



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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Jarawa Facts

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

Your Nature Guide

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

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

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

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

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

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!

Member of Parliament Requests Health Minister to Allow Continuation of ANISHI for Islanders in Place of Ayushman Bharat Scheme

Port Blair, Dec. 14: The Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi to allow the Andaman & Nicobar Administration to continue Andaman & Nicobar Islands Scheme for Health Insurance (ANISHI) for the residents of the Islands in place of Ayushman Bharat Scheme, as a special case, until proper medical treatment facilities

for all the serious diseases are created in the Hospitals in A&N Islands.

In a letter addressed to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, the Member of Parliament mentioned that a commendable scheme namely Andaman & Nicobar Islands Scheme for Health Insurance (ANISHI) was introduced in Andaman & Nicobar Islands in 2015 for treatment of patients suffering from serious

disease at mainland as referred by the GB Pant Hospital, A&N Islands.

He added that permanent residents of these Islands with family income below 3 lakhs Rupees per annum were eligible for treatment under this scheme.

The Member of Parliament pointed out that the Health Insurance scheme (ANISHI) provided cashless treatment upto Rupees 5 Lakhs per patients per illness, which included indoor and outdoor

treatments and free travel expenses for patients with one attendant. Critically ill patients, if referred under the scheme to travel by flight, used to be entitled for reimbursement of the air ticket for patient and one attendant.

He informed the Minister that later this scheme was stopped in 2020 and presently patients suffering from serious diseases are being sent to the mainland only under Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

Continued on P2

Shortage of Staff at PHC Baratang Forces Pharmacist to Perform Office Works

Patients Made to Wait for Hours to Get Medicines

Baratang, Dec. 14: Patients visiting the Primary Health Centre at Baratang are made to wait for hours at the Pharmacy Counter before they are able to get the prescribed medicines. The scene is such that the ailing who visit the PHC for treatment and medicines are made to suffer more. There have been complaints from the people after which Andaman Chronicle tried to find out the reasons for such mismanagement.

Investigation revealed that the PHC has no staffs to perform the official paper works of updating the record of OPD, Ledger Postings etc. which is now entrusted upon the

lone pharmacist in the PHC. Most of the times the concerned pharmacist is held up with paper works, resulting in the delay in issuing of medicines. It is also gathered that many of the existing staffs posted in the PHC remain out of station for one reason or the other and even without official intimation, adding to the sufferings of the patients.

Considering the situation in the PHC where patients are made to suffer, it can be expected that the concerned authorities would intervene in the matter and ensure a smooth functioning of the lone PHC in the island.

BJP to Organise Various Programmes to Mark 'Good Governance Day'

Port Blair, Dec. 14: Good Governance Day is observed annually on December 25. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was very committed towards providing transparent, effective and accountable governance to the people of the country. With regards to the above programme a press conference was held today at BJP Bhawan, Middle Point to announce the programmes to be held to mark the Good Governance Day.



Addressing the scribes, Shri. Ajoy Bairagi, State BJP President said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an Indian politician, extraordinary orator and a writer. Infrastructure projects got a priority during the Vajpayee years, which was maintained by the later governments. **Continued on P4**

ANTCC Presidents Submits Memorandum to Home Minister

Party Threatens for 'Hunger Strike' if the Burning Issues are Not Resolved on Time

Port Blair, Dec. 14: The State President, ANTCC, Shri. Rangalal Halder has submitted a memorandum to the Honourable Home Minister, Shri. Amit Shah wherein he highlighted various issues being faced by the Islanders. The most important issue of 100% job for islander, filling-up of vacant posts in the government sector, completion of NH Road, age relaxation, etc. were raised by Halder.

Halder has also submitted a set of demands to the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Island which includes 100% job reservation, filling up the vacancies, completion of NH Road, one time

Continued on P4

DCPU Conducts Awareness on Adoption for Health Staffs of PHC Garacharma

Port Blair, Dec. 14: The District Child Protection Unit, South Andaman organised a programme to create awareness on Adoption as per Adoption Regulation 2017, on 14th December, 2021 at PHC Garacharma for the Health Staff including ANMs, PHN and CHO. Member- Child Welfare Committee and Senior Medical Officer, PHC Garacharma were present in the program.

