



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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PORT BLAIR, THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 RNI REGN. No. ANDENG/2006/19155 :: PAGES : 6 :: Rs. 3/-

Jarawa Facts

'The outsiders are bad men... They abuse us... The jungle is better. Even if I have to stay outside for a few days, I would like to return to my family in the jungle.' - Enmei, Jarawa man

Your Nature Guide

Coral Reefs: Coral reefs are huge beds of coral formed over thousands of years by the construction work of these tiny animals. These corals are also called reef building corals. The animals are able to take calcium and carbonate from seawater and crystallize them into limestone. Individual hard corals this limestone to build protective cups around themselves. The coral colony keeps growing like this with more and more addition of limestone. A solid mass is formed with each animal being cemented to the other. New colonies grow over dead ones, and eventually the huge limestone mass and living coral form a reef.

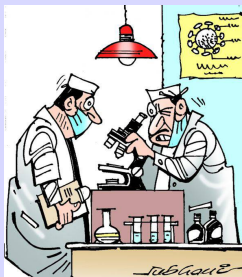
Coral Colours: Common coral colours are attractive shades of blue, pink, violet, red, or a rust brown. These colours are not the corals' own. They are provided by the different types of single-celled algae living in the corals. The relationship between these algae and the corals is very interesting. The presence of the algae help the corals to secrete limestone at a rate much faster than they could have done on their own. In return for this service the algae stay in the protective skeleton of the corals. Dead coral colonies have only masses of limestone skeleton without the living polyps. They are a light grayish colour, sometimes tinged with shades of their original colour.

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

People's Voice

Kamaal hai... Tourism Department National Tourism Day manane ja raha hai, jab ki Tourism heband hai Andaman me ..

- A Citizen



My God! This new variant is clever and cunning, affects only political leaders!

Member of Parliament Highlights Problems of Sugarcane Farmers DC Assures to Allow Selling of Sugarcane before Pongal at Bhatubasti and Aberdeen Bazaar

Port Blair, Jan 12: Fearing difficulties in selling this year, due to various COVID-19 restrictions, the sugarcane farmers of Makka Pahad, New Bimblitan, Pema and adjoining areas today contacted the Member of Parliament of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and mentioned that they want to sell sugarcane at Bhatubasti and Aberdeen Bazaar before Pongal, as it is done every year.

Sugarcane, as it is known to everybody is considered spiritual during harvest festival Pongal, as it signifies prosperity and well-being.

Highlighting the concerns of Sugarcane farmers, Kuldeep Rai Sharma today spoke to the Deputy Commissioner of South Andaman and said that it is crucial to allow Sugarcane farmers to sell

Sugarcane at Bhatubasti and Aberdeen Bazaar, considering the financial condition of these farmers, who depend largely upon selling of Sugarcane before Pongal, and for this they work hard for past several months.

The Member of Parliament mentioned that farmers of South Andaman have already suffered heavy losses during first and

second waves of COVID-19, hence allowing these farmers to sell Sugarcane at Bhatubasti and Aberdeen Bazaar will help them financially. Selling of Sugarcane before Pongal has both spiritual and financial aspects, said the MP.

Apart from this, the Member of Parliament mentioned that easy

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AATO Calls Upon Chief Secretary to Re-Open Tourist Spots in the Interest of Stakeholders Suffering Losses Since Months Together

Port Blair, Jan 12: The Andaman & Nicobar Islands has achieved a milestone of 100% vaccination. This feat has not only uplifted the confidence of the islanders but also inculcated a sense of security to the travellers bound for Andamans. The vaccination for teenagers and booster shots are also proceeding on war footing. But an unanticipated sudden closure of tourist spots and tourism activities has caused chaos amongst the stakeholders as well as tourists.

The industry stakeholders across all verticals are under heavy debt

and losses due to the closure of tourism for the entire period starting since March 2020 with the exception of a couple of months in between.

