

REVERBERATION

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A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya reviews Public Health Preparedness to COVID19 and National COVID19 Vaccination Progress with States/UT

PIB, New Delhi: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today virtually interacted with State Health Ministers and Principal Secretaries/ Additional Chief Secretaries of States/UTs to review the Public Health Preparedness to COVID19 and progress of National COVID19 vaccination campaign. The meeting was held in view of the rising cases of the Omicron variant and the recent decisions to roll-out vaccination for the age group 15-18 years and precautionary dose for identified vulnerable categories. The meeting was

officiated by the Union Health Secretary Shri Rajesh Bhushan.

State Health Ministers who joined the meet included Shri S Pangnyu Phom (Nagaland), Shri N K Das (Odisha), Dr. Prabhuram Choudhary (MP), Shri Ma Subramanian (Tamil Nadu), Shri Keshab Mahanta (Assam), Shri Anil Vij (Haryana), Satyendar Jain (Delhi), Shri Alo Libang (Arunachal Pradesh), Banna Gupta (Jharkhand), Shri Mangal Pandey (Bihar), Shri T.S. Singh Deo (Chhattisgarh), Ms. Chandrima Bhattacharjee, MoS Health (West Bengal) and others.

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Chief Secretary inspects entire stretch from Corbyn's Cove to Flag Point

Port Blair, Jan. 1

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Jitendra Narain inspected the entire stretch from Corbyn's Cove to Flag Point along with Secretaries, Police Officers and Engineers of PBMC and APWD last Thursday. Various instructions were given by the Chief Secretary to make the entire stretch more beautiful and amiable to the residents of Port Blair as

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Administration takes various steps to effectively manage increase in COVID-19 cases including detection of Omicron variant

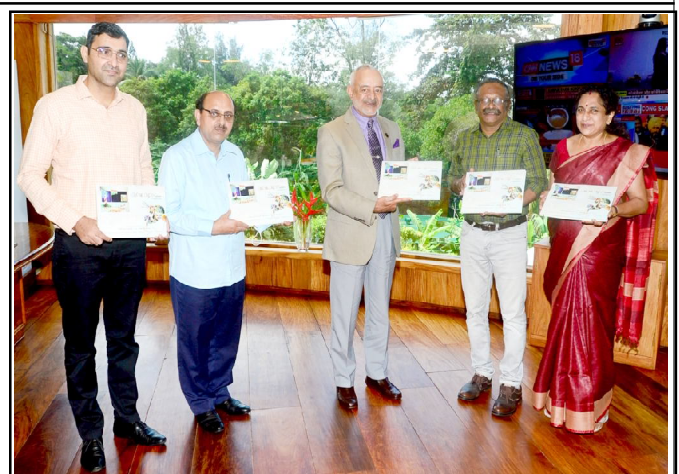
Port Blair, Jan. 2

In view of the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases including detection of Omicron variant cases in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and in order to

effectively manage the challenge arising out of the same, in suppression of the earlier circulars on this subject, the Andaman & Nicobar Administration has taken

various steps in public health interest. All in coming passengers above 2 years of age including partially and fully vaccinated arriving at VSI Airport, Port Blair from 5th

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Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency released Coffee Table book titled 'Me & My Palette' written by Shri S.N.Sreeprakash in presence of senior officers of A&N Administration on 29.12.2021 at Raj Niwas. The book depicts the Island's history & culture through drawings & paintings.



EDITORIAL

History cannot be erased by renaming public monuments

The New Year comes with the promise of a new beginning despite the challenges ahead. Perhaps reinvigorated with the spirit of the time, the BJP has gone into an overdrive in Andhra Pradesh. A fringe party in the state, it has been making noises ever since the TDP's debacle in the 2019 elections to emerge as the main opposition party. However, the party leaders' words haven't exactly been matched with equal efforts on the ground, at least not enough to displace the main opposition. Leaving the past behind, it appears keen on turning its fortunes around in 2022.

