

DEATH THAT DEMANDS ANSWERS

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ BhuLaxmi, mother of 13-year old K Sadhana, Govt. Model School student who died at GB Pant Hospital in the morning on Wednesday is in deep shock and disbelief that her daughter is no longer with her. The single mother has no clue why her daughter died all of a sudden. Though the family of the student refused to get a post-mortem done, her sudden death has led to many unanswered questions.

According to the girl's family, on 16th September 2022, 24 students of Model School were hospitalized at GB Pant Hospital after they complained of dizziness and breathing difficulties. However after discharge from the hospital, K. Sadhana was continuously complaining about uneasiness. "Doctors at the hospital administered her insulin and did preliminary checkups. Then they told us to take the child home. And again after two days, she complained about similar problems and

again we had to rush her to hospital. This has been going on since the day she was discharged from GB Pant Hospital after treatment on 16th September 2022. But this morning, she complained about a severe problem and we rushed to the G B Pant hospital. While taking her to the hospital, she became unconscious and died in the hospital", said the family. The family is still unable to know the reasons for her sudden death. While some family members blame the September 16 incident when she suffered stomach pain and uneasiness due to consumption of deworming tablets, some cite other reasons for her death. Meanwhile, the MS GB Pant hospital released a

press note on Tuesday saying that the incident at Govt. Model Senior Secondary School where the students fell sick could be due to panic attacks. The possibility of panic attack leading to mass hysteria could be the reason, the release added. The report cited that blood investigations of all the children were normal.

Shock and disbelief grips mother of 13-year-old Model School student K Sadhana who died at GB Pant hospital



DBRAIT students protest chokes city roads

ROOPALALL

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ Heavy traffic congestions were witnessed in some of the major city roads on Wednesday as DBRAIT students were on the roads again blocking the main road at Dairy Farm junction. Unhappy that neither the Pondicherry University nor the UT administration has come out with a clear written statement on issues such as revival of DBRAIT affiliation and status of their results and future after the recently held examinations, DBRAIT students are back on the roads.

MP takes up issues concerning people of Carnic with CS

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament has taken up several issues concerning the people of Car Nicobar with the Chief Secretary. In his letter, Mr. Sharma mentioned that the members of Tribal Council of Car Nicobar Islands have met him and discussed their issues and problems. Mr. Sharma pointed out that since a long time a new Islanders' Card has not been issued to the people of Car Nicobar. The Member of Parliament added that a large number of people of Car Nicobar are waiting for updation of Aadhaar Card. It is difficult for the people living in this part to visit Port Blair. He requested for deputing a team to Car Nicobar Islands for at least two weeks for



Aadhaar updation as also for the issuance of Islanders Card. He mentioned that due to absence of electricity site offices in Sawai and Big Lapathy areas, during power line faults, residents of this region are unable to lodge complaints on time leaving them to bear power cuts for long hours. In this regard, he urged for opening of Electricity Site Offices at Sawai and Big Lapathy villages of Car Nicobar Islands within 24 hours manning. The Member of Parliament further mentioned that the water pipelines of APWD in Car Nicobar are old and rusted and hence raising serious concern of water contamination. He requested to carry out a survey in this regard and lay new water pipelines.

(contd. on page-6)

Pankh Andaman conducts day-long camp for special children

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ As part of World Tourism Day celebration, a day-long camp for special children was conducted by Pankh Andaman, a NGO at Chinmaya Mission auditorium, Policeline. Padmashree Mr Naresh Chandra Lal, Ambassador, Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, former MP Mr. Bishnu Pad Ray, Social Women Officer, Smt Reeta Devi, Swami Sudhanadji, Chinmaya Mission, founder President, Smt Komal Anand and the members of the NGO were present. Fun indoor sports and games for the special

children and other cultural activities showcasing the talents of the special children were held during the camp. Two of the single parents were provided with income generating resources like sewing machines and CP lock chairs for hyper children. Pankh NGO also adopted two families and promised to fulfill the children's daily needs. A mental health session was also conducted by Yoga Expert, Mrs Rajini Ahuja for the parents of the special children. The parents also participated in the cultural programme. The NGO also



awarded 03 rolling trophy 'Swachta hi Jeevan' healing of the thoughts to Saraswati Shishu Mandir School followed by distribution of prizes to the children for participating in various activities. The prizes were sponsored by "Trytrabby" an Andaman based destination management company.

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Lawyers boycott Ankita murder accused

Protesters demand CBI probe

KOTDWAR, SEPT 28 /--/ The main accused in Ankita Bhandari case on Wednesday could not file their bail application in a court here after a local body of lawyers decided to boycott them, even as protests were held demanding a CBI probe into her murder. The matter was to be heard virtually in the civil court here but lawyers refused en masse to move the bail applications on behalf of the "perpetrators of such a heinous crime". The Bar Association of Kotdwar passed a resolution not to represent the accused, a lawyer said. Earlier, Anganvadi workers, with sickles in their hands, and women associated with different organisations held a protest here demanding a CBI probe in the case. The protesters from Rikhnikkhal, Ekeshwar, Dwarikkhal and Dugadda in the district took out a rally from Jhanda Chawk to the tehsil briefly, blocking NH 534 on the way, and handed over a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to local authorities. Ward councillor Saurav Naudiyal said he had submitted a memorandum demanding a CBI probe into the case. The protesters also demonstrated outside the court demanding the hanging of Ankita's killers.

BJP accuses Kerala minister of 'close links' with banned Rehab India foundation

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 28 /--/ The BJP in Kerala on Wednesday accused Indian National League (INL) leader and state minister Ahammad Devarkovil of having 'close links' with the banned outfit Rehab India Foundation, an allied organisation of the Popular Front of India, and sought his removal from the state cabinet. However, the minister outrightly denied the charges of the saffron party leadership, saying it was yet another attempt by BJP state chief K Surendran to make his presence felt in the media by raising "ridiculous nonsense". INL, formed by leaders who had parted ways with the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) years ago, is a coalition partner in the CPI(M) led Left Democratic Front in the Pinarayi Vijayan government. Devarkovil, who holds Ports, Museum and Archaeology portfolios in the Vijayan government, termed the BJP and Surendran's allegation connecting him and his party with the banned outfit as 'unfounded.' (PTI)

Need 'whole of nation' approach to save youth from getting radicalised: Army official

NAGROTA, SEPT 28 /--/ A 'whole of nation' approach is needed to save the youth of Jammu and Kashmir from getting radicalised, a senior Army official said on Wednesday. General officer Commanding (GoC) 16 Corps Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh said it is the government's agenda to get youngsters into the mainstream and the Army is aligned with it to ensure peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir. "Radicalisation is a phenomenon under which the enemy country is making efforts to dislodge youth (of Jammu and Kashmir) from the right path and take them on the wrong path. To save them (from getting radicalised), we need a whole of nation approach," the GoC of the Jammu-based White Knight Corps told reporters here. To get youngsters into the

In Dehradun, the Congress held a dharna at Gandhi Park for a CBI probe into the Ankita Bhandari murder case, saying it has no confidence in the ongoing investigation by the SIT. Senior Congress leader Harish Rawat, Leader of Opposition in Uttarakhand Assembly Yashpal Arya, state unit president Karan Mahra, his predecessor Ganesh Godiyal and other party leaders participated in the protest. The chief minister hurriedly ordered the demolition of the resort to destroy evidence. The DGP's telephonic conversation with the slain girl's father was recorded and put in the public domain. It is a crime. How can we trust an SIT constituted by him? We demand a high court-monitored CBI probe into the case, state Congress chief Mahra said. Chief minister Dhami announced financial assistance of Rs 25 lakh to the family of Ankita Bhandari and assured her family that the case would be heard in a fast-track court. "The state government is with Ankita's family. We will extend all help to them. The case is being probed by an SIT (Special Investigation Team). The investigation will be conducted impartially and completed as soon," he said. Meanwhile, a senior police

official said the case is being investigated from all angles with total promptness. Bhandari, a 19-year-old receptionist at a resort near Rishikesh in Uttarakhand, was allegedly killed by the resort owner and two of his accomplices. The official said the three accused, including resort owner Pulkit Arya, were arrested within 24 hours of the matter being handed over to the regular police force from revenue police on September 22. "A special investigation team (SIT) headed by a DIG-level officer is fast collecting the evidence based on which we can plead for the hanging of the accused in the court of law," he said, requesting anonymity. Rubbishing allegations that the accused are being shielded by destroying evidence related to the case in the garb of demolishing parts of the resort, he said there has been no tampering with the evidence. Asked why the VIP guest, who finds a mention in Bhandari's chat with her friend that has now gone viral and to whom she was asked to offer "extra service" for money at the resort, is yet to be brought under the ambit of the probe, the official emphatically said he will also be included. "It is, in fact, in our efforts to find out about him that we have

summoned Ankita's friend from Jammu. The investigation will be carried forward on the basis of his interrogation," he said. The accused had said they had pushed Bhandari into the Chilla canal on September 18 and her body was found on September 24. He said that samples from her body parts have been sent for a forensic examination to rule out rape and the report is likely to be available soon. The probe is being conducted very fast and the truth will soon come out, he said. "People should keep patience. Ankita will get justice," he asserted. The SIT probing the case on Tuesday seized a grey Activa and a black Pulsar motorcycle, which were suspected to be used in the crime. The SIT has also summoned a couple who had worked at the resort earlier and others for interrogation, it said. The SIT has found the list of guests staying at the resort on the day of the incident. It has also collected physical evidence and is examining electronic evidence such as CCTV footage and mobile call records. The main accused Pulkit Arya is the son of former Bharatiya Janata Party leader Vinod Arya, who was expelled by the party when Pulkit's name cropped up in the case. (PTI)

It has been proved only SP can defeat BJP in UP: Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW, SEPT 28 /--/ Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said though recent poll results have not been favourable for them, it has been proved that only his party can defeat the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh. After inaugurating the ninth state-level convention of the party here, Yadav said the SP worked hard to win the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls held earlier in the year, but "those in power used every trick, misused the official machinery and we did not succeed". At the convention, Naresh Uttam Patel was elected as the state president of the SP for the second time in a row. Yadav said the samajwadis had taken a historic decision in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. "We tried to realise the dream of Ram Manohar Lohia and B R Ambedkar of bringing the Bahujan forces on one platform, but those in power misused the official machinery and we failed," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said. "Though the election results for the alliance between samajwadis and bahujanwadis have not

been favourable, it has been proved that only our party can defeat the BJP in Uttar Pradesh," he asserted. Yadav said the SP had formed an alliance for the Assembly polls in an attempt to bring all those struggling to remove the BJP from power together. "I can say one thing that despite



the experiments of 2019 and 2022, the manner in which our leaders and workers worked, the samajwadis have come to know that despite not getting success, if there is anyone who can compete with and defeat the BJP, it is us," Yadav said. The SP contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election in an alliance with "arch rival" Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), but managed to win only 15 seats (five to the SP, 10 to the

BSP). Soon after, the parties parted ways, with BSP president Mayawati continuously attacking the SP and its chief on various issues. For the Assembly polls, the SP forged an alliance with smaller parties but failed to stop the march of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, political circles are abuzz about the chances of unity among the opposition parties on the initiative of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar. Kumar also met Yadav recently. The Janata Dal (United) chief, who dumped the BJP in Bihar to join hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress and Left parties to form the government, has emerged as the new hope of the Opposition to stop the saffron party from coming to power at the Centre for the third time in a row in 2024. In the Uttar Pradesh polls held in February-March, the SP failed to stop the BJP from coming back to power in the state for a second consecutive time, a feat repeated in the politically significant state after more than three decades. (PTI)



