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 Avoid touching your face

**Thought for today**  
**Everybody is attracted by beauty and quality. It is rare quality to help the ugly and unqualified.**

## Blood Donation Camp by SNM

Port Blair, Oct 29: The Sant Nirankari Mandal (SNM), Branch Port Blair will be organizing their 22nd BLOOD DONATION CAMP at Sant Nirankari Sansang Bhawan, Junglighat, Port Blair, A&N Islands on 31.10.2021 (Sunday) from 1000 hrs. onwards. Mr. Kuldeep Singh, from Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi (H.O.) will be chief guest on this occasion. The function will also be attended by the Zonal In-charge Rev. Mohan Prasad Shaw, Kolkata Zone, West Bengal. All the islanders are cordially welcome to attend the camp for this noble cause, a release said.

## Despite lifting of ban, high prices of chewable tobacco prevails in retail markets

Port Blair, Oct 29: Even as the administration has lifted the ban on chewable tobacco in these islands, consumers have no respite from the prices in retail market that shot up during the period of prohibition. As per reports, since the ban imposed on chewable tobacco was imposed by the administration to contain spread of COVID-19, prices of tobacco soared in the black market. Tobacco available at appointed prices earlier was being sold in black for around Rs 800/- per box or Rs 50/- per pan. Before the ban was imposed, zarda pan was available for Rs 20/- . Ban imposed had led to surge in prices. People use e code words to procure zarda pan which shopkeepers kept ready available in their shops. But even after the ban was lifted, consumers have no respite from the surging prices. Retailers have opted to stick with the prices that prevailed during the period of ban and consumers are bearing the brunt. The Administration should take a strong note of the situation and issue necessary directives to the law enforcing agencies to ensure strict compliance of retail prices of chewable tobacco," said some residents of Delanpur.

In August this year, the District Magistrate of South Andaman had lifted the ban on chewable tobacco products in view of steady decline in the positive cases of COVID-19. The ban order was withdrawn with immediate effect for the time being and the same shall be reviewed if the situation in near future demands for the same. To contain the spread of positive cases of COVID-19 in the District an Order No. 883 dt. 15th July 2021 was issued in view of the surge in the positive cases of COVID-19 in the islands, prohibiting the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale on all forms of processed/ flavoured/ scented chewing tobacco, whether going by the name of Gukta, Pan Masala, Zarda packed and unpacked/ loose etc., which contain tobacco and/or nicotine as ingredient in the entire District of South Andaman till further orders in the interest of public health.

## Expedite works to put MV Sindhu into service: MP



Port Blair, Oct 29: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary to press MV Sindhu in service, after rectifying all technical glitches, for the convenience of general public. In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration, the Member of Parliament mentioned that people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been waiting very anxiously for MV Sindhu vessel since last many years but due to some technical glitches the ship has not been put into service yet. He added that people of various islands were hoping that the new ship MV Sindhu will not only reduce the journey time but will also provide them all modern day comfort during every sailing. The Member of Parliament added that for Nicobar District there is always a shortage of ships and people of Nicobar District are always demanding bigger and better ships for transportation and ships are a lifeline for Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Considering the heavy demand for MV Sindhu among islanders, the Member of Parliament demanded to press MV Sindhu in service.

## Tattered short-cut from Dairyfarm to Junglighat draws sharp criticism

Port Blair, Oct 29: For Sanya, a Class IV student of Junglighat Govt. Secondary School, walking on the road from her house at Dairyfarm takes at least 20 minutes. She has to jump over the potholes and keep off the muck splashed by passing vehicles. The incessant downpour in the recent days has resulted in massive craters over the road stretch and continuous drizzle have made it worse. Monsoon rains this year has again exposed the poor road construction expertise of the authorities concerned.

What has taken her to surprise was that the stretch leading from Dairyfarm towards Junglighat through Maricar Hospital, Vijay Baugh was well taken care of during the recent accomplished work of the culvert at Dairyfarm Junction. Despite all claims to ensure trouble-free commute for residents in the city, the fact remains therein 'much change on the ground level. Potholed roads and the consequent traffic snarls continued during this monsoon with massive craters surfacing in almost all arterial roads in the city. In the road stretch from Dairyfarm to Junglighat that served as a short-cut for months for the culvert-construction work, everything was being maintained. But soon after the project was completed, the stretch has been left abandoned, said a resident of Dairyfarm.

"Substandard repair work is seems to be another reason for potholes appearing on the road stretch. When a road is not repaired properly, the chances of potholes reappearing and spreading rapidly is high. Corrupt officials are often hand-in-glove with greedy contractors and allow the latter to pass off substandard work as high-quality repairs. This practice is visible with massive craters appearing and reappearing in almost all roads of the city—be it Junglighat, Prem Nagar, Goal Ghar, Delanpur etc. Some potholes on the stretch seem innocuous at first, but many of them are deep enough to cause a mishap. It becomes a nightmare travelling along the battered stretch in the city. There has also been a spurt in reports of mishaps which occurred because of the potholes recently," said another.

