

LINK THAT THREATENS TO DELINK LIFE



A dilapidated bridge over a croc infested stream becomes a bane for villagers of Urmilapur Panchayat

ASHIM

RANGAT, OCT 13/--/ A dilapidated bridge over a crocodile infested nallah at Urmilapur in Middle Andaman stands testimony to the apathy of the government authorities towards ensuring safety of villagers living in remote pockets of the region. Due to indifference of the authorities concerned, the rickety link has become so fragile that it might collapse any moment. That, however, has not stopped people from

using it. "The unstable bridge provides connectivity to many families from different villages of Urmilapur Panchayat. The dilapidated structure is a threat to children and old, especially because the stream under it is infested with crocodiles. During rains, the water levels in the nallah swells and a minor mistake could prove to be a fatal fall for the villagers. Despite pleas, the local authorities have failed to undertake necessary repair and renovation of the bridge even though

several people use it on a daily basis," said a villager of Urmilapur. "For the past many years, we have been running from pillar to post to get the vital link reconstructed, but the authorities concerned are not serious about the plight of people. Authorities concerned should take immediate steps to undertake repair and renovation works of the bridge to avoid any major tragedy here," echoed some other villagers.

New beauty salon opened in city



ROOPALALL

PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ A new beauty salon in the name & style of 'Naturals' has come up in the city. Well-equipped, the new beauty unisex salon provides a range of services and was inaugurated on

Wednesday by Mr. D. Illango and Smt. Anjali Nag by cutting the ribbon and lighting the lamp. An initiative of Mr. Praveen Bhusan and Smt. Rachna Praveen, owner of Hawyiz, the new venture has come up at Phoenix Bay in the heart of the city.

MP for organizing orientation prog for newly elected PRI members

PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Lt. Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands to organise an Orientation programme for all newly elected PRI members on the topics of roles and responsibilities of elected representatives.

In a letter addressed to the Lt. Governor, the Member of Parliament added that the Panchayat and Municipal

Elections were recently completed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in which PRI members have been elected for all areas. He added that like every other election, in this election too it has been observed that a large number of young and hardworking PRI members have been elected to various seats and many among them have been elected for the first time. To provide them with the right guidance about PRI regulation & PBMC

Bylaws, the Member of Parliament requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor to arrange an Orientation programme for all newly elected PRI members on the topics of roles and responsibilities of elected representatives.

He added that such Orientation programme will remain a guiding force for all PRI members for the rest of their life and it will ultimately benefit the general public.

Island Mega Fair-2022 at Kerala Samajam

ROOPALALL

PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ For the first time in the history of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Island Mega Fair-2022 has been organized from 14th October to 23rd October 2022, at Kerala Samajam, Phoenix Bay, Port Blair.

In order to attract the customers, the organizers of the mega fair has planned many attractions to woo the consumers. This includes heavy discount on goods and materials, free

panipuri for couple & family, exchange offers on Gas Stone & Mixer Grinders and a musical & dance live performance by 'The Corals'.

The Mega Fair will have on sale Toys, Food Court, Groceries (Combo Offers), Home Appliances, Garments, Home Decor, Furnitures, Live Play Zone and Foot Wears and many more. Surprise gifts are kept for the buyers. Items like saree/kurta will be available at a cheap rate beyond the imagination of the consumers.

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Modi launches rural roads scheme, lays foundation of hydel projects in Himachal

State Cong dubs PM's visit as election gimmick

CHAMBA, OCT 13 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III in Himachal Pradesh to upgrade 3,125 km of rural roads, saying the government wants to build roads in every village of the state. So far, the double-engine government of the BJP has built 12,000 km of rural roads in eight years in Himachal Pradesh, he said at a rally here. The Prime Minister targeted previous governments at the Centre, saying former chief ministers PK Dhumal and Shanta Kumar used to make rounds of Delhi to get even small projects sanctioned. Now, he added, the Himachal Pradesh chief minister comes to Delhi to inform about the completion of projects. "I feel contented while serving you

as you have given me this opportunity by voting the BJP to power," the Prime Ministersaid. He also said the BJP's double-engine government has made domestic gas connections available for every home. Modi added that 100 per cent piped water coverage has been made in tribal areas of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur under the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojna'. Referring to grant of the Scheduled Tribes status to the Hatti community, he said it showed the government cared for the tribal people. The Prime Minister also laid foundation stones of two hydropower projects - the 48 MW Chanju-III hydro-electric project and the 30 MW Deothal Chanju hydro-electric project - in Chamba. More than Rs 420 crore has been sanctioned by the

central government under this phase of the PMGSY-III for upgrading 440 km of rural roads in 15 border and far-flung blocks of the state. The two hydropower projects will generate over 270 million units of electricity annually and Himachal Pradesh is expected to earn a revenue of around Rs 110 crore per annum from these. Earlier, Modi addressed a public meeting at the Indira Gandhi stadium in Una district after flagging off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express. He also laid the foundation stone of a Bulk Drug Pharma Park and inaugurated the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una. Meanwhile, Opposition Congress termed the Prime Minister's visit to the state a mere "election gimmick",

saying it was "terribly scared" of losing the upcoming Assembly elections. The state is scheduled to go to polls by the end of this year. "The BJP's countdown began with biting the dust in the by-polls," state Congress president Pratibha Singh said in a statement. In the by-polls held in the state on October 30 last year, the BJP had lost the Mandi parliamentary seat and three Assembly seats of Fatehpur, Arki, and Jubbai-Kothkai to the Congress. Calling Modi's visit to Una and Chamba an "election gimmick", Singh said Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur was bringing the prime minister to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for projects in a hurry as he and the BJP were "terribly scared" about losing the Assembly polls. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching several developmental projects by pressing the button of remote control, in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh

Uddhav Sena writes to EC over symbol and name, alleges bias

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 /--/ Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena on Thursday alleged bias by the Election Commission in the allocation of party symbols and name as it battles for control of the organisation with the group led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "...several communications and the actions of the Hon'ble Commission have given rise to a serious apprehension of bias in the mind of the Respondent," the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena said in a letter to the Election Commission through its lawyer Vivek Singh. Last week, the Commission had barred the rival factions of the Shiv Sena from using the party name and the 'bow and arrow' symbol, pending the settlement of the dispute over the "real Shiv Sena". Earlier this week, the Commission had allotted 'Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray' as the name and 'flaming torch' as the election symbol for the Thackeray faction. The Shinde faction got the name 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena' and 'two swords and a shield' as the election symbol. Singh, the lawyer for the Thackeray faction, contended that the Commission did not grant the party adequate time to file its reply on Shinde's claims to the bow and arrow' symbol for the Andheri East by-poll in Maharashtra. The Thackeray faction also alleged that the Commission had uploaded its letter conveying the preference for poll symbols and party names on the poll authority's website, making it accessible to everyone, including the rival faction. "This was done even before a decision was taken by the Commission regarding allocation of symbols and possibly even before the Petitioner had submitted his own list of proposed symbols and names, thus giving the Petitioner and his group a clear unfair advantage over the Respondent," Singh said. He claimed that the Shinde faction had "very tellingly" given the same first choice of name, and the same first and second choice of the symbol as of the Thackeray faction. "This could not have happened but for the fact that the Hon'ble Commission shared a privileged communication from the Respondent herein on its public website. This one-sided and unfair disclosure gave the Petitioner information that he immediately used to his advantage by ensuring that his preferences regarding name and symbol blocked the Respondent from being allotted his first preference," Singh said. The Commission's letter allotting the 'flaming torch' to the Thackeray faction did not carry the image of the poll symbol, while the letter to the Shinde faction contained a large pictorial representation of the 'two swords and a shield' poll symbol, the letter said. "The same is again giving an unfair advantage to the Petitioner," the Thackeray faction said. (PTI)

Tiger stays inside Bhopal tech institute for 11th day, pugmarks spotted

BHOPAL, OCT 13 /--/ The presence of a tiger on the sprawling 65-acre campus of the prestigious Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh entered the 11th day on Thursday even as forest department officials waited for the big cat to move out of the premises and closely monitored its movement. The behaviour of the tiger, T-123-4, has defied common perception that big cats move out of one place in seven to eight days, officials admitted. MANIT authorities had earlier announced a mid-term break for 5,400 undergraduate students from October 11 to 30, while classes for 600-odd students in post-graduation courses continued, its public relations officer Dr Amit Ojha told PTI. "The tiger is still on the campus on the 11th day. Usually, as per tiger behaviour studies, the big cat moves from one place to another in seven to eight days. Today, we spotted pugmarks. We have placed 11 cameras to monitor its movement. Five more cameras will be installed soon," Bhopal divisional forest officer (DFO) Alok Pathak told PTI. "The tiger today came close to the cage kept with bait, but did not enter. We want it to move out of the campus naturally, on its own. Since October 3, it has killed two cows," he added. The official said a tiger marks a territory of around 25 square kilometres and then moves in it, killing and resting. "The livestock has been moved out of the MANIT campus completely. Now we think it will move out. Around 50 forest personnel are monitoring the movement of the tiger. It is currently in a low-lying area like a ravine spread over 300-400 acres connected to the campus," Pathak added. He said the some 5,000 hostelers and 1,000 kin of staff live on the campus, some 100 acres of which is covered by thickets. Tigers from Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, spread in Raisen and Sehore districts close to Bhopal, sometimes move into the Kerwa area of the state capital. This time, one of them, identified as T-123-4, has strayed into the educational facility, he said. (PTI)

AAP Gujarat unit chief Gopal Italia appears before NCW, detained amid protest by supporters Kejriwal says action against AAP leader has triggered anger in Patel community

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 /--/ AAP Gujarat unit chief Gopal Italia was on Thursday detained by Delhi Police after he appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) for his alleged comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid protests by party members outside the women's panel's office here. Reacting to police action against the AAP leader, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Italia's detention had triggered massive anger in the Patel community across Gujarat. Taking to Twitter, the AAP national convenor also asked why "entire BJP" was after Italia. Kejriwal's deputy Manish Sisodia termed Italia's detention as "BJP politics" and alleged that he had been detained because he belonged to a party that knew how to transform schools. NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma had summoned Italia for using "abusive and indecent language" against the Prime Minister and said his comment was "gender biased, misogynist and condemnable". Sharma told reporters

after the hearing that Italia had claimed that he was not the person in the video in a verbal statement. However, in his written response, he said he did not mean it. An NCW official said the commission had to rush to arrange a translator to record Italia's statement as he started speaking in Gujarati in the middle of the hearing. After the hearing, the police detained Italia, drawing flak from the AAP. "With the arrest of Gopal Italia, there is massive anger in the Patel community across Gujarat," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi. "Why is the entire BJP after Gopal Italia?" he asked in another post on the micro-blogging site. While NCW officials said the AAP's Gujarat chief was detained for "creating a situation that disrupted law and order in the area", a senior Delhi Police officer, while confirming his detention, did not divulge further details. During the hearing, the AAP supporters protesting outside tried to enter the NCW building and police had to be called to restrain them, an official of the women's rights body said.

