



# 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 manufacturers 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

Sabse pehle to Andaman ko ye British Raj wala kanoon se Azaadi dilwana hoga. Warna Azaadi ka kya matlab ...?

- A Citizen



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

## After LS Furore, CBSE 'Regrets' Misogynistic Exam Question

**New Delhi, Dec 13:** The Central Board of Secondary Education has expressed "regret" for including a misogynistic reading comprehension exercise in its Class 10 English examination, and vowed to review its paper setting processes.

Soon after the issue was raised in the Lok Sabha by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday, followed by a walkout by Opposition MPs, the CBSE said the question would be dropped and all students granted full marks for that section.

One of the question paper sets for the examination held

on Friday included a passage which appeared to blame a "feminist revolt" for indiscipline among teenagers, stating that the "emancipation of the wife destroyed the parents' authority over the children, contrasting it to the past when wives obeyed their husbands and "children and servants were taught to know their place". Students, parents and politicians had expressed outrage over the passage, demanding an apology from the Board, a review of gender sensitivity standards, and a classroom debrief to sensitise students to the problematic nature of the content.



Just minutes after a number of Opposition parties escalated the issue further by walking out of the Lok Sabha, the CBSE issued a statement acknowledging that the passage was "not

in accordance with the guidelines of the Board with regard to the setting of question papers".

On the basis of a subject expert committee's review, it

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## Jolly Requests Change in Convoy Timings and Increase in Number of Vehicles per Convoy

**Port Blair, Dec 13:** The former State President, BJP, A&N Islands, Shri. Vishal Jolly has requested to change the convoy timing from Jirkatang to Middle Strait and increasing the number of vehicles fixed in each convoy through his letter addressed to Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

He mentioned that the timing of second convoy at 11.00 AM from Jirkatang to the Middle Strait which is not suitable for visiting tourists and islanders as the tourists and islanders cannot return on the same day if they are taking the 11.00 AM

convoy from Jirkatang. Jolly also requested to increase the number of vehicles from 90 to 150 in each convoy for hassle-free movement of tourists and islanders.

Considering the difficulties faced by the islanders and visiting tourists, the timing of second convoy may be changed to 09.00 AM instead of 11.00 AM from Jirkatang to Middle Strait. Increase in the number of vehicles in each convoy as mentioned above will immensely benefit the visiting tourists as well as islanders, said Jolly.

## ZSI to Conduct Certificate Course on Bird Identification & Basic Ornithology

**Port Blair, Dec. 13:** Zoological Survey of India will be conducting a two weeks Workshop on Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology under the Accelerate Vigyan. The workshop is sponsored by Science Engineering & Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. It includes one month Certificate course on Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology; three month certificate course on Para-

Taxonomy including Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) under the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP).

Zoological Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre is one of the training centres selected by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. ZSI, Port Blair has successfully completed three batches of GSDP training course since 2017 and trained about 35 local students. This year onwards, the Science Engineering & Research Board (SERB), Department of Science

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## Britons Rush to Get Shots in Booster Blitz Against Omicron



**London, Dec 13:** Long lines formed on Monday at vaccination centres across England as people heeded the government's call for all adults to get booster shots to protect themselves against the Omicron variant, as the U.K. recorded its first death of a patient infected with omicron.

In a televised announcement late on Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said everyone 18 and up would be offered a third vaccine dose by December 31 — less than three weeks away, and a month earlier than the previous target.

Mr. Johnson said boosters would "reinforce our wall of vaccine protection" against an anticipated "tidal wave of Omicron." The British government raised the country's official coronavirus threat level on Sunday, warning that the rapid spread of Omicron "adds additional and rapidly increasing risk to the public and health care services."

U.K. health authorities say Omicron cases are doubling every two to three days in Britain, and it will replace delta as the dominant coronavirus strain within days. But it's unclear whether the expected wave of infections will inundate the country's state-funded health care system.

Mr. Johnson on Monday confirmed the country's first death from Omicron.

