

Alleged use of Ganja inside JNRM College Hostel; SOS message of students triggers ripple



John Wilbert & Vikramaditya
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 22: Call it a power of social media or internet revolution in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a simple message in (See page 6)

Member of Parliament sanctions purchase and supply of three School Buses worth 75 lakhs for students of Diglipur region from MPLADS fund for convenience and safety of Students

Port Blair, Dec 22: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has sanctioned purchase and supply of three School Buses (one 26 seater and two 54 seater Non AC) to the State Transport Service unit of Diglipur, Transport Department from MPLADS fund for three specific routes of Diglipur region so that students of the region

can comfortably reach their respective schools. The cost of a 26 seater bus is Rs. 15 (See page 6)

Minister L. Murugan to Visit A&N Islands



Port Blair, Dec 22: Mr. L. Murugan Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will be arriving to our emerald islands on a three days tour starting from Tomorrow (23/12/22 to 26/12/22).

During his visit the Minister will attend various programmes chalked out by the party at Port Blair, Diglipur and Mayabunder.

The Minister will also meet the BJP elected representatives of PBMC and (See page 6)

Crocodile Attack Victim of Manglutan still remains missing; Villagers allege failure of Forest Department



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Port Blair, Dec 22: The crocodile attack victim of Manglutan (See page 6)

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Jolly thanks Chief Secretary for fixing Public Meeting time

Port Blair, Dec 22: Mr. Vishal Jolly National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP-ANI has welcomed the decision of Chief Secretary to advise

all Sr. Officers, HoDs, DCs, SPs, and other field functionaries to fix time between 3 to 4 PM on all working days to meet general public to redress their grievance.

Further he added that the Union Government strives to provide clean and efficient governance that invites proactive participation and involvement of citizens at every step.

Cheetahs in India: 12-14 more of the big cats will call India 'home', says govt

Twelve to fourteen cheetahs will be relocated from Africa over the next five years as part of the government's efforts to re-introduce the big cat to India's forests, union environment minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey told the Rajya Sabha Thursday. "The government has signed a MoU with the Government of the Republic of Namibia..." the union minister said.



Eight - five females and three males - were part of the first shipment from Namibia earlier this year. All eight have been safely released into the wilds of Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park - and have completed their first kills on Indian soil - after quarantine.

The union minister said ₹38.7 crore from Project Tiger had been allocated towards the re-introduction of cheetahs in India - a project spanning 2021/22 to 2025/26. This is in addition, he said, to the ₹29.47 crore from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which will cover introduction, management and maintenance.

Choubey also said the eight cheetahs at Kuno were in perfect condition and are being monitored round-the-clock to ensure they adapt to their new homes. The last individuals to be released from quarantine were three females, who joined the others in the larger enclosure last month. "Now they will adapt... explore the forest (a guarded six square km enclosure). They will kill prey to feed themselves," Uttam Sharma, Kuno field director, said. The males have acclimatised and are hunting. "Now we expect females will too."

The cheetahs will be tracked by four high-resolution cameras and a team of

16 forest guards will monitor them; each animal will be monitored by two. A sniffer dog has also been deployed to help guard the animals. Experts have said the real big challenge will be after their release into the wild, including learning to learn live in a new habitat and hunt new prey, as well as deal with the 45 leopards and one tiger roaming the area.

One expert told Hindustan Times that in the mixed dry deciduous forests of Kuno the latter two big cats may have an advantage. The eight cheetahs have been brought to India as part of a project to re-introduce the animal. The species was declared extinct in India in 1952.

India, China corps commanders agree to stability in Western sector after Chushul Moldo meeting on Tuesday

India and China held the 17th round of Corps Commander Level Meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side on December 20 and agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector. "In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. The MEA statement said the two sides agreed to stay in close contact, and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues

at the earliest.

"Building on the progress made after the last meeting on 17th July 2022, the two sides exchanged views on the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in an open and constructive manner," the ministry added. The two sides had a frank and in-depth discussion, keeping in line with the guidance provided by the State Leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest which would help in the restoration of peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and enable progress in bilateral relations.

