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NIA registers 'all-time high' 73 terror cases in 2022: Official data

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 --/ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) registered an "all-time high" of 73 cases in 2022 even as it is working to undertake a "whole of ecosystem" approach to dismantle the terrorist networks that aim to harm India, officials said Saturday.

They also said that the agency was "pressing on the pedal" to get extradited gangster Goldy Brar, the prime accused in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. There were reports of his detention in the US recently but agency sources said those were "unconfirmed" reports. An Interpol arrest warrant is alive against him, and his visa in Canada has expired.

Efforts are on to get him back to India to face the law, they said. The federal anti-

terrorist investigation agency has released the year-end figures of its action saying the cases filed by it under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and some other IPC sections covered a spectrum of crimes, including 'Jihadi terror', gangster-terror-drug smugglers nexus, terrorist funding, and FIRs against the now banned Islamic organisation PFI or the Popular Front of India. "The NIA has registered 73 cases in 2022 which is a 19.67 per cent increase from the 61 cases registered in 2021 and is an all-time high for the agency," a spokesperson for the agency said. On average, about 60 cases were filed by the agency in 2019 and 2020, officials said.

Among the cases

registered this year include 35 cases of 'Jihadi' terror in J&K, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal, 10 cases related to Left Wing Extremism (LWE), five cases related to insurgents in the northeast, seven cases related to the PFI, three cases of gangster-terror-drug smuggler nexus, one case of terror funding, and two related to fake Indian currency notes (FICN), the spokesperson said.

The agency also filed a total of 59 chargesheets against 368 persons during the year, as per official data. "Judgements have been pronounced in 38 cases in 2022, all of which have ended in conviction. 109 persons have been convicted to rigorous

imprisonment and fine and six life sentences have also been awarded," the data said. The overall conviction rate for the agency currently stands at 94.39 per cent, it said.

Officials said the agency was working on an "ecosystem kind of approach" and working in coordination with other central probe agencies and state organisations so that the entire terrorist infrastructure is dismantled.

"It is the vision of the Union home minister (Amit Shah) that the NIA should undertake an 'agency-like approach' and not just like a police station. This approach, like the FBI of the US, mandates a wider and extensive approach towards terror crimes and its modus operandi," a senior NIA officer said. The

agency, created in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has also increased its "geographical footprints" within the country as its branches have gone up to 18 now and this is expected to touch the two dozen mark by the next year, the officer said. We are getting more manpower and looking to establish two full-fledged verticals to tackle cyber terrorism and human trafficking, he said.

The agency officials said the NIA was also registering "offshoot cases" where terrorist links emerge during the course of investigation by the state police or any other central agency. It is part of our new standard operating procedure (SOP) that we get associated with any terror-like case from the beginning so that if it comes to us at a

later stage, we are aware of its track, the evidence, and other inputs, they said. The agency was also undertaking investigations that have cross-border ramifications and require the sleuths to travel to that country. "For such probes, the NIA takes the help of the ministry of home and external affairs and we have, and we would, travel to those countries where our investigations are linked to," they said.

As per the official data, the NIA arrested 456 people this year including 19 absconders. Two accused were arrested upon deportation and one accused after extradition, it said. In 2022, 28 persons were designated as individual terrorists under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the data said. (PTI)

2023 will be a great year if country gets good rainfall: Sharad Pawar

BARAMATI, DEC 31 --/ Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar on Saturday said if 2023 witnesses a good monsoon, it will be a "great" year for the country as it will help the agriculture sector thrive and drive up the economy. He also noted that India can become an important country in terms of export. Pawar was talking to media persons in his hometown in Pune district on the



New Year's eve. "As many as 50 to 60 per cent of the people of the country are dependent on agriculture. If we get favourable rainfall in the country, it will be a great year for all of us. The purchasing power of people will rise if agriculture flourishes. I pray that the farmers of the country would be happy in the coming year," he said. Once farmers are happy, other businesses will also witness "great" days, the former Union agriculture minister said. "On a global stage, India can become an important country in terms of exports. Therefore, there should be new reforms in industries and trade. No matter who remains in power today, everyone has to put aside political differences and come together to strengthen the economy," he said.

On the national political scene, Pawar said, "Opposition parties were not allowed to speak during the winter session of Parliament. There was chaos in the House." The NCP supremo also said that the opposition parties will come together for a discussion at the end of January before the Budget Session of Parliament begins. (PTI)

India aimed to expand geo-political heft in 2022; assumed G20 presidency

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 --/ In a year that saw revival of the great-power rivalry triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, India assumed the presidency of the powerful G20 grouping and demonstrated a steely resolve and statecraft in expanding its strategic influence in reshaping the regional power balance in the face of China's increasingly aggressive behaviour. As the eastern Ladakh border standoff lingered on for over 30 months, India also maintained a clear and firm policy in its diplomatic engagement with China, sending a clear message to Beijing that return of peace and security along the frontier was paramount for overall development of ties. India also continued its diplomatic overdrive to expand ties with major global players like the US, the UK, Japan, France and the European Union in sync with a broad goal of increasing its geo-political heft and position itself as a credible force for peace and stability in contrast to China's bullying behaviour. With the Ukraine conflict resulting in a global food and energy crisis and an intensifying geopolitical competition between Russia and the US, India displayed a distinctively nuanced approach and pressed both Moscow and Kyiv to end the hostilities and find a solution to the problem through dialogue. At a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Uzbekistan's Samarkand on September 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi nudged the Russian leader to end the conflicts saying "today's era is not of war", a formulation that found a mention in the declaration of the G20 summit in Bali. However, India abstained from voting in the United Nations on multiple resolutions condemning the Russia invasion, in reflection of its decades-old relationship with Moscow that covers a range of critical areas including defence and nuclear energy.

In the midst of the war, India significantly enhanced its import of discounted Russian crude oil prioritising its energy requirement and blunted mounting pressure from the Western countries to suspend the procurement. As the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24 left almost all major cities of the eastern European country under siege, India launched a massive evacuation operation to rescue its citizens from the conflict zones. Over 22,000 Indian nationals, the majority of students, were brought back home in 90 evacuation flights of which 76 were by commercial airlines and 14 were by the Indian Air Force.

Amid the geo-political turmoil over the Ukraine conflict, India assumed the presidency of the influential bloc G20 at its annual summit in Bali with a promise of striving to ensure that the grouping acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action to deal with pressing challenges. "India is taking charge of the G20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill-effects of the pandemic," Modi said at the Bali summit. "At such a time, the world is looking at the G20 with hope. Today, I want to assure that India's G20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented," he said. India officially assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1. In dealing with China against the backdrop of the eastern Ladakh border row, India maintained an assertive policy insisting that the relationship cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas. "Forties to return to a positive trajectory and remain sustainable, they must be based on the three mutuals: mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in August.

At a G20 dinner in Bali, Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping shook hands and spoke briefly in their first such exchanges in public view since the India-China border standoff began in May 2020. In 2022, India also redoubled efforts to boost strategic cooperation with countries in India's immediate neighbourhood, Gulf region, Central Asia and member nations of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) grouping. But, India's relations with Pakistan deteriorated further following Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's personal attack against Modi over two weeks ago. Islamabad continued with its support to cross border terrorism to create instability in Jammu and Kashmir. India reacted sharply to Bhutto-Zardari's remarks describing them as "uncivilised" and a "new low" even for that country. New Delhi also continued its diplomatic offensive against Islamabad on the issue of terrorism and remained firm on not having any talks with Islamabad until it stops cross border terrorism.

