



Ben Stokes was one of England's leading men on the day

In Today's Papers...

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Residents deprived of basic services

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, NOV 13/--/ While the whole world is rejoicing in the digital age, till now this digital services remain a day dream for thousands of people in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Not only villagers of the southern group of islands, but many villages in the North & North Andaman still remain unconnected due to lack of basic telephony services. After Smti Sarla Krishnan, Pradhan of Sundergarh Panchayat in Middle Andaman took up the matter with the BSNL, a high

High level BSNL team visits villages uncovered with basic telephony services

level team of BSNL, Port Blair regional office, comprising of Chief General Manager, Mr. Raja Ram Mohan, General Manager, Mr. Suresh Chavhan, AGM Mr. Jagadish Kumar & others senior officials visited various villages like KharaNallah, Bolcha, Lorozig, Flat Bay, Ranchi Basthi & Flat Bay Bengali Basti in Sundargarh Panchayat in Middle Andaman. After inspecting these areas and interacting with the residents of these villages, the BSNL team informed the people that BSNL will install mobile



towers in three villages which included KharaNallah, Flat Bay Ranchi Basthi & Flat Bay Bengali Basti. Due to lack of mobile connectivity in these villages, residents cannot access emergency services like Ambulance, Fire and Police services. The students are reported to have been facing difficulties in studying as they cannot access the internet.

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PBMC above board?

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ At a time when hundreds of educated unemployment Local youth of the islands are looking for making a livelihood by starting their own ventures with some support from the government, the Port Blair Municipal Council in a blatant violation of rules has allotted vacant land to Karnataka Co-operative Milk Producers Federation Ltd. (KMF) to open a milk parlour. The 25-sqmt land located near the water ATM in front of PBMC Head Quarter Gate has been allotted at a rent of Rs 15,000 per month from December this year. As per PBMC regulation, open space or shops owned by the Municipal Council can only be allotted either through floating tender or getting approval from the Council. But in this case, the land worth several crores has been allowed without following the formalities. And this has raised



The civic body seems to have flouted rules by allotting prime land to Karnataka based firm

question marks on what has transpired inside the Council. According to some sources, a hefty commission has changed hands in the Council. The most surprising part of this story is even the area Ward No 4 Councillor was not consulted or informed about such allotment of prime land in his own ward. The Ward Councillor has written a letter to the Secretary, PBMC pleading to cancel the allotment.

GANG RAPE CASE

Co-accused Sandeep Singh arrested in Delhi-Haryana border

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ The EOI through confirmed sources have learnt that Sandeep Singh @ Rinky, one of the co-accused in the high profile gangrape case who has been declared as Absconder by the Andaman & Nicobar Police has been arrested in the Delhi-Haryana border. He is likely to be handed over to the A&N Police, camping at Delhi to be brought to Port Blair tomorrow for further interrogation. It may be recalled that the A&N Police has announced a reward of Rs one lakh on Sandeep Singh who was on the run to escape arrest and Police interrogation in the gangrape case. The former Chief Secretary, Mr. Jitendra Narain is already in Police custody while RL Rishi, another co-accused is still at large.

ENGLAND WIN SECOND T20 WC TITLE

(Details on page-8)

MELBOURNE, NOV 13 --/ England's golden generation of white ball cricketers overcame a spirited Pakistan to lift the T20 World Cup trophy with a comfortable five-wicket victory here on Sunday. The Pakistani fans were longing for an encore of 1992 when Imran Khan's team created history at this very venue but batting let Babar Azam's side down as 137 for 8 was never going to be good enough.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Equal Sign conducts painting competition at Pranab Kanya Sangh, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram



PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ Equal Sign Foundation organized a painting competition to mark the Children's Day celebration at Pranab Kanya Sangh and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Port Blair. About 46 participants from class 5th to class 10th participated in the competition. After the competition, prizes were distributed. The first prize has been given to Ankita from Pranab Kanya Sangh and Durga Panna

from Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. Students were very excited about the competition as their imaginations were amazing. The Director of Equal Sign Foundation, Mr. Vishwajeet Kumar gave away prizes to the winners followed by his message to the students. He said Equal Sign Foundation is dedicatedly working for education and is totally committed to improve the quality of education for the children who cannot afford high tuition fees.

MONDAL JEWELLERS

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Anyone casting evil eye on India is now given befitting reply: Defence Minister

CHANDIGARH, NOV 13 / --/ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asserted that safeguarding national interests is the main focus of the BJP-led government and anyone casting an evil eye on India is now given a befitting reply.

"India is no longer weak. We believe in peace," Singh said, adding that a befitting reply is now given if anyone tries to harm us. Our soldiers have proved this time and again, Singh said referring to the 2016 surgical strikes and 2019 Balakot airstrikes. He also mentioned about the bravery shown by soldiers during the Galwan Valley standoff in eastern Ladakh. Singh was addressing a gathering after unveiling the statue of legendary warrior Prithviraj Chauhan in Haryana's Jhajjar. Chief Minister Manohar Lal

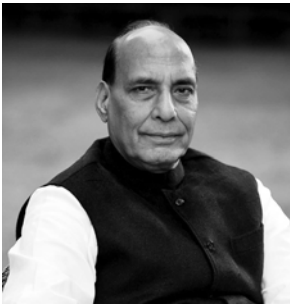
Khattar and State BJP chief O P Dhankar were also present. He said to get rid of the colonial mindset, the Narendra Modi government has taken a number of initiatives, including a new Indian Navy ensign inspired from Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji, abolition of around 1,500 obsolete British-era laws, renaming of Rajpath as Kartavya Path and installation of a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

More than 1,500 archaic laws dating back to the British rule, whose relevance was completely over, have been abolished. There are many such laws for which we are preparing a scheme, he said. We will scrap these too, the minister said. Without naming the Congress, Singh also attacked the grand old party for creating a needless

controversy over the presence of a lotus image on the G20 logo, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently. The Congress has accused the BJP of promoting its poll symbol while the ruling party

intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. Terming Haryana and the Jhajjar region as the land of the brave, he said many have laid down their lives to safeguard the country's borders. Referring to Pakistan, he said, "...And you have seen since India gained independence, Pakistan has been pushing terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir to foment trouble and create de-stability."

He mentioned about the air strikes and surgical strikes post Uri and Pulwama terror attacks, saying a befitting reply was given. On the G-20 logo issue, Singh asserted lotus is the national flower, connected with India's cultural identity. "On seeing that lotus flower, some people created a 'hungama' (ruckus). They said lotus flower is BJP's poll symbol.



claimed its rival was denigrating India's national flower: India will assume the presidency of the powerful grouping from the current chair Indonesia on December 1. The G20 or Group of 20 is an

"There is a limit of making accusations. Whereas the truth is that Government of India, in 1950, had declared lotus flower as a national flower. And they did so because a lotus flower is a symbol of our cultural identity," said Singh. "In 1857, during the country's first war of independence, those who were taking part in it they were carrying bread in one hand and lotus flower in the other. Should we forget this lotus flower?. Did prime minister commit a crime (launching lotus as a log for G-20)? Just because it is any party's election symbol, should we leave it just for that and cancel it's recognition as a national flower," asked Singh.

He further said till the time the BJP-led government is in power, it will not allow anything to come in way of our cultural identity, "no matter how big

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande leaves for France on 4-day visit

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 / --/ Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande on Sunday left for France on a four-day visit with an aim to further strengthen the "bonds of trust" between the Indian and French armies amid the fast-evolving security matrix and the geopolitical situation.

Gen Pande will hold extensive talks with the top military brass of France including the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chief of the Army Staff and the Commander of the Land Combat Forces. "The Chief of the Army Staff has proceeded on a visit to France from November 14 to 17. "During the four-day visit, he will be meeting his counterparts and senior military leadership of France with an aim to enhance defence cooperation between both the nations," the Army said. It said Gen Pande will lay a wreath at Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial, which commemorates the sacrifices of 4,742 Indian soldiers during the First World War. "He is scheduled to call on the Chief of the Defence Staff, Chief of the Army Staff, and Commander Commandement des Forces Terrestres (CFT) / Command of the Land Combat Forces, where he will discuss avenues for enhancing India-France defence relations," the Army said in a statement. It said the Army Chief will be visiting Ecole Militaire, comprising various military training establishments in Paris, and address senior staff officers attending a course at Ecole de Guerra-T, which is a French military academy.

He will also be visiting Military Schools at Draguignan, which are premier training establishments that train commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers. "The ever-expanding defence cooperation engagements which encompass a broad spectrum of activities have established a strong bonhomie across every level of the two Armies," the Army said. "The visit of the Chief of Army Staff to France will further strengthen the bonds of trust and understanding between the two armies," it said. (PTI)

NIA makes 15th arrest in Karnataka BJP youth leader murder case

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 / --/ The NIA has arrested one more person in connection with the killing of BJP youth wing leader Praveen Nettaru allegedly by members of the Popular Front of India in Karnataka, an official said on Sunday.

Shaheed M, a resident of Masthikatte Road, Bellare village, is the 15th accused arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in its investigation into the murder of Nettaru, a district secretary of the BJP Yuva Morcha, on July 26, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. "During the investigations, it was found that Shaheed was part of the conspiracy meeting held at his house by the PFI to target leaders of certain political organisations," the NIA said, adding that he was arrested during searches in Dakshina-Kannada district of Karnataka on Saturday. The spokesperson said incriminating documents were also seized from the house of the accused during the raid. The NIA said Shaheed was arrested under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The case was initially registered on July 27 at the Bellare police station in Dakshina Kannada district and later re-registered by the NIA on August 4. "The investigations revealed that a conspiracy had been hatched by leaders and members of the PFI to murder Nettaru to take revenge for the murder of one Masood and to strike terror among the people," the spokesperson said. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha during a meeting, in New Delhi on Sunday

Gujarat polls: AAP's CM candidate Isudan Gadhvi to contest from Khambhalia seat

AHMEDABAD, NOV 13 / --/ Aam Aadmi Party's Gujarat chief ministerial candidate Isudan Gadhvi will contest the next month's Assembly elections from Khambhalia seat in his home district of Devbhumi Dwarka, the party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal announced on Sunday.

