



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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Jarawa Facts

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

Your Nature Guide

What is a Coral?

Corals are tiny animals that have an outer stony skeleton and live in colonies in the sea. They belong to the same animal group as the sea anemones, and jelly fish. Each coral animal is called a polyp and lives inside a cup of carbonate (Limestone). It has a mouth at the top surrounded by tentacles. The tentacles help to capture food like plankton for the coral. While it is alive, a coral polyp's tentacles protrude from the cups for feeding. In times of danger, the polyp can withdraw into its cup. This is similar to a turtle withdrawing into its shell when disturbed. A coral polyp cannot move and remains fixed to its cup throughout its life. Coral polyps can be of several species- in A&N alone, 135 species are found.

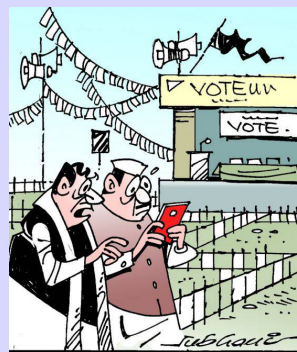
Coral Colonies : Many thousands of coral polyps are connected together to form a coral colony. These colonies are of many shapes and colours. On a visit to a nearby coral reef, you can discover the kinds of coral in your area.

Treasured Islands - By Sunita Rao. Courtesy: Kalpavriksh, ANET (M CBT)

People's Voice

Jaise he Election Declare hua, Corona ka Active Cases bhi kam horaha hai. Lagta hai Election se darr gaya hai Corona ...

- A Citizen



You said that you have one million followers on Twitter... not a single person turned up for your rally!

Member of Parliament Requests CGM BSNL to Improve Mobile & Data Network in all Villages of North & Middle Andaman

Port Blair, Jan 30: The Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today requested the Chief General Manager, BSNL, A&N Circle to conduct an immediate survey to find the reasons behind the poor mobile network and data network in most of the villages of North & Middle Andaman.

He has also requested to install more mobile towers in the remote villages and

improve connectivity of existing mobile towers so that every Islander gets proper mobile and data network.

The Member of Parliament demanded to take similar measures for the entire Nicobar District also so that poor network doesn't become a hindrance to the development.

In a letter addressed to the Chief General Manager of BSNL, A & N Islands the MP mentioned that recently

he has visited North & Middle Andaman and travelled to many remote villages of the region to interact with Islanders.

He mentioned that during the visit in almost all regions, Islanders have complained about the very poor mobile network and data network. He also pointed out that other than the main bazaar area or ATR route, in most of the regions of North & Middle Andaman, mobile and data

network is poor. In many remote pockets there is no mobile network at all.

He added that such a poor network is causing huge inconvenience to the public and the worst hit are the students, who are unable to attend online classes and submit online assignments. In case of emergencies Islanders living in these areas are unable to call an ambulance or contact police.

BJP Under the Leadership of Bairagi and Bishnu Hold Organisation Meetings in N&M Andaman

Port Blair, Jan 30: The Bharatiya Janata Party, Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been organising 'Organisation Meetings' in various parts of North & Middle Andaman District. Top leaders of BJP Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, Bharatiya Janata Party,

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Ex-Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, State Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and others have been participating in the 'Organisation Meetings' being held at different parts of North & Middle Andaman District. The leaders have been interacting with the Karyakartas



and motivating them to work for the public and to take up the issues of the public for redressal.

All the organisation meetings saw great participation from the local Karyakartas who interacted with the leaders and raised the issues related to their areas. Organisation related works were also accomplished in the meetings.

Continued on P2

Comrades Remember PKS Prasad

Port Blair, Jan 30: The 39th Death Anniversary of veteran trade union leader Comrade PKS Prasad was observed today the 29th January 2022. The main function was held at Crusade House, Phoenix Bay, Port Blair where wreaths were laid on the memorial column of late PKS Prasad by Non-Gazetted Govt. Officers' Association and trade unions affiliated to CITU and BSNL Employees Union. In view of the restrictions on assembly of people imposed by the Administration due to Covid-19 pandemic, the usual remembrance meeting was not held this time. At the outset, senior leader Shri D. Ayyappan recalled the innumerable agitations conducted by late PKS Prasad, taking up the grievances and demands of government employees and workers in the islands.

