

## Residents of Long Island Demand Lab Technicians for PHC Long Island

John Wilbert  
& Vikramaditya  
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands: The patients of the Long Island region have been facing many difficulties due to shortage of lab technicians at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Long Islands. The shortage has led to a crisis situation in the lab, causing delays in results and diagnoses for patients.



As the general Island region relies on this public of the entire Long (See page 6)

## MP requests LG to construct overhead water tank of 15,00,000 Litres at Dairy Farm Ward No.15, Port Blair

Port Blair, Jan 24: During a recent meeting, the Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, has requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to construct an overhead water tank with a storage capacity of 15,00,000 Litres (Fifteen lakhs Litres) at Dairy Farm Ward No.15 in Port Blair from Port Blair Smart City Project fund for proper water supply to the (See page 6)

## 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day-2023: Full swing preparations on

Port Blair, Jan. 24: Full swing preparations are on to celebrate '74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day-2023' in a befitting manner in these Islands together with (See page 6)

**CAREER QUEST**  
COACHING CENTRE  
CONGRATULATES  
**ANKIT BEHARI**  
on Final Selection in  
Combined Defence Services Examination 2022

Enroll for new batches (All COVID-19) guidelines followed

Download our App

SCAN & INSTALL

Google Play

ONLINE CLASSES NOW GOING ON

Your Success shall inspire more Islanders to compete and excel at the national level

Above Famous Bakery, Lamba Lane, Port Blair, A & N Islands | 9933219008 | 9474269192

**Apollo HOSPITALS**  
Caring Lives

**Apollo Clinic**  
Expertise. Close to you.

**24/7 SERVICE**

**CARDIAC CLINIC**

**KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY WITH OUR EXPERT**

Now Expertise Close To You!

#192, Garacharma Main Road, Port Blair, South Andaman -744105

Landline: 03192 252052 / 03192-252522  
Mobile : 9531807777

**YESHIVA TRAINING ACADEMY Pvt. Ltd**  
NEAR MUBRAK MALL, JUNGLGHAT, PORT BLAIR. 744 103  
Ph. No. 9476092535; 9933274252; 9476060793  
Admission Starts For Following Skill Courses Offered by NDA Govt. of India & All India Paramedical Council

| S.No | COURSE NAME                   | DURATION | QUALIFI                             |
|------|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1.   | AIRPORT MANAGEMENT            | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 2.   | AIR & SEA CARGO MANAGEMENT    | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 3.   | AIRHOSTESS TRAINING           | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 4.   | CABIN CREW MANAGEMENT         | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 5.   | PRE - PRIMARY EDUCATION       | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 6.   | PRIMARY EDUCATION             | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 7.   | X - RAY TECHNOLOGY            | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 8.   | SANITARY INSPECTOR            | 1YEAR    | 10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup> |
| 9.   | MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN | 2YEARS   | 12 <sup>TH</sup>                    |
| 10.  | OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT   | 2YEARS   | 12 <sup>TH</sup>                    |
| 11.  | AIRFARE & TICKETING           | 6MONTHS  | 10 <sup>TH</sup>                    |
| 12.  | AIRPORT GROUND STAFF TRAINING | 6MONTHS  | 10 <sup>TH</sup>                    |

ADMISSION GOING ON JAUNARY - 2023 BATCH.  
ADMISSION FORM SUBMISSION LAST DATE 16.01.2023  
FOR INTER ISLAND STUDENTS ONLINE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE

**Sourav Mehendi Artist**  
ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR MEHANDI FUNCTION?

**BOOK NOW**

9531844731  
9679519497



# Parakram Diwas Observed at Diglipur

**Rabindranath  
Biswas**  
Sheekha News Service

Diglipur, January 24: Parakram Diwas marking 126th Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was observed in Diglipur yesterday.

Mr. Dipankar Mistry, the Pramukh, Diglipur garlanded the statue of Netaji (See page 6)



## A&N Dweep Seva Puraskar- 2023 Felicitation Function by Island Protection Forum at 5PM at Tiranga Park on 26th Jan 2023

Port Blair, Jan 24: Like every year, this year too, the Island Protection Forum (IPF), a Non Political Organization, is going to organize a felicitation function titled "Andaman &

Nicobar Dweep Seva Puraskar- 2023". This Puraskar is given to the people who help the Islanders in need and take up their matter at appropriate level

for its solution. This time the below mentioned guests from different States will be honored with "Andaman & Nicobar Dweep Seva Puraskar-2023."

