



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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Jarawa Facts

The Jarawa move around the forest in groups of 40 or 50 people. They build small temporary huts whilst on the move, and also build large huts where several families live together. They collect honey, roots and berries, hunt pigs and monitor lizards, and catch fish with spears.

Your Nature Guide

Plankton: This is a term used to describe the smelters, free floating plants and animals, which just drift along with the winds and currents. Some plankton have a limited swimming ability and can migrate daily in a vertical direction. Plankton are an important source of food for many sea animals.

There are two types of plankton Phytoplankton, which are microscopic plant plankton, and Zooplankton, which are larger animals plankton. Phytoplankton are amongst the most productive food manufactures of the seas.

Bigger Plants: Amongst the other plants are the Algae that are of different colours-green, red and brown. Some algae are edible (for humans) and a good source of protein. Most make very good fertilizer if spread in the garden or farm. Bigger algae are called seaweeds.

The oceans also have grasses growing in them. Eelgrass is a very common one found in our seas. It is grazed on by dugongs and green sea turtles.

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

People's Voice

Ek taraf Pradhan Mantri ka logon ke liye Schemes aur ek taraf Banks ka rejection ... Kaise Implement hoga logon ke liye ye saara schemes agar aise chalta raha toh???

- A Citizen



75% attendance in Parliament should be made compulsory for contesting next elections!

Member of Parliament Demands Two Additional Power Generators for Swaraj Dweep to Meet the Growing Power Demand

Port Blair, Dec. 15: The Member of Parliament, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today requested the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration to install atleast two new DG sets in Swaraj Dweep so that sufficient power is generated for the general public and also to support tourism infrastructures.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the Member

of Parliament said that the Swaraj Dweep Island is witnessing several hour long power cuts every day. The reason behind these long power interruptions is the gap between demand and supply of total power requirement of the Island.

He mentioned that since 2018 correspondences are being made in this regard to send additional power generators for Swaraj

Dweep because the present DG sets installed in Swaraj Dweep are unable to meet the power requirements due to increase in Tourist inflow.

The Member of Parliament also mentioned that during Covid-19 lockdown the power requirement was low in Swaraj Dweep and hence in last one and half year the problem was not serious. With increase in number of

tourist footfalls, the power requirement has gone up, resulting in 7 to 8 hour long power cuts in Swaraj Dweep on daily basis.

Tourism is the main industry of A & N Islands and it provides thousands of jobs, said the MP requesting the Chief Secretary to take up the issue on priority.

Indian Coast Guard Comes to the Rescue of Distressed Ship IFB MFV Akshra

Port Blair, Dec. 15: On 10th Dec at about 1326 hours, MFV Akshra, which had departed from Junglighat fishing harbour, Port Blair for fishing with 05 fishermen onboard, reported engine failure at sea. MFV Akshra had left the harbor on 8th Dec and had reached 20 miles off Spike Island.

On receipt of information, the Coast Guard Regional Headquarters at Port Blair diverted Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ships C-146 and Durgabai Deshmukh to provide assistance to the distressed fishing boat. On



arrival at datum, the Coast Guard Ship embarked its technical team onboard the fishing boat to carry out necessary rectification.

However, due to non-availability of required spares onboard the fishing vessel

Continued on P4

State Bank of India Fails to Issue Loans to Beneficiaries Under PMFME in spite of All Attempts by Industries Department

Port Blair, Dec. 15: The Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MoFPI) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The aim is to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing.

Since the launch of the scheme, many individuals under the unorganized sector have been approaching the Directorate of Industries, A&N Administration to avail the benefits. The Directorate of Industries too

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Electricity Department's Truck Gets Stuck in the Muddy ATR at Bakultala, Causes Traffic Problems

Bakultala, Dec. 15: A truck of the Electricity Department today got stuck in the muddy Andaman Trunk Road at Bakultala after it tried to give way to the passing vehicles. It's not an unusual situation to be reported but the gravity of the issue is the cause of reporting. Such incidents have become regular on the so called National Highway of Andaman Islands.