"As of now, he has been detained," a senior police officer said. "Those who are detaining Gopal Italia have only that much understanding of politics. They don't know how to improve (standards of) schools, teach students. They couldn't make even one amazing school while being in government for the last 27 years," Sisodia said when asked for comment on Italia's detention. "They arrested Gopal Italia because he comes from a party that knows reforming schools, rest is nothing but politics," he charged. The BJP's IT cell in-charge Amit Malviya had on Sunday shared a video on Twitter where Italia could be heard calling Modi a "neech admni" (lowly person) following which the NCW took cognisance. "An indecent word for the Prime Minister is also an insult to the women of our country. The abusive language used by you is gender biased, misogynistic and extremely shameful, condemnable and unbecoming of you," the NCW had said in its summons issued on October 9. (PTI)

Gehlot is on path of rebellion: BJP's Malviya

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 /--/ BJP's Amit Malviya claimed on Thursday that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is on the "path of rebellion" from the Congress as he shared a short video of him in which he is seen praising the work of public sector undertaking Coal India and some decisions of Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi. The video shows the veteran Congress leader addressing an event. "Make no mistake. Gehlot is on the path of rebellion. After inviting Gautam Adani,



Ashok Gehlot

despite Rahul Gandhi's derision, he now heaps fulsome praise on Coal India and minister Pralhad Joshi, for helping Rajasthan at critical times. This is in sharp contrast to Congress's belligerence," BJP's IT department head Malviya claimed. The three-time Rajasthan chief minister has been a vocal critic of the BJP but he appeared to have strained his ties with the Congress leadership after his loyalist MLAs held a separate meeting in Jaipur in defiance of the party's directive for a meeting of the legislative party. It was then believed that Gehlot will contest the Congress presidential poll with the tacit support of the Gandhi family, and a new leader will replace him at the helm in Rajasthan. However, the turn of events resulted in the party leadership nudging Mallikarjun Kharge to contest the poll, where Shashi Tharoor is also in the fray, with suspense continuing over Gehlot's fate as chief minister. Assembly polls are due in Rajasthan in the second half of 2023. (PTI)

Nehru's 'insertion' of Article 370 caused Kashmir issue, Modi resolved problem, says Shah

ZANZARKA, OCT 13 /--/ Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday blamed India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the issues plaguing Kashmir and credited the Narendra Modi government for solving them by removing Article 370. Speaking at an event to flag off the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Gaurav Yatra' in poll-bound Gujarat, Shah also said the Congress used to taunt his party over the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, but work on it was now in progress. "Due to the mistake of Jawaharlal Nehru of inserting Article 370, Kashmir was in a mess. It could not be properly integrated with the country. Everybody wanted the removal of Article 370. Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed it in one

stroke and completed the integration of Kashmir with the country," Shah said. Incidentally, Modi had also blamed Nehru for the issues plaguing Kashmir while addressing a gathering in Gujarat earlier this week.



Speaking on the Ram Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, Shah said the Congress used to mock the BJP with slogans like 'Mandir wahi banayenge par tithi nahi batayenge' (the temple will be built but can't say when). "But the

dates were declared, the ground breaking ceremony was completed and a grand temple is coming up at the promised place," the Union Minister pointed out. Hitting out further at the Congress, the senior BJP leader said curfews were a routine occurrence when the former ruled Gujarat, but the advent of the Modi dispensation in the state ensured that "those days are gone now". "Out of 365 days, curfew would be in force in 200 days in parts of Gujarat when the Congress was ruling the state. They (Congress) thought they would benefit if people fought each other. Those days are gone now," he said. "After Narendra Modi came to power in Gujarat, curfew has not been imposed in the state for the last 20 years," he claimed. (PTI)

SP workers to hold shradhanjali sabhas for Mulayam across UP on Oct 21

ETAWAH, OCT 13 /--/ The Samajwadi Party will be holding 'shradhanjali' (prayer meeting) meetings across Uttar Pradesh on October 21 to pay tributes to its departed leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, a party statement said on Thursday. The ashes of Samajwadi Party patriarch have been kept safely in urns as the family prepares for post-cremation rituals.

Family sources here said that now the post-cremation rituals like immersion of ashes and 'shanti yagya' will be taken up. There are plans to take the ashes to Prayagraj or Haridwar for immersion but the details are yet to be finalised, sources said, adding once the date and place is final, it would be made public. SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav (82) who had died in a Gurugram hospital on

Monday was given a tearful farewell in Saifai, his native village, with tens of thousands of people turning up at the funeral of a leader who influenced politics far beyond his home state. The former UP Chief Minister was cremated with full state honours on Tuesday near the place where his first wife Malti Devi was cremated. His son Akhilesh Yadav had lit the

funeral pyre in the Saifai's mela ground, where people had begun gathering hours in advance filling up all available space. SP state unit president Naresh Uttam Patel has, through a letter, instructed the grieving workers and supporters to organise programmes to pay tributes to Mulayam Singh Yadav on October 21. The letter was sent to presidents of district, city units, MPs, former MPs,

MLAs, ex-MLAs, all leaders and workers to organise programmes. People continue to come to Saifai to pay respect to the socialist leader. On Thursday, Excise Minister of the State Nitin Agarwal met SP president Akhilesh Yadav and offered floral tributes at the portrait of the late leader at his Saifai home. On the occasion, family members, including

Shivpal Singh Yadav, Abhayram Singh, Dharmendra Yadav, and Tej Pratap Singh were present. Agarwal was accompanied by former Minister of State Brijesh Shukla and people from the trade organisation. Three-time chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mulayam Singh Yadav was elected an MLA 10 times and MP, mostly from Mainpuri and Azamgarh, seven times. (PTI)

SC to hear today pleas challenging electoral bond scheme

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 /--/ The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Friday a batch of pleas challenging laws permitting funding of political parties through the electoral bond scheme. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding. A bench of Justices B R Gavi and B V Nagarathna is likely to take up the PILs by NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other petitioners. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, on April 5 had mentioned the matter before the then CJI N V Ramana saying the issue was critical and needed an urgent hearing. The apex court had agreed to list the NGO's plea for hearing but it did not come up before any court. Earlier, Bhushan had sought an urgent listing of the PIL from the apex court on October 4 last year seeking a direction to the Centre not to open any further window for sale of electoral bonds during the pendency of a case pertaining to funding of political parties and alleged lack of transparency in their accounts. The NGO, which had filed the PIL in 2017 on the alleged issue of corruption and subversion of democracy through illicit and foreign funding of political parties and lack of transparency in the accounts of all political parties, had filed an interim application in March this year before the assembly polls in West Bengal and Assam seeking that window for sale of electoral bonds be not reopened.

The NGO, in its fresh application filed in the pending petition, had claimed that there is a serious apprehension that any further sale of electoral bonds before the upcoming Assembly elections, including in West Bengal and Assam, would further increase illegal and illicit funding of political parties through shell companies. On January 20 last year, the apex court had refused to grant interim stay on the 2018 Electoral Bonds Scheme and sought responses of the Centre and the Election Commission on an interim application by the NGO seeking stay on the scheme. The government notified the Electoral Bond Scheme on January 2, 2018. According to provisions of the scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India. An individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals. Only political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and which secured not less than one per cent of votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, are eligible to receive electoral bonds. According to the notification, electoral bonds shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through a bank account with an authorised bank. The apex court had in April 2019 declined to stay the Centre's Electoral Bond Scheme 2018 and made it clear that it would accord an in-depth hearing on the pleas as the Centre and the EC have raised "weighty issues" having "tremendous bearing on the sanctity of the electoral process in the country". The Centre and the EC had earlier taken contrary stands in the court over political funding, with the government wanting to maintain anonymity of donors of bonds and the poll panel batting for revealing names of donors for transparency. (PTI)

Cleanliness drive by BJYM youth at Kishorinagar School



MAYABUNDER, OCT 13/--/ A cleanliness drive was carried out by members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), affiliated to the State BJP at Sr. Sec. School, Kishorinagar under Diglipur Tehsil. The 18 members BJYM team participated in the cleanliness drive as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission and cleanliness of the School campus was done for about a week. As part of the cleanliness drive, the local youth cleaned the entire School campus and even collected Bamboo & Cane from the nearby jungle to construct eco-friendly fencing around the School campus. The residents of Kishorinagar hailed the efforts of the local youth associated with the BJYM, Diglipur Unit.

—KARTIK

AATO President welcomes GoI decision to extend LTC facilities for ANI

PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ Mr. M.Vinod, President, Andaman Association of Tour Operator has expressed his gratitude to Govt of India on behalf of the tourism industry of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for extending the LTC for Andaman an Nicobar Islands till 25th September 2024 .

Mr. M.Vinod has requested Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Personal Affairs for extension of Ltc facility for A&N Islands through personal meetings and letter .

He has said that this move comes at a time when tourism Industry faces its biggest challenge and this order will help in the revival of the tourismvindustry here. Mr. Vinod has also expressed his gratitude towards the Andaman and Nicobar administration for proposing, pursuing and prioritizing the extension of LTC being mindful of the thousands of livelihoods that depend on it.



Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency reviewed the status of vacancies in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, alongwith senior officials of Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Andaman and Nicobar Police and Department of Environment & Forests on Thursday at Raj Niwas. He directed a time bound action plan to accomplish filling of vacant posts on mission mode.

3-days EDP under DAY-NULM in collaboration PBMC at JNRM concludes

PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ The Department of Home Science, JNRM, in association with the Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC) organised a Three days "Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)" in JNRM for the beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The valedictory function for the EDP was held on 13th February 2022 in Lecture Gallery, JNRM and Shri.B.Senthil Kumar, IDAS, Joint Controller of Defence Accounts, ANC, Ministry of Defence graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. B. Senthil Kumar congratulated the efforts taken by the Department of Home Science for arranging such programme with series of eminent lectures under the topic of deliberation. Financial Independence is vital in decision making at household level which

in turn will pave the way for holistic development. The Government of India is supporting the entrepreneurs through various schemes and subsidies for the upliftment of poor people, he added.

Dr. H. K. Sharma, Principal, JNRM, said that the vision and success of this programme is purely depend on the utilisation by the participants for the economic empowerment by involving various e n t r e p r e n e u r i a l activities. Further skill based upgradation training would be provided to the upcoming entrepreneurs, he added.

