

# ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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## Jarawa Facts

The Jarawa have been living in the tropical rainforests of the Andaman Islands for up to 60,000 years. The islands, in the Bay of Bengal, were colonised by the British in the mid-nineteenth century, and are now part of India.

## Your Nature Guide

**Life in the ocean:** From the shores or from a boat, the sea looks like a huge mass of uniform, inky blue water. It is not so actually. Life in the sea is amazingly different at different depths. From the surface to a few feet below, the ocean is a sunlit world, that changes from day to night. Below this, the ocean becomes cold, dim, and unchanging. And thousands of meters below the surface, the ocean is a region of near-freezing temperatures, crushing pressure, and complete darkness.

Most marine plants and animals are adapted to living in one of three regions- the sunlight, twilight, or midnight zone. These zones are defined by the presence (or absence) of light. They differ from one another in temperature amount of pressure, and nutrient supply. We will mainly focus here on the sunlight zone where most of the familiar animals and plants are present.

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

## People's Voice

Gorment Islanders ko bharat ka hissa maane toh ja kar ke kuch Development hoga na ... Warna bheek maangte raho Islanders aur unke neta ...

- A Citizen



Now, it has been made compulsory... you should pee before boarding the flight!

## Gram Sabha Organised by Sitanagar Panchayat to Finalize the Annual Plans

**"Panchayat is committed to achieve the defined SDG goals for the welfare of the villagers": Pradhan Biplab Mondal**

**Sitanagar, Jan 9:** The final meeting of the Gram Sabha of Sitanagar Panchayat to give approval to the proposed action plans for the year 2023-2024 was held today at the conference hall of the Panchayat. Chairing the meeting, the Gram Pradhan Shri Biplab Mondal said that the present panchayat will leave no stone unturned for the welfare of the villagers. To get the basic amenities to the last man in the queue is the priority of his team, he said. Addressing the villagers, who turned out in large numbers, the Pradhan said, his Panchayat has done record number of works in the very

short span of its tenure of 9 months till now.

Mondal informed in the meeting that 3 works from each of the 8 wards of the panchayat have been approved in today's meeting. Priority was given to the construction of footpaths, rural roads and playgrounds for the youth, apart from ensuring proper water supply mechanisms, he said. Elaborating the plans already executed on the ground, he said that the Panchayat has already executed the public projects of around Rs 3 crores till now in a very short 9 months since its election last year. Of these, some works



have already been started and some are in the tendering process.

Talking about the ambitious mini stadium project he said, the proposal for the construction of Mini Stadium near the Model

Senior Secondary School Sitanagar has been approved by the competent authority, and the work may begin soon after the official formality.

To the query of the villagers, the Pradhan said, the

Continued on P2

## Natural Farming Awareness Programme Organised at Lalpahar

**Port Blair, Jan 9:** An awareness programme on Natural Farming was organized by ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Central Island Agricultural Research Institute at Lalpahar Community Hall on 06.01.2023. Mrs. Chaitali Roy, Panchayat Samiti Member, Chouldhari graced the occasion as chief guest.

The Samiti Member advised the farming community to produce quality farm products without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Naturally produced farm products are very good for health of people as well as soil and environment, she said.



Mrs. Purnima Sarkar and Mrs. Surobala Mistry, PRI members of Lalpahar were also present and motivated the farming community.

Dr. Y Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist & Head discussed natural farming practices and encouraged farmers to adopt these practices in cluster basis and maintain soil health for production and consumption of quality produce in isles. He appealed farmers to use

Continued on P5

## IGNOU Invites Applications for Admission to MBA Specialization Programmes

**Port Blair, Jan 9:** The School of Management Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi is inviting for admission for MBA specialization programmes like; Master of Business Administration in Financial Management (MBAFM), Human Resource Management (MBAHM), Marketing Management (MBAMM) and Operations Management (MBAOM).

IGNOU has also launched 4 PG Diploma Programme in Management. Interested students can enrol for PG Diploma in Specializations in Human Resource Management (PGDHRM), Financial Management (PGDFM), Marketing Management (PGDMM) and Marketing Management

(PGDOM). The programmes are offered in English Medium only and the eligibility for enrolling the course is bachelor degree with at least 50% marks (45% in case of candidates belonging to reserved category).

