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**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**SAFETY MEASURES**

**Thought for today**

*Man knows the comma and full-stop of language. He does not know the full-stop of negative thoughts.*

**Mariyam for early repairs of Children's Park at Wimberlygunj**

Port Blair, Oct 25: Ms V. K. Mariyam Bibi ex Adhyaksha Zilla Parishad recently met the CEO Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, and apprised him about the non-functioning of children's park at Wimberlygunj. She informed him that after lockdown due to COVID the maintenance of the park was not done properly. As a result, the condition of the park is very bad. She urged him to accord sanction of estimate for its annual maintenance and repair so that the park once again be brought into use for the general public. The CEO of Zilla Parishad assured to do the needful at the earliest.

## Sky-high prices of fruits and vegetables goes unchecked

### Lack of monitoring & control of civil supply over pricing alleged

Port Blair, 25th Oct, 2021: As if the sky-rocking fuel prices were not enough to break the back of the common man, the foodpallet is also getting costlier, with vegetables, including staples like potato and onion, burning a hole in people's pockets.

It is said that most of the vegetables are imported from mainland; hence they are costlier, according to traders. But the residents are surprised over huge difference between cost of vegetables in island and mainland. While the prices of onion, tomato and green vegetables have seen a massive increase in past few days, fruits are also seems to be beyond the reach of common individual. In mainland, cauliflower is available @ Rs. 40 but the same is sold at Port Blair @ Rs. 220. Brinjal is being sold here @ Rs. 150, whereas the same is available in mainland retail market @ Rs. 40/- . Same is the story with cost of almost all the vegetables. In line with the cost of imported vegetables, vendors have increased the cost of local vegetables too. The huge difference in pricing is beyond understanding of residents. On the other hand, Department of Civil Supply is keeping mum as if every thing is clear to them and rates had been fixed after their nod.

Vegetable traders expected the prices to escalate further. "Since the festive season is on and the fuel prices are touching record highs every day, the cost of transportation of vegetables has gone up. There is no hope of relief in the next few days. Demand is high and supply is less as almost all the vegetables are being imported from mainland. Since the beginning of festival season consumers are feeling the pinch as most vegetables in the retail markets have become costlier by 100-300%," K. Anitha, a homemaker, said that price hike during festival season is a known fact as we experience the same every year. During festival and puja season, fruits are extensively used for Prasada and other purposes. But the steep hike in price of fruits has forced residents to cut-short their requirement. Many devotees have cut down on their shopping list to match up the inflated prices of fruits. "The quantity of goods we purchase every year has gone down. Every year, the prices shoot up and the spirit of festival is fading," said Vino Prasanna, a devotee. With prices of fruits and vegetables touching the skies, the spirit of Puja festivals in the city has dampened as compared to previous years. "This year, all festivals came in a month and this has added to the burden. As the budget has been upset, the craze for the festival is lesser," said Sunita Singh, a native of Uttar Pradesh residing in Aberdeen Bazaar.

Important to note that in island, it is the purview of the Civil Supply department to keep check on pricing of essential commodities and regulate sale in wholesale and retail market. Earlier, the department used to publish weekly price of fruits and vegetable. Vendors were asked to display rate chart so that customers can check the sale price with the notified unit cost. As the civil supply department fails to execute its part, whole sale and retail market vendors are making big hole in the pocket of common man.

## MP urges CS to resume daily-morning direct ferry for Shaheed Dweep

Port Blair, Oct 25: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration to resume the daily direct ferry for Shaheed Dweep in the morning hours. In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary the Member of Parliament mentioned that before the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, the Directorate of Shipping Services used to operate a daily direct ferry to Shaheed Dweep at 6.30 AM, which used to return back to Port Blair at 9.00 AM from Shaheed Dweep. This direct ferry was extremely useful for the general public as well as vegetable producers and farmer and milk producers of Shaheed Dweep. He mentioned that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ferry was withdrawn and at present only one government ferry is scheduled to Shaheed Dweep that too via Swaraj Dweep. The Member of Parliament mentioned that according to residents of Shaheed Dweep the ferry reaches Shaheed Dweep in the afternoon hours by that time all vegetable cargo and milk consignments lose all its worth. As per villagers of Shaheed Dweep they have been suffering heavy loss due to withdrawal of morning ferry, which is the best time for them to load vegetables and milk consignments for Port Blair. Considering the problems and losses being faced by the residents of Shaheed Dweep the Member of Parliament requested the Chief Secretary to resume a daily-morning direct ferry for Shaheed Dweep.

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**Legendary Actor Rajnikanth calls on President after receiving Dadasaheb Phalke Award**

Mr Rajnikanth called on President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan after receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his outstanding contribution to the growth of Indian cinema.

**4 day Army Commanders' Conference begins today**

The second Army Commanders' Conference 2021 will begin in New Delhi today. The four-day conference is a formal forum for the senior leadership of the Indian Army to interact with the senior officials of the Department of Military Affairs and Department of Defence. AIR correspondents reports that the Chief of Defence Staff and the Chiefs of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are also scheduled to address the senior leadership of Indian Army on avenues for promoting tri-service synergy.

## Lack of local PIB Officer generates concern among local media houses

Port Blair, Oct 25: While the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India plays a crucial role in disseminating information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements as also functions as an interface between the Government and the media, lack of a PIB Officer at the regional office here located at Kendriya Sadan, Ranchi Takrey has started generating concern among the local media houses. Since the transfer of the Deputy Director, PIB, Port Blair, Mr Nilesh Kumar Kalbhor, no substitute has been posted here as a result of which the local PIB Office has remained shut for the past many months, as per reports.

