



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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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

Kabhi baarish toh kabhi Corona ... Andaman ka Road ka nishaan he mit jayega lag raha hai

- A Citizen



The House is now a quarantine centre!

With Conditions of Rural Roads Worsening, Member of Parliament Demands Immediate Review

Port Blair, Jan. 2: The Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to review the conditions of all rural roads in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and order for immediate repairs of these roads, wherever

necessary. This is to ensure that before next monsoon the Islanders get some relief and their lives become a little easy.

In a letter, the Member of Parliament has drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor towards the rural roads, which are causing a great deal of inconvenience

to the general public, especially the people living in rural areas.

He said that the rural roads in almost all the regions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are presently in horrible shape, giving difficult time to the general public, especially

old age people, patients, school going children etc.

The Member of Parliament called in for the Lt. Governor's intervention in this matter which will transform the remote villages and will bring fast pace development for Islanders living in even remotest areas.

A&N Administration Modifies Rules to Keep COVID-19 Under Check

Port Blair, Jan 2: In view of the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases including detection of Omicron variant cases in A&N Islands, the A&N Administration has modified the rules to keep the spread of infection under check.

Accordingly, all incoming passengers above 02 years of age including partially and fully vaccinated arriving at VSI Airport, Port Blair from 5th Jan 2022 onwards shall have to mandatorily carry RT-PCR negative test report issued from a ICMR recognized laboratory, subject to condition that the RT-PCR test should have been taken within 48 hours prior to commencement of journey from the origin airport connecting Port Blair.

All passengers with travel history of foreign travel in the last 30 days, all un-vaccinated and partially vaccinated passengers shall also be tested by RT-PCR on arrival at VSI Airport, Port Blair and they have to strictly self isolate themselves till the receipt of negative RT-PCR report.

If passengers on arrival are tested positive, the prescribed quarantine protocol is to be followed. Airlines have been instructed to ensure strict compliance of the order. Any non-compliance will invite action under Disaster Management Act and other applicable laws.

Humane Touch Conducts Free Cloth Distribution at Miletalak

Port Blair, Jan 2: In continuation of its ClothShare initiative, a free Cloth distribution program was organised by Humane Touch at Miletalak village on 2nd January 2022 at 9:30 am.

The program started with the address of P Mujeeb Rehman, President, Humane Touch who welcomed the gathering and briefed about



various social and public issues taken up by the organization. He also highlighted

Continued on P2

Yuva Bharat Conducts Door to Door Awareness cum Cleanliness Drive at LA

Port Blair, Jan 2: To inculcate the spirit of environment enthusiasm and to safeguard the environment, a team of Yuva Bharat Samaj Seva Charitable Trust in collaboration with Hut Bay Panchayat held a door to door awareness cum cleanliness drive on 02-01-



2022 at Farm Tikery, Little Andaman. The drive comprised of door to door interaction

Continued on P4

COVID-19 Status in A&N Islands

Port Blair, Jan. 2: During the RT-PCR test conducted on 522 passengers who arrived here yesterday, 2 positive cases have been detected. Today, 14 flights with 2341 passengers arrived, out of which, 1957 were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 379 passengers (includes 30 international travellers) and the reports are awaited.

During RAT conducted on 160 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj, all were found negative. At Mohanpura Bus Terminus, test was conducted on 71 passengers and all were found negative. At Phoenix Bay Jetty, 21 passengers were tested with RAT and all were found negative.

Three Month Certificate Course by ZSI to Commence from Today

Port Blair, Jan 2: The Zoological Survey of India will be conducting a three-month certificate course on Para-Taxonomy including Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) and Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology (Second Batch). The training is being conducted under the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP), sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Continued on P4

Programme on 'Atal Pension Yojana' on AIR

Port Blair, Jan 2: 'Atal Pension Yojana' is a government-backed pension scheme in India, primarily targeted at the unorganised sector. All India Radio Port Blair in its LIVE phone-in programme 'Face to Face' will broadcast a programme on this Yojana on 03.01.2022 (Monday). It will be broadcast from 07:15 hrs to 08:00 hrs.

Chief Manager of State Bank of India, Shri. Manoj Kumar Lakra will be the expert in the Studio answering to the queries of the listeners on the above said topic.

