



Since 1920s the Oldest Daily...

Daily Telegrams

...the Largest Circulating Daily of the Islands

Light to moderate rainfall likely to occur over Port Blair. Possibility of thunderstorm and lightning. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 32°C and 26°C respectively on Wednesday 19/05/2021. Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 32.7 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 27.1 Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST: 091 Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST: 089 Sunrise time on 19.05.2021 (in IST): 0455 Sunset time on 19.05.2021 (in IST): 1737 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)- in mm: 001.8 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.5 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 21 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm: 512.8 mm

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Port Blair, Wednesday, May 19, 2021

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Pages 4

PM interacts with State and District Officials on COVID-19 situation

Urges officials to share best practices for it to be used in other parts of the country

New Delhi, May 18 Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi through video conference interacted with field officials from States and Districts regarding their experience in handling the Covid-19 pandemic. During the interaction, the officials thanked the Prime Minister for leading the fight against the second wave of Covid from the front. The officials shared their experiences and apprised the Prime Minister about the innovative steps that were undertaken to



manage the recent surge of cases. They also informed about the efforts being undertaken to augment the medical infrastructure and capacity building in

rural areas. The Prime Minister asked the officials to compile the best practices and innovative steps so that these may be used in other districts of the country.



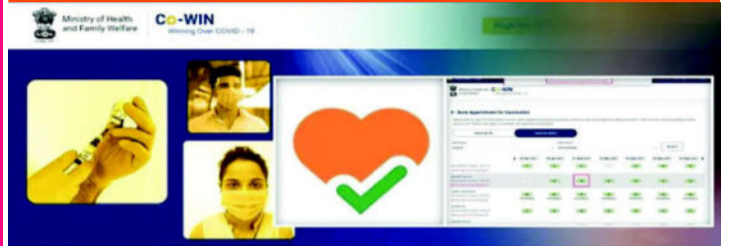
Addressing the officials after his interaction, the Prime Minister appreciated the dedication and perseverance shown by the nation's healthcare workers, frontline

workers and administrators during these difficult times, and urged them to continue working with similar vigour moving forward. The Prime Minister said that every district in the country is equally different and has its own unique challenges. He said to the district officials, "You understand the challenges of your district much better. So when your district wins, the country wins. When your district beats Corona, the country

(Contd. on last page)

Vaccination for 18 years and above to begin in A&N Islands from today

Online registration is mandatory and no on-site registration will be done



Port Blair, May 18 The vaccination drive for 18 years of age and above will begin in A&N Islands from tomorrow (May 19). The online registration for the vaccination began through Co-WIN portal and Aarogya Setu app today and the beneficiaries will be administered the first dose of vaccine tomorrow. Online registration is mandatory and no on-

site (on the spot) registration will be done. The vaccination will be done at JNRM Vaccination Center between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. Vaccination will not be done on Sundays and other national holidays. Meanwhile, as per circular of Govt. of India, the second dose of vaccination has been delayed from existing 6-8 weeks to 12-16 weeks i.e 84 to 112 days from

the first dose. No vaccine will be administered to the beneficiaries of the second dose and urged them to plan their vaccination date as per the new circular. However, the vaccination for the beneficiaries of 45 plus who are yet to receive their first dose will continue and for them the facility of on-site registration will be available.

COVID vaccination drive for 45+ continuing smoothly

1,00,394 eligible beneficiaries (45+) administered first dose of vaccine; 1209 persons have still not taken vaccine

Port Blair, May 18 The administering of the 1st dose of vaccination to the eligible beneficiaries (45+) in A&N Islands is continuing smoothly. As per the vaccination data received from the DHS, as on date, a total of 1,00,394 beneficiaries above 45 years have

taken their first dose, out of the target beneficiaries of 1,01,603. Now, only 1209 beneficiaries are left and they have been requested to get themselves vaccinated. The vaccination sessions are continuing in more than 88 designated vaccination

centres set up in different parts of the Islands. Meanwhile, 148 doses of COVISHIELD vaccines were administered to the eligible beneficiaries by the health teams today (May 18), taking the total number of doses of vaccines administered

(Contd. on last page)

Media briefed on measures taken by Administration to deal with COVID-19

Administration strengthens infrastructure facilities to deal with COVID pandemic: Secretary (IP&T)

- Per capita doctors availability in A&N Islands highest in the country
- 6376 beds created exclusively for COVID patients
- Sufficient number of Oxygen Concentrators & Oxygen Cylinders available
- COVID positivity rate 1.75%
- Highest vaccination percentage in 45+ age group

Port Blair, May 18

The A&N Administration has taken several measures to bring under control the number of COVID positive cases in these Islands and to effectively deal with the situation, all necessary infrastructures have been provided. The per capita doctors availability in A&N Islands is the highest in the country, as there is one doctor for 1152 patients which is better than the national average of one doctor for 15,011 patients. This was stated by Secretary, IP&T, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh while addressing a COVID-19 media briefing held in the conference hall of IP&T today. Elaborating on the number of beds per 1000 population, he said, 3.22 beds per 1000 population are available in the Islands. Altogether, 6376 beds have been created for the COVID patients and it is being used as per the requirement, he said adding that the number of total



COVID beds having oxygen supply is 68.83% which is also the highest in the country. The Secretary further disclosed that the Islands have sufficient number of Oxygen Concentrators and Oxygen Cylinders. "We have 40 ventilators here and considering the number of cases we have in our Islands, the ventilators are also sufficient in number", he said. The COVID tests per million done in the Islands is also highest in the Country. The vaccination percentage of 45+ has reached to 98.81 and only 1209 under this age group persons have not taken the vaccine. The strength of doctors available in A&N Islands is 347. Due to these timely measures taken by the A&N Administration we are having the

lowest number of COVID cases in the country and our COVID positivity rate is just 1.75 percent. The Secretary said that with the active support of all stakeholders including medical fraternity, Administration, Police, Press and general public, we to a large extent have been able to control the number of COVID cases in Isles but lot more needs to be done. The Secretary also called upon the Islanders to have faith in Doctors who are tirelessly working to save lives. The Secretary informed that there is no COVID positive case in Nicobar as of now. However, the A&N Administration is taking all steps to strengthen the infrastructure facilities in Nicobar District. Altogether, 24 bedded COVID facility has been set up and in addition to this, the Tribal Council of Nicobar provided 30 hand made beds. The Secretary thanked the