"Providing media facilitation is one of the important functions of PIB regional offices. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has been issuing advisories to print media to submit copies of their editions to the local PIB Office at regular intervals for onward submission to the PIB headquarters. While the directions of the Ministry is being followed by the local media houses here, absence of the PIB Officer at Port Blair and the office remaining closed for months has become a cause of concern. For the past many months, I have been furnishing copies of my newspaper at the local PIB Office, but each time it is returned to me without any acknowledgment," said a local media person.

**Over 102 crore 31 lakh doses of COVID vaccine administered in country so far; Recovery rate stands at 98.18 per cent**

India has administered over 102 crore 31 lakh doses of COVID vaccine so far under the National Vaccination Drive. Union Health Ministry said, more than 12 lakh 31 thousand vaccine doses were administered in the past 24 hours. The country reported 14 thousand 306 COVID-19 cases and 18 thousand 762 recoveries during the last 24 hours and the national recovery rate stands at 98.18 per cent. Till now, more than three crore 35 lakh people have recovered from COVID-19.

## NGGOA extends solidarity to teachers of aided schools for release of monthly salary

Port Blair, Oct 25: The Non-Gazetted Govt. Officers' Association, A & N Islands has decided to extend support to the ongoing agitation of teachers and other employees of Nirmala Sr. Sec. School, Port Blair and MES Sr. Sec. School, Sewa and Gunj. Staff of the only two aided schools of A & N Islands are on streets for the last many days as they are deprived of their monthly salary from the month of April, 2021.

On Saturday the leaders of the Association visited both the agitation sites at Port Blair and Sewa and Gunj to express their solidarity with the agitating teachers. Many teachers and other low paid employees were on bars while conveying their hardship to the office bearers and said they are victimised for none of their faults. Some of them even lost their words when they lamented about the threats they have been facing from banks and other lenders for non payment of loans. In their address to the participants of drama, T S Sree Kumar, General Secretary and R Surendran Pillai, Assistant General Secretary of the Association held the administration and the management responsible for the impasse. They urged the higher authorities of the Administration for necessary intervention to settle the issue at the earliest to stop further sufferings to these teachers. Other office bearers including S L Vinjaji, Vijay Murthy, E A Johnson, etc also interacted with the staff on agitation.

Meanwhile in a letter sent to the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, Shri T S Sree Kumar, General Secretary of the Association requested the intervention for early disbursement of pending salary of nearly 100 teachers.

## Legal Awareness Camp benefits residents at Chouldhari

Port Blair, Oct 25: In pursuance to the directions of the National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi, The District Legal Services Authority, A & N Islands, Port Blair organized a Legal Awareness Camp at Chouldhari Gram Panchayat Hall, South Andaman on Sunday as part of Pan India Awareness & Outreach Campaign. The speakers of programme were Shri. Ayan Majumdar, Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, DLSA, A & N Islands, Shri. Sanjay Naskar, Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Car Nicobar, and Shri. Md. Nurjuman Khan, Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class-I, Port Blair, Smt. Ratna Kannan, CWC Member / Social worker, Shri. P Abdul Bashir NGO of Nai Manzil, Shri. Prashant Bhadu, Asst. Professor, Andaman Law College. They spoke issues relating to legal awareness.

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## Government signs SPA with Tata Sons for strategic disinvestment of Air India

The Government today signed the Share Purchase Agreement with Tata Sons for strategic disinvestment of Air India. On the 11th of this month, a Letter of Intent was issued to the successful bidder Tata Sons in the strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India.

The government had approved the winning bid of M/s Tata Sons' Special Purpose Vehicle M/s Talace Private Limited for Air India disinvestment at an enterprise value of 18 thousand crore rupees on 8th October.

## Cyclotron by Pankh, Rotary Club of Port Blair Nextgen draws enthusiastic response

Port Blair, Oct 25: On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the support of District Administration South Andaman Pankh NGO in collaboration with Rotary Club of Port Blair NextGen organized a Cyclotron event of 12 kms starting from Cellular Jail to Carbyns Cove and back same route. The event was categorised into Pro and Amateur wherein around 50 participants had participated. The event was honoured by Shri. Suneel Achipaka, District Commissioner, South Andaman and Shri. Hari Kalikatt, SDM, South Andaman. International cyclists of our islands Debora Harold and Nikita were also as guests for the event. Swami Shudhanand also attended the event. The whole event was successfully managed by the members of Pankh NGO and Rotary Club Next Gen.



# EDITORIAL

## The Andaman Express

26 October 2021

### Commodity inflation is back

In just over three months, Brent crude prices have soared from under \$70 to nearly \$86 per barrel. Rising energy prices have spurred demand for bio-fuels. Crude palm oil is trading at a record 5,000 ringgits per tonne in Malaysia, from 4,200 ringgits in mid-July. Similarly, raw sugar in New York has crossed 19 cents per pound, from already elevated 17.5 cent levels three months ago. The Food and Agricultural Organisation's world food index had eased to 124.4 points in July, after touching 127.9 in May, its highest level since September 2011. But it rose again to 130 points this September, marking a 10-year-high. The same story — of renewed global price increase from July dips — has been repeated for a skinned milk powder. And the ruling benchmark Coal India's index rates of 120 cents per pound for cotton were last seen in July 2011.