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Wayanad on Wednesday

Ban on PFI cannot be supported: Owaisi

HYDERABAD, SEPT 28 /--/ AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday said though he always opposed the Popular Front of India's approach, the ban on the outfit cannot be supported. The PFI, which has allegedly been involved in a series of violent incidents and has "links" with global terror groups like ISIS, was on Wednesday banned by the Centre along with its several associates for five years following a crackdown against its leaders. "While I have always opposed PFI's extreme and radical approach, I have always supported democratic approach. This ban on PFI cannot be supported because actions of some individuals who commit crime do not mean that the organisation itself must be banned. The Supreme Court also has held that mere association with an organisation is not enough to convict someone," he said in a press conference here. "How come PFI is banned but organisations associated with convicts of Khwaja Ajmeri bomb blasts are not? Why has the government not banned right-wing majoritarian organisations?" Owaisi asked. The bomb blasts refers to the 2007 bombing in the Dargah of Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Rajasthan's Ajmer that left three pilgrims dead and 15 injured. A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Jaipur later sentenced two former RSS members to life imprisonment for their involvement in the bombing. A "draconian ban" of this kind is dangerous as it forbids any Muslim who wishes to speak his mind. The way Indian electoral authorities are approaching fascism, every Muslim will now be arrested under the "black law" Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), he alleged. (PTI)

Countrymen experienced Lord Rama through songs of Lata Mangeshkar: Modi

AYODHYA, SEPT 28 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday remembered legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on her birth anniversary, and said the familiar sweetness of her voice mesmerised him every time he spoke to her. In a recorded message, the prime minister congratulated the Uttar Pradesh government for naming an intersection here after the singer. The prime minister recalled that after the 'bhoomi puja' of the Ram Temple was conducted here, he got a call from Lata didi who expressed great happiness at the development. Lord Rama is about to arrive in the grand temple of Ayodhya, he said, referring to the construction of the temple here. The prime minister referred to a hymn sung by the singer 'Mann ki Ayodhya tab tak sooni, jab tak Ram na aaye', and said the name of Lata didi is now permanently associated with the holy city of Ayodhya. Quoting the Ram Charit Manas, the prime minister recited Ram te adhik, Ram kardasa, which means that devotees of Lord Rama arrive before the Lord's arrival. The Lata Mangeshkar Chowk built in her memory has come up before the completion of the grand temple, he noted. Earlier in the day, Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the intersection named after Mangeshkar in the presence of Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy. A 40-ft-long and 12-metre-high veena weighing 14 tonnes has been installed at the intersection. Underlining that the veena of Goddess Saraswati installed at the chowk will become a symbol of music practice, the prime minister said 92 white lotuses made of marble in the flowing waters of the lake in the chowk complex represent the lifespan of the singer. Lata Ji was one such seeker of Maa Saraswati, who stunned the whole world with her divine voice. Lata Ji did 'sadhana', we all got the boon! he said, adding the mantras recited by her echoed her faith, spirituality and purity. I pray to Lord Shri Rama that the blessings we got from her life should continue to leave a mark on the coming generations through her melodious songs, he said. Recalling several affectionate memories he has of the singer, the prime minister said, Didi often used to tell me: 'Man is not known by age but by deeds, and the more he does for the country, the bigger he is! I believe that the Lata Mangeshkar Chowk of Ayodhya and all such memories associated with her will enable us to feel a sense of duty towards the nation. Highlighting the new dawn

of development in the city, the prime minister said Lord Rama is the symbol of our civilisation and is the living ideal of our morality, values, dignity and duty. From Ayodhya to Rameshwaram, Lord Rama is absorbed in every particle of India, Modi said, adding the entire country is thrilled to see the rapid pace of construction of the temple with the blessings of the Lord. Referring to the location of the chowk near Ram ki Paidi and in the vicinity of the Saryu river, he remarked, What better place to build a chowk named after Lata Didi". The prime minister said the hymns of Lata didi have kept our conscience immersed in Lord Rama. Be it Shri Ramchandra Kripalu Bhaj Mann, Haran Bhava Bhaya Darunam 'mantra, or be it hymns like 'Payo Ji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo' of Meerabai; be it Bapu's favourite 'Vaishnav Jan', or be it sweet melodies like 'Tum Asha Vishvas Hamare Ram' that has occupied a place in the minds of the people, Modi said many countrymen have experienced Lord Rama through the songs of Lata Mangeshkar. We have experienced the supernatural melody of Lord Rama through the divine voice of Lata didi, Modi added. (PTI)

Anyone from AAP could now be arrested, BJP scared of losing Gujarat: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ Anyone from the AAP could be jailed on false charges as the BJP is making all out efforts to "crush" the party fearing defeat in the upcoming Gujarat assembly polls, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday. Kejriwal's comments come a day after the CBI arrested AAP's communications in-charge Vijay Nair in connection with the Delhi excise policy case in which Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is also an accused. In a digital address, Kejriwal claimed that Nair was arrested by the CBI following several rounds of questioning after he refused to buckle under the agency's pressure to give a false statement against Sisodia in order to implicate him in the case. First, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain was arrested, then AAP MLA

the streets and openly criticising them (BJP). The AAP national convener claimed that Nair had nothing to do with the alleged liquor policy scam but was arrested by the CBI as he refused to give in to their pressure to give a false statement against Sisodia in order to implicate him in the case. First, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain was arrested, then AAP MLA



Amanatullah Khan and now Nair on "completely false" charges, Kejriwal said. "Next week, they are going to arrest Sisodia. If they can arrest a small party worker like Nair, they can arrest anybody," he said. Kejriwal accused the BJP-led Centre of "hatching a conspiracy 24x7" to frame AAP leaders in false cases, fearing their defeat in the upcoming Gujarat assembly elections. The BJP-led government at the Centre is engaged in

playing "dirty politics" and wasting their time, instead of providing relief to the people of the country from the problems like price rise and unemployment, he added. "Nair was a small party worker and took care of the party's communications related work. He did very well in Punjab and was currently engaged in preparing the party's communications strategy for Gujarat." The CBI, which was calling and questioning him for the past few days, was putting pressure on him to name Sisodia in the case," he charged. "But, he is a true worker of the AAP. He refused to lie. Hence, they arrested him," he added. Kejriwal said the AAP is fighting "a second battle" for India's freedom and exhorted his party leaders and workers to remain prepared to go to jail and even make "supreme sacrifices", taking inspiration from iconic freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. "This is the second battle for freedom. Bhagat Singh had fought for India's freedom from British/ We have to fight for the country's freedom from those looting it and purchasing MLAs openly," Kejriwal said. "In the past 75 years, first one party looted the country and now another party is looting it. (PTI)

AC, C/Bay chairs meeting of RogiKalyanSamiti



SUBRATA

CAMPBELL BAY, SEPT 28/--/ A meeting of the RogiKalyanSamiti was held at PHC Campbell Bay which was headed by Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay, DrNitin Shakya. The U p - P r a m u k h , PanchayatSamitiI, Pradhan Campbell

PradhanGovind Nagar, along with the BDO, Executive Engineer and Medical Officer In-charge were present in the meeting. The meeting proposed renovation of the hospital building, installation of RO water, hot water facilities, repair of PHC building and providing TV set for patients. DrNitin Shakya

said that the administration is working to improve healthcare facilities in the region. In tune with this, recently specialist doctors OPD was conducted and more such OPD will be held in the days to come. A proposal was also forwarded for repair of hospital equipment.

ICAR-CIARI conducts field day on 'Improved paddy varieties and its upscaling'



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ Rice is an important crop grown during Kharif season in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Improved varieties and quality seed has played a very vital role in enhancing yield and productivity. In this regard, ICAR-CIARI, has developed eight high yielding varieties for the island conditions, out of which CIARI Dhan 4 and 5 are salt tolerant varieties whereas, CARI Dhan 6 and 7 are resistant to Bacterial Leaf Blight (BLB). These rice varieties can be demonstrated at Bloomsdale Research Farm as Nucleus, Breeder, MAGIC lines and advance lines of BLB for providing opportunities to the farmers, and other stakeholders for its upscaling.

With the objectives of Startup pitching & open forum discussion by Industries dept

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/The Directorate of Industries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration will be organizing Startup Pitching and Open Forum Discussion in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Industries on 30th September, 2022. The Startup Pitching sessions would commence at 9.30 am on 30th September, 2022 for the students of colleges and entrepreneurs wherein they shall be provided a platform to pitch their ideas and innovative products and the best ideas/presentations would be shortlisted to participate in the upcoming Startup Mela which includes attractive cash prizes.

The Entrepreneurs of the Islands who have a unique and innovative idea and are in the process of developing a prototype or a model are invited to attend to showcase the same. The Entrepreneurs and the DPIIT recognized startups of the Islands have been requested to join the event to present with their issues/ support required from the Administration.

upscaling, ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute conducted a "Field day on Improved paddy varieties and its upscaling under AICRP on Seed (crop) project" at Bloomsdale Research Farm of CIARI at Chouldari on 27-09-2022. Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI exhorted the farmers to go for proper selection of crop varieties, advocated diversified farming, value addition so that income of the farmers is enhanced in longer run. He was confident that exposure to different technological options in agriculture and allied fields which are established at Garacharma Farm will give options for better livelihood.

Speaking on the occasion, Smti. T a p o s i S a h a , PradhanChouldariPanchayat appreciated the efforts of CIARI and requested the farmers to take the maximum benefit of the knowledge and crop varieties developed. Mr. Navashakti, Agriculture Officer & Smti. Chaitali Roy, PanchayatSamiti Member also spoke on this occasion. Dr. P. K. Singh, Principal Scientist, briefed about CIARI Rice varieties, types of seed and advance rice research being carried out at CIARI for rice improvement. Dr. S. K. Zamir Ahmed, Principal Scientist & In-Charge of

Social Science of ICAR-CIARI highlighted the Importance of Rice varieties developed by the Scientific team of CIARI and its benefits extended during the pandemic period through Agriculture Department A&N Administration. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Head, KVK, Sippighat advocated the importance of micronutrients application in rice. Farmers were exposed to Garacharma Research Complex and in continuation of the feedback obtained during the field day, one training, cum awareness programme on Paddy Cultivation in Rainfed lowland was organised on 28.09.2022.

A total of 80 people comprising 25 Scientists of CIARI, 4 SMS from ICAR-K V K , Sippighat&Nimbudera & 35 farmers from North & Middle Andaman and South Andaman and officials from Department of Agriculture attended the programme. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Shri. K. ShyamSundarRao, Farm Manager, Bloomsdale Farm. The programme was coordinated by the team composed of Dr. P.K. Singh, Dr.S.K. Zamir Ahmed, Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Er. Manoj Kumar and Mr. K. ShyamSundarRao under the plan and guidance of Dr. E. B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI.

Orientation sessions on Ayushman Bharat for Kamaraj School students



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/Ayushman Bharat - PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY), a flagship scheme of the Government of India has successfully completed 4 years of its implementation on 23rd September, 2022. The scheme aims to provide cashless treatment worth Rs 5 lakh per family per year against secondary and tertiary hospitalization care. Presently, 12,638 families (40,137 members) have registered under the AB-PMJAY scheme in this UT and are entitled for cashless treatment at more than 28,000 empanelled public and private hospitals across the country. To mark the completion of four years of implementation, Ayushman Bharat Pakhwara is being observed from 15th to 30th September, 2022 across the country. During the 15 days long Ayushman Bharat Pakhwara various programmes are being carried out in this UT to create awareness about the scheme. As a part of this, Mr. R. Vivek, IEC Manager, State Health Agency (SHA), Port Blair conducted orientation sessions on Ayushman Bharat - PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana (AB-PMJAY) for the students and faculty of Kamaraj English Medium School on 19th September, 2022 and Tagore Government College of Education on 26th September, 2022. These sessions were aimed to create awareness about the benefits attached to the scheme. The students were exhorted to further inform and educate their parents and community about the scheme.