Apprising the situation of the tourism stakeholders, the President, Andaman Association of Tour Operators, Shri M Vinod today called upon the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration consider re-opening of all tourist spots in the Andaman Islands in the interest of the stakeholders who have been suffering losses since months.

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Tourism Deptt. to Organize Open Digital Poster Making & Photography Competitions to Mark National Tourism Day

Port Blair, Jan. 12: As part of National Tourism Day (NTD) on 25th January, 2022, the Tourism Department is conducting an open Poster Making Competition and Photography Competition. The theme for Digital Poster Making Competition is 'Explore Andamans' and 'Andamans #Wild & Free Like the Sea' and the theme for Digital Photography Competition is 'Unexplored Tourism sites in rural areas of the Islands'. For poster making, 20 numbers of photos are uploaded on the link https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d7wbGEkUo_YdTWD9ncVS-osolkFKXXPb

The official logo of the Tourism Department, A & N Administration (Emerald Blue and You) should be present on the poster. The candidate has to submit a declaration that the photograph submitted by him/her is original photograph shot by him/her.

The same may be used along with captivating slogan for making posters. The response/contents received from participants will be uploaded in the social media accounts like Facebook/Instagram by this Directorate. The competition

Continued on P4

Director General Vs Pathania Inspects Frontline Coast Guard Headquarters in A&N



Port Blair, Jan 12: Director General Coast Guard, VS Pathania, PTM, TM took over as the 24th Chief of Indian Coast Guard on 31 Dec 2021 and visited Coast Guard Regional Headquarters, Andaman & Nicobar from 05 Jan to 09 Jan 22 to review issues related to the Coast Guard.

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Relax Age Limit for Candidates Applying for Govt. Jobs, Requests Jolly

Port Blair, Jan 12: Shri Vishal Jolly, Former State President, BJP has requested for granting age relaxation for at least 03 years, to all aspiring candidates for all govt. jobs, considering the pandemic through his letter addressed to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, ANI & Chief Secretary, A&N Administration.

In his letter he stated that presently the nation is witnessing the third wave of the pandemic and considering this situation, even the Hon'ble Supreme Court had granted and time to time extended the limitation for filing of cases, preferring appeals etc. purely considering the pandemic. He added that many State Governments are also considering the age

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

Young Knights

A few days after he expectedly won his fifth World chess championship in a row, Magnus Carlsen suggested he might abdicate his crown — unless Alireza Firouzja qualifies as his challenger for the next World title. The Norwegian genius spoke of how the recent performances of the 18-year-old Iran-born French player motivated him. The teenager is now the frontrunner to be Carlsen's rival for next year's World title match. A few years later, an Indian could be facing the World champion across the chessboard in a title match, for the first time since 2014. It may be no exaggeration to say that India currently possesses the world's most exciting group of chess prodigies. Players such as Arjun Erigaisi (18), Nihal Sarin (17), R. Praggnanandhaa (16), D. Gukesh (15) and Raunak Sadhwani (16) are capable of breaking into the elite of world chess. And there is much promise outside that bunch too, like Bharath Subramaniam, who became India's 73rd Grandmaster on Sunday, at the age of 14. The list of the world's top juniors is a reasonable indicator of the future stars. In the latest list released by FIDE, five of the top 13 are Indians. Among the seniors, Viswanathan Anand continues to be the highest ranked Indian. The five-time World champion, who single-handedly revolutionised chess in the country, is the World No. 16.

