



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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PORT BLAIR, FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023

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Jarawa Facts

The Jarawa have been living in the tropical rainforests of the Andaman Islands for up to 60,000 years. The islands, in the Bay of Bengal, were colonised by the British in the mid-nineteenth century, and are now part of India.

Your Nature Guide

Life in the ocean: From the shores or from a boat, the sea looks like a huge mass of uniform, inky blue water. It is not so actually. Life in the sea is amazingly different at different depths. From the surface to a few feet below, the ocean is a sunlit world, that changes from day to night. Below this, the ocean becomes cold, dim, and unchanging. And thousands of meters below the surface, the ocean is a region of near-freezing temperatures, crushing pressure, and complete darkness.

Most marine plants and animals are adapted to living in one of three regions - the sunlight, twilight, or midnight zone. These zones are defined by the presence (or absence) of light. They differ from one another in temperature amount of pressure, and nutrient supply. We will mainly focus here on the sunlight zone where most of the familiar animals and plants are present.

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

People's Voice

Elections aane wala hai ... Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge ka Foundation toh daalo atleast ...

- A Citizen



10 injured at their meeting? Let's show our strength... at least 100 must be injured at our meeting!

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Visits Andaman and Nicobar Command, The Only Operational Joint Services Command of The Country

Port Blair, Jan 5: The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh arrived at Port Blair and was accorded a formal welcome. On arrival he was received by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM, NM (Retd), Lieutenant General Ajai Singh AVSM, Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) and Senior Government Officials. The Raksha Mantri reviewed a Quad-Service Guard of Honour and visited Sanklap Samarak, the location of Netaji's historic arrival on 29 Dec 1943. At the Sanklap Samarak, he paid solemn homage to honour the sacrifices of soldiers of the Indian National Army.

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Member of Parliament Demands to Induct Modern, Faster, Bigger and Better Vehicle Ferry Vessels

Port Blair, Jan 5: The Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands to induct modern, faster, bigger and better Vehicle Ferry Vessels for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

He suggested that in order to save time, such bigger and better vehicle ferry vessels can be brought to Andaman on wet lease for next four to five years.

The Member of Parliament mentioned that bigger vehicle ferry vessels will not only save precious time for residents of South Andaman but also make life easy for commuters of Bambooflat and Port Blair route.

In his letter addressed to the Lt. Governor, the MP pointed out that everyday more than 20,000 people from South Andaman region viz Port Blair, Bambooflat, Wimberlygunj, Shorepoint, Stewardgunj, Mathura,

Continued on P4

Raksha Mantri Meets Lt. Governor



Port Blair, Jan 5: Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on visit to A&N Islands met Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency today at Raj Niwas. Briefed on Islands Development Agency steered transformational mega infra schemes, ongoing Strategic Projects, Andaman Nicobar Command Force accretion plans and augmentation of logistics support and maintenance architecture.

ANTCC to Organise 7 Day's Bharat Jodo Yatra

Port Blair, Jan 5: The Andaman Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee is going to Organize a 7 day's BHARAT JODO YATRA in North & Middle Andaman from 6th January 2023 to 12th January 2023.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra will be covering a distance with approximately 200 km which will commence from Hathi Level Village, Diglipur Area on 6th January 2023 and covering through several villages & Panchayat of North & Middle Andaman. The Bharat Jodo yatra will end at Baratang on 12th January 2023.

All the Islanders are requested to actively participate in this BHARAT JODO YATRA at North & Middle Andaman to make this Campaign a successful one.

BJP Leaders Present the Agony of Islanders Using NH-4 before Minister, Allege Failure on the Part of NHIDCL

Port Blair, Jan 5: Shri Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP and Shri Ajoy Bairagi, State President, BJP have written a letter to Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Government of India over the extremely pathetic condition of NH-4 in North & Middle Andaman District and for an early commencement of construction of Chatham Bambooflat Bridge.

In their letter, they stated that the people residing at North & Middle Andaman are suffering enormously due to the extremely pathetic condition of the NH-4 in that region. The economic development and the transport system have collapsed due to the pitiable condition of NH-4. The construction of NH-4 was awarded to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd

(NHIDCL) in the year 2016 and even after elapse of almost 6 years, the work is yet to be completed.

