

Swaraj Dweep Island Soon Will Soon Be Free from the Clutches of Water Scarcity claims SE APWD

John Wilbert & Rabindranath Biswas

Sheekha News Service

Port Blair, Nov 20: People of Swaraj Dweep informed Andaman Sheekha that in some areas of this island villagers of Swaraj Dweep get the water once in four days during the peak summer season; recalling the peril of the water scarcity, they shared the hardships they had faced

in the month of February last year. The water curtailment has always created problems for the residents of this island, they rued.

On the other hand, the Chief Secretary recently visited Swaraj Dweep Islands, and he was apprised by residents of the problem of water scarcity they face in Summer season. Taking a spot decision, the CS gave the concerned authorities an instruction to plan for water

enhancement in Krishna Nagar Nalla.

Mr. Linga Raju Superintendent of Engineer said that the Dept is seized of the situation and also said that the dept. has already conducted a survey for increasing the height of a dam existing across Krishna Nagar Nallah. He has also sent the proposal in this respect. And not only that, they gave a proposal request to the Chief Secretary (See page 6)

Member of Parliament demands to reserve at least 15 tickets for the residents of Long Island in every sailing of vessel from Port Blair to Long Island

Port Blair, Nov 19: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Secretary of Shipping Services to reserve at least 15 tickets for the residents of Long Island in every sailing of vessel from Port Blair to Long Island, which will largely benefit the residents of Long Island. In a letter addressed to the Secretary of Shipping Services, the Member of Parliament mentioned that 20 tickets have been kept reserved for the residents of Long Island in every sailing

of ferry from Long Island to Port Blair but no such tickets are reserved for the residents of Long Island in ferries, sailing from Port Blair to Long Island. He added that because of this, residents of far-flung and isolated Long Island often find it difficult to get tickets for ferries sailing for Long Island from Port Blair, even in case of emergency.

Considering this problem, he requested the Secretary Shipping Services to reserve at least 15 tickets for the residents of Long Island in every sailing of vessel from Port Blair to Long Island.

Vishal Jolly ground level implementation of Minimum Support Price for Copra

Port Blair, Nov 19: Mr. Vishal Jolly, the National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP, Andaman and Nicobar Islands unit has requested for ground level implementation of Minimum Support Price for Copra, in this Union Territory.

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Chief Secretary, A & N Administration Mr. Vishal Jolly

mentioned some vital issues pertaining to ground level implementation of the scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP) on COPRA (an agricultural produce of Coconut) at Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

He mentioned that the entire Tribal population of Nicobar group of Islands relies solely on the coconut produce for their livelihood and the sale of Copra is the only

source of income for the tribal population to meet their daily essential needs.

He added that the educational expenses of their children, marriages and every other thing is solely dependent upon the sale of Copra.

Mr. Jolly pointed out that Copra being the sole bread earner of the Tribal community of Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Chowra, Terrasa, Campbell Bay and other Is-

(See page 6)

Island Seafood Festival at Corbyn's Cove Beach

Port Blair, Nov. 19 : The Department of Fisheries in association with Tourism Department, A&N Administration will be organizing 'Island Seafood Festival' at Corbyn's Cove Beach on 20th & 21st, November 2022 in connection with the celebration of World Fisheries Day-2022 in A&N Islands. The festival is mainly focused on popularizing seafood culture of the Islands among the local population as well as tourists visiting Isles. The festival also aims to promote tourism in Isles by showcasing varied seafood cuisines of Isles.

The Secretary Fisheries, A&N Administration, Mr. G. Sudhakar, IAS, will inaugurate the Seafood Festival as



the chief guest at Corbyn's Cove Beach at 5.30 pm on Nov. 20th, 2022 while the Secretary IP&T, Mr. Hari Kallikkat, IAS, will grace the occasion as the guest of honour. There will be 24 different stalls of Hotels & Restaurants/Aquarists/Sport Fishing Associations/Fishing Associations/Aqua Club/Women SHGs/ Fisheries Institutes like Fishery Survey of India, ICAR-CIARI,

NIOT, CSIR-CSMCRI, Coast Guard etc with fresh seafood cuisines/delicacies of different varieties of fishes and shellfishes, other fish value added products, aquarium fishes, display & models on various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture. A musical programme will also be organized for the entertainment of the gathering. The visiting hours of stall will be from 4 pm to 9 pm.

