

Fuel Outlet of Shaheed Dweep goes dry leaving Tour Operators and Tourists High and Dry

John Wilbert & Vikramaditya
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 27: The Shaheed Dweep is situated very close to Port Blair and is considered as a Tourism Hotspot. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration always makes tall claims about

promoting tourism in International level but often fails to provide basic amenities to the Tourist Hot-Spot Islands, which ultimately leaves Tourism stakeholders in a difficult position.

December is considered to be the busiest month for Tourism but today (See page 6)



2.3 metre long crocodile captured from Dhanikhadi Nallah; Two more Cages placed

John Wilbert & Vikramaditya
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 28: A 2.3 metre long crocodile has been captured by the Wildlife Division of Forest Department on 24 December from Dhanikhadi Nallah. According to reports a few days back the crocodile was sighted by villagers of the area follow-

ing which a cage was placed at the nallah by the wildlife division.

On Saturday morning villagers saw a crocodile trapped in the cage after which the information was given to the Wildlife Division and later the crocodile was shifted to Biological Park Chidiyatapu as per the directions of DFO South (See page 6)



ANTA Delegation calls on Chief Secretary to highlight issues of Teachers

Port Blair, Dec 27: A delegation of ANTA met the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration today and apprised him of the issues pertaining to the teachers of the Education Department.

As per a communication the Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to all the issues and commented "all issues are fairly reasonable" and thus has assured of taking appropriate action.

The Chief Secretary reportedly urged the teachers to work harder with dedication to improve the quality of education in these Islands.

The issue of the pathetic condition of some remote areas was also discussed, in which the Chief Secretary reportedly said that the department is taking various measures to resolve the crisis. The Chief Secretary also reportedly expressed his desire to bring in a situation of harmonious working conditions in all schools of these Islands. The delegation assured him of all cooperation in this regard.



DECEMBER DHAMAKA

HURRY UP
offer Valid till 31st December 2022

No Advance Payment*

₹68,000.00*
offer upto

JADWET TRADING COMPANY
Mahindra & Mahindra Vehicle Division, ATR Road, Port Blair

+91-7601094094

Three suspects, planning to escape from Andaman, detained from Port Blair Airport

John Wilbert & Nishar Mohammed
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 27: Yesterday four people were detained by (See page 6)

DIAL: 03192-237777/246666

Haywizz
Where else

free HOME DELIVERY

INDIAN / CHINESE / TANDOORI CUISINE *T & C APPLY

#36 MA ROAD, PHOENIX BAY HAYWIZZ PORT BLAIR

naturals®
India's No.1 hair & beauty salon

GET US TO YOUR DOORSTEP
WITH JUST A CALL! US FOR HOME SERVICE

9531837777 / 7695040077

Free Pick & Drop

YESHUVA TRAINING ACADEMY Pvt. Ltd
NEAR MUBARAK MALL, JUNGLGHAT, PORT BLAIR. 744 103
Ph. No. 9476092535; 9933274252; 9476060793

Admission Starts For Following Skill Courses Offered by NDA Govt. of India & All India Paramedical Council

S.No	COURSE NAME	DURATION	QUALIFI
1.	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
2.	AIR & SEA CARGO MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
3.	AIRHOSTESS TRAINING	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
4.	CABIN CREW MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
5.	PRE - PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
6.	PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
8.	SANITARY INSPECTOR	1YEAR	10 TH / 12 TH
9.	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	2YEARS	12 TH
10.	OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT	2YEARS	12 TH
11.	AIRFARE & TICKETING	6MONTHS	10 TH
12.	AIRPORT GROUND STAFF TRAINING	6MONTHS	10 TH

➤ **ADMISSION GOING ON JANUARY - 2023 BATCH.**

➤ **ADMISSION FORM SUBMISSION LAST DATE 28/12/2022.**

➤ **FOR INTER ISLAND STUDENTS ONLINE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE**

Husband arrested for killing Wife at Diglipur

**John Wilbert &
Rabindranath
Biswas**

Sheekha News Service

Diglipur, Dec 27: Nirmal Minj, age 45 years, a resident of Milan Gram, ward number 4, Diglipur has been arrested by

police early this morning for allegedly killing his wife. As per details the accused had a fight with his wife, Susma Minj, age 35 years, a day before and when his wife slept the accused reportedly hit her with a wooden stick on her head, causing head injuries, which led to death.

