

ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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Jarawa Facts

The 590 strong Jarawa, along with the other Andaman tribes the Sentinelese, the Onge and the Great Andamanese, were the sole inhabitants of the Andaman Islands until the British and then the Indians arrived. Their ancestors are thought to have been part of the first successful migrations out of Africa.

Your Nature Guide

Some Fish Food our Seas
Small pellets, beads, and other raw plastics are dumped into the ocean. Seabirds often mistake these pellets for fish eggs, fish eyes, or plankton and sometimes die from eating them.
Oil is a major killer of ocean life in large amounts. No one knows the total amounts of oil that spills into our seas from all the boats, trawlers and ships.
It is very important to remember that we have to keep the ocean clean, so we can continue to enjoy its beauty and all the many uses it provides for us.
Why Water birds Don't Get Wet: Birds have a special gland called the oil gland situated near their tails. Oil from this gland is applied on the feathers with the help of their beaks. Oil and water do not mix and thus the oil prevents the birds from getting wet. This is very useful for water birds, especially the ones that dive into water to fish and get wet frequently.

Treasured Islands - By Sunita Rao. Courtesy: Kalpavriksh, ANET (MCBT)

People's Voice

Ab ye Mega City Project ka chalte, lagta hai Shompens ko bhi Skill Development karna padega agar Survive karna hai toh ...

- A Citizen



The next summer will be the hottest!

Member of Parliament Demands Release of Stipends for Students of Andaman Law College

Port Blair, Jan 4: The Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary to release stipends for students of Law College, who have come to Port Blair for higher education from far flung Islands.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, the Member of Parliament mentioned that from the beginning, students coming to Port Blair for the purpose of higher studies are being given stipends by the

Administration to cover their basic expenditure at Port Blair and also to encourage them to continue higher education.

He pointed out that the Andaman Law College has stopped giving stipends to the deserving students since

the beginning COVID-19 pandemic. While all other colleges have resumed giving stipends to college students after reopening of college post COVID-19 lockdowns, the Law College has not resumed dispersal of the same, he added.

Bid to Orient Andamanese PVTG Towards Skill Building

Workshop-cum-Seminar Organised to Educate, Enhance and Empower the PVTG



Port Blair, Jan. 4: As per the directions of the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, a Workshop-cum-Seminar with the theme to 'Educate, Enhance & Empower' was organized today by Andaman Admin Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) & Directorate of Tribal Welfare in association with the Departments of Industries, Education, Fisheries, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry &

Veterinary Services of A&N Administration in the conference hall of Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), Port Blair. The focus was to orient Andamanese PVTGs towards skill building.

During the workshop, representatives of the concerned Departments elucidated on various skill building & training programmes

Cont inued on P2

67th Police Constable Batch of Andaman & Nicobar Police Receive Award from PBMC

Port Blair, Jan 4: The 67th Police Constable Batch of Andaman Nicobar Police has received an Award for cleanliness drives by PBMC in associated with GIZ. In this regard, Smti. U. Kavitha Uday Kumar, Chairperson PBMC has presented a memento to the Batch on 03rd January 2023 in connection with Swachh Sarvekshan-2023.

This Police batch is always involved in conducting various kinds of social activities, which includes organizing cleanliness drives, giving assistance to medically



needy people by fundraising, arranging blood for needy people, providing meals to orphanages etc.

Cont inued on P4

Crackdown on Illicit Liquor, Handia, Illicit IMFL & Ganja by N&MA District Police Continues

Diglipur, Jan 4: Continuing its crackdown on the illicit liquor, Handia, illegal sale of IMFL & illicit Ganja, the District Police of North & Middle Andaman with the help of local informers conducted regular raids and searches in jungles. During

the month of December-2022, the teams of various Police Stations, headed by SHOs and Sub-Inspectors conducted raids & massive jungle search operation. In these search operations, around 1400 litres of Lehan & 43 Kg

Cont inued on P4

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri to Visit Andaman and Nicobar Command

Port Blair, Jan 4: Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh will be visiting Andaman Nicobar Command (ANC) from 05 to 06 Jan 23. During the visit, the Raksha Mantri will review the operational preparedness of the Command and infrastructure



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development at the operational areas of the Command and outlying units. The Hon'ble Minister will also visit ANC units at Campbell Bay, Carnic and Diglipur where he would be interacting with troops.

