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**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**SAFETY MEASURES**

**Thought for today**  
*Many people use anger as a weapon. Keep humility as your armour and experience protection.*

## CBSE schools asked to participate in 750 million Surya Namaskar project

Port Blair, Dec 27: As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the National Yogasana Sports Federation has decided to run a project of 750 million Surya Namaskar from Jan 1 to Feb 7, 2022. The Ministry of Education, Govt of India has intimated that a musical performance on Surya Namaskar is also planned on 26 January 2022, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said in a circular. For details, one can log-in to the Surya Namaskar event website and follow the steps over https://www.750suryanamaskar.com/. The information may be disseminated among Teachers, Parents and Students and ensure maximum participation from your school, CBSE said in the circular to Heads of affiliated Schools.

## No respite from long queues for PUCs at Pollution Checking Centres in city

### Motorists mainly two-wheeler riders demand extension of time, Ward-wise testing of vehicles

Port Blair, Dec 27: Even as the Transport Department granted 15-day period to motorists to obtain PUC (Pollution Under Control) Certificate from the testing centres in city, respite from long queues at the three pollution checking centres in city remain aloof for vehicle owners particularly two-wheeler riders. The pollution checking centre at Haddo remained closed for two consecutive days since Sunday leading to serpentine queues of vehicles mainly two-wheelers at Junglighat and Lamba Line on Monday.



As per reports, despite the relief granted by the Transport Department long queues remained the order of the day at the pollution checking centres at Junglighat and Lamba Line on Monday. Vehicle owners particularly two-wheelers were found lined up for obtaining PUCs since morning. While some demanded increasing the time period for another 15 days, others said that the Transport Department should order Ward-wise conduct of the emission levels by the testing centres to cater to the huge number of vehicles in the city. "The fear of enhanced penalties for traffic violations has the desired result leading to motorists queuing up outside pollution control (PC) centres in the city. One can spot many vehicle owners, especially those who drive on city roads, making a beeline at the centres to get pollution under control certificate (PUC) in the wake of increased fine for the violation. However, the Transport Department lost sight of the fact that there exists only three Pollution Checking Centres in the city to cater to the huge number of vehicles. The Transport Department should extend the time limit for another at least 15 days to enable vehicle owners obtain the PUCs from the Centres here," said a two-wheeler rider at Junglighat. "The Transport Department should must over some mechanism to control the crowd at the three pollution checking centres in the city. People are afraid of the hiked fines. Some motorists leave the checking centres looking at the long queues, but turn up several times to get the job done. I had to return twice since Sunday because of the Centre at Haddo remained closed. At Junglighat and Lamba Line there was huge rush of vehicles here, particularly two-wheelers. People were reeling under scorching heat to get the tests done. The Transport Department should consider conducting Ward-wise pollution testing. See... Page 02

## MP for construction of one Andaman House at Velachery's Pallikaranai locality

Port Blair, Dec 27: Considering the ever growing demand for rooms at Chennai from Islanders, the Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Hon'ble Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to direct the Andaman PWD to complete this project as soon as possible so that it brings relief for Islanders visiting Chennai.



In a letter addressed to the Lt Governor, ANI, the Member of Parliament mentioned that Andaman and Nicobar Islands have two 'Andaman House' buildings at Anna Nagar and KK Nagar areas of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. These 'Andaman House' buildings were constructed or taken on lease for the convenience of people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, who visit Chennai for various reasons like Education, Treatment, Jobs, Sports events, Transit, tour etc. He said that for people who hail from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Chennai is the main transit point and they require rooms at Chennai for transit journey, while going to their homeland and also during their return journey. Patients and students require rooms at Chennai for longer duration. He added that other than thousands of Islanders visit Chennai on a daily basis but there are only 26 rooms available in total. Other than this a large number of people visiting Chennai do not even apply for rooms, knowing fully well about the shortage of rooms in Andaman House Buildings and they have to stay in private hotels and rooms, paying exorbitant rates. He pointed out that nearly 25 years back Andaman and Nicobar Administration had purchased 1.02 hectare of prime land at Pallikaranai locality of Velachery, Chennai, Tamil Nadu for construction of third Andaman House. The prime land is hardly 750 mtrs away from Velachery Railway Station. In the year 2007 a compound wall had been erected around the said land but after that no construction works were carried out in the land. The Member of Parliament mentioned that he strongly believes that if this third Andaman House is constructed, it will bring great relief for Islanders visiting Chennai, especially students and patients, who have to stay for a longer duration and for multiple times in Chennai and have to pay a huge amount to hotels and other accommodations.

are only 22 rooms available for Islanders at KK Nagar Guest House and only 4 rooms + some dormitories are available at Anna Nagar Guest House, which are grossly inadequate for Islanders visiting Chennai. The Member of Parliament pointed out that on an average there are nearly 50 applications for rooms in Andaman House at Chennai in a day but there are

## Avail loan facility for activities under AHIDF, Eligible Enterprises urged

Port Blair, Dec 27: To incentivize the investment made by dairy cooperative sector for development of dairy infrastructure in the country, the Central Government had last year approved establishment of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth Rs. 15,000 crore. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has launched AHIDF from 2021 as MSMEs and Private companies need to be promoted and incentivized for their involvement in processing and value addition infrastructure. As part of the scheme, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration has urged Eligible Enterprises (EEs) such as Farmer Producer Organizations, Private Companies, Individuals, Individual Enterprises, Section 8 Companies and Relief, Small and Medium Enterprises involved in dairy processing and product diversification infrastructure, meat processing and produce diversification infrastructure, Animal Feed Plant, Breed Improvement Technology and Breed Multiplication Farms to avail loan facility under the scheme through scheduled banks listed in the Reserve Bank of India. Details of the scheme, source of fund, funding pattern, guidelines etc can be accessed on the official website of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying also the official website of the UT Administration.

