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Unity and integrity is strength of our country: Vice President

New Delhi, Nov 24
The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that unity and integrity is the strength of our country. He was interacting with the members of a delegation from National Foundation of Communal Harmony, who presented him a Flag Sticker on the occasion of 'The Communal Harmony Campaign week', here today. The Vice President said that we have to protect and follow the rich cultural heritage of our motherland which we have inherited from our forefathers. He further said that our culture is much ancient than many other in the world. Irrespective of caste, creed, race or religion we are all one, he added. The Vice President said that we believe in India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which says 'the world is one family'. He further said that ours is the land that prayed for welfare of all - "Sarve Janaah



Sukhino Bhavantu". We showed compassion, tolerance and humanity the universal brotherhood, he added. The Vice President wished the students all the very best.

Winter Session of Parliament from December 15 to January 5

New Delhi, Nov 24

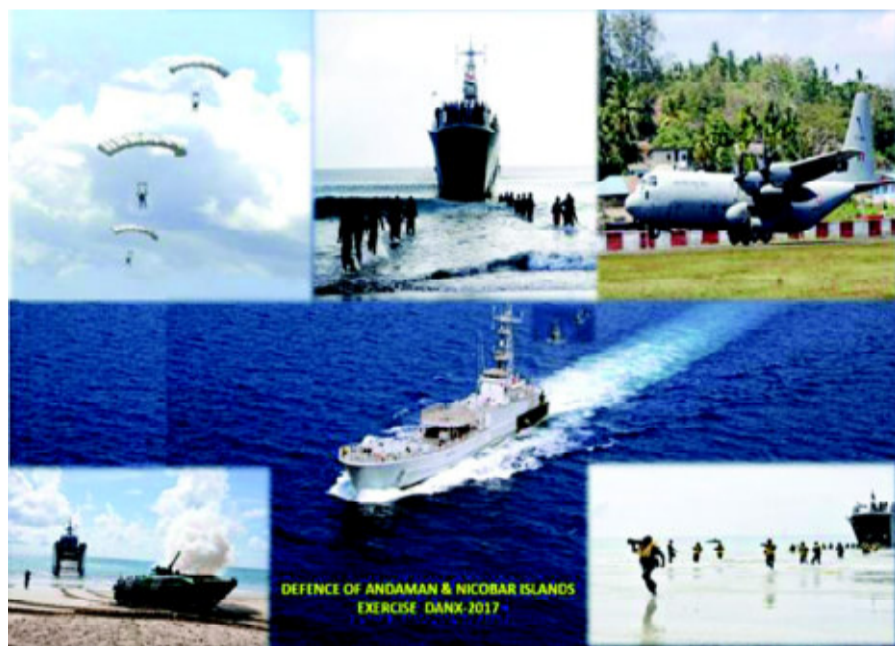
Winter session of Parliament will be held From 15th of next month to 5th January. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Ananth Kumar announced this after the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, chaired by Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, in New Delhi today. Shri Kumar said Parliament session and Assembly elections date should not overlap. He said, earlier also many times Parliament session has been scheduled, considering Assembly elections in the state. The Minister said, Government requests and seeks cooperation from all parties, including the opposition, for the smooth functioning of both Houses to make the session fruitful. Shri Kumar said, this session will have 14 working days and 25th and 26th December will be Christmas holidays.

Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Exercise concludes

Port Blair, Nov. 24

DANX-2017, Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise was conducted under the aegis of Andaman & Nicobar Command. The five day long exercise which started on Nov. 20, 2017 culminated today. From the planning stage onwards, joint planning and integrated approach was adopted for synergistic application of forces.

The main objective of the exercise was to practice & validate procedures and drill of all the Command forces aimed at defending Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Accretional forces from the mainland including fighters, Special Forces, Naval ships and heavy lift



transport aircrafts participated in the exercise.

The highlights of the exercise were fighter ops, night para jumps at sea, slithering of troops from

helicopters and amphibious landings of troops by ships. After the exercise, the Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command applauded all

the four Components for their synergistic planning and precise execution of the Command plans and urged all to focus on the take aways from the exercise for being fully prepared for any eventuality in future, a communication said.

