

REVERBERATION

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06 page

A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday

PM Narendra Modi had turned down Deve Gowda's wish to resign from Lok Sabha after BJP's 2014 poll win



PTI, MANDYA: Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Sunday said his respect for Prime Minister Narendra Modi increased manifold when he turned down his wish to resign from the Lok Sabha.

Recalling the incident, Gowda said he had challenged Modi in 2014 Lok Sabha elections that if the BJP came to power on its own by winning 276 seats then he would resign from Lok Sabha.

"I had told him that if you win 276 seats then I will resign. You can rule by forging an alliance with others but if you win 276 seats on your own then I will resign (from Lok Sabha)," Gowda said in a press conference.

He also said that the BJP came to power on its own following which he felt the urge to fulfil the promise he had made.

The JD(S) patriarch recalled that after the victory, Modi had

personally invited him to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

After all the celebrations were over, he sought an appointment with Modi, for which he agreed.

When his car reached the portico of the Parliament, Prime Minister Modi himself came there to receive him.

"I have had knee pain since then, which is still continuing.

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Series of meeting held with stakeholders regarding issues pertaining to Swaraj Dweep post pandemic relaxation



Port Blair, Dec 04:

Shri. Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, South

Andaman along with team of officials from A & N Administration visited Swaraj Dweep on 04.12.2021 and held

series of meeting with stakeholders regarding the issues pertaining to Swaraj *contd. page-5*

MP introduces Private Member's Bill in Parliament to provide 100 Percent Job Reservation for Islanders on 3rd Dec 2021

Port Blair, Dec 05:

Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 3rd December 2021 (Friday) introduced a Private Member's Bill titled The

Reservation of Posts in Government Establishments of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Bill, 2019 to provide for reservation in government establishments in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for residents of

Andaman & Nicobar Islands to improve their standard of living through employment.

The Bill proposes to reserve hundred percent jobs for local candidates who have *contd. page-5*

Chief Secretary visits Corbyn's Cove Beach to take stock of facilities available for visitors

Port Blair, Dec. 5

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Jitendra Narain visited Corbyn's Cove Beach on Sunday to take stock of facilities available for visitors at the beach. He instructed all concerned Departments to

keep the beach clean and hassle-free for visitors.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary directed PBMC, Police and Tourism Departments to keep a constant vigil on violators and impose penalties as per

contd. page-5

FISHERMAN AND FOREST DEPARTMENT AWARDED FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE AT NEW DELHI



Port Blair, Dec 02:

The Indian Coast Guard conducts the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board meeting, every year, to discuss policy

issues, formulate guidelines & procedures, assess the efficacy of National Search and Rescue Plan and also recognise contributions

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EDITORIAL

Omicron has arrived, follow covid norms to avoid spread

Of the two persons detected with the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Bengaluru, India, one had no travel history. The other has flown out. This in itself indicates quite a few things. Whatever explanation is offered for someone being able to just leave the country even as genome sequencing of his sample is still awaited, it does show up a dangerously casual approach. The conjecture about the second person, a doctor with no travel record, is that he may have picked it from the conference he attended at a city hotel where delegates from abroad too were present. Stopping flights from certain designated countries like South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Netherlands and Belgium will be of little consequence now. Omicron-so named so as to avoid it being called Nu or Xi for obvious reasons-has arrived and is spreading.

The new mutated variant of concern, designated B.1.1.529 by WHO on November 26, has an unusual number of mutations. Data from South Africa, which has done an excellent job of tracking and identification, is that it spreads quietly. Whether faster or more lethally than the earlier villain, Delta, is yet to be fully established. However, what is easier done is being unerringly done: blame and isolate the African nations not just for warning the world against the new strain, but also point fingers at some unknown immuno-deficient-probably HIV-infected-African for the latest mutation. China may not have come clean on Covid-19 yet. We may not ever know where the original SARS-CoV-2 strain came from, a lab in Wuhan or an intermediary animal. But from there to Omicron, what has not changed is the worst in us. What else? Yes, oh, mask up, avoid crowds and human proximity, wash hands. And, yes, vaccinate. Omicron or not, that may be the only hope to avoid another debilitating wave.