The objectives of the scheme include helping increase of milk and meat processing capacity and product diversification thereby providing greater access for unorganized rural milk and meat producers to organized milk and meat market, make available

## Draft A & N Tenancy Regulation 2021 formulated, comments/suggestions invited

Port Blair, Dec 27: To regulate renting of premises and protect the interests of landlords and tenants and to provide speedy adjudication mechanism for resolution of disputes and matters connected therewith incidental thereto, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has formulated the draft Andaman and Nicobar Tenancy Regulation 2021. The regulation will extend to the entire Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and shall come into force on such date as Administrator may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of the regulation. Salient features of the draft regulation can be accessed on the official website of the UT Administration and comments and suggestions submitted within the stipulated period. In June this year, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi has approved the Model Tenancy Act for circulation to all States / Union Territories for adoption by way of

enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably. It will help overhaul the legal framework with respect to rental housing across the country, which would help spur its overall growth. The Model Tenancy Act aims at creating a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rental housing market in the country. It will enable creation of adequate rental housing stock for all the income groups thereby addressing the issue of homelessness. Model

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## Training programme on EPF at RGCTC

Port Blair, Dec 27: The Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training Centre (RGCTC), an accredited training institution for professional excellence, of Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Union is continuing its efforts to enhance the human resources of its state holders since its inception in 2012 and, the stake holders fully recognized the

## Participation invited for online Course on the Indian Constitution

Port Blair, Dec 27: As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India on 25th November 2021 on the eve of 'Constitution launched an Online Course on the Indian Constitution. The online course aims to create awareness about the Indian Constitution and subsequently strengthen the citizens of the country. The online course is offered by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice in collaboration with National Academy of Legal Studies & Research (NALSA) University of Law, Hyderabad. The registration of this course is free. Once candidates register for the online course on the website https://legalliaffairs.nalsar.ac.in, they will be granted access to 15 conceptual videos that will help the participants of the course to get familiarized with the text of the Constitution and to identify the fundamental policy choices embodied in the Constitution. In addition, the course

## New committee of Sikh Community Welfare Association constituted

Port Blair, Dec 27: With a move to have a platform to address various issues related to the welfare of the Sikh community residing in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a Sikh Community Welfare Association, Port Blair was formed in the year 2006 which was registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 as a Charitable Society with registration no. 1220. Since 2006 the Sikh Community Welfare Association, Port Blair has been working to support the needy distressed persons to overcome their miseries. From time to time the association has contributed for the developmental and spiritual works of the Gurudwara Sahib in the Port Blair.



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## COVID-19 status in A & N Islands

Port Blair, Dec 27: During the RT-PCR test conducted on 429 passengers who arrived here on Saturday, two positive cases have been detected. 12 flights with 2121 passengers arrived here on Sunday, out of which, 1672 were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 499 passengers (includes 15 international travellers) and the reports are awaited. During RAT conducted on 152 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferraigunji no positive case has been detected. See... Page 02

## 17 fishers with 4 dinghies apprehended by Ograbraj Police from Jarawa reserve

Port Blair, Dec 27: To keep a check on infiltration into the Jarawa Reserve Area especially during the COVID pandemic situations, regular joint patrolling is being carried out by appointed team of Police, Forest and AAJVS department. The Police team comprising ASI Muthu Kannan, I/O P Tirur, PC/2871 Vishal and HG(D)/585 Sukhdev went for sea patrol in the morning of 25/12/2021. During the joint patrolling, it was found that 04 dinghies with 17 fishermen were fishing inside the Jarawa Reserve Area. Acting swiftly, the patrolling team apprehended all the 17 fishermen and seized their dinghies. On checking, around 750 kgs of fish, fuel, solar panel, GPS, 06 Nos. empty drums, plastic jerrycans, gas stove, buckets, pipes and other fishing articles were recovered from their possession. Upon this, the apprehended persons were arrested on the spot and AFR vide no. 74/21 dated 26/12/2021 U/s 188/269/270/34 PC r.w. s 78/PAT Reg 1966 has been registered against them. The entire patrolling was conducted under the control of SIT. Dila Rao, See... Page 02

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## State BJP Unit observes Good Governance Day

Port Blair, Dec 27: Good Governance Day is observed annually on December 25. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Swargiya Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, who was a great statesman, poet and a compassionate leader and very committed towards providing transparent, effective and accountable governance to the people of this country. During his tenure as Prime Minister he not only improved the economy of India but also introduced social reforms to uplift the unprivileged section of the society, rise of telecom industry, introduce the new education policy and infrastructural development etc. Good Governance Day was celebrated in these islands on 25th December 2021 at 94 Shakti Kendra along with Karyakartas and beneficiaries from various Government schemes. The state function was held at the BJP Office, Port Blair on 25th December. The winner of the best Slogan/Poem



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## ANTCC Prez attends closing of Sher Ali Khan Memorial Football C'ship at Wimberlygunj

Port Blair, Dec 27: The seven day-long 'Sher Ali Khan Memorial Football Championship Season 4' held in the venture of Yuva Sangh, Wimberlygunj came to an end yesterday. A total of 24 teams had participated in the tournament. In the final match, FFA Sporting Club, Stewards defeated Shifa Strikers, Bamboofat and won the tournament. The final match was witnessed by more than 200 people including sports dignitaries of the Islands. The ANTCC President Shri. Rangalal Halder was invited as the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony while ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Shri. TSG Bhaskar was



the Guest of Honour and DCC President Shri. V.K. Abdul Aziz along with Congress leaders Shri. Sebastian Tikrey and Joga Rao were the Special invitees. The tournament was as

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# EDITORIAL

## The Andaman Express

28 December 2021

### Swearing-in

The 12th ministry of Kerala headed by Congress (I) leader K Karunakaran was sworn in on December 26. The governor, Jyothi Venkatachalam accepted the United Democratic Front's (UDF) claim of majority and formally invited Karunakaran to form a government. Though firmly disputed by the CPM-led Left Democratic Front, the governor said she was convinced of the UDF claim, but left it to be proved on the floor of the assembly as offered by the UDF. The minister is to be sworn with the former chief minister CM Mohammed Koya of the Muslim League as Deputy Chief Minister. It will have eight members. The UDF convenor P Joseph said that the ministry will be expanded later. The assembly will be convened as early as possible, he said.

