantation drive organized at Experimental Garden of BSI



Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16

Botanical Survey of India organized a plantation programme at Dhanikhari Experimental Garden-cum-Arboretum, Nayashahar, South Andaman on Nov. 14, 2024 as a part of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India. The programme was initiated with a welcome address by Addl. Director & Regional Head, Dr. Lal Ji Singh followed by the plantation of seedlings of coffee family plant species,

Pyrostria laljii which represents the first record of the genus Pyrostria for India by the chief guest, Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India, MoEF & CC, Govt. of India by planting seedlings of coffee family plant species, Pyrostria laljii M.C. Naik et.al. which represents the first record of the genus Pyrostria for India from this Islands.

During her visit, Dr. Singh briefed about the current activities of Experimental Garden on the conservation of the floral diversity of the Islands in order to save the

environment. Dr. Banerjee also interacted with Scientists of BSI and discussed on plant diversity of the Islands.

Scientists from ZSI, Dr. C. Raghunathan, Dr. Tamal Mondal, Dr. Debashree Dam, Dr. Atanu Naskar, and Prof. Ayaz Ahmed Shafi, IQ City, United World School of Business, Kolkata planted seedlings of several endemic, rare and endangered plant species like Nicobari Palm, Mango, Macaranga, Mallotus, Sterculia and many other saplings of trees, a press release from BSI said.

Inter School Kabbadi Knockout Tournament of Wimberlygunj Educational Zone concludes

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 16

The Wimberlygunj Educational Zone has successfully conducted the Inter School Kabbadi Knockout Tournament U-17 (Boys & Girls) from Nov. 12 to 13, 2024 at Mini Stadium, Wimberlygunj. In the final match of Under-17 Boys, St. Xavier Mannarghat defeated Crescent Public School, Wimberlygunj by 40-08 points. In the final match of Under-17 Girls, GMSSS Ferrargunj defeated MES Azad Nagar by 49-42 points.

The prize distribution ceremony was held yesterday at the Mini Stadium, Wimberlygunj, in which, Shri



Ram Babu, Pradhan Gram Panchayat, Wimberlygunj was the chief guest and presented the trophies and medals to the winning teams.

He congratulated the players and wished them the best for their performances in the upcoming State

School Games. Earlier, Smti Tara Narayan, PGT (PE) welcomed the gathering while Shri Suresh Kumar, PET organizer of the tournament, proposed the vote of thanks, a press release from DEO, Wimberlygunj said.

