



# ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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PORT BLAIR, FRIDAY, JANUARY 07, 2022

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## Jarawa Facts

It is illegal for outsiders to enter the Jarawa reserve. However with lack of awareness among the settler community and intrusion of foreign poachers, poaching continues.

## Your Nature Guide

### What is a Coral?

Corals are tiny animals that have an outer stony skeleton and live in colonies in the sea. They belong to the same animals group as the sea anemones, and jelly fish. Each coral animal is called a polyp and lives inside a cup of carbonate (Limestone). It has a mouth at the top surrounded by tentacles. The tentacles help to capture food like plankton for the coral. While it is alive, a coral polyp's tentacles protrude from the cups for feeding. In times of danger, the polyp can withdraw into its cup. This is similar to a turtle withdrawing into its shell when disturbed. A coral polyp cannot move and remains fixed to its cup throughout its life. Coral polyps can be of several species - in A&N alone, 135 species are found.

Treasured Islands - By Sunita Rao. Courtesy: Kalpavriksh, ANET (MCBT)

## People's Voice

Umeed hai ki ye 3rd Wave ka samay, Administration Public Representatives se Consult kar ke he Decisions lega ... Ek Committee kyon nahi Form kar rahe hai, jaise Tsunami ke samay kiya gaya tha...?

- A Citizen



We should keep people happy at least till the elections!

## Member of Parliament Demands 'Netting' at the Entry Points of Nallahs in N&M Andaman to Restrict Entry of Crocodiles

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The Member of Parliament, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of A&N Administration to direct the Forest Department to place 'Nets' at the entry points of all the nallahs of North & Middle Andaman, where crocodiles are sighted. This is to ensure that crocodiles do not enter inside these nallahs and people living in the region can lead a normal life without any fear of Crocodile attacks.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the MP

mentioned that there is a sense of fear among residents of Pinakinagar and Jaipur villages of Middle Andaman because of frequent sightings of crocodiles in various nallahs of the region.

He added that most of the villages in North & Middle Andaman region are situated around these small nallahs, where crocodiles are frequently sighted since the last few months.

The Member of Parliament pointed out that for various reasons like irrigation,

fishing and farming people of the region are completely dependent on these nallahs and hence there is a possibility of human - animal conflict in the region.

He mentioned that in the past many Islanders have already lost their life in crocodile attacks in Middle and North Andaman and hence there is a need to take some preventive steps to avoid any possibility of human-animal conflict in the region in future.

Considering the threat to general public and also safety of crocodiles, the MP requested the Chief Secretary to direct the Forest Department to place 'Nets' at the entry points of all these nallahs so that crocodiles do not enter inside these nallahs and people living in the region can lead a normal life without any fear of Crocodile attack.

## Director General VS Pathania Takes Over as Chief of Indian Coast Guard

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** Director General VS Pathania, PTM, TM took over as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of Indian Coast Guard on 31 Dec 21. The Flag Officer is an alumni of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi. The Flag Officer is a qualified helicopter pilot and holds a Master's Degree in Defence & Strategic Studies from the University of Madras. He has also undergone specialization in Search and Rescue and port operations with US Coast Guard.

In his illustrious career spanning over 36 years, The Flag Officer has

held several key appointments afloat and ashore, prominent among them are Commander Coast Guard Region (North West) at Gandhi Nagar, Commander Coast Guard Region (West) at Mumbai, Deputy Director General (HRD), Deputy Director General (Policy & Plans) at Coast Guard

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## Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary Holds Talk with ANTCC Party Leaders

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha Shri. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary on Wednesday held talks with the leaders of Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee at Gandhi Bhawan, Port Blair.

Chowdhary who is on an official tour to Andaman & Nicobar Islands was accorded a grand welcome by Congress workers at Gandhi Bhawan.

The ANTCC President, Shri. Rangalal Halder heartily welcomed him by presenting shawl, while



ANTCC Campaign Committee Chairman Shri. G Bhasker and DCC President, Shri. V.K Abdul Aziz welcomed him with bouquets.

