

REVERBERATION

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A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday

HEADQUARTERS ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR COMMAND HON'BLE RAKSHA MANTRI VISITS SOUTHERN GROUP OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Port Blair, Jan 6:

The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh accompanied by Lieutenant General Ajai Singh AVSM, Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) visited Campbell Bay. En-route to Campbell Bay, he was familiarised with terrain of Southern Group of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and on arrival at Campbell Bay he visited Indira Point, the southern-

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Jan 5: On departure from Port Blair, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was given a fond send off by RajNiwas staff & Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency alongwith senior Officers of Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Andaman & Nicobar Police at VSI Airport.

MP demands to start transmission of Vividh Bharati FM Port Blair (100.9) in all the remote Islands of A & N Islands

Port Blair, Jan 8:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India to start transmission of Vividh Bharati FM Port Blair (100.9) in all the remote Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In a letter addressed to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India the Member of Parliament mentioned that FM 100.9 MHz being broadcast from AIR Port Blair has been declared as the 42nd FM Station of Vividh Bharati Network by Prasar Bharati. Accordingly, two hours of local programmes are being broadcasted from VB FM Port

Blair in the morning and evening hours from 26.01.2019, the day when it was inaugurated.

He added that in very short span of time the service has become immensely popular among the residents of a major part of South Andaman region but sadly the transmission of Vividh Bharati FM Port Blair (100.9) does not reach to other Island,

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Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY—providing cashless treatment against secondary and tertiary hospitalization care

Port Blair, Jan. 8

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI has launched the world's largest health assurance program named Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the year 2018. The scheme has successfully completed 4 years of its implementation on 23rd September, 2022.

Ayushman Bharat-
contd. page-5



DC(SA) inaugurates Maternity Home in the campus of G.B Pant Hospital

Port Blair, Jan 8:

The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman / Chairman, District Health Society (SA), Shri Suneel Anchipaka inaugurated the Maternity Home at campus of the G. B Pant Hospital, Port Blair in the presence of Shri. Rahul D. Boora, IAS(P), Director of Health Services, Director of ANIIMS,

contd. page-5



District Administration of Nicobar to organize Special Camp from Jan.9

Car Nicobar, Jan. 6

The District Administration of Nicobar is in the process of issuing Islander Identity Card to the general public of Nicobar District through a Special Camp to be organized from 9th January, 2023 during the office hours. In this regard, the general public have been appealed to contact the Local Revenue Office to avail the facility.

All the village Captains and PRIs members have been requested to extend co-operation and ensure wide publicity amongst their people for the Special Camp. The facility will be continued beyond scheduled dates also for benefit of the general public. For any queries/assistance, the general public may contact phone numbers: 03193-265241 & 03193-265999.



EDITORIAL

Appalling insensitivity in dealing with flier's bad behaviour

The gross insensitivity of an Air India crew in dealing with an incident of an inebriated passenger flashing and peeing on a co-flier onboard its New York-Delhi flight a few weeks ago is appalling. It is a blot on the reputation of the Tata group that got to own the airline amid great fanfare last year. That the matter was underplayed despite the 70-yearold victim writing about her ordeal to the Tata Group chairman a day after the episode is even more worrying. There can be no place for mutual settlement in such instances. The only proper thing to do would have been to report it upon landing and make the offender, Shankar Mishra, face the full force of the law. Yet, the crew allowed him to force compensation on her despite the victim's refusal even to see him, and they let Mishra walk free upon landing in Delhi. It completely violated the standard operating protocol (SOP), drawing a sharp rebuke from the Indian aviation regulator, DGCA. For reasons only a thorough investigation can unravel, Mishra appeared more important to the crew than the victim. He was vice president of the Indian operations of a multinational firm, Wells Fargo. But the company sacked him when it could not deodorise the stench of his atrocious behaviour. Reports of similar incidents happening in the past before the airline was privatised could indicate the crew's reaction is a legacy issue. That, again, is a subject of probe.

The crew apparently showed bad judgement on how much alcohol could be served to the individual on the flight. They compounded their folly by not giving the victim proper alternative accommodation and later goading her back to her seat that reeked of urine. And the pilot refused to upgrade her from business class to first class even though it had vacant seats.

