

Tsunami Shelters of Car Nicobar cry for urgent repair, Residents living in dilapidated Shelters

John Wilbert & Vikramaditya
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 07: Images of some dilapidated Tsunami Permanent Shelters coming from Car Nicobar Islands show how people of Car Nicobar Islands are presently living in these structures, (See page 2)



Chaos & Confusion at Bambooflat Jetty as DSS suspends Vehicle Ferry Services for few hours due to Adverse Weather Conditions

John Wilbert & Rabindranath Biwas
Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Dec 07: The commuters at Bambooflat were seen in distress today due to the move of Shipping Services to suspend vehicle ferry as well as passenger ferry Service between Bambooflat and Chatham for a short time owing to inclement weather conditions in the morning hours today. As per report, there



was chaos and confusion at the Bambooflat Jetty where a huge number of passengers were waiting for vehicle ferry services in the office hours. The irate passengers were protesting against the cancellation of (See page 6)

Member of Parliament demands to induct at least 20 more new buses in State Transport Service

Port Blair, Dec 07: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma called on the Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on last Monday and raised several issues. Among other issues, the Member of Parliament requested the Lt. Governor to induct at least 20 more new buses in State Transport Service so that problems being faced by Islanders of far flung (See page 6)

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BJP Delegation meets Minister of Road Transport and Highways, highlights about pathetic condition of NH4



Port Blair, Dec 07: The president of BJP's Andaman and Nicobar State unit Mr. Ajoy Bairagi along with a delegation called on the Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, Mr. Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday and highlighted about the extremely pathetic condition of NH4, which is also known as (See page 6)

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Vishal Jolly meets Chief Secretary highlights crucial issues

Port Blair, Dec 07: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP, Former State President BJP A & N and Member of Home Ministry Advisory Committee, Govt. of India today met the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration and highlighted the following issues:

Mr. Vishal Jolly along with the Chairperson, PBMC had raised the issue of Regularisation of DRMs working under PBMC. Entire facts together with relevant documents were placed in order to impress that there is no impediment to regularize the DRMs.

The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration has expressed that an in depth analysis would be made afresh positively in this regard. The issue of granting 1/30th pay to all the left out DRMs under the A & N Administration was also placed and discussed. The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration has assured to take all re-

quired positive steps, soon.

The issue of granting Bonus to all the DRMs employed under the A & N Administration was also placed and highlighted, to which the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration has assured that soon a direction would be issued to all Departments heads regarding this.

Apart from this, Mr. Vishal Jolly has once again raised the issue of MSP for COPRA for the farmers, especially the members of the Nicobari Tribal communities. The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration has stated that the concerned senior officials are looking into the issue and they are in constant touch with the NAFED in order to make sure that the farmers of our Islands gets MSP for Copra.

Further more, Mr. Vishal Jolly had vehemently placed the lingering issue of Katchal Tamil Settlers and requested for expediting the process of permanent settlement. The Chief Secre-

tary, A & N Administration has assured that the issue is in progress at appropriate level and he is hopeful of a positive outcome soon.

Mr. Vishal Jolly demanded for extension of Contracts of the Assistant Professors of ANCOL (College) and it was assured by the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration that appropriate & required steps would be taken soon in this regard.

Mr. The issue with regard to hostel building for ANCOL was also taken up and it was highlighted that the construction of the hostel building is reportedly 95% complete and the eligible students hailing from inter islands are facing serious hardships for their stay elsewhere. As such he demanded for early completion of the Hostel building. The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration has assured to make sure that the building construction gets completed at the earliest.

General public and Tourist requested to cooperate with DSS - inclement weather condition may lead to disruption of services

Port Blair, Dec 07: Andaman and Nicobar Islands are presently experiencing extreme weather conditions and as such, operation of shipping service under such unstable state of weather becomes very difficult.

The Directorate of Shipping Service considering the safety of passengers paramount, may therefore cancel or suspend its services across foreshore and Inter Island sectors at short notice.