Further they added that, the yardstick, method and quality of work adopted by NHIDCL in South Andaman District was completely different from the works that are being done at North & Middle Andaman District. Due to non-availability of good quarry products, the previously constructed road materials were rolled over for the new construction and they say that the same was done after obtaining necessary approval.

Both the leaders highlighted that the road construction in that region is difficult considering the fact that around 09 months we have rainy season, yet, the truth is that the concerned contractors have miserably

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ANDAMAN Chronicle

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Success is not an activity but a process ...

Mixed Signals

Recent macro-economic data, including the official Index of Eight Core Industries for November and S&P Global's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing and services sectors for December, offer mixed signals on the underlying momentum in the economy. The government's provisional data show that output across the core industries, spanning coal to electricity, grew by an average 5.4% year-on-year in November. Double-digit expansions in cement, coal, electricity and steel led the index higher. However, on a sequential basis, contractions in six of the eight sectors, including in the heavyweight sectors of electricity and refinery products, which together represent almost half the index, kept average core output unchanged. While electricity output shrank 2.1% from October, refinery products contracted by 3.1% sequentially. Only production of coal and cement expanded both year-on-year and month-on-month, signalling that non-power demand for coal and construction activity may have begun gaining some traction in the third fiscal quarter. The uptrend in cement is heartening as consumption of the key building material spans the job-intensive housing and infrastructure segments and, if sustained, could help undergird broader economic momentum. The 12.3% year-on-year and 15.1% sequential expansion in coal output is also a positive augury as it indicates an improvement in availability of the fuel to fire captive power plants and furnaces in the crucial process and metal-making industries.

Separately, the more up-to-date December PMI data show that manufacturing momentum strengthened appreciably as businesses reported the fastest rise in new orders since February 2021. The private survey of purchasing managers at about 400 manufacturers signalled that average output growth across these firms hit a 13-month high last month, with the PMI reading of 57.8 pointing to the strongest sectoral expansion since October 2020. Producers of goods stepped up hiring to help them meet a backlog of orders. And though the increase in jobs was the slowest since September, employment across the sector rose for a tenth straight month reflecting the heightened optimism among manufacturers. The PMI survey shows that overall output charge inflation across the private sector has intensified, with manufacturers reporting inflation in selling prices outpacing gains in input costs for the first time in almost two-and-a-half years. Policymakers can ill-afford to drop their guard on inflation at this stage.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Dragged Twelve Kilometres..!

On New Year's Eve, most cities in our country have the highest number of policemen on duty. Because this is one night they are supposed to really work, and that's not about 'solving' a crime, but about 'preventing' one. To prevent, police have to depend on eyes, ears and instinct!

How then was a woman dragged twelve kilometres under a car, by four drunk men, not seen by these guardians of the law?

Didn't those eyes on duty see, ears hear, and intuition feel there was something amiss in a car with four drunks and a body below?

Which brings me to the question; are police really there to prevent crime? And another question; why don't they stop crimes?

With your indulgence I'll shift focus to an outrageously filthy scene that took place on an Air-India flight. A man in business class, terribly drunk, walks over to an elderly woman unzips and pees on her!

Outrageous right?

What would you expect the staff to do? React with horror? Get the Captain involved, and place the man under arrest? Which the captain has authority to do. What did they do? Nothing!

The man walks out of the plane and airport, scot-free!

The only reason I can think of, was that the staff felt they needed to use kids gloves on a business class passenger, because he could be somebody powerful!

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And that same fear exists with the men in khaki, so much so that they have stopped being too nosy about what's happening. "You can't arrest me, I'm the minister's brother-in-law!"

Everywhere we see honest officials transferred for doing their duty.

So why risk your neck doing your duty?

Those twelve horrible kilometres represent only one thing; that the enforcers of the law have given up their fight to protect us because of interference in their law enforcing work.

Police have stopped policing and other officials are turning a blind eye to serious misdemeanors: "Let him pee, so what?"

Our leaders have stripped our uniform clad officials of any authority, using transfers, no promotions, and jail after retirement, to make them toothless!

Don't be fooled into your focus being cunningly turned to those four monsters in the car. Oh no, that is only a clever ploy to stop you from looking at the real rot, and that rot is a system which is crumbling!

