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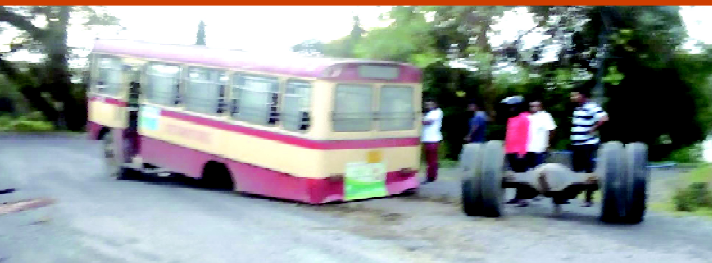
Thought for today

A disciplined mind means a Peaceful and Happy one and never gets disturbed.

Written exams for RIMS

Port Blair, Dec 17: The written examination for admission to Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun Dec 2021 will be held on 18th (Saturday) Dec 2021 in three sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair. A detailed schedule of the examination with a list of candidates applied for the examination showing their Roll Number has been displayed on the College Notice Board for information of all concerned. Eligible candidates who have applied for the said examination are directed to report to the Principal at 8:30 am on 18th Dec 2021 in the College. No separate information letters will be issued to the candidates for this examination.

After DC's order NHIDCL fast-tracks in N&M



Port Blair, Dec 17: Frequent breakdown of passenger buses on ATR is taking a toll on commuters which passes through Middle Strait, Middle Andaman and North Andaman upto Diglipur. The battered stretch of the Andaman Trunk Road in Middle Andaman, the primary thoroughfare that links Kadamtala with Diglipur in North Andaman, has become commuters' nightmare as craters have taken over most parts of the road. As per reports, the stretch

resembles a village road. Breakdown of vehicles has become a common sight as negotiating the potholes on the road during rains is a tough task. Most affected due to the appalling state of the road network is the Transport Department as frequent breakdown on buses has left commuters in deep stress. As per sources, at least five buses operating in different routes of North and Middle Andaman sustain damages and go under repairs on

a daily basis. Daily commuters including school students land up late to their destinations. Moreover, the Transport Department is forced to spend huge money on purchase of spares for undertaking repairs of the damaged buses. "Normally takes around five hours to commute between Kadamtala and Diglipur. But for the battered state of the Andaman Trunk Road, commuters now reach their destinations after three hours with driver of passenger buses

swaying and negotiating massive potholes on the stretch. The situation is taking a toll on daily commuters as delay in reaching offices or schools land them in trouble. In the past few months, there has been sharp rise in passenger buses, goods vehicles suffering breakdowns on the road. While some suffered injuries, many vehicle owners particularly owners of passenger buses sustained losses travelling on the battered stretch," said some daily travelers.

MP urges CS to send technicians to Swaraj Dweep for repair of ANIIDCO Ice Plant

Port Blair, Dec 17: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of A & N Administration to direct ANIIDCO to send some technicians to Swaraj Dweep immediately to repair ANIIDCO's Ice Plant so that fishermen of the Island can get Ice Blocks easily.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the Member of Parliament pointed out that Tourism is the main source of income in Swaraj Dweep Island for Islanders and apart from this a large number of people are dependent on fisheries for their livelihood. Headed that as the Ice Plant of ANIIDCO

is out of order the Islanders, who are involved in fishing, are unable to go for deep sea fishing and also are unable to preserve their catch for a long time for selling in the local market. This is causing loss to the local fishermen of Swaraj Dweep Island.

The Member of Parliament mentioned that the repair of the Ice Plant is important so that the fishermen brothers of Swaraj Dweep can carry out fishing in a professional manner and the huge demand for fish in the local market, is also fulfilled. He added that availability of fresh fish is not only important for the public but also the Tourism Industry will also be largely benefitted with this.



Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency chaired a video conference alongwith Shri Jitendra Nairin, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration with team of Ministry of Civil Aviation & other senior officers of Airport Authority of India/Director General of Civil Aviation, India led by Smt Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India for operationalization of Seaplanes in the country.

DC- South Andaman briefed about issues of Kayaking operators

Port Blair, 17th Dec, 2021: The delegation of Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC) on Friday called on the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman Mr. Suneel Anchiapaka IAS to apprise him about the issues faced by Kayaking operators of A&N Islands. The delegation included ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Shri. TSG Bhasker, DCC President Shri. VK Abdul Aziz and the members of A&N Kayaking Association. Further, the delegation

also met the Director of Tourism to enlighten him about the same issue. After listening to the genuine issues of Kayaking operators, Shri. Suneel Anchiapaka took necessary measures and resolved the issues immediately by coordinating with the Director of Tourism. The delegation of ANTCC and members of A&N Kayaking Association expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards the DC & Director of Tourism for the prompt solution to their distress.

The A & N Islands: New Delhi's Bulwark in the Indian Ocean

In 2015, the Indian government drew up a 100,000 million Indian rupee plan funded by the Ministry of Shipping and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration to transform the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI) into the country's first maritime hub. In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the islands for the first time, inaugurating several development projects relating to connectivity, energy, and tourism, among other things. Most recently, he inaugurated the Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar undersea

internet cable, which is set to provide a high-speed internet connection to seven remote islands of the ANI chain. The islands have also seen the recent installation of 31 GPS strong motion sensors and accelerometers, SMS alerts dissemination systems, 13 Automated Weather Stations, State Emergency Operation Centers, and the commissioning of a solar power plant at Altamir Pahad. The government of India under NITI Aayog's "Holistic Development Program" for the islands has invited

global players to invest in a wide-ranging social and infrastructure development program, including investments in resorts and other tourist infrastructure. These developments show how New Delhi is fortifying its southernmost frontier at sea and gearing up for something bigger. As the Indo-Pacific region with its

growing prominence becomes a theater of opportunity for India, the ANI have gained an important position in New Delhi's foreign policy. In January 2016, New Delhi released a maritime security strategy paper that emphasized the strategic significance of the islands and See... Page 02

Awareness Prog. on TB held at MGCC, Mayabunder

Mayabunder, 17th Dec, 2021: An awareness programme on viral disease Tuberculosis was held today in the conference hall of Mahatma Gandhi Govt. College Mayabunder for the students and

staff of the institution. The programme was chaired by Dr. Praburam, Principal, MGCC-Mayabunder. The programme was organized by Health officials (NTEP) of Dr. R P Hospital.

Dr. Prabur K. Pait, MS and District TB Officer North and Middle Andaman, explained about signs, symptoms, prevention, new strategy of treatment and Nikshay Poshan Yojana. At the end of program Dr. Praburam appreciated the efforts of the medical team. He requested to screen the students of hostel and conduct more such programs in the college from time to time. Altogether 80 students attended the awareness programme.



