

ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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Jarawa Facts

The Andaman Trunk Road, which cuts through the Jarawa's forest, brings poachers, settlers and tourists into the heart of their land. The Supreme Court of India in 2002 ordered that the road must be closed, but it has never been complied with.

Your Nature Guide

Life in the ocean: From the shores or from a boat, the sea looks like a huge mass of uniform, inky blue water. It is not so actually. Life in the sea is amazingly different at different depths. From the surface to a few feet below, the ocean is a sunlit world, that changes from day to night. Below this, the ocean becomes cold, dim, and unchanging. And thousands of meters below the surface, the ocean is a region of near-freezing temperatures, crushing pressure, and complete darkness. Most marine plants and animals are adapted to living in one of three regions- the sunlight, twilight, or midnight zone. These zones are defined by the presence (or absence) of light. They differ from one another in temperature amount of pressure, and nutrient supply. We will mainly focus here on the sunlight zone where most of the familiar animals and plants are present.

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

People's Voice

Ab ek khatam nahi hua toh doosra fir teesra aur chautha ... Kab khatam hoga ye COVID -19

- A Citizen



Minister is giving a blanket statement on the situation!

Member of Parliament Sanctions Purchase and Supply of Three School Buses for Students of Diglipur Region

Port Blair, Dec. 22: The Member of Parliament, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has sanctioned purchase and supply of three School Buses (one 26 seater and two 54 seater Non AC) to the State Transport Service unit of Diglipur from MPLADS fund for three specific routes of Diglipur region so that students of the

region can comfortably reach their respective schools.

The cost of a 26 seater bus is Rs. 15 Lakhs while each 54 seater bus is Rs. 30 Lakhs.

During his recent tour to North Andaman, a large number of people including students highlighted the problem regarding shortage of STS buses and heavy

crowds of passengers in various routes of North Andaman, for which students are finding it difficult to reach school on time.

Students and parents had informed the Member of Parliament that during school hours in some routes 75 to 80 students have to travel along with regular

passengers in jam packed STS buses, making it difficult for girl students to travel.

Following up the demands, the Member of Parliament sanctioned purchase and supply of the buses (54 seater Non AC) for three routes viz. Lamiya Bay to Govt. Sr. Model Sr. Secondary School, Sitanagar

Continued on P2

Chief Secretary Holds Comprehensive Meeting to Review Current Status of COVID-19 in A&N Islands

Port Blair, Dec. 22: The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS held a comprehensive meeting today to review the current status of COVID-19 in A&N Islands and future threat perception. The meeting was attended by Shri Neeraj Thakur, IPS, DGP, ANP, Shri Kamal Datta, IFS, PCCF, Shri Nikhil Kumar, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Health), Secretaries, Deputy

Commissioners of all three Districts, Officers of A&N Administration and representatives from Andaman Nicobar Command.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary urged the people of the Islands to follow all the COVID Appropriate Behavior in order to prevent the outbreak of infection in these Islands. He advised the people to wear mask, maintain social distancing,

Continued on P4

First of its Kind 'Toy Fair' Organized at Primary School Naya Shahar

Port Blair, Dec 22: A toy fair was organized today at Govt. Primary School Naya Shahar. This fair was the first of its kind, as the toys were prepared and developed by the small children with the help of their parents and teachers. The commendable thing about the making of the toys was that all the items were prepared using waste materials like newspaper, plastic materials, cloths etc.

Inaugurating the Fair, the Deputy Education Officer,



Smti Sangita Chand appreciated the participation of the parents and guardians in guiding their children in shaping the toys. She said that with the support of the parents the educational goal of developing the overall personality of the student can be achieved successfully.

Continued on P2

Annual Day "Arunoday -2022" Celebrated at Remote Secondary School Parangara

Diglipur, Dec. 22: The Annual Day-"Arunoday-2022" of the remote Government Secondary School Parangara of North Andaman was celebrated today at the school's



premises. The Divisional Forest Officer, Shri Shiv Shakti B, IFS was the chief guest on this occasion.

Addressing the students, he said that the students should make use of the facilities being provided to them at the school. Appreciating the students for displaying skills with

perfection in performing Yoga-Asanas and aerobics, he said that the students have tremendous potential and they can do wonders if they concentrate on their studies too.