But it has started on the wrong foot. State BJP chief Somu Veerraju's public appeal to cast votes for the party in return for seriously cheap liquor reeks of desperation. His defence that his intention was only to help save some money for the poor doesn't cut it. Not stopping at that, the party has kicked up another controversy demanding that the historical Jinnah tower in Guntur be renamed. In normal circumstances, maybe, the demand would have carried some weight. The tower dates back to the mid-1940s and in quite an Indian fashion, the Mahatma Gandhi road leads to the Jinnah memorial. It is a standing testimony to history. One could argue, as do the BJP leaders, that we can't have a historical structure in the name of a man responsible for the Partition and deaths of countless numbers of people. From their perspective, it seems renaming is equal to reclaiming our identity and pride from the distortions of history. In a way, it is also akin to the cancel culture in the US. There can be no end to this. Tomorrow, you'll have to rename hospitals, buildings, etc., named after the Brits.

The Indian identity is rather complicated. History cannot be obliterated from public memory by renaming monuments or sanitising history books. The Soviets tried when they played havoc in Eastern Europe-which added to the memory vs history debate. The collective memory of a people is far more enduring than anything. This, by the way, is the reason why efforts such as whitewashing Aurangzeb's misdeeds lack credibility. If BJP leaders aren't convinced, they can take a lesson on Jinnah from veteran leader L K Advani.

Administration takes....

January, 2022 onwards shall have to mandatorily carry RT-PCR negative test report issued from a ICMR recognized laboratory, subject to condition that the RT-PCR test should have been taken within 48 hours prior to commencement of journey from the origin airport connecting Port Blair.

Further, all passengers with history of foreign travel in the last 30 days, all unvaccinated and partially vaccinated passengers shall also be tested by RT-PCR on arrival at VSI Airport, Port

Blair and they have to strictly self isolate themselves till the receipt of negative RT-PCR report. If passenger on arrival is tested positive then, the prescribed quarantine protocol is to be followed.

Further, all Airlines shall ensure strict compliance of this order and any non-compliance will invite action under Disaster Management Act and other applicable laws, an order to this effect issued by Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Health/ Civil Aviation) said.

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Vice President visits INS Vikrant, India's indigenous aircraft carrier Calls INS Vikrant a great icon of Atma Nirbhar Bharat 'INS Vikrant will be a great boost to our defence preparedness': VP



PIB, New Delhi: The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, today visited India's indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant in Kochi today. Calling the carrier a 'great icon for our drive towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat', Shri Naidu said the INS Vikrant is a realisation of the nation's dream of an indigenous carrier.

Upon arrival, Shri Naidu was given a presentation by the CMD of Cochin Shipyard Limited, Shri Madhu S Nair and the officials of Indian Navy on the construction

process and the overview of the carrier. Later, the Vice President was escorted to the carrier's flight deck and was briefed about the flight deck design and capabilities.

Addressing an event later at Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), a DRDO facility in Kochi, Shri Naidu said he was elated to visit INS Vikrant and called it a 'technological marvel'. Shri Naidu lauded the cooperation between Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Limited in building the aircraft

carrier.

The Vice President observed that INS Vikrant will be a major boost to our defence preparedness on the seas. "A strong Navy is indeed a prerequisite for the nation's growth and the construction of the aircraft carrier is a step in the right direction," he added.

Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Governor of Kerala, Shri P. Rajeev, Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala, and other dignitaries were present during the visit.

23rd Chief Justice of Bangladesh Hasan Foez Siddique sworn in

IANAS, DHAKA: Newly-appointed Chief Justice of Bangladesh Hasan Foez Siddique was sworn in on Friday as the 23rd Chief Justice of the country.

President M. Abdul Hamid administered the oath to Siddique at the Darbar Hall at 4 pm on Friday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Liberation War Affairs Minister A.K.M. Mozammel Haque, Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque, Education Minister Dipu Moni, outgoing Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and heads of the three armed forces were present at the ceremony, which was held in a very limited scale due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Siddique, a senior judge in the Supreme Court, was appointed as the Chief Justice of the country on Thursday. The

Law Ministry published a gazette on the issue after the President had signed the appointment letter of the new Chief Justice.

Outgoing Chief Justice Hossain retired on Thursday after he turned 67, the age boundary for a Supreme Court judge.

Siddique had served as the chief law advisor to the Ministry of Home Affairs, and as legal advisor to Khulna City Corporation, Kushtia Municipality, and Jalalabad Gas Transmission Company. He also served as the Additional Attorney General of Bangladesh.

He was elevated as the



judge of the high court division on March 25, 2009, and as a judge of the appellate division of the Supreme Court on March 31, 2013.

