



The Phoenix Post

News You Can Use

English Daily Published from Port Blair

E-mail: Editor@thephoenixpostindia.com :: website: www.thephoenixpostindia.com

:: Vol. - IV :: Issue - 71 :: Rs. 3.00

:: Regn: ANDENG/2017/73090

:: PORT BLAIR

SUNDAY :: 31 MAY, 2020 :: PAGES - 04

Devastating impact of COVID-19 on Tourism Industry in Andaman:

Hoteliere Assn. urges special package & faster revival of Tourism activities in Islands

Port Blair, May 30: The Andaman and Nicobar Hoteliers Association has urged the UT administration to withdraw the suspension imposed on all the tourism activities in the islands and allow it to open Hotels, Resorts, Bars and boat services as soon as the normal flight and ship services resume its services in the Islands. In a letter addressed to the Islands Lt Governor, copies of which were sent to the Ministers of Finance, Home Affairs, Tourism besides the Chief Secretary of this UT, the Association President G. Bhasker gave a detailed



account of the difficulties being experienced by the stakeholders in view of lockdown due to corona virus pandemic and the imperative need for revival of these activities in the Islands.

Expressing serious concern over the fall-out of

the pandemic, the Hoteliers Association chief said that the year 2020 could be a complete washout for the Travel and Tourism industry in India, including in the A&N Islands, if immediate steps are not taken – not just to contain virus but also its impact on livelihoods. For an industry like Tourism which contributes nearly 10 per cent to India's GDP- immediate intervention of the Government of India, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is of utmost necessity for its survival

measures to prevent mass bankruptcy and layoffs by the thousands, he said. On the ground of assessment of the situation points towards the fact that the tourism Industry would need more liquidity support and therefore, the current moratorium period of three months need to be extended for a further period of one year, Bhasker added.

This apart, Bhasker said that the Government of India and the Administration also need to consider deferment of statutory liabilities, including GST and advance Tax payment

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Lt.Gen. Podali Shankar Rajeshwar CINCAN calls it a day

PORT BLAIR, MAY 30: Lieutenant General Podali Shankar Rajeshwar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, the 14th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) retired from service on 31st May 2020, leaving a glorious legacy and many milestones in his distinguished career spanning four decades. He had taken over the appointment on 01 Dec 19.

During his tenure as CINCAN, Lieutenant General Rajeshwar focused on enhancing the operational preparedness of ANC. The 29th edition of the Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was successfully conducted from 13th to 21st February 2020 during



his Command. The Lieutenant General oversaw there-induction into ANC of FDN-1, the first Floating Dock of the Indian Navy, which has augmented refit and docking capability. The commissioning of the Landing Craft Utility Mk-IV Class ship LCU-57 on 15 May 2020 enhanced the Amphibious Operational capability of India's only Joint Forces Command. Under Lieutenant General

Rajeshwar's directions, the personnel and assets of the Command actively coordinated and worked together with the Andaman and Nicobar Administration in dealing with the Corona pandemic and providing succour to the populace across the length and breadth of the islands. INS Kesari, a LST (L) of the ANC Flotilla was successfully deployed for Operation Sagar to provide humani-

tarian assistance and Covid-19 medical help to IOR nations Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles as a goodwill gesture from the Government and people of India. For his distinguished service, Lieutenant General Rajeshwar had been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) on 26th January 2020 and appointed as an Honorary Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India in November 2019. Lieutenant General Rajeshwar is married to Mrs. Harshita Rajeshwar, who supported him to look after the welfare of the families of personnel of ANC in her role as the President, Defence Wives' Welfare Association (DWVA) (Regional).

Amid objections over air passengers not being quarantined

Sampling of incoming passengers begins at VSI for tests in ICMR lab

PHOENIX CORRESPONDENT

Port Blair, May 30: Amid resentment among the people, the Health Department of Andaman & Nicobar Administration has now begun to conduct Covid-19 tests of the selective group of incoming passengers on their arrival from mainland India. People on the Islands have been raising objections to the system of not taking such passengers for quarantine and letting them

free to go anywhere, which is bound to be a matter of great risk for the rest of the islanders. Quarantine, whether institutional or home, for everyone coming to the island is precisely what most of the people here vouched for when asked during an interaction with The Phoenix Post today.

When contacted, the Director of Health Services, Dr Omkar Singh clarified today that it is not test but

sampling of the incoming passengers which now has begun at VSI airport for carrying out the subsequent tests in laboratory so as to detect the existence of virus among the new entrants, if any. He denied of any changes in the protocol made by the govt in regard to procedure to fight the Covid-19 battle. Sample collection of the people with symptoms con-

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Petroleum retail outlet to come up at Uttara

PORT BLAIR, MAY 30: The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO) is operating eleven Petroleum Outlets across A & N Islands including in remotest Islands of Kamorta, Katchal, Teressa & Campbell Bay. Presently, there is no fuel outlet at Kadamtala, due to which the general public is facing difficulties in meeting their fuel requirements.

Considering the problems faced by general public, the Lt. Governor N Is-

lands has approved the proposal for setting up of a B Site Petroleum Retail Outlet at Uttara village, Kadamtala, North & Middle Andaman.

