

## MP for approach road for Baratang helipad

occasions in past patients were carried by public on their shoulder upto Baratang Helipad from main road due to lack of an approach road. He added that there is also no shed for the public and patients at the Baratang Helipad because of which people face huge difficulties. The MP said that Baratang is one of the most popular Tourist destinations and if this helipad becomes operational in Baratang Island, it will give a further boost to the Tourism sector of Baratang Island. Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma pointed out that this will not only help in evacuating emergency medical cases from Baratang Island safely but also improve connectivity for Middle Andaman for future. I also request you to construct a shed for passengers at Baratang Helipad.

Commuters who travel in jeep on a daily basis complain that due to non-plying of autos and jeep, they had to face difficulties in reaching the jetty to avail ferry services for onward travel to Port Blair. Most residents of Bambooflat and adjacent areas like Stewartgunj, Wimberlygunj, Ferrargunj and Mannarghat etc are completely dependent on jeeps and autos services as buses in this route remain overcrowded.



Air Marshal Balabhadra Radha Krishna, PVSM, AVSM, SC, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) on visit to these Islands called on Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency today at Raj Niwas. Discussed various perspective plans, force accretion and other strategic projects.



# EDITORIAL

## The Andaman EXPRESS

05 February 2022

### Make a fight of it in UP

For a party that has been in office several times and holds a vote share of about 20 per cent, the BSP's prolonged absence from public action and visibility in UP, where the first phase of voting is scheduled for February 10, seems mystifying. On Wednesday, BSP chief Mayawati broke a long silence with her first major public meeting of the poll season in Agra and claimed that she has been busy plotting her party's electoral strategy. She blamed the media for writing off her party and claimed that it would spring a surprise when the votes are counted, as happened in the 2007 assembly election, when the BSP won a simple majority.

The fact is that the BSP's political model is different from other parties. It relies on its loyal base among the Jatavs, and works to add to this core vote by reaching out to other communities. The party has in the past made tactical alliances with Brahmins and Muslims, with mixed outcomes. The shift in focus, from the Bahujan Samaj, as conceived by party founder Kanshi Ram, to Sarvajana Samaj, has helped the party to expand beyond its niche and make itself acceptable to a broader cross-section of the electorate, but it has not proved to be enduring. At the same time, the party seldom undertakes street mobilisations even on issues that impact Dalits. It was absent from the anti-CAA/NRC protests, and even from the public agitation that followed the rape and death of a Dalit woman in Hathras. However, this approach may be coming up against new challenges in times when the BSP's rivals, especially the BJP, see politics as a 24x7 activity and work themselves up into perpetual electioneering. With the rise of social media, old forms of political association are being tested and there is continuous political messaging on virtual platforms. Even among the Dalits, newer and younger voices have emerged who are more willing to mobilise on the ground rather than wait until elections. Parties such as the Bhim Army of Chandrasekhar Azad Ravan are no match for the BSP yet, but the rise of these outfits suggests a churn that could dent the prospects of the party that most successfully laid claim to represent the Dalits.

In the current scenario, the BSP's reticence in the public sphere in between elections, and its reliance on an air-tight, centralised model of decision-making within the party, has costs. As the only state where the party has managed to leverage its core vote to win power, UP is crucial to its survival. Another election defeat could marginalise the party even more in the state as well as in national politics.

### States to decide if parents... from... Page 01

related syllabus should be undertaken only after the bridge course is completed, so that students can adjust to the changed school environment and do not feel the stress or left out, especially students who did not have access to alternate means of education," it said.

In the modified guidelines, the government has also suggested identification of children based on their learning levels so that teachers can focus on students who need additional support.

Notably, Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech on February 1 acknowledged that children, particularly in the rural areas, and those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and other weaker sections, have lost almost two years of formal education due to Covid.

The minister announced that the 'one class-one TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels and will enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1-12.

# SERUM INSTITUTE URGES GOVT TO REDUCE GAP BETWEEN DOSES OF COVISHIELD

Serum Institute has urged Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

to consider reducing the gap between the second and the precaution dose

of Covishield from current nine months to three, in line with Centre's revised guidelines for officials on election duty, official sources said on Thursday. The Pune-based firm also requested the minister to allow it to administer Covishield's precaution dose for all individuals aged above 18 years.