ANTCC Pays Homage to the Father of the Nation on His Death Anniversary

Port Blair, Jan 30: The Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee (ANTCC) paid homage to the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary and recalled his enormous contributions and sacrifices to the nation. The party hailed the sacrifices & leading role of Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom movement.

On the occasion, ANTCC President Mr. Ranganlal Halder laid emphasis over adopting the Gandhian Philosophy of non-violence, which is the need of time, as there is no tolerance under BJP rule at Centre, which is responsible for the restlessness among the people across the country, which has to be defeated in the larger

Continued on P2

Congress Party Welcomes the Announcement of Polls for PBMC and Panchayat Elections Halder Confident that Congress will win Maximum Seats

Port Blair, Jan 30: The Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee on Friday welcomed the announcement of the poll schedule for Municipal and Panchayat elections in Andaman & Nicobar Islands by the Election Commission of India.

The ANTCC President Mr. Ranganlal Halder has expressed

confidence that his party will win maximum seats in Municipal and Panchayat wards with big margins.

He said that the people of A&N Islands will give the Congress Party an opportunity to serve them again and appealed to the people of these Islands to elect a local body that contributes to the progress of these Islands.

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

At the Centre

As the joint statement at the end of the India-Central Asia virtual summit on Thursday noted, ties between India and the region have been historically close, with "civilisational, cultural, trade and people-to-people linkages", but the lack of access to land routes, and the situation in Afghanistan are among the biggest challenges. Hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Presidents of the five Central Asian Republics (CARs), it was a first, building on years of dialogue. The summit also came after the meeting of NSAs in Delhi, where they built on several common themes of concern and priority. To begin with, there is the problem of routing trade — a paltry \$2 billion, spent mostly on Kazakhstan's energy exports to India. In comparison, China's CAR trade figures have exceeded \$41 billion — they could double by 2030 — apart from the billions of dollars invested in the Belt and Road Initiative. With Pakistan denying India transit trade, New Delhi's other option is to smoothen the route through Iran's Chabahar port, but that will involve greater investment in rail and road routes to Iran's northern boundaries with the CARs, something India is hesitant to do in the face of U.S. sanctions. A third option is to use the Russia-Iran International North-South Transport Corridor via Bandar Abbas port, but this is not fully operational and at least two CARs (Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) are not members. India too, has dragged its feet over TAPI gas pipeline plans (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India), due to supply guarantees, given the tensions with Pakistan. Finally, there is Afghanistan: the tenuous link between Central Asia and South Asia, where after the Taliban takeover, there is no official government, a humanitarian crisis is building, and there are worries of terrorism and radicalism spilling over its boundaries. Each theme has been outlined in the summit joint statement as areas to work upon. They have also agreed to more structured engagement, including the setting up of joint working groups, on Afghanistan and Chabahar, and more educational and cultural opportunities.

While the attempt by India to institutionalise exchanges and press the pedal on trade, investment and development partnerships with the CARs is timely, it is by no means the only country strengthening its ties here. While Russia is the most strategic player, China is now the biggest development and infrastructure partner to the countries. The CAR Presidents held a similar virtual summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier. Pakistan has also increased its outreach to the CARs, signing transit trade agreements, offering trade access to the Indian Ocean at Gwadar and Karachi. India will need to move nimbly to ensure it stays in step with the changes, and to make certain the future of ties more closely resembles the deep ties of the distant past.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



the Nail and the Bullet..!

Twice a bullet that tore into the heart of the man, who spoke non-violence to the world!

It was same dastardly bullet that revealed, even as we Indians got freedom through his non-violent movement, that there were people in the country who wanted to remain shackled in violence!

It is those same people who are now provoking, instigating and igniting communal hatred as followers of the Bullet!

