

# THE ECHO OF INDIA

PAGE-8  
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DAILY FROM KOLKATA • PORT BLAIR • SILIGURI

PAGE-5  
Rs 3.00

## Patients upset over denial of cabin facility in inter-island vessels



V Senthil Kumar

RANGAT, APRIL 19/-/ As services in Primary and Community Health Centres in remote parts of these islands remain afflicted with shortage of specialist doctors, routine referral of patients to GB Pant Hospital and then to super-specialty hospitals in mainland, if required, has become a common phenomenon. But lack of a bed/cabin reservation policy in inter-island ships has started taking a toll on the patients referred from various health institutions. According to reports, presently the Directorate of Shipping Services provides only seating berths to patients and their medical attendants owing to which patients suffering from various ailments and their relatives are forced to endure a perturbing journey to Port Blair from different parts of this territory. "It's very disconcerting to notice patients lying on the floors of deck in inter-island vessels for more than five hours travelling to Port Blair. The Shipping Services Department provides only seats to patients referred to GB Pant Hospital and their medical attendants. Several patients referred to GB Pant Hospital from the PHCs and CHCs here have reported deterioration in their health conditions while travelling in boats without bed facilities. The Health Department should take the issue with the Shipping Services and formulate a policy to reserve cabins for referral patients," said some residents of Rangat.

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## Traffic chaos prevails in busy city roads, police unable to tackle situation

**EOI BUREAU**  
PORT BLAIR, APRIL 19/-/ Nestled placidly in the Bay of Bengal, the city of Port Blair over the years has become the hub of mix and match making it one of the bubbling habitats of this union territory. Inter-island connectivity apart, the city boasts a well laid out arteries of roads for local transportation. These roads are now throbbing with all kinds of vehicular traffic. Increase of vehicular population has converted the city into a quagmire traffic chaos. Despite best of efforts by the municipal authorities and traffic police, chaotic condition continues to prevail in the busy city roads as motorists as well as pedestrian find it hard to negotiate with the daily dose of drudgery. The usual rush hour queues, worsened as congestion are reported from some of the city's busiest roads. Vehicles, both four wheelers and two wheelers can be seen parked on both sides of the roads in all busy roads of the city from morning to late in the evening at Junglighat and elsewhere. The stretch of roads from the A&N State Cooperative Bank to Delanipur Junction, Goolghar to Junglighat

and Aberdeen Bazaar witnessing busy daily traffic. Haphazard parking in the city roads still remain the biggest problems in free movement of vehicular traffic leading to road blockages in many places. Despite rigorous efforts by traffic police, they have not been able to gain any fruitful results. Motorists park their vehicles on the middle of the road and go for shopping without bothering about the chaos and in most of the places, absence of traffic police has compounded the problem as no action is being taken against these motorists, indulging in haphazard parking on both sides of the roads. The arterial roads leading from Goolghar to Junglighat, remains choked with vehicles especially during busy hours. Road remains congested with vehicles parked on both sides of the road. Though sufficient parking lots have been developed in many places in this stretch of road, motorists have developed a habit to park their vehicles on the road itself. In order to curb this traffic menace, the traffic police have to act very hard. There is a need on the part of the traffic police to launch an intensive drives against motorists violating the parking rules.

## Corbyn's Cove to host Beach Festival - 2017

PORT BLAIR, APRIL 19/-/ The Directorate of Tourism will be organizing 'Beach Festival-2017' from April 28 to 30 at Corbyn's Cove. The concept of organizing 'Beach Festivals' is to popularize beach activities in A&N Islands apart from providing sunset entertainment to the Islanders as well as to the visiting tourists. Stalls for delicious food, handicrafts etc. will be put up at the venue of the festival. Besides, fun games and adventure water sports activities will also be organized as part of the three-day beach festival. During the 'Beach Festival', sports and competitions will be organized to encourage more participation from general public and tourists. "Sand Sculpture" competition and Fishermen Dinghi race will be added attractions of the festival. All these competitions will be held at Corbyn's Cove. Interested persons/tourists may register their names for participation in the sports and competitions. For beach volleyball and tug of war for men and women, coconut tree climbing for men and musical chair for women and children, Shri Wilson Mathew, Sports Department, Netaji Stadium can be contacted on Phone No.9434269946; Shri Abdul Salam, Asst. Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Department, Phone No.9434269187 for Fishermen Dinghi Race; Dr. Rasheeda Iqbal, Asst. Director (Art & Culture) Cellular Jail Complex, Phone No.9434269894 for Local Dance Competition; Shri Gomathi, Art&IP Division, Directorate of IP&T, Phone No.9434261893 for Sand Sculpture Competition (Open Category) and for allotment of stalls for food/handicrafts/games etc. Shri Avinash Kr. Singh, EE PBMC can be contacted on Phone No.9434266168.

