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Country is now better prepared to fight COVID pandemic: PM

New Delhi, May 26

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has asserted that the Country is now better prepared to fight the COVID pandemic as over the time a better understanding to strengthen the strategies against it has evolved. Delivering his keynote address on the occasion of Virtual Vesak Global Celebrations through video conference on Buddha Purnima today, Shri Modi said the country now has vaccines which are important to save lives and defeat the pandemic. Lauding the efforts of scientists who worked on the COVID-19 vaccines, he extended his gratitude towards all frontline & healthcare workers, doctors & nurses who



He remarked that this once in a life-time pandemic has brought tragedy and suffering at the door-step of many and has impacted every nation. He added the economic impact left by the pandemic is huge and our planet will not be the same after COVID-19. The Prime Minister said that while fighting COVID-19, one must not lose sight of the

selflessly risk their lives every day to serve others in need. The Prime Minister also expressed condolences to all those who have lost their dear ones during the pandemic. (Contd. on last page)

A&N Islands, Odisha, West Bengal much-affected places due to Cyclone 'Yaas': IMD

New Delhi, May 26

Director General, IMD Shri Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, Odisha recorded highest rainfall and sea waves of two to four-meter high were recorded in North Odisha and adjoining districts of West Bengal. He said, due to cyclone

Yaas, huge rainfall was recorded. Shri Mohapatra said, the track length of Cyclone Tautae was one thousand 800 kilometre while cyclone the track length of Yaas is one thousand Kilometre. (Source: india.gov.in)

Media briefing on COVID-19 in A&N Islands held Administration may resort to complete lockdown, in case the COVID situation does not improve: Secretary (IP&T)

Port Blair, May 26

An analysis of data indicates that people are still not serious about following COVID protocols despite repeated pleas. About 125 challans were imposed on COVID violators yesterday. The number of positive cases although has shown a bit of decline but there is no significant improvement in the situation. This was stated by the Secretary (IP&T), Shri Sunil Kumar Singh briefing media about COVID-19 in A&N Islands in the conference hall of IP&T here this evening. He



observed that the Administration is very concerned about this situation and if people don't cooperate, then the Administration will be left with no other option and will be forced to go for complete lockdown. He said, this situation should not happen and once again reiterated that people should

strictly adhere to COVID protocols viz. wearing of mask, maintaining social distancing etc. A strict vigil is maintained on violators and is taken note of and based on the report, future course of action will be decided, he said.

passengers arrived. He informed that RTPCR test was done and the report is awaited (at the time of the press conference). He further mentioned that it has been decided to check passengers for COVID-19 with Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) instead of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), as RTPCR is considered more accurate laboratory method for detecting COVID-19 infections.

The Secretary further stated that today 2 flights with 283

Meanwhile, during the RAT test conducted on 27 passengers (Contd. on last page)

Medical assistance to expectant mothers Dial 24x7 Whatsapp Helpline No. 9354954224 for emergency medical aid

Port Blair, May 26

The National Commission for Women is concerned about difficulties being faced by pregnant women in assessing medical assistance and has launched a Whatsapp Helpline No. 9354954224 for

providing medical assistance to expectant mothers from across the country. The expectant mothers can reach out to the Commission through the Helpline which is functional round the clock. A dedicated team at the Commission is looking

after speedy redressal of the request/grievances received from pregnant women for availing emergency medical aid. The Commission can also be reached on the e-mail ID, helpatncw@gmail.com. Any pregnant women

facing difficulty in assessing medical assistance may approach the National Commission for women through Whatsapp Helpline Number or e-mail ID of the Commission, a press release received from Director (SW) said.

