

PBMC's civil works slow down due to scarcity of construction materials



Port Blair, Aug 27: Scarcity of construction materials like sand, dust and cement has led to the halting of civil works in the Port Blair Municipal Council. Past two years, the Workshop Division of

the Municipal Council has not taken up any construction activities in the city due to shortage of construction materials. The scarcity of construction materials has affected several municipal projects. Due to

shortage, the Council is unable to fill up potholes in city roads. The demand for construction materials doubled after the administration

removed lockdown restrictions in the construction activities and the civic body had to stop construction activities due to shortage. With

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Vaccine camp by Youth Congress under MP's direction

Port Blair, Aug 27: Under the guidance and leadership of the Member of Parliament, Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, the Youth Congress, Andaman and Nicobar Islands organized a COVID-19 vaccination camp at Garachama Govt Primary School for the member of Andaman and Nicobar Auto Union (NTUC) on 27th August 2021 at 11 am for the welfare of all members of auto drivers and their families. Shri Rangalal Halder, PCC President, Shri. Masi lugun, General Secretary PCC, Shri. K. Ganeshan, Chief spokesperson, PCC, Shri John Robert Babu, Ex-Youth President, Shri Elayaraja Als, youth congress president were present. Shri Shaktivel Block.

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Media briefing on COVID-19

Port Blair, Aug 27: No new positive case of COVID-19 has been detected on Friday. All the passengers, who arrived here in flights yesterday, had tested negative for the infection on re-testing. Altogether, 635 passengers arrived here in four flights on Friday. RT-PCR tests were conducted on them and results will be available tomorrow. None of the 208 passengers bound for the North and Middle Andaman district tested

positive for the infection at Ferragunj today, informed Dr AK Mondal, Director of ANIMS. At the daily press briefing, Dr Mondal informed that all active cases of COVID-19 in these islands are undergoing treatment at COVID Care facilities in South Andaman. A total of 160 persons were tested at Mohanpura, 132 at Phoenix Bay and all tested negative for the infection. 459 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered at

JNRM today of which 357 beneficiaries were in the age-group of 18-45 years, informed Mr Mondal. More than 3.51 lakh beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in these islands. Over 2.47 lakh beneficiaries have received the first dose of the vaccine and around 1,03,723 beneficiaries have been administered both the doses. More than 1,36,101 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have vaccine were administered at

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Humanitarian approach by Police, saved an ailing girl from remote locality

Port Blair, Aug 27: On 26th Aug 2021, at about 7.00 am an information was received at OP Kishori Nagar that a young girl, residing in remote area of Kishori Nagar is ailing and her health

condition is worsening. Acting swiftly upon the information the matter was immediately informed to PHC Kishori Nagar to keep an ambulance on standby to shift the girl. The home guards volunteers

namely HG/545 Naveen Roy and HG/525 Prave Sarkar rushed to the spot and lifted her up to main road on a locally made stretcher with the help of family members.

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Sheela Singh gets appointed to National Executive Committee of BJP Mahila Morcha

Port Blair, Aug 27: Smt Sheela Singh, one of the senior most BJP leaders of A & N Islands, was appointed to the National Executive Committee of Mahila Morcha yesterday. The order to this effect was issued by Smt Vanathi Srinivasan, National President, Bharatiya Janata Mahila Morcha, after obtaining approval of the BJP's National President, Shri J.P. Nadda. Smt Sheela Singh, has been elevated to National Executive Committee in recognition of her contribution and hard work for growth



of Bharatiya Janata Party in the A & N Islands over the last about 25 years. Smt Sheela Singh is currently the State Vice President and Core Committee member of A

& N Unit of BJP. Before being elevated to the current post in the local units she has successfully held various posts in the party. She has the credit of being elected as Councilor of Port Blair Municipal Council thrice in a row and more importantly a woman to achieve it. Smt Sheela Singh has also held the Chairpersonship of Port Blair Municipal Council and has also been Chairperson of Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the Islands. Speaking to

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MP demands special ferry vessel from Port Blair to Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur till normal Bus Service resumes in ATR

Port Blair, Aug 27: On the issue of land-slide near Middle Strait JPP, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, the Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has requested the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration to operate a special ferry from Port Blair to Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur till the normal ATR Bus Service for North and Middle Andaman is resumed. Following information



received from the public of North and Middle Andaman, the Member of Parliament today mailed a letter to the Chief Secretary in which he mentioned that a land-slide near Middle Strait JPP has disrupted the ATR Bus Service for North and Middle Andaman and due to restrictions on the movement of Express bus services many passengers are

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Celebration of women's equality day



Port Blair, Aug 27: With You NGO celebrated Women's Equality Day on 26th August 2021 at NGO office, Bamboofat.