A major highlight of India's diplomatic engagement in 2022 was expansion of strategic partnership with the US including on key regional and global issues like working jointly for a free and stable Indo-Pacific. The reflection of renewed vigour in the bilateral ties was on full display during talks between Modi and US President Joe Biden in May as well as in November on the sidelines of the Quad meeting in Tokyo and G20 summit respectively. (PTI)

BJP will go alone in 2023 Karnataka polls, voting for JD-S is like casting ballot for Congress: Shah

BENGALURU, DEC 31 --/ Urging party workers to ensure that BJP forms a government with two-thirds majority in Karnataka, Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday asserted that the party will go alone in the 2023 assembly polls, and said it will be a direct contest as voting for JD(S) is like casting the ballot for Congress. He also urged people to decide whether they are standing with a party of patriots, referring to the BJP, or with "tukde tukde gang" under the leadership of Congress. "There are clearly two sides and it is a straight fight this time. Journalists say there is a triangular fight. I said no, it is a straight fight, because voting for JD(S) means voting for Congress. So, is it a straight fight or not?" Shah asked. Accusing the JD(S) of spreading rumours claiming that BJP will tie up with them, while addressing party workers here, he said: "I have come to tell the workers and the people of Karnataka that we will not go with any party. We will fight alone and form the government on our own." "There are clearly two sides. On one side, there is an organisation of patriots in the form of BJP and on the other side, tukde-tukde gang have come together under the leadership of the Congress. It is for the people of Karnataka to decide now whether they are with the patriots or those who support people who want to divide this country," he added. Shah was speaking at the BJP's booth presidents and booth-level agents convention at the Palace Ground here. Highlighting the saffron party's massive victory in Gujarat, Shah told party workers assembled from across Karnataka: "If you want to form a government, don't form an incomplete one, form a government with a full two-thirds majority." "I have seen the mood of the people of Karnataka. People are ready (to support us), we need to go to them," he added. Karnataka will go to the polls by April-May, 2023. (PTI)

Modi govt failed to keep promises in 2022: NCP

MUMBAI, DEC 31 --/ On New Year's eve, the Nationalist Congress Party on Saturday said the Narendra Modi government had failed to deliver on its promises in 2022. A statement by NCP spokesperson Mahesh Tapase questioned if the Union government had a roadmap for the development and repayment of debt. Should the nation expect new 'jumlas' (poll rhetoric) in 2023, Tapase asked. "Now that we have only a few hours left of 2022, it is time the nation revisits the promises made by the BJP government. GDP stands at 6.5 per cent against 10 per cent as promised for 2022. Farmers' income has not doubled nor 100 per cent irrigation achieved," the NCP leader said. Eradication of malnutrition, 24x7 electricity, 100 per cent broadband connectivity in all gram panchayats along with digital literacy for all as well as a USD 5 trillion economy were some of the promises made by Modi's government, he claimed. "The government has written off Rs 10 lakh crore of bank loans and these were not majorly the credits taken by farmers and small traders. SMEs scheme for non-collateral credit is only on paper as banks refuse to entertain proposals," he alleged. The Central government's borrowing in eight years of Bharatiya Janata Party rule has touched Rs 80 lakh crore, the rupee stood at 82 to the US dollar, while two lakh persons had renounced Indian citizenship and migrated in 2022, Tapase further said. (PTI)

Administering 220 crore doses of Covid vaccine in India high point of 2022

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 --/ After two years of the worst phase of Covid pandemic, 2022 saw a new wave of infections driven by the Omicron variant of coronavirus which ultimately subsided, putting India along with the world on the route to normalcy before fresh concerns arose amid rise in cases globally at the fag end of the year.

The health ministry, which was kept on its toes by coronavirus, had to briefly deal with the challenge of monkeypox which had sparked a major scare in the months of June, July and August and also the issue of deaths of children in Gambia and Uzbekistan allegedly linked to cough syrups manufactured in India. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation began a probe in connection with the death of 18 children in Uzbekistan allegedly linked to the cough syrup Dok-1 Max manufactured by Marion

Biotech of Noida. The Uzbekistan health ministry has alleged that the children died after consuming Dok-1 Max. Before Uzbekistan's claims, there were reports linking the deaths of 70 children in Gambia to cough syrups manufactured by Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceutical earlier this year. The Drugs Controller General of India, however, claimed the WHO drew a premature link. With Covid cases remaining comparatively low, the ministry could turn its attention to other important projects and commitments this year. However, it had to bring back its focus on Covid by the year end, stepping up surveillance and revising its international guidelines as spurt in cases were reported from Japan, the US, South Korea, Brazil, France and China.

A major achievement of the ministry in 2022 was the administration of 220 crore

doses of Covid vaccine which has resulted in 97 per cent of the eligible adult population having received the first dose and 90 per cent fully vaccinated. Expanding the scope of its Covid vaccination drive, India began inoculating adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years from January 3 and administering precaution doses to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10. The country began inoculating children aged 12-14 from March 16 and also removed the comorbidity clause making all people aged above 60 eligible for the precaution dose of Covid vaccine. On April 10, the government began administering precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years. However, low uptake of precaution dose with just 27 per cent of the eligible population opting for it so far has been one of points of

concern for the health ministry especially in face of the possibility of Covid cases rising again. Taking note of the evolving Covid-19 situation globally and emergence of mutant variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus, the guidelines for international arrivals were reviewed from time to time throughout the year. In the Covid vaccine scenario, Bharat Biotech's intranasal vaccine being approved by the Union Health Ministry as a booster dose for those aged 18 years and above is noteworthy.

Another major highlight of the year was the launch of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in September aimed at eliminating the disease five years ahead of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) target of 2030. The program provides a community support program under which tuberculosis patients can be adopted and cared for by an individual,

elected representatives or institutions. The health ministry also organised a mega 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav' as a part of which over 2.5 lakh people voluntarily donated blood. As part of efforts towards providing affordable medicines, the ministry revised the National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM) taking the total drugs under it to 384 with 34 new additions to the tally which included several anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics and vaccines. The government's flagship insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna continued to provide healthcare cover to the poor and vulnerable with around 4 crore people availing free treatment worth more than Rs 47,000 crore under the scheme till November 25 since it was launched in September 2018. Over 20 crore Ayushman cards have been issued so far.

In another major development, transgender people were included in the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme which besides offering composite healthcare services, will now support sex-change operations. The ministry on December 29 said it has achieved the target of operationalising 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres by upgrading the sub-health centres and rural and urban primary health centres, in both urban and rural areas aimed at bringing healthcare closer to the community. The e-health initiative of the ministry eSanjeevani, a free telemedicine service, clocked over 8 crore teleconsultations till December. Augmenting its footprint in the digital landscape remained one of the top priorities of the health ministry. Over 30 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs were created. (PTI)



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah at the 'Sahakar Labharthi Sammelan', in Bengaluru, Karnataka

Let's rededicate ourselves to inclusive development of Nation: Prez Murmu's message on New Year's Eve

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 --/ President Droupadi Murmu greeted citizens on New Year's Eve on Saturday and called on them to resolve to rededicate themselves to the unity, integrity and inclusive development of the country. "May the dawn of New Year, imbued

with fresh energy, bring new happiness, goals, inspirations and greater achievements in our lives. On this occasion, let us resolve to rededicate ourselves to the unity, integrity and inclusive development of the nation," Murmu said in her message released by the Rashtrapati

Bhavan. "On the occasion of New Year, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all fellow citizens and all Indians abroad," she said. The President further said, "I wish for the progress and prosperity of our glorious nation and the people in the year 2023." (PTI)

Unidentified caller threatens to blow up RSS HQ in Nagpur with bomb, security tightened: Police

NAGPUR, DEC 31 --/ Security was beefed up at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters at Nagpur in Maharashtra on Saturday after an unidentified caller threatened to blow up with a bomb, police said. "A phone call was received at the