The 17th round of the Corps Commander Level Meeting comes after the recent border clash in the Yangtse area of the Tawang sector. On December 9, PLA troops tried to transgress LAC in the Yangtse area of the Tawang sector and unilaterally change the status quo. Delivering a statement in Parliament on the incident, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed both Houses that the Chinese attempt was contested by Indian troops in a firm and resolute manner.

The ensuing face-off led to a physical scuffle in which the Indian Army

(See page 6)

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Crocodile Attack... (From page 1)

village of South Andaman still remains missing even after more than 24 hours of the 'yet another case' of crocodile attack in South Andaman region. Fuming villagers and PRI members of the area are now raising serious questions on the professionalism of the Forest Department.

A 37 years old resident of Manglutan, namely Mr. Bikash Sarkar, a teacher by profession, was reportedly attacked by a crocodile yesterday evening at around 05:30 PM in the New Manglutan area. The tragic event of man-animal conflict, shocked every resident of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The victim with his wife reportedly went fishing in the creek near his house, when he was attacked by a crocodile. Although his wife tried to save him but when she went to bring a Machete and some help, the victim was pulled into the water and since then he is missing. On information a large number of public from nearby places and PRI members gathered for help and some people brought pri-

vate dinghies to start a search operation but as per public the team of Forest Department reached nearly two hours late that too without any equipment or devices to conduct search for the victim in a professional manner.

Mr. Durlav Das, Pradhan of Guptapara Village raised serious concern over the safety of villagers from crocodile attack and demanded Administration to ensure safety of Islanders from crocodile attack.

Meanwhile, a senior officer of forest department told Andaman Sheekha that search operation is being conducted in and around 05 KM area of the incident. It is reported that a joint team of forest and marine police is searching for the victim.

Mr. Prakash Adhikari Zilla Parishad member of the region demanded immediate shifting of all crocodiles from the area and said that increasing number of crocodiles in the region is a serious matter of concern.

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Innovation Club at IGNOU, RC, Port Blair



Port Blair, Dec 22: Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar (Admin), IGNOU, HQ, New Delhi inaugurated Innovation Club' as part of mission on 21st December, 2022 at 4.30 PM in the premises of IGNOU, Regional Centre Port Blair. This Centre would be 25th Innovation club @ ignou to spread the messages with President of India was started in 2015 for creating a culture of innovation in the university. In his presidential address, the Chief Guest Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar (Admin) highlighted the importance of Innovation Clubs and also pressed upon the incubation center for effective

implementations of the very objective of innovation and startups by the IGNOU students and alumni.

Further he said that IGNOU itself is an excellent example of innovation. Indeed, IGNOU was established during the year 1985, when India needed to increase GER in higher education. Dr. Alok Chaube Registrar (Admin) also appreciated the efforts of IGNOU to spread higher education to reach out and also complimented the objectives of NEP-2020. Moreover, Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar (Admin) highlighted (See page 4)

A & N Islands Private Practicing Doctors Association & Rotary Club of Port Blair Conducts Free Cataract Surgery for Patients of Remote Urmilapur Village



Port Blair, Dec 22: Rotary camp at remote Urmilapur Islands Private Practicing Doctors Association, around 6 cataract-free Eye camp and Dental in coordination with A & N (See page 4)

ICAR-CIARI Organized A Training Programme On "Application of Biocontrol Agents (Trichoderma) For Disease Management in Agricultural Crops' ' Under STC Project at Harminder Bay, Little Andaman"

Port Blair, Dec 22: One-day training cum-awareness programme on "Application of biocontrol agents (Trichoderma) for disease management in Agricultural Crops" was organized under (See page 4)



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GIZ-India Organized AaoKhosish Kare Initiative Valedictory under the Clean-Up Port Blair

Port Blair, Dec 22: Port Blair Municipal Council in collaboration with GIZ-India organized AaoKhosish Kare initiative valedictory under the Clean-up Port Blair campaign at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Auditorium on 20.12.2022. In this program, 15 schools, Durga Puja committees, the Tourist Operators association, Hotels, NGOs and sanitary workers of PBMC have participated.