Encroachment Eviction Drive Carried Out at Ferrargunj Tehsil



Port Blair, Jan 4: The District Administration of South Andaman ensuring zero tolerance towards encroachment on Govt. land, carried out encroachment eviction drive on 03/01/2023 and today on 04/01/2023 at Ferrargunj Tehsil. In Ferrargunj Tehsil the eviction drive carried and the fresh encroachment committed in the shape of fencing were removed at Bambooflat village and restored an area of 1800 sq mtrs and similarly the encroachment committed at Nayashar village in the shape of Temporary structures and temporary fencing measuring an area of 2000 Sq mtrs were removed and restored to the Govt. khata.

The general public is once again cautioned to refrain from encroaching Govt. land. In case of any inquiries or information regarding such illegal activities and encroachment, the general public can communicate with the District Control Room at the following nos. 03192-240127/1077.

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Success is not an activity but a process ...

Supreme Court Judgement on Demonetization

It is an oft-repeated judicial view that courts must defer to the elected government's judgment in matters of economic and social policy. Their interventions are usually limited to instances where executive decisions are palpably arbitrary or patently illegal. In this backdrop, it is no surprise that four of the five judges on a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court deferred to the government's wisdom in dramatically announcing the move on November 8, 2016 to demonetise all ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000 notes that were then in circulation. The scope of judicial intervention was only to examine the decision-making process, but the majority has given its uncritical endorsement to the process, terming it to be free of flaws. It has upheld the government's power to demonetise notes without quantitative restrictions and accepted the claim that there was adequate consultation between the Union government, which initiated the proposal, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). What might seem distressing about the majority verdict is that it has made light of the enormous suffering of the people that demonetisation entailed. While there are observations that recognise the possibility of hardship and that demonetisation may have ultimately been a failure, these are limited by context to say neither individual suffering nor errors of judgment can be cited to invalidate the action.

The majority has brushed aside substantial arguments based on proportionality, holding that demonetisation survives every test for proportionality: there was a legitimate purpose (unearthing fake currency and hoarded wealth and combating terror funding), there was a nexus between the action and the objectives, and the court did not have the expertise to suggest a less intrusive way of achieving these objectives. However, it does not properly address the question on whether the adverse consequences could have been limited. It is unfortunate that the court had nothing critical to say about the government failing to anticipate the ruinous effect of extinguishing the value of 86% of available currency on the economy and the immense miseries it heaped on the population. Justice B.V. Nagarathna's dissent, holding the process to be flawed and the RBI's approach to be without application of mind, is a consolation for those who want the courts to hold those in power to account. In a larger sense, of course, a judicial rap on policy questions matters little. But it might give governments cause for pause before implementing decisions with far-reaching consequences for the people.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Much Ado About Almost Nothing..!

It was a strange ride back home one Sunday. The daughters were furious and so was their father; me. Something had happened that we all felt was unfair.

"I've been insulted," said my eldest.

"It's not fair," said my younger one.

"I'm going to blast those people tomorrow," I said to myself.

Only their mother, my wife, was strangely quiet and slowly said, "maybe if we found out more, we may be surprised it's not as bad as it seems to be." Nobody listened as we were all absolutely convinced we were right. I didn't sleep well that night nor did I feel good the next day, and laughed only when I read this lovely story I am going to reproduce below:

One fine day, a bus driver drove along his route. At one stop, a big hulk of a guy got on. Six feet eight, built like a wrestler, arms hanging down to the ground. He glared at the driver and said, "Big John doesn't pay!" and sat down at the back.

