



# ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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## Jarawa Facts

The 590 odd - strong Jarawa, along with the other Andaman tribes the Sentinelese, the Onge and the Great Andamanese, were the sole inhabitants of the Andaman Islands until the British and then the Indians arrived. Their ancestors are thought to have been part of the first successful migrations out of Africa.

## Your Nature Guide

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

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

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

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

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

## People's Voice

Iconic Events to theek hai magar hamara National Highway ka kya ...?

- A Citizen



Can we request the EC to change the dates? Our numerologist says those numbers are unlucky for us!

## Member of Parliament Requests Exemption of Stamp Duty/ Registration Fee for Transfer of Property by Way of Gift Deed

**Port Blair, Jan 19:** The Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor to exempt the stamp duty fee and registration fee for transfer of the land by way of Gift Deed to family members in the larger interest of the Islanders.

In a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament

mentioned that the A&N Administration through an order No.274/19 F.No. 3-21/SR/Stamp Duty/2015 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 has fixed circle rate for per square metre of lands of different villages of South Andaman, N&M Andaman and Campbell Bay in Nicobar District for the purpose of effecting transfer of interest of land and immovable property by way of

Conveyance/ Gift/ Exchange etc. in various areas of this Union Territory.

He said that on this issue a large number of Islanders have approached him stating that many recorded tenants wish to transfer their share of landed property to their family members by way of executing Gift Deed. But due to imposition of stamp duty fee of 6% and Registration fee of 1% over the total

valuation of landed property, Islanders are unable to bear the stamp duty/ registration fee since the financial status of the recorded tenants are very weak and because of which, it would be difficult for them to bear such expenses.

"Moreover they are not going to sell or get any profit out of the said land," the Member of Parliament added.

## Iconic Events Chalked Out to Mark Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Netaji's 126<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary

**Port Blair, Jan. 19:** The Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023 to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence & Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 126<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate a model of the proposed Memorial dedicated in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to be set up at

Continued on P4



## Live Size Huts of Nicobarese, Jarawa and Shompen Inaugurated at AnSI Premises

**Port Blair, Jan 19:** The Anthropological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair organized an inauguration programme of the traditional huts of Nicobarese tribe, Jarawa tribe and Shompen tribe on 19 January 2023. The programme was held at 04.00 PM in the museum premises.

Under the special campaign 2.0, of the Swachhata Abhiyan special drive initiated by Govt. of India towards utilization of unused museum campus, lying as dump yard for years has been initiated and converted into cultural landscape after clearing the bushy, non-timber plants, wild grasses.

Three traditional dwelling unit/huts of three tribes has been raised with the natural materials available from the habitat of the tribe to maintain the indigeneity, with the involvement of tribal and other local people in order to create a visitor friendly ambience of Zonal Anthropological museum.



Shri Arvind Kumar, Director, Ministry of Culture has inaugurated the traditional hut of Nicobarese tribe and Shompen Huts. Dr. M Sasikumar, Joint Director Anthropological Survey of India inaugurated the traditional hut of the Jarawa Tribe in the presence of representative of Tribal Welfare Department, AAJVS and tourists/ museum visitors.

Continued on P2

## PBGKR Sponsors Islands Girl to Compete in National Championship



**Port Blair, Jan 19:** An island girl, a resident of Prem Nagar, Miss Rupa Shree had come to Team Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi seeking help to compete in the national games to be held later this month.

Upon this, Smt Gurmeet Singh, Gen Secretary, Sports, PBGKR handed over a cheque of Rs 25,000/- as financial aid to the sports enthusiast.

In the year 2021 in Rajasthan, Ms Rupa had clinched Gold medal in group khawankay, Silver in mix khawankay and Bronze medal in loba.