| SL | Name                  | Designation /Organization  |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 1  | Shri Afaq Ahmed Khan  | MLC, Bihar Vidhan Parishad   |
| 2  | Pndit Rajkumar Diwedi | State President, AkhilBhartiya Braham Samaj (MP).                  |
| 3  | Shri Maddu Kumar      | Social Worker ,Baruva, Srikakulam (AP)                             |
| 4  | Shri Shyam Chourasia  | Ex General Secratary, Akhil Bhartiya ChourasiaYuva Mahasabha (MP). |
| 5  | Shri Satyendera Kumar | Social worker , New Delhi  |
| 6  | Shri Munshilall       | Social Worker, Daulatpur, Shahabad (UP).                           |

Due to the effort of the above mentioned personalities, many Member of Parliament from different States have shown their concern about unemployed problem being faced by the youths of A&N Islands, due to non implementation of Local certificate / domicile certificate for filling up of different posts/ during recruitments in Departments of A&N Administration (Govt job) in A&N Islands.

To take up the issue of unemployment being faced by the youth of A&N Islands, many MPs of different states (ruling Party & opposition) have written letters to the Hon'ble Home Minister of India, Mr. Amit Shah and requested him to make manda-

tory the Local / domicile certificate while filling up of vacant posts in A&N Administration. It is a matter of concern that the A&N Administration, vide MHA letter No: 14011 dated 1984 is issuing Local / domicile certificate to the Islanders but while publishing vacancy notices, the Administration mentions that the Local/Domicile certificate is not mandatory while applying online for the vacancies in Government Departments of A&N Administration. This allows an open competition and youth from all over India to compete for the Govt. posts in A&N Administration which deprives the job opportunity for the Youth born and brought up in A&N Islands.

In recognition of their unconditional support for the unemployed youths of these Islands, the IPF has decided to confer "Dweep Seva Puraskar 2023" on the above delegates. The list of MPs of different states and copy of their letters written to the Union Home Minister along with copy forwarded to the A&N Administration will be released by the delegates during the Andaman & Nicobar Dweep Seva Puraskar- 2023 (A&NBSP) felicitation function being organized by the Island Protection Forum (IPF) at 5 PM at Tiranga Park on 26th Jan 2023. All Islanders are requested to attend the programme and grace the guests.

## Air India fined Rs10 lakh by DGCA for not reporting incidents on Paris-Delhi flight

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Tuesday slapped a ₹10 lakh fine on Air India for not reporting twin incidents of passengers' misbehaviour on board an AI-142 flight from Paris to New Delhi on December 6 last year. In a statement, the airline regulator said two incidents occurred on the Paris-New Delhi flight. In one incident, a passenger was caught

smoking in the lavatory in an inebriated condition and was not adhering to the crew's instructions.

Another passenger allegedly relieved himself on a vacant seat and blanket of fellow female passenger when she went to lavatory. The DGCA said it issued showcause notice to the Accountable Manager of Air India as to why enforcement

action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations. "Air India submitted reply to the Show Cause notice on 23rd Jan'23 and the same was examined", the aviation regulator stated.

Just four days ago, the DGCA had imposed a ₹30 lakh fine on Air India for not reporting the incident of a passen-

(See page 6)

## EDITORIAL...

### Traffic, Congestion and Chaos

The city of Port Blair is facing a major issue of road congestion, particularly during school opening and closing hours. This is not only causing inconvenience to residents and commuters, but is also posing serious risk to children as there is a mad rush among people to drop children to school on time.

The lack of proper parking facilities is one of the major contributing factors to this issue.

In a city where the population is rapidly growing and the number of vehicles on the road is increasing at an alarming rate, it is imperative that more parking areas are created to deal with the problem of road congestion.

The current parking situation in Port Blair is far from ideal, with many areas of the city being completely devoid of any parking facilities. This forces commuters to park their vehicles on the side of the road, blocking traffic and causing delays.

One solution to this problem is to construct double storey parking areas in key locations throughout the city. This will not only provide much needed parking spaces, but will also help to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, thus reducing congestion. It will also help to make the city more pedestrian friendly, making it easier for people to walk and cycle around the city.

The Netaji Stadium Parking area was originally designed in such a way to make it a double or triple storey parking area but later the plan was changed. If the Netaji Parking area and Parking Area in front of ASI building is made double storey then a lot of parking problems in the Bazaar will end.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the problem of road congestion during the opening and closing times of schools. Many students and their parents face a great deal of difficulty in reaching school on time due to the heavy traffic on the roads. This not only causes stress and anxiety for students, but also affects their academic performance.

It is essential that the city of Port Blair takes immediate steps to address the problem of road congestion. The construction of more parking areas, including double storey parking areas, is a vital step in this direction.