Bamboofat was the chief guest on this occasion. In her address she appealed to all the ladies to first take care of their health. Also that women are playing an equal role in society

and that they have the courage to face all sorts of challenges in their life. She wished the women folk to stay happy and blessed. Smt

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Vaccination drive continuing smoothly in Isles

Port Blair, Aug 27: The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in A&N Islands. As per data available, a total of 351095 beneficiaries have been vaccinated so far in A&N Islands, out of the target beneficiaries of 2,91,603 (approx.). A total of 3796 people

were vaccinated yesterday in A&N Islands. A total of 136,101 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till dated 26-08-2021. 3361 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which, 2324 were in the age group of 18-44 years.

412 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District, out of which, 350 were in the age group of 18-44 years. In Nicobar District, 23 beneficiaries were vaccinated out of which, 8 were in the age group of 18-44 years.

Victory Flame Reached at Indian Coast Guard Component



Port Blair, Aug 27: The Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame arrived at Port Blair on 03 August and was subsequently carried from the Northmost tip, the Indira point of Andaman and Nicobar group of islands. A series of events were conducted by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard components under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command

(AN C), to commemorate the presence of the Victory Flame on the Islands. On 27 Aug 21, the Victory Flame was ceremoniously received by Shri Dinesh

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India Makes Aatmanirbhar Plans for Palm Oil, But at Huge Cost to the Environment

New Delhi, Aug 27: India, the world's largest edible oil importer, is now looking to be aatmanirbhar and scale up its oil production. That will help cut down its dependency on oil palm-oil producing countries like Indonesia and Malaysia. Last week, the Cabinet approved Rs 11,040 crore for a centrally

sponsored scheme that will focus on increasing productivity of oil seeds and oil palm in the Northeastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Since the onset of the pandemic, prices of all edible oils have soared due to labour shortages in Malaysia and Indonesia as well as environmental issues that have

impacted oil plantations. But the Centre's palm oil plans have raised environmental concerns. What are these concerns? Can palm oil production be sustainable? And why does palm oil matter so much? Read on. What Does India's Palm Oil Mission Propose? Currently, an

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Make in India not followed in spirit, says cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba

New Delhi, Aug 27: Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba has written to secretaries of various ministries, expressing dissatisfaction over the quantum of local sourcing and procurement done by the government despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's insistence on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

and 'Make in India' programmes. Gauba said it was observed that 'Make in India' is not being followed in letter and spirit as the directed secretaries of key ministries to look into the issue forthwith. "It has been observed from the tenders issued by various procuring entities on CPPI/ GeM (Central Public Procurement/

Government e-Marketplace) portals that PPP-MI (Public Procurement-Preference to Make in India) Order is not being implemented in letter and spirit by some of the organisations," Gauba said in his communication, top sources told TOI. The country's top bureaucrat said "there are

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EDITORIAL

The Andaman Express

28 August 2021

Learning safely: On schools reopening

The Centre's move to allocate 2 crore coronavirus vaccine doses for universal coverage of all teaching and non-teaching staff in schools by Teachers' Day (September 5) adds a measure of confidence that the resumption of face-to-face classes from September is not fraught with high risk. Several States are preparing to reopen schools, mostly for Class 9 and higher, next month. Some, including Haryana, Telangana and Gujarat, have announced that they will allow offline classes even for younger children. Amidst fears of a third wave of the pandemic, epidemiologists, academicians and policymakers have been wrestling with the question of a low-risk trade-off, balancing protection from the virus with some bridging of the learning deficit caused by prolonged school closures that are crippling future prospects of millions of children. It is encouraging that half of the 97 lakh teachers in the country have already been immunised, by official estimates, making it feasible to reach the rest by September 5. The risk of infection to children in schools remains, however, and must be addressed with utmost seriousness, particularly with fast-transmitting virus variants present in all States. This calls for a coherent response that incorporates the best learnings from epidemiology and decentralised decision-making to the districts based on local circumstances. It is of course, a step forward that a vaccine, the three-dose ZyCoV-D, has been approved for the 12-18 age group, but this is to be administered only from October. The reversion to physical classes will, therefore, have to be carefully calibrated.