As for Mishra, he has been arrested from his hideout in Bengaluru. A Delhi court before which he was produced advised the police to go by the law and not by public pressure when they sought his police remand. Over a month after the despicable episode, national outrage forced the airline to de-roster the cabin crew and a pilot of that flight. And Tata Group's chairman admitted they fell short of addressing the situation the way they should have, adding their response should have been much swifter. Now that the airline is reviewing its SOPs, here's hoping it handles victims with compassion and empathy in future.

MSME Loan Mela on Jan. 10 & 12

Port Blair, Jan. 8

Br. MSME-DFO, Port Blair will be organizing MSME Loan Mela on Jan. 10 from 10 am to 12 noon at Br. MSME-DFO office, Industrial

Estate, Dollygunj to create awareness among MSMEs/ Individuals on proper procedure & documentation for availing loans, availability of various loan facilities for self-

employment, one to one interaction etc. A similar mela will also be organized at Gram Panchayat Office Wimberlygunj on Jan. 12 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya : last date for submission of application is 31st January, 2023

Port Blair, Jan 7:

The online registration of candidates for the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test for admission to Class VI for the next academic year 2023-24 in JNV, Chouldari has already started. The last date for the submission of application online is 31st January, 2023 and the test is tentatively scheduled on 29th April, 2023. JNVs are progressive Co-educational & residential Vidyalayas run by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti un-

der the Ministry of Education spread over 649 districts across the country, providing quality education especially to the rural talented students. Since the admissions are purely on the basis of the selection test, eligible and talented students studying in Class V in recognized schools in the district are advised to take the test. It is also brought to the notice of all concerned that the application forms are to be submitted online only through the Website [http://](http://navodaya.gov.in)

navodaya.gov.in. Students should have Aadhaar Card/ Residence Certificate and Study Certificate duly signed by the Headmaster, photograph of the candidate, signature of the candidate and the parent for uploading the application. In case of any difficulty in uploading the applications, parents can contact JNV Chouldari over phone to the helpdesk numbers 7018283450, 9580455683 and 8900970775.

Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports held meeting with UT Officials

Port Blair, Jan. 6

The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports headed by its Chairman, Shri Vivek Thakur held meeting with the UT Officials on the issue of Teacher Education Strategies and capacity building of Teacher in light of NEP 2020 directives and also on the issue of promoting Rural, Tribal and Adventure Sports especially those featuring in Commonwealth / Asian Olympic Games at SwarajDweep y. The other Members of the Committee present in the meeting were S/ Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari, Sadashiv Kishen Lokhande, Asit Kumar Mal, Chandreshwar Prasad, Jagannath Sarkar and Dharambir Singh. The Secretary (IT/Agri./E&F), Shri Pankaj Kumar along with other officials of A&N Administration attended the meeting.



Earlier, the Committee interacted with officials of Tagore Government College of Educa-

tion Port Blair on the issue of Teachers training in light of NEP 2020 directives.

Mela Moments Photography Contest by Ministry of Culture in partnership with MyGov

Port Blair, Jan.7

Mela Moments Photography Contest is being organized by Ministry of Culture, New Delhi in partnership with MyGov as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The contest will run from Sharad Navarathri to Chaitra Navarathri (March 31,

2023). Every month, three best photos will be awarded under following categories with a cash prize.

i. Mela vibes which is an ode to unique & colourful nature of Indian fairs .

ii. Chatori Gully which celebrates best mela food.

iii. MelaFaces which captures the happy faces / portraits from fair visits.

iv. Mela stalls showcasing best of items displayed in fairs.

The top 3 winners (every month) under each category will get a chance to win prizes of Rs. 10,000 (1st winner), Rs. 7500/-

(2nd winner), and Rs. 5000/- (3rd winner).

The grand finale winners in each category will get a chance to win Rs. 1,00,000 (1st winner), Rs. 75,000/- (2nd winner), and Rs. 50,000/- (3rd winner). Winners of campaign will be featured on Social Media handles of Ministry of Culture. The winning pictures will be exhibited in galleries of Lalit Kala Akademi.

Interested persons may participate in the programme. For more information, the website of Ministry of Culture may be seen.

Himachal Cabinet expansion: Seven ministers take oath in presence of Governor, CM



PTI, SHIMLA: After a four-week wait, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expanded his cabinet on Sunday with the induction of seven ministers, including Vikramaditya Singh - the son of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and state Congress president Pratibha Singh.