A TATA PRODUCT

**TANISHQ**

EVERY woman  
a DIAMOND

Whether it's shining at a cocktail party, glowing at a wedding, or glowing through your everyday meetings, be the woman wherever you go, just like a natural diamond with its multiple facets of brilliance and beauty.

Introducing the Spring Summer '23 Edit.

Featuring eight different diamond looks to celebrate your many styles.

♥ EATSY  
| Florist, Artist & Ruler

SPRING SUMMER EDIT '23  
DIAMONDS & DENIMS

UP TO  
20%  
OFF  
ON  
DIAMOND  
JEWELLERY  
VALUE

To locate your nearest store and know more, visit [www.tanishq.com](https://www.tanishq.com) or download our App. \*Conditions apply. Tanishq also available on [www.tanishq.com](https://www.tanishq.com)

Showrooms at

Tanishq Jewellers Pvt. Ltd. © 2022



**SAGA SERVICES**  
Aapka Apna

Feel free to contact us for your Chennai related requirements and work

**Assistance/ Services and Purchases from Chennai**

- Assistance for Cargo Shipment
- Wholesale Purchases for Shop Owners and Individual
- Purchase Assistance for GeM Supplier
- Purchase Assistance of Building Construction Materials
- Computer, Electrical & Electronics Purchases
- Wholesale Purchase for Marriage and other functions
- Medical Patient Assistance
- Tours & Travel Services
- Amazon & Flipkart Services for Non Andaman Deliverables
- Lodging and Rental Assistance

**For more information contact:**

**Head Office:** Room No. 61, I Floor, Murugan Complex, No. 49/82, Brindavan Street, West Mambalam, Chennai - 600033. **Mb: 8015854505**  
**Branch Office:** Room No. 2, I Floor, RK Bhavan, Opp Sunshine Cable TV, Junglighat, Port Blair, Andaman - 744101. **Mb: 9933206300**

**ICE CREAM DREAMS**  
9679537808/9434261194

2nd Jan To 22th Jan **COMBO OFFER**

**230**

**COMBO OFFERS** **230**

**70 Only** **360**

**OFFER PRICE 280**

**ADDRESS: DELANIPUR OPP. BUS STOP, 1ST FLOOR  
SHOP NO 3, PORT BLAIR-744102**

**Brand Hub** **1ST ANNIVERSARY** **19 JAN**

**MENS WEAR**

**LIMITED EDITION LIMITED LIMITED** **25% OFF**

**SPECIAL OFFER**

## MESSAGE

Today is National Voters' Day. January 25<sup>th</sup> is observed every year as National Voters' Day in order to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrolment of new voters for a stronger and more vibrant democracy. It encourages youth to participate in the electoral process while helping uphold India's commitment to Universal Adult Franchise.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day. On this day, I call upon every single citizen of these Islands, who has attained the age of 18 as on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to enroll themselves for a voter ID card and any citizen attaining the age of 18 years by April 1, July 1 and October 1 of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter. I also call upon them to exercise their right to vote at the appropriate time. I am pleased to know that through consistent efforts, A&N Islands have achieved an electoral roll 3.08 lakh voters following the revision recently published; out of which 1.47 lakh are women voters.

The theme of this year's National Voters' Day is 'Nothing like voting, I vote for sure' and special focus has been placed on all segments including women, youth, Person with Disabilities (PwDs), Senior Citizens, Service Voters, Overseas Indians as well as other marginalized sections of the society. I am confident that residents of these Islands will heed this call and ensure that this theme is realized in this UT, thus helping to ensure that India continues to be a strong vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Right to vote is an important right in any democracy and every vote counts. Warm greetings on the occasion of National Voters' Day to all.

Sd/-  
(Admiral D. K. Joshi)  
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)  
Lt. Governor, A&N Islands  
& Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency

## Traffic Management Plan for 26<sup>th</sup> Jan

Port Blair, Jan: It is notified for the information of the General Public that the following Traffic arrangements have been made in connection with Republic Day Function on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (Thursday).

1. The carcade of Lt. Governor and the cars of other

higher officials, holding the 'P' (Green & Pink) parking card shall alight at the alighting point on the road inside Marina Park. After dropping the officials/dignitaries at the alighting point the vehicles shall proceed for parking near the Swimming Pool

by taking the route Girls School Junction - Scout Hut Junction - Netaji Stadium - 'P' Parking.