Continued on P2

ANDAMAN Chronicle

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

Prepare for the worst

The Omicron variant is galloping across the U.S. and many countries in Europe at a pace never seen since the pandemic began. If the United States set a new record of fresh cases on a single day on December 27 with over 0.54 million cases, the seven-day average is at 2,40,400 cases a day, a 60% increase compared to the previous week. At least seven countries in Europe — Britain, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain — are witnessing a similar trend this week. The World Health Organization said the number of COVID-19 cases recorded globally shot up by 11% last week (December 20-26) compared with the previous week, while the number of new deaths stayed nearly the same as the previous week. But globally, the weekly new cases are close to but yet to surpass the peak witnessed in the last week of April 2021. The sharp increase in daily cases is not surprising given the highly infectious nature of the Omicron variant. It is estimated that it spreads nearly three times faster than the highly transmissible Delta variant. While Omicron has emerged as the dominant variant in a few countries, it has not completely displaced the Delta variant. The twin threats from the two variants are responsible for fresh cases reaching record numbers in many countries. The Omicron variant has a superior ability to cause breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people and also cause reinfections in people who have been previously infected. Early data from South Africa and the United Kingdom suggest a reduced risk of severe disease requiring hospitalisation particularly among those fully vaccinated and previously infected. But it is still too early to draw conclusions as there is an inevitable lag between infection and hospitalisation, and the protection offered by vaccines against Omicron in older and other vulnerable populations is still not clear.

India has been witnessing a surge in cases in many States. As in the case of the first two waves, the increase in cases is currently seen in large cities. The total number of Omicron variant cases reported in India is inching closer to 1,300 and has already been reported from 22 States. There is no reason to believe that the variant will behave differently in India. The highly transmissible nature of the variant and its ability to cause breakthrough infections and reinfections, and the fact that people with no travel history or contact with international passengers have tested positive for the virus should alert policymakers to take the Omicron threat seriously. The first step in addressing this concern is to increase the daily testing numbers and adopt a dual RT-PCR testing strategy — testing all positive samples with a kit containing the S-gene target — before sequencing for Omicron detection. India should not repeat the same mistakes committed during the second wave by allowing the virus to spread widely.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Pardoning is a Bigger Revenge..!

Some years ago I read how an Indian sentenced to death by UAE's Supreme Court for murdering a girl had been pardoned by the victim's parents! As a father of two daughters I can only look at such an act of mercy as beyond human understanding, divine and holy. I remember some years ago meeting Mrs Gladys Staines whose husband and two sons were gruesomely burnt to death by fanatics. I looked at her face as she spoke to me and wondered how she had managed to forgive those killers. "How?" I asked silently. She looked at me and from her soul came a smile that smoothed out her grief torn face, and I knew what she was telling me was if a God above could forgive, then why couldn't she?

Many years ago the Duke of Wellington was about to pronounce the death sentence on a confirmed deserter. Deeply moved, the great General said, "I am extremely sorry to pass this severe sentence, but we have tried everything, and all the disciplines and penalties have failed to improve this man who is otherwise a brave and good soldier!" A friend and comrade of the man who was standing nearby asked if he could speak. "What is it you want to say on your friend's behalf?" asked the General.

"Your Excellency," said the man, "There is one thing you have never tried. You have not tried pardoning him!"

The General pardoned the man and it worked; the soldier never ever deserted and ever after showed gratitude to the Iron Duke. I have over the years seen, that only the strong can forgive, but most often others take it as a case of weakness, strange isn't it?

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it? We think to retaliate is strength, but to be kind, to be gentle, to forgive is being spineless, but how wrong we are.

The noblest vengeance says an English Proverb is to forgive. And said Francis Bacon, "In taking revenge, a man is even with his enemy, but in passing it over, he is superior-for it is a prince's part to pardon!"

It's a new year and as I hear about more and more incidents where we as a nation cannot forgive hurts inflicted on us in the past, by invaders, or conquerors, I wonder how much time we will unnecessarily spend in reopening wounds with those who are dead and gone. Isn't it time we as a country show our superiority and instead of hitting out at the past start building the future?

