



ANDAMAN Chronicle

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The Daily Diary of the Islands



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PORT BLAIR, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 RNI REGN. No. ANDENG/2006/19155 :: PAGES : 6 :: Rs. 3/-

Jarawa Facts

The Jarawa resisted contact with the growing numbers of Indian settlers on their islands until 1998. Now, they are under serious threat. Poachers are camping for days at a time in their forest, hunting the animals they depend on and bringing disease, violence and exploitation.

Your Nature Guide

The Oceanic Medley: Of the 25 modern phyla of groups of animals, only four are represented on land, and all 25 are represented in the oceans! However, there is one extremely important class of animals that is almost absent here: insects, which are so abundant on land. Why? No one really seems to know. Some scientist think that crustaceans (shrimps, lobsters, and crabs) may occupy in the sea the place that is occupied by the insects of land.

The Sunlight Zone: This zone is the oceans garden where sunlight streams through. Plants grow here, product food through photosynthesis, and supports animals life. This layer where air meets water is home to many species of animals important to us economically and ecologically. Here you find animals in various stages of their life cycles-eggs, larvae, juveniles, and adults.

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

People's Voice

Pandemic ka saara Restriction hata denge toh Administration kaise Control karega Andaman ke Politicians ko...?

- A Citizen



When I was at your age, I was able to see the bottom of this holy river!

Akshaya Patra Foundation Distributes 412 Grocery Kits to Senior Citizens Through Member of Parliament

Port Blair, Nov. 10: The Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma on 09.11.2021 distributed 412 Grocery Kits to senior citizens of Rangat area. The Grocery kits have been provided by Akshaya Patra Foundation an NGO and were distributed through the Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

During the function the Member of Parliament honoured senior citizens of Rangat region by offering them shawls and showing flower petals on them.

Addressing the gathering, the Member of Parliament

expressed his sincere gratitude towards the senior citizens who have laid the foundation of today's Andaman & Nicobar Islands several decades back, braving all difficulties.

He said that today we can see a developing Andaman & Nicobar Islands but for this the credit must go to the senior citizens who have not only built a beautiful community but also have ensured communal harmony and peace in these Islands.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation is an NGO in India with its headquarters in Bengaluru. Akshaya

Continued on P2



Member of Parliament requests Lt. Governor to Restart First Convoy at 6.00 AM from Jirkatang to Middle Strait

Port Blair, Nov. 10: The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma today requested the Lt. Governor to re-start the first convoy from Jirkatang to Middle Strait at 6.00 AM.

In a letter addressed to the Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament mentioned that during lockdowns, there was a restriction in the movement towards North & Middle Andaman and during the same time, the numbers of ATR convoys were also reduced from

both Jirkatang and Middle Strait sides.

He explained that earlier the first convoy from Jirkatang towards Middle Strait was at 6.00 AM and since lockdown, the timing of the first convoy from Jirkatang was changed to 8.30 AM.

The MP pointed out that now as the number of Tourists are growing every day, the tour operators and general public are demanding to start the first convoy at 6.00 AM from

Continued on P4

PS Pahargaon Solves Murder Case Within Few Hours

Port Blair, Nov. 10: A murder case at Dollygunj Industrial Area in PS Pahargaon jurisdiction at late night of 09.11.2021 was solved and the accused was arrested within a few hours. The accused murdered the victim by hitting on the head with a helmet. The victim has been identified as Sajid Majhi S/o Shri Raja Majhi, 24 yrs, R/o Dollygunj.

On 10.11.2021, upon receipt of complaint from Shri Habib Mallick, S/o Late Rafique Mallick, 24 yrs, Cook at Raja Tea Stall, Dollygunj, R/o Dollygunj, Industrial Area, a FIR vide No. 118/21 U/s 302 IPC was registered at PS Pahargaon. Continued on P2

Vaccination Drive Updates for A&N Islands

Port Blair, Nov. 10: As per data available, a total of 5,13,382 doses of vaccines have been administered so far in A&N Islands out of the target beneficiaries of 2,81,603 (approx.). A total of 1,74,127 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years have been vaccinated till date. A total of 2041 people were vaccinated today in A&N Islands.

1566 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which 91 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44 years. Similarly, 308 beneficiaries were vaccinated in North & Middle Andaman District out of which 11 beneficiaries were in the age group of 18-44. 167 beneficiaries were vaccinated in Nicobar District out of which 1 beneficiary was in the age group of 18-44.