It took hours for the truck to be pulled out with the assistance of a truck of the APWD. Till then the road was jammed causing endless sufferings to the road users especially the residents of Bakultala. The incident was reported to Andaman Chronicle by a resident, requesting to highlight the pathetic condition of the road. It can be expected that the Andaman & Nicobar Administration makes a serious note of the issues being faced by the general public when it comes to traveling on the so called National Highway and ensure that a speedy and permanent solution is met before the dry spell is over.



DCSA Chairs District Consultative Committee Meeting of South Andaman District



Port Blair, Dec. 15: The District Consultative Committee of South Andaman District was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Suneel Anchipaka, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman at the Conference Hall, District Office to review the performance of Banks under Annual Credit Plan, Central Sponsored Schemes and Flagship Schemes of Govt. of India.

The DC (SA) advised the banks to give more thrust on Social Security Schemes (Jan

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Life has no Remote Control. Get up and Change it Yourself.

Troubling Question

The road to gender equity is long and hard, and despite the fact that each generation has paved a better way for the next, the struggle to overcome disparities is far from over. Through this difficult journey, the school's role in sensitising young minds towards building a non-discriminatory world cannot be overstated. In this context, a comprehension passage in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) English examination conducted on Saturday for Class 10 students must be condemned for its regressive and sexist stance. The passage, which created a furore across all sections of society and in Parliament where Congress president Sonia Gandhi called out the misogyny, contained outrageous sentences, including one which said "women gaining independence is the main reason for a wide variety of social and family problems". Young impressionable teenagers, girls and boys, already stressed because of the pandemic, did not know how to tackle the question. Another sentence shockingly read "that the emancipation of the wife destroyed the parent's authority over the children... In bringing the man down from his pedestal the wife and mother deprived herself, in fact, of the means of discipline". The multiple answers to one question that followed the passage asking children to comment on the tone had this choice: "Writer takes a light-hearted approach to life". The initial response from the CBSE was tone-deaf, although the Board later said it was dropping the question.

It was eventually forced to express "regret" and it vowed to review its paper setting processes. Already because of COVID-19, the 2020-21 syllabi for Classes 9-12 were truncated by 30% with glaring omissions of core concepts in subjects such as Mathematics. From the social sciences and other humanities subjects, topics such as federalism, citizenship, nationalism, secularism, democracy, and diversity, were slashed. In the real world it will be tougher for children if they are not taught the basics in school, and if they grow up with anxieties related to gender, for instance. In India, misogyny has long roots. Inequalities of class, caste, gender already exist in the school system, worse in the villages and among the urban poor. Many girls are pushed to drop out for myriad reasons, from the lack of toilet facilities in school to forced labour or marriage. If men, as Claudia Goldin says in her book, *Career & Family*, must start doing what women have always done, provide personal support, lend a ear, and help, education has to begin when they are young. Instead of teaching them to cast off stereotypes, school authorities are reiterating old wrongs. At a time when it is imperative for the Board to lighten children's burden, the CBSE has sent out the worst possible message.

Amazon.in Crosses 10 Lakh Sellers Milestone; Over 1 Lakh Local Offline Stores now Selling on Local Shops on Amazon program

Port Blair, Dec 15: Amazon India today announced that over 10 lakh sellers are now selling on Amazon.in from across India. The company had started in India in 2013 with 100 sellers and has today grown to be the preferred online destination for sellers across India. Notably more than 90% of the sellers on Amazon.in are small and medium local businesses (SMBs) and over half of these sellers on the marketplace come from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Since January 2020, more than 4.5 lakh new sellers have joined Amazon.in and over one lakh of these new sellers are local offline retailers & neighbourhood stores that have onboarded the Amazon marketplace through the Local Shops on Amazon program.