NIA files supplementary charge sheet against terror operative in Jammu

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary charge sheet against an operative of the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) terror outfit in a case related to the recovery of arms, explosives and heroin in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Sunday.

The agency had earlier filed two charge sheets against nine persons -- seven on June 24 and two on October 4 -- in the case after taking over the probe on March 16.

The case was initially registered at Mendhar police station in Poonch on December 27 last year following the recovery of

arms and ammunition, explosive substances, heroin belonging to the terror organisation TuM and its offshoot Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF), a spokesperson of the NIA said.

The supplementary charge sheet against accused Mohd Nakeen Khan alias Nakeem Ali of Sandote was filed in a special court here on Saturday, the spokesperson said.

"Investigation by the NIA has unearthed the conspiracy hatched by Khan along with other charge-sheeted accused and handlers of TuM/JKGF who were operating from across the border and had facilitated



transportation of arms and ammunition, explosives and narcotics from the Line of Control (LoC) in Balakot to interior areas of Poonch," the spokesperson said.

The NIA said further investigation in the case continues.

India's potential cruise tourism spots set to be interlinked

NEW DELHI: The Union tourism ministry is working in tandem with other central government departments - railways, civil aviation, and shipping - to develop infrastructure and connect prominent tourist destinations located along the Indian coastal line for cruise tourism.

"The tourism ministry has allocated funds to the shipping ministry to create passenger terminals at major ports including Mumbai and Visakhapatnam and in the process of giving out additional financial assistance for the same," said Union tourism minister G Kishan Reddy.

Under the Centre's SagarMala Project, Chennai,



Vizag, and Andaman ports will be connected with Goa, which receives maximum foreign tourists, to encourage cruise tourism.

"Cruise tourism will be developed on a mission mode. Next week, tourism and shipping ministries are holding a

meeting in which we will make an action plan to include adventure and eco tourism also. If cruise tourism develops in India, it will greatly benefit Goa. For passenger terminals at port, tourism will give funds to the shipping ministry," said Reddy while announcing the ministry's initiatives in Goa on Saturday.

The Centre has been working to introduce cruise tourism for long as it is believed that India with its vast and beautiful coastline, virgin forests and undisturbed idyllic islands can be a fabulous tourist destination for cruise tourists. The objective of the policy is to make India as an attractive cruise tourism destination with the state-of-the-art infrastructural and other facilities at various parts in the country.

The government officials said that efforts are on for developing appropriate infrastructure at ports for handling cruise vessels and facilitating movement of passengers.

Don't want to be in hoardings, says West Bengal BJP MLA Hiran Chatterjee

KOLKATA: Actor-turned-BJP MLA Hiran Chatterjee, who goes by the name Hiraan, on Sunday said he does not want to be featured in hoardings after his photo was found missing in billboards put up by the party in his Kharagpur Sadar constituency but images of other prominent saffron camp leaders were featured in it.

People, and not leaders who are seen in hoardings and posters, ensure a politician's win in elections, Hiraan said.

This statement of his was supported by leaders of both the BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress, who

said he has spoken the truth.

"I am not the type who wants to be in hoardings and posters of the party. My work will speak for itself. I love to work for the common man, for people of my constituency," Hiraan told reporters.

"People have the last word in democracy. They are our God. Those who are in hoardings and posters won't ensure our win. The last word will be spoken by people," said Hiraan who left the TMC and joined the BJP in February, ahead of the assembly election in the state.

Several party hoardings in Kharagpur town in Paschim

Medinipur district feature photos of local MP Dilip Ghosh, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar and leader of opposition in the state assembly Suwendu Adhikari.

When contacted by PTI, Ghosh said, "Hiraan said the right thing. The BJP does not believe in hoarding politics. It will be more befitting to work for one's constituency."

Claiming that he does not know who put up those hoardings in Kharagpur, the BJP national vice-president claimed that it is the Trinamool Congress which believes in hoarding politics.

TMC MLA from Pingla in



Purba Medinipur district, Ajit Maity, said, "Hiraan has spoken the truth. Many thanks to him."

A clash between two groups, reportedly between factions of the BJP, took place in the area a few days ago.