Continued on P5

## Two-Day Training on Mushroom Cultivation with ATMA Organised



**Port Blair, Jan 19:** The Department of Agriculture South Andaman organised a two-day programme on mushroom cultivation with Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at Mrs. Monica Smith's field. Altogether 20 ladies of Wimberlygunj and

Continued on P5



# ANDAMAN Chronicle

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*Success is not an activity but a process ...*

## Government's Attack on the Judiciary

There is something rude and unpleasant in the way the Government is going about the task of demanding a big say in the appointment of judges in constitutional courts. The latest salvo is from Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, who has written to the Chief Justice of India to request that the executive be given a role in the appointment process, which now is being handled by a Collegium of judges. Reports say that the Minister wants the formation of a search-and-evaluation committee, with Government representatives, to suggest names to the collegiums in the High Courts and the Supreme Court for appointments. He is also understood to have asked for a representative of the Union government in the Supreme Court collegium, and a State government's representative in the High Court collegiums. The letter comes as the latest in a series of official fulminations against the judiciary. Mr. Rijiju has been at the forefront of this attack, frequently questioning the collegium system by rightly highlighting some of its acknowledged flaws. There is little doubt that the Government's anger is towards the 2015 judgment of a Constitution Bench striking down the formation of a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). While few would disagree that the Collegium system needs reform, the Government's motive in carrying on a campaign against the judiciary in the name of seeking reform in the appointments process is questionable.

The answers to some of the issues raised by the Government are quite simple, and has been repeatedly pointed out by the Court, as well as the political opposition. It can address the need for a more transparent and independent process by making a fresh legislative effort to establish a neutral mechanism that does not impinge on the independence of the judiciary. Until such an exercise to amend the Constitution achieves fruition, it has to abide by the law of the land, that is, the present system of appointments through the Collegium. It is difficult to avoid the impression that the Government's tactics are bordering on veiled warnings: deliberately delaying action on recommendations; ignoring reiterated names even after multiple reconsiderations; and carrying on a campaign to delegitimise the institution. It is surprising that it seeks to rein in a judiciary that has been quite accommodative of the Government's concerns on the judicial side in recent years. The only conclusion is that the current regime wants absolute control over who gets to be a judge in this country. A system of checks and balances that prevents any one branch gaining the upper hand is essential for democratic functioning.

## BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



### Those Small Annoyances..!

I pressed the horn, stomped on the accelerator, cursed the driver in the next car and nearly shouted at the traffic policeman. "What's the matter dad?" she asked.

"I hate being late," I grumbled.

"D'you know of all the people whose lives were saved because they were late?"

That evening she sent a mail to me: "After Sept. 11th, one company invited the remaining members of other companies who had been decimated by the attack on the Twin Towers to share their available office space.

At a morning meeting, the head of security told stories of why these people were alive... and all the stories were just about little annoyances.

As you might know, the head of a company survived that day because his son started kindergarten. Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts. One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time. One was late because of being stuck on the NJ turnpike due to an auto accident. One of them missed his bus. One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change. One's car wouldn't start. One went back to answer the telephone. One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have. One couldn't get a taxi. The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed



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a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today.

Now when I am stuck in traffic, miss an elevator, turn back to answer a ringing telephone... all the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment. I think of that man who was caught in the traffic jam in New York cursing at all and sundry and suddenly looking up from his car and saying, "Oh my gosh that's my office building going up in flames!

So next time your morning seems to be going wrong; the children are late getting dressed, you can't seem to find the car keys or you hit every traffic light, don't get mad or frustrated because God is at work watching over you. There is a purpose in those delays.

How would you ever know the accidents you have been kept away from because you were a few minutes late on the scene? How would you ever know that the slow bus to the station helped you avoid a harried, impatient passenger who could have pushed you down into the platform in the station?

But God knows my friend and as He continues to bless you with all those annoying little things may you remember their possible purpose..!

[bobsbanter@gmail.com](mailto:bobsbanter@gmail.com)

## Live Size Huts of Nicobarese, Jarawa and Shompen Inaugurated at AnSI Premises

*Continued from Page 1*

As the tourists to Andaman are restricted to travel to Nicobar group of Islands (as the A&N Administration declared the whole Nicobar Archipelago as tribal reserve area due to its tribal dominated locale), the display of traditional Nicobarese hut will be a place of tourist attraction. The museum in Port Blair being an important tourist centre situated in the heart of the town, the live size Nicobarese hut will add value to the Museum as well as the Port Blair town.

