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NEWS IN BRIEF

Jairam sworn-in as CM of Himachal Pradesh

Shimla, Dec 27
 Shri Jai Ram Thakur takes oath as Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh along with 11 other Ministers in a grand ceremony in Shimla. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP Chief Shri Amit Shah graced the occasion along with Chief Ministers of other BJP ruled states.

Free entry to Cellular Jail on Dec.30

Port Blair, Dec.27
 The A&N Administration will be celebrating 74th anniversary of First Flag Hoisting by Netaji on Dec.30, 2017 in a befitting manner. As part of the celebration, free entry will be allowed to all in National Memorial Cellular Jail on Dec.30, 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Beach Festival at Amkunj Beach

Port Blair, Dec.27
 The District Administration & PRIs will be organizing Beach Festival 2018 at Amkunj Beach, Nimbutala from Dec.30 to Jan.3. The star attractions of the Festival will be cultural programs which include Karen Dance, Ranchi Dance, Beach Sports, Flower Show, Baby Show, Quiz Competition & many more exciting activities in addition to mouth watering multi cuisine delicacies.

IPS officer Abhay appointed NCB Director General

New Delhi, Dec 27
 Senior IPS officer Abhay was on Wednesday appointed Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau NCB. The order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said, the appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment to the post till 18th of November 2019.

Sensex closes 99 points down, Nifty below 10,500

Mumbai, Dec 27
 Falling from the record high, the Sensex at the Bombay Stock Exchange lost 99 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 33,912, today. The Nifty at the National Stock Exchange declined 41 points, or 0.4 percent, to 10,491.

Rupee down by 10 paise against USD

Mumbai, Dec 27
 The rupee gave up by 10 paise at 64 rupees 18 paise against the dollar today, facing heat from a rising dollar overseas. The dollar was firm against a few global currencies, but the strength in domestic equities came as a buffer for the rupee losses, analysts said.

74th anniversary of First Flag Hoisting Day on 30th Dec

Lt. Governor to hoist National Flag at 'Memorial of 30th December'

Port Blair, Dec.27
 A&N Administration is all set to celebrate 74th anniversary of First Flag Hoisting day on 30th December 2017 in a befitting manner ensuring participation of general public. The main function will be held at the 'Memorial of 30th December', opposite Andaman Club where the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd) will hoist the National Flag at 8 a.m. On the occasion, the Lt. Governor will felicitate nine veteran Islanders who were members of Indian National Army and Indian Independence League, Andaman Branch. A large number of members of Forum for Awareness of National Security (FANS) will be attending the function. All citizens have been requested to attend the function and be seated before 7.30 am on 30th December 2017.



The flag hoisting at 8 am would be preceded

by laying of wreath at Martyr's Column, Cellular Jail by Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar at 7.50 am. Laying of wreath at 1857 Memorial, Marina Park and Memorial of Battle of Aberdeen at 7.40 am as well as floral tribute at Netaji Statue, Marina Park at 7.30 am by Chairperson, PBMC.

RD Ministry sanctions 28 rural roads amounting to over Rs 11 crores in rural Andamans: MP

Staff Reporter, Port Blair, Dec. 27
 The Ministry of Rural Development has sanctioned Rs 11.69 crores on Dec. 14 for construction of 28 rural roads in different places having a total length of 42.89 Km under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), informed the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray while speaking to the media persons.



Addressing a press conference at MP Bhawan here yesterday, the Member of Parliament expressed his gratitude to Minister of Rural Development, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar for making special efforts in sanctioning Rs 11.69 crores for construction of the 28 Rural roads (PMGSY-I up-gradation batch-I).

(The list of the sanctioned road on pg 2)

During the course of the press conference, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray stated that he has further requested the Minister for construction/up-gradation of more rural road under PMGSY for betterment of the Islanders. In response to the demand placed by Shri Ray, the Rural Development Minister expressed that A & N Islands is always on priority and he will look into the possibilities for construction of around 411 numbers of Rural Roads under the PMGSY Scheme in different parts of A&N Islands as requested by Shri Ray. The Member of Parliament, further said that under batch-II, DPR for another 33 rural road (total 40KMs) will be submitted by the A&N Administration by January 15, 2018 while DPRs for rest of the rural roads will be submitted by the A&N Administration by March, 2018.

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Meeting in connection with MILAN-2018 held



Port Blair, Dec.27
 Administration and the A & N Command to provide logistic to the visiting dignitaries like accommodation/ transportation etc. It was also emphasized that all the departments under the Administration should actively participate and coordinate to conduct the MILAN 18 in a befitting manner, a communication said.