Kejriwal made this announcement through a tweet. "Isudan Gadhvi, who for years raised his voice for farmers, unemployed youth, women, businessmen, will contest election from Jam Khambhalia! Gujarat will get a new and good chief minister from the holy land of Lord Krishna," the Delhi Chief Minister said in the tweet in Hindi. Responding to it, Gadhvi tweeted, "The faith you and the people of Gujarat have placed in me, I assure that I will serve the people of Gujarat till my last breath."

Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat! Gadhvi, a former TV journalist, was named the party's CM candidate on November 4 based on the result of a poll conducted by the AAP. The party's Gujarat unit president Gopal Italia and general secretary Majoo Sorathiya were also in the race. Gadhvi, who hails from an agricultural family from Dwarka district, had received around 73 per cent votes (in the poll for the CM face), leaving Italia and Sorathiya behind in the race. With this, the AAP has so far announced the names of 175 candidates for the 182-member Gujarat Assembly.

Khambhalia will go to polls along with 88 other seats on December 1 in the first phase of two-phase Gujarat elections. For the first phase, the last date of filing nomination forms is November 14 and the last date for withdrawal of forms is November 17. The second phase of polls will take place on December 5 and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. (PTI)

Bharat Jodo Yatra takes 1-day break in Maharashtra; to proceed to Washim today

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 / --/ The Congress on Sunday said the Bharat Jodo Yatra has been successful in achieving its objective of raising people's issues and going forward it will ensure that the government is held accountable.

The opposition party also asserted that "untruths" spread about Rahul Gandhi to malign his image have been "demolished" by the Yatra and his "reality" has come to the fore before the country. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar said the Yatra has been successful beyond expectations. "When it started, there were a lot of questions about whether people would come or not or whether we will be able to cover 25 km every day. The last 60 days have passed in a jiffy now," he said. "Yatris have gone beyond physical pain. The yatra has achieved its first objective. Yatris have become comfortable with the yatra, the yatra has become comfortable with the country and the country has become comfortable with yatra," said Kumar, one of the

participants who would walk the full distance from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Yatra has achieved its first objective and people know that it is being undertaken to highlight their issues, he said. It has to now move towards its second objective which is to make the government of the day accountable on issues of the people and country, Kumar said.

Asked if there has been a change in Rahul Gandhi's image due to the Yatra, Kumar said, "So much had been said about Rahul Gandhi. Reporters ask if his image will improve, I would say his reality will be before the people of the country." "All the things that were said about Rahul Gandhi that he is not serious, will go abroad, will not walk, will go on a vacation, will not stay in a container, all this has ended. Crores were spent to malign his image, but his reality has been brought out just by walking on the road," Kumar said. All these untruths created about him have been "demolished and proved baseless", he said, adding that Gandhi's reality is now visible to the people. Kumar said price rise and unemployment were the two main common issues that came up in feedback from people during the Yatra. He said the issue of protecting federalism was also raised in southern states and the sentiment was that the Centre is not doing justice. Kumar also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks that he receives "2-3 kg" of abuses every day, and said those spreading hatred are also playing the "victim card".

The Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress took a one-day break in Maharashtra on Sunday and will proceed from Kalamnuri in Hingoli district to Washim on Monday. Gandhi had addressed a public gathering in Kalamnuri on Saturday night, the sixth day of the Yatra in Maharashtra, and said the message of the foot march led by him was that India cannot be divided and hatred would not be allowed to be spread. The Yatra, which has covered half of its total distance of 3,750 km, entered Maharashtra from neighboring Telangana on November 7 night and passed through Nanded and Hingoli districts in the western state. (PTI)

MCD poll tickets sold for Rs 2-3 cr, claims former AAP councillor; climbs electricity tower in protest

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 / --/ Miffed over being denied a ticket for the upcoming municipal polls, former AAP councillor Haseeb-ul-Hasan on Sunday climbed an electricity tower in east Delhi and alleged that the party leaders had "sold" the tickets for Rs 2 crore to 3 crore.

Naming Atishi, Durgesh Pathak and Sanjay Singh, he alleged that the senior leaders took his original documents on the pretext of fielding him in the polls and refused to hand them back to him. "AAP leaders have taken my original documents, including my bank passbook, on the pretext of giving me a ticket but they are not returning the documents. Tomorrow is the last day to file the nominations. If anything happens to me or if I die, Durgesh Pathak and Atishi will be responsible," Hasan said in a live video on social media from atop the tower in Gandhi Nagar. "Atishi, Durgesh Pathak and Sanjay Singh sold the tickets for Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore. They are all corrupt leaders. They returned my documents only after I climbed this tower," he told reporters after getting down. The former AAP councillor said he will file his nomination papers soon after deciding "whether to fight the elections independently or switch over to some other party".

There was no immediate reaction from the AAP. Fire officials said they received information that a person had climbed an electric tower at 10.51 am. Police personnel, along with officials from fire brigade and BSES, and ambulances reached the spot and requested Hasan to climb down. He eventually agreed, a senior police officer had then said. The AAP announced its first list of candidates on Friday and the second list of 117 candidates the next day. (PTI)

No need to alter practice of not allowing women of menstrual age into Sabarimala temple: CPI(M) leader

ALAPPUZHA, NOV 13 / --/ Women in the menstrual age group are not allowed into the Lord Ayyappa shrine at Sabarimala as he is an "eternal celibate" and there is no need to alter or subvert this practice, senior CPI(M) leader G Sudhakaran, who had supported the previous Pinarayi Vijayan government on entry of women to the hilltop temple, said on Sunday. Sudhakaran, speaking to reporters here, said the minimum age for women to enter the temple has still not been changed from "60 years" and it is believed that since Lord Ayyappa is an eternal celibate, entry of women below that age should not be allowed. "It is something we all accept and respect. That is how things are going on. There is no need to alter or subvert it," said Sudhakaran, who was also minister in the previous Vijayan government. His remarks come just days before the two-month-long annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrim image to Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta district is scheduled to commence from November 17. In 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court had, by a majority 4:1 verdict, allowed girls and women of all ages to visit the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, saying discrimination on physiological grounds was violative of the fundamental rights as enshrined in the Constitution such as the right to equality.

In the following year, when the state government tried to implement the apex court order there was a huge protest against the same and various organisations also moved pleas in the top court seeking review of its 2018 decision. Thereafter, in November 2019, a five-judge Constitution bench of the top court by a 3:2 majority verdict had referred the pleas seeking a review of its historic 2018 judgment to a seven-judge bench, along with other contentious issues of alleged discrimination against Muslim and Parsi women. The Sabarimala temple had restricted the entry of women belonging to the age group of 10-50 as part of its age-old tradition. (PTI)

SP leader attacks BJP, alleges divisive issues like UCC being raised ahead of 2024 LS polls

SAMBHAL, NOV 13 / --/ Targeting the BJP, Lok Sabha member and Samajwadi Party leader Shafiqur Rahman Barq on Sunday alleged that they are raising divisive issues such as the Uniform Civil Code to benefit in the 2024 general elections. The MP from Sambhal, without naming the BJP, also said this time, they will hardly win 50 seats as the Opposition will fight unitedly. "They (BJP) term a mosque a temple and raise issues such as the Uniform Civil Code that is of hatred and does not unite hearts... Since the 2024 elections are there, they are doing it so that all Hindus associate themselves with it in the name of Hindu-Muslim hatred," Barq said.

The 92-year-old told reporters that all Hindus are not bad. "The one in the Congress and undertaking the Bharat Jodo Yatra (apparently referring to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi), is Sharad Pawar not a Hindu? Is Akhilesh Yadav not a Hindu?" he said. They (the BJP) wants Hindus who are associated with other parties to also join them in the 2024 polls, Barq said. Asked about temple-mosque dispute cases, the Samajwadi Party MP said, "They see a temple in every mosque. Muslims are not so weak that they will allow their mosques to be made into temples." He was apparently referring to the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri case of Varanasi and the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Masjid case of Mathura. "It is our mosque and the responsibility to guard (it) is that of our community. It has to be protected as it is dearer to us than our lives. We have to answer to Allah after our death, if there is any injustice to it (mosque)," the MP said. (PTI)

Shinde govt came into being due to corruption and fear, alleges Maharashtra Cong chief

NANDED, NOV 13 / --/ Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Sunday alleged that the Eknath Shinde-led government in the state came into existence due to corruption and out of fear. Addressing a press conference here, Patole also claimed that the expansion of the state cabinet was not being done because the government can collapse. "Why is the chief minister not going for cabinet expansion? It is because this government can collapse. This regime came into existence due to corruption and out of fear. One cabinet minister is in charge of six districts. What is happening in Maharashtra?" he asked. Patole said CM Shinde keeps blaming the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) all the time. "But he along with many of the existing ministers were part of the MVA," the Congress leader added. The Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government collapsed on June 29 this year following a revolt by 40 Shiv Sena MLAs, led by Shinde, against the party leadership. The next day, Shinde took oath as the chief minister with senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnis becoming his deputy. The first cabinet expansion of this government took place on August 9, forty days after Shinde became the CM. The state council of ministers at present has 18 cabinet ministers, including Shinde. There are nine ministers each from the Shinde-led faction of the Shiv Sena and its ally BJP. The council of ministers can have up to 43 members in Maharashtra. (PTI)

Inspiring journey: Tribal boy from Gadchiroli becomes scientist in US

NAGPUR, NOV 13 / --/ From struggling to get one square meal as a child in a remote village in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli, to becoming a senior scientist in the United States, Bhaskar Halami's life is an example of what one can achieve with sheer hard work and determination.