Siddique has been acting as the chairman of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission since April 30, 2015.

PM lays foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

PIB, New Delhi: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. The Sports University will be established at an estimated cost of about Rs 700 Crore and will be equipped with modern and state of the art sports infrastructure including synthetic Hockey ground, Football ground, Basketball / Volleyball / Handball / Kabaddi ground, Lawn tennis court, Gymnasium hall, Synthetic running stadium, Swimming pool, Multipurpose hall and a Cycling velodrome. The university will also house facilities for Shooting, Squash, Gymnastics, Weightlifting, Archery, Canoeing and Kayaking, among other facilities. The University will have the capacity of training 1080 sports persons including 540 female and 540 male sportspersons.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister noted the significant contribution of Meerut and its surrounding region in giving a new direction to independent India. The people from the region, he said, have sacrificed on the border for the defense of the nation and enhanced the country's prestige in the playground. This region has kept the flame of patriotism alive, the Prime Minister emphasized. "In Indian history, Meerut has not just been a city but a significant center of culture and strength", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister narrated his exhilaration on feeling the spirit of the Museum of Freedom, Amar Jawan Jyoti and temple of Baba Aughar Nath ji.

The Prime Minister remembered Major Dhyan Chand who was active in Meerut. A few months back, the central government had named the country's biggest sports award after the sporting icon. The Sports University of Meerut is being dedicated to Major Dhyan Chand today, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister noted the change of ethos in the state of Uttar Pradesh where earlier criminals and mafias used to play their games. He recalled the period where illegal occupation, harassing daughters used to go scot free. He remembered the insecurity

and lawlessness of earlier times. He lauded that now the Yogi government is imposing fear of law among such criminals. This change has brought confidence among the daughters of bringing laurels for the entire country.

The Prime Minister said youth is the cornerstone and also expansion of New India. Youth is the shaper and also the leader of New India. Our youth today have the heritage of antiquity and also have a sense of modernity. And so, where the youth will go, India will also move. And the world is going to go where India goes.

The Prime Minister highlighted that in the last few years, his government has given top priority to the Indian players to get four tools - resources, modern facilities for training, international exposure and transparency in selection. The Prime Minister stressed that for sports in the country to thrive, it is necessary that the youth should have faith in sports and should be encouraged to take up sports as a profession. "This is my resolve, and my dream too! I wish our youth to see sports like other professions", he said. The Prime Minister remarked that the government linked sports with employment. Schemes like Target Olympics Podium (TOPS) are providing all support to top sportspersons to compete at the highest level. Khelo India Abhiyan is recognizing talent very early and all support is being given to groom them for international level. India's recent performance in Olympics and Para-Olympics, said the Prime Minister, is a proof of a new India's rise in the play field. With the advent of sporting infrastructure in villages and small towns, there are a rising number of sportspersons from these towns.

The Prime Minister said in the new National Education Policy, priority has been given to sports. Sports have now been kept in the same category as science, commerce or other studies. Earlier sports were considered as extra curricular activities, but now sports schools will have it as a proper subject. The Prime Minister said that the sporting eco-system compris-



ing sports, sports management, sports writing, sports psychology etc, creates new possibilities. He said this generates trust in the society that moving towards sports is the right decision. With resources, a sporting culture takes shape and Sports University will play a big role in this, he added. Talking about the sporting culture of Meerut, the Prime Minister pointed out that the city exports sporting goods to more than 100 countries. This way, Meerut is not only vocal for local but also turning local into global, the Prime Minister said emphasizing the need for making the country Aatmnirbhar in the sector through the emerging sports clusters.

The Prime Minister mentioned that the double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh is establishing many universi-

ties. He listed Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath Ayush University in Gorakhpur, Dr Rajendra Prasad Law University in Prayagraj, State Institute of Forensic Sciences in Lucknow, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh State University in Aligarh, Maa Shakumbhari University in Saharanpur and Major Dhyan Chand University in Meerut. "Our goal is clear: The Youth should not only become role models but also recognize their role models", The Prime Minister commented.

The Prime Minister informed that under the Svamitva scheme more than 23 lakh titles (Gharauni) have been given in 75 districts. Farmers of the state have received crores of rupees in their account under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. Farmers of the state have also benefited by the record payment to the sugar-

cane farmers. Similarly, 12 thousand crore rupees worth of ethanol have been purchased from UP, the Prime Minister informed.