2. The holders of 'P' car parking label except the LG's carcade, may use the routes: Clock Tower - Y-Narayan Junction - Dharamsala Junction -

(See page 4)

## IGNOU BSCG Programme Practical Classes Scheduled from 30<sup>th</sup> January

Port Blair, Jan 24: The Practicals and its exam for BSCG Programme in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Geography are being scheduled from 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 onwards. The Practicals will be conducted at the IGNOU, Study Centre-0201, Jawahar Lal

Nehru Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair. The schedules of practicals are placed in the notice board of the Study Centre, JNRM, Port Blair. Eligible learners are advised to visit the Study Centre-0201, JNRM. For more details, visit IGNOU

Study Centre-0201, JNRM college, Port Blair or contact IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair over Phone: 03192-242888, 03192-230111 or Email: rreportblair@ignou.ac.in.

A communication from the Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair said.

GST NO: 35CVTPS6677R2ZX **OM SAKTHI PLAZA** CELL: 9434281189, 9933241615

**Discount Available** **YOUR FAVORITE COSMETICS FANCY SHOP**

**RENTAL GOLD COVERING SET AVAILABLE**

**BABULINE, ABERDEEN BAZAAR, PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN 744101**

**A BIGGEST COSMETICS SHOWROOM AT BABULINE**

**WANTED SALES GIRLS FOR OUR SHOWROOM**



## APPEAL

It gives me immense pleasure to inform the general public that the 13<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day (NVD) is being celebrated throughout Andaman & Nicobar Islands at all levels i.e. Booth Level, Tehsil Level and District Level, today, the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 along with the rest of the country with the theme of "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure". Our aim is to maximize voter enrolment by building awareness amongst all sections of our society.

Under the guidance of Election Commission of India, our Administration has organized series of activities to mark the 13<sup>th</sup> National Voters Day celebration including pledge taking by all Offices on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, drawing, skit, essay, debate etc. competitions on the theme of NVD in Schools/Colleges and awareness activities through All India Radio, Doordarshan, Print Advertisement, Social Media etc.

The Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Roll 2023 has been carried out and the total electors as per final roll published on 05.01.2023 with reference to 01.01.2023 as the qualifying date is 3,08,206 out of which 1,61,449 are male and 1,46,748 are female while the number of transgender is 9.

In order to ensure hassle free assistance with regard to electoral activities for the general public, a Toll Free No.1950 has been set up at State Contact Centre & District Contact Centre, which will function on all working days during office hours. The voters can also search their particulars through online by downloading Voter Helpline App (VHA) or through ECI's website <https://voterportal.cci.gov.in> or <https://www.nvsp.in> and <https://www.ceoandaman.nic.in>.

I, therefore, appeal to all the eligible voters, especially the youth in the age group of 18-19 years to register as an elector to take part in the electoral process for stronger democracy and to fulfill the theme of the Commission "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure". I also request all political parties and media to extend their full support and cooperation in this regard. I extend my sincere greetings to all Islanders on the National Voters' Day.

Sd/-

( Binay Bhushan )  
Chief Electoral Officer,  
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

## Traffic Management...

(From page 3)

tion - Marina Park gate (Children's Traffic Park).

· APWD Junction - Fire Brigade Junction - Scout Hut Junction - Netaji Stadium - Y-Narayan Junction - Dharamsala Junction - Marina Park gate (Children's Traffic Park).  
3. The holders of 'P-1' car parking label use the routes of Clock Tower-Y Narayan Junction-Netaji Stadium-Parking near Sports Hostel and inside the Netaji Stadium towards SAI Hostel side.

4. The holders of 'P-1' car parking label shall be seated to the right side (Swimming Pool end) opposite to the main dias of the Chief Guest. The holders 'P-1 cards' are requested to reach the place of function through the way beside the swimming pool by 0745 hrs.

5. After the departure of VIP from the place of function, the vehicles bearing car parking label 'P' shall proceed towards the alighting point inside Marina Park and will exit towards Girls School side & then take the route through Girls School Jn. -Scout Hut Jn. - Vikas Bhavan (ANIIDCO Office) - Fire Brigade - APWD Crossing to their destinations.

6. After the departure of VIP from the place of function, the vehicles bear-

ing car parking label 'P-1' shall proceed from Parking near Sports Hostel-Netaji Stadium-Y Narayan junction-Clock tower to their destinations.

7. All other vehicles without any parking label including two and four wheelers shall be parked inside the Netaji Stadium Near Multipurpose Hall and shall be seated to the left side (towards Velodrome side) opposite to the main dias of the Chief Guest. After completion of the function the vehicles of the general public shall be diverted from Netaji Stadium parking towards Y- Narayan junction/Clock Tower.

8. The vehicles intending to proceed to South Point from Aberdeen Bazar and vice versa shall be diverted towards Model School Crossing - APWD Crossing - Murugan Temple -Siddiqui Jn.- Shadipur Jn. from 0800 to 1030 hrs.