Yesterday twice Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs Day, and as we remember the death of the Father of our Nation, let us also not forget the Bullet and its followers!

Two thousand years ago, it was not a bullet but a nail!

Both with pointed edges, both made of metal, both meant to kill, and kill they both did.

The nail, and three others of its kind, were driven into the hands and feet of a young thirty three year old, promoter of peace. Like the assassin of the Mahatma, those who planned the killing of the Messiah were upper caste Pharisees who did not want their righteous superiority to be trampled upon. They loved being thought of as holy, and loved the recognition bestowed on them by simple minded people.

They thought that with the death of a man who came to abolish the supremacy of their caste system, they would continue being thought of as superior.



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Today, they don't exist, and to be called a Pharisee is being called a hypocrite or someone with double standards.

Double standards! Rings a bell doesn't it? And if the bell tolls it tolls for you to recollect, to hearken, to never forget that these same people with double standards are promoters of violence! Because the different masks they wear fool people, and they want to keep that masquerade on.

But hush! Even as you hear the sound of gunfire or horror of horrors, that of nail tearing flesh, remember the effect that remains is that of peace, of non-violence!

The bullet fired on a January thirtieth, decades ago, inspired a Martin Luther King, make millions of blacks, stop their violent protests and instead use non-violence, which culminated in an African-American Obama, reigning as the most powerful man on earth for a full two terms!

And so too with the nail! It pierced, it killed, and today, the gospel that the Man revealed, is followed by more than two billion or one third of the world!

Today, even as we remember India's father, felled by a bullet, remember all you followers of Bullet or Nail, that the cause the bullet tried to fell, the gospel that the nail tried to stop, lives on..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

BJP Under the Leadership of Bairagi and Bishnu Hold Organisation Meetings in N&M Andaman

Continued from Page 1 Diglipur. On 27th of January meeting was held in On 25th of January January meetings were Pahalgau. meetings were held in held in Harinagar Paschimsagar and (Billiground) and on 28th of

ANTCC Pays Homage to the Father of the Nation on His Death Anniversary

Continued from Page 1 The ANTCC has decided Gandhi at its party offices, interest of secular India, that not to organise owing to the surge of would be the true message 'Shradhanjali Sabhas' for COVID-19 cases in the of death anniversary of observing the death Islands. Mahatma Gandhi. anniversary of Mahatma

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ENTERTAINMENT

'I'm in the Best Phase of My Career: Priya Mani

January 30: Having shown that she is not afraid to walk the path less travelled, Priya Mani has quietly moved into the top echelons of the film industry. While the National award winning actress has taken on many roles across industries in the last two decades, she seems especially excited over her upcoming web film, Bhaama Kalapam, a thriller.

In the film directed by Abhimanyu Tadimeti, Priya Mani will be seen as a homemaker, Anupama, who experiments with recipes and gains popularity on her YouTube channel. "She also interferes in the lives of people around. And because of this attitude she gets into trouble," says Priyamani, adding that the drama is about how she tries to come out of the mess.

The actress says "There's sarcasm, humour and wittiness, and above all, there's a bit of drama too and I enjoyed playing Anupama," adding that she was particularly hooked by the narration and plot line.

Priya Mani believes that she's a spontaneous actor. And as such she didn't prepare specifically for her part. "But I have observed the body language of several homemakers, how they deal with problems and how they conduct themselves in their daily life," she says,



The Narappa actress always maintained that digital is the future, and that OTT platforms can come up with experimental content. "That doesn't mean that I avoid theatres, the thrill of watching a film in theatres is unbeatable. But, thanks to the pandemic I guess, the digital platform has taken off," she notes.

Priya Mani started her film career when she was 18. "Today whatever I am is because of my hard work. I played the protagonist in almost all my films," she says, thanking the filmmakers who have cast her.

We ask her the reason for her longevity in the industry, and she replies, "I don't know — maybe it's 'never say never'." The Mana Oori Ramayanam actress says, "I feel I am still in the best phase of my life. I am getting a lot of opportunities to play interesting characters."

