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**Weather**

Dry weather most likely to prevail over Port Blair. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 32°C and 24°C respectively on Thursday 02/04/2020.

Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 32.1  
 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 24.6  
 Relative Humidity(%) at 0830 IST 055  
 Relative Humidity(%) at 1730 IST 064  
 Sunrise Time for tomorrow (in IST): 0515  
 Sunset Time for tomorrow (in IST): 1731  
 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)- in mm: 000.0  
 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0  
 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 1.3 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm

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Pages 4

## Health Minister reviews action, preparedness on COVID-19 with IMA

New Delhi, Apr 1 - Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today reviewed the action taken and preparedness on Novel Coronavirus with Indian Medical Association at a high level meeting through video conferencing in New Delhi. During the meeting, he reviewed the preparedness and concerns of medical staff across the country related to COVID-19. They were informed about the current scenario in the country, various guidelines, treatment and protocols. Doctors from States including Delhi, Kerala, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, Telangana and Uttarakhand participated in the video conferencing.

(Contd. on last page)

## Calcutta High Court appreciates efforts of A&N Administration in containing spread of COVID-19 in A&N Islands

### Constitutes Sub-Committees for North & Middle Andaman, Little Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands; issues directions

Port Blair, Apr 1

While disposing off a Writ Petition with regard to COVID-19 - Relief and services at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the double bench of High Court at Calcutta comprising of Chief justice Thottathil B Radhakrishnan and Justice Dipankar Datta appreciated the efforts of the A&N Administration in containing the spread of COVID-19 as well as maintenance of supplies of essentials commodities in the Islands.

The Court commented "the efforts and initiatives of the Administration, in these trying times need to be appreciated instead of picking bits and pieces of faults/ remissness, here and there in working out the relief programmes and highlighting the same for condemnation. A problem of such magnitude as the present one, was never visualized. The misery is compounded by reason of what the CS says, and correctly so, 'a fight against the unseen enemy'". The Court also recorded their prima facie satisfaction with regard to whatever has been attempted and achieved in respect of

containment of the disease and its spread as well as maintenance of supplies of essential commodities by the Administration.

While appreciating the efforts made by the A&N Administration, the Court also thrust upon the need for the Executive, the Judiciary and the Civil Society to work hand in hand to avert any further disaster which might spell doom for the Islands.

The directions of the Court inter-alia encourage home/door to door delivery of essential commodities and medicines. It also advised the Administration to strictly implement social distancing norms. The Court also did not adversely comment on local restrictions imposed by the Administration which includes limitation on movements including issue of POL.

The Court also ordered for constituting three separate Sub-Committees for North & Middle Andaman, Little Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands which would report to the Court about the essential supplies as well as other directions given in the Order.

## CBSE to conduct class 10, 12 exams only for 29 subjects, to promote all class 1-8 students amid COVID-19 situation

New Delhi, Apr 1 - In view of COVID-19 outbreak, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct class 10 and 12 examinations only for 29 main subjects which are crucial for promotion and admission to higher educational institutions.

Development Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, he has advised the board in this regard. He said, for rest of the subjects, CBSE will not hold board exams and instructions for their marking, assessment will be issued soon.

He has also directed Human Resource

students of classes one to eight to the next class in view of COVID-19 situation. The Minister said, the students of class 9 and 11 will be promoted to the next class based on the school-based assessments including projects, periodic tests and term exams

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## COVID 19; No new case reported in A&N Islands

- ❖ 160 tests conducted so far; ❖ 10 positive,
- ❖ 127 negative, ❖ results for 23 awaited

### 357 persons under institutional quarantine & 1296 under home quarantine

Port Blair, Apr 1

The designated laboratory for COVID-19 in A&N Islands, RMRC-ICMR, Dollygunj was submitted 23 samples of suspected cases on 31.03.2020 out of which, test results of all 23 persons reported by the lab were declared negative. The Health Department has submitted 23 more samples on 01.04.2020 of suspected cases and their results are awaited from the Lab. It is pertinent to mention that till date, the UT has conducted test of 160 persons, out of which, test reports of 10 persons are found positive, 127 negative and 23 results are

awaited. The health condition of all 10 positive tested persons are normal and stable.