Continued on P4

Jolly Demands Restoration of Pre-COVID Movement to Boost Tourism and Facilitate Islanders

Port Blair, Nov. 10: Former State President, BJP, Shri. Vishal Jolly has demanded restoration of Pre-Covid movement of public transportation, remove restrictions, increase in the number of boats for tourists as well as local inhabitants to providing hassle free environment to the islanders as well as to the tourists arriving in large numbers.

In his letter to the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration Jolly wrote that the Islanders as well as tourists are facing acute hardship and problems due to non-availability of adequate number of boats to avail to and from journey for Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed

Dweep, Little Andaman, Campbell Bay route, Diglipur, Mayabunder, Rangat, Baratang, Long Islands etc. Without increasing the number of passenger ship/boats adequately to satisfy the requirements of the general public as well as the tourism industry, the financial condition of the islanders cannot be rebuilt and the people will continue to suffer irreparable losses he added.

He mentioned that the travelling restrictions are still very much in force for the movement of public in so far as inter islands are concerned. The incoming passengers from mainland require merely two doses certificate indicating completion of 15 days of vaccination, whereas for

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

Caught in the crossfire

An Indian fisherman was killed in firing by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) off Gujarat on November 7. This is the first such killing by the PMSA in the last six years though conflicts over fishing rights are not infrequent along the International Maritime Boundary Line between the two countries. Six other fishermen have reportedly been detained, while one injured person managed to return to Indian shores. India has termed Pakistan's action deplorable and "in contravention to all established international practices and bilateral understandings". On Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs summoned a Pakistani diplomat who was asked to investigate the incident and instruct its forces to refrain from unprovoked firing. According to the Gujarat government, a total of 345 fishermen from the State were lodged in Pakistan jails as on December 2020. In April 2020, Pakistani forces opened fire on two boats off the Gujarat coast injuring one person, and in 2019 they sunk an Indian boat in which six of seven fishermen onboard were rescued. One person went missing. Fishermen often get caught in the fluctuating fate of the bilateral relations between the two countries, which is currently at a low.

According to the National Fishworkers Forum, there are 558 Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails, and 74 from Pakistan in Indian prisons. The Forum calculates that 1,200 Indian fishing vessels are in Pakistan's custody. The families of these imprisoned people are in penury. Consular access to those in prison is difficult. Only 295 of the 558 prisoners in Pakistan could have their nationality verified. In 2007, both countries formed a joint judicial committee comprising eight retired judges — four each from India and Pakistan — to facilitate the exchange of civilian prisoners. The mechanism has been defunct since 2013, and attempts to revive it in 2018 did not bear fruit. Civilians along international borders often get caught in disputes between countries, and India has several such hotspots, on land and in sea. Even fishermen venturing near the India-Sri Lanka maritime border often fall victim though both countries maintain cordial bilateral ties. Many Indian villages along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh also become theatres of conflict, as communities often find it difficult to reconcile with international borders that divide their traditional spheres of economic and social activities. Pakistan has aggressively sponsored violence in India, and terrorists trained by its agencies sailed in a hijacked Indian fishing boat in 2008 to Mumbai. It is a tragedy that ordinary people could end up in a foreign prison while trying to earn their livelihood. India and Pakistan must consider this as a humanitarian crisis and work towards resolving it. And, both countries must avoid any escalation in tensions on account of the latest incident.

BOB'S BANTER

BY ROBERT CLEMENTS



Keep The Fizz Going..!

Cheap bottle, filled with cheap liquor, sat on a table in a cheap looking bar, looking craftily at a bedraggled man hunched in front. "Cheers!" said the cheap bottle of yellow fire.

"Hic," said the man. "Burp, hic, burp, slurp!"

"Enjoying me huh?" asked the bottle sensuously.

"You swine!" said the man, frothing round the mouth.

"Now, now," said the bottle, "is that any way to talk to your only friend?"

"You..... you made all my friends desert me," whispered the man.

"Well they left you when they found you were so in love with me, didn't they?"

"You seduced me," shouted the man as he tilted the bottle and swallowed the fire within. "I just wanted one sip, that's all..."

"I am nobody's one night stand," said the bottle proudly. "Once I put my arms around you, I become a life time lover!"

"I hate you!"

