

The Daily Telegrams

The largest Circulated Daily of A & N Islands

No. 23

Regn. No. 34190/45

Port Blair

Saturday, January 24, 2004

Visit us at www.andaman.nic.in

Rs. 1.50

NEWS IN BRIEF

Presidential Awards

NEW DELHI, JAN. 23. 32 officers of Customs and Central Excise Department have been selected for grant of Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificate for specially distinguished record of service this year. These officers have exhibited exceptional commitment and devotion to duty on a sustained basis, while achieving the goals set for their organizations. List of officers who have been selected for grant of the Presidential Award of Appreciation Certificate for specially distinguished record of service, on the occasion of Republic Day 2004.

India, Pak Prepare For War, Against Polio, Together

NEW DELHI, JAN. 23. India and Pakistan may be far away from joint patrolling of borders but in one war, they are set to initiate joint border surveillance: the fight against polio. In the warmth of the January spring, the two estranged neighbours have vowed to put collective efforts into eradication of polio from the South Asian region by December 2004.

Apart from holding polio immunisation drives on the same days, the two countries will form a joint surveillance structure to monitor cases in the bordering areas between the two countries.

Three To Receive PM's Life Saving Medal

NEW DELHI, JAN. 23. Three CRPF Jawans have been selected for the Prime Minister's Life Saving Medal for showing conspicuous gallantry in saving four minor children from drowning in deep water in Shillong last year. The three who would be bestowed the honour are Head Constables M.S. Misra and Satish Kumar and Constable Awadesh Prasad, the CRPF said in a statement here today.

The three jawans exhibited conspicuous gallantry by endangering their lives in saving the four minor children who were drowning in deep waters with a fast flowing current due to heavy rains in Shillong last year, it said.

Global Unemployment At

Social Security Scheme For Unorganised Sector's Workers Launched

Scheme Will Help The Poor & Make Our Democracy Meaningful : Dr. Sahib Singh

NEW DELHI, JAN. 23. Dr. Sahib Singh, Union Labour Minister has said that social security to the unorganized sectors' workers will not only help the poor to dispel their fears, but also make our democracy meaningful. He further said that unless we work for the poorest of the poor, we will not fulfill dreams of our democracy. The social security scheme will strengthen the poor and these workers, in turn, will strengthen our nation. Dr. Sahib Singh was addressing the vast gathering at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on the occasion of launching country-wide

social security scheme for unorganized sectors' workers.

Elaborating the social security scheme, Dr. Sahib Singh said, that workers will contribute Rs. 50/- per month, the employer will contribute Rs. 50/- per month and Government will contribute 1.16 per cent of the national floor level minimum wage. This scheme will ensure minimum pension of Rs. 500/- per month at the age of 60 years; a personal accident insurance for Rs. One lakh 25 thousand, and a health insurance scheme for expenses upto Rs. 30,000/- "This will dispel the fears from the eyes of our poor for all time to come", he said. He

also said that in case of the head of the family, if he is not able to earn his bread because of hospitalization, he will be given a lump-sum amount @ Rs. 50/- per day upto 15 days as compensation to his earning. He said we will provide them with social security cards to ensure that these street vendors are not unnecessarily harassed. This will also go a long way to eliminate child labour from

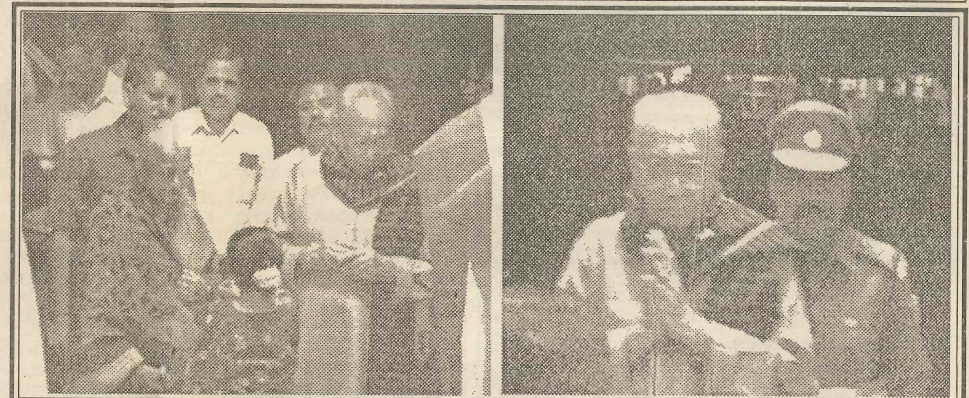
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Prithvi Medium Range Surface-To-Surface Test Fired

BALASORE, JAN. 23

Prithvi, India's medium range surface-to-surface missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads in a range of upto 300km, was today test fired from the interim test range (ITR) at Chandipur, 13 km from here, defence sources said. The missile, which was fired at 2:39 pm, has a range of 150 to 300 km. This is the 23rd test of the indigenously built missile.

Prithvi, one version of which has already been inducted in the army, can be equipped with both conventional and nuclear warheads and had a capacity to carry warheads weighing upto 1000 kg. It uses a two-stage propellant, both solid and liquid, the sources said.



The Lt. Governor, Prof. Ram Kapse & Smti Smita Kapse being received at Vivekananda Stadium Diglipur where the Lt. Governor addressed the public on 23/1/2004.

LG Visits Diglipur, Lays Stones For Rural Roads

Staff Reporter: DIGLIPUR, JAN. 23.

The Lt. Governor, Prof. Ram Kapse today arrived in Diglipur on the first leg of his two-day tour to North and Middle Andaman. He is accompanied on this tour by the First Lady of the islands, Smt. Smita Kapse, the Chief Secretary, Shri V.V. Bhat and the Zilla Parishad Adhyaksh, Shri R. Chidambaram.

Shortly after his arrival here, the Lt. Governor laid the foundation stone for rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana at Shibpur and Deshbandhu Gram. While the Shibpur road

about the government's plans to connect all rural roads by the year 2007. He said, the rural roads constitute a vital component for development and are the signs of prosperity for the area where they are built. He asked the Zilla Parishad to provide proper rural road connectivity in different parts of the islands for which sufficient fund will be made available.

The Lt. Governor assured the people that the projects, for which the foundation stones have been laid, will be completed within the stipulated period. He also

here, and said that a meeting of Zilla Parishad and APWD will be convened shortly to discuss the problem of water at various places in the island.

Speaking on the occasion, Member of Parliament Shri Bishnu Pada Ray said that the laying of foundation stone for the roads and subsequent completion of the projects are going to meet long pending demands of the people of these areas. He said, more rural roads will be constructed at various places in the islands under PMGSY.

Addressing the function, the Zilla Parishad Adhyaksh,

Barman welcomed the chief guest and others and highlighted various problems of the area.

LG To Inaugurate WTP At B/Flat

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 23.

The Lt. Governor, Prof. Ram Kapse will inaugurate the Water Treatment Plant at Bambooflat on January 25, 2004, at 1520 hrs. The Lt. Governor will also interact with villagers at Panchayat Bhavan, Mannarghat the same day at 1620 hrs, according to an official release here.

Symposium