Brought up in a tribal community at Chirchadi village in Kurkheda tehsil, Halami is now a senior scientist in the research and development section of Sirnaomics Inc, a biopharmaceutical company in Maryland, USA. The company conducts research in genetic medicines and Halami looks after RNA manufacturing and synthesis. Halami's journey to become a successful

scientist has been fraught with obstacles and he has had many firsts to his name. He was the first science graduate from Chirchadi and first from the village to earn a Master's degree and PhD.

Talking to PTI, Halami recalled that in the initial years of his childhood, his family survived on very little. "We had to struggle so much to even get one square

meal. My parents till recently wondered how the family survived that phase when there was no food or work," the 44-year-old scientist said.

Some months in the year, especially monsoons, were incredibly tough, as there were no crops in the small farm that the family had and no work, he said. "We cooked mahua flowers, which were not easy to eat and digest.

Transforming Jammu by introspecting beyond partisan agendas

BHOPINDER SINGH

The bicameral legislative assembly of the 'State' of Jammu & Kashmir was dissolved on 21st November 2018, only to be reorganized into a lesser framework of a unicameral legislature that was in consonance with the reduced status as a 'Union Territory'. It was the second time in less than 75 years that the landmass and relevance of the greater 'State' of Jammu and Kashmir had been cut, especially in consequence for the southern region of Jammu. Earlier the honour of the largest 'Princely State' of the Raj Days including the regions of Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Aksai Chin and areas currently under Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (POK) were partly severed from the grand Jammu & Kashmir State, due to the nefarious designs of the hostile neighbourhood and erstwhile colonists. Certain amount of pusillanimity and miscalculations in the handling of the aftermath of the 1947-48 war with Pakistan didn't help matters, either. Pre-independence, Jammu had been the undisputed epicenter of the glorious, inclusive and progressive Dogra Kingdom, that was effectively diminished and forgotten in the national consciousness, post-independence.

Since Independence, Jammu region has continued playing its patriotic role of defending the nation with its blood, unflinchingly – unbeknownst to most citizenry of India, the Dogras of the larger Duggar lands have the singular distinction of the highest number of gallantry awards if added collectively from the martyrs list from catchment Regiments

like the Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, Dogras, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir Rifles and in other 'Uniforms' of all possible lanyards and denominations. Even though most in the country would still think and attribute that preeminence of gallantry to States like Rajasthan, Punjab or Haryana – this too is symptomatic of the fabled reticence, underlying reserve and civilisational humility that besets the Dogra's martial identity, which is often taken for granted. The net result of this lack of 'marketing' (in an era of 'pitches') by Dogras and to the wider expanse of Duggar lands spilling into tracts of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab is that they remain a blurred, indistinguishable, and underappreciated, considering the sacrifice of these lands since eons. It has been the first, foremost and the bloodiest frontier against the invasive forces and hordes that threatened the larger part of what is now territorially, India. While most of the country is well versed with warriors like Rana Pratap, Shivaji, Ranjit Singh, Rani Jhansi and so many other deserved heroes/ sheroes, the simply unmatched heroics (even if assessed by independent and unbiased historians in terms of conquests, topography of operations and other elements of militaristic challenges) of a General Zorawar Singh is travesty of justice- and to only blame the local politics after independence is basically ostrich syndrome, as the blame must accrue onto the Dogras themselves who haven't made a compelling, persuasive and 'well marketed' case of their own heroics. In recent times, the healthy re-imagination of the relatively unsung heroes like the

Assamese Ahoms, Birsa Munda or Babu Kunwar Singh is a case in point – whereas the Dogra storyline languishes. Sadly, and increasingly, it is known only as a narrow religious 'identity' (which too is incorrect) which is made to contrast sharply with the supposed religious identity of its northern 'K' landmass of hyphenated identity, in the recently reduced 'Union Territory'. Too simplistic a narrative.

The purely whittled and bigoted 'divide' between the North and South of J&K is neither part of the glorious Dogra culture, heritage or Kingdom, but only a 'divide' that helps galvanises electoral passions in the 'rest of the country' – it may even have elements of undeniable truths, but it remains an infinitely poor, petty and revisionist identity for an otherwise people of much unsung secularism, dignity and unrecognised loftiness. The fact that the many within the Duggar lands fell for this simplistic 'divide' as the only reason of blame and misery has led to the perpetuation of the ensuing stalemate, that haunts the Duggar lands. The essential conversations have only been in the realm of 'us-versus-them' or 'Jammu-versus-Valley' – this in many ways facilitates the untruths as propagated by Pakistanis, at all forums. It has become a reductive narrative that almost got sanctifies the shortness-of-spirit posited from across the Line-of-Control (LOC) or by our own lazy

politicians, within. The day Jammu gets out of its fixation with an undeniable 'part' of its own in the North and moves on to articulate and shape the right questions and answers for itself, is the day when the essential storyline and fate for the much deserving resuscitation of Duggar land, changes.

In the context of India's constitutional framework, the empowerment to Indian citizens within the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to elect their 'own' leaders and shape their 'own' destiny as they deem their 'own' priority (as opposed to what 'Delhi' decides), will be through the next legislative assembly elections, tentatively in 2023. But the onus of defining what ought to be that 'own', is extremely important – If yet again, the said 'own' gets divided into the age-old, regressive and thoroughly unproductive prism of religiosity or 'Jammu-versus-Valley' script – nothing will change substantially, and more of the same will continue.

Jammu needs to go beyond emotional demand (relevant, but not critical) e.g., requesting for a state holiday for a former leader's birthday, demanding Bharat Ratna for another, restoration of old Durbur infrastructure etc., All these may be emotively important but that does not tantamount to tangible transformation for the future. What Jammu needs is a hard, time bound, initiative-based economic plan – it doesn't need

vacuous generalities like 'Smart City', it needs a financial number to be specifically committed with transparent implementation schedule. It needs specific vision, unprecedented imagination, and sheer scale of on-ground initiatives.

It needs to go beyond partisan language, passions and most importantly 'packaging' of politics e.g., the vision of Jammu Smart City is, "Transforming Jammu into a sustainable and economically vibrant city focusing on tourism, quality of life and trade by leveraging its heritage and location" – now, with over 2/3rd projects already completed, it would be safe to assume that a substantial transformation of the socio-economic-infrastructure-civic status of the region, has happened? Has it happened, think again? Is the local citizenry satisfied with the changes beyond the brouhaha of partisan agendas? Has the employment (which ought to be the most pertinent issue) issues been addressed? Has the traditional occupation of 'Soldering' for the region been satisfactorily addressed with Agniveer plan? Have new industries or corporations announced transformational investments? Have new economic zones come up? Is the society less divided and less polarised than earlier?

Indeed Article 370 is done and dusted, but looking beyond its national ramification, important to introspect on its ostensible benefits to Jammu? Most people often invoke the delimitation exercise as the new 'manna' that could deliver Jammu, even though what ought to be a standard and institutionalised exercise of

reorganisation of the electorate framework is also given a context of partisan/religious angularity – it is more of the same, yet again!

Neighbouring Himachal Pradesh which is going to the electoral hustings and was decidedly the lesser region of Duggar lands in terms of socio-economic conditions vis-à-vis Jammu given its outlying status of the Duggar lands, has made far more impressive strides – one of the reasons is their ability to delink national and regional issues, and fight for each with equal sincerity and not fall prey to chicanery of national/regional parties. It kept rotating governments and partisan outfits to keep each on their toes – but Jammu seems to have become a hub for one sort of political persuasion, just as the Valley has become for another sort of persuasion, and the proverbial twain never meets. Time for Jammu to navel gaze and accept that all national/regional parties and their incestuous coalitions have done precious nothing since independence. If anything, then they have invested in 'dividing' and both, Jammu and the Valley have regrettably fallen for it, and basically emerged as a laboratory to play larger national politics, at their cost. Vote for honest, dedicated and 'inclusive' individuals (irrespective of the parties) and not for sweeping statements of bravado, jingoism, divide and future-pointing dreams, especially when the reality of today remains unarticulated, unfixed and unaddressed. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)



GREETINGS

On the occasion of Children's Day I extend my warm greetings to all children of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Children's Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Former Prime Minister of India, Shri. Jawaharlal Nehru and the day is of great importance for giving love, attention and affection to the children.

The celebration of Children's Day teaches us several values and I urge all parents and guardians to instill good morals and virtues in their wards and groom them to be responsible Islander as well as citizens of our country.

Kuldeep Rai Sharma,
Member of Parliament,
Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

MESSAGE

On the occasion of Children's Day, the 14th November, I extend my warm and affectionate wishes to the children of A&N Islands. Children are like buds in a garden who should be nurtured with love and care as they are the future of the Nation. Children's Day symbolizes the innocence, love and purity that children bring to this world. They possess immense potential to contribute to the society and humanity. All teachers, parents and the society have the exalted duty to facilitate them towards their all-round development in tune with their interest and aptitude so that their talents and energies can be channeled towards building of a New India.

The children of our Islands have made us proud by their outstanding performance in the AISSCE & AISSE examinations, various competitions at National level and bringing laurels to the Islands. The overall pass percentage in Class XII examination 2022 is 96.74% which is 4% more than the National average. I take this opportunity to congratulate the achievers of AISSCE & AISSE 2022 who have exhibited exemplary determination, hard work and perseverance.

A&N Administration is firmly committed to untiring endeavors for ensuring complete nutrition, safety and excellent education of all children so that they can become enlightened, self-reliant and responsible citizens of our great Nation.

On this occasion, I entreat all children of the Islands to make best use of their childhood and realize their dreams to take our Nation forward on the path of peace and prosperity.

Sd/-
(Admiral D K Joshi)
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lieutenant Governor A&N Islands
&
Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency

Vishal hoists party flag at Nicobar District



PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member hoisted party flag at Nicobar District Headquarters, in the Perka village on Saturday in presence of tribal leaders and tribal villagers during his 3-days tour to Nicobar District. Inspired by the leadership the tribal people enthusiastically participated in the flag hoisting event and the party's ideology reaching out to the tribal communities even to the remotest part of the country.