#### Solidarity's Call

Solidarity circulated a clandestine bulletin in Warsaw saying that the representatives of the top church and Communist Party officials were negotiating for "a political solution" in Poland's crisis. The bulletin dated December 23 urged expanded protests to "strengthen the position of the representatives of the Church". It called Communist Party members to resign and Warsaw residents to place candles on their windows to mourn those murdered by the military and the police.

#### Assam Stalemate

There is less optimism regarding the next round of negotiations on the Assam problem as compared to the previous round. It is acknowledged in informed circles that an agreement is possible only if the Prime Minister is personally present at the negotiations, the Opposition leaders show statesmanship and the agitating leaders show enterprise in taking a decision. While the complexity of the problem is a major factor in the stalemate, an immediate issue has been the lack of credibility on part of the government negotiators.

#### Draft A & N Tenancy..

Tenancy Act will enable institutionalisation of rental housing by gradually shifting it towards the formal market. The Model Tenancy Act will facilitate unlocking of vacant

#### from... Page 01

houses for rental housing purposes. It is expected to give a fillip to private participation in rental housing as a business model for addressing the huge housing shortage.

#### Training programme..

training programme with fullest satisfaction. Based on the demand of few agencies' establishment including few private establishments, the RGCTC propose to organize a 02 days duration training on Employees Provident Fund (EPF). This is a full package training covering EPF accounting opening, monthly subscription deposit, advance withdrawal, scheme benefit, etc. Apart from theory classes, live practical classes to be arranged so that the participants would be well

#### from... Page 01

equipped to work with EPF and all their doubts/confusions could be cleared. The programme is proposed to be organized on 05th & 06th January 2022 at RGCTC at Telukharad from 10 am to 04:00pm. The establishments/ agencies desirous to nominate their employees in the programme may send the nominations before 31st December 2021. For programme fee, nomination form and other details, contact the programme coordinator RGCTC, Telukharad, Port Blair, South Andaman.

#### New committee..

comprising of 12 members in the presence of Shri. Surinder Mohan Chaudhary, Chairman of the meeting. Shri. Dalinder Singh Toor has unanimously been selected as the President of the Association, Shri. Mandep Singh Grewal as the Secretary and Shri. Neera Saluja

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as the Treasurer. Besides a Cultural Committee has also been constituted to uplift the folk and cultural activities of Sikh Community. The new committee pledged to take up many more developmental activities for welfare of Sikh Community of A&N Islands in future.

#### COVID-19-Status..

been detected. At Mohanpura Bus Terminus, test was conducted on 57 passengers and all were found

#### from... Page 01

negative. At Phoenix Bay Jetty, 5 passengers were tested with RT-PCR and all were found negative.

#### 17 fishers with...

SHO PS Ograbraj and under the supervision of Mr. Saubh Chandra, SDPO Bamboofat. The general public is requested to pass on any credible information about the intrusion into the Jaraw

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Reserved area or any other illegal activities on the telephone No. 258019, 233077, 9531856271 & 100. The identity of the informer will be kept secret, a release from the Andaman and Nicobar Police said.

#### ANTCC Prez attends..

organized with an aim to provide a platform to youth of the Islands to showcase their football skills and to boost their fitness level, so that they can compete with ease at higher levels of game. Another aim was to promote sports culture in the area and to keep away youth from drug addiction.

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Later, on concluding ceremony the Congress leaders lauded the Yuva Sangh, Wimberburg for organizing the football tournament and developing the ground on its own expenses. The winner of the final match was given a cash prize of Rs. 15,000 along with a trophy.

#### Participation invited..

offers insight into the historical evolution and the post-independence journey of the making of the Constitution. On completion of the course, a certificate of participation will be automatically generated. Candidates who want to obtain a certificate of merit or certificate of appreciation will have

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to go through an online assessment at a token of Rs. 100/-. The certificate is purely optional. All the School Heads have been requested to disseminate the information amongst all the students, teachers and stakeholders for their participation. The Central Board of Secondary Education said in a circular.

# JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE, THE SUCCESSOR TO HUBBLE TELESCOPE

James Webb Space Telescope, the largest space observatory in history, will be launched from Europe's Spaceport, the Guiana Space Center in Kourou, French Guiana on December 25, 2021.5.50 pm (India Time).

Called as the successor to the famous Hubble telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope aboard an Ariane 5 Rocket has made the two-hour trek out to the launch pad on Wednesday.

The Webb Space Telescope is an international partnership of NASA with the European and Canadian space agencies. Webb is expected to reveal new and unexpected discoveries, and help humanity understand the origins of the universe and our place in it. It will explore every phase of cosmic history—from within our solar system to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe, and everything in between.

James Webb Space Telescope is 100 times more powerful than Hubble. It has a 5-layer sunshield that protects the telescope from the infrared radiation of the Sun, Earth, and Moon and can fit in the rocket and will unfold like a "Transformer" in space.

While Hubble orbits 560 kilometers above the Earth, James Webb Space Telescope will orbit the Sun 1.5 million kilometers from the Earth.

Hubble Telescope vs. James

Webb space telescope "Comparing Hubble and Webb is like asking if you will love a second child as much as your first," Susan Mulally, Webb's deputy project scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore told AP.

"Hubble will always be beloved for its awe-inspiring images of our universe and will continue to collect important data for astronomers. Webb gives us new and unique eyes of places that we have never been able to reach."