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Firing practice at Chinthe Long Range, Brichgunj

Port Blair, Nov. 19: Firing practice will be carried out at Chinthe Long Range, Brichgunj on Nov. 23 from 9.30 am to 5 pm. All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their livestock away from the firing range during the above mentioned date & time, a notification issued by DM (SA) said.

Seminar on Cooperatives for Youth, Women, Weaker Sections and Health

Port Blair, Nov 20: The 6th day of Cooperatives for Youth, Women, Weaker Sections and Health of 69th All India Coop. Week 2022 organized at A & N State Coop Union office premises. Smti. Iti Agarwal, Director of Social Welfare, A & N Administration Port Blair graced the programme as Chief Guest. Mr. P. G. Paul, General Secretary ANSCU, Mr. Suresh Babu, Principal, RGCTC, Directors of ANSCU, Officers, NCUI, ANSCB, Directors & members of different cooperatives & large of numbers of SHG attended the programme. Mr. Suresh Babu, Principal, RGCTC, Di-

(See page 6)

Rotational load shedding of approximately 45 minutes

Port Blair, Nov. 19: In view of shortfall of power generation and steady increase in power demand especially evening hours, the Electricity Department will exercise the rotational load shedding of approximately 45 minutes in and around Port Blair and South Andaman area during evening hours from **05.15 PM to 10.30 PM, if required**, to manage the shortfall of power generation. The load shedding schedule is purely tentative and the duration & timing may vary depending on power demand and generation gap. The below mentioned schedule will be enforced for next 7 days or till further intimation.

Time	Area affected
1715 Hrs. To 1800 Hrs.	Shadipur, South Point, MazaarPahad, Machi Line, RGT Road, Govt. Press, JNRM College, Garacharama Sub Station, Japan Nallah, Austinabad, Prothrapur, Carbyn's Cove, Brichgunj, Brookshabad, part of Chakkargoan, Buniyadabad, AIR, DDK Colony, part of Delanipur, part of Prem Nagar, Coast Guard Enclave, Coast Guard HQ, Coast Guard Jetty, Panipath Road & Fortress Head Quarter.
1800 Hrs. To 1845 Hrs.	Part of Garacharama, Dollygunj, AttamPahar, Old Pahargaon, ICMR Colony area, part of Minnie Bay, Part of Dollygunj, part of Pahargaon, ICMR Colony area, part of School Line, Water Treatment Plant area at Lamba lane, Marine Hill, Dugnabad complete, Round Basti&Netaji Club area.
1845 Hrs. To 1930 Hrs.	Agency House, Garacharama complete, 5 MW Solar Power Plant area, Part of Junglighat, Vijay Baugh, Dairy Farm complete, BSNL Telephone Exchange, Prem Nagar, Goalghar, Carmel School area, KV-I area & Murdakhari area.
1930 Hrs. To 2015 Hrs.	AKT Miniplex, Bird Line, Mahaveer Nagar, Kamaraj Nagar, Beodnabad, Rangachang, Burmanallah, Chidiyatapu, Rajasthan Mandir, ALWH Colony, Hawaghar Jn., Dudh Line, Nayagaon, Bargat Line, GPRA Colony, Corbyn's Junction, Sippighat, Teylarabad, Bimblitan, Manjeri, Guptapara, Manglutan, Wandoor, ChouldariTushnabad, Port Mount, Tirur, TempleMyo&Ograbranj.
2015 PM To 2100 PM	Part of Sippighat, ChouldariLalPahar, Tsunami Shelter, Mithakhari, Namunaghar, Dunduspoint, HathiTappu, Light House, Phoenix Bay, Fisheries Jetty area, Anarkali, Delanipur, Quarry Hill, PhongyKyaung, Foreshore Road, Megapode, Teal House, Horticulture Road, Haddo, Haddo Wharf, Foreshore Road and upto Civil Aviation Delanipur.
2100 PM To 2145 PM	BhatuBasti complete, Laxmi Motor Area, Pathergudda, Satellite Colony, New Pahargaon, Mohanpura, Babu Lane, Aberdeen Bazaar from Ratnam Market to Taxi Stand, Aberdeen Thana, part of Gurudwara Lane, Bambooflat to Wimberlygunj, STS Workshop, BSNL Bhawan, Model School Area, Fire Brigade, ANIIDCO Bhawan area, Girls School, CCS Aberdeen Bazaar area, Supply Line complete, Netaji Stadium area, Electricity Bazaar site office, Jama Masjid,

All the consumers of Electricity Department and general public have been requested to conserve electricity and regulate consumption of use of electricity.

