

# REVERBERATION

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

## MESSAGE

On the occasion of Police Raising Day, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all ranks of Andaman & Nicobar Police. The role of Police in maintaining law & order, prevention of crime and providing a safe & secure environment to the people of A&N Islands is praiseworthy.

It has been 70 years since Mr. Naushirwan Feroz Sauntook, an IPS Officer, assumed the charge of Superintendent of Police, A&N Islands on 16th January, 1953. Ever since, 16th January is observed as "Police Raising Day of Andaman & Nicobar Police".

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that Andaman & Nicobar Police is organizing various activities and programmes to improve Public Police Interface such as awareness drives on social and contemporary issues in schools, colleges & residential areas, cultural-cum-interaction programmes involving Public & Police families and performances by Police Entertainment Team & Police Band during this week.

On this occasion, I expect that A&N Police will continue to discharge their duties with utmost dedication and sincerity and will exhibit professionalism, transparency, integrity and sensitivity in their functioning.

I wish each and every member of A&N Police and their families the very best.



(Admiral D K Joshi)

PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)

Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency

## Armed Forces Veterans Day observed in Isles Secretary (Art & Culture) felicitates 40 Armed Forces Veterans for their selfless devotion & exemplary service to the Nation

Port Blair, Jan 15:

Together with the rest of the Country, Armed Forces Veterans Day was celebrated in these Islands too, in a betting manner. Jan. 14 every year is commemorated as Armed Forces Veterans Day as a mark of respect and recognition to the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian Chief

contd. page-5



## MP demands to conduct regular recruitment drives of Army, Navy and Air Force in A & N Islands, exclusively for youths of these Islands

Port Blair, Jan 12:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Hon'ble Defence Minister of India to conduct regular recruitment drives of Army,

Navy and Air Force in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, so that Islands youths, who grow up with the dream of serving our Nation can join Indian Armed Forces and serve our country.

In a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Defence Minister of

India, New Delhi, he mentioned that this is a matter of extreme pride that a large number of youths from Andaman and Nicobar Islands are either serving the armed forces in different ranks or have retired

contd. page-5

## Hon'ble Lt Governor on visit to Kamorta Visits LOP Tillang Chaung and interacts with Police & Forest personnel



Port Blair, Jan. 15

Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice Chairman, Islands Development

Agency arrived at Kamorta. On arrival, Hon'ble Lt Governor was received by senior officials of A&N Administration, A&N Police & Tribal representative, Islands Development

contd. page-5

## MESSAGE

On the Occasion of A&N Police Raising Day, 2023, I extend my warm wishes to DGP and all ranks of A&N Police and their Families.

A&N Police has played an important role in maintaining Peace and Law & Order in these Islands. All personnel of the Police force strive hard to ensure the safety of the citizens of these Islands and security of their property. These Islands being an amalgamation of all the cultures of Mainland India, the Andaman Police plays an important role in strengthening mutual harmony and brotherhood in the Islands.

I wish all personnel of A&N Police and their families very best for all their future endeavors.

(Keshav Chandra, IAS)

Chief Secretary

Andaman & Nicobar Administration

## CS to inaugurate State Level Exhibition - 'Gyanodaya' today

Port Blair, Jan. 15

A State Level Exhibition - 'Gyanodaya' 2022-23 will be organized by Education Department of A&N Administration January 16 at Govt. Girls Sr. Sec. School Auditorium. Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration

will inaugurate the exhibition at 9.30 am as the chief guest on the occasion. The closing ceremony of the exhibition will be held January 16 at 5 pm in which the Secretary (Education), Ms. Veditha Reddy, IAS will be the chief guest.





## EDITORIAL

## Emerging from China's imports grip is a long-term process

*The latest data released by the China customs department shows India's trade deficit with the country breaching \$100 billion for the first time in 2022. This is a blow to India's Atmanirbhar Bharat goals, especially with ongoing geopolitical tensions between the two countries. Dependence on Chinese imports continues to increase despite the government's push for manufacturing in the country. The inability to reduce China's influence often gets voiced in the call for a boycott of Chinese goods. But contrary to the narrative, rising imports may not be all that bad.*

*Most imports from China are intermediate goods used by Indian manufacturers. The recent surge in Chinese imports is mainly due to the Indian manufacturing sector showing signs of a pickup. A sharp rise in chemicals and engineering equipment, including electrical and non-electrical instruments, is driving a large part of the imports growth from China. They are used in the manufacturing sector here. Cheaper Chinese goods are also powering India's green transition, digital economy, and even the latest real estate and construction boom.*