In the year 2004, due to catastrophic natural disaster



caused by Tsunami, most of the traditional beehive dwellings had submerged due to high sea waves. As a part of reviving such traditional hut and for showcasing to the public,

ANRC, Port Blair is initiating the work for installation with the active participation of the community members.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Golden Globe is a Perfect Wedding Anniversary Gift: RRR Choreographer Prem Rakshit

**January 19:** By now, there's hardly any film buff in the world who doesn't know about the Naatu Naatu song from RRR which won music composer MM Keeravani the Golden Globe for 'Best Original Song'. One of the main reasons why the song transcended boundaries and bagged global acclaim was choreographer Prem Rakshit's brilliant dance moves.

Shot on two superstars - Ram Charan and Jr NTR - who are fabulous dancers, Prem's choreography made the song a visual feast.

Prem was on the sets of his upcoming film Dasara when the news broke that Naatu Naatu had won Golden Globe. "I got the message on my mobile phone. I did not understand it initially. As I kept re-reading the message there was a flurry of congratulatory messages about the award. It was so overwhelming," says Prem, thanking Rajamouli for giving him the opportunity.

"I got emotional. I didn't even know how to react because I never expected such a huge award for our country. I was speechless. I didn't know what was happening around; I broke down and I took a small break from work," shares Prem.

Rajamouli had asked Prem to join the RRR team for the Oscars campaign and other award ceremonies, but the choreographer couldn't

make it as he had prior commitments apart from visa issues.

When the song won the Golden Globe, Rama (Rajamouli's wife) called Prem and expressed happiness. "She immediately gave the phone to Rajamouli Sir. The moment I heard his voice expressing delight I became teary-eyed. Rajamouli Sir is my guru. Both he and Rama garu always prayed for my success," reveals Prem, who is glad that he had lived up to their expectations.

Prem says films are a collaborative effort. "Keeravani Sir's beautiful renditions coupled with Chandrabose garu's goosebump-raising lyrics perfectly fit in with Rajamouli Sir's vision. And of course, Charan anna and Tarak anna made the song a visual feast," he adds.

According to Prem, the most challenging part of the song was to come up with unique dance moves that would be a blend of two different styles. He had to portray Charan and Tarak (Jr NTR) as equally energetic but in their own styles because one could not look less complex than the other. "Both of them have their own styles so bringing the two styles together and putting them into one unique form was quite a task," he says,



adding that it took multiple rehearsals and retakes to bring the song to where it stands now.

Perfect anniversary gift

But what makes the Naatu Naatu song so special? Prem believes that the energetic number was not a forced inclusion, but was seamlessly woven into the narrative.

It was shot and rehearsed for 20 days with 500 background artistes from Ukraine, and Prem says composing dance moves for the peppy number was a memorable experience. He remembers that Rajamouli, Ram Charan and Jr NTR kept asking him what more could be done to better the song despite rehearsing for several hours. "Such is their passion for cinema and that's what drove me to strive for excellence," he shares.

"It is everything," was Prem's succinct reply when we asked him what this award meant to him. "It was a perfect wedding anniversary gift. I couldn't have given my wife a better gift. January 20th is my 15th marriage anniversary, and I dedicate the award to my wife who supported me a lot along with my parents," beams the choreographer.

### Amid Rumours of Sara Ali Khan-Shubman Gill Dating, Fans Welcome Cricketer with 'Sara Sara' Chant During India Vs Sri Lanka Match

**January 19:** As rumours about the romance between Sara Ali Khan and cricketer Shubman Gill gather momentum, fans chanted 'Sara Sara' during a match against Sri Lanka in the recently-concluded ODI series. In a new video, Shubman stands on the pitch and waves at the stands, while fans chant Sara's name near the boundary rope.