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IGNOU Celebrated 37th Foundation Day

Port Blair, Nov. 19: In 1985, by an Act of Parliament, the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established as a Central University to meet the educational needs of millions of people; thus emerged as 'People's University'. The success of IGNOU in reaching the 'unreached' sections of India is a great achievement in higher education of our Country. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been accorded A++ grade by NAAC.

The Port Blair - Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), has reached the unreached population and provided higher education to nearly 60,000 Students of Andaman & Nicobar Islands since its inception in 2006 with 08 active Learner Support Centres spread in different Islands of Andaman and Nicobar. The Regional Centre of IGNOU at Port Blair has celebrated the 37th Foundation Day of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) at its premises on 19th November, 2022.

The Chief Guest Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-D, Zoological Survey of India, Port Blair has shared his experience about the development of IGNOU activities at A & N Islands. Dr. Sivaperuman in his speech invited IGNOU,

Regional Director and students to collaborate with ZSI for workshops and other programmes. He also briefed the learners, how ZSI had earlier collaborated with IGNOU in various seminars and event in the past as well. The Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre-Port Blair Dr. RVR Murthy conveyed the greeting to all the staff and IGNOU learners and addressed the RC Staff. In his address Dr. RVR Murthy recollected the contribution of Port Blair Regional Centre in providing quality higher educational opportunities in the Islands. Dr. RVR Murthy recollected that in recognition of IGNOU services in the field of higher education the UT Administration has conferred "Certificate of Commendation" twice on IGNOU, Regional Centre in 2011 and 2017, put greater responsibility on each one of the Staff to rededicate ourselves to service the learner community in a proactive manner. All the Staff and learners of IGNOU have participated in 37th IGNOU Foundation Day programme at Port Blair. The main programme has been relayed through the Gyandarshan Channel has been viewed by the RC Staff at its premises. A communication from the Regional Director, IGNOU, Regional Centre, Port Blair.

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IMO Level-I Training Conducted For Combating Oil Pollution at Sea



Port Blair, Nov 20: Andaman and Nicobar Command's Coast Guard component con-

ducted an IMO Level-I Pollution Response Operations course for the various stakeholders responsible for

from 14-18 Nov 22 at Port Blair. (See page 6)

Death Mourned

Port Blair, Nov 20: Mr. M. Vinod, President Andaman Association of Tour Operators along with all its members have expressed deep condolence on the sudden demise of Mr. Samikannu, Aged 83 years, Resident of Garacharma, who breathed

his last yesterday night at Port Blair. The last journey of the deceased will start from his residence, Garacharma on 21/11/22 (Monday) at 1.00 pm. Mr. Samikannu is the father of Mr. Shiva Guru, Treasurer of AATO. All members of AATO stand by the bereaved family at this hour of sorrow.

No COVID Positive Case Detected

Port Blair, Nov. 19: No COVID positive case has been detected in A&N Islands.

Today, 17 flights with 2,989 passengers ar-

rived, out of which, 2754 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 51 passengers and the reports are awaited.

Painting competition held at CIARI to commemorate Agricultural Education Day

Port Blair, Nov. 19: Under the aegis of Agricultural Education Day-2022, CIARI has conducted a painting competition on 18th November for school students on the topic "Innovation to increase the agricultural production in the Islands". Around 80 students along with 8 teachers from 14



Andaman & Nicobar State Co-operative Bank Ltd., Port Blair

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

(₹ in Lac)			
SL. No.	PARTICULARS	31.03.2022 (Audited)	
1	Interest Earned (i+ii)	11,204.47	CRAR 12.91%
i	Interest on Advances	5,947.35	
ii	Interest on Investments	5,257.12	
2	Other income	1,260.67	Interest Earned ₹ 11,204.47 Lac
3	GROSS INCOME (1+2)	12,465.14	
4	Interest Expended	6,170.11	
5	Operating Expenses (i+ii)	3,593.26	Av. Working Capital ₹ 1,47,692.87 Lac
i	Transaction Costs	2,824.56	
ii	Other Operating Expenses	768.70	
6	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (4+5)	9,763.37	
7	OPERATING PROFIT (3-6)	2,701.77	
8	Provisions	2,420.55	
9	NET PROFIT (7-8)	281.22	