(Contd. on last page)

Towards providing better service delivery to citizens

Deptt. of CS&CA launches toll free number and mobile App to facilitate NFSA migrant beneficiaries under ONORC scheme

Port Blair, May 18 The Government of India launched a landmark scheme 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC) to facilitate migrants meeting their requirement of foodgrains at a very affordable rate. This scheme was

implemented by the Central Government in a war footing manner in the wake of pandemic COVID-19 to avoid struggle of the socio-economically weaker migrant laborers to meet both ends of their livelihoods. This UT Administration has

taken relentless efforts leaving no stone unturned to implement this scheme within the established time frame by the Central Government and made functional with effect from February, 2021 in its true letter and spirit.

(Contd. on last page)

COVID-19: "We shall overcome" "Don't panic, I have won the battle; says young Derick Peter who conquered novel corona

Port Blair, May 18 The COVID-19 pandemic has not spared anyone, be it young or old or people from privileged or under privileged background. Human civilization has fought against and prevailed over such threats before and is confident that "we shall overcome..... some day". Recalling the days, he spend in GB Pant Hospital battling the virus, a young class XII

student Derick Peter shared the story of his getting back on his feet after the corona attack with the 'Daily Telegrams'. On being asked "Where do you suspect you got the virus"? Derick mentioned that he don't have any idea how the disease infected him. I was preoccupied with my forthcoming board exam that, like most of my classmates and friends I never thought

I could be one among the infected. At the same time, he admitted that his mother always told him not to go out and if at all going out, he should be wearing mask and maintain social distancing but somewhere I am to be blamed. On April 26, I had fever, persistent cough, body ache and headache and my mother immediately took me to GB Pant Hospital and the Doctor told me to do the test.

The RTPCR test report came positive and I was admitted in the Hospital. The Doctors, Nurses, Aayas, Ward Boys were very cordial and always motivated me by saying "you will get well soon..... don't worry" during my stay in Hospital. The Nurse regularly gave me the medicines and attended to all my requests. I was advised to drink warm water, have warm food etc. During his days in

(Contd. on last page)

Tweets on COVID-19 Management by Administration

SONJOY HALDER @halder_sony: It provide a positivity whenever discharge number are more than new case, so request all islanders never provide a single chance to the virus for increasing the new case, let's fight together to achieve the zero digit again, let's support all Frontline Worker to achieve the goal.

Emanvel R @REmanvel: Discharge is higher than New Cases. Good effort by administration. Hope soon our Island will be the first to declared as corona free.

B Vinod Kumar @Bvinodk22725: Vaccination coverage is the only weapon against covid-19. Achieving almost complete coverage of 45+ population in #Andaman is a great achievement by @andaman_admin. We should co-operate to ensure full vaccination.

Anand Kr @AnandKr1: Thank you to our corona warriors! Doctors, Police, @andaman_admin, @pbmc_ani thank you for your service! Jai Hind!

Ebrahim Jadwet @JADWET: The second wave has been bit scary, but I am impressed with the Administration's effort in the Islands for doing their best to manage the situation. Thank you for always standing by the islanders.

vidyanarayanpb@gmail.com @vidyanarayanpb: It seems these days @andaman_admin is working with a single objective to defeat corona! And It seems to be working! Good job!

lets stay indoor @umaa14_23s: Round the clock vigilance by officers at hospital is a good step.

Adopt COVID Appropriate Behaviour: ' Davai Bhi, Kadai Bhi (Yes to medicine and Yes to caution)

STAY SAFE WITH AGE OLD WISDOM OF AYURVEDA

AYUSH Home Remedies for Dry Cough/Sore Throat

- Steam inhalation with fresh Mint leaves/caraway seeds can be practiced once in a day
- Clove powder mixed with natural sugar/honey can be taken two to three times a day
- Consult a Doctor if the symptoms persist

Directorate of Health Services and Andaman & Nicobar State AYUSH Society, A & N Administration

COVID ALERT

FOLLOW COVID APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR EVERYDAY AND HELP KEEP COVID-19 AWAY

- Total number of active cases in India: 3353765
- Deaths in India: 278719
- Single day surge: 2,63,000
- Total no of active cases in Andaman since 1.03.2021: 223
- Total Deaths since 1.03.2021: 30
- Surge in a single day: 36

It is time to be alert & vigilant Follow COVID appropriate behaviour strictly

Call Control Room number for assistance: 240126, 232102, 1077, 1070

BADALKAR APNA VYAVAHAR, KAREIN CORONA PAR VAAR

Issued in public interest by A&N Administration

अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
सचिवालय/SECRETARIAT

Health Bulletin For Containment Of नोवल कोरोना वायरस रोग (COVID-19)
(No. 414/ 18th May 2021)
COVID-19 STATUS OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS AS ON 18.05.2021

> Status of Cases :

Second Wave since: 01.03.2021	
Active new case in last 24 Hours	36
Discharges in last 24 hours	30
Total confirmed cases	1680
Total Discharges	1427
Total Active case as on date	223
Total Deaths during second wave	30

Cumulative since March 2020			
Details	On 17 th May 2021	On 18 th May 2021	Total
Confirmed Cases	6638	36*	6674
Cured/Discharged from Hospital	6329	30	6359
Death	89	03	92

> Clinical Management of Cases :

Name of District	Isolation Beds Available	Occupied	Vacant
North & Middle Andaman	286	06	280
South Andaman	5583	217	5366
Nicobar	507	00	507
Total	6376	223	6153

Total 15 containment zone formed in South Andaman District

> Status of Sample and Testing:

Total Samples sent till date	380395
Total Reports received till date	380395
Total Pending Reports	0
Rate of Testing Per Million	950988
Test Positivity Rate	1.75%

COWIN 1.0

> Vaccination Status

Total population	4,00,000	--
Target Beneficiaries	1,01,603	--
Cumulative Beneficiaries vaccinated so far	1,17,748	--
Cumulative Beneficiaries vaccinated with 1 st Dose so far	1,00,394	98.81
Cumulative Beneficiaries vaccinated with 2 nd Dose so far	17,354	17.29
% of population vaccinated	--	25.10

> Passengers screened at VSI Airport & Haddo Wharf

Details	From 25 th May 2020 to 17 th May 2021	On 18 th May 2021	Total
Incoming Passengers			
a) VSI Airport	238737	66	238803
b) Haddo Wharf	1032	0	1032
Outward Passengers			
a) VSI Airport	250668	61	250729
b) Haddo Wharf	928	0	928

* On 18.05.2021, 62 passengers were retested by RAT at Airport.