Later, based on the complaint of family members, the accused was arrested by police this morning.

The accused was later sent to Judicial Custody today by the honourable court. The couple have three children. Further details are awaited.

Beijing to distribute Pfizer's Covid-19 drug as cases surge: Report

As covid cases in China continue to rise, Beijing will soon start distributing Pfizer's Covid-19 drug Paxlovid to the community health centres in forthcoming days, CNN reported citing state media on Monday. The report comes as the city grapples with an un-

precedented wave of infections that has severely strained its hospitals and emptied pharmacy shelves. According to the state-run China News Service, after getting training, community doctors would dispense the medicine to Covid-19 patients and provide infor-

mation on how to use it.

"We have received the notice from officials, but it is not clear when the drugs will arrive," CNN cited a worker at a local community health centre in Beijing's Xicheng district as saying.

(See page 6)

Hailstorms in Assam damage houses, CM takes stock of situation

Hailstorms lashed parts of east Assam on Monday night with Dibrugarh district witnessing roads and trees covered in ice. Sharing a video of the hailstorm on social media, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said several houses under Moran and Tingkhang revenue circles in Dibrugarh were also damaged. "Due to a severe hailstorm, several houses under Moran and Tingkhang revenue circles have been reportedly damaged," Sarma wrote on Twitter on Tuesday.

He said that he has instructed officials to make a detailed assessment of the damages caused. "Government is extending all possible help to all those affected by it," he added.

According to weather department officials, there has been a dip in temperatures across most parts of the northeast with upper reaches of Arunachal Pradesh witnessing snow and rainfall taking place in parts of Assam. "Due to remnants of western disturbances com-

ing down to lower latitudes, parts of Assam and rest of NE witness this kind of weather during winter," said scientist at the Guwahati office of IMD Sunit Das. According to Das, the weather is likely to remain like this till Tuesday. Weather forecasts for Tuesday and Wednesday predict a "very likely" occurrence of light snow at isolated places in the upper reaches of Arunachal Pradesh and light to moderate rainfall in all seven states in the region.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un kicks off key party meeting ahead of New Year

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has kicked off a key meeting of the ruling Workers' Party, state media reported on Tuesday, a venue he has often used to announce major policy decisions marking the New Year. The Sixth Enlarged Plenary Meeting of 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) was convened on Monday, the official KCNA news agency said. The days-long gathering of party and government officials caps a year when the isolated country fired an unprecedented number of missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM).

A new round of tension flared on Monday as five North Korean drones crossed into South Korea, prompting Seoul to scramble fighter jets and attack helicopters, and open fire to try to shoot them

down.

Kim also faces mounting economic challenges

amid international sanctions over its weapons (See page 6)

Sri Lanka's ousted ex-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, family leaves for US: Report

Sri Lanka's former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa left for the United States with his family on Monday, a reporter for Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror wrote on Twitter. Gotabaya

Rajapaksa was forced out of office earlier this year following the country's economic crisis and unprecedented protests. Sri Lanka is cur-

(See page 6)

ICE CREAM DREAMS
9434261194 & 9679537808

Happy New Year
22 Dec to 01 Jan

COMBO OFFER
230

COMBO OFFERS
230

70 Only = **380**

SALE PRICE
280

ADDRESS: DELANIPUR OPP. BUS STOP, 1ST FLOOR
SHOP NO 3, PORT BLAIR-744102

A TATA PRODUCT

May your celebrations be painted in all shades of jolly

Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas!

TANISHQ

UPTO **20%*** OFF
on making charges of gold jewellery and on diamond jewellery value

GET **100%*** exchange value on your old gold valid on 22kt and above, bought from any jeweller

Get the latest in Mehendi Fashion!