M/s VPL & Co
Chartered Accountants

I Floor, Room No 29, Radha Krishna Complex,
Junglighat (PO), Port Blair, Andaman - 744103

AUDITORS' REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on financial statements: We have audited the accompanying financial statements of 'Andaman & Nicobar State Co-operative Bank Limited' Port Blair, Andaman including its 09 branch out of 41 branches as at 31st March 2022 which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2022, and the statement of Profit and Loss Account for the period ended 31st March 2022

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement: Management is responsible for preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the bank in accordance with provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India and the guidelines issued by National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and accounting principles generally accepted in India so far as applicable to banks. This responsibility includes the design, Implementation and maintenance of Internal Control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility: Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free from material mis-statement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the Auditors' Judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material Mis-statement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion: In our opinion, and to the best of our information and according to the explanation given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the act in the manner so required as give a true & fair view in conformity with the accounting Principles generally accepted in India.

- In the case of Balance Sheet, of the State of Affairs of the branch as at 31st March, 2022; and
- In case of Profit and Loss account, of the Profit / Loss for the year ended on that date;

Place: Port Blair
Date: 30/06/2022

ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEET AS AT

31.03.2022

(₹ in Lac)		
	Items	31.03.2022 (Audited)
A	LIABILITIES	
i	Paid Up Capital	709.44
ii	Reserves and Surplus	23,987.77
iii	Deposits	1,20,885.64
iv	Borrowings	463.33
v	Other Liabilities	4,229.57
	TOTAL	1,50,275.75
B	ASSETS	
i	Cash in hand / bank balances	1,516.87
ii	Balance with bank & Money at call and short notice	26,744.58
iii	Investment	34,156.37
iv	Loans & Advances	77,546.36
v	Fixed Asset	1,147.83
vi	Other Assets	9,163.74
	TOTAL	1,50,275.75
	Growth (%)	3.70 %

For VPL & Co
Chartered Accountants FRN 32/122e
Sd/-
(CA Payal Singhal ACA)
Partner, M No. 305791
UDIN No. 22305791AMCXR6200

World's longest-serving ruler, with 43 years in power, now bids for half century

Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo will seek to extend his 43-year rule of the tiny oil-rich central African nation in elections on Sunday, and there's little doubt he'll succeed.

Obiang, who seized power from his uncle in 1979, has won every vote since with over 90% of the ballots. He first won re-election in 1989, a few months before the Berlin Wall fell. About 80% of Equatoguineans have only known him as president.

The 80-year-old's rule has been marked by the repression of political opponents, civil rights groups and independent media. He and his family have kept a firm hand on the oil and gas sector, which generates about three-quarters of government revenue. The winner of the vote will secure a seven-year term. Obiang has two challengers – Buenaventura Monsuy Asumu of the Party of the Social Democratic Coalition (PCSD) and Andres Esono Ondo of the

Convergence for Social Democracy. Asumu has unsuccessfully challenged Obiang in three consecutive elections and is widely seen as loyal to Obiang's ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea.

Members of Ondo's party, widely considered the only strong opposition candidate allowed to run against Obiang in years, have been arrested and accused of plotting attacks against gas stations and government officials' residences.

Son's Succession

Following the collapse of oil prices in 2014 and a more recent fall in production, OPEC's smallest member has struggled to repay its debts, despite a controversial \$280 million loan from the International Monetary Fund in 2019.

While the country remains richer than South Africa and Botswana with per-capita gross domestic product of almost \$8,500 in 2022, wealth is concentrated among the elite, and two-thirds of its almost 1.5 million people live in poverty.

Human rights groups have long accused Obiang's family of squandering the country's oil wealth. In 2020, a French court found Obiang's son, Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue -- known as Teodorin -- guilty of embezzlement. Foreign governments allege that he purchased a yacht, an armored Rolls-Royce and a glove worn by Michael Jackson with ill-gotten gains.