Since inception in India, Amazon has been focused on creating the infrastructure and the ecosystem needed to support SMBs to adopt ecommerce. From taking Chai Cart and Tatkal vans to markets and SMB hubs in cities across India for increasing awareness about ecommerce to launching several India first innovations for Amazon like Seller Flex and Easy Ship, to creating focused programs to address key seller cohorts like 'Karigar' for weavers and artisans, 'Saheli' for women entrepreneurs and 'Launchpad' for emerging direct-to-consumer brands – teams across Amazon have been focused on enabling these small businesses across India expand their reach to customers across the country and the world through ecommerce.

Amazon has been engaging with the vast network of local neighbourhood stores across India, integrating ecommerce into their operations through focused programs like Local Shops of Amazon (for online selling), Amazon Easy (for assisted shopping), I Have Space (for last mile deliveries) and more. These focused programs have been witnessing rapid adoption.

Local Shops on Amazon: Launched in April 2020, 'Local Shops on Amazon' brings the benefits of ecommerce to offline retailers and neighbourhood stores. It helps them supplement existing footfalls at their stores with a digital presence on Amazon.in and expand their reach beyond their normal catchment. For customers, this program brings together the safety and convenience of online shopping with the familiarity and trust of their favourite local stores. The program has witnessed accelerated adoption across the country, growing over 20 times since launch with the total number of sellers on the

program doubling in just the last eight months. The program has already been expanded to 450 cities across India including top metros as well as tier 2 and tier 3 cities like Sangli, Osmanabad, Jamnagar, Gorakhpur, Jabalpur, Ratlam, Bikaner, Guwahati, Howrah, Tumkur, Jalpaiguri, Ernakulam, Kanchipuram, Patna, Rajkot, Agra and Dehradun. Amazon has pledged to onboard 10 lakh local stores on Amazon.in by 2025.

Amazon Easy: Launched in 2015, Amazon Easy enables assisted shopping experience for new to Amazon customers, especially in smaller towns and cities, while enabling additional income for these local stores. Customers can walk into the store and place an order on Amazon.in with guided assistance from the store staff and pick up the order from the store or get it delivered at their doorstep. The number of Amazon Easy stores is on track to the 1 lakh stores mark by end of 2021. An upgraded 'Amazon Easy' store format has recently been launched offering a touch & feel product experience and integrating multiple Amazon services through a single touchpoint. The upgraded format stores will soon be expanded to other parts of the country.

I Have Space: With the launch of the 'I Have Space (IHS)' program in 2015, Amazon has empowered and unlocked the entrepreneurial potential of many neighbourhood stores across the country. Under this program, Amazon helps local business owners to deliver products to their customers within a 2 to 4 kilometers radius of their store, allowing them to increase their sales and generate more footfalls in their stores. This is a network of close to 28,000 micro businesses and retail outlets in more than 420 cities across India.

Manish Tiwary, Vice President – Amazon India said "It is heartening to see the role Amazon is playing in enabling small local businesses across the country, including local offline retailers and neighbourhood stores from across India that are adopting ecommerce and placing their trust in Amazon to grow their business by selling online, participating in last mile deliveries, joining assisted shopping and more. The rapid growth of sellers joining Amazon.in reflects the tremendous entrepreneurial spirit of the Indian businesses and the key role ecommerce has played in their business especially



during the recent challenges caused by the pandemic. As we look forward, we remain committed to our pledge of digitizing 10 million SMBs including the ubiquitous dukaans. We strongly believe that Amazon can play a significant role in fueling India's digital economy to its \$1 trillion ambition."

Additional Notes on some seller-facing India innovations since 2014

Easy Ship: Launched in 2014, 'Easy Ship' enables sellers across the country to leverage the Amazon delivery network to ship their products directly to customers. The program makes it possible for lakhs of sellers from hundreds of cities and towns to make their products easily accessible to Amazon customers across the country.

Chai Cart: In 2015, Amazon had launched an awareness campaign called Chai Cart... wherein four-wheeler mobile carts navigated in key business districts across top cities, serving tea, water and lemon juice to SMBs in the area while educating interested sellers on benefit of ecommerce.