## Notes ban: ED attaches Rs 12 cr assets in Sekhar Reddy case

CHENNAI, APR 19/-/ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 12 crore of two accused in a connection with its money laundering probe against sand mining baron J Sekhar Reddy and others. The investigation revealed that Rs 10.25 crore of cash and 6.5 kg gold (valued at Rs 1.80 crore) seized by the Income Tax authorities from the premises of Jain and others are assets involved in the process of money laundering and are liable to attachment pending confiscation. "Accordingly, the said assets worth Rs 12 crore were attached provisionally," the agency said in a statement. Both Jain and Hirani had been arrested by the ED in this case in December last year. A total of five people have been arrested till now in this case including Reddy by the central probe agency. The agency had filed a criminal complaint against Reddy and others based on a CBI FIR in the case which was registered after the IT department first searched his and his associates' premises in November last year. The tax department has made one of the biggest detection of alleged unaccounted income of over Rs 142 crore in this case with the seizure of Rs 34 crore in new notes, post demoneisation. The Reddy case and the other involving Delhi-based lawyer Rohit Tandon and Kolkata-based businessman Paras Mal Lodha are being probed by at least four agencies - the ED, the Income Tax department, the CBI and Delhi Police, and are considered the most high-profile black money cases being investigated in the aftermath of the notes ban. An attachment of assets action under PMLA is aimed to deprive the accused from obtaining benefits of their ill-gotten wealth and it gets confirmed after an order of the Adjudicating Authority of the said Act within 180 days. (PTI)

## Beacon culture should have gone long ago: PM

NEW DELHI, APR 19/-/ Every Indian is a VIP and the culture of beacon should have gone long ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said tonight, hours after deciding to bar their use by the VVIPs, including the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers. "These symbols are out of touch with the spirit of new India," Modi said. He was responding to a tweet by a follower who described as "historic" the decision to prohibit all vehicles except emergency vehicles like ambulances and fire brigade, from using the beacon lights from May 1. The vehicles with beacon lights, which are seen as a symbol of VIP culture, "have no place in a democratic country", the government said after the decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting. "It should have gone long ago. Glad that today a strong beginning has been made," Prime Minister said in response to another tweet. "Every Indian is special. Every Indian is a VIP," he added. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, while briefing the media about the Cabinet decisions, said the matter was under discussion for some time and "the Prime Minister took the decision and informed the Cabinet." (PTI)

## Army chief felicitates retired officer for nationwide cycling

NEW DELHI, APR 19/-/ Army Chief General Bipin Rawat today felicitated Maj Gen (retd.) Somnath Jha who cycled throughout the country for 183 days covering 20 states as a tribute to the 21,000 martyrs of the armed forces since independence. The 58-year-old retired army officer cycled 11,000 km in 45,228 minutes, dedicating two minutes of cycling to each martyr. Jha concluded his journey today by laying a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti here and vowed to undertake similar endeavour once the national war memorial is dedicated to the nation. (PTI)

## EVENTS TODAY

- More Local News on page-3
- Mumbai Indians look to continue winning streak against KXIP - Page-8
- Speak English on Page-8

**Camp:** Indian Oil to hold a camp on Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Neil Island and Namunagar in the office of the Gram Panchayat Pradhan from 9 am to 1 pm.

**Training:** Capacity building training on crocodile capturing and release techniques for field staff and members of joint patrolling teams in the auditorium of Mini Zoo, Haddo.

**School Games:** XXth State School Games and 5th State Level competition for CWSNs underway at Netaji Stadium Sports Complex, Till April 22.

**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.

3rd SUVARTHA CONVENTION 2017  
On 22 & 23 APRIL at 5.00 PM  
PROTHRAPUR COMMUNITY HALL  
Pastor. T.V. POTHEEN SPEAKERS Pastor. JERIL CHERIAN  
Jesus heals to you  
Jesus peace to you  
Jesus Save to you  
All Are Welcome  
Swartha Choir Team

1st WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
(20/04/2017)  
Shri. T. NEELKANT  
Smti. T. JEEVITHA  
BEST WISHES FROM:  
Father - T. Subba Rao, Mother - T. Eswari,  
Daughter - Laksnya, Father-In-Law -  
P. Jangamaiah, Mother-In-Law - P. Mahalakshmi  
&  
All Family Members  
&  
Relatives

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