Organisation "Matnra4change" to improve medical infrastructure at PHC- Radha Nagar



Port Blair, 17th Dec, 2021: The organisation "Matnra4change" will be strengthening and improving the medical infrastructure of Primary Health Centre- Radha Nagar, Diglipur. In its endeavour of enabling COVID-19 relief work, the organisation will install equipment worth Rs. 10 Lakhs in the PHC. Under this assistance, the organisation will be setting up 5 beds in PHC. The PHC will be enabled to plug and play infrastructure with power backup. This initiative is See... Page 06

CCI offers online & offline internships to ALC Students



Port Blair, Dec 17: The Andaman Law College, in collaboration with Competition Commission of India (CCI), organized a special lecture on 'Competition Law' through online

platform. Shri. K. P. Anand, Joint Director (Law), Competition Commission of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest. Dr. C. Sathish, Principal (V), Andaman Law College in his welcome

address highlighted that Competition is beneficial to the consumers, the business, and the economy. He said that CCI as a market regulator plays a pivotal role in sustaining See... Page 02

COVID-19 Vaccination going smoothly in isles

Port Blair, Dec 17: The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in A&N Islands. As per data available, a total of 5,82,471 beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in A&N Islands, out of the target beneficiaries of 2,86,600 (approx.). A total of 1,77,081 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till date. A total of 2423 people were vaccinated in these islands on Thursday. 2322 beneficiaries were See... Page 02

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India is mulling changes in law to cut govt's stake in banks: Report

Port Blair, 17th Dec, 2021: India's government is considering changes that would make it easier to lower its stake in state-run banks, a key step in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan to unclog credit flow to the economy.



The proposals — if approved — would allow the government to gradually lower its holding in state-run lenders to 26% from 51% without diluting its grip on management appointments, the people said, asking not to be identified as the deliberations are private. They would also simplify privatisation of certain identified lenders and permit foreign investors to purchase bigger stakes in others without seeking parliament approval.

With the proposed amendments, Modi is seeking to reduce state-run banks' reliance on frequent injections of government capital while still maintaining their quasi-sovereign status that depositors favor. The move would dilute some of the policies India enacted in 1969 when the state swept in nationalise its banks, creating a swathe of banks that even today

control two-thirds of the sector's assets and the bulk of its bad debts. Early talks are still on and the details could change, the people said. The proposals would need to be studied and cleared by the cabinet before being placed before parliament, they added.

A spokesperson for the Finance Ministry couldn't be reached for comment. Bank privatisations can be fraught affairs in India, where unions still hold sway, albeit not as powerfully as they did privatization decades ago. Thousands of employees belonging to state-run lenders continued their strike for a second day on Friday, protesting against the proposed privatization of banks by the government, the Press Trust of India See... Page 02

10 Myanmarese nationals apprehended

Port Blair, Dec 17: Swiftly acting on information, the joint anti-poaching team comprising of Police, AAJVS and Forest staff apprehended 10 Myanmarese nationals who had illegally entered into the Indian territorial waters, along with their boat near Bada Balu, a Jarawa Reserve Area and recovered 500 Kgs of Sea

cucumber, fishing materials, boat assemblies, Binocular, Compass, Diving equipments, HSD oil, ration articles from them. On 14/12/2021 credible information was received by HC Mintu Kumar Dey I/C JPPIR. No.4 haftee fishermen had sighted Myanmarese dinghy near Hiren Tikrey. Immediately, a search team

comprising of ASI Muthu Kannan, HC/V, Henthoo, PCs Pabitra Sikari, Pabitra Bepari, Day idson, HG/Sukhdhe Biswas with arms & ammunition and other assets and 02 staff from AAJVS and 03 Staff from Forest department was constituted and under the supervision of SDO (Bambooflat) See... Page 02

B.Ed Admission list

Port Blair, Dec 17: The category-wise and subject-wise provisional list of candidates applied for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the session 2021-22 in Tagore Govt. College of Education, Port Blair will be published online on 21st December 2021 and will be available at <http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in/under/Announcements/> for inspection and verification. The last date for submission of claims and objection is 23 Dec 21.

Central Executive Committee of NGGOA meets

Port Blair, Dec 17: The Central Executive Committee meeting of the Non-Gazetted Govt. Officers' Association held recently at Port Blair expressed concern over the delay in promotion of AC Cadre employees under A & N Administration. The meeting also discussed various other issues pertaining to the Education Department like declaration of Summer Vacation for schools, leave related issues and various anomalies in the seniority list published recently without proper updation. It was decided to augment the activities of the Association in coming days. Earlier, the General Secretary of the See... Page 02

EDITORIAL

The Andaman Express

18 December 2021

Bell hooks changed

In the preface to the 2014 reissue of her classic text *Am I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism*, bell hooks, who styled her name in lower case letters to keep the attention on her ideas, wrote of imagining her mother as her ideal reader. This led her to develop a jargon-free prose style that made her work accessible to all her readers. This was necessary, because the ideas hooks articulated were complex, challenging long-held notions about the nature of power, social and economic hierarchies, and the role of activism and reform, not only within the women's movement, but movements led by the marginalised everywhere. She rejected the idea that different kinds of injustice existed in isolation from each other and argued that to address one, it is necessary to tackle the others.

hooks, who died aged 69 on December 15, was many things — writer, poet, teacher, activist. But it is as a theorist of love that she may have had the most profound impact. She encountered love as more than just a romantic notion, as a transformative, healing power, during her spiritual journey as a "Christian Buddhist". It was this power of love, she said, that could most effectively end oppression.

Today, hooks's "ethic of love" as well as her intersectional understanding of injustice are accepted wisdom — much of that is because of the enormous impact of her work. Yet, in no way have these ideas lost power or relevance. At a time when social justice is often reduced to slogans used to sell everything from soap and jewellery to electoral promises, reading hooks is like a tonic. Her ideas resist simplification. She muddled the distinction between oppressor and victim, enriching the understanding of oppression itself and challenging the belief that creating a more just world is simply about grabbing a larger share of the pie.

CCI offers online..

and promoting fair competition in market. While delivering the keynote address, Shri. K. P. Anand emphasized that Competition Law is the lifeblood of market economy and needed for a robust competitive environment. He underlined that fair competition is the key to protect the interest of consumers by ensuring broadest range of services at the most competitive price. He offered online and offline internship at CCI to

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the students of Andaman Law College to develop and refine their skills through practical experience. The CCI offers an amount of 15,000/- per month for the offline interns of Andaman Law College. The program was coordinated by Mr. Sarath Kumar, Assistant Professor while the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Divya Sharma, Assistant Professor, Andaman Law College.