Yesterday, the supply position of essential safety equipments also improved in the Islands. The Air India flight and Army Cargo Plane yesterday brought 5.5 lakhs 3ply

Mask, 550 Personal Protection Equipments, 90000 hand gloves, 8500 Liters of Sanitizers, 5000 N95 Masks, 109 boxes of Dialyzer and 03 boxes of Ventilator accessories. Moreover, 2000 PPE, 10000 kg bleaching powder and 3750 Ltr. Hypochlorite solution are

also being transported through DSS ship from Chennai.

Presently, 357 persons are under institutional quarantine in 18 Guests Houses/ Private Hotels who are primarily passengers of flights landed in Port Blair on 24.03.2020 and also

contacts of confirmed cases. Besides, 1296 people are under home quarantine. Till date, the Administration kept 2120 persons under home quarantine/institutional quarantine, out of which, 521 persons have successfully completed

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### APPEAL

As we move into the ninth day of the general lockdown imposed all over the county to fight against the threat posed by COVID-19, it is my earnest appeal to all the residents of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to come together to contain the spread of Corona virus.

Andaman and Nicobar Police is committed towards effectively enforcing the lockdown and social distancing. 24/7 Elaborate security and law & order arrangements have been made on ground to ensure implementation of MHA guidelines in true letter and spirit. But this enforcement cannot be fully achieved without the pro-active and sincere participation of every resident of our Island territory.

I urge all the citizens to scrupulously follow the directions and guidelines issued by the Government/ Administration. "Social-distancing", which is the key to "breaking the chain" to contain the pandemic, must be consciously adhered to by everyone at all times.

I implore the public to not go outside their homes unless it is highly essential or there is an emergency. Similarly, private vehicle must not be used except for the emergent situation.

Those persons, who have been advised to remain quarantined in their homes must follow the laid-down protocol and government guidelines.

Andaman and Nicobar Police have also been making extensive announcements in the area to inform and educate people about the orders and guidelines. I exhort everyone to carefully listen to and follow these directions.

It must be kept in mind that strict legal action, including registration of criminal case, will be initiated against wilful violators.

I request the residents to stay safe, stay healthy and stay at home. Let us fight together and break the chain of Corona pandemic and keep our Andaman & Nicobar Islands safe.

Sd/-

**Dependra Pathak**

Director General of Police  
A&N Islands

## COVID 19; Protection & safety of PWDs Counseling & sensitization for Divyangjans by Social Welfare Deptt.

Port Blair, April 1

In view of the prevailing pandemic situation due to the outbreak and rapid spread of COVID-19, the following measures have been taken by Social Welfare Department to give focused attention for the protection and safety of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during this period:-

- ❖ Counselling to Divyangjan on 24x7 basis shall be provided by Department of Social Welfare through Phone

Numbers: 9434264646 & 9933238164.

- ❖ Nodal Officer (Disabilities) with number 9933296612 shall attend to queries of Divyangjan on 24x7 basis.

- ❖ Director, Social Welfare being the State Commissioner, Disabilities, shall be the State Nodal authority in respect of Divyangjan.

- ❖ 20 Sign Language Interpreters with Education Department shall sensitize the speech

and hearing impaired Divyangjan about all information related to COVID-19, services being offered by A&N Administration and the precautions needed.

- ❖ Health Department will ensure priority in treatment to Divyangjan.

- ❖ Employees with blindness and other severe disabilities may be exempted from essential services work during the period as they can easily catch infection.

## MP accords consent for utilization of Rs. 1.16 Crore from MPLAD fund

### DCSA sanctions Rs. 99 lakhs for purchase of essential medical supplies

Port Blair, April 1

The Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, with a view to support the fight against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in these Islands has given his consent to utilize an amount of Rs. 116 lakhs (Rs. 1.16 Crore) from MPLAD fund for procurement of medical equipments necessary for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Considering the emergent need of augmenting the medical facilities in the Islands for treatment of COVID-19 infected patients in the Islands, the Deputy

Commissioner South Andaman has accorded administrative approval and expenditure sanction of Rs. 99 lakhs in favour of Director, Disaster Management, A&N Administration for purchase of essential medical supplies which include