The Admissions for above programmes are going now for January 2023 session and the application form is to be filled through online mode only. Interested candidates can register for the programme at the official website <http://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in> or contact IGNOU Port Blair Regional Centre, Port Blair over phone: 03192-242888/03192-230111 or Email: [rcportblair@ignou.ac.in](mailto:rcportblair@ignou.ac.in) for further assistance.

## Training of Trainers Organised by NTCP Under UTHM

**Port Blair, Jan. 9:** To control and inhibit the use of tobacco in school going children, the Govt. of India launched Tobacco Control Programme and released a guideline for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI). As a part of ongoing training nationwide, the NTCP under UTHM -Phase-2 organized Training of Trainers for 56 Teachers under BRC Wimberlygunj from 27th December, 2022 to 9th January, 2023 in the School Campus of various CRC under BRC Wimberlygunj.

The programme concluded in the presence of (I/c) Teacher, GSSS Manarghat. Shri G. Ashis Kumar who was the resource person briefed the trainers about ToFEI Guidelines and its importance. The ToT for other CRC of A & N Islands will be conducted in a phased manner. The programme was organized under the supervision of Dr. Satyajit Halder, State Nodal Officer, Nation Tobacco control Programme.

## Sailing Time of MV Swaraj Dweep Revised

**Port Blair, Jan 9:** This is to inform to the passengers that due to Administrative reasons the scheduled departure time of the vessel MV Swaraj Dweep for Chennai on 10.01.2023 (under voyage No. 1028) has been revised. Now the vessel will sail for Chennai on the same day at 1600 Hrs instead of 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf. Inconvenience caused to the passengers has been regretted.

## Condolence

Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP and Shri Rajesh Pal Govind, Councillor PBMC, Ward No. 18 has condoled the sad demise of Mr. Shree Kishen, S/o Late Sree Ram R/o Garacharma who expired yesterday on 08.01.2023. The leaders prayed to the Almighty to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

# ANDAMAN Chronicle

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*Success is not an activity but a process ...*

## Unhappy New Year

Six civilians, including two children, were killed in brutal acts of terrorism in Dangri in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri in the first week of the new year. The police and authorities in Srinagar and New Delhi remain tight-lipped about the incidents. It is evident that the perpetrators intended to spread maximum terror among the Hindus in the area. They barged into houses on January 1 and fired indiscriminately, killing four civilians and injuring 10 others. Just within 15 hours, an improvised explosive device went off outside the house of one of the victims, leaving two minors dead and five others injured. The Jammu region has been relatively insulated from the conflict in recent years, but the recent incidents portend the return of a grim past. Rajouri had turned peaceful, and the last major targeting of Hindus was 16 years ago. It has a long penetrable Line of Control with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and remained an active route for militants to cross over to the Kashmir Valley. In 2022, there were clear signs that the district was becoming a new theatre of violence, with at least four grenade attacks, and multiple encounters between security forces and militants. There were also indications of local involvement.

J&K parties in one voice condemned the attack on minorities and targeted the Lieutenant Governor (LG)'s administration for its failure to secure civilians. LG Manoj Sinha has promised strict action to curb terrorism and address the security needs of the region. There is fresh demand to revive Village Defence Committees, which were constituted in 1995 in 10 districts of the Jammu region to fight militants in remote places where security presence is thin. These were disbanded following allegations of high-handedness by armed volunteers. While the Centre is eager to portray its strong-arm policy in Kashmir that has shunned political dialogue as a success, new trends in terrorism, including frequent targeting of migrant workers in the Union Territory, act as grim reminders of the volatility. At least 29 civilians were killed in J&K in 2022, most of them migrant workers or local Hindus. While new experiments may yield different results in J&K, the old approach to allow multiple processes of engagement to address issues in a democratic way might still work. In the absence of an elected government in J&K since 2018, even the mainstream of the region is drifting away from New Delhi. A continuing political process is not a sufficient guarantee against Pakistan-backed terrorism, but it is a necessary condition in any resolution of the Kashmir conflict.

## BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



### Grandpa's Words Of Wisdom..!

A friend sent me these gems of wisdom penned by a grandpa, and since I've become one again two days ago, I thought I'd share them with you all, so have a laugh: Whether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earning his salt, that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better, or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts, when they try to decide which one.