He congratulated the Principal In-Charge, Smti Kiran Kumari for her

Continued on P4

MOS L. Murugan to Visit A&N Islands



Port Blair, Dec. 22: Shri L. Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will be arriving in the Islands on a three days tour starting from tomorrow (23/12/22 to 26/12/22).

During his visit the Minister will attend various programmes chalked out by the party at Port Blair, Diglipur and Mayabunder.

The Minister will also meet the BJP elected representatives of PBMC and Zilla Parishad at Port Blair

On his return from Mayabunder on 25th December, the Minister will have meeting with officials of A&N Administration and will also address a Press Conference at BJP, Headquarters, Middle Point, Port Blair.

After completing his schedule tour, the Hon'ble Minister will return back on 26/12/22.

Jolly Appreciates the Move of CS Keshav Chandra for Ordering Public Meeting Hours

Port Blair, Dec. 22: Shri Vishal Jolly National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP-AN I has welcomed the decision of Chief Secretary to advise all Sr. Officers, HoDs, DCs, SPs and other field functionaries to fix time between 3 to 4 PM on all working days to meet general public to redress their grievance.

Jolly wholeheartedly thank Chief Secretary A&N Administration for the positive and proactive steps taken to provide good governance to every islander.

He added that the Union Government strives to provide a clean and efficient governance that invites proactive participation and involvement of citizens at every step.

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Success is not an activity but a process ...

A Concerning Sequence

The spurt in coronavirus cases reported out of China has triggered global alarm. India's Health Ministry has issued a directive to States to send positive samples to the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) to check for new, concerning strains. The Health Minister, too, has called for a review meeting of the coronavirus situation in India. India's official numbers suggest that, thus far, there is little to worry. There are only 3,408 active cases. Only one district has a test positivity rate of over 10% and only four between 5 and 10%, as per the latest available weekly data. India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 219.33 crore, and there are no signs of distress being reported out of hospitals. However, the experience of previous years is that it is usually many weeks after which a noticeable spike, let alone a wave, is confirmed by health authorities. There is scarce monitoring and mask mandates for public gatherings, airports and railway stations have been removed everywhere; so, low numbers do not necessarily mean new variants are not taking root.

In China, despite reports of crowded mortuaries, hospital admissions piling up and stocked-out pharmacies, weekly death counts are officially in the single digits. The prevalent opinion is that the lifting of curbs, after almost three years of some of the most restrictive containment measures, has now exposed a large swathe of people who lack 'natural immunity'. Some mathematical modelling projections calculate a million COVID-19 cases in the coming days in China. Given that much of the world has moved to normalcy in terms of travel, the concern is that this surge is likely to reverberate globally with many more infections, even in India, inevitable. There are two key lessons that can be derived from the Chinese experience: long lockdowns cannot eliminate the virus or prevent the development of new strains, and the only reasonable defence possible against severe disease is via vaccines. China has largely depended on home-grown vaccines such as CoronaVac and Sinopharm vaccines that rely on the inactivated virus technology. Despite 90% of the population receiving a single dose, and half, a second dose, the numbers in China suggest that waning immunity is a fait accompli. The big lesson for India is to not only establish the prevalent coronavirus variants but also whether the administered vaccines continue to be efficacious. While most of the vaccines administered in India are Covishield, and thus of the spike protein, it may be time to accommodate for changes in the virus. The sequencing of strains by INSACOG should not remain an academic exercise.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Breaking Churches..!

There's more and more news coming from all over the country of churches being broken and believers thrashed. And from the leadership, a huge silence.

I'm reminded of the play, 'Murder in the Cathedral' where the knights on hearing King Henry's explosive words against Thomas Becket the Cardinal, rush in search of the Cardinal and murder him in the cathedral.

All they heard was the anger that the King felt, and later when the king, aghast, heard of the murder, his subjects knew that it was his anger that fueled the tragic death.

This is now happening in our country. As leaders pass laws against a miniscule two percent minority, who they accuse of forcible conversion, fringe groups react with even more vehemence than the law makers and assuming that their such mass wrongdoings are taking place and people are being forced to convert at knife point or through bribes, they pour their anger on the passive Christians, causing them untold misery and insecurity in their own homeland.

