

# THE ECHO OF INDIA

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## Poor state of Middle Andaman parks clammed by residents



V SENTHIL KUMAR

RANGAT, APRIL 11/-/-/ With almost all Panchayats in and around Rangat in Middle Andaman boasting to have developed parks in their respective areas, management in the village-level bodies appears to be lustrious in the first instance. But a deeper insight will mirror years of neglect re-

ducing the recreational areas means particularly for children completely unfit. Swings, which should have been swaying with kids on board, remain deserted as most of them are rusted posing threat of injuries to children. Joggers develop cold feet before stepping into the footpath for fear of tripping down on the slippery tracks. The Children Parks under

all Panchayats here have become a major source of revenue generation for the authorities through claims of yearly renovations. But in reality, the recreational areas have remained in an abysmal state for the past more than a decade.

According to sources, almost all Panchayats in the Rangat region have purchased a single play equipment for the Children's Park in the last ten years. Play equipment which were procured and installed in the initial days after the development of the Parks have now become redundant. Following complaints from the locals, this correspondent visited a Children's Park at Dasharathpur and found gross mismanagement by the Panchayat au-

thorities concerned. Almost all the play equipment installed at the park have corroded owing to lack of repair and maintenance. The rusty installations pose threat of injuries to children and others visiting the park, numbers which has sharply declined in the recent months. Venomous creatures too have found safe haven inside the park for the presence of wild bushes. A couple of elderly citizens whom this correspondent met at the park also complained about its deteriorating condition.

"The damaged play equipment at almost all the parks here pose a serious threat to our children. The Panchayats have failed miserably to ensure upkeep the parks under its control. At almost all the amusement facilities here are in poor shape and children are left with no other option than to stay idle while visiting the park. Our children now prefer to stay back home watching TV due to the state. The Panchayats here claim expenditure to the tune of lakhs of rupees every year for maintenance of the parks, but the condition of the parks raises serious doubts on the integrity of the Panchayat authorities. The top brass of the UT administration should take stock of the situation and order a probe into the expenditure incurred over the years for repair and maintenance of the Children's Park here," said some residents speaking to this correspondent.

## BSF to select most promising soccer players from isles for national event: IG



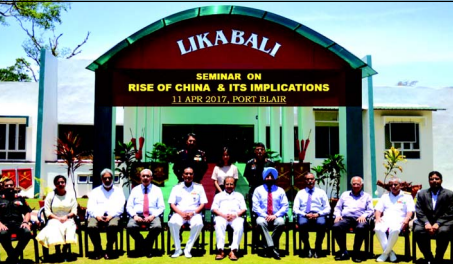
ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, APRIL 11/-/-/ "The Prime Minister of India wants the most promising soccer players from these islands to participate in the OORJA-Caps Youth Under-19 Football Tournament 2017. The first phase of the mega event will be conducted in State/UT capitals from May 1 to 15 and the tournament will be inaugurated here by the Lt. Governor in the presence of other dignitaries. The top three winners in the first

phase will be awarded cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively and the winners in both the boys and girls division from these islands will represent the Border Security Force (BSF), Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the second phase of the tournament to be held at Goa from June 8 to 25. The finals of the tournament will be held at New Delhi from July 8 to 25," informed Inspector General of South Bengal Frontier, BSF, PSR Anjaneyulu on Tuesday. Addressing a

press conference, IG Anjaneyulu said that the tournament is being organized by CAPFS (CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and Assam Rifles) under the aegis of All India Police Sports Control Board. Under-19 Football Talent Hunt Tournament 2017- a PM's initiative is being organized to promote soccer talent in the country ahead of the 17th edition of FIFA U-17 World Cup to be hosted by India in October. In the first phase, eight boys and eight girls U-19 (born after 1st Jan 1999) will participate including 2 teams in each division from KVS, SGFI, IPSC and Clubs. The objective of the tournament is to be part of Mission XI Million, to create fervor for football among youth, select promising players to represent the country in the Asian Championship and to recruit young and emerging players in CAPFS, added IG Anjaneyulu.