Officials have said the election was moved forward by five months in order to save money. But a more plausible explanation is to facilitate "the transition of power from autocratic Obiang to his jet-setter son Teodorin," Maja Bovcon, analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, said in an emailed comment.

"This dynastic succession does not bode well for the future of Equatorial Guinea that has been struggling for years due to declining crude production and rampant corruption among its elite, including the ruling family," she said.

FIFA World Cup 2022 Opening Day fervour reflects in Google's doodle

As fans worldwide eagerly await for the FIFA World Cup 2022 to kick off in Qatar, Google on Sunday added to fervour with its doodle. The football tournament by FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), which will feature teams from 32 countries, will start on Sunday and end on December 18. This is the second major tournament to be held in Asia after the 2002 World Cup, which was staged in South Korea and Japan. Two hours prior to the start of the first game between Qatar and Ecuador, there will be an opening ceremony. The youngest member of the K-pop group BTS, Jungkook, will perform during the opening ceremony, according to a statement posted on the popular band's twitter account. Lil Baby, an American rapper who released the official World Cup 2022 anthem in late September, will also be on stage. Also scheduled to perform is Bollywood actor Nora Fatehi. She had already made an appearance

in the music video for this year's FIFA anthem - "Light the World" - and is hailed for her dance moves. Black Eyed Peas, the American group, will also hit the stage for the event. Many musicians have been approached but have declined to perform due to criticism over Qatar's hosting of the tournament. Dua Lipa is one of those as she posted on Instagram, "I will be cheering England on from afar and I look forward to visiting Qatar when it has fulfilled all the human rights pledges it made when it won the right to host the World Cup. One Love, Dua."

The French Federation announced in a statement on Saturday that Ballon D'Or winner Karim Benzema has been ruled out of the World Cup due to a left thigh injury, dealing a serious blow to the defending champions. Argentina will kick off their campaign on November 22 against Saudi Arabia, while Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal will face Ghana on November 24.

India played essential role at G20 summit: US



The United States has said that India played an "essential role" in negotiating the G20 summit leaders' declaration in Bali, and Washington fully supports India's presidency of the grouping over the next year. Addressing a question about President Joe Biden's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre referred to Biden's trilateral meeting with Modi and the Indonesian president Joko Widodo.

She then said, "India played an essential role in negotiating the summit's declaration. Prime Minister Modi made clear 'today's era must not be of war' and that's a direct quote from the Prime Minister."

In the backdrop of Russia's war in Ukraine and the subsequent geopolitical friction, PM's Modi's direct

message to Russian President Vladimir Putin in September in Samarkand emerged as the point of consensus at the G20 summit in Bali.

The declaration read, "The peaceful resolution of conflicts, efforts to address crises, as well as diplomacy and dialogue, are vital. Today's era must not be of war." The White House press secretary added that the summit had provided a path forward to food and energy security — concerns that India has consistently flagged since the onset of the war. "We look forward to supporting India's G20's presidency next year and look forward to the next meeting," said Karin Jean-Pierre. India takes over as the G20 chair on December 1 and will host the next leaders summit in September 2023.

China logs first Covid death since May amid latest flare-up

China reported its first death from Covid-19 in six months on Sunday as it contends with a rising outbreak despite stringent measures to eliminate infections. The last major economy still welded to stamping out Covid flare-ups, China has enforced lockdowns, mass testing and quarantines even as the rest of the world adjusts to living with the virus.

On Sunday, municipal officials announced an 87-year-old man had died in Beijing as the National Health Commission said it had recorded more than 24,000 infections throughout the country in the previous 24 hours.

While the tally is relatively low compared with other countries, the recent surge is notable in China after months of few cases being announced.

On November 11, Beijing abruptly declared its most significant easing of coronavirus controls to date, including a reduction

of quarantine times for international arrivals.

But the limited relaxation did not desert the "zero-Covid" approach, even as it has wrecked massive social and economic consequences. According to state-run CCTV, Saturday's Covid-19 death -- the first announced since May -- involved a mild case, but the elderly man's condition worsened after a bacterial infection.

Beijing, where 621 daily cases were reported Sunday, has confined some residents to their homes and ordered others to quarantine centres.