24x7 CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS: 240126/ 232102 / 1077/ 1070
(Source: Directorate of Health Services)

PM interacts with State and District Officials ...

(Contd. from page 1)

defeats Corona." He commended the officials who were working without taking any leave in spite of contracting COVID-19. He added that they are inspiration to many and he understands the sacrifices made by them. The Prime Minister said that all the officials have a very important role in this war against Corona like a field commander of this war. He remarked that Local containment zones, aggressive testing and correct & complete information to the people are the weapons against the virus. At this time, the number of corona infections are decreasing in some States as well as increasing in several other States. So he stressed on the need to be more vigilant in the face of increasing infections. He emphasized that the fight is to save every single life and the focus should be in rural and inaccessible areas. He requested the officials to make the relief material easily accessible for the rural population.

The Prime Minister advised the officials also to take care of the ease of living of every citizen of their district. He stressed on the need to stop infection and at the same time ensure unhindered flow of essential supplies. He informed that work is being done rapidly to install oxygen plants in hospitals in every district of the country through PM CARES Fund and these plants have already started functioning in many hospitals.

The Prime Minister spoke about how getting vaccinated is instrumental to lowering the severity of the disease and reducing hospitalisations and mortalities. He said continuous efforts are being made to increase the supply of Corona vaccine on a very large scale. He added that the Health Ministry is streamlining the system and process of vaccination. Attempts are being made to give a schedule of the next 15 days to the States in advance. He stressed on the need to stop vaccine wastage. He said the convenience of the people increases when information of bed availability and vaccine availability are easily made available. In the same way, black marketing should be curbed and strict action should be taken against those who do so. Mobilizing the front-line workers by keeping their morale high.

The Prime Minister commended the way villagers were maintaining social distance in their farm. He said villages grasp the information and modify it according to their needs. This is the strength of villages. He added we must adopt best practices against coronavirus. He gives free hand to them says you are free to innovate, suggest policy changes. He appeals to stay alert even with covid cases reducing. (Source: PIB)

Media briefed on measures taken by Administration...

(Contd. from page 1)

Tribal Council for the help provided to A&N Administration.

The Director, ANIIMS, Dr. AK Mandal informed that a roster for 100 doctors has been created dividing them into 6 wards and there will be 3 doctors in 3 shifts in every ward. Apart from this, a roster has been prepared for all the paramedical staff too. This will be on a rotational basis and the shift will change every week, he said. He said Oxygen Monitoring Committee has been formed which will monitor the requirement of the oxygen and they will also audit the oxygen supply. The delay in the autopsy has been minimized to 2 to 3 hours now from the earlier 6 hours, he said.

The Director, Health Services, Dr. Omkar Singh informed that as per the protocol for the COVID patients, 80 percent COVID infection is mild in nature which can be treated at home with some medicines and precautions, while 15 percent people need oxygen support and only 5 percent people who become serious, needs ventilator support. He said there are patients who are in home isolation and they should not feel isolated. To take care of them, there are 10 to 12 doctors camping in DC Office from where they enquire about the condition of the patient time to time and the patients have been provided medicine kit also. The basic thing the patient should do is to take sufficient rest, keep themselves hydrated and always watch the saturation for which the District Office has provided pulse oximeter too.

The Director further stated that the Administration is having 400 Oxygen Concentrators and order has been placed for another 1500 Oxygen Concentrators. About the discharge of the patients after recovery, the DHS said that the Govt. has clearly said that if the patient is asymptomatic for three days he can be discharged from hospital and there is no need to test him further for COVID. It has been observed that even after discharge from Hospital some patients need oxygen support. For such patients, oxygen concentrators are provided to the patients so that he can use it staying at home. Altogether, 4 patients are being provided Oxygen Concentrators as per the advice of the doctors, the DHS said adding that excess use of oxygen without the knowledge of the doctors will damage the lungs.

The Nodal Officer, COVID, Dr. Avijit Roy said that the Administration has received 9070 doses of vaccine for inoculation of the same for 18+ beneficiaries. The Govt. has allotted 10,100 doses of vaccine as second quota for 18+ which will be received soon. As per the availability of vaccines in regular intervals we will increase the number of beneficiaries, he added. The online registration for the vaccination through CoWIN portal has already begun today. The vaccination for 300 registered beneficiaries will be done at JNRM from 9.30 am on May 19, 2021, he said.

Help Administration in its fight against COVID-19

Spot persons violating COVID appropriate behaviour

(Not wearing mask, not following social distancing norms etc.)

Click pictures of violators and inform through WhatsApp on A&N Police Helpline 3rd Eye Mobile no. 9531892228 or District Administration South Andaman 9531888844

Let's break the chain of transmission

#Together we win battle against COVID-19 pandemic in Isles

A&N Administration

COVID vaccination drive for 45+...

(Contd. from page 1)

so far in A&N Islands to, 117,748.

The district wise figure of administering of COVISHIELD doses to the eligible beneficiaries on May 18 by the Health Department states that in South Andaman, 134 persons above 45+ were administered the vaccine, in North & Middle Andaman District 5 persons and in Nicobar District 9 were vaccinated, a press release from DHS said.

Towards providing better service ...

(Contd. from page 1)

For effective implementation of this scheme, the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs has launched toll free number: 18003454445 (via Mobile) & number 14445 (via Landline) to address all the queries/grievances and to provide information related to entitlement of foodgrains under NFSA.