Seller App: Amazon launched the Seller App in 2015 to enable seamless registration, order notification, order detailing, shipment confirmation and order fulfilment notification through mobile devices. Over 50% of sellers on Amazon.in currently use the seller app to manage their business.

Tatkal: In 2016, Amazon Tatkal was launched as a one-stop-shop on the go to help SMBs get online in 60 minutes and sell on Amazon.in. As part of the program, specially designed studio-on-wheels called Tatkal Vans went around in key cities offering SMBs a suite of launch services including registration, imaging and cataloging services, as well as basic seller training mechanisms.

Seller Flex: There are thousands of Amazon Seller Flex sites across the country. It is an India-first innovation as part of which sellers can use their own premises to stock inventory and avail our logistics services to deliver orders to customers. It makes it convenient for sellers to have similar advantages as FBA services and serve customers faster and more efficiently.

ENTERTAINMENT

Penelope Cruz Honoured by MoMA for her Career in Cinema

An exciting moment of the night was when Almodóvar sent a video message to Cruz, congratulating her on the recognition.

He recalled in the video a dialogue with the actress that they had when they promoted "All About My Mother" (1999).

"You told me that when I get old you will take care of me. I'm not that old yet, but I hope you keep your word," he said, provoking laughter in the audience. "When I am an old man, I hope you come and become, in this case, my mother. It would be a reflection of all the mothers that you have been for me throughout these seven films."

Among those paying tribute to the Spanish actress at the annual film benefit was Anne Hathaway, Diane Kruger and Rebecca Hall. Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin, Spanish singer Rosalía and fashion designer Zac Posen also didn't miss the event.

The benefit featured clips from some of Cruz's many films: "Broken Embraces" (2009), "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" (2008), and "Volver" (2006), among others. Cruz won an Oscar for



best supporting actress in Woody Allen's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

Hathaway remembered that moment during Tuesday's red carpet.

"I went up to congratulate her and, I don't know if it was her sisters or her friends, but two beautiful women ran down from the top balcony and they were so happy for her," Hathaway said. "And I have women like that in my life, and I was just so happy to see her, you know, the authentic joy that the women in her life felt for her."

The benefit has been presented since 2011 by

Chanel. Cruz, who wore a long red Chanel v-line dress with an open back, has been an ambassador of the fashion house since 2018.

MoMA's film benefit raises funds to bring great works of film to the museum's collection. The museum's film department includes more than 30,000 films and 1.5 million film stills.

Cruz joins a group of previous MoMA honorees that includes Martin Scorsese, Tom Hanks, Julianne Moore, Cate Blanchett, Quentin Tarantino, George Clooney and others.

Golden Globes 2022 Nominations: 'King Richard,' 'The Power of the Dog' and More

After widespread criticism forced the organization that puts on the Golden Globes to lose its televised award show and overhaul its membership, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association nevertheless went ahead announcing nominees for film and television awards on Monday despite a skeptical entertainment industry.

Just as it's done for many years, the HFPA gathered reporters at the Beverly Hilton to announce its picks for the 79th Golden Globes. But this time, there was no morning show live spot or immediate celebrity celebrations.

The HFPA, which usually has a handful of movie stars make their announcement, turned instead to Snoop Dogg, who read the nominees behind sunglasses and a red hat. The majority of studios, public relations firms and A-list talent haven't engaged much with the group this year. Critics have said it's too soon for the HFPA to return to business as usual. Some would rather see the Globes be gone for good.

But the press association tried its best to keep its perch in awards season on Monday, spreading nominations around to the likes of Will Smith ("King Richard"),



Kristen Stewart ("Spencer"), "West Side Story" breakthrough Rachel Zegler, Leonardo DiCaprio ("Don't Look Up"), Denzel Washington ("The Tragedy of Macbeth"), Ben Affleck ("The Tender Bar") and Lady Gaga ("House of Gucci").