This terrible state of affairs is not going to take us anywhere in world opinion, even with us protesting that such atrocities are not happening, because the world has stopped believing such.

They know it is happening.

There's only one reason that the leadership is continuing to be silent. For votes. As long as the voters feel their kindred are being burnt at the stake if they do not convert, as long as parents feel that every young man on the road following a different religion is about

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to abduct their daughters and convert her to his religion, these terrible atrocities will continue.

Is there a need for such fear anymore?

Shouldn't the rhetoric change from religion to good governance or bad governance? Shouldn't people see through this gimmick, and instead of being misled by such unfounded fears start feeling their bellies to find if they are full?

It is time the centre steps in, before it is too late, as governments like Karnataka and others keep creating fear in the minds of minorities. Russia is slowly finding out that a war they thought would take a few days, and now is going on to a year, that world opinion matters. And the world still remembers the atrocities of a Hitler and doesn't want such happenings again. Russia is careful as they carry on the war, because though they fight, they safeguard the people, but are we being careful, as visuals of the minorities running out of their churches hurt, are now being seen everywhere?

Police are mute spectators or don't register FIRs, and the murders in the cathedral grow, as leaders make the people feel insecure just to garner votes.

Let's stop this madness of a majority hounding a two percent minority as the world's binoculars, especially at Christmastime, are turning and focusing on these our destructive activities..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

Member of Parliament Sanctions Purchase and Supply of Three School Buses for Students of Diglipur Region

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via VK ZP School RK Gram, Diglipur Bazar; Khudirampur to Govt. Model Sr. Secondary School, Sitanagar via Diglipur

Bazar and Jal Tirkey Radhanagar to Govt. Model Sr. Secondary School, Sitanagar via Diglipur Bazar.

Once these buses are made operational it will bring relief for hundreds of students of Diglipur region.

First of its Kind 'Toy Fair' Organized at Primary School Naya Shahar

Continued from Page 1
Elaborating the National Initiative Program 'NIPUN' for making the child proficient in reading with understanding and Numeracy, she said that art and aesthetic development under the program are one of the key areas, through which the interest in children for learning can be boosted. The beautifully made toys reflect the interest of the children and the skills and interest should

be applied to achieve the defined learning outcomes.

Smti Sangeeta Chand called upon the teachers to use the toys as teaching learning materials in the classrooms to make their teaching more effective.

Earlier, welcoming the guests the Headmaster In-charge of the school, Shri Duryodhan Rao informed that the response of the parents has been very encouraging and they

devoted their time to guide the children to make beautiful and useful things.

The Chairperson of the School Management Committee, Smti Monika Bairagi, School Heads of Manglutan, Gupta Pada, and Manjeeri Schools, Public Representatives from Panchayat and other Government Departments were also present in the fair.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ponniyin Selvan 1 Movie Review | A Grand Spectacle that Sets the Tone

December 22: After multiple attempts through numerous decades, the wait has now come to an end. Mani Ratnam's adaptation of Kalki Krishnamurthy's literary classic Ponniyin Selvan (originally published in 1955) is a grandiose piece of cinema with a diverse cast, dazzling visuals, marching soundtrack, but with a fine calculative touch that is a trademark of the director. Split up into two parts, Ponniyin Selva: I brings to you the landscape and colourful players of the Chola empire, where a power struggle ensues as the ailing emperor Sundara Chozhar (Prakash Raj) mm announces his eldest son Aditha Karikalan (Chiyaan Vikram) as the heir to the throne.

However, there are murmurs that his brother Arunmozhi Varman (Jayam Ravi) has set his eyes on the same prize and in order to look in to these rumors, Aditha sends his reliable friend Vallavarayan Vanthiyathevan (Karthi) to Kadambur and report back the truth to Sundara Chozhar and their sister Kundavai (Trisha Krishnan), who rules for the time being.

Meanwhile, there's another faction consisting of siblings Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar (R Sarathkumar) and Chinna Pazhuvettaraiyar (R Parthiban), who are working towards making Sundara Chozhar's brother's son Maduranthagar (Rahman) as the next ruler by displacing Aditha. Periya Pazhuvettaraiyar's wife Nandini (Aishwarya Rai) seeks vengeance for the death of her ex-husband Veera Pandiyan, which both her and Aditha remember succinctly. How these factions are set up and where the power struggle goes forms the remainder.