Amit Shah meets aimed at boosting Rajasthan BJP unit



JAIPUR: Home Minister Amit Shah began a two-day tour of Rajasthan on Saturday, December 4, 2021, with a visit to the border district of Jaisalmer where he interacted with army jawans. The more interesting part of his trip comes on Sunday when he holds a mega roadshow and a special meeting with BJP workers and leaders in Jaipur.

Shah is expected to check infighting in Rajasthan BJP which is divided into factions. His visit may also indicate that in 2023, the party will contest elections without putting forth a CM face and build the campaign around PM Narendra Modi.

After crushing defeats in two recent by-elections, former CM Vasundhara Raje is active again

and her supporters are demanding she be made the CM face before 2023. Sources said Shah could send a strong message to the Raje camps.

The BJP state unit has made grand preparations for Shah's visit. State president of BJP Yuva Morcha, Himanshu Sharma said more than 10,000 workers from across the state will be in Jaipur to welcome the home minister. He will address the state working committee meeting on Sunday and urge workers to be united.

Shah will also interact with public representatives from across the state. In this meeting, MPs, MLAs and district leaders of the party will be in attendance. Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia said organisational activities will be reviewed in the meeting.

Vinod Dua: A rare breed of journalist who took pride in his work, not the network



NEW DELHI: For the Indian media, 80s was the decade of a remarkable jump from print to television. Arrival of colour TVs and the first direct telecast of election results was a watershed moment. During this decade, two figures came to be closely associated with Indian TV - Prannoy Roy and Vinod Dua.

While Roy emerged the anchor for the educated, and he remains that way, Dua was the man of the masses. The two together did psephology shows and poll result analysis bulletins on Doordarshan, which then enjoyed a monopoly. Roy may have drafted Dua as the translator of his analysis made in English into Hindi, Dua held his own and emerged as more than a mere translator.

Dua, who passed away on Saturday at the age of 67, December 4, 2021, belonged to Delhi in true sense. His parents had migrated from Pakistan and Dua grew up in a refugee colony. He graduated and did masters in English literature from Delhi University in the 1970s, an era which saw

many a sapling on campus later become colossus of the media world - Rajat Sharma, Chandan Mitra, Swapan Dasgupta, Harish Khare, to name a few. Prabhu Chawla and Roy were a few years senior to them.

While most of his contemporaries remained limited to politics and governance, Dua gave cultural journalism a new meaning. This is not to take away the credit for his news feature programmes on Doordarshan, NDTV, Zee, India Today, Sahara, Sony and many more. No wonder he became the first recipient from broadcast journalism of the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in journalism.

While Dua is listed as a progenitor of the poll result analysis, he gave his heart to food. The production of his immensely popular television show 'Zayka India Ka' was actually putting on screen his true-life likings. Much after he had become a TV personality, he could be seen frequenting eateries in Kingsway Camp near Delhi University. These were the party points of 80s and even 90s when burger was still to replace Chicken Masala as the essential party food.

His show 'Zyaka India Ka' gave 'dhaba' and canteen food a place of respect on the menu card. It also laid on the platter India's culinary diversity. He took pains to explain at the end of each episode that he paid for all that he ate. That was someone from that genre of journalists who took pride in their work, not the network.

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Railway revenue rises from passenger traffic, platform tickets



NEW DELHI: After witnessing a massive shortfall in revenue because of Covid-19 and the lockdown, Indian Railways has improved its position on this front in the last nine months of the 2012-22 financial year. There has been a rise in income from passenger traffic and sale of platform tickets at a hiked rate.

Till the end of 2019-20, the railways had generated record revenue of Rs 50,669.09 crore that fell to Rs 15,248.49 crore in 2020-21. Passenger services

were badly hit during the lockdown. "Whatever revenue we generated during the lockdown was mostly from freight services. Later, after services of special shramik trains were started during the lockdown, the railway made some improvement in revenue generation," said a senior railways official.

Sources said that the railways across its 18 zones have succeeded in increasing revenue from Rs 15,248.49 in 2019-20 to Rs 15,434.18 crore in 2021-22 up

to September. It has also made improvement in generating revenue from sale of platform tickets during the lockdown and the post-lockdown period. Till 2019-20, the railways had generated Rs 160.87 crore from platform tickets that reduced to Rs 15.48 crore in 2020-21. This improvement came after the rate of these tickets was raised from Rs 10 to Rs 30 and Rs 50.

