

REVERBERATION

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

79th Anniversary of Hoisting of National Tri-colour by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose celebrated Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Hon'ble Lt. Governor hoist National Flag amidst patriotic fervor at Flag Point

Port Blair, Dec 30

The 79th anniversary of the hoisting of the National Tri-colour for the first time on the Indian Soil by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was celebrated today. It was on this day i.e. December 30, 1943, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had hoisted the National Tri-Colour for the first time at Port Blair, declaring the Islands, the first Indian Territory freed from the British rule.

To mark the Day, a State Level function was organized by the Department of Art and Culture at Flag Point this morning, in which the Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati P. Pawar and Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chair-

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PMEGP scheme - generating employment opportunities in rural & urban areas

Port Blair, Dec. 31

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) has conveyed some modifications in the existing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme. The main objective of the PMEGP scheme is to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises. The maximum cost of the project/unit admissible for margin money subsidy under manufacturing sector has been increased from Rs. 25 lakhs to

Rs. 50 lakhs whereas the same has been increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs for Services/trading sector with a Govt. Subsidy upto 35% of the total project cost.

Any individual above 18 years of age is eligible to avail the benefits under the scheme with minimum educational qualification of VIII pass for projects above Rs.10 lakhs under manufacturing and above Rs.5 lakh under services / trading sector.

Along with the other existing activities under the services sector, financial assistance can also be availed under PMEGP scheme for few more activities like dairy, poultry, aquaculture

and sericulture including bees.

An additional component namely expanding/upgrading the existing unit set up under PMEGP/REGP/MUDRA has

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Lt. Governor, others pay glowing tributes to departed souls at Tsunami Memorial

Port Blair, Dec. 26

Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Vice-Chairman Islands Development Agency, Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.) today led the Islanders in paying homage to those who lost their lives in the devastating Tsunami of 2004.

At a solemn function organized by A&N Administration on the occasion of 18th Anniversary of Tsunami at the Tsunami Memorial at Water Sports Complex, the Lt. Governor

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18th round of HIV Sentinel Surveillance to begin from Jan. 1



Port Blair, Dec. 31

The 18th Round of HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) 2022-23 will be carried out in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from 1st January, 2023 to 31st March, 2023 along with the rest of the country. Surveillance is an on-

going, systematic collection, analysis interpretation and dissemination of data regarding a health related event for the use in public health action to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve health. The

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Secretary (SW) inaugurates four Anganwadi Centers at Diglipur

Diglipur, Dec. 29:

The Secretary (Social Welfare), A & N Administration, Smt. Smitha.R, IAS inaugurated four Anganwadi Centers viz. Khudirampur V under Gram Panchayat Diglipur, Shyamnagar RP under Gram Panchayat Radhanagar, Sitanagar V under Gram Panchayat Sitanagar and Kalighat 6 F under Gram Panchayat Kalighat. During the event, Shri Anuj Kumar Bharti, Assistant Com-

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EDITORIAL

Banks bear brunt of IBC's quick resolutions

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was expected to vastly improve recovery for banks and reduce the time taken to resolve default cases. Six years later, the government and regulators have shifted the goalposts. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India in its Financial Stability Report said that recovery through resolutions should not be compared with claims submitted by banks. Instead, they should be compared with the liquidation value of the company undergoing resolution. This after recoveries from resolution processes through IBC have fallen drastically to 30.7% (as of September 30, 2022). Before IBC came into force, average recoveries were 26% and the time taken for resolution was four years. The banking and insolvency regulators, which once hailed the IBC as the biggest reform (bigger than GST) of our times, are now finding it difficult to explain the massive haircuts banks are taking to resolve cases of NPAs through the IBC. With an average recovery rate of 30%, banks lose 70% of the debt given to these companies. This is not the pretty picture one had expected when IBC was implemented.

The pace of resolution has indeed increased, with the average time taken for resolution coming down from four years to 561 days. But early resolutions have come at a cost. In many cases, banks have taken haircuts of 90–95%. In many cases where financial or operational creditors have raised their voices against such low recoveries, courts and tribunals have silenced them, saying they cannot question the “commercial wisdom” of the committee of financial creditors. But there is a sense of unease among many stakeholders—so much so that a Parliamentary finance committee even floated the idea of a ‘threshold’ for a haircut. The idea of a threshold below which banks can’t take haircuts is not the most rational solution, but it shows that the concern over low recovery rates under IBC is very palpable.