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

## Freedom and Power

Since his election campaign last year, U.S. President Joseph Biden had promised to hold a "Summit for Democracy" in order to highlight the worrying trends around the world of growing authoritarianism, and to bolster democratic institutions that appear to be faltering. While the concerns are genuine, and Mr. Biden's successful delivery of his promise last week, with a summit that saw 110 nations invited must be credited, it has also thrown up troubling questions. The State Department's decision to "arbitrarily place" restrictions on the invitee list, has led to a controversy. In South Asia, the inclusion of Pakistan, along with India and Nepal, but the exclusion of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka raises serious doubts on the criteria applied. And, if the "quality of democracy" and the importance of human rights were the criteria, then the question is which country is qualified to make that value-based judgment? Expectedly, the Summit was roundly criticised for the most notable exclusions: Russia and China. In a joint editorial, the Russian and Chinese Ambassadors to the U.S. claimed their own states are democratic in practice, and criticised the U.S.'s experiments in regime change and "democratic transformations" in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan. That the summit was organised in a year when newest democratic entrants, Afghanistan and Myanmar, reverted to autocratic regimes that rule by the power of the gun casts doubts on the efficacy of the international system in enforcing democracy through external interventions.

Apart from a more inclusive guest list, as a result, the summit would have done better to begin with a globally accepted definition for democracy, and a common understanding of the challenges. The Biden administration committed to announcing specific targets on helping free media, ensuring free and fair elections, and the participation of women, and listed authoritarianism, corruption and human rights violations as key challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the principles of "inclusion, transparency, human dignity, responsive grievance redressal and decentralisation of power" as key to Indian democracy. Many accused big tech companies and social media of "digital authoritarianism", and some spoke of the devastating impact of COVID-19, climate change and rising economic inequality as major stumbling blocks. Few, however, were willing to concede the shortcomings in their own democracies, however, especially the rise in hyper-nationalism, xenophobia and majoritarianism that saps the very essence of representational, pluralistic and inclusive governance today. Democracy, like charity, begins at home, and rather than making international pledges at summit-level conferences, elected leaders must keep their promises of freedom and equality for the people or "demos" that make up their nations.

## BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



### Not Decorations on a Wall..!

It was a strange sound I heard from the trees the other day, and there through the branches saw stuck a coloured paper kite, along with taut string stretching and un-stretching and pulling the helpless kite that was stuck. I peered further and saw a half a dozen more. "Poor fellows!" I thought to myself, picked up a tall bamboo and propelled all of them onto the terrace where I stood.

I picked them up gingerly, one by one; some had nearly succumbed to wind and weather, others had lost a battle with stronger opponent in the skies, they looked distressed with faded colour and jaded look. "Don't worry!" I whispered tenderly, "I've rescued you, now you're all going to be fine! You are safe!"

"Where are you taking us?" asked one anxiously and I laughed, "Don't worry little fellow, I'm taking you to a place where no manja will cut you, where you will never find yourself landing on some tree with the elements of nature cruelly waiting to destroy you!"

"Thank you!" sighed the kite as I hung it on a nail, along with the others who also seemed happy seeking sanctuary with me.

And there they hung, safe, secure and happy, till today.

Today it seemed one or two of them had tears flowing down. "What's wrong?" I asked sharply.

"We miss the breeze that lifts us up, the wind that carries us into the sky, we miss looking down at the earth below!"

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"Oh yeah!" I exclaimed harshly, "How quickly you forget the slice of toughened thread as it cuts in and makes you float powerlessly away. How quickly you've forgotten, lying lifeless, helpless on some tree or antenna! You miss that?" I shouted angrily.

"We miss," said an orange kite gathering courage, "The exhilarating feeling, as we soar, the challenge of being the highest in the sky, we miss, yes the competition with another and the joy of victory as we know we are stronger!"

"But you are safe here!" I whispered.

"This is not where we are meant to be," said same orange kite, "We should be up there, flying high!"

I climbed back to the terrace thoughtfully and saw a little boy, looking into the sky longingly. I called to him, "Take," I shouted and gave him all the kites, "Go fly them, they aren't meant to be mere decorations on my wall!"

I watch with amazement, same kites that had seemed happy, nay safe on my wall, now rising with the breeze, screaming with exhilaration and marching triumphant as they struggle with others, and as I watch I ask myself, "Am I also a kite, stuck on a wall, too timid to take my place in the sky where I belong?"

Are you? Scared to do business again, because of one cut of the manja? Scared to get into a relationship?

I watch the kites flying high again..!