Bullet train by 2026-27

High-speed bullet trains in India is likely to become a reality by 2026-27. The railway has placed tenders for track-laying work and other formalities are being completed. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "Japanese technology issued to run the bullet train. Land acquisition in Gujarat has been completed, while 31% of land needed in Maharashtra has been acquired." He added that 1,400 pillars would be cast in the next six months.

Can't continue when my oath to Constitution denied to me': Priyanka Chaturvedi quits from anchoring Sansad TV show

NEW DELHI: Protesting against the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs including herself, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi tendered her resignation from the responsibility of anchoring the Sansad TV show called Meri Kahani. The MP from

Maharashtra is among the 12 suspended for the entire session.

In a letter to Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, Chaturvedi stated she was stepping down.

"After my arbitrary suspension, that has totally

disregarded established parliamentary norms and rules to stifle my voice, my party's voice inside the chamber, I am unwilling to continue taking space on Sansad TV when my primary oath to the Constitution is being denied to me," she wrote.

She added that this was injustice.

"That this suspension also chose to disregard my parliamentary track record and my contributing beyond the call of duty so as to give a platform to women

MP demands to solve the issues of frequent interruption in Power Supply in Swaraj Dweep and South Andaman region

Port Blair, Dec 05:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to direct the Electricity Department to immediately address the power cut issues of Swaraj Dweep and south Andaman region, which has become an increasing source of discomfort and harassment for the Islanders.

In a letter addressed to the Lt. Governor, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today mentioned that people of the South Andaman region, Swaraj

Dweep Island are facing huge problems due to frequent power interruption, which is not only causing great inconvenience to the public but also leaving a negative impact on Tourism Industry. The children are also suffering heavily as due to frequent power cuts they are unable to focus on their studies, he mentioned.

The Member of Parliament pointed out that in Port Blair and adjoining areas of South Andaman, people are witnessing power interruption for nearly 8 to 10 times a day, which is leaving the public deeply upset and disappointed.

He mentioned that in Swaraj Dweep there are power cuts of seven to eight hours on a daily basis just because the requirement of power is more and supply is less.

The MP added that according to the public, a new DG Set sanctioned for Swaraj Dweep has already reached Port Blair but that has not been shipped to Swaraj Dweep yet. Swaraj Dweep being a hotspot of tourism activities, many people associated with the tourism industry are suffering a heavy loss on a daily basis, he added.

No positive case detected during test conducted on incoming flight passengers: Director (IP&T)

Port Blair, Dec. 5

The Director (IP&T), Shri Alok Kumar while giving information on COVID-19 status stated that during the RT-PCR test conducted on 328 passengers who arrived here yesterday, no positive case has been detected. Today, 13 flights with 2153 passengers arrived, out of which, 1909 were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 313 passengers (includes 18 international travellers) and the reports are awaited.

During RAT conducted on 146 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj, no positive case has been detected.

At Mohanpura Bus

Terminus, test was conducted on 62 passengers and no positive case has been detected. At Phoenix Bay Jetty, 12 passengers were tested with RAT and all were found negative. Apart from this, RAT was conducted on two passengers who arrived from Swaraj Dweep by MV Strait Island and both were found negative. Today, till 3 pm, 83 eligible beneficiaries were vaccinated, out of which, 73 were of 18 plus age group. The Director, ANIMS, Dr. AK Mandal informed that no corona patient is admitted in GB Pant Hospital.

Requisite RFQ applications received for setting up Luxury Eco Resort at Aves Island

Port Blair, Dec. 4

Request for Qualification (RFQ) for setting up of the luxury tents at Aves Island was invited by ANIIDCO and the last date for submission of RFQ application was on 29.11.2021. Requisite number of RFQ applications have been received which are being evaluated for next stage. Eligible RFQ applicants shall be issued Request for Proposal (RFP) for submission of financial bid after approval of Standing Finance had identified Aves Island as one of the islands in A&N Islands for holistic development. A land parcel measuring 2.75 hectares at Aves Island had been identified for setting up of a luxury tented resort. The MoEF & CC has already

granted CRZ and Forest Clearance for the project with certain conditions. The upcoming resort at Aves Island shall have a total of 50 rooms with an estimated project cost of Rs. 36 crores. The resort shall offer various activities like scuba diving, snorkelling, indoor & outdoor sports, nature trail & treks, etc. besides offering world class service.

