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Shri Ram Nath Kovind takes over as 14th President of India

New Delhi, Jul 25

Shri Ram Nath Kovind has taken over as 14th President of India. He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India Justice JS Khehar at a special function in the Central hall of Parliament, New Delhi this morning. As Shri Kovind was sworn in, he was given 21-gun salute. Shri Kovind has become the second Dalit President after Shri KR Narayanan. The ceremony was attended by outgoing President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, senior members of the Cabinet, former Prime Ministers - Dr Manmohan Singh and Shri HD Deve Gowda, veteran BJP leader Shri LK Advani, BJP chief Shri Amit Shah, Congress President Smti Sonia Gandhi and leaders of other parties, MPs and other distinguished people from different walks of life.



Speaking on the occasion, Shri Kovind said he accepts this post with humility. He said, "we are diverse, yet united and one". Earlier, Shri Kovind along with outgoing President

Shri Pranab Mukherjee arrived in the Central Hall of Parliament in a ceremonial procession from Rashtrapati Bhawan. Before the ceremony, Shri Kovind visited Rajghat to pay his respect

to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Shri Kovind was elected the President on Thursday as a ruling NDA candidate. He defeated the Opposition parties' nominee Smti

Meira Kumar by a huge margin. Shri Kovind who served as the 35th Governor of Bihar was born on 1st October 1945 in Paraukh village in the Kanpur

Dehat district, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Kovind did his graduation in law from a Kanpur college. Shri Kovind joined the BJP in 1991. He was President of the BJP

Dalit Morcha between 1998 and 2002. He also served as Member of Rajya Sabha from 1994 to 2006.

(Full text of President's speech on page 2)

Profile of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind

A lawyer, veteran political representative and long-time advocate of egalitarianism and integrity in Indian public life and society, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was born on October 1, 1945, in Paraukh, near Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. His parents were Shri Maiku Lal and Smt Kalawati.

Before assuming charge of the office of the 14th President of India on July 25, 2017, Shri Kovind served as the 36th Governor of the state of Bihar from August 16, 2015, to June 20, 2017.

Educational and Professional Background

Shri Kovind completed his school education in Kanpur and obtained the degrees of B.Com and L.L.B. from Kanpur University. In 1971, he enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi.

Shri Kovind was Union Government Advocate in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979 and Union Government Standing Counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993. He became Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India in 1978. He practised at the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court for 16 years till 1993.

Parliamentary and Public Life

Shri Kovind was elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in April 1994. He served for two consecutive terms of six years each till March 2006. Shri Kovind served on various Parliamentary Committees like Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes; Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs; Parliamentary Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas; Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment; and Parliamentary Committee on Law and Justice. He was Chairman of the Rajya Sabha House Committee. Shri Kovind also served as Member of the Board of Management of the Dr B.R Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and Member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He was part of the Indian delegation at the United Nations and addressed the United Nations General Assembly in October 2002.

Positions Held

2015-17: Governor of Bihar

1994-2006: Member of the Rajya Sabha, representing the state of Uttar Pradesh

1971-75 and 1981: General Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Koli Samaj

1977-79: Union Government Advocate at the Delhi High Court

1982-84: Union Government Junior Counsel in the Supreme Court.

Personal Details

Shri Kovind married Smt Savita Kovind on May 30, 1974. They have a son, Shri Prashant Kumar, and a daughter, Miss Swati. An avid reader, the President has keen interest in reading books on politics and social change, law and history, and religion. During his long public career, Shri Kovind has travelled widely across the country. He has also visited Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and the United States in his capacity as a Member of Parliament.

Book 'tourist spot tickets' through Single Window System of Tourism Deptt

Port Blair, July 25

The people engaged in tourism related activities, local tourism stakeholders, the general public, and tourists visiting the Andaman Islands can now register their details on the online website www.and.nic.in/etourist for availing the services provided through the Single Window System. After reaching the Wifi range (eCounter) of Tourist Information Centres located at the Airport, Directorate of IP&T Building and the Cellular Jail, they can book their tourist spot tickets with the help of the computer generated thirteen digit Tourist Registration Number through their mobile phones or by approaching the Tourist Information Counters. Presently, the entry tickets for the Sound and Light show at Cellular Jail and Ross Island can be booked from the above said TICs.