It is no mean feat considering Anand is 52 and keeping him company are six other Indians in the top 100. Among countries, India is ranked fifth. In the women's list, Koneru Humpy is ranked third and Dronavalli Harika eleventh. Not many exceptional talents are coming through from among the junior girls, though. That is one deficiency the All India Chess Federation could look into. The federation also needs to do all it can to ensure that Indian chess retains its momentum. Never has it seen so many gifted youngsters making rapid strides on the global stage at the same time. That they are being trained, among others, by Anand is one of the most positive developments in Indian chess in recent times. Conducting a few top-tier tournaments that could pit India's best against the world's strongest, in addition to the large number of open events that are already there, is something the administrators have to do on a regular basis. At present, there is only one; and that too, thanks to Tata Steel. Chess has recently become more mainstream in India, and the huge increase in popularity of live streams of chess events suggests even better days are ahead. If there is a time to tap the huge potential of the game in the country where it originated 15 centuries ago, it is now.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Taking The Easy Road..!

We walked towards the mountain, my friend and I. We knew we had to cross to the other side. We had heard, the valleys across were full of milk and honey, that jobs were aplenty, people sweet and friendly and opportunities enough to achieve our dreams.

But we also knew we had to cross the mountain to reach that promised land.

We came across two paths my friend and I that led to the mountain: One broad and easy, the other narrow, treacherous and difficult. "Let's take the easy path!" smiled my friend to me, so when we reach the mountain, we will have strength and energy to climb!"

"Let's take the path more difficult!" I whispered, "So when we reach the beginning of the mountain, we will have muscle by then to climb!"

But my friend he smiled and walked down the broad and easy way. I watched. It did not go directly towards the mountain but turned, meandered and wandered, and all along the sides of that broad road, men and women sold their wares and even gave them away free to my happy friend. I watched as he lifted himself up with the opium offered, the drugs, the marijuana that was in every stall along the way. I watched him learn to hold his liquor down. "I can drink a full bottle!" he shouted across our roads, "and tomorrow I'll drink two!" he said as he staggered into the arms of the tavern keeper's daughters, who caressed his head and emptied his wallet.

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I walked down the narrow road, and sometimes cursed, oftentimes sobbed as thorns and rocks, sometimes small pebbles and jagged stones made me stumble, falter, fall. I looked at my friend and ever so often wished I could walk the easy walk he'd set himself to do. I ward off the beasts of the jungle, fought hunger, battled with thirst, and plodded on, and yet as I looked through my bloodied clothes I saw the beginnings of new muscle, realised resolve had grown, and determination had made me firm.

I saw my friend as he held the syringe in his hand, "It's a high no mountain top can give!" he yelled, and then I saw the spit and vomit the next day, replace the peace he'd had the day before.

I reached the mountain and waited for my friend. It was a few days wait, and he came, broken, weak, no more a man, "I am done!" he said, and rolled over. I wept as I walked to him, lying at the foot of the mountain of life. He had not even started climbing. I looked at the effects of drugs and wine and woman and watched as he looked at me with imploring eyes. "Take me with you!" he cried.

I shook my head sadly, "You know the rules!" I said, "Each has to climb this mountain alone!" I started my climb, and my legs felt light, I ran, nearly flew up, the rough terrain. "Come," I shouted, "It's easy!"

"Not for those who choose the easy road!" he whispered, as his now dead eyes watched me scale the mountain and walk to the other side..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

Member of Parliament Highlights Problems of Sugarcane Farmers DC Assures to Allow Selling of Sugarcane before Pongal at Bhatubasti and Aberdeen Bazaar

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availability of Sugarcane in the market has emotional value for the people of South India, especially Tamil Nadu.

He mentioned that as Sugarcane is one of the

main features of the Pongal celebrations in South India and every South Indian family feels happy to have it in their home during Pongal.

In reply the Deputy Commissioner assured the

Member of Parliament that sugarcane farmers will be allowed to sell Sugarcane at Bhatubasti and Aberdeen Bazaar but they have to maintain social distancing and follow all COVID Appropriate Behaviour.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lata Mangeshkar Continues to be Under Observation: Doctor

Mumbai, Jan 12: Mumbai: Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar is still under observation in the ICU, three days after she tested positive for COVID-19 and was subsequently admitted to a city hospital, the doctor treating her said on Wednesday.