Meeting on wellbeing, welfare of Onge



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/A meeting was convened in the chamber of Secretary (TW) on Wellness, Wellbeing & Welfare of the Onge Tribe on Tuesday. Dr. Shiv Shankar Singh, Consultant, GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair made a power-point presentation on the outcome of the Health and Nutrition Camp-cum-Survey organized at Dugong Creek from Sept. 4 to 8, 2022. Officers from the Departments i.e. Health Services, Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Veterinary Services, APWD and Social Welfare were present during the meeting. Secretary (TW) appreciated the endeavours made by Health Department and issued necessary directions to line agencies including APWD to initiate urgent repair work at Onge settlement. It was also directed that the Animal Husbandry Department shall provide poultry birds to Onge for rearing and the Agriculture Department shall plant fruit bearing trees and set up a vegetable garden for Onge. The Social Welfare Department has been directed to resume functioning of Anganwadi and the nutritional status of the Onge children to be monitored closely.

He also directed the officers of the line Departments to work in tandem towards wellbeing and welfare of the Onge PVTG of Dugong Creek.

Covid-19 status in ANI

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/Five Covid-19 positive cases have been detected today in A&N Islands from incoming flight passengers who arrived here yesterday. Today, 11 flights with 1825 passengers arrived, out of which, 1615 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 180 passengers and the reports are awaited.

During RAT conducted on 26 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj, no positive case has been detected. At

Phoenix Bay Jetty, 23 passengers were tested with RAT, no positive case has been detected. RAT was conducted on 8 passengers at Mohanpura Bus Terminus and no positive case has been detected.

Intellectual Meet by State BJP

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ The State BJP has organized an "Intellectual Meet" under the SevaPakhwada on Tuesday at Hotel Sea Shell, Coral Cove, Minnie Bay. Mr. Y Satya Kumar, National Secretary, BharatiyaJanata Party and Prabhari of BharatiyaJanata Party, Andaman and Nicobar Islands was keynote speaker of the event.

AjoyBairagi, State BJP President presented the welcome address and highlighted the importance of SevaPakhwada and the achievement of BharatiyaJanataParty under the leadership of Mr. NarendraModi. He also shared the various developments and projects initiated under the BJP led government for the welfare for the islanders and islands.

BishnuPada Ray, Ex-Member of Parliament shared his views on 8 years achievements of Modi government in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and across the country.

Y Satya Kumar spoke about the transformational



changes brought in under Modi's visionary leadership and how India has emerged as a global leader. He shared that to capture the works of a great leader, whose 20 glorious years of governance, first as a Chief Minister and then as the Prime Minister, have empowered the country and its people to look beyond a 'New India'. An India which

is not only a global economic and social powerhouse, but also a beacon of hope and unity, leading with the principles of 'VasudaivaKutumbakam'. The event ended with the vote of thanks presented by Dr. PoonamArora, Former Chairperson, Social Welfare Advisory Board, A& N Islands.

World Tourism Day celebration by GP Nimbutala



KARTIK

RANGAT, SEPT 28/--/ Gram Panchayat, Nimbutala observed World Tourism day on Tuesday by organizing befitting programmes. To mark the occasion, cleaning of Amkunj Sea beach, Yoga Activity and Plantation at Raman Bagicha was held in coordination with Mr. Manager, Hawksbill Nest, RROBetapur. Mr.

SujitMistry, Pradhan, Gram PanchayatNimbutala informed that at Middle Andaman, tourism activity can be encouraged only by developing the Raman Bagicha and Amkunj Sea beach. There is a lot of prospect for tourism activity for which the road connecting from Amkunj Sea beach to Raman Baicha has to be developed so that tourists can visit the popular spot.

Provisional merit list for admission to alc uploaded in CCA portal

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/--/ Provisional General Merit List and Category Wise Merit List of candidates for admission to five year B.A. LL.B., Degree Course in Andaman Law College for the academic year 2022-23 is published in the Common College Admission Portal website and is also displayed on the College Notice Board. The candidates who have any objection/grievance relating to their ranking in the merit list may send their objection/grievance by email to andamanlawcollege2016@gmail.com or submit in person at the

college office on or before 01.10.2022 (Saturday). Any claim received thereafter will not be entertained.

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Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep

Scott Adams

Radical Islamic outfit PFI in news again

Radical Islamic outfit, the Popular Front of India, is back in news, and this time with a bang. News of two back to back crackdowns on the organisation is hogging the headlines. Reports that the outfit is responsible for several violent attacks, indoctrination, armed training and funding terrorist activities have become a matter of grave concern for the security establishment, prompting the government to impose a five-year ban on the PFI, which has allegedly been involved in a series of violent incidents and is said to have "links" with global terror groups like ISIS. Some of the PFI's founding members are the leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). The PFI has linkages with Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) too. Both SIMI and JMB and are proscribed organisations.

Though the PFI has an explicitly toxic agenda and history of carrying out political murders, the previous attempts at prosecuting its leaders did not succeed. Instead, they went on to acquire a halo of victimhood and attracted more supporters to their jihadist ideology. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which recently conducted a series of searches and raids at various locations spread over 11 states in collaboration with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and arrested a large number of PFI leaders, needs to unearth credible evidence to blow the lid and explore the nefarious activities of the organisation, now proscribed. Other organisations which were also declared banned under the stringent anti-terror law UAPA include Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CF), All India Imams Council (AIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala. The PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts have been working covertly to increase the radicalisation of one community by promoting a sense of insecurity in the country, which is substantiated by the fact that some PFI cadres have joined international terrorist organisations. The PFI created these associates or affiliates or fronts to enhance its reach among different sections of the society such as the youth, students, women, Imams, lawyers or weaker sections of the society with the sole objective of expanding its membership, influence and fund-raising capacity. The Centre has also empowered the state governments to take action against these groups which were affiliated with the PFI and the possible action against them could be seizure of places and arrest of their members. The MHA says these associates or affiliates or fronts have a 'hub and spoke' relationship. The PFI acts as the hub and utilises the mass outreach and fund-raising capacity of its associates or affiliates or fronts to strengthen its capability for unlawful activities and these associates or affiliates or fronts function as "roots and capillaries through which the PFI is fed and strengthened".

More than 150 people allegedly linked with PFI were detained or arrested in raids across seven states on Tuesday, five days after a similar pan-India crackdown against the 16-year-old group had led to the arrest of over a hundred of its activists and seizure of several dozen properties. But, it is pertinent to mention that fighting the PFI's brand of hate politics requires a nuanced political response as it not only poses a security threat but also throws a political challenge.

EU should take an independent position from US on Ukraine issue

REFLEX ACTION

Prabhat Patnaik

The cessation of natural gas supplies from Russia to Europe in retaliation against Western sanctions imposed on Russia because of the Ukraine war, is threatening Europe not only with a winter with inadequate heating that will take a big toll in terms of lives among poor people, but also with large-scale closures of enterprises; such closures would push up the unemployment rate, and significantly increase poverty and destitution among the workers.

It is not just the immediate effect on Europe that threatens to be severely adverse; capital has already started relocating away from Europe to the United States, a trend that will inevitably gather momentum, so that long-term growth and hence employment prospects on that continent will also be affected. Europe in short is entering into a period of acute economic difficulties that are of its own making; it is committing economic hara-kiri in the process of asserting its allegiance to the U.S. in the Ukraine war. Oscar LaFontaine, the former SPD minister in Germany and founder of the Left party Die Linke, who is now retired from active politics, has called Germany "an American vassal in the Ukraine war" (The Delphi Initiative, September 17, 2022); he is indubitably right.

European public opinion predictably is being fed the idea that Vladimir Putin is responsible for these European woes. But even before Putin decided to close down the Nord Stream-I pipeline that brought Russian gas to Europe, European leaders were almost daily talking about boycotting Russian gas; Putin can therefore at best be said to have effected what European leaders wanted. Besides, to expect Russia to keep supplying gas to Europe because Europe needed it (because of which gas was originally exempted from the ambit of the sanctions), while itself suffering from the impact of the other sanctions, is analogous to making the absurd demand that Russia should turn the other cheek when slapped on one cheek. Those who unilaterally impose sanctions on others should be prepared for retaliation; in fact the country at the receiving end of sanctions has a right to retaliate and those who impose sanctions should be prepared for such retaliation.

European belligerence vis-a-vis Russia, following the American lead, will not only have damaging economic consequences; its political fall-out will be disastrous: it will push Europe not just to the Right, but close to fascism. The

immense burdens that it will impose on the working class are recognised by everyone, and also the fact that the working class will rise in resistance against these burdens. But the "liberal" political formations are unconcerned about these burdens, whose flip side is the massive profits being made by oil companies that have jacked up their profit-margins taking advantage of the cessation of Russian gas-supplies. (Likewise the flip side of the taxes being levied on the American people to finance US military supplies to Ukraine for prolonging the war is the massive profits being made by armaments manufacturers). What is unfortunate is that even sections of the European Left are willing to endorse these belligerent actions of their governments.

A loud noise over the looming disaster is being made by several fascist groups, and their making this noise is used by many Left groups as an argument for not taking any initiative against these moves that hurt the working class (for then they would be seen as standing alongside the fascists). In Germany for instance it is the AfD, the fascist group, that is protesting against the actions of the government.

Now, fascist noise, given the ruthless opportunism of these groups, actually means little. If they get into power they will make a complete volte-face and even act against their own supporters who continue to raise their own old slogans; but their getting into power on the basis of these slogans is precisely the danger. Italy is expected to elect an extreme Right-wing government, of which the fascists descended from Mussolini's party will be an important part, in the elections to be held on September 25. But the portent is that the ascendancy of fascism will be more general in Europe, spread across several countries, including, frighteningly, even Germany.

Anglo-American policy has always been to keep Europe, especially Germany, away from Russia, and the

current crop of European politicians has completely bought this policy, unlike many of their predecessors; Charles De Gaulle for instance did not allow a NATO base on French soil for he thought that this would take away from France, the decision on whether or not to launch a war from French hands. The desire to have an independent position vis-à-vis the Americans, and to promote peace in Europe, had prompted Willy Brandt when he was the German Chancellor, to open out to Eastern Europe through what was called Ostpolitik.

The lack of independence of the current crop of European leaders has been variously explained. While some attribute it to the sheer mediocrity of these leaders, others see the close nexus between them and the corporates involved in activities directly benefiting from war, such as armament manufacturing, including even American corporates. (The leader of the CDU in Germany for instance, which is the largest opposition party today and to which former Chancellor Angela Merkel had belonged, Frederick Merz, is a former employee of BlackRock, the American financial giant). But whatever be the reason, we are witnessing a situation that is reminiscent of that prevailing in Europe on the eve of the First World War: governments completely cut-off from the common people had asked people, then as now, to make sacrifices that have no rationale from their point of view.

It is the desire to maintain a unipolar world that explains the Neo-Con-inspired Western confrontation with Russia and prevents a negotiated solution to Russia's conflict with Ukraine. The Minsk agreement supported by France and Germany had provided the basis for such a solution; but it was torpedoed by Britain and the United States. Many, including Oscar LaFontaine, believe that the Minsk agreement can still provide the basis for a negotiated settlement.

A ceasefire, followed by negotiations along those lines can still avoid a disaster; but the US has not stopped dreaming of a regime change in Russia: if the war drags on, it hopes that there would be an internal revolt against Putin from within his own circle (with some instigation no doubt from "outside"). The sooner Europe takes an independent position from the US and works for a negotiated settlement, the better for all concerned. (IPA)



A completed Goddess Durga idol being transported from Kumartuli to a puja pandal--Arijit Ganguly

Gold has a tough summer, yet holds out well amidst turmoil

The rampaging dollar has caused a bloodbath in the currency markets, with all other major currencies falling to multi-decade lows. The rupee has not done any better.