#### ROCKET RIDES

Hubble caught a lift to orbit tucked inside NASA's space shuttle Discovery in 1990. It quickly ran into trouble: one of the telescope's solar wings jammed as it was unfolding. Astronauts suited up for an emergency spacewalk, but commands from Earth freed the panel. Within weeks, Hubble's blurry vision was detected. Spacewalking astronauts fixed it three years later. Soaring from South America on a European Ariane rocket, Webb won't be reachable by astronauts at its destination 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away. Bigger and more intricate than Hubble, Webb will be a gonner if its foldout mirror and sunshield snarl.

Webb is expected to behold light from the universe's first stars and galaxies, beyond Hubble's range. This light will reveal how the original stars looked 13.7 billion years ago. Hubble

has stared as far back as 13.4 billion years, disclosing a clumpy run of a galaxy that is currently the oldest and farthest object ever observed. Astronomers are eager to close the 300 million year gap with Webb and draw ever closer in time to the Big Bang, the moment the universe formed 13.8 billion years ago. "It's like looking at the picture book of my kids and missing the first two years, right? Trying to figure out where they come from," said NASA science chief Thomas Zurbuchen.

#### INFRARED VISION

Hubble sees what we see—visible light—with a little ultraviolet and infrared thrown in. Webb has infrared vision, allowing it to pierce cosmic clouds of dust. The shorter visible and ultraviolet wavelengths emitted by the first stars and galaxies have been stretched as the universe expands, so Webb will see them in their elongated, heat-emitting infrared form.

That's why Webb's detectors need to run at minus 400

degrees Fahrenheit (minus 240 degrees Celsius). To stay chilled, Webb carries a parasol the size of a tennis court. Between each of the sunshield's five layers is a gap so heat can escape out the sides. Multiple layers also better protect against micrometeorite hits.

#### SIZE MATTERS

To discern the universe's first, faint stars, Webb requires the largest mirror ever launched for astronomy. The mirror spans more than 21 feet (6.5 meters), yet is lighter than Hubble's, which is 8 feet (2.4 meters) across. That's because Webb's mirror is made of beryllium, a strong but lightweight metal. It's also segmented, allowing it to fold like a drop-leaf table for launch. Each of the 18 hexagonal segments are the size of a coffee table and coated with ultra-thin

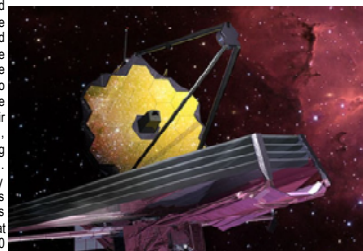
gold, an ideal reflector of infrared light.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Hubble circles 330 miles (530 kilometers) over Earth. The altitude was dictated by the capabilities of NASA's space shuttles, which delivered Hubble to orbit and then made five service calls. Webb is bound for more a more distant spot — 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away at what's called the second Lagrange point. This is where the gravitational forces of the Earth and sun balance, requiring minimal fuel for a spacecraft to stay put. Webb will constantly face the night side of Earth as the spacecraft and planets sweep around the sun in unison.

#### GROWING PAINS

Hubble was years late and millions over budget by the time it rocketed into orbit in 1990. Webb also is years late with huge cost overruns. NASA's tab for Hubble from its 1970s development until now: \$16 billion, adjusted for inflation. That doesn't include all the shuttle flights for launch and repairs. Webb's price tag is an estimated \$10 billion; that includes the first five years of operation. The European Space Agency is picking up the launch costs, with a French-built Ariane rocket providing Webb's lift from French Guiana.



#### State BJP Unit ..

#My Idea for Good Governance 2022 was declared in the event along with prize distribution. 1st Prize - Rs 10,000/- was awarded to Shri Roshan Sharma/R/Haddo, Second Prize - Rs 8,000/- was awarded to Shri Rohit Nait R/o New Paharganj/Third Prize - Rs 5,000/- was awarded to Shri Nawaz Ali of Dolly Guri, the competition was held for the age group of 18-25 years.

Shri. Ajay Baragi, State BJP President recalled the efforts made by Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji for the development of the country and shared the working

of present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi Ji and highlighted on the various successful welfare, Mudra, Skill India etc scheme.

Shri. Vishal Joshi, Past President, BJP A & N Islands also shared the working of present government and the local infrastructure development which have been laid down for our islands viz. projects like North & Middle Andaman Bridge, Airport Project, OFC cable, Smart city projects, Dr. Dev. Das, Co-In-Charge, welcomed the gathering and Shri. Sunita Sarkar, Master of ceremony,

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signed the importance of the event. Shri. Maheshwar Lal, Co-In-Charge of Good Governance spoke on the motive of celebrating Aaj's birthday as Good governance day. The event ended with the vote of thanks by Shri. Sabeena Mustaq, District-In-Charge.

Few of the beneficiaries namely Shri Laluram, Shri Soniya, Shri Vijaykumar and Shri Sundari were also felicitated in the BJP office, where they narrated their #MyStories. The complete event was organized by Dr. Poonam Arora, In-Charge of Good Governance Day.

## Covaxin likely to be only vaccine for 15-18 group; ZyCoV-D may have to wait

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is likely to be the only Covid-19 vaccine available, for now, for children in the age group of 15-18 years, who will be inoculated from January 3, official sources said.

Also, healthcare and frontline workers and citizens above 60 years of age with comorbidities would be administered the third dose of the same vaccine they had been given before.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a televised address to the nation on Saturday night, announced that vaccination against Covid-19 for children between 15-18 years will start from January 3, while "precaution dose" for healthcare and frontline workers would be administered from January 10.

The decisions came amid rising Covid cases linked to the Omicron variant of the virus.

The precaution dose will also

be available for citizens above 60 years of age and with comorbidities on the advice of their doctor from January 10 next year as well, the prime minister had said.