Mangeshkar, 92, tested positive for coronavirus with mild symptoms and was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Breach Candy Hospital in south Mumbai on Saturday.

Sharing her health update, associate professor Dr Pratit Samdani from the Breach Candy Hospital told PTI, "She continues to be under observation in the ICU".

On Tuesday, Mangeshkar's niece Rachna Shah told PTI that the veteran was admitted to the ICU as she requires "constant care".

"She is mild COVID positive. Considering her age, doctors advised us that she should be in the ICU because she requires constant care. And we cannot take a chance. As a



family we want the best and want to ensure she has 24X7 care.

Mangeshkar's niece added that the singer "will be fine", but will take time for full recovery from COVID-19, considering her age.

In November 2019, Mangeshkar was admitted to the same hospital after she complained of difficulty in breathing and was diagnosed with pneumonia. She was discharged after 28 days.

Mangeshkar started her career at the age of 13 in 1942 and has sung over 30,000 songs in several Indian languages in an

over seven-decade career. Some of her most loved tracks are "Ajeeb dastan hai ye", "Pyaar kiya to darna kya", "Neela asman so gaya", and "Tere liye".

Considered one of Indian cinema's greatest singers, Mangeshkar received the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 2001.

She is also the recipient of several other awards, including the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, and multiple National Film Awards.

Iswarya Menon Preps for Action Sequences

Iswarya Menon couldn't have asked for a better launch in Tollywood than being part of a unique spy thriller, starring Nikhil Siddhartha. The actress has recently joined the sets of the film directed by Garry. "The experience of shooting for this film is just fantastic," Iswarya shares.

Describing Gary as 'fun to work with', she says, "He is so clear on what he wants, and he makes sure he gets it from his actors and from the rest of the crew."

"Our filmmakers Rajashekhar Reddy Charan Tej have an eye for unique content. They backed such a gripping story that I am equally thrilled to be part of," she adds. Asked about her role in the film, she says that it's a strong one. "I can't talk about it, but I have a few action sequences to perform,



and that's the most exciting aspect," she shares.

Fitness was her priority since the film is a spy action thriller, the actress says. "We will be training for the action sequences," she says, adding, "People who know me know I'm a fitness enthusiast. I have been working a lot on my core strength for more flexibility."

The Tamizh Padam 2 star is also learning Telugu. "I

have a teacher who trains me in the language every day for an hour online," the actress reveals.

Iswarya is currently working on two Telugu films simultaneously. As such, she has been visiting Hyderabad frequently. "I really hope and pray the Telugu audience like me and my work here," the Veera star says.

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Health, Science /Tech

COVID-19 | Omicron quickly overtaking Delta globally in terms of circulation: WHO



Washington, Jan 12: Omicron is quickly overtaking the Delta variant of COVID-19 and becoming dominant around the world, a senior World Health Organisation (WHO) official has warned, with the global health agency cautioning that there is "increasing evidence" Omicron is able to evade immunity but has less disease severity as compared to other variants.

It could take some time for Omicron to overtake Delta in some countries, because it depends on the level of circulation of the Delta variant in those countries, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist and COVID-19 Technical Lead at the WHO Maria Van Kerkhove said on January 11.

"Omicron has been detected in all countries where we have good sequencing and it's likely to be in all countries around the world. It is quickly, in terms of its circulation, overtaking Delta. And so Omicron is becoming the dominant variant that is being detected," Ms. Kerkhove said during a virtual questions and answers session.

She further cautioned that even though there is some information that Omicron causes less severe disease than Delta, "it's not a mild disease" because "people are still being hospitalised for Omicron". The COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update, released by the WHO, said that over 15 million new COVID-19 cases were reported globally in the week of January 3-9, a 55% increase as compared to the previous week when about 9.5 million cases were reported.

Over 43,000 new deaths were reported in the past week. As of 9 January, over 304 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 5.4 million deaths have been reported.