The Indian currency touched historical lows, crossing 81 to the dollar, the lowest it has touched for all times. The dollar rampage, a by-product of US Fed tightening in the face of red-hot inflation, has not spared no investment activity. Markets have suddenly become more sensitive to monetary policy decisions. Gold, which is considered a safe haven against inflation, geopolitical risks and other uncertainties, has also been hit by the headwinds.

Gold ended August 2 percent down, registering the fifth consecutive monthly drops. So far this year, gold is down 5 percent in dollar terms. Looking ahead, the precious metal is expected to remain under pressure, given that the central banks are aggressively hiking rates. It is a different matter that under similar circumstances, gold has historically outperformed all other products. Gold enthusiasts, however, argue that the decline in gold prices would have been much steeper but for the metal's capacity to fight the odds. They feel the headwinds will start subsiding in the months ahead, leading to demand pick-up. Despite gold's weakness in recent times,

gold bulls assert that the metal has still outperformed most other asset classes this year so far, although it may not be very evident. Analysts believe trading volumes will pick up further this month, as seasonal demand increases in view of the festive season.

According to World Gold Council, Indian retail gold demand bounced back in August following a seasonally quiet June and July. Jewellery demand picked up ahead of the wedding season in South and North India. A mid-month local gold price correction also acted as a catalyst supporting both wedding and regular purchases.

Bar and coin demand witnessed decent activity, largely thanks to the lower price in the latter part of the month. With a recovery in retail activity, wholesale demand improved and the discount in the local market narrowed to \$5-6 per ounce by the third week of August, compared to a discount of \$10-12 per ounce at the end of July. Swiss gold exports jumped to 202

tonnes in July, more than double of June's 97 tonnes and the highest monthly total since December 2016 when 297 tonnes were exported. A 147 percent month to month increase in exports to China was the key driver. A significant rise was also seen in most major markets, including India, Germany, Thailand, UK and Turkey. On a year-to-date basis, Swiss gold exports amounted to 930 tonnes, the highest since 2018.

Central banks continued to buy, with the July purchases totalling 37 tonnes, of which 13 tonnes were on account of the Reserve Bank of India. Qatar, with 15 tonnes, was the month's biggest buyer, taking its total gold reserves to 72 tonnes, which is the country's highest so far. According to the gold council's research, historical data shows that gold has offered attractive returns during India's monetary-tightening cycles.

In five rate-hiking cycles since 2004 gold in Indian rupees averaged an annualised return of 19.5 percent,

outperforming other major assets. India's headline inflation, denoted by the consumer price index has been on an upward trajectory since October 2021. With rising commodity prices and supply chain disruptions, retail inflation has followed suit, remaining elevated at 7.01 percent in June 2022, with WPI inflation touching a high of 15.18 percent in the same month. The retail inflation, which was 6.71 percent in July, inched up to 7 percent in August, mainly due to higher food prices.

Gold bulls believe that as recessionary and geopolitical risks increase, investors may shift to more defensive strategies, looking for high quality liquid assets such as gold to reduce portfolio losses. According to the gold council, investors appear reluctant to accept that the US rate-hike cycle will extend beyond year end and points out that markets are pricing in expectations for the Fed to reverse course in late second quarter of 2023.

This could reflect a belief that either inflation will come down quickly or a deep recession will force a policy rethink. The apparent divergence between market expectations and Fed rhetoric on the path of policy rates highlights uncertainty over the outlook, which may lead to continued volatility across financial markets and end up in favour of gold. (IPA)

FOCUS

K Raveendran

Conventional Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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				14	15			
16	17							
				18			19	20
	21	22						
23					24	25		
26				27				
28					29			

ACROSS

1 Association
5 Reduce to carbon
10 Love god
11 Mineral
12 Intended
13 Strange
14 Hackneyed
16 Unmarried
18 Happenings
21 Stanza
23 Uncooked
24 Make merry
26 Lyric poem
27 Festivity
28 Teaching period
29 Hindu garment

DOWN

2 Acquire knowledge
3 Container for ashes
4 Liquid holders
6 Owl's cry
7 Passionate
8 Colour
9 Little devils
15 Venerates
17 Enter as enemy
19 At no time
20 Preservative
22 Water pitcher
23 Decay
25 Greek letter

SUDOKU:3654

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Yesterday's Solution 3653

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1662

F	R	A	C	A	S		B	I	G
E		B		N	E	V	E	R	
E	X	O	T	I	C		G	E	M
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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.

CPI (M) seeks central govt stepping in to resolve DBRAIT issue

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/-- / The CPI (M) A & N State Organising Committee observe with grave concern the re-launching of the agitation by students of DBRAIT, Port Blair from 26th September, 2022, as it came to know, disheartened by the act of non-keeping of the promises made in the so-called agreement reached between a section of students, A & N Administration and the Pondicherry University on 15th September, 2022 based on which the students had ended their agitation. The students are of the opinion that they have been cheated by the authorities and a section of political leaders who assured the students that their demands have been agreed to. When the students later on realized that they have been deceived by the local politicians belonging to the party ruling at the centre and the A & N Administration, they wanted to ventilate their grievances and resumed agitation organizing mass dharna in front of the DBRAIT at Dollygunj.

CPI(M) was of the firm view that that the 17 conditions imposed by the Pondicherry University had not still been implemented. This fact has been hid from the students by all concerned and subsequently the students have felt as being betrayed by the A & N Administration, the Pondicherry University officials and the local BJP

politicians by their act of not resolving the issues, but presenting a version before them which was not factually correct. Shri D. Ayyappan, Secretary, CPI (M) A & N State Organising Committee on 17th September, 2022 had requested the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration to reveal the details of the agreement/consensus reached between A & N Administration, Pondicherry University and aggrieved students and the details of the fulfillment of the 17 conditions initially imposed by the Pondicherry University for conditional affiliation, by issuing a press statement in the local media so that the people will know the facts relating to the above issue. However, there was no response and the contents of the agreement reached with the students by the A & N Administration have not been revealed to general public so far. CPI (M) notes that instead of responding to the shortcomings in the running of engineering courses in DBRAIT pointed out by the Pondicherry University, the BJP government at the centre and A & N Administration had approached the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta by filing a Writ Petition against the Pondicherry University which is still pending for a final decision. This step on the part of the A & N Administration, with the blessings of government at the Centre, is unjustified,

unethical, uncalled for and violating all the administrative jurisprudence and made with malafide intention to protect the interests of certain persons at the cost of students. The central government at the centre utterly failed to resolve the instant issue and is trying to enforce its policy of commercialization of higher education through whatever means available like establishment of the so-called Deemed University in the islands. The role of the lone Member of Parliament from these islands for not taking prompt action upto a level expected of a person of his stature for resolving the issue is also questionable as he is nowhere in the picture and of course he also owes an explanation to the islanders on this issue.

The resumption of the agitation by the students created road block in the town for several hours today, causing inconvenience to thousands of people including hundreds of school students. CPI (M) calls upon the central government to intervene in the matter and take immediate steps to resolve the issue in the light of the 17 shortcomings pointed out by the Pondicherry University to have a permanent solution considering the future of hundreds of students studying in the DBRAIT, Port Blair and also to end the on-going agitation by the students.

TAAN greets incoming tourists in traditional Indian style



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/-- / As part of 'The World Tourism Day' celebration, Tour Association of Andaman & Nicobar (TAAN) organised a befitting programme at the VSI Airport in association with the Tourism department and Airport authority of India in the morning hours on Tuesday. Mr. Shabbir President & all other members presented refreshments to the arriving guests from mainland. A Colorful cultural programme was also presented at the arrival of the airport under the direction of Mr. Waahid Shah, renowned artist & Cultural Secretary of TAAN. Dancers & singers dressed up in traditional costumes musically greeted the incoming air passengers by dancing, singing, showering flowers & performing tilakaarti in traditional Indian style. Later in the evening at the valedictory function, memento of appreciation was also presented to the members of TAAN by the Secretary of Tourism.

World Tourism Day celebrated befitting in ANI

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/-- / Along with the rest of the country, World Tourism Day was also celebrated by the UT administration by organizing befitting programmes on Tuesday. This year the day was celebrated with the theme 'Rethinking Tourism'. As part of the celebration, the Tourism Department here organized various programmes and competitions. The Commissioner-cum-Secretary (IP&T), Mr. Nikhil Kumar was the chief guest of the main function held at Corbyn's Cove. This year, World Tourism Day was celebrated in Isles, incorporating the themes 'Feel Good Tourism & Spiritual Tourism'.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest said since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) observes September 27 as World Tourism Day. He remarked that 'Tourism' is the celebration of life through which we travel to places, meet people from different cultures, enjoy cuisines from various parts of the world and get the opportunity to marvel at the wonderful creation of nature that we are blessed to be a part of. He said, tourism is important and globally efforts are being made to promote tourism. The tourism sector not only connects people socially it

also opens a window of opportunities in terms of employment & revenue generation while in some places, tourism is the mainstay of all activities.

The chief guest also gave away the prizes to the winners of the Coconut Day competition organized by the Agriculture Department in coordination with the Tourism Department viz. Coconut based recipe and coconut dehusking competition for male & female.

Later, the chief guest also visited the stalls set up at the venue and interacted with the participants. He also enjoyed the dishes presented by the Nicobari tribe and appreciated their food. Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Secretary (IP&T), ShriHariKallikkat informed about the significance of the day. He also highlighted various activities that were organized by the Tourism Department in coordination with tourism stakeholders.

The evening witnessed colourful cultural programmes like Odissi dance by MsKoyalika, dance showcasing the beauty of various cultures like Punjabi, Rajasthani folk dance, folk dance of Tamil Nadu were presented by school students of Education Department besides live band performance by KaunPanam Band and

performance by local cultural groups.

Various competitions were organized by the Tourism Department to mark the occasion.

World Tourism Day was also celebrated by various Tourism Stakeholders in Isles. The Andaman Association of Tour Operators celebrated World

Tourism Day today at Water Sports Complex during which 17 life guards and TSET team members of Department of IP&T were felicitated. The Secretary (IP&T), ShriHariKallikkat who was the chief guest on the occasion praised the effort of AATO and encouraged the life guards and stakeholders to

continue the good work they are doing for the tourists. He assured them that the Department will provide all possible support to develop tourism facilities in A&N Islands. The President AATO, Shri M Vinod donated a wheelchair to Incharge of RGWS Complex, a release from IP&T said.

International Elders Day at Chinmaya Mission

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 28/-- / Chinmaya Mission Port Blair will be celebrating International Elders day on October 1, 2022 with

Walkathon and Felicitation of Super Senior Citizens. (80 Plus) The Walkathon will be held on October 1, 2022

at 6 am from Gandhi Park to Mission. The walkathon is open for all senior Citizens (58 plus) including females.


The felicitation of Super senior Citizens programme will be held in the evening from 4.30 pm at Chinmaya Mission auditorium. The prizes for Walkathon also will be distributed in the evening programme. Mission has invited all the people for the programme.

Yamuna water level starts dropping but still above danger mark

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /-- / The water level in Yamuna river in Delhi started receding after breaching the evacuation mark of 206 metres, with Haryana reducing the flow from the Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar, officials said on Wednesday.

