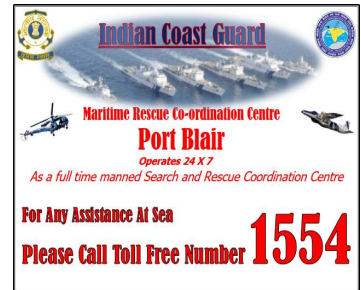




ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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Jarawa Facts

The Andaman Trunk Road, which cuts through the Jarawa's forest, brings poachers, settlers and tourists into the heart of their land. The Supreme Court of India in 2002 ordered that the road must be closed, but it has never been complied with.

Your Nature Guide

Plankton: this is a term used to describe the smellers, free floating plants and animals, which just drift along with the winds and currents. Some plankton have a limited swimming ability and can migrate daily in a vertical direction. Plankton are an important source of food for many sea animals.

There are two types of plankton Phytoplankton, which are microscopic plant plankton, and Zooplankton, which are larger animals plankton. Phytoplankton are amongst the most productive food manufactures of the seas.

Bigger Plants: Amongst the other plants are the Algae that are of different colours-green, red and brown. Some algae are edible (for humans) and a good source of protein. Most make very good fertilizer if spread in the garden or farm. Bigger algae are called seaweeds.

The oceans also have grasses growing in them. Eelgrass is a very common one found in our seas. It is grazed on by dugongs and green seaturtles.

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

People's Voice

Electricity Crisis ka agar koi Solution hai toh woh hai, Crisis Solve karne ka WILL...

- A Citizen



Not a drone, we will shoot the wedding using a satellite!

Electricity Crisis in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: The Root Cause?

A story of Ramu and the Vidhut Vibhag Karamchaaris

By Denis Giles

Patting his palm gently followed by a vigorous rubbing, Ramu stuffed his mouth with Baagbaan Kaagaj Paan. Once firmly placed under his tongue, he dusted his palm and looked towards me.

Sir, he said ... "I am engaged all day in my farm. I return home by evening to take some rest but I haven't been able to sleep for the past few months."

What's the reason, I asked? Is there anything that's bothering you?

Spitting out his Paan, clearing his throat, he replied in feeble voice ... "most of the days there's no Batti at home. For hours we spend our lives in darkness. The Batti comes for some time and then it vanishes for the next few hours. The situation continues till the day breaks."



Hmm, I replied, not knowing how to respond to his situation. Ramu continued his helpless banter sensing my lack of words.

"I tried having a 'lovely' from the nearby Bar to get some peace of mind. But it's a very costly alternative nowadays to get some sleep. The cost of alcohol too has gone sky rocketing in the Islands today. The Bar owner told me that the Islands has

been generating a lot of revenue for the nation by increasing the price of alcohol.

"Dhanda manda hai Sir! Batti gull hai, aur daaru maarne ka bhi paisa nahi", he adds as he picks up his jhola for another hard day at his farm followed by a sleepless night.

The situation of Ramu is more or less the same as us Islanders, I realized. Many of

us might have installed generators and inverters at home to get some momentary relief, but the question that lingers in my mind after having a word with Ramu is:

Is there any solution to this never ending crisis situation in the Islands?

How the crisis actually came into being in first place?

Was it a natural side effect of something or Has it been created on purpose?

And ultimately whether the meetings of the Chief Secretary with the Vidhyut Vibhag Karamchaaris would be able to resolve the crisis?

As umpteen questions loomed over us, Andaman Chronicle tried to do a bit of research to bring solace to everyone's hearts and a clarity for everyone's minds. We got

Continued on P4

Member of Parliament Demands Early Sanction of Pending Subsidy Cases under MSME Capital Subsidy Scheme

Port Blair, Nov. 18: The Member of Parliament, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of A&N Administration to sanction pending subsidy cases under MSME capital subsidy scheme.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the Member of Parliament mentioned that the subsidy under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) capital subsidy scheme promulgated by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration on 25th October 2017 vide Gazette notification no. 263 to support the unemployed youth and other jobless youngsters to establish their own business.

He pointed out that in order to avail the MSME scheme, many unemployed youths of these Islands had taken loans from various banks of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and started their own enterprises. Most of them have invested in the tourism industry.

He mentioned that in the year 2020, the COVID -19 Pandemic hit the entire nation including Andaman & Nicobar Islands which lasted for nearly 2 years and the running business of all these unemployed youths were shut down for most of these 2 years.

The Member of Parliament added that apart from the above, since March 2022

Continued on P5

CPI (M) Decides to Meet Lt. Governor, Waits for Response

Port Blair, Nov. 18: CPI (M) Andaman & Nicobar State Organising Committee in its meeting held on 5th November 2022 at Port Blair had decided that a delegation from the Party should meet the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands and place before him the two resolutions adopted by the Party demanding (1) CBI investigation into the sex-for-job scandal involving the former Chief Secretary, other officers and businessmen and (2) large scale corruption in the islands and siphoning off of a large amount of money to mainland. Accordingly, CPI (M) has sought an appointment with the Lt. Governor and waiting for his response.