The gathering was informed that all adoptions whether Prospective Adoptive Parent/ Relative Adoption/ Step Parent shall be registered in 'Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System' of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).

Continued on P4

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

Sanctions and Rights

The U.S. move to sanction a paramilitary unit in Bangladesh, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), has apparently caught the administration in Dhaka off-guard, prompting a diplomatic pushback including Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen summoning U.S. Ambassador to Dhaka Earl Miller to protest the action. Fresh on the heels of the U.S. President Joe Biden's Democracy Summit, which Dhaka was not invited to attend, the U.S. Treasury said that as per the allegations made by various NGOs, the RAB and other Bangladeshi law enforcement units were responsible for "more than 600 disappearances since 2009, nearly 600 extrajudicial killings since 2018, and torture"; there were also reports suggesting that the targets of these actions were Opposition party members, journalists, and human rights activists. The sanctions were invoked under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. The RAB is a joint task force founded in 2004. Under the RAB's mandate of ensuring internal security, intelligence-gathering on criminal activities, and government-directed investigations, principally relating to Bangladesh's war on drugs, there have been "widespread allegations of serious human rights abuse" by the RAB, to the extent that they threaten U.S. national security interests by undermining the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, according to the U.S. Treasury.

The broader picture of the U.S.'s application of sanctions to alleged human rights violators across the globe is that the latest list of allegations includes not just the RAB, but also government officials and administrators in the Xinjiang region of China, where the minority Uighur community is reported to have faced rights violations; citizens of North Korea suspected to be engaged in earning illicit incomes abroad to support the country's arms trade and Russian institutions that have aided them; two military officials from Sri Lanka alleged to have committed gross rights violations against ethnic Tamils; and Chief Ministers of States in Myanmar who are alleged to have facilitated "ongoing brutal crackdowns against the people of Burma, including children and members of ethnic minority groups..." A knee-jerk response to such sweeping sanctions is to either question their effectiveness or challenge their moral authority given that minorities in the U.S., such as African-Americans, are also periodically at the receiving end of rights violations. However, given the rampant degree of such violations worldwide, there is a case to be made for any policy by any country that highlights the role of specific individuals alleged to be involved. Especially across South Asia, it might be salutary for the broader cause of human rights if there is a ripple effect of the sanctions on the RAB. Indeed, if this action gives pause for thought to overzealous law enforcement agents who violently act out their prejudices against ethnic or religious minorities, that would be welcome.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Political Leaders and Spicy Food..!

Ever so often, a common picture opportunity is when a political leader drops into the house of some poor person and has a meal with him or her. As the Prime Minister launched the Kashi Vishvanath Corridor Project, he supped with construction workers and I wonder whether he asked the same question I asked when I used to sup with my workers, "How do they manage to eat such spicy food!" Or, "my God the food is hot, my tongue is on fire!"

Many years ago while in business, I started a new branch in another city, and while visiting my new sites would sit with my men and have a meal with them. The food was delicious but what was left in my mouth was a burnt tongue! It was round that time that I read Dominique Lapierre's book, 'City of Joy,' where the author while talking about the poor in Calcutta and their eating habits was of the view that the spice in food helps abate hunger. 'If you eat very spicy food (he was specifically talking about chilly) food, you tend to feel your stomach is full even though you haven't eaten a nutritious meal.'

He brought in a relationship between poverty and spicy food.

Now I am sure the construction workers around the Prime Minister were served the kind of food the PM could eat, but next time political leaders do this photo-opp with the poor, and only if they suddenly drop into some hut, it would be good to see if their taste buds cry out, "Fire! Fire!"

"Who is on fire?"

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"Rahul Gandhi eating with that poor lady in her hut!"

"Let's call the fire brigade!"

"Nah!"

"But he's on fire!"

"Yeah and there's a lesson he'll learn after he douses the fire out!"

"What's the lesson?"

"That the poor are hungry! That millions and millions of people in our country exist on small spicy meals to keep hunger pangs away, and their stomachs need food. That it's not caste or creed that is important in election speeches but food to see people's bellies are full!"