COVID-19 Vaccination ..

vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which 67 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. Similarly, 93 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District

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out of which 2 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44. 8 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District out of which 2 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44.

India is mulling..

reported. However, Modi's fresh off the success of the privatisation of Air India Ltd., the nation's flag carrier, and is heading toward listing state insurer LIC, which is being compared with the Saudi Aramco IPO in its ambition, scope and scale. Modi's government could be

from... Page 01

betting that its voracious appetite for state-run banks will improve once a recently set up bad bank buys the worst of the soured assets on lenders' books. The sector's bad-loan ratio is forecast to rise to 9.8% by March 2022 from 7.48% a year ago, hampering the disbursement of loans to businesses.

B.Ed Admission..

"Announcements". Counselling for admission to the course will be held on 27th December 2021 from 9:30 am at Tagore Auditorium. Candidates selected for admission shall be given admission on the same day and classes shall begin immediately from the next day. The selected

from... Page 01

candidates should deposit fees and all required original certificates on the day of admission. Those who fail to attend the counselling session, on time, will not be considered for admission to the course and next eligible candidate in the merit list will be considered for admission.

Central Executive..

As association, Shri R. Rajendran briefed the meeting on the activities of the Association during the intervening period while Shri R. Papa Rao, President of the Association chaired the meeting. The meeting was also addressed

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by Shri T. S. Sreem Kumar, former General Secretary. The meeting was attended by Central Executive members along with the Vice Presidents and Secretary of branches and Sub-Committees.

10 Myanmarese..

to conduct anti-poaching operation. The team was briefed by SHO PS Ograbraj T. Dilla Rao about the search operation and thereafter the team left Tirur in AAJVS boat and wooden dinghy of Forest department and started patrolling in the sea area near Bada Balu and kept strict surveillance throughout the night. On 15/12/2021, the anti-poaching team at about 0500 hrs sighted a fishing dinghy near Bada Balu, Jarawa Reserve area upon which the joint team swung into action and chased the poacher's boat. On seeing patrolling party, the Burmese dinghy tried to escape into the

from... Page 01

creaks but after 10-15 minutes of chase the said dinghy was intercepted by the patrolling party and thereby apprehended 10 Myanmar National. Upon interrogation they disclosed that they left from Myanmar on 01/12/2021 and reached Bada Balu on 04/12/2021, since then they were halting over there and poaching sea cucumber. The general public have been hereby requested to pass on credible information regarding any kind of anti-social activity in their locality or any kind of crime to Police at 100, 112 & 03192-233077. Identity of the informer will be kept secret.

THE RUSSIAN MISSILE THAT ENABLED INDIAN NAVY'S SMALL BOATS TO HIT BIG IN 1971

The 1971 war against Pakistan is considered the Indian military's finest hour. And one of the stand-out events of the war was the attack on Karachi by Project 205 class missile boats of the Indian Navy.

The Karachi attack was the first use of anti-ship missiles in an offensive role in a war. The weapon used in the attack, the Soviet-made P-15 missile (codenamed SS-N-2 Styx by NATO), was already legendary at the time of the 1971 war.

The attack on Karachi was not the first use of the Styx in combat but distinction was achieved by the Egyptian Navy which used the missile to sink the INS Elat, a small destroyer of the Israeli Navy in October 1967. But the sinking of the Elat happened in peacetime and the Egyptian missile boats that fired the missiles were said to be near harbour at Port Said during the attack, not in open seas.

The Styx was the first anti-ship missile to see large-scale deployment by the Soviet Union, introduced in the early 1960s, the Styx — which weighed over 2 tonnes like other early anti-ship weapons — was small enough to fit on small patrol craft, which would eventually be designated as missile boats.

Like the MiG-21, another 'veteran' of the 1971 war, the Styx was ageless and was exported to dozens of countries in Asia, Middle East and Africa. And upgraded versions of the Styx remain in service with a handful of ships of the Indian Navy like the Ranvir class of destroyers.

Admiral Arun Prakash (retired), who was chief of the Indian Navy from

2004 to 2006, served in the 1971 war as a fighter pilot. Explaining the legacy of the Styx, Prakash noted it was a "first of its kind" weapon in the world as the US and European nations did not have any equivalent in the 1960s. Prakash commanded a Project 205 class missile boat, the INS Chakra, in 1976.

Rear admiral Sudarshan Shrikhande (retired), who comments extensively on strategic matters, shed

Obsolescence

Like all weapon systems, even the Styx was vulnerable to becoming outdated.

Less than two years after the success in Karachi, the Israeli Navy managed to successfully negate the threat of the Styx missiles used by the Syrian Navy in the Battle of Latakia during the Yom Kippur war.

Admiral Prakash explained the shortcomings of the first generation of



lighten the Soviet Union's philosophy in creating the Styx missile.

"These missiles were always to be used offensively in a tactical sense and the deployment could be defensive of one's coast or offensive of an enemy's coast even for the Soviets. Indeed, they were deployed in the Black Sea, Caspian and Baltic Seas as well as in the Far East fleet where the Russians had their enemies at distances similar to what Karachi was for us. Where we [Indian Navy] innovated was as, perhaps, to have the missile boats towed and then unleashed for attack," Shrikhande explained.

Styx missiles. "It was liquid fuelled, it had a radio altimeter that made the missile fly about 300 feet over the water surface, and a radar seeker that homed in on the largest ship in an area and the missile's range was limited to 30-odd km," he said.

In the Yom Kippur war, the Israeli Navy was able to detect the high-flying Styx missiles and use electronic countermeasures to jam their primitive radar seekers to ensure they missed their targets.

Another disadvantage of the Styx was its use of liquid fuel. Prakash said handling of the liquid fuel was a cumbersome and dangerous process.

It would take several hours to refuel the missile before use and maintenance crews needed to wear protective suits and masks to avoid inhaling toxic fumes from the nitric acid used in the fuel.

By the late 1970s, both the Western nations and the Soviet Union were introducing new generations of anti-ship missiles that had more advanced radar seekers that could better withstand jamming. The new missiles like the US Harpoon and French Exocet were also solid-fuelled weapons, which meant they were in a ready-to-fire state, not needing cumbersome refuelling.

Moreover, these new missiles had 'sea-skimming' capability, flying just metres above the waves. This enabled the missiles to evade radar detection by enemy ships until they were very close to the target area.

Upgraded and still relevant Despite the advances in technology, the Styx lived on. Shrikhande explained how the Indian Navy persisted with the weapon. "In the end-1970s, the Soviet launchers were removed from the earlier [missile] boats and were fitted [three missiles each] on INS Talwar and Trishul, thus taking a longer-endurance frigate and giving it missile capability. That was a big upgrade actually. These then evolved adjacent to the western versions of the Indian missile and later classes of low-flying, homing cruise missiles with an ability to attack ships as well as land targets," Shrikhande said.