"Only Bharat Biotech's Covaxin will be administered, for now, to children in the age group of 15-18 years who will be inoculated from January 3. The estimated population to be covered in this category is seven to eight crores," an official source said.

The source said that ZyCoV-D vaccine ZyCoV-D has not yet been introduced in the country's inoculation programme, even for adults, though it had received emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator on August 20, making it the first vaccine that could be administered in the age group of 12-18 years in the country.

The indigenous developed ZyCoV-D is the world's first DNA-

based needle-free Covid-19 vaccine.

The gap between the second and third dose of Covid-19 vaccine, which is being termed "precaution dose", is likely to be nine to 12 months.

Necessary modifications are being done on the CoWIN portal to register the new category of vaccination.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted emergency use authorisation to indigenous developed Covaxin for children above 12 years with certain conditions on Friday.

More than 61 per cent of India's adult population has received both doses of the vaccine. Similarly, about 90 per cent of the adult population has received the first dose of Covid vaccine. The cumulative Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has exceeded 141 crore.

#### No respite from long..

testing of vehicles. The testing agencies should be directed to devise a schedule and conduct the tests at each Municipal Wards as per the announced schedule to prevent the prevailing chaos at the testing centres," said a resident of Haddo. Since the Transport Department announced that motorists playing without following pollution norms shall be penalized with fine up to Rs.10,000 as per section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, people had been making queues at the Pollution Testing Centres in the city. A PUC test involves checking for pollutants emitted by vehicles, such as carbon

monoxide and hydrocarbons. The test costs between Rs 60 and Rs 100. The validity of the certificate is one year for BS IV vehicles and three months for others. The Transport Department recently stated that it has been observed that various vehicles particularly commercial vehicles are playing on road by emitting excess smoke and also without having valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificates. The Transport Department has also issued notices to various vehicles and is threatening to take action against them. The Transport Department has also issued notices to various vehicles and is threatening to take action against them.

#### from... Page 01

Violators who are playing without following pollution norms shall attract penalty of Rs.10,000 as per section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. All concerned had been advised to get their vehicles checked for smoke emission and keep a copy of PUC Certificate in the vehicle. The Transport Department had also requested interested eligible entities (Firms/individuals) to obtain license/authorization for establishing and running Pollution Under Control Testing Centres per Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and approach the office of Transport Department at Port Blair for the purpose.

#### Avail loan facility..

increased price realization for the producer, make available quality milk and meat products for the domestic consumer, fulfill the objective of providing quality food requirement of the growing population of the country and prevent malnutrition in one of the highest malnourished children population in the world, develop entrepreneurship and generate employment, promote exports and increase the export contribution in the milk and meat sector and to make available quality concentrated animals feed to the cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry to provide balanced ration at affordable prices.

Activities eligible for availing benefits under AHDF include Dairy Processing viz. Establishment of new units and strengthening of existing dairy processing facilities/plant/ unit. Value Added products such as establishment of new or strengthening of existing value added facilities for meat products like sausage, nuggets, ham, salami, bacon or any other meat products. These facilities could either be

new units and strengthening of existing manufacturing units for value addition of milk products such as Ice Cream unit, Cheese manufacturing unit, Ultra High Temperature (UHT) Milk processing unit with tetra packaging facilities, Flavour Milk manufacturing unit, Milk Powder manufacturing unit, Whey powder manufacturing unit and any other milk products and value addition manufacturing unit. 6.3 Meat processing and Value addition facilities. Activities eligible for availing benefits under AHDF also include establishment of new meat processing unit and strengthening of existing meat processing facilities for sheep/goat/poultry/pig/buffalo in rural, semi-urban and urban areas, large scale integrated meat processing facilities/plant/ unit. Value Added products such as establishment of new or strengthening of existing value added facilities for meat products like sausage, nuggets, ham, salami, bacon or any other meat products. These facilities could either be

integral part of meat processing units or Standalone meat value addition unit. The project cost of each meat processing plant should compulsorily include Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), Meat Microbiological Testing Laboratory, Residue Testing Laboratory, Cold storage for holding the offals, skin/ hide processing areas and their preservation and refrigeration facilities for holding the chilled products and value added products for minimum of 24 hours. EEs can also avail benefit for establishment of Animal Feed manufacturing and strengthening of existing units/ plant such as Establishment of Mini, Medium and Large Animal Feed Plant, Total Mix ed Ration Block Making Unit, By pass protein unit, Mineral Mixture Plant, Enrich Slag making unit and Animal Feed Testing Laboratory to be attached with the Medium to Large feed plant or the EE can avail benefit for establishment of Animal Feed Testing Laboratory in the existing Feed Plant to ensure quality feed.

## Kerala top performer in health parameters, UP the worst: Niti Aayog

Kerala has once again emerged as the top performer in terms of overall health parameters among larger states, while Uttar Pradesh is the worst, according to the fourth Health Index launched by Niti Aayog.

The fourth round of the Health Index took into account the period 2019-20 (reference year).

The report by the government think tank said Tamil Nadu and Telangana have emerged as the second and third best performers, respectively, on health parameters.

Bihar and Madhya Pradesh were the second and third worst performers, respectively, on health parameters.

The report, however, added that Uttar Pradesh topped in terms

of incremental performance by registering the highest incremental change from the base year (2018-19) to reference year (2019-20).

Among the smaller states, Mizoram emerged as the best performer on overall performance as well as incremental performance, while among UTs, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir ranked among the bottom UTs in terms of overall performance but emerged as the leading performer in terms of incremental performance.

The report pointed out that for the fourth consecutive round, Kerala emerged as the best performer in terms of overall parameters.

According to the report, Kerala and Tamil Nadu were top two performers in terms of overall

performance with the highest reference year (2019-20) index scores but ranked with eighth respectivity in terms of incremental performance.