## Reshuffle of IAS, IPS Officers

Port Blair, Oct 29: On the recommendations of the Civil Services Board, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration recently ordered another reallocation of works among IAS and IPS officers. As per the order issued on Wednesday, Mr. Kishore Kshirsagar Lakshman has been allotted the portfolios of Secretary (PBMC/UD/PWD/Shipping) and ED (ANI/IDCO) on additional charge. Mr. Hari Kalikot has been posted as ADM, South Andaman, Special Secretary (IT) and Special Secretary (Industries). Mr. Ankit Yadav has been posted as Assistant Commissioner/SDM of Diglipur and given additional charge of ADM, North and Middle Andaman and Mr. Dilkhush Meena has been posted as Assistant Commissioner/SDM of South Andaman.

Similarly, IPS officers, Mr. Ravi Kumar has been posted as Superintendent of Police (PMF) from police headquarters, Mr. Rajeev Kumar has been posted as SP (Vigilance & ACU)/IG (Prisons) with the direction to report to the Chief Secretary, Mr. Manjeet has been posted as SP(D) Nicobar from SP (PMF)/Security and CID, Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal as SP (AP) from SP (Vigilance & ACU) and Mr. Narra Chaitanya has been posted as Commandant (IRBN)/HG/SP (Security & CID).

## Appreciation for PBGKR Prez from IDSE Port Blair Chapter



Port Blair, Oct 29: Shri Mandeep Grewal, Founder and President of Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi (PBGKR) received a letter of appreciation from the Indian Defence Service of Engineers Association (IDSE)- Port Blair Chapter.

## Education Dept. invites suggestions for reopening of schools for classes III-V

Port Blair, Oct 29: The Directorate of Education has sought suggestions from stakeholders on re-opening of schools for classes III to V. In a note to Zonal Officers of all regions, the Deputy Director of Education (PIG) asked Zonal Officers to issue instructions to Heads of all Institutions under their respective zone to convene a meeting of Parents Teachers Association, SMC within three days and seek their views on re-opening of schools for students of classes III to V. The meeting should be conducted as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration from time to time for prevention of COVID-19. Zonal officers should submit school-wise recommendations in the prescribed format latest by Nov 1, 2021.

## DGCA extends suspension of scheduled international flights till November 30

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation DGCA on Friday extended the suspension of scheduled international commercial passenger flights till 30th November this year. A circular issued by the DGCA stated that the restrictions shall not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by it. The Aviation regulator selected that the international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on case to case basis. The Centre banned international flights on 23rd March last year, to contain the Covid spread. Later, flight restrictions were eased under air bubble arrangements with certain countries.

## ANACS coordinates voluntary blood donation camp at Brichgunj Mil. Stn.



Port Blair, Oct 29: The Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) coordinated the voluntary Blood Donation camp which was jointly organized by 13 SIKH LI, under the aegis of 108 Mountain Brigade, C/o. 99 APO and Blood Bank, G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair on 28th October 2021 at Brichgunj Military Station. A total of 150 Defence personnel from various units were voluntarily donated blood and participated in this noble cause.

The camp was organized under the leadership of Dr. M. Joy, Project Director, A & N AIDS Control Society and Director, State Blood Transfusion Council, A & N Islands. Ms. Abha Rahul, Chairperson, Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA), Port Blair, inaugurated the camp.

The Blood Donation was facilitated by the Dr. N. R. Kodandram, Deputy Director (Blood Safety) / Chief Medical Officer (NFSG). The donors were examined for their eligibility to donate blood and briefed the donors on various aspects and importance of blood donation. Voluntary Blood donation is the best way to celebrate any occasion. Blood has no replacement and is the best gift to

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## Handholding Support to SHGs Formed Under DAY-NULM

This is a general information of the Public of Port Blair City that under DAY-NULM scheme of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the City Livelihood Centre (CLC), facilitates women SHGs formed under it by handholding them in promoting and Marketing their product for enhanced livelihood. In the upcoming Diwali season order to promote and marketing the SHGs freshly prepared homemade snacks items such as Murukku and Address under the brand name "SonChiraiya" PBMC appeals the public to purchase their item and support them for their sustainability and for an enhanced livelihood. Interested persons can purchase their products from the City Livelihood Centre (CLC) building at first floor of Mohanpur Fish Market and for home delivery one can place their order over the contact number 933208779/9531801750/9933267845.

## Vaccination drive going smooth in isles

Port Blair, Oct 29: The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in A&N Islands. As per data available, a total of 4,88,212 beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in A&N Islands, out of the target beneficiaries of 2,81,603 (approx.). A total of 1,72,866 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till dated 28-10-2021. A total of 1662 people were vaccinated yesterday in A&N Islands. Meanwhile, 1287 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which 73 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years.