Vaccination of children over 12 years of age has been allowed in some countries, but the pandemic's course has remained unpredictable. In Israel, one of the most vaccinated countries with an estimated 78% coverage of the over-12 population, the Delta variant swiftly caused a spike in infections as distancing norms, the mask mandate and travel bans were eliminated. In one instance, an entire class of students was infected by one unvaccinated child who had been on vacation. This cautionary tale serves to emphasise the importance of priority vaccination of children, starting with those who may have other health conditions, maintaining safety protocols, and adopting low-cost non-pharmaceutical interventions such as good classroom ventilation and open-air instruction wherever feasible. Credentialed studies in the U.S. indicate that these are effective measures, along with vaccination. It is vitally important for the Centre to share information on the school reopening experience with all States and issue alerts in real time to enable decision-making. An empirical approach will also enable organisations such as the National Institute of Disaster Management collate useful insights. Parents must be convinced by transparent official measures that the health and education prospects of their children are in safe hands.

BBMC ..

hit the development projects. Besides filling up of potholes and relaying of roads, the municipal council has as a few of its projects which have not been totally halted. The work force in the Municipal Council are sitting idle with no

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work to perform as all civil works have been stopped completely. Despite removal of restriction of construction activities, construction work in the council is happening at snail's pace in the absence of materials.

COVID ..

been vaccinated till date. A total of 480928 samples have been sent for tests at the designated laboratories of which reports of 480928 have been received taking the rate of testing to 1202320 per

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million. The administration is taking all necessary steps to contain the spread of the disease and people are requested to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour, the media was informed.

Humanitarian ..

thereafter she was taken in an ambulance and shifted to PHC Kishor Nagar. The girl was further referred to CHC Diglipur and she is

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under observation. Prompt action by the local police shows their humanitarian approach and saved the life of a young girl.

ATR ..

stranded on both sides of ATR. In this regard, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma requested the Chief Secretary operate a special ferry from Port Blair to Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur so that those who are in urgent need of travelling to Port Blair or North and Middle Andaman for

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medical and other reasons, can do so. The MP mentioned that presently only small vehicles are allowed to travel across the ATR but not all Island can afford to book private vehicles to reach Port Blair or N&M Andaman.

Miss V. K. Mariyam bibi ..

Sadna Lal, social worker exhorted the women to come forward for the betterment of their community and encouraged them to be self-dependent by using their skills. Earlier Miss V. K. Mariyam bibi,

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President welcomed the chief guest by presenting her a bouquet and talked about the importance of celebrating this day. A cultural program was also organized by the NGO to mark this occasion.

Coast Guard ..

Rajaputhran, Tatrakshak Medal, Inspector General, Coast Guard Region Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) along with District Commander, Commanding Officers, officers and men at Port Blair. The Victory Flame was placed at the main mast of Coast Guard District Headquarters (CGDHQ) - 14 Parade Ground, where Indian Coast Guard personnel paid homage to martyrs of the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

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Thereafter, the Victory flame was taken to Coast Guard Jetty, Regional Headquarters (A&N) and Coast Guard Residential Area (Tatrakshak) where personnel and families paid their tribute to the brave martyrs who had laid down their lives in the service of the Nation. Finally the Victory flame was taken to the premises of Coast Guard Endeavour prior to being handed over to the Army Component of the ANC.

AIR FORCE PLANE WITH 35 EVACUEES FROM KABUL LANDS IN INDIA

Indian Air Force aircraft C-17 Globemaster, carrying 24 Indian and 11 Nepalese evacuees from Kabul landed at Hindon Airport on Thursday, under Operation Devi Shakti.