During the meeting, Chowdhary appreciated the efforts of ANTCC in their fight against the BJP led Central Government. He also guided them on

Continued on P2

## CD Block Campbell Bay Organised Training on Tailoring



**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The Community Development Block, Campbell Bay organized a training on Tailoring for one month with effect from 03.01.2022 in the Recreation Hall, Campbell Bay with the support from Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, Port Blair.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Aditya Kumar Asthana, Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay in the

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## Mobile Vaccination Team Conducts Vaccination Drive for Children at CCIs



**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The District Administration in its continuous efforts to contain the spread of the pandemic has been actively promoting vaccination for all

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# ANDAMAN Chronicle

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*Life has no Remote Control. Get up  
and Change it Yourself.*

## Message from Mumbai

Purveyors of hate, misogyny and xenophobia have been on a boundless revelry in India, online and offline, with near total impunity and often times with support from politicians and the police. In the midst of such pervasive police apathy, the swift action by the Mumbai police in tracing and arresting three persons linked to the latest incident involving a fake online 'auction' of Muslim women gives hope that all is not lost. The Mumbai police action also contrasts with the inaction of the Delhi police, who come under the Union Home Ministry, and the Noida police in Uttar Pradesh, a BJP-ruled State, in a similar case last year. Whether the three arrested were indeed the creators of the app remains a question of investigation and the limited police version at the moment is that they were promoting the platform, at a minimum. The Commissioner of the Mumbai Police has said the probe is continuing and anyone involved in the crime, directly or indirectly, will be arrested and prosecuted. It is delicious irony that the Mumbai police reports to the Maharashtra government led by the Shiv Sena, long accused of xenophobic politics. The Mumbai police were also quick to act in an earlier case involving threats to cricketer Virat Kohli for standing up for his Muslim teammate.

It is indeed baffling that the Delhi police, that is expected to play a critical role in securing the lives of all important functionaries of the country, threw their hands up when faced with the challenge of identifying some random imposters on social media. Such a level of incompetence or connivance is ominous. The Delhi police say they have written to GitHub, the U.S.-based platform that hosted the toxic apps. They are also seeking the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty procedure to find information about the app from the U.S., after its Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations unit took over the case. All this is being revealed after a second FIR was filed this week. Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi had written to the Union IT Minister, in July and September, about several social media platforms or events that were being used to berate Muslim women. In November, the Minister replied that the Ministry was working on "identifying the gaps in current legislation to address contemporary issues of cyberspace including provisions to protect citizens, especially women, from any online harassment and cyber bullying". While that is necessary, it cannot be an excuse to let online mobs roam free. The police must identify and arrest the original culprit, but if that process takes months on end, there have to be interim measures to enforce the rule of law. The Mumbai Police have done exactly that, in acting with the alacrity that this case deserves.

## BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



### Inflation and a Hundred Rupee Note..!

I opened the morning paper and frowned as I read headlines about inflation in India, "This is ridiculous!" I muttered to myself, "as usual the USA is jealous of us, China wants to belittle us and the UK wants to prove we were never worthy of our freedom. Ridiculous!"

"What is dad?"

"This inflation business, there's no inflation, but just because of jealousy from other countries, or maybe because there's no news, papers make a big hullabaloo about prices going up, scaring everybody, especially voters before election year!"

"There is inflation dad!" said my daughter firmly.

"Listen," I said, "you know I hate.."

"..being corrected huh dad?" laughed my daughter as she tried walking out of the room.

"But this time bitiya," I told her as I followed her, "I'm going to prove my point, let's go shopping and I'll show you there's no inflation in our country! It's all made up by the press, maybe the foreign press!"

I dragged my rather unwilling little one to the bazaar down the road and stopped in front of a general store, "Come," I said, "You need to see how your dad's always right! Now here's a hundred- rupee note right? I'm going to give to this here shopkeeper and you're going to be amazed what it gets us! Here shopkeeper.."

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"Dad.."

"Sssshhh," I said, "Just watch. What shall we buy first?"

"Dad.." said my little one again, but I beckoned her to be quiet. "Okay dad five kilos onions!"

"Five kg onions!" I told the shopkeeper with a mock serious face.

"Ten kilos of tomatoes and a bottle of strawberry jam, the big bottle!"

"Give her what she wants!" I shouted heartily, "and add a bottle of peanut butter for me and some cashew nuts!"