## DRDO, IAF jointly flight test indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully

Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO and Indian Air Force, IAF team on Friday jointly flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb successfully from an aerial platform. The Long-Range Bomb after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits. All the mission objectives were successfully met. The flight of the bomb and the performance was monitored by a number of sensors including Electro Optical Tracking System, Telemetry and radar deployed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha. The Long-Range Bomb has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat, a DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO laboratories.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, IAF and other teams as associated with successful flight trial and stated that this will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Armed Forces.

Chairman DRDO Dr G



# EDITORIAL

## The Andaman EXPRESS

30 October 2021

### As history shows

In the current public unrest in France over the rising price of the baguette are echoes of what happened 232 years ago. Back then, the fact that a staple had been priced out of the reach of the masses led to the French Revolution and the dramatic, bloody collapse of the ancien régime. The situation isn't quite so dire right now — the president of the French Confederation of Bakers and Pastry Shops has said that unlike then, bread is still available, even if it's more expensive.

Around the world, the unaffordability or non-availability of food has, from time to time, led to mass unrest, and even the collapse of governments. Bread riots had preceded the fall of the Bastille in 1789, which was stormed in part because the starving sans culottes were looking for grain. Similarly, in 1918 a precipitous rise in the price of rice caused riots in Japan, which led to the resignation of Prime Minister Teruchi Masatake and his cabinet. And consider how frequently that Indian pantry staple — the onion — has caused electoral convulsions: From fuelling public anger against Indira Gandhi's government in the pre-Emergency months to powering her resurgence in the 1980 general elections. Onion price rise was also one of the factors in the ousting of the BJP in the 1998 Delhi Assembly elections.

France's current surge in the price of the baguette is due to bad harvests in Russia, which have led to a global rise in the price of wheat. Greater energy prices have also made ovens more expensive to operate and the heat is being felt by the nation's famous boulangeries, as well as the average consumer of the long, baton-shaped bread which is seen as an icon of French culinary heritage. As history teaches us, when people complain about basic foodstuff being unaffordable, governments can't just ask them to eat cake.

### Appreciation for...

Chapter for his efforts and support provided to the MES staff of Bichhunj during the pandemic time. A special vaccination camp was also conducted for the people by PBKGR and IDSE which benefited number of population

### from... Page 01

inside the camp. Shri C N Diwedi, Secretary, IDSE-PB chapter handed over the letter to Grewal and wished him the best for his future endeavor ours and selfless services provided to society and the Nation.

### ANACS coordinates -

marking. He motivated all voluntary blood donors to donate blood fearlessly in the forthcoming camp with covid-19 protocols. R.S. Ghuman, Lt Col 21C, for CO, 13 SIKH LI Co, 99 APO, Port Blair has organized the camp and made arrangement for conducting the camp successfully.

### from... Page 01

The technical team from Blood Bank, G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair and A & N AIDS Control Society ensured that the donated blood units are screened for the blood transmissible diseases. They also examined the donors for eligibility. Donors certificate were also distributed to the voluntary donors.

### Vaccination drive...

Similarly, 300 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District out of which 8 beneficiaries were in the age group

### from... Page 01

of 18-44. 75 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District out of which 3 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44.

### DRDO, IAF jointly...

Satish Reddy in his message to the teams said that successful flight test of Long-Range Bomb has

### from... Page 01

marked an important milestone in indigenous development of this class of systems.

## ITF 2021 to be held from November 14-27 at Pragati Maidan

India International Trade Fair (ITF) will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th of November to 27th November. The fair held annually, which witnesses record footfall, was not held last year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The

confirmed their participation in the fair. The event will be organized in safe and secure environment with all COVID protocols. The first five days of the Trade Fair are exclusively reserved for business days and it will open to the general public from



theme of the fair is 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) - the vision of New India. Bihar is the 'Partner State' whereas Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the 'Focus States' in the fair. Over 2000 exhibitors from India and overseas are expected to participate with the display of a large range of products and services. 23 States, UTs and 34 Central Ministries, Ministry of External Affairs, PSUs and Government Departments are participating in this event. Many companies from Private sector will also be showcasing their products and some of them will be launching new products also. So far, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, China, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Turkey, Sri Lanka and UAE have

19th to 27th November. The timings of the fair will be 9.30 AM to 7.30 PM daily. In view of the considerable interest of the participants, the organisers, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has made extensive arrangements in terms of providing a dedicated 'Help Desk' to support the new applicants for booking space in the fair. Due to induction of New Exhibition Complex of International Exhibition-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, the area of ITF has been increased to 73 thousand square meter which is three times in comparison to the last edition. The New Exhibition Complex was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13th of October.

## WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC ISSUES G20 LEADERS HOPE TO ADDRESS IN ROME?

Leaders of the Group of 20 countries, gathering for their first in-person summit since the pandemic took hold, will confront a global recovery hampered by a series of stumbling blocks: an energy crunch spurring higher fuel and utility prices, new COVID-19 outbreaks and logjams in the supply chains that keep the economy humming and goods headed to consumers.