The next day the same thing happened – Big John got on again, made a show of refusing to pay, and sat down. And the next day, and the one after that, and so forth. This grated on the bus driver, who started losing sleep over the way Big John was taking advantage of him. Finally he could no longer stand it. He signed up for body

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building courses, karate, judo, and all that good stuff. By the end of the summer, he had become quite strong; what's more, he felt ready to take on Big John.

So on the next Monday, when Big John once again got on the bus and said, "Big John doesn't pay!," the driver stood up, glared back at the passenger, and screamed, "And why not?"

With a surprised look on his face, Big John replied, "Big John has a bus pass."

How like the driver we are.

We think every statement is an insult. We look at ourselves and instead of seeing in ourselves a good person like the driver doing a good job, we feel everybody around is six feet tall and taking advantage.

We scowl at our neighbor. Yell at colleagues and think the world laughs at us.

We grit our teeth, learn karate, buy a bigger car, a larger house, and still wonder why they laugh.

"What's so funny?" we finally ask.

"Nothing," they say puzzled.

"Then why are you laughing at me?"

"But we're not laughing at you, we're smiling at a good clean happy day!"

Moral of this piece: Be sure there is a problem in the first place before working hard to solve one.

And about the problem, we were all furious about: It was also much ado about more or less nothing..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

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Continued from Page 1
related to self-employment and motivated participants to upgrade their skills by availing various schemes extended by the Govt. of India.

The members of Andamanese community appreciated such program and have shown interest to start self-employment ventures for their livelihood by availing

the schemes and resources provided by the Govt. of India. The representatives requested the members of Andamanese tribe to visit their Departments in case of any assistance and also shared their contact information for facilitation and better approach.

After the successful interactive session,

representatives of Department of Industries escorted the Andamanese members to Sagarika Emporium followed by the workshop for demonstrating the execution of skill building programmes and the mechanisms for production and marketing of various products.

Andaman Chronicle invites articles, feature and opinions from our esteemed readers. Your write-ups can be mailed to the Editor through the ID denisgiles@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

When Success Isn't Enough

January 4: Despite being successful, a few actresses have admitted that they don't have work, though they exude confidence that they will come back stronger.

A couple of days ago, in a lengthy Insta post, Anchal Singh made startling revelations of the difficulty she has had in finding auditions and jobs in the last six months. The young actress was part of two web series, Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein and Undekhi Season 2, this year, and her performance won rave reviews.

Anchal's case isn't an isolated one! The likes of Nia Sharma, Shweta Tiwari, Natasha Doshi, Ester Noronha, etc., too have admitted that they have been missing in action (MIA), despite getting noticed for their performance earlier.

It's rare to see celebrities being transparent about their professional and personal lives. So, in an industry where treading a diplomatic path is the need of the hour, why are actresses admitting to lack of work?

Ester Noronha says the problem is that actresses are forced to fit people's expectations.

"So what if I am out of work? It means I am prepared to wait to get better work tomorrow. Even if I taste success, if my next film doesn't do well, I am back to Square One" she comments, adding that it is important to understand the reason for being without work. "It could be out of choice, majboori (helplessness), expectations, or other reasons," she points out. "Success does make us happy, but it is not a



validation of our ability. Our work ethics drive us. Over time, I have realised that we have put ourselves under pressure for no reason," Ester adds.

What are these young actresses trying to communicate by acknowledging that they don't have work? Aren't they apprehensive that they may be labelled and not be considered for future projects? Or are they trying to show audiences what they are missing out on?

"It's a case of a woman speaking confidently and standing up for herself; nothing can affect her," explains Ester. "Even a seasoned actress like Neena Gupta asked for work on her Insta, so what's wrong in accepting that you don't have work?"

If an actress is brave enough to admit that she finds getting work tough, she is coming from a place where she's being unapologetically honest. She has nothing to lose!