Mani Ratnam establishes the various parties through the eyes of Vanthiyathevan (Karthi.) His character gets the most movement, beginning from Kadambur to ending in Sri Lanka. And through his journey, the women of the story are brought to the fore: Nandini with her charm and schemes, Kundavai with her concern for the empire, and the boatwoman Poonguzhali



(Aishwarya Lekshmi.) The brothers Aditha and Arunmozhi are battle hardened and are the alpha males of the tale. A spy in the form of a priest Azhwarkadiyan Nambi (Jayaram) tags along with Vanthiyathevan and their interactions do make for some good comic moments.

As noted earlier, Karthi's naughty and swashbuckling adventures unfold the women who have a mainstay in this narrative. Aishwarya Rai's introduction is spectacular. Just a furtive glance is enough to set up her character and Mani Ratnam's filmmaking experience is in full show here. It also helps that her signature dazzle and charm are still in place. Trisha makes her presence felt and you can feel the hum of her power and concern throughout the background. The first time these two meet is shot in an impressive manner.

Meanwhile, Vikram and Jayam Ravi act more as powerful figureheads for the showoff in the second part. Both appear more in scenes of gore and battle and their signature styles will keep you engaged: Vikram as the temperamental prince has the perfect expressions to capture the scattershot emotions. And Jayam Ravi, who is introduced in the second half, is almost the opposite with the composure and precision of a samurai. Jayaram as Karthi's tour guide is funny in bits. The others including Sarath Kumar, Prabhu, Parthiban, pic

Aishwarya Lekshmi, Prakash Raj, Vikram Prabhu, Kishore, Lal etc. do their best with the limited screen space given the scope of the tale.

Mani Ratnam has co-written the screenplay alongside Elango Kumaravel and Jeyamohan and they've made it as palatable as possible for today's audience by mixing old and new Tamil.

AR Rahman's music will captivate you throughout. The tastefully integrated songs and the thumping backgrounds are absolutely central in making this film work. What would initially seem like 'not another meeting' ramps up quickly with the BGMS, and when combined with Ravi Varman's spectacular camerawork, you'll be absorbed regardless of how much you understand the vernacular.

There's considerable VFX in the film and Mani Ratnam as always, is determined to follow his own style and vision. The grand palaces, the naval scenes, and the forests of Sri Lanka are particularly eye-watering. Most of the movie is a setup of the various factions and what is to ensue in the sequel.

If you aren't familiar with the background, then you'd probably have to pay double the attention in order to keep track. This could be a hindrance despite the maker's best efforts to keep it palatable. Overall, Ponniyin Selvan is a bit like Game of Thrones without as much grisly violence. The polished cast and crew will keep you engaged.

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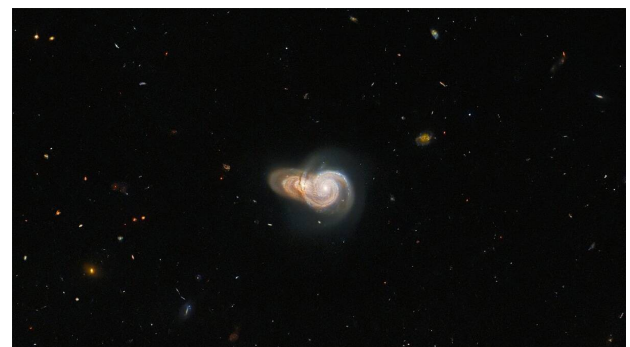
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Health, Science /Tech

NASA, SpaceX to Study Ways to Boost Orbit of Hubble Telescope



December 23: Elon Musk's SpaceX plans to fund a study with NASA to examine ways to use the space company's Dragon capsule to raise the Hubble Space Telescope's orbital altitude, which would extend its useful life, agency officials announced on Thursday.

SpaceX, whose Crew Dragon capsule ferries astronauts and cargo to and from the International Space Station for NASA, will fully fund the six-month study, NASA's science chief Thomas Zurbuchen told reporters during a short-notice press conference.