## Seminar on rise of China held at ANC



PORT BLAIR, APRIL 11/-/-/ A seminar on rise of China and its implication for India was organised at Likabali Auditorium, Birchgunj under the aegis of HQ Andaman & Nicobar Command on Tuesday. The seminar was interactive wherein the panelists deliberated upon the policy options for the country with specific emphasis on leveraging the strategic location of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Renowned experts on the subject such as Dr C Raja Mohan, Director Carnegie India, Vice Admiral AK Singh, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd), Lt General Gurmit Singh, PVSM,

UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Dr Prashant K Singh and Dr MS Prathibha, both from Institute of Defence Strategic Analyses, Mr Sanat Kaul, Chairman, International Foundation for Aviation, Aerospace & Development, Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur, VM (Retd), Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, AVSM, NM, Commandant Naval War College shared their views with the audience. The Lt Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi also graced the occasion. Besides broadening the horizons on strategic issues and improving the awareness, the seminar was especially beneficial for the

junior level leadership by exposing them to strategic matters and kindling inquisitiveness among them.



Collage shows Honda Cars on display at Honda Exchange Carnival at IFF Ground here on Tuesday. Owners of several cars of other automobile companies got their vehicles exchanged for Honda models since Sunday. Honda's star-est launch, compact crossover model WR-V and City 2017 remained the top attractions during the carnival. (Pic: M SURESH KUMAR)

## Software of Rangat SBI ATM crashes, customers tensed

V SENTHIL KUMAR  
RANGAT, APRIL 11/-/-/ Defunct ATM (Automated Teller Machine) facility installed by the State Bank of India is taking a toll on residents of Rangat and adjoining areas in Middle Andaman. According to reports, the software of the ATM crashed rendering the facility obsolete for the past four days and scores of customers in the region are facing hardships in meeting daily expenses due to shortage of cash. Even State Bank of India branches at Billyground, Mayabunder and Baratang are facing hardship owing to the technical snag at SBI Rangat. "It's now more than four days

that the ATM has remained non-operational. Scores of people here have been left cash-strapped ahead of the ensuing Bengali New Year



festival. We're unable to purchase clothes and gifts for our families and relatives. Only a handful managed to obtain cash from the bank counters yesterday after enduring with serpentine queues. The bank officials should take immediate steps to rectify the snag and bring the ATM facility back into operation," a bewailed Paresh Mandal, a resident of Dasharathpur. When contacted, the manager of SBI Rangat said that the ATM has gone non-operational because of some technical snag in the software system. It seems that the software has crashed. Engineers are on their job and the snag will be rectified by evening today, he assured.

## Fisher killed in mid-sea boat collision

M SURESH KUMAR

PORT BLAIR, APRIL 11/-/-/ In a tragic incident, a 63 year old fisherman died in a boat collision mid-sea on Tuesday. According to reports, Ramaswamy, a native of Mayabunder in North Andaman was on a fishing trip when the engine dinghy collided with another boat. Ramaswamy sustained serious injuries in the collision and was immediately brought to the Fish Landing Centre at Funglight. He died around 1.30 pm. He was rushed to GB Pant Hospital where he succumbed to injuries. The owner of the fishing boat has been identified as K Dhesaiaha. The police team from PS Aberdeen also reached the Fish Landing Centre at receiving the information about the accident. A case has been reportedly registered under relevant sections of the law. More details are awaiting.

## EVENTS TODAY

Practice: Firing practice by 15 Assam Regiment at Chinthe, 200M Long Range, Birchgunj from 9.30 am to 1 pm.

Camp: On Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (HFA) at Ward No. 2 in the Councillor's Office, opposite to Forest Recreation Club, Haddo from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Till April 13.

Vaccination: 21st round of Foot and Mouth Disease vaccination programme being carried out by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services in the South Andaman. Till April 20.

শুভ বাংলা নববর্ষ ১৪২৪  
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