Training programme for Police personnel held



Port Blair, Dec.27
 MPH Training School, Port Blair for the Police personnel deputed by the A&N Police Department. Altogether 09 Police personnel participated in the 10.10.2017 by the ANM/

APWD erecting road dividers from Bhathubasti Jn. to Utkrosh

Entire stretch to be four-lane and can be visualized to be completed by March

Staff Reporter, Port Blair, Dec.27
 The Andaman Public Works Department has embarked on a project which will certainly go a long way in minimizing traffic congestion resulting in reducing the number of road accidents in the peripheries of the city. The project, first of its kind in the Islands, costing Rs.11-08 crores will convert the complete stretch of around 3.5 km road from Bhathubasti Junction to Utkrosh (Lamba Line) into a four-lane road. The work began months back and it has reached its penultimate stage with the construction of road dividers starting from Bhathubasti area. Once this is completed, the widening of road will take its final shape.

Disclosing the details of the project, the Executive Engineer, SADO, Shri Lingaraju stated that in the first phase, the construction of road dividers and widening of roads for four-lane has been undertaken. The EE said, hollow pipes will be used for power, telephone lines and other purposes and this will help in repeated excavating of roads. In the second phase, he said that segregated bus stops will be constructed in such a manner that it does not affect the smooth flow of traffic. Side walk will be made for pedestrians, he added and expressed confidence that the entire project will be completed by March 31, 2018. (Contd. on Pg.2.....)

Blood donation camp organized

Port Blair, Dec.27
 In connection with Makara Sankranti 2018, Andhra Association, Port Blair organised first ever Blood Donation Camp with the support of A & N AIDS Control Society, Port Blair and Blood Bank, GB Pant Hospital on Dec.23, 2017 at Andhra Association Hall. Dr. M. Joy, Project Director, A & N AIDS Control Society, Port Blair was the chief guest and Dr. K. Sneha, MBBS, Microbiology and Shri P. Nagesh Rao, SDE, BSNL, Port Blair were the guests of honour.

In his address, the

Adhyaksha ZPSA visits Schools in Hut Bay



Port Blair, Dec.27
 The Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, Smti Baby Fareeda during her visit to Little Andaman met Shri Vasudevan Nair, PRI Member and inspected GMSSS Hut Bay and GMSSS Harminder Bay on Dec.22. During the inspection, she observed that there was shortage of basic facilities and teaching staff. The Adhyaksha wrote a letter to the Secretary (Education), A&N Administration to intervene in the matter and take necessary steps, a communication said.

Police apprehends one person with 4 kg wild boar meat

Port Blair, Dec.27
 Sub Inspector, Pankaj Kumar Rai along with PC/2617 Zaiduddin and HG/726 Amit Chakraborty of PS Hut Bay, while on traffic checking duty at PMB gate, Hut Bay, Little Andaman, under the supervision of SI Saravanan, SHO PS Hut Bay, apprehended one person namely Sumen Mali (23) yrs who was found in illegal possession of 04 Kg wild boar meat in a gunny bag. On this, the police party immediately seized the property on the spot. Later, he along with seized property was handed over to Shri. Prem Kumar, Range Officer, Hut Bay, Little Andaman for further necessary action. Meanwhile, the South Andaman Police has requested the public to assist the police by passing information about anti-social elements on 100 (PCR) or respective Police Stations 258411 (PS Bamboo Flat), 224934 (PS Ograbraj), 287590 (PS Humfrygunj), 282405 (PS Havelock), 284208 (PS Hut Bay) and 282602 (PS Neil Island). Identity of the informer will be kept secret, a communication said.

PATRIOTIC FILM FESTIVAL

at ASI Auditorium & Corbyn's Cove Beach

Port Blair, Dec.27
 'Patriotic Film Festival' will be organised by the Directorate of Information, Publicity and Tourism, A&N Administration in association with Directorate of Film Festival, New Delhi, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at the auditorium of Anthropological Survey of India (ASI) from 4 pm and at Corbyn's Cove beach from 5 pm from Dec.28 to 30. Daily two shows will be screened.

Beach Festival from 11th - 14th January

Application invited from local Cultural Organizations

Port Blair, Dec.27
 Beach festival is scheduled to be held from 11th - 14th January, 2018 by the Department of Tourism. The festival will be organized at various beaches of Andaman Islands. The Department of Art & Culture, A&N Administration will present cultural programmes during the festival.

In this regard, applications have been invited from registered local Cultural Associations, having folk, classical and choreographed dances and musical programme for presentation during the Beach Festival. Interested registered Cultural Organizations may apply to the Directorate of Art & Culture, Cellular Jail complex on or before 4th January, 2018. For any further query, Assistant Director (Art & Culture) may be contacted over phone number 231399, a communication said.