Hiring Committee fixes revised standard rent for buildings

Port Blair, Nov. 24

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration constituted a Hiring Committee vide order no 699 dated 20/03/1974 for fixing standard rent by revising it from time to time under the Chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate with Executive

Engineer, PBNB, APWD and Sr. Account Officer (Fin-II), Secretariat as other members of the Committee.

The Committee after discussion and taking into consideration the various factors such as the Cost Index Over DPAR-1992, present cost index over DPAR-1992 (prevailing

during the month of Dec 2008), Allowances for Depreciation on Buildings for the period from 1997 to 2008, Increase in cost index since 1997, net enhancement in cost after reducing for Depreciation, revised standard rent with immediate effect. The new rates are as under:

S.No	Type of Building	Revised rent w.e.f	Standard
1.	RCC building within Municipal area (urban area of Port Blair)	Rs 11.11 per sq. feet per month	
2.	RCC building in Sub-urban area (from school line to Garacharma including Austinabad and Prothrapur)	Rs. 10.08 per sq feet per month	
3.	RCC building in Rural area of South Andaman (other than Urban & Sub-urban area)	Rs 9.62 per sq feet per month	
4.	Semi permanent building (Wooden Structure) in Municipal area (Urban area)	Rs. 7.42 per sq feet per month	
5.	Semi permanent building (Wooden Structure) in Sub-urban area of South Andaman as mention in SI No 2	Rs. 6.87 per sq feet per month	
6.	Semi permanent building (Wooden Structure) in Rural area of South Andaman	Rs.6.3 per sq feet per month	

Special Voters' Registration Campaign organized



Port Blair, Nov. 24

In connection with the ongoing Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls w.r.t Jan.1, 2018 as the qualifying date, a special Voters Registration Campaign was organized in the premises of INS Jarawa on Nov. 22. A similar campaign was also organized on board the Naval Ship INS Sarayu today.

As many as 125 eligible un-enrolled service persons have registered their names as general voter during these camps. Similar special campaigns will also be conducted in other units of different establishments from time to time, a communication from the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer, Port Blair said.

Inauguration of video conferencing connectivity

Port Blair, Nov. 24

As desired by the High Court, Calcutta, a video conferencing connectivity between the District Court, Port Blair and the District Jail, Prothrapur will be inaugurated tomorrow (Nov. 25) at 10 am. Justice Shivakant Prasad, Judge, High Court, Calcutta, presently presiding over the Circuit Bench at Port Blair will inaugurate the video conferencing, a communication from the District & Sessions Judge said.

Dealers registered under GST directed to file returns

Port Blair, Nov. 24

It has come to the notice of the Goods and Services Tax Department that majority of the dealers registered under GST have not filed GSTR-1, GSTR-2 and GSTR-3B for the month of the July, August, September and October, 2017.

All the registered dealers under GST have been directed to file their returns at the earliest, failing which strict action against them will be taken as per GST Act and Rules, a communication from the Joint Commissioner (GST) said.

Time bound action of LG on public grievances: MP expresses gratitude

Port Blair, Nov. 24

The Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands Admiral D.K. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd) for his time bound action/direction to the Department concerned to address the various issues

raised by the Member of Parliament pertaining to Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Islands immediately, such as Shipping, Health, Transport, Forest, Revenue, Tribal welfare matter, setting up SBI, MPLAD, Education, construction of community toilet blocks, MGNERAGA works, etc. Specific directions were also issued to the concerned officials to submit reply to the Member of Parliament and also inform the position to the Lt. Governor on or before 24.11.2017, a communication from the Office of the MP said here today.

Huge haul of contraband tobacco recovered by Police

Port Blair, Nov. 24

Acting on a specific information received from reliable source that some new comers travelling from Kolkata to Port Blair by Chartered flight on Nov. 23 are bringing some prohibited materials in huge quantity, a team of PS Central Crime Station and CID, rushed to VS International Airport, Lamba Line and laid a trap.