NFSA beneficiaries can register their queries/grievances by contacting over toll free number 18003454445 through their cell phone and toll free number 14445 through landline phone from 8.45 AM to 5 PM on all working days which will be addressed promptly by the Department.

In addition to this, the Government of India has launched a mobile App namely "Mera Ration" to facilitate the ONORC-related services among beneficiaries of the NFSA, particularly migrant beneficiaries, Fair Price Shops and other stakeholders. The App can be downloaded through Playstore App for the registration of migrant beneficiaries, checking of foodgrains entitlement as well as previous six months transactions along with status of Aadhaar seeding.

This attempt by the UT Administration will be a blessing for the NFSA migrant beneficiaries, and a leap ahead towards the direction of providing e-Governance for better service delivery to the citizens, a press release from Directorate of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs said.

COVID-19: "We shall overcome..."

(Contd. from page 1)

isolation ward, he said the Attenders were very kind and took care.

Answering query on "How you were able to cope the situation?" he said, "When I came to know that I have been tested positive on 26th April, 2021 for corona, I did not lose my heart, rather I was determined to fight this war and kept my will power high".

"What message you want to share with the people about your fight against corona"? a fully recovered Derick vehemently stated that there is no need to fear but what we need is early consultation with Doctor and take medication as per their advice. It's very important that people should not fear consulting Doctor and early diagnoses will save your as well as the lives of you loved ones. He also appealed to wear mask and maintain social distancing to protect oneself from the deadly virus.

DDK to telecast live phone in prog. on "Psychological challenges during COVID-19"

Port Blair, May 18

Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair will telecast a Doctors Speak live phone in programme on the topic "Psychological challenges during COVID-19" on May 19 from 1700 to 1800 hrs. In this programme, Dr. Kushal Kumar Baidya, Senior Resident, Psychiatry Department will be the expert. Viewers can participate in this programme on the topic by dialling 244745 / 9476046367, a press release received from Head of Programme, DDK said.

Let's Promote CHALLENGE

To Fight against COVID-19

Follow 3 EASY RULES

- Handwash
- Gargling
- Steam

Stay Protected! Stay Safe from Coronavirus

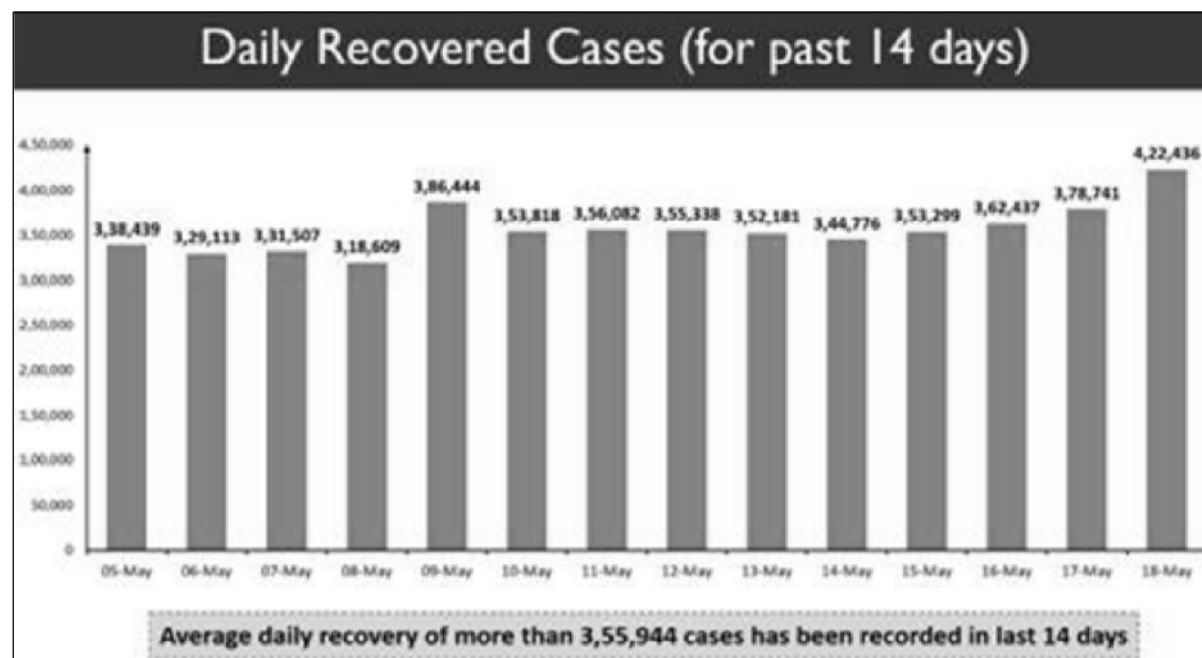
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
South Andaman District

Daily Recoveries more than 4 Lakh in the country, for the first time Less than 3 Lakh daily New Cases consecutively for two days Decline of 1,63,232 in Active Caseload in the last 24 hours India's Cumulative Vaccination Coverage exceeds 18.44 Crore More than 66 lakh beneficiaries of age group 18-44 Vaccinated, so far

In a landmark achievement, with the dedication and tireless effort of all the healthcare and frontline workers, India has recorded daily recoveries of more than 4 lakh COVID patients in a single day for the first time.

4,22,436 recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours.

Average Daily Recovery of more than 3,55,944 cases has been recorded in the last 14 days. The graph below depicts the Daily Recoveries in the last 14 days.



2,63,533 new cases were registered in the last 24 hours.