U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S.-India Business Council Sign MOU to Promote Collaboration on Development Programs in India

Bengaluru, Oct. 18: Recognizing that the private sector is a key driving force for India's inclusive development, today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen the American and Indian business community's engagement on key development goals.

Signed during the 25th Bengaluru Tech Summit, the MOU expands opportunities for collaboration between the two organizations and opportunities to connect American and Indian companies with USAID initiatives. Working with leading companies in the U.S.-India corridor, USIBC and USAID will coordinate to identify and expand models for

Continued on P2

Electricity Department Announces Load Shedding Schedule

Port Blair, Nov. 18: In view of shortfall of power generation and steady increase in power demand especially evening hours, the department will exercise the rotational load shedding of approximately 45 minutes in and around Port Blair and South Andaman area during evening hours from 05.15 PM to 10.30 PM, if required, to manage the shortfall of power generation, said the Executive Engineer (HQ) in a communication today.

The load shedding schedule is purely tentative and the duration & timing may vary depending on power demand and generation gap. The below mentioned schedule will be enforced for next 7 days or till further intimation.

1715 Hrs. To 1800 Hrs.: Shadipur, South Point, Mazaar Pahad, Machi Line, RGT Road, Govt. Press, JNRM College, Garacharama Sub Station, Japan Nallah, Austinabad, Prothrapur, Carbyn's Cove, Brichgunj, Brookshabad, part of Chakkargoan, Buniyadabad, AIR, DDK Colony, part of Delanipur, part of Prem Nagar, Coast Guard Enclave, Coast Guard HQ, Coast Guard Jetty, Panipath Road & Fortress Head Quarter.

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ANDAMAN Chronicle

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Success is not an activity but a process ...

Shrinking Exports

For the first time since February 2021, India's goods exports shrank this October, dropping 16.7% from last year (and 16% from September 2022) to slip below \$30 billion after a 20-month-streak above that mark. Most sectors were hit hard: engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals and employment-intensive gems and jewellery, textiles and handlooms. Just six sectors recorded an uptick, with electronics goods being the only manufacturing segment. Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year, expanding the country's trade deficit over 50% to \$26.9 billion. This is the fourth straight month of a \$25 billion-plus goods trade deficit that hit a record \$30 billion in July. To be sure, imports have now been moderating sequentially for four straight months and dropped 7.3% from September to an eight-month low of \$56.7 billion. But a marginal dip in petroleum imports, along with a 10.3% shrinking of non-oil, non-gold imports from September, can also be construed as a sign of slackening domestic demand. India's trade deficit so far this year is now over \$175 billion, from \$94.2 billion a year ago. With high energy prices likely to escalate with winter's onset, a significant easing in deficit levels is not on the horizon yet.

While the Government acknowledged forecasts of a slump in global shipments growth to just 1% in 2023, it attributed the October trade blip to a seasonal Deepavali effect — production dips as workers go on leave and imports rise with festive demand. Though the pre-Deepavali and Deepavali month exports did have a \$5 billion gap in 2021, this was not the case in pre-COVID 2019. Officials conveyed there is no need to be 'overly depressed' as India has a very low share of global trade which can only grow. But that growth will not accrue automatically — in a shrinking buyer's market, rivals such as Vietnam cannot be expected to simply wait out the slump. In contrast, a new Foreign Trade Policy to replace the current policy from 2015, was recently deferred yet again till April 2023 for reasons that included waiting out the current global turmoil. If anything, the tumult in trade flows will be much worse by then. Policymakers must stop dithering and be more proactive in recalibrating their stance — for instance, the steel export duty amid lower global prices has triggered higher imports, while exports, including those of engineering goods, have collapsed. The Finance Ministry recently identified external pressures as a key challenge — with a depreciating rupee making imports pricier and slowing global demand hurting exports. More actions are needed to match these concerns; waiting and watching is not an option.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



National Security in Lilliput..!

In the island of Lilliput, the people were unhappy; they wanted to change from the gods of their forefathers to another God. "He's a living God!" they said.

"Well we've all been living with the same gods for centuries!" sneered the chief.

"But we would like to try out this new God!" they said.

The chief turned to his aide and asked, "What can we do?"

"File a case they have been forcibly converted!" grinned the aide to the chieftain of Lilliput.

"Forcible conversion!" shouted the judge, "Terrible. This should be stopped!"

"Yes," nodded the chieftain and his aide, who had not expected an outburst of this magnitude from a learned judge and were overjoyed by the reaction. But they did not expect the poor man who had been converted to speak up.

"Your honour!" said the converted Lilliputian, "Can you tell me why I cannot convert to a God of my choice, when I can elect a chieftain of my choice?"

There was silence in the Lilliputian court, "Because you have been offered bribes to convert!" said the judge bristling with rage.

"Ah your honour, for the last few years, the opposition are joining in hordes the party of the chieftain after being offered astronomical bribes. Have you nothing to say about that?"

