

## 50 percent of regular faculty posts vacant in MGCC Aspirants in agony, plead action for job-security



### EOI BUREAU

PORT BLAIR, APRIL 30/--/ A sound pool of qualified but unemployed candidates is passing through mental agony and uncertainty owing to unwarranted delay in filling up sanctioned posts in higher educational institutes in these islands. Probably worst affected by the crunch of Associate and Assistant Professors is the Mahatma Gandhi Government College (MGCC) in Mayabunder where over 50 percent of posts are lying vacant for over a decade. According to information culled under the RTI Act, of the total 20 posts created and sanctioned in various disciplines, 10 have been filled while the remaining posts have remained vacant since 2001. Though top academicians were deputed to take up the matter with the

UPSC recently, the visit reportedly proved futile as it failed to garner the approval of the Commission to fill up the vacant posts. According to information, the MGCC offers undergraduate courses in various disciplines viz. English, Hindi, Political Science, Anthropology, Commerce, Cooperative Management, Physical Education, Geography, Economics and History. But of the total 20 posts sanctioned between 2001 and 2010, the institution managed to fill up only 10 posts in the disciplines of English (2), Hindi (2), Political Science (2), Anthropology (1), Commerce (1), Cooperative Management (1) and Physical Education (1). But the remaining vacancies in key disciplines like Geography (1), Economics (2), English (1), History (3) and Commerce (3) remain un-

filled since 2001 due to slack efforts of the college management. With just 10 regular Professors, the premier institute in the North and Middle Andaman region with a massive enrolment of students, manages the show employing more than 20 guest or contract lecturers on paltry monthly wages of Rs 25,000. "It's better to term this as career-destroying attitude of the administration. More than 14 years have passed that several posts of Assistant Professors and Associate Professors were sanctioned for the Mahatma Gandhi Government College in Mayabunder. But due to the sluggish approach of the authorities concerned, fifty percent of the posts are lying vacant in the institute. Due to vacancies in crucial departments like Geography, Economics, Commerce, History etc, stu-

dents are forced to suffer in the institution. Moreover, qualified candidates, who toiled hard to obtain requisite qualification in the pursuit to secure jobs as Professors over the years have been left dejected due to the delay. Some candidates possess Ph.D qualification, while some cleared the National Eligibility Test more than once. But the inordinate delay being caused in filling up the regular vacancies is likely to render the candidates ineligible from participating in the recruitment process owing to several reasons like over-age etc. The administration should take a considerate view to address the plight and serious efforts should be made to obtain the approval of the UPSC to fill up the vacancies in MGCC at the earliest," said some aspirants. The Mahatma Gandhi Govt.

College, Mayabunder is the premier institute in the District of Middle and North Andaman. Initially started at Car Nicobar in the year 1992, the college was shifted to Mayabunder in 1994. The College currently has student strength over 600 with 28 teaching staff, 30 non-teaching staff and more than 50 supporting staff. The infrastructure include an administrative building with principal chambers, visitors room, office all the heads of the departments, common staff room, admission and examination wing, computer lab, geography lab, stores, record room, NSS unit, IGNOU centre and rooms for academic and cultural pursuits. The institute also has a well equipped triple storied library with amenities such as reading room, reference and issue sections and seminar room.

## Sand stack near runway touch-down spells mishap

### MSURESH KUMAR

PORT BLAIR, APRIL 30/--/ A huge stack of river sand behind the newly constructed parking lot at Bhati Basti could lead to a major disaster. Residents in the region feel that the 18 mtr mountain of sand stock close to the touch-down point of the runway can add to visibility issues during squally weather and cause a major air mishap. According to sources, the huge quantity of sand stocked up near the runway can pose difficulty for aircraft pilots during landing. "When the wind blows, the sand blows. The situation is even more worse during violent weather. The location of the dump is crucial as it is close to the touch-down point of the runway. Aircraft pilots face poor visibility during turbulent



weather and such sand stack flying all around near the runway can add to their problems. Such situations can lead to a major mishap. Authorities should swing into action and ensure that the stock is cleared from the area at the earliest particularly in view of the approaching monsoon season," said some Bhati Basti

residents. The Civic body should take a serious note of the situation. The Municipal Councillor of the area should inspect the location and issue necessary directives to clear the sand stock from the area. Action should also be taken against people for such acts, which puts the lives of hundreds of air travelers at risk.

## Rampant exports make fish costlier for islanders

### EOI Bureau

PORT BLAIR, APRIL 30/--/ With the government agencies turning a blind eye, prices of fishes in the islands continue to shoot high forcing consumers to go green. Despite considerable catch, fish vendors in almost all parts of the city are reportedly trading the commodity at exorbitant prices, at occasions, even more than the prices in mainland. According to information,



majority of the fishermen sell their catch to exporters at attractive prices and the leftovers are sent to the local market. Despite making huge profits, fish vendors sell their products at in-

flated prices in markets like Junglighthat, Mohanpura and Bhatu Basti. Over the past months, a kilogram of Surmai is being sold over Rs 500, while other preferred

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Picture shows members of Sarada Sangha here celebrating the 16th annual function of the Sangha on Sunday. Brahma Kumari Sister, Sharmista, was the chief guest of the function, while the Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Maharaja Anjanyanda was the special guest on the occasion. Secretary of the Sangha, Babi Sharma welcomed the gathering, while Jharna Roy proposed the vote of thanks. (Pix: ROOPALALL)



Picture shows Smt Shilpi Rai, wife of Mr Udit Prakash Rai, Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman, inaugurating Glowing Hub, a Women Beauty Salon, at RGT Road, near Radha Krishna Mandir on Saturday. The parlour specialises in facial treatment, hair problems, hyper pigmentation, acne scars etc and is equipped with advanced gadgets. (Pix: EOI Correspondent)

**HOLIDAY**  
Today is May Day. Being a holiday in the office of The Echo Of India, there will be no issue of this edition on Tuesday, dated May 2.

**More Local News on Page-3 Student Corner on Page-5 Speak English on Page-8**

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