The summit will allow leaders representing 80% of the global economy to talk—and apply peer pressure—on all these issues.

Analysts question how much progress they can make to ease the burden right away on people facing rising prices on everything from food

and furniture to higher heating bills heading into winter.

Health and financial officials are sitting down in Rome on Friday before presidents and prime ministers gather for the G-20 Saturday and Sunday, but the leaders of major economic players China and Russia won't be there in person.

That may not bode well for cooperation, especially on energy issues as climate change takes centre stage just before the UN Climate Change Conference begins Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland.

Here's a look at some of the economic issues facing G-20 leaders: The International Monetary Fund says the top priority for the economic

recovery is simple: speed up the vaccination of the world population. Yet, big headlines on vaccine cooperation may not be forthcoming at the Rome summit.

The G-20 countries have supported vaccine-sharing through the UN-backed COVAX programme, which has failed to alleviate dire shortages in poor countries.

Donated doses are coming in at a fraction of what is needed, and developed countries are focused on booster shots for their own populations.

Negotiations before the summit have not focused on a large number of vaccines that could be made available, though countries still talked about strengthening health systems.

Meanwhile, rising consumer prices and government stimulus programmes to help economies bounce back from the pandemic may be discussed, but central banks tend to deal with higher prices and stimulus spending is decided at the national level.

One major economic deal is already done: The G-20 will likely be a celebration of an agreement on a global minimum corporate tax, aimed at preventing multinational companies from shifting profits in countries where they pay little or no taxes.

All G-20 governments signed on to the deal negotiated among more than 130 countries, and they now face an ambitious timeline to get it approved and enacted through 2023.

US President Joe Biden has tied his domestic agenda to creating a global minimum tax that can allow the United States to charge higher taxes without the risk of companies shifting their profits to tax havens.

US adoption is key because so many multinational companies are headquartered there.

The agreement also helps remove trade tensions between the US and Europe.

It allows nations including France, Italy and Spain to back off digital services taxes that targeted US tech companies Google, Facebook and Amazon.

Biden goes to the G-20 with his tax and economic agenda still talked to congressional negotiations.

That means he will be unable to show that the US is leading on global corporate taxes, though his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said G-20 leaders understand the nature of congressional talks.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin plan to participate remotely.

"Perhaps the most important thing the G-20 could do is to tell those among them that are major energy suppliers that they should think about their future," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank.

The White House says Biden intends to engage with other key leaders about energy prices, with oil recently hitting a seven-year high in the US at over \$84 per barrel and the

international Brent crude benchmark reaching a three-year peak at over \$86. "We are definitely in an energy crisis, there is no other way to put it," said Claudio Galimberti, senior vice president of analysis at Rystad Energy and an expert in oil market demand.

But producing nations "are in a powerful position," Galimberti said. "There is no one who can put pressure on OPEC+."

Biden will press for countries to share more information about troubles with supply chains that have slowed growth in the developed world.

Sullivan said the president would push for more transparency about identifying logjams with other governments: "How do we know, at every level, where there may be bottlenecks or breaks in the supply chain so that we can quickly respond to them?"

Trade expert Chad P. Bown, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, agreed that sharing information can be helpful but said "there's very little anyone can do" now about the backups over a lack of shipping containers. "There is a call to diversify some production of semiconductors geographically away from Asia," Bown said.

The US and the European Union are talking about finding ways to incentivise chip production at home without starting a subsidy war—for instance, by agreeing on which sectors of the semiconductor industry each side would seek to attract.

## Rubber gloves rub off on fast food, study finds

New York, 29th Oct, 2021: Traces of toxic chemicals from vinyl gloves have been found in fast food in the US. Researchers say marginalized groups are at higher risk than others.

Rubber gloves have become as ubiquitous as face masks. Where two years ago, your hairdresser or car wash would have handed you one and your rolls with bare skin, buy-ers into this pandemic and many of us would shrink from an unheated hand. And so it is in restaurant kitchens:

Whether it's salads or hamburgers and fries, kitchen staff are most likely to wear gloves these days. But while they may protect us from a viral infection, those same gloves could be slipping us toxic chemicals. Those are the basic findings of a new study published in the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.

Previous studies have investigated how micro plastics in toothpaste end up in the oceans and then in the fish that we eat. That's on top of the shopping bags and food containers we dump in the environment. Studies have looked at plastic packaging used by food producers and supermarkets. We know there's a problem. But the

and replacement plasticizers in foods and food handling gloves from US fast-food restaurants. Phthalates and replacement plasticizers are chemicals that get added to materials, such as the rubber in vinyl gloves, to make them more pliable or softer to the touch. The researchers found significant traces of those chemicals in hamburgers, chicken nuggets, burritos and other fast-food items—even though those chemicals are banned from other consumer goods. One phthalate known as DBP (also DiNP) has been used in PVC floor coverings, adhesives and even printing ink. But it's been banned

from use in child care products, toys and cosmetics because it's considered carcinogenic.

