



**RAJ NIVAS
PUDUCHERRY**

**PRESS CLIPPINGS
ENGLISH**

25 Jan 2019

Union Minister praises NIOT for beach restoration

Says it is proof of excellence in science



Mission accomplished: Union Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurating the restored Puducherry beach on Thursday. L-G Kiran Bedi, left, and Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy are with him. ■S.S. KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY

Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan on Thursday showered praise on the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) for its beach restoration work in Puducherry. He said it was an example of India's success story in the field of science and technology.

Inaugurating the restored beach, Dr. Vardhan said the project was an example of innovative science and the outcome was there for everyone to see. NIOT, which completed the restoration work, had executed similar projects in other parts of the country.

He said that India was ranked among the top 10 nations in the world in the field of science and technology.

While India was caught unawares during the 2004 tsunami, now its early tsunami warning system was now ranked among the best in the world.

India was ranked fourth in the world in weather forecast, third in nanotechnology and sixth in scientific publications.

Dr. Vardhan said steps would be taken for extension of the beach by creating another artificial reef on the southern side.

"I will pursue this project with officials in the Ministry and ensure that the beach is extended on the southern side," he said.

App for good deed

The Minister urged people to take care of the Green Social Responsibility and perform at least one "Green Good Deed" every day to bring about significant changes in the environ-

mental conditions. "After a lot of research, the Ministry has come up with more than 700 small acts that can help improve our environmental conditions. We call them the Green Good Deeds. If every citizen can pursue at least one green good deed every day that would be of immense benefit to our future generations. The app is available in Google Play Store and the App Store," he added.

Funds sought

Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi called upon the Ministry of Earth Sciences to allocate adequate funds for extension of the beach on the southern side. Terming it as a worthwhile investment, Ms. Bedi said the beach was the economic backbone and ambassador of the Union Territory and the investment could be recovered in a few years. She said that dredging must be done only by the Government of India and the work could be entrusted to the NIOT.

Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy said that the government was planning to start container movement from Chennai to Puducherry after the capital dredging.

The government was also planning to extend the Beach Promenade till Muthialpet, he said.

Minister for Social Welfare M. Kandasamy; Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar; M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences; M.A. Atmanand, Director, NIOT; and M.V. Ramana Murthy, Director, National Centre for Coastal Research; were present.

Will be one of top three scientific countries by 2030: Harsh Vardhan

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Puducherry: Union science and technology, environment, forest and climate change and earth sciences minister Harsh Vardhan said India will be one of the top three scientific countries in the world by 2030. The minister was in Puducherry to dedicate the northern nearshore reef established at a cost of Rs 25 crore as a part of the beach restoration project.

"This model (beach restoration project) we are trying to make, is not a success sto-



Union minister Harsh Vardhan dedicating the northern nearshore reef established at a cost of Rs 25 crore as a part of the beach restoration project in Puducherry on Thursday.

ry for India but for the whole world. National institute of o-

cean technology has done an extraordinary study evol-

ing an extraordinary way for the restoration of the beach," he said.

Vardhan praised India's Tsunami early warning system saying that India has been rated as the best and number one in the world in tsunami early warning system. "We were caught unaware when 2004 tsunami struck. Now in 2019, we are rated as the best and number one in issuing tsunami early warnings in the world. We never gave a false tsunami warning so far," he said.

Lauding the country's achievements in technology,

he said India was ranked fourth in the world in weather and cyclone forecast.

"We have the best fleet of research vessels in the world next only to the United States, UK and Japan. We launched a research vessel last month and will be launching one more research vessel shortly. Similarly, we are ranked third in nanotechnology and sixth in scientific publication in the world," he said.

Lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi and chief minister V Narayanasamy also spoke at the function.

BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT

Union Min dedicates northern reef

Harsh Vardhan appeals to UT to launch GGD movement to create model of clean environment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Puducherry

DR Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Forest and Climate Change, today appealed to Puducherry to launch the Green Good Deeds (GGD) movement in a big way to create a model of a clean environment.

Addressing the gathering after dedicating the experimental northern reef of the Beach Restoration Project here on Thursday, he said that the GGD launched by the Environment Ministry, are positive actions to protect the environment and promote good living in the country. It has found global acceptance accepted by the United Nations. There are 700 GGD available in the Environment ministry's website as well as Dr Harsha Vardhan's app that can be downloaded from google play store or apple store.