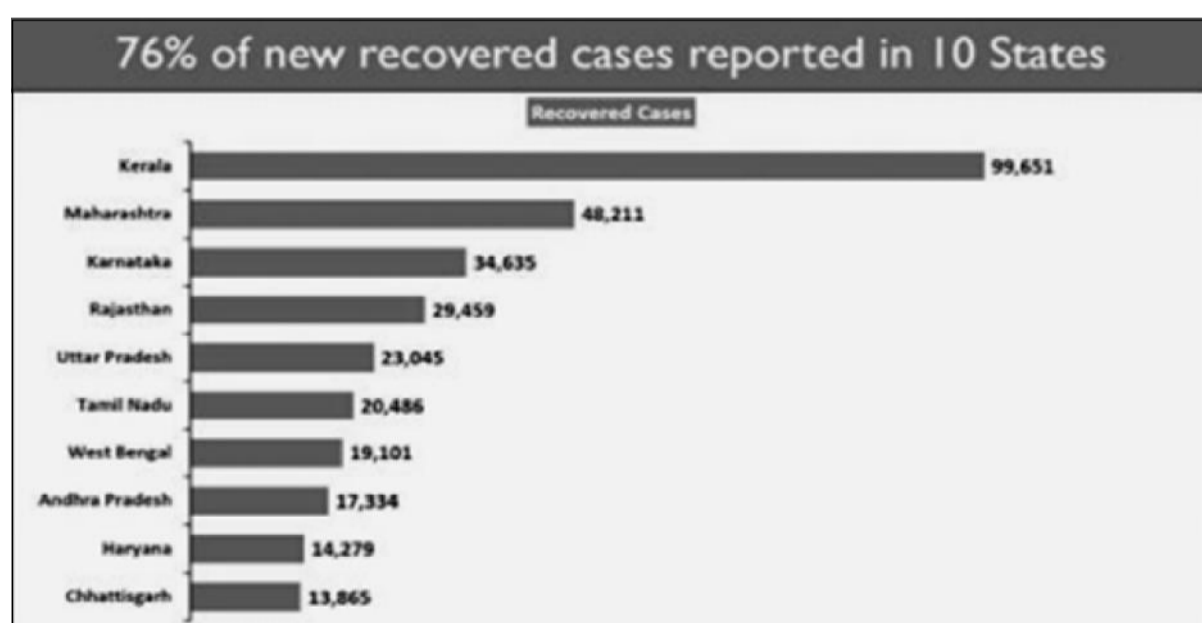
The daily new COVID cases being registered in India are now less than 3 Lakhs consecutively for the second day. A net decline of 1,63,232 cases is recorded in the active caseload in the last 24 hours.

India's daily new cases trajectory and recovered cases is depicted below since 13th March 2021.



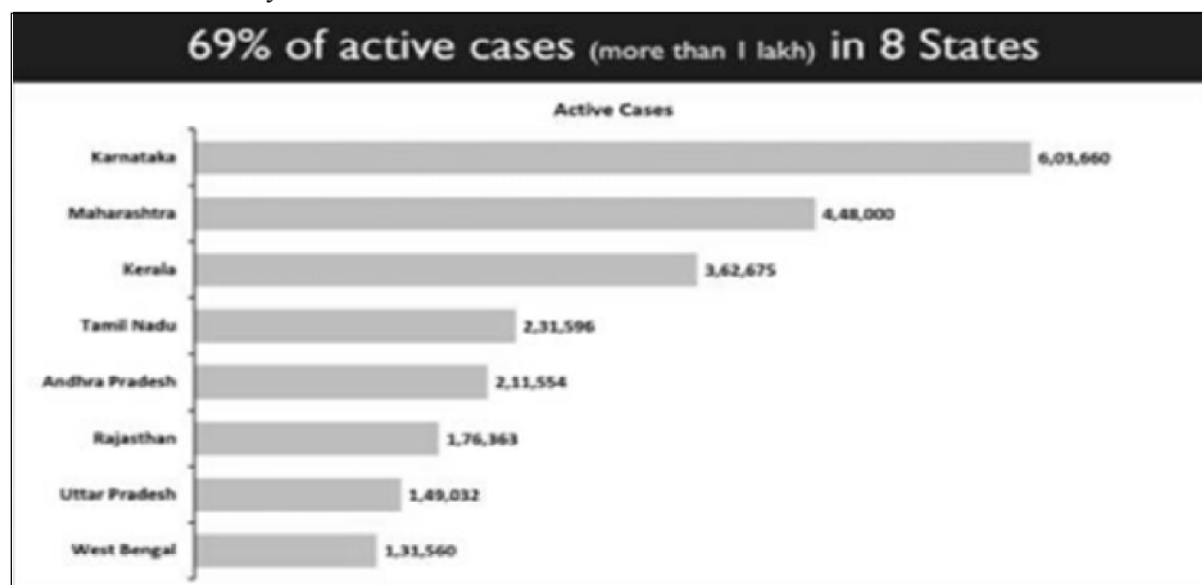
India's cumulative recoveries have reached **2,15,96,512** today. The National Recovery Rate has grown further to touch **85.60%**.

Ten states account for **75.77%** of the new recoveries.



On the other front, India's total Active Caseload has decreased to **33,53,765** today. It now comprises **13.29%** of the country's total Positive Cases.