4258 beneficiaries in the age group of 18-44 years vaccinated till date in Isles Total of 1,22,608 doses of vaccines administered

Port Blair, May 26

The vaccination drive is continuing smoothly in A&N Islands and so far, a total of 4258 eligible people in the age group of 18 to 44 years were vaccinated till date. As per the data received, altogether, 315 persons in the age group of 18 to 44 years were vaccinated in South Andaman today while 282 persons were vaccinated in North &



Middle Andaman. Similarly, a total of 617 beneficiaries both in the age group of 18-44 years and 45 and above were vaccinated today. In

South Andaman, 335 beneficiaries were vaccinated while in North and Middle Andaman, 282 people were inoculated. With

this, a total of 1,22,608 doses of vaccines have been administered so far in A&N Islands. (Contd. on last page)

Self Employment opportunity through PMEGP Interested persons may submit applications to DIC for availing benefit under the scheme

Port Blair, May 26

The Government of India has been implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) with the objectives to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas through setting up of new self-employment ventures, projects and micro enterprises. The purpose of the Scheme is for setting up of eligible viable activities. The nature of credit



facility is Term Loan & Cash Credit facility only for new projects sanctioned specifically under the scheme. Any individual, above 18 years of age are eligible under the scheme. There will be no income ceiling for assistance for setting up

projects under PMEGP. The beneficiaries should be at least VIII pass for setting up of project costing above Rs.10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs.5 lakh in the business and service sector under the scheme. The rates of

subsidy are 15% for the general category and 25% for the special category in urban area. Whereas 25% for the general category and 35% for the special category in rural area.

The contribution of the beneficiaries is 10% for the General category and 5% for the special category. The maximum amount admissible under manufacturing sector is Rs. 25 lakh and under business and service (Contd. on last page)

COVID-19: "We shall overcome...." "Myself, wife & daughter recovered"; says COVID survivor attributing their recovery to Doctors & Paramedical Staff of GB Pant Hospital

Port Blair, May 26

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19, a number of people have been infected with the virus and at the same time, many have recovered. Some people, who have recovered from the infection, are sharing their stories of

recovery. Three members of a family who were infected and were admitted at GB Pant Hospital attributed their recovery from this deadly virus solely due to the relentless and dedicated efforts of Doctors and other paramedical staff of the

Hospital. Narrating their recovery from this virus, the head of the family, Shri Radhakrishnan, R/o Nayagaon said on the very next day of symptoms of fever, he alongwith his wife visited GB Pant Hospital on April 12 and

consulted a doctor. The Doctor advised them to go for RTPCR test and in the test it was found that both were positive. Upon their being tested positive, both were admitted at COVID Ward in GB Pant Hospital. The other (Contd. on last page)

A tale of COVID warrior "Humane approach" of Doctors of GB Pant Hospital in attending critical patient hailed

Port Blair, May 26

The country is battling a virus that has devastated hundreds of families and Doctors are Covid warriors fighting the biggest battle of our lives. Many of the stories of humanitarian gesture by Doctors can be seen in social media. Amid this pandemic, a critical patient who was taken

to GB Pant Hospital for immediate medical attention was taken care of by the doctors of the Hospital and has now fully recovered. In a facebook post, one such humane gesture by the duty doctor and specialist is being hailed. The narration of the story by Ms Maria Sheela through her facebook account is

reproduced for the readers. She states in her post... Everyone around is so scared and almost depressed after losing their loved ones, maybe a family member, friend or someone from the extended family. 18-05-2021 was an unusual day for me. I woke up and saw that my dad was not keeping well.

His stomach was all bloated up, we checked his saturation which was 92. With no other option left we took him to G. B. Pant Hospital. My dad has been suffering from diabetes for over 20 years now, hypertension and also suffers from heart ailments. We rushed him to casualty, his BP (Contd. on last page)

Tweets on COVID-19 Management by Administration

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

FOLLOW COVID Appropriate Behaviours

Hand wash

Hands-free greetings

Face-cover/mask

No spitting

Badalkar Apna Vyavahar, Karein Corona Par Vaar

COVID ALERT

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

- Total number of active cases in India: 2495591
- Deaths in India: 311388
- Total no of active cases in Andaman since 1.03.2021: 220
- Total Deaths since 1.03.2021: 46
- Surge in a single day: 23

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 नोबल कोरोना वायरस रोग (COVID-19)
(No. 422/26th May 2021)
COVID-19 STATUS OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS AS ON 26.05.2021

> Status of Cases :

Second Wave since: 01.03.2021	
Active new case in last 24 Hours	23
Discharges in last 24 hours	29
Total confirmed cases	1907
Total Discharges	1641
Total Active case as on date	220
Total Deaths during second wave	46