Resolution through IBC has seen many success stories in the form of the turnaround of companies like Essar Steel, Monnet Ispat, Alok Industries, DHFL, etc. Still, banks have lost lakhs of crores in the transition of these companies. And with the latest narrative—recoveries should be judged vis-à-vis liquidation value—it seems the authorities have convinced themselves they cannot expect better results from IBC.

Admission to vacant seat in two years B.Ed. Degree Prog. of TGCE

Port Blair, Dec. 29

The counseling for admission to vacant seat under Category V in Chemistry will be held on 3rd January, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the College. Eligible candidates who have already applied for the course and are desirous of availing the above

seat have been directed to attend the counseling on the above-mentioned date and time. Those who fail to attend the counseling session in time, will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate available will be considered for admission.

Hon'ble MoS (Health & FW) visits RMRC-ICMR Inaugurates Genomic Sequencing Laboratory & Immunology Laboratory at RMRC



Port Blair, Dec. 29

Dr Bharati P.Pawar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare visited RMRC-ICMR, Port Blair today. Dr P. Vijayachari, Director, RMRC, Port Blair briefed the Minister about the functioning of the institution in the presence of all scientists and representative from DHS. During the interaction, Hon'ble MoS was also briefed about the background and achievements of RMRC, Port Blair. She was informed that RMRC, Port Blair is the WHO Collaborative Laboratory for Leptospirosis and the

lone laboratory for SEAR. She was also informed about the reduction of malaria cases in Southern group of Islands due to continuous efforts of RMRC along with the support of DHS, ANTRI, Directorate of Tribal Welfare, A&N Administration.

The elimination of Filariasis is from Nicobar District is the key achievement of RMRC, Port Blair using novel strategy Double Fortified Salt (DEC and Iodine) as supplement to ongoing MDA. Research on tribal health is the highest priority of RMRC, Port Blair and vari-

ous research programmes are being carried out on this tribal community from time to time with special reference to health and the nutritional status of the PVTGs.

Later, Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the Genomic Sequencing Laboratory at RMRC, Port Blair, paving the way for gene sequencing of COVID-19 along with other viruses at the local level in near future after getting registered with the DBT. Presently, all the gene sequencing samples are being sent to NIV, Pune which takes much longer time for obtaining result. She also visited the BSL 3, leptospirosis and various laboratories and appreciated the efforts made by the Centre. She also inaugurated the Immunology Laboratory in the same campus.

Hon'ble Minister expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the RMRC, Port Blair and also appreciated the achievements of the organization.

Residents of A&N Islands urged to download MAUSAM App & Damini Lightning App to get timely information

Port Blair, Dec. 28

Andaman & Nicobar Islands are prone to Geological and Hydro-meteorological disasters. These Islands also falls in cyclogenesis zone and significant number of cyclones gets generated every year in the Andaman Sea. Heavy rainfall due to monsoon leads to localized flooding also occurs frequently in low lying areas. To provide localised information about such Natural Phenomena various mobile applications have been developed.

79th anniversary... from page-1

man, Islands Development Agency hoisted the National Flag amidst patriotic fervour. The Flag hoisting function was attended among others by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Shri Nikhil Kumar, Adhyaksha, ZPSA, Smt. Pramila Kumari, Chairperson PBMC, Smt. Kavitha Udhaya Kumar, Senior Officers of A&N Administration, prominent citizens, tourists and general public.



MAUSAM App

MAUSAM, a Mobile App of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is providing seamless and user-friendly access to weather products avail-



DAMINI LIGHTNING App

able on <https://mausam.ind.gov.in/>. Users can access observed weather forecasts, radar images and be proactively warned of impending weather events.

Damini Lightning Apps has also been developed by IITM-Pune and ESSO where monitoring of all lightning activity happening specifically in India and alert is generated, if lightning happens nearby through GPS notification under 20KM and 40KM.

All residents of A&N Islands have been requested to download the MAUSAM App and Damini Lightning App from the Google Play Store or IOS and install the same in mobiles to get timely information.

Firing practice by CG Dornier

Port Blair, Dec. 30 :

Firing practice by CG Dornier will be carried out on Jan. 3, 6, 9, 17, 20, 23 & 31, 2023 from 1 pm to 3 pm. Safe flying height is above 6000 feet AMSL. All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their vessels/fishing boat away from the firing range during the above mentioned date and time, a notification issued by DM (SA) said.