CS launches linking of STARS with CSCs Lauds Shipping Services Deptt for this remarkable development Five CSCs enabled in first phase

Port Blair, July 25

In an initiative to facilitate seafarer of both mainland and inter Islands bound ships/boats, especially the rural populace, and as part of 'Digital India' programme, the Directorate of Shipping Services is in the process of linking Common Services Centres (CSCs) with Ship tickets Advanced Reservation System (STARS). As part of the initiative, five such centres have been linked with STARS; one each at Sippighat, Bathu Basti, Ferrargunj, Dairy Farm and Bambooflat, in the first phase. At a function held at Sippighat Panchayat here today, the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar launched the linking of



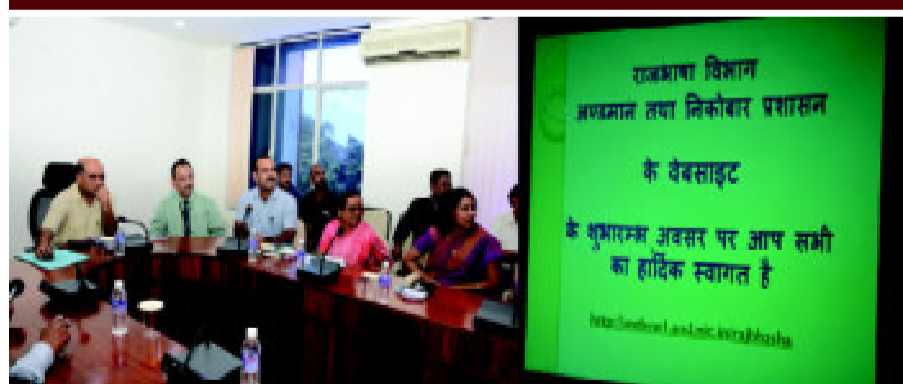
STARS with the CSC Sippighat as the chief guest of the event. The Adhyaksha Zila Parishad South Andaman, Shri Jaydev Kumar Dey and the Chairperson PBMC, Shri B Eswar Rao were also present on the occasion.

The chief guest, while addressing the gathering, informed that linking STARS with CSCs is a remarkable development in the ship ticket reservation system,

which were being manually done earlier and then transformed into computerized ticket counter in 2007. With the launching of the system in the CSCs, people of the nearby areas will no longer have to visit the STARS counter at the Directorate of Shipping Services for reservation of tickets as they can contact the nearest CSC and book their tickets, he said and

(Contd. on last page)

CS launches website of Official Language Department



Port Blair, July 25

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar launched the website of the Official Language Department of the A&N Administration in the conference hall of Secretariat here this morning. This website is completely in Hindi. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary termed this website as very useful and asked all the

Departments to avail benefits from the information given on this website and do maximum works in Hindi.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Secretary (OL), Shri Ramesh Verma said that with the launch of this website, all the Departments will be able to know about the rules of the Official Language besides the activities of the Official Language Department. They will also

get different formats required from this website, which will facilitate all in working in Hindi. This website will become more informative in future, he said.

The website has been created by the Official Language Department, A&N Administration in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC), the url for which is http://andw1.and.nic.in/rajbhasha.

MP raises issue of opening of Sainik School in Isles

Port Blair, July 25

The Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Subhash Bhamre, informed the Lok Sabha that the UT Government of A & N Islands has requested the Ministry to bear the capital cost for establishment of the Sainik School by the Defence Ministry, since the UT Administration is unable to meet the additional fund requirement towards capital

cost for establishment of Sainik School. In this context, the Ministry has advised the UT Administration to rout their proposal through the Ministry of Home Affairs. Meanwhile, the Ministry has informed about deputation of team of officers for assessing the suitability of land identified at Rabindra Nagar, L/ Andaman and at

Swarajgram in Diglipur. The site survey has been scheduled from 31st July, 2017 to 4th August, 2017. The Minister was replying to the question raised by the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, who sought to know about the present status of opening of Sainik School in Andaman, a communication from the Office of the MP said here.

DMHE launched in Isles Involvement of higher educational institutions in Disaster Management is vital: CS

Staff Reporter
Port Blair, July 25

The Directorate of Disaster Management organized a programme for the launch of Disaster Management in Higher Education (DMHE) in the conference hall of Secretariat here this evening. The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar, as the chief guest launched the programme by releasing brochure and guidelines for preparation of Disaster Management Plan in Higher Education. The Secretary (Education), Ms. Tanvi Garg, Director, Disaster Management, Shri



Govind Ram, Principals of Colleges and Higher Educational institutions of A&N Islands, Representatives from NDRF and Health Department were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary said, Disaster Management is a

Van Mahotsava celebrated at JNRM



Port Blair, July 25

The NSS Unit of JNRM in collaboration with Department of Environment and Forest,

A & N Administration observed Van Mahotsava recently. The chief guest Shri. P.K. Paul, DFO

(Contd. on last page)