Cumulative since March 2020

Details	On 25 th May 2021	On 26 th May 2021	Total
Confirmed Cases	6878	23	6901
Cured/Discharged from Hospital	6544	29	6573
Death	106	02	108

*Includes 12 positives from Airport arrival.
> Clinical Management of Cases :

Name of District	Isolation Beds Available	Occupied	Vacant
North & Middle Andaman	286	06	280
South Andaman	5583	214	5369
Nicobar	507	00	507
Total	6376	220	6156

Total 13 containment zone formed in South Andaman District
> Status of Sample and Testing:

Total Samples sent till date	384188
Total Reports received till date	384188
Total Pending Reports	0
Rate of Testing Per Million	960470
Test Positivity Rate	1.80%

COWIN 1.0
> Vaccination Status

Total population	4,00,000	--
Target Beneficiaries	2,81,603(Approx)	--
Cumulative Beneficiaries vaccinated so far	1,22,608	--
Cumulative Beneficiaries vaccinated with 1 st Dose so far	1,05,249	37.37
Cumulative Beneficiaries vaccinated with 2 nd Dose so far	17,359	16.49
% of population vaccinated	--	26.31

> Passengers screened at VSI Airport & Haddo Wharf

Details	From 25 th May 2020 to 25 th May 2021	On 26 th May 2021	Total
Incoming Passengers			
a) VSI Airport	239987	297	240284
b) Haddo Wharf	1032	0	1032
Outward Passengers			
a) VSI Airport	252305	133	252438
b) Haddo Wharf	928	0	928

(On 26.05.2021, 283 passengers were retested by RTPCR at Airport)
24x7 CONTROL ROOM NUMBERS: 240126/ 232102 / 1077/ 1070
(Source: Directorate of Health Services)

Country is now better prepared to fight COVID ...

(Contd. from page 1)

other challenges faced by humanity like climate change, terror and radicalisation. He announced that India is among the few large economies to be on track to achieve their Paris targets. He said for India, sustainable living is not only about the right words but also about the right actions.

The Prime Minister remarked that the life of Gautama Buddha was about peace, harmony and co-existence. But today, there are still forces whose existence depends on spreading hate, terror and mindless violence. He said such forces do not believe in liberal democratic principles and thus gave a call for all those who believe in humanity to come together and defeat terror and radicalisation. The Prime Minister said Lord Buddha was the reservoir of brilliance for the entire universe. From him we all could draw light from time to time and take the path of compassion, universal responsibility and welfare.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi "Buddha taught us to defy appearances and trust in the final triumph of Truth and Love" the Prime Minister urged everyone to renew their commitment to the ideals of Lord Buddha. The event was organised by the Culture Ministry in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and witnessed participation of all the supreme heads of the Buddhist Sanghas from around the world. (Source: india.gov.in)

SK Jaiswal takes charge as Director of CBI

New Delhi, May 26
Shri Subodh Kumar Jaiswal today took charge as the Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He has been appointed as Director for a period of two years. Shri Jaiswal, a 1985 batch IPS Officer of Maharashtra cadre, was selected by a high-powered



committee led by Prime Minister. Shri Jaiswal also worked as Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Media briefing on COVID-19 in A&N...

(Contd. from page 1)

bound for inter Island, tested at Ferrargunj no cases of COVID-19 have been reported. Regarding vaccination, the Secretary said altogether, 335 beneficiaries were vaccinated in South Andaman District, out of which 315 were in the age group 18-44 years while the remaining 20 were above 45+.

Giving details about the number of patients admitted in GB Pant Hospital, the Director, ANIMS, Dr. AK Mandal disclosed that 75 COVID positive cases are presently undergoing treatment in the Hospital. Today, 5 COVID patients were discharged and 12 patients have been admitted. He said 64 patients are on Oxygen support and 4 are on ventilators.

The Deputy Director, G.B. Pant Hospital, Shri Amitabha De said that in the three COVID Care Centres setup in A&N Islands, no fresh cases have been admitted today while 6 persons were discharged. Presently, 25 persons are being taken care of in these three COVID Care Centres. In COVID Care Centre at Wimberlygunj, 7 persons are undergoing treatment and no new patient has been admitted today.