"Because you can't do anymore without me. I control you. You are my slave, my servant, my vassal for life!"

"Nooooo..." wailed the poor man.



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"Try! Try to live a day without me. You have, haven't you? Promises to your mother before she died broken hearted, your wife before she deserted you, your children before they starved to death, but you came back to me.."

"Hic, hic, burp, hic, hic..."

"Easy my boy, easy, we have the whole evening ahead, and the night and the morning. I love you, but I don't want to spend daylight in the gutter. Night in the filth and slush is good enough, but day time in the same slime is oh such a waste of good drinking time!"

"I am dying, my liver is no more," cried the man.

"Oh you poor chap, here, let me caress you, love you. Here, feel my warmth, let me nuzzle down your throat."

"I curse the day I met you!"

"Tut! Tut! Such words! Such temper! After all I've done for you. I was there when you were fired from your job. I gave you comfort at your children's funerals. I consoled you when your wife left you. I brought you solace, gave you support, soothed your ego and cheered you on to the next bar and the next bottle and the next sip.."

"I will smash you, you treacherous traitor. Look what I can do to you. You will lie broken: A thousand pieces of glass!"

"Your trembling hand can hardly lift me up. Not out of lack of strength, but will. You are my slave, my lover, see how I kiss and fondle, touch and stroke you my dearest. I love you and will bewith you till death do us part. Ah my love, my cherished one, I have tentacted myself into your very soul. It was love at first sip my beloved!" laughed the bottle mirthlessly, winking at the bar owner..!

bobsbanter@gmail.com

Akshaya Patra Foundation Distributes 412 Grocery Kits to Senior Citizens

Continued from Page 1 wholesome food every states and 2 Union territories Patra is the world's largest school day to over 1.8 of India. (not-for-profitrun) Mid-Day million children from Meal Programme, serving 19,039 schools across 12

PS Pahargaon Solves Murder Case Within Few Hours

Continued from Page 1 Acting swiftly on the complaint, immediately, a team comprising of SI Manish Narayan, SI Mohd. Rahil Islam, SI Samiran Mridha, PC/Santosh Kumar Yadav, PC/Jagdish Babu and PC/Sudeep Kumar was constituted under the supervision of SHO Pahargaon for search and arrest of the accused person. SP South Andaman and SDPO South Andaman immediately reached the spot. All possible efforts including technical surveillance were made to search the accused person and within a few hours, the accused person namely Robin Singh@ Gagan S/o Harjeet Singh, (20)Yrs, Open School student R/o Das colony, Industrial area, Dollygunj was nabbed. Further investigation of the case is in progress.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mohanlal Announces New Film 'Monster'

Mohanlal on Wednesday announced production of his new film "Monster" and unveiled its first look.

The film's poster features the 61-year-old actor wearing a turban. His character in the film is called Lucky Singh.

"Monster" will be directed by Vysakh, who worked with the actor for the 2016 action thriller "Pulimurugan". Mohanlal took to Twitter and revealed that the movie, which has a script by Udaykrishna, has started shooting.

"Unveiling the title and first look of my new movie 'Monster' directed by Vysakh, scripted by Udaykrishna and produced by Antony Perumbavoor under the banner of Aashirvad Cinemas. The movie starts rolling today!" he tweeted.

Mohanlal was last seen in the acclaimed "Drishyam 2" earlier this year. The actor has a packed line-up with films like Priyadarshan's



"Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea", "Bro Daddy", "Ram" and "Barroz: Guardian of D'Gama's Treasure", which marks his directorial debut.

Leonardo DiCaprio Set to Star in and Produce 'Jim Jones' Movie



Leonardo DiCaprio is in final talks to play religious cult leader Jim Jones in MGM's upcoming feature film.

Written by "Venom" scribe Scott Rosenberg, "Jim Jones" will also have DiCaprio on board as producer.

According to Deadline, the Oscar-winner will back the project via his Appian Way company alongside Jennifer Davisson.

Jim Jones was the leader of the Peoples Temple religious group, founded in Indianapolis in 1955. He was behind the November 1978 mass suicide at his Jonestown settlement that took more than 900 lives, including 304 children.

Jones and his inner circle orchestrated the massacre at the jungle commune in Guyana, with the followers directed to drink

cyanide-adulterated punch.

Rosenberg will also serve as executive producer on the project.