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3-3

HONDA

AATO Calls Upon Chief Secretary to Re-Open Tourist Spots in the Interest of Stakeholders Suffering Losses Since Months Together

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Vinod suggested reopening of all tourism spots in South Andaman District and North & Middle Andaman District with strict adherence to Covid protocols. The number of people at each tourist spot

may be capped to avoid overcrowding. The same may be relaxed as the Covid situation improves.

The Association has also requested the Chief Secretary that any action or decision taken with regard to tourism industry may be

taken in consultation with the stakeholders who are the directly affected party in the actions or decisions so taken. "We need your support to survive", cried the AATO, placing the plea before the Chief Secretary.

Tourism Deptt. to Organize Open Digital Poster Making & Photography Competitions to Mark National Tourism Day

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is open for all and entry is free, no age bar. The best may be selected on the basis of number of likes and subsequently judged by a Panel by 25th Jan, 2022. The best 3 entries in both the competitions will be suitably awarded with cash prizes. The details are as follows:

1. Poster making Competition:
1st Prize - Rs.10,000/-
2nd Prize - Rs.5,000/-
3rd Prize - Rs.3,000/-

Theme: 1. Explore Andamans. 2. Andamans #Wild & Free Like the Sea.

2. Photography Competition:

1st Prize - Rs.10,000/-
2nd Prize - Rs.5,000/-
3rd Prize - Rs.3,000/-

Theme: "Unexplored Tourism sites in rural areas of the Islands"

Those who intend to participate in the competition on the above themes can send their entries in the email ID:

thedirectortourism@gmail.com by 18th January, 2022 by 10 am positively. The photographs should be of good quality with high resolution, which will look attractive in Facebook/Instagram. The Department may use the submitted photographs & posters for any useful purpose if found suitable and once submitted, the copyright of the submitted material shall belong to the Department, a press release from Directorate of IP&T said.

Director General Vs Pathania Inspects Frontline Coast Guard Headquarters in A&N

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The Director General later called on Admiral DK Joshi PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.) Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Lt General Ajai Singh AVSM, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command. During call on, important issues related to Coast Guard in A&N islands were discussed. The Flag Officer during his visit to A&N islands also had informal discussions with Chairman

and members of the Public Accounts Committee about various aspects of the Coast Guard.

The Director General also visited front line Coast Guard Headquarters No.9 at Diglipur having area of responsibility of Middle and North Andaman, Coast Guard District Headquarters No. 10 at Campbell Bay having area of responsibility of Nicobar Group of Islands and interacted with officers and

men. The Director General elaborated on the Indian Coast Guard motto "WE PROTECT" and urged that each individual had a special responsibility towards personnel placed under him/her, by way of their training, counselling and mentoring. He said "each person should treat his task for the day as a mission and work flawlessly towards it."

OBITUARY

With deep sorrow and grief, we inform you the sad untimely demise of our dear and beloved Abhir Singh S/o Satnam Singh, Grandson of Late Balbir Singh R/o Gurudwara Line on 11/01/22.

We express our deepest condolences to the family.

- Grewal & Sandhu Family



Appeal!

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration is on a war-footing to end the corona cases in our Islands. Let's support the Administration by being responsible citizens and follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

Let's pledge to make our Islands COVID Free!

Mandeep Grewal

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Relax Age Limit for Candidates Applying for Govt. Jobs, Requests Jolly

Continued from Page 1
relaxation. The administration may also take a decision to relax the age of all aspiring candidates by raising the upper age limit for at least 03 years for all government services under the UT Administration. If such a decision is taken, the same would certainly benefit

large number of young aspirants seeking employment.

Jolly requested to take appropriate steps and relax the age by raising the upper age limit for all government services for at least 03 years while filling up of all 9000 (approx) vacant posts, at the earliest considering the third wave of the pandemic.