Workshop on 'New Media Art'; applications invited

Port Blair, Dec.27
 Kala Kendra-a Society under Department of Art & Culture, A&N Administration in collaboration with Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre, Kolkata is going to organise a workshop on 'New Media Art' at Port Blair from 2nd to 15 January, 2018. Eminent artist Shri Sanchayan



IOA to take up implementation of TOP scheme with Ministry

New Delhi, Dec 27
IOA president Narinder Batra on Wednesday said he would take up the issue of proper implementation of TOP scheme with the Sports Ministry and ensure all assistance for athletes in their endeavour to achieve results in international events, including Olympics. "I have taken note of the observations made by the TOP scheme committee on the need for better implementation and will be discussing this with the ministry to ensure the best interests of athletes are borne in mind," Batra said. Batra was reacting to the recent statement of Abhinav Bindra, India's lone individual Olympic gold medalist, who emphasised on the need to improve 'the overall depth of professional support for athletes'.

Batra, who is also the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), said a systematic development program has reaped benefits for those National Sports Federations (NSFs) who have taken up this initiative. "It is undoubtedly necessary to have a long-term approach in terms of athlete training and provision of all required amenities for achieving our goals during this Olympic cycle," he said. "This approach needs to be adapted not just for top athletes of the country but must start as early as junior and sub-junior levels across disciplines to prepare a medal-worthy contingent for India. "Those Federations who have already taken this up as priority are seeing results in the



international arena," he added. Batra said he will take up this matter with the Sports Ministry to ensure necessary facilities and support is provided in this crucial Olympic cycle. "I would like to emphasise that the IOA will do whatever it takes to ensure a professionally-driven system. "As the President of IOA, my goal is to see India excel at the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games and to do that we need to work

in unison along with NSFs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and only then shall we can accomplish desired results," he added.

Body Building Association formed

Port Blair, Dec.27
A meeting was called by few prominent social worker sports lover, body building trainer and body builders etc at Junglighat recently to constitute Body Building Association under the banner 'Andaman and Nicobar State Body Building Association' to promote Body Building in State, National level and also in International arena. Accordingly, Shri Arvind Rai Sharma was elected as President while Shri D. Chandrasekar was elected General Secretary, a communication said.

Shastri urges team to embrace South African challenge

Mumbai, Dec 27
India chief coach Ravi Shastri on Wednesday urged the squad to embrace the challenges awaiting them in the tour to South Africa, as he insisted that they have prepared well. India will play South Africa in three Tests, six One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and three Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). The first Test begins on January 5. Test matches in South Africa have always been tough for India who have never won a



Test series there. "We know how tough this tour of South Africa is. That's the beauty about their profession - wanting challenges and embracing it and that's what we are looking for," Shastri said at the pre-departure media conference. "We toured Australia in 2014 and we did a pretty good job. We have done well in England. In 2015, we toured Sri Lanka

and it had great tracks on which the ball seamed and swung. So preparation has been good." Shastri said that the players are playing together for the last few years and that will help them flourish in South Africa. "These boys have been on the road together for the last 4-5 years -- the same team. The nucleus has been the same so that should help a long way," the former all-rounder added.

Association of Indian Football Coaches launched

Mumbai, Dec 27
With the game of football growing fast in the country, the Association of Indian Football Coaches was today launched here, with the recognition of the All India Football Association, to provide a platform and for the welfare of the coaches. "We are starting this to help the coaches with the support of

AIFF. It's not a union and we will work with AIFF," said one of its directors and AFC A license coach Dinesh Nair at the media conference to announce the launch of the AIFC. Nair is also the head of the Youth and Grassroots development wing of the ISL outfit, Mumbai City FC.

"It's important for everyone to work together as we want to develop many more coaches. Our aim was to develop 6,500 coaches from the 2014 level of 1,200. Now in the next five years we want to make it 65,000 coaches as football is growing rapidly in India," AIFFs COO Kishor Taid said.

Ashwini Ponnappa backs BWF's 2018 schedule

New Delhi, Dec 27
Indian doubles star Ashwini Ponnappa on Wednesday backed the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) decision to make it mandatory for top shuttlers to play at least 12 tournaments in a revamped schedule for 2018. Ashwini's comments came a week after many singles stars, including the likes of Saina Nehwal and Carolina Marin,

slammed the world body's decision. "It is a really packed schedule but that's how the sport is and next year in particular is more packed because of the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games," Ashwini said on the sidelines of an event where Dalmia Cement was announced as the owner of the Delhi Dashers franchise in the Premier Badminton League

(PBL). "Hence a lot of the tournaments which are held in the later part of the year have been moved to accommodate the CWG and Asian Games. "The calendar would have been widely spread out without these two major tournaments. But having said that, the top players, especially the ones who are in the top-10 they do have a choice of choosing matches," she added.

