

Stung by criticism, A&N Postal circle gears up to embrace technology to better services



ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, MAY 30/- One of the oldest and reliable institutions of the country, India Post, employs lakhs of people across the nation with presence even in the remotest of places with a strong network of more than 15 lakh post offices. Its sheer size became its biggest strength, thanks to the e-commerce boom and welfare payments system through banks and post offices which helped the revenues of India Post increase with increased traffic from parcels and Speed Post. But the backbone of India's communication network for the

past 150 years is drawing sharp criticism from customers in this remote territory. Excessive delay in delivery of speed post articles and other consignments has invited the ire of even the top brass of the local administration for the agency. But the Andaman and Nicobar Postal Circle is geared up to better services under PM's Digital India push despite local challenges. In the case of delayed deliveries, the postal department is a habitual offender and any number of instances could be cited. Inordinate delay in delivery of consignments has badly hit the customers of India

Post in these islands of late. Hundreds of Speed Post packages remained stacked at mainland airports for days and update delay in the online tracking system of speed post articles has generated sharp criticism for the India Post. "Ever since India Post entered into tie-ups with leading online shopping portals, its speed post service has gained immense popularity throughout the country. Even hundreds of islanders have turned to postal services for booking items through Speed Post due to reliability. The Postal Department's strategy to focus on fast growing e-commerce segment has bore fruits as it saw a big jump in parcel revenues in the recent years. But the setback in delivery of Speed Post articles from different parts of mainland to Port Blair has created resentment among customers here. The growing number of private courier companies in the city is because of drawbacks in the India Post services here. The agency should initiate measures to revive the trust of its customers. Modern technology should be roped in for services like timely delivery of parcels, effective tracking packaging etc.," said some residents of Junglighat. "Holding poor internet connectivity responsible for shortcomings in Postal Services here, the Post Master of Head Post Office, Mr M C Mondal being located far away from mainland, blinking communication network emerged as major impediment in effective delivery of postal services. "The Andaman and Nicobar Postal Services has a strong network with offices located in remotest parts of these islands. Despite poor internet connectivity, private courier companies operating here, the Postal Department has a healthy customer base in these islands. We provide door point delivery of articles booked from e-commerce giants like Amazon, Myntra etc while consignees of commercial goods are asked to approach the concerned Post Office.

Shortage of manpower, lack of proper house identification numbers are among other issues which cause delay in delivery of postal articles in many parts of these islands," said the Post Master. A request has been recently sent to the Lt. Governor and the Chief Secretary to provide dedicated internet network to the Postal Services here to enable us improve services, said the Assistant Superintendent of Posts, Mr A Minj. "Once internet connectivity is improved, timely delivery of services, tracking of articles can be ensured. Frequent offloading by airline companies is another major reason for delay in delivery of consignments here. The Postal Department is, however, committed to address the grievances of its valued customers. Steps are being initiated for setting up and strengthening Public Redressal Grievances Mechanism under Prime Minister's PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) scheme, he informed. "The Postal Department has also introduced Postman Mobile Application here on a trial basis recently. The application updates the receipt and delivery status of consignment and the responsibility has been overwhelming so far. The system, however, depends on internet connectivity and is presently available only in the city," added Mr Minj.

CBSE class XII exam results declared, Island percentage up by 6.98

PORT BLAIR, MAY 30/- The results of All India Sr. School Certificate Examination 2016-17 have been announced on May 28. Though the official intimation is still awaited from CBSE, as per the results downloaded from the website of CBSE, out of 4458 students who appeared in Class XII from Govt. Schools/Govt. aided & unaided

schools in A & N Islands - 3503 students have passed and 729 students have been placed in Compartmental category. The overall pass percentage of A & N Islands stands at 78.58% as compared to 71.59% during 2015-16 which is an increase of 6.98%. Five toppers each from Science, Commerce, Arts and Vocational Streams of these Islands are as under:

Science Stream			
Position	Name of the Student	Name of the School	Percentage
I.	V. Jenani	KV, Port Blair	95.2
II.	Aiswarya S R Mansi Yadav	KV-II, Port Blair	95.0
III.	Afreen Amzad B. Abhirami	KVI, Port Blair	94.6
IV.	R. Pavitra	GSSS Model, Port Blair	94.4
V.	Anshika Menon S. Pavithran	NCS, Port Blair KV, Port Blair	94.2