India Reports 2.41 Lakh New Cases, 372 Deaths on January 12, 2022

Chennai, Jan 12: India recorded 2,41,003 new COVID-19 cases on January 12, the highest single-day increase in the ongoing wave. The infections increased by more than 165% compared with the case count a week ago.

The increase in the number of tests conducted on January 11, the results for which were made available on January 12, may have played a part in the spike in infections. On January 11, 17,61,900 tests were conducted, a 25% increase from a week ago.

The number of active cases in the country crossed the 10.5-lakh mark, and the cumulative infections stood at 3.62 crore.

On January 12, 372 new fatalities were recorded, not wavering much from the average levels recorded in the past month.

The figures are based on the State bulletins released until 10 p.m. on January 12. Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Jharkhand and Tripura had not released data for the day.

Active cases in Maharashtra crossed 2.4 lakh, after the State reported 46,723 new cases on January 12, the highest single-day jump in the past fortnight.

The State's active case burden stood at 2,40,122 and the test positivity rate at 9.89%. A higher than usual fatality figure was reported on January 12, with 32 deaths pushing the

cumulative death toll to 1,41,701.

40% rise in Mumbai

Mumbai reported 16,420 infections, a 40% increase from the previous day. The increase came after four consecutive days of decline recorded in the city. The city's positivity rate also spiked to 24% from 18.7% the day before.

Pune district reported more than 7,000 new cases and Thane more than 3,900.

There was a sharp rise in cases in Gujarat, with 9,941 reported on January 12, the highest in the past five months. The active caseload climbed to 43,726, of which 51 patients are on ventilator support.

Assam recorded 3,274 new cases on January 12 after 49,915 samples were tested. The test positivity rate stood at 6.56%. Four new deaths were also reported on the day. The active case count stood at 11,792.

It was no different in Andhra Pradesh, where 3,205 fresh cases were reported in the 24 hours ending January 12 morning. It was the highest single-day tally in the past six and a half months.

In the week ending on January 12, a total of 9,503 infections were reported, a 500% rise over

the 1,527 infections reported in the previous week. The positivity rate stood at 7.64%. The active cases crossed the 10,000-mark for the first time in 101 days. It stood at 10,119. Visakhapatnam and Chittoor districts accounted for more than 40% of the active cases. The State has 203 patients in ICUs.

Kerala logged 12,742 new cases after 72,808 samples were tested in the past 24 hours. The daily caseload has gone up by more than twofold in the past two days, and the case graph has been on a steady rise since January 3.

Between January 5-11, new cases rose by 116%, in comparison to the previous week, while active cases went up by 63%. The active case pool added close to 10,000 new cases on a single day, taking the tally to 54,430 on January 12. Of these, 3,029 persons are being treated in hospitals across the State.

21,000 in Karnataka

Karnataka on January 12 reported 21,390 new cases, with Bengaluru Urban alone reporting 15,617. The test positivity rate stood at 10.96%. The death toll stood at 38,389. There are 93,099 active cases in the State.

Telangana reported 2,319 new cases on January 12 after 90,000 samples were tested. The State also reported two deaths.

Jolly Requests for Relaxation and Exemption in Obtaining Fitness Certificates for Commercial Vehicles

Port Blair, Jan 12: The Former State President, BJP, Shri Vishal Jolly has requested for relaxation and exemption to obtain fitness certificate of commercial vehicle without late fee through his letter addressed to Chief Secretary, A & N Administration.

In his letter he stated that as per the new Motor Vehicle Act 2021 the penalty or fine for not having a valid fitness certificate for a commercial vehicle is Rs. 50/- has been imposed per day by the transport authority while obtaining a fresh fitness certificate.

He pointed out that due to lockdown, COVID

restriction and lack of awareness many commercial vehicle owners could not obtain fitness certificates of their vehicles in time resulting in huge late fees, which they are not able to bear as the commercial vehicle owners are already facing financial hardships during the lockdown period as the tourism and other commercial activities completely shut down considering the ongoing COVID pandemic. Thus the same has also affected their livelihood and they are not able to get the fitness of their vehicles due to such huge late fees.