Similarly in the Harbour sector also maneuvering of vessels is considered unsafe during such

adverse weather conditions, therefore the operation of Harbour ferries in Port Blair Harbour and at Outstation may also get disrupted.

All the daily commuters, passengers and tourists are thus requested to kindly cooperate with this Directorate in the case of any such cancellations and advised to plan their journey suitably to avoid any inconvenience later.

The services will be resumed immediately on improvement of weather conditions, a release issued by Deputy Director (Shipping Services) said here today.

Tsunami Shelters...

(From page 1)

which are anyway completely different from the houses they used to live in before the Tsunami.

Talking to Andaman Sheekha, a member of Tribal Council of Car Nicobar said that many Tsunami Shelters in Car Nicobar Islands are in such a bad condition that it is now too risky to live inside those shelters. He said all the shelters are built on Iron structure, which developed rust due to the salty climate of Car Nicobar Islands. Short Circuit is now a common issue in many shelters, which might result in a big accident in the coming days.

Andaman Sheekha

has learnt that many tribal people have built their own hut and are not willing to live in the Permanent Shelters, which require massive repair works. After the Tsunami nearly 3900 permanent shelters were built in Car Nicobar for Tribal Population but now, after 18 years, many of these shelters are crying for urgent repair works.

Residents of Car Nicobar islands are now requesting the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to carry out a detailed survey to find out the condition of the permanent shelters and carry out the repair works as early as possible.

Sixth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023

Port Blair, Dec. 7: To celebrate the Utsav of Examination, the sixth edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023', the unique interactive programme of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi with students, teachers and parents will be held at Talkatora Stadium in January 2023. This event is being organized successfully for the sixth consecutive year by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Children studying in classes from IX to XII, teachers and parents can participate in the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme.

An online creative writing competition is being conducted at <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/ppc-2023/> on various topics from Nov.25 and will continue upto Dec.30,2022 for selection of 18 participants from A & N Islands. Suggested topics can be obtained from the Office of Zonal Officers, Secondary & Senior Secondary Schools across Islands. Selected participants will receive certificate signed by Director (NCERT) and a copy of the 'Exam Warrior' book, written by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The competition is the mode through which students, parents and teachers are in-

vited to frame their questions to be addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Selected questions, shortlisted by NCERT, may feature in the programme. The participant who asked questions in the previous editions of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' are invited by media channels to appear in their programmes. In the same lines, this year's chosen few may get an opportunity to interact with media. In this regard, all the students from classes IX to XII, teachers and parents of A & N Islands have been informed to go through the above link and participate accordingly.

Few seats lying vacant

Port Blair, Dec. 7: Few seats are lying vacant in various PG courses in JNRM for the session 2022-23. Hence candidates, who have applied for taking admission may attend the counselling on 12th December, 2022 at 9am in JNRM. The counselling for M.A Bengali shall also be held on 12th December at 9 am.

Candidates may attend the counseling at respective inter-disciplinary departments by 9am. They

should bring the documents viz. Student Grade Cards/ Consolidated Student Grade Cards in respect of Graduation (Original will be detained in JNRM); Migration Certificate (only for the candidates other than Pondicherry University) (Original will be detained in JNRM); School Leaving Certificate (Transfer Certificate) (Original will be detained in JNRM); X Pass certificate for verification of date of birth; Category Certificate (ST, OBC, PH, ward

of Central Govt. Servants/ Ex-Servicemen & EWS); Aadhaar/Aadhaar Enrolment Slip; One passport size photograph in original for verification and one set of photostat copies (to be submitted during admission).

Those who fail to attend the counseling session on specified date and time will not be considered for admission to the respective course and the next eligible candidate from the merit list will be considered for admission.