On the Reddit page, fans flooded the post with comments, with some wondering whether it was 'too soon' to predict a romance between the two, while others questioned whether it was Sara Tendulkar they were referring to. Another fan

wondered whether Sara Ali Khan, who is famous for writing her couplets on Instagram, has written one for him and even tried imagining what it would be. One fan wrote, "This man is fire, Sara should never break up with him," while another observed, "Looks like he doesn't care?" The rumours began to brew last August, after the two were spotted by a fan at a restaurant. The short video, originally shared on TikTok, saw a woman saying that she just 'saw Sara at Bastian'. In another video, the two were spotted exiting the same hotel in New Delhi, and later they apparently sat next to

each other on a flight. The first video showed Sara exiting a hotel, and as the camera panned around, a man who fans claimed to be Shubman walked out. A second video showed Sara taking selfies with fans aboard a plane, and later taking her seat next to a man who appeared to be wearing the same headphones as the ones the person in the first video was wearing. When asked to address the rumours last year in November, Shubman fuelled the speculation further. In an appearance on the Punjabi chat show Dil Diyan Gallan, hosted by Sonam Bajwa, he was asked if he was dating Sara.

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### Health, Science /Tech

### Tesla Video Promoting Self-Driving was Staged, Engineer Testifies

**January 19:** 2016 video that Tesla used to promote its self-driving technology was staged to show capabilities like stopping at a red light and accelerating at a green light that the system did not have, according to testimony by a senior engineer.

But the Model X was not driving itself with technology Tesla had deployed, Ashok Elluswamy, director of Autopilot software at Tesla, said in the transcript of a July deposition taken as evidence in a lawsuit against Tesla for a 2018 fatal crash involving a former Apple engineer. The previously unreported testimony by Elluswamy represents the first time a Tesla employee has confirmed and detailed how the video was produced. The video carries a tagline saying: "The person in the driver's seat is only there for legal reasons. He is not doing anything. The car is driving itself."

Elluswamy said Tesla's Autopilot team set out to engineer and record a "demonstration of the system's capabilities" at the request of Musk.

Elluswamy, Musk and Tesla did not respond to a request for comment. However, the company has warned drivers that they must keep their hands on the wheel and maintain control of their vehicles while using Autopilot. The Tesla technology is designed to assist with steering, braking, speed and lane changes but its features "do not make the vehicle autonomous," the company says on its website.

To create the video, the Tesla used 3D mapping on a predetermined route from a house in Menlo Park, California, to Tesla's then-headquarters in Palo Alto, he said. Drivers intervened to take control in test runs, he said. When trying to show the Model X could park itself with no driver, a test car crashed into a fence in Tesla's parking lot, he said. "The intent of the video was not to accurately portray what was available for customers in 2016. It was to portray what was possible to build into the system," Elluswamy said, according to a transcript of his testimony seen by Reuters.

When Tesla released the video, Musk tweeted, "Tesla drives itself (no human input at all) thru urban streets to highway to streets, then finds a parking spot."

Tesla faces lawsuits and regulatory scrutiny over its driver assistance systems. The U.S. Department of Justice began a criminal investigation into Tesla's claims that its electric vehicles can drive themselves in 2021, after a number of crashes, some of them fatal, involving Autopilot, Reuters has reported. The New York Times reported in 2021 that Tesla engineers had created the 2016 video to promote Autopilot without disclosing that the route had been mapped in advance or that a car had crashed in trying to complete the shoot, citing anonymous sources.

When asked if the 2016 video showed the performance of the Tesla Autopilot system available in a production car at the time, Elluswamy said, "It does not."

Elluswamy was deposed in a lawsuit against Tesla over a 2018 crash in Mountain View, California, that killed Apple engineer Walter Huang.



## PM: Sports no Longer Just an Extracurricular Activity

**January 19: New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that treating sports merely as an "extracurricular" activity had caused a huge loss to the country. The Prime Minister was speaking after virtually inaugurating the second phase of the "Saansad Khel Mahakumbh" in Uttar Pradesh's Basti district, organised by Lok Sabha member Harish Dwivedi. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath was present at the function at the venue in Basti.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said, "There was a time when sports used to be considered as an extracurricular activity. They were considered only a means of passing time. The children were also told the same. As a result, generation after generation, a mindset developed in the society that sports are unimportant. This mentality has caused a huge loss to the country."

He pointed out that many talents remained away from the field. "But in the last eight years, the country has left behind this old thinking. Work has been done to create a better environment for sports, so now more children and youths are looking at sports as a career option. It's heartening that even parents are now taking sports seriously," the PM said.