Natasha Doshi reveals that she often faces the question, "What next?" When she has no work, she doesn't have any qualms about admitting it. Acknowledging that it does take a lot of strength to own it, she says, instead of

ignoring the situation, people should actually pay heed to what is being said, and appreciate the frankness. "Celebrate women's bravery, because there's no point in having a voice if you don't use it. Your voice can be used to create change," comments Natasha.

"Of course, to be this honest, you need to be confident which stems from your belief in yourself. That should exist irrespective of your work status. Don't seek validation from work. And truthfully, that is very hard. But whether you have work or not, believe in yourself," Natasha stresses.

Young actress Divi Vadthya, who won applause for her performance in Bigg Boss 4, says today's women are progressive. Commenting that anyone would feel low for lack of work, she says actresses should constantly make an effort to find opportunities. "Since most actresses don't have mentors, it is challenging to come up with strategies to bag films. I have been through a phase where there was little work, but again, I have done a few films which haven't been released. Unless those films are released, people can't see my work. How can filmmakers think of us if we don't have enough visibility," she asks.

Shakunthalam Set for Release on February 17

January 4: The release of Shakunthalam, starring Samantha in the lead role, has been finalised. According to the film's team, the multi-lingual would be unveiled on February 17 in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

The film based on poet Kalidas' Sanskrit drama Abhigyan Saakuntalam is being readied for release by ace director Guna Sekhar. In this epic drama of love and

romance, Samantha enacts the title role of Sakuntala while Dev Mohan is her lover, King Dushyant. The shooting is complete and the film is currently in the post-production stage.

Mohan Babu, Prakash Raj, Madhubala, Goutami play other key roles. Neelima Guna is producing the film under the banner Gunasekhar Team Works. Ace producer Dil Raju is presenting the movie. The

film team informed that the movie is being presented in a 3D format to give a unique feel to the audience and make it a visual wonder.

Aditi Balan, Ananya Nagalla, Jisu Sen Gupta portray other roles. With dialogues by Sai Madhav Burra, photography by Sekhar V. Joseph, music by Mani Sarma, the film is getting ready to thrill the audience soon.

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Health, Science /Tech

Indian Watchdog Copied Parts of EU Order, Google Alleges

January 4: Google has told a tribunal in India that the country's antitrust investigators copied parts of a European ruling against the U.S. firm for abusing the market dominance of its Android operating system, arguing the decision be quashed, legal papers show.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) in October fined Alphabet Inc's Google \$161 million for exploiting its dominant position in markets such as online search and the Android app store, and asked it to change restrictions imposed on smartphone makers related to pre-installing apps.

Sources told Reuters in October that Google was worried about the Indian decision as the remedies ordered were seen as more sweeping than the European Commission's landmark 2018 ruling for imposing unlawful restrictions on Android mobile device makers. Google has challenged a record 4.1-billion-euro (\$4.3 billion) fine in that case.

In its filing to an Indian appeals tribunal, Google argues the CCI's investigation unit "copy-pasted extensively from a European Commission decision, deploying evidence from Europe that was not examined in India". "There are more than 50 instances of copy-pasting", in some cases "word-for-word", and the watchdog erroneously dismissed the issue, Google said in its filing which is not public but has been reviewed by Reuters.

"The Commission failed to conduct an impartial, balanced, and legally sound investigation ... Google's mobile app distribution practices are pro-competitive and not unfair/exclusionary."

Spokespeople for the CCI and European Commission did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Google said in a statement it decided to appeal the CCI's decision as it believes "it presents a major setback for our Indian users and businesses". It did not comment on the copy-pasting allegations in its filing.

Google has asked the tribunal to quash the CCI's order, and the case will be heard on Wednesday.