The raiding team recovered 1530 pouches each containing 40 gram Bagban Zarda (chewing tobacco) from the possession of three persons namely Mohammed Sikandar S/o Late Md. Mubijaddin R/o 35/1A, Canal East Road,



Narkeldange, West Bengal, Murshid Khan S/o Shri Khurshid Khan R/o 1, Sri Nath Babu Lane, Kolkata and Md. Asif S/o Mohd. Hanif R/o 2/1C, Kali Shome Street, Raja Ram Mohan Sarani, Kolkata.

Blood donation camp organized at JNRM

Port Blair, Nov. 24

A blood donation camp was organized by 1 (A&N) Indep. Inf Coy NCC in JNRM College yesterday. The Commanding Officer, Senior JCO. 22 NCC cadets and others donated

blood. The cadets were exhorted to spread message in their respective localities about blood donation. The Commanding Officer also explained the benefits of blood donation to the cadets on the occasion.

AAM installed in UHC Haddo



Port Blair, Nov. 24

The Councillor, Ward No. 2, Shri R. Someshwar Rao has expressed gratitude to the Lt. Governor, Member of Parliament, Director of Health Services, President, Bharatiya Janta Party, A&N Islands, for

their efforts in installing an Auto Analyzer Machine in the Urban Health Centre, Haddo. The facility was launched on Nov. 21 for the convenience of citizens of the area, a communication received here said.

SPORTS

Sri Lanka fold for 205 after Ashwin, Jadeja share seven

Nagpur, Nov 24
Sri Lanka were bowled out for a meagre 205 runs at the VCA Stadium in Nagpur on Friday on the first day of the second Test against India. It wasn't a case of the pitch not working in the batting team's favour – as was the case the last time this venue hosted a Test. This time, Sri Lanka were themselves to blame for throwing away wickets on numerous occasions coupled with India bowlers finding the right line and length. At close of play, India were also one down with KL Rahul back into the pavilion and trailing Sri Lanka by 194 runs.



the spinners ran riot and picked 33 of 40 wickets on offer with Indian spinners picking up the ten wickets in both innings. Move to Friday, and the spinners caused mayhem once again only the pitch wasn't in terrible condition. And quite a load of blame of the low score is due to Sri Lanka's poor technique and smart strategising by the hosts. If that alone isn't going to embarrass them, the fact that they won the toss, and chose to bat first, would. Both captains at the toss

concurred it was a green surface but Dinesh Chandimal was confident that the bowlers would get little purchase – and he was mostly right on both. Even as the wicket didn't aid the spin all that much, R Ashwin finished with four wickets – bagging the first Indian spin wicket of the series – and Ravindra Jadeja with three wickets. The remaining three went to Ishant Sharma who came in as a replacement for Mohammed Shami who is suffering with a niggle.

Harmanpreet Kaur signs contract extension with Sydney Thunder

Sydney, Nov 24
Star India batter Harmanpreet Kaur has extended her contract with Women's Big Bash League side Sydney Thunder for a further two years, the club announced today. The 28-year-old Harmanpreet had signed for the Thunder ahead of last season, making her the first Indian cricketer, male or female, to play in Australia's marquee T20 tournament. Harmanpreet is one of the most sought after players in women's cricket, accentuated by her blistering 171 in the World Cup semifinal against Australia earlier this year. Incidentally, a shoulder injury suffered before the Lord's final ruled her out of the Women's Super League, where she was slated to turn out for the Surrey Stars. "Following the Women's World



Cup, Harmanpreet was the hottest property in cricket," Sydney Thunder General Manager Lee Germon said. "She showed during that tournament and through her performances with the Thunder, that she is one of, if not the most, destructive batters in the game at the moment. She will bring her match winning qualities to our side and I am sure our fans will enjoy watching her play

once again in Thunder colours." "She's a match-winner and that's what you need in T20, you need those match-winners," Thunder coach Jo Broadbent told adelaidenow.com.au. "She's got that really good blend of technique and power, she really works on the basics. She's just incredible and such a great person to have. Her bat does most of the talking.

India seeded eighth in World Team Squash Championship

New Delhi, Nov 24
A four-member Indian team will be vying for honours in the WSF-Men's World Team Squash Championship to be held at Marseille, France, from November 27 to December 3. The team, comprising the top four players in terms of world rankings – Saurav Ghosal, Vikram Malhotra, Harinder Pal Sandhu and Mahesh Mangaonkar – left for France on Friday.