Inter-school competitions were held a month-long ago on waste to wealth and video-making competitions. In this competition Junglighat GSS, Dairy Farm, Sagritara School, GSSS (Girls), GSS South Point, Kamaraj English Medium School GMS, Carbyns Cove, Ummat Public School Austina bad, Sarashwathi Shishu Mandir, Carmel SSS, KVI-1, VKV Lamba Line, VKV Ranchi Basthi and RGT Vidhyalay participated. The winners have been awarded for their creativity, reusability and thinking. Junglighat Durga Puja Pandal won the 1st prize eco-friendly Durga Puja Trophy, 2nd Prem Nagar Puja and 3rd Delanipur Durga Puja Panda.

Green Star Rating certificates and trophies have been awarded to the hotels like; Sinclair, Sea Shell, SeaShell Coral Cove, Mansha Regency, Holiday Inn and Lemon Tree Hotel. NGOs were awarded for their contribution to cleaning up Port Blair.



The Ghost net collection Centre was inaugurated at Junglighat Fish Landing Centre by the Chairperson and Fisheries department for the Fisherman community to store their Fishing gear waste at the centre.

Mrs. Kavita, Chairperson, PBMC was the Special Guest on the occasion. She released the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Coastal Clean-up which may support the different NGOs for clean-up planning. Stickers on waste management for different stakeholders like; Fisherman Boats for not throwing fishing gears in sea, Taxi & Buses, for tourist Be a responsible Tourist and lot more and released a Guide for the Tourism Sector to Combat Marine Litter in Marine and Coastal Areas of Andaman & Nicobar

Islands and a compendium of Best Practices of Port Blair Municipal Council activities. Mrs. Kavita gave prizes and trophies to winners and participants. Mr. Avinash Kumar Singh, SE, PBMC was given the presidential address. Mrs. Soma Biswas, briefed about the CCPME and SOP for Coastal clean-up.

Mr. Azizur Rahman Sr. Vice Chairman, PBMC shared his experience on Clean-up Port Blair. Meanwhile, Swachata Awareness Team staged a skit on waste management and positivity for marine life. Artistic items from waste to wealth made by students of Port Blair Municipal areas were displayed as an exhibit. Earlier, Mr. Aviral Saxena, Technical Expert, GIZ was given the brief on AaoKhosish Kare initiative.

Innovation Club... (From page 3)

that some of the key elements of NEP-2020 are already implemented by IGNOU and it is also incorporated in its degree programmes offered to various sections of society.

Earlier Dr. RVR Murthy, Regional Director welcomed the Chief Guest and appraised the working of RC in geographically in-

accessible areas like A & N Islands, where IGNOU reaches almost all Islands and significantly to fulfill Higher Education requirements of learners. Mr. Sanjiv Kumar, Section Officer proposed vote of thanks. A communication from the Regional Director IGNOU Regional Centre Port Blair said.

ICAR-CIARI... (From page 3)

the STC Project by scientists and technical officers of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute at Harminder Bay tribal Village, Little Andaman on 16th December, 2022. Mr. Andrew Mosses, Captain and Mr. Festus, Secretary, Tribal Council, Harminder Bay graced the occasion. At the outset, Mr. D Karunakaran, Scientist welcomed the farmers and explained the importance and use of *Trichoderma* capsules. He advocated that it is a patented technology of IISR, Kozhikode and helps in the management of soil-borne diseases of plants and facilitates sustainable crop production. Mr. KShyamSundar Rao, Farm Manager ex-

plained the Importance of disease-resistant crops and use of bio-control agents in Agriculture. Mr. Lakhan Singh, Technical Assistant demonstrated the application of *Trichoderma* capsules and powder in Agricultural crops. A total of 90 tribal farmers participated in the training programme. *Trichoderma* capsules & powder along with improved vegetable seeds were distributed to the tribal farmers.

The training programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr E B Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Dr P K Singh, Head of the FCIP Division and Dr. Zamir Ahmed, In-charge, Social Science Section.