Dr. K.Venkatesan, HOD, Homescience and Coordinator of this programme spoke about the opportunities available under DAY-NULM for the budding entrepreneurs. He has also highlighted the village level adoption programme and various EDP training organised by the

Department of Home Science earlier viz, Pickle, Jam, Jelly making, Food Processing, Ready to eat nutritious foods etc., Dr.Kandimuthu, Assistant Professor (Economics) spoke on the marketing strategies and commercialisation of local products under the banner of one product one village scheme. Earlier Smt. Nidhi Shekhawat Assistant Professor of Home Science welcomed the gathering and Dr. Rekha Kumari, Resource Person, Department of Home Science proposed vote of thanks. Smt. Poonam Singh, Resource Person, Department of Home Science moderated the programme.

National Symposium by Andaman Science Association, CIARI and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh gets underway

PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ A two-day National Symposium on "Harmonizing Land Use for Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in the Island and Coastal Region" jointly organized by the Andaman Science Association (ASA), ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Port Blair and Bharatiya Kisan Sangh got was inaugurated on Wednesday at Dr. T. R. Dutta conference hall, Garacharma Research Complex of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. A. K. Singh, Deputy Director General, (Horticulture Science), ICAR, New Delhi, appreciated the efforts taken by the ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair, and the association in conducting the National Symposium addressing the five most vital component of the nature (Air, Water, Fire Earth and the Space) ie.Panchmahabhoot .He assured for extending all scientific support from different ICAR institute in mainland under the gametof Division of Horticulture Science with respect to availability of quality seeds and seedlings in Horticulture crops .He requested that the outcome of the symposium may be in the form of unconventional recommendations should be brought out to carry forward. Dr. DDG (Natural Resource Management) gave the keynote address on the topic Current and emerging challenges for sustainable land use in the Island and coastal region.

Dr. N.C. Gautam, Former Vice-Chancellor Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya and Chairman RAC, ICAR-CIARI ,dwelt in length on the pros and cons of the vital elements and stressed on imparting awareness program among the masses,so that the mother earth is preserved and the harmony of the human being is sustained. Shri. Dinesh Kulkarni, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh,spoke on the value addition part in the Panchmahabhoot in which the island ecosystem will be represented &


recommendations will be made for the benefit of the island and coastal ecosystem. Shri H. Manoj ,GM, Regional office NABARD ,Port Blair and Swami Sudhanand, Chinmaya Mission also spoke on the occasion. Beside Smt.Bhanumathi and Shri.Pachamuthu Progressive farmers




from Rangachang and Calicut villages shared their experiences on Integrated Farming System and Water resources development.The dignitaries also released publications for the benefit of the stakeholders.

Earlier, Dr.Eaknath B. Chakurkar Director, ICAR-CIARI & President, Andaman Science Association welcomed the august gathering and expressed his happiness on CIARI being roped in for conduct of ninth program in the series on Panchmahabhoot .He assured to provide all technical support through his team of Scientists through R & D program .He also informed on the overwhelming response of the progressive farmers participating from different districts of ANI and Minicoy, Lakshadweep to understand the concept and adopt the same in enhancing the livelihood through technological intervention in Agriculture and allied fields.

More than 150 delegates comprising Scientists, technocrats, Change agents, including progressive farmers representing different parts of Island and main land are participating in this event which is having five technical sessions.The inaugural came to end with vote of thanks proposed by Dr.A.Velmurugan, Organizing Secretary.



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Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than death

James F. Byrnes

Uncertainty over India-UK FTA

A cloud of uncertainty hangs over the proposed India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) which is in its final stages as the UK seems to insist on restrictive policies on migration. Data localisation and UK companies being allowed to bid for Indian government contracts are among the issues causing a possible deadlock in the final stages of the FTA negotiations. A deadline was set to complete the draft by Diwali, an important Indian festival, falling this year on October 24. But, two key "sticking points" to a comprehensive deal are data localisation rules that prevent foreign companies taking data out of India and allowing the UK firms to bid for public sector contracts. The likelihood of a so-called "thin" trade deal within the symbolic Diwali deadline and a bigger deal at a later stage appears like a more likely outcome at the moment. The stumbling block has been created by the Department for International Trade (DIT), which has reiterated the British government stance that any FTA would be agreed only if it meets the UK's interests. An indication to this effect came from UK Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch. "We remain clear that we won't sacrifice quality for speed and will only sign when we have a deal that meets the UK's interests," a UK government spokesperson said this week, without mincing words.

It follows a week of controversial interventions that cast a shadow over the prospect of a wide-ranging bilateral trade agreement, with Indian-origin UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman expressing reservations over New Delhi being offered some sort of open borders visa concessions. She said in clear terms that India-UK FTA can't happen if it means more Indians in Britain. India, on its part, has strongly countered the Braverman's claims that a Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) between the two countries had not "worked very well" in tackling visa over stayers. Strategic experts suggested that the wrangles may well end up in a diluted trade pact. They say whether in a thin deal or a thick one, if the UK insists on restrictive policies on migration, India should walk away. In view of this uncertainty, the prospect of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UK visit towards the end of the month to sign an FTA draft around Diwali is also seen as shaky at this stage. It now appears likely that the prospective UK-India FTA under the Liz Truss government will not be as substantive nor as comprehensive as envisaged by the previous Boris Johnson government, as negotiations on key issues of mobility/migration and tariffs can be expected to continue towards a non-time bound second-phase of the agreement. But, it will still enable both governments to claim political victory, even though its economic impact may not be as per expectations.

The Diwali timeline for an FTA was announced enthusiastically by former prime minister Johnson during his visit to India in April. The governing Conservative Party in the UK has since been thrown into turmoil and his embattled successor at Downing Street, Liz Truss, is believed to be very keen to score her big win by clinching a trade deal with one of the world's fastest growing economies a process she had initiated as former trade secretary. The focus of the FTA negotiations is on reducing the barriers to trade, cutting tariffs, and supporting easier imports and exports into each other's markets. According to official UK government data, India-UK bilateral trade currently stands at around GBP 24.3 billion a year and the aim is for that to be at least doubled by 2030.

India can become a \$25 trillion economy in 25 years from now

REFLEX ACTION

K R Sudhaman

banks NPAs situation too has steadily improved. The overall liquidity and lending capacity too is better. But monetary tightening due to inflationary pressure might pose some short-term problems and these are not insurmountable. Digitalisation and India's efforts to get into hardware manufacturing besides rollout of 5G technology in telecom offered great prospects for the country to leapfrog in economic development.

Infrastructure is still a problem. Corruption, delays in getting clearances and other logistics and political impediments makes the improvement in ease of doing business a big joke. Many foreign companies still do not consider India to be an investment friendly destination. However the slowing down of Chinese economy, geopolitical situation and increasing labour costs in China makes India an exciting option with its large market and large pool of trained and skilled manpower with majority of 1.4 billion population being youth below the age of 35 years.

Situation is just ripe for India to take off rapidly. India is also a vibrant democracy with a sizeable English speaking population and it also has by and large stable laws with attractive taxation system and a competent judiciary. These are all big positives but the flip side: democracy is also a slow process of polity and many multinationals prefer authoritarian regime as there is a sort of single window and quick clearance despite manifold risks. On

balance though there are some difficulties, India's time has at last come for it to march ahead with all cylinders firing and prospects seem to be exciting for agriculture, industry and services sectors to just boom from now on. There is of course recession in some of the advanced economies, China is slowing down rapidly, commodity prices particularly oil are still high.

There is global inflationary pressure and global trade is slowing down. These are challenges but it is also an opportunity for India. India's investments as percentage of GDP is rising and slowly getting back to 35 per cent mark. This meant animal spirits among corporates are getting unleashed.

FDI inflow is likely to cross \$100 billion for the first time this year. Private investments are looking up with excess capacity vanishing. Global recession may in a way be helpful as it may give that much time to build capacity and fix infrastructure problems. With the twin balance sheet problem behind us that is the balance sheet problem in Indian companies as well as Indian banks, things have started looking up. The two years of covid had in a way helped the corporates and the banks to deal with bad loans problem to a considerable extent. These are welcome developments along with several global companies exploring to have a second manufacturing hub to ward off supply disruptions.

More than anything else, digitalization and India's prowess in software and hardware designs and R&D, make the coming years very exciting and the prospects look unstoppable for India. Here it is important, the Government, corporates and bureaucracy act in unison to ensure that this time around India does not miss the bus. Though there are certain fixing required, Kamath may not be way off the mark. Indian economy is poised for a takeoff. (IPA)



Sculptors engaged in the making of Goddess Kali idols in their Kumartuli workshop --Arijit Ganguly

Kanam Rajendran gets third term as Kerala State Secretary of CPI

The Cassandras have ended up with egg on their faces. The prophets of doom have been embarrassed beyond mention. Belying all dire predictions, Kanam Rajendran has been re-elected unanimously as the Communist Party of India (CPI)'s Kerala state secretary for a third term.

The most positive upshot of the State conference of the CPI has been a resonant message of unity. The anti-Left press, rubbing its hands as it were in malicious glee, has been administered a stinging snub by the party leaders and cadres who, once again, laid accent on left unity in the State. The positive outcome of the conference will impart a new energy and strength to the battle against the forces of communalism led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the negative politics of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

The conference also witnessed a generational shift with the exit of party veterans K E Ismail and C. Divakaran from the State Council. Ismail will, however, continue to be a member of the National Council until the 24th party congress from October 14 to 18. Senior assistant secretary K Prakash Babu, has retained his state council membership. CPI leader from Idukki E S Bijimol, who had voiced her reservation on some issues in a Facebook post, has not made it to the council.

The new 101-member Council sports a younger image. As many as 33 members

were dropped from the existing 96-member council. Among those who have not made it to the council are Central Control Commission chairman Pannian Ravindran and Central Secretariat member Binoy Viswam. There are 13 women among the 38 new faces in the Council. The anti-left press had forecast a fierce controversy over the party's decision to make mandatory the age cap of 75 years for leaders in the State council and executive members. The prediction was that the decision was meant to oust senior leaders Ismail and Divakaran. But that has been proved to be nothing but mere conjecture as it was Ismail who proposed Kanam's name as the state secretary.

As for Divakaran, the stalwart himself said he would abide by the party decision on the age cap. It may be mentioned that the CPI National Council had taken a decision to bring in the upper age limit to ensure greater representation of youngsters in leadership positions. Since it was the decision of the National Council, it could not be interpreted as being against the party constitution. The party's mass base has expanded with the membership having gone up from a mere 34,600 in 1971 to

1,77,600. The branch committees have gone up from 8,500 to over 11,000. Of course, there is scope for further improvement. It was after the Malappuram conference that the party saw a surge in membership.