Admiral Prakash noted the Indian Navy eventually began inducting new Styx variants with an infra-red seeker

that homed in on the heat emissions of a target ship and was thus impervious to electronic jamming. These also had enhanced fuel capacity, imparting more range. Prakash described the missile's longevity to the simplicity of its technology. In addition to its low cost, a key advantage the Styx had over the likes of the Harpoon and Exocet was its large warhead. The Soviet weapon had a warhead that weighed 500kg, about twice that of the western weapons.

The P-15 and P-15U were retired in the 1990s... with the decommissioning of the smaller Project 205 boats. After this, came the P-20 (an improved Styx variant), which was the fit for the Durg class corvettes and for the first three of the Rajput class. These had greater range, countermeasures and accuracy as well as lethality," Shrikhande said.

Over the past two decades, the Styx missile family has been eclipsed in Indian Navy service by newer weapons like the supersonic Brahmos and Kahu, another Russian missile. The Indian Navy has even bought the Harpoon (for its German-designed Shishumar submarines and P-8 maritime patrol aircraft) and the Exocet (for the French-designed Kalvari class submarines).

As the launchers housing the last Styx missiles sail into the sunset, the legacy of the iconic Soviet design lives on. Shrikhande said "These missiles took our Navy into the missile age and created an attitude and capability for tactical aggressiveness, which has been the legacy of the brave men in their small boats who 'hit big' in 1971."

NYK holds District Level Declamation Contest at Rangat

Port Blair, Dec 17: Nehru

Yuva Kendra Rangat was organised District Level Declamation Contest (2021-22) on "Patriotism and Nation Building"

with the theme of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikash was, Sabka Prayas (Together we grow, Together we prosper/Together we try, Together we Build A strong and inclusive India) at Mahatma Gandhi Govt. Mayabunder on 15-12-2021.

In which Dr. B. Prabhuram, Principal of M.G. Govt. College was chief guest. The main objective of the programme is to

strengthen the spirit of Nationalism and patriotic feeling among Youth and masses for enhanced participation of Nation building.

Mr. Jagdeep Ram, Deputy Director, NYK Rangat was welcome the chief guest, other guests & Participants and briefed about the District Level Declamation Contest. In the District Level Declamation Contest Miss Anshika Chetia, R/o Rampur, Mayabunder secured the 1st position of Cash Award of Rs. 5000/- with certificate. Miss Karamjit Kaur, R/O Mayabunder secured 2nd

Position of cash Awards of Rs. 2000/- with Certificate & Miss Deepshikha Mishra R/O Tugapur No.6 secured 3rd position of Cash Award of Rs. 1000/- with certificate.

Further 1st position of District Level Declamation Contest Miss Akansha Chetia Chetia will participate in State Level Declamation Contest which will be held at Port Blair.

At the end of the programme Dr. Ajitha Narendran, Assistant professor, M.G. Govt. College proposed vote of thank to the chief guest, other guest and participants.

Govt asks people avoid non-essential travel, mass gatherings as India reports 101 Omicron cases

The Centre, on Friday, asked people to avoid non-essential travel, mass gatherings and grand festive events in the wake of an increase in the number of people testing positive for the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

India has so far reported 101 cases of the new variant from 11 states across the country.

Joint secretary (health) Lav Agarwal said, "Omicron variant reported in 91 countries in the world. WHO has said that Omicron is

spreading faster than the Delta variant in South Africa where Delta circulation was low. It is likely that Omicron will outpace Delta variant where community transmission occurs, according to WHO."

He said India has been recording less than 10,000 COVID-19 cases for the last 20 days, and the positivity rate for the past one week was 0.65 per cent. "Currently, Kerala contributes 40.31 per cent to the total number of active cases in the country," news agency ANI

quoted Agarwal as saying.

Agarwal said there is no evidence to suggest that vaccines are not effective against the Omicron variant. A new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic is being experienced in Europe with a steep rise in cases. Niti Aayog member V.K. Paul said, "If we do a population level analysis, the 80,000 cases in the UK currently reported would equal 14 lakh in India."

"Genome sequencing of every sample is not possible. It is a surveillance and pandemic assessment and tracking tool, not a diagnostic tool as of now. We can assure sufficient systematic sampling is being undertaken," Paul said.

According to media reports, the health ministry said 19 districts in the country are facing a "high risk" of a surge in cases and cautioned about the need to have extra vigilance in following the COVID-19 protocols.



SC stays proceedings of West Bengal's Lokur panel probing Pegasus case

The Supreme Court today stayed the functioning of the two-member Commission of Inquiry headed by retired Supreme Court Judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur which was constituted by the West Bengal government to probe the Pegasus surveillance scandal.

The order staying the

commission's functioning was passed by a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on a contempt petition pointing out how the commission was continuing its work despite a Supreme Court judgment of October 27 directing a probe into the scandal by a three-member expert committee headed by

another former Supreme Court judge, Justice R.V. Raveendran. Israel-based spyware firm NSO is best known for its Pegasus spyware, which it claims is sold only to "vetted government" and not to private entities, though the company does not reveal which governments it sells the controversial product to.

The A & N Islands..

underscores their importance for India's power projection into the Western Pacific and beyond.

The Andaman chain, which is located adjacent to the western entrance of the Strait of Malacca, straddles one of the busiest sea routes in the world. Combining about 30 percent of India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), ANI connects South Asia with Southeast Asia. The northernmost point of this archipelago is merely 22 nautical miles from Myanmar and the southernmost point, Indira Point, is only 90 nautical miles from Indonesia.

In a 2017 analysis, Balaji Chandramohan pointed out that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands "dominate the Bay of Bengal, the Six Degree and the Ten Degree Channels that more than fifty thousand commercial vessels pass each year." Chandramohan further noted that the islands act as "a physical barrier that secures busy Sea Lines of Communications by creating a series of chokepoints. The Preparis Channel in the north, the Ten Degree Channel between the Andaman and Nicobar islands groups and the Six Degree Channel to the south. While the first two sea lanes are used infrequently by commercial shipping, all vessels that pass through the Malacca Strait must traverse the Six Degree Channel."

Writing for the Observer Research Foundation in September 2021, Sohini Bose and Anasua Basu Ray Chaudhury argued that "China's efforts to expand its footprint in the OR to overcome its 'Malacca Dilemma' (China's fear of a maritime blockade at the Straits of Malacca) and fulfil its 'Maritime Silk Road' ambitions have fueled apprehensions about freedom of navigation in these waters."