SOURAV MEHANDI ARTIST

Get ready for your wedding!

BOOK NOW

9531844731
9679519497

'Civil war in US, Elon Musk to...': Russian official's wild predictions for 2023

High-ranking Russian official and former president Dmitry Medvedev on Monday contributed to "wildest" predictions for 2023 saying Britain will rejoin the European Union and oil prices will rise to \$150 a barrel. In a series of tweets, Medvedev said that Poland and Hungary will occupy the western parts of former Ukraine and the area of Germany and its satellites, including Poland, the Baltic states, Czechia, Slovakia, the Kyiv Republic, and other outcasts, will be incorporated into the Fourth Reich. "On the New Year's Eve, everybody's into making predictions," the Russian official posted

on Twitter. "Many come up with futuristic hypotheses, as if competing to single out the wildest, and even the most absurd ones," Medvedev said while contributing to such predictions. "Poland and Hungary will occupy western regions of the formerly existing Ukraine," he tweeted. "The Fourth Reich will be created, encompassing the territory of Germany and its satellites, i.e., Poland, the Baltic states, Czechia, Slovakia, the Kiev Republic, and other outcasts"

Among Medvedev's absurd predictions was that a war will break out between

(See page 4)

Taiwan to extend compulsory military service, official says, as China shows air power

A plan to extend compulsory military service in Taiwan to one year from the current four months will be announced on Tuesday, a senior government official said, as the island deals with rising Chinese military pressure. The office of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said she will call a national security meeting on Tuesday morning to discuss reinforcing the island's civil defence, followed by a news conference on unspecified new civil defence measures. Tsai's security team, including high-level officials from the defence ministry and the National Security Council, has been reviewing Taiwan's military system since 2020

amid increasing threats from China, according to the official.

Taipei, which rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, on Monday reported the largest-ever Chinese air force incursion into the island's air defence identification zone, with 43 Chinese planes crossing an unofficial buffer between the two sides.

China also staged war games near Taiwan in August following a visit to Taipei by then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "China's various unilateral behaviours have become a major concern for regional security," said the official, who took part in the

(See page 4)

War of Knights Open International FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2022 begins

Port Blair, Dec 27: The 1st War of Knights Open International FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2022 begins yesterday the 26th December 2022 at Sonarpur, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Around 240 players across India & abroad are participating in the event in

(See page 4)



Govt Pensioners Association Demands Medical Reimbursement for Retd Govt Employees

Port Blair, Dec 27: The Government Pensioners Association, Andaman & Nicobar Islands has demanded to extend the facility of reimbursement of medical claim to the pensioners of this UT and their dependent family members on taking treatment as an in-patient in a hospital at mainland including the airfare irrespective of the fact that he/she has been referred

to mainland for treatment by the medical authorities of this UT or not. In a letter sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. Of India, Shri S. Surender, General Secretary of the Government Pensioners' Association has also demanded that benefit of CGHS facility may be extended to all the pensioners who retired after serving in

Andaman & Nicobar Islands and presently settled in different State/UTs without any discrimination.

It has been brought to the notice of the Association by some of the pensioners who after getting retired from various departments of the A & N Administration and settled at a place in mainland where CGHS facilities are available that their

(See page 4)

BRAND HUB

MEN'S WEAR

Shirt, Jeans Pant, Formal Pants, T-Shirt

Happy New Year

2023

25% Discount

19 Dec to 01 Jan 2023

ADDRESS: DELANIPUR OPP. BUS STOP, 1ST FLOOR SHOP NO 2, PORT BLAIR-744102. PH-9474217046

Diagnostic Bathroom Scale

Perfect for the whole family

5 activity levels

Weight, body fat, body water, muscle percentage, bone mass, AMR calorie display

health and well-being

German Quality

TARANG TRADES

03192-232929/234624 Middle Point

Happy New Year

CELL: 9434281189, 9933241615

OM SHAKTI PLAZA

YOUR FAVORITE COSMETICS FANCY SHOP

RENTAL GOLD COVERING SET AVAILABLE

BABULINE, ABERDEEN BAZAAR, PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN 744101

A BIGGEST COSMETICS SHOWROOM AT BABULINE

Taiwan to extend...

high-level security discussion and declined to be named.