It's not just statesmanship our leaders need to show, but wisdom and maturity. Stop using the past for garnering votes, instead teach people to pardon the past, and build a strong, vibrant future! There's much happening in our nation we can be proud of, but for the world to see this we need to move out of the pettiness of retaliation, which unfortunately is all that is being seen, into the bigness of pardon..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

Humane Touch Conducts Free Cloth Distribution at Miletalak

Continued from Page 1
the importance of the ClothShare program and about the achievements of this initiative. Till now this initiative has reached 16 villages viz. Shore Point, Mathura, Lamba Pahar, Namunagar, Chouldhari, Nayashahar, Bambooflat, Hope Town, Junglighat, Haddipur, Mathura, Narsayya Pahad, Baratang Lal Bhijan, Papitha Pahad

Village, and Shore Point. Nearly 4500 needy peoples have been benefited from these programs. A large number of villagers gathered and collected clothes according to their need.

A Abdul Sammad, Executive Member, Humane Touch, thanked the gathering to be part of this initiative.

To extend this ClothShare program to other rural villages of these islands, Humane Touch has requested people to donate used good clothes to Humane Touch, so that it can be distributed to the needy.

For further details, please contact A Abdul Sammad, Convener ClothShare Ph- 9933234141, 9434270026.

Programme on 'Atal Pension Yojana' on AIR

Continued from Page 1
Listeners can call on phone numbers 232336 or 232558 to participate in this LIVE phone-in programme

on 03.01.2022 from 0715 hrs to 0800 hrs. This programme can be heard on MW 684 KHz. Listeners can also download

'newsonair' app from Google Playstore and tune into PC Port Blair to listen to this programme on their Mobile phone.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hopefully Soon: Allu Arjun talks About Making his Bollywood Debut

Mumbai: Actor Allu Arjun says he has received an offer to star in a Hindi film but his fans up north will have to wait.

The 39-year-old actor, whose latest Telugu film "Pushpa: The Rise" has grossed Rs 300 cr worldwide since its release on December 17, said he is open to the idea of working in a true-blue Bollywood movie provided the project is exciting.

I have got an offer but nothing concrete or exciting. Hopefully soon (it will happen). It does take courage, you have to risk it (to work in another industry)," Arjun told PTL.

Son of noted producer Allu Aravind, the actor is known for films like "Bunny", "Arya", "Desamuduru", "Parugu", and "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo", among others.

After spending about two decades in Telugu film industry, Arjun said he is not interested in playing second fiddle to another actor when



he takes up a Hindi script. When we are the protagonist of the films that we do, anybody who comes to us will only come with the offer to play a protagonist, I would not be interested in anything (else). And it is very well understood.

Even the other person will not come and it doesn't make sense to ask such a big star to play a second role as it damages the film, they also know it. You have to work as a protagonist, as a main lead," he added. The actor is

happy with the glorious run of "Pushpa: The Rise", which has collected Rs 56.69 crore from its Hindi-dubbed version.

Directed by Sukumar of "Arya" fame, the action drama was also released in Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada languages.

Meanwhile, Arjun's 2020 action-drama "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo" is being remade in Hindi as "Shehzada" with Kartik Aaryan in the lead.

Actor Alec Baldwin Fires Prop Gun on Movie Set, Killing Cinematographer

Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin fatally shot a cinematographer and wounded a director when he discharged a prop gun on a movie set in New Mexico on Thursday, authorities said.

Baldwin shot Halyna Hutchins, the photography director of "Rust", and Joel Souza, the film's director, at the Bonanza Creek Ranch, a production location south of Santa Fe, according to the Santa Fe Sheriff's Department.

Hutchins was transported by helicopter to the University of New Mexico Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Souza was taken by ambulance to Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical center to undergo treatment for his injuries. The severity of his injuries could not immediately be determined.

Actress Frances Fisher said on Twitter that "Souza texted me that he's out of hospital." Asked whether Souza had been discharged, medical center spokesperson Arturo Delgado said he was not allowed to release information about patients.

The Sheriff's office said that no charges have been filed and they are investigating the shooting and interviewing witnesses.

"The investigation remains open and active," the Sheriff's office said in a statement.

