

PROTECTION FROM SWINDLER'S NET LG releases IEC materials on cyber safety & cyber hygiene



PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ The Lt Governor, Admiral D.K. Joshi (Retd) released Information, Education & Communication (IEC) materials, including short videos and pamphlets on cyber safety and cyber hygiene as part of observance of Cyber Jagrookta Diwas on Thursday at Raj Niwas. Mr. Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary, Mr. Neeraj Thakur, DGP, Dr. RSC Jayaraj, IFoS, PCCF, Smt. Pramila Kumari ,

Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, Smt. Kavitha Udhaya Kumar, Chairperson, PBMC and other senior officers of A&N administration were present on the occasion.

Lauding the efforts of A&N Police in spreading mass public awareness against cyber frauds, the Lt Governor in his address appreciated the initiative of in-house designing of informative and educative IEC materials, including pamphlets, slide shows and short videos to explain the

various modus operandi of cyber fraud and precautionary measures in a 'simple and easy to understand' manner. The Lt Governor said that considering the magnitude of cyber frauds, Police in collaboration with IT professionals should brainstorm and come out with technology based solutions to effectively curb the activities of cyber-fraudsters. Admiral Joshi (Retd) also emphasized the need for effective detection,

investigation and prosecution of cyber-crimes. He extended his best wishes to the citizens of the Islands and to A&N Police for their joint endeavour through 'Cyber Jagrookta Diwas' to create a secure and safe cyber ecosystem.

Elaborating on the issue, Mr. S. K. Jain, IGP/L&O emphasized that acting on the principles that 'Knowledge is power' and 'Awareness is key to empowerment', Andaman &

Nicobar Police has prepared short videos and pamphlets to reach out to people at large and to sensitize them about cyber scams and how to avoid becoming victims of cyber fraud. These IEC materials would help in disseminating the message of cyber safety and cyber hygiene such as Do's and Don'ts, Safe internet banking, Online shopping fraud prevention, Social media safety precautions, Cyber Bullying etc. The IGP highlighted that right from storyline, acting, shooting to editing of videos, everything in the videos has been done in-house by the staff of A&N Police. Similarly, all pamphlets have been designed and prepared by them.

On this Cyber Jagrookta Diwas, which also marks the completion of one year of this initiative of MHA, to disseminate the message of cyber safety and cyber hygiene, the Andaman & Nicobar Police is holding special awareness sessions with Defence Personnel, Coast Guard, Councillors and PRI members, Government employees, Market associations & shopkeepers, school teachers & college students, villagers & village captains in order to take the message of cyber safety to the grassroots level.

Rally to mark National Dolphin Day at Mayabunder



KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, OCT 6/--/ Along with other parts of the World, National Dolphin Day-2022, was also celebrated by the Mayabunder Forest Division. The Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman, Dr. Satyendra Singh Dursawat was the chief guest and flagged off the rally in presence of DFO, Mayabunder Mr. Ashwin Parihar & Assistant Conservator of Forest, Mr. Abdul Aziz participated in a rally, along with their staff. A tableau was also displayed by the Forest department in which slogans for protection of Dolphin and marine species were

presented for generating awareness of this marine species to the people. The Assistant Commissioner (HQ) Mr. Vaibhav Rikhari was also present on the occasion. Later, in a meeting held at Karmatang beach with local fishermen, the ACF Mayabunder informed the fisher community about the importance of Dolphins in the sea for a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Sagar Mitras of the Fisheries department also became Dolphins Mitras. Identity Cards were issued by the DFO to Dolphin Mitras as they are assigned with the task to generate awareness among the fishermen community on survival of dolphins.

Diglipur Police seizes 2.342kg of ganja

MAYABUNDER, OCT 6/--/ As part of the commitment of A&N Police to make the Islands drug-free, the N&MA District Police is conducting regular raids. Swiftly acting



on credible information on 4th October 2022, a team headed by Insp. Stalin N.S, SHO PS Diglipur, HC/1983 Thangarajan, HC/465 IRBnSantosh Nair, PC/2116 AbubackerSiddiqui, PC/2826 DevsaiToppo, PC/2565 SamareshMistry&Shri.

Michael Raj Xalxo (Ex-Home Guard) conducted a raid near a parking lot of CHC Diglipur and recovered 2.342 kgs of illicit ganja from the possession of a person namely Ajit Kumar Tete (30y) resident of Sitanagar, Diglipur. Accordingly, the illicit ganja was seized and the accused was arrested on the spot after observing all legal formalities and a case has been registered under relevant sections of NDPS Act at PS Diglipur.

The entire trap was conducted under the supervision of Mr. Manasvi Vshistha, SDPO, Diglipur, and overall direction and supervision of Smti. GeetanjaliKhandelwal, IPS, Superintendent of Police, N&M Andaman District.

The district police follow a policy of zero tolerance towards any organized crime. The general public is requested to pass and share any credible information pertaining to any crime or illegal activities to their nearest police station or over phone No.100, 112 & 03192-273344. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded.

COVID-19statusinA&N Islands

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ No COVID positive case has been detected today in A&N Islands. Today, 14 flights with 2292 passengers arrived, out of which, 2037 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 211 passengers and the reports are awaited.

Isles' children win 3rd position in Chess Tournament

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ Proud moments for the Islanders as A Chirag Kumar, a class VII student of NCS Port Blair & Chittiboina Mageswari, a class VII student of GMSSS Port Blair have brought laurels to the A & N Islands by securing third position in the Unrated category & Under 12 Girls category respectively in the International FIDE Below 1600 Rated Chess Tournament

held at Bhimavarm, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh from 04.10.2022 to 06.04.2022. Altogether 291 players from different states of India participated in the tournament which held for three days in classical mode over nine rounds.

Meanwhile, B Konda Rao of A & N Islands officiated in this event as National Arbiters (NA) and secured his first norm for FIDE Arbiter Title.

The Lord will indeed give what is good. (Ps. 85:12)

Come! **Be blessed!!!**

JESUS WITH US MINISTRIES (Presents)

Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Lord Jesus said: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." (Matthew 7:24)

Place : Garacharma Prayer Centre (Jesus with us)
Opp. District Medical Garacharma Port Blair, Andaman

God's Message by:
Bro. J. Immanuel Koilraj
(Jesus With Us Ministries)

DATE: 08.10.2022 (SATURDAY) TIME: 09.00 AM TO 01.30 PM

- Praise and Worship
- Praying for Prayer Request
- God's Message
- Special Prayer for Sick & Needy People

For Prayer Contact:-
Ph.: 03192251327 (Prayer Tower)
Cell: 9434281945, 9434291946

All are Welcome

FESTIVE LIMITED EDITION

EMI starts at ₹4 999/-*

LIMITED STOCKS AVAILABLE

RENAULT KWID
max benefits worth ₹ 35 000^

RENAULT KIGER
max corporate benefits worth ₹ 10 000^

RENAULT TRIBER
max benefits worth ₹ 50 000^^

for a test drive, call on 1800 315 4444, select variants available in CSD. special offers for defence personnel, government, PSU and corporate employees. for bulk enquiries, contact corporales@renault.com

for further details, connect on 02244444444 renault.co.in

terms and conditions apply. *prices mentioned above are for base variant for all India for each model and are exclusive of local taxes. ^the maximum benefits worth ₹ 35 000/- for Kwid includes maximum cash benefit worth ₹ 10 000/- on all variants, maximum exchange benefit worth ₹ 15 000/- on select variants & maximum corporate benefit worth ₹ 10 000/- on select variants. ^^the maximum benefits worth ₹ 50 000/- for Triber includes maximum cash benefit worth ₹ 15 000/- on select variants, maximum exchange benefit worth ₹ 25 000/- on select variants & maximum corporate benefit worth ₹ 10 000/- on select variants. ^^^maximum benefits worth ₹ 10 000/- for Kiger includes maximum corporate benefits worth ₹ 10 000/- on select variants. corporate/PSU/defense personnel/government employee/professionals benefits applicable for each model are based on eligibility of the customer and based on submission of required proof by the customer. for additional loyalty benefits, please contact your nearest Renault Authorized dealership. EMI offer is only applicable on select Renault Range. *₹ 4999 EMI is applicable based on a loan amount of ₹ 3.09 lakh for a tenure of 84 months. EMI may vary based on actual loan amount and tenure, not valid for any added loan amount and tenure. Finance at the sole discretion of Renault Finance. Price valid on the date of purchase. Renault Festive Limited Edition is available on all models - KWID/ TRIBER/ KIGER - for a limited quantity and limited period (till stock lasts) in single color option - Ice Cool White with Mystery Black roof. for details on Festive Limited Edition, visit your nearest Renault dealership. for detailed offers, visit www.renault.co.in/offers. Renault India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right at its absolute discretion to terminate this scheme or vary, delete or add to any of these terms and conditions from time to time without notice including without limitation, offers may vary across variants and cities. model/accessories shown may not be a part of the standard fitment. the color in the image may vary slightly from the actual color of the product. the above mentioned offers & benefits are valid till 31st October, 2022 and are through Renault dealership. Renault India Pvt. Ltd. shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising from your failure to comply or understand the offer details. in the event of any dispute, all matters shall be governed by all applicable laws of India and court at Gurugram shall have the exclusive jurisdiction. for detailed terms and conditions, please visit www.renault.co.in

SHOWROOM: ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS: PORT BLAIR: RENAULT Port Blair Mob: +918527240556.

**More Local News
on Page 3**

Punjab CM condoles Sikh family's killing in US, seeks MEA's intervention for thorough probe

CHANDIGARH, OCT 6 /-- / Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday expressed grief over the killing of a Sikh family in California and urged the Centre to take up the matter with the US authorities to ensure a thorough probe into the matter.

The bodies of Jasdeep Singh (39), his wife Jasleen Kaur (27), their eight-month-old daughter Aroohi Dheri and Jasdeep's brother Amandeep Singh (39) were found in an orchard near Indiana Road and Hutchinson Road on Wednesday evening. The family was kidnapped from their newly-opened trucking business in

Merced County, California, on Monday.

They belonged to Harsi Pind village of Hoshiarpur district in Punjab. "Got the news of the killing of four Indians including an eight months old girl in California. I was saddened to hear this news... Also appeal to Union External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar that there should be a high-level probe into the matter," Mann said in a tweet in Punjabi. Later in a statement here, he termed the killing of the family unfortunate. The chief minister said this is a highly condemnable incident which has shocked everyone, especially Punjabis living across the



Bhagwant Mann

He urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to impress upon the US government the need for a

thorough probe into the matter.

The Centre must flag the issue of security of Punjabis living in America, he said. "Topmost priority must be accorded to this for ensuring the safety of Punjabis living there," he added. Former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh also expressed shock over the killing of the Sikh family.