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Death Mourned

Port Blair, Dec 07: Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP – A&N Islands has deeply mourned the demise of Mrs. Aruna Kumari, W/o Late Jagdish Prasad, R/o Junglighat (aged 71 Yrs), who expired

on 06.12.2022 at G. B. Pant Hospital. In his message Shri Jolly prayed to the Almighty to give peace to her eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to her bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

Power Suspension

Port Blair, Dec 07: Power supply will remain suspended at Bhatu Basti complete, Laxmi Motor Area, Pathergudda, Satellite Colony, New Pahargaon, Dollygunj, Pahargaon, ICMR Colony area, part of School Line, Lamba Line Water Treatment Plant area, part of Garacharama, Dollygunj, Attompahar, Old Pahargaon, ICMR Colony area, part of Minnie Bay, Garacharama complete, 5 MW Solar Power Plant area, CARI, Ayyanar Temple, Calicut, New Bilmbilitan, part of Teylarabad, Macca Pahad, AKT Miniplex, Bird Line, Mahaveer Nagar, Kamaraj Nagar, Beodnabad, R a n g a c h a n g, Burmanallah, Chidiyatapu, Garacharama Sub Station,

Japan Nallah, Austinabad, Prothrapur, Carbyn's Cove, Brichgunj, Brookshabad, part of Chakkargoan, Sippighat, Teylarabad, Bimblitan, Manjeri, Guptapara, Manglutan, Wandoor, ChouldariTushnabad, Port Mount, Tirur, Templemyo, Ograbranj, part of Sippighat, Chouldari Lal Pahar, Tsunami Shelter, Mithakhari, Namunaghar, Dunduspoint & Hathi Tappu areas on 08.12.2022 (Thursday) from 0700 hrs. to 0900 hrs. to carry out urgent breakdown maintenance work of Busbars and Isolators at 33/11 KV Garacharama Sub-Station. The mentioned time is tentative which may change subject to completion of work.

Ruling Nepali Congress party wins most votes: Election body

The ruling Nepali Congress party emerged as the single largest party in national elections held on Nov. 20, winning 89 seats in the 275-member parliament, the election commission said on Wednesday.

A five-party alliance led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba is expected to form a new government with the support of smaller parties and independent candidates in the next few days, party officials said.



On the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day 2022, members of Rajya Sainik Board with Secretary Col. DS Godara (Retd) called on Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), the Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency for Flag Pinning Ceremony today at Raj Niwas. A Cheque of Rs. 15,000/- as A&N Administration's contribution was handed over.

Regional Station, ICAR- CIARI, celebrated Agricultural Education Day at Minicoy, Lakshadweep

Port Blair, Dec 07: Regional Station Minicoy of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair conducted "Agricultural Education Day at Minicoy, Lakshadweep" from 15th November 2022 to 3rd December 2022 with participation of staff, school students, teachers at its Regional campus.

Speaking on the inaugural occasion, the Chief Guest Dr. Shrikant R. Tapdiya, the Deputy Collector, Minicoy expressed his happiness for initiatives of Regional station and the winners were felicitated during the occasion.

The team of ICAR-CIARI, Regional Station, Minicoy conducted painting, quiz competition, student-scientist interactive meet and open day for the school students. A total of 239 students participated, wherein



the winners were felicitated during the occasion.

The team comprising of Dr. Gladston Y. Scientist in-charge ICAR-CIARI, RS, Minicoy and Dr. Ajina S. M. Scientist interacted with the students, teachers and impressed the views on career opportunities in agriculture.

Dr. Gladston Y.

Convener, Dr. Ajina S. M., Shri Shareefuddeen Hassan, Senior Technical Assistant, Shri. Arif. M.I Senior Technician, Co-Conveners and the Nodal Officer, Lakshadweep Dr. S.K Zamir Ahmed coordinated the overall conduct of programme under the Chairmanship of Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.

2nd round of counselling for Admission to various Postgraduate (PG) courses in JNRM for the Academic Session 2022-23

Port Blair, Dec 07: A few seats are lying vacant in various PG courses in JNRM for the session 2022-23; hence candidates, who have applied for taking admission, may attend the counselling on 12th December, 2022 (Monday) at 9.00 AM in JNRM.

It is noteworthy to inform that the counselling for M.A Bengali shall also be held on 12th December, 2022 (Monday) at 9.00 AM in JNRM.