For someone who works in multiple industries, language has never been a problem for her. Priya Mani says that she was always excited to learn a new language. "I have picked up Telugu, Malayalam, etc., by talking to local staff in their language. On the sets too, I have made a conscious effort to speak the language of the region," she says.

On women getting to play strong and author-backed roles, Priya Mani feels the trend has been around for a long time. "Several projects are based on women, and most of the soap operas are centred on women. And the good thing is that the audience gets to see a lot of realistic stories irrespective of the platform," she says.

Is there any role that she'd like to play? "I want to play a role that has grey shades, or do a full-length comedy film," says Priya Mani. "These are the two things I have not done."

Working with Gunasekhar Sir was Liberating: Kabir Duhan Singh

January 30: Ever since his debut as a baddie in Jil (2015) struck a chord with the audience, Kabir Duhan Singh has been going from strength to strength. While he continues to impress with his performances in Tamil and Hindi, he says that his upcoming film, Shakuntalam, starring Samantha, will be a landmark project for him.

Kabir will be seen in the role of King Asura in the costume drama directed by Gunasekhkar. Apparently, the director saw his martial art performances and called him. After a look test, the filmmaker felt Kabir was apt for the part.

"It's always a dream to work with someone like Gunasekhkar Sir; he's a visionary and it's been a pleasure to be part of Shakuntalam," says the actor, adding that the film was a learning experience for him. Kabir picked up sword fighting for the part, and says, "This training came in handy during a war sequence with King Dushyanta (played by Dev Mohan) in the climax episode, which will be a highlight.

Revealing that he shot for war sequences sporting real armour, he says, "The



head gear weighed around 18 kilos. The shoulder and chest protectors were heavy too, and so was the jewellery. We shot for over 10 days, and I got a few bruises and scratches. But I felt that it was all worth it. Mythology is one of his favourite genres, the actor says, because "The dialogues, gestures, expressions and body language are all different.

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Health, Science /Tech

Anti-Covid Drugs Potent Against Omicron, Antibody Therapies Less Effective: Study

January 30: Washington: The current drugs to treat COVID-19 remain very effective against the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a laboratory study.

However, available antibody therapies — typically given intravenously in hospitals — are substantially less effective against Omicron compared to earlier variants of the virus, the researchers said.

The lab tests also showed that some antibodies have entirely lost their ability to neutralise Omicron at realistic dosages, they said.

"The bottom line is we have countermeasures to treat Omicron. That's good news," said study lead author Yoshihiro Kawaoka, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US.

"However, this is all in laboratory studies. Whether this translates into humans, we don't know yet," Kawaoka said.

The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Wednesday, corroborate other studies that show most available antibody treatments are less effective against Omicron.

The clinically available pills and antibodies were designed and tested before researchers identified the Omicron variant, which differs significantly from earlier versions of the virus.

When Omicron was identified, scientists feared that these differences, caused by mutations in the viral genome, might reduce the effectiveness of drugs designed to treat the original version of the virus.

In lab experiments using non-human primate cells, Kawaoka and colleagues at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Japan tested a suite of antibody and antiviral therapies against the original strain of the COVID-19 virus and its prominent variants. They found that US pharmaceutical company Merck's pill molnupiravir and the intravenous drug Remdesivir were just as effective against Omicron as they were against earlier viral strains. Instead of testing Pfizer's Paxlovid pill, which is designed to be taken orally, the team tested a related drug by the company that is given intravenously. The two drugs disrupt the same part of the viral machinery. The researchers found that the intravenous form of the drug retained its effectiveness against Omicron, and this version is currently in clinical trials. All four antibody treatments the researchers tested were less effective against Omicron than against earlier strains of the virus. Two treatments, Sotrovimab by GlaxoSmithKline and Evusheld by AstraZeneca, retained some ability to neutralise the virus, according to the researchers.

However, they required anywhere from 3 to 100 times more of the drugs to neutralise Omicron compared to earlier versions, they said. The study also showed that two antibody treatments by Lilly and Regeneron were unable to neutralise Omicron at common dosages.