"A few months ago SpaceX approached NASA with the idea for a study of how a commercial crew could help boost our Hubble spacecraft into a higher orbit, that would extend its observational lifetime."

The Hubble Space Telescope has been a workhorse cosmic observatory for astronomers around the world since its launch in 1990, delivering dramatic stellar imagery and enabling important discoveries such as the age of the universe and the moons of Pluto.

NASA said teams will collect data to "help determine whether it would be possible to safely rendezvous, dock, and move the telescope into a more stable orbit."

Hubble was serviced several times in the early 2000's during the U.S. shuttle program. Since that program's retirement in 2011, astronomers have considered various ways to service the aging but still operational telescope. No plans have been developed.

The study will examine, among other things, whether SpaceX's Dragon capsule will need to be modified to dock with and raise the telescope's orbit, as well as whether astronauts will need to be onboard for a potential mission.

"At this point everything is on the table," Jessica Jensen, SpaceX's vice president of customer operations, said during the press call.

NASA officials emphasized that the agreement with SpaceX is only for a SpaceX-funded study, and does not represent agency plans to service the telescope later on.

ANIPPDA & Rotary Conduct Free Cataract Surgery for Patients of Remote Urmilapur village

Port Blair, Dec. 22: The Rotary Club of Port Blair conducted free Eye camp and Dental camp at remote Urmilapur village in Middle Andaman in coordination with A&N Islands Private Practising Doctors Association. Around 6 cataract surgery cases were identified during screening out of which three patients were interested to go for surgery.

After preliminary investigation, surgery for two cataract cases was done on 20th November by Dr Seema Das, MBBS, BNB, MRCS (Glasgow, UK) Consultant Ophthalmologist of Eyecon Clinic, Garacharma. The same day the bandage was removed and the vision restored.

The patient said, "I am seeing my husband's face after so many years", as she was totally blind due to cataract. One patient underwent phaco with foldable IOL and the other patient underwent SICS with rigid IOL. Another patient underwent cataract surgery on 21st December by Dr Rohindra Lal, MD (AIIMS) Ophthalmologist of Rohin's Eye Hospital, Delanipur. He too underwent phaco with foldable IOL and within few hours his vision was restored.

Rtn B. Dinesh Kumar, President Rotary Club, Port Blair and Rtn PP Rajesh Anand, Zonal Secretary and Rtn PP Dr. Dinesh thanked both the Ophthalmologists for conducting surgery at a very short notice.

Smt. Lilly Roy Pradhan, Anil Bepari Ex- Up-Adyaskh, Zilla Parishad & Devan Rao ex-Zilla Parishad Member immensely thanked the Rotary Club for conducting the free eye camp, free cataract surgery, free distribution of spectacles to 31 patients and also free dental camp by Dr Dinesh, Dental Surgeon of Dinesh Dental Clinic.



Innovation Club Inaugurated at IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair

Port Blair, Dec. 22: Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar (Admin), IGNOU, HQ, New Delhi inaugurated the 'Innovation Club' as part of mission on 21st December 2022 at 4.30 PM in the premises of IGNOU, Regional Centre Port Blair. This Centre would be the 25th Innovation Club of IGNOU to spread the messages of Hon'ble President of India for creating a culture of innovation in the university.

In his presidential address, the Chief Guest, Dr. Alok Chaube highlighted the importance of Innovation Clubs and also pressed upon incubation centre for effective implementations of the very objective of innovation and startups by the IGNOU students and alumni. He said that IGNOU itself an excellent example of innovation. Indeed, IGNOU was



established during the year 1985, when India needed to increase GER in higher education field.

Dr. Chaube also appreciated the efforts of IGNOU to spread the higher education to reach out and also complimenting the objectives of NEP-2020. Moreover, some of the key elements of NEP-2020 is already implemented by IGNOU and it also incorporated in its degree

programmes offered to various sections of society.

Earlier Dr. RVR Murthy, Regional Director welcomed the Chief Guest and appraised the working of RC in geographically inaccessible areas like A&N Islands, where IGNOU reaches almost all Islands and significantly to fulfill Higher Education requirements of learners.

Shri. Sanjiv Kumar, Section Officer proposed vote of thanks.