Candidates may attend the counselling at respective inter-disciplinary departments by 9.00am. They should

bring the following DOCUMENTS IN ORIGINAL FOR VERIFICATION AND ONE SET OF PHOTOSTAT COPIES (to be submitted during admission):

1. Student Grade Cards/ Consolidated Student Grade Cards in respect of Graduation (Original will be detained in JNRM)
2. Migration Certificate (only for the candidates other than Pondicherry University) (Original will be detained in JNRM)
3. School Leaving Certificate (Transfer Certificate) (Original will be detained in

JNRM)

4. X Pass certificate for verification of date of birth.

5. Category Certificate (ST, OBC, PH, ward of central Govt. Servants/Ex-Servicemen & EWS).

6. Aadhaar/Aadhaar Enrolment Slip.

7. One passport size photograph

Those who fail to attend the counselling session on specified date and time will not be considered for admission to the respective course and the next eligible candidate from the merit list will be considered for admission.



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CAMPAIGN BY ANDAMAN SHEEKHA



TIME magazine's 'Person of the Year' is Volodymyr Zelensky and 'spirit of Ukraine'

Time magazine named President Volodymyr Zelensky as well as "the spirit of Ukraine" as its 2022 person of the year on Wednesday, for the resistance the country has shown in the face of Russia's invasion.

"Whether the battle for Ukraine fills one with hope or with fear, Volodymyr Zelensky galvanized the world in a way we haven't seen in decades," Time edi-



tor in chief Edward Felsenthal wrote.

Climate protesters hurl paint at Milan's La Scala opera house

Climate-change activists in Italy on Wednesday threw paint at the entrance of Milan's famed La Scala opera house ahead of the opening performance of the season, local police said.

Activists have staged high profile protests across Europe in recent months, sometimes targeting museums and art works in calling for tougher action to tackle global warming.

The Ultima Generazione (Last Generation) movement said they were responsible for the Milan protests.

Over the last month, the same group hurled soup over a Van Gogh work in



Rome, threw a black liquid on a Gustav Klimt painting in Vienna and flour over a sports car painted by the U.S. pop artist Andy Warhol that was on display in Milan.

Police said they had detained five people following the incident at La Scala, while

cleaners swiftly removed the paint from the entrance of the theatre. La Scala will open its 2022-23 season on Wednesday, one of the highlights of the Italian cultural calendar, with a performance of the Russian opera "Boris Godunov" composed by Modest Mussorgsky.

Train collision in Spain hurts 155, no serious injuries



Two trains collided near Barcelona early Wednesday, injuring 155 people but none seriously, Spanish officials said.

Emergency services for Catalonia said that although three people were taken to medical centers none of the passengers was considered seriously hurt. No further details on the nature of the injuries were given by officials.

Officials say that the collision occurred on a train line in Montcada i Reixac, a town just north of Barcelona.

Firefighters said that no passengers were trapped.

Ester Capella, the Catalan government's representative in Madrid, told Spanish National Radio that officials were studying the incident.

New Zealand takes custody of ill baby from anti-vaccination parents



New Zealand authorities on Wednesday took temporary custody of an infant whose parents blocked life-saving surgery because potential blood donors may be vaccinated against Covid-19.

The Auckland High Court ordered six-month-old "Baby W" to be placed under partial guardianship -- allowing an urgent operation to correct a heart disorder known as pulmonary valve stenosis to take place.

The surgical procedure had been delayed because the baby's parents did not want any blood transfused that could have come from a donor jabbed with an mRNA vaccine.

"The overriding issue is whether the proposed treatment is in (the baby's) best interests," the court said in a state-

ment.

The child is now under the medical "guardianship of the Court" until "completion of his surgery" and recovery, by the end of January at the latest.

The parents will remain custodians "for all other purposes" and will be "informed at all reasonable times of the nature and progress of Baby W's condition and treatment" the ruling stated.

Health authorities had rejected the parents' request for unvaccinated blood, arguing it was impractical and unnecessary. New Zealand's blood service does not make a distinction between donations from those vaccinated or unvaccinated against Covid, as there is no extra risk from using vaccinated blood.