I know I was a chastened businessman after I learnt why my men ate food so hot, so spicy, felt ashamed they had to resort to such gimmicks to fool their stomachs and made efforts to see my men got a better deal. I hope our politicians realize this. And that we encourage them to drop in more often in the homes of the poor, and break bread with them, so they will realize their task is not to bring religious unity in this country but economic upliftment with filled stomachs!

Then and only then with tongues and mouths on fire will they whisper, "Our job is to nourish his body, and leave him to nourish his soul himself..!"

bobsbanter@gmail.com

Member of Parliament Requests Health Minister to Allow Continuation of ANISHI for Islanders in Place of Ayushman Bharat Scheme

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The Member of Parliament pointed out that although the Ayushman Bharat Scheme provides free treatment to BPL patients, but this scheme is not suited for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

He mentioned that as Andaman & Nicobar Island are situated nearly 1200 KM away from Chennai and Kolkata, travelling by flight is the only option for Islanders to reach Mainland India, in absence of passenger ships. For

referred patients, in most of the cases it becomes unaffordable to travel to Mainland India for specialized treatment due to high airfare. Most of the Islanders, living in remote Islands are so poor that they often find it difficult to even travel to the capital city Port Blair for treatment.

The Member of Parliament said that under ANISHI scheme patients used to get travel expenses with one attendant but under Ayushman Bharat

Scheme no such travel expenses is given.

He pointed out that under Ayushman Bharat scheme patients are being asked to pay for all medical tests before treatment in Mainland Hospitals, which again becomes unaffordable for the most of the patients, who as per present rule, are from BPL category. In normal cases these medical tests cost nearly Rs. 20,000 per patient. However, under ANISHI scheme all costs of medical tests were also included, he added the MP.

The Mind's Eye

KARMA PHILOSOPHY



**RAJYOGI
BRAHMAKUMAR
NIKUNJ JI**

Karma simply means to perform actions, but it is the motive or intent of the actions that determines one's destiny. Therefore, each human being, and not God, is the creator and architect of his or her own destiny.



Our lives are based on two important words which are 1) Destiny & 2) Karma. Lets understand what exactly do these two terms mean. In simple words "Destiny" is the outcome of our own thoughts and actions or as it is said, "As you sow, so shall you reap". Karma simply means to perform actions, but it is the motive or intent of the actions that determines one's destiny. Therefore, each human being, and not God, is the creator and architect of his or her own destiny. Destiny, functions on the spiritual law of action (karma) that is subtle and cannot be influenced or manipulated by mankind. Majority of humanity believes in this spiritual law in one form or the other irrespective of its religious denomination. Many of us have been taught that when we make mistakes by performing actions outside the moral code of ethics, we can simply ask forgiveness from God, which would surely be granted. Therefore, we continue committing same mistakes again and again, which has brought us into a helpless stage, as we knowingly commit immoral actions, fully cognizant of the consequences. In spite of knowing the fact that the actions we are committing are grossly immoral, we don't have the moral strength to stop these. This is because our intellects have become amoral; our power to reason has gone comatose and our conscience has gone into hibernation. We live in a hope that either God is not looking at us or that we will be granted forgiveness for all our sins. However, this is not how the eternal spiritual laws operate, C'oz the universal law of karma is the arm of the spiritual judiciary that dispenses divine justice. Hence, under spiritual law, "justice is never denied or delayed". So one must always remember that, past is history, future is a mystery; but!! the present is a great and a rewarding gift for us to reshape our destiny. That's why it is said, "No one is bigger than Destiny"

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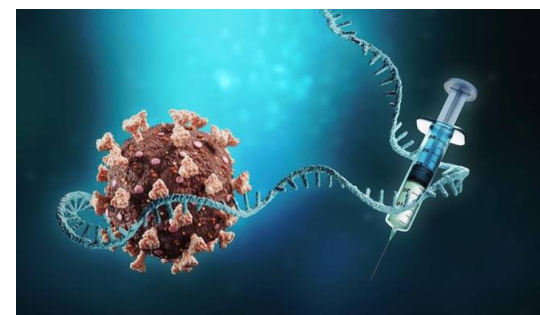
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Health, Science /Tech

Two common drugs found effective against COVID-19, in early testing



Two over-the-counter drugs have been found to inhibit the replication of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in preliminary tests, according to a study.

