

NOTICE
This is brought to the notice of our esteemed readers that we are compelled to raise the price of The Echo of India w.e.f. December 01, 2016 to a new price of Rs 3.00 owing to escalating cost of newsprint, printing ink and other necessary items. We regret the inconvenience caused to all concerned.
—Editor

THE ECHO OF INDIA

PHONE : 03192 230269/230230 • FAX : 03192 234325 • E-MAIL : echopress4@gmail.com and echoofindia.com

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PAGE-12



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Plan afoot to make paying parking lot in A & N



SHAMIM

PORT BLAIR, NOV 30/--/ In the absence of stringent action by the traffic police to prevent roadside parking in the city, vehicle parking on the roadsides has resulted in free flow of traffic being hit badly. Almost the entire city roads have been conveniently being turned for roadside parking. In places which are classified as parking zone, people are parking vehicles and that too throughout the day without having to pay a single penny. Since no parking charges are levied, all kinds of vehicles, including heavy trucks and private buses remained parked for days together in these free parking zones. Such a trend is seriously affecting the free flow of vehicles in the city. What is appalling is the failure by the Municipal Council to make all these parking lots as paid parking zones. Though PBMCC sources had informed EOI that APWD has already allotted all the parking lots in the city to the Council and it had initiated the process to convert these free parking lots as paid parking, it is believed that considerable time may be lost in this process. An official of the Council, privy to the process, informed that the Council has already announced the names of 26 successful bidders who participated in the auction for 38 parking lots in the city. After the sites are handed over to the private agencies, the Port Blair Municipal Council treasury will earn close to Rs 8 lakh from the 26 parking lots. Auction of the remaining 12 parking lots is scheduled to be held soon," the official said. Investigation by EOI revealed that most of the vehicles parked for days together in the free parking zones are owned

by tours operators and private bus owners. Since, they do not have to pay for the parking, they conveniently turned these free parking lots into their personal parking space. Despite constant efforts by the Traffic Department to allow parking of vehicles, where the road width is more by way of turning many of the roadside places with sufficient available space as official parking lots, chaos prevails in the free parking spaces in the city. It is this indiscriminate parking that was holding up the traffic on many stretches. Violation by building owners and shop owners on one side and those visiting these complexes was actually inconveniencing the motorists, especially during peak hours, said Ajay Singh, a motorist. Rigid and "zero tolerant" enforcement of parking rules could be an immediate solution that could bring some respite for the motorists, he added. Like in other parts of the country, it is high time, the Municipal Council turned all free parking lots in the city as paid parking zone as done in the Port Blair airport. This will not only generate revenue for the Council but will also streamline road traffic. These parking lots will provide respite to the residents from traffic chaos caused by haphazard parking. A senior police officer related to traffic rule enforcement informed EOI that traffic enforcement machinery is already focusing on parking rule violations and fines are levied for such violations. Focus of the enforcement machinery is also largely on issues relating to fatal accidents caused by over speeding, rash and negligent driving, driving/riding without licence, drunken driving and no-parking.

Over 4100 posts lying vacant in Administration

XAVIER

PORT BLAIR, NOV 30/--/ Thousands of posts in different government departments of the A&N Administration have been lying vacant for the past several years as educated unemployed youth complain of growing joblessness. Accordingly to sources, about 4,100 posts, out of the sanctioned posts of about 25,000 in various categories are lying vacant since many years starting from Secretary to different departments of the UT administration.

Despite, several instructions from the top brass of the administration to fill-up these vacancies, only few posts have been filled up. The lethargic manner of functioning of the officers & staff of the Recruitment & Examination Cell (Personal Department) of the Administration to take up effective employment process is causing the undue delay in filling-up these vacancies. "It is very sad and painful to observe



that despite several thousands of vacancies lying unfilled for many years, educated youth suffer joblessness," remarked Ajay, a local resident of the Islands who has been trying desperately to secure a permanent job in the government for the last many years.

An employee of the local Employment Exchange, on conditions of anonymity, maintained that all efforts are made by the Exchange to provide jobs to the islanders. "Routine notices are issued in the local media sponsoring the names of unemployed candidates for jobs in various government departments. However, there are more than 34,000 educated youth in these islands pursuing their chances for government jobs." Now with Prof. Jadhav Mukhi taking over as the Lt Governor, jobseekers believe that the issue may be looked into more ardently and process for filling up all vacancies on open merit may be initiated by observing transparency and accountability.

Dog days are back in Havelock

KRITI DE

HAVELOCK, NOV 30/--/ The recent outbreak of dog distemper has proved to be a blessing for tourists and locals at Havelock, the most sought-after destination famous for its serene beaches. Majority of the population of stray canines, which once ruled almost all beaches of Havelock, particularly Havelock, Vijay Nagar coastline, has been wiped out after the epidemic and tourists visiting Havelock are currently breathing a huge sigh of relief. Though animal rights activists

had condemned the inaction of the authorities in preventing large scale deaths of stray dogs after the outbreak, locals claim that the disease brought temporary respite in the region as the population of stray dogs is presently under steady rise.