"Enough!" said the judge.



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"And your honour, may I know what inducement I have been offered?"

"A bag of rice!" roared the judge.

"If, your honour, I can be induced to leave the religion of my Lilliputian forefathers and run to another God for just a bag of rice, then shouldn't hunger be the issue that should be addressed in this court and not conversion? Especially when the world calls us poor, and we say their measurement methods are wrong? Maybe here's a measurement method that seems to be gauging right in your sight?"

The judge looked helplessly at the chieftain, who pointed in the direction of the country of Brobdingnag, in the mainland. "Ah yes," said the judge, "also these conversions can lead to a breach in national security, because Brobdingnag believes in the religion you intend to follow!"

There was a gasp around the court as people wondered whether they'd heard right.

"National security your honour?" asked the poor man from Lilliput, "Are you saying that all those who believe in a God, different from yours, are a security threat? How?"

The judge looked again at where the chieftain and his aide were standing, but found they were gone. They had left the court, and outside the aide turned to his chieftain and said, "Don't you think our judge exceeded his brief?"

The chieftain of Lilliput smiled and said, "Just see that he gets a good position in our leadership after his retirement!"

Somewhere in an English grave, Jonathon Swift grunted as Gulliver laughed at the antics of the little Lilliputian chief..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S.-India Business Council Sign MOU to Promote Collaboration on Development Programs in India

Continued from Page 1 private sector engagement that can make significant contributions to climate resilience, public health, agriculture, and education. Additional areas of focus include expanding financial inclusion, promoting gender diversity, developing open and inclusive digital ecosystems, and integrating Indian state economies into larger global value chains.

USAID Mission Director Veena Reddy said, "For many years, USAID has worked closely with experts in India's and America's vibrant private sectors to test and scale innovative development solutions in India, as well as regionally and globally. The

MOU signed today with USIBC will leverage our combined capacities to support India's development goals. With the right mix of technology, innovation, and partnerships, we can not only make a difference, but a lasting impact."

USIBC Managing Director Ambika Sharma, added, "This collaboration with USAID will help us mobilize more private sector expertise and investments into knowledge transfer, skills, and productivity that ultimately promote inclusive economic growth. We look forward to our partnership with USAID yielding tangible impacts in areas of health, financial

inclusion, sustainability, digital skilling, and women's empowerment."

While at the Summit, USAID and USIBC announced their first collaboration under the MOU, announcing the establishment of a working group focused on improving digital connectivity. The working group will engage USIBC members to ideate and examine strategies to bridge the gender digital divide and expand overall connectivity across India. This collaboration and the overall MOU is the latest expansion of USAID and USIBC's existing partnership, which has spanned healthcare, clean energy, and digital inclusion.

Electricity Department Announces Load Shedding Schedule

Continued from Page 1

1800 Hrs. To 1845 Hrs.: Part of Garacharama, Dollygunj, Attompahar, Old Pahargaon, ICMR Colony area, part of Minnie Bay, Part of Dollygunj, part of Pahargaon, ICMR Colony area, part of School Line, Water Treatment Plant area at Lamba lane, Marine Hill, Dugnabad complete, Round Basti & Netaji Club area.

1845 Hrs. To 1930 Hrs.: Agency House, Garacharama complete, 5 MW Solar Power Plant area, Part of Junglighat, Vijay Baugh, Dairy Farm complete, BSNL Telephone Exchange, Prem Nagar, Goalghar, Carmel School area, KV-I area & Murdakhari area.

1930 Hrs. To 2015 Hrs.: AKT Miniplex, Bird Line, Mahaveer Nagar, Kamaraj Nagar, Beodnabad, Rangachang, Burmanallah, Chidiyatapu, Rajasthan Mandir, ALWH Colony, Hawaghar Jn., Dudh Line, Nayagaon, Bargat Line, GPRA Colony, Carbyn's Junction, Sippighat, Teylarabad, Bimblitan, Manjeri, Guptapara,

Manglutan, Wandoor, Chouldari Tushnabad, Port Mount, Tirur, Templemyo & Ograbranj.

2015 PM To 2100 PM: Part of Sippighat, Chouldari Lal Pahar, Tsunami Shelter, Mithakhari, Namunaghar, Dunduspoint, Hathi Tappu, Light House, Phoenix Bay, Fisheries Jetty area, Anarkali, Delanipur, Quarry Hill, Phongy Kyaung, Foreshore Road, Megapode, Teal House, Horticulture Road, Haddo, Haddo Wharf, Foreshore Road and upto Civil Aviation Delanipur.

2100 PM To 2145 PM: Bhatu Basti complete, Laxmi Motor Area, Pathergudda, Satellite Colony, New Pahargaon, Mohanpura, Babu Lane, Aberdeen Bazaar from Ratnam Market to Taxi Stand, Aberdeen Thana, part of Gurudwara Lane, Bambooflat to Wimberlygunj, STS Workshop, BSNL Bhawan, Model School Area, Fire Brigade, ANIIDCO Bhawan

area, Girls School, CCS Aberdeen Bazaar area, Supply Line complete, Netaji Stadium area, Electricity Bazaar site office, Jama Masjid, Netaji Club and part of Gurudwara Lane.