Under the plans due to come into effect in 2024, conscripts would undergo more intense training, includ-

ing shooting exercises and combat instruction used by U.S. forces, the official said.

Conscripts would be tasked with guarding key infrastructure, enabling regular

forces to respond more swiftly in the event of any attempt by China to invade, they added.

Taiwan's defence ministry declined to comment.

Tsai is overseeing a

broad modernisation programme, championing the idea of "asymmetric warfare" to make the island's forces more mobile, agile and harder to attack.

The official Central News Agency, citing government and ruling party sources familiar with the matter, first reported late on Monday that Taiwan's government would be announcing its plan to extend compulsory military service. Taiwan has been gradually shifting from a conscript military to a volunteer-dominated professional force, but China's growing assertiveness towards the island it claims as its own, as well as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have prompted debate about how to boost defence. Russia calls the war

a "special operation".

Previous governments under the ruling Democratic Progressive Party and the main opposition Kuomintang cut compulsory service for men from more than two years to four months to please younger voters as tensions had eased between Taipei and Beijing.

Reuters has reported that military training in Taiwan, particularly for conscripts and reservists, had deteriorated. In recent years, China has stepped up diplomatic, military and economic pressure on the self-governed island to accept Beijing's rule. Taiwan's government says only Taiwanese people can decide their future and vows to defend itself if attacked.

(From page 3)

Civil war in...

France and the "Fourth Reich" and, in the process, Europe will be divided, whereas Poland

repartitioned. Northern Ireland will separate from the UK and join the Republic of Ireland, he added. He also predicted that Elon Musk,

the world's richest person, will win the presidential election in a number of US states, after the new Civil War end.

"Civil war will break out in the US, California, and Texas becoming independent states as a result. Texas and Mexico will form an allied

state. Elon Musk'll win the presidential election in a number of states which, after the new Civil War's end, will have been given to the GOP," he said. Twitter owner Elon Musk found the tweets hilarious and replied, "Epic thread!!"

(From page 3)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

No. PN/DB/CD-I/RGT/2022-23/4341 dated 20th December'2022

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division-I, A.P.W.D., Rangat invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate bid from the approved and eligible Contractors of the Andaman PWD or for all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks: -

NIT No. 16/DB/E&M/CD-I/RGT/2022-23 e-Tender ID No. 2022_APWD_8624_1 Name of work. Renovation of IEI & EEI to Ice Plant under Fisheries Department at Nimbutala. **Estimated Cost: Rs. 15,88,784/- Earnest Money Rs. 31,776/- & Time of completion: 02 Months, Last Date of Submission of bid 25.01.2023 at 3.00 PM.**

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website eprocure.andaman.gov.in

**Advertisement ID:9484
2022/MediaRelease/1115**

Executive Engineer
CD-I, APWD, Rangat



No. TN-DB/SAD/2022-23/2829 dt.22/12/2022

e-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, South Andaman Division, APWD, Port Blair invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate bid from the approved and eligible contractors of the Andaman PWD or all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the similar magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks:-

- NIT No.48/EE/SAD/APWD/2022-23, Tender ID: 2022_APWD_8652_1, Name of work:** Resurfacing of road from Murugan temple junction to Observatory junction and IT junction to Shadipur junction. **Estimated Cost:** `1,77,45,032/-, **Earnest Money Deposit:** `3,54,901/-, **Time of completion.** 06 (Six) Months. **& Last time and date of submission of bid:** 11/01/2023 (1500 hrs).
- NIT No.49/EE/SAD/APWD/2022-23, Tender ID: 2022_APWD_8654_1, Name of work:** Resurfacing of road from Murugan temple junction to Rama Krishna Mission Road. **Estimated Cost:** `1,23,77,762/-, **Earnest Money Deposit:** `2,47,555/-, **Time of completion:** 06 (Six) Months. **& Last time and date of submission of bid:** 11/01/2023 (1500 hrs)

The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in/nicgp/app>

**Advertisement ID: 9494
2022/MediaRelease/1125**

Executive Engineer,
SAD, A.P.W.D., Port Blair.