"Cashew nuts?" asked my daughter, "They're expensive!"

"Not when there's no inflation!" I laughed and pointed to a tin of cheese. "That also!"

"I think we've got enough dad, and there's something I need to tell you.."

"Sssshhh!" I said, "We've got a job to do and all other thoughts should be kept out, now what else does my little girl want?"

"Nothing!" said my daughter.

"The girl wants nothing, so give her a bar of chocolate," I told the smiling shopkeeper. "Now just tell me how much it's all come to and give me back the change will you?"

I laughed out loud as the shopkeeper handed me a hundred- rupee note, "Aha!" I chuckled, "Who's talking about inflation, now things have even become free, thank you bhai sahib, that was a nice gesture, but I gave you a hundred rupees!"

"Dad," said my little one, "that's what I've been trying to tell you, you gave him a two thousand rupee note!"

We went home, she walking ahead in victory and me crestfallen.

"Have the prices gone up?" asked the wife.

"Not just prices," I mumbled, "my eyesight too..!"

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

## Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary Holds Talk with ANTCC Party Leaders

**Continued from Page 1**

various issues and assured them of his support.

"We had open and candid discussion on several local issues. The discussion also figured around strengthening the organization" said Shri. Halder

ANTCC Vice-President Smti. Shanta Laxman Singh, Youth Congress President Shri. Elayaraja Aisu, NSUI State President Shri. M.A Sajid, DCC General Secretary Shri. Abhibhushan Ghosh, Mahila Congress South Andaman Co-ordinator

Smti. Zubaida Begum and other leaders participated in the meeting.

The meeting was convened by Congress leader Shri. Sebastian Tirkey while vote of thanks was proposed by DCC President Shri. V.K Abdul Aziz.



## ENTERTAINMENT

### Ajith's 'Valimai' Release Postponed Due to Surge in COVID-19 Cases

The release of Ajith's upcoming action-drama Valimai has been postponed indefinitely.

Due to the surge in the rise of COVID-19 infections and complications caused by the Omicron variant, the makers have decided not to release the film for Pongal 2022 as initially planned.

"All that we desired during every single moment was to see audiences and fans cheerful and happy in the cinema halls. At the same time, their safety and well-being has always been at the forefront of our decisions. Given the steep rise in COVID infections across the globe, and abiding by the regulations of the authorities, we have decided to postpone the release of Valimai until the situation normalises," posted producer Boney Kapoor in a note on Twitter.

"Get vaccinated, wear a mask and stay safe," the message added.



Valimai joins the list of other biggies such as RRR, Radhe Shyam and the Hindi remake of Jersey to postpone its theatrical release.

The news will come as a blow to Ajith fans, who were already disappointed due to several delays in the film's production and impending release.

In Valimai, the actor is playing a police officer who goes up against a rogue biker gang. The film also stars Bollywood actor

Huma Qureshi, Karthikeya, Bani, Sumithra, Achyuth Kumar, Yogi Babu, Raj Ayyappa, Pugazh and others.

Having been in the making for two years now, Valimai is directed by H Vinoth who had previously worked with Ajith Kumar in Nerunda Paarvai and is known for films such as Sathuranga Vettai and Theran Adhigaram Ondru. Yuvan Shankar Raja composes the music.

### 'Chakda Xpress': Anushka Sharma's Film on Jhulan Goswami to Premiere on Netflix

Anushka Sharma-starrer "Chakda Xpress", a film inspired by the life and times of former Indian cricket captain Jhulan Goswami, will stream on Netflix.

The movie traces the glorious journey of one of the fastest female pacers in the history of world cricket as she moves up the ladder, despite the countless hindrances posed by misogynistic politics to fulfil her only dream: to play cricket.

Produced by Anushka Sharma and her brother Karnesh Ssharma's Clean Slate Filmz, "Chakda Xpress" is directed by Prosit Roy.

"It is a really special film because it is essentially a story of tremendous sacrifice. Chakda Xpress is inspired by the life and times of former Indian captain Jhulan Goswami and it will be an eye-opener into the world of women's cricket," Anushka Sharma said in a statement issued by the streamer on Thursday.