"Indian Embassy and Indian Government rescued us and brought us here to Delhi. We are very thankful to them," said Shiva, a Nepali national among the people who were

evacuated from Afghanistan and brought to India. Earlier today, Ministry of External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi had informed about the evacuation flight via Twitter. "Op Devi Shakti" in action! @IAF MCC flight with 24 Indian and 11 Nepalese evacuees from Kabul is on its way to Delhi. #DeviShakti, Bagchi tweeted. The evacuation operation that came against the backdrop of the Taliban's takeover of the country last week is known as "Operation Devi Shakti". This operation comes as MEA had



urged all Indian nationals in Afghanistan requiring assistance to contact Special Afghanistan Cell

immediately to move out of the war-torn country. As many as 565 people,

including 112 Afghan nationals, have been evacuated by India from Afghanistan since the Taliban seized control of the war-torn country, the Ministry of External Affairs informed the floor leaders of political parties in Parliament on Thursday. According to sources, the ministry shared details on the recent developments in Afghanistan with floor leaders of various political parties in Parliament. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed the leaders among the 565 evacuees, 175 were embassy personnel, 263 other Indian nationals, 112

were Afghan nationals including Hindus and Sikhs and 15 were third-country nationals, sources said. Promoted Listen to the latest songs, only on Jio Saavn. com Afghanistan's situation is worsening as people are in rush to leave the nation after the Taliban seized control last week. On August 15, the country's government fell, soon after President Ashraf Ghani left the nation.

India Makes ..

from... Page 01

area of 3.70 lakh hectares is reportedly under oil palm cultivation in the country. But the palm oil mission proposes to cover an additional area of 6.5 lakh hectares by 2025-26 to increase crude palm oil (CPO) production to 11.2 lakh tonnes by 2025-26 and up to 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30. While this can be promising for consumers, the Centre is also looking to encourage oil palm farmers by assisting them with planting materials, and giving them price assurances in the form of viability gap funding. Under this pricing mechanism, the government said that for the first time it will give a price assurance to the oil palm farmers for their fresh fruit bunches (FFBs) which is what palm oil is extracted from. This would protect farmers from the fluctuating international CPO prices which determines FFB prices. What Are The Environmental Concerns With India's Palm Oil Mission? Palm oil plantations are best suited to tropical areas which are rich in biodiversity. Hence, one of the biggest concerns with boosting palm oil yield is that with unsustainable practices, these oil plantations often tend to replace tropical forest covers. That is also the concern with planning palm oil production in the Northeastern region of India which is easily one of the biodiversity-rich regions of the country. This will not only threaten the local species of flora and fauna but also impact the local communities who depend on forests for their lives and livelihoods. "Moreover, it is a huge water guzzler," says Mayank Aggarwal, Contributing Editor at Mongabay India, a nonprofit environment and conservation news platform. Since these plantations also need a lot of water, where there are concerns

of dipping ground water levels, growing such a water-intensive crop will only add to the water scarcity. "India as a country has millions of small farmers which means small land holdings. For palm oil crops to flourish, you need huge areas of landholdings. Hence, a lot of companies are likely to have contracts with farmers for palm oil plantations and that is one area of concern given the fact that farmers often feel that corporates don't respect their rights. Also, the crop has a long gestation period which leads to farmers incurring losses."

Mayank Aggarwal, Contributing Editor at Mongabay India

Although the Centre's plan includes encouraging farmers, they may still face problems in the foreseeable future.

"In India, farmers are largely seen in livelihoods on a crop-to-crop basis, so palm oil cultivation can prove to be a big proposition for some farmers. In fact, when we spoke to farmers about this, a lot of them who had invested in palm oil told us that they reverted to their usual crop cultivation after facing losses," Aggarwal said.

A report on The Indian Express has also pointed out that the plan was approved despite reservations from the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, an institute under the Environment Ministry, which had said that without detailed studies on its ecological impact, production of oil palm "should be avoided" in areas rich in biodiversity.

In its turn, the Centre had justified that in 2018, the Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research had already prepared a report on whether Andaman and Nicobar Islands were feasible for palm oil

productions.

But the Centre may have to face some legal hurdles yet, since in 2002, the Supreme Court had ordered the "phasing out" of "commercial plantations on forest land."

The apex court had said, "There should be no expansion of monoculture or commercial plantations on forest land. The existing plantations of oil palm, rubber and kak are reportedly no longer viable and should be phased out."

Why Palm Oil Matters So Much

Historical evidence suggests that humans have been using palm oil from as far back as 5,000 years — and this crop was introduced to Malaysia and Indonesia from Africa by British colonialists.

Compared to other oilseed crops, palm oil palm cultivation is more profitable because it can produce up to 10 to 46 times more oil per hectare, while the rest have a yield of around 4 tonnes oil per hectare.

Given its affordability, palm oil has become a big source of cooking oil in developing countries like India, but it's also present in pretty much everything else.

In fact, it is practically a ubiquitous ingredient as it is found in a wide range of daily-use products, like soaps, detergents, cosmetics, snacks, ice-cream, candies — you name it.