In his acceptance, speech, Kanam dismissed rumours of factionalism in the party. That is the product of the not so fertile imagination of the left-hostile media. "The party has no group. Communists stand as one. Comrades have the right to voice their opinion in their respective party forums. It is not an era of slavery. However, the party's decision-making is always consensual and concordant in the tradition of democratic centralism," affirmed Kanam.

An important feature of the conference was that despite the party's reservations and apprehensions, criticism of the Left Democratic Front (LDF), especially the Home department under the control of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been softened in the party reports presented to the state conference. The major criticism was against the Kerala Government's use of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against student leaders Thaha and Allen for possessing Maoist brochures besides the killing of Maoists at Attappady

FOCUS

P. Sreekumaran

in November 2010. In both these incidents, the CPI said the LDF Government had deviated from the known stand of the left parties. The state government's resort to the draconian law, the CPI felt, would considerably weaken the Left parties' stand on obnoxious pieces of legislation such as UAPA. The Conference also called for frequent consultations within the LDF and evolving a consensus in the functioning of the LDF Government.

The political report voiced the CPI's reservations on the SilverLine project. The CPI has all along been of the firm view that such mega projects should be implemented only after taking the people into confidence. The report also referred to the ongoing protest against the Vizhinjam port project. The conference stressed the importance of drawing up coastal conservation plans.

Significantly, Kanam has become the fourth leader from the party to secure three terms as state secretary. The other leaders have enjoyed three terms are NE Balaram, P K Vasudevan Nair and Veliyambhargavan. Strengthening the party at the grassroots level is the major challenging Kanam is facing. True, the party has recorded growth. But as a party leader said, much more remains to be done. For instance, the CPI has party units in all panchayats and majority of the wards. The immediate task is to ensure the party's presence in all wards. No less important is the need to keep the CPI's identity intact in the LDF. (IPA)

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					
				26	

ACROSS			DOWN		
1	Colour		1	Penniless person	
3	Halt		2	Single unit	
7	Anger		4	Neckwear	
8	Corn to be ground		5	Divine communication	
11	Harvest		6	Vigour	
12	Flirt with		9	Unruffled	
13	Watchful		10	Make lace	
15	Wan		11	Rest	
18	Ill-mannered		14	Of the wolf	
19	Birds		16	Reluctant	
20	Outcry		17	High regard	
21	Prevalent		19	Clamour	
23	Courage		21	Fishing pole	
24	United		22	Marsh	
25	Refuse				
26	Teaching period				

SUDOKU : 3665

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

Yesterday's Solution 3664

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1673

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

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.

REVISED SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

All the sailings are subject to weather conditions

INTER ISLAND SECTOR:
· Sindhu will sail for Campbell Bay via Nancowry on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 0900 Hrs from Campbell Bay via Nancowry.
· MV Kalighat will sail for Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal & Nancowry on 18.10.2022 (Tue) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 21.10.2022 (Fri) 1200 Hrs from Campbell Bay via same route. Passenger Tickets for onward journey will be issued to the general public from 15.10.2022 (Sat) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counter, Phoenix Bay.

LITTLE ANDAMAN:
· MV Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.
· MV Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 17.10.2022 (Mon) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.
· Sindhu will sail for Little Andaman on 20.10.2022 (Thu) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.
· Sindhu will sail for Little Andaman on 22.10.2022 (Sat) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.
****Passenger tickets for the above sailing (i.e. for 17th, 20th & 22nd October, 2022) will be issued to the general public from 14.10.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

DIGLIPUR & MAYABUNDER:
· MV Dering will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 1700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 13.10.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.
· MV Dering will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 19.10.2022 (Wed) at 1900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 20.10.2022 (Thu) at 1300 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 17.10.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.
· MV Dering will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 22.10.2022 (Sat) at 1900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 23.10.2022 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder. Passenger tickets for the above sailing will be issued to the general public from 20.10.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

FORESHORE SECTOR:
Note: Passenger tickets for the Foreshore Sector vessels will be issued to the general public at STARS Ticketing Counters two days prior to her scheduled departure date.

14.10.2022 (FRI)
SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP
· MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Kamorta will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
· MV Strait Island will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
· MV Strait Island will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Kamorta will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail back to Port Blair on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 0600 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.


RANGAT
MV Chouldari will sail for Rangat via Shaheed Dweep, Swaraj Dweep, Strait Island & Long Island on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 0700 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 0700 Hrs from Rangat via same route.

15.10.2022 (SAT)
SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP
· MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Strait Island will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
· MV Baratang will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
· MV Baratang will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 1400 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1630 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Kamorta will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 15.10.2022 (Sat) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail back to Port Blair on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 0600 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

16.10.2022 (SUN)
SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP
· MV Chouldari will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 0630 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0900 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.
· MV Baratang will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
· MV Strait Island will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.
· MV Strait Island will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 16.10.2022 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that on 08/10/2022, case vide FIR No. 45/22 dated 08/10/2022 U/S 363 IPC was registered at Police Station Diglipur on the suspected abduction/ kidnapping of a minor boy namely Shri Rajan Mondal 17 years 06 months R/o Gandhi Nagar, Diglipur. Search of the boy is in progress. Descriptive roll of the boy is furnished below:

PHOTOGRAPH	DESCRIPTION	
	Age	17 yrs. & 06 months
	Height	167 cms
	Hair Colour	Black
	Eye's Colour	Normal Black
	Languages	Bangla & Hindi
	Complexion	Fair
	Face	Round
	Education	Studying in XI th Std.
	Wearing	Black colour full sleeve T-Shirt & Blue half pant and black shoe
	Body Built	Normal
Missing place	Gandhi Nagar, Diglipur	
Missing Date	06/10/2022	

General public is requested to pass on any information related to the above boy to the following phone numbers 03192-272223, 9434285670, 9474232107, 100 or to any nearest Police Station.

Previous Congress govt was like ATM for party high command: Bommai



HUVINA HUDAGALI, OCT 13/--/ Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday alleged that the previous Congress government in the State was like an ATM (any time money) for its high command, and money from the State was taken in suitcases by that party to fight elections elsewhere. He accused Congress president Sonia Gandhi of betrayal, recalling that she had fought and won the Lok Sabha elections from Ballari in 1999 by making false promises, and then giving up the seat in favour of the Gandhi family bastion of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, the other constituency from where she had contested and won that polls that year.

"They (Cong) allege BJP government here is giving money to its high command. The former Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) is saying such things out of his experience, as he has had the practice of giving money to Congress high command for five years in the past (2013-18). Such a culture doesn't exist in the BJP, if there is such a tradition and history it is in the Congress party and its high command," Bommai said. Addressing a rally as part of BJP's 'Jana Sankalpa Yatra' here, he said the Congress government in Karnataka was like an ATM for the party high command for five years, and if there were elections elsewhere, money was taken in suitcases from here. "Looting Karnataka, the then Congress government sent money as tribute offering to its high command, with what morality are they speaking? They should be ashamed. Having involved himself in such a

transaction, your State party president (D K Shivakumar) is facing inquiry today. I pity him, he is going through things for trying to protect your (Congress) high command," he added. Bommai, along with BJP strongman B S Yediyurappa, is on a Statewide tour in the run-up to Assembly polls next year, and the duo is scheduled to cover 52 Assembly segments till December 25.

Noting that the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi is reaching Ballari on Friday, the Chief Minister, while recalling Sonia Gandhi winning Lok Sabha election from there and then giving it up, said, " After taking votes from people this region, she never turned back, she made false promises and did injustice to you. Now they (Cong) are coming back, shouldn't you question them and give them a message that their false promises and betrayal will not work anymore?"

Recalling that people during 1999 Lok Sabha election had sought all-round development of Ballari region, and that Sonia Gandhi and the Congress, which was then in power, had promised Rs 3,000-crore package, he said, "Where is Rs 3,000 crore? What development? Other than Rs 1,500-crore thermal plant which was for the entire State nothing was done to Ballari...With what face are you coming?"

The Chief Minister at the rally made BJP ticket aspirants of Huvina Hadagali Assembly constituency take a pledge that they would unitedly work for the party's victory, irrespective of whoever among them is fielded as the candidate during 2023 polls. Reminding that BJP lost the constituency last time as two candidates from the party had contested as rivals, Yediyurppa said based on a survey, ticket would be given this time and whoever contests, workers should unitedly work for his or her victory.

He called on the BJP workers to take up mass public contact programmes from now and inform people about the work by the governments at the Centre and the State, aimed at winning over 150 seats (out of total 224).

Yediyurappa said Rahul Gandhi is doing padyatra in the State in search of an address, as the party has no address across the country. (PTI)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

No. e-tender-DB/CD/CN/22-23/2030 Car Nicobar, dated 11th Oct, 2022

The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Andaman P.W.D, Car Nicobar invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate tenders from experienced and eligible contractors having valid GST Registration and requisite experience of having successfully completed similar work(s) of relevant magnitude without any adverse remarks in any of the Govt. Organization in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the following work:

1. (NIT No. 29/EE/DB/CD/CN/2022-23) Re-roofing and repairing of classrooms, toilet and ceiling of Govt.S.S.School Kakana at Car Nicobar (Ph-I) E.C.P.T.: ₹ 38,48,067/-, EMD : ₹ 76,961/-, Time of Completion: 06 (Six) Months. (Tender ID.2022_APWD_7597_1)

The last date of bids submission will 26/10/2022 upto 15.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.eprocure.andaman.gov.in.

Executive Engineer
CD, APWD, Car Nicobar

9147/22

State BJP President meets Secretary(Education)



PORT BLAIR, OCT 13/--/ Mr. AjoyBairagi, State BJP President met Ms.Veditha Reddy, Secretary (Education) at her office on Thursday and discussed various issues pertaining to the Education department.

Mr. AjoyBairagi discussed the issue of shortage of teachers in Government School at Kishori Nagar in Diglipur besides raising a host of other issues.

The Secretary Education assured to look into the issues raised by him at the earliest.

FiredeptNOC no longer required for sanctioning building plans in special category: MCD

NEW DELHI, OCT 13/--/Citizens applying for sanctioning building plans for residential properties in "special category" will no longer require a NOC from the fire service department as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has relaxed norms, the civic body said on Thursday. Earlier, obtaining a prior no-objection certificate from the fire department was "mandatory" for the sanction of plans for residential buildings, the MCD said in a statement. For the benefit of citizens, MCD has relaxed the condition of fire NOC for sanctioning building plans for residential properties in the special category, it said. "As per the new rule, no NOC is required from the Delhi Fire Service in cases of sanction of building plans of residential building, consisting of a ground floor plus three additional floors, with stilts for parking, having, an overall maximum height of 17.5 m," the civic body. However, the MCD clarifies that the new relaxation rule "shall not apply to those residential buildings, wherein stilt is not proposed by applicants," it added. The civic body claimed, it has taken this decision "in the light of a recent judgement passed by Supreme Court, and a clarification rendered by the Delhi Fire Service". (PTI)

APPLICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF CERTIFIED AUDITORS IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION, PORT BLAIR.