The Director, IP&T, Shri Alok Kumar also attended the press conference.

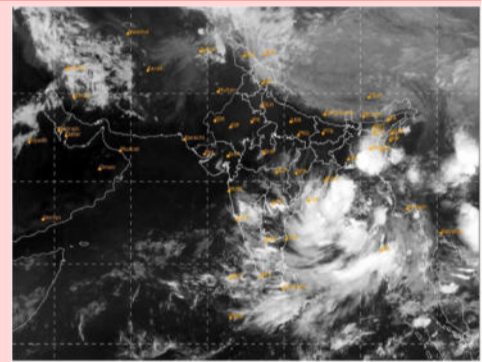
Heavy rain, thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind likely to occur over A&N Islands

Port Blair May 26

Heavy rain (7-11cm) is likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Islands on May 27 and 28, 2021. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph is also likely to occur.

On May 29 and 30, heavy rain (7-11cm) is likely to occur at one or two places over A&N Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind with speed reaching 30-40 kmph is also likely to occur.

Fisherman Warning: Due to strong South-West Monsoon over South Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, wind speed is likely to



exceed 45 kmph. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea till further information.

For further enquiries/information contact State helpline of Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No. 1070 & District Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No. 1077. For any emergency/assistance at sea, call Coast Guard SAR Agency at Toll Free number 1554, a press release from Directorate of Disaster Management quoting IMD said.

4258 beneficiaries in the age...

(Contd. from page 1)

online registration for the vaccination is done through CoWIN portal and Aarogya Setu App. Online registration is mandatory and no on-site registration is being done and people have been advised to reach the centres as per the time schedule provided to the beneficiaries through the App. In South Andaman, the vaccination is being done at JNRM Vaccination Centre between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. The general public has been requested to follow COVID Appropriate Behavior while going for vaccination, a press release from DHS 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

A tale of COVID warrior ... (Contd. from page 1)

was 210/170. Doctor kept him under observation after giving him an injection and a medicine and asked me to meet the specialist as his BP was too high. The duty doctor (Ps, I tried hard to get his name but couldn't) was just getting back home then and saw me and my dad waiting outside room no 2. He came and asked my dad if he had any pain in his chest. When my dad told No, the Doc was not convinced and he immediately wrote for Trop T test, the result for which came after 20 mints (negative).

Actual hero is yet to be introduced " The SPECIALIST." I saw another man walking into room no 2. With the Steth around his neck I knew he's a Doc. I went inside and told him that Dad's waiting out and I was asked to meet a specialist. He asked me to wait. Within no time he called us to his room "Room No: 3." He checked my father's all old and new reports. Spoke so well that for a while my brother and my dad as well, felt we were sitting in Apollo hospital in Mainland. He changed the course of medicines and it's 7th day today my dad is hale and hearty. The hero here is Dr. Robert James. All thanks to Almighty that we reached on the right time and got the right treatment, she concluded.

MP condoles death

Port Blair, May 26

The Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma has mourned the untimely demise of Shri P Bhima Rao, National Executive Member of All Indian Fisherman Congress Committee, R/o Dairy Farm who left for heavenly abode on May 25, a press release received from MP Office said.

Self Employment opportunity through ...

(Contd. from page 1)

sector is Rs.10 lakh. District Industries Centre, Middle Point, Port Blair is one of the nodal implementing agency for PMEGP scheme in urban area of entire PBM and in rural Swaraj-Shaheed Dweep and Nancowry Group of Islands. Interested persons of the area may submit applications to the implementing agencies under the scheme at www.kviconline.gov.in. However, the applicant from remote areas and Islands can submit hard copies of the documents to the agencies for uploading the same in website.

For further details, one may contact District Industries Centre, Middle Point, Port Blair or over phone 03192-232601, a press release from District Industries Centre said.

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

(Contd. from page 1)

member with them was their daughter and she was also asked to go for RTPCR test and the virus did not spare her too and she was also diagnosed positive.