"Shocked by the news of murder of 4 people including 8 month old girl who were kidnapped in California. My heart goes out to the grieving family and relatives back in India. Hope strictest punishment is awarded to the perpetrators," Singh said in

a tweet. Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal also condoled the deaths. "Brutal kidnapping & murder of 8 mnt old Aroohi, her parents & uncle Amandeep Singh is a matter of shock & concern for Pbis worldwide. I urge @DrSJaishankar to take up issue of safety & security of Indians with US admin even as I extend my deep condolences with bereaved family," Badal tweeted. Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said, "This (is) shocking beyond expression. I share the grief over this gruesome mass-murder of innocent people. Hope guilty are duly punished." (PTI)

Increase reservation for SCs and STs, Congress urges Karnataka govt

NAGAMANGALA, OCT 6 /--/The Congress on Thursday urged the Karnataka government to take immediate steps to fulfill the reservation demands made by Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SC/STs), by implementing the Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission report at the earliest.

The Justice Das-headed panel submitted its report to the government in July 2020 recommending hiking the quota for SCs from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and for STs from three per cent to 7.5 per cent. "SC/STs have been demanding that reservation has to be increased in accordance with the population. The SC/ST population as per 2011 Census is 24.10 per cent (17.15 per cent SC and ST is 6.95 per cent), while the reservation is 18 per cent. So, during the Congress-JD(S) coalition government, the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission was constituted, but by the time it submitted the report that government had collapsed," Siddaramaiah said. During the recently concluded Assembly session, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

had said an all-party meeting would be convened to discuss the next steps on fulfilling reservation demands made by SC/STs, as he wants to take everyone into confidence before taking a decision on demands made by various communities. Speaking to reporters here, Siddaramaiah pointed out that it has been two years and three months since the report was submitted and the BJP government which came to power subsequently, has neither accepted nor implemented it till now. Hence, the communities are protesting, especially the 'Valmiki' seers (STs) who are on a dharna for some time now, he said. "They (BJP) are against reservation, they are anti-Dalit, minorities and backward communities. They gave 10 per cent reservation for the economically weaker within a day by passing legislation in the parliament, but in this case they are delaying and pushing time," the Congress leader said, as he urged the government to implement it at the earliest by following due procedure.

The Congress is likely to

put forth its view during an all-party meeting convened by the Chief Minister on the issue. Karnataka PCC president D K Shivakumar demanded that the state government immediately take a decision on the quota by implementing the Commission report and send it to the Centre.

He urged that the Union government, following the state's recommendation, should promulgate an ordinance immediately to implement it, instead of waiting for the Parliament session. AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala said the Bommai government is "deaf" towards the demand of SC/ST communities, and accused it of delaying the reservation to these communities by constituting another committee under Justice Subhash Adi to look into the issue. "BJP is anti SC/ST...for about two years and three months this report is with you, why didn't you implement it? Our demand is that the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission report is implemented at the earliest," he added. (PTI)

MP: Ahead of PM's visit to inaugurate Mahakal corridor, Ujjain civic chief transferred

BHOPAL, OCT 6 /-- / The municipal commissioner of Ujjain was transferred by the Madhya Pradesh government on Thursday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit on October 11 to inaugurate the first phase of the Mahakal Temple corridor project there. The transfer of 2016-batch Indian Administrative Service official Anshul Gupta as deputy secretary, the order of which was issued by state chief secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, gaveriseto speculation that it had some link to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's visit to the temple city during Dussehra. Chouhan was in Ujjain on Wednesday and had taken part in the 'Mahakal ki Sawari' function there and offered prayers at the renowned Mahakaleshwar Temple. Sources said MP Urban Development Minister Bhupendra Singh, who had accompanied Chouhan, had reportedly expressed displeasure at the functioning of the Ujjain civic corporation against the backdrop of the PM's visit. They also claimed Gupta was not getting along with corporators and staffers of the municipal corporation. However, MP Congress media department chairperson KK Mishra said Gupta was shunted out as a cow had come in the way of the CM's motorcade on Wednesday, which irked Chouhan. (PTI)

Adityanath visits Ramanandi Peeth in Jaipur, offers tributes to Acharya Dharmendra

JAIPUR, OCT 6 /-- / Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday visited Ramanandi Peeth in Virat Nagar here and offered tributes to Hindu seer Acharya Dharmendra who recently passed away. He also attended a programme in which Acharya Dharmendra's son Somendra took over the reins of the peeth in the presence of saints. Speaking at the event, Adityanath said Acharya Dharmendra was devoted to the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and was happy over the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya. He said the Ramanadi Peeth in Virat Nagar also had an important



role in the movement of saints against the partition. Acharya Dharmendra worked for the Hindu community, he said. Acharya Dharmendra was a member of the Kendriya Margdarshak Mandal of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. He led a movement to stop cow slaughter in 1965. He died on September 19. (PTI)



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman releasing E-Coffee Table Book and Advocacy Booklets in Punjabi and Urdu at the inauguration of Competition Commission of India (CCI's) Regional Office (West), in Mumbai virtually from New Delhi

AAP releases 4th list of 12 candidates for Gujarat Assembly polls

41 seats covered so far

AHMEDABAD, OCT 6 /-- / The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday released its fourth list of 12 candidates for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections, giving tickets to people from a cross-section of society, including teachers, businesspersons and tribals.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led party had earlier announced 29 candidates for the year-end Assembly polls in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled state.

With the latest list, the Delhi-headquartered party, which seeks to contest on all the 182 Assembly seats in Gujarat, has so far announced 41 candidates. The fourth list of candidates covers 12 seats, two of which are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) - Garbada and Gandevi. Two out of these 12 seats were won by the Congress in 2017, while ten were bagged by the BJP. Two of these dozen seats - Amraiwadi and Vatva -- are in

Ahmedabad city, while one - Limbayat - is in Surat city. Among the candidates in the latest list are teachers, businessmen and social workers, Gujarat AAP president Gopal Italia said. The candidate list includes Nirmalsinh Parmar for Himatnagar seat, who is a retired teacher, while Doulat Patel for Gandhinagar (South) is a businessman. Kuldeep Vaghela (Sanand seat) is an industrialist, Bipil Patel (Vatva) runs a garments shop and Bharat Patel (Amraiwadi) is an AAP worker who has contested corporation election in the past, Italia told reporters.

Among other candidates, Ramjibhai Chudasama (Keshod) is a leader from the Koli community who was in the past associated with the Congress. Natwarsinh Rathod (Thasra, Kheda district) has worked as a district panchayat member, while Takhtsinh Solanki (Shehra, Panchmahal district) is a popular leader in the region, Italia said.

Dinesh Baria (Kalol, Panchmahal district) is an arts teacher, while Shailesh Bhabhor (Garbada) is an AAP worker. Pankaj Tayde (Limbayat, Surat) is a businessman and social worker, while Pankaj Patel (Gandevi) is a young tribal leader, the AAP leader said. The AAP, which rules Punjab and National Capital Territory of Delhi, has positioned itself as the main challenger to the BJP, which is in power in Gujarat for nearly three decades now. AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been aggressively campaigning in the state, holding rallies and town halls and making a host of pre-poll "guarantees", including free electricity and better education and healthcare facilities, to woo voters. The Opposition Congress and the BJP have yet to release their lists of nominees. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has announced three candidates. (PTI)

Will respond to Rahul Gandhi's letter on injured elephant on humanitarian grounds: CM

BENGALURU, OCT 6 /-- / Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said he will respond to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's letter, seeking his intervention for providing timely treatment to a "severely injured" elephant calf at the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, on humanitarian grounds. He said he will speak to forest department officials and see to it that treatment is provided to the injured calf. "I have just come to Bengaluru, in another half-an-hour, I will get all the details, will speak to senior forest officials and see what all can be done for the elephant immediately. They (elephants) are natural habitants, to what extent human interference can happen (will be looked into) and will verify on how treatment can be given, and will get it done," Bommai said. Speaking to reporters here on returning from Mysuru, he said, "What he (Rahul Gandhi) has raised, I will respond to it. It needs to be done on humanitarian grounds and will get it done." Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday had written a letter to Bommai, seeking his intervention for providing timely treatment to a severely injured elephant calf at the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. (PTI)

Malegaon blast: BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur appears before trial court

MUMBAI, OCT 6 /-- / BJP MP Pragya Singh-Thakur, a prime accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, on Thursday appeared before the trial court here.

The Bhopal MP remained present before the special judge for NIA cases, A K Lahoti, as an official of the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad who had arrested her was deposing as a witness. The ATS official was cross-examined by Thakur's

lawyer during the day's proceedings. She arrived around 12 PM and sat on the wooden bench assigned for the accused. Later the court allowed her to sit on a chair after she complained of backache. The court also conducted the proceedings in Hindi (instead of Marathi and English) on Thakur's request. Seven persons, including Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit, are facing trial in the case.

As many as 26 witnesses

have turned hostile in the case until now. Six people were killed and over 100 injured when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon, a communally sensitive town in north Maharashtra, on September 29, 2008. According to police, the motorcycle was registered in Thakur's name which led to her arrest. The Bombay High Court granted her bail in 2017. (PTI)

Gujarat: Patidar leader, who resigned as Cong MLA 2 days back, joins BJP

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 6 /-- / Two days after resigning from the Gujarat Legislative Assembly as a Congress legislator, Patidar community leader Harshad Ribadiya on Thursday joined the ruling BJP here.

He was inducted during a function organised at the Bharatiya Janata Party's state headquarters 'Kamalam' here. Gujarat BJP general secretary Pradipsinh Vaghela welcomed him into the party fold. Several local Congress leaders, including Junagadh district Congress president, vice president, Mehsana taluka Congress president, Kisan Morcha leaders, also joined the ruling outfit during the event. Assembly elections in the BJP-ruled state are slated to be held by the end of this year. Ribadiya had submitted his resignation to Assembly Speaker Nimaben Acharya on Tuesday. Soon after joining the BJP, the former Congress MLA praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership and

said he was influenced by the central government's "pro-farmer" policies and initiatives like raising the minimum support price (MSP) and introducing new technologies for their support.

The former legislator from Visavadar seat in Junagadh district of the state's Saurashtra region also targeted the Congress for being "directionless" and accused the party leadership of not helping him in the time of need. "I am influenced by the way Modi is developing the country and working to protect the interests of farmers by raising the MSP and taking several other initiatives," he told reporters. "At the same time, Congress has become directionless," he alleged.