Govt Pensioners...

(From page 3)

request for enrollment in CHGS have been rejected by the authorities citing the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare OM No. Z-15025/58/2017/DIR/CGHS/Pt dated the 21st July, 2017. In the said OM it was stated that serving employees/pensioners of Union Territories are not entitled to CGHS facilities. The reasons for coming to such a conclusion have not been described at all.

The Association pointed out that as per the Central Government Health Scheme, a large category of entities are eligible to join the scheme which includes all Central Government employees paid from the Central Civil Estimates (except Railways and Delhi Administration) including their dependant family members and Pensioners of Central Government (except pensioners belonging to Railways and the Armed Forces) and their family.

The Pensioners' Association reminded the Government of India that the Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter No.43/26/6-ANL dated 01.02.1960 had unambiguously clarified that all orders of the Govt. of India, unless otherwise stated, are

applicable to the employees of the A&N Administration as they are also Central Government servants. The Association has further pointed out that pension and other retirement dues of the employees were settled as per the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. The Association has pointed out that it is stipulated in the Govt. of India's decisions No. 1 below Rule 2 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 that all the conditions of service as applicable to the Central Government employees are applicable to the employees of the Union Territory Administration.

The Association further said that in view of the CGHS Scheme, MHA's clarification, provision of the CCS (Pension) Rules and various judicial pronouncements and more important to the dismissal of the SLP and Review Petition which were filed by the Union of India, the contention of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, as contained in the OM dated 21.07.2017, cannot be logically and legally sustainable as the judicial pronouncements are always superior over the executive/administrative orders as per our judicial system.

War of Knights...

(From page 3)

which 2 young budding chess players, (one Boy & one Girl) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands viz Shrihaan Karmarkar, a student of class III, KV-2 Port Blair, and Anuva Majumdar, a student of Carmel Sr. Sec.

School Port Blair are taking part in the event.

The tournament will be held for 6 days over 9 rounds under Swiss System in Classical time control from 26th December 2022 to 31st December 2022.

May move SC, says Yogi on HC's civic poll order. Akhilesh cries 'injustice'

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the state government will set up a commission to decide on the issue of OBC reservation in the urban local body elections. The chief minister's statement comes after the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court rejected the state government's draft notification on the civic polls and ordered holding the elections without reservation for the OBCs. Adityanath said if required, the government may also approach the Supreme Court against the high court order. The development means that the already delayed civic polls will be deferred further. "The government will take a final decision on urban local body polls after consulting legal experts on all aspects of the court order,

deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya tweeted, while adding that under no circumstances will the state government compromise on the issue of OBC rights.

A slew of petitions had challenged the notification, pleading that the UP government follow the top court formula and set up a dedicated panel to study the political backwardness of OBCs before fixing the quota. As per the December 5 draft, four mayoral seats of Aligarh, Mathura-Vrindavan, Meerut and Prayagraj were reserved for OBC candidates. Of these, the mayor's posts in Aligarh and Mathura-Vrindavan were reserved for OBC women. Additionally, 54 chairpersons' seats in the 200 municipal councils were reserved for OBCs, including 18 for OBC women. For the chair-

persons' seats in 545 nagar panchayats, 147 seats were reserved for OBC candidates, including 49 for OBC women.

Apna Dal (S), a OBC party sharing power in UP and Centre in alliance with BJP too made it clear that in their view holding civic polls sans OBC reservation wasn't justified.