Today the world sees India as a country which contributes to solving global problems: Jaishankar



PTI, NICOSIA, Dec 31:

External Affairs minister S Jaishankar has said that India is seen today as a strong economy and a country which contributes to solving the world's problems.

Addressing the Indian diaspora in Cyprus on Friday, Jaishankar said there is a lot of expectation from the world from India.

Today, "India is seen as a strong economy, as a country which contributes to solving the problems" being faced by the world.

"We are seen as a country which is independent, and has the courage to stand up when it has to stand up. We have the ability to get people around the table at one time," he said.

Jaishankar, who was on the last leg of his first official visit to Cyprus, said India will handle the G20 Presidency in a way to make the world understand and appreciate the diver-

sity of the country even more.

India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1.

The minister stressed how Indians living abroad and visiting the country after a gap of three-four years are going to see a "changed" India.

"Covid had been a tough experience. We have not just dealt with Covid but come out of the pandemic with a better health system, better delivery system, better social-digital delivery, with a safety net, whether its financial or food support," he said.

"That era in India where people were left to look after themselves is today behind us and people living abroad must appreciate and understand that change," he underlined.

Jaishankar said India did economic reforms in various sectors.

The big reforms included cleaning the banking system, changing credit policy, support

to the service sector, small and medium-scale business, labour reforms, and education reforms.

Jaishankar said from the time the Narendra Modi government came to power (in 2014), it has made it very clear that "Indians abroad have been a great source of strength to the motherland".

In the last seven or eight years, wherever Indians in the world were in difficulty, the Indian government was there for their help, the minister stressed.

"This has been a complete transformation as to how embassies and high commissions do think about Indian citizens abroad. What was earlier an effort or exceptional has today become a system," he said.

"I want to tell you that today going around the world, I am not just representing a stronger country, a bigger economy, an influential polity, but also a nation that cares for its citizen, that will do whatever it has to do to protect them, which will look at their interest when they live abroad, prepared to take up their interests in difficult circumstances.

"It's essential to maintain and grow your credibility as a country that counts in the international order. I hope all of you share this optimism about India," Jaishankar added.

Politicians, others visit Koregaon-Bhima for annual event; Chandrakant Patil gives it a miss

PTI, PUNE, Dec 31:

Hundreds of people including political leaders visited Jaystambh military monument in Maharashtra's Pune district on Sunday to mark the 205th anniversary of the Koregaon-Bhima battle amid heavy security deployed at the venue in view of violence near it on January 1, 2018.

Pune Guardian Minister Chandrakant Patil, however, did not visit the memorial to avoid any untoward incident, citing an ink attack threat to him if he went to there.

Last month, ink was thrown at Patil during an event in Pimpri town of Pune district in an apparent protest against his controversial remark about Dr B R Ambedkar and social



reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule.

As per the Dalit narrative, British forces that fought the Peshwas at Koregaon Bhima on January 1, 1818, comprised largely of soldiers from the Dalit Mahar community, who waged

a war for freedom from 'casteism' of the Peshwas.

Every year on this day, a large number of people, mainly from the Dalit community, visit the Jaystambh (victory pillar) which was erected by the British

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NIA registers 'all-time high' 73 terror cases in 2022: Official data



PTI, NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) registered an "all-time high" of 73 cases in 2022 even as it is working to undertake a "whole of ecosystem" approach to dismantle the terrorist networks that aim to harm India, officials said Saturday.

They also said that the agency was "pressing on the pedal" to get extradited gangster Goldy Brar, the prime accused in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

There were reports of his detention in the US recently but agency sources said those were "unconfirmed" reports. An Interpol arrest warrant is alive against him, and his visa in Canada has expired. Efforts are on to get him back to India to face the law, they said.

The federal anti-terrorist investigation agency has released the year-end figures of its action saying the cases filed by it under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and some other IPC sections covered a spectrum of crimes, including 'Jihadi terror', gangster-terror-drug smugglers nexus, terrorist funding, and FIRs against the now banned Islamic organisation PFI or the Popular Front of India.

