

## Parnashala Panchayat market tenants down shutters in protest, demand stairway



**V. SENTHIL KUMAR**

**RANGAT, JULY 9/-** Near Community Health Centre Rangat in Middle Andaman, 10 shops stand out. The rea-

son is not that the shops sell wares that are unique, but that all of them have their shutters down. Line-up one next to other, all the ten shops constructed by Parnashala

Panchayat have remained in the same position for the past two years after tenants of the shops pulled down shutters in protest claiming losses. According to reports, all the ten shops constructed by Parnashala Panchayat have remained closed after an alternate route for the health centre was opened. Earlier, hundreds of patients and attenders used to visit the Panchayat market to purchase articles using the narrow stairway from the health centre.

But after opening of the alternate road, patients and attenders started refraining from purchases from the market. Tenants of the market are now demanding broadening of the stairway to facilitate movement of customers to the market for sustainability of their livelihood.

"We now pay rent regularly to the Panchayat every month, but have ceased to open the shops for fear of losses. Since the opening of the alternate route for the CHC, customers don't visit our shops. The narrow stairway leading to our stores

cause inconvenience to them for fear of fall. The situation was different earlier when attenders used to park in front of our shops and purchase necessary items. The Panchayat authorities should take immediate steps to broaden the stairway and facilitate movement of patients and attenders only after which we will be in a position to resume normal business," said some shopkeepers speaking to EOI.

Speaking to this Correspondent, the Pradhan of Parnashala Panchayat, Ms Savini Minj informed that she has sent several letters to the Andaman Public Works Department and Zilla Parishad with the request to broaden the stairway from the CHC to the Panchayat. "But all my efforts till date have proved futile.

Construction of the stairway is crucial for the livelihood of the tenants of the Parnashala Panchayat. The authorities will respond promptly to their demands," said Ms Minj assuring to revive efforts for the welfare of the tenants.

## Annual General Meeting of ACCI held GST to benefit consumers and traders, help economy grow: LG



**PORT BLAIR, JULY 9/-** The 50th Annual General Meeting of Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) was held at the conference hall of Hotel TSG Emerald View, Phoenix Bay here today. The Lt Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi graced the occasion as the chief guest while the Member of Parliament, Mr Bishnu Pada Ray was the guest of honour.

The Lt Governor expressed his happiness in attending the AGM of the ACCI which is instrumental in safeguarding the vital interests of businessmen of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He said, the Chamber

has also been in the forefront in fulfilling its social corporate responsibilities by taking up benevolent activities for the welfare of the society. The Lt Governor lauded the contribution of ACCI in the economic development of Isles.

Referring about GST, the Lt Governor said, for the first time in the history of our country, a financial advancement has been put in place in the form of GST. He lauded the will power shown by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi in bringing the GST. One Nation, One Tax System and called upon the traders to register themselves and

help Administration to implement this new tax system in letter and spirit in these Islands. The GST will firstly benefit the consumers as the goods will be cheaper, secondly, it will help in the upliftment of traders and lastly, the Govt. will be benefited as the economy will grow, the Lt Governor added.

Referring about various infrastructure projects coming up, especially roads & bridges in M&M Andaman, the Lt Governor stated that construction of the two lane Bridge over Humphrey Strait connecting Baratang Island and Middle & North Andaman has already com-

menced. As regard to the Middle Strait Creek Bridge, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has given the permission to construct the approach road, falling under the Jarawan Reserved Area. Accordingly, tender was opened in the month of June and work is in progress. The Lt Governor informed that Rs 9 crore has been awarded for maintenance work for ATR and work has already started. The work for widening and strengthening of ATR road S&M has been awarded, he added.

The Lt Governor also informed about the developments in shipping sector. He said that the Directorate of Shipping Services presently operates 07 passenger-cargo vessels in the Inter-Island sector providing services between Port Blair and Southern Group of Islands. The Directorate is also operating MV Badam exclusively for cargo transportation which has a capacity of 100 tons. MV

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## Affectionate send-off for Haj pilgrims

## Respect for all religion, unity vital for building a strong nation: LG




**PORT BLAIR, JULY 9:** An affectionate send-off function for the Haj pilgrims for the year 2017 to

Mecca- Islam's holiest city in Saudi Arabia from the A&N Islands was organized by Jamat-e-Ulamma, A&N Is-

lands at Dr BR Ambedkar auditorium here on Sunday. The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi was the chief guest on the occasion. The Member of Parliament, Mr Bishnu Pada Ray, ex- Member of Parliament from Tamil Nadu, Prof. KM Kader Moideen, Chairman, A&N Islands State Haj Committee, Alhaj. Gulam Hussain Jadwet and General Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Haj Service Society, Mohammed Afzal were the guests of honour.

In his address, the Lt. Governor said, Haj pilgrimage for the Muslim brethren is organized once in a year in Mecca. Around 50 lakh Muslims from all over the world without any discrimination assemble and perform ibadat in a special dress and this gives the message of brother-

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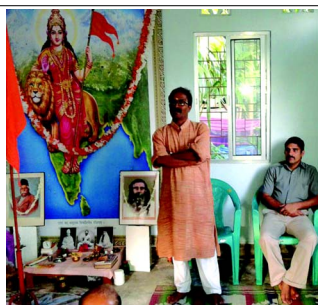
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Picture shows the Rashtriya Seva Sevaka Sangha, Rangat Unit, holding Gurupujan Utsav at Sumit Basan on Sunday. Dr Susanta Mondal spoke on Guru Purnima on the occasion, which was attended by many Seva Sevaks from the region. (EOI PIX)

### EVENTS TODAY

**BROADCAST:** Secretary (RD, PRI & ULB) to speak about the developmental activities underway in Calicut Gram Panchayat and Sundargarh Gram Panchayat of Baratang on All India Radio's 'Apne Panchayat Se' from 7.15 am to 7.55 am

**COUNSELLING:** Counselling for admission to different courses in Tagore Govt. College of Education from 9 am in the auditorium of the institute.

**SEEDLINGS:** Forest Extension & Publicity Division of the Department of Environment & Forest to distribute seedlings free of cost to the general public from the nurseries of the Division. Till July 31.

**FORMS:** Download and submission of applications forms to admission to Andaman & Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIMS) open.

**More Local News on Page-3,5**  
**Students Corner on Page-6**



Picture shows the bus stop at Yerratta in Middle Andaman in an appalling state. Commuters in the region have reported stopped using the facility for fear of mishap and villagers have started demanding immediate renovation of the bus stand. (Pix: V. SENTHIL KUMAR)

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