Unlike during previous outbreaks in the capital however, officials appear to be refraining from imposing harsher restrictions on a public exhausted by exceptionally strict Covid-19 measures.

In southern manufacturing hub Guangzhou, one of the hotspots of the current outbreak, protesters furious over a renewed lockdown clashed with police last

week.

The megacity reported more than 8,000 daily cases on Sunday, prompting officials to launch a general screening in the central district of Haizhu, home to about 1.8 million people. In a sign that China's reopening may yet be waylaid, people have been urged to avoid "non-imperative" travel around the capital to avoid spreading the virus.

Some of Beijing's largest shopping malls were closed Sunday, while others reduced opening hours or banned table service at restaurants.

Several offices in the business and diplomatic hub of Chaoyang District asked companies to tell their employees to work from home.

Some parks, sports halls and gyms have also closed.

The French International School in Beijing told parents they had been instructed "to switch to distance learning", according to an email obtained by AFP.

Marriage with minor Muslim girl not excluded from Pocso: Kerala HC

The Kerala high court has held that marriage with a minor from the Muslim community is not excluded from the ambit of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act and a husband who has physical contact with his minor wife would be liable under the Act.

The single bench of justice Bachu Kurian Thomas on Friday ruled that if one of the parties is a minor, offences under the Pocso will apply while dismissing the bail plea of an accused, who was arrested for raping a 16-year-old girl from West Bengal who later turned his wife. According to the prosecution, the accused abducted the minor and had sex with her several times. Later, the 31-year-old married the girl in question.

The accused contended that he was legally married to the girl and the Muslim personal law board permits marriage of girls from the community once they attained puberty and he cannot be prosecuted under the Pocso. He argued that he



had married the girl in March 2021 and had made her his legal partner under personal laws applicable to them. He also cited earlier judgments from Haryana, Delhi and Karnataka high courts to buttress his claim. But the court refused to agree with these claims.

"If one of the parties to the marriage is a minor, irrespective of validity of marriage or otherwise, offences under Pocso Act will stand. With respect to the learned judges (from other courts mentioned) I am unable to agree to the proposition laid down in those decisions that an offence under the Pocso will not get attracted against a Muslim marrying a minor,"

the judge observed.

The court noted that the Pocso Act was a special enactment and advances and progress achieved in societal thinking have resulted in the enactment. This special statute was enacted based on principles arising out of jurisprudence relating to child abuse. The court said the legislative intent reflected through Pocso Act was to prohibit physical relationship with a child, even under the cover of marriage.

"A child marriage compromises the growth of the child to her full potential. It is a bane of society," the court observed while dismissing the bail plea of the accused.

Shah Rukh Khan's bungalow Mannat gets new 'diamond' name plate and gate, fans trend it on Twitter

Shah Rukh Khan's Bandra residence Mannat now has a new look about it. The popular landmark recently got a new LED name plate that is illuminated after dark as well as a new entrance gate. The house's façade is pretty popular as fans routinely go there to click pictures and selfies and the actor also greets fans from a platform above it on special occasions. The new look led to fans tweeting about it and the house even trended on Twitter briefly on Sunday. Also read: Shah Rukh Khan's home Mannat's new name-plate goes missing, puzzled fans share

On Saturday night and Sunday, several fans and Shah Rukh fan clubs shared pictures of the new look of Mannat's exterior. The name plate in front of the gate had been taken down earlier this year amid reports that it was being repaired. Now, a new name plate that many fans called a 'diamond name

plate' was installed. The LED plate wasn't the only new thing as the gate was also changed. The old, rusting gate gave way to a new black and white painted one. A fan club tweeted pics and videos from Mannat and wrote, "Finally our wait is over & here our lovely diamond name plates at Mannat with the new Gate." The pictures showed the new name plates--which read Mannat and Lands End--glowing in the dark. Several other fan clubs shared pictures from the day as well on Sunday. Fans were seen getting clicked in front of the new gate, some even copying Shah Rukh's signature raised arms pose.

In April, Mannat had trended when a new name plate was installed at the gate after years. But barely a month later, fans noted that the new name plate was absent. Several fans wondered if it was stolen, but others have pointed out it is unlikely

given the security situation at Shah Rukh's house. Some even wondered if it was part of some interior (exterior?) design experiment of Gauri Khan. However, a source told HT that "it was taken down for repair. It's inside the house, in fact in the garden, and will be put back once it's repaired." That name plate never did return but six months later, a new one has taken its place finally.