Entertainment news site Deadline cited a source in the



Sheriff's office as saying that Baldwin was questioned by investigators and later released.

Baldwin went to the sheriff's office willingly and provided a statement to investigators, the Santa Fe New Mexican reported, citing spokesperson Juan Rios.

Deputies were still trying to determine whether what happened was an accident, the newspaper added. Rios did not immediately respond to requests for information from Reuters.

Baldwin's representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Earlier on Thursday, news magazine People reported that a spokesperson for Baldwin had said there was an "accident" involving the "misfire of a prop gun with blanks."

Baldwin was seen "distraught and in tears" as

he spoke on the phone outside the sheriff's office headquarters on Thursday, the Santa Fe New Mexican wrote.

Baldwin, 63, is a co-producer of "Rust", a Western movie set in 1880s Kansas, and plays the eponymous character who is an outlaw grandfather of a 13-year-old boy convicted of an accidental killing.

Production of the film had been halted for an "undetermined period," several news outlets quoted the film's production company, Rust Movie Productions LLC, as saying.

An e-mail to an address for the film production, which was listed on a New Mexico government statement, went unanswered.

The shooting evoked memories of an on-set accident in 1993 when U.S. actor Brandon Lee, son of Bruce Lee, died aged 28 after being fatally wounded by a prop gun filming "The Crow".

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Health, Science /Tech

Explained: New Easy-to-use COVID-19 Pills Come with a Catch

Newly infected COVID-19 patients have two new treatment options that can be taken at home.

But that convenience comes with a catch: The pills have to be taken as soon as possible once symptoms appear.

The challenge is getting tested, getting a prescription and starting the pills in a short window.

U.S. regulators authorized Pfizer's pill, Paxlovid, and Merck's molnupiravir last week. In high-risk patients, both were shown to reduce the chances of hospitalization or death from COVID-19, although Pfizer's was much more effective.

WHO SHOULD TAKE THESE PILLS?

The antiviral pills aren't for everyone who gets a positive test. The pills are intended for those with mild or moderate COVID-19 who are more likely to become seriously ill. That includes older people and those with other health conditions like heart disease, cancer or diabetes that make them more vulnerable. Both pills were OK'd for adults while Paxlovid is authorized for children ages 12 and older.

WHO SHOULDN'T TAKE THESE PILLS?

Merck's molnupiravir is not authorized for children because it might interfere with bone growth. It also isn't recommended for pregnant women because of the potential for birth defects. Pfizer's pill isn't recommended for patients with severe kidney or liver problems. It also may not be the best option for some because it may interact with other prescriptions a patient is taking. The antiviral pills aren't authorized for people hospitalized with COVID-19.

WHAT'S THE TREATMENT WINDOW?

The pills have to be started as soon as possible, within five days of the start of symptoms. Cough, headache, fever, the loss of taste or smell and muscle and body aches are among the more common signs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a website to check your symptoms.

Dr. Cameron Wolfe, an infectious disease specialist at Duke University Hospital, advises getting a test as soon as you have symptoms of COVID-19.

"If you wait until you have started to get breathless, you have already to a large extent missed the window where these drug said.

WHERE CAN I GET THE PILLS?

You'll need a prescription first from a doctor or other authorized health worker. The U.S. government is buying the pills from Merck and Pfizer and providing them for free, but supplies will be limited initially. They'll be shipped to states where they will be available at drugstores, community health centers and other places. Treatment lasts five days.

Some pharmacists may be able to administer a quick COVID-19 test and prescribe the pills all in one visit. They already do this in many states for flu or strep throat.

WILL THE PILLS WORK FOR THE OMICRON VARIANT?

The pills are expected to be effective against omicron because they don't target the spike protein where most of the variant's worrisome mutations reside. The two pills work in different ways to prevent the virus from reproducing.

Member of Parliament Demands Pollution Tests in Different Wards and Areas as per a Proper Schedule

Port Blair, Jan 2: Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands today requested the Chief Secretary of A&N Administration to arrange pollution tests for vehicles in different wards and areas as per a proper schedule, with wide publicity in advance, in all media.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, the Member of Parliament mentioned that area wise pollution tests, with proper schedule will ease the present rush

and people will be able to get a PUC certificate in their own area without standing in long queues.