But the high demand for palm oil is directly connected to large-scale deforestation and ecological destructions.

Oil plantations in Malaysia and Indonesia, which now account for 85 percent of the world's palm oil production, have depleted entire chunks of rainforest covers, which

in turn has critically endangered wildlife.

With most of their natural habitats now lost to palm oil expansion, orangutans, Sumatran elephants, Bornean Pygmy elephants, Sumatran rhinos and Sumatran tigers are only some of the species which have been pushed to the brink of extinction.

Although the world of consumers remain largely unbothered by the ecological cost of this all-pervasive ingredient, environmental experts are trying to push the conversation towards looking for sustainable methods of cultivating palm oil.

Can Palm Oil Production Be Sustainable?

The world's largest association for ethical palm oil production, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), has come up with a set of environmental and social criteria that companies must comply with in order to produce certified sustainable palm oil.

A few of the criteria include that no primary forests or areas which are rich in biodiversity, or fragile ecosystems, or areas which are fundamental to meeting basic or traditional cultural needs of local communities (high conservation value areas), can be cleared.

However, many experts and activists have found the RSPO's requirements to be grossly insufficient.

It was only in 2018, that the RSPO introduced a ban on cutting down forests or converting peatlands for oil palm plantations.

But with India being the biggest importer of palm oil, many believe that India should be leading the conversation on sustainable palm oil production.

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and thus do not entertain local suppliers, even though they have low-cost requisite technologies suitable for our terrain," an editor said, requesting anonymity. Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPEC) chairman Sandeep Aggarwal said the criteria of "past experiences" is often used to keep domestic suppliers out. The matter has previously been flagged by commerce minister Piyush Goyal too who wrote to some of the ministries, complaining that domestic industry was often ignored.

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was having severe pain in my chest. Just got my CT Angio done in SMS Hospital. Angioplasty will be done. I am happy that I'm getting it done at

SMS Hspital. I am fine and will be back soon. Your blessings and well wishes are with me," tweeted the Rajasthan Chief Minister.

Rajasthan Chief Minister ..

tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier today, Mr. Gehlot took to Twitter to inform that he will undergo an angioplasty procedure

at SMS Hospital in Jaipur after he experienced severe chest pain. "Post Covid I was having health issues and since yesterday I

access to health services or faced a situation of not getting a hospital bed during emergencies" Mr Vijay said. Defending his point that the present criticisms are unwarranted, he said the three seroprevalence surveys conducted in the country had confirmed that Kerala had the lowest incidence of the disease. Without ascribing a single dose of the vaccine, Kerala has shown a case in point in inoculation also, he said adding that the Covid mortality rate

in the state is less than 0.5%, which is only one-third of the country's total death count.

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The Kerala government on Thursday faced flak from its political opponents and public health experts for its alleged "careless" and "bolsh" decisions regarding Covid-19 management, which according to them has led to the rise in cases and the test positivity rate of Kerala which presently accounts for nearly 70% of the national total of daily infections.

GS. auto union INTUC ..

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President Garacharma, Shri Sadevan, Shri V. Laxmi Narayan and members of youth congress and Shri. Balakrishnan, GS. auto union INTUC, Anbu

General Secretary auto union were present. Altogether, 150 people have received the jabs of COVISHIELD vaccine at this vaccination camp



BJP ..

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the press after her appointment to the National Mahila Morcha Executive Committee, she expressed her gratitude to the BJs National President, Shri JP Nadda, National BJP Mahila Morcha

President Smt Vanathi Srinivasan, Shri BL Santhosh, National General Secretary (Org) for investing faith in her and all the Senior leaders and workers of local unit of BJP for their support and wishes.



Punjab Government Announces Minimum 15% Hike In Basic Pay Of Employees

The Punjab government on Thursday announced to increase the basic pay of its employees by a minimum of 15 per cent and restore certain allowances, a move that is expected to cost ₹1,500 crore to the exchequer.

"With this, the total average increase in salary/pension per employee has gone up to 79.250 per annum earlier that the employees were getting after the 6th Pay Commission's recommendations were accepted in effect from July 1, 2021, it added. It had led to a ₹4,700 crore bonanza for the employees.

The latest decision to raise the pay over and above the basic pay as on December 31, 2015, was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Amrinder Singh.