The Indian competition ruling came as Google faces increased antitrust scrutiny the world over. Google licenses its Android system to smartphone makers, but critics say it imposes restrictions that are anti-competitive. The U.S. firm says Android has created more choice for everyone and such agreements help keep the operating system free. In Europe, 75% of 550 million smartphones run on Android, compared with 97% of 600 million devices in India, Counterpoint Research estimates. The CCI ruled in October that Google's licensing of its Play Store "shall not be linked with the requirement of pre-installing" Google search services, the Chrome browser, YouTube or any other Google applications. In its appeal, Google alleges the CCI only found antitrust infringements related to the Google search app, Chrome browser and YouTube, but its order "extends beyond" that. Separately, Google has also appealed against another Indian antitrust decision where it was fined \$113 million for restricting the use of third-party billing or payment processing services in India. The appeal is yet to be heard.

China State Media Plays Down COVID Wave Severity Before WHO Meet

Janaury 4: BEIJING/SHANGHAI: State media in China played down the severity of its surge of COVID-19 infections ahead of an expected briefing on Tuesday by its scientists to the World Health Organization, which is hoping for detailed data on the evolution of the virus.

China's abrupt U-turn on COVID controls on Dec. 7, as well as the accuracy of its case and mortality data, have come under increasing scrutiny at home and abroad and prompted some countries to impose travel curbs.

The policy shift followed protests over the "zero COVID" approach championed by Xi Jinping, marking the strongest show of public defiance in his decade-old presidency and coinciding with the slowest growth in China in nearly half a century.

As the virus spreads unchecked, funeral parlours have reported a spike in demand for their services and international health experts predict at least one million deaths in the world's most populous country this year.

China reported three new COVID deaths for Monday, taking its official death toll since the pandemic began to 5,253.

On Tuesday, the People's Daily, the Communist Party's official newspaper, cited Chinese experts assaying the illness caused by the virus was relatively mild for most people.

"Severe and critical illnesses account for 3% to 4% of infected patients currently admitted to designated hospitals in Beijing," Tong Zhaohui, vice president of the Beijing Chaoyang Hospital, told the newspaper.

Kang Yan, head of West China Tianfu Hospital of Sichuan University, said that in the past three weeks, a total of 46 patients had been admitted to intensive care units, or about 1% of symptomatic infections.

The emergencies area at the Zhongshan Hospital in Shanghai was packed with patients on Tuesday, most of them elderly, a Reuters witness said. Some were in beds in the corridor, covered with blankets and receiving IV treatment, while dozens were queuing around them, waiting to be seen by a doctor. It was unclear how many were there with COVID.

'SIMPLY UNREASONABLE'

The World Health Organization has urged Chinese health officials to regularly share specific and real-time information on the COVID situation.

The WHO has invited Chinese scientists to present detailed data on viral



sequencing at a Tuesday meeting of a technical advisory group. It has also asked China to share data on hospitalizations, deaths and vaccinations.

"I don't think China will be very sincere in disclosing information," said Alfred Wu, associate professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at National University of Singapore.

"They would rather just keep it to themselves or they would say nothing happened, nothing is new. My own sense is that we could assume that there is nothing new... but the problem is China's transparency issue is always there."

The United States, France, and others will require COVID tests on travellers from China, while Belgium said it would test wastewater from planes for new COVID variants.

European Union health officials will meet on Wednesday on a coordinated response.

China has rejected criticism of its COVID data and said any new mutations may be more infectious but less harmful.

China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday the entry restrictions imposed by some countries on travellers from China "lacked scientific basis" and were "simply unreasonable."

China will stop requiring inbound travellers to go into quarantine from Jan. 8. But it will still demand a negative PCR test result within 48 hours before departure.

'DANGEROUS WEEKS'

As Chinese workers and shoppers fall ill, concerns

mount about near-term growth prospects in the world's second-largest economy, causing volatility in global financial markets.

Data on Tuesday showed China's factory activity shrank at a sharper pace in December.

December shipments from Foxconn's 2317.TW Zhengzhou iPhone plant, disrupted by worker departures and unrest amid a COVID outbreak, were 90% of the firm's initial plans.