The researchers said these findings are expected given how the Omicron variant differs from earlier strains of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

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HONDA

Hyderabad's Drugs Racket Runs Deep, Cops have Their Task Cut Out

January 30: Hyderabad: The sale of drugs and narcotics in the city is a well-oiled operation that involves some rich businessmen not averse to peddling influence and a couple of food and drink 'joints' where the wheeling and dealing takes place.

The latest case was cracked pen on January 20 with the arrest of Nigerian national Chukwu 'Tony' Ogbonna David, with Hyderabad police commissioner C.V. Anand announcing that the cops would stamp out the menace of drugs.

In all, the city police had registered a case against 22 persons of whom 12, including Tony, have been arrested so far.

Ten more, according to police officials probing the case, are still on the run.

However, Deccan Chronicle has learnt, through reliable sources, that one of the 10 absconding men, and considered as a key player in the city's drug scene, had been arrested by the Mumbai police in a case relating to an economic offence.

This businessman, according to sources, not only deals in drugs but is also very deeply involved in betting on cricket games with sums running into tens of lakhs of rupees for each match, as well as running casino-like operations for his elite customers willing to fork out the money, both here and during specially-organised gambling cruises off the Goa coast.

Most of his operations take place in a coffee shop in Jubilee Hills near the Peddamma temple, the sources said. The coffee bar, is 'owned' by an associate of the alleged kingpin who

acts as an official front for the business which, in reality, belongs to the alleged drug racketeering kingpin. This associate is also among the absconders. The city police have confirmed that this person is one of the accused in the current drugs case.

"The real deals happen in an area out of bounds for common customers, and is set aside only for 'approved' customers who play pool, place bets running into lakhs of rupees during cricket matches and use drugs," sources said.

The arrest of the businessman in Mumbai was confirmed only on Friday, a day after the police let off his elder brother who was picked up by the North Zone Task Force unit for questioning, a development that was kept under wraps.

Sources said the arrest episode of this businessman was found to be more a matter of a 'strategic surrender' than that of a genuine arrest, in a case being probed by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai police.

Police commissioner Anand told Deccan Chronicle that there was no question of the police going slow, or letting anyone involved in drug running, distribution or sale in the city, go free. "The Chief Minister has given a clear direction that drug menace must be stamped out. And we will strictly follow his instructions. The Chief Minister's vision is clear, to make the state free of drugs and other vices.

And his firm stand on this is an enormous boost for us that gives us additional strength to pursue every drug offender

and bring every individual involved in such rackets to book," Anand said.

"Irrespective of who the person is, whether those involved in this case, and in any other drug cases, will be caught, and will face punishment for their crimes. We will catch every individual in the present case no matter who they are," Anand told Deccan Chronicle.

The sources said two food joints, the coffee bar in Jubilee Hills, and another, a restaurant named after a spice on the Minister's Road, are key to the drug deals, as well as oiling out of kinks when anyone involved is caught by the police, whether in cases related to drugs, gambling, or betting.

"The eatery on Minister's Road is where 'petis' — each 'peti' refers to Rs 1 lakh — changes hands," sources revealed.

Incidentally, neither establishment has CCTV cameras to keep an eye on the comings and goings, the sources said.

It is also learnt that when the push comes to shove, some of the key accused have received some advice from their 'friends' that they should plead guilty to consumption of drugs, which carries a lighter penalty and punishment than that meted out to those involved in drug running.

Deccan Chronicle has in its possession the names of those who are absconding, as well as the person arrested in Mumbai, as well as that of some others with associations with some of the accused in the case, but is withholding the same from publication pending official confirmation of these details.

Communalism That led to Gandhiji's Death Biggest Threat to Nation Today: CM Vijayan

January 30: Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday said the communal ideology that led to the assassination



of Mahatma Gandhi has become the biggest threat to the country and it still "slaughters" people in the name of religion.