Applications are invited from eligible persons who are willing to work as Certified Auditor in this department are requested to submit their full Bio-data in the enclosed proforma to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, V.I.P. Road, Junglight P.O., Port Blair – 744 103 to include them in the panel of Certified Auditors of Cooperative Societies maintained in the office of the Registrar of Coop. Societies along with self-attested copies of relevant certificates/documents latest by 31/10/2022 at 3.00P.M

Eligibility conditions: -

- A person who holds a Higher Diploma in Cooperation or Diploma in Cooperative Audit or Cooperative Management or Degree in Cooperation or Degree in Commerce

Age: -

18 Years and above / No Age Limit / Retired person can also apply.

Remuneration: -

Audit Fees will be paid by the concerned cooperative society according to the audit fees prescribed in the A & N Administration Notification Port Blair dated 19th March 1999, for which the Certified Auditor has conducted the audit authorized to him/her by the cooperative department.

The name of the selected candidates will be displayed on the notice board of the Office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

PROFORMA		
1.	Name of the Applicant	Self attested photograph
2.	Father’s / Husband Name	
3.	Date of Birth & Age	
4.	Employment Registration No.	
5.	Educational Qualifications(self attested copies of certificate)	
6.	Experience, if any(self attested copies, if any)	
7.	Permanent Residential Address in A & N Islands with proof.	
8.	Address for Communication with contact number	
9.	Tehsil/Area preferred for auditing the societies	

I do hereby solemnly declare that the above mentioned information furnished by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Further, I declare that, if any of the above information furnished by me is found false or incorrect at later stage, my empanelment from the panel of certified auditors shall be liable to be terminated.

Date: -
Place: -

Signature of the Candidate

9138/22

SC delivers split verdict on Karnataka hijab row

Matter to be placed before CJI to set up appropriate bench

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 --/ The Supreme Court on Thursday delivered a split verdict on the hijab ban in Karnataka's educational institutions, with one judge holding permitting a community to wear its religious symbols will be an "antithesis to secularism" and the other insisting that wearing the Muslim headscarf should be simply a "matter of choice". While Justice Hemant Gupta dismissed the appeals challenging the March 15 judgement of the Karnataka High Court which had refused to lift the ban, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia held there shall be no restriction on the wearing of hijab anywhere in the schools and colleges of the state. With the apex court delivering a split verdict, the high court's judgement still holds the field. However, the split verdict held off a permanent resolution of the vexed row over hijab as both judges suggested placing the matter before a larger bench for adjudication. Writing a separate 73-page judgement, Justice Dhulia said: "By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates, is first an invasion on their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education."

Justice Gupta, who was heading the bench and wrote a contrary verdict running into 133-pages, answered the 11 questions framed by him for consideration in the matter and said the constitutional goal of fraternity will be defeated if the students are permitted to carry their apparent religious symbols with them to the classroom. While pronouncing the judgement on

a batch of 26 petitions, Justice Gupta said at the outset: "There is divergence of opinion." "In view of the divergent views expressed by the bench, the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India for constitution of an appropriate bench," the apex court said. In his verdict, Justice Gupta said the arguments advanced by the counsel for some of the appellants that this matter involves a substantial question of law and should be referred to a five-judge bench is "not tenable".

Both the judges referred to the state government's February 5, 2022 order which banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges. Justice Gupta noted the government order "promotes an equal environment". "Accordingly, I do not find that the government order impinges on the constitutional promise of fraternity and dignity. Instead, it promotes an equal environment where such fraternal values can be imbibed and nurtured without any hindrance of any kind," he said. On the other hand, Justice Dhulia set aside the High Court verdict and also quashed the February 5, 2022 government order. "Under our constitutional scheme, wearing a hijab should be simply a matter of choice. It may or may not be a matter of essential religious practice, but it still is, a matter of conscience, belief, and expression," he said. Justice Dhulia further said the "unfortunate fallout of the hijab restriction would be that we would have denied education to a girl child." He referred to the four questions

formulated by the high court, including whether wearing hijab or headscarf is a part of essential religious practice in Islamic faith protected under Article 25 of the Constitution. "In my opinion, the question of Essential Religious Practices, which we have also referred in this judgement as ERP, was not at all relevant in the determination of the dispute before the court. I say this because when protection is sought under Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India, as is being done in the present case, it is not required for an individual to establish that what he or she asserts is an ERP," Justice Dhulia said.

"It may simply be any religious practice, a matter of faith or conscience! Yes, what is asserted as a right should not go against 'public order, morality and health,' and of course, it is subject to other provisions of Part III of the Constitution," he said. Justice Dhulia said in his opinion, courts are not the forums to solve "theological questions". "Courts are not well equipped to do that for various reasons, but most importantly because there will always be more than one viewpoint on a particular religious matter, and therefore nothing gives the authority to the Court to pick one over the other," he said. In his verdict, Justice Gupta noted that some of the appellants had also made a comparison with the rights of the followers of the Sikh faith by arguing that since 'Kirpan' is allowed in terms of Explanation I to Article 25, therefore, the students who want to wear headscarf should be equally protected as in the case of the followers of the Sikh religion. (PTI)



Will always support uniforms in schools; no hijab or other dresses, says BJP

Matter will continue to attract SC's attention: Cong

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 --/ The BJP on Thursday asserted that it will always be opposed to students wearing hijab or any dress other than uniforms in schools, and said religious freedom cannot be used to promote "separatism". A Soon after the Supreme Court gave a split verdict on the ban on hijabs in Karnataka educational institutions, BJP national general secretary C T Ravi, a senior party leader from the state, said it will not be appropriate for him to comment on the judgement. But he will always speak against the "separatist mindset" that, Ravi claimed, promotes the use of Muslim headscarf in schools. "Uniform in schools is meant to promote uniformity among students. I believe that separatism is promoted in the garb of issues like promotion of burqa or hijab. This mindset was the reason behind India's partition. This separatism progressively morphs into extremism which can be a source of terrorism," he claimed. Rules mandating wearing uniform in Karnataka schools have been in force since 1965, he said. Citing popular protests in Iran, an Islamic country, against the mandatory use of hijabs, the BJP leader claimed that religion freedom in India cannot mean promotion of "separatist" designs. He added that the issue is not about wearing or not wearing hijab but what to wear in schools. And there should be no hijab or other dresses in schools but only uniforms, Ravi said. Meanwhile, the Congress said the Supreme Court's split verdict in the hijab case means the matter will continue to attract that court's attention. And the Bharat Jodo Yatra, it added, will keep demanding accountability from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on issues such as economic inequality. "The Supreme Court's split verdict in the hijab case means that the matter will continue to attract that court's attention. Meanwhile, the Bharat Jodo Yatra will continue to demand accountability from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on rising economic inequality, social polarisation and political dictatorship," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet in Hindi. (PTI)

TMC, Cong criticise Dhankhar for his remarks on Bengal; BJP, CPM come out in support

KOLKATA, OCT 13 --/ The ruling TMC and Opposition Congress in West Bengal Thursday criticised Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar for his comments on West Bengal's law and order situation saying they are not befitting for the post he holds. The BJP state unit came out in support of Dhankhar and said it is good that he is portraying the "true picture" of the state. The Vice-President speaking at a programme in New Delhi on Wednesday said "Law of the ruler, not the rule of law, is the bane of human rights in the state (West Bengal)". He was speaking at a programme of the NHRC in New Delhi where he recalled that a fact-finding committee of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), formed on the order of the Calcutta High Court over petitions related to alleged post-poll violence in 2021, had said in a report that law of the ruler and not the rule of law prevailed in West Bengal. Dhankhar was the Governor of the state for nearly three years before his elevation as the vice-president of India and had on many occasions engaged in tussles with the Mamata Banerjee government over the law and order situation and other issues in the state. Senior TMC leader Sougata Roy said that it was wrong on Dhankhar's part to make such criticisms. "The comments by Dhankhar do not behave the post he holds ... It was wrong on his part to have made such comments and we had opposed him back then too (when Dhankhar was the governor), as we do now," the veteran TMC MP added. TMC MP Santanu Sen said it seems Dhankhar is yet to avoid his anti-Bengal views. "Whatever post he may hold, it seems he is yet to shun his anti-Bengal views. We condemn his remarks," Sen said. TMC had abstained from the Vice-Presidential election as it did not agree with the process the candidate was decided upon without keeping the party in the loop and had



supported the opposition candidate Margaret Alva. The decision was not unexpected given the acrimonious relationship that Dhankhar, who was the NDA nominee in the Vice-Presidential poll shared with the party in West Bengal. The Congress too slammed Dhankhar and its leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wondered why he was silent on the worsening law and order situation in the BJP-ruled states. "It seems he is perturbed about the law and order situation in West Bengal. But why is he silent on the poor law and order situation in the BJP-ruled states? Despite holding a top constitutional post, it seems he is yet to shrug off his bias towards the BJP," Chowdhury, who is also the president of Congress in the state, said. Supporting Dhankhar, West Bengal BJP MP Locket Chatterjee said "It is good that despite being the vice president, he has not forgotten West Bengal. It is good that he (Dhankhar) is portraying the true picture of West Bengal before the nation," she said. "The entire country should know the atrocities the TMC had unleashed on political opponents in West Bengal (after the state election)," Chatterjee added. CPM Central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said Dhankhar had spoken the truth. (PTI)

Earlier govts did not give Indians facilities available elsewhere even in previous century: Modi

UNA/CHAMBA, OCT 13 --/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the past governments of not providing facilities that were available to people elsewhere in the world even in the previous century and in his home state Gujarat a few years back.