Microprocessor and in emergency situation, Cardiac Monitor, Syringe Pumps, X-Ray Machine 100 MA, KU Beds etc. These medical equipments will not only be useful during this emergency situation but also after the end of

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## District Admn. extends home deliveries to 262 quarantined households

Port Blair, Apr 1

As a part of providing services to the home quarantine persons during this lockdown period, the District Administration with the assistance of Apt Logistics Pvt. Ltd, a local service provider, has been providing home

deliveries by fulfilling their needs of groceries, drinking water, medicines and vegetables following the COVID 19 protocol. The agency has been provided space in the District Office for operating their service to facilitate the home quarantine person/

family. The service was started on Mar 29, 2020 and till date 262 quarantined households within the PBMC have been attended and provided these items, strictly following the COVID-19 Protocols, a communication from the DCSA said.



Port Blair, April 1

As a preventive measure against the spread of Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-



Port Blair, April 1

19), all Anganwadi Centres under A&N Administration are closed with effect from March 16, 2020 till further

orders. During this lockdown period, non-supply of nutritional food items to the children, lactating and nursing mothers may lead to large-scale malnourishment. This will affect their well being.

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**DO NOT PAY HEED TO RUMOURS ON CORONA VIRUS: CLARIFY YOUR DOUBTS BY DIALING STATE HELPLINE NO: 03192-232102**

# Finance Minister participates in 2<sup>nd</sup> G20 meeting

New Delhi, Apr 1 Finance Minister Smti Nirmala Sitharaman today participated in the 2nd Extraordinary G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy and coordinate efforts in response to this global challenge.

Smti Sitharaman appreciated the Saudi Presidency for organizing these meetings which provide opportunity to all G20 members to not only share their individual experiences but also to work in better coordination.

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors during the 1st Extraordinary Virtual G20 FMCBG Meeting held on March 23 had decided to meet virtually on a regular basis to continue discussions on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impact on markets and economic conditions and take further actions to support the economy during and after this phase.

This meeting was held to follow up on discussion of the 1st virtual meeting as well as to discuss the follow-up in line with the statement made by G20 Leaders during the G20



Virtual Leaders Summit held on March 26. During the summit, the Leaders had tasked G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to deliver a G20 Action Plan in Response to COVID-19, in close cooperation with relevant international organizations.

The Finance Minister supported the proposed G20 Action Plan and emphasized that such an exercise would provide an opportunity for immense cross learning and critical insights. Referring to the G20 Leaders statement, regarding regulatory and supervisory measures,

she emphasized the importance of ensuring that the financial system continues to support and quickly revive the economy. Finance Minister made specific interventions on reviewing and enhancing the IMF toolkit and further expanding the swap line network. She suggested that IMF can develop innovative and ingenious methods to meet COVID-19 related financing requirements given that policy space is severely constrained in most countries in these unprecedented circumstances.

On the issue of swap

arrangements, Smti Sitharaman encouraged IMF to use its existing resources to create a non-stigmatised short-term liquidity swap facility which could be rapidly deployed as and when needed by the countries. She also emphasized upon the need to allow flexibility for countries to engage in new lines of bilateral swap arrangements as per requirements.

During her intervention, Smti Sitharaman also briefly shared with her G20 counterparts the efforts being made by Government of India to deal with COVID-19 crisis, including the recently announced relief package of 1.7 trillion rupees for the poor, the emergency health fund of 150 billion rupees, along with several other monetary, fiscal and regulatory measures taken to address the economic and social concerns of those most impacted by the crisis.

their quarantine period and they have been released from the quarantine. The Administration is closely observing the health conditions of these people by asking about their health conditions daily by contacting them on telephone two times in a day. Teams of Medical officers are also constituted to monitor their health condition on daily basis. In case, they develop any symptoms of cough, cold and fever, their samples will be taken and send to designated laboratory RMRC-ICMR, Dollygunj for testing. All people of the Islands, have been therefore requested to inform Health Department on its helpline 102 in case they observe any symptoms of cold, cough and fever in the home quarantine persons. The general public have also been requested to cooperate with the ongoing house to house screening of suspected cases in Port Blair and remain in their houses during the Lock Down period to ensure prevention of spread of the virus in the Islands, a communication from the Principal Secretary (Health) said here today.