8 States cumulatively account for **69.01%** of India's total Active Cases.

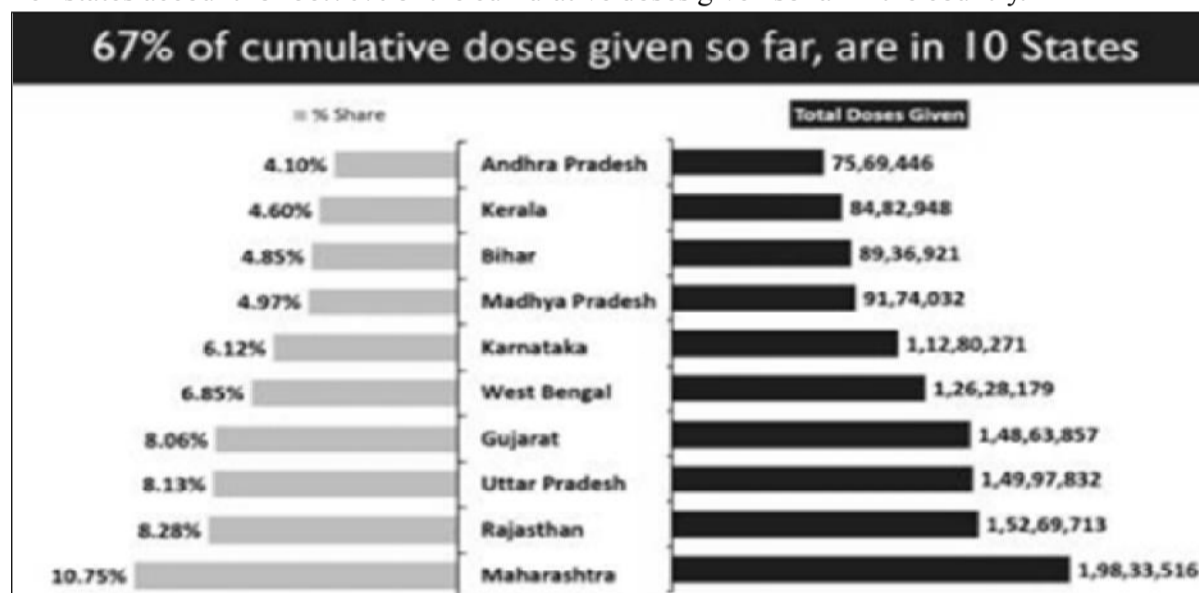


The cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has reached nearly **18.44 Cr** today under the Phase-3 of the nationwide Vaccination Drive.

A total of **18,44,53,149** vaccine doses have been administered through **26,87,638** sessions, as per the provisional report till 7 am today. These include **96,59,441** HCWs who have taken the 1st dose and **66,52,389** HCWs who have taken the 2nd dose, **1,45,00,303** FLWs (1st dose), **82,17,075** FLWs (2nd dose), **59,39,290** beneficiaries under 18-44 age group (1st dose), **5,76,64,616** (1st dose) and **92,43,104** (2nd dose) beneficiaries aged 45 to 60 years. **5,46,64,577** 1st dose beneficiaries and **1,79,12,354** 2nd dose beneficiaries of more than 60 years old.

HCWs	1 st Dose	96,59,441
	2 nd Dose	66,52,389
FLWs	1 st Dose	1,45,00,303
	2 nd Dose	82,17,075
Age Group 18-44 years	1 st Dose	59,39,290
Age Group 45 to 60 years	1 st Dose	5,76,64,616
	2 nd Dose	92,43,104
Over 60 years	1 st Dose	5,46,64,577
	2 nd Dose	1,79,12,354
Total		18,44,53,149

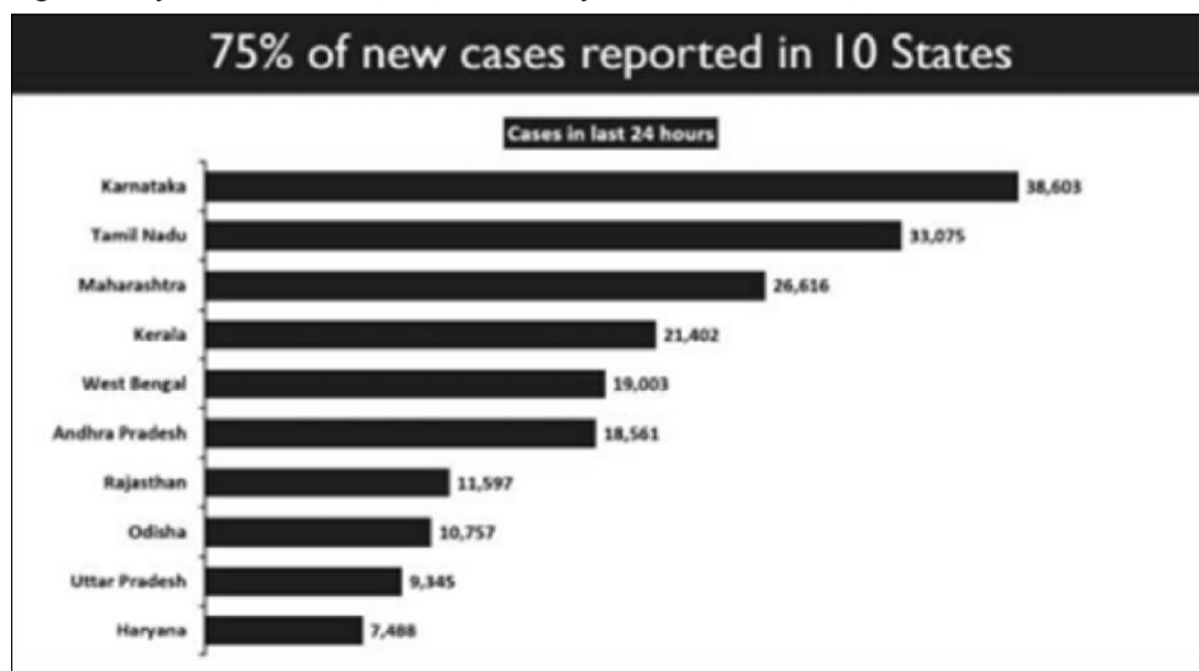
Ten states account for **66.70%** of the cumulative doses given so far in the country.



6,69,884 beneficiaries of the age group 18-44 years received their first dose of COVID vaccine in the last 24 hours and cumulatively **59,39,290** across 36 States/UTs since the start of phase-3 of vaccination drive.

As on Day-122 of the vaccination drive (17th May, 2021), **15,10,418** vaccine doses were given. Across **14,447** sessions, **12,67,201** beneficiaries were vaccinated for 1st dose and **2,43,217** beneficiaries received their 2nd dose of vaccine.