The nominees for best picture, drama, went to Jane Campion's gothic Western "The Power of the Dog," Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi epic "Dune," the family drama "CODA," Reinaldo Marcus Green's tennis biopic "King Richard" and Kenneth Branagh's autobiographical "Belfast."

The comedy or musical picks for best picture were: Adam McKay's apocalyptic comedy "Don't Look Up," Paul Thomas Anderson's '70s

San Fernando Valley comedy "Licorice Pizza," Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Tick, Tick ... Boom!" and Joe Wright's "Cyrano."

"Belfast" and "The Power of the Dog" tied for the most nominations with seven apiece. Netflix dominated the film nominees with 17 nods in total.

Normally, such honors would set off a flurry of delight from early-roused nominees and their studios, who would trumpet their triumphs on social media and in calls with reporters. On Monday morning, no nominee immediately celebrated — publicly, at least.

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In a First, NASA Spacecraft 'Touches' Sun



A NASA spacecraft has officially "touched" the sun, plunging through the unexplored solar atmosphere known as the corona.

Scientists announced the news Tuesday during a meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

The Parker Solar Probe actually flew through the corona in April during the spacecraft's eighth close approach to the sun. Scientists said it took a few months to get the data back and then several more months to confirm.

"Fascinatingly exciting," said project scientist Nour Raouafi of Johns Hopkins University.

Launched in 2018, Parker was 13 million kilometers from the center of the sun when it first crossed the jagged, uneven boundary between the solar atmosphere and outgoing solar wind. The spacecraft dipped in and out of the corona at least three times, each a smooth transition, according to scientists.

"The first and most dramatic time we were below for about five hours ... Now you might think five hours, that doesn't sound big," the University of Michigan's Justin Kasper told reporters. But he noted that Parker was moving so fast it covered a vast distance during that time, tearing along at more than 100 kilometers per second.

The corona appeared dustier than expected, according to Raouafi. Future coronal excursions will help scientist better understand the origin of the solar wind, he said, and how it is heated and accelerated out into space. Because the sun lacks a solid surface, the corona is where the action is; exploring this magnetically intense region up close can help scientists better understand solar outbursts that can interfere with life here on Earth.

Preliminary data suggest Parker also dipped into the corona during its ninth close approach in August, but scientists said more analyses are needed. It made its 10th close approach last month.

Parker will keep drawing ever closer to the sun and diving deeper into the corona until its grand finale orbit in 2025.

The latest findings were also published by the American Physical Society.

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HONDA

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDERS
No. DB-TN/CD/CB/2021-22/2499 Dated the 15th Dec' 2021.

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APWD, Campbell Bay invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate tenders from **experienced and eligible Contractors having valid GST Registration and requisite experience of having successfully completed similar work(s) of relevant magnitude in civil works** without any adverse remarks in any of the Govt. Organizations in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the following work.

- 1. NIT No. 59/EE/CD/CB/2021-22 Name of work:** Construction of 01 No Art Room for Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Campbell Bay. **Estimated Cost :** ' 27,92,016/-, **Period of Completion :** 03 (Three) Months & **last time & date of Submission of bid :** 28-12-2021 (12:00 hrs)

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

2021/MediaRelease/950

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Indian Coast Guard Comes to the Rescue of Distressed Ship IFB MFV Akshra

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the defect could not be rectified. Thereafter, ICG Ship Durgabai Deshmukh took MFV Akshra under tow and entered Port Blair harbour at

2305 hours on 11th Dec 21. The fishing boat alongwith 05 fishermen was safely handed over to Department of Fisheries, Port Blair.

The assistance provided is reflective of the national effort by all uniformed services of the Andaman & Nicobar Command at Port Blair.

State Bank of India Fails to Issue Loans to Beneficiaries Under PMFME in spite of All Attempts by Industries Department

Continued from Page 1
have been very enterprising when it comes to supporting the applicants by helping online filing of applications, preparing of Detailed Project Reports and also approaching the respective banks with the applicants to get the loans issued.