CITU conducts Zonal Conference at Mayabunder



PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ The Mayabunder Zonal Conference of the CITU was held at Mayabunder on Sunday. Inaugurating the conference, Mr. B. Chandrachoodan, General Secretary, CITU State Committee explained in detail the various anti-working class decisions of the A&N Administration which were being resisted by the CITU and trade unions all over the islands. He said that the Administration is not accepting even the orders of the High Court and Supreme Court and is pushing the workers to spend their hard earned money for litigation.

Speaking on the

occasion, Mr. D. Ayyappan, Vice President, CITU A&N State Committee said that the BJP government at the centre is taking away whatever rights and benefits enjoyed by the workers in the country by introducing the four labour codes after abolishing a large number of labour laws which were in force even before the independence. He said that all the public sector undertakings in the country are being sold out to corporates. He further said that the promises made by the BJP during the Parliament elections in 2014 and 2019 are turned out to be hollow promises as none of the promises has been fulfilled so far. He expressed

concern over the spiraling prices and unemployment in the country. Mr. Rahul DevMridha, CPI (M) leader and Advocate, Smt Shipra Bala, CITU State Committee Member and Mr. Anand Rajan, Treasurer, ASNVMS also spoke on the occasion. Mr. PK Khalid, Secretary, CITU State Committee presided. The conference elected Mr. K. Muralidharan Pillai as President, Mr. M. Murugesan as Secretary and Mr. Ramesh Pradhan as Treasurer of the new Zonal Committee of the CITU.

A number of resolutions on various issues, relating to the workers in general and those in Mayabunder particularly, were also adopted in the conference. A large number of workers of Mayabunder and adjoining areas working in various departments and organisations attended the conference.

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Vishal discusses burning issues of Tribal Council

PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member who is on a 03-days tour to Nicobar District from 11th to 13th November 2022, held a meeting with Tribal Council, Headman of all the 15 villages, ladies



representative of the villages and other tribal leaders of Car Nicobar in the Tribal Council Office, Car Nicobar on 12th November 2022. During the interaction, Mr. Vishal Jolly briefed about the welfare schemes provided by Modi Govt. to tribal communities, including various infrastructure and economic development initiatives undertaken by the Union Government for welfare and wellbeing of the tribal communities. Also, the BJP State Unit has taken up their present concerns as well as their future needs within the framework of Government of India's Policy; he informed. Further, the tribal council and other dignitaries discussed various burning issues related to tribal communities of Nicobar Islands and future development of the islands with Vishal Jolly and asked for immediate redressal. All the issues were taken seriously by Mr. Jolly and assured them to take up the matter with appropriate authority on priority.

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Nothing gives one person so much advantage over another as to remain always cool and unruffled under all circumstances

Thomas Jefferson

HP polls: Crucial test for both BJP, Cong

Polling in Himachal Pradesh to elect a new Assembly is by all means a crucial test for the BJP, which hopes to beat precedent and return to power, as well as for the Congress which is looking for electoral revival. Enthusiasm among voters was high -- from capital Shimla to the icy heights of Spiti -- as people across the state voted on November 12 braving cold and in the higher reaches of mountains trudging through snow to elect a new state government. Dropping temperatures and advancing years failed to dampen the enthusiasm of centenarians as many of them came out to vote, with 105-year-old Naro Devi exercising her franchise in Churah in Chamba and 103-year-old Sardar Pyar Singh in Shimla.

Himachal Pradesh was home to 106-year-old Shyam Saran Negi, India's first voter, who died a few days ago after casting his postal ballot for this election. If the ruling BJP is hoping for an encore on the back of its development agenda, the opposition Congress, desperate to wrest the state back from the BJP after multiple electoral losses and losing nine states in two years, is appealing to voters to go by the four-decade tradition of voting out incumbents in the state. The grand old party has made a host of promises, including Rs 1,500 to all women every month under the 'Har Ghar Lakshmi' scheme, 300 units of free power and five lakh jobs in the next five years. It has also promised a Rs 680-crore Start Up fund.

The BJP has promised implementation of the Uniform Civil Code and eight lakh jobs in the state, besides scooties to college going girls and cycles to school girls belonging to weaker sections. More than 55 lakh voters will decide the fate of 412 candidates in this high stakes political battle. These include Vikramaditya Singh, son of former CM Virbhadrha Singh and state Congress chief Pratibha Singh who is contesting from Shimla (Rural). PM Narendra Modi spearheaded the campaign from the front for the BJP, wrapping up his canvassing with a personal appeal to voters of the state, saying that every vote cast for the BJP symbol "lotus" will enhance his strength. The BJP also asked voters to change the "riwaaz" by re-electing the party, saying the "double engine" regime will continue to work for all-round development.

The BJP has consciously worked to woo the significant women voters of the state who have been outnumbering their male counterparts in all elections starting 1998. The party released a standalone manifesto for women in an attempt to woo them. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is the new entrant in Himachal Pradesh and is contesting in 67 of the total 68 seats, has been fairly quiet as the contest shaped up as a direct one between the BJP and the Congress in line with past trends. For the Congress, which has been on a downhill electorally since the last two election cycles, wresting Himachal Pradesh from the BJP is a matter of its survival. A challenge for the BJP will be rebels in over 20 seats compared to the Congress, whose candidates face rebels in seven. In an election expected to go to the wires with low margins, rebels may hold the key.

On poll eve, both the BJP and the Congress claimed they were headed towards a majority and would form the government. In 2017, the BJP won 44 seats, while the Congress got 21. The remaining seats went to others. Counting of ballots will be taken up on December 8. Till then it will be an agonising wait for the arch-rivals.

Climate crisis in the world accentuating faster REFLEX ACTION

Krishna Jha

Department of Assam officially notified it as a national park. The national park is spread over the largest stretch of lowland rainforests in India. Despite its mesmerising natural beauty, the National Board for Wild Life has accepted a proposal recommending the usage of 98.59 hectares of land belonging to the Dehing-Patkai Wild life reserve, for extraction of coal by Coal India Ltd. Dehing is a river flowing through the forest while Patkai is a mountain, and no one is sure what future has in store for them.

The NBWL discussed Saleki also, a proposed reserve forest land, for a coal mining project by North Eastern Coal Field. Saleki is a part of Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve forest, covering 111.19 square km of rain forest and several reserve forests spread out to Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sibsagar districts. The scientists have also realised that there is a steep rise in zoonotic diseases directly linked with biodiversity and forest destruction. Zoonoses have opened the gates for Bird Flu, Ebola, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Nipah Virus, Zika Virus and finally Corona Virus. It will not be surprising that the tsunami of all these deadly ailments are found to have the only source, and that is human interference. During Pandemic, Union ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) planned out industrial and infrastructural projects detrimental to environment security. In fact a new set of rules have been introduced, which is draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020, and would

Three coal mining workers died on September 18, 2022, due to suspected inhalation of poisonous gas while working in a rat hole coal mining at Tikok Malu hills in Ledo area under Margherita subdivision of Tinsukia district. Saidul Islam, Hussain Ali and Asmat Ali, all under thirty, died since it was suspected that there were no preventive steps taken against the deadly impact of environmental hazards, and here it was the poisonous gas emitting in the mine. According to reports in the national dailies, illegal mining is continuing under the knowledge of district authorities, but they are compelled to keep quiet because of the involvement of several ruling party leaders,

It is a common phenomenon. The hapless workers, in search of employment which has become a rare commodity, accept the mining jobs in these rat holes that have turned into death traps in the absence of inadequate security measures. Apart from gas, there are accidental deaths too as the mines are left without any measures of renovation. Human lives are considered cheaper than the coal they bring from the mines. The accident is not without context, though media is not allowed to cover them.

First time it was in Jogigopa, 900 km from the recent spot. This rat hole is not the only one, there are at least one thousand such mines in this district alone. The voices against the hazards are not allowed to be raised. Rat hole mining is not the only threat to life, whether it is the human life, wild life or the green life of nature itself. But in each of these cases, the responsibility falls on the greed to exploit the nature. Dehing Patkai Park is spread out in an area of 89.44 km of rainforest, declared a wild life sanctuary, on June 13, 2004. On December 13, 2020, state government of Assam declared it a national park. On June 9, 2021 Forest



An artisan engrossed in the making of Kartik idols in Kumartuli on Sunday----Arijit Ganguly

Governor-govt standoff touches a new low in Kerala

The confrontation between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) Government plumbed a new depth with the Government deciding to bring in an ordinance stripping the Governor off the Chancellorship of Universities and the Governor firm on referring the ordinance to the President of India.

According to a note released by the Chief Minister's office, the Government will recommend that the Governor promulgate an ordinance to appoint "renowned academic experts" to the Chancellor's post in various universities. Simultaneously, the Acts governing 14 state universities will be amended to remove the provision stipulating that the Governor be the Chancellor. In this connection, the Cabinet referred to the MM Punchhi Commission report which recommended that governors should be freed from the Chancellor's role.

States like West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu have already passed legislations to divest the Governor of the Chancellor's powers. The Cabinet justified the ordinance saying that experts in the sector should be at the helm in universities to attain the State's goal of raising the standards of higher educational institutions to international standards. The Cabinet's

decision has close on the heels of the statement made by CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan that the party would go to any extent to protect the autonomy of universities from the Governor's interventions and trespasses. It may be mentioned that the LDF Government has taken a leaf out of the DMK-led Tamil Nadu Government's book. Tamil Nadu had passed two bills to transfer the power of appointing VCs from Governor to the Government. The bill, of course, is yet to get the Governor's assent.

The passage of the ordinance will not be smooth. That much is clear from the Governor's declared intention to refer it to the President. The difficult is that the state will not be able to bring in a bill on the matter until the President takes a decision on the decree. The other option for the Government is not to send the ordinance to the Governor and straightaway get the assembly to pass it. The move will run into stiff opposition from the opposition parties too. Both the Congress and the BJP have signalled their intent to oppose the

move to divest the Governor of the Chancellor's role. The BJP has even threatened to hit the streets if the government went ahead with the decision.