The construction material of the project will be eco-friendly and/or pre-cast/pre-fabricated concrete with minimal use of RCC. The concessionaire will be required to meet the latest development standards prescribed by GRIHA/LEED/ Green Globe and star categorization by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. This self sustainable project will also include development of trunk

infrastructure like Desalination Plant, Rain Water Treatment Plant, Solar Power Plant, DG Set, STP, etc. by the concessionaire.

As per the terms of the concession agreement, the concessionaire shall operate the project for 50 years including 3 years construction. Further, he has to ensure 30% of the total personnel employed are local residents during the first year of commercial operation which should gradually increase to 60% by the 5th year.

The project will be a major development project and will be crucial to kick start the tourism based economy of the North & Middle Andaman District and make it a niche tourism destination, a press release from Managing Director, ANIIDCO said.

Can't continue when my oath..... from page-3



parliamentarians to share their journey, I believe injustice has been done but as it is considered valid in the eyes of the chair, I must

respect," she stated in the letter.

"I believe it is my duty that when the highest number of women MPs have been suspended in the recorded history of Rajya Sabha for an entire session for speaking up for the people of this country, I need to speak up for them and stand in solidarity for them," the letter said.

She thanked the Rajya Sabha chairman and Lok

Sabha Speaker for considering her worthy of the responsibility given to her in the Sansad TV show.

Chaturvedi also thanked the Sansad TV team for working with her and enriching her experience.

The 12 MPs were suspended at the end of the Monsoon session of Parliament following the impasse over the alleged use of Pegasus spyware.

PRESS RELEASE



Shri. Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, District Magistrate, South Andaman felicitated the three bravehearts Shri. Sanjay Das, 27 years, S/o Late Sajan, R/o Teylarabad, Shri. Naresh, 25 years, S/o Shri. Appana, R/o Sisty Nagar and Shri. Dilip Kumar Ram, 26 years, S/o Late Bhutan Ram, R/o Shadipur for saving six precious lives of fishermen who were in distress after their fishing boat had capsized in rough cyclonic weather near Snake Island at around 1630 hrs on 01.12.2021.

All the three daring youths are Jet Ski Operators functioning at Corbyn's Cove who didn't think twice before jumping into the sea swollen amid inclement cyclonic weather conditions and undertook successful rescue of the six souls.

The District Magistrate, South Andaman further praising the young Jet Ski Operators for their exemplary spirit and nerve reiterated that many people show courage and bravery confronting many different challenges in life, but willingly putting oneself in mortal danger to protect others is an exemplary act of heroism and valor.

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PMAY-GRAMIN IN A & N ISLANDS TREADS TOWARDS REALISING THE GOAL OF 'HOUSING FOR ALL' BY MARCH 2022

Port Blair, Dec 03:

The Department of Rural Development, A&N Administration has been relentlessly implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin, the flagship scheme of the Government of India across the Islands since its inception by providing a pucca house with basic amenities inclusive of a hygienic cooking space to the houseless with financial assistance of Rs.1.2 lakh along with 90 person days of unskilled labour wage amounting to Rs. 24,030/- through convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Additionally, an incentive of Rs.12,000 for construction of toilets through convergence with Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G) is also provided to the beneficiaries.

Out of the target 1337 beneficiaries, the Department has already constructed 965 houses. 372 beneficiaries have been provided installments are in various stages of construction of their houses and a large number of them are expected to complete the house by December 2021.

One beneficiary Shri Simon Kujur had a very dilapidated kutchra house in



Bamboo Nallah, Rutland. He is a farmer by profession and earning his livelihood by farming. He has two daughters and two sons. Under PMAY(G), he was sanctioned a house in the financial year 2020-21. He completed the construction of house in a very short period with the assistance provided under PMAY-G, 90 person-days' work under MGNREGA and his own resources amounting to Rs.3.00 lakhs despite all odds of COVID lockdown. He expressed his gratitude towards the Department of Rural Development for providing him 50 sq mtr land and financial assistance of under PMAY (G) for construction of the house. He cheerfully expressed that earlier his children had to stay away from family in Ashram within city limits for education purpose. At least now after the construction of his new house

in Kodyaghat, they will all get to stay together.