DiCaprio has previously produced Alejandro Inarritu's "The Revenant," Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street", "The Aviator" and "Shutter Island", under his banner Appian Way Productions.

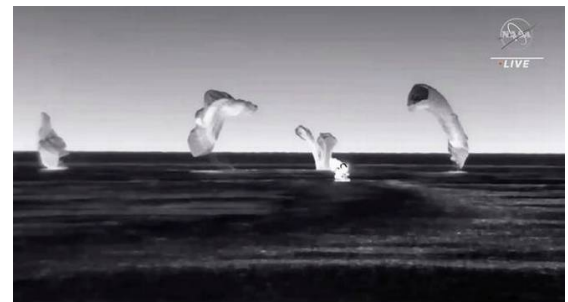
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Health, Science /Tech

SpaceX Returns Four Astronauts to Earth, Ending 200-Day Flight



Cape Canaveral, Nov. 10: Four astronauts returned to Earth on November 8, riding home with SpaceX to end a 200-day space station mission that began last spring.

Their capsule streaked through the late night sky like a dazzling meteor before parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Pensacola, Florida. Recovery boats quickly moved in with spotlights.

"On behalf of SpaceX, welcome home to Planet Earth," SpaceX Mission Control radioed from Southern California.

Their homecoming — coming just eight hours after leaving the International Space Station — paved the way for SpaceX's launch of their four replacements as early as Wednesday night.

In this photo provided by NASA, Astronauts, from left, Mark Vande Hei, Shane Kimbrough, Akihiko Hoshide and Megan McArthur, pose with chili peppers grown aboard the International Space Station on November 5, 2021.

No toilet for returning SpaceX crew, stuck using diapers

The newcomers were scheduled to launch first, but NASA switched the order because of bad weather and an astronaut's undisclosed medical condition. The welcoming duties will now fall to the lone American and two Russians left behind at the space station.

Before November 8 afternoon's undocking, German astronaut Matthias Maurer, who's waiting to launch at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, tweeted it was a shame the two crews wouldn't overlap at the space station but "we trust you'll leave everything nice and tidy." His will be SpaceX's fourth crew flight for NASA in just 1 1/2 years.

NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, Japan's Akihiko Hoshide and France's Thomas Pesquet should have been back on the morning of November 8, but high wind in the recovery zone delayed their return.

"One more night with this magical view. Who could complain? I'll miss our spaceship!" Mr. Pesquet tweeted November 7 alongside a brief video showing the space station illuminated against the blackness of space and the twinkling city lights on the nighttime side of Earth.

From the space station, NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei — midway through a one-year flight — bid farewell to each of his departing friends, telling Ms. McArthur "I'll miss hearing your laughter in adjacent modules."

Before leaving the neighborhood, the four took a spin around the space station, taking pictures. This was a first for SpaceX; NASA's shuttles used to do it all the time before their retirement a decade ago. The last Russian capsule fly-around was three years ago.

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HONDA

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, E&M Division, APWD, Prothrapur, Port Blair invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item Rate tenders from the eligible Contractors of the **Andaman PW D and Non APWD Contractors**, irrespective of their enlistment subject to the condition that they have experience of having successfully completed of work dealing with Electrical works in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with Govt. Organizations and do not have any adverse remarks, for the work mentioned below:-

DB-e-Tender/E&M/DIV/PP/PB/2021-22/2290,
Dated 10th November, 2021

- NIT No. 58/EE/E&M/21-22 Name of work:** "A/R & M/O IEI & EEI to Inter Island Helicopter Passenger Terminal, Hanger Building under Sub Division – IV, E&M Division, APWD, Port Blair during the year 2021-22". Estimate Cost: ₹ 8,68,048/- EMD : Exempted (Proforma for EMD Declaration may submit) Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve) Months.
TENDER ID: 2021_APWD_4264_1

The e-tender from and other details can be downloaded from the website. The Last Date and Time of bid submission will be **29.11.2021 upto 09:30 hours**. Other details / information can be seen on website.
["https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in"](https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in).

2021/MediaRelease/838

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Executive Engineer

E&M Division, APWD, Prothrapur, Port Blair

World Youth Boxing Champion Arundhati Choudhary Moves Court

Kolkata, Nov. 10: World youth champion boxer Arundhati Choudhary on Tuesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking a spot in the World women's boxing championships-bound Indian side.