All the three members of the family have recovered and stated that during their stay in the Hospital, the Doctors took care of them and regularly enquired about their health. They took regular medicines provided and expressed their gratitude to the Doctor, Nurses and Ward Boys for taking care of them. They also said that they need not worry about the food as nutritional food was served to them in the Hospital. After discharge, initially they felt little weakness, but now they are fully fit and appeal to the people to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour to protect themselves and their family from deadly virus.

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

Prime Minister's Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises

Centre allocates over 72 thousand vials of anti-fungal drug Amphotericin-B to all States, UTs

Applications invited from existing micro food processing entrepreneurs and individual entrepreneurs

Port Blair, May 26

'Prime Minister's Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME)' is being implemented in the Islands under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan with the aim to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector.

Capacity Building is an important component of PM FME scheme under which it is envisaged to provide training to Food Processing Entrepreneurs, various groups, such as, SHGs/FPOs/Cooperatives, workers and other stakeholders connected with the implementation of the scheme such as Government Officials, Project Officials etc. The training for the following categories of persons would be provided under capacity building component of the scheme viz. Individual micro food processing enterprises availing credit linked grant under the Scheme; Individual existing micro-food processing enterprises those are not taking grant under the scheme; Workers of micro - food processing enterprises; Members of SHGs/FPOs/Cooperatives engaged in food processing activities; Government Official and other resource person engaged in implementation of PM FME scheme; Resource persons and Officials of other Departments Collaborating with the implementation of the scheme such as Tribal

Development Department, scheduled caste Development Department, SRLM, Cooperative Development etc.

The Directorate of Industries, A & N Administration/State Nodal Agency (PM FME) in association with ICAR-CIARI proposes to conduct classroom and Online training programme in "Value added Fisheries products and Entrepreneurship Development Programme(EDP) under PM FME Scheme. The Training will be scheduled adhering to the COVID 19 norms and guidelines

issued by Govt. of India and District Administration from time to time. The candidates selected for training shall be imparted 50 hrs training in case of existing food processing entrepreneurs and group members which will consist of 30 hrs for Entrepreneurship Development Training and 20 hrs for product training. New Entrepreneurs ad groups shall be trained for 60 hrs out of which 10 hrs training would be delivered through online mode using learning Management System (LMS).

Applications are invited from existing micro food

processing entrepreneurs as well as aspiring individual entrepreneurs hailing from South Andaman District for undergoing EDP and marine fish food product training as detailed above. The interested applicants must have passed VIII class and attained 18 years of age. The applicants must submit his/her application in the prescribed format and mail it to sna.andaman@gmail.com on or before 31/05/2021. For further details in this regard, please contact Shri. R. Janak Rao, Laboratory In-charge over phone No. 03192-234360.



New Delhi, May 26

Centre has allocated over 72 thousand vials of anti-fungal drug Amphotericin-B to all States and Union Territories in a span of just 5 days. Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister, Shri Sadanand Gowda has informed that the Government is committed towards ramping up the production of anti-fungal drug to meet all requirements. He said, 29, 250 vials of Amphotericin - B has been allocated today to the States and the UTs looking at the increased demand. Earlier the Central Chemicals Ministry

had ensured quick and timely allocation of nearly 1 crore vials of Remdesivir in the country to tackle the COVID surge in last one month.

The Nation has recently witnessed surge in number of Mucormycosis cases and therefore the demand of anti-fungal drug Amphotericin has increased considerably. Shri Gowda informed that the increased allocation has been made based on the number of Mucormycosis patients under treatment which he said, is nearly 11, 717 across the country. (Source: india.gov.in)

India crosses 20 crore cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage



New Delhi, May 26

India has crossed 20 crore cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage on Wednesday. India achieved this milestone in 130 days since the start of the vaccination drive. The vaccination coverage crossed the 20 crore mark with 20 crore 6 lakh 62 thousand 456 doses including over 15 crore 71 lakh first dose and over four crore 35 lakh second dose of vaccines.