Telangana performed well both in terms of overall performance as well as incremental performance and secured the third position in both instances.

It pointed out that Rajasthan was the weakest performer both in terms of overall performance and incremental performance.

In the case of smaller states, Mizoram and Tripura registered strong overall performance, and at the same time showed improvement in incremental performance.

As per the report, the health

index is a weighted composite score incorporating 24 indicators covering key aspects of health performance.

Itsaid health index comprises select indicators in three domains—health outcomes, governance and information, and key inputs and processes.

Releasing the report, Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar said, "States are beginning to take cognizance of indices such as the State Health Index and use them in their policy making and resource allocation."

This report is an example of both competitive and cooperative federalism, Kumar said.

The report has been

prepared in collaboration with the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) with technical assistance from the World Bank.

According to an official statement, the importance of this annual tool was re-emphasised by

MoHFW's decision to link the index to incentives under the National Health Mission. This has been instrumental in shifting the focus from budget spending and inputs to outputs and outcomes, it added.



### e-Tender Notice

Online e-tender invited for allotment of Parking lot in various places in Municipal area. The tender documents containing terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>. Tender ID No.2021\_PMBC\_4752\_1 dated 23.12.2021 bidders w.e.f. 23.12.2021 to closing date on 13.01.2022 at 4.00 PM. The tender will be opened on the same day on 13.01.2022 at 4.30 pm in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives in the chamber of Revenue Officer, Revenue Section, Municipal Council, Port Blair.

**Revenue Officer**  
**Port Blair Municipal Council**

### e-Tender Notice

Online e-tender invited for allotment of Mobile Food Van/Truck in various places in Municipal area. The tender documents containing terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>. Tender ID No.2021\_PMBC\_4768\_1 dated 27.12.2021 bidders w.e.f. 27.12.2021 to closing date on 18.01.2022 at 4.00 PM. The tender will be opened on the same day on 18.01.2022 at 4.30 pm in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives in the chamber of Revenue Officer, Revenue Section, Municipal Council, Port Blair.

**Revenue Officer**  
**Port Blair Municipal Council**

### BSNL Recruitment 2022, Apply 71 Apprentice Vacancies @ bsnl.co.in

BSNL Recruitment 2021 | Apprentice Post | 55 Vacancies | Last Date: 29.12.2021 | Apply BSNL Apprentice Jobs @ bsnl.co.in  
BSNL Recruitment 2021: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Maharashtra Circle is in process of engaging 55 Diploma holders in Engineering/Technology field (Electronics/E&TC/Computer/IT) for apprenticeship training under the Apprentices Act 1961 for a period of one year with salary up to Rs. 8,000. Eligible Indian candidates who have passed their Diploma course in relevant field may apply this BSNL Jobs using BOAT's Govt Portal. The last date for the submission of applications is 29.12.2021. Those candidates who are looking for Central Government jobs can apply this BSNL Apprentice recruitment on or before the last date.  
Interested candidates are advised to apply BSNL recruitment in time to avoid last minute rush. After applying online, candidates need to take printout of the application form for some reference. Incomplete application or application form without attaching relevant documents will not be considered. BSNL selects candidates through merit personal interview, shortlisted candidate will be intimated through e-mail for document verification & joining if selected. Selected candidates will be placed at Maharashtra Circle. More details of BSNL Apprentice recruitment, Careers, upcoming notification, apply online link, BSNL jobs, selection list etc. will be available on the official website.  
The detailed information of educational qualification, age limit, selection process, application fees, apply mode and how to apply process for BSNL recruitment is discussed above. Stay tuned with daily recruitment.in to get more latest updates.

### CMRL Recruitment 2022, Apply B.E Vacancies @ chennaiemrtrorail.org

CMRL Recruitment 2022 | General Manager, AGM & Other Post | 10 vacancies | Last date: 07.01.2022 & 22.01.2022 | Download Application Form @ chennaiemrtrorail.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 should be submitted to the proper channel. Related application form will not be considered for after the due date of application.  
Step to apply for CMRL Recruitment 2021 Notification  
Go to the official website chennaiemrtrorail.org  
Click Career >> Job Notification.  
Pick the notification of Employment Notification No. CMRL-HR-CON-16-2021 dated on 08.12.2021-AGM/JGM/DGM/(RS), JGM(Design), DGM(CM), Manager(CM), Manager/DM/AM/(RS) on contract.  
Find the notification of Employment Notification No. CMRL-HR-DEP-17-2021 dated 06-12-2021-General Manager (Rolling Stock) on Deputation.  
Read the notification carefully and verify your eligibility.  
Download the application form and fill the details properly.  
Finally, send the filled application form through respective address.  
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.

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The **Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Institution, South Andaman Division-I** on behalf of **Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Calicut** invites online item rate tender (in CPWD form-8) from bonafide and experienced contractors of appropriate class of APWD, MES, ALHW & P&T for the below mentioned work.

**1. NIT NO. EE/PRI/SAD-I/GEN/2021-22/1127 Name of Work:-** Development of Muslim Graveyard i/c Net fencing, Construction of Toilet at Calicut Gram Panchayat. **Estimated Cost Rs:-** 28, 15,332/- **Earnest Money Deposit:- Exempted** (Proforma for EMD declaration may be submitted) **Time of Completion:-** Twelve (12) Months, Tender Fee:- Rs 500/- & last date & time of submission of bid:- 03/01/2022 (1500 hrs)

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

**Tender ID:- 2021\_RDPRI\_4728\_1**

**Executive Engineer,**  
**Panchayati Raj Institution,**  
**South Andaman Division-I**  
**Junglighat, Port Blair**  
**South Andaman**