*Any attempts to throttle the flow of these goods from China will only hurt manufacturers in India. There are risks of an increase in inflationary pressure if the government tries high tariffs as an option to reduce imports from China. Of course, it raises concerns that these imports continue to grow at a healthy pace (at 22% in 2022) even as exports to China shrink (at 38% in 2022). But there are no shortcuts to reducing dependence on them. It will require a long and sustained policy boost to empower Indian manufacturing. At the same time, the government will need to look for alternative suppliers for many important raw and intermediate goods from China.*

*The good thing is India is not alone in looking for alternatives. The whole world is now talking about the China Plus One strategy and looking for better alternatives to China. The Indian government is also trying hard to emerge as an alternative. However, until then, the government should adopt a pragmatic approach of using trade with China to bolster manufacturing in the country. Of course, we can only hope to reduce the Chinese influence, but any thoughts of obliterating the economic might of a country like China is, at best, a wild fantasy*

## Emergency Contact Nos.

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

## CS on visit to Shaheed Dweep; inaugurates weeklong 'Vivekananda Mela' to commemorate 160<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda

Port Blair, Jan 13:

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS arrived on a two-day visit to Shaheed Dweep today. On arrival at the Shaheed Dweep Helipad, the Chief Secretary was accorded a warm welcome by the Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Shaheed Dweep, Ms. Pinkey Das, Zilla Parishad Member, Shaheed Dweep, Shri Dashrath Verma, Pramukh Panchayat Samiti, Port Blair, Ms. Champa Das, Officers of different Departments of Shaheed Dweep and others.

In the evening, the Chief Secretary, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS inaugurated the most popular 'Vivekananda Mela' at Radha Govind Temple Ground at Shaheed Dweep on the occasion of the 160th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

In his address on the occasion, the Chief Secretary appreciated the organizers for conducting the 'Vivekananda Mela' by involving all the Islanders to remember the great & visionary personality. Vivekananda's life is full of values and inspiration which motivates every person. He urged the younger generation to make their life more meaningful by emulating the path shown by Swamiji.

The Chief Secretary further stated that Shaheed Dweep has progressed a lot in the tourism sector. He disclosed that a meeting will be convened tomorrow with the PRIs and the Officers of the Govt. Department to take stock of the developments taking place in Shaheed Dweep. He said all the required infrastructure facilities necessary for further development of Tourism sector will be created for the economic prosperity of Shaheed Dweep.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the colorful cultural programmes presented by the school children and praised the efforts of the teachers and parents. Earlier, paying rich tributes, the Chief Secretary garlanded the portrait of Swami Vivekananda on the occasion. He also visited the Govt. Stalls set up at the Mela Ground. Visiting the Fisheries Deptt. Stall, the Chief Secretary said Fisheries Sector has to be developed in a big way and the A&N Administration will provide all required support for the up gradation of Fishery Sector in A&N Islands. He further urged the officials to print the schemes implemented by Fisheries Department in Bengali language also for the



benefit of the people of Shaheed Dweep.

Interacting with the officials of AH&VS Department at their stall, the Chief Secretary desired that Poultry & Dairy farming should be propagated in a broader scale for which farmers should be encouraged. He also praised an entrepreneur, Shri Manoranjan Halder who has purchased a 'Hatch Pro Incubator Machine' for production of chicks.

While visiting the stall of Education Department, the Chief Secretary showered praise on the students who have created innovative models and efficiently explaining the concept behind the models. He urged the officials of the Education Department to take up road side tree plantation and beautify the surrounding by adopting the roads in Shaheed Dweep.

At the stall of an NGO named 'Kachrewale', the Chief Secretary was explained about the problems & ill effects of ocean plastic wastes and also about the effort of the NGO towards creating awareness and collection & disposal of plastic waste. The Chief Secretary stated that a cleanliness drive campaign will be launched in a planned manner involving all stakeholders of Government and private sector.

The Chief Secretary also visited the stalls of Directorate of Health Services and A&N Police and interacted with the officials present and enquired about their activities. The function was also attended by the Secretary, RK

Mission Port Blair, Swami Parthananda, visiting tourists and a good gathering of residents of Shaheed Dweep.

Earlier, in her welcome address, the Mela Committee President and the Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Shaheed Dweep, Ms. Pinkey Das informed that since 1993, 'Vivekananda Mela' is organized at Shaheed Dweep involving all the people to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The Mela which inaugurated today will continue upto January 18 during which cultural programmes and sports events will be organized for the entertainment of the general public of Shaheed Dweep, she added. 30 stalls by private people including eatery stalls and 6 stalls of Govt. Departments depicting the Govt. schemes have been put up in the 'Mela'.