"At a time when Jhulan decided to become a cricketer and make her country proud on the global stage, it was



very tough for women to even think of playing the sport. This film is a dramatic retelling of several instances that shaped her life and also women's cricket," the actor said, calling the film "an underdog story" in the history of Indian cricket.

Goswami also spoke about the challenges she faced in her career at a time when the prevailing notion was that "women can't play cricket".

"It doesn't matter if sometimes a man's accomplishments are placed above your own. It doesn't matter if the stadiums are empty. When

you pull up on to the pitch to bowl, all you see is the opponent holding the cricket bat and the stumps you need to knock out," the cricketer, who hails from Chakdaha town in the Nadia district of West Bengal, said.

"Team India is not just the roaring sound of 1.3 billion voices cheering and praying. Sometimes, it is one girl from Chakda playing a game of cricket with her team shaking, screaming for, and rising together when the stumps are finally knocked out," she added.

The all-rounder said, "Chakda Xpress is now filming. Meet you on the field."

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### Health, Science /Tech

### Google, Meta fined by France for cookie breach



France's data privacy watchdog CNIL said on Thursday it had fined Alphabet's Google 150 million euros (\$169 million) for making it difficult for internet users to refuse online trackers known as cookies.

Meta Platforms' Facebook was also fined 60 million euros for the same reason, the CNIL said.

"The CNIL has found that the facebook.com, google.fr and youtube.com websites do not allow to refuse cookies as easily as it is to accept them", the watchdog said in a statement, also citing Google's video-streaming platform.

The authority said the two companies had three months to comply with its orders or face an extra penalty payment of 100,000 euros per day of delay.

These include the obligation for Google and Facebook to provide French internet users simpler tools for refusing cookies, in order to guarantee their consent.

The CNIL said that while Google and Facebook provided a virtual button to allow the immediate acceptance for cookies, there was no equivalent to refuse them as easily.

"People trust us to respect their right to privacy and keep them safe. We understand our responsibility to protect that trust and are committing to further changes and active work with the CNIL in light of this decision," a Google spokesperson said.

Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

**Andaman Chronicle invites articles, feature and opinions from our esteemed readers. Your write-ups can be mailed to the Editor through the ID denisgiles@yahoo.com**



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## CD Block Campbell Bay Organised Training on Tailoring

*Continued from Page 1*  
presence of Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh, BDO/Block Mission Manager (ANIRLM) DAY-NRLM, Campbell Bay, Instructor, officials and the participants.

Altogether, 50 women SHG members from various SHGs of DAY-NRLM are participating in the training programme. This training

programme aims to impart the basics of tailoring such as hemming, fine cutting of cloths, small dress manufacturing, embroidery and machinery use etc.

During the interaction with the women and SHGs, the Chief Guest emphasized on taking the benefits of Training programme as a source of income generation to create

sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural women.

So far 34 SHGs have been formed in various livelihood activities in Campbell Bay Block and the Tailoring training programme has been arranged for the SHG members on their request by the Directorate of RD, PRI & ULBs.

### Notice Inviting e-Tenders

**No. 130-DB/RCD/e-tender/2021-22/ 15 Wimberly Gunj Dt. 04/01/2022**

The Executive Engineer, Road Construction Division, A.P.W.D., Wimberly Gunj invites on behalf of President of India online Item rate tender/ bid from the approved and eligible contractors of the Andaman PWD or all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD works manual and with other GOI Organizations in these Island and do not have any adverse remarks: -

- NIT No. 89/EE/RCD/APWD/WG/21-22 (Tender ID: 2021\_APWD\_4865\_1). Improvement of drainage system from St. Xavier School to Indoor Stadium at Mannarghat. Estimate Cost:- ₹. 45,01,665/- Time of completion:- 04 (Four) Months.  
Last date of Submission: 21/01/2022 at 3.00 PM and Opening date : 24/01/2022 at 10.00 AM

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the [website - https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in/nicgep/app](https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in/nicgep/app).

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## Member of Parliament Demands to Schedule a Ship for Hut Bay

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The Member of Parliament, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of A&N Administration to schedule a ship for Hut Bay so that a large number of people, who are willing to come to Port Blair, including transferred teachers, could reach Port Blair.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the Member of Parliament mentioned that a large number of

residents are willing to come to Port Blair for various urgent needs, such as medical treatment, official works etc. but due to non-availability of ships, they are unable to come to Port Blair.