A & N Islands... (From page 3)

ract surgery cases were identified during screening, three patients were interested to go for surgery, after preliminary investigation two cataract cases, surgery was done on 20th November by Dr Seema Das, MBBS, BNB, MRCS (Glasgow, UK) Consultant Ophthalmologist of Eyecon clinic, Garacharma. The same day the bandage was removed and the vision restored, the patient said "she is seeing her husband's face after so many years" as she was totally blind due to cataract. One patient underwent phaco with foldable IOL and the other patient underwent SICS with rigid IOL. Another patient underwent cataract surgery on 21st December by Dr Rohindra Lal, MD (AIIMS) Ophthalmolo-

gist of Rohin's Eye Hospital, Delanipur. He too underwent phaco with foldable IOL and within a few hours his vision was restored. Rtn B. Dinesh Kumar President Rotary Club of Port Blair and Rtn

PP Rajesh Anand Zonal Secretary and Rtn PP Dr. Dinesh thanked both the Ophthalmologists for conducting surgery at a very short notice. Mrs. Lilly Roy Pradhan, Anil Bepari Ex-Up adyashk, Zilla Parishad & Devan Rao ex-Zilla Parishad member immensely thanked Rotary Club for conducting free eye camp, free cataract surgery, free distribution of spectacles to 31 patients and also free dental camp by Dr Dinesh, Dental Surgeon of Dinesh Dental Clinic.

Tentative Schedule of Area Wise LPG Refill Supply

Port Blair, Dec 22: Tentative LPG Distribution Schedule of Priya Indane from 21/12/2022 to 31/12/2022

Day 21	Hopetown, Wandoor, Lambaline, Old Pahadgoan, Dairyfarm Jn, Nayasher, Sippighat
Day 22	Hope Town, Shorepoint, Coffee Bagicha, Interior Part Of Collinpur
Day 23	Shorepoint, Bambooflat, NamunagharGp,
Day 24	Bambooflat, NamunagharGp, Mithakhari, Inetrior Area F/Gunj
Day 25	Sunday (Reserve Day)
Day 26	Bambooflat, Port Mout, Chouldhari,
Day 27	StewertgunjChouldhari
Day 28	StewertGunj, C/Dhari 10 No. Dhanikhari
Day 29	Kanaypuram, Schoolline
Day 30	Mathura, Schoolline
Day 31	Brindaban, Dairyfarm

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Manipur takes up 'necessary steps' against Covid-19 following centre's advisory

Following the central government's new health advisory for wearing masks in public places and getting vaccination done after the fresh outbreak of a new Covid-19 variant in other countries, the Manipur health department began making "necessary arrangements." No new Covid 19 positive cases were reported in the state since December 15.

"We've made necessary arrangements for testing newly detected Covid 19 positive cases if any," state surveillance officer said. On Wednesday, Dr Kh Sasheekumar Mangang, director, directorate of health services, issued also a memorandum in this regard. As per the memorandum, all newly detected Covid 19 positive cases will be tested for whole genome sequences through the nearest INSACOG network laboratories to enable timely detection of newer variants, if any, circulating in the state.

The department also directed all the chief medical officers, medical superinten-



dents and district Covid 19 testing teams to send new RAT Covid-19 positive samples to state Covid referral laboratories (RIMS/JNIMS) for further RT-PCR and for whole genome sequencing. On Wednesday, 106 samples were tested without yielding any positive results making it the seventh day in a row to have zero new cases.

At present, the state is once again free of the contagion after a gap of seven months on Wednesday as the two remaining active cases were discharged on completion of the mandatory quarantine period. Since the pandemic set foot in the state on

March 24, 2020, the state for the first time, became free from Covid-19 cases on May 20 last year.

So far, the virus has claimed 2,149 lives in Manipur, including seven Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel and infected 1,39,922 individuals including 5,022 CAPF personnel. Only 35 vaccine doses were administered on December 21 and it took the cumulative number of vaccinated population to 16,48,659 people in the state, out of which 13,37,961 have received both doses while 2,79,095 have taken precautionary doses.

'Covid isn't over': At high-level meet, PM Modi calls for ramped up testing, genome sequencing

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday cautioned against complacency and said Covid-19 is not over yet, directing officials to strengthen ongoing surveillance measures, especially at the international airports.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the government's Covid-19 preparedness in wake of surge in cases in China, Modi called for the need to ensure that the entire infrastructure is at a high level of preparedness in terms of equipment, processes and human resources, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

The PM asked the officials to ramp up testing and also genomic sequencing efforts. The states have been asked to share a large number of samples with the INSACOG genome sequencing laboratories on a daily basis.