"The NIA has registered 73 cases in 2022 which is a 19.67 per cent increase from the 61 cases registered in 2021 and is an all-time high for the agency," a spokesperson for the agency said. On average, about 60 cases were filed by the agency in 2019 and 2020, officials said.

Among the cases registered this year include 35 cases of 'Jihadi' terror in J&K, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal, 10 cases related to Left Wing Extremism (LWE), five cases related to insurgents in the north-east, seven cases related to the PFI, three cases of gangster-ter-

ror-drug smuggler nexus, one case of terror funding, and two related to fake Indian currency notes (FICN), the spokesperson said.

The agency also filed a total of 59 chargesheets against 368 persons during the year, as per official data.

"Judgements have been pronounced in 38 cases in 2022, all of which have ended in conviction. 109 persons have been convicted to rigorous imprisonment and fine and six life sentences have also been awarded," the data said.

The overall conviction rate for the agency currently stands at 94.39 per cent, it said.

Officials said the agency was working on an "ecosystem kind of approach" and working in coordination with other central probe agencies and state organisations so that the entire terrorist infrastructure is dismantled.

"It is the vision of the Union home minister (Amit Shah) that the NIA should undertake an 'agency-like approach' and not just like a police station. This approach, like the FBI of the US, mandates a wider and extensive approach towards terror crimes and its modus operandi," a senior NIA officer said.

The agency, created in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has also increased its "geographical footprints" within the country as its branches have gone up to 18 now and this is expected to touch the two dozen mark by the next year, the officer said.

We are getting more manpower and looking to establish two full-fledged verticals to tackle cyber terrorism and human trafficking, he said.

The agency officials said the NIA was also registering "offshoot cases" where terrorist links emerge during the course of investigation by the

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'Support for acquisition of Deep Sea Fishing vessels for traditional fishermen' in A&N Islands under PMMSY

Port Blair, Dec. 28

The Department of Fisheries, A & N Administration proposes to implement the components 'Support for Acquisition of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels (FRP/Steel) for Traditional Fishermen' of A & N Islands during the year 2022-23 under PMMSY.

The component on Assistance for Acquisition of Deep Sea Fishing (FRP/ Steel) for Traditional Fishermen envisages subsidy @ 40% of the unit cost (120 Lakh.) with a ceiling of Rs. 48.00 lakh for General Category and @ 60% with a ceiling of Rs. 72.00 lakh for Schedule Tribe / Women and their Cooperative Societies towards support for acquisition of deep sea fishing (FRP/ Steel) vessels for traditional fishermen.

Applications in prescribed format including Self Contained DPR (two sets) have been invited from Traditional / Artisanal Fishermen/ Fisher Women and their Societies / Associations/ SHGs/ FFPOs for 'Support for Acquisition of Deep Sea Fishing (FRP/ Steel) vessels for traditional fishermen' in A&N Islands.

The applicant should be a Traditional / Artisanal fishermen and their Societies/ Associations / SHGs / FPOs. Beneficiary should possess valid Ownership Certificate, Registration Certificate under the ReAL

Craft, Fishing License and Biometric ID Cards of Fishers/QR coded Aadhaar Card.

The Government assistance is restricted to 1 unit per individual beneficiary; 2 units per group/society (of at least 10 members) in case of Groups of Traditional/Artisanal Fishermen i.e. Traditional/ Artisanal Fishermen SHGs /Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) / Traditional/Artisanal Fisher Cooperatives etc. or those undertaken in a cluster/area approach. However, a cluster/area may have multiple groups/societies. As far as FFPOs/Cs are concerned, the modalities of implementation and upper ceiling on the total units eligible for support would be decided by the CAC.

The vessel should have onboard machineries/fishing equipment including refrigerated storage facilities for undertaking deep sea tuna long lining and gill netting. Appropriate communication systems, AIS/transponders and other navigational equipment for safe navigation etc., as per the relevant regulations/guidelines are mandatory onboard the vessels.

Deep sea fishing vessel should be considered as an alternative for replacement of the existing bottom trawler and the State/UT shall ensure suitable disposal of old fishing boat (against which new one is re-

placed).

Beneficiaries should submit Self Contained Proposal (SCP) with relevant techno-financial details of the vessel. Installation of Bio-toilet shall be mandatory within the project cost.

The selected beneficiaries should construct Deep Sea Fishing Vessel (FRP/Steel) only through the boat building yards empanelled by Department of Fisheries, A & N Administration and Ministry of Fisheries & Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India i.e. M/s Samundra Ship Yard Pvt. Limited for FRP DSFV and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for Steel DSFV respectively.