Researchers from the University of Florida in the U.S. noted that the combination includes diphenhydramine, an antihistamine used for allergy symptoms.

When paired with lactoferrin, a protein found in cow and human milk, the compounds were found to hinder SARS-CoV-2 during tests in monkey cells and human lung cells, they said.

Lactoferrin is commonly used as a supplement to treat stomach and intestinal ulcers, among other uses, according to the researchers.

"We found out why certain drugs are active against the virus that causes COVID-19. Then, we found an antiviral combination that can be effective, economical and has a long history of safety," said David A Ostrov, an associate professor at the University of Florida.

In lab tests on human and monkey cells, the combination of drugs was particularly potent, the researchers said.

Individually, the two compounds each inhibited SARS-CoV-2 virus replication by about 30%, they said, adding that together, they reduced virus replication by 99%.

The findings, published in the journal Pathogens, are a first step in developing a formulation that could be used to accelerate COVID-19 recovery.

Additional research into the compounds' effectiveness for COVID-19 prevention is already under way in mouse models, the researchers said.

To establish their findings, they focussed on proteins expressed in human cells known as sigma receptors.

In COVID-19 cases, the virus "hijacks" stress-response machinery, including sigma receptors, in order to replicate in the body, according to the researchers.

Interfering with that signalling appears to be the key to inhibiting the virus's potency, they said.

"We now know the detailed mechanism of how certain drugs inhibit SARS-CoV-2 infection," Mr. Ostrov said.

Data from the experiments show that a highly specific sigma receptor binding drug candidate and formulated combinations of over-the-counter products have the potential to inhibit virus infection and decrease recovery time from COVID-19, the researchers said.

While the findings are encouraging, Mr. Ostrov cautions against self-medicating with either diphenhydramine or lactoferrin as a COVID-19 prevention or treatment.

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BJP to Organise Various Programmes to Mark 'Good Governance Day'

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Shri. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member, BJP also shared the working of present government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi and said that the working is unbiased, transparent, development-oriented and people-centric. Many sustainable development projects for infrastructure and modern facilities initiatives have been laid down for our Islands viz. North & Middle Andaman Bridge, Airport Project, OFC cable etc.

Dr. Poonam Arora, State Coordinator, Good Governance briefed about the activities planned to celebrate

the Good Governance Day by the Bharatiya Janata Party, A & N Islands, which will connect to 70 Panchayats and 24 wards were the beneficiaries of various Govt. Schemes will be invited, felicitated and the State & local leaders will be educating and motivating them on Good Governance.

A contest will be organized for Young Indians in the age group 18-25, where they can write Slogans/Poems showcasing #My Idea for Good Governance 2022. A campaign will be run from 16th - 25th December 2021 #MyStories #Beneficiaries, where any beneficiaries of Govt. Schemes can pen down

or write their success stories to encourage more and more people to avail the benefits under the schemes. The winners of the contest will be announced in an event on 25th December 2021 at State BJP Karyalay, Middle Point, Port Blair. The 1st prize -Rs. 10,000/-, 2nd Prize -Rs. 8,000/- and 3rd Prize -Rs.5000/-. The last date of entries for the contest is 24th December 2021.

All details regarding the contest can be seen at BJP Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook handle from 16th onwards.

Earlier, Shri M.Vinod, Prabhari, State Media Cell of the BJP welcomed the media persons.

ANTCC Presidents Submits Memorandum to Home Minister

Party Threatens for 'Hunger Strike' if the Burning Issues are Not Resolved on Time

Continued from Page 1
age relaxation, immediate conducting of PRI & PBMC elections. The President gave a time frame of one month to resolve these issues failing which the Congress Party will sit on Hunger Strike till the issues are resolved.

He has also appealed to the youth to take part in the signature campaign for 100% job reservation for islanders. Youth interested in signing for the signature campaign may contact Shri. Tanmay Mallick - 9933221110, Shri. MA Sajid

- 9679528684, Shri. Abhibhusan Ghosh - 9791024059 or Shri. Sajid Shan - 7063974765.