Police Control Room at 1 pm. A man threatened to blow up the RSS headquarters in Mahalaxa with a bomb," said DCP, Zone III, Gorakh Bhamre. A Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) and a dog squad were summoned and conducted a thorough

checking of the premises but nothing suspicious was found, he said. Patrolling has been intensified as a precautionary measure, the DCP said, adding that police are tracking the phone number to identify the caller. (PTI)

56 Pakistanis among 186 terrorists killed, 159 arrested in J&K in 2022: DGP

JAMMU, DEC 31 --/ A total of 186 terrorists, including 56 Pakistani nationals, were killed and 159 arrested in 2022 which proved to be the most successful in recent years, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh said on Saturday. He also said the police and other security agencies are moving in the right direction to achieve "zero terror" activities in the Union territory. At the year-end press conference here, the police chief said 146 Pakistan-created terror modules, comprising four to five members each who were tasked to carry out selective and targeted killings and grenade and IED attacks, were also busted in 2022. He said 100 youths joined terrorism in J-K this year, which is also the lowest in many years. (PTI)



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Happy New Year
May Almighty bless us
all with good health,
happiness, and prosperity.*

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

2023

**Warm regards:
Ebrahim Jadwet**

Many people weigh the guilt they will feel against the pleasure of the forbidden action they want to take

Peter McWilliams

India has 10th largest diaspora in the US

The Indian diaspora comprises approximately 4.9 million individuals residing in the United States, who were either born in India or reported Indian ancestry or origin, according to a study released by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), a think-tank. Indians rank tenth on the diaspora charts. The Chinese diaspora comprising of 5.4 million is ranked ninth. The top three countries in the diaspora list are: Germany (41 million), Mexico (38 million) and Ireland (32 million). However, Indians are the second largest immigrant group, following Mexico, and are the main beneficiaries of the non-immigrant H-1B visas for highly skilled individuals. This study — ‘Spotlight on Indian immigrants in the US’ — points out that the 2.7 million Indian immigrants living in the US as of 2021 made up 6% of the total foreign-born population, and their numbers continue to grow. One of the reasons for this stark difference between the diaspora and immigration statistics is that immigration for non-Europeans opened up only post 1965.

Ari Joffman and Jeanne Batalova, authors of this MPI study, state that compared to all immigrants, Indians are much more likely to have arrived in large numbers since the year 2000 and beyond. In 2021, the median age of Indian immigrants was 41 years, which is younger than the overall foreign-born population (47 years), but older than the US or native-born (37 years). Nearly 80% of Indian immigrants were of working age (between 18 to 64 years); versus 77% of the overall foreign-born population and 59% of those born in the US (native born). Education levels of the Indian immigrants is also relatively higher. Their composition when it comes to advanced degrees stands out, the MPI’s study cites, as nearly 49% of Indian immigrant adults held a graduate or professional degree in 2021 compared to 15% of the foreign-born and 13% of native adults. This in turn reflects in the significantly higher median annual incomes. In 2021, households headed by an Indian immigrant had a median annual income of \$150,000, compared to \$70,000 for all immigrant and native-born ones. A lesser-known trend in Indian immigration is the rise in unauthorised arrivals at the US-Mexico borders, the study points out. Between October 2021 and September 2022, border authorities encountered Indian migrants 18,300 times at this border, a spike from 2,600 in the same period a year earlier. MPI estimates that as of 2019, approximately 0.55 million (5%) of the estimated 11 million unauthorised immigrants in the US were from India.

According to a Ministry of External Affairs report, there are 32 million Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) residing outside India and overseas Indians comprise the world’s largest overseas diaspora. Every year 2.5 million (25 lakhs) Indians migrate overseas, which is the highest annual number of migrants in the world.

Global economy entering another uncertain phase in 2023

REFLEX ACTION

Anjan Roy

The world over. American requests to allies in the Middle East, like Saudi Arabia, to jack up production to meet the shortfalls from Russia, have been turned down. The oil supplies have thus fallen short of the demand and the prices have mostly spurted on the global markets. The combined impact has been that the world has not seen a more destabilising rise in food and energy prices than during 2022. Maybe, the distant memories of the first oil shock in the 1970s might reverberate in some minds.

In the developing and emerging market economies, the spike in general inflation has been due to large scale supply shocks — shortages of food supplies and energy. The poorer and emerging market economies have been hit the hardest by the food shortages and rises in food articles prices. In the developed countries, on the other hand, the macro-economic situation has further been compounded by the accumulated impact of the expansionary fiscal and monetary policies followed for years. Ever since the global financial crisis, the western countries had sought to follow an ultra-expansionary monetary policy with low interest rates which had expanded credit. These excesses could not have been more reflected in prices. America had hit inflation levels during the year which were highest in forty years. Britain has seen a fall in the standards of living of the general public as incomes were eroded by rising energy and food prices. Germany has not seen such wintry days since possibly the Middle Ages as it depended totally on Russia for meeting its energy needs and the latter squeezed the supply lines ever more. Egypt has called out for immediate supplies of food grains as supplies dried up from traditional sources.

On exception was Turkey, which wallowed in the confusion and general instability. Turkey has been seeking to usurp the role of a mediator and thus gained for its own. Asian countries had faced the

situation with some equanimity as supply lines did not get as much choked, though the general rise in prices had hurt. India has been an island of relative stability and growth among the major economies of the world. So much so, those international agencies had betted on India to bail out the global economy. The OECD, the rich nations club, published its reports indicating that if the global economy now avoids getting into a prolonged recession it should thank India and some extent China for it.

Though now, China’s prospects have been deeply clouded by the recent recurrent outbreak of the covid epidemic. China had followed its zero-covid policy, which was associated personally with its top leader Xi Jinping. Now the country had suddenly abandoned that wonky policy and the diseases has resurfaced with a vengeance not seen elsewhere. China is feared to lose several million people to covid. A Shanghai hospital has instructed its staff to be ready to face at least 2.5 million deaths. Beijing crematoriums are getting overfilled. However, the bleak background is yet lifting marginally. Inflation which was raging until now, is abating. American inflation has eased and the Federal Reserve’s rate cycle is showing signs of moderation. This is giving the cue to other central bankers to take a more devising stance on inflation fight. As we are now looking up to the New Year, the situation is best encapsulated by the governor of the reserve bank of India, Shaktikanta Das. In the end of his last credit policy statement Mr Das had observed:

“To conclude, let me add that in a tightening cycle, especially in a world of high uncertainty, giving out explicit forward guidance on the future path of monetary policy would be counterproductive. This may result in the market and its participants overshooting the actual play out of real conditions. In such circumstances, it would be prudent to keep Arjuna’s eye on the evolving inflation dynamics and be ready to act as may be necessary. Monetary policy has to be nimble to address any emerging risk to the price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth.” Perhaps, his background in history had given him the perspective and judgement that economists often lack. (IPA)



Winter delicacies: Palm jaggery delectables being sold by a roadside vendor at Dalhousie in Kolkata -----Arijit Ganguly

Conventional Crossword

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27								
28						29		

ACROSS
1 Satellite
3 Separates
8 Chime
9 Stopper
11 For this reason
12 Wise man
14 Consumed
15 Concretion of nacre
18 Courage
19 Bustle
21 Submissive
24 Wanders
26 Medium-sized hawk
27 At all times
28 Retard
29 S-shaped moulding

DOWN
1 Atlas contents
2 Burden
4 Monkey
5 Of the kidneys
6 Diplomacy
7 Glossy
10 Stare openmouthed
11 Lift with effort
13 Microbes
16 Emit fumes
17 Ventured
18 Fictional writing
20 Bird
22 Sovereign
23 Festivity
25 Period of time

SUDOKU:3743

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

Yesterday's Solution 3742

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1751

M	A	D	A	M		M	O	B	S
E	R	A				D	O	N	P
S	A	T	A	N		D	E	A	R
A	B	A	L	O	N	E			I
I		P	I	E		E	G	G	
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An uncertain future for Argentine Progressives

FOCUS

Craig Johnson

Even worse, her recent legal troubles come after she survived an assassination attempt this September, in which a member of a far-right organization attempted to shoot her in the face on live television after she'd given a speech in the wealthy Buenos Aires neighborhood of Recoleta. Clips of the event show her would-be killer, Fernando André Sabag Montiel, pointing a gun at her head; CFK was only saved by the fact that the assassin's gun happened to misfire. The legal case against Sabag Montiel and his allies, a network of white supremacists and Nazi apologists, is ongoing.