The Prime Minister remarked that the role of governments is like that of a guardian. The government should encourage those with merit and should not try to justify mistakes as follies of youth. The PM congratulated the current Uttar Pradesh government for creating a record number of Government jobs for the youth. Thousands of youth who got training from IIT have been given employment in big companies. He added that lakhs of youth have benefited from National Apprenticeship Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Meerut is also becoming the hub of connectivity by Ganga expressway, Regional Rapid Rail Transit System and Metro.

MP demands to review the condition of all rural roads in A& N Islands and order for the immediate repair of these roads



Port Blair, Jan 02:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman and

Nicobar Islands to review the condition of all rural roads in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and order for the immediate repair of these roads, wherever necessary, so that before next monsoon people of Andaman Nicobar Islands get some relief and their life become a little easy.

In a letter, the Member of Parliament has drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor towards the rural roads of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are causing a great deal of inconvenience

to the general public, especially the people living in rural areas.

He said that the rural roads in almost all the regions of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are presently in horrible shape, giving difficult time to the general public, especially old age people, patients, school going children etc.

The Member of Parliament mentioned Hon'ble Lt. Governor's intervention in this matter will transform the remote villages and will bring fast pace development for Islanders living in even remotest areas.

Deployment of first regiment of S-400 to be completed next month



PTI, NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force is likely to complete the deployment of the first regiment of the S-400 Triumf missile systems at an airbase in Punjab by February, military officials said on Saturday.

They said the process of deployment of the missile system has begun and it will take at least six more weeks to complete the deployment.

The first regiment of the missile system is being deployed in such a way that it can cover parts of the border with China in the northern sector as well as the frontier with Pakistan.

"The transportation of various critical components of the missile systems as well as its peripheral equipment to the site of the deployment is going on," said an official.

In total, India will get five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems from Russia.

In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, despite a warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

The Biden

administration has not yet clarified whether it will impose sanctions on India under the provisions of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for procuring the S-400 missile systems.

The CAATSA, which was brought in 2017, provides for punitive actions against any country engaged in transactions with Russian defence and intelligence sectors.

The US has already imposed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a batch of S-400 missile defence systems from Russia.

Following the US sanctions on Turkey over the procurement of S-400 missile systems, there were apprehensions that Washington may impose similar punitive measures on India.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said last month that the S-400 missile defence deal between India and Russia has a very important meaning for the Indian defence capability and it is being implemented despite the US attempting to "undermine" the cooperation.

In-service training on organic farming concludes

Port Blair, Jan. 1

The 3-days in-service training program on 'Organic Farming Practices' conducted by ICAR- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sippighat concluded on Dec 30. Inaugurating the training, the Joint Director, Agriculture, Dr. Chanda Srivastava urged the participants to disseminate the organic farming practices for benefit of the farming community. She further stressed that organic farming practices reduces human and animal health hazards by reducing level of residues in

the product and helps to preserve the fragile ecosystem.

Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head urged the participants to create more awareness on organic agricultural practices of organic matter recycling, enrichment of organic manures by use of bio fertilizers and management of pest through plant extracts. Experts Dr. N. Bommayasamy, Course Director, Dr. Kiruba Shankar, Dr. B.K. Nanda, Dr. Zacharia George, Dr.

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Three ex-JK CMs placed under house arrest before protest against Delimitation proposals

SRINAGAR: PAGD leaders including three former chief ministers were put under house arrest Saturday before a protest against the proposals of J&K Delimitation Commission, prompting angry reactions from political parties which said such steps will only "incentivise and facilitate" violent agitations.

The day began by police parking trucks outside the residences of top National Conference leaders and former CMs Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and CPM leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami.

They were conveyed that they were under house arrest.

The protest call was given by the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) — an amalgam of various mainstream political parties in J&K including the NC, the PDP, CPI(M), Peoples Movement and Awami National Conference. "Good morning and welcome to 2022," tweeted Omar Abdullah, who stays with his father.

"A new year with the same JK police illegally locking people in their homes and an administration so terrified of normal democratic activity. Trucks parked outside our gates to scuttle the peaceful @JKPAGD sit-in protest. Some things never change." He said the police had even locked the internal gates of their residence.