Mr Modi noted that the direct benefit of this change in people's thinking is visible as India is constantly creating new records in the field of sports. "We gave the best ever performance in the Olympics. Best ever performance in the Paralympics. India's better performance in different sports is now becoming a topic of discussion. This is just the beginning. We still have a long way to go," he said.

Talking about the "Khel Mahakumbh", he said that it will give new opportunities to young players. "I am told that about 200 MPs in India have organised similar sports events in their respective places, in which thousands of youths have participated," said the Prime Minister adding that in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi also, such events have started.

Mr Modi watched the first event of the competition — "kho-kho" and congratulated everyone involved in the game and wished them the very best in their pursuit.

The Prime Minister also lauded girls performing well in sports and made a mention of the spectacular showing of Shefali Verma in women's Under-19 T-20, hitting 26 runs in an over with five fours and one six.

Stressing that the government was encouraging sportspersons at all levels, he said that the government is also providing financial assistance to the players and at present, there are more than 2,500 athletes in the country who are being given more than Rs 50,000 every month under the "Khelo India" campaign.

## Iconic Events Chalked Out to Mark Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Netaji's 126<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary

**Continued from Page 1**  
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, A&N Islands on January 23 at 11 am.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister will also announce the naming of 21 Islands of Andaman & Nicobar in the name of Param Veer Chakra Awardees. This event will be live screened in a function to be held in the Auditorium of DBRAIT, Port Blair. The Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will grace the function to be held at DBRAIT, Port Blair.

As part of the celebrations, the mega event at Port Blair also includes a cultural programme at the historic Netaji Stadium on January 23 at 5 pm. Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will be the chief guest on the occasion. Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency will also grace the occasion. The evening will be followed by performance by renowned singer, Sukhwinder Singh with live band. The other highlights of the evening include presentation of a

dance ballet on the life of Netaji choreographed by eminent Choreographer Ms. Tanusree Shankar and various dance performances.

Prior to the main event on January 23, the A&N Administration has also planned events to pay tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. As part of it, a Kavi Sammelan by renowned poets will be organized at National Memorial Cellular Jail on January 21 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Noted poets from mainland will present poems on patriotic theme. Naval Band will perform at Marina Park from 7 pm to 7.30 pm on January 21 followed by a cultural programme comprising of dances of different States showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India from 7.30 pm to 9 pm at Marina Park.

On January 22, noted singer, songwriter, performer, Ms Neha Bhasin and her troupe will perform on patriotic songs from 4.15 pm to 6.15 pm at Marina Park. Naval Band and MARCOS mock drill show will be held from 3 pm to 3.45 pm at Marina Park on January 22 followed by Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display from 3.45 pm to 4.15 pm. Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display will also be held on January 23 from 4 pm to 4.30 pm at Marina Park.

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The **Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Institution, South Andaman Division-I** on behalf of **Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Hope Town** invites online item rate tender (in CPWD form-8) from bonafide and experienced contractors of appropriate class of APWD, MES, ALHW & P&T for the below mentioned work.

**1. NIT NO.** EE/PRI/SAD-I/RR/2022-23/91 **Name of Work:** - Repair and Maintenance of existing CC Footpath from main road to Nabeesa's house at Hope Town Ward No. 03 under Gram Panchayat Hope Town. (Re-Tender) **Estimated Cost Rs:** - 6, 71,283/- **Earnest Money Deposit:** - 13,426/- **Time of Completion:** - Five (05) Months, Tender Fee: - ` .500/- & last date & time of submission of bid: - 31/01/2023 (1500 hrs)

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>.  
**Tender ID:** - 2022\_RDPRI\_8668\_2

Executive Engineer,  
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Junglighat, Port Blair  
South Andaman

2023/MediaRelease/75

30

PBGKR Sponsors Islands Girl to Compete in National Championship

**Continued from Page 1**

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Sqay Championship 2021-22 at Goa, she bagged Gold in loba and Gold medal in group aerosqay.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> National Tang Soo Do championship 2021-22 at delhi, she won Gold in

weapon event and Gold in forms (phumse) event. At the 9<sup>th</sup> National Tang Soo Do championship 2022-23 held at Delhi, she again bagged Gold in forms (phumse) event.