The Mannat name plate has become a favourite selfie spot for fans over the years. This year, Shah Rukh also resumed his practice of greeting fans from the house's viewing balcony. He appeared thrice--once on Eid and twice on his birthday earlier this month. Till a few years ago, the actor routinely greeted fans from the spot and even brought his kids with him at times. His appearances, however, have been sporadic since the pandemic hit.

Massive storm hits western New York, snowfall tops 6 feet in some parts

A massive snowstorm has struck the western part of New York in the United States with snowfall topping six feet in some parts, as per reports. The storm is reported to have forced road closures, partial driving bans and flight cancellations for the weekend. The snowfall is said to have rivalled the massive amounts that fell during similar storms in 2014 and 1945. According to a report by CNN, New York Governor Kathy Hochul said that crews have been working tirelessly to manage the situation. Orchard Park - where the National Football League's Buffalo Bills, professional American football team, is based - is said to have received 77.0 inches of snow in the last 48 hours. Videos of the worst-hit areas surfaced on social media. A twitter user said, "Insane snowfall rates 5-6"/hr with 35 mph wind gusts within this extreme lake effect band off Lake Erie ham-

mering the South Buffalo area. Blizzard conditions within this band get off the roads! (sic)" According to local media, the snowfall on Saturday was the second highest daily on record for any November day since 2000.

A clip tweeted by Buffalo Weather network captured an aerial view with houses entirely wrapped in snow.

The lake-effect storm, caused by cold air picking up moisture from warmer lakes, created narrow bands of windblown snow that dumped feet of snow in some communities, while leaving towns a short drive away relatively unscathed, AP reported, further adding that it wreaked havoc on some roadways, as trucks that took to smaller back roads to avoid a closure on parts of an interstate in the area ended up in mass gridlock that Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz described on social media as "tractor-trailer demo derby day."

'No chance of default,' Pakistan says it will repay external debt 'on time'



Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said the government will fulfill its external debt commitments including the repayment of a sukuk bond that's due in the first week of December. "There is no chance of default. Repayment will be done on time," he said in a televised message on Saturday, adding that arrangements for debt repayments for next year have been done "in principle."

Dar estimated the country's current account deficit would be at \$6 billion

at the end of June 2023, half that of an earlier projection. He said the deficit is expected to be less than \$400 million in October.

The finance minister also rejected the possibility of fuel shortages in the country amid political uncertainty triggered by former premier Imran Khan's months-long campaign for snap elections to be held.

Khan announced on Saturday he will hold a rally in Islamabad on Nov. 26 as the last leg of the protest campaign.



Selection Trials by Andaman Nicobar Chess Association

Port Blair, Nov. 19: Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) conducted selection Trials today at ANCA office-cum-chess centre Dairy Farm to select two best chess players each in boys and girls for the 35th National Under-13 Chess Championship 2022.

Around 40 young chess players took part in the selection trials passionately in which the following chess



players of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been selected as per their Final Standings of the Selection Trials. The details of the selected players are as below:

Sl. No.	Name of Participant	Position	School Attached
(Boys)			
01	D Shrestha Vijay	First	Carmel Sr. Sec. School Port Blair
02	V Yashwant	Second	GMSSS Port Blair
(Girls)			
01	Kavya Raj	First	VKV Lambaline
02	Tanisha Raj	Second	VKV Lambaline

These players are eligible to represent A & N Islands in the upcoming 35th National Boys & Girls Chess Championship-2022 scheduled to be held from 10th to 18th December 2022 in

Puducherry. Further they are hereby directed to attend a two weeks chess coaching camp which will be held from 21.11.2022 to 04.12.2022 between 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm at

ANCA Chess centre, Dairy Farm. For more details one may contact General Secretary, Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) @ 9434293379.

Vishal Jolly...

lands, the minimum support price of the same are fixed by the Government of India for the benefits of all farmers dealing with COPRA.

To support the farmers, GOI from time to time announces a minimum price support scheme in the month of December every year for a period of next one year. Last year also the MSP was announced in the month of December 2021, but till date the same has not found being

implemented on ground level and none of the farmers dealing with COPRA are availing the benefits which the Government of India has formulated for their welfare.