He added that a good number of teachers, who have been transferred from Little Andaman to other stations, are unable to leave the station and

join a new place of posting. These teachers were relieved on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and were given 10 days joining time but till now no new schedule for Hut Bay sailing has been announced.

The Member of Parliament pointed out that the last ship had reached Hut Bay on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and it's been almost 6 days that no new schedule has been announced.

## Timings of Light & Sound Shows Revised in View of Increase in COVID-19 Cases

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** In view of the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases including detection of Omicron variant cases in the Islands and in order to effectively manage the challenges arising out of the same, the existing SOP issued vide Order No. 930 dt. 18/11/2021 of Directorate of IP&T, A&N Administration in respect of National Memorial Cellular Jail including its Museums, Light and Sound show, and Light Show at NSCB Island is hereby revised as follows:-

### Museums at Cellular Jail:

09.00 AM - 12.30 PM : 500 visitors

1.00 PM - 04.00 PM : 500 visitors

### Sound & Light show at Cellular Jail :

1st Show - 5.20 pm to 6.15 pm (Hindi all days)

2nd show - 6.30 pm to 7.25 pm (Hindi all days)

3rd Show - 7.35 pm to 8.30 pm (English - Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Hindi-Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday & Sunday) 50% of the total Capacity of the Show/ Museums. The visitors have to follow COVID appropriate behaviours.

### Sound & Light show at NSCB Island:

5.20 pm to 6.20 pm (Hindi all days except Wednesday)

Any other orders or advisories issued by the Govt. of India, A & N Administration or any other Competent Authority will also have to be followed, as applicable.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

## ANTCC Organises Two Day Training Campaign for Party Leaders

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee launched an extensive 2-day campaign to train its senior party leaders under the "Orientation Programme for Organization Training" on Wednesday at Gandhi Bhawan.

The programme commenced with lighting of lamp by ANTCC President Shri. Rangalal Halder, ANTCC Vice-President Smti. Shanta Laxman Singh, DCC President Shri. V.K Abdul Aziz, Mahila Congress South Andaman Coordinator Smti. Zubaida Begum and Senior Congress leader Shri. Manickam.

On the first day, party has trained about 35 senior leaders



of the organization who will later conduct trainings in District, City and Block levels.

The topics that were discussed include local issues, booth management, better utilization of social media, focus on Congress

ideology and exposing the true face of BJP-RSS.

The leaders who spoke on the occasion were Shri. Rangalal halder, Smti. Shanta Laxman Singh, Shri. V.K Abdul Aziz, Smti. Zubaida Begum, Shri. Tamil Selvam and Shri. Sebastian

## Director General VS Pathania Takes Over as Chief of Indian Coast Guard

**Continued from Page 1**  
Headquarters, New Delhi. The flag officer has also commanded all class of Coast Guard ships namely Inshore Patrol Vessel 'Ranijindan', Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' and Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarang'.

The flag officer has also held various appointments viz Principal Director (HRD), Principal Director (Policy & Plans) at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi, Chief of Staff at Headquarters, Coast Guard Region (North West), Chief Staff Officer (Operations) and Chief Staff Officer (Personnel & Administration) at Headquarters Coast Guard Region (West), Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station at Chennai, Director (Personnel) and Joint Director (Aviation) at Coast Guard Headquarters and also as Squadron Commander of 848 Sqn at Chennai.

The Flag Officer was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in Nov 2019 and took over the reins as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam. The period under his apex watch on Eastern Seafront saw surge in major operations that included apprehension of gold and tons of drugs/narcotic substance worth thousands of crores, pollution response operations, joint exercises with Foreign Coast Guard, anti-poaching operations, mass rescue operations and humanitarian assistance during cyclones/natural calamities and strengthened Coastal Security.

The Flag Officer is also recipient of President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished service, Tatrakshak Medal for gallantry and Director General Indian Coast Guard Commendation.