"Talk about a lawless police state, the police have even locked the internal gate connecting my father's home to my sister's. Yet our leaders have the cheek to tell the world that India is the largest democracy, hah!!" Omar, who is the vice president of the NC, said. He posted pictures of a police vehicle parked on the gate of their residence as well as that of a locked internal gate.

The PDP chief said the Centre was "deeply paranoid and intolerant when people of J-K want to protest against its disempowerment".

"GOI trumpets scrapping Article 370 and dismembering JK throughout the country but is deeply paranoid and intolerant when people of JK want to protest against its disempowerment. For the umpteenth time, we've been placed under house arrest for trying to organise a peaceful protest," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

Tarigami said it was sad that the J-K administration was "scared



even to allow a peaceful protest".

"In Kashmir, New Year began on another disappointing note where Police resumed their work of scuttling the legitimate voices and squeezing democratic space by cracking down on protests against the Delimitation Commission. Entire PAGD leadership including me have been put under house arrest," Tarigami wrote on Twitter later.

In a scathing attack over the government's move, Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone said democracy is a precious relic for which thousands have laid down their lives in the last three decades.

By stopping political and non-violent protests, the administration was "incentivising and facilitating" the conditions for a violent form of protest, he said. "Please do not unwittingly or erroneously damage it beyond recognition. Non-violent mode of protest in the context of violent strife needs to be facilitated not stifled. If you stop political, non-violent protests what are you incentivising by default. You are incentivising and facilitating and setting the conditions for a violent form of protest," Lone wrote on Twitter.

The PC chief said the right to protest is intrinsic to the concept of a vibrant democracy.

"I can't see any valid reason why the state administration should stop political parties from protesting. Isn't right to protest intrinsic to the concept of a vibrant democracy. Not being critical. But state administration really needs to reassess and reevaluate," he wrote.

Notwithstanding the detentions of its leaders, scores of the NC and the PDP activists took out separate protest marches here near their party offices against the detention of their leadership and the draft proposals of the Delimitation Commission.

The NC activists, including the party's spokesperson Imran Nabi

Dar and party's youth wing president Salman Sagar, took out a protest march from NC headquarters Nawa-i-Subah here.

They party activists tried to move towards Gupkar Road -- which houses Abdullah's residence -- but were stopped by the police outside the party office.

"We wanted to take out a peaceful protest march against the Delimitation Commission's draft proposals, but were stopped by the police. They did not even allow us to hold a sit-in," Dar said, adding the police "dragged" them back to the party office.

Similarly, PDP activists also took out a protest march, and demanded the restoration of Articles 370 and 35-A which were revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

They were stopped by the police near GPO and later dispersed peacefully.

Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba praised their party colleagues for taking out the protests.

"Well done to my @JKNC_ and @YNCJK colleagues for managing to come out and register our protest about all that is being done to disempower the people," Omar Abdullah wrote on Twitter.

Mehbooba tweeted, "Despite the despotic administration's attempts to foil our protests, PDP and NC workers managed to hit the streets in Srinagar today to raise their voice against the illegal revocation of Article 370. I salute their courage and resolve."

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has termed the proposal by Delimitation Commission of adding six seats to Jammu region against only one to Kashmir valley as "divisive".

The trucks placed at the residences of the political leaders were removed in the evening.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.... from page 1

The Union Health Minister noted at the very outset that globally, countries are experiencing 3-4 times the surge in Covid-19 cases in comparison to their earlier peaks. The Omicron variant being highly transmissible, a high surge in case can overwhelm the medical system. He therefore advised the States to leave no stone unturned in ramping up infrastructure to manage a high surge so that India escapes unscathed from this episode of COVID-19.

Dr. Mandaviya said in this regard that irrespective of the COVID variants, measures for preparedness and protection remain the same. He urged the states to re-invigorate their teams to work at the ground level and strengthen monitoring and containment mechanisms. This was followed by a comprehensive and detailed discussion on various aspects of COVID management including ramping up of hospital infrastructure; increased testing; stringent restrictive measures for breaking the chain of transmission; and stress on COVID Appropriate Behaviour among the masses. Critical bottlenecks in medical infrastructure were also discussed.