Colorful cultural programmes viz. folk dances of different States and speech & skit on the life of Swami Vivekananda presented by the school students of Shaheed Dweep drew loud applause from the audience. The dance presented by the tiny tots of the Pre-primary section of GSSS Shaheed Dweep in colorful attire of different States giving the message of 'Unity in Diversity' was the highlight of the cultural programme. The inaugural function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Pramukh Panchayat Samity, Port Blair, Ms. Champa Das.



## Appeal against CCI order to become fait accompli due to delayed hearing in NCLAT, Google tells SC



PTI, NEW DELHI, Jan 15:

Google has approached the Supreme Court, saying its appeal before NCLAT against CCI order, on abuse of dominant position in the Android mobile device ecosystem, would become a "fait accompli" as the appellate tribunal has refused to put a stay and listed hearing of its plea almost 10 weeks after the tech giant is required to comply with the remedial directions.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has "failed to appreciate the consequences of denying interim relief" as Google will have to implement changes to the status quo of 14-15 years and its entire business model by January 19, 2023.

This (the CCI order) "requires Google to modify its existing contracts, introduce new licence agreements, and alter its business model and commercial arrangements with thousands of device manufacturers and app developers," submitted Google in its petition before the apex court.

Google's petition further said, the NCLAT "erroneously rejected" its request for interim relief seeking a stay despite a "compelling prima facie case, irreversible and irreparable harm to Google" and demonstrates "non-application of mind, predisposition, and failure" to meet its obligations to preserve an existing and flourishing status quo.

"As a result, absent the Supreme Court's intervention, Google will be required to make far-reaching changes to the Android mobile platform which has been in place for the last 14-15 years, based on the Commission's deeply flawed order - this will lead to lasting and irreparable harm to Google, device manufacturers, Indian consumers, app developers,

and the wider Indian mobile economy," said Google.

Google's plea is scheduled to be heard on Monday by the Apex Court, where it has challenged refusing an interim stay by NCLAT over the order of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposing a Rs 1,337-crore penalty on the global technology firm.

NCLAT had, on January 4, declined to stay the order passed by the CCI, after observing that the order was passed on October 20, 2022, but the appeal against it was filed on December 20, 2022.

Rejecting it, Google said: "While the remedial directions will come into effect only on January 19, 2023, Google filed an appeal a month earlier on December 20, 2022, within the statutory period of limitation," the petition said.

Google worked "tirelessly to prepare a comprehensive appeal (2,500 pages) taking into account voluminous records (16,000 pages) in response to the impugned order (~300 pages).

"Google cannot be punished for effectively exercising its right of appeal," it said.

The tech major also alleged that NCLAT acted "unlawfully" in conditioning the admission of Google's appeal upon it depositing 10 per cent of the penalty amount.

If the "Commission's order is stayed, there will be no harm caused to anyone- Google's agreements with phone manufacturers have been in place for the past 14-15 years and none of these manufacturers has complained to the Commission," it added.

The tech giant has also questioned NCLAT's directive for a pre-deposit of 10 per cent of the penalty for hearing over the interim stay and said: "Section 53B of the Competition Act

does not prescribe pre-deposit of penalty as a precondition for admitting an appeal".

In October last year, CCI slapped a penalty of around Rs 2,200 crore on Google for anti-competitive practices. It had slapped a Rs 1,337.76-crore fine on Google for exploiting its dominant position with respect to Android, which powers 97 per cent of smartphones in India.

It imposed another Rs 936-crore penalty on the US tech giant in a case related to its Play Store policies.

While in the first case, CCI asked Google to allow smartphone users on the Android platform to uninstall apps and let them select a search engine of their choice, the regulator had asked the company to take corrective steps on policies that forced developers to use Google Play's billing system to list their apps on its Play Store.

Currently, one cannot delete apps such as Google Maps or YouTube from their Android phones when they come pre-installed.

Google has not been able to secure relief from the appellate tribunal NCLAT, which asked the company to deposit 10 per cent of the fine within four weeks.

Google has since moved the Supreme Court in the matter of abuse of its dominant position in the Android mobile device ecosystem.

## SC to hear plea on Joshimath subsidence on Jan 16



PTI, NEW DELHI, Jan 15:

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea seeking the court's intervention to declare the crisis in Uttarakhand's Joshimath as a national disaster.