They also detected DEHT, a plasticizer that's been introduced to replace more toxic chemicals, in both the gloves and food they studied. DEHT is used in bottle caps, conveyor belts, flooring materials and waterproof clothing.

There are also chemicals in a project called TENDR, which "concluded that there is substantial evidence linking phthalate exposures to increased risks for children's learning, attention, and behavioral problems."

Pregnant women and communities of color may also be at higher risk of phthalate exposure.

There is evidence, write the researchers, that "chemical contamination of food may disproportionately impact marginalized groups." They call it an issue of health equity. It's not just through food, though. Some studies suggest kids are at risk of phthalate exposure when they stick pencils in their mouths and suck on the erasers. Phthalate contamination can also lead to the air environment from floor coverings and other materials when the weather gets hot. These materials are everywhere.



## Fluvoxamine may reduce risk of COVID hospitalisation: study

An inexpensive repurposed drug, fluvoxamine, may reduce hospital admissions in high-risk COVID-19 patients by up to 30 percent, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

Fluvoxamine is currently used to treat mental health conditions such as depression and obsessive-compulsive disorders. It was chosen for study as a potential treatment for COVID-19 due to its anti-inflammatory properties.

Researchers treated 739 randomly selected Brazilian COVID-19 patients with another 733 receiving a placebo, between January 15 to August 6 of this year.

Every patient who received fluvoxamine during the trial was tracked for 28 days to determine their health outcomes and if they still needed hospital treatment.

The study found about a 30 percent reduction in hospitalisations among those receiving fluvoxamine compared to those receiving the placebo.

This effect went up to 65 percent among patients taking all their drugs, they said. Fluvoxamine may reduce the production of inflammatory molecules called cytokines, that can be triggered by SARS-CoV-2 infection," said Angela Reiersen, Associate Professor at Washington

University in the US, and co-author of the study.

In a secondary analysis of patients who took at least 80 percent of medication doses, there was one death in the fluvoxamine group, compared to 12 in the placebo group.

The fluvoxamine trial formed part of the larger TOGETHER trial that started in May 2020, aiming to test potential COVID-19 treatments in a community setting.

"Fluvoxamine is, so far, the only treatment that if administered early, can prevent COVID-19 from becoming a life-threatening illness," said Edward Mills, co-principal investigator for the TOGETHER trial and a professor at McMaster University in Canada.

"It could be one of our most powerful weapons against the virus and its effectiveness is one of the most important COVID-19 findings we have made since the pandemic began," Mills said.

Costing about four dollars per 10-day course, fluvoxamine could be a game-changer for poor countries with low vaccination rates and lacking access to more advanced COVID-19 therapies, he added. The researchers noted that fluvoxamine has been used since the 1990s for various conditions and its safety profile is well-known.

It was identified early in the pandemic for its potential to reduce the cytokine storm in COVID-19 patients.

Cytokine storms are severe immune responses to COVID-19 that can cause potentially lethal organ damage.

They noted that although fluvoxamine is widely available, it is not on the World Health Organisation (WHO) Essential Medicines List it is crucial to establish if these drugs can be used interchangeably for COVID-19, as well as determining whether combining fluvoxamine with other drugs will provide a larger treatment effect, the researchers said.

They also noted that the use of interventions, including fluvoxamine, to prevent progression of illness and hospitalisation is critically dependent on reliably identifying individuals at highest risk of deterioration in the early stages of COVID-19 infection.

Despite the important findings from the TOGETHER trial, some questions related to the efficacy and safety of fluvoxamine for patients with COVID-19 remain open," said Olav von Bengtson of the Academic Research Organisation of Hospital Israelit Albert Einstein, Brazil, who was not involved in the study.

"The definitive answer regarding the effects of fluvoxamine on individual outcomes such as mortality and hospitalisations still need addressing," Bengtson added.

## Pollution dominates India's climate worries, global study finds

In India people increasingly worry about the damage that people cause to the planet and environmental concerns tend to be framed around worries about pollution, new worldwide climate research has found.

Glocaities, a leading research agency, and international advocacy organisation Global Citizen released the findings of one of the largest global values-based trend studies on climate action on Tuesday, ahead of the United Nations COP26 climate summit next week.

Spanning 20 countries and carried out over a six-year period, the wide-reaching research based on 247,722 interviews measured people's values around their environmental concerns and climate change and found that 78 percent of the world's population are united in their anxieties about the environment.

In India, people increasingly worry about the damage that people cause to the planet. This figure has risen from 82 percent in 2014 to 87



percent in 2021, the study finds.

The world's environmental concerns have steadily increased despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In China and India environmental concerns are more framed as worries about pollution than about climate change, it reveals.

The study's release has been timed ahead of the G20 summit in Rome and COP26 summit in Glasgow, hosted by British Prime

Minister Boris Johnson and being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders.

The world population has woken up to the urgency of the ecological crisis. Anxieties about human-made damage to planet Earth increasingly unite people from all walks of life, said Marjijn Lampert, Research Director and Co-Founder of Glocaities.