When a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past – but never the present.

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washing's, ironing, cooking and scrubbing". No wife of mine is gonna work."

The bonds of matrimony are a good investment, only when the interest is kept up.

Many girls like to marry a military man- he can cook, sew, and make beds, and is in good health, and he's already used to taking orders.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age, and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.



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Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

How old would you be, if you didn't know how old you are?

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth.... Remember about Algebra.

You know you are getting old, when everything either dries up, or leaks.

I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at, when you are old.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper, but it's really worse when you forget to pull it down

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called Golf.

I hope you enjoyed grandpa today..!

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

## Gram Sabha Organised by Sitanagar Panchayat to Finalize the Annual Plans

**Continued from Page 1**  
installation work of the proposed RO plant would be completed soon, and the dream of getting safe drinking water through a door delivery system would come to reality. The enthusiastic Pradhan said his target is to reach the goal of getting a matching grant of Rs 10 lakhs in the coming year.

The Block development officer Shri M. Rajendran, to

the queries of the villagers informed, that the Administration is extending all possible help in facilitating the Panchayat to execute the welfare projects. He hoped that very soon the fund would be allocated to the panchayat and the projects in the pipeline would be in action. The zonal heads of different Government departments, representatives too

expressed their views on the plans in the meeting.

The Panchayat Up-Pradhan, Panchayat Samiti Member, other representatives of PRIs, people from line departments and around 150 villagers of the different wards of the Panchayat, including Krishnapuri village, participated in today's meeting.

### Condolence

Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP and Mr. Dharmendra Narayan, Councillor, PBMC Ward No. 17 has condoled the sad demise of Mr. Brij Mohan Das, Chargemen, Forest Department S/o Late Sree Kishan, aged 69 R/o Dollygunj who expired yesterday on 08.01.2023. The leaders prayed to the Almighty to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.



## ENTERTAINMENT

## Vijay, Ajith to Lock Horns this Pongal

**January 9:** The release of a big hero's film raises hopes of both the audience and film makers and if the occasion of a festival is added to it, it accentuates the celebrations. Tamil superstars



Vijay and Ajith would lock horns with their films this Sankranti and there are high expectations on both the movies. The films of both the stars would hit the screens on January 11. Having competed with each other nine times earlier, the two Tamil stars are readying for another round of contest this Sankranti.

Let us take a look at the earlier occasions when the duo contested with each other.

In 1996, Ajith and Vijay clashed with each other at the box office. While Vaanmathi starring Ajith was released on January 12, Coimbatore Muppillai was released on January 15. Both the comedy-dramas registered good box office collections.

Within just a month the same year, the duo contested with each other at the box office for a second time. Vijay's movie Poove Unakkaga in which he acted along with another hero Prashanth and Ajith-starrer Kalluri Vaasal were released on February 18. Even in 1997, both the heroes came out with their movies for Sankranti. Kalamellam Kathathiruppan starring Vijay and Nesam starring Ajith were released on January 15 and Vijay's movie became popular.

With Vijay as the hero, Khushi was released at the same time when Ajith's Unnai Kodu Ennai Taruven was screened on May 19, 2000. Both the movies garnered good collection. Vijay's Khushi was remade with power star Pawan Kalyan but the same title in Telugu which also was a hit.

Friends starring Vijay as hero and Deena having Ajith in the lead role were released

on January 14, 2001. Deena emerged to be a blockbuster. Ajith who was basking in the glory of a lover boy image till then, had a complete image makeover with this movie. From then, his fans began calling him Thala. A few months ago, Ajith appealed to his fans not to call him Thala but just with his real name. Tamil Superstar Surya played a key role in Friends.

Both the stars released action movies Bhagavathi (Vijay) and Villain (Ajith) on November 4 in 2002. In Villain, Ajith played a dual role. Though there was a good response from the public for both the films, Villain remained the Diwali winner.

Another action thriller by Ajith was Paramasivan. During Sankranti 2006, the film was released on January 14. At the same time, Vijay's Aadi too was released. Aadi was remade in Telugu as 'Atanokkade' and it was released on January 15 the same year.