9. Heavy vehicles & Buses coming towards Model School/Clock Tower shall be diverted to Goalghar and Junglighat from Bengali Club from 0730 to 1030 hrs till dispersal of the parade and invitees.

10. No vehicle shall be allowed to proceed towards place of function from Cellular Jail, Y-Narayan Junction, Fire Brigade Junction, Murugan Temple via RK Mission, Flag Point & Wa-

ter Sports tri-junction after 0800 hrs till dispersal of the parade and invitees.

11. No vehicle shall be allowed to proceed towards Girls School from Scout Hut Junction or RK Mission or Machi Line or Govt. Press or Hotel Sinclairs/Circuit House from 0600 hrs till completion of the function.

12. The vehicles carrying parade contingents, after dropping the contingents at Girls School junction, shall proceed towards the Fire Brigade and will remain stationed there. After the culmination of the parade, they will leave for their respective units with their parade contingents.

13. Ambulance and vehicles with medical emergency cases proceeding to GB Pant Hospital shall take the route of Y-Narayan junction - Cellular Jail- GB Pant Hospital and this route shall remain closed from 0805 to 0835 hrs for all other vehicles except ambulance and vehicles with medical emergency cases.

Further, the vehicles stationed inside GB Pant Hospital shall be allowed to proceed towards the back gate of the hospital and diverted towards Dignabad sea shore road from Water Sports tri-junction from 0700 to 1000 hrs.

## Training on Coconut Handicraft at ICAR-CIARI

Port Blair, Jan 24: ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair is proposed to conduct six days training on Coconut Handicraft making in collaboration with KVK, Sippighat with support from Coconut Development Board, Kochi. The training is tentatively scheduled during the second week of February, 2023 with an objective to train

and promote unemployed youth for making attractive handicraft items from coconut plant parts. ICAR-CIARI invites the interested candidates to register their name along with a copy of Aadhar card and other details at KVK, Sippighat on or before 31.01.2023.

The suitable candidates will be selected on a First cum basis.

## Covid-19 fatalities in Canada cross 50,000



Toronto: Canada crossed a grim milestone this week, going past the 50,000 mark for the total number of fatalities in the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In its latest update to the coronavirus statistics on Monday, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) placed the total at 50,135. According to the outlet Global News, the province that has recorded the highest number of death due to the pandemic is Quebec with 17,865, while Ontario's tally was at 15,786.

PHAC also reported that 13,948 new cases were detected over the past seven-day period, taking the countrywide total since the first cases emerged in the spring of 2020 to just over 4.5 million. In addition, 222 more deaths were also reported with the weekly positivity at 13.4%.

While sub-variants of Omicron are circulating in Canada, health authorities have only expressed muted concern over fresh cases being reported. On Monday, a release from PHAC reiterated its appeal for Canadians to continue to get vaccinated as a "critical health measure". It recommended that "everyone stay up-to-date on their Covid-19 vaccinations by getting all recommended doses."

It added that if had been over six months since an individual received their last dose or since being infected with Covid-19, it was "time to

get a booster" and this was "especially important" if the person was "at high risk for severe illness from Covid-19".

New guidance was issued by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on Friday stated that bivalent mRNA vaccines should be "the preferred booster products for all individuals 5 years of age and over". Such vaccines target both the original Wuhan variety of coronavirus and the Omicron variant. They have been available in Canada since September last year.

The recommendation to increase uptake of booster doses came as the percentage of cases caused by the XBB.1.5 sub-variant is projected to rise to 7% of the total this month, while it was detected at a 2.5% frequency between December 25 and January 2.

"While XBB variants are expected to increase in Canada, it is not known whether they will become the dominant lineage," Canada's chief public health officer Dr Theresa Tam said.

However, concern over a sharp rise in cases caused by Omicron as in early 2022, was muted, as Tam said, "Nationally, the absolute number of cases is not surging at this time, nor is there evidence of increased severity with this or other new variants."



# US stays clear of BBC controversy on PM Modi; leaves India-Pak talks to bilateral track



Despite a persistent line of questioning to get the US State Department to criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the recent BBC documentary on Gujarat, the United States (US) has refused to wade into the controversy or comment on the matter, and instead chose to highlight the close relationship between the two countries,

especially over shared values.

Separately, while expressing its desire to see regional peace and stability in South Asia, the State Department also said the "pace, scope and character" of talks between India and Pakistan have to be decided by the two countries themselves. At the routine press briefing on Monday, when a journalist from a

Pakistani publication cited the BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots and said he "regretted" that no US official had criticised Modi yet, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said he was not aware of the documentary.