The time has come for

courageous, fact-based, and visionary leadership to build a grand coalition for safeguarding the vitality of our planet and future generations. People in all countries want to contribute and are way ahead of many political leaders in recognising the urgency of the task at hand," he said.

The research notes that several G20 nations have yet to make new climate financing commitments including the G20 host Italy, where worries about dam water to the planet have increased from 83 percent to 90 percent between 2014 and 2021.

The surveys were held in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US. They revealed that anxieties

about human-caused damage to the planet are now observed as a global trend across all age groups, gender, educational and socio-cultural backgrounds, with climate change the most important global environmental concern of our time, followed by air and water pollution.

Michael Sheldrick, Co-Founder and Chief Policy, Impact, and Government Affairs Officer of Global Citizen, added: "Four in five people around the world are worried about the damage being caused to the planet. Ahead of COP26, the G20 nations responsible for 80 percent of all emissions must respond to these widespread concerns by adopting clear measures to slash emissions by half by 2030."

And developed countries including Italy, Spain, and Australia must bring forward new financial commitments in the coming days to provide the USD 10-15 billion still needed to meet the USD 100 billion annual climate promise made to developing countries.



# DRDO'S STEALTH ATTACK UAV BACK IN FOCUS AS FOOTAGE OF DEMONSTRATOR EMERGES



Over the past week, social media handles following Indian defence developments have been abuzz after footage emerged of a UAV developed by the DRDO.

Twitter users shared images and video of the Stealth Wing Flying Testbed (SWIFT), a UAV developed by the DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment. The SWIFT is being developed as a technology demonstrator for the DRDO's secret programme to create an unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV).

The images and video showed the aircraft conducting taxi trials, a precursor to flight tests. To a lay person, the SWIFT resembles the US B-2 stealth bomber in layout as both having a 'flying wing' configuration. The flying wing configuration allows an aircraft to carry more fuel and weapons and also reduces its radar cross-section as the design has no definite fuselage. However, flying wing designs typically have more complex flight control systems.

Various reports estimated the SWIFT has a weight of about 1 tonne and is powered by a small turbofan engine from Russia.

DRDO had previously indicated that SWIFT was a project to demonstrate technologies for controlling the flying wing

configuration and flight characteristics at high-subsonic speed.

Ground trials of the SWIFT were reported to have begun around June this year.

Earlier this year, an onmanorama reported that a go-ahead from the cabinet for full-scale development of the UCAV was expected later this year, based on the success of the SWIFT.

The existence of a UCAV project was first revealed over a decade ago, with the project being known by various names such as AURA (autonomous unmanned combat air vehicle) and Ghatak. Reports in recent years have claimed the DRDO UCAV could fly by 2025. The final UCAV design is expected to be several times larger in size than the SWIFT and would be powered by an engine derived from the Kaveri power-plant that was meant for the Tejas fighter.

A jet-powered, stealthy UAV would provide several advantages over existing drones that can carry weapons. This includes having higher speed and capacity to carry more weapons and advanced sensors, thanks to a more powerful engine and lesser probability of detection as payloads are carried internally.

This would make such a UCAV suitable for attacking targets in areas defended by anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles.

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IOCL Recruitment 2021 | Apprentice Posts | Total Vacancies 1900+ | Last Date 12.11.2021 | Indian Oil Refineries Recruitment Notification @ www.iocl.com  
IOCL Recruitment 2021: Indian Oil Corporation Limited has issued new job notice on 22.10.2021 to fill up 1900+ vacancies in various Refineries. It invites application via online mode and apply link has been activated on 22.10.2021. There are 1900+ candidates will be recruited for Trade Apprentice & Technician Apprentice posts under the Apprenticeship Act 1961 and Refineries Division wise vacancy details are given below. Candidates who are looking for diploma jobs in central govt kindly make the online registration @ Indian Oil Careers. As per the IOCL recruitment notification, online mode applications will be received up to 12.11.2021. Indian Oil Apprentice Recruitment Notification & IOCL Refineries Division Recruitment apply online link is available @ www.iocl.com. Candidates who are seeking 12th pass jobs must check their eligibility i.e. educational qualification, age limit, experience and etc. Indian Oil Corporation Apprentice selection will be based on Merit list and selected candidates will undergo apprenticeship training at following Refineries like Guwahati, Barauni, Gujarat, Haldia, Mathura, PRPC Panipat, Digboi, Bongaigaon & Paradip. More details of www.iocl.com recruitment, Indian Oil New vacancy, upcoming Indian Oil Corporation Jobs notices, syllabus, answer key, merit list, selection list, admit card, result, upcoming Central Govt Jobs notifications and etc. will be uploaded on official website.

You may visit Career page to get more details about www.iocl.com recruitment. Here you will get information like educational qualification, age limit, application mode, fee and how to apply. Keep check www.dailyrecruitment.in regularly to get latest updates & upcoming govt exams.