Applauding the dedication and patience shown by state administrations in their fight against the pandemic and in simultaneously ensuring the welfare of the people, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said, "We have put up a strong fight against Covid earlier and this learning must be used to re-focus on efforts against the Omicron variant." He stressed on the continued need to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour along with renewed and stringent focus on containment measures for addressing the present surge.

Underscoring the critical importance of vaccination drive, the Minister observed, "We must focus on planning with regard to the 15-18 age group vaccination and precautionary doses for eligible beneficiaries". Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also urged states to ensure that the healthcare workers and frontline workers are fully vaccinated, as they form the vulnerable categories.

While appreciating the efforts of States/UTs in achieving the national average of 90% coverage of first

dose vaccination of all eligible adults, he urged those states, whose progress of vaccination is below the national average, to ramp up their vaccination campaign. States were also advised to prepare a weekly plan to catch up & exceed the average national vaccination coverage and review the implementation of this plan on a daily basis at the level of Secretary/ACS Health [with special emphasis in 5 poll-bound States of Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur]

Stressing on the need to ensure smooth implementation of new vaccination guidelines, States/UTs were advised to ensure the orientation of vaccinators and vaccination team members for vaccination of 15-18 years age-group and the identification of dedicated session sites for vaccination of 15-18 years age-group. To avoid the mixing-up of vaccines during administration, separate CVCs, separate session sites, separate queue (if at same session where adult vaccination is ongoing) and separate vaccination team (if at same session site) are to be strived for. States/UTs were also advised to share their requirement of vaccine doses through district wise estimation of beneficiaries using Co-WIN. They were urged to plan for distribution of Covaxin to identified session sites well in advance and publish sessions for at least 15 days to provide sufficient visibility.

Dr Mansukh Mandaviya also pointed out that various measures are being taken by the Union Government to ramp up infrastructure development and vaccine production in the country. He requested states/UTs to share their best practices so that the entire country can benefit.

The Union Health Minister brought attention of the States/UTs to the fact that collectively, they have only used just over 17% of the available approved funds under Emergency COVID Response Package (ECRP-II). States/UTs were exhorted to expedite the physical progress under ECRP-II in terms of ICU beds, oxygen beds, Paediatric ICU/HDU beds etc. States/UTs were also urged to effectively use IT tools for tele-medicine and tele-consultation, including training and capacity building of human resources, timely availability of ambulances, readiness of states to operationalise COVID facilities for institutional quarantining, and effective and supervised monitoring of those in home isolation. At the same time, he also urged states/UTs to better utilize the approved funds under ECRP-II and invited any suggestions regarding the same.

Shri Vikas Sheel, Addl. Secretary and MD, NHM spoke on the status of infrastructure development and utilisation of ECRP II funds by states through a detailed presentation. Dr. Manohar Agnani, Addl. Secretary (Health) presented the update on the status of vaccination in the country. Shri Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Health Ministry presented a granular analysis of the COVID trajectory in the States and suggested the ramping up of testing, surveillance and containment mechanisms to address the recent surge in cases. Principal Secretary (Health), Additional Chief Secretary (Health) and State Surveillance Officer of the concerned states/UTs offered their feedback and suggestions while discussing their points of concern.

Chief Secretary inspects... from page 1



well as tourists. In Corbyn's Cove, directions were issued to shift the private boats so that the beach area is not damaged. Further, the floating jetty which was lying on the beach was directed to be removed. Apart from this, it was instructed that kiosks may be constructed and utilized for opening eateries. He also directed that various encroachments and illegal shops along the route and parking areas should be removed so as to send a strong message as well as to utilize the area for the local residents and tourists. Apart from the above, the Chief Secretary also observed that the land of various Departments has been left vacant. He said, all such land should be surrendered back to the Administration and utilized.

The Chief Secretary directed that wrought iron benches may be placed along the road near Corbyn's Cove so that visiting public/tourists can enjoy the scenic view. He directed the APWD and PBMC to complete all the pending works at the earliest. Along the road, flowering plants such as mossanda were directed to be placed, which could become the hallmark of this area.

The Chief Secretary desired that various points

along the route can be developed as places of recreation for the public such as areas opposite the Science Centre, Goodwill Estate, ANIIMS and next to Corbyn's Cove entrance. The development of the above areas would require landscaping, pruning of trees and removal of bushes. Further, to better utilize the natural scenery next to the sea, he directed that wherever possible, stairs should be constructed so that the public can reach the sea from the road side.