Pokiri starring Mahesh Babu was a super hit in Tollywood. The movie was remade in Tamil as Pokkiri with Vijay in the lead role. It was released on January 12 in 2007 as Sankranti gift to his fans and was a superhit. Ajith's Alwar released on the same day could not capture the audience's pulse. Vijay

acted with Malayalam superstar in Jilla while Ajith acted in Veeram. Both the movies were released on January 10 in 2014. Both the films became a hit. Veeram was released in Telugu as Veerudokkade.

This year, both the Tamil stars are going to lock horns in Telugu too. Nearly after 8 years, the films of both the stars are once again ready for release at the same time. Vijay's Vaarisu and Ajith's Thunivu would get released on January 11. Both the movies will be released in Telugu as Varasudu and Tegimpu and hence, Telugu audience are also anxiously waiting for the magic to unfold.

As Varasudu was picturized by Vamsi Paidipalli in Telugu, producers are hopeful of good collections for the movie. Rashmika is the female lead in this movie.

After the successive hits of Nerkonda Parvai and Valimai, Thunivu has been filmed in Ajith-H. Vinod's combination. With Ajith sporting stylish looks, the audience are anticipating the film to a complete entertainer. Manju Warrier is the female lead in this film.

While Varasudu is a family entertainer, Tegimpu is a high-voltage action movie. The audience will have to wait for a few more days to know who would emerge as the Pongal winner.

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*Health, Science /Tech*

## WhatsApp Down Across Cities in India, Meta Says Working to Restore Services Soon



**January 9: New Delhi:** WhatsApp, the Meta-owned instant messaging platform was down for several users in India on Tuesday with people unable to send or receive messages on their devices.

Many users in India have reported that they are unable to access WhatsApp messenger on Android or iOS and even WhatsApp web to send messages to their contacts or groups. Several other countries have also reported the issue with WhatsApp, according to trackers.

According to DownDetector, a website that reports on outages and other problems, many users reported issues in using WhatsApp since 3:17 AM EDT (12:30 pm IST) as per the DownDetector tracker.

Affected regions based on DOWNDetector's heat-map include major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad as well as Nagpur and Lucknow among others.

"We're aware that some people are currently having trouble sending messages and we're working to restore @WhatsApp for everyone as quickly as possible." - a Meta Company Spokesperson said.

According to the heat map displayed on the DOWNDetector website, user-submitted problem reports are concentrated over the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, people headed to Twitter to complain and check if others were facing similar issues.

Some of the reactions were hilarious.

According to DOWNDetector, 70 per cent WhatsApp users reported issues in sending messages, while 24 per cent had issues in server connection and 7 per cent said they were facing app issues.

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## Ministers on Edge as PM Likely to Revamp Union Cabinet Soon

**January 9: NEW DELHI:** With Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to go in for a Cabinet rejig on the basis of "performance", some key Union ministers are reportedly on edge. The reshuffle could take place between January 15 and 25.

Sources said that while speaking to top party leaders, the Prime Minister had hinted that it was time to "make changes". A senior party leader revealed that after the results of the recent polls in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the Prime Minister had indicated that despite the historic victory in Gujarat, he was not too pleased with the outcome. This observation has apparently been quite "disturbing" for some of his key ministers and party office-bearers.

Though the BJP decimated the Opposition during the Gujarat Assembly elections, the results in both the Delhi MCD polls and the Himachal Assembly elections were a body blow to the party. Some of the MPs from Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, who apparently



indulged in factionalism during the polls, were moving around "somewhat worried", a senior party leader said.

While it remains to be seen which leaders might face the axe, the proposed reshuffle would be carried out with an eye on forthcoming elections in nine states this year and the 2024 general election. The nine states that will go to the polls this year are Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It was learnt that the MPs from the poll-bound states may be accommodated in the revamped Cabinet.

While there is a buzz the PM may drop "non-performing" ministers, some MPs who have been "star campaigners" in various states also expect to be inducted into the Modi Cabinet.

Since this might possibly be the last ministerial reshuffle before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, hectic parleys have begun to get into the Modi Cabinet. At least two MPs from Gujarat are likely to be rewarded for the party's stellar performance in the recent Assembly elections. Sources also said that the Prime Minister was also considering inducting more women into the Union Cabinet.

## Sankranti Festival to Kick off on Jan 12 at Srisailem Temple

**January 9: Anantapur:** Elaborate preparations are under way for the Srisailem Sankranti Brahmotsavalu scheduled from January 12 to 18 at the Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Bramarambika Temple.