Ahead of the Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh by the year-end, he launched a slew of development projects in Una and Chamba. In Una, Modi flagged off a Vande Bharat Express, the fourth train in the series. Addressing public meetings, he hoped that the state will break the trend this time of electing different parties every election. The Prime Minister also stressed the benefits of the "double-engine" government, a reference to the BJP being in power both in Himachal Pradesh and at the Centre. "We will provide you facilities of the 20th as well as the 21st centuries," he said, addressing a rally at the Indira Gandhi stadium in Una. "Our government is fulfilling the aspirations of 21st-century India. New India is overcoming challenges of the past and growing rapidly," Modi added. "Earlier governments at the Centre and in the state failed to understand your needs. My government is not only fulfilling the needs of the people, but is doing it with full strength," the Prime Minister said. Modi also hit out at the Opposition, saying 'Dev Bhoomi' Himachal has the grace of nature but previous governments did not work to fill the development gap. "After coming to power, we not only filled that gap but also wrote a new chapter of development," he said. In an apparent reference to the "double-engine" government, Modi said earlier, Himachal BJP chief ministers PK Dhumal and Shanta Kumar had to go to Delhi with BJP workers to seek approval for even small projects. Now, he added, the chief minister goes to Delhi to inform about the completion of projects. Modi recalled a saying that the youth and the water in the hills is of little use locally, a reference to migration and the flow of water downhill. The Prime Minister said his government has changed the proverb. Modi further said the BJP's double-engine government has made domestic gas connections available for every home. Hundred per cent piped water coverage has been made in tribal areas of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur under the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojna', he said. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the flagging off ceremony of the Vande Bharat Express from Amb Andaura, Una to New Delhi, in Himachal Pradesh on Thursday

Everybody gets rejected, says Sourav; hints at doing bigger things in future

TMC sees political vendetta behind former Indian skipper's departure from BCCI



Sourav Ganguly speaking at an event where Bandhan Bank appointed him as its Brand Ambassador at the event, in Kolkata on Thursday — Photo : EOI

KOLKATA, OCT 13 --/ Amid the chatter around his imminent departure from the BCCI, board president Sourav Ganguly on Thursday said he "can't be an administrator forever" and "rejections" are part of life. The former India captain is set to be replaced as board president by 1983 World Cup winning-team member Roger Binny in the apex body's upcoming AGM (Annual general Meeting). "You can't play forever. You can't be an administrator forever, but it's been fun doing both and seeing both sides of the coin. I will go for bigger things in future," Ganguly said on the sidelines of an event related to Bandhan bank. "I was a cricketer's administrator. Yes you had to make decisions because there's so much cricket happening, there's so much money around. There's women's cricket, there's domestic cricket. Yes you had to take calls at times as an individual," he added. Ganguly was keen to continue as the BCCI chief, but things did not pan out that way, even as Jay Shah is set to continue as the secretary. "For me, life is about faith. Everybody gets tested, everybody gets rewarded, everybody gets rejected. Because that's the circle of life, but what

For me, life is about faith. Everybody gets tested, everybody gets rewarded, everybody gets rejected. Because that's the circle of life, but what remains constant is the faith in your ability which keeps you going —Sourav Ganguly

remains constant is the faith in your ability which keeps you going," he said. After his name did not feature among options for the top post during a meeting of senior administrators with political clout in New Delhi last week, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) accused the BJP of "trying to humiliate" the former India skipper for not joining the party. "Since the BJP floated such propaganda during and after the 2021 polls, it will surely be the responsibility of the party to respond to such speculations (that politics is behind Ganguly not getting a

second term as BCCI chief). It seems the BJP is trying to humiliate Sourav," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said. TMC MP Santanu Sen tweeted: "Another example of political vendetta. Son of @AmitShah can be retained as Secretary of #BCCI. But @SGanguly99 can't be. Is it because he is from the State of @MamataOfficial or he didn't join @BJP4India? We are with you Dada!" Ganguly first got into cricket administration as a secretary under Jagmohan Dalmiya at the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), before heading the state body after the veteran's death in September 2015. Speaking of achieving success, the former skipper cited the example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Life, achievements and progresses are about small goals, you don't become a Sachin Tendulkar, or an Ambani or Narendra Modi in one day. "You have to spend your life, time, days, weeks, months working towards it. That's the key to success. If you decide that this is my job, this is my life, give everything you have for the rest of your life to be the best," the former Indian skipper said. (PTI)

China accuses US of 'Cold War thinking' in security strategy

BEIJING, OCT 13/--/The Chinese government on Thursday accused Washington of "Cold War thinking" and appealed for efforts to repair strained relations after President Joe Biden released a national security strategy that calls for "out-competing China" and blocking its efforts to reshape global affairs. The foreign ministry also accused Washington of trade protectionism after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States would reinforce its global supply chains to guard against "geopolitical coercion" by China, Russia and other governments. Biden's document Wednesday accused China of trying to erode US alliances and create more permissive conditions for its own authoritarian model. It called for out-competing China in political alliances and global governance as well as business, technology and military affairs. US-Chinese relations are at their lowest level in decades, strained by disputes over technology, security, Taiwan and human rights. "Cold War thinking and zero-sum games, sensationalising geopolitical conflicts and great power competition are unpopular and unconstructive," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. She called on Washington to meet China halfway and promote China-US relations back to a healthy and stable track.

The White House document calls for the United States to maintain a competitive edge over China, which has antagonised Japan, India and other neighbours with an increasingly assertive foreign policy and growing military. China's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative to build ports, railways and other infrastructure across Asia and Africa has fed concern in Washington, Moscow and other capitals that Beijing is trying to build its strategic influence and undermine theirs. China, with the second-largest global economy and military, is the only competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military and technological power to do it, the document says.

Mao, speaking at a regular news briefing, said China was a defender of the world order and rejected sensationalising geopolitical conflicts and great power competition. Mao criticised the "weaponisation of economic and trade issues after Yellen said Wednesday the United States was trying to reduce reliance on China and other Asian suppliers of semiconductors, electric vehicle batteries, solar panels and other technology. President Xi Jinping's government is spending heavily to reduce its need for US and other Western technology by developing its own creators of processor chips, artificial intelligence, aerospace and other know-how. Beijing is pressing Chinese companies to reduce reliance on global supply chains by using domestic vendors whenever possible, even if that increases costs. (AP)

UK PM Liz Truss under pressure over tax cuts

LONDON, OCT 13/--/The Cabinet is attempting to rally behind embattled British Prime Minister Liz Truss on Thursday as her Conservative Party backbenchers are up in arms against her tax-cutting economic policies, which they see as favouring the rich amid a cost-of-living crisis and giving the Opposition Labour Party a lead in opinion polls.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly warned that it would be a disastrously bad idea to think about replacing Truss as the Tory leader, just over a month after she was elected by the party membership in a leadership battle with former Chancellor Rishi Sunak on September 6. Since then the government's mini-budget tabled at the end of last month has unleashed turmoil in the financial markets due to fears of unfunded tax cuts introduced by Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng, despite a forced U-turn on abolishing the top rate for the wealthiest in the country. We have got to recognise that we do need to bring certainty to the markets, Cleverly told the BBC with reference to the financial turmoil. I think that changing the leadership would be a disastrously bad idea, not just politically but also economically, and we are absolutely going to stay focused on growing the economy, he said.

It will be seen as a clear warning to the Conservative Party against plotting Truss' overthrow, just weeks after being elected as party leader and taking charge at 10 Downing Street. Truss is facing growing calls within her own party to scrap all or part of her economic programme, to be finalised with a fiscal statement scheduled at the end of the month, to shore up the UK's economic position ahead of a difficult winter.

Under the Tory party rules, Truss technically cannot face a leadership challenge until 12 months unless the powerful 1922 Committee of backbench MPs votes to change their rules. At a meeting to win over the committee attended by Truss on Wednesday evening, the backbenchers are believed to have made their disapproval of the new leader's policies abundantly clear. (PTI)

Pakistan reports rape of a woman every two hours: Survey

ISLAMABAD, OCT 13/--/A woman is raped in Pakistan in every two hours, according to a recent survey, highlighting the unsafe conditions for women in the country where cases of honour killing is also rampant. The survey, which was conducted by Pakistani channel SAMAA TV's Investigation Unit (SIU) based on the data collected from the Punjab province's home department and Ministry of Human Rights, also found that while the rape cases of women spiked, the conviction rate remained an abysmal 0.2 per cent.

"Newly collected and compiled data showed that as many as 21,900 women were reported to have been raped in the country from 2017 to 2021. This meant that around 12 women were raped across the country daily, or one woman every two hours," said the survey.

According to the surveyors, these reported cases could be just the tip of the iceberg since societal stigma and fear of retributive violence prevent women from reporting the incidents to the authorities. The data showed that in 2017, some 3,327 cases of rape



were reported. This jumped to 4,456 cases in 2018, 4,573 cases in 2019, dipped to 4,478 cases in 2020 before rising to 5,169 cases in 2021, the report said.

In 2022, the media reported 305 rape cases across the country. As many as 57 cases were reported in May, June (91), July (86) and August (71). Previously media reports have said that in Punjab, around 350 rape cases were reported from May 2022 to August 2022 but no data was available for the first four months of the year. In

2022, as many as 1,301 cases of sexual violence against women were heard in 44 courts in Pakistan. The police filed charge sheets in 2,856 cases. But only 4 per cent of the cases went to trial, the report said. The conviction rate in rape cases during this period remained at an abysmal 0.2 per cent, the report highlighted. In 2020, the United Nations Development Programme ranked Pakistan top among the 75 countries with an anti-women bias in courts.

In July this year, a report

Senator from Imran Khan's party arrested for tweeting against Pak Army chief

ISLAMABAD, OCT 13/--/A lawmaker of ousted prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party was arrested here on Thursday for accusing Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of legitimising corruption in the high echelon of the country.

Senator Azam Khan Swati was arrested following his scathing tweet targeting Chief of Army Staff Gen Bajwa.

Mr Bajwa congratulations to you and few with you. Your plan is really working and all criminals are getting free at the cost of this country, he tweeted after the acquittal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz in an alleged money laundering case on Wednesday.

Swati went on to add, With these thugs getting free you have legitimised corruption. How you

predict now the future of this country?

Swati was booked when the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the First Information Report at its Cyber Crime Reporting Centre in Islamabad.

The FIR read that Swati tweeted with malafide intentions & ulterior motives against State Institutes of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its Senior Government Functionaries including Chief of The Army Staff of Pakistan Army.

This is a calculated attempt to create hatred in the minds of people and Army Personnel/s against COAS and Pakistan Army

and also created distrust towards the Judicial System. In such intimidating Tweet/s, the



accused Muhammad Azam Khan Swati has attempted to provoke the general public and Personnel/s of Armed Forces by trying to create a feeling of ill-will among pillars of the State, according to the FIR. Prime

Minister Shehbaz and his son were absolved of any wrongdoing by a court in Lahore where they faced a case of about Rs 16 billion in money laundering.

Swati was produced before a sessions court in Islamabad where he spoke with the media outside saying that he was not arrested for breaking the law, violating the Constitution or fundamental rights but for taking one name of Bajwa and that is the violation .