Simply put, commodity inflation is back. That may not be bad for producers, including farmers. Soyabean is selling at Rs 5,100-5,200 per quintal in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain mandi, well above the government's minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 3,950. This applies also to raw un-ginned long staple cotton (Rs 7,200 versus Rs 6,025/quintal) and to some extent groundnut (Rs 5,700 versus Rs 5,550/quintal) at Rajkot in Gujarat. Basmati paddy growers in Haryana are realising Rs 3,000-plus per quintal rates in the ongoing marketing season, which is higher than the Rs 1,960 MSP for non-basmati varieties. Even international wheat prices today, at \$300-350 per tonne depending on the country of export, are above India's MSP of Rs 2,015 per quintal (\$26/tonne). But for farmers, all this isn't unqualified good news. They are paying roughly a third more for diesel than a year ago. Higher energy prices have rubbed off on fertilisers as well. Their global prices are anywhere from 10 to 13-year highs now, even as there are reports of desperate farmers raiding trucks carrying di-ammonium phosphate.

Central banks, including India's, have largely been viewing the current inflation as transitory and caused by the post-Covid supply chain disruptions. Having learnt from the 2013 'taper tantrum', they wouldn't want to withdraw stimulus or close monetary spigots too quickly. But when fuel and food prices stay high for long, they feed into inflation expectations of consumers, producers and investors. All discussions about "transitory" or "core" inflation, then, become purely academic. Anchoring inflation expectations is important. The government must play its part by slashing excise duties on petrol and diesel. It can restore them later, when supply response to the vaccine-induced global demand surge would also have hopefully kicked in.

Over 102 crore 31..

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new cases in last 24 hours. Currently, India's active caseload is around one lakh 67 thousand. The active cases constitute less than one per cent of the total cases and it is currently at 0.49 per cent, the lowest since March last year. The

daily positivity rate stands at 1.43 per cent. The Ministry said, the testing capacity across the country continues to be expanded and more than 60 crore sev en lakh COVID-19 tests have been conducted so far.

Lack of local PIB..

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time my delivery boy says that the office is closed and the bundle is lying outside. Senior officials at the PIB headquarter should take anote of this and immediately post an officer here," said K Ganeshan, Chief Editor of The Andaman Express.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements. It functions as an interface between the Government and the media and also serves to provide feedback to the Government on people's reaction as reflected in the media. PIB disseminates information through different modes of communication

viz. press releases, press notes, feature articles, backgrounders, photographs, database available on Bureau's website. Information disseminated is released in English, Hindi and Urdu and subsequently translated in other Indian languages to reach out to about 8,400 newspapers and media organizations in different parts of country. In addition PIB organizes Press Conferences, Press Briefing, Interview of the Minister's/Secretary's and other senior officers for sensitizing media persons on important policy initiatives of the Government. The Bureau also conducts Press Tours to successful project sites to enable media to have a first hand account of developmental activities going on in the country.

NGGOA extends ..

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teachers and other staff working at Nirmalea School, Port Blair and MES School, Slew and Gunt. He stated the important role played by these schools in advancement of the children in the area. He also stated that the society and its members are continuing their normal work to protect the interest of their children and asked urgent measures to be taken to pay the payment due from the month of April.

these teachers are facing due to non payment salary for the last five months and urged for humanitarian approach on the issue. He cited the fact that even in this hardest condition the staff of the schools are continuing their normal work to protect the interest of their children and asked urgent measures to be taken to pay the payment due from the month of April.

Legal Awareness...

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to Women Empowerment, NDPS, Act and Legal Rights of the people belong to marginalized section of the society and they also

explained the different provisions of Legal Services Authority, Act 1987, different Schemes and benefits.

Cyclothon by Pankh...

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Port Blair in the presence of Pankh president Komal Anand & Secretary Geeta Naveenbhat and Rotary club next gen President Paranthaman Divya Prasad & Secretary Joyshita Anand. The flag off was done by Shri Hasi Kalikata, SDM, South Andaman. The District

commissioner, Shri Suneel Achipaka mentioned the importance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and appreciated the event. The prize distribution ceremony was honoured by Shri Suneel Achipaka Deputy Commissioner, SA and Hasi Kalikata, SDM, SA.

## CHINA PASSES NEW LAND BORDER LAW AMID MILITARY STANDOFF WITH INDIA

Amid the failure of multiple rounds of military and diplomatic negotiations with India to resolve the 18-month long military standoff in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese government has now hardened its stand on the border row.

In a subtle way, the Chinese government brought in a new law on last Saturday stipulating that the "sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country are sacred and inviolable".

Observers believe that with the new land border law, China has vowed legally to reclaim territories which it says belong to it. China shares a 22,000 km land border with 14 nations.

The new law allows China to take measures to safeguard its territorial integrity and land boundaries and "guard against and combat any acts that undermine territorial sovereignty and land boundaries".

The development comes a few days after China signed a memorandum of understanding with Bhutan. The MoU speaks of a three-step roadmap for a settlement of the China-Bhutan boundary dispute.

China has serious differences over the border with India in different regions, especially Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. Twenty-two rounds of Special Representatives

level talks since 2003 to resolve the border dispute have not yielded any positive outcome.

Experts believe that China's new law strengthens the People's Liberation Army's policy to work closely with civilians staying in border areas. "China will now bring more people to settle along the border—to work as the first line of defence," an expert says while commenting about the new land border law.

Last week, Lt Gen Manoj Pandey, Eastern Commander of the Indian Army, stated that villages on the other side of the border were part of China's strategy model and was a matter of concern. It is estimated that since 2017, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been building 628 border defence villages in Tibet along its frontier with India and Bhutan. China has worked on better infrastructure in the area with a dual-use strategy, which means it (infrastructure) can be used for both civilians and military purposes.