In a letter to Mandaviya, Prakash Kumar Singh, director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at SII, is learnt to stated that the third dose of COVID-19 vaccine is being administered within 6 months of the second dose in various countries and this schedule is giving very good results to control the infection, an official source said.

Singh also mentioned that private companies,

educational institutions, social organisations, central government organisations as well as public undertaking companies etc are continuously requesting the firm for the third dose of Covishield for their staff members and families.

He referred to Union Health Ministry's letter dated January 21 according to which the precaution dose can be administered 3 months after the second dose of the vaccine was given to officials and staff deployed on election duty in the poll-bound states of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

For this, necessary changes have been made on the CoWIN portal to facilitate early administration of the precaution dose.

Till January 28, more than one crore people were administered the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

out of which more than 90 lakh doses were of Covishield.

"In view of the above facts, we request for your kind intervention and consideration on our following submissions: The administration of third dose of our Covishield vaccine should be allowed for all individuals above the age of 18 years.

"The gap between second and third dose to be reduced and the administration of third dose of Covishield vaccine to be allowed after the completion of 3 months in line with revised guidelines of Gol for the officials and staff deployed on election duty," the official source quoted Singh as having said in the letter. "Sir, it is need of the hour and in the interest of public at large... This will help to control unpredictable and fast spread of various strains of COVID-19 which is disrupting economy and social stability of our country," Singh said in the letter.

## Nominations open for SC business awards

IFCI Venture has invited nominations for Dr Ambedkar Business Excellence Awards from Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs who are running micro, small and medium businesses, and also for Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (VCF-SC).

The Dr Ambedkar Business Excellence Awards are in ten categories—for three best entrepreneur awards in micro, small and medium enterprises, for fastest-growing company, best entrepreneur in technology, most impactful business, best exporter, best woman entrepreneur, best entrepreneur in service sector and best entrepreneur in health, pharma and Covid-related sectors. The winners can avail of concessional finance under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes, mentorship by successful business personalities, and capacity-building at premier institutes with focus on real-world issues. The Venture Capital Fund for



Scheduled Castes will entail equity support of Rs 30 lakh over three years to selected young SC entrepreneurs under the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIIM).

The participants should be Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs with established business running for three years or more, and be the majority stakeholders in their enterprises. Nominations will be accepted till February 15. Details and nomination form are

available at [www.ayel.in](http://www.ayel.in).

IFCI Venture Capital Fund (IFCI Venture), the implementing agency for the initiative by the ministry of social justice and empowerment (MoSJE), has stated in a press note said that the awards are "a celebration of contributions of those enterprises led by SC entrepreneurs who have contributed to the 'Make in India' initiative and are an inspiration to millions of other enterprises across the country".

## 42 terror organisations banned under UAPA: Govt

Port Blair, 4th Feb, 2022: A total of 42 terror outfits have been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and 13 organisations declared unlawful associations, the Parliament was told on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, in a written reply to a question by Rajya Sabha member A. Vijayakumar, said

that 42 terrorist organisations have been listed in the first schedule under the Act, while 31 individuals have been listed as terrorists under the fourth schedule.

He also said law enforcement agencies of the Centre and the states keep continuous watch on the activities of all such organizations and

individuals and take action against them as per the law.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 has added the provision of designation of individuals as terrorists, thereby reducing the chances of regrouping of the leaders/members of the banned organisations under other names, Rai added.

## Delhi schools, gyms to reopen from Monday, 100% staff in govt offices

The night curfew in the city will continue to remain, but will start from 11 pm instead of the current 10 pm deadline.

Following a dip in Covid-19 cases, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Friday decided to reopen schools for students in Class 9 to 12 in a phased manner from Monday (February 7). It has also allowed gyms to reopen, but with restrictions.

"Several restrictions have been lifted following talks with DDMA. The livelihood of people will now be back on track. Schools for Classes 9 to 12 will be reopened from Monday while following a hybrid model. If cases continue to decline, schools will be allowed to run on a hybrid mode only in the coming days," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia after the meeting.