The strength of the cabinet has now risen to nine.

Only Sukhu and his deputy Mukesh Agnihotri were sworn in on December 11 following Congress' win in the hill state.

Three berths are still vacant as the maximum number of ministers, including the chief minister, cannot exceed 12.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office to the newly inducted ministers at the Raj Bhawan.

The party apparently tried to placate Sukhu's rival camp led by Pratibha Singh, who lost out in the chief ministerial race, with the induction of her son Vikramaditya Singh, two-time MLA from Shimla (Rural).

Among the new ministers, Harshwardhan Chauhan, a six-time MLA elected from Shillai, three-time MLA elected from Kasumpti Anirudh Singh and four-time MLA Rohit Thakur from Jubbal-Kotkhai are considered close to the chief minister.

The other ministers are eldest MLA Dhani Ram Shandil, a former minister elected from Solan; Chander Kumar, a former minister and six-time MLA from Jawali in Kangra district; and Jagat Singh Negi, a former deputy speaker and five-time MLA from tribal Kinnaur district.

Shimla district with seven MLAs has been given the lion's share in the cabinet with three ministers while Bilaspur, Mandi, Kullu and Lahaul and Spiti districts are unrepresented in the cabinet.

Kangra with 10 MLAs got

one berth.

Chief Minister Sukhu also appointed six Chief Parliamentary Secretaries (CPS), who enjoy the same facilities as ministers.

Leader of Opposition in Himachal Pradesh Assembly Jai Ram Thakur alleged that the Congress government has failed to give adequate representation to various regions in the cabinet expansion.

The BJP leader and former chief minister also criticised the government over the appointment of six chief parliamentary secretaries, saying it would put a burden of crores of rupees on the state exchequer.

Out of the 13 appointments made by the Congress government, eight MLAs have been appointed from Shimla parliamentary constituency while the rest of the three parliamentary constituencies have not been given adequate share, Thakur said in a statement here.

The BJP had been targeting the Congress government over the delay in Cabinet expansion.

The Congress high command had on Saturday evening approved the names of ministers after Sukhu handed over the list of probables.

Out of the nine ministers, five are from Shimla Parliamentary constituency, two from Hamirpur Parliamentary constituency and one each from Kangra and Mandi parliamentary constituencies.

The ministers include five Rajputs, and one member each from Brahmin, Schedule Tribe, Scheduled Caste and OBC categories.

Later, Chief Minister Sukhu told reporters that MLAs with a clean image have been inducted into the cabinet on the basis of merit and the districts that were left out would get representation in due course.

The CPS included Sunder Singh Thakur from Kullu, Mohan Lal Brakta from Rohroo in Shimla district, Ram Kumar Chowdhary from Doon in Solan district, Ashish Butail from Palampur and Kishori Lal from Baijnath in Kangra district and Sanjay Awasthi from Arki in Solan district.

Efforts have been made to balance the claims of rival factions but caste and regional imbalances still exist, political observers said.

Meanwhile, police had a tough time controlling hundreds of enthusiastic supporters who tried to forcibly enter the already-packed Darbar hall of Raj Bhawan here during the oath-taking ceremony and even damaged two doors.

Congress workers and supporters danced to traditional music outside the Bhawan.

All roads to the governor's official residence were choked with vehicles and pedestrians.

The police struggled to control the surging crowds and many people forced their way into the main hall.

Glass panes of two doors were broken as the people tried to enter the Durbar Hall during the swearing-in ceremony.

The residents of Shimla were jubilant as three ministers are from the district.

A large number of supporters, raising slogans, followed the newly inducted ministers to the State Secretariat.

The Congress has won 40 out of 68 assembly seats including 10 seats from Kangra, seven from Shimla, four each in Una, Solan, and Hamirpur, three in Sirmour, two each in Chamba and Kullu, and one each in Mandi, Bilaspur, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti district.

Air India peeing incident: Airline's response should have been swifter, says Tata Group Chairman

PTI, MUMBAI: Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran admitted on Sunday that Air India's response to the incident of a drunk passenger allegedly urinating on a woman on one of its international flights last year should have been "much swifter".

In a statement, which came days after the aviation regulator DGCA pulled up the Tata Group-owned full-service carrier, Chandrasekaran also said that "we fell short of addressing this situation the way we should have."