"We will study the HC order in detail before taking a final decision but if required, we will even approach the Supreme Court on the issue," the party tweeted its stand from its verified handle. Following the high court order, the opposition parties including Samajwadi Party have now cornered the ruling government alleging that it conspired to end OBC quota. "We won't tolerate this injustice," said SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

PM Modi's brother, his family suffer minor injuries in car accident near Mysuru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Prahlad Modi and his family members sustained minor injuries after the car they were travelling in, met with an accident near Mysuru on Tuesday. Other than the driver, Prahlad Modi, 70, was travelling with his son Mehul, 40; daughter-in-law Zinal, 35; and grandson Menath. According to police, the incident took place near Kadakola at 2 pm on Tuesday after their Mercedes-Benz SUV hit a divider while on the way to Mysuru from Bandipur.

Visuals of the road accident showed some damage to the car with the front right wheel missing, and the vehicle being moved away by a bulldozer. However, no major injuries were reported to any of the passengers,

police said, adding all were shifted to JSS Hospital in Mysuru and treated for minor injuries. Mysuru city police commissioner Ramesh Banoth and district superintendent of police (DSP) Seema Latkar visited the hospital to meet with the family and assured all are out of danger. "Our beloved PM narendramodiji's brother Prahlad Modiji's family met with an accident near Kadakol, Mys. All are out of any kind of danger. Only the grandson has fractured his left leg. Nothing to worry," Mysuru MP Pratap Simha wrote on Twitter. Prahlad Modi is the fourth of six children born to Damodardas Mulchand Modi and his wife Heeraben Modi. Prahlad has served as the vice president of the All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFPSDF), an organisation founded in 2001.

'It is my duty...': Mehbooba Mufti to join Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti has been invited to join Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' when it enters Jammu and Kashmir. "I've been formally invited to join @RahulGandhi ji for his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kashmir today. Salute his indomitable courage & I believe it is my duty to stand with someone who has the courage to challenge fascist forces.

Will be joining him in his march towards a better India", the People's Democratic Party chief tweeted. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah is also expected to join Rahul Gandhi during the march which will be in the last leg since beginning from Kanyakumari in September. I've been formally invited to join @RahulGandhi ji for his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kashmir today. Salute his indomitable courage & I believe it is my duty to stand with someone who has the courage to challenge fascist forces. Will be joining him in his march towards a better India. The yatra, which has covered more than 2,800 km through 10 states, is on a

nine-day winter break and will resume on January 3 and will enter Uttar Pradesh. The Grand Old Party has said it has invited prominent non-BJP leaders in the state including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati and Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary.

However, Akhilesh Yadav and Jayant Chaudhary are unlikely to participate in the Yatra due to "preoccupation" with their party programmes. On Monday, Mufti had praised Rahul Gandhi over his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', saying that she salutes him for undertaking the Bharat Jodo Yatra to strengthen secularism and promote unity in the country. Earlier in the day, Congress general secretary in-charge (organisation) KC Venugopal along with senior Congress leaders met J&K Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha to discuss about the yatra. "#BharatJodoYatra is marching towards its final destination J&K.

Held a meeting today with the Lt. Governor of J&K Shri. Manoj Sinha ji along with senior party leaders. Discussed the security arrangements and sought the cooperation of the administration", Venugopal tweeted.

Delhi colder than Nainital today amid severe cold wave; train and flight travel hit

Amid intense cold wave in Delhi and its neighbouring states in north India, the national capital's minimum temperature on Tuesday was recorded to be lower than the hill city of Nainital in Uttarakhand, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Data showed that while the minimum temperature at Delhi's Safdarjung - the official weather station of the capital - dipped to 5.6 degrees Celsius, the same in Nainital settled at 7.2 degrees Celsius.

The lowest minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at Ayanagar at 4 degrees Celsius as the city shivered in extreme cold conditions. Safdarjung recorded the capital's lowest minimum temperature thus far this winter season at 5.3 degrees Celsius on Thursday. Pictures from earlier this morning showed Delhi covered in thick blanket of fog that considerably reduced visibility levels, causing people to turn the headlights of their vehicles on to improve the situation.

The visibility levels

at Palam and Safdarjung airport was recorded at 50 metres at 8.30am. Dense fog was observed as cold wave continues in Delhi, with a minimum temperature recorded at 7 degrees Celcius. Pictures from DND and Bara pulla.