He added, "Schools for

Nursery to Class VIII will be reopened from February 14. Till then, all the schools should make arrangements and implement Covid protocols. Teachers who are unvaccinated will not be permitted to take classes."

The government also directed all higher educational institutions to go for offline classes. "All higher educational institutions, colleges, ITIs, polytechnic and skill institutes will open from Monday and will only take offline classes. Students are studying online for the last two years and batches have passed without even seeing the face of colleges due to Covid. Now, as the cases are declining, the higher institutions and colleges should discourage online classes and take only physical classes," the Deputy Chief Minister added.

Restaurants will also be

allowed to remain open till 11 pm, instead if the 10 pm deadline. "Currently, the restaurants were running from 8 am to 10 pm. Now, all restaurants will remain open till 11 pm," the minister informed.

Restaurants will also be allowed to remain open till 11 pm, instead if the 10 pm deadline.

The night curfew in the city will continue to remain, but will start from 11 pm instead of the current 10 pm deadline. It will, however, continue till 5 am in the morning. All government offices have now been allowed to function with 100 per cent staff.

Further, observing the recent High Court order on wearing masks inside personal cars, the DDMA has exempted single drivers from wearing masks inside vehicles. However, masks are a must if there are more than one person in the car.

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन  
Andaman And Nicobar Administration  
शिक्षा निदेशालय / Directorate Of Education  
\*\*\*\*\*

File No. 7-77(1)/SOP/EDN/PS/11/2020-21/ Dated the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb' 2022

**ORDER: 207**

Consequent on approval accorded by Competent Authority, Classes for Std. VI, VII, VIII & IX in all management (Govt., Govt. Aided, Private Unaided and Local Body) schools across islands will be reopened on alternate day basis with effect from 08<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 subject to the following conditions:

- All educational institutions are directed to follow covid protocol and ensure covid appropriate behavior.
- Students will be permitted to attend school only with the written consent of parents/guardian.
- Physical attendance will not be compulsory and online instructions via the existing mode will continue.
- For classes I to V teaching through existing online mode shall continue as usual.
- Cooked mid-day meal under PM-POSHAN Scheme will be served to the students of Class VI, VII & VIII only on the days when they attend school and Food Security Allowance will be provided to these students for the remaining working days excluding holidays as per the norms.
- Students from class I to V will be provided with Food Security Allowances as per norms for all the school working days.

A detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP/Guidelines) for reopening of schools in this UT of A & N Islands is enclosed with this order for strict compliance by the students, teachers, Heads of Institutions, parents and stake holders.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Director (Education)

## India to provide skills training to 80 stranded Afghan military cadets

Eighty Afghan cadets who are stranded in India can heave a collective sigh of relief. The Indian government has offered these cadets, who studied at various military academies in India, a 12-month training programme in effective English communication for business and office purposes.

The Embassy of Afghanistan gave details of the proposal in a press statement on Friday. The training programme is part of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) initiative that seeks to provide technical assistance to neighbouring countries and their citizens.

The training programme will commence from February 7 and the cadets will be placed at three different institutes and be provided accommodation and a monthly allowance.

The embassy lauded the

"generous move" of the Indian government. The Embassy of Afghanistan remains open, but does not have funds from the Taliban regime.

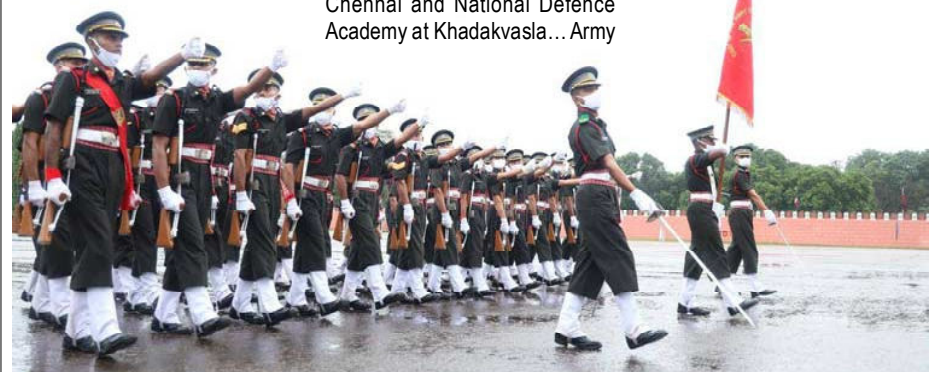
Ever since the return of the Taliban, there has been much concern and uncertainty about the future of Afghan military personnel who were sent for training in India. According to The Times of India, there were 83 Afghan cadets training at the Indian Military Academy when the Taliban took over last August; 40 cadets graduated from the IMA in December.