# Migrant workers not be evacuated by employers or landlords: Home Ministry

New Delhi, Apr 1 Government has asked migrant workers to remain at their regular place of work or local residence within the city during the lockdown period arising out of COVID-19 pandemic. In an advisory, Home Ministry said they will not be evacuated either by their employer or landlord. The advisory stated that as some migrant workers have already moved in groups and either reached their destination or in transit, the health actions would be based on the locations where they are

currently located. In case of congregation of migrant workers in bus stations and railway stations their names, local residential and permanent addresses and mobile numbers shall be recorded. The district health administration will depute a team and thermal screening of all such persons shall be done by this team. Persons suffering from fever with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 shall be referred to designated COVID-19 treatment hospital for isolation and testing.

Those who do not exhibit any such symptoms would undergo a risk profiling. Those who are above 60 years or have co-morbidities would be shifted to quarantine facility. Others would undergo home quarantine for 14 days. In case of migrant workers who are on their way and yet to reach their destination city or village, quarantine centres will be set up. A record of all workers assigned to a particular quarantine facility shall be kept. The contact number of

administrator or any subordinate officer will be displayed for the persons being quarantined to report their grievances. All quarantined persons will undergo daily medical examination for appearance of symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. Those found to be symptomatic shall be referred to designated hospital for isolation and testing. If the person tests positive, all close contacts shall be segregated and tested as per ICMR testing guidelines.

### Health Minister reviews ....

(Contd. from page 1) situation with the top officials of concerned Ministries, Departments and States. The Minister reviewed the status of the preparedness in terms of availability of beds, isolation wards, laboratory readiness for high test volumes. He also exhorted Indian Medical Association and its regional members to make a task force and take proactive role in helping the official machinery at state, district and local levels. He again appealed to the nation that the doctors and health care workers should not be ostracized or targeted instead they should be lauded for their efforts in helping the public at large.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan also informed about the recently published TeleMedicine guidelines under which a doctor can provide guidance over telephone and give digital preion. He reiterated the resolve and said that the government is committed to preventing the spread of COVID-19, and it will take all extreme and pre-emptive steps available to stop its spread. He urged the people to respect the lockdown as an effective intervention to curb the spread of COVID-19 transmission.

### COVID-19; Social Welfare... (Contd. from page 1)

immunity and they would become prone to catch the infection. In view of this, the A&N Administration has taken a conscious decision to distribute raw ration articles as per the entitled scale at their door steps. Accordingly, the 1st round of distribution of raw ration articles for next one month is underway from Mar 27, 2020, a communication from Director (SW), said here.

### CBSE to conduct... (Contd. from page 1)

conducted so far. Those Class 9 and 11 students not promoted this time, can appear in school based tests online or offline.

### 74 flights operated till date under Lifeline UDAN initiative

New Delhi, Apr 1 Under Lifeline UDAN initiative of Ministry of Civil Aviation, 74 flights have been operated till date for transporting medical cargo across the country. A total of 37.63 tonnes of cargo has been transported till date, out of which more than 22 tonnes was transported yesterday.

### MP accords ....

(Contd. from page 1) COVID-19, as the same will be useful for the Islanders for their health & safety during treatments for a longer time, an official communication said here today.

Help us to help you

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

### When to wear a Mask?

## Everyone NEED NOT WEAR a mask!

Only wear a mask if

- You have symptoms (Cough, fever or difficulty in breathing)
- You are caring for a COVID-19 suspect/confirmed patient
- You are a health-worker attending to patients with respiratory symptoms

While wearing a mask, make sure you:

 Unfold the pleats of the mask; make sure that they are facing down.	 Place the mask over your nose, mouth and chin and ensure there are no gaps on either side of the mask, adjust to fit.	 Avoid touching the mask, while using it.	 Do not leave the mask hanging from the neck.
 Change the mask after six hours or as soon as they become wet.	 Never reuse disposable masks and dispose the used masks into closed bins after disinfecting them.	 Do not touch the potentially contaminated outer surface of the mask, while removing it.	 After removal of mask, clean your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub disinfectant.

## Together we can fight COVID-19!

1075 (Toll Free) | 011-23978046

Email at [ncov2019@gmail.com](mailto:ncov2019@gmail.com)

For further information call Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India's 24X7 control room number

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