Loud speakers blaring after the 10 pm deadline, because a politician tells the police it's a friend's function. Helmetless travel because they don't want to lose mass votes! Jay walking, motorists breaking all rules, etc. etc. all pointing to law and order enforcement agencies who have become impotent and active only when sent to arrest those who've dared oppose those in power!

Watch out! It's just a matter of time before you're dragged, not twelve, but a hundred kilometres, with no one bothering to notice..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Visits Andaman and Nicobar Command, The Only Operational Joint Services Command of The Country

Continued from Page 1

Lt Gen Ajai Singh, AVSM, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) briefed the Raksha Mantri on the role, significance and challenges to India's only joint services command, which has matured over 21 years since its creation on 08 Oct 2001. CINCAN during his briefing highlighted the Geo-strategic potential of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the role they can play towards enhancing India's influence

and support to military operations in the area. It was also highlighted that towards realising the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), Andaman and Nicobar Command has played a significant role in giving teeth to the Government's stated Act East Policy by building "Bridges of Friendship" with our maritime neighbours.

The RM also visited the ANC Joint Operations

Centre (JOC) which is the nerve centre for integrated planning for surveillance, conduct of operations and logistic support.

The RM thereafter, addressed all ranks of Andaman and Nicobar Command at Dweepika Auditorium and had barakhana with troops, where while interacting he lauded the efforts of the only joint services command of the country.

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ENTERTAINMENT

'RRR' Nominated for Golden Globe Best Picture Non-English Language

January 5: NEW DELHI: S S Rajamouli's period action film "RRR" has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award in the best picture non-English language category.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) shared the announcement on Monday evening on the official Twitter page of the Golden Globe Awards.

"RRR", a pan-India blockbuster, will face off with Korean romantic mystery film "Decision To Leave", German anti-war drama "All Quiet on the Western Front", Argentine historical



drama "Argentina, 1985", and French-Dutch coming-of-age drama "Close". "Congratulations to the nominees for Best Picture - Non-English

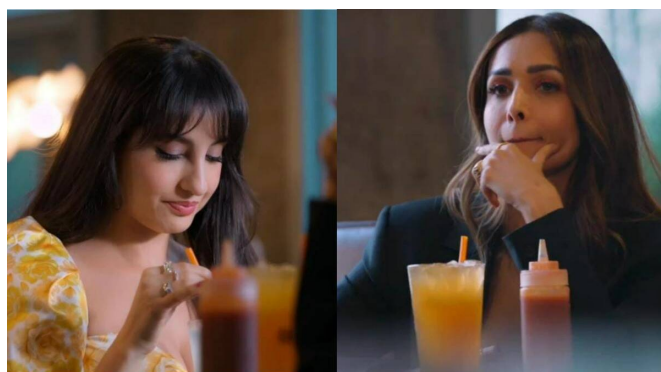
Language - All Quiet on the Western Front, Argentina, 1985, Close, Decision to Leave, RRR #GoldenGlobes," the tweet read.

Nora Fatehi Opens up to Malaika Arora About the Constant 'Disrespectful' Comparisons Between them: 'It Takes Away from the Things I am Doing...'

January 5: In the latest episode of Moving In With Malaika, Malaika Arora and Nora Fatehi discussed the constant speculated rivalry between them, and how they are invariably pitted against each other. During the episode, Nora admitted that she found this kind of conversation particularly disrespectful. Both the stars are prolific dancers, and have judged several reality shows together.

Nora said, "Malaika has done things I could never do—you are part of the growing legacy of Bollywood, that was a golden time. We talk about the time; we don't talk about today. It's not just disrespectful for you, it's disrespectful for me, because it takes away from the things that I am doing." Nora added that people 'water down' their identities.

Malaika Arora explained, "If I was on a show, they would make sure Nora was on the show. I figured it was a constant thing that everyone was trying to pit us against each other and putting us on the show." Malaika further told Nora



Fatehi that people look for ways to 'shove' her out. When Nora asked Malaika if she ever felt bad, she answered, "I'm human at the end of the day. There are days at the end of the day when I say, 'Oh that job could have been mine and now someone else has it.' That happens all the time. Things like that can break you. You know that someone out there is prettier and younger, and you have to deal with that."