No. TN-DB/SAD/2022-23/2653 dt.02/12/2022

e-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, South Andaman Division, APWD, Port Blair invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate bid for below mentioned work 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 islands and do not have any adverse remarks for following works:-

1. NIT No.45/EE/SAD/APWD/2022-23, Tender ID: 2022_APWD_8363_1, Name of work: Resurfacing of existing road from Water Treatment Plant to Bathu Basti junction under EE, SAD, Port Blair. Estimated Cost: `1,74,21,981/-, Earnest Money Deposit: `3,48,440/-, Time of completion: 06 (six) Months. & Last time and date of submission of bid: 22/12/2022 (1500 hrs).
2. NIT No.46/EE/SAD/APWD/2022-23, Tender ID: 2022_APWD_8364_1, Name of work: Resurfacing and Improvement of road from Pattargudda junction to Shopping complex New Pahargaon for a length of 1.868 Km i/c repair of drains. Estimated Cost: `2,58,54,876/-, Earnest Money Deposit: `5,17,098/-, Time of completion: 10 (Ten) Months. & Last time and date of submission of bid: 22/12/2022 (1500 hrs).

The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in/nicgep/app>

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India home to great diversity of faiths: US

India is the world's largest democracy and home to a great diversity of faiths, the US said on Tuesday. While addressing reporters, US Department of State spokesperson Ned Price said, "India of course, is the world's largest democracy. It's home to a great diversity of faiths. Our annual report on international religious freedom outlines some of the concerns we've taken note of when it comes to India. And we continue to carefully monitor the religious freedom situation in all countries and that includes India."

"We encourage and will continue to encourage the Indian government to hold its commitment to protecting religious freedom for all," Price added.

"We engage officials regularly on steps they can take to advance religious freedom. As the world's two largest democracies, the United States and India, we're also committed to an enduring project," he said. This statement came after the Biden administration released the name of countries that are designated under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a statement, said, "Finally, I am designating al-Shabab, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS-



Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam Wal-Muslimin, the Taliban, and the Wagner Group based on its actions in the Central African Republic as Entities of Particular Concern." Blinken also said that Cuba and Nicaragua were added to the list of countries of "Particular Concern", and China, Russia, Iran, Burma, Eritrea, North Korea and Pakistan remain on the list, according to the statement released by the US Department of State. "Today, I am announcing designations against Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, the DPRK (North Korea), Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom," Blinken said in a statement.

"I am also placing Algeria, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Vietnam on the Special Watch List for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom. Finally, I am designating al-Shabab, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam Wal-Muslimin, the Taliban, and the Wagner Group based on its actions in the Central African Republic as Entities of Particular Concern," the statement quoted Blinken as saying. US announcement of these designations is in keeping with the values and interests to protect national security and to advance human rights around the globe. Countries that effectively safeguard this and other human rights are more peaceful, stable, prosperous and more reliable partners of the United States than those that do not.

Pandemic lockdowns linked to decline in US twin births, study suggests

Reduced access to infertility treatments early in the pandemic may have contributed to a drop in twin births, data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest.

The number of twin births fell 7% between 2019 and 2020 - from 120,291 to 112,437 - compared to an average 2%-per-year decline from 2014 to 2019, researchers reported on Wednesday in the CDC's National Vital Statistics Reports, based on data from 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The twin birth rate dropped 3% between 2019 and 2020, from 32.1 to 31.1 per 1,000 births, versus an average annual decline of 1% from 2014-2019, the researchers said.

The largest declines were in November and December of 2020 and January 2021, when twin birth rates

dropped by 10%, 14% and 7%, respectively, compared to the year before.

"The timing of the monthly declines in late 2020 and early 2021 coincide with a period of conception when the coronavirus pandemic began and (experts) recommended that reproductive medicine professionals temporarily limit infertility treatment," Isabelle Horon and Joyce Martin wrote in the report.

The number of births involving one baby declined by only 3% from 2019 to 2020, the authors said.