CFK's sentencing has also won her some support from others on the Latin American left who identify her prosecution as part of a larger anti-leftist trend. It's been condemned as "lawfare," a term coined in the 2010s to refer to conservative and right-wing political forces zealously using legal systems to attack the leaders of populist and left-wing movements.

Scholars agree that lawfare has become a popular way for conservative and right-wing forces in the region to get rid of political opponents without staging coups or supporting popular uprisings.

One prominent example of lawfare was the removal of Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first female president, from

power in 2016. Rousseff was ousted in what has come to be called a "parliamentary coup," in which members of her cabinet voted for her removal and installed the right-wing Michel Temer as a placeholder until the elections two years later. As Rousseff had been removed from office, she could not run as an incumbent, paving the way for Jair Bolsonaro's victory in 2018 over Rousseff and former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's surrogate candidate, Fernando Haddad.

Rousseff was among the first prominent politicians in Latin America to express solidarity with CFK over her sentencing, drawing parallels between their two cases. Other left and center-left politicians in Latin America have followed suit, calling CFK's sentencing an act of political violence against the people of Argentina and Latin America in general.

Brazilian president-elect Lula and former Bolivian president Evo Morales, both having been in similar positions, also expressed their solidarity. As with most high-profile cases involving politicians, this corruption scandal

isn't likely to put CFK in jail anytime soon. Her position as vice president protects her from arrest, giving her protection until December 10 of next year, when her and President Fernández's term ends. She also has the right to appeal the decision of the court, which will likely delay any final result for several years, if not longer.

The immediate consequences of this decision are political rather than legal. While no surprise to the Peronist coalition, her sentencing is a serious blow to the always shaky alliance among populist forces in Argentina. CFK has said that, as a result of this decision, she will not be seeking a second term as vice president, nor will she stand for any other public office.

By pushing one of the country's most popular, if controversial, figures out of politics, this case has blown open the possibilities for the Peronist coalition and Argentine progressives for the upcoming elections in 2023. This has raised speculation that there will be further infighting among Peronists over who will seek the presidency in 2023. President Fernández has said that

he will seek reelection, but that likely won't stop his fellow Peronists from seeking the same position. Other likely candidates include Eduardo de Pedro (Wado), currently the minister of the interior, and Massa, currently the country's finance minister and a former candidate for president with his own centrist Peronist party.

CFK's prosecution and sentencing raise important, difficult questions for progressives and the broader left in Argentina, Latin America, and the world. As the avatar for a populist movement, CFK has been able to enrich herself knowing that she would have millions of people rally around her if she were to be prosecuted, people who correctly understand that they depend on her and her political power for their own well-being.

The fact that this particular case represents judicial targeting is obvious, but the trouble is that the kind of financial irregularity the tribunal argues that CFK engaged in has very likely happened at some point in her career.

CFK's sentencing, and the damage it will likely do to progressive forces in the country, is more than a condemnation of her as a president or political actor — it's a warning about what can happen when a single person embodies a political movement. (IPA/Concluded)

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

On behalf of team The Echo of India, I would like to wish you all our readers and well-wishers a very Happy New Year. May 2023, bring a lot of joy, happiness and prosperity in the lives of all our readers and the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Let your aspirations have wings so they may take you far in 2023.
Vijay Kumar Roy
Editor-in-Chief

NGO (WITH YOU) conducts 6 months course on tailoring & fashion designing

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ NGO (WITH YOU) had conducted six months course on tailoring and fashion designing. Today a function was organized at NGO office, Bambooflat for distributing the certificates to 25 participants who had completed the above course successfully. On this occasion Smti Padmawathi, Pramukh, Panchayat Samity Ferrargunj was the Chief guest. Smti Dhana Rekha, ZPM, Shorepoint, Smti Rasheeda, Pradhan Hoptown and Smti Sadna, social worker were also present to encourage the women folk. The Chief guest lauded the efforts of WITH YOU for imparting tailoring classes to the women as it will make them self-employed so that they can support their family also. Smti Sadna congratulated the ladies for learning the course with dedication and wished that the skill which they got will be utilized in a better way. Ms V. K. Mariyambibi, President WITH YOU wished them all success for their bright future.



DBRAIT distributes new year gifts to inmates of Pranab Kanya Sangh

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ In order to bring smiles to the underprivileged ones, DBRAIT in association with Surupanjali (A Cultural Art Forum) organized a program for distribution of customized tailor made dresses as a New Year gift to the resident girls of Pranab Kanya Sangh, AIR Road Port Blair on 30.12.2022. The dress materials were sponsored by Surupanjali forum and were custom stitched by the trainees of Fashion & Apparel Design under Skill Development Program of DBRAIT main centre as per the desires of girl inmates. On this occasion, the Secretary, Surupanjali, along with other members of the forum distributed dresses to 38 girls of various age groups of the Ashram. While addressing the gathering, the Secretary urged the girls to be socially responsible and be devoted to their studies to achieve their dreams and contribute to the society at large. The members of Surupanjali forum expressed their gratitude to management of Pranab Kanya Sangh for providing an opportunity to share the joy of giving with the girls of the Ashram and assured to carry such activities in future also to create a positive impact in the society.

Traffic diversion in road stretch from Dairy Farm to Junglighat

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ In order to ease out traffic flow in the road stretch from Dairy Farm to Junglighat, the Traffic Police have announced traffic diversion in this road stretch. It is noticed that commuters are facing hardship in moving from Dairy Farm Junction to Junglighat due to heavy traffic congestion especially by the HGVs & Buses. To ease out the traffic congestion, A & N Traffic Police has decided to implement diversion of vehicles on pilot basis from 03/01/2023 (Tuesday).
Accordingly, all HGVs & Buses intending to proceed towards Junglighat from Dairy Farm shall take the route via Vijay Baugh, J/ Ghat. No HGVs & Buses will be allowed to proceed towards Junglighat via Hayat Singh Jn. No HGVs & Buses (except engaged in Airport Construction work) will be allowed to proceed via Hayat Singh Jn.
Also, no vehicles except two wheelers will be allowed to proceed towards Vijay Baugh, Dairy Farm via Junglighat Old CCS Jn.
A & N Traffic Police is striving to provide safer & smoother vehicular arrangements for the road users. Hence, all the general public has been advised to cooperate with the Traffic Police to successfully implement the above directions.

Additional ferry services by Shippingdept

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ This is for the information of the passenger/ general public that keeping in view heavy rush of passenger traffic in the foreshore sector especially for Swaraj Dweep & Shaheed Dweep the Directorate of Shipping Services will be providing additional ferries on 31st December, 2022 & 1st January, 2023 in the above route and tickets for the same will be issued at STARS Ticketing Counters. The schedules are as under.
PORT BLAIR TO SHAHEED DWEAP & BACK
*MV Chouldari will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 31.12.2022 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
*MV Strait Island will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 01.01.2023 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
PORT BLAIR TO SWARAJ DWEAP & BACK
*MV Kamorta will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 01.01.2023 (Sun) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
Passengers can also get update/status from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by using the Number 03192 - 245555/ 232714 & TOLL FREE NUMBER 18003452714.