Austria, said an SRFI press note. The squad has its task cut out if it has to qualify for the pre-quarterfinal where its potential rival could be Scotland, which is no easy customer, according to national coach Cyrus Poncha, who is accompanying the team. "The first aim is to top the pool," he said. A total of 24 nations are taking part in the championship, including debutants Iraq and Jamaica. They have been placed in eight groups. The top two from each group progress to the pre-quarterfinal round.

Nagaland U-19 girls 2 all out in 17 overs, with 9 ducks

New Delhi, Nov 24
Even given cricket's history with quirky scorecards, this is one innings which stands out. On Friday, the Nagaland Under-19 women's cricket team were all out for just two runs in 17 overs against Kerala in the ongoing BCCI Women's Under-19 One-Day League and Knockout Tournament at the JKC college ground, Guntur. Remarkably, only one run was scored off the bat, from opener Menka who faced 18 deliveries – the most in the innings – while the other came off a wide delivery bowled by Kerala's opening bowler Aleena Surendran.

Yuki Bhambri, Sumit Nagal advance to quarterfinals of ATP Challenger event

Bengaluru, Nov 24
In Tennis, India's Yuki Bhambri and Sumit Nagal have advanced to the quarterfinals of the ATP Challenger event. Third seed Bhambri defeated Spain's Pedro Martinez, 6-2, 7-6 while Nagal drubbed Great Britain's Brydan Klein, 6-4, 4-

6, 7-5 at Bengaluru. In another match, Prajnesh defeated Australian Marc Polmans 6-2, 6-7, 6-1. However, Ramkumar Ramanathan bowed out of the tournament following a 7-6, 2-6, 4-6 defeat at the hands of Briton Jay Clarke.

Steve Smith defies England as Australia fight back in Ashes Test in Brisbane

Brisbane, Nov 24
Skipper Steve Smith posted an unbeaten 64 to rescue Australia from a precarious start and guide the hosts to 165-4 at stumps on day two of the Ashes, replying to England cricket team's 302. Australian critics questioned the quality of the England squad ahead of the first test, and veteran Australian players

executing well-devised strategies in the field to pick off the home team's top order. An 89-run partnership between Smith, who scored his 22nd test half century, and recalled No. 6 Shaun Marsh, who was unbeaten on 44, salvaged the innings after Australia slumped to 76-4 at the start of Friday's evening session.

executing well-devised strategies in the field to pick off the home team's top order. An 89-run partnership between Smith, who scored his 22nd test half century, and recalled No. 6 Shaun Marsh, who was unbeaten on 44, salvaged the innings after Australia slumped to 76-4 at the start of Friday's evening session.

Sindhu eases into Hong Kong Open semis

Hong Kong, Nov 24
Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu defeated Akane Yamaguchi of Japan to enter the semi-final of Hong Kong Open Super Series on Friday. Second seed Sindhu outplayed the fifth seed Japanese 21-12, 21-19 in a match which lasted 37 minutes. It was Sindhu's fourth win over the Japanese in their six meetings.



On Thursday, Sindhu made it to the quarters – who slipped a place to be number three in

the world rankings – after defeating Japan's Aya Ohori 21-14, 21-17 in a second round match.

Bopanna to pair with Roger-Vaseline in 2018 season

Bengaluru, Nov 24
India's leading doubles player Rohan Bopanna on Friday revealed that he will team up with world number 26 Edouard Roger-Vaseline for the 2018 season since the Frenchman is focused only on doubles unlike Pablo Cuevas. "One of the reasons for choosing Vaseline is that he is fully focused on doubles. Pablo focused more on singles events. That is when I decided to hunt for someone who only plays doubles. And that is how,

I have partnered Vaseline for next season," Bopanna told reporters. The 36-year-old Indian, ranked 18 in the world, had paired with Uruguayan Cuevas last year. The honour was bestowed in recognition of his mixed doubles Grand Slam victory at French Open this year. Bopanna had lifted his maiden Major title with Canadian partner Gabriela Dabrowski. "It always helps if you have a partner whom you have partnered earlier. I and Vaseline played together for a brief period. Vaseline is good at returns which gives me a chance to play my aggressive style of tennis," he said. On Davis Cup trial two-day best-of-three set matches for in Group I, Bopanna said it is likely to work in India's favour. "Nobody has played two-day best-of-three set matches. We have to really balance out our team. I think the advantage of having one more member on the team gives us a little more breathing space," he said.