Vijayan, in his message on Martyrs' Day, said memories of Gandhiji were more relevant now than ever before and urged the people to take a pledge to fight communalism and promote fraternity.

Gandhi was shot dead on this day in 1948 by Nathuram Godse. The Father of the Nation's death anniversary is observed as Martyrs' Day.

"#MahatmaGandhi was murdered by the very forces that still slaughter people in the name of religion. They are the biggest threat to our country today. Gandhiji's memory is more relevant now than ever before. This #Martyrs'Day, let's pledge to fight communalism, promote fraternity," Vijayan

tweeted on the 74th death anniversary of Gandhi.

Vijayan said all forms of sectarianism were gaining ground, shaking the very foundations of democracy and innocent people were the victims.

"The same communal ideology that assassinated Mahatma Gandhi has become the biggest threat to the country... We even have to watch the racists share joy on the day of death of the world-respected Mahatma Gandhi. This is the biggest challenge we Indians are facing as a community. We must take up that challenge with the strongest political conviction," Vijayan said in a Facebook post.

He said the martyrdom of Gandhi, who united the people through the national movement and led them to achieve independence, should become an inspiration and strength.

Hyderabad Finally Feels Bone-Chilling Winter

January 30: Hyderabad: Winds blowing south from the north, and northeast, and over much of Telangana over the past few days have brought down temperatures significantly in several districts, including in Hyderabad, with the minimum temperature hovering around the 10° Celsius in some parts of the city.

It is after a couple of years that chilly winter is returning to the city, after the cold season passed off with higher-than-normal temperatures. The cold weather that gripped parts of the state saw minimum temperatures dip by 2°C to 5°C. Arli in Adilabad district was the coldest place on Saturday with the mercury falling to 4.9°C, according to the Telangana State Development Planning Society which has hundreds of automated weather stations. The Indian Meteorological Department said that several parts of north Telangana districts will

continue to experience temperature dips ranging up to 10°C for the next few days.

IMD-Hyderabad director Dr K. Nagarathna said the temperatures had in the last few days had dropped due to the flow of north and northeasterly winds. "The same weather conditions are likely to continue in the state for the next 2-3 days," she said.

Many parts of the city — Serilingampally, Rajendranagar, Falaknuma, Chandrayangutta, Uppal, LB Nagar, Hayathnagar and Kapra — are likely to record minimum temperatures between 12°C and 14°C in the next 24 hours.

Parts of Jayashankar-Bhupalpalli, Mulugu, Mancheri, Komaram Bheem-Asifabad, Nirmal and Nizamabad are expected to show mercury levels vary from 5°C to 10°C. On Saturday, West Marredpally recorded the lowest temperature at 10 degrees in Hyderabad district, while parts of Medchal, Shamirpet and Muduchintalapally recorded between 5°C and 10°C, the lowest being 7°C at Bhagyanagar Nandanavanam in Ghatkesar.

Not Cadre Rules, Empanelment Worries Andhra Pradesh IAS Officers

January 30: Amaravati: More than the proposed changes to the cadre rules, non-empanelment for various ranks has become the major stumbling block for Indian Administrative Service officers of Andhra Pradesh cadre, depriving them of the opportunity to serve at the Centre.

The '360-degree' system, under which senior IAS officers, and even retired bureaucrats, are called at random to evaluate junior officers before they are considered for empanelment at the Centre, is affecting their prospects, the officers lament.

From the AP cadre, there are now only three IAS officers in the Secretary rank, one Additional Secretary rank and four in the Joint Secretary rank working in the central government on deputation. One more is at the Director level.

Two officers are empanelled in the Additional Secretary rank and four in the Joint Secretary rank, making them eligible for central posting.

For the record, as per the cadre strength fixed by the Centre, at least 52 IAS officers from AP should be on 'Central Deputation Reserve' but the current number is a mere 15, with little empanelment in the last few years.

"This is the lowest number of empanelled officers from the state to the Centre in decades, though many are competent. If this trend continues, soon there will be little AP presence in the central bureaucracy," a top IAS officer pointed out.