IP/8322/21  
2021/MediaRelease/976

**Stay Home!**  
**Stay Safe!**

No. DB-TN/PBSD/2021-22/3628

Dated 24/12/2021

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Port Blair South Division, A.P.W.D., Port Blair on behalf of President of India invites online Item rate bids from contractors of APWD or any other Govt. Department irrespective of their enlistment subject to condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these Islands and do not have any adverse remarks -

NIT No : 67/EE/PBSD/2021-22  
Name of work : Temporary Arrangements of Republic Day Celebration at Netaji Stadium, Port Blair, During the Year 2021-2022.  
Estimated Cost : ₹ 24,17,936/-  
Time of completion : 15 (Fifteen) Days  
NIT No : 68/EE/PBSD/2021-22  
Name of work : Temporary arrangement of Republic Day Celebration at Home party at Raj Niwas, Port Blair during 2021-22 Sub work:- Temporary arrangement of pandal at Raj Niwas  
Estimated Cost : ₹ 8,38,298/-  
Time of completion : 15 (Fifteen) Days

Last date and time of submission of Bid : 07/01/2022 10:00 Hrs.  
Last date and time of opening of Bid : 07/01/2022 15:30 Hrs.

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

IP/8332/21  
2021/MediaRelease/986

### 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 Combined 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.recruit.bsf.gov.in](http://www.recruit.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 [recruit.bsf.gov.in](http://recruit.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](http://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](http://www.dailyrecruitment.in) to know latest job 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](http://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, Masalchi, Waiter, Fatigeman, MTS (Safaiwala), 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 Defence Jobs kindly submit the application in the prescribed format within 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.  
IMA Dehradun Group C Recruitment 2021 Notification & Indian Military Academy Recruitment application form is available @ [www.indianarmy.nic.in](http://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](http://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.  
You may visit Career page to get more details about this recruitment. Here you will get information like educational qualification, age limit, application mode, fee and how to apply. Keep check [www.dailyrecruitment.in](http://www.dailyrecruitment.in) regularly to get latest updates & upcoming govt exams.

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## IN CONVERSATION

## COVID VACCINATION MANDATORY IN SINGAPORE FROM FEBRUARY 2022

Singapore has made Covid vaccination a mandatory condition for the approval of new applications for work passes, long-term passes and permanent residence in Singapore from February 1 next year.

Those renewing their work passes will also have to be vaccinated. The Straits Times reported, citing the multi-ministry task force (MMTF) on Covid.

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board the plane or enter Singapore, unless prior exemptions have been granted.

Individuals who were vaccinated overseas must update their vaccination records in the National Immunisation Registry (NIR) and will be given a grace period of 30 days upon arrival in Singapore to undergo and show a positive serology test result taken at a public health preparedness clinic.

"Should they test negative, they will

If applicants are unvaccinated or vaccinated overseas but test serology negative, an indication that the body has not produced antibodies in response to vaccination, they will have to complete the full vaccination regimen in Singapore to fulfil the vaccination condition before they can be granted permanent residence or long-term passes.

The vaccination condition will not apply to permanent residence, long-term visit pass and student pass applicants for those who are aged below 12 years old, as well as those who are medically ineligible for vaccination.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has warned that unvaccinated workers will no longer be allowed to return to the workplace from January 15, even if they have a negative pre-event testing (PET) result.

The ministry had said in October that unvaccinated people would not be allowed to enter the workplace from January 2022, unless they had tested negative for COVID-19.

"Following the review and discussion with tripartite partners, we have decided to remove the PET concession for unvaccinated persons to return to the workplace from January 15, 2022," the Channel News Asia quoting the MoH said.

Partially vaccinated workers, those who have taken at least one dose of vaccine but are not yet fully vaccinated, will be granted a grace period until January 31 to complete the vaccination regime, the ministry said.

During the grace period, they can enter their workplace with a negative PET result.



be required to complete the full vaccination regimen in Singapore or their passes may be revoked," the task force said.

As for dependents of work pass holders, the vaccination condition will not apply to children aged below 12.

Pass holders who are medically ineligible for vaccination will have to submit a doctor's memo at the point of application and undergo a medical review upon arrival in Singapore.

Those applying for permanent residence, student passes and long-term visit passes will have their vaccination status verified when their passes are issued.

Their vaccination records will have to be updated in the NIR.

## RBL Bank's financial health stable, clarifies RBI after stock tanks 18%

The Reserve Bank of India on Monday stated that RBL Bank was well capitalised and its financial position remained satisfactory. The statement comes on a day of a huge sell-off in the shares of the private sector lender after a sudden management reorg.

On December 25, RBL Bank notified stock exchanges that the RBI, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 36A of the Banking Regulation Act, had appointed Yogesh Dayal, chief general manager at Reserve Bank as an additional director on RBL's board for a two-year period starting December 24, 2021.

A day later, the lender said its board had accepted the request of Vishwajit Ahuja, its long-standing MD and CEO to proceed on medical

leave and Rajeev Ahuja, existing executive director at the bank, was appointed as the interim MD and CEO. These sudden and unexpected developments sent the stock tumbling to its 52-week low of Rs 132.35 on Monday as investors pressed the exit button amid worries that there may be deeper issues



related to its asset quality or other things, even as the bank's management had Sunday tried to allay these fears. The stock eventually closed at Rs 140.90 on the BSE, down 18.3 per cent from

its previous close.

A few stock brokers also downgraded RBL Bank on Monday citing recent developments as a negative surprise. Now, the RBI statement perhaps seeks to calm the nervousness in the market. "There has been speculation relating to the RBL Bank Ltd. in certain quarters which appears to be arising from recent events surrounding the bank. The Reserve Bank would like to state that the bank is well capitalised and the financial position of the bank remains satisfactory," the central bank said.