The case is listed to be heard on Wednesday morning, Arundhati's lawyer Sandeep Lamba said.

"We have said, like other 11 National champions, Arundhati should also get selected for the World championships (in Istanbul in December)," said Lamba.

Arundhati, a three-time Khelo India champion who won the World youth title in 69kg in Kielce, Poland, earlier this year, bagged her maiden National title in 70kg at Hisar following a revamp in weight divisions.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) decided to select



the National champions for the Istanbul event.

However, it made an exception to pick Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain directly in 70kg for the World championships.

Arundhati claimed that she got an assurance from the BFI top brass for a trial in her weight class after the National championships.

On November 4, the boxer from Kota, Rajasthan, wrote a letter to Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh, requesting him to conduct a trial in 70kg. In her letter, Arundhati said she did not seek any favours and just wanted "fair play."

Arundhati moved the court as she 'did not receive any response' from the BFI.

Member of Parliament requests Lt. Governor to Restart First Convoy at 6.00 AM from Jirkatang to Middle Strait

Continued from Page 1
Jirkatang so that tourists, visiting Baratang can comfortably return back to Port Blair on the same day after visiting the mud volcano, limestone caves in Baratang Island.

Sharma said that for Islanders, especially those who are traveling to Diglipur and other parts of North Andaman, the early morning convoy at 6.00 AM is the best option for them. In that case, they can

reach their destination before evening. In the case of 8.30 AM convoy often because of vehicle breakdown, adverse weather conditions, or delay in vehicle ferry movements, the ATR passengers reach Diglipur by late-night, which is risky and troublesome.

Based on these points, the Member of Parliament requested the Lt. Governor to re-start the first convoy from Jirkatang to Middle Strait at 6.00 AM as was done prior to the pandemic.

Jolly Demands Restoration of Pre-COVID Movement to Boost Tourism and Facilitate Islanders

Continued from Page 1
travelling to inter islands there exist other restrictions.

All those travelling restrictions can be relaxed to the best possible way for encouraging the tourists and entrepreneurs. Apart from tourists, the local inhabitants of inter islands too are facing severe hardships due to unwanted travel restrictions, which may be either waived or relaxed to the possible extent. Consequently, the number of Convoys also needs to be increased manifold.

Jolly also informed that after almost two years, a ray of hope was sighted

and the islanders dependent on tourism got relief witnessing heavy tourist arrivals. Each of them had sustained heavy losses due to the pandemic and now when everything was appearing to get normal, unfortunately the tourists are thrown out to face acute hardship in travelling upto various tourist destinations. This will send a wrong signal to the potential tourists who plan to visit these islands.

The former State President, BJP thus requested the Chief Secretary to take appropriate steps to restore Pre-Covid movement of public and encourage tourists as well as tourism industry.

Condolence

Shri Dharmendra Narayan, Ex Councilor Ward No. 17 has expressed deep sadness over the passing away of Mr Sajeet Majhi, S/o. Shri. Raja Majhi, R/o Das Colony, Dolly gunj. He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and for enough strength for the members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

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COP26 Draft Urges Boost to Emissions Cutting Goals by 2022

Glasgow, Nov. 10: A draft UN climate summit text urged countries on Wednesday to boost their emissions cutting goals by 2022, three years ahead of schedule, after data showed the world was far off track to limit warming to 1.5C.

Wednesday's text was the first indication of where nations are 10 days into the COP26 talks in Glasgow, which host Britain has billed as crucial to achieving the most ambitious temperature goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The text called for nations to "revisit and strengthen" their decarbonisation plans by next year and said that limiting heating to 1.5C "requires meaningful and effective action by all parties in this critical decade".

It said "rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions" were needed to avert the worst impacts of heating, which has already seen countries worldwide slammed by fiercer floods, droughts and storms.

Countries' latest decarbonisation plans submitted under the Paris Agreement are likely to see Earth warm 2.7C this century, according to a United Nations assessment of the pledges.

The 2015 accord contains a "ratchet" mechanism requiring countries to update emissions plans every five years.

Several large emitters missed the 2020 deadline for submitting new plans, known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Vulnerable nations say that the next deadline, in 2025, is too distant to deliver the short-term emissions cuts needed to avoid disastrous heating. In what observers said was a



"significant first mention" of the fuels driving global warming, the draft summit called on countries to "accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuels".