Authorities said they expect the Yamuna water level to recede further over the next two to three days as there has been no significant rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the river or in Delhi. A swollen Yamuna flooded low-lying areas along the riverbanks in Delhi on Tuesday, prompting authorities to evacuate around 6,500 people and suspend rail traffic movement on the Old Yamuna Bridge. The water level in the river shot up to 206.59 metres by 7 am, much above the danger mark of 205.33 metres and the highest since August 2019. But it dropped to 206.58 metres by 8 am and further to 206.41 metres by 3 pm. The water level is predicted to drop to 206.05 metres by 9 pm, a forecast issued by the Central Water Commission said. A senior government official said they have deployed a large number of civil defence workers in the affected low-lying areas to prevent people from moving back into their houses till the water recedes to the normal level. The low-lying areas near the river in Delhi are considered vulnerable to flooding and are home to around 37,000 people. "Most of the people shifted to safer places themselves. The Delhi administration had to evacuate around 6,500 and move them to community centres, schools and temporary tents," East Delhi District Magistrate Anil Banka said. "We expect the water to recede to normal levels in two to three days. Thereafter, these people can go back to their places," he said.

Though the land along the Yamuna belongs to the Delhi Development Authority, Revenue Department and private individuals, encroachments have come up on a large part of river floodplains over the years. The river breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday night and the evacuation mark of 206 metres early Tuesday morning following an unusually late spell of heavy rain in the upper catchment areas between September 21 and September 25. Normally, flooding in the Yamuna is reported in July or August which receive maximum rainfall during the monsoon season. This is the second time within two months that the authorities are evacuating the people living in the river floodplains due to flooding. The Yamuna had breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres on August 12, following which around 7,000 people were evacuated from the low-lying areas near the riverbanks. The water level had shot up to 205.99 metres on August 13 before the river started receding. The authorities reported a discharge rate of around 25,400 cusecs at 9 am on Wednesday from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana. The discharge rate was 2,95,212 cusecs at 6 am on Monday, which is the highest so far this year. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 litres per second. Normally, the flow rate at the Hathnikund barrage is 352 cusecs, but the discharge increases after heavy rainfall in the catchment areas. The water discharged from the barrage normally takes two to three days to reach the national capital. The catchment of the Yamuna river system covers parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. The river enters Delhi at Palla in the north district and traverses a length of 48 km through central, northeast, Shahdara, east and southeast Delhi before leaving at Jaitpur. Last year, the Yamuna breached the danger mark on July 30 and the water level at the Old Railway Bridge rose to 205.59 metres. In 2019, the flow rate had peaked at 8.28 lakh cusec on August 18-19, and the water level in the river had hit the 206.60-metre mark. In 1978, the river had swollen to the all-time record water level of 207.49 metres. In 2013, it had risen to 207.32 metres. (PTI)



AUCTION NOTICE

Some individuals/persons who has availed Loan for purchasing of Car from our branches have defaulted in repaying as per schedule. They have not properly responded to the notice/notices or the notices have been returned undelivered. In the circumstances, it has been decided that if the loan (s) is/are not liquidated before **4.00 P.M on 01.10.2022** the said vehicle will be publically auctioned at **4.00 P.M. on 03.10.2022** at **SBI, Main Branch, Port Blair** without further notice. All expenses incurred in this connection will be borne by the borrowers. Bank reserves the right to postpone/withdraw the auction at any time and stop the auction in the middle. Successful bidders shall pay the full amount and obtain possession of the said vehicle or a minimum of 25% of bid amount should be deposited by the successful bidder on the spot and remaining portion within 7 days. In case of default, Bank may forfeit the initial deposit amount. The car is available for display at **SBI, Main Branch Premises** on all working days between **9 am to 4 pm**, contact **SBI, RBO, Port Blair**, for further details.

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Date : 28.09.2022 **AUTHORISED OFFICER**

Place : Port Blair

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is bring to the notice of all the public that we, **(1) Smti B Durgawati W/o Bhima Rao, (2) Shri Bhima Rao S/o Late Krishna Moorthy**, under **Port Blair Tehsil South Andaman District** intends to create Mortgage on the basis of lost deed bearing survey no 185 measuring area of 340 sq mtrs, situated at **Brookshabad Village under Port Blair Tehsil** for availing loan from **SBI Prothrapur Branch (18262)**. In case of any party has any claim towards the said property, the same should be lodged with me and also with the above stated Branch of State Bank of India within 15 days from the dated publication notice.

B Durgawati/ Bhima Rao 9476068512



INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL

8TH Floor, NBCC Center, Plot No. 2, Community Center, Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi-110020.
Phone: +91 - 011 – 66616800, 66616821, 66616822

Filling up the post of one each post of Deputy Secretary (Nursing), Deputy Secretary (Admin), Under Secretary (Nursing) and Under Secretary (Admin) on Deputation.

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts in the Indian Nursing Council on Deputation basis.


S.no	Post	Scale of pay	No. of Vacancies
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2	Deputy Secretary (Nursing)		1
3	Under Secretary (Admin)	Level 10 of the Pay Matrix (Rs. 56100-177500) (corresponding to PB-3 Rs 15600-39100+GP Rs. 5400).	1
4	Under Secretary (Nursing)		1

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Application duly prepared in the filled/prescribed proforma should reach Secretary, Indian Nursing Council, 8th Floor, NBCC Centre, Plot No. 2 Community Centre, Okhla Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

The last date of Receipt of application is 30.09.2022

CBC-17111/12/0002/2223 **Sd/- SECRETARY**



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CBC-36202/12/0012/2223 **Under Secretary CSIR-TKDL Unit**



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Event No.	Job/Item Description
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GEM/2022/B/2548092	Loading and transportation of bagged minerals and shipment in container through Kochi Port

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> in website Any corrigendum/extension to above tenders shall be held in above website only.

CBC-48129/12/0040/2223 **Sd/-Head, Chavara**



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CBC-36211/12/0004/2223



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee trying her hands on the dhak at the inauguration of Suruchi Sangha's Durga puja —Photo: Arijit Ganguly

Critics will find fault in everything, we must carry on our work: Mamata

KOLKATA, SEPT 28 /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that the state, despite relentless criticisms by detractors, achieved several feats such as the Unesco distinction for Durga puja, and her government would continue to work for more such laurels.

Virtually inaugurating 300 durga puja pandals in different parts of Bengal from Alipore Bodyguard Lines, Mamata also said critics will find fault in everything but that should not come in the way of the strides being made by her government. "I am happy to iterate that many feathers have been added to Bengal's crown. The UNESCO accorded 'Intangible cultural heritage' distinction to Durga Puja, a global forum adjudged Bengal as the best tourist destination. NCRB described Kolkata as the safest city. Some detractors, critics will try to find fault in everything. That doesn't matter. We must carry on our work," she said.

The chief minister, on the occasion, also heaped praise on the police force for "serving society 24 hours, all 365 days of the year. Inaugurating Suruchi Sangha puja, patronised by her cabinet colleague and Trinamool Congress leader Aroop Biswas, Mamata said that officers of the Kolkata Police along with volunteers would be on the guard to ensure there was no untoward incident on the road, particularly at night. "A 40-member all-woman Kolkata Police team will be patrolling the roads," she stated. The chief minister also played the dhaak (ubiquitous drum associated with the festivities) during the slew of the inaugurations, lifting it on her shoulder, as the frenzied crowd before her cheered. (PTI)

Sonia meets Antony; Cong sources indicate Digvijay may run for party's prez post



NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ With the Rajasthan crisis casting a shadow on the Congress' presidential polls, party chief Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday met senior party leader A K Antony even as party sources indicated that former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh could be in the race for the presidency. The meeting with Antony comes days after an open rebellion by Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot loyalists on a possible leadership change in the state after indications that Gehlot was backed by the party's top leadership as Gandhi's successor. However, the action by Gehlot's loyalists has clouded his chances of running for the presidency. It is learnt that Gandhi has discussed the probable candidates for the Congress' president, nomination for which will end on September 30. Polling for the post will take place on October 17 while the result will be announced on October 19. Meanwhile, sources said senior party leader Digvijaya Singh could also throw his hat into the

Kharge's name also making rounds

Wednesday said he is not averse to running for AICC presidential polls if party chief Sonia Gandhi asks him to contest. "Kharge has told Sonia Gandhi that whatever the party decides, he will adhere to it," a close associate of the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said, adding: "Ultimately, he will do what the party (Sonia Gandhi) suggests him to do". A Congress leader said Kharge has "good connect and rapport" with Opposition leaders like NCP chief Sharad Pawar and CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury which would be an "added advantage" and "he is sharp as ever". (PTI)

presidential polls contest and is likely to arrive in Delhi. It is learnt that Singh is likely to file his nomination for the top post. Sources close to him said this is his personal decision to contest and he has not discussed the issue with the party leadership. Interestingly, sources close to senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge on

MP takes up issues concerning people of Carnic with CS

From page-1
Issues such as taking up construction of sea wall in the coastal area of Mus village for protection from soil erosion, cleaning the septic tank, repair of roads, construction of a Helipad at Kakana Village, posting adequate teachers in Schools at Carnic, providing sufficient desks and benches, repair of the Nursing Home of BJR Hospital, setting up a blood bank and start of Dialysis facilities at BJR hospital, Car Nicobar, restarting flight connectivity between Port Blair and Car Nicobar at least once in a week and making available Kerosene to the people of Car Nicobar were some of the other issues taken up by Mr. Sharma. The Member of Parliament mentioned that thousands of Nicobari brothers and sisters are living scattered in different Islands of Nicobar District, who have a strong link with other but presently due to unavailability of connecting ships,

they are forced to come to Port Blair and wait for several weeks to get a ship for any other Island of Nicobar District and they have to undergo similar hardship in their return journey. For this journey from one Island of Nicobar District, including Little Andaman Island of South Andaman District to another Island of Nicobar District and vice versa via Port Blair they have to incur heavy expenditure and go through tremendous mental agony. Not only this, such a journey via Port Blair is also very time consuming.

He added that all port ships are also required to supply fresh vegetables, fish and meat from Little Andaman to Car Nicobar and other Islands of Nicobar District, where a large number of tribal population and government servants and their families reside. The Member of Parliament requested to provide one sailing of an all-port ship for all major islands of Nicobar District via Hut Bay once, in every 10 days.

Govt bans PFI, associates for alleged terror activities

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ The Union government on Wednesday banned Popular Front of India and several of its associates for five years under a stringent anti-terror law, accusing them of having "links" with global terror groups like ISIS.