Ribadiya said the BJP's policies have influenced the people of his constituency as well. "The BJP government heeded my request for electricity supply to farmers in my region during the day time. I am influenced by many

such initiatives and that is the reason why I have joined the BJP. In the coming days, many of my friends will also join the party. We will work as its soldiers," he said. He added that the issues that he had raised in the Legislative Assembly were not against any party or any particular person, but for the benefit of farmers. "All the issues were resolved by the BJP government, which is also a reason I have joined it," he claimed. Ribadiya was elected from the Visavadar assembly segment, a predominantly Patel community seat, in 2017 as a Congress candidate. Before that, he had also won the 2014 bye-election from that constituency. The 2017 Assembly elections in Gujarat were held against the backdrop of the Patidar quota agitation, and members of the Patel community in the Saurashtra region had largely voted for the Congress to express their anger against the ruling BJP. (PTI)

SC to examine if administration of educational institution by minority community will give it special status

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 /-- / The Supreme Court has agreed to examine whether an educational institution administered by members of a minority community would result in it being conferred the status of a minority institution.

A bench of justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, National Medical Commission and

others while seeking their replies. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Mahayana Theravada Vajrayana Buddhist Religious and Charitable Trust challenging the Allahabad High Court order which observed that mere administration of an educational institution by a minority would not confer on it status of a minority institution. The high court was dealing with the petition against the Uttar Pradesh government order,

where the state government refused to treat the institution as a minority institution. "Thus for an institution to qualify as minority institution within the meaning of Uttar Pradesh Private Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Free) Act, 2006, it should be an institution not only being administered by a minority but it also ought to have been established by the minority and it should

also be notified by the State as such," the high court had said. The petitioner trust had established a medical college in 2001 and the members of the trust later converted to Buddhism in 2015 and kept on running the administration of the institution.

In its order, the high court had said that it does not find any illegality in the decision of the state government in not treating the educational institution of the trust as a minority

institution so as to exclude it from the purview of the 2006 Act.

"Accordingly, we also do not see any illegality in the orders of Oct 5, 2010 and Oct 7, 2010 whereby the Director General Medical Education and Training had sought the proposal from the trust's educational institution for the purposes of fixation of fee to be charged from the students pursuing their MBBS and BDS courses for the academic year 2020-21," the

high court held. The high court also did not find any illegality in the state government's order of Nov 6, 2020 passed by the Department of Medical Education whereby the fee to be charged from the students of the trust's educational institution was fixed. "Establishing an institution and administering it are two different happenings. If a society or a trust did not comprise of members of any minority community

(either linguistic or religious) at the time when it established an educational institution and subsequently attains the status of a minority and starts administering such an institution, in our considered opinion, in such a situation the educational institution concerned will neither be a minority institution within the Act, 2006 nor shall it be minority educational institution within the Act, 2004," the high court had said. (PTI)

ANTA condole unfortunate demise of PET

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ The Andaman Nicobar Teachers Association has expressed deepest condolences on the untimely demise of Mr.SanjeebMazumder, PET, 33 years old attached to GSSS Vijaynagar who was referred to GB Pant Hospital but passed away on Pawanhans helicopter mid flight. He had complaints of severe abdominal pain for quite some time before he was referred yesterday. His body has been retained at BJR Hospital Car Nicobar. His widow and infant (3yrs) have been accompanying him when he breathed his last. They are presently at Car Nicobar. The body shall be shifted to Port Blair tomorrow.

BJP State President, leaders condole demise

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ Mr. AjoyBairagi, State BJP President, along with all office bearers and party workers has expressed his deepest condolences on the sad and untimely demise of Mr. SanjeebMajumdar, PET posted at Gsss Vijay Nagar, Campbell Bay, son of Mr. Gadadhar Majumdar, Ex -Zilla Parishad member, R/o Chouldahari, Port Blair. Mr. AjoyBairagi and all leaders pray to the almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Submission of online application for admission in TGCE

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ Submission of online application forms for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the academic session 2022-23 in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair has commenced from 14th September 2022. Now, due to non-receipt of results by JNRM as informed by its Principal, the last date for submission of online application forms for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the academic session 2022-23 has now been extended from 7th October to 30th October 2022. All desirous candidates are requested to complete the process of submission of online application forms by 30th October 2022 via URL [http:// collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in](http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in).

APOLLO HOSPITALS
CHENNAI

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Consultation pain in Shoulder, Spine, Knee & Hip Joints, Osteoarthritis, Frozen & Stiffness of Shoulder, Spondylitis, Rheumatoid Arthritis Fractures, Ligament problems, Tennis Elbow & Requiring opinion for Chronic Shoulder Problems, Knee & Hip Replacement etc

Dr. VIJAY KISHORE KONDREDDY

DNB (Ortho), D.Ortho, M.Ch (Ortho), FIA (Germany), FIAS (Australia)
Consultant - Orthopaedic Surgeon

GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC

Consultation for patients suffering from Upper Abdominal Pain & discomfort, Blood Vomiting, Fatty Liver, Hepatitis B & C Virus, Liver Cancer, Liver Cirrhosis, Gall Stone, Pancreas Cancer, Pancreas Complaints, Jaundice with itching and requiring liver Transplantation

Dr. NIVAS VENKATACHALAPATHI

MBBS, MS (General Surgery), MRCS (England)
DNB (Surgical Gastroenterology)
Fellowship in Liver Transplant and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery
Consultant Liver Transplant Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon

NEURO CLINIC

Consultation for Seizures, Brain Tumours, Cerebral Stroke, Back Pain, Neck Pain, Facial Pain, Stiff Back & other Neurological problems can benefit

Dr. M. BALAMURUGAN

DNB (Neurosurgery), FNS (Japan), FNS (Aust), FAANS (USA)
Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon

Date: Saturday, 8th October 2022
Time: 11.00 am to 6.00 pm

Venue: APOLLO CLINIC
192 Garacharma Main Road,
South Andaman Port Blair - 744105

X- Ray, USG, CT,2D- ECHO,ECG, EEG, TMT, NCS , PHYSIOTHERAPY, & LABORATORY

For appointments:
03192252522 / 03192252052 / 9531807777

ANC observes Hindi Pakhwada

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ The Andaman and Nicobar Command observed Hindi Pakhwada in the month of Sep 2022. A number of competitions were conducted to promote awareness towards implementation of Hindi in official



works byboth Officers and Staff. All the components of Andaman and Nicobar Command held various competitions on occasion of Hindi Pakhwada. A large number of personnel participated in Essay writing, Noting & Drafting, Poem recitation, Debate competition, General knowledge, Vocabulary test etc., and displayed keen interest in ratifying Hindi as an official language. All four Component Commanders (Army, Navy, Air Force & Coast Guard) of Andaman and Nicobar Command encouraged their respective services to earnestly promote Hindi in day to day office correspondence throughout the year.Prize and Certificates were given to the winners and participants of all competitions held during the Hindi Pakhwada fortnight.

CS releases special postal cover on National Dolphin Day



PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/ The first National Dolphin Day was celebrated across Andaman & Nicobar Islands on Wednesday. As part of the celebration, various awareness activities were conducted by the Department of Environment & Forests for conservation of Dolphins and other marine wildlife species on this day. The Government of India has decided to celebrate 5th October as National Dolphin Day to generate mass awareness towards this important wildlife, which is an indicator species of the health of the aquatic or marine ecosystem. To mark the occasion, a formal function was held at the Secretariat yesterday in which the Chief Secretary, A&N Islands, Mr. Keshav Chandra graced the occasion as the chief guest.

During the programme, a Special Postal Cover on Narcondam Hornbill, which also carries a Special Cancellation Stamp on Dolphin was released by the Chief Secretary. Mr. Anil Kumar, PostMaster General (West Bengal Circle) was present as the guest of honour. Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, IFS, PCCF, Ms. NandiniPaliwal, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (E&F) and Mr.Pankaj Kumar, Secretary (E&F) also graced the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary remarked that all the stakeholders have their role to play in conserving the forests and natural resources, including wildlife and therefore, every citizen should come forward and contribute in safeguarding these invaluable natural resources. Earlier, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS briefed about 'Project Dolphin' and benefits of dolphins to society, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Deep

Shika, IFS, DCF (Wildlife). The programme was also attended by Mr. Sanjay Waradkar, IFS, CF (Wildlife) and Mr. Birendra Choudhary, DCF (WP) and other officials of A&N Forest Department and India Post. Later in the day, Dolphin Tableau and bike/cycle rallies were organized at various places such as Diglipur, Mayabunder, Rangat, Port Blair & Nicobar. A special fishermen sensitization programme was also conducted at 10 different locations from Diglipur to Car Nicobar during which the fishermen were sensitized about the role of Marine Dolphins in our life. During this interaction programme, 'Dolphin Mitras', a volunteer group of citizens to spread awareness on Marine Dolphins was also launched and many volunteers enrolled in the programme.

VD Leju seeks compensation, insurance benefits to kins of deceased fisherman

PORT BLAIR, OCT 6/--/Smt V.D. Leju, Social Worker in a letter to the Lt Governor has requested for providing benefits of fisheries group insurance and compensation to fisherman who died during fishing activity at Chunabhata on 2nd October 2022. In her letter, Smt Leju mentioned that a fisherman of Chunabhata under Hope

Town Gram Panchayat Punta Vasulu passed away on 2nd October 2022, in at unfortunate accident at North Bay wherein he reportedly fell from the fishing boat while fishing in that area. He is survived by his wife who is housewife and two kids comprising of a 8 years old daughter and a son of 4 years old. He was the sole breadwinner for the

family who also looked after his mother and sister as they were his dependants. Now the family is in great trouble as they do not have any other source of income. The education of the kids and the daily expenditure of the family and marriage of the sister of the deceased are all matters of serious concern for the family at present.

—KURMA RAO

TEXTILE LAXMI
NEERAJ TEXTILE

of Complete Family Showroom

FESTIVAL
Collection

ABERDEEN BAZAR | BATHU BASTHI

May This Durga Puja & Diwali Bring Prosperity & Happiness to ALL

916 BIS HALL MARK GOLD ORNAMENTS

NEW COLLECTIONS ARRIVAL
DURGA PUJA & DIWALI

MONDAL JEWELLERS

CELL: 9434281991, PH: 234778

48 Shastri Road, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair-744101
12/370 R.P. Road, Near Jama Masjid, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair

May This Occasions Bring Prosperity & Happiness To All

New
Collections
Arrival

SRI RAJESWARI JEWELLERY

ABERDEEN BAZAR, PORT BLAIR. Ph : 233822

RAJARAJESWARI JEWELLERS

ABERDEEN BAZAR, PORT BLAIR. Ph : 237719

Shyam N Shyam

Ladies | Kids wear | Gents

NAYRA-CUT

STRAIGHT PANT SETS

SHARARA & PLAZZO

CROP-TOP LEHENGAS

Special Plus Size Collection. Sizes Upto 3XL -5XL

Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair

Little andaman

... because little things matter

Exclusively for Kids & Pets

OPENING SOON!