[bobsbanter@gmail.com](mailto:bobsbanter@gmail.com)

## After LS Furore, CBSE 'Regrets' Misogynistic Exam Question

**Continued from Page 1**  
was decided to drop the question, and award full marks for all students for passage no. 1, regardless of which question paper set they received.

Later in the evening, facing criticism for its failure to apologise, the Board went a step further to say: "CBSE regrets this unfortunate incident and is setting up an

expert committee to thoroughly review and strengthen the question paper setting processes, to avoid such occurrences in the future."

Last week, the Board said a question in a Class 12 Sociology paper on anti-Muslim violence in Gujarat under a BJP government in 2002 also violated its

guidelines for external setters of question papers.

The Board also reiterated its commitment to gender equality in the face of accusations of stereotyping and misogyny. "CBSE is committed to excellence and equity in education and promotes inclusiveness and gender sensitivity," it said.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Sanya and Fatima Reunite

Fatima Sana Shaikh and Sanya Malhotra are set to take on challenging roles in Meghna Gulzar's Sam Bahadur. While Vicky Kaushal brings the protagonist's character to life, Sanya will play his wife, Silloo and Fatima essays the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Sanya and Fatima first starred together in the Aamir Khan film Dangal and followed it up with roles in Anurag Basu's Ludo, apart from doing a commercial together. "Sanya and Fatima bring more character and substance to the story of Sam Bahadur. Their characters are among the most influential personalities, and, I am very excited to be working with the two of them for the first time," says Vicky about the Ronnie Screwvala-backed film.



"Behind every great man is a woman, and Silloo was that support and strength to Sam Manekshaw. I'm honoured to essay this role and bring to light her influence and the integral part she played in this war hero's life," says Sanya.

Fatima gets to play a real-life character for the first

time. "I'm very happy to join the Sam Bahadur family and take on the challenge of essaying the role of one of the most influential and talked-about women in Indian history," she beams.

## Told Sara Ali Khan not to call me Thalaiva, but she does not listen: Dhanush



Venkatesh Prabhu, who was captivated by a covert operation codenamed Dhanush in Kamal Haasan's Kuruthipunal, and took that name for himself, is a man of few words. Despite achieving star status since then, Dhanush comes across as humble and honest. If he hadn't been an actor, he would have been happy cooking. But his father, filmmaker Kasthuri Raja, got him to be an actor.

"I loved cooking things for my father — an omelette or a chapati. I feel cooking is one of the most beautiful and divine arts. It becomes a part of your system and your blood. But he had different plans. My father forced me to act. I thought, let me just get it done with ... That was the kind of mood, but then..." he trails off.

Apart from cooking, Dhanush's passion is Ilaiyaraaja's music. He would have been happy binging on it. "Ilaiyaraaja Sir is my god. I love my Ilaiyaraaja Sir. He is my mother, he is my lullaby, he is my everything," says the actor who dabbles in music and sings for his films besides penning lyrics.

**Loves directing:** "I want to be a director," Dhanush says. Despite two National Awards as an actor and two as a producer, we ask. "Well, whatever awards I win, the credit goes to the filmmaker, and so I want to be a filmmaker," he explains candidly.

Atrangi Re is his third Hindi release and his second collaboration with Aanand L. Rai after Raanjhanaa. Dhanush shares a great camaraderie with the filmmaker. "Aanandji and I are brothers. We are family. It is like how we chill at home; we are in a comfortable space. Atrangi Re is not just about my character Vishu. This film is bigger than that. I was concentrating on the soul of the film and understanding the world and how and what he was saying. I was preparing to be a part of that world," he says.

Dhanush is unwilling to compare Aanand with the filmmakers from the south who he often collaborates with. "Comparison is unnecessary. Every filmmaker is talented and unique in his own way. Aanandji always makes sure that the characters he gives me are very special and challenging. Atrangi Re will make you have a big smile on your face for a long time," he says with assurance.

Preparing for Vishu was an arduous task for him. "It was tough to grasp the emotion and humour and act them out. It was a difficult preparation and was

emotionally draining. But in the end, it was well worth it," he says.