A "bushfire" of infections in China in coming months is likely to hurt its economy this year and drag global growth lower, said the head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva.

"China is entering the most dangerous weeks of the pandemic," warned Capital Economics analysts.

Mobility data suggested that economic activity was depressed nationwide and would likely remain so until infections subside, they added.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism said the 52.71 million domestic trips during the New Year holiday generated 26.52 billion yuan (\$3.84 billion), up 4% year-on-year but only about 35% of 2019 revenue, before the pandemic.

Expectations are higher for China's biggest holiday, the Lunar New Year, later this month, when some experts predict infections will have peaked in many places.

Some hotels in the tourist resort of Sanya are fully booked for the period, Chinese media reported.

Condolence

Mr. Dharmender Narayan, Ward Councilor No. 17, PBMC expressed deep condolence at the sad demise of Shri Amar Nath Singh, Ex- Chageman, Transport Deptt, S/o Late Jagan Nath Singh & Late Devi, 62 yrs, R/o Old Pahargaon expired on 04/01/2023. The Councilor conveys his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved members of his family. May the departed soul rest in peace.

Andaman Chronicle invites articles, feature and opinions from our esteemed readers. Your write-ups can be mailed to the Editor through the ID denisgiles@yahoo.com

IGNOU Entrance Test for B.Ed, Ph.D and B.Sc. Nursing (PB) Hall Tickets Uploaded

Port Blair, Jan 4: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is conducting Entrance Tests for B.Ed, Ph.D and B.Sc.Nursing (PB) Programme on Sunday, 8th January, 2023. The Entrance Test is being organized at Examination Centre-0201, JNRM, Port Blair. Hall-Tickets have already been

uploaded on the University website www.ignou.ac.in. Candidates are advised to download the hall ticket by visiting the IGNOU website. For more details, visit IGNOU Website – www.ignou.ac.in or contact IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair over Phone: 03192-242888, 03192-230111 or Email: rcportblair@ignou.ac.in.

Additional Ferry Services Between Port Blair & Shaheed Dweep

Port Blair, Jan. 4: To facilitate the commuters in view of the celebration of Vivekananda Mela at Shaheed Dweep, the Directorate of Shipping Services has arranged additional ferry service between Port Blair & Shaheed Dweep from 12th to 19th January 2023. In this connection, additional ferry services may be availed by the intending passengers as

per the schedule promulgated. Tickets for the same may be obtained from STARS Ticketing Counters. The ferry services will be operated as per the following schedule:

12.01.2023 to 19.01.2023

Port Blair – Departure 1300 Hrs. Arrival at Shaheed Dweep -1445 Hrs

Shaheed Dweep – Departure 1500 Hrs Arrival at Port Blair - 1645 Hrs

NFSA Beneficiaries Advised

Port Blair, Jan. 4: All the NFSA Beneficiaries i.e. PHH & AAY Card holders have been informed that the GoI has revised the PMGKAY Scheme wherein, all NFSA beneficiaries shall be provided with their monthly entitled foodgrains free of cost w.e.f 01.01.2023. The entire subsidy component involved in this scheme shall be borne by the GoI.

In view of the above, all the NFSA beneficiaries have been advised to get their monthly entitlement of normal allocation under NFSA for the month of January 2023, free of cost. Any discrepancy by any of the Fair Price Shop holder, it may be reported through Toll Free No. 18003453197 and 14445 with proof of discrepancy. The identity of the complainant will be kept secret.

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67th Police Constable Batch of Andaman & Nicobar Police Receive Award from PBMC

Continued from Page 1

On 10th December 2022, this 67th PC batch donated an amount Rs. 21,750/- (Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Rupees Only) towards treatment of girl child D/o Shri. G. Kodanda Rao R/o Haddo, Port Blair

who is suffering from health issue.

The batch is performing its duty with utmost devotion and sincerity as well as making all efforts for the welfare of humanity and for the civic society.