## Mobile Vaccination Team Conducts Vaccination Drive for Children at CCIs

**Continued from Page 1**  
Islanders. In order to protect the Children of the Child Care Institutions in and around South Andaman, the Administration has conducted vaccination drives for the Children between age group 15 years to 18 years at the Institutions.

The mobile vaccination team carried out vaccination of Children in the following Child Care Institutions i.e., Abhyudaya Children Home, Divyang Children Home, Calvary Children Home, Love Children Home, Bethany Children Home, Balika Niketan, Capstone Children Home,

Panab Kanya Sangh, Seva Niketan and Darussalam Yatthem Khana.

Shri. Hari Kallikkat, IAS, ADM (South Andaman) and Shri. Dilkush Meena, IAS, SDM (SA) monitored the vaccination drive conducted at the CCIs and ensured vaccination is conducted as per guidelines and also interacted with the vaccinated Children.

The staff of District Child Protection Unit, South Andaman District accompanied the vaccination team and ensured that children are not facing any difficulties during and after vaccination. The children of all CCIs were vaccinated in order to prevent spread of the virus to Children.

## MV Chuglam to Sail for Campbell Bay

**Port Blair, Jan 6:** The cargo vessel MV Chuglam will sail for Campbell Bay via Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal & Nancowry on 10.01.2022 (Mon) at 1700 Hrs from Haddo/Chatham Wharf and will sail for Port Blair immediately after discharging/loading of Cargo at respective ports.

Booking of cargo for the above sailing will commence from 07.01.2022 (Fri) between 0900 Hrs to 1300 Hrs at Commercial Wing. Traders are advised to book their cargo by following latest COVID 19 SOP in effect. All the consigners are advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transshipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.

## COVID-19 Status in A&N Islands

**Port Blair, Jan. 6:** During the RT-PCR test conducted on 450 passengers who arrived here yesterday, 12 positive cases have been detected. Today, 13 flights with 1764 passengers arrived, out of which, 1421 were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 343 passengers (includes 11 foreign travellers) and the reports are awaited. About 24 positive cases were found during the test conducted yesterday.

During RAT conducted on 107 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj, two positive cases were detected. At Mohanpura Bus Terminus, test was conducted on 52 passengers and all were found negative. At Phoenix Bay Jetty, 36 passengers were tested with RAT and all were found negative. At Helipad, 1 passenger was tested with RAT and was found negative.

Today till 3 pm, 610 doses of vaccines were administered to beneficiaries, out of which, 410 Covaxin doses were administered to children between the age group of 15-18 years.



# SPORTS

## Explained: Why was Novak Djokovic Not let into Australia?

**Brisbane, Jan 6:** Novak Djokovic came within one victory of sweeping all four of last year's Grand Slam tennis tournaments and entered 2022 needing one title to set the men's record of 21 major championships.

He might not get the chance to pursue that mark at the Australian Open when play begins in Melbourne on January 17.

That's because, even though Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, was granted a medical exemption to get around a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all players and their support teams at the hard-court tournament, his visa for entry into Australia was revoked in the early hours of January 6, local time, after he was detained at the airport for about eight hours.

Here's a look at some of the issues surrounding Djokovic's attempt to play in the Australian Open:

**What was the reason for Djokovic's exemption? Was anyone else granted one?**

The state government for Victoria, where Melbourne Park is located, mandated full vaccinations for all players, staff and fans at the Australian Open unless there is a genuine medical reason.

A general view of the Park Hotel, believed to be holding Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic in Melbourne, Australia on January 6, 2022.

Victoria state Deputy Premier James Merlino said medical exemptions would not be "a loophole for privileged tennis players" and would only be possible in "exceptional circumstances if you have an acute medical condition." Tennis Australia said Djokovic's request for an exemption "was granted following a rigorous review process involving two separate independent panels of medical experts." Neither Tennis Australia nor Djokovic revealed the reason he sought an exemption. Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said a total of 26 players or support staff applied for exemptions and a "handful" were granted. Among the acceptable grounds were acute major medical conditions, serious adverse reaction to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or evidence of a COVID-19 infection within the previous six months.

**If he had an exemption, why was Djokovic prevented from entering Australia?**

When he landed at the airport, the Australian Border Force



cancelled Djokovic's visa, saying he "failed to provide appropriate evidence to meet the entry requirements." Prime Minister Scott Morrison tweeted, "No one is above these rules," and later said at a news conference that Djokovic's exemption wasn't valid but did not explain the details.