Dhanush, who is fluent in English and Tamil, gets to speak Tamil in Hindi films. "I am fortunate to do Hindi films and I should make myself fluent Hindi in for future films. I have not signed anything but I will be doing more Hindi films. I don't have the luxury of time to learn a language, but when the next film happens, I will do so in the course of preparation," says the actor.

Asked about collaborating with newcomers like Sonam, Akshara and Sara in his Hindi films, he differs on that labelling of Sonam. "Sonam was a star when I worked with her. She was not new. She was famous and I remember that all the Tamil directors wanted her in their films," he says, adding, "We all come together to tell a story."

Sara calls him the Thalaiva of the south. "There is only one Thalaiva, and that is Mr Rajinikanth Sir. I have told her a million times to stop saying that and that Rajini fans won't like it. But Sara being Sara, won't listen," he reiterates.

Dhanush, who jumped into direction with Power Pandi, says that he casts himself as an actor in his directorial ventures because he does not have a choice. "Stories usually find me rather than I picking them up. When I feel a story is cool, I just follow my instinct. So until some actor or a star believes in me, I don't have any choice but to cast myself in my films. I seem to be my only option. I want to direct other actors too, but I don't think I have

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## Health, Science /Tech

## Vaccines, previous infection offer 'stronger than basic' protection against Omicron



**Beijing:** People previously infected with COVID-19 and those vaccinated will have some "stronger than basic" protection against Omicron, according to one of the earliest peer-reviewed studies looking into the recently identified variant of coronavirus.

However, the study conducted in a lab suggests that Omicron "exceeds" all other variants in its potential capability to evade the protection gained from previous COVID-19 infection or vaccination.

The findings, published in the journal Emerging Microbes & Infection, also suggest that although a third-dose of vaccines can "significantly boost immunity", the protection from Omicron "may be compromised".

The researchers from the National Institutes for Food and Drug Control in China, however, noted that more research is needed to better understand the association.

The results support recent findings in South Africa which highlight that for Omicron it was "easy to evade immunity, they noted.

"We found the large number of mutations of the Omicron variant did cause significant changes of neutralisation sensitivity against people who had already had COVID," said study lead author Youchun Wang from the National Institutes for Food and Drug Control.

"However, the average ED50 (protection level) against Omicron is still higher than the baseline, which indicated there is still some protection effect that can be observed," Wang said.

Wang cautioned that because the antibody protection — in the form of previous infection or vaccination — decreases gradually over a period of six months, Omicron "may be able to escape immunity even better".

The researchers looked at 28 serum samples from patients recovering from the original strain of SARS-CoV-2.

They tested these against in-vitro Omicron samples, as well as four other strains marked 'of concern' by the World Health Organization such as Delta, and two variants marked as 'of interest'.

"This study verifies the enhanced immune escape of Omicron variant, which sounds the alarm to the world and has important implications for the public health planning and the development of matching strategies," Wang said.

The researchers noted that more research carried out not just in-vitro but in real-world studies is urgently needed to better understand Omicron.

It will be of utmost importance to know whether the variant can escape from the vaccine elicited immunity to cause more severe disease and death, they said.



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OFFICE OF THE STATE HEALTH SOCIETY (A&N ISLANDS)

### CORRIGENDUM

The vacancy notice of National Health Mission published in "The Daily Telegrams" on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 for the post of Clinical Psychologist / Trained Psychologist scheduled on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 being a Pongal Govt. Holiday is hereby scheduled on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 instead 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

-sd/-

Mission Director  
UT Health Mission

2021/MediaRelease/932

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## ZSI to Conduct Certificate Course on Bird Identification & Basic Ornithology

*Continued from Page 1*  
and Technology, Government of India has also sanctioned workshop under the accelerate vigyan programme.

These courses are very much essential in the Island biodiversity and ecosystem. Understanding of the human dimensions of biodiversity management is necessary for real progress on achieving the Aichi targets. This will increase better understanding of biodiversity of islands and its ecosystem services. Management of biodiversity is about people. The training will be provided about the ways in which they claim, use, and value natural resources. This interplays between ecological systems

and human behaviours, values, and socio-ecological reality. Through these courses, ZSI will train the unemployed young locals of this islands including tribal of Nicobar group of islands.