As part of China's growing presence, the Economic Times reported in January 2020 that six Chinese research vessels were spotted in the IOR in a single month and that nearly 600 fishing boats from China were present there each year from 2015 till 2019. In January 2021, a Chinese survey ship, Xiang Yang Hong 03, was accused of "running dark" (operating without transmitting its position) in Indonesian waters. This ship was heading toward the Indian Ocean.

In April of this year, at the Raisina Dialogue, India's former Naval Chief Admiral Karambir Singh said that New Delhi had observed the regular presence of the Chinese navy in the IOR over the past decade. China's expedited naval modernization, with more than 80 ships commissioned in the last five years, reflects its aspirations to embrace maritime hegemony in the

Indo-Pacific region, including the IOR.

A retired Commodore-rank official of the Indian Navy, who wished not to be named, said, "The strategic importance of ANI is impelled primarily by the growing Chinese presence and involvement in the Indian Ocean Region." He further added, "China's interest in the IOR is motivated by its strategy for expanding its influence beyond the Pacific and South China Sea, which has initiated a demand for strategic bases in the region."

Considering the growing Chinese presence in the Indo-Pacific, the officer enumerated two consequences that could be expected in the region. First, by gaining ground in these critical chokepoints, China could use them to its benefit during a future conflict or a standoff with India. Second, a "Sheila" added that most of the countries in Southeast Asia are part of the "ring of fire," which makes them more susceptible to frequent natural disasters. A strong naval presence at ANI will make India a reliable partner during a crisis.

When Modi inaugurated the first undersea optical fibre project at ANI, he also hinted at a 100 billion rupee investment plan for the islands. In North Andaman, a Naval Air Station (NAS) Shipburi was commissioned as INS Kohassa, and in Greater Nicobar at Campbell Bay INS Baga, a naval air station, was upgraded into an aviation base.

In his article, Chandramohan predicts that the ANI "could also be the base for elements of the Army's Special Forces and Naval Commandos, the Marcos," a SU-30MKI all-weather fighters squadron and a maritime Jaeger squadron on a permanent basis." India has already deployed long-range patrol aircraft including Poseidon-81 Neptune at its forward military base in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The appointment of former chief of the Indian Navy Admiral D.K. Joshi as the lieutenant governor of the islands in October 2017 was a crucial development, allowing for a better understanding of the security, economic, and commercial potential and limitations in the development of the islands.

A naval warfare strategy of "sea denial" — denying the adversary the use of the near seas — is crucial to dictate terms in littoral space. ANI's strategic location allows New Delhi to pursue this strategy in terms of maintaining its tactical stature at sea. With the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific, the Andaman and Nicobar islands will continue to occupy centre stage in India's maritime strategy in the years and decades to come.

To enhance the connectivity and prominence of the islands, New Delhi has entered into a number of international partnerships. The Thai government's plan to connect its

from... Page 01

Ranong port with ANI could be an important development. In 2018, India and Indonesia under their "Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific" established a special task force to develop connectivity between the port of Sabang and ANI.

India could also use the developing facilities at ANI for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Radhika Ajayan, a researcher on environmental security in the South Pacific, said, "From a climate security perspective, India's use of maritime power through Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) activities is appreciated worldwide, something that China has failed to do in the past and suffered [for] its late response during 2013 Typhoon Haiyan." She further added that most of the countries in Southeast Asia are part of the "ring of fire," which makes them more susceptible to frequent natural disasters. A strong naval presence at ANI will make India a reliable partner during a crisis.

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18.12.2021 Saturday Port Blair

F.No. 7-1/2021-1/1A
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission- Call for nominations.

Nominations are sought for selection of a new Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC). UGC is a statutory body with the Ministry of Education, Government of India, entrusted with the task of determination, coordination and maintenance of standards in University education. Under the provisions of Section 5 of the UGC Act, 1956, Vice-Chairman is appointed by the Central Government.

Eminent persons with substantial experience in academics, governance and/or professional management commensurate with the prestige of the position and preferably less than 62 years, may be nominated by the process. No self nominations will be accepted.

Clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 6 of the UGC Act, 1956 provides that the Vice-Chairman shall hold office for a term of three years or until he/she attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The Vice-Chairman, in addition to being a member of the Commission, also officiates as Chairman, UGC in the absence of the Chairman.

Nominations along with the nominees' curriculum vitae may be emailed to the Director (UGC), Ministry of Education at email ID: u1section-moe@gov.in, on or before 13th January, 2022. Hard copy of the curriculum vitae will not be accepted. The Search cum Selection Committee reserves the right to consider persons of eminence outside the list of such nominations. In accordance with the procedure evolved by the Committee, nominees would be short-listed based on agreed parameters and the short-listed nominees may be invited for interaction with the Committee.

clawp 21205/11/0019/2122

BSF Recruitment 2021, Apply 195 Group A, B & C vacancies @ bsf.gov.in

BSF Recruitment 2021 | Constable, HC & ASI Posts | 72 Vacancies | Last Date: Within 45 Days | BSF Bharti Notification @ bsf.gov.in
BSF Recruitment 2021: Border Security Force (BSF) invites online application from capable persons to fill up ASI, HC & Constable posts. They are announced 72 vacancies for these Group-C Combatant posts in Engineering set up of BSF. Applicants who are seeking for Central Government jobs may apply for this BSF jobs. Before applying for these advertised vacancies, candidates should read the notification to check the eligibility. Interested candidates need to submit the application through online mode. Aspirants must register themselves within 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement.

BSF Recruitment 2021 notification & apply online for BSF Group C Recruitment 2021 @ www.recruitment.bsf.gov.in. Candidates who had completed Class 10th/ITI/Diploma may use this chance to start & develop careers at BSF. Applicants should be an Indian national to apply for these BSF Group C posts. BSF expects both male & female eligible candidates to fulfill the vacant positions. Number of vacancies may change as per requirement. Experience in relevant field is essential to apply for this BSF jobs. More details of BSF Constable recruitment 2021, selection list, merit list, results & upcoming job advertisements are uploaded at official website.

Steps to Apply Online for BSF Recruitment 2021 Notification

Go to official website recruitment.bsf.gov.in.

Find & click on appropriate notification.

Read the notification thoroughly.

Fill the online application form.

Submit & take a copy of filled form.

Please visit www.bsf.gov.in to know details of BSF job opportunity. Here we have prescribed educational qualification, age limit, selection process, apply mode & steps to apply. Looking forward with www.dailyrecruitment.in to know latest job updates.