Earlier, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan suffered a setback with the Kerala High Court restraining him from taking a final call until the court takes a decision in the writ petitions filed by the Vice-Chancellors challenging the show-cause notices issued by the Chancellor. In the notice, Khan had asked the VCs to explain what legal right they have to hold the office. Justice Devan Ramachandran issued the order on the petitions filed by Kannur VC Gopinath Ravindran and other VCs seeking to quash the show-cause notice. The Kannur VC's counsel submitted that he had challenged the very authority of the Chancellor to issue a show-cause notice.

The Governor, in the meantime, scored a self-goal when he barred two TV channels from attending his press conferences. While interacting with the media in Ernakulam, an angry Khan

asked the representatives of Media One TV, run by the Madhyamam Broadcasting, and the CPI(M)-backed Kairali TV to leave. Khan asked them "to get out" the reporters of the two channels. The duo had attended the press conference after getting an invite from Raj Bhawan! Khan is unhappy with Media One as the channel has targeted him for his stand on the Shah Bano case. His grouse against Kairali TV is that the channel had aired wrong news about him and refused to rectify it requests from the Raj Bhawan notwithstanding. Both the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) took out protest marches to the Raj Bhawan.

In another development, the High Court refused to stay the appointment of Ciza Thomas as Vice-Chancellor in-charge of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU). The Chancellor's counsel argued that in the wake of the judgment of the apex court cancelling the appointment of MS Rajashree as VC of the KTU, even for making temporary arrangements, only an academician having 10 years experience can be considered as per the UGC regulations. Ciza Thomas was a professor at Trivandrum Engineering College for more than 10 years. That is why the Chancellor has preferred her: (IPA)

replace EIA Notification of 2006 with, and that would be totally contrary to principles of environmental protection. The approval granted by NBWL proves violation of forest conservation Act, 1080.

North Eastern Coalfields is subsidiary of Coal India Limited which was granted a 30 year mining lease of this region in 1973. Since then North Eastern Coalfields have continued mining in the area. The lease expired long back in 2003, but it has continued mining illegally. Dehing-Patkai wild life area and its elephant reserve are in the same danger that our miners face in the rat hole mining in Dibrugarh. These are all the tips of an iceberg. The reality is even more grim and worrisome. Climate change report has pointed out that India is one of the 197 countries that had made a promise of not letting the Green House effect to cross 1.5 C by 2030. The Climate Action Tracker, an independent analysis that tracks government climate action classifies India's action as "highly insufficient". It also says India's continued support to the coal industry undermines a green recovery. The UN Climate Change report says the world is failing to act with urgency to curb greenhouse gas emissions despite the planet witnessing climate-enhanced heatwaves, storms and floods after just 1.2°C of warming.

Even if the countries meet their pledges, we are on track for around 2.5°C of warming, which will be disastrous. The findings are based on an analysis of the latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), or country-specific action plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. The report adds that emissions compared to 2010 levels need to fall 45 per cent by 2030 to meet the Paris deal's goal! In fact, earth itself is rejecting the life that it once celebrated. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword

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	27				28		
				29			

ACROSS
1 Gem weight
6 Metal-bearing rock
7 Automaton
10 Condition
12 First man
13 Rank
15 Means of transport
16 Mineral spring
18 Distress call
20 Salamander
22 Concur
23 Aid
25 Proficient
27 Of birth
28 Pass away
29 Prescribed amounts

DOWN
1 Bludgeons
2 Craft
3 Responds
4 Sea cucumber
5 Fish
8 Barrier
9 Stop up
11 Dark-coloured viscid product
14 Gem
16 Spirited mounts
17 Reduces in intensity
19 Prophetic sign
21 Marry
22 Liable
24 Lacking discipline
26 Filled pastry

SUDOKU : 3695

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		5			6				7
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Yesterday's Solution 3694

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1703

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

DISCLAIMER

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Islamic institute in Kerala sets example by teaching Sanskrit

THRISSUR, NOV 13/--/ Students in long white robes and white head-dresses in an Islamic institution unwaveringly reciting 'slokas' and 'mantras' in Sanskrit under the watchful gaze of their Hindu gurus, is what sets apart a Muslim educational organisation in Thrissur district of central Kerala. "Gurur brahma gurur vishnu, Gurur devo maheshwara, Gurur saakshaat param brahma, Tasmai shri gurave namaha," one such student recites on being asked to do so in Sanskrit by his professor. "Uttamam (excellent)," the professor responds in Sanskrit, as another student finishes reciting a different 'sloka' asked of him. All conversations between the

student and the professor in the class are in Sanskrit. The objective behind teaching Sanskrit, Upanishads, Puranas, etc. is to inculcate in the students' knowledge and awareness about other religions, Onampilly Muhammad Faizy, the principal of the Academy of Sharia and Advanced Studies (ASAS) run by Malik Deenar Islamic Complex (MIC), said. Another reason, and the main one, for teaching Sanskrit to the students at MIC ASAS was Faizy's own academic background as he had studied Shankara philosophy. "Therefore, I felt that students should know about other religions and their customs and practices. But an in-depth study of Sanskrit as well as

the 'Upanishads', 'shastras', 'vedantams' would not be possible during the eight-year study period," he told PTI. "Instead, the idea is to provide basic knowledge about these and create an awareness in them about another religion," Faizy said. Important portions of the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Mahabharata, Ramayana are selectively taught in Sanskrit to the students over a period of eight years after they pass out of Class 10, he said. The selective teaching of these texts is because the institution is primarily a Sharia college where other languages, like Urdu and English are also taught besides a degree course in Arts as it is affiliated to the Calicut University. "The academic workload is huge. Therefore, we take in

students who can handle it and also maintain strict standards. There is an entrance exam for admitting students," he said. Some of the students recently told the media that initially it was tough to learn Sanskrit, just like Arabic, but by continuously studying and practising, it becomes easier over time. "It is a tough task initially. Just like Arabic. But if we study it continuously, repeatedly practice it, just like with Arabic, it becomes easier over a period of time. The regular classes and the tests also help us to learn it," one of the students said. Another student said he was excited to learn Sanskrit and hear the 'slokas'. Just like his classmate, he too was of the view that like

Arabic, "if you put in the effort, it becomes easier to learn". While there has been no objection from parents of the students or anyone else, a major challenge has been finding good faculty to teach Sanskrit, the Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, etc., properly to the students. "That is why we were able to start teaching Sanskrit just seven years ago and it is also the reason that it is being taught only at this branch -- one of seven," principal Faizy said. We have an excellent faculty here who have devised a good curriculum for the students, he noted. The response from the side of the students too has been encouraging as they have shown an interest in learning Sanskrit, the principal added. (PTI)

Science Centre celebrates birth anniversary of Birdman of India



PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ The birth anniversary of Dr. Salim Ali, 'The Birdman of India', was celebrated by the Science Centre. As part of the programme, the students were taken to Chidiyatapu, a place well known for its avian fauna for watching the birds through binoculars. The students were taught to identify the birds and its nature in its natural habitat and also

explained the unique biodiversity of Chidiyatapu. Around 50 students from various schools in & around Port Blair took part in the programme. After completion of the tour, the students appeared for a 'Feed Back Test' on the experience gained by them during the bird watching. Accordingly, Kumar Natik Karmakar of

Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, LambaLine, Kumar G. SaiVignesh of AnandMarg Middle School, Junglighat secured first and second position whereas Kumari Banashree Das of Govt. Sr. Sec. School School Line & Kumari Kiruthiha of Govt. Sr. Sec. School Rangachang were adjudged as the third & consolation prize winners respectively.

Family of brain dead 18-month-old girl donates organs, 3rd child in 6 months to donate organs at AIIMS



NEW DELHI, NOV 13 /--/ The family of an 18-month-old girl, who was declared brain dead at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here, has given a fresh lease of life to two patients by donating her organs. Mahira, a native of Mewat in Haryana, had suffered a fall from the balcony of her house on November 6 and was rushed to AIIMS Trauma centre in an unconscious state with evidence of severe brain damage. "She was declared brain dead on November 11 morning," Professor of Neurosurgery at AIIMS, Dr Deepak Gupta told PTI. He said her liver has been transplanted in a six-month old child at the Institute of

Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), while both her kidneys transplanted successfully in a 17-year-old boy at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Her corneas and heart valves have been preserved for later use, Gupta said. After 16-month-old Rishant, Mahira is the second-youngest child in Delhi/ NCR whose organs were donated by the family. Mahira happens to be the third child in the last six months to donate her organs at the AIIMS trauma centre. "Rolly was the first child followed by 16-month-old Rishant whose organs were donated by his family in August. During counselling, Mahira's parents were told

about Rolly's story after which they understood the concept of brain death and the need for organ donation to save the lives of others. They then agreed to donate her organs," Dr Gupta said. The parents of 6-year-old Rolly, who was declared brain dead following a gunshot injury, had donated her vital organs -- heart, liver, kidneys and corneas - in April this year. The professor noted that fall from heights is the biggest killer amongst children in India and suggested that the balcony height should be made twice the height of children in every house. "Children often end up the climbing the railing of balconies unprotected and fall over. Many such children die or sustain severe head injuries. Such deaths and injuries are completely preventable," he told PTI. He also said that awareness on organ donation in rural areas is not adequate and that most refusals come from senior members (grandparents/elders) who have not heard of this concept. "Law in our country needs to be looked into and changed to 'opt out

law' (everyone who meets with an accident is presumed to be organ donor) as against 'opt in law' (currently existing law where family consent is needed). A majority of families refuse organ donation out of ignorance or their inability to understand the urgent need of organs to save the lives of those suffering from end stage diseases," Dr Gupta underlined. India has 0.4 per million population organ donation rates (lowest in the world). The US and Spain have 50 per million population organ donation rates. In India, on an average, 700 organ donors donate organs after brain death, he said. The United States recently completed 1 million organ donations in September this year. AIIMS Delhi has in recent past made changes in organ procurement activities under the new leadership as a result of which organ donations have picked up significantly in the last six months. Fourteen organ donations have happened at AIIMS Delhi this year, the highest ever number since 1994, Dr Gupta added. (PTI)

Andaman & Nicobar State Open Chess Selection Championship begins

PORT BLAIR, NOV 13/--/ The Andaman & Nicobar State Open Chess Selection Championship-2022 which is being organised by Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) has begun on 12th November 2022 at JNRM College Auditorium Port Blair. Mr. Vishwendra, Secretary-cum-Director (Transport) was the chief guest of the opening ceremony who made the ceremonial first move on the top board to kick start the event in presence of S Netazi, Observer, deputed from Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Port Blair. Mr. G Bhasker, Patron ANCA, graced occasion as the guest of honour who lauded the efforts of ANCA in promoting the game of chess in A & N Islands. Earlier, Mr. Tanveer Singh Vice president ANCA, while welcoming the gathering, highlighted the recent achievements and vision of ANCA. Around 170 players are participating enthusiastically in the two-day state level chess Championship which will be held over 9 rounds in Swiss format for two days. The championship will serve as a selection tournament for the upcoming MPL 59th Senior National Chess Championship-2022 scheduled to be held from 22nd December 2022 to 3rd January 2023 at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Near ITO, New Delhi. The best four players will be selected for the MPL 59th Senior National Chess Championship-2022.