Jolly also added that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) extended the validity of the motor vehicle documents till September 30, 2021, in view of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

He therefore requested that the fitness certificate expired before 1/2/2020, the late fee fine for the period from 1/2/2020 to 31/10/2021 may be exempted in the line of the MoRTH instruction which was extended on Motor Vehicle documents till 30th September, 2021 as a special ground for considering the present financial hardship face by the commercial vehicle owners.

GREETINGS

I extend my warm Greetings to all Islanders on the auspicious occasion of Lohri, I wish you all peace, prosperity and pray that this festival will bring unlimited happiness and enormous amounts of joy to you and your loved ones.

May the celebration bind all sections of our society together with the spirit of love, compassion and joy. May this festival, which celebrates the hard work of our farmers and offer gratitude to Mother Nature, bring happiness, peace and prosperity in every one's life.

I wish a very happy and blessed Lohri to all Islanders.

KULDEEP RAI SHARMA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

APPEAL

It is a matter of pride that India has remained free of wild polio cases since January, 2011. India's unprecedented progress against Polio has led to its certification as Polio free by WHO in March, 2014 and recently we have celebrated 25th Year of Pulse Polio Immunization in India. For protection against re-introduction of Polio virus, the National Immunization Day for Polio is being organized on 23rd January, 2022, covering all the children in the age group of 0-5 years.

Amid the pandemic of COVID-19 we have stood firm and alert; so as we continue our effort to maintain the polio free status in these Islands

I, appeal to all sections of society, especially Public Representatives, Non-Government Organizations and people at the grass root level to extend their full and vigorous co-operation to make the Intensive National Immunization Day for Polio on 23rd January, 2022 a great success.

Admiral DK Joshi
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (RETD.)
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman & Nicobar Islands and
Vice Chairman, Island Development Agency

Vaccination Drive in A&N Islands

Port Blair, Jan.12: The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in A&N Islands. As per data available, a total of 5,99,832 beneficiaries in the age group of 18 and above have been vaccinated so far in A&N Islands. Similarly, 16,732 beneficiaries have been vaccinated in the age group of 15 to 18 years against the target beneficiaries of 23,000. The number of beneficiaries administered precautionary dose of vaccine today stood at 1457.

A total of 1487 people were vaccinated today. 590

beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which, 228 beneficiaries were in the age group of 15-18 years while 163 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. Similarly, 146 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District, out of which, 98 beneficiaries were in the age group of 15-18 years while 27 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. 179 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District, out of which, 157 beneficiaries were in the age group of 15-18 years while 16 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years.

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SPORTS

We Need to be More Consistent, Says Captain Mithali Raj

New Delhi, Jan 12: Indiaskipper Mithali Raj has stressed on the need to be “more consistent” in the areas the team worked on over the last one year, besides talking about the scope for improvement in her own batting ahead of the Women’s World Cup in March and April.

To cap off the “best possible” preparation for the ODI World Cup, India will play a five-match series against host New Zealand from February 11. The World Cup will begin in the same country on March 4.

India introduced many new faces in England and Australia. The likes of Sneha Rana, who made a successful comeback to the team, Meghna Singh, Yastika Bhatia and Richa Ghosh were tried in those two series.

Top-order batter Yastika, wicketkeeper-batter Richa and pacer Meghna made their ODI debuts Down Under and all of them made an impact.

Though India lost the three-match series 1-2, it was able to push the mighty Australians to the limit.

Speaking from Vijaywada where she is training, Mithali looked back at the positives from the two tours and also said what her side needs to do in New Zealand.

“We will look to fix our combinations for the World Cup during the ODIs against New Zealand and try out a few compositions and also get a little more consistent in the things that worked for us in the last year,” she said.