9679547179 / 03192-263069

Near Annai Agency, Junglighat, Port Blair, South Andaman - 744103

Sales Boys and Girls Urgently Needed

A good relationship is like fireworks: loud, explosive, and liable to maim you if you hold on too long
Jeph Jacques

WB pats India for aiding poor during COVID

The World Bank has hailed as remarkable India's support to the poor and needy during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. This is indeed remarkable as the WB has asked other nations to adopt the Indian move of targeted cash transfer instead of broad subsidies. The poorest people bore the steepest costs of the pandemic -- income losses averaged four per cent for the poorest 40 per cent, double the losses of the wealthiest 20 per cent of the income distribution. Global inequality rose, as a result, for the first time in decades. COVID-19 marked the end of a phase of global progress in poverty reduction. During the three decades that preceded its arrival, more than 1 billion people escaped extreme poverty. The incomes of the poorest nations gained ground, noted World Bank President David Malpass in the foreword to a study - Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report - released by the World Bank.

The rise in poverty in poorer countries reflects economies that are more informal, social protection systems that are weaker, and financial systems that are less developed. Yet several developing economies achieved notable successes during COVID-19. Helped by digital cash transfers, India managed to provide food or cash support to a remarkable 85 per cent of rural households and 69 per cent of urban households. South Africa initiated its biggest expansion of the social safety net in a generation, spending USD 6 billion on poverty relief that benefited nearly 29 million people. Brazil managed to reduce extreme poverty in 2020 despite an economic contraction, primarily using a family-based digital cash-transfers system. In short, fiscal policy - prudently used and considering the initial country conditions in terms of fiscal space - does offer opportunities for policymakers in developing economies to step up the fight against poverty and inequality.

To realise the potential of fiscal measures, the report called for action on three fronts. First, choose targeted cash transfers instead of broad subsidies. Half of all spending on energy subsidies in low- and middle-income economies went to the richest 20 per cent of the population, who also happen to consume more energy. The second is to mobilise tax revenues without hurting the poor. This can be done by introducing property taxes, broadening the base of personal and corporate income taxes, and reducing regressive tax exemptions. The third is to improve the efficiency of their spending. Better procurement processes and incentives for public sector managers can boost both the quality and efficiency of government spending. COVID-19 has, thus, underlined how progress achieved over decades can vanish suddenly. High-return investments in education, research and development, and infrastructure projects should be made now. Governments need to improve their preparation for the next crisis.

Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka crucial for Congress

REFLEX ACTION

Sushil Kutty

The Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' has been in Karnataka since September 30. It rolled in from Gudalur in Tamil Nadu to Gundlupet in Karnataka. Add the third 'G', 'Rahul Gandhi', and it will be like the stars were in alignment. Rahul Gandhi started the Karnataka leg of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Mysuru with a speech delivered in heavy downpour. The rain refused to let up as if in consonance with the tone and tenor of the speech, which was "nothing can stop us now".

The Karnataka-leg of 'BJY' will stretch for 21 days. Reports are Sonia Gandhi will join Rahul Gandhi at the helm of the 'Yatra' on October 6. That is double the Gandhi-power the Kerala-leg got. Sonia's presence would also emphasize how crucial 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is for the Congress, especially when the 'Yatra' is in Karnataka. More so, when it's a fact that the 'Jodo' part of 'BJY' isn't what it conveys. The only "jodo" that 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will accomplish is that it will help concentrate as much of the electorate behind the Congress 'hand' as is possible in the current circumstances. In Karnataka, this will translate to bringing as many of the various Kannada-speaking "peoples" in the Congress corner. The "various peoples of Karnataka" include those of the Lingayat sect which considers itself a separate religious identity. In August this year, Rahul Gandhi took "initiation" into the Lingayat sect by tying what's called an "ishtalinga" across the chest.

This lends to Rahul and the Congress a political edge as the Lingayats can on their own tip the scales in any election. The 'BJY' will further polarize the Lingayat vote. This must be giving the BJP the jitters. For the BJP, Rahul's trudge across Karnataka is 'Bharat Jitters Yatra!' BS Yediyurappa, the BJP's

main Lingayat, will agree with more worry-lines on his well-worn brow. Among the other "peoples" Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will try to consolidate behind the Congress will be the Muslims. Know that the Congress faces stiff competition for the Muslim vote from the JD(S), AAP, BSP, and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM. Then, there's Narendra Modi's "Pasmanda-push", and Mohan Bhagwat's "madrasa calls".

Both Modi and Bhagwat are recent upholders of Islamic values. And some of the Muslim-stakeholders are reciprocating. How much of this reciprocation will convert to votes is a shot in the blackhole. Rahul Gandhi's 'BJY' aims to cut through the fluff and gather all the Islamic warriors behind the Congress flag. The Congress flag by the way is missing from the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', and in its place, there's the 'tricolour', a deliberate decision because for the Congress, it is 'Bharat jodo' and not 'Congress jodo', which, some would say, is more the need at this time when the Congress is going through a churning. The Congress will get a new party "President" even as the 'BJY' will be coursing through Karnataka. The choice of the Kanadiga Mallikarjun Kharge for the post must have been timed for the 'Yatra' passing through Karnataka, and also for the upcoming Karnataka assembly elections.

With Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and the putative Congress president, all three of them spearheading

the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' through Karnataka, even if for a short period only, the 'BJY' will gain further momentum and hopefully strengthen the Congress 'hand' in the forthcoming assembly elections. If that happens, Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will have fulfilled its purpose in Karnataka, and Kharge's Dalit caste will also perhaps join in the celebrations. That being said, Karnataka is cut from the same cloth as the rest of India even if there's an impression going around that South India is a piece of different fabric. The concerns ailing the common man are the same throughout India, whether its price rise or unemployment, or the strong feeling of communal alienation. The 'BJY' met resistance throughout Kerala from a feeling of communal divide, climaxing with the ban on the PFI, which effectively guillotined the Yatra's chances of patching up Hindu-Muslim differences.

Karnataka also witnessed standoffs on several divisive Hindu-Muslim issues in recent months. The 'hijab' imbroglio continues to agitate both common folks and legal heads. There was also 'halal', "Idgah" and "Waqf". So, Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' continues to face resistance from the communal and the ideological cutoffs dogging current-day India.

That being said, the importance of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to the Congress in Karnataka remains crucial. The 'Yatra' in Kerala gave to Rahul Gandhi the tags of "courageous, ethical, honest, democratic and nationalistic". The Karnataka leg calls for a far more combative Gandhi. Not just the good guy's smile and hugs, but the grit of a commander leading the army into battle. Gujarat might be out of reach, but Karnataka can be within Congress grasp if Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' does its bit. (IPA)



A Goddess Durga idol being carried for immersion at Babughat on Wednesday--Arijit Ganguly

Ukraine war behind present distress in Germany

FOCUS

Victor Grossman

Some readers might expect -- at last -- a jolly, happy bulletin from Berlin. Germany, fourth richest power in the world, the strongest in Europe, seems to have overcome at least for now the ravages of the pandemic. Except in public transportation and medical institutions, face masks have all but disappeared. There are more jobs again -- at least in fast-food or discount shops, in restaurants and hotels or for computer experts. Subways, buses, and streetcars usually run on time -- and sometimes even the inter-city trains. But all is not well, and anxiety is widespread, for living costs have soared.

Worst of all -- heating and cooking gas, and electricity. But also groceries: meat and sausage, many fruits and vegetables, bakery products, even margarine; the many, many food pantries for the hungry, not a few of them from the middle class, can no longer cope. Most frightening of all -- mounting rent costs for apartments, in Germany the homes of a majority.

Behind this distress -- and for many like me most painful -- is the Ukrainian war. During the many wars, I have followed in the news I have learned to be highly skeptical about all news reports. I have seen so many lies and clever distortions that I know enough to

believe neither side. But, distorted or not, every report, every picture of death and destruction wrenches at my heart. Though I was always lucky enough to escape it, I hate war. And especially heart-wrenching for me is that Vladimir Putin, despite my hopes and expectations, took that fateful step on February 24th and sent troops, tanks, and planes across the Ukrainian border!

During the many wars fought in my lifetime, all the way back to Spain, Ethiopia, and World War Two, it was usually easy to discern who was the perpetrator, the aggressor. And this time the media immediately and almost unanimously decided which devil to demonize for the hoi-polloi -- occasionally with tail and horns added on. Since other old Satans are dead and gone, Putin could easily be consigned to an even lower circle in the Inferno than Xi Jinping.

The liberal, "center-left" three-party coalition now governing Germany adopted this interpretation immediately and unreservedly; it was Putin's army which crossed that

borderline and is now bombing and shelling or, allegedly, even worse.

I could not argue with the facts. But neither could I ignore worrisome questions: Where was the indignation, where were the flags, the welcome mats for refugees when NATO or its surrogates putsched, invaded, bombed, shelled, or otherwise "democratized" Guatemala, Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Indonesia, Libya, and a dozen or so others? How many wept with the mothers of Hanoi, or Santiago, Baghdad, or Kabul?

There are so many uncomfortable questions. Yes, Russia has its oligarchs -- too damned many in my view. And delusions of grandeur may be found in Putin's court-like appearances, possibly overmuch Russian national pride. But with Russia facing an American armaments build-up thirteen times as big as its own, and seventeen times as big when NATO is added in, and with its heartland almost totally surrounded and cut off from warm water shipping in the Black Sea if Georgia and above all Ukraine are U.S.-dominated -- it was

undeniably the underdog. Yes, underdogs can also bite sharply. But they remain underdogs -- and on the defensive, primarily against products of Northrop-Grumman, Raytheon, Boeing -- and Krupp Thyssen; but also the unimpeded spread of Bayer, Amazon, Facebook, Twitter, Aldi, Coke, and Burger King -- and the Murdocks and Springers.

Whose voices have been loudest in confronting the evil on the Moskva? In the U.S. it would be mistaken to say that the GOP and the Democrats are exactly the same. They compete, currently more than ever. But for Ukraine, they are flagbearers in the same crusade. It is similar in Germany with the current three-party ruling coalition, which is known as "the Traffic-Light", for each party here has a campaign color. Green of course is for the Greens, red, not so naturally, for the Social Democrats.