Commerce Stream			
Position	Name of the Student	Name of the School	Percentage
I.	Susma Kumari	GSSS School Line, Port Blair	96.6
II.	V. Sunthar	JNV Panchawati	91.0
III.	Shilpa Das	GSSS School Line, Port Blair	89.2
IV.	Z. Nabeela Begum K. Dinesh Rao	GSSS Girls, Port Blair KV-II, Port Blair	88.8
V.	Tanujit Sarkar N. Gopika	Umat Public School, Port Blair KV-II, Port Blair	88.2

Arts Stream			
Position	Name of the Student	Name of the School	Percentage
I.	Shilpi Mondal	GSSS Subashgram, Diglipur	95.0
II.	Sajida Begum	GSSS Girls, Port Blair	94.6
III.	T. Murshida	GSSS Girls, Port Blair	92.6
IV.	A. Sharanya	GSSS Model, Port Blair	92.4
V.	P. Pavithra	GSSS Pahalgaoon	91.8

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MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the World No Tobacco Day 2017 is being celebrated in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 31st May 2017, along with the rest of the World with the theme "Tobacco - A Threat To Development" to highlight the health risk associated with tobacco use and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The main aim of the campaign is to demonstrate the threat that the tobacco industry poses to the sustainable development of all the countries, including health and well-being of their citizens and it will propose measures that Governments and the Public should take to promote health development by confronting the global tobacco crisis. The goal of World No Tobacco Day campaign 2017 is to encourage countries to include tobacco control in their national responses and support member state and civil society to combat tobacco industry interference in political process in turn leading to stronger national tobacco control action. The people of these Islands can contribute individually to make tobacco-free world by making a commitment to never take tobacco products. Those who use tobacco products can quit the habit to protect their health as well as protect the health of other people from ill-effects of second hand smoking including children, other family members and friends. Money spent on tobacco can be used for other essential uses including purchase of healthy food, health care and education. On the occasion, I appeal to the tobacco users and smokers to quit the habits of tobacco consumption for their good health and join hands to make Andaman & Nicobar Islands as "Tobacco Free Islands".

Prof Jagdish Mukhi
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Picture shows a tree crushed under a massive tree trunk near the stadium at Mayabunder in North Andaman during stormy winds on Monday in the evening hours. No one, however, suffered injuries in the mishap. Firefighters promptly rushed to the spot to clear the debris. (Pix: KURMA RAO)

Four poachers held for PAT rules violation

PORT BLAIR, MAY 30/- A patrolling team comprising Police, AAJVS and Forest Dept by SI Mohd. Rafique, I c OP Tirur, proceeded for joint patrolling in Jarawa Reserve area of western coast from Temple Myo Dinghy Ghat in Forest Engine Dinghy on May 25. On the same day at 5.05 pm, when the joint patrolling party reached at Jarawa reserve area at Bada Bah, they noticed that four persons namely 1) G. Yadav Rao, son of G. Eswar Rao (25yrs, resident of Junglighat, Port Blair); 2) C.H. Bhaskar Rao (55yrs) son of late. C.H. Ramanna, Fishermen resident of Junglighat; 3) G. Vallabha Rao (40yrs) son of

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2nd surprise visit by LG leaves APWD employees in the docks



PORT BLAIR, MAY 30/- The Lt Governor, Prof Jagdish Mukhi, along with Mr Sanjeev Khirwar, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (APWD), Secretary to LG, Dr A K Singla and OSD to LG, Mr Praveer Kumar Singh paid a surprise visit to the CE Office, APWD here on Tuesday. The Lt Governor expressed his displeasure as most of the officers and staff were found absent

from the seats in the office time. He directed the Chief Engineer (APWD) to deduct half-day Casual Leave (CL) against employees who were found absent from the office. The CE, APWD was told to prepare a list of absentee employees of the last one week and initiate action against them. He also directed the Commissioner-

EVENTS TODAY

NUKKAD NATAK: Gayatri Chetna Kendra to conduct Nukkad Natak in front of Radha Krishna Mandir, Junglighat at 4 pm on ill-effects of tobacco and drugs.
GRAM SABHA: Meeting of Gram Panchayat, Dasarathpur at 10.30 am in the Panchayat Hall.
LAST DATE: For submission of application forms for FTII training course.

COUNSELLING: Free counselling for B.Tech admissions in Holy Grace Academy of Engineering, Kench M A M complex (1st floor), near "The Raymonds shop", 38, MA Road, Phoenix Bay from 9.30 am to 5 pm.

YOGA: Free yoga classes for general public on Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) by the Yoga unit of Ayush Hospital at Girls School from 5 am to 6.30 am and from 4 pm to 5.30 pm. Till June 21.

COACHING: Summer coaching camp, hobby classes in swimming for boys and girls below 16 years by the Department of Sports.

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