Crackdown on Illicit Liquor, Handia, Illicit IMFL & Ganja by N&MA District Police Continues

Continued from Page 1

Handia was destroyed and also 173 Nos. IMFL bottles of different quantities have been seized under Excise Regulation. All the History Sheeters are regularly being checked by the beat staff, making it hard for them to be involved in any illegal activity. Moreover, the District Police has registered 02 cases under NDPS Act, in which 01 Kg of illicit ganja

and 2 cannabis plants have been seized.

The general public is requested to pass and share any credible information pertaining to any crime or illegal activities to their nearest Police Station or over phone No.100, 112 & 03192-273203. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded.

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Captain Shiva is 1st Army Woman Officer to Serve in Siachen

January 4: Srinagar: Captain Shiva Chouhan, an officer of the Army's Ladakh-based Fire and Fury Corps, has joined her duties at the Kumar Post in the Siachen glacier area, thereby becoming the first woman officer to serve at what is considered the world's highest battlefield.

Capt. Chouhan who hails from Rajasthan is a Bengal Sapper Officer and was commissioned into the Engineer Regiment in May 2021.

"I am extremely happy to see more women joining the Armed Forces and take every challenge in stride. It is an encouraging sign. My best wishes to Capt Shiva Chauhan," tweeted defence minister Rajnath Singh.

Capt. Chouhan was inducted to the Siachen

Glacier on January 2nd after an arduous climb. The team of Sappers led by Capt. Chouhan will be responsible for numerous combat engineering tasks and will be deployed at the post for a duration of three months.

Kumar Post or Kumar Base, at 15,632 feet, serves as a battalion headquarters of the Northern Command, and is named after the famed Indian Army officer and mountaineer Colonel

Narendra "Bull" Kumar and is located 60 km from the Siachen base towards Indira Col.

She has done her schooling in Udaipur and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from NJR Institute of Technology, Udaipur. She lost her father when she was 11 and her mother, who is a housewife, took care of her studies.

Experts Recommend Covid Vax for at-Risk Under-12 kids

January 4: Hyderabad: As the Omicron BF7 virus surges, experts have called for approval to vaccinate children under the age of 12 who are more vulnerable to contracting severe Covid.

Only children over the age of 12 are currently eligible for the vaccination. While the infection is usually mild in children, paediatricians state that, similar to comorbidities in adults, many children suffer from certain conditions that make the Covid infection severe for them.

Chief paediatrician and neonatologist Dr. R. Deepthi recommended vaccination for children with vulnerabilities such

as congenital lung disease, heart diseases, cystic fibrosis, interstitial fibrosis, and others, while stating that if such children contract Covid, they will be affected severely.

Paediatricians, including Dr. Deepthi, have seen a significant number of cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) in children aged 5 to 10. MIS-C is a rare but serious disorder that involves inflammation of organs such as the heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain. The disease could occur as a result of post-Covid complications.

However, it has been debated whether vaccination will help prevent MIS-C, according to Dr. Deepthi, who noted that

administering vaccination to all children under the age of 12 was not recommended.

Dr. Sivarajani Santosh, a paediatrician, has also suggested that vaccines be given to children under the age of 12 who are at high risk of complications. "For such children, Covid vaccines are recommended, and while it has not yet been included in the guidelines, ideally they should be provided the benefit of vaccination," she said. Complications that, like comorbidities in adults, would increase the severity of Covid in children include immunodeficiency diseases, HIV, chronic illnesses, and so on. However, Dr. Sivarajani Santosh, stated that vaccinations would not help prevent or reduce the severity of MIS-C in children.

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SPORTS

Want to Put this Team in Difficult Situations Because it will Help us in Big Games: Hardik

January 4: Going ahead, India's new T20 captain Hardik Pandya is eager to see how his team tackles difficult situations as he seeks to mould it into an outfit capable of ending the country's barren run in world events.