Tree is our best friend-They give us free Oxygen

Joint Commissioner, GST

SPORTS

WEATHER

Rain or Thundershower very likely to occur at many places. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30 °C and 25 °C respectively on Wednesday 26/07/2017
Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date : 30.6
Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date : 25.8
Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST 086
Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST 097
Sunrise Time for tomorrow(in IST): 0505
Sunset Time for tomorrow(in IST): 1746
Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm: 008.3
Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 004.6
Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 17 1505.6 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

REVISED SEVA SUCHNAYEIN
ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

INTER ISLAND SECTOR:

MV Campbell Bay will now sail for Campbell Bay via Hut Bay, Chowra, Teressa & Nancowry on 27.07.2017 (Thu) at 0800 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 29.07.2017 (Sat) at 0900 Hrs from Campbell Bay via same route. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public on 26.07.2017 (Wed) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. Similarly booking of cargo tickets (for perishable items only) will commence from 26.07.2017 (Wed) 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 Coral Queen will sail for Car Nicobar via Hut Bay on 31.07.2017 (Mon) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 01.08.2017 (Tue) at 1200 Hrs from Car Nicobar via Hut Bay. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public on 28.07.2017 (Fri) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. Similarly booking of cargo tickets will commence from 28.07.2017 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.

HUT BAY SECTOR:-

MV Coral Queen will sail for Hut Bay on 29.07.2017 (Sat) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2200 Hrs from Hut Bay. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public on 27.07.2017 (Thu) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Counters.

FORESHORE SECTOR:

Note: Passenger tickets for the Foreshore Sector vessels scheduled on 26th & 27th July, 2017 will be issued to the general public on 26.07.2017 (Wed) from 0900 Hrs onwards at STARS Counters.

26.07.2017 (WEDNESDAY)

HAVELOCK, LONG ISLAND & RANGAT

MV North Passage will sail for Rangat via Havelock and Long Island on 26.07.2017 (Wed) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1300 Hrs from Rangat via same route. Passenger tickets for the sailing of MV North Passage will be issued to the general public on 26.07.2017 at DSS Information Counters one hour prior to the departure of the vessel.

HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND

MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 26.07.2017 (Wed) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Neil Island. Passenger tickets for the above sailing of MV Kamorta will be issued to the general public on 26.07.2017 at DSS Information Counters one hour prior to the departure of the vessel. MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 26.07.2017 (Wed) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island. MV Kamorta will sail for Havelock on 26.07.2017 (Wed) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock.

27.07.2017 (THURSDAY)

HAVELOCK & NEIL ISLAND

MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 27.07.2017 (Thu) at 0620 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Havelock. MV Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 27.07.2017 (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 Kamorta will sail for Neil Island on 27.07.2017 (Thu) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Neil Island. MV Kamorta will sail for Havelock 27.07.2017 (Thu) at 1300 Hrs from Neil Island Jetty and will sail back to Neil Island on the same day at 1445 Hrs from Havelock. MV North Passage will sail for Havelock on 27.07.2017 (Thu) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Havelock.

Van Mahotsava ...
(Contd. from page 1)

(Extension and Publicity) appreciated the effort of JNRM in preserving the nature by involving its students through various eco-friendly activities both on and off campus.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr.N.Francis Xavier, Principal, JNRM highlighted the various activities done by its students under the umbrella of NSS. Earlier, Dr.S.K.Jha, Programme Officer welcomed the gathering and informed about the activities of NSS unit of JNRM. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by the Co-ordinator of the programme, Dr.Kandimuthu, a communication received here said.

India finish 7th in Commonwealth Youth Games with 11 medals



Bahamas, July 25
India finished at seventh position in the sixth Commonwealth Youth Games at Nassau in Bahamas after winning 11 medals, including four gold, one silver and six bronze medals in the six-day multi-sporting event which concluded yesterday. On the opening day on July 18, India got off to a flying start with the judokas grabbing four medals. Soni picked up India's first gold medal by winning the 73kg category event, beating Australia's Uros Nikolic. Ashish followed with a bronze medal in the 60kg category, with a win over England's Harry Zane-Prosser. Among the girls, Antim Yadav and Rebina Devi Chanan won two more bronze medals. In boxing, India bagged four medals with World Youth champion Sachin Siwach clinching the gold in light flyweight in 49kg category after defeating James Nathan Probert of Wales. Muhammed Etash Khan then added a

bronze in boys bantamweight, 56kg, category. In tennis, Zeel Desai and Sidhant Banthia claimed three medals across all three categories in singles and mixed

Usain Bolt, Elaine Thompson lead Jamaica's world championships charge

Kingston, July 25
Usain Bolt is among three Olympic champions leading a strong Jamaica team at the athletics world championships in London next month. Bolt will chase his fourth successive 100 metres world title and a fifth consecutive 4x100m relay gold at the Aug. 4-14 meeting, his last international competition. Olympic double sprint champion

doubles. Desai won her girls singles final against Eliza Omirou of Cyprus 6-3 7-6, while Banthia clinched the bronze with a win over Cypriot Eleftherios Neos 6-2, 6-0. The duo of Banthia and Desai took India to a 6-4, 6-3 victory in the mixed doubles finals against Neos and Omirou of Cyprus.