J&K's Doda district to be recognised as role model in lavender farming: Jitendra Singh

JAMMU, NOV 13 /--/ Union minister Jitendra Singh has said that Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district would be recognised as a role model in lavender farming owing to farmers cultivating the plant on a commercial scale there. Singh chaired the district development coordination and monitoring committee (DISHA) meeting on Saturday to review the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) being implemented in Doda district. Singh said as farmers are taking up lavender cultivation on a commercial scale due to the high profits, Doda district would be branded as a role model in lavender farming. According to officials, nearly 400 farmers are engaged in lavender cultivation on more than 450 acres of land in dozens of hilly hamlets in Doda.



Their incomes quadrupled after shifting from maize to lavender during the last few years. Giving details, they said that lavender water, which separates from lavender oil, is used to make incense sticks while hydrosol, which is formed after distillation from the

flowers, is used to make soaps and room fresheners. The farmers get help from IIIM-Jammu to sell their produce and several companies, which manufacture aromatic products like candles and aroma oils, are their primary buyers, they said.

Officials said their mission is to increase lavender cultivation to 1,500 hectares within the next three years. Meanwhile, Singh stressed on ensuring synergy between public representatives and administration while taking up projects and said better coordination is the key to effective implementation of schemes. He said it is the endeavour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that the benefits of all centrally-sponsored schemes reach the beneficiaries and the last person in the queue. He urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination for better results at the grassroots level. He directed officers to remain in touch with public representatives whenever they visit their areas and also make people aware about the benefits of the CSS. (PTI)

'Nritya Katha': Book introduces children to Indian classical dance forms

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 /--/ Shedding light on the eight classical dance forms of India, a new illustrated book by Odissi dancer and author Jaya Mehta gives children a peek into the colourful world of Indian classical dances. "Nritya Katha: Indian Dance Stories for Children", illustrated by Moldova-based illustrator Natalia Suruba, is a collection of nine stories featuring different dance forms, ranging from Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Manipuri to Kathakali, Kathak, Chhau, Mohiniyattam and

Sattriya. It is published by National Book Trust of India. "As a young mother and Odissi dancer, I found many attractive picture books about Ballet, Flamenco and even Balinese dance. But there were no storybooks on the dance forms of India. To address this lacunae in children's books, I wrote this set of 9 stories," said Mehta, disciple of Odissi expert Pratibha Jena Singh. "The book is my ode to the diverse, colourful dances of India. I hope that children like my own, get to feel the rich and

fascinating context of each dance form," she added. Narrated through a child's intimate, magical, personal journey, the stories in the book unravel the fascinating contexts of each Indian dance form: their art, architecture, costumes and crafts. At the end of every story, the author also shares important trivia, facts and glossary regarding different dance forms. For instance, it spills the beans on how Kathakali artistes make their eyes red for their performance or how the dance form Bharatanatyam is inspired

by the sculptures of the ancient temple of Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu. "Like my previous book, my new book also illustrates India, its traditions, culture, art, diversity and well being, that is embedded in Indian art forms. A lot of parents and grandparents would love to buy this book," said Mehta, who released her debut book "The Poetic Saree" in 2018. "Nritya Katha: Indian Dance Stories for Children" is currently available for sale on online and offline stores. (PTI)

Dehli HC allows TN medical college to increase intake of students in NEET-UG 2022 counselling

NEW DELHI, NOV 13 /--/ The Delhi High Court has said augmentation of medical infrastructure was crucial to meet the rising need of qualified doctors and deserving colleges must not be denied the opportunity to enhance the strength of medical professionals as it allowed a Tamil Nadu college to increase intake of students for NEET-UG 2022. The high court's observation came while dealing with a petition by Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan Medical College and Hospital in Tamil Named raising the issue of denial of request for increased intake of students from 150 to 250. It directed the authorities to permit the college to take admissions of 250 students in the ongoing counselling of NEET-UG 2022 for MBBS course and added that they shall forthwith issue necessary directions and intimate the order to competent authority/body of the Government of Tamil Nadu to add 250 seats in its seat matrix. "To meet the rising need of more qualified doctors to serve the country's population, augmentation of medical infrastructure is crucial, and hence, the role of regulatory bodies like NMC (National Medical Commission) is unquestionably significant. The authorisation procedure must indeed be strictly adhered to ensure that there is no decline in the quality of medical education, Justice Sanjeev Narula said. The plea sought a direction to the NMC to issue a letter of approval with respect to the college's application for 250 students per year from the academic year 2021-22. Advocate T Singhdev, representing the NMC, submitted that a surprise inspection of the college was carried out by the

commission and the college's request could only be processed for 200 seats. The counsel for the college submitted that the institute was fully equipped to increase up to 250 seats and it would be a colossal waste of resources if permission for the same is not granted. He argued that there was a deliberate attempt on the authorities' part to deny them this benefit. On the court's direction, the NMC filed an affidavit highlighting the deficiencies that, according to them, impede grant of 250 seats to the college. In its affidavit, the NMC acknowledged and confirmed that relaxation of up to five per cent on faculty strength is applicable to the petitioner college, however, it contended that if existing facilities available with the institute are to be considered for 250 seats, faculty deficiency would substantially increase from 0.49 per cent to 6.9 per cent, which is beyond the permissible limit of five per cent. The high court said under the scheme of National Medical Commission Act, no medical college can increase its seats without obtaining a prior approval from the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB). For the purpose of granting permission, MARB is entitled to conduct assessment/ inspection of such colleges for evaluation of their performance vis-à-vis benchmarks set out in law, it noted. Indeed, in matters of medical education, it is not for the court to sit in appeal over deductions of an expert body in respect of insufficiencies found in an educational institute; but when it is demonstrated that respondent authorities have acted in defiance of extant rules, it is incumbent upon the court to step in and rectify the injustices so caused, it said. (PTI)

Jaishankar discusses Ukraine conflict, Indo-Pacific & bilateral ties with US Secretary of State Blinken

PHNOM PENH, NOV 13 --/ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken here on Sunday and discussed bilateral ties, the raging Ukraine conflict, energy issues, G20 and the situation in the Indo-Pacific, days ahead of a possible meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden.

The meeting between the top diplomats of the two countries took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit here in the Cambodian capital. Jaishankar is accompanying Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is leading the Indian delegation to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the 17th East Asia Summit here. Jaishankar and Blinken met days ahead of a likely bilateral between Prime Minister Modi and President Biden on the margins of the G-20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia from November 15-16. "A good meeting with US Secretary of State @SecBlinken. Discussed Ukraine, Indo-Pacific, energy, G20 and bilateral relations," Jaishankar said in a tweet, indicating the topics he discussed with Blinken. "I met Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar on the margins of the @ASEAN summit today in Phnom Penh to discuss ongoing efforts to expand our partnership & mitigate the effects of Russia's war on Ukraine. The U.S. supports India's #G20 Presidency," Blinken tweeted.



S Jaishankar

Jaishankar's meeting with Blinken took place after his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Tuesday and talks with Ukraine foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba on Saturday here. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has said that President Biden and Prime Minister Modi have a productive and very practical relationship.

Sullivan said that President Biden was looking forward to seeing Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali. "I would point out Prime Minister Modi has already been to the White House since President Biden took office, and the two of them have had the opportunity to meet in person multiple times and to talk by phone and on video multiple times," he told reporters at the White House on Thursday. He said the two leaders see common interests on a number of critical issues and have really worked together to strengthen the US-India partnership. "When you add all that up, it is a productive, very practical relationship," Sullivan said.

"President Biden is looking forward to seeing Prime Minister Modi at the G20 this year, as we look ahead to the next year," he said. India will hold the presidency of the G20 next year and there is a possibility of a US presidential visit to the country. 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. Since the Ukraine conflict began in February, Prime Minister Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a number of times.

In a phone conversation with Zelenskyy on October 4, Modi said that there can be "no military solution" and that India is ready to contribute to any peace efforts. At a bilateral meeting with Putin in the Uzbek city of Samarkand on September 16, Modi told him that "today's era is not of war". In the last few months, India has increased the import of discounted crude oil from Russia notwithstanding increasing disquiet over it by several Western powers.