In a shocking incident, an inebriated man allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger, a senior citizen in her seventies, in the business class of Air India New York-New Delhi flight on November 26 last year.

The accused Shankar Mishra was arrested by the Delhi Police from Bengaluru on Saturday.

"The incident on Air India flight AI102 on November 26, 2022, has been a matter of personal anguish to me and my colleagues at Air India. Air India's response should have been much swifter. We fell short of addressing this situation the way it should have been," Chandrasekaran said in the statement on Sunday.

"The Tata Group and Air India stand by the safety and well-being of our passengers and crew with full conviction. We will review and repair every process to prevent or address any incidents of such unruly nature," he added in the statement.

DGCA has said Air India's conduct in handling the incident was "unprofessional". It has issued show cause notices to the airline, its director of in-flight services and the crew that operated the flight.

The incident came to light reportedly after the woman wrote a letter to Chandrasekaran recalling her harrowing experience on the flight.

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson on Saturday apologised for the incident and said four cabin crew and a pilot



have been de-rostered and the airline is reviewing its "policy on service of alcohol in flight".

Earlier, Wilson, in an internal communication, told the airline staff to report any improper behaviour on aircraft to authorities at the earliest even if the matter appears to have been settled.

Wilson wrote the communication to employees after aviation safety regulator DGCA slammed the Tata Group airline, saying that its conduct was "unprofessional" and led to the "systematic failure" on the New York-Delhi flight incident, which it did not report to the DGCA.

The Delhi Police registered an FIR against Mishra on January 4 on a complaint given by the woman to Air India. After his arrest, he was brought to Delhi.

Mishra, who was working with US multinational firm Wells Fargo in India, was sacked on Friday. He studied management at a private university in Mumbai and completed his higher studies in the United States.

According to the FIR, shortly after lunch was served and the lights were switched off onboard AI 102 on November 26, 2022, the inebriated male passenger seated in business class seat 8A walked to the elderly woman's seat, unzipped his pants and urinated on her.

According to the FIR, the accused later begged the woman not to lodge a complaint against him, saying he was a family man and did not wish his wife and child to be affected by the incident.

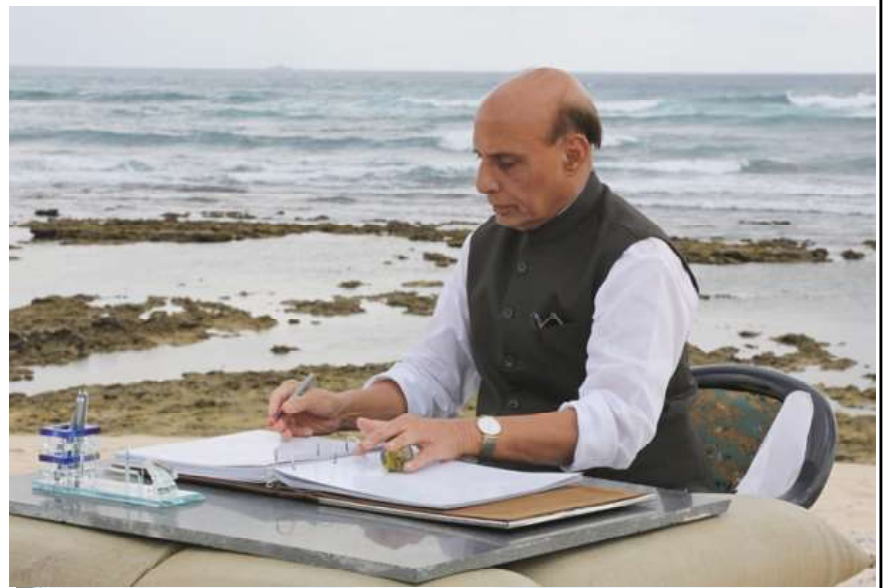
The airline had on Wednesday said it had imposed a 30-day flying ban on the accused passenger and set up an internal panel to probe whether there were lapses on part of the crew in addressing the situation.



HON'BLE RAKSHA..... from page 1

most tip of the country. Thereafter, he visited INS Baaz and interacted with joint services troops of Andaman and Nicobar Command.

The RM thereafter visited the Air Force Station at Car Nicobar and interacted with the troops, prior return to Delhi.