Overall, twin births did not rise significantly in 2021 from 2020 levels, although rates began to increase near the end of the year. The largest decline in twin births was seen in women over age 40, the group most likely to use infertility treatment. The small-

est decline was in women under age 30, who are least likely to use infertility treatment, the authors said.

The study cannot prove pandemic lockdowns caused twin births to decline. In fact, the authors point out that Hispanic women had a larger decline in twin birth rate than non-Hispanic white women, even though Hispanic women are less likely to receive infertility treatments.

Early in the pandemic, the number of babies born prematurely, or at dangerously low weights, was lower than usual, the researchers noted.

Because twins are at higher risk for these outcomes, "the decline in twin births may have contributed, in part, to the reductions in preterm and low birthweight deliveries ... between 2019 and 2020," they said.

China loosens Covid curbs, strongest retreat for Xi Jinping's stringent policy



China's national health authority said that asymptomatic Covid-19 cases and those with mild symptoms can self-treat while in quarantine at home, the strongest change so far following massive protests in the country against its stringent Zero-Covid police. Most of the cases are asymptomatic infections and mild cases, with no special treatment required, the National Health Commission said.

"Asymptomatic persons and mild cases can be isolated at home while strengthening health moni-

toring, and they can transfer to designated hospitals for treatment in a timely manner if their condition worsens," the health body said in a statement.

The 10 new measures in China's Covid policy include accelerating vaccination among the elderly and forbidding local officials to designate large areas, like entire housing compounds, as high-risk.

The relaxations are being rolled out as pressure mounts on China's president Xi Jinping to chart a path out of the crisis.

Tesla offers China buyers further subsidies to boost sales: Report

Tesla Inc. is offering further incentives to Chinese customers who buy and take delivery of new cars this month, in the latest move to boost sales in the world's biggest electric vehicle market. Elon Musk's EV pioneer will subsidize purchases by 6,000 yuan (\$860) for Model 3 sedans and Model Y sports utility vehicles, which currently start at 265,900 yuan and 288,900 yuan respectively after government subsidies, a company representative said Wednesday.

The offer is in addition to a slew of incentives Tesla has launched recently amid intensifying competition from local automakers and concerns about production overcapacity after an upgrade of its Shanghai factory. While cutting prices across its lineup in late October, Tesla has also offered insurance subsidies and re-instated a user-referral program.

Earlier this week, Bloomberg News reported Tesla plans to lower production this month at the Shanghai factory by about 20% from last month, although there's flexibility to



increase output if demand increases, citing people familiar with the situation. That fueled concern demand in China, a key market for Tesla, isn't meeting expectations — and sent the share price tumbling. A Tesla representative in China said Tuesday that it was "untrue" it planned to cut output, declining to elaborate further.

The company delivered a record 100,291 cars from the Shanghai factory in November, Cui Dongshu, secretary general of China's Passenger Car Association, said Monday, though didn't provide a breakdown of how many vehicles were for the domestic market, and how many were exported.

Any Model 3 or Model Y ordered in China today should be delivered within the month, Tesla's website shows. The wait time is down from as much as four weeks in October and up to 22 weeks earlier this year.

16 dead, including soldiers, in Donetsk road accident: Russian-proxy official

More than a dozen people have died in a road accident in the eastern Ukraine region of Donetsk, which is mostly controlled by Russian forces, the Moscow-installed region's head said Wednesday.

"A tragedy on the T-0517 highway claimed the lives of 16 people, among them were some of our defenders," the Russia-appointed head of Donetsk Denis Pushilin said on Telegram.

Four other passengers were injured in the accident that took place between Torez and Shakhtarsk, according to Pushilin.



He offered "sincere condolences" and wished a "speedy recovery" to the injured.

Fighting for months has raged around the front-line in Donetsk, a mining and steel base, which Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed to have annexed despite not fully controlling it.