In Phnom Penh, Jaishankar met UN chief Antonio Guterres at the end of the ASEAN gala dinner on Saturday. Jaishankar held also talks with his counterpart from Thailand Don Pramudwinai. "Always nice to catch up with DPM & FM Don Pramudwinai of Thailand. Discussed our shared regional concerns and the strengthening partnership with ASEAN," he tweeted. "Met Canadian colleagues Trade Minister @mary_ng and FM @melaniejoly at the ASEAN gala dinner. All for greater trade and strategic convergence, while countering terrorism and opposing radicalization," he said in another tweet. Jaishankar on Saturday discussed a range of issues with his counterparts from Canada, Indonesia and Singapore. (PTI)

Vice Prez Dhankhar highlights global concerns on food and energy security

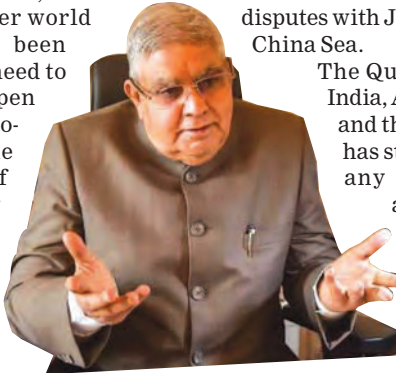
Emphasises role of EAS mechanism in promoting open and inclusive Indo-Pacific

PHNOM PENH, NOV 13 --/ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday highlighted the global concerns on food and energy security, and emphasised the role of the East Asia Summit (EAS) mechanism in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.

Addressing the 17th East Asia Summit (EAS) here, the vice president also called for the EAS members' full contribution to the International Year of Millets in 2023. Vice President Dhankhar underlined the growing global concerns on food and energy security, and emphasised the role of the EAS mechanism in promoting free, open and

inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight. The US, India and several other world powers have been discussing the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region. China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built

artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea.



The Quad grouping of India, Australia, Japan and the United States has strongly opposed any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo or increase tensions in the Indo-Pacific, amidst China's increasingly intimidatory behaviour in the region. Dhankhar, who is in Cambodia on

Rishi Sunak sets off for G20 with pledge to call out Russia

LONDON, NOV 13 --/ British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has pledged to "call out Putin's regime" at this year's G20 over the Russia-Ukraine conflict as he leaves for Indonesia for the annual summit on Sunday.

The Group of 20 (G20) of the world's biggest economies will bring together world leaders, where Sunak is expected to hold his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi since taking charge as the UK's first Indian-origin Prime Minister last month. India's presidency of the G20 will kick off following the Heads of State and Government Summit in Bali from December 1. "(Vladimir) Putin's war has caused devastation around the world destroying lives and plunging the international economy into turmoil, said Sunak in a statement before setting off for Bali. "This G20 summit will not be business as usual. We will call out Putin's regime, and lay bare their utter contempt for the kind of international cooperation and respect for sovereignty forums like the



making lives better for our people," he said.

Sunak will confront Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in a speech during the G20's first plenary session, when all members are expected to attend, on Tuesday. According to reports, Downing Street had prepared for the summit assuming Russia's President would be there. But Moscow revealed last week he wouldn't be attending and that the Kremlin would be sending Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, instead. The annual

gatherings were initially established in response to the 2008 financial crisis, cementing the summit as the main global forum for economic cooperation. The meeting next week will take place as the world faces another significant set of economic challenges since 2008 caused or exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Talks are set to be dominated by the fallout of G20 member-state Russia's actions, which the western economies believe has unleashed chaos in the global economy and seen energy and food prices skyrocket.

Russia's top diplomat previously walked out of a meeting of G20 foreign ministers in July when challenged over Moscow's actions in Ukraine. While the traditional group photograph referred to as the family photo of world leaders has been ruled out as most do not want to share the frame with Russia, divisions deepened by the Ukraine war mean it is unclear whether a traditional joint statement will be agreed at the end of the Bali summit. (PTI)

US, Japan, S Korea vow unified response to North Korea threat

PHNOM PENH, NOV 13 --/ US President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea on Sunday vowed a unified, coordinated response to North Korea's threatening nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, with Biden declaring that the three-way partnership is even more important than it's ever been when North Korea is stepping up its provocations.

Biden met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol before all three sat down together on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia. The US president began by offering condolences for a crowd surge during Halloween festivities in Seoul that killed more than 150 people, saying the US had grieved with South Korea.

The meeting was heavily focused on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's recent escalations, although Biden said the three leaders would also discuss strengthening supply chains and preserving peace across the Taiwan strait, while building on the countries' support for Ukraine in the face of Russian

aggression. Biden had also planned to seek input from Kishida and Yoon on managing China's assertive posture in the Pacific region on the eve of his face-to-face with President Xi Jinping. We face real challenges, but our countries are more aligned than ever, more prepared to take on those challenges than ever, Biden said.

So I look forward to deepening the bonds of cooperation between our three countries. Both Yoon and Kishida discussed the ongoing displays of aggression by North Korea, which has fired dozens of missiles in recent weeks. The launches include an intercontinental ballistic missile 10 days ago that triggered evacuation alerts in northern Japan, and as the allies warn of a looming risk of the isolated country conducting its seventh nuclear test in the coming weeks.

Referring to the crowd surge that occurred in the Itaewon neighbourhood in Seoul, Yoon said, through an interpreter: At a time when South Koreans are grieving in deep sorrow, North Korea pushed ahead with such provocations which lays bare the Kim Jong Un regime's true inclinations. (AP)

Southeast Asian leaders: Region no proxy for any powers

PHNOM PENH, NOV 13 --/ Indonesia's president vowed on Sunday not to let Southeast Asia become the front lines of a new Cold War amid increasing tensions between the United States and China, saying as his country took over the chairmanship of the influential Association of Southeast Asian Nations that it would not become a proxy to any powers.

Joko Widodo said the 10-nation bloc with a combined population of some 700 million people must be a dignified region and uphold the values of humanity and democracy principles that have been challenged by last year's military takeover in Myanmar and concerns about human rights in Cambodia. ASEAN must become a peaceful region and anchor for global stability, consistently uphold international law and not be a proxy to any powers, he said. ASEAN should not let the current geopolitical dynamic turn into a new Cold War in our region.

"As China has grown more assertive in the Asia-Pacific and pressed its claim to the self-governing democracy of Taiwan, the US has pushed back, leading to increasing tensions. Even as the ASEAN leaders met over the weekend in Phnom Penh, US naval exercises with its partners in the so-called Quad group of nations Australia, India and Japan were underway in the Philippine Sea, east of Taiwan. And on Saturday, China's military flew 36 fighter jets and bombers near Taiwan, ten of which flew across the median line in the Taiwan Strait that separates the island from the mainland, according to Taiwanese officials.

The flights come as part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's stepped up efforts to intimidate Taiwan by regularly flying fighter planes and bombers near the island and firing missiles into the sea around it. In Sunday's East Asia Summit, which ran concurrently with the ASEAN meeting and included both the US and China, US President Joe Biden underscored that freedom of navigation and overflight must be respected in the East China and South China seas and that all disputes must be resolved peacefully and according to international law, according to the White House. Biden said the US will compete vigorously with China while keeping lines of communication open and ensuring that competition does not veer into conflict, while reaffirming the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, the White House said. The comments came just

a day before a highly anticipated meeting between Biden and Xi at the Group of 20 summit in Bali. At the opening of the East Asia Summit, Cambodian leader Hun Sen called for unity, telling the gathering attended by Biden, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that current global tensions have been taking a toll on everyone. Without singling out any nation by name, Hun Sen said he hoped leaders would embrace a spirit of togetherness in upholding open and inclusive multilateralism, pragmatism and mutual respect in addressing the existential and strategic challenges we all face. Many current challenges and tensions have been hindering our past hard-earned efforts to promote sustainable development and causing greater hardship to people's lives, he said.

The meetings also included the leaders of Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and others. Biden also raised human rights concerns in Cambodia. In a statement after the meeting with Hun Sen, the White House said Biden urged the prime minister an authoritarian ruler in a nominally democratic nation to reopen civic and political space before its 2023 elections. Biden, according to the White House, also pushed Hun Sen to release activists including Theary Seng, a Cambodian-American lawyer who was convicted of treason. Biden also raised concerns about activities at Ream Naval Base, whose expansion Cambodian officials have described as a collaborative effort between it and China. Another topic Biden focused on is Myanmar, where the military junta overthrew the civilian government in February 2021 and arrested its democratically elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. As he met with Hun Sen, Biden stressed that the US was committed to the return of democracy in Myanmar, which had steadily headed toward a democratic form of governance before the coup.

Li Keqiang, meantime, told a meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea that amid a turbulent global security situation, unilateralism and protectionism are surging, economic and financial risks are rising, and global development is confronted with unprecedented challenges. As major economies in East Asia, Li said the group needed to stay committed to promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region and beyond, and to improving the people's wellbeing. (AP)

After Kherson success, Kyiv vows to keep driving out Russia

MYKOLAIV, NOV 13 --/ Ukraine's president vowed to keep pushing Russian forces out of his country after they withdrew from Kherson, leaving behind devastation, hunger and booby traps in the southern Ukrainian city.

The Russian retreat from Kherson marked a triumphant milestone in Ukraine's pushback against Moscow's invasion almost nine months ago. Kherson residents hugged and kissed the arriving Ukrainian troops in rapturous scenes. We will see many more such greetings of Ukrainian soldiers liberating Russian-held territory, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address on Saturday.

He pledged to the people in Ukrainian cities and villages that are still under occupation: We don't forget anyone; we won't leave anyone. Ukraine's retaking of Kherson was a significant setback for the

Kremlin and the latest in a series of battlefield embarrassments. It came some six weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed the Kherson region and three other provinces in southern and eastern Ukraine in breach of international law and declared them Russian territory.

Driving toward Kherson from the Mykolaiv region, AP reporters saw downed electrical lines, used projectile casings and the decomposed carcass of a cow. Several destroyed tanks lined the muddy road. As Ukrainian forces on Sunday consolidated their hold on Kherson, authorities contemplated the daunting task of clearing out explosive devices and restoring basic public services in the city.

One Ukrainian official described the situation in Kherson as a humanitarian catastrophe. The remaining residents in the

city are said to lack water, medicine and food. There are shortages of key basics such as bread because of a lack of electricity. Ukrainian police called on residents to help identify collaborators with Russian forces during the eight-month occupation. Ukrainian police officers returned to the city on Saturday, along with public broadcasting services, following the departure of Russian troops. The national police chief of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, said on Saturday on Facebook that about 200 officers were at work in the city, setting up checkpoints and documenting evidence of possible war crimes.