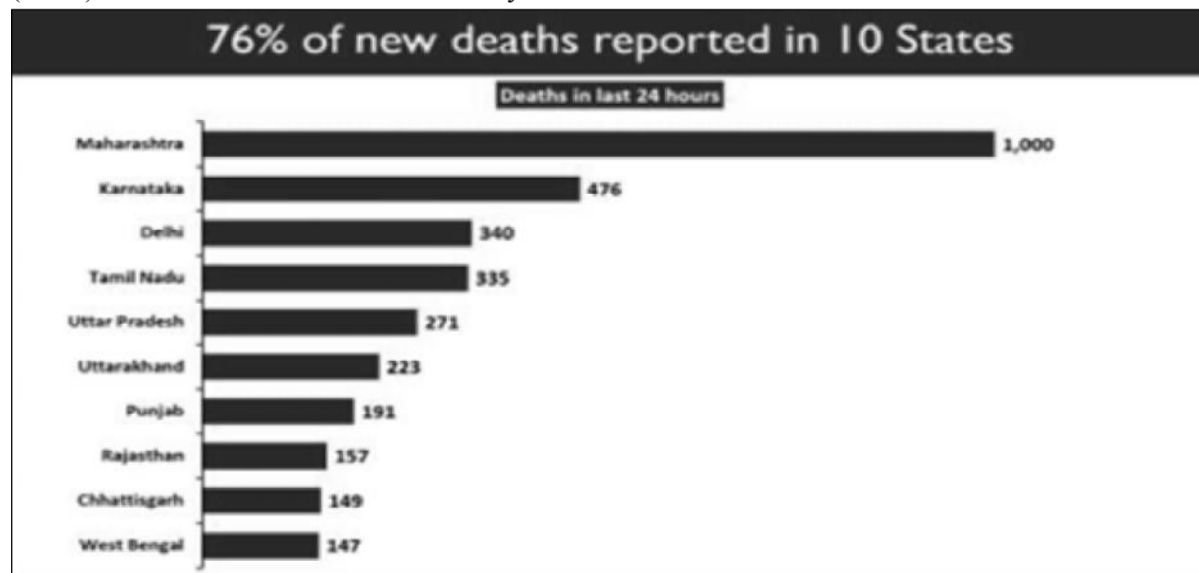
Ten States reported **74.54%** of the new cases in last 24 hours. Karnataka has reported the highest daily new cases at **38,603**, followed by Tamil Nadu with **33,075** new cases.



The National Mortality Rate currently stands at **1.10%**.

4,329 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

Ten States account for **75.98%** of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (1000). Karnataka follows with **476** daily deaths.



In addition, the foreign aid of relief materials continues to be swiftly cleared, apportioned and sent to States/UTs to combat COVID-19. Cumulatively, **11,321** Oxygen Concentrators; **15,801** Oxygen Cylinders; 19 Oxygen Generation Plants; **7,470** ventilators/Bi PAP; **~5.5 L** Remdesivir vials delivered/ dispatched through road and air, so far. (Source: PIB)

COVID-19: Maintain safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

DST institute develops new multiplex RT-PCR kit with novel gene targets to facilitate detection across various mutant strains of COVID 19

This unique RT-PCR kit will be a significant weapon in fight against COVID-19

New Delhi, May 18

A newly developed multiplex RT-PCR kit has a higher accuracy of detecting covid19 across the various mutant strains of the virus responsible for the global pandemic.

As the pandemic is going through a second wave with multiple variants, the selection of target genes in multiplex RT-PCR assay is becoming critical for accurate detection of the virus.

Even though coronaviruses make far fewer errors than other RNA viruses, the mutations in S, R, and N genes often interfere with RT-PCR assay. For example, the "variant of concern" B.1.1.7 (also known as the UK variant) has a 69-70del, due to deletion of 6 bases in the RNA, which resulted in S gene drop out from RT-PCR assay.

The new multiplex RT-PCR kit developed Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an Institute of National Importance under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India targets two SARS CoV2 genes: RdRp and ORFb-nsp14, and the human RNase P gene as the internal control to help detect a range of mutant strains.

Various studies have shown



that RdRp and ORF1b-nsp14 genes are more sensitive in detecting Covid19. In order to target the multiple variants in the second wave, using two highly accurate confirmatory genes like RdRp and ORF-nsp14, can give precise results. The ORFb-nsp14 is one of the least mutated genes in Covid19 and currently, there are no kits in the market with ORF-nsp14 as the target.

The new kit is based on multiplex Taqman chemistry, amplifying all three genes in a single reaction. The amplification time for the assay is 45 minutes, apart from the time required for the RNA isolation from nasopharyngeal swab samples. Multiplexing two confirmatory genes will help shortlist possible

new variants if one of the genes fails to amplify and can be marked for sequence analysis. ICMR has validated this kit at the National Institute of Virology, Pune, and found that it has 97.3% sensitivity and 100% specificity in covid19 detection.

SCTIMST has signed a non-exclusive license MoU with Huwel Lifesciences, Hyderabad, on 14th May 2021 to commercialize the kit. "This unique RT-PCR kit will be a significant weapon in our fight against COVID-19 by a facile detection of SARS-CoV-2 mutations which are becoming increasingly important," said Secretary, DST, Prof Ashutosh Sharma. (Source: PIB)

More than 18 crore and 44 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in the country so far

New Delhi, May 18

India has administered over 18 crore 44 lakh COVID vaccine doses to the beneficiaries so far. The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has said that over 15 lakh ten thousand vaccine doses were administered to the beneficiaries within 24 hours. As the third phase of vaccination drive is gaining momentum in the country, people are coming forward for vaccination. (Source: india.gov.in)



India witnesses declining trend in new COVID-19 cases; over 2 lakh 63 thousand new cases registered in last 24 hours

New Delhi, May 18

India is witnessing a declining trend in the number of active and fresh COVID-19 cases. However, several States and Union Territories are still registering a spike in the cases. The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has said that a record number of over four lakh 22 thousand patients have recovered from COVID-19 within 24 hours. The recovery rate has further improved to 85.60 per cent in the country. So far, over two crore 15 lakh patients have already recovered from this infectious disease.

The Health Ministry has said, the active cases comprise 13.29 per cent of the cumulative positive cases. It said, there are over thirty



three lakh 53 thousand active cases in the country at present. The country has registered over two lakh 63 thousand new COVID cases in the last 24 hours. The Health Ministry has said, a total of four thousand 329 deaths have been reported in the country within 24 hours, taking the toll to over two lakh

78 thousand across the country. Meanwhile, Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that over 18 lakh 69 thousand COVID tests were conducted in the previous day. So far, over 31 crore 82 lakh tests have already been conducted in the country. (Source: india.gov.in)

Notice Inviting e-Tenders

No. 130-DB/RCD/e-tender/2020-21/15 Wimberlygunj, Dt. 15/05/2021

The Executive Engineer, Road Construction Division, A.P.W.D., Wimberlygunj invites on behalf of the President of India online Item rate tenders from contractors open for all irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD works manual and with other GOI Organizations in these Island and do not have any adverse remarks: -

1. NIT No. 41/EE/RCD/APWD/WG/21-22 (Tender ID: 2021_APWD_3028_1).

Construction of 01 No. Integrated Science lab., 01 No. Art/ Craft room and 01 No. Computer room at Govt. Secondary School, Namunagar (D/S). Estimate Cost: Rs. 88,39,065/-, Time of completion: 08 (Eight) Months. Last date of Submission : 22/06/2021 at 3.00 PM and Opening date : 24/06/2021 at 10.00 AM.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website - <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Division
A.P.W.D., Wimberly Gunj

I.D. No. 7780

Ummat Public School, Austinabad

Invites application for the post of
PRINCIPAL

Ummat Public School, Austinabad is a senior secondary Co- Educational English Medium CBSE affiliated school offering quality education with focus on all round development of children.