Interested applicants may contact the Directorate of Fisheries, Port Blair, Zonal Fisheries Offices, South Andaman/ N & M Andaman and Nicobar or nearest Fisheries Sub Stations for detailed terms & conditions of the scheme and design, drawing FRP/ Steel Deep Sea Fishing Vessel. They should submit the applications in prescribed format along with relevant documents to the respective Zonal Offices/Sub Stations. The completed applications in all respect should reach the nearest Fisheries Zonal Office / Sub-Stations on or before 31st December, 2022, a press release from Directorate of Fisheries said.

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

Port Blair, Jan 1

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.

- Mela vibes which is an ode to unique & colourful nature of Indian fairs .
- Chatori Gully which celebrates best mela food.
- Mela Faces which captures the happy faces / portraits from fair visits.
- 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.

Health Advisory for COVID-19

A new variant of COVID-19 is spreading in some countries. The UT of A&N Islands has taken many measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and there is no need to panic. The people can join hands to prevent the transmission of disease in the UT by adopting the following measures:

DO's

- Do not panic.
- Don't pay heed to rumors.
- Wear mask in all crowded places including schools, colleges, hospitals, markets, cinema etc.
- Wash your hands and face at regular intervals with soap and water or use alcohol based sanitizer for cleaning hands.
- Sneeze and cough either into your elbow or into tissue paper / handkerchief.

After coughing or sneezing dispose of the tissue paper/ wash your handkerchief.

- Ensure proper nutrition including fresh fruits, vegetables & plenty of fluids and exercise to boost immunity.
- Clean the frequently touched surfaces with disinfectant regularly.
- Those who have symptoms of fever, body ache, sore throat, abdominal discomfort or any other untoward symptoms, isolate yourself at home for about 7 days and seek medical advice. They must initiate symptomatic treatment at the earliest to prevent any complications.

DON'Ts

- Do not cough or sneeze into your bare hands or without covering your face.
- Don't go near your contacts if you are suffering from fever and cough.
- Don't touch your eyes, face, nose and tongue.
- Don't go near affected/ sick people .
- Don't self-medicate.
- Don't go to crowded places like parks, markets and religious places.
- Don't go out unless it is absolutely essential.

A&N Administration is fully prepared to tackle any untoward situation. No need to panic.

"Stay Healthy and Stay Safe"

Awareness camp on fish health management and disease identification held

Port Blair, Dec. 31

A series of awareness camp and dissemination of information regarding Fish Health Disease Identification, Management and precautionary measure were held in Billiground and VS Pally Nagar, Diglipur under North and Middle Andaman. The programme was jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration and Central Islands Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair.

In the programme held at Billiground on Dec.26, more than 50 Fish farmers and villagers were imparted information on the subject. Dr. K. Saravanan, Scientist, Division of Fisheries Science, ICAR-CIARI was the resource person of the programme along with Shri Sarath Menon, Sub-In-



spector of Fisheries, Fisheries Sub-Station Billiground. Similar camp was held at VS Pally Nagar, Diglipur on Dec.28 in which more than 30 Fish farmers attended the programme.

The main objective of the

programme was to educate fish farmers on various disease identification and their prophylactic measures. The programme was coordinated by Shri Tapan Kumar Biswas, Asst. Director of Fisheries, N&M Andaman.

Secretary (SW) inaugurates.....

missioner, Diglipur, Executive Engineer, APWD and PRI members along with community people were present. Smt. Indira Devi, Child Development

Project Officer, Diglipur welcomed the gathering and explained about the services provided by AWCs.

The Secretary (SW) inter-

from page-1

acted with the beneficiaries and the PRI members. She appreciated the Nutrigarden developed by the AWWs & AWHs which will help to provide proper nour-

ishment to the children and other beneficiaries. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by PRI members.

Team of PS Mayabunder & Diglipur cracks bike theft case; one arrested



Diglipur, Dec. 30

The team of PS Mayabunder & Diglipur has once again cracked a theft case within 3 hours of registration and arrested the accused & recovered the stolen bike. A criminal case U/S 379 IPC was

registered at PS Mayabunder on the complaint of Shri A.J. Ajay Nair, S/o Ajit Nair, R/o Webi, Mayabunder on theft of his motorcycle AN-01 K-2816.