The participants of these courses will acquire enhanced knowledge and skills especially on biodiversity conservation of this islands ecosystem, bird identification skill, development of nurseries, butterfly parks, botanical garden etc. After successful completion of the training, they will be utilized/employed for preparation of Biodiversity Registers. The trainees also can work as the bird watching guides as the bird watching tourist

has enormously increased in these islands. They also can join as the naturalist in the National Parks, Sanctuaries and tourism sectors.


These training courses under the GSDP programme & accelerate vigyan will provide opportunities / self-employment and entrepreneurship for the unemployed youth. The skilled manpower could be utilized in the environment & forest sector, and tourism.

A total of 25 participants have enrolled for the two week workshop; 20 candidates have registered for one certificate course, and 15 candidates registered for three months parataxonomy course.

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**Mandeep Grewal**

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## Kashi has Seen Sultanates Rise and Fall, is a Symbol of India's Soul, says PM Modi

**Varanasi, Dec 13:** After a dip in the Ganga and rituals inside the temple, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the Kashi Vishwanath corridor that connects the temple to the banks of the river, terming it a "symbol of Sanatan culture of India" and placing it at the centre of the sacred geography of the country.

He said India today had begun to come out from the effects of slavery.

"The long period of slavery broke our self-confidence in such a way that we lost faith in our own creation. Today, from this 1,000-year-old Kashi, I call upon every countryman — create with full confidence, innovate, do it in an innovative way," Mr. Modi said.

Today's India had both "virasat" (heritage) and "vikas" (progress), he said.

"Today's India not only beautifies Somnath temple, but also lays thousands of kilometres of optical fibre in the sea. Today's India not only renovates Kedarnath temple, but is preparing to send Indians to space. Today's India is not only making a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, but is also making medical colleges in every district. Today's India is not only giving the Vishwanath temple a grand look, but making crores of houses for the poor," Mr. Modi said.

On a two-day visit to his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, Mr. Modi was greeted by supporters who had lined up on the streets. After taking a dip at Lalita Ghat, he made his way up a red carpet to the newly constructed corridor, carrying a vessel of water from the holy river as an offering. After the rituals, Mr. Modi had a photo-op with construction workers who had worked on the project, where he showered flower petals on them.

Addressing a gathering of around 3,000 people, including Hindu religious heads from across the country, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP president J.P. Nadda and other party functionaries, Mr. Modi said it wasn't until now that "this much work" had been done for Kashi, after Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar's efforts to rebuild the temple in the 18th Century.



He spoke of the important place that Varanasi or Kashi held through history, resisting the onslaught of invaders. He said the city was witness to the atrocities of Aurangzeb, but the soil of India was different from rest of the world.

"If an Aurangzeb comes, then so does a Shivaji. If any Salar Masood comes, then brave warriors like King Suheldev make him taste the might of India's unity. And during British rule, the people of Kashi know what happened to Hastings," he said, adding that Kashi had seen "sultanates" rise and fall.

Laying the foundation stone for a Maharaja Suheldev memorial in Bahraich earlier this year, Mr. Modi had said the contributions of the legendary king, who was believed to have defeated a nephew of Mahmud of Ghazni, had been ignored till now.

**Sentences from Tamil, Kannada**

Speaking a few sentences in Tamil, Kannada and in a local dialect, Mr. Modi said the Kashi Vishwanath temple was dear to people across the country. Varanasi had been the city where Adi Jagadguru Shankaracharya got the inspiration from Dom Raja to resolve to unite the country, he said. The Doms, a so-called low caste community, have historically carried out

cremations at the ghats of Varanasi.

He said it was also the city where Goswami Tulsidas wrote Ramcharitmanas and Lord Buddha's enlightenment was revealed to the world in Sarnath, near Varanasi. It was also the land of four Jain tirthankaras, he said.

Mr. Modi said for him, every Indian was a part of God so asked all to make three solutions — cleanliness, creation and continuous efforts — towards a self-reliant India.

Taking a dig at critics, Mr. Modi said some people had doubted that Varanasi could see any change when he first became its MP in 2014. He said whenever Kashi took a new turn, it changed the fate of the country.

Earlier, the U.P. Chief Minister said the development of the corridor was the next step in a series starting with the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The corridor, which was started in 2019, was carried out after demolishing around 300 buildings, making a wider path from the river to the temple. Mr. Modi said the number of pilgrims who visit the temple would increase, with the space increasing from 3,000 square feet to 5 lakh square feet.