Yellow (in German it's not negative) is the chosen color of the Free Democrats. The basic program of this "Let 'em eat cake" party is no tax increases for the big-biz wealthy, the least possible "alms" for single parents, seniors, the unpaid and jobless -- and as many weapons as possible for Zelensky (or almost anyone as long as the Euros keep tinkling -- or rustling!). (IPA/To be continued)

Conventional Crossword

	1	2		3	4		5
6							
		7		8		9	
10				11	12		
		13	14				15
			16			17	
		18					19
20					21	22	
						23	
24					25		

ACROSS

- 1 Wager
- 3 Turn round rapidly
- 6 Spurious imitation
- 7 Spirit
- 9 Gem
- 10 Band's engagement
- 11 Serpents
- 13 Best part
- 16 Silly
- 18 Above
- 19 Zodiac sign
- 20 Garment
- 21 Mineral spring
- 23 Single occasion
- 24 Woody plant
- 25 Concealed

DOWN

- 1 Freight boat
- 2 Flightless bird
- 4 Explodes mildly
- 5 No score
- 6 Vision
- 8 American state
- 9 Frank
- 12 Heavenly bodies
- 14 Exist
- 15 Lying flat
- 17 Large antelope
- 18 Musical instrument
- 20 Decay
- 22 Maori ball on string

SUDOKU:3658

6		7	9	2				3
			6				7	
8	1			5				
2			8			3		
		1				7		
		5			7			4
				7			8	2
	9				2			
7				8	5	4		6

Yesterday's Solution 3657

3	9	1	4	7	5	2	6	8
7	8	2	3	6	9	1	4	5
6	5	4	1	8	2	7	3	9
1	2	6	8	5	3	4	9	7
4	7	9	2	1	6	8	5	3
8	3	5	9	4	7	6	2	1
5	6	3	7	2	8	9	1	4
9	4	7	6	3	1	5	8	2
2	1	8	5	9	4	3	7	6

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1666

S	C	R	A	P		T	I	D	Y
I			M	E	N	A	C	E	
L	U	T	E	S		R	E	N	D
V			I	N	T	E	R		I
E	L	M				Y	E	A	R
R	E	E	K				A	L	E
G		I	D	O	L	S		N	
W	A	R	T		M	U	T	E	D
T	E	E	T	E	R				E
H	O	D	S		N	E	V	E	R

DISCLAIMER

The views in the articles published here are absolutely the views of the author and The Echo of India does not stand liable for them.

Uttarkashi avalanche: 12 more bodies retrieved, toll rises to 16

DEHRADUN, OCT 6 /--/ The death toll in the Uttarkashi avalanche rose to 16 after 12 more mountaineers' bodies were recovered on Thursday, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) said. Fifteen climbers are still believed to be missing.

The avalanche occurred at a height of 17,000 feet on Tuesday when the NIM team was returning after summiting Draupadi Ka Danda II peak. Of the 16 bodies retrieved, 14 are of trainees and two of instructors, NIM said in a bulletin. Four bodies were recovered on the day of the avalanche. A search-and-rescue operation is in progress at the disaster site, the institute said. However, helicopters were pulled from the operation due to bad weather. Their operation will resume on Friday morning depending on the weather, it added. Earlier in the day, a 14-member team from High Altitude Warfare School based in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir joined the rescue operation, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) here said. Nayab Subedar Anil Kumar, the instructor leading the team, told PTI: "There were 42 climbers in the team, including 34 trainees." Kumar, who was among 14 injured mountaineers brought down from the NIM base camp and admitted to the district hospital on Wednesday, said 33 climbers took shelter in a crevasse during the avalanche. (PTI)

Nobel Prize in literature goes to French writer Annie Ernaux

STOCKHOLM, OCT 6 /--/ French author Annie Ernaux, who has mined her own biography to explore life in France since the 1940s, was awarded this year's Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for work that illuminates murky corners of memory, family and society.

Ernaux's autobiographical books explore deeply personal experiences and feelings love, sex, abortion, shame within a changing web of social and class relationships. Much of her material came out of her experiences being raised in a working-class family in the Normandy region of northwest France. The Swedish Academy said Ernaux, 82, was recognised for the courage and clinical acuity" of her writing. Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Ernaux is an extremely honest writer who is not afraid to confront the hard truths. Ernaux writes about things that no one else writes about; for instance her abortion, her jealousy, her experiences as an abandoned lover and so forth. I mean, really hard experiences, he said after the award announcement in Stockholm.

"And she gives words for these experiences that are very simple and striking. They are short books, but they are really moving. Ernaux is just the 17th woman among the 119 Nobel literature laureates and is the first French literature laureate since Patrick Modiano in 2014. (AP) (Details on page 7)

Sonia joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka

PANDAVAPURA, OCT 6 /--/ Making a public appearance after a long gap, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka with her presence at the march being viewed in party circles as a major morale booster.

Amid loud cheers and sloganeering by party workers, Gandhi, 75, walked besides her son Rahul Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders for a few kilometres in Mandya district of Karnataka on Thursday morning. The top party brass of poll-bound



Women performing 'Sindur Khela' (smearing of vermilion) at a community puja in the city, on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami---EOI Photo

Shah rules out dialogue with Pak, calls for dismantling terror ecosystem in J&K

BARAMULLA, OCT 6 /--/ Rejecting any dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir, Union home minister has said that his government was more interested in talking to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and assured them that Assembly polls will be held with "full transparency".

"I will talk to the youth of Kashmir. Think, what did Kashmir achieve because of militancy? Today, every state of the country is moving forward, and Kashmir will also have to keep pace. We don't have to tread the path shown by terrorists. "The youth of Kashmir will tread the path of country's development, will join corporate sector after securing education and jobs. Modi is taking the country forward. I appeal to you to support him," Shah told the jam-packed stadium. The home minister also used the occasion to announce that the political process has been initiated in the Union Territory. He said that before delimitation, only the "three families" used to come to power in J&K, "but the delimitation by the Election Commission will result in your own representatives winning in the elections and then governing".

"Has terror benefited anyone ever in the world? About 42,000 people of J&K have lost their lives from 1990 till now because of terrorism. Tell me, who is responsible for this? These three families who have ruled J-K are responsible," he said. The home minister asserted that terrorism is slowly and steadily coming to an end and cited the development work undertaken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the reins in Delhi. Shah said that there were two models available for the people- one of Prime Minister Modi which talks about development, peace and unity, and increases



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah paying tributes to martyr of the J&K police, Mudasar Ahmad Sheikh, in Uri, J&K---PIB

employment avenues, and the other one is the Gupkar model which let the Pulwama attack happen.

The Gupkar model brings Pakistani terrorists, while the Modi model brings Rs 56,000 crore worth of investment on the ground which will provide five lakh jobs, he said. "In the Gupkar model, youth get stones, machine guns, but in Modi model, youth get IIT, AIIMS, NIFT, NEET. "The youth need education Abdullah sahab, don't put stones in their hands. Modi ji has made it possible for youth to shed stones and get on with

their studies," the home minister said adding that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the ecosystem of terror has almost ended. "If anyone supports terrorists in your locality, please make him understand that Kashmir will not benefit from terrorism. Bring him back to the mainstream. Kashmir will benefit from democracy, from industries being set up here and other developmental steps," he said. Due to the improved security situation, 22 lakhs tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year so far

Flash floods during immersion claim 8 lives in Jalpaiguri

Modi, Mamata announce ex-gratia for victims' kin

KOLKATA, OCT 6 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for every next of kin of the eight people who lost their lives, after being swept away due to flash floods in the Mal river in Jalpaiguri district during idol immersion of Goddess Durga.

They also said Rs 50,000 each will be provided to the injured. Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each of the deceased in the tragic mishap during Durga Puja festivities in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a tweet. "A tragic flash flood hit the Mal River in Jalpaiguri as Durga Visarjan was underway. Eight people lost their lives,



I pray that their families find strength & solace in these difficult times," Mamata tweeted. The chief minister said 13 people are undergoing treatment at the Mal Super Speciality Hospital. Around 70 people were saved by the efforts of the police, civil defence volunteers and local youth. I commend their selfless service. There have been no reports of missing persons so far. Search and rescue operations by NDRF and

SDRF are still underway, she said. Jalpaiguri SP Debarshi Dutta said the flash floods occurred around 8.30 pm on Wednesday, when idol immersion of several community Durga pujas at Malbazar in Dooars area was being held. The deceased included an eight-year-old boy and a girl, aged 13, the officer said. For any assistance, kindly reach out to the following helpline numbers- 03561230780/

9073936815, Mamata added. Meanwhile, BJP MLA Manoj Tigga, who visited the accident spot, said the administration should have been more alert in dealing with the situation. Alleging that little help was available to the people who were on the river bed or near it when the tragedy struck, Tigga said: "Considering that the character of Mal river is different from other rivers in the region, the administration should have made arrangements accordingly."

Trinamool Congress MLA of Mal, Buluchik Baraik, said the idol immersion on Vijaya Dashami takes place at the site every year, but given the river passes through hilly terrain, the water level suddenly rose owing to heavy rain in the upper catchment area. (PTI)

WHO alert on Gambia deaths: DCGA initiates probe; Haryana sends cough syrup samples to Kolkata lab

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 /--/ India's drug regulator has initiated a probe and sought further details from the WHO after the global health body issued an alert that cough syrups manufactured by an Indian firm could potentially be linked to the death of children in Gambia.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday warned that four "contaminated" and "substandard" cough syrups allegedly produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited based in Haryana's Sonapat could be the reason for the deaths in the West African nation. Haryana's health minister Anil Vij on Thursday said samples of four cough syrups manufactured by the firm have been sent to the Central Drugs Laboratory in Kolkata for examination.

"The samples have been collected by a team of the DCGA and Haryana's Food and Drugs Administration Department and sent to the CDL, Kolkata for examination," Vij told PTI. He said a senior official of Centre's Department of Pharmaceuticals spoke with Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Health). According to the

minister, the cough syrups manufactured by the pharma company were approved for export. "It is not available for sale or marketing in the country."

"Whatever action has to be taken will be taken once the CDL report comes. Only after the report is in, we can arrive at any conclusion," Vij said. Government sources had said the exact "one-to-one causal relation of death" has neither been provided by the UN health agency nor the details of labels and products been shared by it with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), enabling it to confirm the identity or source of the manufacturing of the products.

"Based on available information, the CDSCO has already taken up an urgent investigation into the matter with regulatory authorities in Haryana. "While all required steps will be taken, as a robust regulatory authority, the WHO has been requested to share with CDSCO at the earliest the report on the establishment of a causal relation to the deaths with the medical products in question, photographs of labels/products etc," a source said. (PTI)

At least 35 killed in attack beginning at Thailand childcare center

Gunman kills wife and child before taking his own life

BANGKOK, OCT 6 /--/ At least 24 children and 11 adults were killed Thursday in an attack that began at a childcare center in northeastern Thailand, authorities said. The gunman then fled the scene, shooting from his car as he drove home, where he killed his wife and child before taking his own life, police said.