DCPU Conducts Awareness on Adoption for Health Staffs of PHC Garacharma

Continued from Page 1

Through this awareness program, the participants were also sensitized on the procedure relating to Orphan, Abandoned and Surrender of children who can be declared legally free for Adoption and restored through adoption. The participants were encouraged to inform cases related to such children found, if any, to the District Child Protection Unit or the Child Welfare Committee immediately so that direct adoptions can be avoided.

An open discussion was also conducted wherein queries and concerns raised by the participants were clarified by the team of DCPU and Member CWC. The program concluded with a feedback session to assess the



knowledge of the participants through an assessment tool.

The District Administration ensures to organise such

informative session for the Health Workers and other frontline staff working at grass root level so as to mitigate direct Adoption.

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Wholesale Price Inflation Spikes to a Record as Food, Fuel Surge

New Delhi, Dec. 14: India's wholesale prices inflation peaked to a new high of 14.23% in November from 12.54% in October, led by a surge in primary food inflation that hit a 13-month high and a continued uptick in mineral, fuel and power, as well as oil and gas prices.

Economists termed the record wholesale inflation print, the eighth month in a row that India has seen double-digit inflation, a negative surprise. Expectations that the tax cuts on fuel announced early November by the Centre may provide some relief to producers grappling with high commodity and freight costs were belied.

Wholesale price inflation spikes to a record as food, fuel surge

Fuel and power inflation, in fact, surged to a record level of almost 40% in November, rising sharply over two months from the revised level of 29.5% recorded in September. A marked uptick was also visible across most categories beyond fuel.

Manufactured products recorded a marginal reduction month-on-month with inflation dipping to 11.92% from 12.04% in October, but food inflation measured by the wholesale food index more than doubled from 3.06% to 6.7% in November. Inflation in primary articles also virtually doubled to 10.34% from 5.2% in October.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) climbed 2.73% on a month-on-month basis, an official statement said, attributing the 'high rate of inflation' primarily to the rise in prices of mineral oils, basic



metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products, food products etc.

The record inflation of 14.2% in November 2021 has come as a shock, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar, as most non-core categories displayed an inflation rate that was much steeper than expected. Inflation, measured by the WPI, had risen 2.29% in November 2020.

"The unseasonal surge in vegetable prices, as well as a rise in the inflation for egg, meat and fish, and condiments and spices underpinned the turnaround in the primary food inflation to a 13-month high 4.9% in November 2021 from the disinflation of 1.7% in the previous month," she noted.

Within food articles, inflation in eggs, meat and fish jumped from 1.98% in October to 9.66% in November, fruits recorded 15.5% inflation compared to 8.2% a month earlier, and wheat prices saw an inflation of 10.14% from

8.14% in October. Vegetable price trends turned around after at least five months of negative inflation, having last recorded -18.5%, to clock an inflation of 3.91% in November.

"A falling base is likely to push up the inflation rate for primary food articles further in the current month, in spite of an anticipated sequential moderation in prices of various food items," Ms. Nayar warned.

Although the prices of various food items have displayed a seasonal downtrend and those of several commodities have corrected to an extent following the reality check provided by the Omicron variant, the Rupee has depreciated in recent sessions, which would curtail the extent of moderation in the WPI inflation in December, she explained.

ICRA now expects wholesale prices inflation to average 11.5-12% in 2021-22, with the headline and core inflation expected to continue to print in double-digits over the next three months and one month, respectively.

Issue Aadhaar, Voter Cards to Sex Workers: Supreme Court

New Delhi, Dec. 14: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed States and Union Territories to immediately start the process of issuing voter ID cards, Aadhaar and ration cards to sex workers across the country.

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao said every person is guaranteed their fundamental rights irrespective of vocation.

"The fundamental rights are guaranteed to every citizen of the country irrespective of his/her vocation. There is a bounden duty on the government to provide basic amenities to the citizens of the country. The Central government, State governments and other authorities are directed to commence the process of issuance of ration cards, voter ID cards and Aadhaar

cards immediately," the court ordered.