Under Hardik's leadership, India began the three-match T20 series against neighbours Sri Lanka on a winning note, prevailing over the islanders by two runs here on Tuesday.

Hardik had to leave the field for a brief while after taking a catch.

"It is just cramps. Now I have tendency to scare people. I did not sleep well, did not drink enough water and hence the glutes were stiff. I was unwell and I had my fluids down," Hardik said at the presentation ceremony.

With Sri Lanka needing 13 runs in the last over to overhaul India's total of 162, the decision to give spinner Axar Patel the ball was a bit surprising.

"We might lose a game here and there but it's alright. I want to put this team in difficult situations because it will help us in big games. Bilaterals we are very good at and this is how we are going to challenge ourselves.

"To be honest, all the young guns got us out of the situation today." One of the youngsters



who shone bright on the night was debutant pacer Shivam Mavi. The skipper was full of praise for the fast bowler, who picked up 4/22 in his first T20 outing.

"The conversation was very simple, I have seen him (Mavi) bowl well in the IPL and I know what are his strengths, just back yourself and don't worry about getting hit.

"I just told him to simply bowl. I told him, 'I am backing you. Even if you get hit, it's fine.' If the same situation is there, I will take the new ball." He added, "I have been bowling in the nets with the new ball since I returned in the IPL. I have learnt how to swing it back." Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said the visitors ought to have won the game.

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Domino's Takes Brutal Dig at Darwin Nunez After Liverpool Lose 1-3 to Brentford

January 4: Liverpool striker Darwin Nunez is not enduring the best of starts in the Premier League with the Uruguayan striker being singled out for criticism as Liverpool succumbed to a 3-1 loss to Brentford on Monday.

Nunez, who missed a number of chances in the match had a golden opportunity to silence his doubters when he was slipped in behind by Mohamed Salah and he took the ball around Bees goalkeeper David Raya and rolled it towards goal, only for Ben Mee to arrive in the nick of time to slide in and block.

After the match was done, Pizza giant Domino's UK took to Twitter and took a dig at Liverpool's £85m summer signing. "Sorry if we've missed any orders tonight, we've just had this guy start," Domino's tweeted along with a picture of Nunez.

In the match, sloppy defending cost Liverpool twice in the first half, prompting angry boss Jurgen Klopp to substitute key defender Virgil van Dijk at halftime.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain pulled one back but Bryan Mbeumo killed off Liverpool as

Brentford beat the visitors for the first time since 1938 in all competitions.

Brentford rose from 10th to seventh in the standings. It was two points behind Liverpool.

Ibrahima Konate's own goal gave the Bees the lead and Yoane Wissa's header just before halftime put them in control.

Wissa, the replacement for Ivan Toney, the Bees' 13-goal top scorer, had two goals ruled out for offsides before he scored in a breakneck first half.

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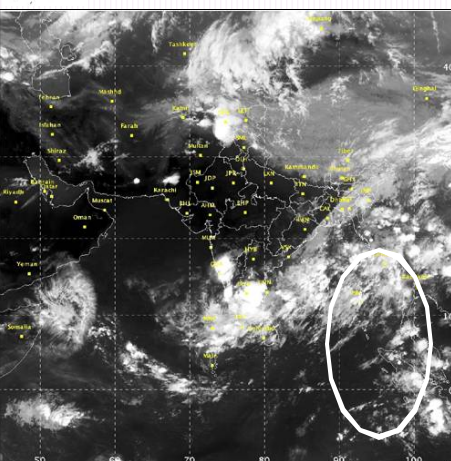
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Weather



Max. Temp: 31.2 °C	Min.: 24.8 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 77% 1730 Hrs: 82%	
Sunrise: 0511 Hrs.	Sunset: 1655 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall (From Jan 1, 2023 till date):	003.5 mm

Forecast

Partially Cloudy sky and Light Rain or thunder is likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 25°C respectively on Thursday 5/1/2023.

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