It is surprising to note that none of the nationalized banks especially the State Bank of India has miserably failed to issue a single loan till date in spite of all efforts by the Industries Department and the applicants. It has come to the knowledge of Andaman

Chronicle that majority of the applications have been rejected by the State Bank of India because they have not received updated guidelines of the Ministry. It is also learnt that the updated guidelines were repeatedly presented to the State Bank of India by the officials of the Industries department but all in vain due to lack of interest of the Bank officials.

In the name of Pradhan Mantri's Schemes, there are regular meetings conducted of District Consultative Committee, where bank officials give their

attendances to project everything is working smooth. If such is the attitude of the banks in the Islands especially the State Bank of India and the Lead Bank, it would definitely be sending a wrong signal to the mass about the Schemes formulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for the beneficiaries. It can be expected that the concerned officials chairing the District Consultative Committee make a serious note of the issue and put in serious efforts to popularize the Modi Government's people centric schemes.

DCSA Chairs District Consultative Committee Meeting of South Andaman District

Continued from Page 1
Suraksha Yojna) like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojna (APY) as these schemes are to be saturated before

September 2022. He also instructed to cover all PM Kissan beneficiaries of agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry sector under Kissan Credit Card (KCC) Schemes. The CD Ratio of the District is 51.86%, which requires improvement.

The meeting was attended by Shri C Raj, Chief Manager, SBI, Shri Debajyoti Datta, AGM, RBI, Shri P K Ummer Farooq, Lead Bank Manager, SBI and other officials of banks, NABARD and Govt. Department.

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Mandeep Grewal

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District Administration Continues COVID Vaccination Drive & TB Active Cases Finding

Port Blair, Dec. 15: The District Administration in coordination with Health Department is continuing with the COVID vaccination drive and TB Active Case Finding (ACF) survey at community level. The drive was today carried out at Shoal Bay village from 10.00 AM to 01:00 PM and at Dollygunj village from 05:00 PM to 09:00 PM. On spot walk-in COVID vaccination was given to the eligible beneficiaries.

A team of District TB unit along with District TB officer conducted Active Case Finding (ACF) survey by visiting the houses of TB patients. Their contacts and the identified suspects have been asked to go for further testing at TB unit of GBPH.

Shri. Suneel Anchipaka, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman informed that District Administration

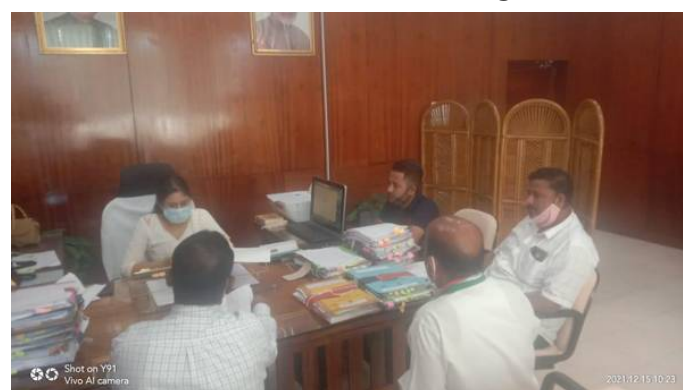


will continue the evening mobile vaccination drive as well as TB Active Case Finding survey throughout the District till each and every eligible person vaccinated. He requested the general public to avail the opportunity to vaccinate themselves with COVID vaccine. Those who have fever, cough and night

sweats may go for TB test at nearest Health Centre.

The DC (SA) has urged the general public of South Andaman to cooperate with the field staff during "Har Ghar Dastak" home visit campaign. He has also directed all commercial establishments to ensure that their staffs are fully vaccinated with second COVID vaccine.

