

### **Inauguration of Scuba Diving and Reef Monitoring Unit at MGMNP, Wandoor**

Department and Environment and Forests has established the first Scuba Diving and Reef Monitoring Unit under Survey and Research Range, MGMNP, Wandoor with sole mandate of mapping, monitoring, survey, preservation of coral reefs of Protected Areas of A&N Islands and for conducting capacity building training for in-service newly recruited frontline staff of the Department. The unit was inaugurated in a simple function held at Wandoor by Shri. D.M. Shukla, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) cum Chief Wildlife Warden, A&N Islands.

Consequently, a three days Capacity Building Training on Scuba Diving and Coral Reef Monitoring for Frontline Staff of the Department is organized from 14.3.2019 to 16.3.2019 at Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Wandoor. In service frontline staff from Wildlife Division, Mayabunder, Havelock Division, South Andaman Division and Wildlife Division-I, who possess open water diving certificates are participating in this three days programme, who are being trained by Shri. Mohammed Hussain, Forester.

Inaugurating the training programme, Shri Naveen Kumar, IFS, DCF, Wildlife urged the participants to refresh their diving skill and learn different methodologies on coral reef survey, data collection, analysis and evaluation and apply same in field for monitoring, conservation, propagation and protection of coral reef in the island.