ICAR-CIARI Organizes Training Programme on 'Application of Bio Control Agents (Trichoderma) for Disease Management in Agricultural Crops'

Hut Bay, Dec. 22: A one-day training cum-awareness programme on "Application of bio control agents (Trichoderma) for disease management in Agricultural Crops" was organised under the STC Project by scientists and technical officers of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute at Harminder Bay Tribal Village, Little Andaman on 16th December 2022. Mr Andrew Mosses, Captain and Mr Festus, Secretary, Tribal Council, Harminder Bay graced the occasion. At the outset, Shri D Karunakaran,

Scientist welcomed the farmers and explained the importance and use of Trichoderma capsules. He advocated that it is a patented technology of IISR, Kozhikode and helps in the management of soil-borne diseases of plants and facilitates sustainable crop production.

Shri K Shyam Sundar Rao, Farm Manager explained the importance of disease-resistant crops and use of bio-control agents in Agriculture. Shri Lakhan Singh, Technical Assistant demonstrated the application of Trichoderma

capsules and powder in agricultural crops.

A total of 90 tribal farmers participated in the training programme. Trichoderma capsules & powder along with improved vegetable seeds were distributed to the tribal farmers.

The training programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr E B Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Dr P K Singh, Head of the FCIP Division and Dr. Zamir Ahmed, In-charge, Social Science Section.

Annual Day "Arunoday -2022" Celebrated at Remote Secondary School Parangara

Continued from Page 1

excellent guidance to the students attaining good results in academics, sports and cultural activities. The DFO had special words for the Physical Education teacher, Shri Eshwar Rao for making students adopt Yoga in their daily lives. He applauded the students, participating in the fancy dress competition, saying that they have effectively conveyed the message of environment protection and ecological balance.

Shri Shiv Shakti called upon the students of this remote area not to let any kind of inferiority complex dominate their psyche, as they possess all the required attributes to compete at any platform at any level.

The students presented their traditional 'Chota Nagpuri' folk dance, showing their feeling of pride in performing it in the 'Arunoday-2022'.

The audience were enthralled by the skilled display of difficult postures of Yoga. The children with special needs-the Divyangs were facilitated by the chief guest for their achievements in different fields. Impressed by the performance, the guest of honour, the Junior Engineer

of APWD, Smti Priti offered a cash prize to the students.

A melodious song was presented by Shri Debbbrata Mazumdar, GTT on this occasion. The best student award in the boy's category was given to Alex, a student of class X, whereas Rithika of the same class was felicitated with the best student award among girls.

Earlier, the Principal In-charge, Smti Kiran Kumari in her welcome address said that though the school has so many challenges but it has been progressing, overcoming the obstacles in its journey to make itself a better place for the students' learning.

Dedicating the success to the collective team work of the staff members she said, each member of the school family is committed to achieve the organizational goal. Smti Kiran Kumari presented the report of the activities performed under the Government's Flagship Programme 'Samagra Shiksha'. She said all the interventions under the SMSA are being implemented in the school to ensure the equitable and inclusive quality Education to the students. Shri Mohan Kumar Das, GTT proposed the vote of thanks.

A large number of villagers came today to watch the annual day program, held after a gap of two years.

Chief Secretary Holds Comprehensive Meeting to Review Current Status of COVID-19 in A&N Islands

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especially in crowded places and not to panic.

The Chief Secretary further directed the concerned authorities to review the logistic supplies and place fresh orders for procurement, if needed. He also directed the Health Department to augment the process of manpower hiring and purchase of logistics, if needed, to tackle the situation. The Chief Secretary directed the District Magistrates to review the stocks of medical supplies, beds and oxygen in their respective jurisdiction and take necessary action accordingly. Further, he directed to follow the guidelines and advisories issued by MoHFW, New Delhi and act accordingly. He said, samples of all positive cases must be sent for genome sequencing to the designated INSACOG Laboratories. He also

directed all concerned to activate the surveillance at the Port of Entry as well as in all the Health Institutions across the Islands. ILI/SARI cases across the Islands should be reported daily and a media team be constituted to brief the media on daily basis, the Chief Secretary said.

The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department to issue an advisory on Do's & Don'ts pertaining to COVID-19 for the general public. He also mentioned that in case of any untoward situation, Andaman & Nicobar Administration is fully prepared to tackle the situation.