Health Ministry said over 34 percent population above 45 years has received at least first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in India till date. Similarly, over 42 percent of above 60 years of population in India has received at least first dose of COVID-19

vaccine. India is the second country after the US to achieve this coverage in just 130 days. The US took 124 days to reach the 20 crore mark. Other leading countries in vaccination drive include the UK which has reached 5.1 crore mark in 168 days, Brazil that reached 5.9 crore mark in 128 days, and Germany which reached 4.5 crore mark in 149 days. India is using three vaccines against COVID-19 in its immunization drive. These include two made in India vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin. The Russian Sputnik is the third vaccine to get approval for Emergency Use Authorisation and is being used in few private hospitals. (Source: india.gov.in)

Over 1.77 crore Covid vaccine doses still available with States UTs to be administered: Health Ministry

New Delhi, May 26

The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has said that more than one crore 77 lakh Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States and Union Territories to be administered. The Ministry has said, the Central Government has provided over 22 crore Covid vaccine doses to States and Union Territories so far. Of this, the total consumption of doses including wastages is over 20 crore 13 lakh.

assured that one lakh vaccine doses will be provided to States and Union Territories within the next three days. The Union Health Ministry has said that vaccination is a crucial pillar in the fight against the corona virus and a third phase of Covid-19 vaccination has already started in the country. It said, the Central Government has also been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the States and Union Territories. (Source: india.gov.in)

Application for EDP & Marine Fish Food Product training under PM FME		
S.No	Particulars	Details
1	Name of the Applicant	
2	Father's Name	
3	Address with mobile No. & email id(if any)	
4.	Education qualification	
5.	Date of birth & Age	
6.	Status of applicant (strike out whichever is not applicable)	Individual micro food processing enterprises availing credit linked grant under the Scheme (or) Individual existing micro-food processing enterprises those are not taking grant under the scheme (or) Workers of micro - food processing enterprises (or) Members of SHGs/FPOs/Cooperatives engaged in food processing activities (or) Government Official and other resource person engaged in implementation of PM FME scheme (or) Resource persons and Officials of other Departments Collaborating with the implementation of the scheme such as Tribal Development Department, SRLM, Cooperative Development etc.
7.	Aadhar No.	
<p>Undertaking:- The Information contained in the application in true to the best of knowledge. In case of any discrepancies, I am liable for any action as deemed fit in accordance with Law.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signature of Applicant</p>		

Assets Under Management under Pension Fund

Regulatory and Development Authority cross Rs 6 trillion

NPS and APY subscribers' contribution builds up Rs 6 trillion of pension assets
8,791 corporate enrolments with 11.53 lakh subscribers under NPS till 21st May 2021
2.82 crore subscribers enrolled under Atal Pension Yojana

New Delhi, May 26 (PIB)

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) here today announced crossing the milestone of Rs 6 lakh crore (Rs 6 trillion) of Assets Under Management (AUM) under the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), after 13 years. The AUM growth of last Rs 1 trillion has been achieved in just 7 months.

PFRDA has witnessed remarkable growth in NPS subscribers over the years with 74.10 lakh government employees in the scheme and 28.37 lakh individuals joining from the non-government sector. The total subscriber base of PFRDA has increased to 4.28 crore.

Shri Supratim Bandyopadhyay,



Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), said, "We feel immensely gratified at reaching this milestone of Rs 6 trillion AUM, and in less than seven months as we were at Rs 5 trillion in October 2020. The achievement shows the faith subscribers have in

NPS and PFRDA. A growing realisation during this pandemic is the priority accorded by individuals to retirement planning, for preserving their financial well being."

As on 21st May 2021, the total number of subscribers under NPS and Atal Pension Yojana has crossed 4.28 crore and the Asset

under Management (AUM) has grown to Rs 603,667.02 crore.

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is the statutory authority established by an enactment of the Parliament, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the National Pension System (NPS) and pension schemes to which this Act applies. NPS was initially notified for central government employees recruits w.e.f. 1st January 2004 and subsequently adopted by almost all State Governments for its employees. NPS was extended to all Indian citizens (resident/non-resident/overseas) on a voluntary basis and to corporates for its employees. (Source: india.gov.in)

Government Respects the Right of Privacy and Has No Intention to Violate it When WhatsApp is Required to Disclose the Origin of a Particular Message

Such Requirements are only in case when the message is required for Prevention, Investigation or Punishment of Very Serious Offences related to the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order, or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material

Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right

New Delhi, May 26 (PIB)
The Government of India recognises that 'Right to Privacy' is a Fundamental right and is committed to ensure the same to its citizens.