He also directed all ministers, administrative secretaries and heads of departments to take to their respective employees for early redressal of their grievances.

Employees belonging to several departments have been agitating against the state government over certain recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

"While all reasonable demands of employees should be resolved following today's announcements," he made it clear that strict action should be taken as per rules if the employees continue to agitate. The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of Cabinet Minister Bhanu Mahindra and others in resolving the grievances of the 2.85 lakh employees and 3.07 lakh pensioners, who will benefit from Thursday's decisions. This will cost the government exchequer a total salary



and pension bill of ₹42,673 crore per annum.

Mr Singh pointed out that all operational allowances have not only been retained but also doubled in absolute terms over what they were being paid earlier. The Cabinet decision has restored common allowances, such as fixed medical allowance, mobile allowance, conveyance allowance and city compensatory allowance (CCA), at the revised rates (2.59 X 0.8) with effect from July 1, 2021.

The Cabinet also approved treating of non-practising allowance (NPA) admissible to doctors at the rate of 20 per cent of revised basic pay as pay with secretariat pay for employees (working in Punjab Civil Secretariat) to be doubled with effect from July, 2021 and also to be treated as Pay. Government doctors had been agitating against recommendation of the Punjab's Sixth

Pay Commission de-linking non-practising allowance from the basic pay.

Employees covered under the National Pension Scheme have now been given cover under family pension in case of death in harness, it said. Promoted to listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

The Cabinet also decided that service rendered during the probation period shall be counted for the purpose of assured career progression (ACP), as already being done by the Department of General Administration.

The decisions taken by the state's Cabinet are based on the recommendations of a committee of the group of ministers, headed by Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra, to consider the demands of various categories of employees.

All Teachers Vaccinated, Bengal Prepared For 3rd Wave: Mamata Banerjee

Bengal is "prepared to tackle the possible third wave" of the pandemic, and parents of children aged 12 and below are being prioritised for vaccinations, Mamata Banerjee said.

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said all teachers in the state have been vaccinated against coronavirus, a day after Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said two crore additional doses will be made available across the country for them. Ms Banerjee, after chairing a meeting of health department officials, also said that the state is "prepared to tackle the possible third wave" of the Covid pandemic, and parents of children aged 12 and below are being prioritised for vaccinations. Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi, Transport Minister and chairman of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's board of administrators, Firdaus Hakim, were also present at the meeting.

Amid concerns that the third wave might pose a greater threat to kids, the chief minister said, "We are trying to prioritise vaccination of parents of children who are 12 years old and below."

"Around 10,000 beds have been readied for handling the third wave. Also, we have



vaccinated 100% of teachers," the chief minister, who holds the health portfolio said.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had on Wednesday said that over two crore additional doses of Covid vaccines will be distributed among states this month for vaccinating all school teachers on priority before Teachers' Day on September 5.

The chief minister, while talking to the reporters, further said that experienced nurses and those who have put up exceptional performances will be promoted to the post of

"practitioner sisters".

They will have responsibilities "quite similar to that of the doctors", she said.

"These nurses can pitch in when there is a dearth of doctors. The health department will come out with an official guideline in the matter," she maintained.

Ms Banerjee stated that quacks in the state's rural areas will be given adequate training and asked to serve at primary health centres.

Lauding all healthcare professionals for their hard work and dedication amid the pandemic, she said that a 10-acre land will be allotted by her government for doctors and nurses to build a housing complex.

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A decision has also been taken to setup a hostel on Lee Road in Kolkata for the doctors and nurses of state-run SSKM hospital, she underlined.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, **P. MURUKANANDHAN** S/o M. K. Palani residing at Vill. Ferrar Gunj, PO Ferrar Gunj, under Ferrar Gunj Tehsil, South Andaman District, Andaman & Nicobar Islands declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as **MURUGANANDHAM** and **KANIMOZHI** in my minor son DINESH KUMAR M, aged 17 years in his School Records, Birth Certificate Registration No. KBK/1613/2004/KBK/0 and 10th (CBSE) Marks Statement cum Certificate. The actual name of mine and my wife are **P. MURUKANANDHAN** and **G. KANIMOZHI** respectively which may be amended accordingly.

It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

The above said paras are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DEPONENT

Amid Punjab Poll Speculation, Actor Sonu Sood To Meet Arvind Kejriwal Tomorrow

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will meet actor Sonu Sood tomorrow in New Delhi, sources have said. The meeting comes amid speculation that either the Bollywood movie star or his sister may contest the upcoming Punjab Assembly polls.