Diglipur Police arrests a lady with illicit ganja



Mayabunder, Jan.7
Police Station
Diglipur has once again shown

Inderjit Mondal, R/o Madhupur at Subashgram, Diglipur and recovered 513 gram of illicit ganja

their mettle by acting tough against drug peddlers. Keeping sharp vigil over the antisocial activities under the jurisdiction and based on reliable information received on Jan.6 that a lady is in possession of illicit ganja, the raiding team headed by Inspr Vikash Singh, SHO PS Diglipur trapped the lady namely Pratima Mondal, W/o Shri

from her possession.

A case under appropriate section of NDPS Act was registered. The dedication and hard work of the raiding team of PS Diglipur resulted in seizure of illicit ganja. The entire trap was conducted under the supervision of Shri Lakshya Pandey, SDPO Diglipur.

The District Police follows a policy of zero tolerance towards any organized crime. The general public have been requested to pass and share any credible information pertaining to any crime or illegal activities to their nearest police station or over phone No.100, 112 & 03192-273344. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded.

PRESS RELEASE



Shri Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Shri Ajoy Bairagi, State President, BJP- A & N islands have wrote a letter to Mananiya Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Government of India over the extremely pathetic condition of NH-4 in North & Middle Andaman District & an early commencement of construction of Chatham Bambooflat Bridge.

In their letter, they stated that the people residing at North & Middle Andaman are suffering enormously due to the extremely pathetic condition of the NH-4 in that region. The economic development and the transport system have collapsed due to the pitiable condition of NH-4. The construction of NH-4 was awarded to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) in the year 2016 and even after elapse of almost 6 years, the work is yet to be completed.

Further they added that, the yard stick, method and quality of work adopted by NHIDCL in South Andaman District was completely different from the works that are being done at North & Middle Andaman District. Due to non-availability of good quarry products, the previously constructed road materials were rolled over for the new construction and they say that the same was done after obtaining necessary approval.

Both the leaders further highlighted that the road construction in that region is difficult considering the fact that around 09 months we have rainy season, yet, the truth is that the concerned contractors have miserably failed in their management and performance of work.

In respect to Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge, both the leaders wrote that the issue requires the intervention of the Hon'ble Minister for which a large number of people are awaiting. Reportedly, the DPR for this project was already completed and further course of action was required to be taken for its early implementation. This project would bring a sea change for enabling convenient vehicular traffic movement from a major part of South Andaman region to Port Blair City. This would largely reduce the travel time for the commuters from several villages of South Andaman.

Concluding their letter Both the leaders have earnestly requested take a serious note and take all needful steps to make sure that the construction work of NH 4 gets completed at the earliest by strictly maintaining the standards of National Highways and commence the project of Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge, in the interest of people of A & N Islands.

MP demands to start from page-1

where such service is needed very badly for entertainment of public and also to overcome the feeling of remoteness and isolation.

The Member of Parliament pointed out that availability of Vividh Bharati FM Port Blair (100.9) in all Islands will not only become a source of entertainment for Islanders but also it can save lives during any natural di-

saster by providing one additional communication mode to remotest corners of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which falls under Zone V of Seismic Map.

Hence the Member of Parliament requested the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India to increase the transmission capacity of Vividh Bharati FM Port Blair (100.9) and install receiving sta-

tion/ repeated at various remote Islands so that the transmission of Vividh Bharati FM Port Blair (100.9) can reach to ever remote Islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands viz Diglipur, Mayabunder, Billiground, Rangat, Kadamtala, Baratang, Shaheed Dweep, Swaraj Dweep, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Nancowry Group of Islands and Great Nicobar Island.

Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY..... from page-1

PMJAY aims to provide a cashless treatment worth Rs 5 lakh per family per year against secondary and tertiary hospitalization care. Presently, 12,848 families (40,465 members) have registered under the AB-PMJAY scheme in this UT and are entitled for cashless treatment at 28,000 empanelled public and private hospitals across the country. To create awareness

among the general public and to identify the unregistered eligible AB-PMJAY beneficiaries various IEC activities are conducted in this UT.