On this issue, Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has stated that "the Government of India is committed to ensure the Right of Privacy to all its citizens but at the same time it is also the responsibility of the government to maintain law and order and ensure national security."

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad also stated that "none of the measures proposed by India will impact the normal functioning of WhatsApp in any manner whatsoever and for the common users, there will be no impact"

As per all established judicial dictum, no Fundamental Right, including the Right to Privacy, is absolute and it is subject to reasonable restrictions. The requirements in the Intermediary Guidelines pertaining to the first originator of information are an example of such a reasonable restriction.

When Rule 4(2) of the Intermediary Guidelines is examined through the test of proportionality then that test is also met. The cornerstone of this test is whether a lesser effective alternative remedy exists. As per the Intermediary Guidelines, the originator of information can only be traced in a scenario where other remedies have proven to be ineffective, making the same a last resort measure. Moreover, such information can only be sought as per a process sanctioned by the law thereby incorporating sufficient legal safeguards.

Rule is in Abiding Public Interest

It is very important to note that such an order, to trace first originator, under Rule 4(2) of the said guidelines shall be passed only for the purposes of prevention, investigation, punishment etc. of inter alia an offence relating to sovereignty, integrity and security of India, public order incitement to an offence relating to rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material punishable with imprisonment for not less than five years.

It is in public interest that who started the mischief leading to such crime must be detected and punished. We cannot deny as to how



in cases of mob lynching and riots etc. repeated WhatsApp messages are circulated and recirculated whose content are already in public domain. Hence the role of who originated is very important.

Rules as Per Law of Land Rule 4(2) of the Intermediary Guidelines is not a measure in isolation. The rules have been framed after consultation with various stakeholders and social media intermediaries, including but not limited to WhatsApp.

After October 2018, no specific objection has been made by WhatsApp to Government of India in writing relating to the requirement to trace the first originator in relation to serious offences. They have generally sought time to extend the time for enforcement of guidelines but did not make any formal reference that traceability is not possible.

WhatsApp's challenge, at the very last moment, and despite having sufficient time and opportunity available during consultation process and after the rules were enacted, to the Intermediary Guidelines is an unfortunate attempt to prevent the same from coming into effect.

Any operations being run in India are subject to the law of the land. WhatsApp's refusal to comply with the guidelines is a clear act of defiance of a measure whose intent can certainly not be doubted.

At one end, WhatsApp seeks to mandate a privacy policy wherein it will share the data of all its user with its parent company, Facebook, for marketing and advertising purposes.

On the other hand, WhatsApp makes every effort to refuse the enactment of the Intermediary Guidelines which are necessary to uphold law and order and curb the menace of fake news.

WhatsApp defends its refusal to enact the Intermediary Guidelines by carving out an exception that messages on the

platform are end to end encrypted.

It is pertinent to note that the rule to trace the first originator of information is mandatory for each and every significant social media intermediary, irrespective of their method of operation.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad said that "the entire debate on whether encryption would be maintained or not is misplaced. Whether Right to Privacy is ensured through using encryption technology or some other technology is entirely the purview of the social media intermediary. The Government of India is committed to ensuring Right of Privacy to all its citizens as well as have the means and the information necessary to ensure public order and maintain national security. It is WhatsApp's responsibility to find a technical solution, whether through encryption or otherwise, that both happen." As a significant social media intermediary, WhatsApp seeks a safe harbour protection as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act. However, in a befuddling act, they seek to avoid responsibility and refuse to enact the very steps which permit them a safe harbour provision.

The rules enacted by Government of India in public interest are not rules enacted in isolation but have global precedence.

In July 2019[i], the

governments of the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada issued a communique, concluding that: "tech companies should include mechanisms in the design of their encrypted products and services whereby governments, acting with appropriate legal authority, can gain access to data in a readable and usable format."

Brazilian law enforcement [ii] is looking for WhatsApp to provide suspects' IP addresses, customer information, geo-location data and physical messages.'

What India is asking for is significantly much less than what some of the other countries have demanded.

Therefore, WhatsApp's attempt to portray the Intermediary Guidelines of India as contrary to the right to privacy is misguided.