Mithali felt the team had enough fire-power in middle order now, thanks to Richa and Pooja, while swing bowlers Meghna and uncapped Renuka Singh have been welcome additions to the pace department.

Potential: “The lower middle order contributed in Australia and we would want it to be a little more consistent. They have the potential and all-rounders like Pooja and Sneha have done well in England and Australia.

Openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma will have to play a big role if India hopes to do well in the World Cup while Mithali will be expected to pile on the big runs in the middle order.

Strike rate: The veteran recorded four 50-plus scores in the six games in England and Australia but her strike rate, especially early in the innings, became a talking point.

“There are areas that as a player you feel you need to work on, no matter how many years you put in at that level. Because there are always teams and bowlers trying to come up with strategies and you need to counter that.

“There are a few things that I have seen (from my innings) in England and Australia that I can really work on.”

On her plans, Mithali said: “Let’s focus on the World Cup, the next two months are going to be crucial.”

Ministry Okays Additional Financial Aid for Bajrang Punia

New Delhi, Jan 12: The Union Sports Ministry’s Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has granted additional financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 1.76 lakh to wrestler Bajrang Punia to support his training in Moscow.

Bajrang, a bronze medalist at the Tokyo Olympics, was earlier approved an amount of ₹ 7.53 lakh for a 26-day training camp ahead of a busy season. He is now being supported with an additional ₹ 1.76 lakh for his camp that started on December 27.

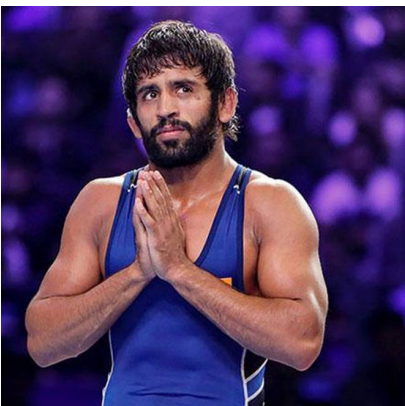
Jitender and Anand Kumar accompanied Bajrang as sparring partner and physiotherapist respectively.

International meets: Bajrang is set to compete in international

meets, including UWW Ranking events, Commonwealth Games in Birmingham as well as the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

“I have to compete in ranking series in Italy and Turkey in February and then the Asian Championships in Mongolia in April. I’m going to give my best as I aim to change the colour of my medal in Paris 2024,” Bajrang said in a statement issued by the Sports Authority of India.

Meanwhile, Greco-Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar has been approved an amount of ₹ 10.85 lakh towards a special training camp in Romania and Hungary with his sparring partner and coach.



Sunil, who is a part of TOPS, will use the foreign exposure trip to prepare for the upcoming United World Wrestling Ranking events.

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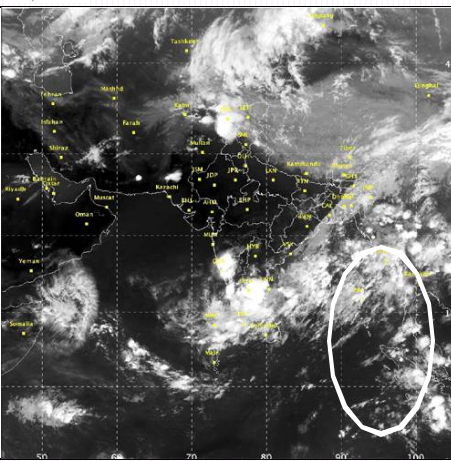
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Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
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Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
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: 31.0 °C	Min.: 26.1 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 68%	1730 Hrs: 70%
Sunrise: 0543 Hrs.	Sunset: 1713 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):	000.4 mm

Forecast

Dry Weather very likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 26°C respectively on Thursday 13/01/2022.

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Ph No: 9434280443 /9732479000 (M). E-mail: denisgiles@yahoo.com