The Chief Secretary also issued directions to PWD to construct a road along the coast from Flag Point to Hornbill Resort so that it can be developed as having various centers of activities. He directed that this road should be completed by December 2022. Directions were also issued to construct spider roads to improve the connectivity and to give a boost to the economy and tourism. To accomplish the above, Officers of Administration as well as Police were made in-charges of various areas to oversee the planning and development of the same, a press release from Secretary (APWD/PBMC) said.

MP demands pollution tests for vehicles in different wards and areas as per a proper schedule

Port Blair, Jan 01:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today requested the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration to arrange pollution tests for vehicles in different wards and areas as per a proper schedule, with wide publicity in advance, in all media.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the Member of Parliament mentioned that area

wise pollution tests, with proper schedule will ease the present rush and people will be able to get a PUC certificate in their own area without standing in long queues.

He added in his letter that responding positively to the "Catch the Polluters" campaign, a large number of Islanders are reaching the pollution testing center everyday, to get a PUC Certificate, for which they have to stand in a long queue for sev-

eral hours.

He pointed out that such long queues are not only causing a great deal of inconvenience to the public but also might turn into a hotspot for COVID-19 infection.

The Member of Parliament mentioned that in view of the initial signs of surge in cases of COVID-19 as well as increased detection of the Variant of Concern (VoC), 'Omicron', in different parts of the country and

detection of two cases in Port Blair, it will be in the interest of everyone to take some concrete steps to avoid such huge queues, in different part of our Islands. To facilitate the general public in getting a PUC Certificate without standing in long queues, the Member of Parliament requested to arrange pollution tests for vehicles in different wards and areas as per a proper schedule, with wide publicity in advance in all media.

It was a fair result at Centurion, India have been a strong unit over last two years: Amla



JOHANNESBURG: Legendary South Africa batter Hashim Amla says more "collective experience" in the Indian side was one of the key factors in the visiting side's comfortable victory in the series-opener at Centurion.

India beat South Africa by 113 runs in the first Test at SuperSport Park to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

"It was a fair result," said Amla on the Cricket South Africa website.

"They (India) have been a strong unit over the last two years or so. They have more experience collectively and it always makes a huge difference when you have runs on the board to back you up."

South Africa did not have many experienced players in their ranks with only skipper Dean Elgar, Quinton de Kock, Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi having some decent exposure in traditional format while India had all top players in the line-up.

Amla said India's big lead in the first innings made all the difference in the outcome of the match.

"Centurion is notorious

for becoming more difficult to bat as the days progresses. So once India won the toss, battled and scored in excess of 300 it was game on for the Protea batters to match that score at the very least," Amla said.

"Being 130 runs behind is what really hurt them, and it ended up being the difference."

The 38-year-old Amla, who scored 9282 runs in 124 Tests at an average of 46.64 with 28 centuries, praised the Indian batters for their top-class show on the first day of the Test.

"Day one, the pitch looked best for batting and credit to the Indians for playing disciplined cricket," he said.

"It's obvious when teams come to SA that their batsman talk about leaving well outside off stump and that's probably were the Proteas let themselves down."

Amla felt the South Africa bowlers fought back well after that tough opening day.

"On day two, though, they did extremely well to restrict the Indians to 327. They could have got to 400 plus. The bowlers all had their moments.

Lungi (Ngidi), KG (Kagiso Rabada) and the youngster (Marco) Jansen stand out of course. However, in a relatively low scoring match I enjoyed watching Temba Bavuma. He always looks like he has time and seldom troubled."

Amla acknowledges there is work to do for the South Africans, although he still believes they can bounce back and defend their proud record of having never lost a home series to India.

"There's certainly a way back but it's going to take laser-like focus for extended periods and a touch of fortune," he said.

"(Captain) Dean (Elgar) and Aiden (Markram) are class players with a pedigree for hundreds and if they get momentum, it would certainly ease the nerves and give much needed confidence for the younger guys."

"The batting legend wants Temba Bavuma to bat higher in the order now that Quinton de Kock has retired from Test cricket.

"Our two best batters in the middle are Temba and Quinton (de Kock). Now that Quinton has opted out of Test cricket, this cripples the batting line-up further and really, now more than ever, it makes it imperative for Temba to bat higher. "Be it three or four, allow him time to play a solidifying role as opposed to a recovery one."