The Indian contingent had comprised 28 participants across six disciplines that are athletics, cycling, swimming, judo, boxing and tennis.

Elaine Thompson and Omar Moleod, who won Jamaica's first 110 metres hurdles gold at the Rio Games, were also included in the 59-member squad announced by the Jamaica's athletics administration (JAAA) on Monday. Hansle Parchment, who won 110m hurdles silver at the last world championships in Beijing, and rising star Ronald Levy join world leader Moleod in the event.

Rs 239 crore recovered from Pharmaceutical Companies: Govt

New Delhi, July 25
Government today said that around 239 crore rupees have been recovered from Pharmaceutical Companies against non-compliance of provisions of Drug price control order (DPCO). Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Lal Mandaviya said this in a

written reply in Lok Sabha. He said, action is taken against companies, whenever they are found selling scheduled formulation at prices higher than the ceiling prices fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. He said, under the relevant provisions of DPCO, the overcharged amount, along with interest is levied

on the company. The Minister added that similar action is taken whenever companies are found selling non-scheduled formulation at a price which is 10 per cent higher than the MRP of the preceding twelve months.

Van Mahotsav celebrated at GSSS Tusnabad

Port Blair, July 24
The 68th Van Mahotsav was celebrated at GSSS Tusnabad yesterday. On this occasion, mass tree plantation programme was organised in which Smti Mary Jasintha, Pradhan, Tusnabad panchayat, PRI Members, students, staff including CWSN students participated. Dr Abdul Aziz, Range Officer, Tusnabad, while interacting with the students explained about the importance of plants, a communication received here said.

Issuance of passenger tickets for foreshore sector

Port Blair, July 25
Due to administrative reasons, the schedule of Foreshore Sector are being altered/rescheduled. All out efforts are being made by the Directorate of Shipping Services to normalize the standard schedules in Foreshore Sector. Passengers are requested to cooperate till the normalcy is restored. In view of this, Passenger tickets for the Foreshore

Sector vessels scheduled on 26th & 27th July, 2017 will be issued to the general public on 26.07.2017 from 9 am onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters. Similarly, passenger tickets for the vessels scheduled to sail in the morning hours of 26th July, 2017 will be issued at DSS Information Counter, Phoenix Bay one hour prior to the departure of the vessel, a communication said.

Involvement of higher ...
(Contd. from page 1)

The memories of December 24th Tsunami has to be kept alive while preparing for any eventualities, as the A&N Islands are situated in a highly vulnerable zone, he said. He further stated that the Department of Disaster Management has been strengthened over the years and is now equipped with better technology and human resources, having better connectivity with the community as well as the defence forces for mitigating any disaster.

The Chief Secretary also stressed on the need for remote area connectivity by further strengthening the community based disaster management. He urged the Disaster Management Department to involve every higher educational institution of the Islands in Disaster Management, especially Medical College students, besides NSS & NCC cadets, members of the Red Cross and Health Department, and utilize for utilizing their services during relief and operations.

The Chief Secretary also directed all the Heads of Higher Educational Institutes to devise methods and plans for mitigating disaster and urged them to visit the office of the Disaster Management to have better knowledge of the functioning of the Department.

Speaking about preparedness for post trauma stress, the Chief Secretary said, post trauma management during any disaster is very important and we must be prepared for it. He also urged the Disaster Management Department to regularly update the people about disaster preparedness programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary (Edn), Ms. Tanvi said, Disaster Management in Higher Education is very important and most of the colleges are already conducting disaster mock drills to make the students aware of disaster preparedness. She said, the Education Department will extend all support to the Disaster Management Department in its endeavour towards disaster preparedness and management.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Director, Disaster Management, Shri Govind Ram, through a power point presentation, highlighted about the importance of disaster preparedness and the need to involve the higher education institutions. He said, the A&N Islands are geographically located in Zone 5 and the vulnerability is high, hence a fool proof disaster management is necessary by including higher education for utilizing their resources during disaster.