The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security

and foreign policy. Swati also accused FIA of torturing him saying that a parliamentarian has been unclothed . I am telling the nation.

Earlier, the senior Civil Judge Shabbir Bhatti remanded him for two days to the FIA to probe the allegations and asked the authorities to present Swati before the court on October 15.

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry tweeted that reports of Swati's torture were disturbing . Torturing political prisoners has become a new normal in Pakistan, he added.

Former human rights minister during PTI rule, Shireen Mazari, tweeted a video of Azam Swati alleging torture in custody. Brave man Senator Azam Swati as he tells of why he was arrested but also how he was subjected to torture while in custody, she wrote. Shameful. (PTI)

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar hopeful of election win

PETALING JAYA, OCT 13/--/Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday he was optimistic that his alliance can achieve a simple majority in general elections expected to be held next month, despite the odds stacked against them. Riding on a wave of anger over government corruption, Anwar's three-party Hope Alliance won a stunning victory in 2018 polls with the help of former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. On his second run of premiership, Mahathir became the world's oldest at 92, but their government collapsed less than two years later due to infighting. The United Malays National Organisation, which has led Malaysia since its independence from Britain in 1957 until its defeat in 2018, has since returned to power as part of a Malay-dominant coalition.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, a UMNO man, dissolved Parliament on Monday for early polls despite major floods expected next month due to the year-end monsoon season. UMNO has been feuding with its allies in the government and believes it can win big on its own after victories in several recent by-elections. Anwar said UMNO's victory in the by-elections were mainly due to a low turnout of opposition voters, who were disillusioned by political bickering and his alliance's collapse.

I remain very optimistic, he told a news conference, because public awareness of government corruption and its failure to bolster the economy and improve livelihoods is high. We are confident. We must work towards achieving a simple majority. Anwar, once a high-flyer in UMNO, was in jail during the 2018 polls for sodomy charges he said were politically motivated. Anwar, 75, was pardoned after his alliance won the polls and was due to take over from Mahathir before their government collapsed.

Anwar admitted the former government under Mahathir did fail in some major core issues." He has said previously that Mahathir, who has since formed a Malay party on his own, was not fully committed to reforms.

I am not here to represent the former administration. We are looking at the future. From what I observe from my visits to the four, five states in the last few weeks, there is clearly a marked change (in support) and that momentum (for change) has begun," Anwar said.

His camp is open to work with other opposition parties including Mahathir's if they are committed to reforms, he added. Anwar's alliance, which has 90 out of 222 seats in the just-dissolved Parliament, is the main contender. But analysts said it will need to forge cooperation with other smaller opposition parties to ensure votes are not split. The Election Commission will meet Oct. 20 to set a date for the vote, which must be held within 60 days after Parliament is dissolved. (AP)

Smoking, diabetes, obesity bigger risk factors for Covid death than heart ailment: Study

WASHINGTON, OCT 13/--/Risk factors for cardiovascular disease such as obesity, smoking and diabetes, rather than preexisting heart disease, are the main contributors to death and poor outcomes among critically ill COVID-19 patients, according to a study. Patients with cardiovascular disease were found to have close to a 30 per cent higher mortality rate than critically ill COVID patients without the preexisting condition. However, when adjusted for risk factors -- including age, sex, race, smoking and others -- that relationship was no longer statistically significant. "The fact that the association between cardiovascular disease and death was so heavily diminished when accounting for comorbidities suggests that cardiovascular risk factors rather than preexisting heart disease are the main contributors to in-hospital death in patients with severe COVID-19," said senior author Salim Hayek. The team, led by researchers at the University of Michigan in the US, analysed outcomes for more than 5,100 patients admitted to intensive care units at 68 centers across the US with severe COVID between March and June of 2020. Of those patients, 1,174 had either preexisting coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure or atrial fibrillation. A total of 34.6 per cent of patients died within 28 days and nearly 18 per cent suffered a cardiovascular event, such as cardiac arrest or myocarditis.

Researchers say the association between such events and death did not differ between patients with and without preexisting heart disease. The study, published in the journal Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes, found that the presence of myocardial injury was associated with cardiovascular events and death, regardless of whether a patient had preexisting heart disease. Myocardial injury was common among patients in the ICU, occurring in nearly half of patients who had heightened levels of troponin, a protein released when the heart muscle is damaged. Patients with the highest troponin measurements were nearly three times more likely to die than those without myocardial injury, the researchers said in a statement. "While patients with severe COVID commonly had signs of cardiac injury, our findings reinforce COVID-19 as a pulmonary disease with multi-organ injury related to systemic inflammation," Hayek said. (PTI)

China quashes social media about protest banners in Beijing

BEIJING, OCT 13/--/China's internet censors moved quickly to scrub social media posts Thursday after reports that banners criticising the Communist leadership were hung from a busy intersection in the capital Beijing. Images on Twitter, which is blocked in China, showed smoke spiralling up from a fire on an elevated roadway and banners calling for an end to the hard-line zero-COVID policy and the overthrow of Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping. Political protest is rare in China, and police are on high alert this week in the run-up to a major Communist Party congress that opens Sunday. There were no banners hanging from the roadway later in the day, but a circular black scar was visible on the shoulder area where the fire would have been. It was not clear who might have hung the banners or when they were placed.

Dozens of police milled about the area, entering stores. At times, they stopped pedestrians and questioned them. Associated Press journalists were questioned three times and asked to produce identification. Police denied anything unusual had happened in the area. Three shopkeepers also denied seeing any banners, smoke or any unusual activity. One woman shook her head no without even looking up from her sewing machine. But a cyclist waiting at a stoplight was overheard saying that traffic was clogged in the area in the morning and smoke was billowing from the bridge. Posts containing the hashtags Beijing or Haidian were quickly blocked on China's popular Weibo social media platform. Some of the posts expressed support and praised the unidentified person's courage without referring to the incident directly. Others said on Twitter that their accounts had been temporarily disabled on another major Chinese platform, WeChat, after they shared photos of the incident.

A song named Sitong Bridge, the name of the section of elevated roadway where the incident reportedly happened, was removed from online music platforms. Xi, who came to power in 2012, is expected to receive a third five-year term as party leader at the end of the congress. His government's strict anti-pandemic policies, which have placed millions of people under quarantine, have prompted small protests and confrontations with authorities.

China has the world's largest online population, building a reliance on the web for shopping and entertainment even while authorities carefully track commentary and quash any criticism of Xi and other party leaders. (AP)

Tri-series: Pakistan beat Bangladesh by 7 wickets

CHRISTCHURCH, OCT 13 /--/ Pakistan tuned up for the tri-series final against hosts New Zealand with a nerve-racking seven-wicket win over Bangladesh on Thursday after Mohammad Nawaz secured victory with just a ball to



spare. Litton Das, who brushed off an early leg strain to put in a gutsy performance, and captain Shakib Al Hasan both chalked up half-centuries for Bangladesh to set Pakistan 174 to win in Christchurch. In reply, Pakistan had to work for the win as allrounder Nawaz put in a match-changing innings of 45 off 20 balls. With his side needing eight runs from the final over, Nawaz delivered by grabbing three doubles, then sealed the victory with a four squeezed between point and short third-man. Pakistan face hosts New Zealand in Friday's final while Bangladesh finish on four straight defeats in the tri-series, a warm-up event ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia. Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan was the man of the match, but he immediately paid tribute to Nawaz. "I'd like to credit Mohammad Nawaz as he made it easy in the end," said Rizwan, top-scorer with 69 runs off 56 balls. "Nawaz's innings changed the momentum. "Obviously, the win gives us confidence, but New Zealand is playing at home." Bangladesh opener Das had earlier produced a gutsy display despite needing treatment for an early thigh strain. While his opening partner Najmul Hossain Shanto and Soumya Sarkar were both caught early on, Das dug in with a superb 69 off 42 balls, firing six fours and two sixes around Hagley Oval. After Das was finally caught by Mohammad Wasim, Shakib Al Hasan kept the scoreboard ticking over with 68 runs off 42 balls. In reply, Pakistan openers Rizwan and Babar Azam put on a partnership of 101. After reaching 55 runs off 40 balls, Azam was finally caught in the 12th over. Then Haider Ali immediately went for a duck, clean bowled by Hasan Mahmud. At 101-2, Pakistan were under pressure. But Nawaz wrestled the match away from Bangladesh with a stunning four, then a six, and another four off three consecutive balls in the 15th over. Bangladesh took the game to the wire when Rizwan was finally caught at deep cover. However, Nawaz kept his cool to see Pakistan home. "It's been difficult, but we played our best game today," said disappointed Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan. (AFP)

Don't just look to survive against Shaheed Afridi, look to score runs: Gambhir to India

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 /--/ India must counter Pakistan left-arm pacer Shaheeh Shah Afridi in an aggressive manner and not just look to see him off in their T20 World Cup opener, former cricketer Gautam Gambhir said on Wednesday. India will take on arch-rivals on October 23 in Melbourne. Afridi, who is returning from a knee injury that ruled him out of the Asia Cup, is expected to pose a serious threat to the Indian batters at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the upcoming T20 showpiece. "When it comes to Shaheen Afridi, don't look to survive. Look to score runs from him. Because the moment you look to survive, everything becomes really small. Whether it's your backlift, whether it's your footwork, and obviously, in T20 cricket you can't look to survive," Gambhir said while speaking on Star Sports show 'Game Plan'. "I know that he can be dangerous with the new ball, but again, irrespective, the Indian batters need to score more runs, get into better positions, and look to time the balls rather than to hit it. "India will be fine because India has got the quality in their top 3 or 4 who can definitely take on Shaheen Shah Afridi," the former world T20 winner added. Gambhir's former teammate and former left-arm pacer Irfan Pathan said Indian batters need to play smartly at the iconic MCG. "When you play at the MCG, the straight boundaries are not that big. It's the side boundaries that are massive. Obviously, India need to be smart, especially the batting. "Probably, it will be difficult to hit the side boundaries, so they have to play the gaps and probably convert the twos into threes and ones into twos, because running between the wickets will be very important," he suggested. Irfan also had advise for Indian bowlers against the likes of Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. "Don't give them any width whatsoever, especially Rizwan, because he's the guy who takes the Powerplay on his shoulders. Just try to get the pace going. Babar takes his time. So, you need to be aware of those situations and those batters," he said. "The line has to be on the stumps, with tight lines. And with both batters, the length changes slightly. When it comes to Rizwan, you can afford to bowl more fuller. You can try to hit him beneath the knee roll. This is where your line and length can be. "And when it comes to Babar Aazam, you need to get him out LBW, but your aim should not be on his front leg, it should be behind his leg because he's slightly open. This is where Arshdeep and Bhuvaneshwar Kumar come in with that in-swinging delivery," Irfan added. (PTI)