Besides PFI, the organisations which were also declared banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) include Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala. More than 150 people allegedly linked with PFI were detained or arrested in raids across seven states on Tuesday, five days after a similar pan-India crackdown against the 16-year-old group had led to the arrest of over a hundred of its activities and seizure of several dozen properties. In a late Tuesday night notification, the Union home ministry said some PFI founding members are leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the PFI has linkages with Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Both JMB and SIMI are proscribed organisations. It said there had been many instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts have been working covertly to increase the radicalisation of one community by promoting a sense of insecurity in the country, which is substantiated by the fact that some PFI cadres have joined international terrorist organisations, the notification claimed. "Whereas, the Central government, having regard to the above circumstances, is of the firm opinion that it is necessary to declare PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts association outlawed with immediate effect, and accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, declares it as outlawed," it said. The Opposition Congress in Kerala and its coalition partner Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) also welcomed the Centre's move, but said the RSS should also be similarly outlawed. Strongly condemning the activities of the PFI, senior IUML leader M K



Police personnel deployed at PFI office building, at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi

BJP hails Govt action, Oppn calls for similar action against RSS

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ With the Union government banning the Popular Front of India for five years, the BJP on Wednesday hailed the decision as "strong and timely" and accused the Congress of standing with anti-India forces, even as several opposition leaders called for similar action against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The BJP praised it as a "strong and timely" action and attacked the opposition parties, particularly the Congress, saying it is unfortunate that some are looking at their political profit and loss even in this. Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said strict action has been taken against those "acting as proxies of anti-India forces" that were against democracy and part of a violent conspiracy. "It is unfortunate that some political parties and some people associated with various governments were giving protection to such forces. Such people are seen standing with such forces now," Naqvi said. These are the same people who sometimes raise questions about the country's security, about surgical strikes, and raise a hue and cry when terrorists are killed, the former Union minister said. "The government has taken action with its commitment to the security of the country and its people but it is unfortunate that even in this, some are looking at their political profit and loss," Naqvi said. The action taken by the government against forces acting as proxies for militant groups is in the interest of the country and people, he added. Congratulating Union home minister Amit Shah for the move, BJP general secretary CT Ravi alleged that "the PFI was nurtured by Congress." Ravi alleged that the PFI is nothing but "an avatar of SIMI, it has links with many terror fronts and creates social unrest in the country". The Congress asserted that it has always been and will continue to be against all forms and types of communalism - majority or minority. All India Congress Committee general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said: "The Congress has always been and will continue to be against all forms and types of communalism - majority or minority makes no difference." "The Congress' policy has always been to uncompromisingly fight all ideologies and institutions that abuse religion to polarise our society, that misuse religion to spread prejudice, hate, bigotry and violence," he said in a statement. (PTI)

Muneer said the radical outfit had misinterpreted the Quran and persuaded the community members to adopt the path of violence. PFI not only tried to mislead the young generation but also tried to create division and hatred in the society, he said. The home ministry claimed that PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts have been involved in violent terrorist activities with an intent to create a reign of terror in the country, thereby endangering the security and public order of the state. PFI, the notification alleged, is encouraging and trying to enforce a terror-based regressive regime, continue to propagate anti-national sentiments and radicalising a particular section of society to create disaffection against the country, aggravating activities which are detrimental to the integrity, security and sovereignty of the country.

The home ministry claimed investigations have established clear linkages between PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts. It said Rehab India Foundation collects funds through PFI members. Some PFI members are also members of Campus Front of India, Empower India Foundation, and Rehab Foundation, Kerala. The activities of Junior Front, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation and National Women's Front are monitored/coordinated by the PFI leaders, the notification claimed. PFI created these associates or affiliates or fronts to enhance its reach among different sections of the society such as the youth, students, women, imams, lawyers or weaker sections of the society to expand its membership, influence and fund-raising capacity, it said. The Centre, through another notification, empowered the state governments to take action against these groups affiliated with the PFI and the possible action against them could be seizure of places and arrest of their members. The home ministry said these associates or affiliates or fronts have a 'hub and spoke' relationship. PFI acts as the hub and utilises the mass outreach and fund-raising capacity of its associates or affiliates or fronts to strengthen its capability for unlawful activities and these associates or affiliates or fronts function as "roots and capillaries through which the PFI is fed and strengthened", it claimed. The PFI and its associates or

affiliates or fronts operate openly as socio-economic educational and political organisations. But they have been pursuing a secret agenda to radicalise a particular section of the society, working towards undermining the concept of democracy and showing sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional setup of the country, it alleged. Investigations in various cases have revealed that PFI and its cadre have been repeatedly engaging in violent and subversive acts, the ministry claimed. Criminal violent acts carried out by PFI include chopping off the limbs of a college professor, killings of persons associated with organisations espousing other faiths, obtaining explosives to target prominent people and places and destruction of public property, it said. The notification also mentioned the names of several people who were alleged victims of the PFI's "brutal" violence and most of them belong to Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The home ministry said there had been many instances of PFI's linkages with global terrorist groups and some activists of its PFI have joined ISIS and participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of these PFI cadre were killed in these conflict theatres and some have been arrested by state police and central agencies, the Centre claimed. The home ministry claimed the office bearers and cadre of PFI along with others are conspiring and raising funds from within India and abroad through banking channels, hawala and donations among others as part of a "well-crafted criminal conspiracy", and then transferring, layering and integrating these funds through multiple accounts to project them as legitimate and eventually using these for various criminal, unlawful and terrorist activities in India. The sources of deposits on behalf of PFI with respect to its several bank accounts were not supported by the financial profiles of the account holders and the activities of PFI were not being carried out as per their declared objectives. Therefore, the Income Tax Department cancelled the registration granted to PFI under section 12A or 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), it said. The Income Tax department also cancelled the registration of Rehab India Foundation. (PTI)

Himanta Inaugurates integrated skill development centre in Dima Hasao

DISPUR, SEPT 28 /--/ Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday formally inaugurated the Integrated Skill Development Centre at Ardhra area of Diyungra under Dima Hasao district. The skill centre, built at a cost of Rs 36.60 crore, has been established under a special financial package that was agreed upon as per the accord between the Union government, the Government of Assam and both the factions of erstwhile militant group Dima Halim Daogah (DHD). Addressing a public meeting after the inauguration, the Chief Minister exuded confidence the Integrated Skill Development Centre, built by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), would play a prominent role in imparting skill trainings to the youths of the hill district. Sarma added that naming the skill development centre after Veer Sambudhan Phonglo is an appropriate tribute to the great freedom

fighter. The Chief Minister stated that under the abled leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has been making rapid strides on all fronts. Speaking on the Indian economy having surpassed the British economy to become the fifth largest economy in the world, Sarma said that the economic growth of the country is opening up numerous opportunities for those with requisite skills. There is great demand for skilled persons in the economy, and initiatives such as integrated skill development centres are aimed at ensuring the employable youths of Assam can reap the benefits the economy is offering, the Chief Minister added. Stating that a 1,000-Mw solar power project will be set-up in Dima Hasao district, the Skill Development Centre will be able to provide skilled employees that would be required for running a project of such a huge magnitude. (PTI)

City's Durga Puja enters the world of Metaverse

KOLKATA, SEPT 28 /--/ In a first, the Durga Puja festival of Kolkata is entering the world of Metaverse a computer-simulated 3D environment which will enable people to virtually tour four big-ticket community pujas, communicate with other such pandal hoppers' and even click photos. The 3D platform created for this purpose, xpand-land.com, will allow visitors to enter a shared social space where people from across the world can come together from the comfort of their homes. This is an initiative of Indian start-up XP&D, its group company Metaform and another firm, Spatial. This year, there will be no fee to enter the platform which will be thrown open on Thursday. The visitors will be able to enter two north Kolkata puja pandals - Ahiritola Sarbojanin and Tallah Prattoy besides two from the southern part of the city - Deshapriya Park and Ballygunge Cultural Association. This is the

first time in history that such a massive festival of devotion has been twinned in the Metaverse. We are piloting it with four pandals this year, XP&D Co-founder Sukrit Singh said. Singh also said they have plans to work with over 100 puja pandals next year and, in the near future,

every single pandal on the ground will have a metaverse twin for people to experience and enjoy. Users can voice chat with each other and make a meta-realistic avatar of themselves in minutes on the platform which can be accessed by smartphones, tablets, and

wearables. VR (virtual reality) headset wearables will give the optimum experience. Suveer Bajaj, co-founder of Metaform, said the project will also help popularise the new Web 3.0-based technologies like blockchain, virtual reality and NFTs (non-fungible tokens).

NFTs are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated. This year, we are keeping it free from charges but monetisation will happen from the next puja, Bajaj said. Ashish Sen, an Indian software professional working in Germany, expressed happiness that Durga Puja is becoming part of the meta world. I am unable to come to Kolkata this puja. But this will provide me a great opportunity to connect with my family and friends on a metaverse platform for a near real experience, he said. Metaform had earlier created a dugout experience for Gujarat Titans, the first IPL team to have a metaverse presence. (PTI)



Preparation of Durga Puja festival in Kolkata

Restaurant fire kills 17 people in northeastern China

BEIJING, SEPT 28/--/A restaurant fire killed 17 people on Wednesday in the city of Changchun in northeastern China, authorities said.

The fire was reported about 12:40 pm in a high-tech section of the Changchun New Area industrial zone, according to a social media post by the zone's management committee.



Three other people were injured and taken to a hospital for treatment, the post said. A gas explosion was initially blamed for causing the fire.

according to the fire and rescue service. Changchun is an auto manufacturing centre and the capital of Jilin province.

China, which has some of the world's most draconian anti-coronavirus restrictions, continues to suffer from deadly accidents blamed on poor design and construction, failure to observe safety requirements and insufficient inspections and enforcement.

In April, an illegally constructed block that included apartments and restaurants collapsed in the city of Changsha, killing 53 people. And in July, a gas explosion following a partial building collapse in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin left three people missing and 11 injured. The event remains under investigation, but it appears to point to the deterioration of infrastructure following more than three decades of breakneck economic growth that has vastly boosted living standards while often skirting safety and environmental regulation. (AP)

Ian just shy of a Category 5 hurricane as it nears Florida

ST PETERSBURG, SEPT 28/--/Hurricane Ian rapidly intensified off Florida's southwest coast Wednesday morning, gaining top winds of 155 mph (250 kph), just shy of the most dangerous Category 5 status. Damaging winds and rain lashed the state's heavily populated Gulf Coast, with the Naples to Sarasota region at highest risk of a devastating storm surge.

U.S. Air Force hurricane hunters confirmed Ian gained strength over warm Gulf of Mexico water after battering Cuba, bringing down the country's electricity grid and leaving the entire island without power. Ian was centered about 65 miles (105 kilometers) west-southwest of Naples at 7 a.m., swirling toward the coast at 10 mph (17 kph).

This is going to be a nasty nasty day, two days, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said early Wednesday, stressing that people in Ian's path along the coast should rush to the safest possible shelter and stay there. Do what you need to do to stay safe. If you are where that storm is approaching, you're already in hazardous conditions. It's going to get a lot worse very quickly. So please hunker down."

The massive storm appeared on track to slam into the Florida's southwestern Gulf coast somewhere north of Fort Myers and some 125 miles (201 kilometers) south of Tampa, sparing the bay area from a rare direct hit from a hurricane. The Fort Myers area is popular with retirees and tourists drawn to pristine white sandy beaches and long barrier islands, which forecasters said could be completely inundated. The

hurricane center warned of catastrophic storm surges raising the water level as much as 12 feet (3.6 meters) to 16 feet (4.9 meters) above ground level for coastal areas straddling Punta Gorda and Fort Myers, which are between Naples and Sarasota.

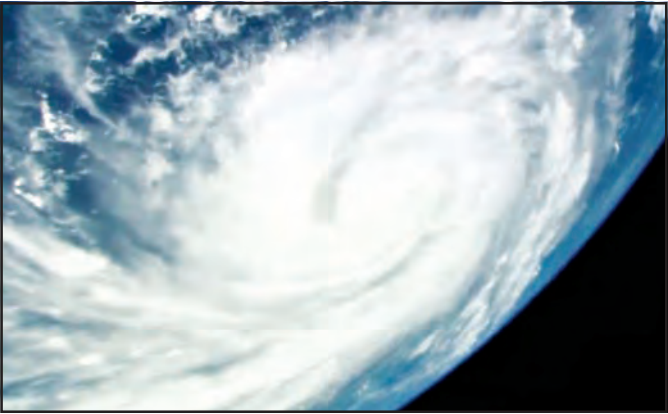
More than 2.5 million people were under mandatory evacuation orders, but by law no one could be forced to flee. Florida residents rushed ahead of the impact to board up their homes, stash precious belongings on upper floors and join long lines of cars away from the shore.

You can't do anything about natural disasters, said Vinod Nair, who drove inland from the Tampa area Tuesday with his wife, son, dog and two kittens seeking a hotel in the tourist district of Orlando. We live in a high risk zone, so we thought it best to evacuate.

Winds exceeding tropical-storm strength of 39 mph (63 kph) reached Florida by 3 a.m. and the first hurricane-force winds were recorded by 6 a.m., well in advance of the eyewall moving inland, the Miami-based center said. Rainfall near the area of landfall could top 18 inches (46 centimeters).