According to the cause list of January 16 uploaded on the apex court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala would hear the petition filed by Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati.

Joshimath, the gateway to famous pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib and international skiing destination Auli, is facing a major challenge due to land subsidence.

Joshimath is sinking gradually with huge cracks developing in houses, on roads and fields. Many houses have tilted and are sinking, locals said.

On January 10, the top court refused urgent hearing of the plea, saying there are "democratically elected institutions" to deal with the situation and all important matters should not come to

it. It had listed Saraswati's plea for hearing on January 16.

"Everything important need not come to us. There are democratically elected institutions to look into it. We will list it on January 16," the CJI had said, after the counsel appearing for the petitioner had mentioned the plea and sought its urgent listing.

The petitioner has contended that the incident has occurred due to large-scale industrialisation and sought immediate financial assistance and compensation to the people of Uttarakhand.

The plea has also sought direction to the National Disaster Management Authority to actively support the residents of Joshimath in these challenging times.

"No development is needed at the cost of human life and their ecosystem and if any such thing is to happen, then it is the duty of the State and Union government to stop the same immediately at war level," the plea by the Seer said.

## Business entities asked to refrain from selling packaged commodities beyond MRP & dual pricing

Port Blair, Jan 12:

The Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, A & N Administration has received complaints regarding overcharging on packaged commodities and beverages being sold in food stall functioning in the inter-island vessels. Such practices are clear cut violation of Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 framed under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The effective part of the Legal Metrology (Packaged commodities Rules, 2011 is reproduced below:-

18(2):- No retail dealer or other person including manufacturer, packer, importer and

whole-sale dealer shall make any sale of any commodity in packed form at a price exceeding the retail sale price thereof.

18(2A):- Unless otherwise specifically provided under any other law, no manufacturer or packer or importer shall declare different maximum retail prices on an identical pre-packaged commodity by adopting restrictive trade practices or unfair trade practices as defined under clause (nnn) and clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986).

At some places, in Airlines, Hotels and Restaurants, Cinema Halls etc, the packaged commodities (food items etc.) are

being sold at a price more than MRP, which is violation of Rules. Such practices are against the consumer interest and against the rules.

Therefore, no business entity is permitted to sale the package commodities beyond the MRP printed on the package, it is advised to adhere to the provisions of Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules and it is advised to refrain themselves from such unfair trade practices failing which, necessary penal action shall be initiated against such offenders as per extant rules to safeguard the larger interest of the consumer.



## CS interacts with PRIs & Officials of various Departments at Shaheed Dweep



Port Blair, Jan 13:

Fisheries sector has huge potential which will be developed in a broader scale for the economic prosperity of A&N Islands, said the Chief Secretary, A&N Islands, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS while interacting with the PRIs and the officials of various Departments at Shaheed Dweep. Picturesque Shaheed Dweep Islands is endowed with abundant potential to attract tourists from across the country and globe, he said adding that Bharatpur Beach is one of the most beautiful beach of international standard. The Chief Secretary also emphasized the need to promote fisheries. He said, rich fishery resources available in Andaman Nicobar waters offers immense scope for export.

During the interaction with elected representatives and different section of people, the Chief Secretary assured that the all genuine demands of the people of Shaheed Dweep will be looked into and will be addressed in a speedy manner. During his field visits to schools, health institutions, etc it was observed that infrastructures built by PRIs are either lacking maintenance or lacking required standards. He

informed that the Administration is in the process of Integrating disjointed Engineering setup of APWD and PRIs to enhance the technical capabilities and optimum delivery.

Responding to a farmer's request, the Chief Secretary assured that the Administration will provide all support to maintain Shaheed Dweep the status of Organic Island. He also informed the gathering that an additional 1 MW power generator set will be installed soon to address the power issue.

At the outset, the Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Shaheed Dweep, Smt. Pinky Das highlighted the issues pertaining to Shaheed Dweep followed by Smti. Champa Das, Pramukh, Panchayat Samiti Port Blair, Shri Dashrat Verma, Zilla Parishad Member, Shaheed Dweep and different section of people of Shaheed Dweep. The Director, Health Services, Dr. (Smt.) Munni Singhania, SDM, Shri Dilkush Meena, Shri Aditya Kumar Jha, Director of Education, Shri Linga Raju, SE, APWD and local Heads of different Departments were also present in the meeting.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary visited GSSS Shaheed Dweep and interacted with students. He also planted saplings in the

school premises. He appreciated the good ambience and upkeep of the school. Earlier, the Principal of the school, Ms Deepa Nair briefed the Chief Secretary about the students and staff strength of the school.