"It was 'canine' terror at the tourist hotspot, Havelock, before the epidemic. They were omnipresent everywhere - be it beaches, hotels, resorts or roads restraining nature lovers from spending some exquisite time in the nature's abode. The famous Dolphin Resort of Havelock was also reduced to a

home of stray dogs. The outbreak of the disease, though displeasing, has brought some respite for the tourists here," says Prakash Mondal, a resident of Havelock bazaar area.

The sight of dozens of stray dogs used to send shivers down the spine of tourists at the beaches here. One of my friends, who visited Havelock before the outbreak, recounted her harrowing experience over phone. With beaches remaining crowded with stray canines day and night, she along with her family was forced to spend the entire day indoors in the resort

for the fear of being bitten. The situation presently seems to be under control. However, it appears that new groups have made inroads again. The authorities concerned should initiate necessary steps immediately to prevent resurgence of dog terror at Havelock, said Anjali Thakur, a tourist from Bangalore.

Havelock is well known for its attractive sandy beaches and lush green forests. Besides, nature activities such as snorkeling and scuba diving make a Havelock trip very exciting, relaxing and rejuvenating.

EVENTS TODAY

- World AIDS Day: Andaman and Nicobar AIDS Control Society to celebrate World AIDS Day 2016. Lt. Governor to flag off rally at 7 am from Netaji Stadium.
TEE: Term End Examination for December 2016 of Indira Gandhi National Open University to commence at six examination centres. Till December 29.
Exams: Written examination for the admission to Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun at Tagore Government Collage of Education. Till Dec 2.

MESSAGE

The World AIDS Day designated on December 1 every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness of the epidemic caused by the spread of HIV infection, and for mourning those who have died of the disease. Governments and health officials, non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world observe the day, focussing on education on AIDS prevention and control.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a dreaded disease having no cure yet. The theme for the AIDS Day - 2016 is "HANDS UP FOR #HIV PREVENTION". In the lead-up to World AIDS Day 2016, the hands up for #HIV prevention campaign, will explore different aspects of HIV prevention and how they relate to specific groups of people, such as adolescent girls and young women, key populations and people living with HIV.

On this occasion, I call upon all stakeholders to support the efforts of A&N AIDS Control Society to make these serene and beautiful Islands free of HIV infection.

Sd/- Prof. Jadhav Mukhi Lieutenant Governor Andaman and Nicobar Islands

NOTICE

Former Assistant Editor of The Echo of India, Samir Day, has assumed charge of the Port Blair edition of the newspaper as its Editor with effect from 1st December 2016. Esteemed readers are welcome to offer comments, suggestions, feedbacks, reliable information relating to corruption, deficiency in public services provided by various agencies, write-ups etc by post to The Echo of India, 97/2 MG Road, Middle Point, Port Blair - 744101 or by email: echopress4@gmail.com. The Editor can be reached over phone 9434261421 or email: deysam@gmail.com. PUBLISHER

It's monkey business in Great Nicobar region again



EOI CORRESPONDENT

CAMPBELL BAY, NOV 30/--/ Though the 2004 earthquake and tsunami had caused significant distress to the residents and fauna alike of Great Nicobar region, the steady growth of the population of the Nicobar long-tailed macaque has become a scourge for the farmers here. A group of more than 2,000 monkeys are

reportedly on rampage in the Great Nicobar Island invading farms, destroying crops as also becoming a prime reason for road accidents in the region, sparking concerns over the simian menace.

Reliable sources claim that the endemic species, called the Crab-eating macaques, has become habituated to raid crops, coconut trees and betel nut plan-

tations. Coconut and Arecanut plantation, being the most important commercial plantations in the island, increasing incursions by the Monkeys has led to rising human-macaque conflicts in many parts of Great Nicobar, particularly along reserves bordering human habitation. Villagers use dogs to ward away macaques to protect their produce and the confrontation has also increased

the threat of disease transmission and potential loss of individual macaques owing to conflict.

The Great Nicobar Island has recorded sizeable growth of the monkey population since 2006. They can be found everywhere here; along roadsides, in agricultural farms, office complexes, residential areas etc. They come in groups and destroy our crops, climb co-

conut and Arecanut trees and drop the nuts, uproot plants and sometimes even enter house to snatch food. Areas like Govind Nagar, 30 km, 35 km, 20 km, Laxmi Nagar etc are the worst affected. The risk of accidents on the roads has also amplified due to the presence of the monkeys. The concerned authorities concerned should take immediate steps and drive the monkeys back to their natural habitats," say a government official posted at Campbell Bay, who didn't want his name to be quoted.

Advertisement for CPWD Family featuring a couple and text: 'WEDS TODAY... MAY YOUR WEDDING DAY BE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DREAMED OFF... YOUR MARRIAGE BLOOMS WITH HAPPINESS THAT NEVER ENDS. CPWD FAMILY'.