Anisa wins women's 25m pistol with new national record

Trivandrum, Dec 27
Experienced Haryana shooter Anisa Sayyed won the women's 25m pistol gold with a new record at the ongoing 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC) on Wednesday. Anisa shot a new finals national record score of 33 to prevail over the Maharashtra duo of Shital Shivaji Thorat and Rahi Sarnobat, who won the silver and bronze medals respectively at the National Games Shooting Range. Shital shot 30 in the eight-woman final to also claim a new finals national record while Rahi finished with 28. The other highlight of the day was upcoming talent Manu



Bhaker's 10th and 11th gold medal at the Nationals. After sweeping the women's 10m pistol events and the junior mixed team air pistol gold for a total of nine gold medals over the last weekend, Manu won the junior team and junior team civilian 25m women's pistol events today to add more glitter

to her 61st NSCC sojourn. In the junior women's 25m pistol, another Haryana shooter Chinki Yadav won gold with another finals national record score of 31. Statermate Gauri Sheoran won silver while Saeesh Ashok Godbole of Maharashtra bagged the bronze.

Great if some can make it to India A in next eight months: Dravid

Mumbai, Dec 27
His tunnel vision on the "process" is legendary in Indian cricket and U-19 chief coach Rahul Dravid's next aim is to see a few of the World Cup-bound colts included in the 'A' team within the next six to eight months. "The World Cup is an exciting challenge and provides a good opportunity for all these guys. There is a process now in place in Indian cricket - U-19 cricket to first-class cricket and then to India A and then the India national team, when the opportunity arrives," Dravid said at the pre-departure press conference of the India U-19 team on Wednesday. "I have been talking to these players about other formats as well. If they can make it to the India A team in 6-8 months, it will be great. We see this as a stepping stone," the former India captain said. The current India U-19 captain Prithvi Shaw has already



played for the India A team during warm-up games against New Zealand. Dravid however refused to predict that who among the current batch has the potential to make it big at the senior level. "I have learnt a lot in these years as coach of under-19 and India A team. These boys are from a different generation and their thinking is different. They have to adapt to all three formats. It's a huge challenge. The game has changed a lot. "I can't say who can go on and make it or who cannot. All of

them have the potential to play for their state and India in future," Dravid was non-committal. On India's chances in the upcoming global event for juniors which starts in New Zealand from January 13, Dravid exuded confidence that the team under Shaw would do well. "The conditions would provide unique challenge in that no one in the team has played in New Zealand before. The key would be in adapting to the conditions well.

District Level Volleyball Knockout Tournament held

Port Blair, Dec.27
Nehru Yuva Kendra, Diglipur organized District Level Volleyball Knockout Tournament under the programme of District Level Inter Youth Club Sports Meet at School Ground, Kishorinagar from Dec.22 to 24 in which 04 teams from different Youth Clubs of Diglipur zone participated. Shri Amar Mondal, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Kishorinagar who was the chief guest delivered speech on the importance of sports for development of our country.

Shri Sachindra Lal, Junior Engineer, APWD was also present as guest of honour. In the final match Milan Sangh Youth Club, Kishorinagar defeated Royal Brothers, Kishorinagar by 2-0 set. During the sports meet, sweet collection, frog race, cock fight, 100mts. race, 200mts. race, shot put, passing the ball, middle race, biscuit race & musical chair were also organized. Altogether 135 male and female participants participated. Prizes were awarded to the

winner and runner teams of volleyball tournament and the 1st, 2nd & 3rd position winners of athletic meet by Shri Amar Mondal, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Kishorinagar and Shri Sachindra Lal, Junior Engineer, APWD. Shri Jagjeevan Ram, District Youth Coordinator, NYK, Diglipur welcomed the gathering. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri Ramkrishna Mondal, Secretary, Milan Sangh Youth Club, Kishorinagar.



Port Blair, Dec.26
The 43rd Annual Athletics Meet of Govt. Secondary School, Parangara was held at the school playground on 21st December 2017. Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Diglipur was the chief guest while Shri Shashi Kumar, DEO, Diglipur was the guest of honour for the opening ceremony. Smti. Kiran Kumari, Teacher in-charge, welcomed the gathering. They presented an impressive march past,

which was followed by a number of colourful displays such as bamboo drill, saree drill, yoga, aerobic by tiny tots. The attraction of the event was Bamboo Drill and Saree Drill held for the first time by this school. During the closing ceremony, Shri Shyamal Mondal, Pramukh, Panchayat Samiti, Diglipur was the chief guest and Shri Amar Mondal, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Kishorinagar was the guest of honour, a communication said.