To counter this Chinese dual strategy, the Indian Army is also working with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the development of model villages along the border with Tibet. Better infrastructure for border villages was mentioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to

Tibet earlier this year. He had said, "It is necessary to strengthen the construction of border infrastructure and encourage people of all ethnic groups to take root in the border, guard the county and build their hometowns". "Strengthen the border areas, do a good job in the four major issues of stability, development, ecology and strong borders," Xi had further said. As per the new law, "The state supports the construction of border towns, improves the system of border towns, improves the functions of border towns and strengthens the construction of supporting capacity." On the issue of resolving border disputes, the law says: "The state shall, following the principle of equality, mutual trust, and friendly consultation, handle border-related affairs with neighbouring countries through negotiations to properly resolve disputes and longstanding border issues." China's new land border law, which comes into force from January 1, 2022, is also aimed towards development in Afghanistan, as Beijing is closely monitoring the return of the Taliban. The new law also aims to protect China's territory from a possible influx of refugees or Islamic extremists crossing over to link up with the Muslim Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region.



Legendary Actor ..

and development of Indian cinema. The 67th National Film Awards were presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu at a special function in New Delhi.

AIR correspondent reports, Rajinikanth is widely regarded as one of the most popular actors in the history of Indian cinema. Born, Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, Rajinikanth began his career as a villain actor in Tamil cinema in the year 1975 and went on to become the unrivaled superstar of Tamil Cinema. He has won many awards, including four Filmfare Best Actor Awards and a Filmfare Best Tamil Actor Award.

The Government of India has honored him with the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan. He is the second-highest grossing actor in Tamil cinema history, behind M. G. Ramachandran. His popularity has been attributed to his uniquely styled punch dialogues and stunts.

Rajinikanth is the only Indian actor to be featured in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus, in a lesson titled From Bus Conductor to Superstar.

Malayalam movie 'Marakkar Arabikkalinte Sirkham' directed by Priyadarshan was awarded the Best Feature Film Award. Sarajay Pura Singh Chauhan was given the Best Direction Award for the Hindi film 'Bhakti Mohini'.

Actor Manoj Bajpayee was awarded the Best Actor Award for the Hindi movie 'Bhonsle' and Dhruv Kohli

the award for Tamil Movie 'Asuran'. Kangana Ranaut received the Best Actress award for her movies 'Manikarnika-The Queen of Jhansi' and 'Panga'. Vijaya Sethupathi was awarded the best supporting actor award for Tamil film 'Super Deluxe' and Pallavi Joshi got the best supporting actress award for Hindi film 'The Tashkent Files'.

B. Praak got the Best Male Playback Singer award for song 'Teri Mitti' in Hindi film 'Kesari'. Savani Ravindran was awarded the Best Female Playback Singer award for song 'Rann Pelata' in Marathi movie 'Bardo'. D. Imman received the Best Music Director Award for his songs in Tamil film 'Vishwasam'. Prabudha Banerjee got the award for background music in the Bengali movie 'Jeyeshapuri'.

Prabha Varma got the Best Lyrics award for the Malayalam movie 'Kolam' in Hindi film 'Kesari'. Savani Ravindran was awarded the Best Choreography award for Telugu movie 'Maharshi'. Sikkim got the award for the most film-friendly state. Best Non-Feature Film award was given to Himant Gaba's 'An Engineer's Dream'.

The award for the best film critic was given to Sohini Chattopadhyay. In the Non-Feature Film category, Best Animation Film was awarded to 'Radha'. Best Art and Culture film award was given to Odia non-feature film 'Shrikhetra ru Sahajata'. The Award for the best Narration for Non-Feature Films was given to 'Wild Karnataka' (English) by Sir David Attenborough.

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The award for the Best Music Direction in Non-Feature Films was given to 'Kranti Darshi Gurujit-Ahead Of Times' (Hindi) by Bishakhyaoti. The award for best book on cinema was given to 'A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema' written by Sanjay Suri.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Naidu said he is happy to see films from different regions winning the awards. He said the films deal with pertinent issues of our times, including climate change. He said, cinema serves as a powerful medium for the promotion of sports and this medium should be used for the betterment of society.

The Vice President said, the film should be a vehicle with a higher purpose carrying ethical and moral messages. He stated that a film with a message has a lasting appeal. He said, the government has played a key role in strengthening the documentary movement in the country.

Addressing the event, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur congratulated Rajinikanth for receiving the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award. He said these five decades have turned Rajinikanth from an individual to an institution. He said, cinema not only entertains but also plays the key role of delivering important messages to society. Mr Thakur said, choosing the right content to portray to society is a huge responsibility.

## China takes steps to curb spread of delta variant ahead of Winter Olympics

A northwestern Chinese province heavily dependent on tourism closed all tourist sites Monday after finding new COVID-19 cases.

Gansu province lies along the ancient Silk Road and is famed for the Dunhuang grottoes filled with Buddhist images and other religious sites.

Another 19 cases were found in the Inner Mongolia region, with others spread across several provinces and cities. Residents in parts of Inner Mongolia have been ordered to stay indoors.

The spread of the delta variant by travellers and tour groups is of particular concern ahead of the Winter Olympics in Beijing in February. Overseas spectators already are banned, and participants will have to stay in a bubble separating them

from people outside.

