

**SUBSIDISED LPG CYLINDER'S PRICE TO GO UP BY RS 4 PER MONTH**

The government....has again authorised OMCs to continue to increase the effective price of subsidised domestic LPG by Rs 4 per cylinder effective June 1, 2017, per month (excluding VAT) till the reduction of government subsidy to 'nil', or till March 2018, or till further orders, whichever is earliest

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan



# THE ECHO OF INDIA

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DAILY FROM KOLKATA • PORT BLAIR • SILIGURI

**DETAILS ON PAGE-2**

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Rs 3.00

## 68th Van Mahotsav celebrations conclude

# Preserve isles' rich biodiversity for future generations: LG

PORT BLAIR, JULY 31/-/ The month long celebration of the 68th Van Mahotsav here in the Isles organized by the Department of Environment & Forests, A&N Islands culminated with a prize distribution ceremony held at TGCE auditorium on Monday. The Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi was the chief guest of the valedictory function while the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Mr Anindo Majumdar was the guest of honour. The PCCF (WL) and Chief Wild Life Warden, A&N Islands, Mr Tarun Coomer, APCCF (P&D), Mr D. M. Shukla, Senior Officers of the Administration and Central Government Organizations, parents, students, teachers and staff of Forest Department were present on the occasion. In his address, the Lt. Governor stated that these Islands are a heaven of natural beauty having 94 percent of forest cover, as compared to other parts of the country. He said, the A&N Islands are number one in position as far as greeneries and forest cover is concerned. Expressing happiness that the area of forests in these Islands has increased by 40 sq. kms, as per the report of the Forest Survey of India, the Lt. Governor said, this



shows our commitment towards the preservation and protection of forests and lauded the Department of Environment and Forests for their concerted and continuous efforts towards conservation and protection of the Islands' green cover. He urged the Department of Environment and Forests to ensure that the preservation and conservation of Isles' flora and fauna is a continuous programme. The Lt. Governor said, devotion towards trees is part of our culture and we cannot think of life without trees. Nature in all its splendor has been kind and bountiful towards human needs and we must realize the importance of trees and greeneries around us, he said. (Contd. on page-4)

## Students protest lack of PGTs in Sabari School



V Senthil Kumar

RANGAT, JULY 31/-/ Students of Class XII the Government Senior Secondary School, Sabari in Middle Andaman boycotted classes and came on streets protesting against the shortage of teaching staff in their school last Saturday. According to reports, unrest was prevailing among the students since resumption of the academic session after summer vacations when they found no teachers in the disciplines of PGT Chemistry and PGT Maths. On Saturday, the students approached the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Rangat and submitted a petition requesting immediate posting of the teachers in the School. According to information, incumbent posted as PGT Chemistry and PGT Maths at Sabari School were placed on transfer before the summer vacations, but their substitutes have been reported for duty at the school till date. The Deputy Education Officer, Rangat, had earlier assured early

posting of teachers, but finding no teachers even a month after the school re-opened, students of Class XII decided to raise their voice in protest. "Students of Sabari School have always performed well in CBSE Class X and XII exams. Even we wish to continue the tradition, but without teachers it won't be possible. It's now more than a month that not a single class of Chemistry and Maths could be held. If the situation continues, we would not be able to complete the course curriculum before the crucial examinations, which will badly affect our careers. On one side the administration claims to provide proper education to children especially in rural areas, but in actuality nothing has been done so far. We've submitted our demands to the Assistant Commissioner, who has assured to take up the matter with the Education Department. Students here are in an agitated state of mind and have decided to stay away from school if the authorities fail to depute the teachers within a stipulated period," said some students speaking to EOI.

## EOI IMPACT

## 88 yr old gets shelter at Ferrargunj Old Age Home

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, JULY 31/-/ Taking a strong note of the report published in The Echo of India in its edition of 7th July 2017, the Directorate of Social Welfare finally took steps to accommodate 88 year Paresh Chander Bepari in the Old Age Home at Ferrargunj. According to reports, Bepari, was provided all articles of daily use and shifted to Ferrargunj Home a couple of days ago. Admitted in the GB Pant Hospital since June 19, the 88 year old, discarded by his family, was provided superlative care at the hospital by doctors and paramedical staff. However, after recuperating from illness, Bepari had no place to go to spend the rest of his life as the Old Age Home at Ferrargunj was packed to capacity. Acting on the EOI reports, the Social Welfare Department managed to generate some space at the Home for Paresh Chander Bepari.