GREETINGS
HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2023
On the occasion of "New Year 2023", I extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all the residents of A&N Islands.
New Year is an occasion to make a fresh beginning and renew our resolve for individual as well as collective growth. I am confident that in the upcoming year, our beautiful Islands will continue to progress on the path of peace and development, with the mutual cooperation and harmony. I hope that Islanders will continue to provide their invaluable support with determination and commitment for building #NewAndamans.
I appeal to all the Islanders to celebrate the occasion while adhering to COVID appropriate behavior.
On this occasion, I wish that the New Year brings happiness, peace and prosperity in the lives of Islanders and our Islands continue to march ahead on the path of progress.
"Happy New Year to all of you".
(Admiral D K Joshi)
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lt Governor, A&N Islands &
Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency

Hefty fines on vehicle fitness, delayed permit renewal worries commercial vehicles owners

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, DEC 31/--/ Owners of commercial vehicles (With yellow number plates) are getting a run for their money. They are being forced to pay hefty penalties for their failure to renew permit and fitness certificates within the stipulated time. And this has not gone well with them as they claim that most of the commercial vehicles were non-operational at the time of Covid-19 induced lockdown. Now, when these vehicle owners approach the RTO, they are asked to pay fines, which are even more than the cost of the vehicle itself. "Business during the Covid-19 time and subsequent period were almost nil and most of the commercial vehicle

owners had suffered heavy loss during this period. Even after the ease of lockdown, business has not

penalties by the Regional Transport Office (RTO) for renewal of permit and fitness of commercial



yet picked up to the pre-Covid-19 level. During this hard time, levying hefty

vehicles is taking a toll on the owners of the commercial vehicles", said

Ranjit, a Jeep owner.

Due to varied reasons, some commercial vehicle owners were unable to get their vehicle permit renewed on schedule, but now they are asked to pay hefty fines. It didn't make sense to impose heavy penalties on them as they are coming out from Covid-19 aftermath. While appreciating the Government for extending relaxation by non-levying fines during the peak of Covid-19, i.e. from February 2020 to October 2020, these commercial owners have now urged the RTO to extend more relaxation by scrapping the daily penalty it has been levying for delay in renewing expired fitness certificates and renewal of permit.

According to the Motors

Vehicle Act, updated fitness certificates and permit renewal on schedule is mandatory for operation of commercial vehicles on roads. Earlier, in the islands commercial vehicles off the roads and under repair in garages were considered for relaxation while levying fines. They just have to show evidence that their vehicle was off the road and under repair in the garages. But in recent years, due to the hard policy of the former Director of Transport, relaxation is not given to them and hefty fines are imposed on failure to get permits renewed on schedule.

Speaking to EOI, Palni, a cargo auto driver said "I have a commercial vehicle used for transportation of goods. For the past two

years, I have been camping in Chennai for the treatment of my ailing mother. I have parked my vehicle in one of my relatives' houses and it has been off the road for the past two years. But when I visited the RTO office for renewal of permit, I was told to pay over Rs 2 lakh as fines. Just imagine, from where I can manage such a huge amount. It is already difficult for the family to arrange money for the treatment of my ailing mother, at this time depositing such a huge amount as fines for renewal of permit is beyond my capacity. Finally, we decided to sell the auto so that I can at least ensure treatment of my mother. I have to look for some job thereafter", rued a depressed Palni.

Voice of Christ celebrates Christmas with widows

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ As part Christmas celebration, Voice of Christ to the World celebrated Christmas on its campus at Garacharma with 200 widows. Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament was the chief guest



who lauded the organization for conducting such celebration for widows. Dr. Helen Sheeba Rani, Managing Trustee of VOC, gave a Christmas message stating that God loves is to care for the widows in their afflictions. All the widows received a Christmas gift and enjoyed a very special Christmas dinner arranged by VOC. Finally the program ended with a vote of thanks from Rev. Raj Daniel.

Road closed

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ The road portion from RBV Vidyalaya Jn. to Hawaghar Jn. will be closed for all the vehicular movements for 10 days w.e.f. 2.01.2023. Hence, all the vehicles will be diverted through Hawaghar Jn.

Firing practice

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ Firing practice by CG Dornier will be carried out on Jan. 3, 6, 9, 17, 20, 23 & 31, 2023 from 1 pm to 3 pm. Safe flying height is above 6000 feet AMSL. All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their vessels/fishing boat away from the firing range during the above mentioned date.

Condolence Message

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member of BJP has mourned the sad demise of Mr. Mahesh Kumar Gogia, Father of Mr. Gaurav Gogia, State General Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, R/o Shadipur who expired on Saturday at Apollo Hospital, Chennai. In his message, Mr. Jolly prayed to the Almighty to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

GREETINGS
On the joyous occasion of New Year, I convey my warmest greetings and good wishes to all my respected Islanders.
Let us resolve to make it a year in which the people of the Islands in all their rich diversity unite to work towards the collective goal of inclusive development and growth.
I sincerely hope that the new year would herald extraordinary progress, abundance of peace, amity and enhance all-round development in our Islands.
I pray that peace and harmony of our 'Mini World' remain undisturbed and this New Year brings tranquillity, prosperity, excellent health and happiness in the lives of all residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
On this happy occasion let us collectively resolve to dedicate ourselves towards building a peaceful, prosperous and harmonious society.
Kuldeep Rai Sharma,
Member of Parliament,
A & N Islands.

New Year greetings

I Kavitha Udhaya Kumar, Chairperson, Port Blair Municipal Council on behalf of all staff and elected representatives of the Council express my warmest greetings to the Islanders for the New Year 2023. Each year is a gift that hold hope for new adventures. May our new year be filled with self-exploration, discovery and growth. Happy New Year 2023 wishing all Islanders a new year filled with prosperity, joy and content.

Condolence Message

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State BJP President, along with all Office bearers of BJP, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has condoled the demise of Mr. Mahesh Kumar Gogia, who left for his heavenly abode today on 31/12/2022 at Apollo Hospital, Chennai. His mortal remains will be brought to Port Blair tomorrow morning. Late Mahesh Kumar Sharma was Father of Shri Gaurav Gogia, State General Secretary, BJYM, A&N Islands. The leaders pray to the almighty god to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Vishal greets islanders on New Year

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP-A&N Islands wishes to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on the occasion of New Year 2023. May the New Year bring new hope, greater peace, harmony and prosperity in the lives of the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, wished Mr. Jolly.



GREETINGS ON NEW YEAR
ANTCC President, Mr. Rangalal Halder, along with the entire Congress family extends their heartfelt wishes and greetings on the Auspicious Occasion of New Year 2023.
In this grateful Year, I bless the Islanders to take responsibilities towards their work and family sincerely and I hope this year turns out to be the best year of your life and your family too.
On this New Year, All Islanders should take a pledge to support, to encourage and to help the needy people for making changes to do grateful things for the Nation.
Wish all Islanders a "HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023".

GREETINGS
HAVE A WONDERFUL 2023
On the occasion of New Year, CPI (M), Andaman & Nicobar State Organising Committee extends warmest wishes to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. As the year 2022 passed, many revolutionary tasks were left to be completed in the coming year. CPI (M) hope that 2023 will be a fruitful and memorable year in the struggle against anti-working class policies of the government.
(D. Ayyappan)
Secretary
CPI (M) A& N State Organizing Committee

GREETINGS
HAVE A WONDERFUL 2023
My warm greetings and best wishes to all Islanders and Visiting tourists as we welcome the New Year - 2023. May this year be filled with joy and prosperity. May everyone be healthy and may everyone's aspirations be fulfilled.
M. Vinod
President
Andaman Association of Tour Operators

GREETINGS
May the dawn of New Year, imbued with fresh energy, bring new happiness, goals, inspirations and greater achievements in our lives. On this occasion, let us resolve to rededicate ourselves to the unity, integrity and inclusive development of the of our islands. I wish for the progress and prosperity of our glorious islands and the people in the year 2023.
Ajay Bairagi
State President
BJP, A&N Islands

Isles' boy shines in chess tournament

PORT BLAIR, DEC 31/--/ It is a proud moment for the Islanders as Shrihaan Karmakar, a young budding chess player who is student of class III, KV-2 Port Blair has brought laurels to the islands by securing 7th Position in under 09 Category in the 1st War of Knights Open International FIDE Rating Chess Tournament 2022 that held in Kolkata, West Bengal from 26th December 2022 to 31st December 2022. He has been awarded with a Trophy and Certificate.