2145 PM To 2230 PM: Mathura, Bridavan, Ferargunj to Jirkatang, Stewart Gunj, Kanyapuram, Wimberlygunj to Shoal Bay, Dairy Farm Junction, CPWD Complex, Lamba Line, Ranchi Tekery, School Line complete & part of Minnie Bay, Part of Gurudwara Lane, Bengali Club, Biggi Lane, Anthropological Museum, Middle Point, Link Road, VIP Road, Police Line, part of Junglighat and CARL, Ayyanar Temple, Calicut, New Bimblitan, part of Teylarabad & Macca Pahad

All the consumers of Electricity Department and general public are requested to conserve electricity and regulate consumption of use of electricity.

Power Suspension Notice

It is brought to the notice of the general consumers and government departments that power supply will remain suspended at the following area on 19.11.2022 (Saturday) from 0800 Hrs. to 1400 Hrs. in connection with shifting of 11 KV Overhead High Tension Line near Birdline Chowk at safe location in view of safety.

19.11.2022 (Saturday) 0800 Hrs.-1400 Hrs.: AKT Miniplex, Bird Line, Mahaveer Nagar, Kamaraj Nagar, Beodnabad, Rangachang, Burmanallah & Chidiyatapu

The time mentioned in the schedule is tentative, if the work completes earlier the feeders will be charged accordingly.

'With You' Organises Women Health Camp at Tushnabad

Port Blair, Nov. 18: The NGO, 'WITH YOU' today organised a Women Health Camp at Tushnabad Community Hall in association with Directorate of Health Service and Gram Panchayat, Tushnabad. The camp was inaugurated by Smti R. Smitha, IAS, Secretary (Social Welfare).

Addressing the gathering the Chief Guest appreciated the efforts of WITH YOU to organise such camps exclusively for women. She appealed the women folk to take care of their health and informed that as per the survey done most of the women are suffering from anemia. She urged to take proper diet and visit the hospital in case of any health issues.

Shri Anand Amrit Raj, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Tushnabad welcomed the Chief Guest and other guests and expressed his gratitude towards the NGO for Organizing such a camp in his Panchayat as it benefits the rural people.

Speaking on the occasion, Miss V. K. Mariyam Bibi, President, WITH YOU stated that the NGO is committed to serve the people especially the women in their health and upliftment in society. She also expressed her gratitude



towards the Administration especially the Health department and PRI members for providing all support to make the camp successful.

About 150 people got benefitted by this camp as Gynecologist, Pediatrician and medical specialists rendered their services.

On the occasion, sanitary pads were distributed to the adolescent girls of GSSS Tushnabad. The program was attended by Smti

Padmawathi, Pramukh Panchayat Samity Ferrargunj, Smti Rashmi Goenka, Social worker, Smti Rajini ZPM, Tushnabad, Shri P. A. Sarfuddin, ZPM Mithakhari, Shri Mohammed Shafique, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Mithakhari, Shri Salamat PSM, Tushnabad, Shri Rafiq PSM, Mithakhari, Shri Sumit Goenka and members of WITH YOU.

Smti Reva Devi, Vice President WITH YOU proposed the vote of thanks.

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NASA Postpones Rocket Launch to Moon After Fuel Leak

November 18 : Kennedy Space Center, United States: NASA on Saturday scrapped a second attempt to get its new 30-story rocket off the ground and send its uncrewed test capsule toward the Moon after engineers detected a fuel leak.

With millions around the globe and hundreds of thousands on nearby beaches waiting for the historic launch of the massive Space Launch System (SLS), a leak near the base of the rocket was found as ultra-cold liquid hydrogen was being pumped in.

"The launch director waived off today's Artemis I launch," NASA said in a statement. "Multiple troubleshooting efforts to address the area of the leak... did not fix the issue."

Though the area around the launch site was closed to the public, an estimated 400,000 people had gathered nearby to see — and hear — the most powerful vehicle that NASA has ever launched climb into space.

The initial launch attempt on Monday was also halted after engineers detected a fuel leak and a sensor showed that one of the rocket's four main engines was too hot.

Early Saturday, launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson had given the go-ahead to start filling the rocket's tanks with cryogenic fuel.

About three million liters of ultra-cold liquid hydrogen and oxygen were due to be pumped into the spacecraft, but the process soon hit problems.

No new date for another try was immediately announced.

After the latest delay, there are backup opportunities on Monday or Tuesday. After that, the next launch window will not be until September 19, due to the Moon's position.

The purpose of the Artemis 1 mission is to verify that the Orion capsule, which sits atop the SLS rocket, is safe to carry astronauts in the future.

Mannequins equipped with sensors are standing in for astronauts on the mission and will record acceleration, vibration and radiation levels.