However, Malaika maintained that she has seen girls come and go, but she has managed to stay. She further asked Nora if she ever subconsciously tried to mould herself after being compared to her. Nora answered that she has her own identity and she never thought that she was going down Malaika's trajectory. "When they compare, I think if I went through half the shit that you went through in your career, I would want people to salute me."

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Health, Science /Tech

US Scientists Achieve Breakthrough in Mimicking Sun to Fuse Atoms

January 5: Los Angeles: Scientists in California have made a key breakthrough in nuclear fusion, a technology with the potential to transform the global energy landscape.

Researchers at the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory near San Francisco were able to produce a fusion reaction that generated more energy than it consumed, according to a person familiar with the research who requested anonymity to discuss results that have not yet been fully disclosed in public.

Fusion is the same process that powers stars and the achievement is a major milestone that shows it may eventually be possible to tame the energy of the sun to create a commercial power plant on Earth. Though that is still many years away, the technology offers the promise of abundant carbon-free electricity.

In the experiment, lasers were used to bombard hydrogen isotopes held in a superheated plasma state in order to fuse them into helium, releasing a neutron and carbon-free energy in the process.

The breakthrough "could be a game changer for the world," said Representative Ted Lieu, a California Democrat.

Scientists have been experimenting with the technology for decades, but tests typically require enormous amounts of power. Generating a fusion reaction that puts out more energy than it consumes — technically called a net-energy gain — has been elusive.

The reaction produced about 2.5 megajoules of energy compared to the 2.1 megajoules used to power the lasers, according to the Financial Times, which earlier reported the results.

The technology has drawn billions in investments from backers including Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Peter Thiel. In recent years, it also started to win support from sovereign wealth funds, national development banks and venture capitalists, a sign that the industry is starting to look more seriously at the concept. A spokeswoman for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory said the analysis was still ongoing and it would share more details Tuesday. While the results represent a breakthrough, it's still a long way to creating a viable technology, let alone delivering enough clean energy to help wean the world off fossil fuels and limit climate change. The technology is different from fission, which is now widely used in commercial nuclear power plants. Fission creates energy by splitting atoms, but also produces radioactive waste. It has been commercially available for decades and still produces only 10% of the world's power, far less than coal and gas.

Fusion's potential market share would also be challenged by solar and wind power, both of which are cheaper and have mature supply chains. Their main drawback — intermittent generation — is being addressed by a rapidly growing battery storage industry.

VANASPATI VARNAN

By Nitu Sindhu

Tulsi

Tulsi is the “Queen of plants” and the “mother medicine of nature”. It grows everywhere, in every climatic condition and every soil type. This symbolizes her ability to survive in most extreme life conditions. Among many varieties, the most common is the “Shri Tulsi” having green leaves and “Krishna Tulsi” with reddish leaves.

Tulsi in Hindu mythology is considered a deity with immense power, who protects, conserves and heals. She’s considered as mother of the universe who has power to fulfill all our desires.

She’s Vrinda, the daughter of Daithyaraj Kalnemi, who was the king of Mathura. She’s the wife of Daithyaraj Jalandhar and it’s only because of her, that Jalandhar could once conquer Heaven, Earth and Netherworld. She brought good health, power & prosperity in lives of all connected to her. So, even today we believe that by keeping Tulsi plant at our home will fulfill all our dreams and desires.

According to Vastu, by planting Tulsi in north and northeast directions at our home we can bring positive vibes and eliminate all vastu dosha.

Tulsi is also most important herb in Ayurveda. It has therapeutic characteristics and it’s been used as house-remedies for curing fever, cough & cold, indigestion, headache, and other common disorders since ages. Also, regular consumption of Tulsi leaves in tea or other food items strengthens one’s immunity, purifies blood, oral healthcare and even regulates blood sugar level. Apart from these there are infinite benefits of this wonder herb.

There are only few such plants in nature that are so beneficial to mankind. So, we must plant Tulsi at home to attract good health, power and prosperity.