He added that responding positively to the "Catch the Polluters" campaign, a large number of Islanders are reaching the pollution testing center every day to get a PUC Certificate, for which they have to stand in a long queue for several hours.

He pointed out that such long queues are not only causing a great deal of inconvenience to the public

but also might turn into a hotspot for COVID-19 infection.

The MP mentioned that in view of the initial signs of surge in cases of COVID-19 as well as increased detection of the Variant of Concern (VoC), 'Omicron', in different parts of the country and detection of cases in Port Blair, it will be in the interest of everyone to take some concrete steps are taken to avoid such huge queues in different part of our Islands.

A&N Chess Association Comes Up with New Office

Port Blair, Jan 2: The Andaman & Nicobar Chess Association on Saturday inked a milestone with the inauguration of its office at Junglighat, Port Blair. The office was formally inaugurated by Mr. G Bhasker, Patron, Andaman & Nicobar Chess Association.

The idea for the formation of this office is to provide a place for youngsters to practice chess and exchange knowledge and information with the enthusiasts of sports.



Mr. Bhasker was optimistic that A&N Chess Association will move forward and function efficiently through the launching of its official office. He thanked all the

pioneers of A&N Chess Association for their relentless efforts and commitment to promote chess in these Islands.

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Three Month Certificate Course by ZSI to Commence from Today

Continued from Page 1
The Zoological Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair is one of the training centres selected by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. ZSI, Port Blair has successfully completed three batches of

GSDP training courses since 2017 and trained about 35 local students. ZSI conducted two certificate courses in this year i.e. Para-Taxonomy including Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) and Bird Identification and Basic Ornithology.

The three month certificate course on Para-Taxonomy including Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) will commence from 3rd January 2022. A total of 35 participants have registered for this course (12th Pass / B.Sc / M.Sc.).

Yuva Bharat Conducts Door to Door Awareness cum Cleanliness Drive at LA

Continued from Page 1
with villagers for the use of dustbin and proper disposal of household waste. The wastes were collected from houses and the streets cleaned. The collected

wastes were later handed over to Panchayat for disposal.

The drive has brought an optimistic opine as villagers felt that someone is taking steps to preserve nature. The

need is much to educate masses to protect and conserve our mother nature, a communication from Yuva Bharat said here.

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Census first phase, NPR Sata Collection put off till September

New Delhi, Jan 2: The first phase of the census and collection of details to update the National Population Register (NPR) have been postponed at least till September.

The Registrar General of India (RGI) had in December informed the States that freezing of boundaries of districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas, police stations etc. has been postponed till June 2022, said a senior official on Sunday.

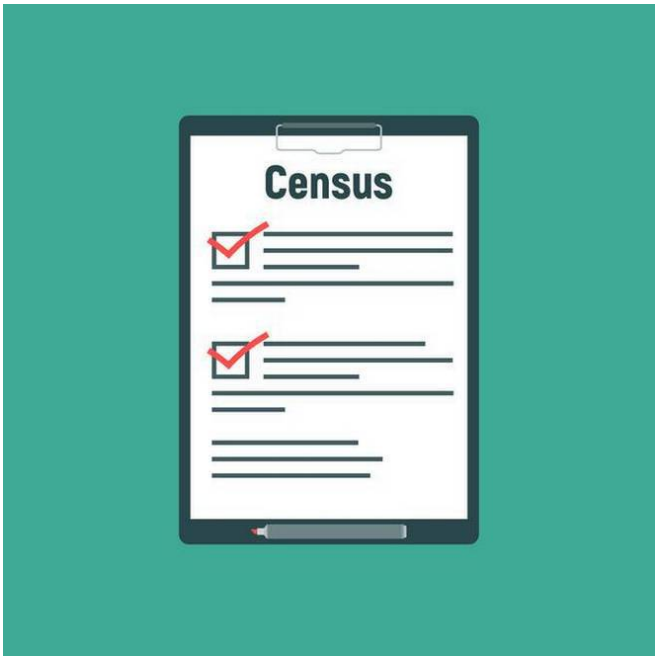
Freezing of boundary limits of administrative units, at least three months prior, is a pre-requisite for conducting the census. Even if the RGI issues an order in June to freeze the boundaries again, the exercise can take place only in September.