Apollo's twin sister It will take several days for the spacecraft to reach the Moon, flying around 60 miles (100 kilometers) at its closest approach. The capsule will fire its engines to get to a distant retrograde orbit (DRO) of 40,000 miles beyond the Moon, a record for a spacecraft rated to carry humans.

The trip is expected to last around six weeks and one of its main objectives is to test the capsule's heat shield, which at 16 feet in diameter is the largest ever built.

On its return to Earth's atmosphere, the heat shield will have to withstand speeds of 25,000 miles per hour and a temperature of 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit (2,760 degrees Celsius) — roughly half as hot as the Sun several years, could be attempted by the end of the 2030s.

Electricity Crisis in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: The Root Cause?

A story of Ramu and the Vidhut Vibhag Karamchaaris

Continued from Page 1
up and set off on a journey to at least try to find the root cause of the crisis that the islanders have been dealing with.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands are like no other land that constitutes our nation India. It has been firmly established by many past tragedies as well as overwhelming successes that how our Islands need to be treated differently owing to its geographical setup. However still after harsh lessons the 'Transferable Administration' have been running the show and unfortunately failing at it.

Many factors need to be catered while administering these Islands, main one being the Carrying Capacity of our lands. There have been 'n' number of studies that have suggested to keep a check on the Carrying Capacity of the Islands. Whether it is the population or the development sector, checks & balances are required to sustain. Else, the doom is set to be. There are many aspects when it comes to the term 'carrying capacity' or in easy terms 'load bearing capacity'. Haphazard development, ill will and corruption in the system have overlooked all these aspects, resulting in a manmade crisis situation. One such aspect is the never ending crisis of electricity, which the Islands and its islanders have been dealing with. The question is, whether there is a real crisis of electricity (power generation) in the Islands? Or has it cropped up because of the ignorance and clandestine motifs?

The power situation has worsened in the year 2021 and 2022. To meet the emergency, the islanders ranging from lower middle class to the high class have opted for an easy solution- installation of an inverter. This has led to a drastic increase in the sale, quite a good opportunity for the sellers. The welcoming of inverters to every 5th household might have stopped the consumers from complaining or it must have been that the consumers lost their faith in administration itself, but whatever the reason is, being mum on it doesn't solve the problem.

Power Crisis and the Vidhyut Vibhag:

Having explained the above, let us now try and understand how the situation of electricity supply has worsened and the functioning of the 'Vidhyut Vibhag' of A&N Administration has degraded over the years.

This is the same 'Vidhyut Vibhag' of A&N

Administration, which was lauded in 2004 for reviving power within 24 hours in Port Blair after the worst hit Tsunami. With many of the Engineers of that time still serving in the Vibhag, why have they become so insensitive to the people's problem? Has this insensitivity percolated from the top or is it an outcome of poor and visionless leadership?

It is not that the Islands have not faced power crisis before, but things were sorted out and restored within a short span. However, this time the period of crisis has been the longest ever with situation worsening with each passing day. It would not be surprising if we witness a total collapse of the system, which may be difficult to revive and we all know is soon approaching.

The Demand and Supply:

The Andaman & Nicobar are a group of around 836 islands / islets and rocky strata out of which only 38 islands are inhabited. Out of the three districts, South Andaman is densely populated followed by North and Middle Andaman. The power requirement in these Islands is largely in the residential sector followed by commercial sector and then hospitality / tourism sector. In the absence of any major industries, the peak load occurs in the evening and therefore all the planning in the power sector has to be considered to meet this short duration requirement. Andaman Chronicle's research indicates that present peak demand is around 61 MW and to meet this demand, the total working power capacity is around 110 MW. Adequate stand by capacity is a must in the island scenario.

The total yearly generation was around 330 million units in 2021 out of which 91% was met via diesel generation. The rest was from renewable (mix of Hydro and Solar). Due to diesel dependency and higher losses, the cost of power generation is around Rs. 28/- per unit, probably the highest in India. Our losses in Transmission & Distribution system are in the range of 25 to 29%.

The ill will and the need based development:

In the 1980s and 90s major steps were taken for establishing last mile connectivity in order to deliver power to every nook and corner of the inhabited islands. Some of the great works carried out during that

era still stand today, however in dilapidated condition crying out for maintenance. It's not that there has not been addition, but whatever sprung up was not a part of any major plan. The example is the change in power lines along the roadside, which has only been a need based development to accommodate the National Highway project. Another example was the transmission and distribution related works carried out by PGCIL as a part of Tsunami revival plan.

These Islands have also seen a world class power house in Bambooflat of 20 MW capacity equipped with the latest technology of that time. However, it is very sad that such an asset created under a Government Policy lies as a waste occupying a large chunk of precious land in one of the best location since 2017. The rugged machines along with its auxiliaries have not only been considered as a scrap, also the investments in its power evacuation can be strongly termed as a wasteful expenditure. No action has been taken since it breathed its last power output in 2017. The officials of the Vidhyut Vibhag seem to be busy in making plans for filling their Annual Performance Report. They seem to be playing safe and thus ignoring the ground level execution.