**What has been the reaction in Australia? And in Serbia?**

The news that Djokovic was on his way to Australia with an exemption — announced first by him via social media, then by Tennis Australia via press release — was not exactly greeted warmly in Melbourne, where most people endured months of strict lockdowns and harsh travel restrictions at the height of the pandemic. More than 90% of Victoria state residents aged 12 and over are fully vaccinated. The about-face on Djokovic's status upon his arrival was, not surprisingly, objected to by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, who called it "harassment".

**Is Djokovic vaccinated? Has he had COVID-19?**

While Djokovic has steadfastly refused to explicitly say whether or not he received any shots to protect against the coronavirus, he would not have needed an exemption to enter Australia if he were fully vaccinated. In April 2020, he issued a statement saying: "Personally I am opposed to the vaccination against COVID-19 in order to be able to travel. But if it becomes compulsory, I will have to make a decision whether to do it, or not." Two months later, he and his wife tested positive for the illness caused by the coronavirus after a series of exhibition matches he organised with no social distancing or masking.

**Why is this Australian Open important for Djokovic? And why is he important for the tournament?**

Djokovic is on the precipice of history, one Grand Slam trophy away from finally overtaking rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the most in the history of men's tennis. Entering the 2011 season, Federer owned 16 major titles, Nadal nine and Djokovic one. Now each has 20. Djokovic, who last year eclipsed Federer's mark for the most career weeks at No. 1 in the men's rankings, already owns nine Australian Open championships, the men's record.

**Must tennis players be vaccinated to play in all tournaments?**

No. In tennis, such mandates come from national, state or local governments, and this is the first time it's come into play at a tournament. At the last Grand Slam event, for example, the U.S. Open in New York in August and September, players and their team members did not need to be vaccinated (but, after prompting from the mayor's office, the U.S. Tennis Association did require that spectators show they had at least one shot).

**Are most tennis players vaccinated?**

At least two others, Tennys Sandgren and Pierre-Hugues Herbert, are sitting out the Australian Open because they are not vaccinated. A spokeswoman for the women's professional tennis tour said Wednesday that 85% of the WTA's top 100 players are fully vaccinated; a spokesman for the men's professional tour tweeted late last month that the ATP's top 100 vaccination figure was 95%.

**So is this whole episode over?**

Doubtful. Djokovic is launching legal action in Australia's Federal Circuit Court against the cancellation of his visa. If he were forced to leave now, he would have time to return before the Australian Open starts if his attempt to get into Australia — and the Australian Open — eventually proved successful.

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### Helpline Numbers

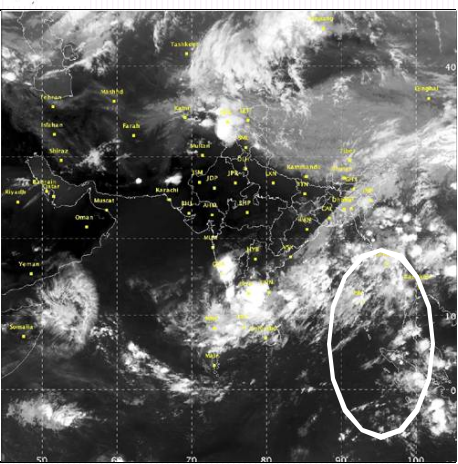
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan Call Centre:	1551
Wildlife Control Room::	245229, 200661, 200754

### Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs)

State Control Room:	03192- 238880 (Tele-Fax), 1070(Helpline).
District Control Room:	03192-238881
EOC (Campbell Bay):	03193-264020
EOC (Kamorta):	03193-263222
EOC (N&M):	03192-262960
EOC (Hut Bay):	03192-284014



### Weather



Max. Temp: 30.6 °C	Min.: 25.2 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 71%	1730 Hrs: 72%
Sunrise: 0541 Hrs.	Sunset: 1710 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall (From Jan 1, 2022 till date):	000.4 mm

### Forecast

Dry Weather most likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 26°C respectively on Friday 07/01/2022

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