Thereafter, the Chief Secretary visited GMS Sitapur and Primary School Shaheed Dweep. He urged the SDM to take up the demarcation of all schools and Govt. properties.

The Chief Secretary also visited the E-Patwarkhana at Shaheed Dweep where he directed the SDM to arrange training for all the Patwaris of the Revenue Department, so that they are able to take up the survey and demarcation work independently at their place of posting. He also visited the Health & Wellness Centre at Shantipur and interacted with ANM and enquired about the services being provided through this Centre. He also directed the APWD to repair the defunct RO Plant and take up the repairing of the Health & Wellness Centre wherever it is required.

Thereafter, the Chief Secretary visited the Primary Health Centre and interacted with the patients. While appreciating the functioning of the PHC, he directed APWD to take up the face-lift of the PHC.

The Chief Secretary also visited the eco-friendly PPP Project site at Bharatpur Beach. He also gave instructions to erect eco-friendly passenger waiting sheds at Shaheed Dweep Jetty to facilitate visiting tourists and the Islanders. On completion of his two day visit to Shaheed Dweep, the Chief Secretary returned to Port Blair in the afternoon today.

## 68 killed as passenger plane with 72 people onboard, including five Indians, crashes in Nepal



KATHMANDU: At least 68 people were confirmed dead Sunday when a plane with 72 on board crashed in Nepal, police said, in the Himalayan country's deadliest aviation disaster in three decades.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), Yeti Airlines' 9N-ANC ATR-72 aircraft took off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport at 10:33 am.

Pokhara is a major tourist destination in the Himalayan nation.

While landing at the Pokhara airport around 11 am, the aircraft crashed on the bank of the Seti River between the old airport and the new airport. There were a total of 68 passengers and four crew members. At least 32 bodies have been recovered from the wreckage site, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported.

Five Indians were among the total 10 foreign nationals onboard the plane, the Indian Embassy tweeted.

The five Indians onboard the crashed plane have been identified as Abhisekh Kushwaha, Bishal Sharma, Anil Kumar Rajbhar, Sonu Jaiswal and Sanjaya Jaiswal, a Yeti Airlines official said.

"An ATR-72 plane of Yeti Airlines crashed today near the Pokhara Airport while flying from Kathmandu. According to the info provided by Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, 5 Indians were travelling on this flight. Rescue operations are underway," the Indian mission tweeted.

The embassy is in touch with local authorities and is monitoring the situation, it said.

There were ten foreigners on board the aircraft. Some of the passengers have been hospitalised, the airlines said.

The condition of the Indian passengers is not known yet.

According to Tek Bahadur KC, Chief District Officer of the Kaski district, the plane crashed into the Seti river gorge. Rescue operations are currently being conducted, he was quoted as saying by The Himalayan Times newspaper.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' held an emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers following the crash.

The emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers held on Sunday afternoon has decided to announce a public holiday on January 16 to mourn the victims of the Yeti Airlines plane crash.

He expressed sadness over the crash and directed the Home Ministry, security personnel and all the government agencies to carry out immediate rescue and relief operations.

The government announced that a five-member committee will be formed to probe the accident.

Following the Yeti Airlines aircraft crash, the Pokhara International Airport has been closed for today for all incoming and outgoing flights.

Images and videos posted on social media platforms showed plumes of smoke billowing from the crash site.

Shortly after the crash, police reached and started a rescue operation. However, the police said that it was not possible to deploy enough manpower.

Police said that bringing the fire under control was difficult as the fire engine could not reach the gorge where the crash took place. As a result, the fire is yet to be brought under control.

Gyan Bahadur Khadka, police spokesman, Kaski, said that there was a problem in the

*contd. page-6*

## Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya : Admission last date for submission of application is 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 and the test is tentatively scheduled on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2023. JNVs are progressive Co-educational & residential Vidyalayas run by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

under 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://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.

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.



## India's Russian oil imports top 1 million barrels a day in December



PTI, NEW DELHI: India's import of crude oil from Russia increased further in December 2022, topping 1 million barrels per day for the first time ever as Moscow remained its top oil supplier for the third month in a row, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

Russia, which made up for just 0.2 per cent of all crude oil India imported in the year to March 31, 2022, supplied 1.19 million bpd in December.

This was higher than 909,403 bpd crude oil India imported from Russia in November and 935,556 bpd in October 2022.

The previous record for most crude oil imports from Russia was in June 2022 when India bought 942,694 bpd, according to Vortexa.