"What I will say broadly is that there are a number of elements that undergird the global strategic partnership that we have with our Indian partners. There are close political ties, there are economic ties, there are exceptionally deep people-to-people ties between the United States and India. But one of those additional elements are the values that we share, the values that are common to American democracy and to Indian democ-

racy," he said.

Price stated that India is the world's largest democracy, and also a vibrant one. "We look to everything that ties us together, and we look to reinforce all of those elements that tie us together."

When the journalist persisted, asking how US officials who were posted in Gujarat in 2002 weren't aware that violence allegedly happened under Modi's (who was then the chief minister of the state), Price reiterated that he was not familiar with the documentary.

"I am very familiar with the shared values that connect the United States and India as two thriving, vibrant democracies. When we have concerns about actions that are taken in India, we have voiced those. We have had an occasion to do that. But we want first and foremost to reinforce those values that are at the heart of our relationship."

Asked, somewhat unclearly, if "such foreign policy" affected President Joe Biden's Indian voters, Price said they did not think

about it on those terms. "I don't think about domestic politics, and neither does anyone in this building."

**M u s t Read: 'Propaganda': MEA rejects BBC documentary on Modi**

Responding to a separate question on Pakistani prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's comments on peace talks with India, Price said that the US had long called for "regional stability in South Asia".

"That's certainly what we want to see. We want to see it advanced. When it comes to our partnership – our partnerships with India and Pakistan – these are relationships that stand on their own. We do not see these relationships as zero-sum. They stand on their own." On the talks itself, Price said, "The pace, the scope, the character of any dialogue between India and Pakistan is a matter for those two countries, India and Pakistan." This is in line with India's stance that the New Delhi-Islamabad relationship, in all its dimensions, is a bilateral issue.

## US to mount pressure on China to stop buying Iranian oil: Report

The Biden administration's top Iran envoy said it will increase pressure on China to cease imports of Iranian oil as the US tries to enforce nuclear sanctions. "China is the main destination of illicit exports by Iran," and talks to dissuade Beijing from the purchases are "going to be intensified," US Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley said in a Bloomberg Televi-

sion interview Monday.

The US reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic and its petroleum exports in 2018 after pulling out of an agreement aimed at containing its nuclear program. In response, Tehran has ramped up uranium enrichment activities and restricted international monitoring. Meanwhile, Iranian crude shipments have surged in recent months in

defiance of Washington's censure. Much of that flood of oil appears to be heading to China, the world's biggest importer. The US will "take steps that we need to take in order to stop the export of Iranian oil and deter countries from buying it," Malley said. "We have not lessened any of our sanctions against Iran and in particular regards to Iran's sale of oil."

## China offers debt aid to crisis-hit Sri Lanka, IMF help in doubt

The Export-Import Bank of China has offered Sri Lanka a two-year moratorium on its debt and said it will support the country's efforts to secure a \$2.9 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, according to a letter reviewed by Reuters. India wrote to the IMF earlier this month, saying it would commit to supporting Sri Lanka with financing and debt relief, but the island nation also needs the backing of China in order to reach a final agreement with the global lender.

China's Jan. 19 letter, sent to the finance ministry, however, may not be enough for Sri Lanka to immediately gain the IMF's approval for the critical loan, a Sri Lankan source with knowledge of the matter said.

Regional rivals China and India are the biggest bilateral lenders to Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people that is facing its worst economic crisis in seven

decades. According to the letter, the Export-Import Bank of China said it was going to provide "an extension on the debt service due in 2022 and 2023 as an immediate contingency measure" based on Sri Lanka's request.

At the end of 2020, China EXIM bank had loaned Sri Lanka \$2.83 billion which is 3.5% of the island's debt, according to an IMF report released in March last year.

"...you will not have to repay the principal and interest due of the bank's loans during the above-mentioned period," the letter said.

"Meanwhile, we would like to expedite the negotiation process with your side regarding medium and long-term debt treatment in this window period."

Sri Lanka owed Chinese lenders \$7.4 billion, or nearly a fifth of its public external debt, by the end of last year, calculations by the China Africa Research Initiative

showed. "The bank will support Sri Lanka in your application for the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to help relieve the liquidity strain," the letter said.

The Sri Lankan source, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the confidential discussions, said the island nation had hoped for a clear assurance from Beijing on the lines of what India provided to the IMF. "China was expected to do more," the source said, "This is much less than what is required and expected of them." Sri Lanka's foreign and finance ministries and China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to questions from Reuters. Sri Lanka's central bank chief P. Nandalal Weerasinghe said on Tuesday that the country hoped for assurances from China and Japan, another major bilateral lender, soon and complete debt restructuring in six months.