During the meeting, a presentation was made on the current global Covid-19

situation. The prime minister was briefed about India witnessing a steady decline in cases. The PM advised the states to audit Covid-specific facilities to ensure operational readiness of hospital infrastructure, including Oxygen Cylinders, PSA plants, ventilators and human resources.

During the meeting, Modi urged people to follow Covid-19 norms at all times especially in view of the festive season. He called for encouraging precautionary doses especially for vulnerable and senior citizens. The prime minister was informed that there is adequate availability with regard to medicines, vaccines and hospital beds. He advised to regularly monitor availability and prices of essential medicines.

Highlighting the globally appreciated work of the frontline healthcare workers, Modi exhorted them to continue working in the same selfless and dedicated manner, the PMO statement said.

Jacqueline Fernandez withdraws plea seeking permission to travel abroad



Actor Jacqueline Fernandez on Thursday withdrew her application seeking permission for travel to Bahrain to meet her parents after a Delhi court and the enforcement directorate (ED) objected to the plea. Additional sessions judge Shailendra Malik said the matter is at a "crucial stage". "I understand you want to meet your mother. We're all emotional towards our parents, but why do you need to travel abroad at such a crucial time....It's a crucial stage, would you like to withdraw, if you want, I can pass a judicial order," the judge said. The counsel for ED also opposed the plea and said that it will not be viable for her to travel to Bahrain at this juncture. "She is an actor though her career is de-

stroyed here, it would not be viable for her to travel abroad.. We have apprehension," ED's counsel said.

Appearing for the actress, her counsel submitted that "not for a moment" she will miss her dates in the court. "On the next date (January 6), another accused will argue, and my turn would take some time," her lawyer argued. However, after consulting the actress, the counsel chose to withdraw the application. The actress, a Sri Lankan national, has been barred from leaving the country after she was named in the charge sheet as one of the accused by the ED in connection with an ongoing money laundering case in which conman Suresh Chandrashekar is the prime accused.

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Executive Engineer
Construction Division
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India, China corps...

(From page 2)

bravely prevented the PLA from transgressing into our territory and compelled them to return to their posts. The scuffle led to injuries to a few personnel on both the sides. He informed both Houses that there were no fatalities or serious casualties on Indian side. Due to

the timely intervention of Indian military commanders, PLA soldiers went back to their locations. As a follow-up of the incident, the local Commander in the area held a Flag Meeting with his counterpart on December 11 to discuss the issue in accordance with es-

tablished mechanisms. The Chinese side was asked to refrain from such actions and maintain peace and tranquility along the border. The Defence Minister also said that the issue was also taken up with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels.

Minister L. Murugan...

(From page 1)

Zilla Parishad at Port Blair
On his return from Mayabunder on 25th December, the Minister will have a

meeting with officials of A & N Administration and will also address a Press Conference at BJP, Headquarters, Middle

Point, Port Blair. After completing his scheduled tour the Minister will return back on 26/12/22.

Member of...

(From page 1)

Lakhs while each 54 seater bus is Rs. 30 Lakhs.

During his recent tour to North Andaman a large number of people including students highlighted the problem regarding shortage of STS buses and heavy crowds of passengers in various routes of North Andaman, for which students are finding it difficult to reach school on time.

Students and parents

had informed the Member of Parliament that during school hours in some routes 75 to 80 students have to travel along with regular passengers in jam packed STS buses, making it difficult for girl students to travel.

Following the demands the Member of Parliament sanctioned purchase and supply of three School Buses (54 seater Non AC) for three routes viz Lamiya

Bay to Govt. Sr. Model Sr. Secondary School, Sitanagar via VK ZP School RK Gram, Diglipur Bazar; Khudirampur to Govt. Model Sr. Secondary School, Sitanagar via Diglipur Bazar and Jal Tirkey Radhanagar to Govt. Model Sr. Secondary School, Sitanagar via Diglipur Bazar.

Once these buses are made operational it will bring relief for hundreds of students of Digipur region.

