

The Daily Telegrams

The largest Circulated Daily of A & N Islands

No. 20

Regn. No. 34190/45

Port Blair

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Visit us at www.andaman.nic.in

Rs. 1.50

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian Robot To Star At US Camp

HYDERABAD, JAN. 20.

A robot built by students will educate children at a NASA camp to be held in California in July. The International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) is working on building a low-cost mobile robot for education and research.

The robot, which is being developed in collaboration with the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), will be used at the annual NASA-sponsored 'Robo-Camp' for high school students in California in July 2004. "About 25 students are working on the project. However, this is not a commercial robot, but the one being developed purely for educational purpose," Prof P J Narayanan, robotics co-ordinator at the IIIT, told The Times of India.

UN To Explore Options For Early Election

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20.

The United Nations will send a mission to Iraq in order to ascertain whether elections in the country can take place earlier than possible. "The technical mission will advise on the feasibility of elections within the next few months and, if not, the alternatives that might be possible," said UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan.

The decision was taken after a two-hour closed door meeting with the US administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer, members of the Iraqi Governing Council, US and British officials. "We will give all possible support to assure the security of UN personnel when they return to Iraq," said Bremer.

Bhattai Redesignated As Deputy CM

CHANDIGARH, JAN 20

Senior Congress leader and Punjab's Agriculture Minister, Shri Rajinder Kaur Bhattai, who recently led a revolt against Chief Minister, Shri

President Calls For Govt-Pvt. Partnership In Health

HYDERABAD, JAN. 20.

President, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam has favoured partnerships between government and the corporate hospitals to deliver quality but affordable treatment for the common man. "Delivery of healthcare is an important social welfare activity," he said inaugurating a unique joint venture called Apollo-DRDO hospital as part of a partnership initiative between the Apollo group of hospitals and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at the

DRDO premises here on Monday.

He called upon the both defence scientists and health care specialists to work together to extend healthcare to national stream through innovations in medical research. He suggested that the network of 50 DRDO laboratories across the country and Apollo hospitals in several cities could set up a mobile hospitals with general-purpose medical equipment and special purpose equipment. While a majority of the people can be

diagnosed and treated with general-purpose equipment those who need intensive and specialised treatment can be sent to the main hospital for follow up and treatment, he said.

President Dr. Kalam called upon the hospitals to create wings in their institutions where a holistic treatment can be given to patients by incorporating the traditional systems of medicines such as Yoga and Naturopathy, Ayurveda, Unani, Homeopathy and

(Contd. On Page 4)

NE Should Become Economic Bridgehead To SE Asia: PM

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20.

Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee today asked the eight states in the North-East to capitalise on opportunities to enhance trade with the neighbourhood as the region could become an "economic bridgehead" to South East Asia. "India is working actively to promote regional and sub-regional trade and economic promotion. Our North-Eastern states can become our economic bridgehead to South-East Asia," Shri Vajpayee said.

He was addressing the

second North-East business summit, organised by Department of N-E region and International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Because of its proximity to the South-East Asian markets like Bangladesh, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand, the NE region has a locational advantage of great importance, Shri Vajpayee said.

However he made an appeal to the state governments in the region saying "the Centre has taken a conscious decision to provide more resources and

incentives for development of the North-East. It is the responsibility of the individual states to demonstrate visibly that funds are used properly.

"People in the North-East would like to see the outcome of the utilisation of funds on the ground." Expressing concern over extremist activities in the region, he said the NDA government has evolved a comprehensive strategy with multi-pronged initiatives and as a result, the peace process has moved forward considerably in some of the troubled states.

India, Russia Sign

District Planning Committee Meeting Begins

Formulation Of Draft Annual Plan, Among Other Matters, Discussed

Staff Reporter:

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20.

The two-day District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting got underway today under the chairmanship of the Adhyaksh, Zila Parishad, Shri R. Chidambaram at the conference hall of the Zila Parishad. The agenda of the meeting centered round the formulation of the draft annual plan 2004-05, based on the felt-needs and aspiration of the people at grassroot level.

The meeting was attended, among others, by senior officers of the Administration, DPC members of PBMC, Zila Parishad and Tribal Council. The meeting discussed threadbare various sector-wise plan

schemes of various Departments of the Administration.

The Development Commissioner, Shri S. Hemachandran, in his opening remarks, called upon the PRI members for speeding up the implementation of various development projects for the remaining quarter of the current financial year 2003-2004. He also stressed the need for rearing of improved varieties of poultry birds, goats, etc and appeal the PRIs to motivate among the general public.

The Development Commissioner also informed that for the 10th five year plan (2002-2007), an outlay of Rs. 2483 crores has been kept by the Govt. for the A&N Islands which

included Rs. 402 crores for the first year of the plan period (2002-03) and Rs. 410 crores for the second year of the plan period (2003-2004). The remaining Rs. 1671 crores for the plan period will be allotted to the islands depending on the performance and utilization of the fund on the development projects.

Earlier, welcoming those present on the occasion, the Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad, Shri C.M. Singh said that the meeting will thoroughly deliberate on the draft proposals for the annual plan 2004-05.

On Jan. 21, the matters relating to health, Police, Vigilance, Secretariat, Environment & Forest, Science & Technology, Tribal Welfare & Transport,

Electricity, Information, Publicity and Tourism and Govt. Press, Industry, Civil Supply, Chief Pay & Accounts Organization, Local Self Government (Panchayat, Municipal Council and Rural Development) are scheduled to be discussed.

Meanwhile, the DPC has recommended various measures to expedite development, a press release from the Adhyaksh Zila Parishad said here today. According to this, more emphasis is to be given to repair existing roads as well as new roads in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. For 182 KMs of transferred road, funds are to be provided by APWD to PRIs for maintenance. Sufficient bridges are to be constructed wherever required. Top priority is to be given to urban water supply system.

(Contd. On Page 4)

LG To Lay Stone For PHC

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20.

A Primary Health Centre will soon come up at Kishori Nagar, Diglipur the foundation stone for which will be laid by the Lt. Governor Prof. Ram Kameshwar Singh.

International Cultural Fete At Ambedkar From Today

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20.

The first ever international cultural festival which brings together the performing arts of islands across the world, will be held from tomorrow to Jan. 26, 2004 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium. The

will inaugurate the Cultural Festival tomorrow at 6.30 PM.

The festival is meant to promote cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries of the world. Cultural troupes from six

artists from JNRM will also perform during the festival days.

According to a schedule released, the troupe of Seychelles will perform on Jan. 21, the troupe from Trinidad & Tobago on Jan. 22, Sri Lanka on Jan. 23,