The initial attack came at about 12.30 p.m. when the man, identified as a former police officer, entered the childcare center in the town of Nongbua Lamphu, authorities said. Nineteen boys, three girls and two adults were killed in the building before the assailant fled, according to a police statement. Photos and videos of the scene posted online showed sleeping mats scattered in a preschool room, its floor smeared with blood, with alphabet pictures and other colorful wall decorations. Videos carried the sound of wails as frantic family members wept and watched outside the nursery school building. Ambulances stood by as police and medical workers walked in the schoolyard. According to Thai media reports, the gunman also used knives in the attack. After the suspect fled, he continued to shoot from his car, hitting several people, police Maj. Gen. Paisal Luesomboon told The Associated Press. After arriving home, he killed his wife and child before killing himself, according to the



A distraught woman is comforted outside the site of an attack at a daycare center

Daily News newspaper. Police said a total of two children and 10 adults died outside the childcare center, including the suspect, his wife and his son. Firearm-related deaths in Thailand are much lower than in countries like the United States and Brazil, but higher than in countries like Japan and Singapore that have strict gun control laws. The rate of firearms related deaths in 2019 was about 4 per 100,000, compared with about 11 per 100,000 in the U.S. and nearly 23 per

100,000 in Brazil. Last month, a clerk shot co-workers at Thailand's Army War College in Bangkok, killing two and wounding another before he was arrested.

The country's previous worst mass shooting involved a disgruntled soldier who opened fire in and around a mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima in 2020, killing 29 people and holding off security forces for some 16 hours before eventually being killed by them. (AP)



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tying laces of his mother and party interim President Sonia Gandhi's shoe during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Mysuru on Thursday

Telangana.

"We have weathered many a storm and will overcome all challenges. Together we will unite India," he said in another tweet in Hindi and posted a photograph of him walking with his mother, his arm around her.

The Congress also posted a picture of the two on Twitter, and said: "Those shielded by love fear nothing! On the road, marching ahead".

Another post from the party simply said Ma with a heart and the photograph of Rahul Gandhi tying Sonia Gandhi's shoelaces. (PTI)

French writer Annie Ernaux awarded Nobel Prize in literature

STOCKHOLM, OCT 6/--/French author Annie Ernaux was awarded this year's Nobel Prize in literature for "the courage and clinical acuity with



which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory," the Swedish Academy said on Thursday. Ernaux, 82, started out writing autobiographical novels, but quickly abandoned fiction in favour of memoirs. Her more than 2 books, most of them very short, chronicle events in her life and the lives of those around her. They present uncompromising portraits of sexual encounters, abortion, illness and the deaths of her parents.

Anders Olsson, chairman, Nobel Committee for literature, said Ernaux's work was often "uncompromising and written in plain language, scraped clean". "She has achieved something admirable and enduring," he told reporters after the announcement in Stockholm, Sweden. Ernaux describes her style as "flat writing" (écriture plate), a very objective view of the events she is describing, unshaped by florid description or overwhelming emotions. In the book that made her name, "La Place" (A Man's Place), about her relationship with her father, she writes: "No lyrical reminiscences, no triumphant displays of irony. This neutral writing style comes to me naturally." Her most critically acclaimed book was "The Years" (Les anneés), published in 2008 and describing herself and wider French society from the end of World War II to the present day. Unlike in previous books, in "The Years", Ernaux writes about herself in the third person, calling her character "she" rather than "I". The book received numerous awards and honours. Last year's prize went to the Tanzanian-born, UK-based writer Abdulrazak Gurnah, whose novels explore the impact of migration on individuals and societies. Gurnah was only the sixth Nobel literature laureate born in Africa, and the prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers. It is also male-dominated, with just 16 women among its 118 laureates.

The prizes to Gurnah in 2021 and US poet Louise Gluck in 2020 helped the literature prize move on from years of controversy and scandal. In 2018, the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, which names the Nobel literature committee, and sparked an exodus of members. The academy revamped itself but faced more criticism for giving the 2019 literature award to Austria's Peter Handke, who has been called an apologist for Serbian war crimes. A week of Nobel Prize announcements kicked off on Monday with Swedish scientist Svante Paabo receiving the award in medicine for unlocking secrets of Neanderthal DNA that provided key insights into our immune system. Three scientists jointly won the prize in physics on Tuesday. Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F. Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger had shown that tiny particles can retain a connection with each other even when separated, a phenomenon known as quantum entanglement, that can be used for specialised computing and to encrypt information.

The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded on Wednesday to Americans Carolyn R. Bertozzi and K. Barry Sharpless, and Danish scientist Morten Meldal for developing a way of "snapping molecules together" that can be used to explore cells, map DNA and design drugs that can target diseases such as cancer more precisely. The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on Friday and the economics award on Monday. The prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly USD 900,000) and will be handed out on December 10. The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, in 1895. (AP)



World Bank downgrades India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 pc for FY23

WASHINGTON, OCT 6/--/The World Bank on Thursday projected a growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the Indian economy for the fiscal year 2022-23, a drop of one per cent from its previous June 2022 projections, citing deteriorating international environment. In its latest South Asia Economic Focus released ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Bank, however, noted that India is recovering stronger than the rest of the world. The Indian economy grew by 8.7 per cent in the previous year. "The Indian economy has done well compared to the other countries in South Asia, with relatively strong growth performance... bounced back from the sharp contraction during the first phase of COVID," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told PTI in an interview.

India, he said, has done relatively well with the advantage that it doesn't have a large external debt, there are no problems coming from that side, and that there is prudent monetary policy, he observed. The Indian economy has done especially well in the services sector and especially service exports. "But we have downgraded the forecast for the fiscal year that just started and that is largely because the

international environment is deteriorating for India and for all countries. We see kind of an inflection point in the middle of this year, and first signs of slowing across the world," he said.

The second half of the calendar year is weak in many countries and will be relatively weak also in India, he said. Timmer said that's mainly because of two factors. One is the slowing of growth in the real economy of high-income countries. The other one is the global tightening of monetary policy that tightens financial markets and not just that it leads to capital outflows in many developing countries, but it also increases interest rates and uncertainty in developing countries which has a negative impact on investment. "So, it is not as vulnerable as some of the other countries. But it's still in tough weather. It (India) has to navigate the higher commodity prices and there are more headwinds at the moment," he

said in response to a question. India is doing better than the rest of the world, he said, adding that there are more buffers in India, especially large reserves at the central bank. That's very helpful. "Then the government has very



actively reacted to the COVID crisis," he said. The Indian government has set an example for the rest of the world, like expanding social safety nets, using digital ideas. "I think it's almost up to a million people that they are reaching at the moment. It's a good response also," he said.

At the same time, he said that he does not agree with all the policies of the Indian

government. "Especially their reaction to the high commodity prices might seem logical in the short run, but might backfire in the long run. For example, the export ban on wheat and the export ban or the very high tariffs on rice exports," he said. They seem logical to create food security domestically, but ultimately that creates more problems in the rest of the region and the rest of the world. "So not all policies are optimal, but a strong reaction to the crisis in terms of relief efforts, strong monetary policies, and in general a trend towards a more business friendly environment," Timmer said.

Responding to a question, he said since India needs to address some of the key concerning issues. "Although we look at a relatively favourable growth rate, it is growth that is supported by only a small part of the economy. It sounds good, but if it is not coming from a much broader base, then that growth rate of a relatively small part of the

economy doesn't translate into significant growth of income for all the households," he said. Timmer pointed out that only 20 per cent of the women are participating in the labour market. "That is a problem that has to be addressed. You don't solve that just by extending your social security system. That's important. Ultimately, the people should be given the tools to generate income themselves," he said.

"What we have seen in the region and to some extent in India also is that the government was not really prepared to absorb all those shocks that we are seeing in the region. The COVID shock, the war in Ukraine and the commodity prices are once in a lifetime shocks and they come one after the other and then the environmental disasters also," he said. Both the government and the people are not prepared to cope with that. And that is because just too few people are fully participating in the economy, he argued, adding that that's a high priority for India to make progress there. "In India, the focus is on the existing big firms. Focus is on FDI. And that's all very good. The focus is on social safety nets. That's also very good. But it's not enough. You need to integrate more people in the economy," Timmer said. (PTI)

Pakistani FM says water receded 50% in flood-ravaged Sindh

ISLAMABAD, OCT 6/--/Pakistan's foreign minister on Thursday said that about 50 per cent of the water has receded in the country's worst-hit southern Sindh province, raising hopes that farmers will be able to sow wheat in a first step toward returning to a normal life. "We are utilising all of our resources for draining the remaining water in flood-affected areas in Sindh," Bilawal Bhutto Zardari told a news conference.

It was the first time that any official confirmed that the water had dropped 50 per cent in Sindh, where 400,000 people are living in relief camps or in tents. Bhutto-Zardari's remarks were a sign of hope for hundreds of thousands of farmers who had been uncertain about the sowing of the upcoming wheat crop, which usually starts in October. Nearly 15 per cent of Pakistan's rice crop and 40 per cent of its cotton crop were lost in this year's flooding, according to officials. The waters wiped out the personal grain stores that many farming families rely on for food year-round.

The record-breaking flooding, blamed in part on climate change, affected 33 million people, killed nearly 1,700, damaged more than 2 million homes and overall wreaked damage estimated at USD 30 billion. Bhutto-Zardari said Pakistan alone cannot handle the devastation caused by climate change.

"We are thankful to the world community for helping us but we need more assistance," he told reporters in Karachi, the capital of his Sindh province, where 760 people died in floods and 350 survivors later lost life due to the outbreak of diseases.

The latest remarks of Bhutto-Zardari also came two days after the United Nations amid a surge in diseases in flood-hit areas of Pakistan raised its aid appeal for Pakistan to USD 816 million from USD 160 million, saying recent assessments pointed to the urgent need for long-term help lasting into next year. Bhutto-Zardari said Pakistan has witnessed its worst-ever flooding because

of climate change since June, although his country contributes less than 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. August rainfall in the Sindh and southwestern Baluchistan provinces was eight and nearly seven times normal amounts, while Pakistan as a whole this summer had three-and-a-half times its normal rainfall. Bhutto-Zardari criticized former Prime Minister Imran Khan for continuing antigovernment rallies even during floods. "I cannot hold such rallies when my people are dying in the



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

floods," he said. Khan was ousted from power in April through no-confidence in the parliament.

But he says he was ousted under a US plot, a charge Washington denies. Bhutto-Zardari said Khan during his tenure strained Pakistan's ties with many countries, including Washington. His remarks came after Khan vowed to march on Islamabad soon to force Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif to hold snap elections which are due next year. Bhutto-Zardari said Pakistan cannot afford to go to the elections when many areas are still submerged. He said Pakistan will first accomplish the task of helping people rebuild homes in flood-hit areas and return to their normal life.

"Elections will be held next year," he said, amid threats from Khan for a march on Islamabad. (AP)

Sweden completes investigation of Baltic Sea pipeline leaks

COPENHAGEN, OCT 6/--/Sweden's domestic security agency said on Thursday that its preliminary investigation of leaks from two Russian gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea "has strengthened the suspicions of serious sabotage" as the cause. The Swedish Security Service said the probe confirmed that "detonations" caused extensive damage to the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines last week.