Overnight, Hurricane Ian went through a natural cycle when it lost its old eye and formed a new eye. The timing of this is bad for the Florida coast because it means the storm got stronger and larger hours before it was set

to make landfall, making it even more of a menace. Ian went from 120 mph (193 kph) to 155 mph (250 kph) in just three hours, the second round of rapid intensification in the storm's life cycle. With the higher intensity you're going to see more extensive wind damage. The larger wind field means that more people will



experience those storm-force winds, University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy said. And it will really increase the amount of storm surge. Ian's forward movement slowed over the Gulf, enabling the hurricane to grow wider and stronger, and its predicted path shifted slightly southward. That would likely spare Tampa and St. Petersburg their first direct hit by a major hurricane since 1921.

Instead, the most damaging winds could hit a rapidly developing coastline where the population has jumped sevenfold since 1970, according to the U.S. Census, which shows Lee County has seen the eighth largest population growth among more than 180 Atlantic and Gulf coast counties in the past 50 years. There were 250,000 people in

the Fort Myers/Lee County mandatory evacuation zones, and authorities worried ahead of the storm that only 10% or so would leave. Gil Gonzalez wasn't taking any chances. He boarded the windows of his Tampa home with plywood and laid down sandbags to guard against any flooding. He and his wife packed their car with bottled water, flashlights, battery packs for their cellphones and a camp stove before evacuating.

All the prized possessions, we've put them upstairs in a friend's house," Gonzalez said.

Airports in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Key West closed, as did Disney World theme parks and

Sea World in Orlando ahead of the storm. A couple from England on vacation in Tampa found themselves faced with riding out the storm at a shelter. Glyn and Christine Williams of London were told to leave their hotel near the beach when evacuations were ordered. Because the airport shut down, they could get no flight home. Unfortunately, all the hotels are full or closed, so it looks as though we're going to be in one of the shelters, Christine Williams said.

Her husband insisted all would be fine. You know, you got to go with the flow, Glyn Williams said. "So we're quite happy doing what we're doing. The precise location of landfall was still uncertain, but with Ian's tropical storm-force winds extending 175 miles (280 kilometers) from its

There is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy security needs are addressed or not," Jaishankar said.



by India prior to the Ukraine war. The Western countries are gradually bringing down their energy purchases from Russia following its attack on Ukraine.

With sanctions imposed by Western nations making a scant impact on Russia, the G-7 countries and the European Union have mooted an oil price cap

on Russian crude and refined products to limit Kremlin's revenues. Earlier this month, a statement issued by G-7 Finance Ministers said the price cap was specifically designed to reduce Russian revenues and its ability to fund the Ukraine war. The US has asked India to join the coalition to cap the prices of Russian oil, but New Delhi has said it would "carefully examine" the proposal before taking any decision. Blinken said the US was working day in, day out both on a short-term basis and a long-term basis to address energy security for Europe and around the world.

"We are working on implementing the oil price cap to keep Russian oil flowing, but at a steep discount. That of course will deny Russia excess revenues that it would use to prosecute its aggression against Ukraine and, at the same time, as I said, keep oil flowing on world markets," he said. "We're working to continue to surge Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies to Europe in cooperation with global partners, including in the Indo-Pacific,"

Blinken said. India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

Last week, Jaishankar met Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal at the UN headquarters and apprised him of India's principled position that emphasises cessation of all hostilities and return to dialogue and diplomacy.

On another question about India buying military equipment from sanctions-hit Russia, Jaishankar said: "Where we get our military equipment and platforms from, that is not an issue, which is a new issue or an issue which has particularly changed due to geo-political situations."

"We look at possibility across the world. We look at the quality of technology, the quality of capabilities and the terms at which particular equipment is offered. We exercise a choice which we believe in our national interest," he added. (PTI)

UK's Opposition Labour Party in Indian diaspora outreach

LONDON, SEPT 28/--/The UK's Opposition Labour Party has reached out to the Indian diaspora as a key demographic in its pursuit to win the next general election, expected in roughly two years' time. During a special India-focused event on the sidelines of the party's annual conference in Liverpool earlier this week, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer formally relaunched the recently revived Labour Convention of Indian Organisations (LCIO) and hailed its mission of strengthening India-UK relations. I welcome the re-establishment of the Labour Convention of Indian Organisations. The timing is poignant as people across the world celebrate 75 years of Indian independence, Starmer said in a statement. I'm proud of Labour's work with the Indian diaspora in the UK, particularly in strengthening ties between the UK and India. British Indians make an enormous contribution to our economy, culture, and politics. I'll welcome working with the LCIO on our mission to form the next Labour government, he said.

It is seen as a turning point of sorts in the diaspora's engagement with the UK's Opposition party, which under former leader Jeremy Corbyn was seen as being less India friendly with unwelcome resolutions passed on Kashmir at the party's annual conference in recent years. In contrast, India's Deputy High Commissioner to the UK, Sujit Ghosh, attended this year's conference and the LCIO relaunch. We welcome the initiative and look forward to working closely with LCIO to further the India-UK ties, the Indian High Commission in London tweeted after the event. (PTI)

Palestinians: At least 4 killed in Israeli raid in West Bank

JENIN REFUGEE CAMP (WEST BANK), SEP 28/--/ At least four Palestinians were killed and 44 others wounded during an Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin on Wednesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry reported, the latest in a series of deadly Israeli operations in the occupied territory. Israeli forces said they fatally shot two Palestinians they had been sent to arrest in the Jenin refugee camp over their suspected involvement in recent shooting attacks. When soldiers surrounded a house in the camp, an explosive device detonated, a gunfight ensued and Israeli troops killed the two Palestinians, the military said.

During the raid, armed clashes broke out in the camp as militants hurled rocks and opened fire at arriving troops. The violence killed another two Palestinians and wounded at least 44 others, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party identified one of the men killed in the clashes as a 24-year-old Palestinian intelligence officer named Ahmed Alawneh.

The party called for protests and a general strike in the West Bank over what it described as a dangerous escalation. Jenin in the northern West Bank long considered a bastion of Palestinian militancy and frequent flashpoint for violence is governed by the Palestinian Authority like most other Palestinian urban centers, even though the Israeli military routinely carries out arrest raids in the area.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Abbas, denounced the raid, saying Israel's policy of escalation will not deliver legitimacy, security or stability, whether in the Islamic and Christian holy sites or in Jenin. "Israel's stepped-up military activities in the West Bank follow a surge in Palestinian attacks inside Israel last spring. Israel identified one of the Palestinians killed in Wednesday's raid as Rahman Hazam, the brother of a Palestinian gunman who attacked a bar in central Tel Aviv last April and was killed by police. Footage Wednesday showed giant plumes of smoke billowing from a house in the crowded camp, apparently after the explosive detonated.

In Jenin's streets, young men ducked behind cars as heavy gunfire rang out. Israeli armoured vehicles and bulldozers rumbled down the battered roads. An angry crowd of men marched through the camp's narrow alleys holding a shrouded body aloft. We are here for martyrdom, they cried. For you (God), our souls are cheap. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed in the crackdown on the West Bank, making this year the deadliest in the occupied territory since 2015.

The city of Jenin regularly sees Israeli arrest raids lead to gun battles with camp residents. Most of the Palestinians killed in the recent wave of Israeli raids have been wanted militants or young men who throw stones or fire bombs at soldiers invading their towns. But some civilians, including an Al Jazeera journalist and a lawyer who inadvertently drove into a battle zone, have also been killed in the violence. Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 mid-east war and has built more than 130 settlements across the territory that are home to nearly 500,000 Jewish settlers. (AP)

Russia prepares to annex occupied Ukraine despite outcry

KYIV, SEPT 28/--/Russia is poised to formally annex areas of Ukraine where it has military control after referendums there reportedly endorsed Moscow's rule. But the ballots were widely discredited and earned the Kremlin no relief Wednesday from international pressure over its assault on its neighbour. Pro-Moscow administrations of all four occupied regions of southern and eastern Ukraine said Tuesday night that their residents voted to join Russia in five days of Kremlin-orchestrated balloting. According to Russia-installed election officials, 93% of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87% in the Kherson region, 98% in the Luhansk region and 99% in Donetsk. Russian-installed officials in those occupied regions said Wednesday they would ask President Vladimir Putin to incorporate them into Russia.

It wasn't immediately clear how the administrative process would unfold. Western countries, however, dismissed the ballots as a meaningless pretence staged by Moscow in an attempt to legitimise its invasion of Ukraine launched on Feb. 24.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said late Tuesday that Washington would propose a U.N. Security Council resolution to condemn Russia's sham vote. The resolution would also urge member states not to recognise any altered status of Ukraine and demand that Russia withdraws its troops from its neighbour,

she tweeted. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, also weighed in on the ballots, on Wednesday calling them illegal and describing the results as falsified. This is another violation of Ukraine's sovereignty (and) territorial integrity, (amid) systematic abuses of human rights, Borrell tweeted.

In Kyiv, Ukraine's foreign ministry blasted the ballots as a propaganda show and null and worthless. Forcing people in these territories to fill out some papers at the barrel of a gun is yet another Russian crime in the course of its aggression against Ukraine, a foreign ministry statement said.

It asked the EU, NATO and the Group of Seven major industrial nations to immediately and significantly step up pressure on Russia through new sanctions, and significantly increase their military aid to Ukraine. The Kremlin remained unmoved amid the hail of criticism, however. Its spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said that at the very least Russia intended to drive Ukrainian forces out of the eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow's troops and separatist forces currently control about 60% of the territory.

The EU also expressed outrage over the suspected sabotage Tuesday of two underwater natural gas pipelines from Russia to Germany and warned of retaliation for any attack on Europe's energy networks.

Borrell said Wednesday that all available information indicates those

leaks are the result of a deliberate act, even though the perpetrators haven't so far been identified. Any deliberate disruption of European energy infrastructure is utterly unacceptable and will be met with a robust and united response, Borrell said in a statement on behalf of the EU's 27 member countries. Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said allegations that Russia could be behind the incidents were predictable and stupid. He told reporters in a conference call that the damage has caused Russia huge economic losses.

The war in Ukraine has brought an energy standoff between the EU, many of whose members have for years relied heavily on Russian natural gas supplies, and Moscow. The damage makes it unlikely the pipelines will be able to supply any gas to Europe this winter, according to analysts.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's military and a Washington-based think tank said Wednesday that Russia is sending troops without any training to the front line.

Moscow has struggled to hold the line against Ukraine's recent counteroffensive and has ordered a partial mobilisation to replenish its ranks. The effort is causing unrest, however, amid a reluctant public.