"She is a super talented girl and deserves a fair chance to compete in Nationals. We tried

our best to support her and also appeal to all dear islanders to kindly help and support such shining stars to make our Islands' name recognised at National Level", appealed Mandeep Grewal, President, PBGKR.

Two-Day Training on Mushroom Cultivation with ATMA Organised

**Continued from Page 1**

Kanyapuram village belonging to the Self Help Group had participated in the programme.

The circle in-charge Shri Daniel Antony explained about the various type of

mushroom cultivation and its benefits. Mr. K Venkat Ram Babu, Pradhan of Wimberlygunj was also present at the training. He distributed the kits to all the trainees. Smti N Shajita Bhanu, AFA, Smti Lipika Rajwanshi

BTM, Smti V Sunita Kumar ATM and Shri K Rajesh Kumar ATM demonstrated the preparation of the mushroom cultivation.

Arms Licence Holders to Deposit Arms & Ammunition

**Port Blair, Jan. 19:** In view of the upcoming VVIP visit and Republic Day 2023, all the Arms License Holder(s) under the jurisdiction of

South Andaman District have been directed to deposit their Arms & Ammunition to the concerned Police Station with immediate effect from 20/01/

2023 as per Section 21 (1) of the Arms Act, 1962. Action as per law will be taken in case of non-compliance / violation.

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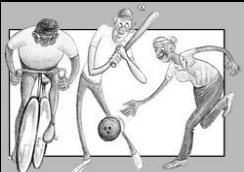
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# SPORTS

## India Open: Kidambi Srikanth Explodes, then Implodes

**January 19:** The enigma of Kidambi Srikanth on some truly boggling days like Wednesday extends to his opponent, the irrepressible Viktor Axelsen, not knowing how he wound up beating the talented Indian. Srikanth's winners are as spectacular as his errors end up being silly. No one—least of all him—knows how he works up a frenzy of some smoothly woven points to go 14-5 up in the second set. And then proceeds to fritter it all away in a pool of errors. A full half a dozen ones at the net.

Why, you might ask, does India's finest net practitioner known for his laser net proficiency, lose all accuracy, and spray the shuttle like a magnetic compass at Bermuda triangle? In going down 21-14, 21-19 to Axelsen in the opening round of the India Open Super 750, there were more of the same question that brightens and blights his mercurial career.

One argument is Srikanth gets into a zone where he collects winners in a dizzying run of points, and then after a sizeable lead is built, at some juncture he becomes acutely conscious of how well he's been playing, and then it all goes downhill, like a self-fulfilling prophecy. Like he can't believe how well he's been playing. Middling confidence levels, confused self-assessments and brimming, overflowing talent all add up to those tap-outs and smash-outs. And one leads to the next and then many more. Srikanth isn't sure why inaccuracy floods his strokes at the worst, inopportune moments.

On Wednesday, and unlike most days, the 29-year-old started positively, never mind the first set score that saw Axelsen finally powering through. It started with the first point—a nice, deep cross smash—that must've jolted Axelsen, who had arrived from hot, humid Kuala Lumpur into this bone-chilling frigid zone that Delhi is. For whatever reasons, there was a drift in the KD Jadhav Hall, but not enough to dictate dominance of a set.

Srikanth would keep pace till 5-5, with a lot more verve in his court bearing than there usually tends to be. But the accuracy at

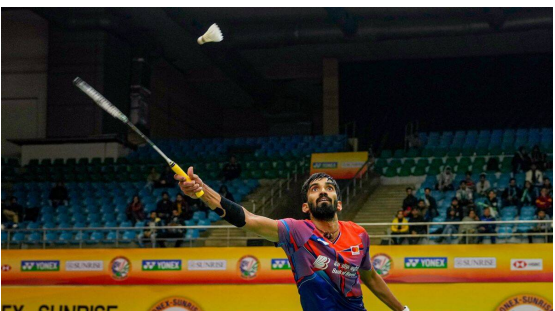
the net was missing even then at 12-16, as he relied on acceleration of attack. It is that breakneck speed that brings him both the winners and errors, and though he dished out some fancy stroke-play at 14-19, there were no returns on all the artistry, as he lagged 21-14 to go a set down. It was at 8-3 in the second—when he had hit the purple patch—that Srikanth won one of the finest points. Primed at the net, he spun the shuttle that fluttered like Gryffindor's Golden Snitch and fell short, wrong-footing Axelsen who barely reached it. Then came two slashing crisp smashes as Srikanth looked well on way to pushing a decider. And then just like that, he didn't.