Around 240 players across India & abroad took part in the prestigious event that was held for 6 days over 9 rounds under Swiss System in Classical time control.



NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS	
1-5/DB/CD-III/PP/2022-23/3026 DATED 22/12/2022	
The Executive Engineer, Construction Division - III, APWD, Prothrapur invites on behalf of President of India, invites online item rate tender in two bid system for the work mentioned below from eligible Contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to condition that they have experience of executing the relevant magnitude & nature of work as per CPWD works manual and with other GOI organization in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks The two bids shall be submitted online in the website https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in/nicgep/app. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate	
NIT No. 32/EE/CD-III/2022-23	
Name of Work:-	Construction of District Hospital at Garacharma. (Phase-I).
Sub Work :-	Development of site.
Estimated Cost	: Rs. 9, 32, 36,388.00
Earnest Money	: Rs. 18,64,728.00
Period of Completion	: 06(Six) Months
Bid Document Publishing Date	: 24/12/2022 (1000 hrs)
Bid Document Download/Start Date	: 25/12/2022 (1000 hrs)
Pre-Bid meeting Date	: 12/01/2023 (1000 hrs)
Bid Submission Start Date	: 17/01/2023 (1000 hrs)
Bid Submission End Date	: 24/01/2023 (1500 hrs)
Bid Opening Date	: 25/01/2023 (1500 hrs)
The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the Web Site https://eprocure.andman.gov.in.	
Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. III APWD, Prothrapur	
Unique No:- 2022_APWD_8616_1	
9502/22	

PRESS NOTE

The Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Administration invites claims/objections/suggestion, if any, from the general public/other stakeholders on the provisions contained in the draft notification titled "Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Produce Transit Rules, 2022" framed under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, incorporating new provisions on National Transit Pass System (NTPS) developed by MoEF&CC.

The draft notification have been uploaded in the website andaman.gov.in of A&N Administration and isl.and.nic.in/doef of the Department of Environment & Forest, A & N Administration.

The Claims/Objections/Suggestions, if any may be submitted to the Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (ANI), Van Sadan, Haddo, Port Blair-744102, A&N Islands through e-mail (pccfani@gmail.com)/post/in-person within a period of 30 days from the date of release of this press note.

Conservator of Forests
(Headquarter)
Van Sadan, Haddo.

9512/22



G's Goenka's wishes
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Massive undercurrent against BJP, if Oppn stands effectively with vision it'll be difficult for the party to win in 2024: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 /--/ Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said there is a "massive undercurrent" against the BJP on the ground and if the Opposition stands effectively with an alternative vision it will be very difficult for ruling dispensation to win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters here, he said there is a need for the Opposition parties to have "mutual respect" for each other. He said the Opposition has to present a national ideology as an alternative to people of the country which the regional outfits do not have and only the Congress has. Rahul noted that the Bharat Jodo Yatra is a framework and a way of thinking of the Congress party on bringing people together and making them comfortable. This is the ninth press conference of the former Congress president during the Bharat Jod Yatra, which started on September 7. Rahul also claimed that the Opposition parties are with the Bharat Jodo Yatra but in today's atmosphere, they have political and other compulsions that are keeping them away from joining it. The Congress leader, however, said the doors of the Yatra are open for anyone who wants a united India free of violence and hatred. "I think if the Opposition stands effectively with a vision, what I am hearing and seeing from the ground, it will be very difficult for the BJP to win. But, the



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference at AICC HQ, in New Delhi on Saturday.

opposition has to coordinate properly and the opposition has to go to the people of India with an alternative vision. Not just go to the people. But, there is a huge undercurrent against the BJP, a massive undercurrent," the Congress leader told reporters. Rahul asserted that one thing is important that this is no longer a tactical political fight, where some group joins and defeats the BJP as that thing is of the past. "This is so as the entire institutional framework of the country is in the hands of one ideology and it dominates the country's political space completely. To defeat them now, there is need for an ideology," he said. Noting that he respects the Opposition a lot and likes Opposition leaders, the Congress leader said if one looks at the Samajwadi

party it does not have a national ideology. "They do have a positioning in Uttar Pradesh and they may not come in order to defend that, but they do not have a national ideology.

Samajwadi Party's idea will not work in Kerala, Karnatak or Bihar. So there is need for a central ideological framework, which only the Congress can provide and that is our role. (PTI)



GREETINGS

State President of Andaman & Nicobar Vidhyut Shramik Sangh & All India Executive Committee Member Akhil Bharatiya Vidyut Mazdoor Maha Sangh Mr N Peddi Raju has greeted the people of the islands on the occasions of New Year and Pongal.

May the New Year bring a lot of happiness and joys to the Islanders.

Incorrect India Map in video: IT minister pulls up WhatsApp

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 /--/ IT minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday asked WhatsApp to fix an incorrect map of India shown in a video tweeted by the messaging platform. Chandrasekhar also made it clear that "all platforms that do business in India and/or want to continue to do business in India,



must use correct maps". "Dear @WhatsApp - Request that you pls fix the India map error asap", " Chandrasekhar tweeted immediately after the Meta-owned messaging platform put out a New Year-related tweet showing a wrong map of India. The video post by WhatsApp about a New Year eve livestream depicted the globe that showed an incorrect map of India with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. (PTI)

WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A HAPPY PONGAL FROM ADN FAMILY

NEW YEAR SPECIAL & PONGAL DHAMAKA

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Guwahati & Port Blair


Kolkata & Port Blair

2023 ১৪২৯-৩০




2023
January
পৌষ
মাঘ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 নিউইয়ার্স ডে	2 একাদশী	3 পৌষ ১৮	4 ১৯	5 ২০	6 ২১	7 ২২
8 ২৩	9 ২৪	10 ২৫	11 ২৬	12 ২৭	13 ২৮	14 ২৯
15 ২০	16 ২১	17 ২২	18 ২৩	19 ২৪	20 ২৫	21 ২৬
22 ২৭	23 ২৮	24 ২৯	25 ৩০	26 ৩১	27 ৩২	28 ৩৩
29 ৩৪	30 ৩৫	31 ৩৬				



2023
February
মাঘ
ফাল্গুন

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 মাঘ পূর্ণিমা	6 ২২	7 ২৩	8 ২৪	9 ২৫	10 ২৬	11 ২৭
12 ২৮	13 ২৯	14 ৩০	15 ৩১	16 ৩২	17 ৩৩	18 ৩৪
19 ৩৫	20 ৩৬	21 ৩৭	22 ৩৮	23 ৩৯	24 ৪০	25 ৪১
26 ৪২	27 ৪৩	28 ৪৪	29 ৪৫	30 ৪৬	31 ৪৭	



2023
March
ফাল্গুন
চৈত্র

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 ২০	6 ২১	7 ২২	8 ২৩	9 ২৪	10 ২৫	11 ২৬
12 ২৭	13 ২৮	14 ২৯	15 ৩০	16 ৩১	17 ৩২	18 ৩৩
19 ৩৪	20 ৩৫	21 ৩৬	22 ৩৭	23 ৩৮	24 ৩৯	25 ৪০
26 ৪১	27 ৪২	28 ৪৩	29 ৪৪	30 ৪৫	31 ৪৬	