It has been noticed that there has been a huge boost in the feeling of Social Status, Self-worth, Confidence Level, Sense of Ownership, Feeling of Safety & Security, Improvement in Health, Overall Quality of Life, and Satisfaction after construction of New Houses of the beneficiaries.

At this stage of implementation, it is worth to note that the scheme is now playing a vital role in fostering security, welfare and social well-being of the rural populace by providing safe, stable and secure atmospheres for them and especially women, children and other vulnerable groups too.

The RD department expects to reach a total completion of 1000 houses by the end of this year.

PM Narendra Modi

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Whatever kind of person he is, that day when my car came to the portico, Modi himself came, held me by my hand and took me inside. This was for a person who had opposed him (Modi) so much," Gowda said.

Gowda said he expressed his wish to resign from the Lok Sabha.

"I told him that I stand by my words. Please accept my resignation. He told me why I was taking things spoken during election so seriously. He also said that he would require to discuss matters with me whenever situation arises," Gowda recalled.

After the incident, Gowda met Modi six to seven times as his respect for him

increased.

The former Prime Minister said he had opposed Modi after the Godhra incident and his speeches made in Parliament during the period stand testimony to his claim. However, his meeting with Modi after the latter became prime minister changed his perception.

"I realised to see the change in his personality -- from what he was as a Gujarat Chief Minister to what he is after becoming the Prime Minister," Gowda said.

The JD(S) supremo also said Modi immediately agreed to meet him whenever he wished to see him.

MP introduces Private....

from page 1



resided in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for at least 10 years & holds a valid domicile certificate before the commencement of this act. The bill intends to provide legislative backing to residence based reservations for locals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands who have resided in the islands for at least 10 years.

The rationale behind enactment of this bill is to tackle the menace of unemployment which has seen a rise due to implementation of online recruitment. Through 100 percent reservation for local candidates, the rising unemployment can be addressed as the locals will be entitled to post under the government as per his qualification. The bill also has penal provisions to regulate any wrong doing through fake

certificates & claims for availing reservations meant for deserving local candidates. Further, it also has a provision to designate a liaison officer in every government establishment who shall be responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the act are administered as per rules and in a fair manner.

This bill seeks to provide adequate opportunities to locals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands who don't have sufficient representation in government establishments. This bill will encourage the residents of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to apply for recruitment in government posts and it will facilitate the development of the islands as reservation for locals will aid in increasing the standard of living of the local candidates.

Series of meeting held with.....

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Dweep post pandemic relaxation.

A meeting was held at Dolphin Resort, Swaraj Dweep with political parties, boat association, tour and travel agents and deliberated the issues faced by them and assured redressal of issues after deliberations with higher authorities.

The team of officials visited the fish market and took review of the renovation works being undertaken. Directions were given to EE PRI, to expedite the renovation work and make the market operational as early as possible.

The Vegetable market area and the toilet complex

under the project of Rural Development in Market area were also reviewed by the officials.

The team further visited the Swaraj Dweep jetty area with concerned stake holders and local representatives and reviewed the status of approach road. The representatives of concerned department were directed to immediately take up the issue of the repair of road near jetty area. The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman also interacted with the tourists at the Jetty area and enquired about the facilities available at the tourist spots and further suggestions, if any required to be

implemented at the Swaraj Dweep.

The officials also inspected the proposed site for parking area alongwith all stakeholders and reviewed the conditions of roads at Swaraj Dweep.

The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman also visited the Primary Health Centre (Health and Wellness Centre) and had interaction with Medical Officer along with local representatives. The team also interacted with patients and noted the grievances and assured upgradation of facilities as well as staff at the Health Centre.

Chief Secretary visits....

from page-1

law. Further, instructions were issued for keeping all the water sports jet skis in an organized manner. He directed the concerned officials to set up a beach volleyball court as it was earlier.

Further, the Chief Secretary also instructed to

revamp the existing food kiosk with good aesthetic view besides creation of space for open sit out-cum-food kiosk at coconut lagoon area and Japanese Bunker, a press release from Secretary, PBMC said.