Egypt mosque attack: death toll rises

Cairo, Nov 24
At least 235 people have been killed and scores more injured in a bomb and gun assault on a mosque in Egypt's north Sinai. The attack was one of the deadliest in the country in recent memory, marking a major escalation in Cairo's battle with regional insurgents. The death toll, reported by state media, rose repeatedly on Friday afternoon as more details emerged. A bomb ripped through the mosque as Friday prayers were finishing, then militants in four off-road vehicles approached and opened fire on worshippers.

Tailoring course underway at Ograbraj

Port Blair, Nov 24
The Nehru Yuva Kendra, Port Blair is conducting a three months cutting and tailoring course for 25 trainees under Skill Upgradation Training Programme (SUTP) at Ograbraj in collaboration with Youth Club, Ograbraj. The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Shri Mohd Safique, Pradhan and Ward Members of Gram Panchayat, Mithakhari recently. The Pradhan, while speaking, expressed gratitude to NYK for giving new opportunities to rural women. Shri Safuvan, Secretary, YCOB while welcoming the gathering stated that YCOB is taking initiative for skill development programme through NYK and other NGOs to empower women in the community and also provides them the opportunity for better livelihood, a communication said.

World Fisheries Day celebrated at Betapur



Port Blair, Nov 24
ICAR-KVK (CIARI), Nimbudera celebrated the World Fisheries Day at Betapur, Sivapuram Panchayat recently. Shri Lorhantus Bara, Pradhan, Shivapuram was the chief guest on the occasion. Shri A.T. Rao, Member, Zilla Parishad, Betapur, Dr. B.L. Kasinath, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, N & M Andaman explained about the activities of KVK and urged the farmers and participants to bring their problems to the knowledge of KVK for better solutions. Dr. Shailesh Kumar, SMS (Fisheries), Er. Manoj Kumar, SMS (Agril. Engg) also spoke on the occasion. An interactive session was organized in which fishermen raised their queries with the experts regarding marine fishing. Earlier Shri D. Basantia, SMS, Horticulture welcomed the gathering while Shri B.L. Meena proposed the vote of thanks, a communication said.

Power suspension

Port Blair, Nov. 24
Power supply will remain suspended tomorrow (Nov. 25) from 8 am to 3 pm for ABS structure maintenance work and transformer shifting work at Mithakari. The areas to be affected are Ograbraj to Namunaghar, Saithan Kari, Mithakari and Dunduspoint. Power supply will also remain suspended at old Pahargaon, part of Dollygunj from 8 am to 10.30 am and from 10.30 am to 1 pm at Dollygunj, Attam pahar, Industrial Estate and DBRAIT for replacement of distribution transformers and maintenance of transformers structure at Old Pahargaon and Dollygunj, communications said.

Vigraha Pratisthapanana at Dairy Farm

Port Blair, Nov. 24
Sri Sri Neelakanteshwara Temple, Fisheries Colony, Dairy Farm will be organizing Vigraha Pratisthapanana and Maha Kumbhabhisekam from Nov. 25 to 27. Vigraha Pratisthapanana and Maha Kumbhabhisekam will be held on Nov. 27 at 10.42 am. Annadanam will be served from Nov. 25 to 27 from 12 noon onwards at the temple premises, devotees have been invited.

Huge haul of... (Contd. from page 1)

Accordingly, Food Safety Officer was summoned to the spot and the recovered tobacco contraband was handed over to the FSO who seized and took into custody all the contraband items and the persons. The Police team comprised of SI Abdul Nazir, PCs P. K. Mondal, Hari Krishna Yadav, ArunXaxa and PC Suraj Kumar. Prior to this, the Central Crime Station and CID personnel had recovered about 3544 pouches and 3629 tins contraband items. These contraband items are banned in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and sale these items in exorbitant rate in these Islands, a communication said.