North-east	East	South-east
North	Centre of the house	South
North-west	West	South-west

Core Team of BJP A&N Islands Meet Hon’ble Defence Minister

Port Blair, Jan 5: The Core Committee Members of Bharatiya Janata Party, A&N Islands led by Shri Ajoy Bairagi, State President including Shri Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member, Shri. L. Moorthy, National Council Member, Smti Sheela Singh, State Vice President, Shri M. Vinod, State Vice President, Shri K. Ram Das, State General Secretary, Smti Promila Kumari, Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman and Smti Kavita Udhaya Kumar, Chairperson, PBMC met Shri Raj Nath Singh, Hon’ble Defence Minister, Govt. of India today and discussed the following issues concerning the Islanders

1. Expedite the Ongoing Upgradation Work of Port Blair Runway -

We understand the importance of the upgradation of the runway, we sincerely request you to direct the concerned authorities to get the work completed as early as possible by engaging the workforce in 8X3 Shifts. Kindly ensure that the airport is fully operational for the maximum days with minimum curtailment of air services as it is the life line for the Islanders and also request to make a standby arrangement for one aircraft from defence at the disposal of the civil authority to engage the same for any emergency evacuation of serious patients



referred to mainland during the airport closure days.

2. Airfares have also gone very high because of the closure.

3. Extension of Shibpur Airport at Diglipur to be completed in a time-bound manner:

To boost the connectivity of North & Middle Andaman, it is extremely important to extend the runway of the airport at Shibpur in Diglipur. The extension of these runways is important for both the Defence Sector as well as for the Civilian Population. This will help in introduction of much acclaimed Udaan Scheme for the benefit of islanders as well as tourists. It is kindly requested to introduce air connectivity to Diglipur from Port Blair for at least three days in a week by engaging the Defence Aircraft for the residents of

Diglipur, as it will help the serious patients referred from Diglipur to Port Blair.

Extension of Campbell Bay Airport at Great Nicobar and Car Nicobar Airport to be completed in a time bound manner:

In order to boost the connectivity to Great Nicobar and Car Nicobar, it is extremely important to extend the runway of Car Nicobar and Campbell Bay Airport at Great Nicobar. The extension of these runways is important for both the Defence Sector as well as for the Civilian Population.

Development of Airport at Campbell Bay will definitely help the people of Nicobar and Campbell Bay.

The Hon’ble Minister has assured the delegation to consider all the issues raised by the party delegation

CPI(M) Panchayat Member Demands Bridge and Road at Nischintpur

Diglipur, Jan 5: CPI (M) Panchayat Member Shri Madan Sarkar along with 50 villagers of Nischintpur Village in Kalighat, North Andaman met the Assistant Commissioner, Diglipur on 4th January, 2023 and reiterated their long-pending demands for construction of a bridge between Nischintpur and Kalighat market and road to Nischintpur village.

The Assistant Commissioner patiently heard the delegation and assured that he will undertake a field visit to the area and take appropriate action on the demand.

CPI (M) has been demanding for quite a long period of time for construction of above bridge and road for the residents of Nischintpur village but the authorities did not accept the demands.

Holding of Circuit Court at Port Blair

Port Blair, Jan. 5: Hon’ble Justice Subhasis Dasgupta and Hon’ble Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya, Judges of the

Calcutta High Court shall be sitting / holding Circuit Court at Port Blair from Jan. 16 to 27, 2023.

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Member of Parliament Demands to Induct Modern, Faster, Bigger and Better Vehicle Ferry Vessels

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Mannarghat, Wright Myo, Shoal Bay etc. commute through vehicle ferry vessels.

To handle the rush, time and again we have seen many restrictions on people and vehicles in Vehicle Ferry Vessels. He added that such restrictions are not the right solution to the actual problem, which is shortage of sufficient number of vehicle ferry vessels and absence of bigger vehicle ferry vessels.

He pointed out that although there is a move from the side of the Government of India to construct a bridge between Chatham and Bambooflat but the date of starting of the

project and completion of the bridge is yet not known.

Hence, in the next four to five years commuters of Bambooflat and Chatham have to rely solely on the present fleet of vehicle ferry vessels for reaching either side for job, school, medical etc. other purposes, even if the said bridge construction works begin anywhere soon.

He pointed out that the present fleet of vehicle ferry vessels are not only unbelievably old but also are very small in size and are terribly slow.

The Member of Parliament added that in this modern age we have multi-level vehicle ferry vessels, which can accommodate a large number of two wheelers, four wheelers and heavy vehicles along with hundreds of passengers.