ANTCC Delegation Raises Education Related Issues with Secretary



Port Blair, Dec 15: A delegation of Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC) comprising of ANTCC President Shri. Rangalal Halder, ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Shri. TSG Bhasker, DCC President Shri. V.K Abdul Aziz and State President NSUI Shri. M.A.Sajid met the Education Secretary Dr. Angel Bhati Chauhan, IAS today to discuss the education related problems

being faced by students of A&N Islands and handed over a memorandum.

The ANTCC raised major demands like immediate filling of vacant Guest Faculty posts in MGGC, JNRM & ANCOL, setting up Central University, special vaccination camps for students to keep them safe from Corona were also raised. The Education Secretary has taken cognizance of all the subjects and has assured action soon.

Transport Department Organises Awareness cum License Mela to Mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav

Port Blair, Dec 15: The Directorate of Transport, A&N Administration today organized an awareness cum license mela at the Community Hall, Ograbraj to mark 'Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav'. Shri Binoy, Dy. Director, Transport graced the occasion as the chief guest while Miss Mariyam Bibi, Ex-Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman was the guest of honour. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr. Huma, Medical Officer, Tushnabad, Shri Bashir, Ex-Pradhan, Shri Anand Raj, Ex-Up Adhyaksh, Zilla Praishad, South Andaman, Shri Saravana, SI, Traffic Branch and Shri Arif, President Jeep Union.

The programme was attended by a large number of general public who were immensely benefitted from the mela. The gathering was briefed about the Traffic



Rules and Regulations and around 150 people were issued on the spot Learners License apart from issuing Fitness Certificates for vehicles.

Shri Mohammed Shafique, Ex Pradhan,

Mithakhari took the opportunity to thank the Director of Transport, Dr. Om Dole and the team of Transport Department for organizing this programme in a remote village for the benefit of the people.

ANTCC Remembers the Iron Man of India on his 71st Death Anniversary



Port Blair, Dec. 15: The Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC) observed the 71st death anniversary of the late Home Minister of India Shri. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel today at Gandhi Bhawan, Port Blair under the leadership of ANTCC President Shri. Rangalal Halder and ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Shri. TSG Bhasker. Senior functionaries of PCC, DCC and other senior leaders of the party including its frontal organisations garlanded the portrait of Shri. Sardar Patel. Scores of Congress workers paid

floral tributes and recalled the life and saga of "Iron Man of India". They also remembered his great qualities and the services he has rendered to the nation.

Addressing the Congress workers, Rangalal Halder said, "The current scenario in which some disruptive forces are trying to damage the unity and integrity of India, Sardar Patel and his vision become all the more relevant. We draw motivation from him and his attainment to combat the disruptive forces in the country".

The entire programme was coordinated by DCC President Shri. V.K Abdul Aziz.

Last Date for Submission of Online Applications at TGCE Extended

Port Blair, Dec. 15: Submission of online application forms for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the academic session 2021-22 in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair has commenced from 23rd October 2021. Due to

non-receipt of results by JNRM as requested by its Principal, the last date for submission of e-prospectus-cum-online application forms for admission to this Programme has now been extended upto 20th Dec 2021

All desirous candidates are requested to complete the process of submission of online application forms by 20th December 2021 via URL <http://collegiadmission.andaman.gov.in>.

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SPORTS

Barcelona and Argentina Striker Sergio Aguero Announces Retirement due to Heart Condition

Barcelona and Argentina striker Sergio Aguero announced his retirement from football on Wednesday at the age of 33 after being diagnosed with a heart condition, bringing the curtain down on an 18-year career during which he scored more than 400 goals.

Aguero was taken to hospital on Oct. 30 after experiencing chest pain and breathing difficulties in Barcelona's 1-1 draw with Alaves. The club announced a few days later that he would be out for at least three months following cardiac analysis.

"This press conference is to communicate that I've decided to stop playing soccer. It's a very hard moment but I'm at peace with the decision I made," a tearful Aguero told a gathering at the Camp Nou.