AIC India Recruitment 2021, Apply 31 MT & Hindi Officer Vacancies @ www.aicofindia.com

AIC India Recruitment 2021 | Management Trainee & Hindi Officer Posts | Total Vacancy 31 | Last Date 13.12.2021 | Download AIC Agriculture Recruitment Notification @ www.aicofindia.com

AIC India Recruitment 2021: Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited (AIC) a leading Crop Insurance Company, invites online applications from Indian Citizens for recruitment of Management Trainee & Hindi Officer. According to the AIC Notification [Ref. No. AIC/Rec/MT & Hindi Officer-2021-22], there are 31 vacancies will be filled by AIC Agriculture and these vacancies are assigned for AIC MT Vacancy. Candidates who are searching Central Government jobs kindly make the online registration from 23.12.2021. As per the AIC Recruitment notification, online applications will be received up to 13.12.2021. AIC Insurance recruitment notification & AIC of India recruitment Apply online link is available @ www.aicofindia.com.

Agriculture Insurance Company of India selection will be based on Online Exam and Personal Interview. Selected candidate will be at any where in India. Candidates who are seeking Engineering jobs must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. Candidates applying for the post of Management Trainee should apply for any ONE discipline only. Not more than one application for the post of Management Trainee & Hindi Officer should be submitted by any candidate. More details of AIC Agriculture vacancy, upcoming AIC Insurance Jobs notices, syllabus, answer key, merit list, selection list, admit card, result, upcoming notifications and etc. will be uploaded on official website.

Here you will get information of MT & Other like educational qualification, age limit, application mode, fee and how to apply. Keep check www.dailyrecruitment.in regularly to get latest updates.

GRSE Recruitment 2021, Apply Supervisor Vacancies @ www.grse.in

GRSE Recruitment 2021 | Supervisor & Other Posts | Total Vacancies 15 | Last Date 19.12.2021 | Download GRSE Kolkata Recruitment Notification @ www.grse.in

GRSE Recruitment 2021: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited invites online applications from qualified, talented and energetic Indian Nationals for the following posts on fixed term. There are 15 vacancies will be filled by GRSE Limited. Now it has published the recruitment advertisement [EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO. HR/SUP: 01/2021] for engagement of Supervisor & Design Assistant Supervisor posts & post wise vacancy details are given below. Aspirants who are seeking Diploma Jobs in central govt those candidates kindly make the online registration from 29.11.2021 to 19.12.2021.

Applied candidates kindly submit our hard copy of the online form to give an address on or before 28.12.2021. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited selection will be based on Written Test and test will be held on 02.01.2022. GRSE Supervisor recruitment online application link and GRSE Kolkata Recruitment notification is available in official website. Candidates who are seeking Degree Jobs must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. Applications via online mode only will be accepted. More details of GRSE latest notification, latest jobs, upcoming GRSE vacancies, merit list, selection list, result, admit card and etc. will be available at GRSE official website.

How to apply GRSE Recruitment Notification 2021

Go to official website grse.in.

Click "Career" find the advertisement "GRSE Employment Notification No. HR/SUP:01/2021 [RECRUITMENT OF SUPERVISORS- ON FIXED TERM] (Detailed advertisement)", click on the advertisement.

Notification will open read it and check Eligibility.

Go to -> jobapply.in/grse2021app

Find the link, click on the link.

If you are new user, you have to make registration otherwise you may login to your account then start to apply.

Finally click submission and take the print off the application form.

You may visit GRSE careers to get more details about GRSE recruitment. Here you will get information of Apprentice & Trainee posts like educational qualification, age limit, application mode and how to apply. Keep check www.dailyrecruitment.in regularly to get latest updates & upcoming govt exams.

OPaL Recruitment 2021(New), Apply Executive Vacancies @ www.opalindia.in

OPaL Recruitment 2021 | Executive Posts | 13 Vacancies | Last Date: 12.12.2021 | ONGC OPaL Job Notification @ www.opalindia.in

OPaL Recruitment 2021: ONGC Petro additions Limited (OPaL) is going to activate the online application link for OPaL Executive vacancy. In OPaL latest vacancy notification, they are announced 13 vacancies in following functions such as Marketing, Material Management, Information Technology & Company Secretary. Link for online application for these Central Government jobs will be enabled from 20.11.2021 @ OPaL Careers. The Last date to submit the online application form for OPaL job notification is 12.12.2021. ONGC OPaL recruitment 2021 notification & apply online link for this current job openings will be updated @ www.opalindia.in.

OPaL expect competent personnel at executive cadre to fill up this ONGC OPaL latest vacancy 2021. Candidates must have proven track record in Petrochemicals/ related industry to apply for this ONGC Petro additions vacancy. Before applying, aspirants need to check the eligibility. Selection of candidates may be based on test/ interview. Incomplete application or applications received after the last date will be rejected. Renumeration for selected candidates will be provided on CTC basis. More details of ONGC Petro additions recruitment, www.opalindia.in recruitment, selection list, merit list, results & upcoming job notices will be uploaded at official website.

Visit www.opalindia.in to get more career opportunity @ ONGC OPaL. Link for OPaL Latest vacancy has provided below. For latest updates, check @ www.dailyrecruitment.in.

CORONAVIRUS MUST KNOW FACTS

What Is 2019-nCoV?
A new strain of the coronavirus that infects humans and causes lower respiratory tract illnesses.

Who Is at Risk?
Common in people with cardiopulmonary diseases, weakened immunity, infants and older adults.

What Are The Symptoms?
Fever, Cough, Breathing difficulty, Sore Throat, Runny nose, Headache and General Debility.

What Are The Preventive Measures?

- Wash hands regularly using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper while sneezing.
- Avoid touching face, nose or mouth with dirty hands.
- Wear protective masks to avoid spreading germ others.
- Stay at home if sick.
- Disinfecting and cleaning surfaces that you frequently touch.

LOST

I, Shobha Rani Mistry lost my school Transfer certificate of Class X, issued from Govt. S.S School, Swaraj Gram, Diglipur in between Diglipur bazaar to R K Gram. Finder please contact on 8900963618

LOST

I, N.Ramu, s/o V.Nagarajan, r/o R K Gram Diglipur lost RC Book, Road Tax and Insurance of my vehicle AN01C482 IN Diglipur bazaar on 13th Dec, 2021. Finder please contact ON 9932081321

CMRL Recruitment 2022, Apply B.E Vacancies @ chennaiametrorail.org

CMRL Recruitment 2022 General Manager, AGM & Other Post (10 vacancies) [Last date: 07.01.2022 & 22.01.2022] Download Application Form @ chennaiametrorail.org
CMRL Recruitment 2021: Chennai Metro Rail Limited invites applications from qualified and experienced personnel for the appointment to the post of General Manager, AGM, JGM, DGM, Manager, DM and AM. These 10 vacancies will be assigned through CMRL recruitment. Candidates must be Indian citizen and must have completed B.E/ B.Tech are eligible to apply for this General Manager and other post. Before final submission of application form candidate must review their application form carefully. The closing date of filled application form for General Manager is 22.01.2022 and other should be 07.01.2022.