All the Police Stations of North and Middle Andaman District was alerted. The same

information was further disseminated to the informers of Police, mechanic shop and workers of fuel outlet. Due to swift and timely action by the Police, an information was received at PS Diglipur that one person namely Suroj Mazumder hurled down the stolen motorcycle at the Govt. Petrol Pump, Diglipur and escaped from there.

Soon Police team of PS Diglipur reached the Petrol pump and recovered the stolen bike and after an exhaustive search of two hours the Police staffs of Diglipur succeeded in apprehension of the accused namely Suroj Mazumder, S/o Ravi Mazumder (22) yrs, R/o Subash Gram, Diglipur behind the jungle of his house.

Lt. Governor from page-1



placed wreath and offered floral tributes at the Memorial. This was followed by offering of floral tributes by the First Lady of these Islands, Smt. Chitra Joshi, the Chief Secretary, A&N Islands, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, Adhyaksha, ZPSA, Smt. Pramila Kumari, DGP, Shri Neeraj Thakur, Chairperson,

PBMC, Smt. U Kavitha, Councillors of PBMC, Senior Officers of A&N Administration, prominent citizens, school students and general public. An all Religions Prayer Meeting (Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha) and a two-minute silence were observed to remember those who lost their lives in the devastating Tsunami.

A&N Administration revises Minimum Wages across the Islands from Jan.1, 2023

Port Blair, Dec. 29:

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has re-

vised Minimum Wages across Andaman & Nicobar Islands w.e.f 1st January, 2023. The

revised wages for various categories of employees are as under:

Category Of employees	Minimum wage per day
Unskilled	Rs. 529/-
Semi Skilled/ unskilled Supervisory	Rs. 586/-
Skilled/Clerical	Rs. 671/-
Highly Skilled	Rs. 729/-

Any violation of Minimum Wage shall be viewed seriously and penal action against violators as per Sec.22 of Minimum Wages Act

1948 shall be initiated. All Establishments have been asked to ensure that the Minimum Wages are paid to the workers. The workers and Unions have

also been requested to file any such violation in writing to Labour Commissioner in this matter.

PMEGP scheme..... from page 1

been added, wherein the units already setup under PMEGP/ REGP/ MUDRA and performing very well in terms of turnover, profit making and loan repayment will be eligible for availing further financial assistance of up to Rs.1 crore for Manufacturing units and up to Rs. 25 lakhs for service/trading units through banks with uniform subsidy of 15% by the Government.

For further details, inter-

ested candidates may visit the Office of the A&N Islands Khadi & Village Industries Board, District Industries Centre, Udyog Parisar Complex, Middle Point, Port Blair. Residents of Inter Islands may contact the nearest Extension Offices of the Industries Department at Diglipur, Bakultala, Hutbay, Car Nicobar and Campbell Bay, a press release from ANIKVIB said.

Politicians, others visit from page 3

in memory of the soldiers who fought against the Peshwas in the battle of Koregaon Bhima.

Violence had broken out near Koregaon Bhima village during the 200th commemoration of the historical battle on January 1, 2018 in which one person was killed and many others injured.

According to police, "provocative speeches" made at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune city a day before had triggered the violence.

On Sunday, a large number of people gathered at the victory pillar, decorated with

flowers and lights, located in Perne village on Pune-Ahmednagar Road amid heavy police security.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president Prakash Ambedkar and Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sushma Andhare were among those who visited the memorial.

However, Pune Guardian Minister Chandrakant Patil did not visit the memorial to avoid any untoward incident there.

The minister in a press statement said, "I have received threat of an ink attack on me if I visit the memorial. I am walking

on the path of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts, thus I am even ready to take bullets on my chest. However, some people wish that there should be an untoward incident or communal riots there. As scores of people go there with lot of devotion, their safety and security is important for me. So, I have decided not to go there," he added.

The district administration has made elaborate arrangements, including of parking facilities, toilets, water and bus services, for people visiting the memorial.

NIA registers 'all-time..... from page 3

state police or any other central agency.

It is part of our new standard operating procedure (SOP) that we get associated with any terror-like case from the beginning so that if it comes to us at a later stage, we are aware of its track, the evidence, and other inputs, they said.