The second Test will be played from January 3-7 at Wanderers in Johannesburg.

We all are dysfunctional families one way or the other: Lara Dutta on Kaun Banegi Shikharwati



Kaun Banegi Shikharwati premieres on January 7 on ZEE5 and stars Lara Dutta, Naseeruddin Shah among others. Lara Dutta stars alongside Naseeruddin Shah in the upcoming ZEE5 series, Kaun Banegi Shikharwati. The show is about an aging king and his dysfunctional royal family. Lara portrays one of the four princesses in the series.

"I love the characters and I love the opportunity of being able to work with Naseeruddin Shah. Somebody who was on my wishlist for the longest time ever. It was the first time we came together and we had a blast. We were shooting in Mandawa in a bubble and we have spent almost 2 months

together which brought all of us close and which was a special experience," Lara said.

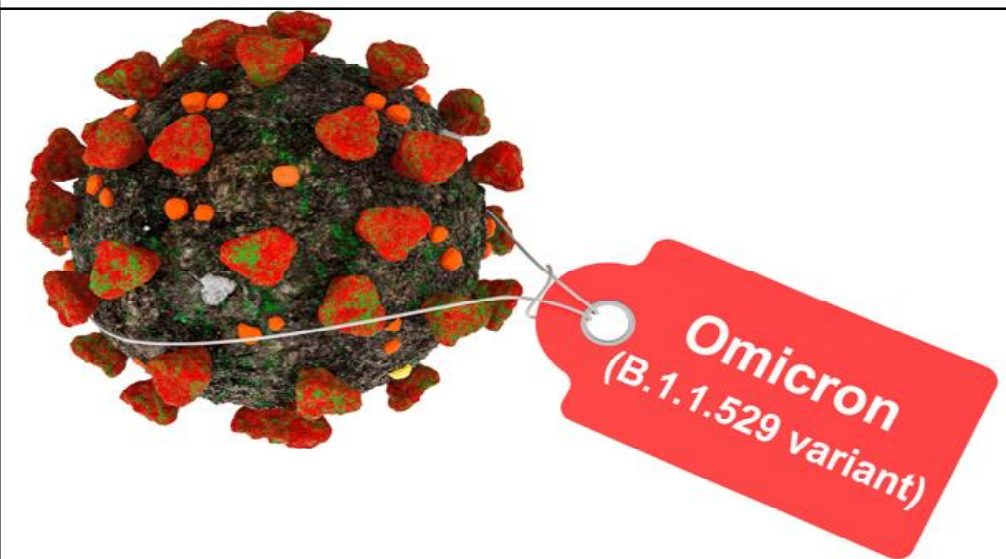
Lara said that she'll like more family-friendly titles on OTT. "I think in today's times, there is content made which caters to different audiences - some of it is edgy, some thriller and some dark. But I think it is important for all of us who've kind of grown-up sitting in our homes and watching television together to be able to watch something with our kids and parents and we all are dysfunctional families one way or the other," she said.

Kaun Banegi Shikharwati premieres on January 7 on ZEE5.

In-service training..... from page-4

Pooja Kapoor and Dr. Nitu Sindhu also addressed the trainees and interacted with them about importance of organic farming, sustainable agricultural practices for organic fruits, vegetables, spices and tuber crops production, organic nutrient, pest and disease management of field and horticultural crops,

organic fish production, water budgeting and homestead gardening. A total of 15 in-service candidates from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development Officers, Ferrargunj and Protharpur block participated, a press release from KVK, CIARI said.





Ayurvedic Immunity Promoting Measures

1.  Take Chyavanprash 10gm (1tsf) in the morning. Diabetics should take sugar free Chyavanprash.
2.  Drink herbal tea / decoction (Kadha) made from Tulsi (Basil), Dalchini (Cinnamon), Kalamirch (Black pepper), Shunthi (Dry Ginger) and Munakka (Raisin) - once or twice a day. Add Jaggery (natural sugar) and / or fresh lemon juice to your taste, if needed.
3.  Golden Milk- Half tea spoon Haldi (turmeric) powder in 150 ml hot milk - once or twice a day.



Directorate of Health Services and Ayurveda & Nicobar State AYUSH Society, A & N Administration