Delhi Airport has already alerted passengers that flights not designed to function in such inclement weather "may get affected". "While landings and take offs continue at Delhi Airport, flights that are not CAT III A compliant may get affected. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned for updated flight information. Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted," the airport said in a statement on Twitter on Monday. Furthermore, train services that have been disrupted for the last few days continue to remain so with a total of 15 trains bound for Delhi running late on Tuesday. Two trains - Delhi to Alipur Duar Mahananda Express and New Delhi to Jhansi Taj Express - were rescheduled by more than an

hour earlier in the day, Northern Railway Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) said. According to its latest bulletin, the IMD said that cold to severe cold wave conditions will continue in Delhi for the remainder of the day and the next 24 hours along with dense to very dense fog owing to existing light wind and high moisture. A similar warning has been issued in Delhi's neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chandigarh. In north Rajasthan, cold to severe cold days will continue for the next two days.

The Met department said that the cold wave will briefly depart from Wednesday (December 28) onwards due to a western disturbance but will return in all the aforementioned regions on December 31. On Tuesday, Rajasthan's Churu recorded a minimum temperature 0.5 degrees Celsius, which was a marginal rise from zero degrees Celsius that it saw the day before.

Beijing to...

Paxlovid remains the only foreign medicine to treat Covid that has been approved by China's regulator for nationwide use, but the drug's access is a challenging process. Following country-wide demonstrations over the zero covid policy, China abruptly abandoned its policy last month after nearly three years of lockdowns, quarantines, and mass testing.

The rapid policy change has triggered panic buying of fever and cold medications, resulting in significant shortages at pharmacies and online shopping platforms. Long lineups have become the norm outside fever clinics and hospital wards in the country's capital, Beijing, and elsewhere, according to

CNN. After China abandoned its restrictive "zero Covid" policy about two weeks ago, regional numbers of infected persons with coronavirus point to explosive outbreaks and overstretched healthcare systems, writes Chang Che, Asia technology correspondent for The New York Times (NYT).

However, the intensity and magnitude of the country's first nationwide outbreak have remained largely a mystery as official figures from the central government remain low. At a news conference on Sunday, an official in Zhejiang Province, home to 65 million people, estimated that daily Covid cases there had exceeded one million. In the eastern city

of Qingdao, population 10 million, a health minister said on Friday that there were roughly half a million new cases each day, a number he expected would rise sharply in the coming days, local news sites reported.

In Dongguan, a city of seven million in central Guangdong Province, a city health commission report on Friday estimated between 250,000 and 300,000 new cases daily. And in northwestern Shaanxi Province, officials in Yulin, a city of roughly 3.6 million people, logged 157,000 infected on Friday, with models estimating that more than a third of the city's population had already been infected, according to local media.

(From page 2)

2.3 metre long...

Andaman.

As one more crocodile has also been sighted by the public of the area, two

more cages have been placed in Dhanikhadi Nallah to catch the crocodile and move it away from inhabited areas.

As per details Wildlife Division staffs have been deputed to keep an eye on the movement of crocodiles.

(From page 1)

Three suspects...

a police team of PS Pahargaon after residents of some areas alleged that they were stealing gold in the pretext of shining gold ornaments.

As per reports all four suspects were released last night from PS Pahargaon and they are asked not to leave Port Blair and they were also asked to bring their Aadhaar Cards today to PS

Pahargaon. But today when they were not responding to the calls from PS Pahargaon, the police team got some doubts. Soon they got a message from the Airport that three people out of the four suspects were planning to leave Andaman by flight. They had booked SpiceJet flight from Port Blair to Kolkata. Soon they were nabbed and all of them were

brought to PS Pahargaon for interrogation again.

As per details the team of PS Pahargaon is trying to find out what is the modus operandi of the team and how many Islanders they have duped till date. As per details these four people had reached Port Blair two months back from Bihar and are presently staying at Garacharma.