The Times of India reported in December around 700 Afghan military officers, soldiers and cadets were stranded in India when the Taliban took over. In addition to the IMA, Afghan personnel had been trained at "... Officers' Training Academy at Chennai and National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla... Army

War College and Infantry School at Mhow, School of Artillery at Deolali and College of Military Engineering at Pune

The Indian Army had been providing these Afghans counselling and also assisting them to leave for third countries. The MEA had extended their visas. Afghan personnel who wanted to return to Kabul were also helped to go back.

The Times of India reported in December, "The Army has also taken up the case with the MEA for absorption of some Afghan personnel, who want to stay back in India after completion of their military courses, in graduate and post-graduate courses under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships."



**NEW DELHI:** Lawmakers from Opposition parties, including Congress, Trinamool Congress and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), staged a walkout from Rajya Sabha on Friday in protest against Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi's move to return the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) Exemption Bill. They demanded a roll-back of the decision.

The Tamil Nadu assembly in September passed the bill to scrap the NEET, enabling admissions to MBBS and BDS based on class 12 marks after an aspirant died by suicide a day before his third attempt to clear the exam.

Ravi returned the bill on

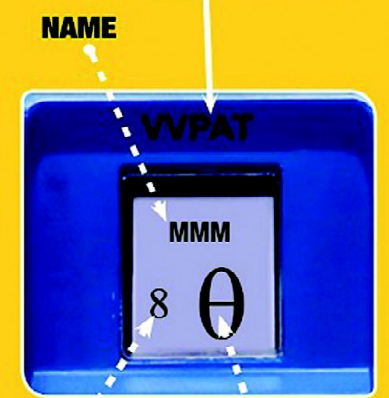
Thursday, saying the bill is against the interests of students from poor and rural backgrounds.

DMK member of Parliament Trichy Siva said Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin met Ravi twice and urged him to send the bill to the Central government. "But he did not. He acted against the federal spirit."

DMK leaders insisted on discussing the issue but Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu refused to let the discussion on the matter. Opposition MPs criticise govt in Rajya Sabha, focus on lack of jobs, economy On Thursday, a similar walkout was staged in the Lok Sabha amid slogans against Ravi.



# MUNICIPAL AND PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS -2022



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## India's trade deficit with China declines from 63.05 billion to 44.02 billion US dollars in FY-2020-21: MoS Anupriya Patel

India's trade deficit with China has declined from 63.05 billion US dollars in 2017-18 to 44.02 billion US dollars in the financial year 2020-21. This was stated by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

The Minister said, 65.21 US billion dollars worth of imports were made from China whereas India exported 21.19 US billion dollars worth of goods to China. She said, the major items of exports to China are engineering goods, electronic goods, marine products, organic and petroleum products among others.

The Minister said, the government has made sustained efforts to achieve a more balanced trade with China. She said, the government also launched the Production Linked Incentive scheme to promote domestic manufacturing capacities in various sectors.

CD-I/21-22/28

F.No. 37-DB/TN/CDI/PB/21-22/255 dt. 01.02.2022.2016

### e- TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division No-I, APWD, Port Blair invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate e-tenders (in form of CPWD-8) from the approved and eligible Contractors of APWD and non APWD contractors irrespective of their enlistment subject to the condition that they have experience of having successfully completed similar nature of work in terms of cost in any of the government department in A&N Islands and they should not have any adverse remarks for following work:

- NIT No. :- 51/NIT/DB/CD-I/PB/21-22**, Name of work: A/R& M/o water supply at Shaheed Dweep, Under SD-VI, Swaraj Dweep During 2021-2022 SW:- Supply of potable water by truck/tractor at Shaheed Dweep. **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 34,56,000/-Time of completion:- 03 [Three] Months [Tender ID No. 2022\_APWD\_5123\_1]
- NIT No. :- 52/NIT/DB/CD-I/PB/21-22**, Name of work: A/R & M/O Water Supply at Swaraj Dweep Under SD-VI, Swaraj Dweep During 2021-2022 SW:- Supply of potable water by tanker at Swaraj Dweep. **Estimated Cost** :Rs. 28,80,000/-Time of completion:- 02 [Two] Months [Tender ID No. 2022\_APWD\_5124\_1]

Tender should be filled on line upto 3.00 PM on or before 21.02.2022. The tender will be opened on the same day at 03.30 PM in presence of tenderers representative if any.

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

IP 8443/22  
2022/MR/74

Executive Engineer  
Construction Division-I  
A.P.W.D., Port Blair

## BIS Recruitment 2022, Apply for 30 Scientist-B & Other Vacancies

BIS Recruitment 2022 | Scientists-B Posts | 22 Vacancies | Last Date: within 21 days | Download BIS Notification @ [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in)

BIS Recruitment 2022: Bureau of Indian Standards has invites application from the young & eligible candidates to fulfil Scientists-B vacancies. There are 22 vacancies to be filled for the posts in various disciplines. Candidates should apply within 21 days from the date of release of advertisement in Employment news/ Rozgar Samacha. Indicative Notification published in the website on the date 24.01.2022. Online registration link will be activate from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment news/ Rozgar Samacha. Engineering job seekers in Central govt may apply for this BIS recruitment 2022.

As per the notification, Candidates are required in the disciplines of Civil, Chemical, Textile & Electrical Engineering. Candidates will be selected for these posts in Pay Level 10. No need to pay any kind of amount as application fee. Interested candidates are requested to visit the official website for detailed information before applying for this BIS recruitment. Candidates may refer the notification for age relaxation, reservation, eligibility, etc. BIS recruitment 2022 indicative notification uploaded @ [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in). Detailed advertisement & Application link will be available soon @ BIS official website.

## NLC Recruitment 2022, 585 DEO, Apprentice & Other Vacancies

NLC Recruitment 2022 | Post: Graduate/ Technician Apprentice | Vacancies: 550 | Last Date: 10.02.2022 | Apply NLC Neyveli Jobs @ [nlcindia.in](http://nlcindia.in)

NLC Recruitment 2022: Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Limited invites online applications from eligible Graduate/ Diploma holders in Engineering hailing from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Karnataka and Union territories of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep. The recruitment notification [L&DC.03/2021] for these NLC job vacancies was posted on 25.01.2022 on its official website ([nlcindia.in](http://nlcindia.in)) for the engagement of Apprenticeship Training for the year 2021-22 under the Apprentice Act 1973. According to this notification, there are 550 vacancies are available for Graduate/ Technician Apprentice posts.

Those who are considered to be eligible for NLC recruitment, they should initially enroll in the NATS portal and then click the online application link. The online application link will be operational from 01.02.2022 to 10.02.2022. After the registration of applications, candidates need to send the hardcopy of the application form along with relevant documents to the given address on or before 15.02.2022. NLC recruitment process will be based on marks obtained in their educational qualification. After that selected applicant will be posted at any unit/ area in NLC with the remuneration of Rs. 12,524 – Rs. 15,028. Further details of NLC Apprentice recruitment, NLC jobs, upcoming notification, apply online link, selection list, result etc. will be available on the official website.

How to apply online for NLC Neyveli Recruitment 2022 Notification

First go to the official website "[nlcindia.in](http://nlcindia.in)"

The online application link is given below.

Enter the details correctly.

Once check the details and then click submit button.

Then send the hard copy of the documents to the given address.

The NLC job notification link is given below.

We are providing the complete details of NLC recruitment, once check the official notification for some clarification. You can get NLC job notification link at the end of the page Stay tuned with [dailyrecruitment.in](http://dailyrecruitment.in) to get more latest updates.