Of the three Secretaries (from AP cadre) in the central departments, one will retire at the end of February and another in August. The third one will retire in June 2023.

"After that, for years there may not be a Union Secretary from our state cadre at the Centre. Earlier, there used to be at least half a dozen officers from AP holding crucial Secretary posts in the GoI," the officer said.

What has become worrisome for bureaucrats is



the depletion of "bench strength" at the Centre.

Of the four Joint Secretaries now at the Centre, three are on only a few months' extension and have to return to the state soon.

The central deputation tenure of the lone Director level officer is also coming to an end.

The state government has recently issued the no-objection certificate to only one IAS officer for deputation to the Centre at the Joint Secretary level.

"Beyond that neither there are officers empanelled, nor is the state willing to spare those already eligible. This is worrisome as hopes of middle-level officers to gain exposure at the national level are getting dashed," a officer lamented.

Since 2007, a two-year central deputation at the Director level has been mandatory even for empanelment as Joint Secretary.

"If the state doesn't send Director or Deputy Secretary level officers on deputation, they can't become Joint Secretary or further up at the Centre. It affects the career progression of IAS officers adversely, but importantly the state will be the ultimate loser as there will not be any representation at the Centre in a few years," a top bureaucrat told PTI.

Referring to the grounds cited by the Centre for the proposed amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, officers observe the claim that "states are not sponsoring adequate number of officers for Central deputation" leading to shortage was "not valid".

"After the 360-degree system of evaluation was put in place, somehow the AP cadre officers lost out and many could not even get empanelled for Additional Secretary and Secretary-rank posts in New Delhi," the top bureaucrat said.

"These officers are many a time giving wrong and negative feedback about their colleagues, leaving the juniors in the lurch. The government of India should discard the views of these officials or do a 360-degree afresh for the cadre," the top bureaucrat said.

It is based on the feedback provided by the bureaucrats that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi two days ago, welcoming the proposed changes to the cadre rules.

More IAS officers from the state cadre at different levels in the central government will help the state. The AP government will take all necessary measures as per the proposed amendments to ensure required number of officers are sponsored from the state," the Chief Minister said.

75 Per cent Adults Vaccinated Against COVID: PM Modi Hails 'Momentous Feat'



January 30: New Delhi:

With 75 per cent of all adults fully vaccinated, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated fellow citizens for this "momentous feat" and said he is proud of all those who are making the vaccination drive a success.

Tagging a tweet by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in which he stated that India has

achieved its goal of vaccinating 75 per cent adult population against Covid, the prime minister said, "75% of all adults are fully vaccinated. Congratulations to our fellow citizens for this momentous feat."

"Proud of all those who are making our vaccination drive a success," he said.

The cumulative number of anti-Covid vaccine doses administered in the country so far has crossed 165.70 crore.

Low Intensity Quake Reported in Vijayapura District in Karnataka



January 30: Bengaluru:

An earthquake measuring 2.9 magnitude on richter scale was recorded in Vijayapura district on Sunday, the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said.

It was reported at 9:15 AM today.

The earthquake was epicentred at 1.2 kms SSE (south-southeast) of Inganal village at Baratagi gram panchayat, in Vijayapura Taluk of the District, KSNDMC said.

"As per the Seismic Intensity map of the earthquake from the epicentre, the intensity observed is low and the

tremor might be felt up to a maximum radial distance of 10-12 kms from the epicentre," it said in a statement.

According to KSNDMC, this type of earthquake does not create any harm to the local community, although there may be slight shaking observed locally and the epicentre falls in Seismic Zone III, wherein the possibility of damages due to earthquakes is moderate.

"As the region is void of any structural discontinuities as per the Tectonic map, the community need not panic, as the intensity observed is low and not destructive," it added.

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SPORTS

Earthquake Felt During U-19 World Cup Match, Live Visuals Shook

January 30: Port of Spain: Live visuals of the ICC U-19 World Cup match between Ireland and Zimbabwe shook vigorously for few seconds as an earthquake off the coast of Port of Spain sent mild tremors through the Queen's Park Oval here.