On the contrary in India, privacy is a fundamental right subject to reasonable restrictions. Rule 4(2) of the Guidelines is an example of such a reasonable restriction.

It would be foolhardy to doubt the objective behind Rule 4(2) of the Intermediary Guidelines, which aims to protect law and order.

All sufficient safeguards have also been considered as it is clearly stated that it is not any individual who can trace the first originator of information. However, the same can only be done by a process sanctioned by the law. Additionally, this has also been developed as a last resort measure, only in scenarios where other remedies have proven to be ineffective.

FCI supplies 48 LMT free foodgrains to all 36 States and UTs under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana



New Delhi, May 26

The Food Corporation of India, FCI has so far supplied 48 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) free foodgrains to all 36 States and Union Territories under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana- PMGKAY. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in a statement said that the scheme of free distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries under PMGKAY has provided a big relief to the beneficiaries during ongoing COVID pandemic period. 31 States and UTs have lifted 100 per cent allocation for May period.

The Ministry said, at

present 295 Lakh Metric Tonnes wheat and 597 Lakh Metric Tonnes of rice are available under the Central Pool. During the COVID pandemic period, since 25th March of last year, FCI has issued a total 1062 Lakh Metric Tonnes foodgrains under various government schemes. Under PMGKAY, the Union Government is distributing free foodgrains for May and June 2021. Under it, five kilogram foodgrains per person per month is being provided to nearly 79.39 crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, NFSA and this allocation is in addition to regular NFSA allocation. (Source: india.gov.in)

India's daily COVID recoveries continue to outnumber daily new cases for 13th consecutive day

New Delhi, May 26

India's daily COVID recoveries continue to outnumber the daily new cases for the 13th consecutive day. Over 2.95 lakh patients have recovered from corona virus disease within 24 hours. The recovery rate has further improved to 89.66 per cent in the country. So far, over 2.43 crore patients have already been recovered from this infectious disease. The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has said the Country is registering a significant decline in active caseloads, amid the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The active caseloads comprise 9.18 per cent of the cumulative positive cases and it is continuously

declining. It said, the country has registered a decrease of over 91 thousand active cases in the last 24 hours. At present, there are over 24 lakh active cases in the country. Over 2,08,000 new Covid cases were registered in the last 24 hours. A total of 4,157 deaths have been reported in the country within 24 hours, taking the toll to over 3.11 lakh across the country.

Meanwhile, Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that a highest number of over 20.17 lakh Covid tests were conducted in a single day on Tuesday. So far, over 33.48 crore tests have been conducted in the country. (Source: india.gov.in)

6th Death Anniversary on 27. 05. 2021

In Loving Memory Of



Late DR. G. K. Nair & Late Anil Kr. K. G.

Inserted by : Ajesh Kr Nair (Son) & All Family members.

7th Death Anniversary

On 27-05-2021



Late K. J. Varghese

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard but always near".

Inserted by: Susamma Varghese (Wife), Amal Varghese (Son), Amala Varghese (Daughter) & all family members.

In loving memory of our beloved parents

36th Death Anniversary

5th Death Anniversary



D.O.B: 01.07.1917 D.O.D: 01.07.1985

Late. P.M. Koya

"You will always remain in our hearts forever"

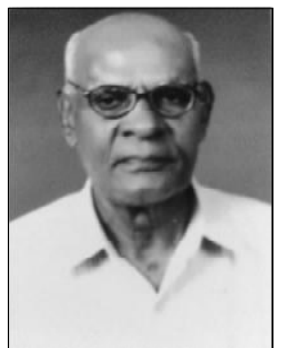
Inserted By: Mohammed Rafi, Khalil Rahman and Laila Banu, Zohra Bibi & Family.



D.O.B: 10.08.1931 D.O.D: 27.05.2016

Late. Kunji Bibi

OBITUARY



K J PHILIP, 86 yrs

R/O V.S.PALLY, DIGLIPUR
Expired on 26th May 2021 at 3:50 pm after a brief illness at Island Niwas, Delanipur.
Funeral service will be on 27th May 2021 at 01 pm at Prothrapur Cemetery.
Inserted by family members.

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