Central government job seekers may download the CMRL recruitment application form and Chennai Metro Rail recruitment notification from official website. The CMRL will conduct the interview/written test. Persons already working in Government PSU organization should apply through proper channel. At the time of interview candidates should produce the NOC certificates. Candidates may send their filled application form along with the self-attested copies of certificates in support of educational qualification, experience certificate, birth certificates, community certificates and passport size photo and Bio data to be submitted to the proper channel. Belated application form will not be considered for after the due date of application.

Details regarding Chennai Metro Rail jobs like educational qualification, age limit, selection process, & How to apply are provided above. Check out the latest current job notification is available at Daily recruitment site.

FACT Recruitment 2021, Apply for 179 Apprentice Vacancies @ fact.co.in

FACT Recruitment 2021 | Graduate, Trade & Technician Apprentice | 179 Vacancies | Last Date: 18.12.2021 | FACT Job Notification @ fact.co.in

FACT Recruitment 2021: Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is going to hire candidates for engagement of Apprentices under Apprentices Act in Graduate, Technician & Trade categories. Eligible candidates are invited to apply for these 179 vacancies. Candidates who are searching for ITI/Diploma/Engineering jobs may apply for this current job openings to join at FACT. Candidates are advised to register their name in BOAT (www.mhrdnlts.gov.in) / NAPS (www.apprenticeshipindia.org). The Last Date to submit the application form for FACT Apprentice Recruitment 2021 is 18.12.2021.

Selection process for FACT Apprentice jobs will be based on merit list. Central Govt job seekers are instructed to apply for these FACT vacancies. Merit list will be prepared on basis of marks secured in qualifying examination. FACT recruitment 2021 notification pdf & application form are available from 23.11.2021 @ www.fact.co.in. Training will be provided for 1 year. Training location is FACT Kerala. Applicants must be reached the prescribed address on or before the last date. More details of FACT Apprentice recruitment 2021, selection list, merit list, results & upcoming job notices will be uploaded at official website.

Check www.fact.co.in for more details about FACT recruitment. Educational qualification, age limit, selection process, apply mode & steps to apply have provided above. Looking forward with www.dailyrecruitment.in to get recent updates.

IMA Dehradun Recruitment 2021 (New), Apply 188 Group C Vacancies @ www.indianarmy.nic.in

IMA Dehradun Recruitment 2021 [MTS, LDC & Other Posts] [Total Vacancies 188] Last Date Within 45 days | Download Indian Army Recruitment Notification @ www.indianarmy.nic.in

IMA Dehradun Recruitment 2021: Indian Military Academy (IMA) Dehradun has issue new notice regarding appointment of Cook Special, Cook IT, MT Driver (Ordinary Grade), Boot Maker/ Repairer, LDC, Masalai, Waiter, Fatigue man, MTS (Safawala), Groundsman, GC Orderly, MTS (Chowkidar), Groom, Barber, Equipment Repairer, Bicycle Repairer, MTS (Messenger), Laboratory Attendant posts. It invites online application from eligible candidates. There are 188 vacancies will be filled by IMA Dehradun and post wise vacancy details are given below. Candidates who are searching Defense Jobs kindly submit the application in the prescribed format within 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News s. IMA Dehradun Group C Recruitment 2021 Notification & Indian Military Academy Recruitment application form is available @ www.indianarmy.nic.in. Candidates who are seeking 10th pass jobs/ 12th pass jobs must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. Selection will be based on Written Test & Skill Test and selected candidates will be appointed at Dehradun. More details of www.indianarmy.nic.in recruitment, IMA New vacancy, upcoming notices, syllabus, answer key, merit list, selection list, admit card, result, upcoming central govt jobs notifications and etc. will be uploaded on official website.

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IN CONVERSATION

BAN DRUG ADVERTISEMENTS TO PROMOTE HEALTH

Advertising promoting new drugs is effective but often leads to inappropriate prescribing. To protect the health of their citizens, countries should ban it.

Many drugs, but certainly not all, are extremely useful in controlling symptoms and preventing or curing illness. The companies that produce them are generally expected to make profits, growing revenues with higher prices or bigger sales volumes.

But nearly all wealthy developed countries impose restrictions on the price of drugs so that options are not always available. And so companies spend massive amounts on promotion to get sales.

In the US alone, USD 20 billion was spent in 2016 to convince doctors to prescribe brand-name drugs.

The promotion is not only directed at doctors. The US and New Zealand both allow direct-to-consumer advertising, mentioning the name of a drug along with the problem it's meant to treat in a single advertisement. Companies spend nearly USD 10 billion a year on advertising drugs to consumers in the US.

Evidence shows advertising influences patients. Three quarters of the respondents in one American survey said they were likely to ask a health care provider about advertised drugs and 26 percent said they had already done so.

Almost a quarter would look for a different doctor if their doctor refused to prescribe a requested brand name drug. This influence continues despite accumulated evidence strongly suggesting the information patients receive through advertising does not result in better prescribing - there are more negative than positive consequences from such advertising.

One randomised controlled trial, the strongest form of evidence, looked at the influence of patient requests for the antidepressant paroxetine using actors pretending to have a standard set of symptoms.

These pseudo-patients described either symptoms of depression or of a less severe temporary condition, adjustment disorder. That is due to life problems and does not require antidepressant treatment. If patient requested an advertised brand-name drug, they were equally likely to receive an antidepressant prescription whether they had symptoms of depression or adjustment disorder.

A systematic review of 20 studies looking

at consumer advertising and the use of testosterone replacement concluded advertising was associated with prescribing testosterone replacement therapy without adequate testing.

Direct-to-consumer advertising may also promote over-diagnosis of high cholesterol and over-treatment for populations where risks of statin use may outweigh potential benefits.

Canada has general and medical cultural similarities to the US, but does not allow direct-



to-consumer advertising, making it a useful comparator. However, some US media reaches Canadian audiences with prescription drug advertising that is illegal under Canadian law.

Barbara Mintzes and her colleagues surveyed patients and doctors in Vancouver (Canada) and Sacramento (USA) to compare prescription decisions.

In Sacramento, patients were much more likely to ask for a drug because of advertising. However, physicians in both countries were just as likely to fulfill requests when patients asked for a prescription by name, even when the doctors were ambivalent about the requested drug's suitability.

Another set of researchers looked at three drugs being promoted on US media and compared prescribing rates in English-speaking Canada versus Quebec, which is mainly francophone, and less affected by US media.

They found increased prescribing rates for one product, tegaserod, a drug approved for use in irritable bowel syndrome, that was later withdrawn from the market for safety reasons.