Russia, which in October 2022 for the first time surpassed traditional sellers Iraq and Saudi Arabia to take the No.1 spot, now makes up for 25 per cent of all oil imported by India.

The imports peaked as a price cap was agreed upon by the EU on Russian seaborne oil. Russian oil is available at much lower than USD 60 per barrel cap agreed, industry sources said.

India is the world's third-largest oil-consuming and importing nation. It imports 85 per cent of its crude oil needs. Crude oil is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel at refineries.

According to Vortexa, an energy intelligence firm, India imported 803,228 bpd of oil from Iraq in December and 718,357 bpd from Saudi Arabia.

The United Arab Emirates overtook the US to become India's fourth largest supplier, selling 323,811 bpd oil in December 2022. The United States supplied 322,015 bpd, down from 405,525 bpd in November 2022.

India's appetite for Russian oil swelled ever since it started trading on discount as the West shunned it to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, India is

aiming to pursue an oil import policy that will witness robust inflows from both the US and Russia in the foreseeable future, while stepping up efforts to diversify the crude basket even further to cushion the impact of any supply shock going ahead.

"Although the Russia-Ukraine war has given an opportunity to the country's refiners to bring in plentiful volumes of crude at discounted rates from the largest non-OPEC supplier, but that has not led to a fall in market share of the US, as India looks to bolster its energy ties with Washington," it said.

Prior to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, more than 60 per cent of the Indian crude basket was made up of Middle Eastern crudes, with the remainder made up of North American crudes at around 14 per cent, West African crudes at around 12 per cent, and Latin American crudes at around 5 per cent, with Russian grades accounting for only about 2 per cent.

Since the war began, West African crudes have become more expensive for Indian refiners because they are mostly Brent-linked and are being pulled in by European refineries that are running low on Russian crudes.

According to S&P Global data, the share of US crude in the Indian crude basket increased from 5-6 per cent in April to around 10 per cent in November last year.

In the last quarter of 2022, the US displaced Kuwait to become the fifth-largest oil supplier to India.

As per Vortexa, India imported just 36,255 barrels per day of crude oil from Russia in December 2021, compared to 1.05 million bpd from Iraq and 9,52,625 bpd from Saudi Arabia.

There were no imports from Russia in the following two months, but they resumed in March 2022, soon after the Ukraine war broke out in late February.

India imported 68,600 bpd of Russian oil in March 2022, which increased to 266,617 bpd in the following month and reached the

previous peak of 942,694 bpd in June 2022.

But in June 2022, Iraq was India's top supplier with 1.04 million bpd of oil. Russia, in that month, became India's second-biggest supplier. Imports dipped marginally in the following two months.

They stood at 876,396 bpd in September 2022 before rising to 935,556 bpd in October, according to Vortexa.

The Indian government has been vehemently defending its trade with Russia, saying it has to source oil from where it is the cheapest.

The government has previously indicated that oil companies will continue to buy oil from Russia outside the price cap.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on December 7 told the Rajya Sabha that Indian refiners will continue to look for the best deals in the interest of the country.

"We do not ask our companies to buy Russian oil. We ask our companies to buy oil (based on) what is the best option that they can get. Now, it depends on what the market throws up," he had said while replying to clarifications sought by MPs on his suo moto statement on foreign policy.

The companies will go after sources that are more competitive, Jaishankar had added.

"Please do understand it's not just we buy oil from one country. We buy oil from multiple sources, but it is a sensible policy to go where we get the best deal in the interests of the Indian people, and that is exactly what we are trying to do," he had said.

The executive body of the European Union has asked its 27 member countries to cap the price of Russian oil at USD 60 a barrel as part of the West's attempt to squeeze Moscow's oil revenues and limit its ability to wage war in Ukraine while keeping global prices and supplies steady.

From December 5, 2022, western shipping and insurance companies are prohibited from handling Russian oil sold above the price cap.

However, ships loaded with Russian oil before December 5 and unloaded at their destination before January 19, will not be subject to the price cap.

A top government official said India can continue to buy Russian oil if it can send ships, cover insurance and devise a mode of payment.

## Visits LOP ..... from page 1

tatives. Hon'ble Lt Governor took passage in ICGS Rajtarang and visited LOP Tillang Chaung.

Hon'ble Lt Governor inspected the facilities and interacted with personnel of A&N Police and Forest Department. He appreciated their hard work and commitment towards duty.

Tomorrow (Jan. 16), Hon'ble Lt Governor will hold meeting with PRI Members, Tribal Representatives, Govt. Officials and general public at EOC Hall at Kamorta at 9 am. On completion of the visit, Hon'ble Lt Governor will return to Port Blair in the afternoon tomorrow.