Authorities hope to stamp out the infections ahead of the Winter Olympics, which is scheduled to be held between February 4 and February 20 in Beijing.

The Beijing Marathon has been postponed until further notice thanks to a surge in coronavirus cases. The marathon was scheduled to take place on October 31. Over 133 cases have been reported across 11 provinces in China so far. Wu Liangyu, the deputy director of the National Health Commission, told Bloomberg that genome sequencing of the virus among recently infected people has shown a strain different from the source of an earlier outbreak. Cases continue to rise even as 75.6 per cent of the population has been vaccinated.

Travel to provinces where there is a higher risk of transmission has been barred. Some travel services to places of tourist attraction have been suspended too. Beijing authorities have said that people who have travelled to affected regions will not be allowed into the city.



## POWER DEMAND INCREASES, BUT FLUCTUATION IN COAL SUPPLY A CONCERN

Power demand revived in the country in October, rising by around five per cent year-on-year (YoY) but supply fell short by 1.4 per cent due to falling coal inventories across power plants. Coal stocks declined 78 per cent year-on-year across stations, with 93 plants having stocks for less than four days last week.

Coal dispatches to the power sector are expected to improve in the coming days with Coal India Limited (CIL) regulating its supplies to other sectors and speeding up evacuation of its 40 MT of inventories lying at its head. Power demand had remained subdued in September 2021.

As per a latest report by HDFC Securities, coal stocks across power stations declined this month with as many as 93 stations having super critical levels of inventories (with four days of coal stock) last week.

Reduced operation of imported coal based stations due to a steep rise in international coal prices (an increase of 215 per cent YoY to US

\$160 per tonne), rise in freight cost, robust power demand due to rise in temperature, arrival of festive season, supply restrictions by CIL for non-clearances for past dues, and low coal inventory across power stations in September had led to a 78 per cent year-on-year decline in coal stocks across power stations in the country.

The report says that lower wind generation across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and AP forced them to procure power from the spot market. Supply crisis had led to a 300 per cent YoY rise in spot rates to Rs 10.9 per unit during October 2021. The report points out that with the intervention of the coal and power ministry, the situation is likely to be normalised in the next seven to ten days with CIL expected to enhance its dispatch and clear off 40 MT of its inventory. Besides, a few states agreeing to procure power at higher rates from the Mundra stations and the onset of winter in November are expected to bring down the deficit.

"We expect power demand to

rise 12 per cent in FY22, led by improved economic activity. The Central government's liquidity package under the Atmanirbhar scheme has significantly improved liquidity for discoms (distribution companies). Further, with CCEA approving the Rs 3.03 trillion reform package, we can expect improved infrastructure. Capex from discoms over the next three to four years. This can also promote private participation in the discom space," said Anuj Upadhyay, Institutional Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

The HDFC report points out that in September power demand improved steeply across Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Odisha on YoY basis. Demand, however, declined across Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Jharkhand. At the same time power generation increased significantly across Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Bihar and



Orissa, mirroring the growth in demand. Power generation, however, declined steeply in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh. Fall in generation in Gujarat is largely due to a fall in Mundra plant generation, which is attributable to a steep rise in imported coal prices, making the plant unviable to operate.

As per another latest report by CRISIL Ratings, coal stocks are unlikely to improve to the previous level of 15 to 18 days inventory any time soon. As per the report, at a pan-India level, over 70 per cent of power produced is via coal route. The dependence on coal based generation, however, varies widely between states. The CRISIL report says that Bihar, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra and to a certain extent Gujarat are structurally at higher risk of being impacted by disruptions in coal purchases, either due to higher dependence on the fuel type or higher

short term purchases impacting overall pick-up. The massive increase in power demand in April to September 2021 was not distributed equally among the different sources of power. Coal-based power generation rose 19.1 per cent YoY, while generation from other conventional sources saw a 15.5 per cent year-on-year decline. On the other hand, power generation from renewable sources rose 16.7 per cent year-on-year while the hydro, gas and nuclear, which typically comprise 16-17 per cent of the total power generation, saw a steep decline due to a combination of factors. Hydro generation, which accounts for 12-13 per cent of monthly generation on average, declined 15.3 per cent year-on-year during April-September 2021 due to deficient and uneven monsoons. Gas generation, which accounts

for 3-4 per cent of monthly generation on an average, saw a 26.4 per cent year-on-year decline as gas prices increased by 1.5 to 2.5 times. Nuclear generation, which accounts for 2.5-3.5 per cent of monthly generation on average, declined 2.4 per cent year-on-year due to maintenance shutdowns at three NPCIL plants in south India. The CRISIL finding states that a ramp-up in coal generation pushed up its share in the overall power pie by 71 per cent, compared with a 67 per cent last year and an average of 70 per cent over the fiscal 2019-2021. This meant an additional 7.58 billion units being generated via coal over this period. The consumption rate has also intensified as usage of domestic coal of lower calorific value increased, due to a decline in imports (higher calorific value) over the period.



## Narendra Modi inaugurates nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated nine medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh, giving a boost to the state's medical infrastructure.

Modi inaugurated the medical colleges virtually from Siddharthnagar.

Built at a cost of Rs 2,329 crore, the medical colleges are located in Siddharthnagar, Etah, Hardoi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Jaunpur districts.

While eight medical colleges have been sanctioned under a Centrally sponsored scheme for establishment of new medical colleges attached with district or referral hospitals, the one at Jaunpur has been made functional by the state government through its own resources.

Under the Central scheme, preference is given to backward and aspirational districts.