Previous climate summit decisions and the Paris Agreement itself do not so much as mention fossil fuels, focusing instead on emissions.

One senior negotiator told AFP they were confident that the fossil fuel mention would appear in the final text, "in some form or another".

'Fuzzy and vague'

But climate scientists and environmental groups criticised the draft for failing to reflect the urgency of the crisis facing the planet.

"This draft deal is not a plan to solve the climate crisis, it's an agreement that we'll all cross our fingers and hope for the best," said Greenpeace International Director Jennifer Morgan.

"It's a polite request that countries maybe, possibly, do more next year."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is due back in Glasgow later

Wednesday to check on progress.

Delegates came to Glasgow with a laundry list of disputes to be resolved, including over how vulnerable nations' fight against rising temperatures is financed.

In Focus Podcast | India's net zero commitment at CoP 26, explained

Rich emitters promised over a decade ago to provide \$100 billion annually to help others green their grids and adapt to the changing climate.

Mohamed Adow, director of the Nairobi-based think tank Power Shift Africa, said Wednesday's draft was "fuzzy and vague" when it came to financing climate action.

He said concrete commitments on funding was "a specific ask of poor countries" from COP26.

Simon Lewis, professor of Global Change Science at University College London, said the draft "acknowledges the enormous gulf" between current emissions plans and a 1.5C pathway.

"Of course, if developed countries don't deliver on their financial promises, the talks may fall into disarray," he told AFP.

Union Cabinet Brings Back MPLAD Scheme

New Delhi, Nov. 10: Citing economic recovery, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday restored the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) that was suspended in April 2020 subsuming the funds for the scheme in the consolidated fund of India.

The scheme was suspended for two financial years (2020-21 and 2021-22) but the Government on Wednesday announced a partial rollback. The MPs will get ₹ 2 crore instead of the annual approved ₹ 5 crore.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said, "I am happy to state that since we are on the road to economic recovery, with many sectors reporting a positive growth, the Union Cabinet has decided to restore the MPLAD Scheme for the remaining part of the financial year 2021-22."

When the suspension was announced last year, the Government had claimed that ₹ 8,000 crore that would have otherwise been spent under the scheme will go to the consolidated fund of India and will be used for fighting the pandemic.

Opposition leaders pointed out that the Government so far has not given a record of how it spent the savings from suspending the scheme for a year.

DMK's Rajya Sabha member P. Wilson pointed out that the Centre, by way of suspending the MPLAD Scheme, withheld funds for the States during the peak of pandemic when they were battling with financial strain themselves. "Tamil Nadu has 39 Lok Sabha MPs and 18 Rajya Sabha members. So the State, through the MPLAD funds, is to get ₹ 285 crore

annually. This is the money that the Union Government pocketed," he said.

Senior RJD leader Manoj K Jha said the Government should come up with a detailed account of how it used the money saved by suspension of MPLAD funds. "The Government should bring in a White Paper without any shade. The question is how was this money spent and how exactly did it help during the pandemic," he said. During the pandemic, public representatives who got direct feedback from the ground could have done a better work in helping the people using this money, Mr. Jha added.

Fully funded by the Government of India, the objective of the MPLAD Scheme is to enable MPs to recommend development works. Each MP is entitled to ₹ 5 crore that is released in two instalments after close scrutiny by the Union Government.

Appeal!

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration is on a war-footing to end the corona cases in our Islands. Let's support the Administration by being responsible citizens and follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

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Mandeep Grewal

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SPORTS

Split Teams, Captaincy and Coaches Too - Give Dhoni a Bigger Role

It is time India began to take T20 cricket seriously. That might be a strange thing to say about a country that won the inaugural World Cup in 2007 and changed the face of the sport the following year with the IPL which remains the top tournament in the T20 world.

But things change quickly in T20, and I don't mean just in the course of a match or an innings. What was important yesterday — Test match experience, for instance — often turns out to be a handicap. What works for one team need not work for another.

Since it is a new format, less than two decades old, almost every match, every change, every nuance is recorded. Patterns can be discerned. Changes can sometimes be anticipated.

There are things happening in T20 tournaments around the world that need to be understood or at least acknowledged.

It doesn't matter if Indian cricketers are not allowed to play in these, but we need a team that analyses threads and checks how these changes apply to India. It is a full-time job, and needs a full-time team of analysts who focus on nothing else.