WEATHER

Rain or Thundershower very likely to occur at many places. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 25°C respectively on Saturday 25/11/2017
Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date : 31.2
Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date : 25.7
Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST 082
Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST 085
Sunrise Time for tomorrow(in IST): 0521
Sunset Time for tomorrow(in IST): 1652
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 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm 17 3077.9

REVISED SEVA SUCHNAYEN
ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

INTER ISLAND SECTOR:
MV Bharat Seema will sail for Car Nicobar via Hut Bay on 30.11.2017 (Thu) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 01.12.2017 (Fri) at 1600 Hrs from Car Nicobar via Hut. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public on 28.11.2017 (Tue) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters & CSC's. Similarly booking of cargo tickets will commence from 28.11.2017 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.

CARGO SERVICE:
HUT BAY SERVICE:
MV Bharat Seema will sail for Hut Bay on 26.11.2017 (Sun) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Hut Bay.
MV Chowra will sail for Hut Bay on 27.11.2017 (Mon) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Hut Bay.

Note: Passenger tickets for the above sailings for Hut Bay on 24th, 26th & 27th Nov., 2017 will be issued to the general public from 23.11.2017 (Thu) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters & CSC's.

MV Bharat Seema will sail for Hut Bay on 28.11.2017 (Tue) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2000 Hrs from Hut Bay.
MV Chowra will sail for Hut Bay on 29.11.2017 (Wed) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2000 Hrs from Hut Bay.

Note: Passenger tickets for the above sailings for Hut Bay on 28th & 29th Nov., 2017 will be issued to the general public from 27.11.2017 (Mon) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters & CSC's.

FORESHORE SECTOR:
Note: Passenger tickets for the Foreshore Sector vessels scheduled on 24th, 25th, 26th & 27th Nov., 2017 will be issued to the general public on 23.11.2017 (Thu) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Counters & CSC's. Similarly tickets for 28th, 29th & 30th Nov., 2017 will be issued to the general public on 27.11.2017 (Mon) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Counters & CSC's.
25.11.2017 (SATURDAY)
BARATANG
Due to administrative reasons the scheduled sailing for Baratang on 25.11.2017 (Sat) has been cancelled. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 25.11.2017 (Sat) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.
MV Strait Island will sail for Neil Island on 25.11.2017 (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 Strait Island will sail for Neil Island on 25.11.2017 (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 Strait Island will sail for Havelock on 25.11.2017 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock.
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 25.11.2017 (Sat) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

RANGAT, DIGLIPUR
MV Katchal will sail for Rangat via Neil, Havelock, Strait Island and Long Island on 25.11.2017 (Sat) at 0600 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1315 Hrs from Ragat via Strait Island & Havelock.
Due to administrative reasons the scheduled sailing for Diglipur on 25.11.2017 (Sat) has been cancelled. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted.
26.11.2017 (SUNDAY)
BARATANG
MV Katchal will sail for Baratang on 26.11.2017 (Sun) at 0700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Baratang.

HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND
MV Bambooka will sail for Havelock on 26.11.2017 (Sun) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock.

ASEAN CONNECT...

(Contd. from page 1)
an ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit will be held in New Delhi on January 25, 2018, which is expected to be attended by the leaders of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. These leaders will also attend next year's Republic Day celebrations collectively as chief guests. The India-Asean relationship was elevated to that of a Strategic Partnership in 2012 during the 20th anniversary Commemorative Summit in New Delhi. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 15th India-Asean Summit in the Philippines' capital Manila during which he reaffirmed New Delhi's commitment to strengthen ties with southeast Asia. Trade between India and Asean stood at \$71 billion in 2016-17 and comprised 10.85 per cent of India's total trade with the world. Asean and India together comprise a population of 1.85 billion, one-fourth of the global population, and a combined GDP of \$3.8 trillion. Investments in India from Asean countries in the last 17 years had been over \$70 billion, accounting for 17 per cent of FDI. Indian investments in Asean is over \$40 billion. The signal effort under the India-Asean connectivity initiative is the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and talks are underway to extend this to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam as well. Several projects on people-to-people connectivity are held annually to increase interaction between India and the Asean community.