The scheme aims to increase the availability of health professionals, correct the existing geographical imbalance in the distribution of medical colleges and effectively utilise the existing infrastructure of district hospitals.

Under three phases of the scheme, 157 new medical colleges have been approved across the nation, out of which 63 medical colleges are already functional.

### e-TENDER NOTICE

MA/2(S)/17/14

Dated 19.10.2021

The Divisional Forest Officer, Middle Andaman, Rangat invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate bid for below mentioned work from the approved and eligible Contractors of the Andaman PWD or all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks

**Name of work: Renovation of Govt. Qtrs. No.FD/BT/ P-64 (A&B) at Bakultala under Bakultala Range during 2021-22**

Estimated Cost: Rs. 16,90,016/-

Tender Fee: Rs. 500/-

Time of completion: 06 Months

Last date and time of submission of Bid on 12.11.2021 upto 1100 AM

Date and opening of Bid on 12.11.2021 upto 1530 PM

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>

Tender ID: 2021\_DFOMA\_4114\_1

-sd-

Divisional Forest Officer,

Middle Andaman,

Rangat

IP/8154/21

2021/MediaRelease/808

F. No. 2130/2016-P&L

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Policy & Law Division

Level-III, Jai Wing,

Indira Park, Varanasi, Bhaban.

Jor Bagh Road, Allgaon,

New Delhi - 110 003

### NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR CONSULTANT (LEGAL)

Subject: Advertisement for the engagement of Senior Consultant (Legal) on contractual basis in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Applications are invited for engagement of One (01) Senior Consultant (Legal) in the Legal Monitoring Cell under Policy & Law Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on payment of a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 1,25,000/-.

2. Complete details of the advertisement along with Application Form can be downloaded from the Ministry's website [www.mef.gov.in](http://www.mef.gov.in). Eligible candidates may send their applications in the format prescribed in the advertisement, along with all supporting documents to the below mentioned address:

The Director,

Policy & Law Division, Level-III, Jai Wing,

Indira Park, Varanasi, Bhaban,

New Delhi - 110 003.

A soft copy of the duly filled Application Form along with all supporting documents may also be sent to email id [policyandlaw.mef@gov.in](mailto:policyandlaw.mef@gov.in) within the prescribed time limit.

3. The last date for receiving applications in the prescribed format along with supporting documents is 15. November 2021.

CAVS 13101/11/0013/2122

## ESIC Recruitment 2021, Walk-in for Tutor Vacancies @ [esic.nic.in](http://esic.nic.in)

ESIC Recruitment 2021 | Tutor | 21 Vacancies | Walk-In Interview Date: 21.10.2021 to 22.10.2021 | ESIC Job Notification @ [esic.nic.in](http://esic.nic.in)

ESIC Recruitment 2021: Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) invites application for the post of Tutor posts. As per ESIC recruitment 2021 notification, totally 21 vacancies are announced as vacant. Candidates who are searching for Central Government jobs can use this opportunity to join in ESIC jobs. They will conduct the written test & walk-in interview to fill up these advertised vacancies. Candidates should read the notification to check the terms & conditions. Walk-in interview will be conducted on 21.10.2021 to 22.10.2021. ESIC recruitment 2021 notification & application form are active @ [www.esic.nic.in](http://www.esic.nic.in).

ESIC is going to hire candidates on contract basis. Applicants should hold BDS degree from recognized university. ESIC recruitment 2021 notification has been released on 29.09.2021. Tenure is 1 year. Candidates are instructed to fill the application form carefully. Incomplete application will be rejected. Aspirants must pay a fee through prescribed mode. No TA/DA will be paid to attend the interview or joining. Candidates may appear for more than one post. More details of ESIC recruitment like selection list, merit list, results & upcoming job notices will be uploaded at official website.

ESIC Recruitment 2021 | Senior Resident, Assistant Professor & Other Posts | 82 Vacancies | Last Date: 26.09.2021 | ESIC Alw Recruitment Notification @ [www.esic.nic.in](http://www.esic.nic.in)

ESIC Recruitment 2021: Employees State Insurance Corporation has initiated the recruitment process for the following post such as Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor & Senior Resident. As per ESIC recruitment 2021 notification (Advertisement No. 09/2021), there are 82 vacancies will be filled on contract basis. Applicants who willing to work under Central Government may use this chance to join in ESIC vacancy 2021. Candidates need to submit the filled form via email ([dean-alw.ar.j@esic.in](mailto:dean-alw.ar.j@esic.in)) on or before 26.09.2021. Interview will be conducted on 28.09.2021.

Applicants who had completed MBBS/PG Degree/PG Diploma are eligible to apply for this ESIC Alw recruitment 2021. Candidates should submit the filled application form along with following supporting documents like age proof, educational qualification, experience certificates, etc. ESIC recruitment 2021 notification & application form are available from 21.09.2021 @ [www.esic.nic.in](http://www.esic.nic.in). Applicants must have registered their qualification in MCQ/State Medical Council. More details of ESIC Hospital recruitment, selection list, results, merit list & upcoming ESIC notification will be uploaded at official website.

**What Is 2019-nCoV?**  
A new strain of the coronavirus that infects humans and causes lower respiratory tract illnesses.

**Who Is At Risk?**  
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**What Are The Symptoms?**  
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**What Are The Preventive Measures?**

- Wash hands regularly using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper while sneezing.
- Avoid touching face, nose or mouth with dirty hands.
- Wear protective masks to avoid spreading onto others.
- Stay at home if sick.
- Disinfecting and cleaning surfaces that you frequently touch.