Earlier, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Health) briefed about the present situation of COVID-19. This was followed by detailed presentation about the current status of COVID-19 globally, in the country as well as in the Islands. He also informed about the status of medical supplies including oxygen, status of vaccination in the Islands and also future threat and strategies to tackle any unforeseen situation.

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Annual Athletic Meet Conducted with Great Enthusiasm at Remote Kishorinagar School

Diglipur, Dec 22: The Annual Athletic meet of the remote Government Kishorinagar Senior Secondary School was conducted today at the school's playground. The Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Smti Rita Dhali inaugurated the mega sports event of the region in the morning. She appreciated the efforts taken by the school management in organizing the event after prolonged difficult times of corona pandemic.

All together 37 sports events were conducted in which the Girls' participation was very encouraging. With his outstanding performance Animesh Mondal of class IX, bagged the Boys' champion trophy. Among the Girls, Little Annesha Mondal of class VI stunned everyone by showing her incredible skills and she was declared the Girls' Champion.

Giving away the prizes at the valedictory function the



Medical Officer In-charge, Dr. Silvester Titus lauded the students for their brilliant performance and called upon them to excel in academics also. The School's Principal In-charge, Shri K. Sashi Sarkar proposed the vote of thanks and hoped that the Public Representatives would continue their support to the school for achieving excellence in all concerned fields.

The Senior Science teacher, Shri Gour Prasad Bsiwas informed our correspondent that the corona pandemic had put a halt on the school's activities and the students were eagerly waiting for this mega

sports opportunity to exhibit their talent. He said, this session though it took some time for the students to get back to their normal schooling rhythm, but now they have adjusted themselves and their creative work in the Zonal Science Exhibition which organised recently at Diglipur.

A large number of villagers turned up today at the playground to witness the sports skills of their children. Established in 1951 the Kishori Nagar School is one of the oldest schools in this vast rural belt and this was its 62nd annual meet.

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Health Advisory for COVID-19

A new variant of COVID-19 is spreading in some countries. While the UT of A&N Islands has taken many measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and there is no need to panic. The people can join hands to prevent the transmission of disease in the UT by taking the following measures:

DO's

- 1) Do not panic.
- 2) Don't pay heed to rumors.
- 3) Wear mask in all crowded places including schools, colleges, hospitals, markets, cinema etc.
- 4) Wash your hands and face at regular intervals with soap and water or use alcohol based sanitizer for cleaning hands.
- 5) Sneeze and cough either into your elbow or into tissue paper / handkerchief. After coughing or sneezing dispose of the tissue paper / wash your handkerchief.
- 6) Ensure proper nutrition including fresh fruits, vegetables & plenty of fluids and exercises to boost immunity.
- 7) Clean the frequently touched surfaces with disinfectant regularly.
- 8) Those who have symptoms of fever, body ache, sore throat, abdominal discomfort or any other untoward symptoms, isolate yourself at home for about 7 days and seek medical advice. They must initiate symptomatic treatment at the earliest to prevent any complications.

DON'Ts

- 1) Do not cough or sneeze into your bare hands or without covering your face.
- 2) Don't go near your contacts if you are suffering from fever and cough.
- 3) Don't touch your eyes, face, nose and tongue.
- 4) Don't go near affected/ sick people.
- 5) Don't self-medicate.
- 6) Don't go to crowded places like parks, markets and religious places.
- 7) Don't go out unless it is absolutely essential.

A&N Administration is fully prepared to tackle any untoward situation. No need to panic.



SPORTS

What Fuelled Shubman Gill? Not Able to Convert Starts, Shin Injury and T20 World Cup Snub

December 22: Ahead of the Bangladesh tour, Shubman Gill made one promise to his childhood idol Gurkeerat Mann. He told Gurkeerat: "I will score my debut Test century on this tour, no matter where I am going bat." The Punjab batsman made good his promise before texting Mann with an emoji of a hundred.

It took Gill 12 Tests and 22 innings to achieve the landmark. Mann had taken him under his wing since the day the Gill family moved to Mohali from Fazilka. For nearly one and a half decades, Mann has been his mentor, elder brother, teammate and friend.