On 4th January, 2023 an AB-PMJAY card generation drive was organized by State Health Agency (SHA), A&N Islands at Gram Panchayat Office, Mithakhari. A total of 53 people have attended the camp, out of

which, 15 new unregistered eligible beneficiaries were identified and cards were created for them. During the camp, the resource person from the State Health Agency also addressed the queries from the public pertaining to Ayushman Bharat - PMJAY scheme and also explained about the eligibility criteria to the public.

DC(SA) inaugurates Maternity..... from page-1

Joint MD-UTHM, MS-GBPH along with other officials from NHM, Health & APWD Department.

The DC (SA) informed that this concept is the second initiative in A & N Islands and the Maternity Home has been constructed through the District Health Society (SA) under National Health Mission to provide accommodation at minimal fee to the poor pregnant women of Inter Island for better health care services. It was also informed that this initiative has been inspired from Nicobari Birth Home, the idea of Maternity Home incorporates Tradi-

tional Gyan with Post Modern Technologies. He also informed that the motto of this initiative is to reduce the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), which could improve the health indicators of A & N Islands.

Director of Health Services appreciated the role of District Administration and the officials of the National Health Mission for such innovative idea. The Health Department could monitor the high risk poor pregnant women and refer them well in advance from Inter Islands to Port Blair to avoid any pregnancy related complications. Earlier, many poor residents

avoided coming to Port Blair for advanced treatment due to financial constraints and accommodation.

District Programme Manager, DHS (SA) informed that this Maternity Home has a capacity of 06 pregnant women with one attendant each. He also informed that another 10 bedded Maternity Home was also constructed at CHC Bambooflat and both Maternity Home will be managed by the Directorate of Health Services in coordination with the District Hospital & District Administration, South Andaman to provide allotment of accommodations at affordable fee to the pregnant women.

Emergency Contact Nos.

- State Control Room - 03192-234287, 238880, 241026, 1070
- Emergency Response Support System- 112
- Emergency Operation Cetnres (EOCs) –
P/B - 03192238881, 1077 M/bunder – 03192262960
C/N- 03193265241 Kamorta – 03193263222
C/Bay-03193 264020 L/Andaman - 03193284014
- Police - 232100, 100
- Fire - 232101, 101
- Health – 232102, 102
- MRCC – 1554

Garbage Complaint 24x7
call now 03192-231179
PBMC Control Room

'Hope to breach 90m mark this year', says Neeraj Chopra



PTI, NEW DELHI, Jan 7:

His "amazing athleticism" has left even the iconic Michael Johnson in awe recently and India's Neeraj Chopra has now set himself a target in the new year: breach the 90-metre mark with his javelin.

After the historic gold in Tokyo, the 24-year-old Olympic champion javelin thrower has continued to raise expectations with a silver at the World Championships, before adding another feather to his cap by winning the Diamond League Finals gold.

However, despite his superlative shows, the magical 90m mark continues to elude him.

"In this new year, I hope I will put an end to this question," Chopra told reporters in a video interaction from England where he's doing off-season training. He came agonisingly close with his 89.94m throw when he finished second in the Stockholm leg of the prestigious Diamond League.

In hindsight, Chopra thinks he could have achieved the mark in Stockholm.

"I could have done that if I landed my foot a few centimetres ahead. Yes, it's just a matter of six centimetres — but a magical mark for an athlete. Whenever you talk about a top athlete we all say like this he's done 90m. But I'm not bothered about the pressure of expectations. It will happen when it has to. It could have happened last year or the year before, but maybe God has kept a perfect time and place for that."

He's not bogged down by the pressure of expectations and said he always took them

positively.

"I don't think much about the expectations. Yes, you have to handle both your own and others' expectations. But when I'm competing, my mind goes blank. It's about giving it your all, your 100 per cent thinking that you have prepared for just this day. And somewhere these expectations from the people who love me play a positive part."

The penultimate year before the Paris Olympics has a host of important events lined up, including the rescheduled Asian Games in Hangzhou, and Chopra said they are yet to take a call on when to start preparations.

"Basically, I've got three big events this year — the World Championships, Asian Games and the Diamond League Final. About when to start, I have not thought about it. I will plan with the coach to assess the situation in China. If it happens as per schedule in October, we may start the season a bit late so that we can stretch it till the Asian Games."

Keeping that in mind, Chopra is just focused on strength-building exercises in indoor training in England and when they shift their training base to South Africa he would switch to javelin throws.