Mr Sood is the brand ambassador for the Punjab government's Covid vaccination programme.

Mr Kejriwal will be meeting the actor in the morning tomorrow, sources have said. Besides his movie fame, Mr Sood is best known for the several instances of help he provided to a whole lot of desperate people during the Covid lockdown last year and at the peak of the second wave earlier this year.

From delivering oxygen cylinders to helping the needy get proper medical attention to setting up oxygen plants, Mr Sood was seen doing it all. It was reported earlier this month that he had also extended support to people affected by flooding in parts of Maharashtra.

Ms Sachar, meanwhile, has been active with social work in the Moga area of Punjab over the past few months. She was invited in local functions by various government departments.

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Supreme Court To Begin In-Person Hearings From September 1

Supreme Court will switch to hybrid hearings - both physical and virtual - from September 1 amid a dip in the COVID-19 cases in the country. As Mondays and Fridays are admission days, the hearing will be virtual, sources said, adding, on rest of the days, the hearing will be both physical and virtual. The court is treating the issue very cautiously and depending upon the situation it will take a call on continuing physical hearing on all days, they said. The Supreme Court had decided to experiment with the "hybrid mode" for the first in March this year, nearly a year

after physical hearings were discontinued due to the pandemic. It, however, went back to functioning only in a virtual mode nearly within a month of switching to the hybrid mode amid a surge in infections in the country in April. Meanwhile, the nine judges, including three women, recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium and accepted by the government for appointment as judges of the top court will take oath in the 900-seater court auditorium on Tuesday. The oath of office to the new judges is usually administered by the Chief Justice in the

court room no. 1. However, due to COVID protocols and to accommodate families of the nine judges, the swearing-in will take place at the auditorium in the new building complex of the top court, the sources said. Promoted to listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com The Supreme Court, which has 25 judges against a sanctioned strength of 34, will be left with only one vacancy after the new judges are sworn in. It is probably the first time that nine names have been recommended for the Supreme Court and all have been approved by the government.

CORONAVIRUS MUST KNOW FACTS

What Is 2019-nCov?

A new strain of the coronavirus that infects humans and causes lower respiratory tract illnesses.

Who Is At Risk?

Common in people with cardiovascular, respiratory diseases, weakened immunity, infants, and older adults.

What Are The Symptoms?

Fever, Cough, Breathing difficulty, Sore Throat, Runny nose, Headache and General Debility.

What Are The Preventive Measures?

- Wash hands regularly using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue paper while sneezing
- Avoid touching face, nose or mouth with dirty hands.
- Wear protective masks to avoid spreading onto others.
- Stay at home if sick
- Disinfecting and cleaning surfaces that you frequently touch

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Tokyo Paralympics: Rakesh Kumar finishes third, Vivek Chikara in top-10 in archery ranking round

Rakesh Kumar shot a career-best 699 points out of a possible 720 to grab the third place in the ranking round of the men's open section of the Paralympic Games.

Indian compound archer Rakesh Kumar shot a career-best 699 points out of a possible 720 to grab the third place in the ranking round of the men's open section of the Paralympic Games on Friday. In the men's recurve open category, 2019 Asian Para Championship winner Vivek Chikara finished in top-10. World No. 11 Kumar, who won an individual gold medal at the first world ranking tournament in Dubai earlier this year, narrowly missed out the second spot to Iranian Ramezan Biabani who also totalled 699 but placed higher than the Indian for shooting more arrows closer to the centre (X). The Indian shot 53 perfect 10s, including 17 closest to the centre, while his Iranian rival had 18 Xs. Another Indian in the fray, Shyam Sunder Swami finished



lowly 21st with 682 points. Both the Indians were seeded straight into the second round in the draw of 64. World No. 22 Jyoti Balian, who is the only Indian female member to have qualified for the Paralympics, secured a 15th place ranking in the compound open event.