The Aspirant must be:

- Post graduate with B.Ed in English Medium from a recognized University.
- A minimum of 3 years experience as Principal / Vice Principal in Senior Secondary School.
- A minimum of 10 years teaching experience in Senior Secondary School.
- Self-driven visionary educationist and able to provide dynamic, creative & motivational educational leadership.

Interested candidates, below the age of 55 years, may apply now before 31st May, 2021 with self attested copies of Education & Experience Certificate to the President, Islands Islamic Foundation, Austinabad / Email Id.: president.ummatps@gmail.com

However, hard copies be handed over to Smti. P. Vijayalakshmi, Principal, Ummat Public School, Austinabad.

Contact No. 9643525532, 9474271686 [Landline: 03192-261686 & 03192-230400]

President
Islands Islamic Foundation

OBITUARY



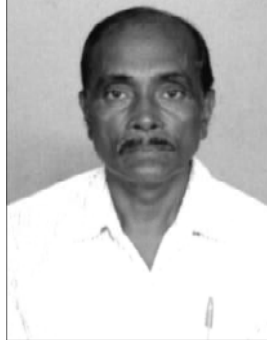
The Officers and Employees of the Executive Engineer, South Andaman Division, Electricity Department, Port Blair mourn the sudden demise of **Shri R. Sujit, Junior Engineer** attached to this Division on 18.05.2021 at Shaheed Dweep. He has joined as Junior Engineer in

the Electricity Department on 14.01.2011. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

May the Almighty God give eternal peace to the departed soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Executive Engineer (SA)

OBITUARY



SATYA NARAYAN
(Retd. PBSD, APWD)
R/o Bird Line
Date of Birth: 03-05-1955
Date of Death: 15-05-2021
Inserted by: Family Members

Heaven's Gain Heaven's Rejoice

"We know you would be with us. If heaven wasn't so far away"



ELANGO
June 16, 1965 - May 15, 2021
Inserted by: Family & Friends

OBITUARY



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and sudden demise of our beloved mother **Smti. KAMALA DHALI**, Retired OS, Panchayat Samiti, Diglipur, who breathed her last on 13.05.2021 at 2.20 PM at Diglipur. May the Almighty God give eternal peace to the departed soul and give courage to bear this irreparable loss. Inserted by: Shri Alok Kumar Dhali, S/o Shri Anil Kumar Dhali, R/o Madhupur 2, Diglipur, 9476035712 / 9434287003

OBITUARY



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform all about the sad demise of our beloved father **Shri G. Sreedharan Nair (Retd. Office Superintendent, A& N Admn.)** at 11.48 pm on 17th May, 2021 at Chennai. May his soul rest in peace. Inserted by: T. Indira (Wife), Sreenath, Sreekanth, Sreekanth (Sons), Bindu Sreenath, A.R. Sindhu, P.S. Sindhu (Daughter-in-laws) and Grandchildren.

CONSTRUCTION

All kinds of Building Plans & Constructions, Extensions & Part Constructions, Repairs & Maintenance. M/s NEEV, 75, JN Road, Haddo, Port Blair. Ph. 9733661890, 9434287520

FOR SALE

House for Sale at Garacharma near Ford Servicing Center, 125 Sq. mtrs., single patta House Site, Price 47 Lakhs. Contact us at 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Contact No. 7063956883 / 7063965778

LAND FOR SALE

Do you need Single Patta Land ? At Aniket, Diglipur & Chouldari Market Area. Contact: 9474213360, 9933251206

FOR SALE

TATA 407 for Sale. Interested people can Contact on Mobile No. 9962477143 / 9679521422

FOR SALE

Land for Sale. Interested people can contact: 9933284188 / 9962477143

FOR SALE

Land for Sale at Dhanikhari Junction, 200 Sq. mtrs. classification hilly, car reach in ur land, price 26 Lakhs. Genuine parties may Contact us at 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Contact No. 7063956883 / 7063965778

TO LET

1 BHK Fully Tiled, 24 hrs. water supply near Maruti Agency House, Garacharma. Contact No. 7063946270

TO LET

01 BHK Room, Fully Tiled, overhead water tank, available for Rent at Junglighat, Deen Street. Mobile: 9476014976 / 9476026792

TO LET

3 Nos. 2 BHK, Rent Rs.8000/- and 1 No. 3 BHK, Rent Rs.15000/-, fully tiled, available for rent near Bhatu Basti Ganesh Temple. Contact: 9933279282, 9476052795

TO LET

2 BHK Room fully tiled 24 hrs. Water in Ground Floor at Bhagat Singh Colony Sea Shore Road near Natural Park Haddo W. No. 2. Contact No. 9474248402

WANTED

Required a Lady Home Tutor for Class VI/IIth Standard at Hawaghar Junction. Contact between 6 PM & 7 PM. No. 9933226810 / 9434267698

OBITUARY



The Secretary (IP&T), Director (IP&T) and all the Staff of Directorate of IP&T deeply mourn the sudden and untimely demise of Smti. G. Susheela, TSM on 18/05/2021 at G. B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair due to Covid. She was 49 years old. She joined the Department of IP&T as a TSM on 01/06/1997.

May her soul rest in peace and we pray to the Almighty to give enough strength to her family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Assistant Director (Admn.)
Dte. of IP&T, Port Blair

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