Authorities had said when the leaks off Sweden and Denmark first surfaced that explosions were recorded in the area. The agency didn't give details about its investigation. But in a separate statement, Swedish prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist said, "Seizures have been made at the crime scene and these will now be investigated."

Ljungqvist, who led the preliminary investigation, did not identify the seized evidence. Now that the initial probe is completed, a blockade around the pipelines off Sweden will be lifted, he said.

The governments of Denmark and Sweden previously said they suspected that several hundred pounds of explosives were involved in carrying out a deliberate act of sabotage.

The leaks from Nord Stream 1 and 2 discharged large amounts of methane into the air. Ljungqvist, called it "a serious incident" and said "the case is very sensitive." He declined to elaborate saying there was "pretrial confidentiality."

Last week, undersea explosions ruptured Nord Stream 2 and its sister pipeline, Nord Stream 2, at two locations off Sweden and two off Denmark. The pipelines were built to carry Russian natural gas to Germany.

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the West of attacking the pipelines, which the United States and its allies vehemently denied. Danish authorities said the two leaks they were monitoring in international waters stopped over the weekend.

One of the leaks off Sweden also appeared to have ended. Copenhagen police were leading Denmark's inquiry in cooperation with energy authorities, the National Police and the Danish Police Intelligence Service. (AP)

Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee delegation discusses visa issue with Pakistani counterpart

LAHORE, OCT 6/--/The five-member delegation of Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC-Amritsar) that arrived here via Wagah Border held a meeting with its counterpart Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC) and Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) officials to push them to ease the visa policy so that more Indian Sikhs can visit their holy places in Pakistan.

The delegation led by SGPC Amritsar Pardhan Advocate S Harjinder Singh Dhani arrived on Wednesday and held a joint meeting of SGPC, ETPB, and PSGPC at the ETPB headquarters in Lahore.

Dhani stressed on the ease in visa curbs and said a lot of time was wasted on obtaining a visa for Pakistan, a participant of the meeting told PTI.

"We want more and more Indian Sikhs to come to Pakistan to visit their holy places and for that purpose, the ETPB will have to play its role," Dhani was quoted as saying.

The visit of the Sikh delegation comes at a time when bilateral relations between New Delhi and Islamabad are strained over issues like cross-border terrorism from Pakistan and the Kashmir issue.

ETPB spokesperson Amir Hashmi told PTI that the board's chief Habibur Rehman Gilani assured the delegation that the visa matter would be taken up with the federal government.

Hashmi said Gilani also told the delegation that the board had launched an app for religious tourism.

"This will help all those, especially Sikhs coming to Pakistan for religious tourism," Gilani said, further informing the delegation that the board had allocated a "substantial amount" in its 2022-23 budget for the restoration of different Gurdwaras in the country.

The ETPB spokesperson said both sides had agreed to meet over the upkeep of gurdwaras here.

Dhani left for India on Wednesday while the remaining four members will stay here till October 8 and visit Kartarpur Sahib and Nankana Sahib, Hashmi said. (PTI)

Gambia urgently recalls syrups blamed for 66 child deaths

BANJUL (GAMBIA), OCT 6/--/Gambia has launched an urgent door-to-door campaign to remove cough and cold syrups blamed for the deaths of more than 60 children from kidney injury in the tiny West African country. Speaking to The Associated Press, the Director of Health Dr. Mustapha Bittaye confirmed the wave of child deaths from acute kidney injury, sending shockwaves across the country of 2.4 million people and around the world. The World Health Organisation has issued an alarm in response to the deaths. "WHO has issued a medical product alert for four contaminated medicines identified in The Gambia that have been potentially linked to acute kidney injuries and 66 deaths among children," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement issued on Wednesday. "The loss of young lives is beyond heartbreaking for their families," he said. The four medicines are cough and cold syrups produced in India, said the WHO statement. While the contaminated products have so far only been detected in Gambia, they may have been distributed to other countries, said the statement. WHO is pursuing investigations with the company and regulatory authorities in India, it said.

"WHO recommends all countries detect and remove these products from circulation to prevent further harm to patients," it said. Teaming up with the Gambia Red Cross Society, the Ministry of Health has dispatched hundreds of young people to collect the suspect syrups through a house-to-house campaign. Gambia's Medical Research Council has also issued an alarm. "Over the last week, we admitted a child with this condition (acute kidney injury) ... and she has unfortunately died. We were able to confirm that she had taken one of the drugs that is suspected to be causing this, prior to her arrival at our clinic. It had been bought at a pharmacy within The Gambia," the council said in a statement. "The drug has been identified as containing a significant amount of a toxin which damages kidneys irreversibly."

In India, the federal regulator and the state regulator of northern Haryana state are conducting an inquiry into the contaminated medicines. (AP)

New app may rapidly detect Parkinson's, severe COVID from people's voice

MELBOURNE, OCT 6/--/Researchers have developed a new smartphone app that can accurately and rapidly detect Parkinson's disease and severe COVID-19 using just people's voice recordings. The artificial intelligence (AI) enabled app records a person's voice and takes just 10 seconds to reveal whether they may have Parkinson's disease and should be referred to a neurologist.

"Early detection, diagnosis and treatment could help manage these illnesses, and so making screening faster and more accessible is critical," said study lead researcher Dinesh Kumar from RMIT University. "This research will allow a non-contact, easy-to-use and low-cost test that can be performed routinely anywhere in the world, where the clinicians can monitor their patients remotely,"

Kumar said. The app could also promote a community-wide screening program, reaching people who might not otherwise seek treatment until it is too late, according to the researchers. The results of the research are published in IEEE Journal of Translational Engineering in Health and Medicine, IEEE Access and in Computers in Biology and Medicine.

The voice of people with Parkinson's disease changes because of a combination of three symptoms: rigidity, tremor and slowness. Expert clinicians can identify these symptoms, but this assessment can be challenging due to the large natural differences in people's voices. Kumar said previous attempts to develop a computerised voice assessment to detect Parkinson's had been inaccurate due to these significant

differences in people's voices. The researchers used voice recordings of people with Parkinson's and a controlled group of so-called healthy people saying three sounds A, O and M. "These sounds result in a more accurate detection of the disease," Kumar added.

"In patients with pulmonary disease symptoms from COVID-19, there is also a change in the voice due to lung infection," he said.

The researchers noted that due to large differences in people's voices, pulmonary disease is difficult to recognise in its early stages. This limitation can be overcome with the choice of those same three sounds and the AI method of analysis the researchers have developed. Prior to being used, the system is trained to identify the disease. Once trained, it performs an instantaneous analysis of the voice. The software

then compares the results against existing samples of voices of people with Parkinson's against those who do not. Co-researcher Quoc Cuong Ngo, from RMIT's School of Engineering, said the new technology was faster and better than any similar AI-based approach. "Our screening test app can measure, with great precision, how the voice of someone with Parkinson's disease or person at high risk of hospitalisation from COVID-19 is different from healthy people," he said.

Parkinson's is a degenerative brain condition that can be challenging to diagnose as symptoms vary among people. Common symptoms include slow movement, tremor, rigidity and imbalance. Currently, the disease is diagnosed through an evaluation by a neurologist that can take up to 90 minutes. (PTI)

Women’s Asia Cup: India look to continue domination over Pakistan



S Y L H E T (BANGLADESH), OCT 6 / --/ India would expect that opener Shafali Verma comes out of the lean patch she has been enduring for some time and the team extends its domination of Pakistan when the two arch-rivals clash in their women's Asia Cup T20 match, here Friday.
The Indian team gave ample game time to its fringe players, making as many as eight changes in the last two games, but against Pakistan -- one of title contenders -- the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side is expected to have full strength team on the field. Pakistan are coming into the contest after suffering a shock four-wicket defeat at the hands of minnows Thailand on Thursday. The two sides currently occupy the top two spot in the points table with India, who have won three games on the trot, leading the table.
While an India-Pakistan tie always generates hype, the recent two matches between the two sides failed to produce a close game with India winning comfortably. India were at their ruthless best as they brushed aside Pakistan at the Commonwealth Games

in July. In fact, India have won the last five meeting against the neighbours in the format easily. After being rested for a game each, the star openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana will be expected to provide a strong start. The big-hitting Shafali will be feeling the pressure as she still looks low on confidence. She was able to spend some time in the middle in the match against Malaysia but looked scratchy and far from her best. The teenager will be eager to shake off the rust and play some dominant knocks with the T20 World Cup fast approaching. On the other hand, Mandhana and skipper Kaur are coming off stellar performances in the white-ball series against England. Jemimah Rodrigues, who returned to the side after a wrist injury, is in imperious touch. After notching up her career-best score in the opener, she brought her second consecutive half-century of the tournament and along with all-rounder with Deepti Sharma inspired a win against UAE. The bowlers have continued to be clinical in all three games. On the other hand,

Pakistan batters, who were hardly tested in the wins over Malaysia and Bangladesh, had the perfect opportunity to get some runs under their belts. But, barring opener Sidra Ameen who scored a fifty, they failed to impress, failing to breach the 120-run mark against Thailand.
Their bowling attack, which has been clinical in the tournament, had few runs to defend. Their batters will have their task cut out against a confident and firing India bowling attack. (PTI)
Teams (From) India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sabbineni Meghana, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sneha Rana, Dayalan Hemalatha, Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav and KP Navgire.
Pakistan: Bismah Maroof (c), Aiman Anwer, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadiya Iqbal, Sidra Ameen, Sidra Nawaz and Tuba Hassan.
Match starts 1 PM IST.

AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers: India beat Kuwait 3-0; Thanglalsoun Gangte stars with brace

AL KHOBAR (SAUDI ARABIA), OCT 6 / --/ Thanglalsoun Gangte scored a brace to guide India to a crucial 3-0 win over Kuwait in the AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers here on Thursday.
India had registered a commanding 5-0 win against the Maldives in their previous match. Two goals from Gangte gave the Indian side three points. Goalkeeper Sahil also shone through with a notable display, making a number of crucial saves, ensuring a hard-earned clean sheet. The first half began with the Indian side in the ascendancy right from kick-off. The first big chance came in the ninth minute as Gangte headed the ball into the net from a corner-kick opportunity. However, the referee had blown for a foul in the build-up. Three minutes later, skipper Vanlalpeka Guite stung the palms of the Kuwait custodian with a low, fizzing shot that was saved. The pressure continued to build and the reward came in the 16th minute as

Bibiano Fernandes' side took the lead. A delicious long ball from centreback Manjot Singh Dhami found Korou in space down the right flank. The winger charged and played a pinpoint cross for the onrushing Gangte, who provided a clinical first-time finish. India custodian Sahil was called into action on a couple of occasions and produced some fine saves towards the end of the first half to ensure a clean sheet. After the half-time interval, the game continued from where it left off as both sides continued to push for advantage. Two minutes after the hour mark, Korou headed narrowly over the bar from a corner-kick chance. However, four minutes later, he was on hand to double India's advantage as the Blue Colts raced forward on a counter-attack. Guite fired in an inviting low cross from the left and the winger slammed it home with aplomb.
Sahil was called into action yet again in the 69th minute, producing a flying save to deny Khaled once again. (PTI)

European football ‘united’ as Ukraine joins Spain, Portugal 2030 World Cup bid

NYON, OCT 6 /--/ Ukrainian football association (UAF) president Andriy Pavlenko said European football was “united” after his country was added to Portugal and Spain's bid to host the 2030 World Cup. The original proposal from Spain and Portugal was announced two years ago but has been given a political impetus by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
“United as never before, the European football family, having condemned the crimes against the Ukrainian people, proved its commitment to the values that underlie our organisation,” Pavlenko told reporters.
“I thank you and all the friendly national associations for the help on behalf of thousands of little players — girls and boys from Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kherson, Irpin, Bucha and many other cities that were subjected to barbaric military aggression.” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the bid was “more than a

symbol of faith in our joint victory”.
“Ukraine will endure, prevail and be rebuilt thanks to the solidarity of its partners,” Zelensky said on Twitter. He added that it was “very symbolic” that two EU nations were in a position to organise the tournament together with aspiring member Ukraine, in a video published on social media. On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into legislation his annexation of four Ukrainian territories as the EU agreed a new round of sanctions against Moscow in response. In recent weeks, Ukraine's forces, bolstered by Western weapons, have wrested Russian troops out of a string of towns and villages in the east and in the south.
“These children were forced to leave their homes, their clubs and football schools, fleeing from bullets and shells,” Pavlenko said.
“Many of them received your



President of the Portuguese Football Federation Fernando Soares Gomes da Silva (L), President of the Spanish Football Federation Luis Rubiales (C), and President of the Ukraine Football Federation Andriy Pavlenko pose during a press conference announcing Spain, Portugal, and Ukraines bid for the 2030 World Cup at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon
support and found shelter in various European countries.
“Now they can continue to play football in European clubs and have made new friends all over Europe.

Samson’s unbeaten 86 in vain as India lose to SA by 9 runs in 1st ODI

LUCKNOW, OCT 6 /--/ Below-par death bowling coupled with ordinary fielding and batting, except for Sanju Samson and Shreyas Iyer, hurt a second-string Indian team as it slumped to a nine-run defeat against South Africa in the rain-truncated first ODI of the three-match series here on Thursday.
Opting to bowl in the rain-hit 40-over-a-side game, India started on the right note reducing South Africa to 110 for 4 in 22.4 overs before David Miller and Heinrich

Klaasen hit strokeful half-centuries to guide South Africa to 249 for 4. Down at 110 for four, Miller (75 not out off 63 balls) and Klaasen (74 not out off 65 balls) added 139 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket to take the visitors to close to 250-run mark. Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers for India with figures of 2/35 from eight overs. The Indian bowlers struggled in the death overs, conceding 54 runs in the last five overs. If that was not enough, the Indian fielders dropped as

many as four catches in the outfield to help South Africa's cause. Chasing a stiff target of 250, Samson (86 not out off 63 balls) and Iyer (50 off 37 balls) struck fifties, while Shardul Thakur (33 off 31 balls) used the long handle to good effect towards the end but it was not enough in the end. India endured a disastrous start to their chase, losing both Shubman Gill (3) and skipper Shikhar Dhawan (4) cheaply to be reduced to 8 for 2 inside six overs. While Kagiso Rabada cleaned up Gill in the third over,

Dhawan inside-edged one on to his stumps from a Wayne Parnell delivery in the sixth over. Ishan Kishan and debutant Ruturaj Gaikwad then tried to stabilise the innings with a 48-run partnership for the third wicket before the latter was stumped by Quinton de Kock off the bowling of Tabraiz Shamsi as India slumped to 48 for 3 in 16.4 overs. In the reserves for the T20 World Cup squad, Iyer helped his cause with a 37-ball 50 and together with Sanju Samson shared 67 runs

for the fifth wicket to keep India in the hunt. Iyer decorated his innings with eight hits to the fence before handing a simple catch to Rabada at mid-on off Lungi Ngidi's bowling. But Samson and Thakur kept India in the hunt with an attacking 93-run partnership of just 64 balls for the sixth wicket.
With India needing 45 off the last three overs, Ngidi struck twin blows, dismissing Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav in successive balls to hand South Africa the upper hand. (PTI)



Heinrich Klaasen and David Miller put on an unbeaten 139-run stand

East Bengal look to overcome blues as normalcy returns to ISL

KOCHI, OCT 6 /--/ With former India coach Stephen Constantine at the helm of affairs, East Bengal will look to begin their campaign on a positive note when they take on last season's runners-up Kerala Blasters in the opening match of the Indian Super League here on Friday.
Normalcy returns to the ISL after two closed-door seasons in Goa because of the COVID-19 pandemic as the league will be played once again in its usual home-away format with fans back in the stadiums. There's still no promotion and relegation yet but the ninth season will see the top two from the league making the semi-finals directly, while the remaining two spots will be determined from a single-leg playoff among the third to sixth placed teams. On paper, the three-time finalists and the home side, despite losing their key attackers Alvaro Vazquez (FC Goa) and Jorge Pereyra Diaz (Mumbai City), look much stronger than the century-old club from Kolkata who are still



making baby steps in the franchise-based league. The Ivan Vukomanovic-coached yellow brigade will hope that the new recruits in Giannou, Diamantakos and Victor Mongil are up to the task. Striking the balance would be their main objective.
All eyes would be on local boy and India player Sahal Abdul Samad as he

would look to press for early strikes. Under a new sponsor, East Bengal will hope that they overcome the disappointment of the last two seasons when they finished ninth and at bottom (11th).
“It will be a real test for us. But then this is what we all want... to be tested every week, every game. We are slowly getting there. One

thing I will promise. We will give our fans a good account of ourselves,” new East Bengal head coach Constantine said. Constantine has brought in some known faces of Indian football in Cleiton Silva and VP Suhair, who will be in charge of East Bengal attack and link-up play. Silva had two fruitful seasons with Bengaluru FC.

With a penchant for goals, he will be their key man up front. Ivan Gonzalez and Alex Lima will further strengthen the spine in the team.
Charalambos Kyriakou is someone who can play multiple positions in the backline which is always a bonus. Arindam Bhattacharja, Hira Mondal and Lalrinliana Hnamte are among the few notable Indian players who have made departures, but there is enough quality and depth when it comes to the Indian contingent this season. Kamaljit Singh showed his solidity at the goal in the recent Durand Cup, while the likes of Jerry Lalrinzuala, Mohamad Rakip, Sarthak Golui, Pritam Singh and Lalchungnunga will add solidity at the back.
The key thing is the team has managed to train together for a long time unlike the last two appearances as they would look to give a good account of themselves under Constantine's defensive organisation. (PTI)
Match Starts: 7.30 PM IST.

GAME NOTES

Playing in IPL helps in passing information easily: Rabada

LUCKNOW, OCT 6 /--/ Playing in the IPL helps gather information on Indian cricketers which can be easily passed on for analysis during national duty, says South African pace ace Kagiso Rabada. The South African quick, who is currently in India for a white-ball series, has gained a lot of popularity in the country due to his impressive stints with Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in the IPL.
“It is something we have prepared before going into the series. Lucky enough with leagues like the IPL, we play a lot with these players and against them as well, so information can be easily passed around,” Rabada told the broadcaster ahead of the first ODI.
“Analysis has been done and has to be done,” he added. The right-arm, who will lead the South African pace attack at the T20 World Cup later this month in Australia, sees ODIs as an extension of the shortest format of the game.
“I think T20 and One-Day cricket are kind of similar, it is just a longer version of it.
“You have similar gameplans and obviously it is less pressure than T20s, I would say the processes are pretty similar.” (PTI)

Pretorius ruled out of T20 World Cup

LUCKNOW, OCT 6 /--/ South African allrounder Dwaine Pretorius has been ruled out of the ongoing ODI series in India and the upcoming T20 World Cup due to a fractured left thumb, Cricket South Africa (CSA) said on Thursday. The pace bowling allrounder, who was the joint-highest wicket-taker for South Africa in the T20 World Cup last year, sustained the injury during the third T20I against India in Indore -- the only match he played in the series. He had returned with figures of 3 for 26 as South Africa won the match by 49 runs for a 1-2 result in favour of India.
“The nature of the injury requires surgical intervention and Dwaine will consult the Cricket South Africa designated hand surgeon on arrival in South Africa,” CSA chief medical officer Dr Shuaib Manjra said. Pretorius has featured in eight T20Is so far in 2022, taking 12 wickets at an average of 20.66 and most importantly, scoring quick runs with the bat down the order.
“Normal rehabilitation procedures will follow to ensure he speedily returns to playing cricket,” Manjra said. Marco Jansen, who also features in their T20 World Cup reserves list, was added to the South African ODI squad and it remains to be seen whether he also makes the cut for the showpiece in Australia beginning October 16. Middle-order batter Rassie van der Dussen was earlier ruled out of the T20 World Cup with a broken finger. (PTI)

Ishant back in Delhi squad for Mushtaq Ali Trophy

NEW DELHI, OCT 6 /--/ Veteran speedster Ishant Sharma will be making one final attempt to resurrect his international career with a domestic comeback for Delhi in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, starting October 11. The 16-strong Delhi squad, led by Kolkata Knight Riders star Nitish Rana, also has a number of current IPL players in its ranks. The squad will have Hrithik Shokeen (Mumbai Indians), Navdeep Saini (Rajasthan Royals), Anuj Rawat (RCB), Simarjeet Singh (CSK), Ayush Badoni and Mayank Yadav (Lucknow Super Giants) and Lalit Yadav (Delhi Capitals). It also has hard-hitting Hiten Dalal and promising youngster Dev Lakra in the line-up along with Himmat Singh, who is the vice-captain.
“The president and secretary has full faith in our senior players and Nitish is one of them. We are confident that the team will do well under his leadership,” joint secretary Rajan Manchanda told PTI.
The Squad: Nitish Rana (captain), Himmat Singh (vc), Hiten Dalal, Yash Dhull, Anuj Rawat (wk), Hrithik Shokeen, Ayush Badoni, Lalit Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Navdeep Saini, Simarjeet Singh, Mayank Yadav, Shivank Vashisht, Dev Lakra, Pradeep Sangwan, Pranshu Vijayan. (PTI)