## BIS Recruitment 2022, Apply for 30 Scientist-B & Other Vacancies

BIS Recruitment 2022 | Scientists-B Posts | 22 Vacancies | Last Date: within 21 days | Download BIS Notification @ [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in)

BIS Recruitment 2022: Bureau of Indian Standards has invites application from the young & eligible candidates to fulfil Scientists-B vacancies. There are 22 vacancies to be filled for the posts in various disciplines. Candidates should apply within 21 days from the date of release of advertisement in Employment news/ Rozgar Samacha. Indicative Notification published in the website on the date 24.01.2022. Online registration link will be activate from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment news/ Rozgar Samacha. Engineering job seekers in Central govt may apply for this BIS recruitment 2022.

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Steps to Download BIS Recruitment 2022 Notification

Visit [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in).

Click on "Recruitment Advt/ Result" to view the advertisements published by BIS about recruitment.

"Publishing of Indicative advertisements for recruitment of Scientists-B" title will display. Click on the "Download" button.

Notification will open. Read the downloaded notification.

Interested & Eligible candidates kindly keep visiting the BIS website for Online Application link & further updates about this recruitment. Aspirants looking for jobs in various sectors kindly keep in contact with [dailyrecruitment.in](http://dailyrecruitment.in) to get regular job notifications from various organization across India.

## NAL Recruitment 2022, Apply 40 Trainees Vacancies

NAL Recruitment 2022 | Stipendiary Training Programmes Posts | Total Vacancies 40 | Last Date 11.02.2022 | Download NAL Notification @ [www.nal.res.in](http://www.nal.res.in)

NAL Recruitment 2022: Council Of Scientific & Industrial Research – National Aerospace Laboratories has been offering Stipendiary Training Programmes for SC/ST candidates with Diploma and Graduation in different disciplines as a welfare measure in order to expose them to various R&D facilities at NAL. Recently, it has announced notice [ADVT. NO. 1/2022] to fill up 40 vacancies. Applicants who are looking for jobs in Karnataka kindly submit your application form to given address on or before the last date. The last date for submission of online application is 11.02.2022.

NAL recruitment notification & CSIR NAL recruitment application form is available @ [www.nal.res.in](http://www.nal.res.in). Candidates who are seeking Diploma Jobs/ Engineering Jobs must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. Candidates who have completed the qualifying examination with minimum 50% marks and above during the year 2018 and onwards can apply and preference will be given to candidates who have studied in Karnataka upto SSLC/10th Standard. More details of [www.nal.res.in](http://www.nal.res.in) recruitment, CSIR NAL vacancy, upcoming notices, syllabus, answer key, merit list, selection list, admit card, result, upcoming notifications and etc. will be uploaded on official website.

How to apply CSIR NAL Recruitment Notification 2022

Notification will open read it and check Eligibility.

Download the application form then fill up the form correctly.

Send it to the given address before the last date ends.

You may visit Career page to get more details about [www.nal.res.in](http://www.nal.res.in) recruitment. Here you will get information like educational qualification, age limit, application mode, fee and how to apply. Keep check [www.dailyrecruitment.in](http://www.dailyrecruitment.in) regularly to get latest updates & upcoming govt exams.

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## IN CONVERSATION

## Measuring climate change: It's not just heat, it's humidity



When it comes to measuring global warming, humidity, not just heat, matters in generating dangerous climate extremes, a new study finds.

Researchers say temperature by itself isn't the best way to measure climate change's weird weather and downplays impacts in the tropics. But factoring in air moisture along with heat shows that climate change since 1980 is nearly twice as bad as previously calculated, according to their study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The energy generated in extreme weather, such as storms, floods and rainfall is related to the amount of water in the air. So a team of scientists in the U.S. and China decided to use an obscure weather measurement called equivalent potential temperature — or theta-e — that reflects "the moisture energy of the atmosphere," said study co-author V. "Ram" Ramanathan, a climate scientist at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Cornell University. It's expressed in degrees, like temperature.

"There are two drivers of climate change: temperature and humidity," Ramanathan said. "And so far we measured global warming just in terms of temperature."

But by adding the energy from humidity, "the extremes — heat waves, rainfall and other measures of extremes — correlate much better," he said.

That's because as the world warms, the air holds more moisture, nearly 4% for every degree Fahrenheit (7% for every degree Celsius). When that moisture condenses, it releases heat or energy, "that's why when it rains, now it pours," Ramanathan said.