The temple's executive officer S Lavanna noted that the brahmotsavams are normally held twice every year — at Srisailem during Sankranti and Mahashivarathi. The Shivaravathi fest will be a gala event. Devotees from across states and tens of thousands of Shivamala devotees offer prayers during the Shivarathi festival.

The Dwajaroohanam will be held in the temple town on Jan 12, marking the start of the celebrations. A Bringi Vahana Seva will be held the next day, a Ravana Vahan Seva on Jan 14, a Nandi Vahana Seva



along with Brahmotsava Kalyanam on Jan 15, the Kailasa Vahana Seva on Jan 16, the Poornahuthi and Trisula Snanam on Jan 17 and the festival would conclude on Jan 18 with an Aswa Vahana Seva along with a Pushpotsavam and a Sayanotsavam for the lord. A Samuhika Bhogi Pallu programme will be held on Jan 14 to mark Makar Sankranti.

The temple EO Lavanna held a meeting with the priests and temple staff on Sunday to finalise the arrangements for the Sankranti Brahmotsavalu. Arjitha sevas like Ruda Homam, Chandi Homam, Mruthyunjaya Homam, Subramanyeswara Kalyanam will be stopped from January 12.

## Vizag Summit Calls for New Global Health Architecture

**January 9: VISHAKHAPATNAM:** The three-day 16th Global Health Summit organised by American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in Visakhapatnam called for a new global health architecture that gives priority to promoting health and preventing disease, rather than only treating the sick. The architecture must be based on common vision, be inclusive, and stimulate innovative solutions to health challenges.

The summit also discussed many important issues related to Andhra Pradesh. Taking forward the call of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, AAPI decided to provide mental healthcare for school students to prevent suicides. For the purpose, a pilot project is being launched to train 10,000 teachers as counsellors.

AAPI will also support the state government in tackling cervical cancer among women. Health minister Vidadala Rajani has gone on to announce free human papillomavirus vaccine for

girls in the age group of 9–14 years.

Participating in a panel discussion on newer treatment modalities in radiation oncology, surgical oncology, systemic therapies for cancer, strategies to control cancer and economies of cancer drugs, Dr. D. Raghunadha Rao, founder director of Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, reiterated that therapeutic landscape of cancer has undergone a sea change with the advent of genomic profiling of tumours.

It is important for oncologists to periodically get retrained in interpretation of complex genomic reports to understand the current status of a tumour. This can help them choose the best drug for a given patient to target the cancer at molecular level. This leads to precision medicine and personalised cancer treatment, which is the most effective and least toxic, Dr. Raghunadha Rao pointed out.



Former chief scientist of World Health Organisation (WHO) Soumya Swaminathan, who also participated in the summit, suggested regular screening of people for non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart and kidney diseases. More than 350 doctors, including 100 experts from the USA, were among the speakers. They shared their knowledge and expressed insightful views on treatment of children and cancer, new trends in medicine and modern treatment procedures.

Brainstorming sessions were held on mental health, non-communicable diseases, cardiology, diabetes, kidney diseases, gastroenterology, blindness prevention and current trends in infant mortality.

**January 9: COLOMBO:** India has handed 75 passenger buses to Sri Lanka as part of its assistance towards strengthening public transport infrastructure in the cash-strapped country.

As part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has extended multi-pronged assistance to Sri Lanka to help the country tide over its worst economic and humanitarian crisis since its independence from Great Britain in 1948.

"Supporting mobility and accessibility in Sri Lanka, High Commissioner handed over 75 buses for use by Transport Board. 500 buses are being supplied to Sri Lanka through Indian assistance towards strengthening public transport infrastructure," the Indian High Commissioner said in a statement.

In a similar move, India handed 125 SUVs to the Sri Lanka Police under a line of credit in December to support the island nation and help it address the serious mobility restriction



issues faced by the police, due to the non-availability of vehicles.

The Sri Lankan government in May last year declared a debt default on over USD 51 billion in the foreign loan – a first in the country's history.

Extending a much-needed lifeline to a neighbour in need, India gave financial assistance of nearly USD 4 billion to Colombo during the year.

In January, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves as the financial crisis began to unfold.