Scientists develop skin patch that regulates blood sugar in diabetics for days

Washington, Dec 27
Scientists have developed a skin patch that can deliver drugs to regulate blood sugar in diabetics for days at a time. This would put an end to the need for painful daily injections and needle pricks. Researchers at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering in the US have devised a biochemical formula of mineralised compounds that interacts in the bloodstream to regulate blood sugar for days at a time. In a study performed with mice, researchers showed that the patch of dissolvable microneedles can respond to blood chemistry to manage glucose automatically. Global incidence of all types of diabetes is about 285 million people, of which 90 per cent have type 2 diabetes. Many require insulin therapy that is usually given by injection just under the skin. Insulin therapy is not managed well in half of all cases. The study was published in the journal Nature Communications.

India to overtake UK, France to become 5th-largest economy in 2018

New Delhi, Dec 27
India is set to leapfrog Britain and France next year to become the world's fifth-largest economy in dollar terms. The Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) consultancy's 2018 World Economic League

Table painted an upbeat view of the global economy, boosted by cheap energy and technology prices. Deputy Chairman of Cebr, Douglas McWilliams said, despite temporary setbacks, India's economy has still caught

up with that of France and the UK and next year, will overtake both of them. He said, India's ascent is part of a trend that will see Asian economies increasingly dominate the top 10 largest economies over the next 15 years.

Workshop on ...

(Contd. from page 1)
Ghosh, Assistant Prof., Department of Painting & International Exchange, Visva Bharati, University, Santiniketan, Kolkata will be the Resident Artist of the workshop. New Media Art is a form of art practices that dwells on the interpretation of new technology as art. New Media Art today is a multi-sensory multimedia dialogue between personal and public memory in the form of direct engagement with documentary method as a community engagement. During the workshop the Resident Artist will interact with a group of 10 young artists from the islands and share the new media practice in terms of cultural mapping and the role of artists as a cultural participant. At the end of the workshop, the interaction and documentation will transform into a multi media installation in a public space at Port Blair. Interested artists may register their names in the office of the Directorate of Art & Culture, Cellular Jail Complex on or before 29/12/2017. More information can be obtained over phone no.231399 on any working day, a communication said.

WEATHER

Rain or Thundershower likely to occur at isolated places over Nicobar Island. Weather most likely dry over Andaman island. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 23°C respectively on Thursday 28/12/2017
Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date : 30.1
Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date : 23.1
Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST 076
Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST 071
Sunrise Time for tomorrow(in IST): 0537
Sunset Time for tomorrow(in IST): 1704
Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs) in mm: 001.2
Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0
Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm 17 3274.4

Fishermen advised

Port Blair, Dec.27
Under the influence of trough of low over South Andaman Sea & adjoining Malay Peninsula, strong Northeastly wind speed between 25 to 35 km per hour gusting to 45 km per hour and moderate to rough seas likely along and off Andaman & Nicobar coasts. Fishermen have been advised to be cautious while venturing into the sea. The general public is advised to take precautionary measures and in case of any emergency contact in the following phone numbers of State Control Room, District Control Room and Emergency Operation Centres. State Control Room: 03192-238880 (Tele-Fax), 1077 (Helpline). District Control Room: 03192-238881, EOC (Campbell Bay): 03193-264020, EOC (Kamorta): 03193-263222, EOC (N&M): 03192-262960, EOC (Car Nicobar): 03193-265241, EOC (Havelock): 03192-282030, EOC (Ferrargunj): 03192-266527, EOC (Neil): 03192-284511, a communication said.

Blood donation ...

(Contd. from page 1)
chief guest encouraged the blood donors to come forward and donate blood to save valuable lives. Earlier, Shri B. Mohan Rao, President, Andhra Association welcomed the gathering. Shri B. Ramakrishna, General Secretary distributed the certificates alongwith 'thanks cards' to the blood donors.

Large number of blood donors from all walks of life actively participated in this programme including women donors. Altogether 65 units were collected by the staff of Blood Bank, a communication said.

Training programme...

(Contd. from page 1)
Training. On successful completion of the training, a felicitation function was held in which Dr. Shipra Paul, Director of Health Services awarded 'Certificates of Training' to the participants. Shri S.K. Meena, Dy. Superintendent of Police (Estt) was also present on the occasion, a communication said.