Rourkela to co-host 2023 edition of the men's hockey World Cup with Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: Dust. It's in most street corners of Rourkela. It's on the top of your floaters. It's on the bag you carry. It's on the windscreen of your cab. To be fair to the city, divided under two townships (steel and civil), dust is a common Indian problem. But this is a different kind of dust. It's the dust that tells you there are multiple buildings being constructed within a few blocks of each other. It's the dust that tells you an earthmover is somewhere in the vicinity, moving large quantities of sand. It's the dust that turns your black shoes brown within a few hours... it's the dust that tells you the city is being reconstructed from scratch, one piece of land at a time.

The city's dust pollution has been flagged by Dilip Ray, a former Union minister and Rourkela MLA, who wrote to chief minister Naveen Paknaik. "On March 8 (2021), as per a report of the State Pollution Control Board the level of PM 2.5 and PM 10 was five times higher than the desired level and it's needless to underscore the devastating health consequences of such high level of pollution on the citizens," he wrote.

"One understands that such development works have been necessitated by the growing needs of the city but it is equally important to ensure that such works don't become a source of incessant trouble for the general public."

The developmental works, though, are understandable. The Steel City is in a race against time to transform Rourkela before its big day out. The 2023 edition of the men's hockey World Cup which it will co-host with Bhubaneswar.

There is a tendency to look for romance in sport. It lends itself to narrative, gives it a certain feel-good factor. That's what Rourkela had on the afternoon of December 24, 2020. Patnaik promised India's biggest hockey stadium would come up in Rourkela. As far as feel-good stories went, this was up there with Harry Potter naming his son Albus Severus, after Dumbledore and Snape. That's the heft the place commands. It's considered as one of the sport's nurseries in the country.

Kids getting acquainted with hockey sticks while learning multiplication tables isn't an exaggeration. The belt's dalliance with the sport, after missionaries had taken it to the region, grew thanks to a steady stream of players the district contributed to the national team. There is no one more prominent than Dilip Tirkey.

"It will be a big social



event," he says.

"Taking the World Cup to a tribal belt will send a positive message to the youth there. Hockey is there in their DNA." Another former captain to have emerged from Rourkela, Lazarus Barla, echoed Tirkey's sentiments.

"I didn't even dream that this day would come," he said.

"Locals filling stands, watching a World Cup."

He is so caught up while talking about it he manages to wear a smile throughout the conversation at Panposh sports hostel, a facility for boys and girls hoping to become the next Tirkey or Barla. Some 3.7 kms from Panposh sports hostel, there is a commemorative plaque remembering the players who have worn the Indian jersey from the region. It's aptly named 'Hockey Chowk'. Come January 2023, this 'Hockey Chowk' will throw one of its biggest parties ever.

Fifteen acres. That is the land (roughly 11.5 full-sized football fields) that's been allocated to build India's biggest hockey stadium, a 21,050 seater at roughly Rs 130 crore. Because of the second Covid-19 wave, there was a delay. Suspicious soil integrity, people on the ground told this daily, meant that the practice facility will now be the stadium facility and vice versa. For want of a better phrase, the entire area looks like a hole in the ground, a series of interconnected pits with steel rods protruding out of them.

"Work stopped for 21 days because of Covid-19 but in terms of actual construction, we lost four months," one of the contractors informed.

He is confident that it will be completed by July. To make it happen, they have taken special permission from the government. "People are working in three shifts so work will progress 24 hours a day till July," the contractor says. Some people will have to do so without a single off or leave. To ensure players and officials don't have problems commuting to and from the stadium, the aerodrome - located a stone's away from the stadium - is also being given a facelift. When that

is complete, 76-seater flights can land.

The other big developmental project going on near the stadium is also linked to the World Cup. A multi-purpose building (it was a Covid-19 hospital earlier in the year) will now be 200-bed hotel that could potentially house teams and officials.

Elsewhere, roads are being widened, parks are being beautified and existing stadia are being completely overhauled. Both the Birs Munda football stadium and the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium are multi-crore projects which could become the hub for sport in the region going forward. The two stadia, between them, can host football, badminton and swimming among other disciplines. The officials in the district are even redoing the city's rainwater drains. Out of a total of more than two-dozen projects under the Smart Cities Mission, 'about 60% is directly or indirectly related to the World Cup', one official responsible for delivering the project said. In the name of sport, a city is rapidly changing its colour.