In addition, water vapor is a potent heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere that increases climate change, he said.

From 1980 to 2019, the world warmed about 1.42 degrees (0.79 degrees Celsius). But taking energy from humidity into account, the world has warmed and moistened 2.66 degrees (1.48 degrees Celsius), the study said. And in the tropics, the warming was as much as 7.2 degrees

(4 degrees Celsius).

When judging by temperature alone, it looks like warming is most pronounced in North America, mid-latitudes and especially the poles — and less so in the tropics, Ramanathan said.

But that's not the case, he said, because the high humidity in the tropics juices up storm activity, from regular storms to tropical cyclones and monsoons.

"This increase in latent energy is released in the air which leads to weather extremes: floods, storms and droughts," Ramanathan said.

University of Illinois climate scientist Donald Wuebbles, who wasn't part of the study, said it makes sense because water vapor is key in extreme rainfall. "Both heat and humidity are important," Wuebbles said.

Environmental scientist Katharine Mach of the University of Miami, who wasn't part of the study, said "humidity is key in shaping the impacts of heat on human health and well-being, at present and into the future."

## Why Meta shares nosedived

The shares of Meta, the company formerly known as Facebook, saw a historic plunge on Thursday after the social media giant reported a rare profit decline. Meta's share value fell more than 26 per cent to \$237.76 on Thursday afternoon, wiping out over \$230 billion from the company's market capitalisation. This marked the largest single-day decline for a

company. Meta's fall eclipsed the \$180 billion lost by Apple in September 2020. The fall in Meta's value eliminated about 0.9 per cent of the Nasdaq's value and the S&P 500's combined worth by 0.5 per cent. "The exchanges, respectively, suffered their worst daily falls since September 2020 and February 2021," Reuters reported. The fall was attributed to a sharp

rise in costs and a weak revenue forecast. While Meta is investing heavily on its 'Metaverse' project, it still relies on advertising revenue for its income. "Meta invested more than \$10 billion in its Reality Labs segment—which includes its virtual reality headsets and augmented reality technology—in 2021, contributing to the quarter's profit decline. It expanded its

workforce by 23%, ending the year with 71,970 employees, mostly in technical roles," Associated Press reported. Facebook has seen a drop in users in North America and also rising competition from platforms such as TikTok. Moreover, privacy changes by Apple have made it harder for Meta and similar companies to track users for advertising purposes.

OPEN SECRET  
AFTER HIDING TOLL, CHINA MAKES GALWAN SOLDIER OLYMPIC TORCHBEARER

## BCCI plans day-night Test against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) is planning to host this year's pink-ball day-night Test against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru. TOI understands that the board is keen to take the Test series against Sri Lanka to Bengaluru despite the possibility of limiting the venues owing to the Covid-19 wave.

The tour is likely to start with the three T20Is instead of Tests because of a smoother bubble-to-bubble transfer of players. Both teams will be playing T20Is before the series gets under way.

However, it is still not clear if Bengaluru will be the venue for the first Test, which is also supposed to be Virat Kohli's 100th. To cut down on busy travel, the board is contemplating playing most of the series in Dharamshala and Mohali before moving to Bengaluru to finish the international home season. As per

the initial itinerary, Bengaluru and Mohali were supposed to hold the Test matches before the three T20Is were slated to be played in Mohali, Dharamshala and Lucknow.

"There is a chance that the first two T20Is to start the tour will be played in Dharamshala before the series moves to Mohali for the third T20I and the first Test. Lucknow may miss out on hosting a T20I. Having the pink ball Test in Mohali is difficult since dew is expected to play a big role. However, BCCI is still monitoring the Covid-19 situation in the country. A final call to tweak the schedule will be taken soon," a BCCI source said.

If the first Test could have been played in Bengaluru, it would have been an apt setting for Kohli's 100th Test as the former India captain has a strong fan-following in the city.

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## IPL media rights: The long and short of Disney's India-story has cricket written all over

MUMBAI: The name 'Disney' has an ostentatious ring to it. Grand and celebratory. Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Cinderella. Even the company's logo is a 'castle'. Children have grown into adults thinking of it as larger-than-life.