2023
April
বৈশাখ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 ১৬	31 ১৭	1 ১৮	2 ১৯	3 ২০	4 ২১	5 ২২
6 ২৩	7 ২৪	8 ২৫	9 ২৬	10 ২৭	11 ২৮	12 ২৯
13 ৩০	14 ৩১	15 ৩২	16 ৩৩	17 ৩৪	18 ৩৫	19 ৩৬
20 ৩৭	21 ৩৮	22 ৩৯	23 ৪০	24 ৪১	25 ৪২	26 ৪৩
27 ৪৪	28 ৪৫	29 ৪৬	30 ৪৭	31 ৪৮		



2023
May
বৈশাখ
জ্যৈষ্ঠ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 ২৩	8 ২৪	9 ২৫	10 ২৬	11 ২৭	12 ২৮	13 ২৯
14 ৩০	15 ৩১	16 ৩২	17 ৩৩	18 ৩৪	19 ৩৫	20 ৩৬
21 ৩৭	22 ৩৮	23 ৩৯	24 ৪০	25 ৪১	26 ৪২	27 ৪৩
28 ৪৪	29 ৪৫	30 ৪৬	31 ৪৭			



2023
June
জ্যৈষ্ঠ
আষাঢ়

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 ২০	5 ২১	6 ২২	7 ২৩	8 ২৪	9 ২৫	10 ২৬
11 ২৭	12 ২৮	13 ২৯	14 ৩০	15 ৩১	16 ৩২	17 ৩৩
18 ৩৪	19 ৩৫	20 ৩৬	21 ৩৭	22 ৩৮	23 ৩৯	24 ৪০
25 ৪১	26 ৪২	27 ৪৩	28 ৪৪	29 ৪৫	30 ৪৬	



2023
July
আষাঢ়
শ্রাবণ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 ১৬	31 ১৭	1 ১৮	2 ১৯	3 ২০	4 ২১	5 ২২
6 ২৩	7 ২৪	8 ২৫	9 ২৬	10 ২৭	11 ২৮	12 ২৯
13 ৩০	14 ৩১	15 ৩২	16 ৩৩	17 ৩৪	18 ৩৫	19 ৩৬
20 ৩৭	21 ৩৮	22 ৩৯	23 ৪০	24 ৪১	25 ৪২	26 ৪৩
27 ৪৪	28 ৪৫	29 ৪৬	30 ৪৭	31 ৪৮		




2023
August
শ্রাবণ
ভাদ্র

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 ২০	7 ২১	8 ২২	9 ২৩	10 ২৪	11 ২৫	12 ২৬
13 ২৭	14 ২৮	15 ২৯	16 ৩০	17 ৩১	18 ৩২	19 ৩৩
20 ৩৪	21 ৩৫	22 ৩৬	23 ৩৭	24 ৩৮	25 ৩৯	26 ৪০
27 ৪১	28 ৪২	29 ৪৩	30 ৪৪	31 ৪৫		



2023
September
ভাদ্র
আশ্বিন

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 ১৬	4 ১৭	5 ১৮	6 ১৯	7 ২০	8 ২১	9 ২২
10 ২৩	11 ২৪	12 ২৫	13 ২৬	14 ২৭	15 ২৮	16 ২৯
17 ৩০	18 ৩১	19 ৩২	20 ৩৩	21 ৩৪	22 ৩৫	23 ৩৬
24 ৩৭	25 ৩৮	26 ৩৯	27 ৪০	28 ৪১	29 ৪২	30 ৪৩



2023
October
আশ্বিন
কার্তিক

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ১৭	2 ১৮	3 ১৯	4 ২০	5 ২১	6 ২২	7 ২৩
8 ২৪	9 ২৫	10 ২৬	11 ২৭	12 ২৮	13 ২৯	14 ৩০
15 ৩১	16 ৩২	17 ৩৩	18 ৩৪	19 ৩৫	20 ৩৬	21 ৩৭
22 ৩৮	23 ৩৯	24 ৪০	25 ৪১	26 ৪২	27 ৪৩	28 ৪৪
29 ৪৫	30 ৪৬	31 ৪৭				



2023
November
কার্তিক
অগ্রহায়ণ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 ১৮	6 ১৯	7 ২০	8 ২১	9 ২২	10 ২৩	11 ২৪
12 ২৫	13 ২৬	14 ২৭	15 ২৮	16 ২৯	17 ৩০	18 ৩১
19 ৩২	20 ৩৩	21 ৩৪	22 ৩৫	23 ৩৬	24 ৩৭	25 ৩৮
26 ৩৯	27 ৪০	28 ৪১	29 ৪২	30 ৪৩		



2023
December
অগ্রহায়ণ
পৌষ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 ১৮	1 ১৯	2 ২০	3 ২১	4 ২২	5 ২৩	6 ২৪
7 ২৫	8 ২৬	9 ২৭	10 ২৮	11 ২৯	12 ৩০	13 ৩১
14 ৩২	15 ৩৩	16 ৩৪	17 ৩৫	18 ৩৬	19 ৩৭	20 ৩৮
21 ৩৯	22 ৪০	23 ৪১	24 ৪২	25 ৪৩	26 ৪৪	27 ৪৫
28 ৪৬	29 ৪৭	30 ৪৮				

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Haryana Roadways honours driver, conductor who rescued cricketer Rishabh Pant's life



Officials of the Haryana Roadways felicitate Sushil Kumar and Paramjit for saving cricketer Rishabh Pant's life

CHANDIGARH, DEC 31 /--/ Haryana Roadways on Friday honoured its driver Sushil Kumar and conductor Paramjeet who helped cricketer Rishabh Pant get out of his luxury car after it crashed into a road divider and caught fire on the Delhi-Dehradun highway. The state government is also likely to honour the two, according to sources.

"We gave them an appreciation letter and a shield in our office when they returned to Panipat," Haryana Roadways Panipat depot general manager Kuldeep Jangra told PTI over phone. He said Kumar saw the car slamming into the road divider after which he along with his conductor stopped and ran over to help. Jangra also said both the driver and conductor presented an example of humanity. The bus, which was headed to Panipat, started from Haridwar at 4:25 am and reached the accident spot about an hour later, he said. The driver and the conductor told us that minutes after they pulled Pant out of the car, it turned into a ball of fire, he added. Sources said the state government was also likely to honour Sushil and Paramjeet in the coming days. Haryana Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma said both Kumar and Paramjeet presented an example of humanity and provided immediate help to Pant. Pant, India's star cricketer, had a miraculous escape when his luxury car crashed into the road divider and caught fire after he dozed off at the wheel on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in the early hours of Friday. The 25-year-old, who was on his way to his hometown Roorkee to surprise his mother, suffered injuries on his head, back and feet but

is stable following the accident in Manglaur in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district, police said. The car was completely charred and reduced to a mangled heap. Principal Secretary (Transport), Haryana, Navdeep Virk also lauded Kumar and Paramjeet.

"Exemplary conduct and presence of mind by Haryana Roadways Driver Sushil and Conductor Paramjeet from Panipat Depot, who were the first at @RishabhPant17 accident site and helped him," Virk said in a tweet. (PTI)

Anil Kapoor, Anupam Kher meet Pant

DEHRADUN, Dec 31 /--/ Bollywood actors Anil Kapoor and Anupam Kher on Saturday met cricketer Rishabh Pant who is recuperating at Max Hospital here after suffering injuries in a car crash. India's star cricketer had a miraculous escape when his luxury car crashed into a road divider and caught fire after he dozed off at the wheel on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in the early hours of Friday.

"He (Pant) is doing fine. We met him as fans. Let us pray that he recovers soon and we see him playing again," Kapoor told reporters after coming out of the hospital. Kher, who accompanied Kapoor, said they made the cricketer laugh a lot.