## Pakistan PM Shehbaz apologises to nation for countrywide power outage

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday apologised to the nation for the inconvenience caused by the countrywide power outage that plunged millions of people into darkness and vowed to fix responsibility for the second major breakdown in nearly four months. Pakistan faced a major power breakdown on Monday due to a voltage fluctuation in the national grid, disrupting normal life and leaving major parts of the country, including capital Islamabad and financial hub Karachi, without electricity.

Taking to Twitter, the premier wrote: "On behalf of my government, I would like to express my sincere regrets for the inconvenience our citizens suffered due to power outage yesterday."

"On my orders an inquiry is underway to determine reasons of the power failure. Responsibility will be fixed," he tweeted.

Power supply was mostly restored in Pakistan, though some parts of the country still experienced blackouts on

Tuesday. Minister for Energy Khuram Dastgir said on Tuesday that electricity has been fully restored at grid stations across the country.

"Power at all 1,112 stations of the national grid has been restored," Dastgir tweeted.

Prime Minister Sharif ordered the constitution of a high-level three-member committee to probe the reason behind the breakdown.

It is not the first time that the country has faced such a crisis.

Last year in October, Pakistan witnessed a 12-hour power outage due to technical glitches in the electricity distribution system. Pakistan is grappling with one of the country's worst economic crises in recent years amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves. The crisis forced the government earlier this month to order shopping malls and markets to close by 8:30 pm for energy conservation purposes. The sorry state of the country's power sector is emblematic of its ailing economy. The power outages occur frequently due to lack of funds to upgrade aging infrastructure.

## Special broadcast by All India Radio Port Blair on the occasion of Republic Day

Port Blair, Jan 24: On the eve of Republic Day, Hon'ble President of India Smti. Draupadi Murmu will address the Nation at 1900 hrs on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Thereafter a 'sarv bhasha kavisammelan' will be broadcast from Delhi from 10 pm to 12 pm.

Running commentary of State level function on Republic Day and address by Hon'ble Lt. Governor Admi-

ral D.K.Joshi to the Islanders will be broadcast LIVE by AIR Port Blair on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from 0830hrs onwards from Marina Park Road. Commentators will be Shri. Zakir Hussain, Miss. DevikiDomnicaLakra, Ms. Sonia Kumari and Shri . Dinesh Kumar Singh.

AIR Delhi will broadcast the running commentary of the Republic Day parade and the cultural pag-

eant 2023 from Kartavya Path and the function at National War Memorial New Delhi from 0940hrs which will be relayed by AIR Port Blair.

Listeners can tune into MW 684 KHz to listen to these programmes on Radio. Listeners can also download 'newsonair' App from Google Play Store to listen to these programmes on Mobile App.

(From page 1)

## MP requests...

residents of Dairy Farm and its adjoining areas.

He informed the Hon'ble Lt. Governor that even after making all possible efforts by the A&N Administration to ensure providing proper water supply to the residents, many people in the thickly populated Dairy Farm area are facing acute shortage of water due to non-availability of sufficient water storage and pumping at Dairy

farm.

He said that water is one of the basic needs for human consumption and the people residing in the area are fully dependent on the water being supplied by the Port Blair Municipal Council. The Member of Parliament added that owing to increase of population, houses, commercial activities etc, the residents of Dairy farm and its adjoining

areas i.e. Ranchi Basthi, Junglighat, School Line etc are facing acute shortage of water due to lack of water storage and pumping facilities. He added that an overhead water tank with a storage capacity of 15,00,000 Litres would facilitate the PBMC for storage and subsequent supply of water to the residents of Dairy Farm and its adjoining areas.

(From page 1)

## 74<sup>th</sup> Republic...

the rest of the country on January 26. The Republic Day is celebrated with grandeur every year with ceremonial Parade. This year, in A&N Islands, the main function for the Republic Day will be held at Marina Park road stretch on Jan. 26.

As per the minute to minute programme chalked out for the Republic Day-2023, Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency, will unfurl

the National Tricolor at 8.35am followed by fly past by MI-17 helicopter carrying National Flag.

Thereafter, there will be presentation of medals, gallantry awards & distribution of Commendation Certificates by Hon'ble Lt Governor. Soon after the presentation of awards, Hon'ble Lt Governor will address the Islanders.

Before arriving at the main function, Hon'ble Lt Governor will visit National Memorial Cellular Jail and place wreath at the 'Martyr's

Column' there.

Meanwhile, as part of the preparation, a full dress rehearsal for the 'Republic Day was held at Marina Park road stretch here today.