‘Karma strikes Back!’ BCCI treats Sourav the same way he treated Virat

Amid the ongoing reports, and Ganguly's all but a clear statement on the end of role as BCCI president, social media was flooded with memes and posts on Kohli



NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 13 /--/ Sourav Ganguly's tenure as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) ended days after the Supreme Court made him eligible for another run at the helm of the Indian cricket board. The former India captain received no backing from the BCCI and was reportedly criticised for not performing during his three-year stint. Former India World Cup-winning all-rounder Roger Binny is set to replace Ganguly as the president of BCCI. According to a report by the news agency PTI, the BCCI did offer Ganguly another role within the board which the former skipper declined. The BCCI had offered Ganguly to be the chairman of the Indian Premier League (IPL) but considering it as a more minor role as compared to being the Board president, the former India captain denied the offer. "Sourav was offered IPL chairmanship but he politely declined the offer. His logic was that he cannot accept becoming head of a sub-committee in BCCI after heading the same institution. He had expressed

interest in continuing in the position," the news agency quoted a BCCI source as saying. Soon after PTI reported the news about Ganguly, fans flooded social media with reactions to the development that took place during the BCCI meeting. It was Ganguly who sacked Virat Kohli as the captain of the ODI team after a fallout between him and Kohli saw the latter stepping down from T20I and Test captaincy. Ganguly is expected to hand over the reins to Roger Binny on October 18 during the BCCI AGM meeting. While Ganguly is set to vacate his post, Jay Shah will continue to serve as the honorary secretary of the BCCI. Apart from continuing as the BCCI secretary, Jay Shah is also reportedly tipped to replace Ganguly to represent the Indian cricket board at the ICC board meetings. During Ganguly's tenure a lot of controversies took place and the communication gap between players and the board was visible to everyone as the Kohli saga unfolded. Let's hope that the new board president can get rid of this gap and we get to see Indian cricket reach new heights. (With PTI inputs)

Dominant India crush Thailand by 74 runs to enter women's Asia Cup final

SYLHET, OCT 13 /--/ A dominant India crushed minnows Thailand by 74 runs to storm into the final and remain on course for a record-extending seventh women's Asia Cup title here on Thursday. The win over Thailand took India to their eighth straight Asia Cup final -- four each in ODI and T20 formats. Before 2012, the tournament was a 50-over-a-side affair. The semifinal contest against Thailand was always expected to be a cakewalk for India and it turned out to be so. India posted 148 for six after being sent in to bat and then restricted Thailand to 74 for 9 in the lop-sided contest. Chasing the target, Thailand were never in the hunt as they lost wickets at regular intervals. The Thai women, however, fared much better than their previous outing against India in the league stage, where they were crushed by nine wickets. In that match, the Indians bundled out Thailand for just 37 runs in 15.1 overs and then chased down the target with consummate ease. On Thursday, the Thai women gave a better account of themselves with the bat despite being reduced to 21 for 4 in the eighth over. Deepti Sharma (3/7) did most of the damage with her off-

spin, picking up the first three Thai wickets -- Nannapat Koncharenkai, Natthakan Chantham and Sornnarin Tippoch -- in consecutive overs. Medium pacer Renuka Singh (1/6) then cleaned Chanida Sutthiruangs as Thailand's chase fell apart. Captain Naruemol Chaiwai (21) and Nattaya Boochatham (21) showed some resistance with the bat with a 42-run stand for the fifth wicket but the asking rate was too tall. In fact, they were the only two Thai batters to register double digit scores. Once the duo departed, the Indian bowlers just ran through Thailand lower-order batting line-up. Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/10), Shafali Verma (1/10) and Sneha Rana (1/16) were the other wicket takers for India. Earlier, invited to bat, Shafali Verma was at her destructive best, top-scoring for India with a 28-ball 42 with the help of five boundaries and one hit over the fence. Together with vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, Verma shared 38 runs in 4.3 overs before the former hit a low full toss from Phannita Maya straight to Onnicha Kamchomphu at mid on. Verma continued her attacking batting but was the next batter to depart, miscuing off-spinner Sornnarin Tippoch's

flighted delivery to Thailand skipper Naruemol Chaiwai at short midwicket. Most of the dismissals were gifts to Thai bowlers as the Indian batters were guilty of giving away their wickets after getting starts. Jemimah Rodrigues (27) was the next to loft one straight to Rosenan Kanoh at long-on off Thipatcha Putthawong. Tippoch then had two wickets in successive overs to reduce India to 132 for 5 in the 18th over. First, she caught wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh plumb in front of the wicket and an over later, got the big wicket of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur as the batter tried to clear the cover boundary. Harmanpreet, who returned to lead the side after missing out two matches due to a niggle, looked in good nick and laced her 30-ball 36 with four hits to the fence. Towards the end, Pooja Vastrakar hit a quick 13-ball 17 with the help of a six to take India close to the 150-run mark. Sornnarin Tippoch was the best bowler for Thailand with figures of 3/24. India had made three changes from their last match playing eleven with Harmanpreet, Renuka Thakur and Radha Yadav coming in for S Meghana, Meghna Singh and Kiran Navgire. (PTI)



Harmanpreet Kaur made a 30-ball 36

GAME NOTES

AIFF to initiate enquiry on late arrival of player boots

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 13 /--/ The All India Football Federation (AIFF) will initiate an enquiry on the late arrival of boots of four members of the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup squad, leading to the players wearing them for the first time during the match against USA. AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said that he has asked for a report from the national teams department on how the consignment of new boots did not reach on time. He said action will be taken if needed. "After going through the preliminary report, we will initiate an enquiry to find out facts and fix the responsibility," Prabhakaran told PTI on Thursday. It is learnt that some players -- mostly those who wear smaller number -- had requested for new boots last month, but the delivery got late as it was brought via land transport. Prabhakaran said the AIFF does not still know the reasons for the delay in delivery of the boots to the players, and that's why the report has been sought. "We have sought a report from the national team department of the AIFF. We don't have the full facts how this happened," he added. (PTI)

Women's IPL set to take place in March with 5 teams, max 5 overseas players in XI

NEW DELHI, OCT 13 /--/ The much-awaited inaugural edition of Women's IPL will have five teams and is set to take place in March 2023 before the start of men's IPL. As per a BCCI note accessed by PTI, the tournament will feature 20 league games with teams to play each other twice. The table toppers will get a direct entry into the final, while the second and third place teams will battle out in the Eliminator. Each team can have no more than five overseas cricketers in the playing eleven. "To have a well balance of domestic & international players and to have competitive teams, it has been tentatively decided to have five teams for WPL. Each team can comprise maximum of eighteen players where no team can have more than six overseas players. "Further, no more than five overseas players - four from Full Members of the ICC and one from the Associate Members of the ICC can be part of the playing XI of each team," read the BCCI note.

Cricket Australia considers lifting David Warner's captaincy ban

SYDNEY, OCT 13 /--/ David Warner's lifetime leadership ban could be lifted as Cricket Australia directors contemplate rewriting the organisation's code of ethics, according to a report. Warner was handed a leadership ban following the infamous 2018 ball-tampering scandal, but the 35-year-old, who is closing in on 100 T20 Internationals and 100 Test appearances, has been looked upon as a possible candidate for Australia's vacant ODI captain's post. He cannot, however, take up the role under the current rules. "CA's code would need to be rewritten before Warner's ban could be reviewed, and a rewrite is something directors will discuss at Friday's board meeting in Hobart," a report in the Australian Associated Press said. The report quoted CA chairman Lachlan Henderson as saying that the organisation's code of ethics could be rewritten if deemed necessary. "The view within Cricket Australia is that David is doing particularly well on the field and making a great contribution off the field," Henderson said. (PTI)



FIFA Women's U- 17 WC: India look to salvage pride against Morocco



BHUBANESWAR, OCT 13 /--/ A crushing 0-8 defeat in the opening match denting their confidence severely, India would look to pick up the pieces and salvage some pride when they play Morocco in their second group match of the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup here on Friday. The hapless Indians suffered a 0-8 thrashing at the hands of rampaging USA in their opening match on Tuesday, and Thomas Dennerby's side will look to forget the disappointing result and focus on getting at least a point against Morocco in the Group A battle between the debutants. It won't be an easy match for India though, as Morocco had made it to the age-group showpiece after a strong show in the African qualifying tournament where they had beaten Ghana in penalty shootout. India, on the other hand, were automatic qualifiers as tournament hosts. The Indians were simply overwhelmed by a technically and physically far superior American side, but they would hope to "play their game" against Morocco. "We have a good chance against Morocco tomorrow. If we can show

the right attitude, we can score and get some points," Dennerby said on Thursday. "We need to fight it out, we have no other option left." The match against Morocco will be the best chance for India to get points as they will be up against traditional powerhouse and title contenders Brazil in their last group match on October 17. Before the tournament Dennerby had said that India would be a difficult team to score against, but the defence, of which captain Astam Oraon was a part, had an off day against the Americans letting in goals after goals. The taller and stronger Americans scored multiple goals from corner kicks and India would look to avoid repeating the same mistake against Morocco, who will not have that much physical advantage. "We have a team that can definitely handle the speed but football is not all about running or the number of sprints the girls take. It is also about taking the right decisions at the right moment," Dennerby said. "That was the biggest problem we faced against the USA in our early game the girls need to put their hundred per cent on the

pitch." The Atlas Lionesses, who lost 0-1 to Brazil, are an unknown side for India, more so because teams do not play many international matches at this age group beyond continental or global tournaments. (PTI)

TEAMS (FROM): India: Monalisa Devi Moirangthem, Melody Chanu Keisham, Anjali Munda, Astam Oraon, Naketa, Purnima Kumari, Varshika, Shikhy Devi Hemam, Babina Devi Lisham, Nitu Linda, Shailja, Shubhangi Singh, Anita Kumari, Lynda Kom Serto, Neha, Rejiya Devi Laishram, Shelia Devi Loktongbam, Kajol Hubert Dsouza, Lavanya Upadhyay, Sudha Ankita Turkey. Morocco: Derbali Louisa, Said Hajar, Boussatta Dania, Benassou Nadia, Karami Hiba, Aich Lina, Lakris Kenza, El Assaoui Wissal, Masnaoui Samya, Cherif Djennah, El Madani Doha, Titah Wissal, Mrabti Dania, Tayebi Kamilia, Elmestour Houda, Maamry Ameerah, Zouhir Yasmine, Basser Ambre, El Hamzaoui Mina, El Ghazouani Fatima, El Hannachi Iman.