Later, it offered a USD 500 million credit line to Sri Lanka to fund the country's fuel purchases. The credit line was later expanded to USD 700 million due to the sheer gravity of the situation.

The Indian credit lines since early 2022 have been in use to import essentials and fuel after street protests erupted due to severe shortages of essentials.



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# PM Modi Assures Uttarakhand CM Centre's Help on Joshimath

**January 9: New Delhi:** Principal secretary to the Prime Minister P.K. Mishra on Sunday held a high-level review meeting on the situation in Joshimath, where cracks have developed in the buildings and the entire area seems to be sinking. Mass evacuations have started from Joshimath, the gateway to some renowned pilgrimage sites like Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to take stock of the situation and assured him of all possible help from the Centre to save Joshimath. Mr Dhami said that the PM is personally monitoring the situation in Joshimath and asked about the steps being taken to rehabilitate the affected families due to land subsidence.

During the PMO meeting on Joshimath, Mr Mishra was apprised that the Central agencies and experts are assisting the state government to prepare short, medium and long-term plans. One team of the National Disaster Relief Force and four teams of the state disaster relief force have already reached Joshimath.

The PMO meeting was attended by the Cabinet secretary, senior officials of

the Central government, and members of the National Disaster Management Authority. District officials of Joshimath and senior officers of Uttarakhand also attended the meeting through video conference. The chief secretary of Uttarakhand briefed the top PMO officials from Joshimath.

It was decided that the secretary of border management and members of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will visit Uttarakhand on Monday to assess the Joshimath situation. A team of experts from the NDMA, National Institute of Disaster Management, Geological Survey of India, IIT Roorkee, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, National Institute of Hydrology and Central Building Research Institute will also study the situations and give recommendations. The National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, have been asked to conduct a study of Joshimath through satellite imagery and submit a detailed report with photographs.

The Uttarakhand CM had visited Joshimath on Saturday to assess the situation on the ground, a day after he directed the immediate evacuation of around 600 affected families. Joshimath has been declared a landslide-subsidence zone and over 60 families living in damaged houses in the sinking

town have been evacuated to temporary relief centres, a senior official in Uttarakhand said on Sunday.

Considering the extent of the damage, at least 90 more families will have to be evacuated as soon as possible and the local administration has set up relief centres at five locations in the Himalayan town, Garhwal commissioner Sushil Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Chamoli district magistrate Himanshu Khurana went from door to door in the affected area to assess the extent of damage and appealed to people living in houses that have developed cracks to move to the relief centres.

"There are a total of 4,500 buildings in Joshimath and 610 of them have developed huge cracks, making them unfit for habitation," said Mr Kumar.

A survey is underway and the number of affected buildings could go up, he added. Mr Kumar further said the affected area, including houses that developed cracks earlier and the ones damaged recently, forms a big arch that could be spread over 1.5 km.

Temporary relief centres have been set up at five safe places within Joshimath. Some more buildings, including a few hotels, a gurdwara and two inter-colleges, have been acquired to serve as makeshift shelters that can accommodate around 1,500 people, he said.

## Natural Farming Awareness Programme Organised at Lalpahar

**Continued from Page 1**

local seeds and planting materials, integration of crops, trees and livestock, intercropping and crop rotations.

Dr N. Bommayasamy, SMS (Agro./Agri.Extn.) explained that natural farming drastically reduced the cost of production by replacing the chemical fertilizers and pesticides. He encouraged for farm

production of Ghanajeevamrut, Beejamrut, Jeevamurt, agniastara, bhramastra, neemastara etc and adoption of intercropping with leguminous vegetables.

He stressed to adopt mulching with crop residues which reduces soil temperature and also improves soil moisture and in turn helps in soil microbial diversity, water absorption and nutrient availability to crops.

Dr. B.K. Nanda, SMS (Agri. Engg.) enlightened about the employment opportunities in natural farming and water management practices. As part of the programme, demonstration on ghanajeevamrut, jeevamrut were prepared by the participants. A total of 82 participants were participated and benefited in this programme.