BJP Leaders Present the Agony of Islanders Using NH-4 before Minister, Allege Failure on the Part of NHIDCL

Continued from Page 1
failed in their management and performance of work.

In respect to Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge, both the leaders wrote that the issue requires the intervention of the Hon’ble Minister for which a large number of people are awaiting. Reportedly, the DPR for this project was already completed and further course of action was required to be taken for its early implementation. This project would bring a sea change for enabling convenient vehicular traffic

movement from a major part of South Andaman region to Port Blair City. This would largely reduce the travel time for the commuters from several villages of South Andaman.

Concluding their letter Both the leaders have earnestly requested take a serious note and take all needful steps to make sure that the construction work of NH-4 gets completed at the earliest by strictly maintaining the standards of National Highways and commence the project of Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge, in the interest of people of A & N Islands.

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

No. e-tender-DB/CD/DP/2023/ 71 Diglipur, dated: 04-01-2023

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APWD, Diglipur invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rates Tender / bid from the approved and eligible Contractors of the Andaman PWD or all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks:-

1. **NIT No. 23/SE/CC-I/2022-23/113 Name of work:-**
Replacement of damaged and rusted main pumping line with new pipes and pipe fittings wherever required from Subashgram pump house to Morich Tikrey under SD-II, CD, APWD, Diglipur. **Estimated cost: ` 1,83,56,082/- Earnest Money: ` 3,67,122/- & time of completion: 12 months.**
(Tender ID: 2023_APWD_8820_1).

The e-tender form and other details can be downloaded from the website. The last date of bid submission will be **30-01-2023 upto 15:00 hours**. Other details/information can be seen on website eprocure.and.gov.in.

EE, CD, APWD,
Diglipur.

2023/MediaRelease/19 30


CIARI Conducts Training on Organic Vegetable Production and Seed Distribution in NICRA-Adopted Areas



Port Blair, Jan 5: ICAR-KVK, CIARI, Port Blair organized training on organic vegetable production on 04.01.2023 at Chouldhari Panchayat. Dr. Y Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist and Head briefed on the negative impacts of indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals in farming systems, which create bad effects on soil diversity, depletion of soil organic matter, physiological disturbance, poor water use efficiency, and contamination of soil, food and water bodies in our fragile ecosystem.

Dr. N. Bommayasamy, SMS (Agro./Agri. Extn.) emphasised on the significance of organic farming and its long-term fertility of soil by maintaining organic carbon levels, ways of enhancing soil biological activities, achieving nitrogen self-sufficiency through intercropping of leguminous vegetables, biological nitrogen fixation and effectively utilising cow urine and cow dung for the preparation of liquid organic manure and supplementary nutrients through the use of bio-fertilizers.

Dr. B. K. Nanda, SMS (Agri. Engg.), and Dr. Pooja Kapoor, SMS (Home Science) also spoke on efficient water management methods in post-rainy season vegetables, as well as the value of vegetable consumption in daily life.

As part of the programme, fifteen farmers and farm women from NICRA adopted villages received vegetable seeds, including tomato (Arka samrat, Arka Rakshak), chilli (Arka tejasri, Arka Kyatiri), French bean (Arka Komal, Arka Sharath), bottle gourd (Co-1), long yard bean (Arka Mangala), and cucumber (Arka Veera).





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SPORTS

Asia Cup 2023: 50-Over Format Tournament in September; India-Pakistan in Same Group

January 5: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Thursday has announced that the Asia Cup 2023 will be held in September and the tournament will be played in 50-over format. The itinerary and the host country have not been announced yet.

Pakistan is the original host of the Asia Cup this year but the BCCI is not keen on playing there owing to political tension between the two countries.

The then Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja had opposed the BCCI's stand and even threatened boycott of the 50-over World Cup in India. But following a change of guard in the PCB, with Raja being replaced by Najam Sethi, there could be some positive development.

The Asia Cup 2023 will be a six-team affair involving India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and a qualifier team.