## Secretary..... from page 1

of Indian Army who retired from service on Jan. 14, 1953.

To mark the day, a felicitation function was organized by the Department of Art & Culture, A&N Administration at the historic National Memorial Cellular Jail in which about 40 Armed Forces Veterans were felicitated in recognition of their selfless devotion and exemplary service to the Nation. The Secretary (Art & Culture/Tourism), Shri Hari Kallikkat, IAS, as the chief guest felicitated the veterans by presenting them shawls and mementos.

Addressing the gathering, the Secretary (Art & Culture/Tourism) greeted the veterans and their family members on the occasion of Armed Forces Veterans Day. Appreciating the selfless devotion and exemplary service rendered by the veterans for the Country, the Secretary said, the citizens will ever remain indebted to the immense contribution of the veterans towards the Nation. The conduct

of the felicitation function in the National Memorial Cellular Jail premises has made the event a memorable one, the Secretary said.

Shri Vinayak Chamadia, IAS (Probationer) also felicitated the veterans by presenting them shawls and mementos.

In his address, Col. K V Cherian, VSM & Bar President, Ex Servicemen League said that 14th of January is commemorated as Armed Forces Veterans Day as a mark of respect and recognition for the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa.

Earlier, welcoming the chief guest and others present on the occasion, the Assistant Director, Art & Culture, Dr. Rashida Iqbal said, this Day is observed to pay tribute to the exemplary service rendered by the veterans to the Country. She also thanked all the veterans for accepting the invitation and gracing the felicitation function.

## MP demands..... from page-1

after serving 15 to 20 years in Defence Services. "Many youths of these Islands have raised to very high rank in Defence Forces to make Andaman proud while there are many Heroes of Andaman, who have made supreme sacrifice while protecting our country," he added.

The Member of Parliament added that for youths of Andaman and Nicobar Islands a job in Defence is not only a source of income but also a passion, for which they are highly motivated.

He pointed out that before 2019 Andaman and Nicobar Islands used to witness various recruitment drives in Andaman and Nicobar Islands conducted by Army, Air Force and sometime Indian Navy but since

2019 Islanders have not seen any 'major' recruitment drive for Army, Navy or Air Force.

The Member of Parliament informed the Hon'ble Defence Minister that the youths of Andaman and Nicobar islands are anxiously waiting for a job in the Defence Forces.

He added that unemployment is a major issue in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and regular recruitment drives by Armed Forces can solve this problem to a great extent.

Hence he requested the Hon'ble Defence Minister to conduct regular recruitment drives of Army, Navy and Air Force in A & N Islands, exclusively for youths of these Islands.

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## Manu Bhaker tops India's national shooting trials in 25m pistol



ANI, NEW DELHI: Manu Bhaker topped the women's 25m pistol event in India's national shooting trials held at Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi's Tughlakabad this week. The trials were held from January 8 and concluded on January 14.

The seven-day trials were split into two groups (Groups A and B). Indian shooters at the top of their game were in Group A, while shooters who qualified for open selection trials were in Group B.

The national squad will only be chosen from Group A shooters for the international and continental competitions given Olympic quotas in 2023.

Manu Bhaker, who was as-

signed to Group A, won the first trial qualifying with a total score of 581 points and a final score of 27. Chinki Yadav of Madhya Pradesh finished second with a final score of 21, while Esha Singh of Telangana took third place.

Bhaker, who won a gold medal at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, was equally consistent in the second trial and topped qualification with 590 points followed by a final score of 27. Abhidnya Ashok Patil came a close second with 26 points this time while Niveditha Nair finished third.

World champion Rudranksh Patil, who secured a Paris 2024 Olympic quota for

India in November, won the second Group A trial in the 10m air rifle, defeating Chain Singh 17-13 in the gold medal round. Patil had finished fourth in the qualification round while Chain was sixth. Rudranksh Patil also made it to the final of the first trial but was stunned by Lagad Saurav Gorakh in the final by a 17-9 scoreline.

Sift Kaur Samra bagged a double in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P), winning both finals in the trials against the country's top shooter in the category, Anjum Moudgil.

Mehuli Ghosh of West Bengal (women's 10m air rifle) won trial one and Ramita won the second trial in the same category.

London 2012 silver medalist Vijay Kumar, who is on a comeback trail, was pipped by Vijayveer Sindhu in the first men's 25m rapid-fire pistol trial. He did not make it to the top eight in the second trial which was won by Ankur Goel.