The errors swarmed in like the Delhi cold pierces into bones. At 12-4 came one of the last magical winners—he did a 360-swivel to parry off a whipped smash, and then five strokes later had the winner. Then gravity struck: the errors came fast and steady. Whether it was finishing nerves or Axelsen getting his act together will never be known, but Srikanth just couldn't catch a break.

An ace cross smash at 17-15 and then a net follow-up winner at 19-18 served to give hope and kill it in quick succession. But Axelsen couldn't believe his luck—given how well his opponent had been dominating just moments ago.

"I still can't believe I managed to win that match. I didn't feel at all good in the second game, Srikanth stepped up and suddenly he locked me in. Yeah, really surprising. However, I am really happy that I managed to win in straight games. So, it's not easy to come from a hot humid country (Malaysia) to a rather cold New Delhi. I am trying to adapt in the best way possible," he would say.

Physically, the winner from Malaysia hadn't quite recovered. "Long travel, five and half hours. But now I have some more hours tomorrow, so I am trying to recover in the best way possible," he'd say, as the crowd had no compunctions cheering the home



player against him. "I am only happy to see so many badminton fans in the stands, it was a great atmosphere. Of course they support their countryman. I was just very happy to pull out the win today," he added.

Srikanth was typically confounded with how it had all puddled up, but took the positives. "I played well overall but couldn't finish a few points. Even in the first game, I had few tap-outs and smash-outs. In the second game as well, at 18-19, it touched the net and went out. It was a good match, but I made too many mistakes. A lot of positives to take," he said.

Their last meeting had been a win for Srikanth. "So many things have happened (since 2019). At this point, I am in a good position, many things have gone my way since we last played in 2019. I am just proud of how I am. The Malaysia Open was a big big win for me and I am just trying to do the best I can every single day and I was really happy to win my first round today," Axelsen added.

Srikanth knows he has a lot of work to do. "I went in thinking I can win, you know. But I think after 14/15 in the second set, it was just about being there till the end, but I made too many mistakes and then gave him the opportunity to come back."

He admitted the errors—a problem for many years—ate into his chances to win and he hadn't applied himself in the end. "I think it's really important at the moment to cut down the errors. But again, if it's regarding the strategy then I should sit with my coaches and think, understand what went wrong. I was really doing exceptionally well till a point in the second set. It was just about finishing the game, that's it."

The 'that's' and the 'it' ended in fritters. "I played really well till a point in the second set and gave him too many easy points after that," he repeated.

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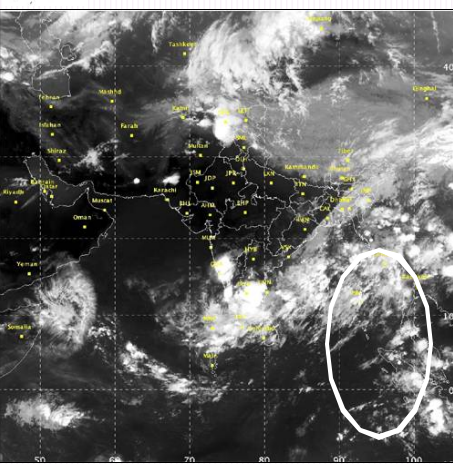
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EOC (Kamorta):	03193-263222
EOC (N&M):	03192-262960
EOC (Hut Bay):	03192-284014



### Weather



Max. Temp: 30.2 °C	Min.: 20.6 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 69%	1730 Hrs: 74%
Sunrise: 0544 Hrs.	Sunset: 1717 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall (From Jan 1, 2023 till date):	003.5 mm

### Forecast

GENERALLY Cloudy sky. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 21°C respectively on Friday 20/01/2023.

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