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RAZIA BEGUM

PORT BLAIR, MAY 28/—/ Master Olake is on Cloud Nine. He has scored 76 % marks in CBSE declared result for class X. It may not come as something surprising or extra-ordinary at a time when students scoring more than 90% marks

more than 90% marks are quite common. But it does in Olake's case, considering that he belongs to the primitive Great Andamanese tribe for whom education was something alien until recently.

In an exclusive interview to the EOI, Master Olake rolled out the secret behind his spectacular success and his brush with education.
"Ever since my early days, I have been watching."

ing the well-dressed officers and teachers visiting Strait Island, the abode of my tribe. Their dress and mannerism impressed and inspired me to be like them. Therefore, I decided to study and the pursuit of education brought me to Port Blair where I, like a few others of my tribe, got admission in 5th Standard at Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, thanks to Mr. Sripad Deshpande and the relentless struggle of my aunt Riya who works for Department of

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Service," said a beaming Olake. Asked about his preparations for exams, Master Olake said that he has always been very interested in studies and devoted enough time to study hard to secure good marks. "I wish to go for science stream in class XI and XII and my ambition is to be-

class XI and XII and my ambition is to become a civil engineer after completing my higher education," he said.

said.

Narrating the difficulties faced by him and other members of his tribe, Master Olake said that the authorities, particularly officials of the Andaman Adim Jan Jati Vikas Samiti never showed any keen interest in prop-

keen interest in properly educating the Andamanese children. Even now the Higher Secondary school at Strait Island is only up to class VIII with only two teachers. "Initially we were not even allowed to go to Port Blair for studies but our King Jirake, who expired after Tsunami, allowed us to go. My aunt Riya too took up the matter with AJJVS to provide financial support to our tribe as we have the potential to move forward in life and lead a normal life the way other

people live. But unfortunately, the AAJJVS support has been lackadaisical," Olake bemoaned. He said that it took a lot of argument and persuasion to make them (AAJVS) to pay my Xth class tuition and hostel fees etc. "They used to provide only uniforms rest all we managed on our own. They are also not providing any pocket money to us. There should be a hostel facility for girls. It's not that I am the only one from our tribe who has cleared class X exam. One of my friends and classmate Master Deepak has also done well scoring 65% marks," Olake said. Talking about his family, Master Olake said that his father Mr. Look is working as an APWD Supervisor at Strait Island and his mother expired long back in 2007. His three siblings are also studying at VKV where there is a hostel facility for boys but not for girls. As such his younger sister is residing at their relative's house.

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For Master Olake Maths is his favourite subject. But apart from studies, he loves to play Chess, Cricket and Football. His hobbies include reading newspapers and books of general knowledge. "My teachers and my classmates are good to me and never look down upon me." My best time pass is to roam around with my friends, especially at Marina Park and Corbyns Cove,"said Olake so very candidly.

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Di (Th) may pl reall the discussion we had on 25512 regarding the felicishm of Great Andamawers students who came out successfully the E std public exam. I may be briefed the letter position. Also fil comment on the undalmed portion above.

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