Even as the Odisha government was applauded for the part they played in the men's team's bronze at the Olympics, voices of dissent have grown within the state for the oversized role it has taken in promoting the sport. A few of the locals wonder if taking the World Cup to Rourkela is a political ploy to gain traction in western Odisha. More damagingly, some parties have alleged that the state is using the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in non-priority projects (DMF funds are typically used in areas or communities affected by mining-related activities).

In November, two MLAs of Sundergarh, Shankar Oram (BJP, Birmitrapur) and CS Rajen Ekka (Congress, Rajgangpur), both members of the DMF trust board, flagged the issue. There has also been some noise on seeking a CAG audit. In July, the ministry of Mines (DMF comes under their purview) once again reminded all states about transfer of funds from DMF.

Extended Producers Responsibility provisions continues to be strictly enforced in A & N Islands

Port Blair, Dec. 5

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has taken a number of initiatives to address the problem of plastic waste in these Islands. The Administration has issued notification banning manufacture, storage, use and import of single use plastic items dated 05.09.2019. 3 CR cases were filed before the Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate First Class (Ist Court) at Port Blair against establishments for non-compliance on ban of Single Use Plastic items in 2019, all the three cases have been disposed with penalty of Rs. 50,000 each and were kept in custody till the rise of court. Total Rs 1,50,000 has been levied as fine. During road construction works by APWD, PBMC, RD&P and other agencies mandatorily utilize 8-10% waste plastic in road construction.

A total of 84.95 MT of shredded plastic waste has been utilized in construction of roads amounting to 78 lane- kms. Further, Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) provisions are being strictly enforced by way of making it mandatory for all companies supplying plastic packaged goods for 100% take back of waste plastic from these Islands. A&N Administration has launched Andaman & Nicobar Islands Extended Producers Responsibility (ANEPR) portal with an objective that the PIBOs and other stakeholders can

themselves submit the data related to Extended Producers Responsibility and plastic waste for compliance of Rule 13(2) of Plastic Waste Management Rules (PWMR) 2016.

Approximately, 971.6 MT of plastic packaged goods have been imported into these Islands during the period October, 2019 to September, 2021, out of which, 357.6 MT of waste plastic has been collected & transported to mainland for recycling. Approximately 40% of plastic has been sent back to mainland for recycling and utilized in road construction. Further, PBMC and RD&P through their authorized waste vendors are regularly collecting and transporting a huge amount of plastic waste to mainland for its further processing and recycling.

With all these steps taken, cooperation of the general public is essentially required to make these Islands 'Plastic Free'. The Administration appeals to the general public to carry their own shopping bags, carry a reusable bottle, avoid plastic, and practice source segregation at household level so that the beauty of these pristine Islands may be preserved and to provide a clean and green environment to visitors and general public, a press release from Department of Science & Technology said.

FISHERMAN AND..... from page-1

towards SAR by merchant mariners, government owned vessels, maritime fraternity and fishermen.

This year the 19th NMSAR Board meeting was held on 25 Nov 2021 wherein, representatives from the UT of A & N, were conferred with Annual SAR (Search and Rescue) awards, at New Delhi, for exemplary contributions towards saving precious lives at sea. The awardees included Shri V Raja Rao, a fisherman from Campbell Bay, who was awarded the "SAR Award for Fisherman", for the year 2021, for saving three precious lives from a sinking fishing boat FB Manikanna, on 24 Jun 21 and the Forest Department of A&N, which was felicitated with the "SAR Award for Ashore Unit", for rescuing three precious

lives of IFB Kokila, drifting off Swaraj Dweep, due to engine failure. These awards recognise the voluntary efforts for saving precious lives at sea and the two awards for personnel from the UT of A&N, validate the collaborative structure of SAR in the islands.

Indian Coast Guard being the nodal agency for Maritime Search and Rescue has dedicated Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) and Maritime Rescue Sub Centres (MRSCs), which are manned 24x7 to respond to distress messages received to coordinate Search and Rescue (SAR) missions. Till date, 10262 lives in distress at sea have been saved by the Coast Guard.