Crucial difference

What we need in the backroom are not cricket people who understand statistics, but statisticians who know cricket. The difference is not subtle, and it may be crucial.

One of the features of the T20 format is that it can turn the basics of the longer game on its head — in fact it is expected to. You don't get your eye in as a batsman, you don't mix caution with aggression, you don't rely on singles to upset a bowler's rhythm, a dot-ball is more precious than a perfect delivery which is edged for four; some are clichés in the longer game.

A bowler has 24 deliveries to make his mark, a batsman sometimes even fewer. Contrarily, wickets don't matter for a batsman, nor do boundaries matter for a bowler.



By all accounts, the nation seems to have heaved a sigh of relief that a player and personality of Rahul Dravid's stature has been persuaded to take over as national coach. He has known many of the players from their Under-19 days, and understands the game better than most. Coaching the national team will come with its challenges though — the same players who looked up to him as teenagers would have developed egos large enough to fill a room! It is a lesson Anil Kumble learnt to his cost when he had to quit because the captain was unhappy with him.

Distinct sport

In a previous column, I made the point that India should look at T20 as a distinct form of sport and choose a captain for whom it existed even as he was growing up. India have been conservative in their approach to the format, and need to think out of the box. Having a young captain like Rishabh might be one way to go.

Another — and this is important too — would be to split not just the teams and captaincy but the coaches as well. And that's where Mahendra Singh Dhoni would come in. Perhaps India could go one step further and appoint him not just the T20 coach, but the sole selector as well in the format.

He has the experience, is one of the greats of the format and

would work best given a free hand. It is a big task, taking sole responsibility, as football coaches around the world have discovered.

But at least the lines of communication are clear.

I am not sure quite what Dhoni was doing at the recent World T20 in the UAE; international players don't need 'mentors' to look after them. They need decision-makers, and Dhoni has been one of the best in the business.

This will leave Dravid free to focus on Test cricket and One-Day Internationals; he was a master of both, with over 10,000 runs in each format. T20 is becoming increasingly specialised, and calls for a specialist coach and selector, and Dhoni fits the bill well.

Not the time for 'if only's'

Making excuses for the Indian defeat in the UAE will only perpetuate the mistakes the team made. We cannot wallow in a series of "if only's". If only India had won the toss in the matches they lost. If only they hadn't run into Shaheen Afridi so early in the tournament. If only they had been bolder in their selection. If only, if only...

It is time to forget the tournament as a bad dream, and start afresh, with a new captain, a new coach and a team of T20 players who relish playing the format. It seems ironic that the IPL is ideal preparation for all teams (not Pakistan, of course) except India!

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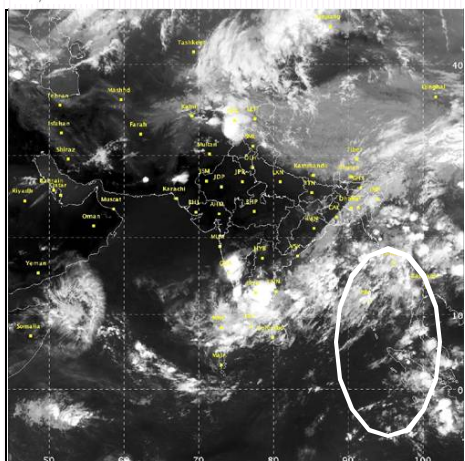
Police Control Room:	100
Fire Service:	101
Ambulance:	102
DC Control Room:	1070
Shipping:	245555
Postal :	232346, 232890
Children:	1098
Women:	244701
Coast Guard for	1554
Search & Rescue (SAR)	
Coast Guard RHQ:	232681
Coastal Security	1093
State Control Room:	1077, 238880
PBMC Control Room:	245798
Kisan 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: 29.2 °C	Min.: 23.8 °C
Relative Humidity: 0830 Hrs: 83%	1730 Hrs: 86%
Sunrise: 0511 Hrs.	Sunset: 1654 Hrs.
Rainfall upto 0830 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	00.0 mm
Rainfall upto 1730 Hrs (Last 24 Hrs.):	000.0 mm
Total Rainfall: (From Jan 1, 2020 till date):	3134.4 mm

Forecast

Rain or thundershowers likely to occur at few places over Andaman & Nicobar. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 31°C and 24°C respectively on Thursday 11/11/2021

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