Germany busts far-right terror cell planning parliament attack: Report

German news agency dpa reports that 25 people have been detained as part of a series of raids against suspected far-right extremists across the country early on Wednesday. Dpa cited federal prosecutors as saying officers conducted searches in 11 of Germany's 16 states

against members of the so-called Reich Citizens movement.

Some members of the grouping reject Germany's postwar constitution and have called for the overthrow of the government. Weekly Der Spiegel reported that local

tions searched include the barracks of Germany's special forces unit KSK in the southwestern town of Calw. The unit has in the past been scrutinized over alleged far-right involvement by some soldiers. Federal prosecutors didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Chaos & Confusion at...

(From page 1)

boat service between Bambooflat and Chatham without any prior intimation.

As per details, the ferry service remained suspended from 05:30 AM and was resumed at around 09:00 AM. The trouble erupted when only the passengers were allowed to embark, while their vehicles were not permitted in the ferry boat from Bambooflat to Chatham, when the service resumed. This reportedly irked the passengers as they usually carried the vehicles

with them between Bambooflat and Chatham to carry out their various types of works at the desired places.

The passengers, fuming with indignation, boarded the vehicle ferry boat with their vehicles in order to meet their requirement; while it is reportedly observed that no staff of the DSS remain stationed at the jetty whom the passengers can approach and lodge their grievance. As a result, the passengers have to often compromise with

the unpleasant situations which continue to crop up now and then, they rued. Under the given situation, the people of Bambooflat are pleading with the Administration to take up the construction of the long awaited bridge between B/flat to Chatham without further delay.

Andaman Sheekha tried to contact the officials of Directorate of Shipping Services for more details on the matter, but no officials were available for a comment.

BJP Delegation...

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Andaman Trunk Road.

Mr. Bairagi along with Mr. Y. Satya Kumar National Secretary BJP and in-charge, A&N BJP unit explained to the Minister about the problems being faced daily by the residents of North and Middle Andaman due to the worst conditions of the Roads.

The NH4 is being upgraded by NHIDCL since 2017 but even after seven long years of work, many parts of

NH4 are in horrible shape in North and Middle Andaman. The Minister reportedly assured the delegation to look into the matter on priority and also assured to visit Andaman and Nicobar islands very soon to review the situation personally.

The NH4, also known as Andaman Trunk Road was earlier maintained by Andaman Public Work Department but in 2016-17

the work for the massive project of upgradation of the NH4 was given to NHIDCL. For the poor condition of Andaman Trunk Road, the BJP is facing serious backlash in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The delegation also reportedly briefed the Minister about the importance of Chatham-Bambooflat Bridge for the residents of South Andaman.

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Distant Cautionary Signal No.I hoisted at Port Blair Port

Port Blair, Dec. 7: Distant Cautionary Signal No.I has been hoisted at Port Blair Port. For further enquiries/information, one may contact helpline of State Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline

No.1070 & District Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No. 1077. For any emergency/assistance at sea, call Coast Guard SAR Agency at Toll Free number 1554.

Member of...

(From page 1)

Islands can be minimized.

He informed the Lt. Governor that during his recent visit to North, Middle and South Andaman villages as well as Nicobar District he has personally witnessed that the buses of State Transport Service are in deplorable state and many of the STS buses are irreparable.

He pointed out that everyday thousands and thousands of people in various far flung Islands depend on these buses to reach their offices, schools, colleges, hospital, market etc and due to the present condition of the STS buses they are going through severe mental and physical pain. Many buses, with leakages on the roof, missing windows, broken seats are being pressed into service, which can lead to a fatal accident anytime,

he added.

The Member of Parliament mentioned that in far flung Islands where everyone can't afford a car or hire an auto, the STS buses are the lifeline but the STS buses are now becoming a threat to passengers life. School Children are suffering the worst because of this situation.

He added that while Islanders living in South Andaman have options of travelling in private buses, AC buses and Green (Electric) Buses, people of far flung Islands do not have that many choices. Considering the hardship being faced by people of all three Districts, he requested the Lt. Governor to induct at least 20 more new buses in State Transport Service so that problems being faced by Islanders of remote Islands can be minimized.