The Mushrooming of Hired Power Plants:

The short sightedness and personal gains have created a havoc on our Islands. Officers want to glide through their tenure with no obstruction, hence keeping away from undertaking any major project of development as well as refinement in power industry. This is one of the major reason behind mushrooming of diesel power plants across the Islands in the name of Hired Power Plants (HPPs) a term unknown to the mainlanders. Well what are these hired power plants?

The Hired Power Plants are nothing but small capacity diesel generating power plants owned and operated by private bodies running without any grid code. There is no technological control over these mushrooming diesel power plants as the only mode of control is through a VHF communication system, something like a Walkie Talkie. The engineers running the show sit in an air-conditioned chamber and try to manage the power show either over phone or over this Walkie Talkie.

The Solar Power Plant:

These Islands can also boast about one of the largest Solar Power Plant (SPP) with battery backup, one of its kind in 2020s. This power plant had many companions over the period of time. This solar plant was dreamt by one, planned by another, conceived by the next and executed by someone, altogether new. This all was done under the direction and guidance of the Ministry. However, this mega solar project for these Islands soon became a bone in the throat. Why? We all know the reason by now. Short sightedness and Poor execution. These solar plants were effective but our own system was not geared up to handle the generation from this plant.

Our Vidhyut engineers who were enjoying a complacent position started facing grid imbalances and most of the engineers started criticizing and cursing this project without peeping down their own neckline. Spreading rumors that all the disruptions were happening due to solar plants, of course this was well taken in by the diesel lobby and its traders.

This is the time to appreciate that the solar power resource is free, abundant, cost effective, sustainable and guarantees output even in difficult times like natural calamity or manmade disruption in the sea route.

Need for a Common Grid and the OSOWOG:

We are well aware that the One Sun One World One Grid Declaration (OSOWOG) was jointly released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the COP26 Climate Meet in Glasgow.

It is being realised that the vision of OSOWOG through interconnected green grids can be transformational. It will not only enable all nations to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement to prevent dangerous climate change but these efforts can stimulate green investments and create millions of good jobs. By sharing the sun's energy, one can help to build a more peaceful and prosperous world, the OSOWOG declaration added.

The Objective of OSOWOG: While the sun is the source of all energy and solar energy is totally clean and sustainable, it is available only during the day time and is dependent

on the weather. OSOWOG is the solution to this challenge. Its objective is to aid in developing a worldwide grid through which clean energy can be transmitted anywhere, anytime (use power at night in one part of the world from solar energy generated on other side of the world where it is day time). It also aims to help in reducing storage needs and enhancing the viability of solar projects. Its ultimate goal is to reduce carbon footprints and energy costs.

The major power consumption in the Islands i.e. more than 95% is in five major islands with South Andaman (72%), North and Middle Andaman (16%), Little Andaman, Swaraj Dweep and Shaheed Dweep together (6%) of the total. Rest of the Islands consume only 5% of the total. The major challenge facing the Vidhyut Vibhag is the disconnect between the islands and the absence of a unified grid.

The question is, when the nation led by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and the world acknowledges the need for interconnected green grid and the need to reduce carbon footprints, why should the Islands not understand its importance and be bent upon adding to the carbon footprints? Why can't we think of a unified grid? Why can't we think of having solar plants across the inhabited islands and uniformly distributing it as per the requirement of the islands? When the OFC can connect Chennai to Andaman, isn't there a way out to connect all inhabited islands through undersea cables?

Plans for Power Augmentation:

The focus of power planning should be to meet the peak requirement of each and every island taking into account the island wise growth rate and expected rise in the next 10 years. While formulating mixed plans (Renewable plus non-renewable), it should always be borne in mind that whatever is generated has to be consumed in the island itself including the disturbances / power fluctuations, until the islands are connected through cables.

Plans for power augmentation should be meticulously made to avoid changes time and again, as such actions are said to cause delay in its execution if it undergoes repeated changes.

Being an island territory, it is a well-established fact that dependence on resources like oil, coal and gas will have a devastating effect in case of calamities like war or sea route disruptions. The Islands should therefore have a good mix of natural resources that are locally available to meet any instant requirements for at least six months.

Continued on P5

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Member of Parliament Demands Early Sanction of Pending Subsidy Cases under MSME Capital Subsidy Scheme

Continued from Page 1

the maintenance of the airfield of Port Blair airport was started which lasted for 3 months and is now restarting to continue till March 2023 end.

As a result of this, the tourism industry and the associated youths have been under severe financial distress due to dent in business and those unemployed youths who have taken loans are unable to even pay their EMIS, he added.

He further pointed out that consequently, the interest of such loans has increased manifold, which has now become a severe financial burden on their shoulders.

"The subsidy applied under the MSME scheme by the business youngsters are lying pending in the

Directorate of Industries since over 2 years and are under examination. Moreover, it is learnt that the last subsidy was sanctioned several years ago and thereafter no subsidy has been granted to eligible firms," he mentioned.