The solution to such advertising and its effect on prescribing is simple in most areas of the world. If it isn't allowed, don't let it start. In countries where disease awareness ads are already present, governments should move to ban them.

Addressing promotion to doctors is not as easy. A little more than a decade ago, researchers (including me) analysed 58 studies, and looked at three dimensions of prescribing - how often do doctors prescribe, how expensive was the prescription and was

the correct drug chosen.

The conclusion: "with rare exceptions, studies of exposure to information provided directly by pharmaceutical companies have found associations with higher prescribing frequency, higher costs, or lower prescribing quality or have not found significant associations. We did not find evidence of net improvements in prescribing."

The problem needs tackling at two ends: better regulation of promotion and making doctors less susceptible to it. Turning over regulation to the drug companies, as is done in Australia, or to independent bodies dominated by groups that benefit from promotion, as is done in Canada is not the answer.

At least when it comes to ads in medical journals, direct government regulation is far better. But the zeal with which government agencies approach regulation can be subject to the ideology of the party in power.

Moreover, government agencies are often under-resourced. As of 2016, the US Food and Drug Administration's Office of Prescription Drug Promotion with a staff of just over 70 people received nearly 100,000 promotional material submissions related to prescription medications annually.

Only a non-governmental body backed by legislation and with a stable source of income can do a proper job of proactively monitoring promotion.

Much as some people would like to see pharmaceutical company executives jailed for the way their companies promote, that also may not work. In the early 1980s, Australian criminologist John Braithwaite found at least two companies were paying people to take the position he called "vice-president responsible for going to jail".

What would really hurt a drug company and make it think twice about the way it promotes is a loss of patient rights - generic companies could produce and sell the drug at lower prices and capture the market.

Once these student doctors who are trained to spot drug company inducements are out in independent practice, they are less likely to prescribe heavily promoted drugs, less likely to prescribe newer, but no more effective drugs and less likely to trust what drug company salespeople have to say.

Direct-to-consumer advertising and other forms of promotion have a corrosive effect on prescribing. It is up to governments and the medical profession to correct this problem.



Organisation "Matra4change".

supported by Ashraya Hashta MYOT etc who target to take the patients to the mainland. She requested, if specialists are able to visit without business and for true charity, it would be of great help for the people. As for the infrastructure is concerned, the health department has good infrastructure but lacks in specialty treatment.

Puneet also explained the kind of work they did in very remote and rural areas by donating, bike ambulances etc. The trust also had okay's to donate sea ambulance for the islands, but these things can only be done by understanding the requirements of the UT Government, he added.

Suggestions were given from Dr Avijit to support the people going to the mainland for treatment, in their logistics like stay and food during the period of treatment. Earlier under ANISH scheme, the logistics were taken care of but after the scheme was abolished and brought under Ayushman Bharat, the poor population are finding it difficult.

Munni Singhania suggested to bring in Specialists and Super Specialists who are not business oriented. We have Specialists

Later Dr Munni Singhania flagged off the vehicle carrying the donated goods. The vehicle will be travelling to Diglipur to hand over the items at PHC Radhanagar.

Mantra4change is a not-for-profit organisation that is currently working on education and COVID relief. It has worked very closely with various departments of government supporting various COVID relief activities and so far distributed around 10,000+ ration kits, fed around 50,000 people and sent more than 3,000 migrant

workers back to their natives. The organisation has also supported 9 COVID designated hospitals, 21 PHCs and ICMR Belgaum with critical medical consumables. IT has setup around 100+ oxygenated beds across rural areas spanning in 7 states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. As a part of organisation's continued efforts to work on COVID relief work, it is setting up oxygenated beds in the hilly and remotely inaccessible areas along the international borders of India.

from... Page 01

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COVID-19 RELIEF

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CCI suspends approval for Amazon-Future Coupons deal

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Friday suspended its approval for Amazon's deal with Future Coupons and also imposed a penalty totalling Rs 202 crore on the e-commerce major for certain contraventions. The approval was given by the regulator back in November 2019 for Amazon's deal

to buy 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons. In a 57-page order, the

regulator said that approval "shall remain in abeyance".



According to the regulator, certain contraventions by Amazon arise from a "deliberate design on the part of Amazon to suppress the actual

scope and purpose of the combination and the Commission finds no mitigating factor".

Amid a bitter legal battle with Amazon, Future Group had complained to the CCI following which the regulator issued a show-cause notice to the e-commerce major in July 2021.

India paddler Hansini Mathan Rajan beats Tokyo Olympics' youngest athlete to win ITTF title

NEW DELHI: India's Hansini Mathan Rajan defeated Syria's Hend Zaza, the youngest athlete of this year's Tokyo Olympics, to win in the girls' singles event at the 2021 ITTF Hopes and Challenge table tennis tournament in Amman.

Playing in the U-12 category, the reigning cadet national champion played Zaza 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 11-6 in the final played on December 14.

Parth Prabhakar was India's entry in the boys' singles event that was won by Iran's Komeil Niknejad Divshali. Hansini, who has stayed back in Amman for the camp organised by the Asian Table Tennis Union, said the final was her



toughest match of the competition. "I knew my opponent had gone to the Olympics earlier this year, but I didn't think about that while playing her. There was no pressure and I just played my game," said the 12-

year-old who considers her backhand the strongest aspect of her game.

During the tournament, she was accompanied by her mother and coach Mantra Prabhu, who is

also a former India player.

The Chennai-based Hansini had also secured her second ITTF World Youth Series title with a win in the U-13 girls category in Muscat in October. She had won her maiden Youth Series title in Tunisia in September.

She is coached by India great Sharath Kamal's father Shrinivasa Rao and uncle Muralidhar Rao.

"Ever since she started playing the game as a 7-year-old, she has looked up to Sharath Kamal," said her mother Prathiba referring to one of India's finest paddlers. After the camp in Amman, Hansini will be returning to India to play national-level events.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Symptoms:
Fever, cough, sore throat and loss of taste and smell. Symptoms may develop within 14 days after exposure.

Protect yourself from getting COVID-19
Washing your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hand.
Avoiding close contact with people who have fever and coughing.

When coughing and sneezing cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue.

Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use.

If you suspect you may have COVID-19, contact +856-26-55066777 (Lao and English, weekdays 9-5 PM).

For more information, visit www.health.gov.ph/covid19

10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS DO NOT RISK YOUR LIFE

1. Avoid going to crowded places and public transport.
2. Maintain a safe distance of at least 1 meter from others.
3. Avoid handshakes and hugs.
4. Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
5. Avoid going to crowded places and public transport.
6. Avoid going to crowded places and public transport.
7. Avoid going to crowded places and public transport.
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