## South Western Railway Recruitment 2021, 904 Apprentice Vacancies, Apply Online @ www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

South Western Railway Recruitment 2021 | Apprentice | 904 Vacancies | Last Date: 03.11.2021 | RRC Hubli Job Notification @ www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

South Western Railway Recruitment 2021: South Western Railway - Railway Recruitment Cell, Hubli has released the notification for engagement of Apprentices for the year 2021-2022. SWR invites application to fill up 904 vacancies under the Apprentices Act, 1961. Candidates who are searching for Railway job may apply for this SWR Apprentice vacancy. Applicants are instructed to apply via online from 04.10.2021 @ www.rchubli.in. They will hire candidates on basis of merit list for apprenticeship training. Deadline to make a registration for this RRC SWR Apprentice recruitment 2021 is 03.11.2021.

Candidates who had passed Class 10th are eligible to apply for this South Western Railway Hubli recruitment. Diploma/ Engineering degree holders are not capable to apply for this SWR Apprentice jobs. Aspirants must bring a valid email id, mobile number, aadhar account & self bank account at time of online application process & keep it active throughout the recruitment process. Training will be provided at Divisions/ Workshops/ Units of South Western Railway. More details of South Western railway jobs, admit card, meritlist, upcoming RRC Hubli vacancies & results will be uploaded at official website.

Visit official website to get more career opportunity @ RRC SWR. Educational qualification, age limit, selection process, apply mode, fee details & steps to apply are provided above. For latest updates, visit www.dailyrecruitment.in.

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## AFFIDAVIT

I, JOHN ORAN, S/o Lachchu Oran, residing at Brichgunj village under Port Blair in the district of South Andaman do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows.

1. That my wife's actual and correct name is SUNITA KUMARI, which is reflected in her Aadhaar card bearing no 3724 7632 5400 and in all other documents.
2. That I am working in 172 TA MADRAS, Indian Army Andaman & Nicobar Islands, service No 10535461H, Rank N.K.
3. That in my service record my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as SUNITA ORAN instead of SUNITA KUMARI.
4. That SUNITA KUMARI and SUNITA ORAN are the same and one person.
5. That hereinafter my wife shall be known as SUNITA KUMARI in all aspects and for all purposes.
6. That this affidavit is made to correct my wife's name in my service record.

That the above said statement are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and the contents of the affidavit readover and explained to the deponent in simple Hindi.

Deponent

## New AI tool by MIT predicts how fast any technology is improving

A team led by an Indian-origin researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can predict how fast any technology is improving, and help organisations manage research and development (R&D).

The study, recently published in the journal

Research Policy, demonstrates the predicted improvement rates for 1,757 technology domains covering 97.2 per cent of the US patents system.

The researchers noted that the fastest-improving technologies are predominantly software-related, especially those linked to network management, enterprise security, and media transmission.

"As technologists, we have to choose between technologies all the time. Many times few technologies end up capturing a lot of attention due to the hype around them," said study lead

author Anuraag Singh from MIT.

"However, fast-improving, more promising technologies end up being ignored. We want to bring realism and objectivity to technological decision-making," Singh said in statement. The researchers have also launched a startup called Technext to help organisations anticipate technological advances, breakthroughs, and disruptions. They also built a free, publicly accessible tool for academic readers to use the system. The study builds on about two decades of research at MIT, started by Professor Christopher L. Magee, one of the co-authors of the study. It used machine learning, patent network analytics, and empirical technology

performance data to predict the future potential of any technology. The researchers, including Giorgio Trutzi from the University of The Andes in Colombia, note that the key technical innovation in the study is the early identification of technological breakthroughs, bottlenecks, and threats. This helps organisations avoid being obsolete, improve R&D effectiveness and increase revenue through new product or service development, they said. The tool can be handy in deploying the USD 2.2 trillion in annual global R&D funding more efficiently by helping organisations avoid low-potential over-hyped technologies and research, the researchers added.



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2. Wash your hands often and well with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
3. Disinfect surfaces you touch a lot, like cell phones, door handles, door knobs, etc.
4. The COVID situation is a stressful time for everyone. If stuck, you can call a CWC with or without a mask and safety helmet immediately.
5. With too much social media, it comes with the risk of spreading rumors and misinformation by getting news from trusted sources.
6. Exercise to meditate at home.
7. Maintain a healthy diet, exercise, and get enough sleep to help you feel calmer and more in control.
8. Reach out to a trusted adult or professional if you need help or are feeling sad or stressed.
9. Do not leave your house if you are sick. Follow guidelines from your health authorities on how to protect your health and the health of others.
10. Listen to your local authorities for other advice and directions on how to stay safe.

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## IN CONVERSATION

# FACEBOOK CHANGES NAME TO META. BUT CRITICS SAY REBRAND DOESN'T ALTER REALITY

Social media giant Facebook announced on Thursday that it had changed its corporate name to Meta in a major rebranding exercise. The name change applies only to the parent company and not individual platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Explaining the need for the change, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said, "Today we are seen as a social media company. But in our DNA, we are a company that builds technology to connect people."