It elaborates the magnificence of a business conglomerate valued at close to US\$100b. Speaks of a market cap of US\$261.33b. Big-ticket. Blue chip. The works.

When companies with such high net worth and grandiose get into competitions where a win is not guaranteed until you've actually "won it", things tend to stay a bit queasy while they last.

Disney's facing that kind of a time right now. As the race to grab media rights for the fanciest league in cricket - considered the second most-watched sport on television globally - heats up, 'make-or-break' pressures are understandably endless. "There's a lot at stake for Disney right now, and there are many factors that underline this. But none bigger than the fate of

'Hotstar', that's essentially a massive cricket-driven platform," say those watching developments very closely.

Disney India takes immense pride in the staggering numbers it registers from cricket viewing across the year, especially the Indian Premier League (IPL). '400 million-plus since 2018', 'average consumption of 37 billion minutes', 'customized experience for fans', 'robust content strategy hinged on localizing sports broadcast across languages', 'superior technology' - accomplishments the company has diligently shared from time to time. Cricket has given the US media corporation the kind of traction that'll be shattering to lose, if they do, in the upcoming auction. And that is why, Disney will go "all out" to retain cricket rights in the Indian sub-continent over the coming months, starting most importantly with the IPL. In October last year, Disney shut down 18 sports channels in Southeast Asia and Hong Kong to pivot more aggressively towards a Direct-To-Consumer (DTC)

approach. In doing so, they initiated a marked shift in focus from linear to digital, underlining priorities going forward. "Right in the middle of this elaborately-planned shift lies Hotstar's future. The platform accounts for close to 40% of the 116 million-plus who subscribe to Disney and close to 90% of all sports viewership in that space comes from cricket. Do the math," says an industry veteran. American media measurement and analytics company Comscore released data last year to suggest India accounts for the largest online sports audience in the Asia-Pacific region, with nearly 468 million unique visitors in the last quarter of the financial year 2020-21. Burbank, Los Angeles, where Disney is headquartered, has been a hub of activity lately. Disney India president K Madhavan flew there this week to meet up with the company's chairman for international content and operations, Rebecca Campbell. This was soon after Madhavan gave interviews in the

media saying "we won't shy away from investing heavily. We are going to be bullish on all rights renewals". In the same interview, Madhavan added: "We have over 60% market share in sports which we want to continue to have". That last sentence is Disney's top priority right now. To continue to have that market share going forward, they'll have to own the next rights cycle. Who's in competition? "If it were to be in the words of RR Martin, 'I'll say 'the white-walkers'. They're coming," says the industry veteran, pointing at Disney's competitors getting their own war-chests ready.

Viacom and TV18 in one corner, Sony-Zee combination in the other, Amazon looking to find its own space around here, and the anticipation of a new player coming in, make for a square of sweaty proportions right now. Can Disney outbid them all? "If anyone can, it's Disney," is the larger belief floating across the industry at this moment. Disney is left with no choice but to walk that talk.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Help us to help you

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Protect yourself and others!  
Follow these Do's and Don'ts

**Do's**

- Practice frequent hand washing. Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol based hand rub. Wash hands even if they are visibly clean
- Cover your nose and mouth with handkerchief/tissue while sneezing and coughing
- Throw used tissues into closed bins immediately after use
- See a doctor if you feel unwell (fever, difficult breathing and cough). While visiting doctor wear a mask/cloth to cover your mouth and nose
- If you have these signs/symptoms please call State helpline number or Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's 24x7 helpline at 011-23978046
- Avoid participating in large gatherings

**Don'ts**

- Have a close contact with anyone, if you're experiencing cough and fever
- Touch your eyes, nose and mouth
- Spit in public

Together we can fight Coronavirus

For further information :  
Call at Ministry of Health, Govt. of India's 24x7 control room number  
+91-11-2397 8046  
Email at [ncov2019@gmail.com](mailto:ncov2019@gmail.com)

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Reduce your risk of COVID-19

Clean your hands often

Cough or sneeze in your bent elbow - not your hands!

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places

Avoid close contact with someone who is sick

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Avoid close contact. Allow a 6 foot distance between you and other people.

6 feet

AVOID Handshakes, Hugs and Large Crowds!

Reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.