"Everything is fine. We met Pant, his mother and relatives, they are all fine. We made him laugh a lot," he said. The 25-year-old, who was on his way to his hometown Roorkee to surprise his mother, suffered injuries on his head, back and feet but is stable. (PTI)

'Pele is eternal': Santos mourns demise of beloved son, prepares for massive funeral procession

SANTOS, DEC 31 /--/ From the second floor of her house, Onofra Alves Costa Rovai can see the Vila Belmiro, the stadium where Brazilian football legend Pele first took the world's breath away.

Rovai has fond memories of chatting with "O Rei" (The King), who died Thursday in a Sao Paulo hospital at age 82, triggering an outpouring of emotion in Brazil — and especially in Santos, the city where he played most of his storied career.

"He would come out that door after matches and we would talk football. He was like that — just an ordinary person, he would talk to anyone about anything. He was marvelous," said Rovai, 91, motoring to the stadium's main gate, a stone's throw from her modest blue house.

"My mother used to love Pele," the white-haired retiree recalled with a smile. "What a player. My God in heaven, he was born for it."

Santos, a southeastern port city around 75 kilometers (45 miles) from Sao Paulo, is preparing a massive tribute to its late hero, widely considered the greatest footballer of all time. A 24-hour wake for Pele, whose real name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento, will be held at the 16,000-capacity stadium



Fans gathered at a statue of Pelé in Santos, Brazil

from Monday to Tuesday. That will be followed by what is expected to be a massive funeral procession through the city's streets. He will then be buried in Santos's Memorial Cemetery in a private ceremony Tuesday.

Pele debuted for Santos at the age of just 15, and went on to score 1,091 goals in 1,116 matches for the club, winning 45 titles along the way, according to

the team's records. The Vila Belmiro has become a place of pilgrimage for a stream of die-hard fans since Thursday, all eager to pay homage to the only player in history to win three World Cups. As Brazil held the second of three days of

national mourning for Pele Friday — extended to seven days in Santos and surrounding Sao Paulo state — a light rain drizzled from a gray sky in the port city, fitting the local mood. Several houses sported Santos FC banners

celebrating Pele's 18-year career with the club.

Three bouquets of flowers had been placed at the foot of a Pele statue outside the stadium. One lifelong Santos fan, Anaur Aparecido Deolindo, went to the stadium as soon as he

heard the news. "It's as if I lost a family member. He was just a boy when he arrived here. He grew up here and went on to conquer the world," the 57-year-old retiree told AFP. "Now he's back where he belongs, right in God's lap," he added.

"Edson died, but Pele is eternal."

Jonas Augusto dos Santos, another lifelong Santos fan, like his father and grandfather, went to the stadium with a group of friends in tribute.

"Life hasn't been easy for Brazilians, that's why we're always in search of a hero. Pele may be dead, but he won't stop being one, said the 28-year-old software analyst. He added: "I'm sure his soul is right around this stadium, and in the hearts of all Brazilians."

Wearing the club's jersey, elementary school teacher Luiz Santos said the gloomy weather had kept many mourners away — but that he was sure the turnout for the wake and funeral procession would be massive.

"This is going to be packed Monday," he said.

"A lot of people are going to come." (AFP)

New T20 captain Hardik meets HM Amit Shah ahead of Sri Lanka series



NEW DELHI, DEC 31 /--/ Three days before he starts a new journey as India's full-time T20 captain, Hardik Pandya met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his official residence here on Saturday. The 27-year-old flamboyant Baroda all-rounder, who was made captain for the upcoming three-match T20I Sri Lanka home series beginning January 3, was accompanied by his cricketer brother Krunal.

"Thank you for inviting us to spend invaluable time with you Honourable Home

Minister Shri @AmitShahJI. It was an honour and privilege to meet you," Hardik posted on twitter with photos of him and his brother talking to Shah. The Pandya-led side features fresh faces with seniors in Virat Kohli and KL Rahul not part of the T20I format and it is likely that Rohit Sharma may not be picked again keeping the 2024 World Cup in mind. Pandya is also named as Rohit's deputy in the three-match ODI series that will follow the T20Is. Rohit is currently recovering from a finger injury. (PTI)

Indian Sports in 2022: Hockey good, badminton better, Neeraj best

NEW DELHI, DEC 31 /--/ The Thomas Cup triumph made for an epic success story while Neeraj Chopra further enhanced his superstar status with a rare Diamond League title but the cricket team's struggles on the 22-yard strip left a lot to be desired in a bittersweet 2022 for Indian sports.

In hockey, the women's team continued its inspiring run with a silver medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The much-coveted 90m mark eluded the Olympic champion but the legend of Neeraj Chopra kept growing with podium finishes at elite tournaments. However, wrestler Ravi Dahiya could not carry forward his Olympic success and made a shock first-round exit from the World Championship. The sincere, passionate and hard-working athlete that Dahiya is, the defeat would have rankled the grappler the most. He is not not someone who can digest defeat easily and is expected to go all out in season 2023, when quotas for the Paris Games will be up for grabs.

The crashing out of Dahiya was unexpected, and so was the performance of the men's shuttlers at the Thomas Cup, where the historic title win put India on path to becoming a badminton powerhouse. The rise of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has been phenomenal in the last two years and their showing was key in India breaking the hegemony of China and Indonesia at the prestigious tournament, held in Bangkok in May. Established stars such as PV

Sindhu and Lakshya Sen did not exactly set the courts on fire but they made their presence felt by winning a number of titles on the BWF Tour. The shuttlers extended their impressive run to Birmingham CWG, winning six medals, including three golds, a silver and two bronze. Neeraj missed the CWG due to a groin injury but before that he won a silver in the World Championships in the USA to become only the second Indian after Anju Bobby George — who won a bronze in 2003 Paris edition — to win a medal at the showpiece. In September, he became the Diamond League champion by winning the Finals of the prestigious meeting series, adding another first to his name. He came agonisingly close to 90m mark when he threw the spear to 89.94m to finish second in the Stockholm leg of the Diamond League.

At least six top Indian athletes were caught forging banned drugs and the run-up to the Commonwealth Games was marred by a series of positive dope cases. Indian wrestlers expectedly dominated the CWG but the tougher World Championships served a reality check for established stars such as Dahiya. While Dahiya struggled, Aman Sehrawat made steady progress in 57kg category. He became the U-23 world champion after winning a gold at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup in Almaty. Vinesh Phogat also struggled but the rise of Greco Roman wrestlers and an exceptional show by the juniors at the big stage made it an eventful year

for Indian wrestling. Therise of Antim Panghal, who became the U-20 world champion in Sofia, is very heartening and she could be India's best bet in 53kg when Vinesh is not around. The Indian hockey teams continued their upward trend, with the women slightly outperforming their male counterparts by clinching a CWG medal — a bronze — after 16 years. The men's team won silver but the crushing 0-7 defeat to Australia in the final was a dampener.

Later in the year India clashed with the Kookaburras on their home turf and though they lost the series 1-4, engaging the host in a high-scoring series would have given the players confidence ahead of the World Cup. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu added a second World Championships medal to her collection, apart from a CWG gold. The sport also found new heroes in Jeremy Lalrinnunga and Achinta Sheuli, who were among 10 medal winners in Birmingham. However, replicating the CWG success in tougher tournaments proved to be a herculean task for almost all of them, barring Mirabai. India, though, got its maiden junior world champion in the sport in Harshada Garud. What the Indian fans will not forget and can watch on loop without getting tired is Virat Kohli's breathtaking shots in the high-octane T20 World Cup match against Pakistan. The cricketing world was in his awe as he proved that batting remains an art even in the T20 format, where muscle power

and innovation is redefining the game style. This was after Kohli quit the leadership role in the longest format and his relationship with the BCCI had hit a nadir after being sacked from ODI captaincy. To say the least, Indian cricket in 2022 was chaotic both on and off the field. (PTI)



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