Citing RBL Bank's half-yearly audited results as on September 30, 2021, RBI said the bank has maintained a comfortable capital adequacy ratio of 16.33 per cent and provision coverage ratio of 76.6

per cent. The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) of the bank is 153 per cent as on December 24, 2021 as against regulatory requirement of 100 per cent, it further added. LCR is essentially the proportion of highly liquid assets that banks need to hold so that they can meet liquidity requirements or cash outflows if any over a 30-day period. The RBI also clarified that the appointment of additional director/s in private banks is undertaken under Section 36A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and as when it is felt that the board needs closer support in regulatory/supervisory matters. "As such, there is no need for depositors and other stakeholders to react to the speculative reports. The bank's financial health remains stable," said RBI.



## 2021 flashback: Mirabai Chanu lifted Indian spirits with Tokyo Olympics silver

NEW DELHI: Mirabai Chanu's heart-warming tale of redemption at the Tokyo Olympics was the defining moment for Indian weightlifting in a seasonably successful 2021 but the sport itself faced an uncertain future globally with long-standing governance and doping-related problems threatening its place in the Olympics going forward.

Chanu, a former world champion, had left the 2016 Rio Olympics in tears after failing to log a legitimate lift but five years on, she displayed the brilliant composure in Tokyo for a historic silver medal to bury the ghosts of the past.

This, despite the fact that her plans took a hit when the Olympics were postponed by a year, leading to her schedule going haywire amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was a confusing period filled with anxiety but she knew how to pull herself out of the abyss, having done that remarkably well after Rio.

The 27-year-old Indian lifted 86kg in snatch and a world record of 119kg in clean and jerk for a total of 205kg, getting the better of both her Chinese opponents who won the gold and silver.

The year only got better for Chanu, who now has medals in all big tournaments barring the Asian Games.

With a new world record in her kitty and an imbalance issue sorted, Chanu was one of India's brightest medal hopes heading into the Olympics and she lived up to that top billing.

She opened the country's tally on the opening day, an unprecedented feat that sent the entire nation into a frenzy.

Sporting Olympic-ring-shaped earrings gifted to her by her mother before the 2016 Rio Games, the diminutive Iron Lady from Manipur capitalised on the not-so-competitive field and



clinched the 49kg category silver medal in Tokyo.

Born in a poor family in Nongpok Kakching village about 20 kilometres from Imphal, Chanu, whose childhood was spent cutting and collecting wood from the nearby hills, and fetching water from nearby ponds in milk powder cans, lifted a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg).

It was not her personal best but it was enough to end India's over-two-decade-long wait for a weightlifting medal at the Olympics. Karan Malhotra was the first to do that with a bronze in the Sydney games in 2000.

With that massive achievement, Chanu's year ended as the Manipur pulled out of the World Championship and Commonwealth Championships which were held

simultaneously.

While Chanu was the lone ranger for India in weightlifting at the Olympics, Jeremy Lalrinnunga, touted as the one for the future in the sport, endured a bitersweet year.

He missed out on an Olympic spot in the 67kg category due to a knee injury suffered during the Asian Championships which also compromised his performance at the junior world championships a month later.

However, the teenager from Mizoram, who is a 2018 Youth Olympics champion, was able to end the year with a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships earlier this month.

With a top of the podium finish at the event, Jeremy also booked a spot for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games as did Achinta Sheuli (73kg), who also bagged a silver medal at the junior world championships in May.

Ajay Singh (81kg) and Purnima Pandey (+87kg) too won gold medals at the event.

Dismayed by decades of rampant doping, bribery, vote-rigging and corruption at weightlifting's highest levels, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) finally took action and threatened to drop the sport from the Olympic roster. Weightlifting was left off the initial list for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, which will be placed before the IOC members for approval in February. Since then, the IWF has been busy repairing its tarnished image but only time will tell whether it would be able to secure a future for the sport which has seen its quota of athletes come down from 260 at the Rio Olympics to 120 at the 2024 Paris Games.

## No clarity on Novak Djokovic's participation, with ATP Cup days away

MELBOURNE: With players starting to arrive in Sydney for the men's season-opening ATP Cup, there was still no clarity on Monday whether top-ranked Novak Djokovic would be taking part in the team tournament or in the Australian Open that follows. There has been intense speculation over Djokovic's participation at the Australian Open, which starts on Jan. 17, with the 34-year-old, who is opposed to vaccinations, repeatedly declining

to say if he has been inoculated against COVID-19. The rate of vaccination in the top 100 men's tennis is 95%, according to ATP Tour data. With the organisers of the Grand Slam confirming that all players and participants at Melbourne Park must be vaccinated or have a medical exemption granted by an independent panel of experts, Djokovic has kept every one guessing. If the Serbian does not

turn up, world No. 2 Daniil Medvedev would be the top draw at the ATP Cup, and he has already arrived in Sydney to help Russia defend its title.

Djokovic, 34, has won a record nine Australian Open titles, including the last three, and the chances of him playing Down Under improved when he was named in Serbia's team for the ATP Cup. His father Srđan told a Serbian television channel last month that Djokovic would probably pull out of

**COVID-19**

**10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

DO NOT RISK YOUR LIFE

1. Stay at home as much as possible. Avoid going to crowded places and public events.
2. Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
3. Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
4. The COVID-19 virus can survive on surfaces for up to 72 hours. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
5. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid handshakes and hugs.
6. Exercise or meditate at home.
7. Maintain a healthy routine. Get enough sleep and eat healthy food.
8. Reach out to a trusted adult if you are feeling stressed or worried.
9. Ask for help if you need it. Follow guidelines from your health authorities on how to protect yourself and others.
10. Listen to your local authorities for advice and directions on the best way to protect yourself and others.

**Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**

**Symptoms**

Fever, many nose, cough and sore throat. For some, it can be more severe leading to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. 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 hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who have fever and coughing.

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

Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use.

If you suspect you may have COVID-19, contact your local health authority (in Hindi and English, contactable 24/7).

For more information, visit [www.moh.gov.in](https://www.moh.gov.in) or call 166.

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