Sri Lanka are the defending Asia Cup champions in the UAE after they beat Pakistan in the final. The tournament was played in T20 format because of the



upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

With India set to host the ODI World Cup later this year and the focus of all the participating teams being on the 50-over format, this year's Asia Cup will be held in that format. BCCI secretary and ACC president Jay Shah, while releasing the calendar for the next two years said the schedule "signals our unparalleled efforts and passion to take this game to new heights. With cricketers across countries gearing up for spectacular performances, it

promises to be a good time for cricket." A total of 145 ODI and T20 matches will be played during the two-year cycle (between 2023-2024) announced by ACC. There will be 75 games in 2023 and 70 games in 2024.

Also, the Emerging (U23) Asia Cup is back and will be held in the 50-over format in July this year for men and involve eight teams. The tournament next year will be held in December but in T20 format.

The women's Emerging Asia Cup this year in June will be T20 affair involving eight teams.

Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith Hit Milestones in SCG Test Against South Africa

December 5: Usman Khawaja made his highest Test score, Steve Smith scored a milestone century and Australia reached a commanding 475-4 when rain forced an early end to the second day of the third and final Test against South Africa. Khawaja made an unbeaten 195 off 368 balls, with 19 boundaries and a six, and had earlier Thursday shared an epic 209-run partnership with Steve Smith, who made his 30th Test century and also became Australia fourth-highest run scorer in tests in front of his home Sydney Cricket Ground fans. Marnus Labuschagne (79) and Travis Head (70) both scored half-centuries as Australia dominated a placid South Africa attack and placed themselves in a strong position to still force a result in a game that has had frequent bad light and rain delays. Khawaja raised his third consecutive SCG hundred before lunch Thursday and then pushed past his previous highest test score of 174 — against New

Zealand at Brisbane in 2015 — to close in on his maiden double-century.

Khawaja was given a life on 119 when he offered a sharp shin-height chance which Anrich Nortje missed at gully after losing sight of the ball. Earlier, Smith made 104 to join former Australia opening batter Matt Hayden on 30 test centuries. Only Ricky Ponting (41) and Steve Waugh (32) have more among Australian men's test players. It was Smith's fourth century at his home ground and came from 190 balls, with 11 boundaries and two sixes with the former captain receiving a prolonged standing ovation from the 27,663 SCG crowd. Next over Smith chipped a simple return catch to Keshav Maharaj (1-108) in what was the only blemish in an otherwise flawless four-hour innings. On the way to his latest ton Smith passed Hayden (8,625 runs) and Michael Clarke (8,643) for career runs and is now the fourth-highest Australian test run scorer with 8,647 runs,

behind Ponting (13,378), Allan Border (11,174) and Waugh (10,927). Smith averages over 60 runs an innings across his 92 Tests. After twin centuries in a triumphant return to test cricket against England last year, Khawaja had earlier completed his 13th hundred off 206 balls, with nine boundaries as he and Smith serenely accumulated runs after resuming the day at 147-2. Khawaja made 137 and 101 not out against England in the Test here last year to firmly re-establish himself in Australia's batting lineup after being dropped during the 2019 Ashes series. Khawaja and Head combined for a brisk 112 run partnership before Head holed out in the deep off Rabada (1-119). Shortly after play commenced Wednesday, Australia team management advised that batter Matt Renshaw — in the team for the injured Cameron Green — had reported feeling unwell shortly before the match and had subsequently returned a positive test for COVID-19 but would still take part in the match.

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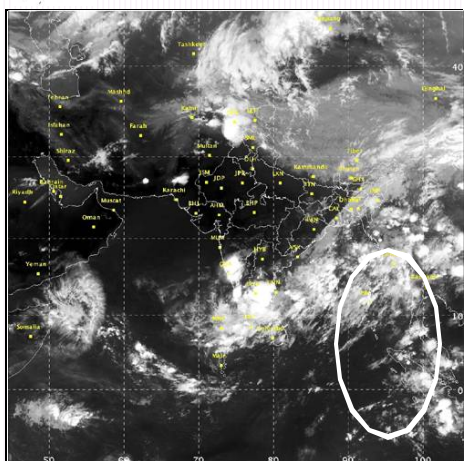
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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: 31.2 °C	Min.: 25.7 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 70%	1730 Hrs: 76%
Sunrise: 0541 Hrs.	Sunset: 1709 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, 2023 till date):	003.5 mm

Forecast

Partially Cloudy sky and Thunder is likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 25°C respectively on Friday 06/01/2023.

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