24/7 SERVICE

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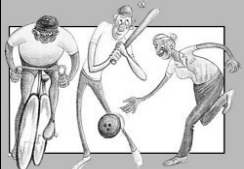
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# SPORTS

## T20 League Over Country: Trent Boult Likely to Miss Series Against England

**January 9:** New Zealand seamer Trent Boult has been all-but ruled out of the England Test series next month due to his T20 franchise league commitments. The 33-year-old Boult will only return to New Zealand on the eve of the tests from playing in the UAE T20 league.

When asked if Boult might face England, New Zealand's coach Gary Stead said: "No, I wouldn't have thought so. Trent and I have had discussions, his return from the UAE is only a day or so immediately prior to that. From a workload perspective that's out of the picture."

World class fast bowler Trent Boult was released from his central contract with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) at his own request last August so he can spend less time travelling and more time at home with his family.



The 33-year-old, who has played 70 tests and 137 limited overs internationals since 2011, will continue to play for his country but have a "significantly reduced role", NZC said. "This has been a really tough decision for me ... playing cricket for my country was a childhood dream and I'm so proud of everything

I've been able to achieve," Boult said in an NZC statement.

"Ultimately this decision is about my wife Gert and our three young boys. Family has always been the biggest motivator for me and I feel comfortable with putting it first and preparing ourselves for life after cricket."

## Babar Azam Says he Does not Regret not Having Sarfaraz Ahmed in the Team in the Last Four Years

**January 9:** With former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed winning the player of the series in the recently concluded Pakistan New Zealand Test series with three fifties and a hundred, the 25-year-old wicket-keeper batsman has come back from the wilderness. While Ahmed is currently not in the Pakistan ODI team, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam praised Ahmed's perseverance but also said he does not regret Ahmed's time away from the Pakistan team.

Asked by a journalist about him having any regrets of not having Ahmed in the team since the last four years, Azam replied about Ahmed's coming back to form for Pakistan. "I have said this in earlier press conferences too that the way Sarfaraz Ahmed has waited, did not lose his courage, did his training, wicketkeeping, batting with full dedication, he waited and executed his plans. The way he batted in difficult situations and got the team out of tough situations. That's the sign of a senior player and such players get you out of difficult times with different innings. It was a dream comeback for him," said Azam in reply to the



question. When pegged back again by the journalist about having any regrets of not having Ahmed in the team Azam replied, "No, I don't have any regrets," said Azam.

While Pakistan has failed to win any test this season on home soil, the Babar Azam led team will start the new year with a ODI series against New Zealand in the ODI World Cup year. With PCB naming Shan Masood as the vice-captain, Azam was also asked about media reports suggesting he was not consulted regarding the decision. "See, I believe we cannot talk about any one individual. Anybody can be part of the playing XI. I have not seen the

wicket. Our main aim will be to play the best playing XI and win this series," said Azam.

The Pakistan captain was also asked about him and the newly appointed PCB interim chief selector Shahid Afridi not on the same page and Azam replied that the captain and coach always consult with the selectors. "I believe that selectors and captain have to be on the same page. It's important to have communication with the selectors. We have conveyed our messages to them and we are on the same page. We communicated what we needed and gave our inputs on the basis of what team was selected," said Azam. The three-match ODI series begins on Monday in Karachi.

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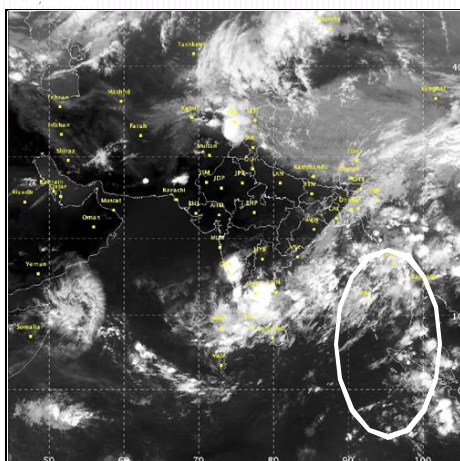
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Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880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

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District Control Room:	03192-238881
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EOC (Kamorta):	03193-263222
EOC (N&M):	03192-262960
EOC (Hut Bay):	03192-284014



### Weather



Max. Temp: 30.4 °C	Min.: 23.6 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 67%	1730 Hrs: 66%
Sunrise: 0542 Hrs.	Sunset: 1711 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, 2023 till date):	003.5 mm

### Forecast

Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 24°C respectively on Tuesday 10/01/2023.

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