Finalisation of administrative units entails covering all jurisdictional changes in an administrative area between two consecutive censuses. According to provisional data compiled by the RGI till June 2021 and accessed by The Hindu, the number of districts has gone up from 640 in 2011 to 736.

The sub-districts are up from 5,925 to 6,754, statutory towns from 4,041 to 4,657, census towns from 3,892 to 5,050 but villages have decreased from 6,40,934 in 2011 to 6,39,083 in 2021.

The first phase of Census 2021 — the House listing and Housing Census along with updating the NPR — was scheduled to be held from April-September, 2020 but was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The second and main phase of the decennial exercise — the population enumeration — was to be concluded by March 5, 2021.

There was a ban on States to create new administrative



units from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

The RGI informed the States in July 2020 that after the outbreak of the pandemic, the field work of the first phase of Census 2021 and the other related activities have been postponed until further orders. "Subsequent to the postponement of census activities, requests were received from several State/Union Territory governments seeking clarifications/permission for creation/extension/up-gradation of different administrative units. Hence, it was decided to extend the date of freezing of boundaries up to December 31, 2020," an RGI order said. It said if any changes in the administrative boundaries are to be made, it may be effected latest by December 31, 2020.

However, it was extended again till December 31, 2021. The fresh date is June 30, 2022.

For Census 2021, all the changes between January 1, 2010 i.e. after the date of freezing of boundaries for Census 2011 up to the date of freezing of boundaries for forthcoming exercise (presently up to June 30, 2022) are to be considered for finalising the administrative units.

The preparation of an unambiguous list of administrative units is termed as "Census Frame" covering the entire area but without omission or duplication of any administrative unit at any level.

The NPR was first compiled in 2010 and updated in 2015 and it already has a database of 119 crore residents. It was to be updated along with the first phase of census. The exercise has been opposed by some States and citizen groups as the NPR is the first step towards compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC) according to the Citizenship Rules, 2003.

Taliban Assures Safety for Envoys, Embassies

New Delhi, Jan 2: Hours after India announced vaccine and wheat delivery for Afghanistan, the Taliban reiterated that it will provide protection to diplomats from countries that wish to re-open closed embassies in Kabul. The assurance, however, will be tested against the current ground situation in Kabul and in other major cities of Afghanistan that India is tracking closely.

"We are committed to provide security for all embassies and their diplomats to function normally if they return to Kabul," said Suhail Shaheen, Taliban's "Permanent Representative Designate" to the United Nations.

Explained | Why is Afghanistan staring at a humanitarian disaster?

Taliban has given several assurances over the last few months to the international community about safety of diplomats and workers in international organisations but the security situation in Kabul has not improved so far.

Taliban has briefed officials of several countries including Turkey, China, Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Qatar and the U.K. about the security challenges on the ground. However, India has not yet sent a diplomatic team back to Kabul for a first-hand report even though its humanitarian reach has expanded over the war-torn country. The pledge of delivery of wheat with the support of transit facility from Pakistan, however, indicated that Delhi is increasingly tilting towards engaging the Taliban indirectly through international organisations like the World Food Programme.

It is understood that further engagement of the Taliban by placing official diplomats in the Indian embassy — which was closed in August 2021 — will be attempted after due scrutiny and verification.

India's choices at present are limited by the fact that

the Taliban has not received official recognition from India even though the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is poised to receive a large consignment of wheat and medicines from India.

India wants oversight over food aid

Officials say India is currently deliberating with Pakistan and other international organisations to figure out the modalities for the export of the large consignment but an Afghan commentator Khalilullah Safi has pointed out that the aid distribution network in Afghanistan is riddled with corruption which may require close on ground inspection to be successful.

India has been demanding "unimpeded" access to the Afghan people to help deliver humanitarian assistance in a "non-discriminatory" manner. This line of argument reflects India's concern about possible appropriation of the items by cartels and groups close to the Taliban, denying fair distribution. "Given the lawless situation on the ground, only 20%-30% of the food crops from India will reach the needy," said Mr Safi.