F. No.1-6 /SON/DHS/2016/  
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ADMINISTRATION  
Office of the Principal, School of Nursing  
G B. Pant Hospital Complex  
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\*\*\*\*  
Dated 22nd of October 2021  
PRESS RELEASE  
The date of counselling for the admission to the course of GNM for the Academic Session 2021-2022 as per the final merit list published in the website and notice board of school of nursing is scheduled to 10-11-2021(Wednesday) at School of Nursing, DHS, Port Blair.  
Principal  
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## IN CONVERSATION

## EX-SAUDI OFFICIAL CLAIMS DAMAGING INTEL AGAINST CROWN PRINCE

A former senior Saudi security official who helped oversee joint US counterterrorism efforts claimed in an interview with "60 Minutes" that the kingdom's crown prince once spoke of killing a sitting Saudi monarch before his own father was crowned king.

Saudi Al-Jabri did not provide evidence to the CBS News program, which aired Sunday.

The ex-intelligence official, who resides in exile in Canada, claimed that in 2014, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who he said could kill King Abdullah, At the time, Prince Mohammed held no senior role in government, but was serving as gatekeeper to his father's royal court, when his father was still heir to the throne. King Salman ascended to the throne in January 2015 after his brother, King Abdullah, died of stated natural causes.

Al-Jabri used the interview to warn Prince Mohammed bin Salman that he's recorded a video that reveals even more royal secrets and some of the United States. A short, silent clip was shown to "60 Minutes" correspondent Scott Pelley. The video, Al-Jabri said, could be released if he's killed.

It's the latest attempt by the ex-counterterrorism official to try to pressure the 35-year-old crown prince, whom the Al-Jabri family says has detained two of Al-Jabri's adult children and is using them as pawns to force their father back to Saudi Arabia. If he returns, Al-Jabri faces possible abuse, imprisonment or house arrest like his former boss, the once-powerful interior minister, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who was ousted from the line of succession by Prince Mohammed bin Salman in 2017.

Al-Jabri, 62, claims the crown prince will not rest until "he see me dead" because "he fears my information." He described Prince Mohammed bin Salman as "a psychopath, killer."

The crown prince drew global outcry after it emerged that aides who worked for him had killed Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi Consulate in Turkey in October 2018.

After recordings from inside the consulate were leaked by Turkish authorities, the Saudis claimed it had been an effort meant to forcibly bring Khashoggi back to the country, and that it went away. The crown prince denied any knowledge of the operation, despite a US intelligence assessment to the contrary.

Al-Jabri claimed that in a 2014 meeting with Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who was head of intelligence as interior minister at the time, the much younger Prince Mohammed bin Salman said he could kill King Abdullah to make way for his father's rise to the throne.

"He told him, I want to assassinate King Abdullah. I get a poison ring from Russia. It's enough for me just to shake hand with him and he will be done," Al-Jabri said, and claimed that Saudi intelligence took the threat seriously. The issue was handled within the

royal family, Al-Jabri said.

A video recording of that meeting still exists, he said.

The Saudi government told CBS News that Al-Jabri is "a discredited former government official with a long history of fabricating and creating distractions to hide the financial crimes he committed." The government has issued extradition requests and Interpol notices for Al-Jabri, alleging he is wanted for corruption. Al-Jabri claims his wealth comes from the generosity of the king's he's served.

While it is not the first time Al-Jabri has tried to exert pressure on the crown prince, it is his first on-record interview since his son Omar Al-Jabri, 23, and daughter Sarah Al-Jabri, 21, were detained in March 2020 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A son-in-law was allegedly kidnapped from a third country, forcibly returned to Saudi Arabia, tortured and detained.

Human Rights Watch says the arrest of family members is an apparent effort to coerce Al-Jabri to return to Saudi Arabia. A Saudi court sentenced his son and daughter to nine and six-and-a-half years in prison, respectively, for money laundering and unlawfully attempting to flee Saudi Arabia, according to the rights group. An appeals court reportedly upheld the prison sentence in May, without informing the family.

Al-Jabri has filed a federal lawsuit in the United States against the Saudi crown prince, alleging the royal tried to trap and kill him in the US and Canada.

Meanwhile, Saudi entities are suing him in the US and Canada, claiming he stole some half-a-billion dollars from the counterterrorism budget. A Canadian judge has frozen his assets due to evidence of fraud as the case proceeds, according to the CBS News report.



## Kerala govt to launch project to keep school children off drugs

In a major initiative to wean school children away from the growing scourge of alcohol, narcotics and substance abuse, Vimukthi Mission of the Excise Department in Kerala is all set to launch a project to channelise the energies of students into creative pursuits and sports, besides helping them improve their academic performance.

The project, "Unarvu", which means "Awakening", will be carried out by the Vimukthi Mission, in association with Parents and Teachers' Association of the concerned schools, representatives of civic bodies and residents associations besides teachers of the locally. "Unarvu" seeks to dissuade children from using drugs, instill confidence and train them in creative pursuits, turn their minds from pernicious habits in a bid to spot

and nurture their talents in arts and sports, thus saving their future from being wrecked, the state government said in a release.

The move comes as a follow-up to the Governor's Address to the Kerala Assembly this year that envisaged the implementation of such a scheme by the Vimukthi Mission founded five years ago.

"To begin with, the project will select four schools from each of the 14 districts of the state. Excise officials will visit the education institutions, study the drugs-related issues and form a committee that will chart out an action programme. Its activities will be carried out under the guidance of a high-powered panel at the Excise Commissionerate which includes sports experts," the release said.