The court found that its directions a decade ago to provide sex workers with ration cards have not been complied with yet.

"The State governments and UTs were directed to issue ration cards and identity cards to sex workers almost a decade back and there is no reason as to why such directions are not implemented till now," the Bench noted.

The court directed that authorities can take assistance from the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and State AIDS control societies, which would in turn prepare a list of sex workers after verifying the information provided

to them by the community-based organisations.

"The status report related to issuance of ration cards, voter ID cards and Aadhaar cards to the sex workers be filed in a period of four weeks from today and in the meanwhile, State governments and UTs are directed to continue distribution of dry ration to sex workers without insisting on ration cards and other proofs of identity as mentioned in earlier orders," the court said.

The apex court, on September 29, 2020, had directed States to provide dry rations to sex workers, identified by NACO, without insisting on any proof of identity and had sought status report on compliance.

Srinagar District Turns into Hotbed of Militancy in Kashmir



Srinagar, Dec. 14: Srinagar district has emerged as a hotspot of militancy in Kashmir this year, with a significant rise in the number "encounters" from the "zero militancy" figures and a small number of shoot-outs in 2020 to the highest number of allegedly targeted killings of policemen and civilians, including members of the minority community.

In 2020, according to official data, 20 militants were killed in nine encounters. In 2021, J&K's summer capital saw around 20 encounters and shoot-outs in and around the city.

Around 34 people, including seven policemen and 14 militants, were killed till December this year in the city, which was declared a "militancy-free zone" with no locally recruited militants in October 2020 by the police.

Five militant recruits from Srinagar were killed in separate gunfights this year, official figures suggest. Of the ten wanted militants listed by the police in March this year, five were from Srinagar.

The biggest challenge for security agencies remained the targeted killings of civilians this year, including members of the minority community and non-local vendors.

Over 30 civilians were killed by suspected militants this year, including five local Hindus and Sikhs, and five non-local labourers or vendors. "Around 22 local Muslims, including a Muslim salesman of a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper, were also targeted by militants," official data said.

Srinagar district witnessed the highest number of civilian deaths at ten, including six members of minority communities, which forced security agencies to deploy personnel at prominent shops owned by Kashmiri

Pandits and Hindus for round-the-clock mobile and permanent bunkers.

The killing of four persons, including one "confirmed" militant and three "civilians", in the Hyderpora encounter cast a shadow over the anti-militancy operations carried out in the city this year.

"The killing of The Resistance Front (TRF) 'commander' and recruiter Mohammad Abbas Sheikh, a resident of Kulgam who operated from Srinagar and identified the targets, was seen as an end to the militants' capabilities to strike in Srinagar. However, Sheikh's associate Mehran, also killed in the Rambagh encounter recently, managed to carry out attacks in and around the city this year," an official said on condition of anonymity.

Though official figures suggest that militant recruits in Srinagar are in single digit numbers, the growing number of "militant supporters" has seen "a quantum jump" and "run into dozens", a source said.

"We have reports that Srinagar at present may have significant presence of small arms, mainly pistols, with militant recruits and their supporters," a police officer said. "There are fears of more targeted killings in the coming weeks," another official added.

Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), which official figures suggested recruited around 50 persons this year, has also expanded its recruitment network in Srinagar and moved beyond its known axis of Khrew-Tral-Awatipora in south Kashmir, officials indicated.

For the first time in the past two decades, Srinagar saw an increased footprint of security personnel, permanent fortification of bunkers and the setting up of security installations in civilian areas, including marriage halls, akin what was witnessed in the 1990s. Around 3,000 extra paramilitary personnel have been camping in Srinagar since the last three months.