Sharma added that now a few of the cases who had applied for subsidy under the aforesaid scheme have been cleared by the Sub-committee constituted by the administration and forwarded to the Scrutiny committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Industries).

He therefore requested the Chief Secretary to grant subsidy to all the pending applications on priority and the entitled subsidy as per rules at the earliest so that the loan taken by the applicants can be refunded to the maximum extent.

Electricity Crisis in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: The Root Cause?

A story of Ramu and the Vidhut Vibhag Karamchaaris

Continued from Page 4

Short Term Plan:

Some of the short term plans for power augmentation in the Islands can be: Introduction of Grid Code for improving the power quality. Setting up of load dispatch system, Effective utilization of Energy Management Centre (which was recently inaugurated by the Hon'ble Home Minister of India during his visit) for minimizing disruptions and Installation of energy storage batteries as advised by SECI for Port Blair.

Long Term Plan:

Long term plans may include a mix of renewable and non-renewable energy as suggested by the Expert Group in 2021 for optimal power solutions. Healthy power evacuation and power transfer system, Grid connectivity between various islands, enhancing the voltage level for efficient transfer of power, HV cables for minimising disruption and double circuits for redundancy are few others that needs consideration. There should also be interventions to reduce the demand and supply gap. This can be achieved by stabilizing the demand through energy efficient appliances. Implementation of Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) in commercial and Eco Niwas Samhita in Residential sector, Effective smart metering, Incentivizing the good consumers may also prove to be helpful.

The sub-works like transformer installation, laying of new lines, repair and maintenance of lines, tree cutting and pruning of branches could be outsourced for better services, in a scenario where the Vibhag seems to be facing shortage of skilled manpower and funds for infrastructure.

A well-equipped rapid action team for repair, restoration / revival, early redressal of fuse calls and setting up of Fuse Call Centres may also be considered keeping in mind the consumer satisfaction.

As it is rightly said, where there is a will there is a way. We have lots of ways; the need of the hour is only to find our will. This is high time we put an end to this crisis before it becomes an irreversible threat.

Andaman & Nicobar State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Port Blair			
FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST MARCH 2022			
₹ in Lac			
SL. No.	PARTICULARS	31.03.2022 (Audited)	
1	Interest Earned (i+ii)	11,204.47	CRAR 12.91%
i	Interest on Advances	5,947.35	
ii	Interest on Investments	5,257.12	Interest Earned ₹ 11,204.47 Lac
2	Other income	1,260.67	
3	GROSS INCOME (1+2)	12,465.14	Av. Working Capital ₹ 1,47,692.87 Lac
4	Interest Expended	6,176.11	
5	Operating Expenses (i+ii)	3,593.26	
i	Transaction Costs	2,824.56	
ii	Other Operating Expenses	768.70	
6	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (4+5)	9,769.37	
7	OPERATING PROFIT (3-6)	2,701.77	
8	Provisions	2,420.55	
9	NET PROFIT (7-8)	281.22	
Deposits ₹ 1,20,885.64 Lac			
Advances ₹ 77,546.36 Lac			
Business per Employee ₹ 1,280.21 Lac			
ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2022			
₹ in Lac			
	Items	31.03.2022 (Audited)	
A	LIABILITIES		
i	Paid Up Capital	709.44	
ii	Reserves and Surplus	23,987.77	
iii	Deposits	1,20,885.64	
iv	Borrowings	463.33	
v	Other Liabilities	4,229.57	
	TOTAL	1,50,275.75	
B	ASSETS		
i	Cash in hand / bank balances	1,516.87	
ii	Balance with bank & Money at call and short notice	26,744.58	
iii	Investment	34,156.37	
iv	Loans & Advances	77,546.36	
v	Fixed Asset	1,147.83	
vi	Other Assets	9,163.74	
	TOTAL	1,50,275.75	
	Growth (%)	3.70 %	

For VLP & Co
Chartered Accountants

1 Floor, Block No 29, Radha Krishna Complex,
Junglighat (PO), Port Blair, Andaman - 744105

AUDITORS' REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on financial statements: We have audited the accompanying financial statements of 'Andaman & Nicobar State Co-operative Bank Limited' Port Blair, Andaman including its 09 branch out of 41 branches as at 31st March 2022 which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2022, and the statement of Profit and Loss Account for the period ended 31st March 2022.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement: Management is responsible for preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the bank in accordance with provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India and the guidelines issued by National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and accounting principles generally accepted in India so far as applicable to banks. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility: Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the Auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion: In our opinion, and to the best of our information and according to the explanation given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the act in the manner so required as give a true & fair view in conformity with the accounting Principles generally accepted in India.

a. In the case of Balance Sheet, of the State of Affairs of the branch as at 31st March, 2022, and
b. In case of Profit and Loss account, of the Profit / Loss for the year ended on that date.