The centres of Vimukthi Mission will provide counselling and

treatment to children suspected to be using drugs. Students will be given training in arts and sports at their schools, keeping in view the pertinent specialties of the local culture.

"Realising the need for sports equipment and playgrounds to inculcate students from drugs, 'Unarvu' will provide basic infrastructure and training facilities at schools through financial aid from the government besides corporate CSR funds," it said.

The programme will be implemented in select government schools and aided schools with support from cultural organisations after obtaining permission from local self-government institutions.

The excise department plans to implement the programme on an experimental basis, in four schools in Thiruvananthapuram.

"Excise officials make themselves available in these schools even during intervals all in order to ensure that students do not come in contact with drug mafia and fall into their trap. The officials will arrange the facility for counselling children suspected to be using drugs. The interventions by the initiative will definitely inculcate discipline among the students," it said.

Vimukthi Mission, under the aegis of the Excise Department, is working in close tandem with anti-drugs clubs at school and college levels, National Service Scheme (NSS), Kudumbaashree, Student Police Cadets and similar voluntary organisations besides associations by students, youth and women towards realising the dream of making the state free from the menace of drugs and alcohol consumption.

## OPEN SECRET



## Money Transfer

## Sindhu eyes consistent run, Sameer looks for good outing at French Open

PARIS: India's double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu will look to iron out her flaws when she competes at the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament, starting on Tuesday.

Playing her first event in two months, Sindhu looked a bit sluggish at last week's Denmark Open, where she lost in the quarterfinals to fast-rising Korean An Seyoung.

She had struggled past Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan to reach the last-eight stage.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, didn't have a plan B against An, who didn't allow the Indian to play her attacking game.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad, who will open against Denmark's Julie Dawal Jakobsen this week, will need to get her aggressive self back and also strengthen her defense if she hopes to reach the podium.

She is likely to come across opponents like Denmark's Line Christophersen and Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan, of

Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in the next

rounds.

London Olympic bronze medalist Saina Nehwal, who was troubled by a groin injury at the Uber Cup Final but played at the Denmark Open only to lose in the opening round, will hope to make a winning start when she opens against Japan's Sayaka Takahashi here.

In men's singles, aliyevs will

be on Sameer Verma after his stunning run last week.

The 25-year-old from Madhya Pradesh stunned world number three Anders Antonsen in Odense before retiring from the quarterfinals against Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto due to a calf injury and he will need to be at the top of his game when he faces sixth seeded Indonesian Jonatan Christie.

Kidambi Srikanth will get another chance to avenge his last week's loss when he faces world number one kento Momota of Japan in the opening round.

While Srikanth did put up a fight in the opening game, he ran out of steam in the second against Momota, who put up a solid display in the tournament to eventually reach the finals at Denmark. In another match, in-form Lakshya Sen will take on Tokyo-born B Sai Praneeth in an all-Indian contest. Former top 10 player, HS Prannoy had a decent outing at Denmark and will have his task cut out against fourth seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, while Sourabh Verma too faces an uphill

task against fifth seeded Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

Parupalli Kashyap, who had retired in the opening round last week due to a hamstring injury, will meet France's Bice Leverdez in the first round here.

In men's doubles, world number 10 duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Shriang Shetty, seeded fifth, will square off against Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan, while talented pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila face Ireland duo of Joshua Magee and Paul Reynolds.

Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will take on the Korean combination of Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baekcheol.

In the women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy open against top seeds Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan of Korea, while Meghana Jakkampudi and S Ram Poornima will cross swords with Netherlands' Alyssa Tjokrosentono and Imke Van Der Aar.

Satwiksairaj and Ashwini will also pair up, taking on Denmark's Mathias Thyri and Mai Suroow in the mixed doubles opener.

## Manju Rani, Nikhat Zareen storm into National Women's Boxing Championships semis

HISAR: World championships silver medalist Manju Rani (48kg) and Asian bronze-winner Nikhat Zareen (52kg) continued their fine form to storm into the semifinals of the National Women's Boxing Championships on Monday.

Rani, competing for the Railways Sports Promotion Board, out-punched Punjab's Minakshi 5-0. The 21-year-old, who won the silver medal on debut at the 2019 World Championships, completely dominated her bout. In another the 48kg category show down, Tamil Nadu's S Kalavani beat Himachal Pradesh's Jyotika Bisht by a similar

margin in the quarter-finals. Another star of the day was Assam's Jamuna Boro, who entered the last-four stage in the 54kg category with a dominating 5-0 win over Gayatri Kasnyal of Uttarakhand.

The 2019 World Championships bronze medalist Jamuna was too quick for Gayatri. In the 52kg category, 2019 Asian Championships bronze medalist Nikhat Zareen, representing Telangana, put up an impressive show against Assam's Manju Basumaty and made her way into the semi-finals with a comfortable 5-0 victory. Equally powerful was RSPB's Shiksha in the 54kg category,

who defeated reigning youth world champion Babyrojsana Naorem of Manipur 5-0 to progress into the semifinals. In the 50kg category, Punjab's Komal continued her fine showing and entered the last-four after beating Maharashtra's Anjal Gupta 5-0. The gold and silver medalists will earn themselves a place in the national coaching camp. The remaining two names for the camp in each category will be selected on the basis of performances in the selection trials, which will take place right after the nationals.



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5. Check the confirmation of appointment on registered mobile number
6. Carry the appointment slip and photo ID card used for registration