Alleged use...

social media platform twitter by a student of JNRM regarding alleged drug abuse inside JNRM hostel today created a ripple in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Last night, a student of JNRM, who lives in JNRM boys' hostel created a sensation in Port Blair city when he tweeted that some students consume Ganja inside JNRM hostel and he has been threatened by some people in this regard. The student, who uses the user name 'Chotu' also mentioned that he is scared because of the threat.

The social media message which was shared in many WhatsApp groups triggered a number of events in Port Blair today.

This morning a police team, JNRM college management, Hostel Management, NSUI team reached JNRM hostel and found that many outsiders entered inside the hostel. A few students alleged that Ganja is being consumed openly inside the hostel.

During search a pocket weighing machine was found inside the hostel al-

though no Ganja could be recovered. Based on statements given by students three students were picked up by police but till now no evidence of possession of Ganja by them could be established.

Although no Ganja was found during checking today, this entire episode has raised a serious question on the JNRM college management as it was found that outsiders with shady background are openly entering the hostel and living with other students.

The fact that one student had to take to a social media platform to inform others that he is not safe shows how disconnected the JNRM and Hostel management is from the students.

Talking to Andaman Sheekha Daily, Mr. M A Sajid the president of NSUI today said that Beer bottles, Liquor Bottles, cigarette packets etc were found from hostel rooms of JNRM today.

He said that again and again several issues of JNRM are coming to the notice of the public which

(From page 1)

shows failure of JNRM management and hence he demanded resignation of the principal of JNRM. He also demanded immediate posting of security guards at the hostel gates for the safety and security of hostel students. When Andaman Sheekha contacted the Principal of JNRM, Dr. HK Sharma, said that today he got information in this regard and as the matter was serious he reached the hostel and found two outsiders inside the campus of JNRM hostel, who were sheltered by a student of the hostel. He said that immediately he called the police and handed over the outsiders to the police.

He said that the process of suspending student concerned has been initiated and assured to review the hostel security to ensure that this kind of activity does not happen in the future.

He accepted that some CCTV cameras of the hostel are not working but he added the file regarding replacement of the CCTV cameras is in process.

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'Rahul Gandhi can continue with Bharat Jodo Yatra but...', says union minister

Union minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi can continue his Bharat Jodo Yatra but only if ensures all Covid protocols - including the use of face masks - are followed. The tourism and culture minister pointed out that all Members of Parliament, including prime minister Narendra Modi wore masks during today's Parliament session. There has been renewed focus on following Covid guidelines - relaxed by the government after infections in India slowed to a crawl - after a worrying surge of cases in China. "Today, all MPs wore face masks in Parliament. The government has issued advisories to all states/union territories (UTs) regarding the Covid-19 situation. Rahul Gandhi can continue with his Bharat Jodo Yatra but following Covid-19 protocols," Reddy said. The minister's remarks come amid a squabble between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress after health minister Mansukh Mandaviya's letter to Rahul Gandhi; Mandaviya asked the Kerala MP to pause the yatra if he cannot ensure Covid protocols are fol-

lowed. In his letter, the health minister stressed on the use of face masks and hand sanitisers, and urged the Congress to ensure that only vaccinated individuals participate.

The letter triggered a backlash from the Congress; Rahul Gandhi today accused the BJP of 'making excuses' to stop his mass outreach campaign, which will reach Delhi this week. He said the BJP had become wary of the growing power of his pan-India foot march and of 'India's truth', and that 'excuses' - like the Covid-19 warning - were being used to stop him. "... it is their (BJP) new idea... they wrote a letter to me saying Covid is coming and (to) stop the Yatra.

All these are excuses to stop this yatra... they are scared of India's truth," he said. Another Congress MP - Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the party's leader in the Lok Sabha - pointed out that the government had failed to stop the prime minister from campaigning for the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections, which were held just days ago. "I want to ask BJP... did PM Modi follow Covid protocols during Gujarat polls?"



QUIT SMOKING TODAY



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Address: Roy Villa, INS Utkrosh Road, New Pahargaon, Garacharma Post Office- 744105, South Andaman. Ph: 09932082892. andaman.shikha@gmail.com, editor@andamansheekha.com

City Office: Andaman Sheekha, D & K City Building, Ground Floor, RGT Road, Port Blair, A & N Islands.