Place: Port Blair
Date: 30/04/2022

For VLP & Co
Chartered Accountants FRN 3271254
Sd/-
ICA Payal Sanghal ACA
Partner, M No. 105-11
BOSB No. 2230574JANC2022



SPORTS

India vs New Zealand T20 Playing XI Tip-off: Possible Game Time for Pant, Samson and Finger Spinners

November 18: India vs New Zealand Playing 11 List: A young India will aim to play a fearless brand of cricket in the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning in Wellington on Friday.

Hardik Pandya will be captaining the side in Rohit Sharma's absence.

With stand-in head coach VVS Laxman indicating that the management will be keen to add only T20 specialists, let's take a look at the possible changes.

Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill will be the likely openers for the first game. Rishabh Pant might also get another opportunity at the top of the order.

Sanju Samson has been handed another chance and he would be desperate to make it count and the number three slot seems a good fit for him.

Finger spinners

One major reason for India's T20 troubles has been its inability to take wickets in the middle-overs through finger spinners. The New Zealand

games could reunite the wrist spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, whose exclusion from the World Cup XI baffled many.

Need for speed India also needs an express pace bowler alongside Jasprit Bumrah and on that front, Umran Malik seems to be its best bet. He did not have the best of times on his maiden tour of Ireland and England and will be eyeing more accuracy, without compromising on raw pace.

India Predicted XI: Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Hooda/Washington Sundar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik

New Zealand Predicted XI: Finn Allen, Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Adam Milne, Lockie Ferguson, Blair Tuckner



India vs New Zealand 1st T20I Match Details: India vs New Zealand, 1st T20I will be played in Wellington on Friday, November 18. 19 matches have been played at the ground with teams bowling first winning 10 of them. The average 1st innings score is 154. The highest total recorded at this venue is 219/6 in 20 overs (NZ vs IND). The highest score chased is 163/6 (NZ vs WI)

India vs New Zealand 1st T20I Pitch Report: The Westpac Stadium uses a drop-in pitch. The pitch also tends to assist batters and the ball is expected to come onto the bat.

India vs New Zealand 1st T20I Weather Report: Chances of rain stand at 20 percent and temperatures are expected to hover around 21°C

David Warner engages in banter with fans during AUS vs ENG 1st ODI

November 18: David Warner is one of the most colourful cricket characters playing today, on the field as well as off it. Known for his hilarious social media activities, the southpaw was caught on camera on Thursday bantering with a fan in the stand during the first ODI between England and Australia.

During the Australian innings, a young fan held a short placard which read: "David Warner can I have ur shirt?" which was caught on camera which then zeroed in on Warner's reaction in the dressing room. The Australian opener, who had seen the fan on the big screen, had a perfectly witty response. He would pick up a placard himself and write, "Get One off Marnus" on it, indicating teammate Marnus Labuschagne. David Warner is one of the most colourful cricket characters playing today, on the

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The Australian opener, who had seen the fan on the big screen, had a perfectly witty response. He would pick up a placard himself and write, "Get One off Marnus" on it, indicating teammate Marnus Labuschagne.

Another fan then came in the picture, holding a sign which read, "Marnus can I please have your shirt" as the commentators

said that adding that "please" might have helped. Reading the sign, Warner burst out laughing, gave a thumbs up and asked the fan to come over. In the match Warner scored 86 runs before getting caught in the deep but Australia still ran out as winners against the newly crowned T20I champions England.

After choosing to field first, Australia kept England to 287-9 despite a century from Dawid Malan. England's total always appeared below par. David Warner and Travis Head (69) came out strongly with a 147-run opening stand and Steve Smith (80 not out) finished the cruise home to 291-4 with 19 balls to spare.

Earlier, Malan responded to missing England's T20 World Cup triumph over Pakistan in the final on Sunday by smashing a career-best 134. His second ODI century helped England to a respectable total after the visitors were in early trouble at 66-4.

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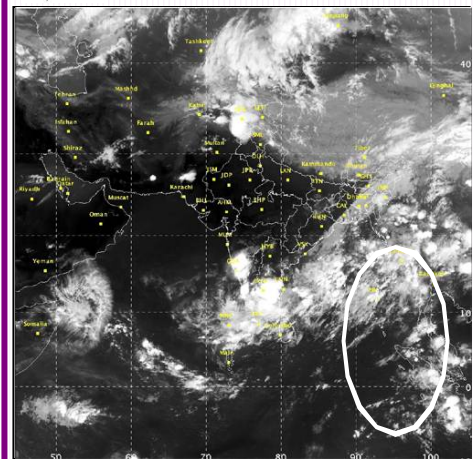
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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: 29.6 °C	Min.: 24.2 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 89%	1730 Hrs: 84%
Sunrise: 0518 Hrs.	Sunset: 1651 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	017.5 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.8 mm
Total Rainfall (From Jan 1, 2022 till date):	2484.9 mm

Forecast

Partially Cloudy sky and Light Rain is very likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 25°C respectively on Saturday 19/11/2022.

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