The ANIIDCO will set up a Petroleum Retail Outlet at Uttara village, Kadamtala in coordination with Indian Oil Corporation Limited. The construction and operation of fuel outlet will be done strictly in accordance to the conditions set forth by Tribal Welfare Department for the safety and security of Jarawa Tribe.

Nation will win battle against COVID-19, PM Modi exudes confidence on first anniversary of his second term



New Delhi, May 30 (ANI): On the completion of one year of the second term of the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, PM Modi exuded confidence

that India will win the battle against COVID-19 pandemic while acknowledging the "tremendous suffering" of the migrant workers and labourers during coronavirus crisis.

"In a crisis of this magnitude, it can certainly not be claimed that no one suffered any inconvenience or discomfort. Our labourers, migrant workers, artisans and craftsmen in small scale industries, hawkers and such fellow countrymen have undergone tremendous suffering. We are working in a united and determined way to alleviate their troubles," PM Modi stated in an open letter. "However, we have to take care to ensure that inconveniences that we are fac-

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#Unlock1: Unrestricted movement of persons, goods allowed



New Delhi [India], May 30 (ANI): The Centre on Saturday issued new guidelines under which "there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods." "No separate permission/approval/e-permit will be required for such movements," as per the MHA guidelines.

"However, if a State/ UT, based on reasons of public

health and its assessment of the situation, proposes to regulate the movement of persons, it will give wide publicity in advance regarding the restrictions to be placed on such movement, and the related procedures to be followed," said the MHA.

According to the new guidelines for phased re-opening of areas outside the containment zones un-

der which "all activities that were prohibited earlier, will be opened up in areas outside Containment Zones in a phased manner, with the stipulation of following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to be prescribed by the Health Ministry."

The guidelines will come into effect from June 1, 2020, and will be effective till June 30, 2020. The current phase of re-opening -- Unlock 1 -- will have an economic focus, said the MHA. The country is under the fourth phase of lockdown which will continue till May 31. The lockdown was first enforced in March to contain the spread of COVID-19. (ANI)

Chennai-Andaman ship services resume after gap with stranded Islanders



Chennai/Port Blair, May 30: The weekly passenger ship service between Chennai and Andaman resumed on Thursday after a gap of 53 days. The passenger ship MV Nicobar left Chennai port to Andaman with 87 passengers. Similarly, MV Nancowry, the passenger ship from Port Blair carrying more than 160 passengers will anchor at Chennai

Port on Saturday. The ship services were suspended due to the lockdown due to corona virus pandemic. However, even as the services have resumed, the officials are unsure of the frequency in the coming weeks and it depends on various factors. The passenger service resumed on Thursday after

(Contd. on Page 3.)

Trump bans entry of certain groups of Chinese students to US



Washington, May 30 : US President Donald Trump has issued a proclamation banning the entry of Chinese students and researchers having ties with the People's Liberation Army to dismantle China's efforts to use graduate students to acquire intellectual property and technology from America.

Trump's announcement came amidst escalating confrontation between the US and China over trade, the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic, Beijing's security crackdown in Hong Kong and the

communist giant's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea. Issuing the proclamation on Friday, Trump said China is engaged in a wide-ranging and heavily resourced campaign to acquire sen-

Commendable efforts made by TCI Seaways to serve the islanders during difficult times

PHOENIX CORRESPONDENT

PORT BLAIR, MAY 29: The Transport Corporation of India Limited (TCIL), a well known logistic company having transport branches all over India and Nepal, once again proved its mettle during lockdown restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic. Like all other branches, and perhaps in a much better manner, the Port Blair branch of TCI Seaways, launched in 1995 under the banner of TCIL,



rose to the occasion to meet the demands of the islanders. Braving the geographical location of the islands and the difficulties caused by



the lockdown since 25th March, the TCI Seaways took upon itself the challenge of transporting essential commodities from the mainland to Port Blair and also from Port Blair to



southern islands. Its vessels sailed at regular intervals carrying the essential cargo to meet the islands' needs. Even the FCI's food grains were shipped from Kakinada to Port Blair and other northern and south-



ern islands in a time bound manner. Responding to numerous calls received by the Port Blair and Chennai offices of TCI Seaways, even small packets of es-

sential medicines were brought in for the needy patients since there was no flight service available during the lockdown. According to P.K. Kaushik, Vice President, TCI Seaways, Port Blair, the Company has always felt itself a family member of the local society and has always come forward to serve the needy islanders. Be it the catastrophe of 2004 tsunami or any other disastrous situation, the TCI Seaways has always given its best to

serve the fellow islanders. "The Port Blair branch has always enjoyed the blessings and guidance of Mr. D P Agarwal, TCI Group Chairman and Mr. R.U Singh, CEO & President of TCI Seaways in its endeavour to serve its valued customers and the needy people." Kaushik said that the TCI Seaways has contributed its mite by distributing free ration items to hundreds of needy workers, fishermen and other needy people at different loca-

tions in South Andaman district during the lockdown. In the last two months, the TCI Seaways has carried 14037 MT of food products, 3679 MT general cargo, 1784 MT vegetables/reefer cargo, 5057 MT construction material, 72 MT oxygen cylinders and 9980 MT food grains of FCI. MV TCI PRABHU, MV TCI SURYA, MV TCI LAKSHMI and MV TCI VIJAY were deployed to meet the demand, Kaushik informed.