The representatives from various colleges and higher education institutions also shared their views on disaster management and preparedness.

Inter School Zonal Football Knockout Tournament of Wimberlygunj Zone

Port Blair, July 25
Final matches of Inter School Zonal football knock out tournament under 14 Years (Hoys) and 17 Years (Boys & Girls) of Wimberlygunj Educational Zone were played at Mini Stadium, Wimberlygunj today. Shri Gyan Sheel Dubey, Deputy Education Officer,

Wimberlygunj as the chief guest distributed the trophy and certificate to the winner team. Shri O. Hasheer, Pradhan, Mannarghat was the guest of honour and distributed the trophy and certificate to the runners up team. In the final match for U-17 Boys,

GSSS Wimberlygunj defeated MES Azad Nagar by 2-0 Goals. In the final match for U-17 Girls, GSSS Mannarghat defeated MES Azad Nagar by 3-0 Goals and in the final match for U-14 Boys, GSSS Crescent Public School, Nayapuram defeated GSSS Mannarghat by 3-0 Goals.

First Cricket Test between India, Sri Lanka to begin at Galle today

Galle, Jlu 25
The first Cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka begins at Galle tomorrow. India opener KL Rahul is down with fever and missed yesterday's practise session in Galle, making him a doubtful starter for the series opener.



If he misses out, Shikhar Dhawan and Abhinav Mukund are likely to open for India. Beyond the opening slots, the rest of the batting order -- from Cheteshwar Pujara, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane -- picks itself. Rohit Sharma is also expected to return to the Test line-up for the first time since he last played against New Zealand in Indore. While R Ashwin is set to play his 50th Test. If Kohli does pick five bowlers, there is no doubt he will go in with an

extra spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. The series also marks the second coming of Ravi Shastri at the helm of affairs. Sri Lanka's new Test skipper Dinesh Chandimal will be unavailable owing to pneumonia. In his absence, Rangana Herath will lead the side. The two teams will play three Tests, Five one day Internationals and one T-20 match during the one and a

half month long bilateral series. All India Radio will broadcast ball by ball commentary of all the matches. On the first day of Galle Test tomorrow the commentary will start at 0930 Hours to till the end of day's play which can be heard on Rajdhani and FM Gold plus RNLD channels. Commentary of the remaining four days of the Test will begin at 0950 Hours.

India to host men's World Boxing C'ship in 2021, women's Meet in 2018

New Delhi, July 25
In a historic first for Indian boxing, the country will host the men's World Championship for the first time in 2021 besides next year's women's World Championship. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) made the announcement at the end of its two-day executive committee meeting in Moscow.



India has never conducted the men's World Championship but has played host to the 2006 women's mega-event. The

68th Van Mahotsav Swimming Competition

Port Blair, July 25
The Swimming Competition organized by the Department of Environment & Forests as part of the month long celebration of 68th Van Mahotsav-2017 shall commence at 3PM on 26th July 2017 at the Swimming Pool of Netaji Stadium, Port Blair. Shri Tarun Coomar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A&N Islands will be the chief guest. The participants who have registered their names for the Competition are requested to report to Shri V. Selvam, Swimming Coach at 2.30 PM positively on 26th July, 2017, a communication said.

Konsam wins gold in Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships



Kathmandu, July 25
The Indian Indian weightlifter Konsam Ornila Devi has bagged a gold medal at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal. According to a press-

release from the Indian Weightlifting Federation, the weightlifter from Manipur lifted 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 126kg in the 44kg weight category to finish on the top of the podium.

Lauds Shipping Services...

(Contd. from page 1)

complimented the Directorate of Shipping Services for the initiative. Stating that shipping is the lifeline of these Islands, the Chief Secretary said that the Administration is making all efforts in improving the services, especially for the Nicobar group of Islands, which solely depend on shipping services, and the Administration is striving to provide better shipping service facility to those Islands. He also remarked that the connectivity problem will be solved once the undersea Optical Fiber Cable work is completed. In the meantime, internal arrangements have been made with BSNL for the success of these initiatives, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner cum Secretary (Shipping), Shri Sanjeev Khirwar informed that the objectives of linking STARS with CSC is to increase the number of counters to facilitate passengers. The five CSCs are being linked in the first phase and by September this year, the linking of other CSCs will be completed, he said.

In his welcome address, the Pradhan Sippighat Gram Panchayat, Shri Vincent R Walter expressed gratitude to the Administration for making available the ship ticket reservation facility at Sippighat CSC. He also highlighted some grievances pertaining to the Panchayat for redressal.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks, proposed by Capt. Rajender Kumar, Director, Shipping Services.