(From page 1)

Fuel Outlet of...

many tourist cab drivers of Shaheed Dweep found the lone fuel outlet of the Island has been kept closed. Distressed tourist cab drivers started making calls here and there to find out the reason behind such a move and later they came to know that the fuel outlet of Shaheed Dweep has gone almost dry.

Such closure of the fuel outlet has not only caused problems for cab drivers but also disturbed schedules of many tourists.

When contacted ANIIDCO sources told Andaman Sheekha that due to high waves fuel could not be sent to Shaheed Dweep, which triggered fuel crisis in the Island.

A tour operator told Andaman Sheekha that if fuel does not reach Shaheed

Dweep in one or two days the situation will worsen further. Presently when all hotels are full, many vehicles are without fuel now, causing problems to tourists. Last month there was a power crisis in Shaheed Dweep during which most of the hotels had to operate DG sets for more than 10 hours a day, which needed a lot of fuel. "The Administration must plan to stock fuel for at least two weeks at Shaheed Dweep all the time, to avoid such a crisis," he added.

The Pradhan of Shaheed Dweep, Mrs. Pinki Das has reportedly taken up this matter with district administration and got assurances that soon a boat with fuel will be sent for Shaheed Dweep.

"When all hotels are

full, lots of local youths are unable to operate their tourist vehicles. This will hit the local economy of Shaheed Dweep hard," claimed Mr. Kajol Das, the Mondal President of BJP in Shaheed Dweep.

When contacted a senior officer of ANIIDCO told Andaman Sheekha Daily that already 15 KL of petrol and 5KL of diesel have been loaded in a boat by IOCL but due to unfavourable weather conditions the boat could not sail. He said that ANIIDCO is hoping that tomorrow the boat will reach Shaheed Dweep and once the boat reaches Shaheed Dweep the fuel supply will resume immediately. However, he clarified that at present 2.4 KL petrol and 7.2 KL of diesel is available at Shaheed Dweep.

(From page 1)

PLOT FOR SALE

Plot for sale at Tushnabad at Rs 4 lakh

Only 15 plots left

Single Patta will be provided

Plot for sale @ Ograbraj 200 sqm Rs 10 lakh

Only 10 plots available

Contact: Rahul Singh: 9474214859

WANTED

Staff wanted for Upcoming Restaurant .

Waiters/ Steward - 2

Cook Indian /Chinese/tandoor - 1

Continental Cook - 1

Assistant cook - 1

Dishwasher -1

Only genuine candidates contact.

Contact- 9679518982, 9474237754

Sri Lanka's ousted...

(From page 1)



rently facing an economic crisis while it waits for International Monetary Fund (IMF) to formally approve USD 2.9 billion bailout package. IMF and Sri Lanka reached a staff-level agreement to support the economic policies of the country with a 4 8 - m o n t h arrangement. Earlier this year, insufficient foreign reserves

at Sri Lanka's Central Bank and loss of access to international capital markets led to the country defaulting on debt, marking a first. Restriction on the import of chemical fertilizer, abrupt floating of the Sri Lankan rupee and the Covid pandemic led to the economic crisis in the country which is hugely dependent on its tourism sector.

North Korea's...

(From page 2)

programmes, the fallout from an anti-coronavirus lockdown and natural disasters.

At the meeting, the participants approved five big agenda items including a review of the implementation of major policies and the budget in 2022, as well as the work plan and a draft budget for 2023. Kim presented a detailed report on how the country's power has "remarkably increased in all fields of politics, military, economy and culture, and successes and progress have been made in carrying out the gigantic tasks ... through this year's unprecedentedly arduous

and fierce struggle," KCNA said.

"He stressed the need to lay out more exciting and confident struggle policies based on valuable facts that achieved practical advance while persevering all difficulties."

The report specified the main goals for 2023 in key sectors including metal, chemical, electricity, construction, agriculture and light industry, it added.

North Korean state media previously released its leader's speech on New Year Day, but in recent years, Kim has called party gatherings at the end of the year to make major policy announcements.