A team silver medalist at the Asian Para Championships in 2019, Jyoti shot 671 points. She and Kumar got sixth ranking in the compound mixed pair open category. The duo will open their campaign against Thailand in the compound mixed pair open which has a draw of 16. In the men's

recurve open category, Chikara finished in top-10 after shooting 609 points, ahead of 2018 Para Asian Games champion Harvinder Singh who qualified as 21st seed. Chikara shot 20 perfect 10s and 2Xs in his 72 arrows, while Singh ended with 600 points to slip out of top-20. The open event combines W2 (Wheelchair 2) and ST (Standing) classes. Athletes who have an impairment in the legs and use a wheelchair or have a balance impairment and shoot standing or resting on a stool can compete in open category. In para archery, the use of assistive equipment or an assistant is allowed depending on the impairment, while a variety of techniques may be employed, including pulling the bowstring with the mouth.

No surprises in Igor Stimac's Indian squad for friendlies

India will play two away international friendlies against Nepal at the Dashrath Stadium, Kathmandu on September 2 and 5.

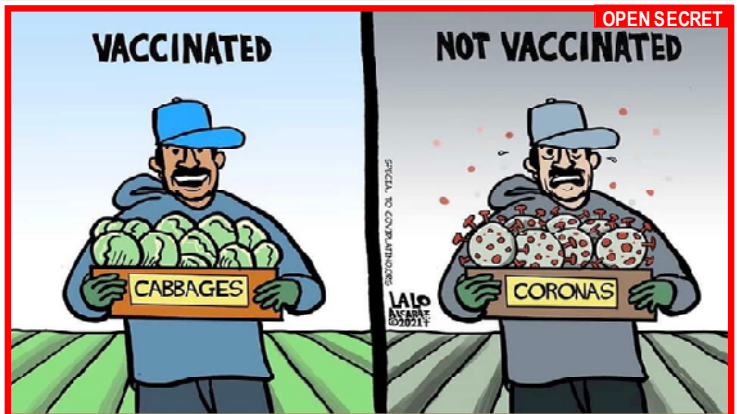
There were no surprises in the 25-member India team announced by national head coach Igor Stimac for the international friendlies against Nepal even though the coach named five new faces in the campers list. Indians travel to Kathmandu and matches will be played on September 2 and 5. Both have met 19 times with India winning 13 games. ATK Mohun Bagan players – Amrinder Singh, Pritam Kotal, Subashish Bose and Manvir Singh — who completed club duties in Maldives will join the team later Friday while Bengaluru FC players will join the squad in New Delhi on Sunday, the eve of the team's departure. From August 15, rest of the squad and probables have been training at VYBK in Kolkata. The last time Kolkata hosted a national camp was as 15 years ago prior to the 2006 World Cup Qualifier against Saudi Arabia. On the first day and last day of the camp, the probables



played exhibition matches against IFX XI and Mohammedan Sporting winning both by 1-0 and 2-0 margins, respectively. It rained all throughout the match against Mohammedans, and the downpour was heavy from midway in the second half. "We can't expect much after 10 days of preparation. The legs are still heavy from the load, and we need to slow down, and refresh the players," Stimac told <http://www.the-aiff.com>. "I am happy with the manner our players performed. They should have scored a few goals much earlier."

Meanwhile, Nepal head coach Abdullah Almurtari also announced a 28-member squad who are currently in Pokhara for training. Bishal Sunar (goalkeeper), Randip Poudel, Bharat Khawash, George Prince Karki, Rajiv Lopchan, Sanjog Rai, Tridiv Gurung, Rajin Dhimai, Sesehang Angdembe, and Bikam Lamahave been left out of the squad.

The SAFF Championship and the AFC U-23 Qualifiers are also scheduled in October apart from the qualifiers for the AFC Asian Cup China 2023. Defenders: Pritam Kotal, Chinglensana Singh Konsham, Mandar Rao Dessai, Akash Mishra, Rahul Bheke, Subhasish Bose, Senton Fernandes. Midfielders: Lalengmawia, Bipin Singh, Anindh Thapa, Sahal Abdul Samad, Brandon Fernandes, Liston Colaco, Yasir Mohammad, Glan Martins, Suresh Singh Wangmang, Jeakson Singh, Pranay Halder. Forwards: Manvir Singh, Rahim Ali, Sunil Chhetri, Faruk Choudhary



Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Symptoms:

Fever, fatigue, cough and sore throat. For some, it can be more severe, leading to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. Symptoms may develop within 14 days after exposure.



Protect yourself from getting COVID-19

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hand.
- Avoiding close contact with people who have fever and coughing.



When coughing and sneezing cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue.



If you suspect you may have COVID-19, contact your health care provider for advice and testing.

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For detailed guidance and updates, visit buffalo.edu/coronavirus

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