Zuckerberg declared "Metaverse" is the new way, adding that the word "metaverse" came from the Greek word for beyond.

At a developer's conference, Zuckerberg said, "We've learned a lot from struggling with social issues and living under closed platforms, and now it's time to take everything that we've learned and help build the next chapter."

Zuckerberg explained the new name symbolised the company's desire to go beyond text- and video-based communication towards virtual reality-based technology. In a post on Facebook, Zuckerberg wrote, "We've gone from desktop to web to mobile, from text to photos to video. But this isn't the end of the line. The next platform will be even more immersive—an embodied internet where you're in the experience, not just looking at it. We call this the metaverse, and it will touch every product we build."

Zuckerberg explained the "defining quality of the metaverse will be a feeling of presence—like you are right there with another person or in another place. Feeling truly present with another person is the ultimate dream of social technology."

Zuckerberg wrote, "In the metaverse, you'll be able to do almost anything you can imagine—get together with friends and family, work, learn, play, shop, create as well as

completely new experiences that don't really fit how we think about computers or phones today."

Giving examples of how VR technology would be used, Zuckerberg said you will be able to teleport instantly as a hologram to be at the office without a commute, at a concert with friends, or in your parents' living room to catch up. This will open up more opportunity no matter where you live. You'll be able to spend more time on what matters to you, cut down time in traffic, and reduce your carbon footprint."

Despite the grand plan, critics of the social media network are not impressed. Some saw the rebranding to Meta as an attempt to distract from recent media coverage of the "Facebook Papers", a trove of leaked documents that detail alleged malpractices at the company.

Marketing consultant Laura Ries told Associated Press that she thought the exercise was similar to BP rebranding itself "Bey and Petroleum" to escape criticism that the energy giant was causing environmental damage. "They can't walk away from the social network with a new corporate name and talk of a future metaverse," Ries told Associated Press.

The Real Facebook Oversight Board, a watchdog group focused on the company, said the name change won't change reality. In a statement it said, "Facebook is destroying our democracy and is the world's leading peddler of disinformation and hate. Their meaningless name change should not distract from the investigation, regulation and real, independent oversight needed to hold Facebook accountable."



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## Budding talents enthused by soccer tourney by ANFA



complex. Mr D S Singal was the chief guest on the occasion, while Mr Jatin Tyagi graced the occasion as the guest of honor. The President of A&N foot Ball Association, Mr Sudeep Rai Sharma, Vice Chairperson Regional Sports Council, Mr K Ganesan and Secretary of Football Association, Mr Sanjay Meshack were present on the occasion. The event witnessed participation from 20 teams. The winners and runnersup were awarded and consolation prizes given to all participants. Attendance of prominent citizens in their bid to promote sports in these islands drew huge appreciation from people in the area.



Port Blair, Oct 29: The finals of the Open League Cum Knockout Football Association organized by the Andaman and Nicobar Football Association (ANFA), affiliated with AIFF and with the Andaman and Nicobar State Sports Council & Department of Sports & Youth Affairs Port Blair was held on Friday at the Netaji Stadium.



## World Boxing Championships: Akash Kumar gets walkover, advances to last-16



BELGRADE: Indian boxer Akash Kumar (54kg) made the pre-quarterfinals of the AIBA Men's World Championships after his German opponent Omar Salah Ibrahim fell ill and gave him a walkover on Friday. Akash will face Puerto Rico's Pagan Caleb Tiro in the last-16 stage. His bout was to open the day's proceedings for India. "His opponent did not show up for the weigh-in this morning as he was sick. Something like what happened to us in Varinder Singh's case. In that case, we suffered, today we gained," India High Performance Director Santiago Nieva told PTI. Varinder had pulled out of his 66kg category bout due to high fever but he tested negative for COVID-19. Late last night, Akash Sangwan (67kg) recorded a confident 4-1 victory against German pugilist Daniel Krotter to also enter the pre-quarterfinals. The 21-year-old will square off against Cuban boxer Kevin Brown. Later this evening, Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) will take on Russia's Andrei Stokli, followed by Nishant Dev (71kg) squaring off against Mauritania's Mervin Clair. Both of them would be looking to secure pre-quarterfinal berths. On Saturday, five-time Asian medalist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) will be in action alongside three other Indians. Thapa will fight Sierra Leone's John Brown in the round of 32. Sumit (75kg) will take on Tajikistan's Abdumalik Boltaev, while Sachin (80kg) will open against American Robby Gonzales. Both these bouts are also round of 32 contests. Govind Sahani (48kg) will compete in the pre-quarterfinals against Georgia's Sakhi Alkhvordov. The silver medalists are to begin \$50,000, and both bronze-medallists will be awarded \$25,000 each. The total prize purse stands at whopping \$2.6 million. India are being represented by its reigning national champions across weight categories.

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