Estimated to cost ₹ 800 crore, the portion of the corridor opened on Monday was the first phase of the project. The gateway to the river and the steps going to the ghat would be completed in the coming months, according to district officials.

## Gujarat Revises COVID-19 Death Tally

**Ahmedabad, Dec. 13:** The Gujarat Government has apparently revised the COVID-19 death figure while disbursing compensation to the victims' families as per the apex court's guidelines.

Officially, 10,098 people died of the virus as per the Health Department's figures. These figures were mentioned in the bulletin issued by the State Government daily.

However, the State has so far paid compensation to more than 19,000 persons.

"We are following the Supreme Court guidelines in paying the compensation. It's ongoing process as the district authorities are distributing the forms and disbursing the compensation in accordance with the guidelines," Additional Chief Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) Manoj Aggarwal said.

The State has received 34,678 applications for the ₹ 50,000 compensation.

Mr. Aggarwal said the State administration intends to help as many families as possible.

He said the compensation was being paid by the Collector offices.

In October, the Supreme Court while hearing a PIL had approved the payment of ₹ 50,000 to the families to be paid over and above the amounts paid by the Centre and the State under various schemes.

The death figure has remained the bone contention in the State which has reportedly under-reported the number during the first and the second wave of the pandemic.

**Audit committees**

The State Government has formed districtwise audit committees which determine the cause of deaths during the pandemic. It is said the committees consisting of civil hospital doctors and officials did not consider co-morbid patients who died of the infection as COVID-19 induced deaths.

According to former Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda, more than three lakh persons died of COVID-19 since March 2020.

"The Congress party has already received 70,000 applications from the families of the deceased. We have asked people to submit their applications," Mr. Chavda said.

The Opposition party has demanded a compensation of ₹ 4 lakh each to the family of those who lost their loved ones.

## Vaccination Drive Updates for A&N Islands

**Port Blair, Dec. 13:** A total of 5,76,729 beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in A&N Islands out of the target beneficiaries of 2,81,603 (approx.). A total of 1,76,873 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till date. A total of 2038 people were vaccinated today in A&N Islands.

1760 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South

Andaman District, out of which 106 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. Similarly, 245 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District out of which 12 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44. 33 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District out of which 5 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44.

## Bharat Seema to Sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder

**Port Blair, Dec. 13:** The Directorate of Shipping Services in consultation with the District Administration has scheduled the sailing programme of the vessel MV Bharat Seema for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 15.12.2021 (Wed) at 1700 Hrs from Haddo

Wharf and will sail back to Port Blair on 16.12.2021 (Thus) at 1400 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder.

Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued from 14.12.2021 between 0900 Hrs to 1300 Hrs at Stars Ticketing Counters, Phoenix Bay.

## Condolence

Dr P K Mandal, State General Secretary, N & M Andaman and members of Hindu Rashtra Shakti have expressed shock and grief at the demise of Mr Gaur Pada Ray, Ex Pradhan Basantipur GP and member of RVD Settlers & HRS, Resident of Govindapur, aged 85 yrs who expired on 13.12.2021 at GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair.

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# SPORTS

## Verstappen Wins 1<sup>st</sup> F1 Title with Last Lap Pass of Hamilton

**Abu Dhabi, Dec. 13:** Max Verstappen ripped a record eighth title away from Lewis Hamilton with a pass on the final lap of the Abu Dhabi GP to close one of the most thrilling Formula One seasons in years as the first Dutch world champion.

Hamilton was cruising past Michael Schumacher's record of seven titles Sunday in a race he controlled until Nicholas Latifi crashed with five laps remaining. F1 sent out the safety car for a cleanup and resumed the race with one lap remaining.

Hamilton and Verstappen started side-by-side for one final lap around Yas Marina Circuit and the British driver surged to the lead. Verstappen stalked him through the first four turns then made his pass in turn five and pulled away in his Red Bull.

It was a fitting end to a season that saw the two contenders go

wheel-to-wheel over 22 races spanning four continents and arrive in Abu Dhabi tied in the championship standings. It marked the first time the contenders were equal at the season finale since 1974.

But Hamilton had the race well under control until the Latifi crash.