In a daily briefing, the Ukraine military's general staff said 1st Tank Regiment of the 2nd Motorised Rifle Division of Russia's 1st Tank Army has received untrained new troops. The Ukrainian military also said prison convicts are arriving in Ukraine to

GAME NOTES

FIFA honours Chhetri for his achievements, releases three-episode series on his life and career

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ World football governing body FIFA has released a three-episode series on the life and career of talismanic Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri in recognition of his achievements and goal-scoring exploits. FIFA announced that the three episodes are available on



FIFA+, its streaming platform. "You know all about Ronaldo and Messi, now get the definitive story of the third highest scoring active men's international, Sunil Chhetri | Captain Fantastic is available on FIFA+ now," the FIFA tweeted from its World Cup handle. The 38-year-old Chhetri is third in the list for active footballers with most international goals with 84 strikes to his name, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Lionel Messi (90). "The first episode takes us back to where it all started...all leading up to his India debut at the age of 20. Close associates, loved ones, and footballing colleagues help tell the tale -- apart from the man himself, the man affectionately dubbed, 'Captain, Leader, Legend,'" the synopsis of the first episode said. (PTI)

Umesh, Iyer and Shahbaz added to

India squad for SA T20s

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 28 /--/ The trio of pacer Umesh Yadav, batter Shreyas Iyer and all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed was on Wednesday added to India's squad for the three-match T20 series against South Africa, starting here. Senior pacer Mohammad Shami, who had missed the recently-concluded T20 series against Australia after contracting COVID-19 infection, is yet to recover completely and thus won't be a part of the T20 matches against the Proteas. Deepak Hooda has also been ruled out of the series owing to a back injury. The all-rounder is at the NCA for "further management of his injury". "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umesh Yadav as Shami's replacement and Shreyas Iyer as a replacement for Hooda," a BCCI release stated. "Shahbaz Ahmed has also been added to the T20I squad," it added. Umesh was brought in as Shami's replacement in the series against Australia. He has competed in the series-opener but did not play the second and third T20Is. (PTI)

Shami tests negative for COVID-19

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ India pacer Mohammed Shami on Wednesday tested negative for COVID-19, over 10 days after he had been infected by the virus. The 32-year-old posted his negative report on his Instagram account, hours after the BCCI named veteran pacer Umesh Yadav as his replacement for the three-match T20I series against South Africa, beginning on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram. "Negative," Shami wrote along with a picture of his COVID test report. The senior India pacer had tested positive for the virus on September 17. He was subsequently ruled out of the recently-concluded three-match series against Australia. (PTI)

Messi at the double as Argentina streak continues with Jamaica defeat



HARRISON, NEW JERSEY, SEPT 28 /--/ Lionel Messi scored twice as Argentina edged closer to Italy's world record unbeaten streak with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Jamaica in a World Cup warm-up friendly in New Jersey on Tuesday. Paris Saint-Germain superstar Messi took his international goals tally to 90 in 164 appearances after coming on as a second-half substitute at the Red Bull Arena.

Messi's goals capped an emphatic win for the South Americans, who have now gone 35 games unbeaten in a streak stretching back to 2019 – just

two shy of Italy's world record unbeaten run of 37 set between 2018 and 2012. Messi, who also scored twice during a friendly win over Honduras in Miami on Friday, delighted the crowd with an electrifying cameo after coming on in the 56th minute for Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez. He bagged his first of the night in the 86th minute, darting forward before caressing a shot into the bottom corner past Jamaica goalkeeper Andre Blake. The 35-year-old seven-time Ballon D'Or winner then produced an impish second goal, craftily curling a low shot underneath the

Jamaican wall into the bottom corner from a free-kick. Messi's presence left the crowd in a frenzy. On three different occasions spectators sprinted onto the pitch in an effort to get close to the Argentinian icon. One shirtless fan attempted to get Messi to autograph his back before he was bundled to the floor by security staff. Messi's late double crowned another assured performance from Lionel Scaloni's Argentina, who are rapidly emerging as one of the favourites for the World Cup in Qatar in November. The Argentinians had dominated

throughout a one-sided first half, and took the lead on 13 minutes when Martinez jinked past Jamaica's Damion Lowe and cut back for Manchester City's Julian Alvarez, who tucked away a low finish from close range. Alvarez almost had a second soon afterwards but curled his shot just wide. Midfielder Guido Rodriguez also went close, but was unable to direct his volley at the back post on target, instead shooting over the bar. Giovani Lo Celso also threatened with a long-range effort that flew just wide of the top corner in the 33rd minute. (AFP)

Suryakumar equals career-best second position in ICC T20I ranking

DUBAI, SEPT 28 /--/ India batter Suryakumar Yadav jumped a place to reach a career-best-equaling second position in the latest ICC men's T20I Player rankings issued on Wednesday. Suryakumar now has 801 rating points after smashing a match-winning 69 off 36 deliveries in the third match against Australia in Hyderabad on Sunday that helped India clinch the series 2-1. He had reached the second spot in T20 rankings for the first time in August this year following his exploits against the West Indies. India captain Rohit Sharma was at the 13th position after scores of 46 not out and 17 in the second and third T20Is respectively against Australia. Virat Kohli also climbed a spot to 15th but KL Rahul slipped four places to 22nd. Only a couple of rating points separate Suryakumar and Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who also improved a spot to grab the third position. Babar, who had occupied the No.1 position for 1,155 days before being overtaken by teammate Mohammad Rizwan earlier this month, was named Player of the Match for an unbeaten 110 in the second T20I against England. He followed it up with scores of eight and 36 in the



third and fourth matches, which were also played over the past week. India spinners Axar Patel (18th) and Yuzvendra Chahal (26th) and pacer Harshal Patel (37th) have moved up the bowlers' list, which continues to be led by Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood. India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, however, dropped a spot to the 10th position in the chart. Among others, Matthew Wade (62nd), Cameron Green (67th) and Tim David (109th) are the Australian players to move up the batting rankings. Green and David had notched up half-centuries in the final match of the series. England batter Harry Brook's scores of 31, 81 not out and 34 in Pakistan have lifted him to 29th position, while Ben Duckett has reached 32nd position after scoring 43, 70 not out and 33 in those three matches. In the latest weekly update, Reece Topley moved to 23rd and is the third third-highest ranked England bowler after Adil Rashid and Chris Jordan. Pakistan speedster Haris Rauf climbed to 14th position after taking five wickets in the last three matches, while Mark Wood (40th) and Sam Curran (47th) have also progressed. (PTI)

T20I BATTING RANKINGS
Mohammad Rizwan PAK
861
Suryakumar Yadav IND
801
Babar Azam PAK
799
Aiden Markram SA
792
Aaron Finch AUS
707

Sports Ministry extends last date of submission of application for National Sports Awards

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ The Sports Ministry on Wednesday extended the last date of submission of applications for this year's National Sports Awards by three days to October 1. Earlier, the ministry had set September 27 as the last date for online submission of applications. This year onwards, applications are being invited only in online mode through a dedicated portal. "The last date for receipt of applications has been extended from 27th September, 2022 to 1st October 2022 (Saturday)," the ministry said in a statement. "The applications from the eligible sportspersons/coaches/entities/universities are invited for the award. They are required to self apply online at dedicated Portal

dbtyas-sports.gov.in. "Indian Olympics Association/Sports Authority of India/recognised National Sports Federations/Sports Promotion Boards/State and UTs Governments etc are also intimated accordingly. Nominations received after 1st October, 2022 (Saturday) will not be considered," it added.

Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years, while Arjuna Award is bestowed for consistent outstanding performance for four years. (PTI)

Banana thrown at Richarlison, Neymar moves closer to Pele's record as Brazil thrash Tunisia

PARIS, SEPT 28 /--/ Richarlison was the target of a banana thrown from the crowd as Brazil thrashed Tunisia 5-1 in a friendly in Paris on Tuesday, while Neymar edged closer to Pele's all-time scoring record for the five-time world champions. The game at the Parc des Princes was also briefly paused in the first half as the crowd were twice implored not to point laser pens at Brazil players. "Unfortunately... a banana was thrown on the pitch towards Richarlison, scorer of the second Brazilian goal," the Brazilian football confederation (CBF) said on Twitter. "The CBF reinforces its position to combat racism and repudiates any prejudiced act." The Selecao produced a dominant first-half display in their final outing before travelling to Qatar for the World Cup, with Raphinha netting twice and Neymar moving to within two of Pele's record. Richarlison also found the net, while Pedro scored as a second-half substitute before responding to more boos and missiles from the crowd by bowing in front of them in celebration.

"It's a shame, it's difficult to see images like that," said Brazil captain Thiago Silva, whose team posed for a team photo before the match with a banner bearing an anti-racism message. "Unfortunately it seems that we can't change people's mentality. 'I hope they will realise that this doesn't work, it's the past, we have to change. Unfortunately, people continue with this mentality.'" Tite's Brazil will head into their World Cup Group G opener against Serbia on 24 November on a 15-match unbeaten run, dating back to their Copa America final loss to Argentina last year. The scene for a bad-tempered match was set when the vast numbers of Tunisia fans jeered the Brazilian national anthem before kick-off. "I was puzzled, I was saying 'No, it's a lack of respect'. Football is a sport that promotes inclusion," said Tite. Brazil took the lead in the 12th minute, though, as Casemiro clipped the ball over the top and Barcelona winger Raphinha directed a wonderful looping header over Tunisia goalkeeper Aymen Dahmen and into the net. Jalel Kadri's men hit back six

minutes later. Defender Montassar Talbi met Anis Slimane's outswinging free-kick to send a powerful header into the bottom corner past 'keeper Alisson. Incredibly, Brazil were back ahead just seconds after that setback, as Raphinha sent Richarlison in behind to drill a strike through the legs of Dahmen to score his third goal in two games after a double against Ghana. The Tottenham forward celebrated in front of the Tunisian supporters, who responded by throwing a banana and plastic cups in his direction. Fred kicked the banana off the pitch, before extra security guards took up residence on the side of the field. Brazil almost extended their advantage as Paqueta followed a fine turn with a low shot which Dahmen tipped wide. But from the resulting corner, Casemiro was hauled down in the box and Neymar stepped up to roll home his 75th international goal from the penalty spot, despite having lasers pointed at his face. (AP)



Arshdeep Singh and Deepak Chahar rattle South Africa

Arshdeep Singh shines with ball, KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav fifties help India win

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 28 / Chasing a target of 107, KL Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav smashed unbeaten fifties to help India beat South Africa by eight wickets in the first T20I. Suryakumar Yadav (50 not out off 33) provided India with some much-needed impetus in the chase after a shaky start. KL Rahul (51 not out off 56) too has found his feet after the early dismissals of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Earlier, Arshdeep Singh bagged three wickets, while Deepak Chahar and Harshal Patel took two each as India managed to restrict South Africa to a below-par total of 106/8 in 20 overs. After winning the toss, Chahar got the ball rolling for India with the wicket of the Proteas captain Temba Bavuma in the final ball of the opening over. Arshdeep then dismissed Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw and David Miller in the second over to rattle the visitors. Tristan Stubbs also perished in the third over with Chahar bagging his second. Keshav Maharaj (41) put in a strong rearguard to take South Africa past the 100-run mark. India made four changes from the third T20I against Australia, with Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah and Yuzvendra Chahal make way for Deepak Chahar, Rishabh Pant, Arshdeep Singh and Ravichandran Ashwin.

Indian U-17 team registers 3-1 win over 10-man Oman in football friendly

NEW DELHI, SEPT 28 /--/ The India U-17 boys football team converted a couple of penalties to register a comfortable 3-1 win over a 10-man Oman in a friendly match held in Muscat. The team played against the hosts on Tuesday as part of its preparations for the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, which is scheduled to begin on October 3 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Gange (10th) converted a penalty to open the scoring for the visitors with Thokchom (18th) doubling India's lead eight minutes later. In the second half, Lalpekhlua



(69th) scored the third goal for India by converting converted another penalty. Alhaitham Alshukaili scored the solitary goal for Oman a couple of minutes before the final whistle. The first half began with the Indians pressing hard to seize the initiative. In the seventh minute, Lalpekhlua's shot went wide off a Danny through pass. Three minutes later, India were awarded a penalty. Gange stepped up and made no mistake to give India the lead. The Indian gradually found their footing as Thokchom doubled the lead from Guite's pass in the 18th minute. A couple of more chances were missed by India but the youngsters remained upbeat in their efforts to score more goals. At the stroke of half-time, Korou's powerful shot from a free kick hit the pole. The second half began on similar lines as Bibiano Fernandes's team got back into attacking mode immediately. India earned a couple of free kicks in good positions but couldn't make best use of them. In the 48th minute, Guite saw his free kick being cleared by an Omani defender. Korou Singh proved to be a constant threat for the Oman defence and he often tested the opponent custodian with his shots. (PTI)