SPORTS

Sindhu Begins Title Defence with Easy Win



Spain, Dec 14: Defending champion P.V. Sindhu breezed past Slovakia's Martina Repiska 21-7, 21-9 to make a resounding start to the BWF World Championship here on Tuesday. The fast-rising Lakshya Sen prevailed over 15th-seeded Japanese Kenta Nishimoto 22-20, 15-21, 21-18, while K. Srikanth rallied to defeat China's Li Shi Feng 15-21, 21-18, 21-17. In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and

Chirag Shetty beat Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan 27-25, 21-17 in 43 minutes. World No. 7 Sindhu took just 24 minutes to beat the unseeded opponent on court number 3 of Palacio de los Deportes Carolina Marin Stadium here. Seeded sixth in the tournament which she won in 2019 — when it was last held — the two-time Olympic-medallist began on a rousing note and raced to a 4-1 lead, which she stretched further to 11-4

at the break. She continued her dominance and kept accumulating points to widen the lead, eventually pocketing the first game in only 10 minutes. The script remained the same in the second game as well, with Sindhu maintaining her firm grip over the proceedings to race to a 6-0 lead in just two minutes. At midpoint, Sindhu was leading 11-1. Lakshya was made to toil one hour and 22 minutes. However, the mixed doubles pairing of Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh suffered a straight game defeat to Malaysians Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing, going down 21-8, 21-18. The results: Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Martina Repiska (Svk) 21-7, 21-9. Men: K. Srikanth bt Li Shi Feng (Chn) 15-21, 21-18, 21-17; Lakshya Sen bt Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) 22-20, 15-21, 21-18. Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Lee Jhe-Huei & Yang Po-Hsuan (Tpe) 27-25, 21-17. Mixed doubles: Tan Kian Meng & Lai Pei Jing (Mas) bt Saurabh Sharma & Anoushka Parikh 21-8, 21-18.

Asian Champions Trophy | Korea Holds India to 2-2 Draw

Dhaka, Dec. 14: Defending champion and Olympic bronze-medallist India was held to a 2-2 draw by a fighting Korea in their opening match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Tuesday. Playing their first tournament after the Tokyo Olympics campaign, the Indians started brightly and scored in the fourth minute through Lalit Upadhyay before vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh converted a penalty corner in the 18th minute to double the lead. Turning the tide Korea fought back after the change of ends and scored through Jang Jong-hyun in the 41st minute and Kim Sung-hyun in the 46th minute to draw level. Korea grew in confidence as the match progressed and pressed the Indian defence hard. India also had numerous chances, including penalty corners, but failed to utilise the opportunities. The match ended in a stalemate as Kim Jae-hyeon in the Korean goal pulled off numerous brilliant saves to help his side steal a point from the game. The last encounter between the two sides ended in a 1-1 draw in the last edition of the tournament.



India will next play Bangladesh on Wednesday. It did not take long for India to surge ahead through Lalit, who elegantly controlled the ball just outside the circle and dodged past three Korean defenders to slot in past Kim. While the Indians played their natural attacking game from the outset, the Koreans preferred to sit back and defend deep and rely mostly on counter-attacks. India continued its dominance in the second quarter and secured back-to-back penalty corners.

While the first effort by Varun Kumar was brilliantly saved by Kim, Harmanpreet converted the next. Down by two goals, the Koreans tried to force their way back into the game in the remaining minutes of the second quarter but India defended doggedly. But the picture was completely different after the cross-over as Korea looked more purposeful and secured three consecutive penalty corners in the 41st minute and Jang was bang on target with the last try.

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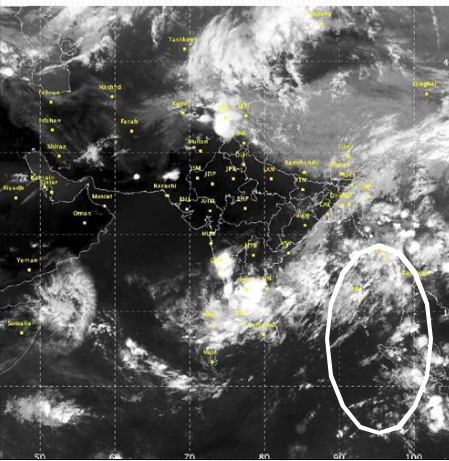
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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: 30.2 °C	Min.: 25.8 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 69% 1730 Hrs: 74%	
Sunrise: 0531 Hrs.	Sunset: 1658 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall: (From Jan 1, 2020 till date):	3453.2 mm

Forecast

Dry weather very likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 25°C respectively on Wednesday 15/12/2021