Stating that it is a social responsibility to protect the environment and give it back like it had been passed on by our ancestors for the unborn children, Dr Harsh Vardhan said that the government could not succeed without the involvement of society. It was a social responsibility, he said and appealed to people to practise at least one GGD every day by altering the day-to-day habits to green behaviour. Puducherry is a responsible behaviour state as reflected in the cleanliness and if GGD is launched in a big way, it can create another model. Puducherry also can successfully involve its citizens in GGDs as the Chief Minister of Telangana is attempting, he said.

Responding to the requests made by Science and Technology minister M Kandasamy,



Union Minister Harsh Vardhan, along with Lt Governor Kiran Bedi and Chief Minister V Narayanasamy Science, Technology, Environment & Port Minister M Kandasamy dedicate the restored Puducherry Beach on Thursday; (bottom) A view of the restored beach | G PATTABIRAMAN

Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and Lt Governor Kiran Bedi, the Union Minister said that he would strive with sincerity and commitment for funding and executing the southern reef of the Beach Restoration project. Since finance is involved, he could not make a commitment but would explore various possibilities and sincerely work on it, said Harsh Vardhan.

Appreciating the works of re-

searchers being translated into solutions for the people, he said that at present India is number one in issuing early Tsunami warning. It gives the warning to not only countrymen but also to all other countries in the world.

In Lakshwadweep, a series of desalination plants have been established with indigenous Technology, which produces water better than Delhi water quality. Stating that scientists

should ensure that their research outcome is delivered to people, he said that his ministry has been able to assist farmers and fishermen and find solutions for them.

Earlier, Lt Governor Kiran Bedi, stating that investment made in the Beach restoration project, will fetch returns and revenue, and the country as a whole will benefit, appealed to the Union minister to see if dredging of the harbour mouth and discharge of the dredged sand on the coast, could be taken up by Government of India. If this was done, there would not only be an assured beach front but also early inauguration of Sagar mala project in Puducherry, she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister V Narayanasamy said that the beach was one of the major tourist attractions in Puducherry, with 20 percent of the tourists being international, 40 percent from adjoining states and remaining from other states in the country. To get the entire beach stretch from north to south in the town area, he said that the southern reef is required. He urged the Union minister who has funded the northern reef, to also fund the southern reef, citing the paucity of funds while adding that for development of a UT, the Centre has to support it, and quoted the Prime Minister having said that the Centre and state should work together for development.

Science and Technology Minister M Kandasamy, Secretary Ministry of Earth Sciences, M Rajeevan, Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar, Director NIOT M A Atmanand and M V Ramana Murthy, Director National Centre for Coastal Research, also spoke.



Puducherry can successfully involve its citizens in Green Good Deeds movement as the Chief Minister of Telangana is attempting

Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister

CM urged to put an end to teachers' strike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Puducherry

THE BJP on Thursday urged Chief Minister V Narayanasamy to put an end to the strike by the society run college teachers forthwith.

BJP nominated legislators V Saminathan and K G Shankar, along with party functionaries, met the chief minister in his office and submitted a memorandum in this regard.

It may be noted that as many as 4,000 employees of the 18 government society colleges including teachers, have been on an indefinite strike from January 18, demanding the immediate implementation of the 7th pay commission recommendations for them.

CM appeals to Society college employees to withdraw strike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Puducherry

CHIEF MINISTER V Narayanasamy on Thursday appealed to the striking teachers and non-teaching staffs of the society run colleges here to call off their stir considering the future of students.

According to a release from the office of the Chief Minister, Narayanasamy on Thursday held a talk with the representatives of all staff as-

sociations of the society colleges and put forth this demand. The Chief Minister assured them that on January 27, he would once again discuss their demands with the education minister, chief sec-



CM Narayanasamy on Thursday held a talk with the representatives of all staff associations of the society colleges and put forth this demand

A press release

retary and education secretary and then discuss with the representatives of all associations to find an amicable settlement to their issue. He requested them to resume duty forthwith.

Meanwhile, the staff of Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER) and Women's Polytechnic college boycotted their work.

ASPIRATION

Congress guns for lone Pondy Lok Sabha seat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Puducherry

THE ruling Congress is aspiring to contest the Puducherry Lok Sabha seat and not give it up for its ally, the DMK. Senior party leaders said that the desire of the party to contest the seat, has been conveyed to its leadership. "Hope it will be acceptable to the DMK," he said. Besides, a request has also been made to delink Puducherry from Tamil Nadu while discussing seat sharing," said the leader.

The Congress has won the seat 10 out of 14 times and hence feels that it is better positioned to contest.