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the first men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) trial while the second was won by Akhil Sheoran.

## National award-winning film 'Toolsidas Junior' to be screened at Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival



ANI, NEW DELHI:

'Toolsidas Junior', the coming-of-age sports film which bagged the National Award, has been chosen for a screening at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival in the Children Focus Section.

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) in association with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival will be hosting the screening. The festival will take place from January 27 to January 31 in Mumbai.

With the expertise of the national-award winner Ashutosh Gowariker, the earnest, refreshing and heartwarming story of debutant director Mridul Toolsidass, 'Toolsidas Junior' ticks all the right boxes to be presented as an entertaining and impactful film.

'Toolsidas Junior' has already won two National Awards-Best Hindi Film and Special Mention in Child Actor Category for the leading child actor Varun Buddhadev.

Talking about the honour, the film's producer Ashutosh Gowariker shared, "It warms my heart to witness the phenomenal response to our film from not just the audience and critics but also the Government of India to have nominated Toolsidas Junior for the collaborative film festival with Shanghai Cooperation Organization. I am grateful to the

love and faith the audience has bestowed upon us to narrate inspiring stories that transcend boundaries and make a place in the hearts of the audience."

"It has been a dream run for me right from the inception. Not only was I blessed to collaborate with a maverick storyteller like Ashutosh Gowariker for my first-ever film but also narrate a story so close to my heart. The accolades and appreciation are the fruit of the blood and sweat put in by the entire team, I am grateful to have received such support and platforms for my debut project," Mridul Toolsidass said.

Marking the last film of late veteran actor Rajiv Kapoor, 'Toolsidas Junior' is the first sports film to highlight snooker and traces the story of a young boy determined to return the glory of his father.

Starring Sanjay Dutt and Varun Buddhadev along with the late Rajiv Kapoor, 'Toolsidas Junior' has been produced under the banner of Ashutosh Gowariker Production Limited (AGPPL), presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series and produced by Ashutosh Gowariker, Sunita Gowariker, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, and directed and written by Mridul Toolsidass.

## Special camps for issuance of Birth Certificate (0-5 Yrs.) to enable Aadhaar enrollment

Port Blair, Jan 13: The Directorate of Health Services in association with Department of So-

cial Welfare will be conducting special camps to cover all the left out children (0-5) yrs for is-

suance of Birth Certificate to enable Aadhaar enrollment as per the schedule given below:

Sl. No.	Date & Time	Venue
1	17.01.2023 (9 am to 3 pm)	Health & Wellness Centre Haddo
2	18.01.2023 (9 am to 3 pm)	Health & Wellness Centre Delanipur
3	19.01.2023 (9 am to 3 pm)	Health & Wellness Centre Junglighat
4	20.01.2023 (9 am to 3 pm)	Health & Wellness Centre Dairy Farm
5	21.01.2023 (9 am to 3 pm)	Health & Wellness Centre Shadipur
6	All working days	Office Of The Chief Registrar of Births & Deaths (CRBD), Atlanta Point, Port Blair

All concerned parents have been requested to avail the above facility to obtain the Birth

Certificate of their for Aadhaar enrollment. For further information, the general public may con-

tact Shri ML Peter, Registrar of Births & Deaths, DHS on 03192-232732, 9474220055, 9933268811.

## 68 killed as passenger..... from page-4

rescue due to the difficult terrain.

He said, "We are trying to rescue as quickly as possible. But there is a problem due to geographical difficulties."

After the aircraft crashed in the center of Pokhara, a crowd gathered around the accident site. Spokesman Khadka said that this has hampered the res-

cue process.

He said, "There is a crowd of thousands. Due to the crowd, there has been a problem in the rescue as even the ambulance and fire brigade has been hindered."

Nepal has had a fraught record of aviation accidents, partly due to its sudden weather changes and airstrips located in hard-to-access rocky terrains.

The last major air accident in Nepal happened on May 29 when all 22 people onboard, including four members of an Indian family, were killed as a Tara Air plane crashed in Nepal's mountainous Mustang district.

In 2016, all 23 people aboard were killed when a plane of the same airline flying the same route crashed after takeoff.

In March 2018, a US-Bangla

Air crash occurred at the Tribhuvan International Airport, killing 51 people on board.

A Sita Air flight crashed in September 2012 while making an emergency landing at the Tribhuvan International Airport, killing 19 people.

A plane flying from Pokhara to Jomsom crashed near Jomsom airport on May 14, 2012, killing 15 people.

## Hands-free greetings