In what could perhaps be the next district to fall in Ukraine's march on territory illegally annexed by Moscow, the Russian-appointed administration of the Kakhovka district, east of Kherson city, announced Saturday it was evacuating its employees. (AP)

Pope denounces "sirens of populism" as he marks day for poor

ROME, NOV 13 --/ Pope Francis denounced the sirens of populism on Sunday as he called for a renewed commitment to helping the poor, homeless and migrants amid Italy's latest migration debate.

Francis celebrated the Catholic Church's World Day of the Poor by inviting hundreds of poor and homeless people and migrants into the Vatican for a special Mass and luncheon. He denounced the indifference the world shows them as well as the prophets of doom who fuel fear and conspiracies about them for personal gain. Let us not be enchanted by the sirens of populism, which exploit people's real needs by facile and hasty solutions, Francis said. This year's commemoration takes place as

Italy once again is at the heart of a European debate over migration,

program and reinforcing its border crossings with Italy. Francis lamented that the war in Ukraine is only adding to the plight of the poor, who are still reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, as well as from natural disasters and climate change. Today also, much more than in the past, many of our brothers and sisters, sorely tested and disheartened,

migrate in search of hope, and many people experience insecurity due to the lack of employment or

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CURRAN, STOKES THE HEROES ENGLAND WIN SECOND T20 WC TITLE

Rashid spins a web to restrict Pakistan before ODI champions England take T20 crown too



The England players celebrate with the trophy



Every once in a way, it seemed like the chase could become tricky - Ben Stokes ensured all went well•No

England's Sam Curran named player of tournament

MELBOURNE, NOV 13/--/ England left-arm pacer Sam Curran was named the player of the tournament following his team's five wicket win over Pakistan in the T20 World Cup final here on Sunday. Curran, who made a comeback from injury earlier this year, was also the player of the match for his remarkable figures of three for 12 in four overs in the summit clash. He ended the tournament with 13 wickets at an impressive economy rate of 6.52 runs per over. "MCG has big square boundaries, so I knew my into the wicket type bowling would work and try to make them hit square of the wicket. We felt the wicket was not as good as we thought it would be. "It was nipping around everywhere and it was challenge to chase. I go into the wicket with my slower balls and try to keep the batsmen guessing," Curran said after the game. England had restricted Pakistan to 137 for eight in 20 overs. Ben Stokes then scored an unbeaten 52 off 49 balls to help England lift their second T20 World Cup title. "We are World Champions, how good. Incredibly special (to have Stokes). He is someone I look up to and always turns up when the team needs him, people question him but there's no questioning him, he's the man," said Curran. "To be honest, I am little bit lost for words, it has been a great tournament. First time for me in a World Cup and we have won it. "I wanted to be adaptable coming into the tournament. I haven't bowled much at the death before and that is one area I want to keep improving. I want to improve my batting though it is tough to get to bat in this line-up," said the left hander when asked about the road ahead. (PTI)



Sam Curran was adjudged player of the match as well as tournament

MELBOURNE, NOV 13 --/ England's golden generation of white ball cricketers overcame a spirited Pakistan to lift the T20 World Cup trophy with a comfortable five-wicket victory here on Sunday. The Pakistani fans were longing for an encore of 1992 when Imran Khan's team created history at this very venue but batting let Babar Azam's side down as 137 for 8 was never going to be good enough. The seasoned Ben Stokes (52 not out off 49 balls) just like the 2019 ODI World Cup, anchored the chase despite occasional scratchiness and had a calm Moeen Ali (19) as an ideal foil. They chased down the target in 19 overs to regain the title they had won in 2010 in the West Indies. Experienced Haris Rauf and young Nasim Shah bowled their hearts out to prevent it from becoming a one-sided game but Stokes soaked the pressure along with Ali as the duo put on a 48-run stand for the fifth wicket to nail the win that avenged England's loss to the same rivals in the '92 World Cup final. Shaheen Shah Afridi

also could not bowl his full quota of overs after suffering a hamstring injury while fielding and that too helped England. But player of the evening certainly was left-arm seamer Sam Curran, whose couple of spells had heavily tilted the game in the favour of England. Shane Warne had tormented Pakistan at the MCG in the 1999 final and it was turn of another leggie Adil Rashid to flummox them. Stokes took 30 balls to measure the Pakistani attack but with no scoreboard pressure, the southpaw pressed the accelerator just when needed to finish the match. England's depth in resources could be gauged from the fact that they became the champions despite not having Dawid Malan, Mark Wood in the knock-out games and Jonny Bairstow, a T20 superstar in the form of his life, was not available for the tournament. It was seven years back in this very country that England's limited overs cricket lay in tatters with a dated approach and lack of intent being pointed as the reason for a group league exit from

the ODI World Cup. The core of the team was changed along with the mindset and in three years time, England now have both the white ball titles in their closet having identified match-winners in this format. The revolution was started by an Irishman who responded to the name of Eoin Morgan. He moulded the ODI team into a champion outfit and handed the T20 baton to an able Gen-Next leader in Jos Buttler. A champion T20 player in his own right, Buttler in the past few months, has proved to be a leader of men and in fact put Pakistan under immense pressure with his heart-warming humility. The MCG rooted for Pakistan but no one grugged when Stokes pumped his fists after what had been an incredibly difficult few years, battling depression and mental health issues. In front of an audience of 80,462, two highly-rated but not enough celebrated T20 bowlers Curran and Rashid scripted the win. The duo put relentless pressure on the Pakistan batting line-up to restrict the opposition to a below-par 137 for

eight. Curran, who made comeback from an injury earlier this year, has been England's 'go to' bowler in the competition and he proved that on the big stage with brilliant figures of 4-0-12-3. The wily Rashid (4-1-22-2) wasn't going to be left far behind as he choked the run-flow in the middle overs with as many as 25 dot balls between him and Curran. Rashid, with his stupendous effort, time and again showed how the Indian team management bungled its script by letting Yuzvendra Chahal cool his heels throughout the tournament. The MCG track had enough bounce and pace but Buttler's best performing bowling duo (Curran and Rashid) did exactly the opposite - take the pace off their deliveries. Rashid flighted and lowered his pace to 75 kmph while Curran bowled between 126 kmph to 130 kmph which made run scoring difficult for the Pakistani batters. Both Babar (32 off 28 balls) and Mohammed Rizwan (15 off 14) started on a cautious note as they had been doing for the past one

year. Curran, England's most consistent bowler in the tournament, angled one across at fuller length and Rizwan didn't have enough width to drive as he dragged that back to the stumps. Babar hit a couple of boundaries but as it has been for him generally, it was more of a struggle to keep the scoreboard alive. At the start of the back-10, when Jos Buttler introduced Liam Livingstone to bowl his off-breaks, Shan got 14 runs with a down the ground boundary and a six. But Babar at the other end was foxed by Rashid as he shaped to play the cut and found a googly cramping him for room to give a return catch to the English leg-spinner of Pakistani descent. Iftikhar Ahmed (0) would like to forget the evening as he was kept under tight leash by Rashid and then Stokes bowled one in the channel to get a nick as Pakistan slumped to 85 for 4 in the 13th over. Shan built a launchpad for himself and threw it all away as Curran tested his patience with variations of cross seam deliveries and cutters. (PTI)



(Left to right) Mohammad Hasnain, Shadab Khan and Shan Masood are dejected after the defeat Sam Curran and Adil Rashid, who played key roles in England's win, lead the race out to the middle

You can't carry baggage of defeat: Stokes shares how eventual champs England moved on from Ireland loss

MELBOURNE, NOV 12/--/ The shock loss to Ireland did hurt but the players moved on quickly from that 'little blip' to focus on the road ahead, said star England all-rounder Ben Stokes after scoring a match-winning 52 in the T20 World Cup final against Pakistan here on Sunday. Stokes showed his big match prowess once again with a gritty fifty under extreme pressure to help England to their second T20 World Cup title. He looked back on the team's memorable campaign. "With that (defeat to Ireland) being so early in the competition we obviously had to address it, say what had to be said and then let it go," Stokes, who was also instrumental in England's 2019 World Cup triumph, said after the five-wicket win. "In tournaments like these you can't carry baggage with you, that was a little blip on the way, credit to Ireland for turning up and beating us, but the best teams learn from their mistakes and not let it affect them," said Stokes. England skipper Jos Buttler, who was made

white-ball captain earlier this year, was all praise for his team which has set the benchmark in limited over cricket. "To win the T20 World Cup now, immensely proud of everyone here. It has been a long journey and few changes but we are reaping the rewards of how we have played in the last few years. "It's been a fantastic tournament. We went to Pakistan before coming here, which was a valuable time for the group and this felt a long way after the Ireland match but the character we showed from thereon in must-win games is amazing. "He (coach Matty Motts) has fitted in really well. We have got a few Australians in the coaching staff with us in this tournament and he has led the coaching staff really well, gives the players great freedom. "Sam Curran became the first specialist bowler to win the Player of the tournament award for taking 13 wickets in six matches. Besides Curran, Buttler also lauded leggie Adil Rashid, who delivered with wickets in the middle overs throughout the

tournament including in the final. "Huge swing in the game, that was a fantastic over from Adil. He has been outstanding for us in the last three games, just the guy who makes things happen and his performance was outstanding," the England skipper said. "And that man again, Ben Stokes is there at the end. He is the ultimate competitor in anything he does and has the experience to bank on as well. He timed it perfectly, the impetus that he and Moeen Ali had just took it away from Pakistan." It was a rollercoaster campaign for Pakistan who made a dramatic comeback after losing their first two games to India and Zimbabwe. The Netherlands helped them immensely by winning their final league game to knock South Africa out of the World Cup. "Congratulations to England, they deserve to be champions and fought well. We felt like home here, got great support at every venue. Yes, we lost the first two games but how we came in the last four games was incredible. (PTI)



Ben Stokes was one of England's leading men on the day