A major problem during the distribution of the food assistance from India will be the difficulty that New Delhi may face in verifying the facts on the ground when the wheat distribution begins within the coming weeks. Mr Safi has urged for involving more civil society activists and international organisations on the ground to ensure that the distribution remains transparent and non-discriminatory.

However, it is yet to be seen how India will ensure transparency in the process without having an official Indian team in Kabul to observe the distribution of wheat. Following the arrival of the Taliban, India carried out rounds of evacuation of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus with support from locals but it is unclear how such a local network can ensure "non-discriminatory" distribution of humanitarian assistance even if it includes UN organisations.

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SPORTS

The Ashes | Australia eyeing a whitewash: Lyon

Sydney, Jan 2: Australia will press for an Ashes series whitewash against England to boost its chances of making the final of the 2021-23 World Test Championship (WTC), spin spearhead Nathan Lyon said on Sunday.

The home side has already claimed an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-Test series and the importance of maintaining its winning run was not lost on Lyon.

"I've never ever considered (a match) dead-rubber when you wear the baggy green and go out and represent Australia in a test match," Lyon said.

"So there's no dead-rubbers. Firstly because it's (the) Test championship, but another one, we want to go five-nil up."

"Obviously Ashes for me is the pinnacle, but I'd love to be part of the Test championship final, whether that's at Lord's or wherever it may be in the world. A lot of work to do to get there."

Australia could not make the inaugural WTC final last year but leads the standings after its red-hot form.



World class: Lyon was aware that "world class" England would be desperate to salvage some pride in the last two Tests.

While Joe Root's future as England's Test captain looks in doubt, the 31-year-old is currently the leading scorer in the series though his quest for his first century in Australia continues.

"He has not scored a century but he's got off to some decent

starts and he's made some decent scores," Lyon said.

"Our job is to try and restrict and try and remove each and every batter that comes out there and I think we've been doing a really good job in that at the moment.

"I don't want to rest on our heels or anything like that. We want to get better and try and put Joe under a lot more pressure when he first comes to the crease so he doesn't get a start. But at the end of the day, he's a world class player."

Euro Leagues | Getafe Stops Real Madrid's Run

Barcelona, Jan 2: Getafe ended Real Madrid's 15-game unbeaten streak, beating the LaLiga leader 1-0 on Sunday.

Striker Enes Unal got the host's winner in the ninth minute, stealing the ball from Real defender Eder Militao near the goal and beating Thibaut Courtois.

Real came close to finding the equaliser in the 17th minute, but Luka Modric's strike hit the crossbar. Eden Hazard and Marcelo came on as half-time substitutes but could not spark a comeback.

Real's previous loss came on Oct. 3 when it fell 2-1 at Espanyol. Since then, it had won 13 and drawn two across all competitions. Carlo Ancelotti had steered Real to wins over Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Sevilla and Inter Milan during its unbeaten run.

Important results: LaLiga: Getafe 1 (Unal 9) bt Real Madrid 0.



Premier League: Brentford 2 (Gordon 53 & 76) lost to Brighton 3 (Mac Allister 3 & 71, Burn 21).
Wissa 42, Roerslev 83) bt Aston Villa 1 (Ings 16); Everton 2

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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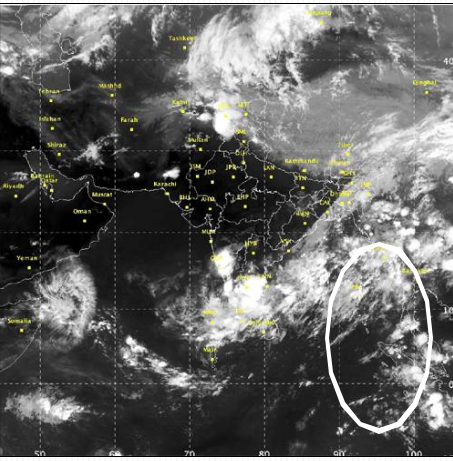
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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.: 25.9 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 65% 1730 Hrs: 74%	
Sunrise: 0540 Hrs.	Sunset: 1707 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, 2020 till date):	3461.1 mm

Forecast

Dry Weather very likely over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 32°C and 25°C respectively on Monday 03/01/2022

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