Multiple rival drivers headed to the grid to congratulate Verstappen as Hamilton sat motionless inside his Mercedes. The defeat ended his reign of four consecutive titles and denied Hamilton a chance to pass Schumacher as best all-time in F1.

"Congratulations to Max and to his team, I think he did an amazing job this year," Hamilton said to close what had become a bitter



rivalry this season between Mercedes and Red Bull.

Hamilton received a long hug in the garage from his father, who then went to the garage and hugged both Verstappen and Verstappen's father. Jos Verstappen was himself a former F1 driver and raised his 24-year-old son to become a world champion.

## Injured Rohit Sharma out of South Africa Test Series; Priyank Panchal Named Replacement

**New Delhi, Dec. 13:** India's Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the entire three-Test series against South Africa as his old left-hamstring injury resurfaced during the team's net session in Mumbai where he also took a hit on his hand.

India A captain Priyank Panchal will be Rohit's replacement opener in the Test series.

"Team India Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma sustained a left hamstring injury during his training session here in Mumbai yesterday. He has been ruled out of the upcoming 3-match Test series against South Africa. Priyank Panchal will replace Rohit Sharma in the Test squad," BCCI stated in a press release.

The Board has not announced a stand-in vice-captain but it is expected that KL Rahul is the front-runner for being Virat Kohli's deputy during the Tests.

Other contenders could be Rishabh Pant and Ravichandran Ashwin considering that Ajinkya Rahane has been removed from the role with his place in the eleven not being assured. The Tests will wind up on January 15 followed by three ODIs, scheduled to begin on January 19 in Paarl.

The 34-year-old Rohit also sustained a hit on his hands at the Mumbai nets while taking throwdowns from Raghavendra aka Raghu.



"Yes, Rohit did suffer an injury on his hand but even after that he had batted. So we can presume that hand injury isn't serious. But thereafter, it seemed the old hamstring problem resurfaced once again and it might take some time before he is fully fit and available.

"They are trying to sort it out. Hamstring injuries normally take four weeks which could effectively rule him out of Test series," a senior BCCI source told PTI on Monday.

As of now, the extent of Rohit's injury is not very clear. It is not known whether it's a strain which is a less serious injury or a tear, which will have to be graded.

"There are some issues but the medical team is trying to sort it out," a source close to the cricketer told PTI. The BCCI is yet to share the details of his scan report which

will ascertain the degree of the injury.

"Any hamstring injury, even the lowest grade takes a month to heal with rehabilitation sessions. In Tests we have Mayank Agarwal ready to open with KL Rahul, who could potentially be the vice-captain.

"And now we have Priyank Panchal also as cover. We would be hoping that he is fit and ready for the ODI series," the source added.

It is learnt that Panchal reported to the team hotel this evening.

"Panchal has been asked to report at the Mumbai team hotel tonight. He is there as a cover for Rohit. Also because he recently played in South Africa and scored runs, he was asked to join," an official associated with the India A team informed.

Panchal is no greenhorn as he has 100 first-class matches under his belt with 7011 runs, including 24 hundreds.

He has been a part of a very successful Gujarat team that won the Ranji Trophy under Parthiv Patel and has been an India A captain.

He was fighting for the reserve opener's slot with Abhimanyu Easwaran but pipped the Bengal man as the latter batted at No.3 in the A series.

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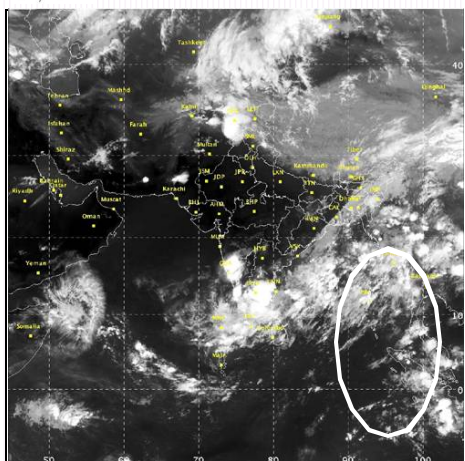
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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: 29.9 °C	Min.: 25.7 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 64% 1730 Hrs: 70%	
Sunrise: 0531 Hrs.	Sunset: 1657 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 very likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 25°C respectively on Tuesday 14/12/2021

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