"I'm mainly doing shoulder strengthening exercises. Lifting heavy balls, weighing about 8-10kg for building power and strength. I'm also throwing heavy balls of about 1.8-2kg. From our next camp in South Africa, where the weather is also good we can start with the javelin."

Recently, four-time Olympic gold medal winner Johnson posted a video of Chopra and praised his athleticism, saying

he's "a javelin thrower with the movements of a sprinter/jumper".

Asked about Johnson's praise, Chopra said, "I can never do a sprint. Their speed is at a different level. Maybe he liked my techniques and my exercises and my response was just in funny way. But yes, if I ever bump into him, I will sprint a bit and show him a few of my skills. As for me, I'm just focused on improving my javelin throws."

An injured Chopra could not defend his gold at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games owing to an injury but his compatriots, such as long jumper Murali Sreeshankar and steeplechaser Avinash Sable, clinched historic silver while competing among the world's top pool.

Also, triple jumpers Eldhose Paul and Abdulla Aboobacker had a top-two finish as India achieved their second-best medal haul after the 2010 Delhi CWG with one gold, four silver and three bronze.

Chopra believes Indian athletics is on the rise and hopes to see more glorious days ahead.

"In world athletics, our men's field ranking is 9, it's a good thing. I think we will do better as athletes. Whenever I talk to anyone, I feel they are all positive and clear in their mindset. The likes of Sreeshankar, Eldhose, Sable, they no longer go just to participate, they go to do their best and compete among the top. I don't think I've anything more to offer them. I have full faith in them," he signed off.

Babil pays poetic tribute to father Irrfan Khan on birth anniversary



PTI, MUMBAI: Babil Khan on Saturday shared a poetic note to mark his father Irrfan Khan's 56th birth anniversary and remembered the late actor's endearing laugh.

Irrfan, is known for his work in critically-acclaimed films such as "Maqbool" (2003), "The Namesake" (2006), "Life in a Metro" (2007) and "The Lunchbox" (2013), died from a rare form of cancer in April 2020.

Son of the late star and producer Sutapa Sikdar, Babil posted the note on his Instagram page alongside his childhood photographs with his father.

"Questions keep me up at night. Those that I never asked then, those that I can never ask now. My inquiries are left for me to quench on my own, that's okay, I will figure it out. I miss your laughter though, I don't think there is an answer for that. Remembering a day when you arrived here," he wrote.

Babil made his acting debut with the Netflix movie "Qala", which premiered on the streaming platform in December.

Next, he will be seen in Yash Raj Films' maiden web series "The Railway Men", billed as a

tribute to the unsung heroes of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

Meanwhile, a new book will offer a compelling account of iconic actor Irrfan Khan's life and achievements, starting from his days at the prestigious National School of Drama (NSD) to his nearly decade-long stint in television and his gradual ascent in the film industry.

In the book, "Irrfan Khan: A Life in Movies", film critic Shubhra Gupta engages key people, including director Mira Nair, Vishal Bharadwaj, and Anurag Basu in conversation on the actor's art, craft and legacy.

"Drawing from interviews with key people Irrfan was close to, worked with, was influenced by - including Irrfan's wife Sutapa Sikdar, Tillotama Shome, Irrfan's best friend from the NSD Timangshu, Shoojit Sircar, Tabu, Anurag Kashyap, among many others - this book will be a collection of scintillating new interviews, with commentary from Shubhra herself, that will together offer a complex portrait of Irrfan the actor and the man," publisher Pan Macmillan said in a statement.

PHH & AAY Card holders urged to get their monthly entitlement under NFSA for January free of cost

Port Blair, Jan. 8

All the NFSA Beneficiaries i.e. PHH & AAY Card holders have been informed that the GoI has revised the PMGKAY Scheme wherein, all NFSA beneficiaries shall be provided with their monthly entitled foodgrains free of cost w.e.f.01.01.2023. The entire sub-

sidy component involved in this scheme shall be borne by the GoI.

In view of the above, all the NFSA beneficiaries have been advised to get their monthly entitlement of normal allocation under NFSA for the month of January 2023, free of cost. Any

discrepancy by any of the Fair Price Shop holder, it may be reported through Toll Free No. 18003453197 and 14445 with proof of discrepancy.

The identity of the complainant will be kept secret, a press release from Directorate of CS&CA said.