The agency was also un-

dertaking investigations that have cross-border ramifications and require the sleuths to travel to that country.

"For such probes, the NIA takes the help of the ministry of home and external affairs and we have, and we would, travel to those countries where our investigations are linked to," they said.

As per the official data, the NIA arrested 456 people this year including 19 absconders.

Two accused were arrested upon deportation and one accused after extradition, it said.

In 2022, eight persons were designated as individual terrorists under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the data said.

18th round of HIV..... from page-1

Antenatal Clinic cites include Antenatal Clinic, G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair; Antenatal Clinic, CHC Rangat (Composite Site); Antenatal Clinic, BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar (Composite Site) and Antenatal Clinic, PHC Garacharma, Port Blair (Composite Site).

The 18th Round of HIV Sentinel Surveillance will be conducted throughout the Islands under the supervision of three teams, i.e. Central, Regional & State Level which comprises of expertise from WHO, UNAIDS and other National & International agencies who will provide continuous support and guidance.

For successful implementation of surveillance system, capacity building of facility level staff was conducted during the two days State Level Training for HSS Site Personnel of ICTC Medical Officer In-charge, Counselors, Laboratory Technicians and other facility Staff in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Industries, Middle Point

on Dec.27 & 28, 2022. The training programme was inaugurated by the chief guest, Dr. Munni Singhania, Director of Health Services (DHS), A & N Administration.

In her address, the chief guest remarked that HIV Sentinel Surveillance has been the basis for tracking of HIV/AIDS since its inception and it has been the mainstay of epidemic monitoring among ANC, High Risk Group and Bridge population under the National AIDS and STD Control Programme.

Earlier, Shri K. Sankar Rao, AD (M&E), Focal Person HSS welcomed the gathering and briefed about the objectives of HSS. Dr. Shahina Mustaqim (Microbiologist) and Dr. P. K. Sikdar also addressed the participants.

Dr. Subrata Biswas, Project Coordinator (HSS), NICED-ICMR, Kolkata; Dr. Shahina Mustaqim, Sr. Microbiologist, ANIIMS, GB Pant Hospital were the resource persons. Certificates were distributed to the trainees.

Saina Nehwal among shuttlers to skip BAC 2023 trials



PTI, NEW DELHI:

Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Saina Nehwal is among shuttlers who will be skipping the national badminton trials for the Asian Mixed Team Championships, to be held in Dubai from February 14 to 19.

Former world number 1 Saina was named along with Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod for the trials.

The senior selection committee named them to pick the second women's singles player who will join double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu in the squad for the Asian meet.

However, Saina and Malvika both decided to skip the trials.

"Saina and Malvika have informed BAI about their unavailability for the trials. Hence, Ashmita Chaliha has been invited to the trials. There are few other pullouts as well," a Badminton Association of India (BAI) source told PTI.

With both Saina and

Malvika not available, it will be a fight between Aakarshi and Ashmita.

Saina endured a tough 2022, battling multiple injuries and a lack of form that saw her slump to world number 31.

The 32-year-old had skipped the selection trials for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in April last year to manage her workload after returning from three weeks of European events.

The selection committee has decided to give singles players Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, PV Sindhu and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Ranikreddy and Chirag Shetty direct entry into the squad based on their superior world rankings.

The committee, which had a virtual meeting on December 25, decided to pick the rest of the 14-member team in a trial, which has now been turned into a one-day affair following the unavailability of players.

It is also learnt that MR

Arjun has suffered an injury and will not be available for the trials, making the race for the men's doubles spot a knockout contest between Krishna Prasad Garga-Vishnuvardhan Goud P and Ishaan Bhatnagar-Sai Patheek K.

The winner will join Satwik and Chirag in the team.

Former Commonwealth Games bronze medallist pairing of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will also be not available for the trials as they parted ways a few months back.

There are two spots at stake in women's doubles, with world number 17 pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand being the frontrunners.

The other two pairs in the trials are Ashwini Bhatt and Shikha Gautam, and Haritha Manazhiyil and Ashna Roy.

In mixed doubles, it will be a choice between Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto and the new pair of Rohan Kapoor and Sikki Reddy for one spot.

Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships will be the third edition of the biennial event.

The 2021 edition was scheduled to be held in Wuhan, China but was called off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India lost to Thailand 2-3 in the quarterfinals in 2017 and failed to qualify for the knockout stage in 2019.