Mann feels that the ODI century against Zimbabwe earlier this year had taken the monkey off Gill's back but this Test century is more satisfying. "I will always tease him about that 91 at the Gabba. This time before going to Bangladesh, he was supremely confident of scoring a ton, and he did it," Mann told The Indian Express.

Mann, who has played three ODIs for India, explained how Gill remained focused during his lean phase. "He was a bit upset with the way he was getting out after scoring 30s and 40s. He knew that he was getting a longer rope just because of his immense talent.

"It was his first lean patch. Right from his U-12 days, he was known for scoring big runs. Even during this phase, when he was not able to convert his starts, his work ethic never changed. He always trained hard, he's always hungry to do well," said Mann.

A shin injury also played a part in Gill's drop in form. His father Lakhwinder Gill said, "It troubled him for several months."

"It took some time to figure out what the injury was. After the World Test Championship final, he was out of the Test series against England. The injury recurred in December last year, during the home series against New Zealand. The shin injury troubled him for six months."



Lakhwinder feels his son was never out of form or short of confidence. "He was always scoring those 40s and 50s. But that century was not coming. Form was never an issue. A batsman is out of form if he is struggling to get into double digits. He was always getting those starts."

"He made his debut against the likes of, Pat, Cummins, Mitchell, Starc, Josh, Hazlewood, Nathan, Lyon and did well against that attack. Confidence was never an issue. It was just a slight adjustment that he did before the IPL season and is reaping the rewards," the proud father added.

What are the adjustments that Gill made in his game? Mann explains: "He has this immense self-belief and game awareness. He is also a very keen learner. He will observe Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma very closely, pick a shot that he doesn't have and will work on it."

"Before the IPL, he told him about how Kohli uses his feet against spinners, and his inside-out strokes against them. Ten minutes later, I saw him practising those shots in the nets."

However, the T20 World Cup snub hit Gill very hard. He had played a crucial role in Gujarat Titans' victory in their inaugural IPL season, scoring 483 runs, but was still not given a chance in the shortest format.

"He was sad after that World Cup snub. But talents like Shubman try to find a way. His words were: 'I will score so much that they won't be able to drop me from the next world cups. From now onwards, I just want to perform in all formats and that is my only aim.' He is not someone who will shut himself down if runs are not coming. He continues to work hard,

Gill's strike rate in white-ball cricket was also made an issue. He was never known for his six-hitting prowess and has been given the role of an anchor by his IPL franchise. "Earlier, he would hardly play any aerial strokes and would hit down the ground, pick gaps, and run hard between wickets. The new dimension he has added to his game is his six-hitting ability. And it has not come in a few days. I have seen him practising power-hitting right after his first IPL season. He used to hesitate while taking the aerial route, but now he smashes it with authority. That's the only change I have seen in his batting in recent times."

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

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Helpline Numbers

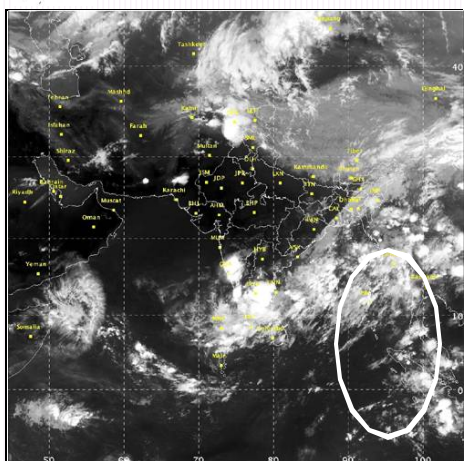
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan Call Centre:	1551
Wildlife Control Room: :	245229, 200661, 200754

Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs)

State Control Room:	03192- 238880 (Tele- Fax), 1070 (Helpline).
District Control Room:	03192-238881
EOC (Campbell Bay):	03193-264020
EOC (Kamorta):	03193-263222
EOC (N&M):	03192-262960
EOC (Hut Bay):	03192-284014



Weather



Max. Temp: 30.1 °C	Min.: 26.2 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 74% 1730 Hrs: 81%	
Sunrise: 0535 Hrs.	Sunset: 1701 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall (From Jan 1, 2022 till date):	2585.2 mm

Forecast

The weather will be dry over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 26°C respectively on Friday 23/12/2022.

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