Chief Minister V Naraya-

nasamy won the seat in 2009 in alliance with DMK, but lost the seat in 2014 elections, contesting without any alliance to R Radhakrishnan of AINRC.

Most wins

The Congress has won the seat 10 out of 14 times and hence feels that it is better positioned to contest. CM V Narayanasamy won the seat in 2009 in alliance with DMK

Now the party has been galvanised under All India Congress Committee (AICC) President Rahul Gandhi, with a new set of office bearers who are actively working for the success in the poll, said an office bearer of the party.

Meanwhile, V Vaithilingam, Speaker of the Territorial Assembly, who is tipped to be the candidate, refused to comment and said that one has to wait for the announcement of the candidate by the AICC.

Zimbabwean band to perform in Puducherry

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Puducherry: Zimbabwean band, The Blessing Chimanga and Dreams, and a host of other popular bands will perform at the 16th edition of Freedom Jam, a music festival to be held at the renovated heritage venue – Bands-tand -- near the Nehru statue on the Beach Road here as part of the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 and 27.

The Zimbabwean band known for its awesome afro-beat and high energy performance is led by singer and marimba player Blessing Bled Chimanga. The band has not only blazed a trail in Africa but won fans all over the world, including in India. It will perform on Saturday evening at the festival, supported by the Puducherry tourism department.

Rhythmic Energy, a band of more than 30 musicians, who earn their living from various professions but are passionate to perform, will enth-



File pic

ENTHRALLING THE AUDIENCE

ral the audience on Saturday evening. The band will play a variety of music from brass band renditions of Carnatic bhajans to movie soundtracks, from "Star Wars" and "Baahubali," among others.

Puducherry's own 'Yazh The Band' comprising a group of young prodigious local talent will present evergreen film songs with a breath of freshness on Saturday evening. Five bands will perform on Sunday evening. Band H2O will present an English set of rock songs for a new setlist of Tamil, Bengali, Hindi and even French numbers.

J's Lounge, a classic rock outfit from Chennai led by ace guitarist Jesh Murdjani will perform popular numbers from Pink Floyd and Eric Clapton among others. Bands from cosmopolitan student community of Puducherry – Vertigo, Delirium and Snooze – will also enthrall the audience on Sunday evening.

Vertigo and Delirium are from the medical fraternity. Vertigo specialises in hard rock while Delirium does a mix of indie-pop, fusion and rock. Snooze will present pop rock hits.

One more counter for paying electricity bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY

The Electricity Department has opened another bill collection centre near Saram Subramani temple Devasthanam, Kamaraj Salai (in front of Hotel Annamalai).

The new centre, which is in addition to the one functioning in the office of the Junior Engineer, near N.T. Mahal on Balathandyuthum in Saram, will start functioning from January 28, a press note said.

Polytechnic students stage protest over fee structure

Demand 25% reservation for students from U.T.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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Students of the Government Women's Polytechnic in Lawspet on Thursday abstained from classes and staged a protest in front of the college premises demanding that the administration follow the same fee structure for government and society colleges.

The agitating students led by Students Federation of India (SFI) vice-president Anand said the government was adopting a separate fee structure for the society-run colleges when compared with government run colleges. The government should



In solidarity: Students staging a protest on the college premises in Lawspet on Thursday. ■ S.S. KUMAR

end the discrimination and follow the same fee structure for all colleges.

They also demanded 25 %

reservation for students from the Union Territory in all educational institutions among other demands.

Country bombs hurled at liquor shop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Puducherry

MISCREANTS hurled country-made bombs on a bar-cum-liquor shop at Thirukkanur bordering Tamil Nadu on Wednesday night.

According to police, the miscreants who came on a two-wheeler, hurled bombs at the shop past 10.30 pm on Wednesday, causing damage to the shutter.

Workers, who came on Thursday morning to open the

shop, found the shutter damaged and informed the police.

Police rushed to the spot and inspected the CCTV camera footage in front of the shop and found that two persons had

'Two persons'

Police inspected CCTV footage in front of the shop and found that two persons had hurled bombs at the shop and the entire area had been engulfed in smoke.

They collected the explosive particles for lab analysis

hurled bombs at the shop and the entire area had been engulfed in smoke. Police also collected the spilled explosive particles in front of the shop for laboratory analysis.

It is suspected that the attack is an act of frustration at finding the liquor shop closed early.

The shop was closed by 10 pm due the movement of people from the area to Tiruchy for the VCK conference .

The police have registered a case and are investigating.