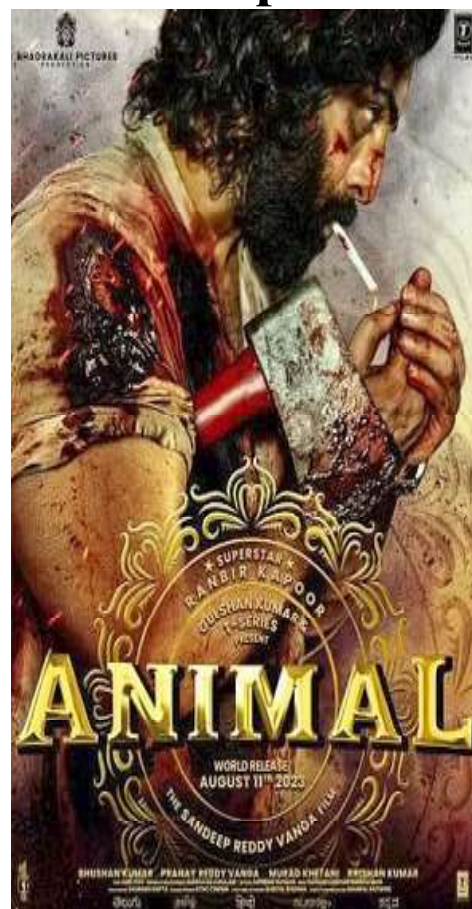
Ranbir Kapoor sports fierce look in 'Animal' poster

PTI, MUMBAI:

The makers of Ranbir Kapoor's "Animal" have released the Bollywood star's first look from the much-anticipated crime drama directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga.

Vanga is best known for his 2019 Bollywood directorial debut "Kabir Singh", a remake of his 2017 Telugu hit "Arjun Reddy".

"Animal" is produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar's T-Series, Murad Khetani's Cine1 Studios and



Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures.

The makers unveiled the first look of Kapoor on their official social media handles at midnight.

The actor is seen in a rugged avatar, holding an axe and lighting a cigarette.

"We are happy to unveil the first glimpse to the audience.

Ranbir's look in the poster very well justifies the gist of

the film and we're confident that the audience will witness a film that they deserve," the producers said in a joint statement.

"Animal" also stars Anil Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol and Tripti Dimri in pivotal roles.

The film is scheduled to be released countrywide in five languages — Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada.

Rishabh Pant recovering, likely to miss Australia Tests

AFP, NEW DELHI:

Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant is in "high spirits" and recovering from surgery after his horror car crash but will likely miss the upcoming Test series against Australia, media reports said Sunday.

The star wicketkeeper-batsman suffered several injuries when his Mercedes SUV crashed into the median before dawn on Friday as he was travelling alone from New Delhi to his hometown Roorkee, a few hours north of the Indian capital.

His car immediately caught fire and the 25-year-old was rescued by a bus driver and conductor on the highway.

Pant "is in high spirits and responding well to treatment..."

He underwent a plastic surgery on his left eyebrow where he suffered a cut in the accident," Shyam Sharma of the Delhi and District Cricket Association told The Times of India.

The cricketer also suffered a ligament injury in his right knee, hurt his wrist, ankle, and has abrasion injuries on his back, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement.

Sharma said the BCCI was monitoring Pant's treatment and was in "constant touch" with his medical team.

"As far as the ligament injury in his right knee is concerned, he will take some time to recover. He will be provided the best possible treatment," he added.

A BCCI staffer quoted by

the Press Trust of India news agency said Pant faced a prolonged absence from competitive cricket and would likely miss the four-Test Australia series at home starting February 9.

A maverick batsman, Pant is the mainstay of the Test squad and has played a key role in some of India's most memorable wins in the last three years.

But his white-ball form has been inconsistent lately and Pant was left out of the squad for the T20 and ODI tour by Sri Lanka starting next week.

The wicketkeeper's omission came days after his match-winning innings of 93 in the second Test against Bangladesh, helping India secure a 2-0 series whitewash.

Fans and members of India's cricket fraternity have expressed shock at the news and wished Pant a speedy recovery.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday he was distressed by the accident and had prayed for



Pant's good health.

Bus driver Sushil Kumar and his conductor, who helped

Pant out of his car, have been hailed as heroes for their response to the near-fatal crash.