The main attraction of the Republic Day is the march past in which the contingents of Defence Forces, Police, NCC, School (Boys & Girls) will participate. Cultural programme by school children will add grandeur to the Republic Day function at Marina Park road which will conclude with the National Anthem.

## Swimming Pool to remain Closed

Port Blair, Jan. 24: Members and non-members of Swimming Pool,

Netaji Stadium have been informed that the Swimming Pool is closed

from Jan. 25 in connection with maintenance work.

(From page 2)

## Air India fined...

ger urinating on an elderly woman on board Air India flight from New York to Delhi. The regulator also suspended the license of pilot-in-command for three months for failing to discharge his duties as per the Rule 141 of

the Aircraft Rules, 1937 in connection with the November 26 incident. Shankar Mishra, the man who urinated on the elderly woman, has been banned by Air India for four months. The Air India said he has

been already put on the airline's 'No Fly List'. Air India has also shared a copy of the internal committee report with the DGCA and will be intimating other airlines operating in the country.

## PLOT FOR SALE

Plot for sale at Tushnabad at Rs 4.5 lakh

Only 12 plots left

Single Patta will be provided

Plot for sale @ Ograbraj 200 sqm rs 10 lakh

Only 04 plots available

Single patta house site; Beodnabad 200 sqm

Ograbraj 300 sqm ; Brichgunj 200 sqm

Single Patta Hilly Land; Chouldari 200 sqm

Ograbraj 200 sqm

Only genuine buyer may Contact

Rahul Singh: 9474214859, 9933712807

## TO LET

An area of 1700 Sq feet/ 170 Sqmtr suitable for Office, Tuition center, Godown is available at Anarkali, 20 mtrs approaching footpath... Interested party may contact 9074920746.

## Residents of...

(From page 1)

single PHC, the number of patients at the hospital has increased in the past six years, but the medical lab remains closed without functioning. This has raised an urgent need for action by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to resolve this crucial issue for the remote island. According to villagers, "In the hospital, we have a lab and machine, but no staff in the laboratory. The situation is even more critical now. It affects results, and diagnoses are delayed."

The Pradhan Gram Panchayat of Long Islands, Mr. Kamaraj, told Andaman Sheekha that there is a growing demand of health care in the Island, many residents of Long Island are old, who are visiting the Rangat PHC for blood testing and other lab testing.

"Patients with long illnesses need to take a 1 hour 30 minute boat service

from Long Islands to Rangat to reach other government hospitals, after standing in long queues for doctor consultation and lab testing. After long hours, patients only receive the report and start their return journey by evening. It has often been observed that many patients return without getting their tests done at the laboratory," he added.

On behalf of Long Island villagers, Kamaraj demanded lab technicians. He has now requested the Directorate of Health Services to intervene in this matter and provide some relief for the people of the Long Islands. When Andaman Sheekha Daily contacted a senior officer of the Directorate of Health Services, it was informed that they have already taken up the matter with the administration and that files have been moved to start the recruitment process for more Lab Technicians.

## Parakram Diwas...

(From page 2)

Subhas Chandra Bose in presence of Mr. Biswanath Sen, Tehsildar, Diglipur and other officials of the Tehsil Office and Mr. P.R. Singaram, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Subhashgram. People who had gathered to become part of this great celebration, offered flowers and paid their tributes to this iconic freedom fighter.

Pramukh and Pradhan then delivered their speeches on this remarkable day. It was on this day in 1897, that Neta Ji Subhas Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack, Odisha.

Bose was one of the prominent heroes of India's

independence struggle. Referred as Netaji, he fought for independence throughout his life, within the country and from abroad.

Owing to the legendary freedom fighter's extraordinary contribution to the Indian freedom struggle, the government designated Netaji's birthday as ParakramDiwas in 2021.

The 23rd of January is celebrated as ParakramDiwas every year to inspire people of the country, especially the youth, to act with fortitude in the face of adversity as Netaji did, and to infuse in them a spirit of patriotic fervour.



Edited, Published, Printed and Owned by Shri Sanjib Kumar Roy and Published from Roy Villa, INS Utkrosh Road, New Pahargaon, Garacharma Post Office- 744105, South Andaman, A & N Islands. Printed at Royal Printers, Bargat Line, South Andaman. Editor: Shri Sanjib Kumar Roy.

Address: Roy Villa, INS Utkrosh Road, New Pahargaon, Garacharma Post Office- 744105, South Andaman. Ph: 09932082892. andaman.shikha@gmail.com, editor@andamansheekha.com

City Office: Andaman Sheekha, D & K City Building, Ground Floor, RGT Road, Port Blair, A & N Islands.