After EOI published the report of Paresh Chander Bepari, this Correspondent set out looking for a comfortable place for him to spend the rest of his life and found the Old Age Home at Ferrargunj as the only option. It was then that this Correspondent realized that the Home with a capacity of 25 was looking after 28 elderly citizens shattering her hopes for poor Bepari. The 88 year old was found lying unconscious and naked in the premises of the State Transport Bus Terminus and a newspaper

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(\*\*) will be discussed and confirmed only after interview  
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## Breakless Entertainers Musical Nite on Aug 2

Port Blair, July 31/-/ Breakless Entertainers, an Event Management and Entertainment organisation, will present a grand musical evening, "A Tribute to Kishore Kumar" on August 2 from 6 pm to 8.30 pm at Dr B R Ambedkar Auditorium, Mohanpura. The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, Mr Anindo Majumdar will be the chief guest on the occasion, while Mr Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Chairman, ANCOFED will be the guest of honour. The show is being supported by Ankur Social & Cultural Society, Port Blair. The Show will have live band from Mumbai, including female playback singer Ms Sheetal & veteran singers of these Islands Mr Anant Ram, Mr Nisar, Mr Wasim, Mr Waheed, Mr Raj, Mr Ashish Podder, Mr Shalender, Mr Suraj and Mr Subhas. Music of the show has been arranged by Mr Mukesh Dediya, Mumbai. Entry will be free for general public.

## Practicum on business reforms underway at Megapode

PORT BLAIR, JULY 31/-/ The two-day workshop to facilitate process for implementation of the 'Business Reforms Action Points-2017', got underway in the conference hall of Megapode Resort here on Monday. Organized by the Industries Department in association with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and World Bank, the workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Mr Anindo Majumdar.



## STRAY COWS IMPOUNDED



Collage shows workers of Nimbutala Panchayat confiscating stray cattle from the roads of Nimbutala. Acting on repeated reports in The Echo of India, the Pradhan of Nimbutala directed her workers to impound stray animals and send them to cattle pounds to free the region from the menace. Villagers have appreciated the efforts of the Pradhan. (Pic: SUBRATA)

## Progress of foundation course on green skill dev. prog. reviewed

PORT BLAIR, JULY 31/-/ The Environmental Information (EI) division of MoEF&CC, New Delhi launched a novel Green Skill Development Programme for skill development in the field of biodiversity conservation and para taxonomy across 11 centres located in nine bio-geographic zone of the country. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the programme is being jointly coordinated by BSI & ZSI. Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, BSI, MoEF & CC reviewed the progress of the foundation course during his visit to Port Blair recently. He also chaired the Andaman and Nicobar Islands State Environ-



mental Appraisal Committee meetings at Van Sadan, Haddo. Dr. Singh and Mr D. M. Shukla, Addl. PCCF Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Administration visited BSI garden at Nayashahar. They discussed various matters related to the documentation and conservation of the floral diversity as well as the economic and ecological significance of the threatened species of these islands and ex-situ conservation activities of rare, endangered and threatened species. (Contd. on page-4)

## EVENTS TODAY

- Camp:** Special camp for registration of DPL families under Ujjwala Yojana for issue of free LPG connections of Haddo CCS from 9 am to 1 pm. Till Aug 2.
- Toll-Free:** Directorate of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs to launch toll free number services for PDS beneficiaries.
- Sailing:** MV Campbell Bay to sail for Hut Bay at 6.30 am from Haddo wharf.
- Exhibition:** Field Exhibition Office, DAVP conducting a photo exhibition titled "Soath Hal, Viswas Hal- Ho Rahe Vikas Hal" at Govt. Secondary School, Ograbral, South Andaman.