Under the above circumstances the tribal farmers are compelled to sell their produce to local vendors at very meagre prices of Rs. 35/- to Rs. 39/- per kilogram whereas the MSP fixed by the GOI is Rs. 105.90 per kilogram. He mentioned that

the farmers are facing undue harassment and are made to suffer unbearable loss of their agricultural produce due to this issue.

Mr. Jolly requested the PM, HM and CS to intervene into this issue in order to ensure that every farmer living at every isolated Islands of Andaman & Nicobar are equally and largely benefited by receiving the maximum value of their agricultural produce.

(From page 1)

Swaraj Dweep...

about construction of RCC ring well of 06 meter dia with pump house and improvement of Pipe Line in the area. The dept. has also prepared an estimate which was in the process, which needs to be sanctioned and approved by the Administration and the top Official is hoping that soon the estimate will also be approved.

Once the estimate is

sanctioned, the Dept. will be able to start the related works and will accordingly benefit from this project. At present, the Dept. is getting 08.5 lakhs per day from the same dam for the population roughly about 5450, including the floating population of tourists, and on that count, every person is getting 55 litres of water as per capita per day

(lpcd) to meet the requirements.

After completion of the project, the Dept. will get an additional 04 lakhs later of water per day as enhancement of water from the Dam, the SE affirmed. It means every person will get 135 litre of water and it will undeniably eliminate this problem, he further added.

(From page 1)

Seminar on...

Babu, Principal, RGCTC spoke on today's topic on Cooperatives for Youth, Women, Weaker Sections and Health. The Chief Guest encourage the women and states to ensure that the health and strength of women, men and women and

the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age and strength and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against

moral and material abandonment.

Earlier Smti. Shameema Begum Instructor, ANSCU welcomed the guests while Smti. Monika Sheel, FM, ANSCU proposed vote of thanks.

(From page 2)



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Painting comp...

(From page 3)

Schools viz. Ummat Public School, Kamraj English Medium School, Khalsa Public School, Don Bosco School, GSSS Port Mout, St. Mary's School, Saraswathi Shishu Mandir, Mahatma Gandhi International School, Navy Children School, Vivekanada Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kendriya Vidyalaya-1, Girls Sr. Secondary school Garacharma and Rabindra Bangla Vidyalaya, Govt. Boys Sr. Secondary School participated. Dr. P. A Bala and Mr. K. Muniswamy, Sr. Scientists along with Smt. Asma Bibi Technical Assistant, Mr. Abbubaker, Senior Technician, Mr. Ali Akbar, Technician and Mr. Saravanan, SSS coordinated the event.

In continuation, quiz competition will be held on 21st November for school students. On 25th November, Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director & Head, Bo-

tanical Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre will deliver a Seminar Lecture on "Floral diversity of Andaman & Nicobar Islands". On 28th November, the Garacharma Campus of CIARI is open for the school students to visit its R&D activities. In addition, students can submit a Concept Paper on "Innovative ideas for agricultural development in the Islands" by 30th November. The highlight of this fortnightly programme is the Scientist-Student Interaction, wherein a team of Scientists will visit the schools to create awareness among the students about the "Career opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors" and to inculcate scientific temperament.

Organizing Secretaries Mr. D. Karunakaran, @ 9433286866 and Dr. R. Jayakumara Varadan @ 8903974102 can be contacted for further details.

IMO Level-I...

(From page 3)

Blair. The course was conducted in line with the guidelines of OPRC Convention 1992 to which India is a signatory. Any oil spill in the seas around the A&N islands will have severe environmental effect on the marine ecosystem and adversely affect the dependent economic / tourism activities.

Accordingly, the IMO level courses are structured and conducted to provide effective training to all stakeholders for coordinated and synergized response operations against any oil spills at sea. The training course

was attended by around 26 participants, including officials from the Department of Environment & Forests, Port Management Board (PMB) and Police Marine Force (PMF).

The course curriculum provided the participants an insight into the various facts of pollution response in terms of awareness, preparedness, response, legal regulations and practical exposure on handling of pollution response equipment. Certificates of successful completion of the training course were also presented to all the participants.