"It's a decision that I made to preserve my health. It's what the doctors said to me, that it would be better to stop playing. I made the decision around 10 days ago.

"I'm very proud of my career, it was a dream come true. I just



wanted to be a professional player and never thought that I would play in Europe."

The Argentine joined Barca on a free transfer during the close season, but made only five appearances in all competitions due to a calf injury and his cardiac issues, scoring once in a 2-1 home

defeat by Real Madrid. Aguero moved to Spain after a decade with Premier League champions Manchester City, where he scored 260 goals in 390 appearances to become the club's record goalscorer.

SJN Commission Accuses Cricket South Africa of Unfair Discrimination Against Players on Basis of Race: Report

Johannesburg, Dec. 15: Cricket South Africa (CSA) has been accused of unfair discrimination against players on the basis of race by the Social Justice and Nation-Building (SJN) commission, a development which may kick up a storm in the game in the country.

A 235-page final report submitted by the SJN Commission head Dumisa Ntsebeza has accused CSA administration, former captain and current director Graeme Smith, current head coach Mark Boucher and former batter AB de Villiers of engaging in prejudicial conduct.

According to ESPNcricinfo.com, the report has recommended for the appointment of a permanent ombudsman to deal with race and gender-based complaints in South Africa cricket. The report has also recommended that CSA puts in place an anonymous grievance policy.

The issue came to light after Boucher and former spinner Paul Adams testified that the latter was given a nickname which has racial overtones by his national teammates, including the current head coach.



The SJN Commission report also concerns about Thami Tsolekile's non-selection for the national side following the retirement of Boucher in 2012.

"The decision of the panel was totally irrational and showed clear signs of systemic racism," the report read, according to ESPNcricinfo.com.

"CSA, Mr Graeme Smith and some selectors at the time really failed Mr Tsolekile and many black players of this time in many ways." It also relates to de Villiers and Khaya Zondo affair among others, when the latter was part of South Africa's ODI squad that toured India in 2015 but not selected in the team

when JP Duminy was injured for the final match of the series.

In Zondo's place, Dean Elgar, who was part of the Test squad, played in that match.

Boucher had admitted that he was among those who sang a song which included the slur for which he has already apologised, stating that white players in South Africa were unprepared for the realities of post-Apartheid team dynamics.

De Villiers, meanwhile, in a twitter post on his official handle, has supported the probe, saying whatever decisions he took during his career he believed "was in the best interest of the team, never based on anyone's race".

"I support the aims of CSA's Social Justice and Nation Building process, to ensure equal opportunities in cricket," de Villiers tweeted.

"However, in my career, I expressed honest cricketing opinions only ever based on what I believed was best for the team., never based on anyone's race. That's the fact."

CSA has said that the SJN process, which was initially supposed to last four months but was extended to over six, cost the organisation \$500,000, but felt it was "both necessary and productive."

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Helpline Numbers

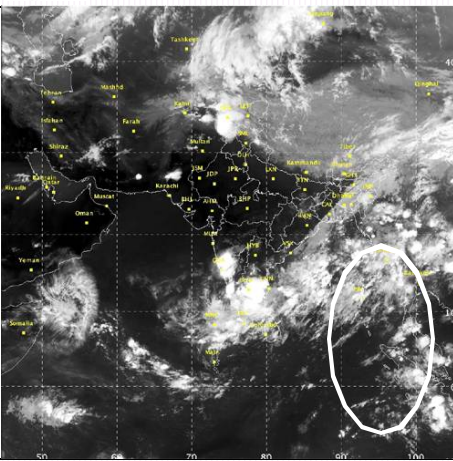
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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: 30.7 °C	Min.: 25.3 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 69% 1730 Hrs: 74%	
Sunrise: 0532 Hrs.	Sunset: 1658 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, 2020 till date):	3453.2 mm

Forecast

Dry weather most likely over Port Blair.
Maximum and Minimum temperature will be
around 30°C and 25°C respectively on
Thursday 16/12/2021

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