While the players were unaware and continued the action on the field, the commentators could feel the tremors as the commentary box began shaking.

The earthquake was measured at 5.2 magnitude on the richter scale.

Commentator Andrew Leonard described the tremors as the commentary box began to wobble.

"We are... I believe we are having an earthquake right now. In the box. We are indeed having an earthquake. It felt like not just a train going by behind us, but the whole Queen's Park Oval media centre rocked," he said.

The tremors were said to have lasted for 15-20 seconds.

Ireland spinner Matthew Humphreys was bowling the fifth ball of the sixth over to Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett when the front-on camera



showing the action began to shake. Play was not stopped as Bennett played a defensive shot to mid-off, and then hit the next ball to the boundary.

"A 5.2 magnitude earthquake struck near Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday morning. According to the UWI Seismic Research Centre, the quake occurred around 9:40am at a depth of 10km," a report in Loop News website said.

The two teams were competing for positions 9-12 at the World Cup in the Plate league, after finishing third in their respective groups.

Riding half centuries by opener Jack Dickson (78) and skipper

Tim Tector (76 not out) after pacer Muzamil Sherzad's excellent 5/20, Ireland emerged winners by five wickets chasing a target of 167.

An Ireland Cricket release on the match said, "Sherzad, though, wasn't the only thing that struck at the Queens Park Oval today, with a 5.1 magnitude earthquake shaking the ground mid-way through the Zimbabwe innings.

"The commentary team, which featured Irishman Andrew Leonard, bravely continued commentating with good humour as an assessment was made of any potential damage to the historic ground that has stood on the site since 1896."

Ranji Trophy to be Held in Two Phases: Jay Shah

January 30: BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement, "The Board has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases. In the first phase, we plan to complete all matches of the league stage while the knockouts will be held in June."

Mr. Shah added, "My team is working closely to mitigate any kind of health risk caused by the pandemic, while at the

same time ensuring a highly competitive red-ball cricket contest."

Mr. Shah also said, "Ranji Trophy is our most prestigious domestic competition, which has been providing Indian Cricket with an enviable talent pool every year. It is absolutely important that we take all necessary steps to safeguard the interest of this premier event."

The pandemic had played spoilsport last season as well when the BCCI could only organise two men's white-ball tournaments (Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy).

The BCCI paid 50% of the earlier match fee as compensation to all first-class cricketers who endured financial losses due to Ranji's cancellation last year.

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Helpline Numbers

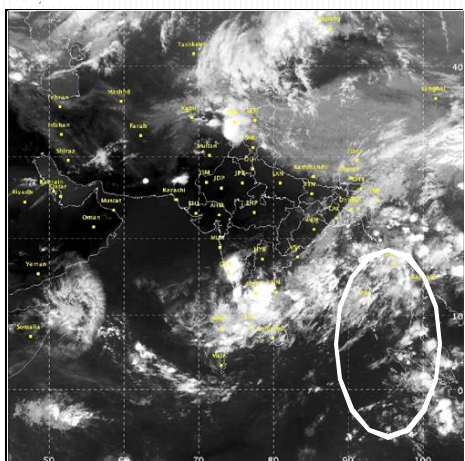
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan Call Centre:	1551
Wildlife Control Room: :	245229, 200661, 200754

Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs)

State Control Room:	03192- 238880 (Tele- Fax), 1070 (Helpline).
District Control Room:	03192-238881
EOC (Campbell Bay):	03193-264020
EOC (Kamorta):	03193-263222
EOC (N&M):	03192-262960
EOC (Hut Bay):	03192-284014



Weather



Max. Temp: 29.6 °C	Min.: 23.3 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 708% 1730 Hrs: 68%	
Sunrise: 0544 Hrs.	Sunset: 1722 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	002.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall (From Jan 1, 2022 till date):	068.2 mm

Forecast

Rain or thundershowers likely to occur at one or two places. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30°C and 24°C respectively on Monday 31/01/2022.

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