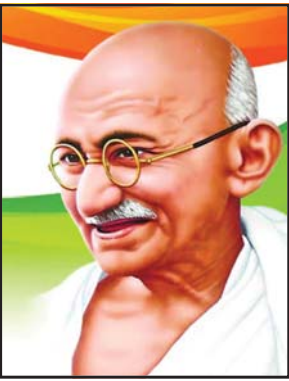


REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA

Islanders' to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi today

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ On Sunday, October 2, 2022, the nation will pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 153rd birth anniversary. To pay homage to the Father of the Nation, the UT administration has organized a simple event at Gandhi Park at 8.15 am. According to an official release, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (RD) will pay floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. This will be followed by prayers 'Vaishnav Jan to Tene Kahiye Je' and Ramdhuns by teachers/students of the Education Department. A two minute silence will also be observed on the occasion.

All the Govt. Departments, Institutions, Autonomous Bodies, Corporation, Panchayat Pradhans, Voluntary organizations and villagers have been requested to create community assets by Shramdaan and conduct special



drives for cleanliness in the month under the 'Swacchta Hi Seva Campaign'.

Further, the Administration has requested the members of the public to refrain from slaughtering animals, killing of birds, catching fish and consuming liquor on this auspicious day. 2nd October 2022, will be observed as a 'Dry Day' in homage to the Father of the Nation.

Mahatma Gandhi, who shares his birthday with another legendary personality, former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri (born 1904), was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, in present-day Gujarat. A lawyer whose life changed through his experiences in South Africa, Gandhi played the most significant role in India's independence movement, holding demonstrations through non-violent means. (File picture)

MP interacts with residents of GP Bakultala

KARTIK

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma interacted with the general public at the Bakultala Community hall on Friday. The Pradhan GP Bakultala, Mr. Narayan Mondal raised some of the long pending issues such as regular water supply, setting up ITI at Bakultala village, operation of more STS buses, construction of RTA Complex at Bakultala, Tourism promotion, bad



roads, solar power supply at Bongaon village, fiber boat services for Bongaon, boat services at Shyamkund from Port Blair etc. The Member of Parliament assured to take up these issues with the concerned authorities.

School kids enjoy doing Falun Dafa exercise in city

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ Falun Dafa exercise and meditation practice were taught to various schools in the islands. Falun Dafa (also called Falun Gong)-an ancient spiritual practice of mind and body is being practiced in more than 114 countries around the world, including India. Falun Dafa relieves stress and provides peace and is becoming popular in the country. Chris, a 71 years old Instructor of this art visited the Islands recently. She stayed in the Islands for five 5 weeks.

Speaking to EOI, Chris said that during her stay in the islands she covered seven private schools, one orphanage and one college. Students and teachers experienced the power of meditation.

Praising the people of the islands, Chris said that



everywhere she visited in the islands, she has been received well by the islanders.

"I was really excited to visit the islands. The people in the islands are so honest and helpful. This is really a mini India where people from all faiths and religions

live in perfect peace and harmony", said Chris.

Unheard by the people of the islands, when Chris encouraged school kits to practice Falun Dafa, the school children enjoyed doing the exercise and meditation practice in their schools. The Falun Dafa

practice helps students get good health, calm their minds and get good academic results. Like Schools in the mainland, schools in the islands should also try and introduce this ancient art form Falun Dafa for a good healthy body and mind, said Chris.

World Tourism Day celebration by IWC

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ The Inner wheel Club of Port Blair celebrated 'World Tourism Day on 27th September 2022. A Plantation drive was conducted by President, Mrs Satinder Pal Kaur, Vice President, Mrs Komal Anand, Secretary, Mrs Bakhtawar Noble, along with other members of Inner Wheel Club, Port Blair at Narayan Park. A few saplings were planted for beautification of the park. A yoga session was also conducted on the same day by Rajni Ahuja, a yoga fitness expert and also a member of Inner Wheel Club, along with her students at Veer Savarkar park. Different yoga asanas demonstrated by the students was the



highlight of the evening. Emphasis was given to the theme of the project "Feel Good tourism yoga. Mental health and overall wellbeing of all was also emphasised.

MORE LOCAL NEWS ON PAGE 3

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Sales Boys and Girls Urgently Needed

PUC must for buying fuel in Delhi from Oct 25: Environment minister Rai

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Vehicle owners will not be provided fuel at petrol pumps in Delhi without showing a valid pollution under control certificate from October 25, Environment Minister GopalRai said on Saturday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of officials from environment, transport and traffic departments on September 29 during which modalities and implementation of the plan were discussed, he said."Vehicular emission is one of the key contributors to rising pollution in Delhi. It is imperative to reduce it so it has been decided that from October 25 petrol, diesel will not be provided at petrol pumps without PUC certificate of the vehicle," Rai said in a press conference here. The minister said that a notification in this regard will also be issued soon and the modalities of the plan will become clear in a week's time.

According to the Delhi Transport Department, over 17 lakh vehicles, including 13 lakh two-wheelers and three lakh cars, were plying without valid PUC certificates till July 2022.If caught without a valid PUC certificate, vehicle owners may face imprisonment up to six months or fine up to Rs 10,000 or both as per the Motor Vehicles Act.The minister said that all government departments have also been advised to get PUC certificates of their vehicles checked."On March 3, 2022, we issued a public notice inviting suggestions on the implementation of the move 'No PUC, No fuel'."On May 2, suggestions were received

and many people were in favour of the implementation of this move. So, the government is preparing to implement it from October 25," Rai told reporters.

The minister also said that the Delhi government will launch its 24x7 war room on October 3 to combat pollution and ensure effective and serious implementation of the amended Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the national capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.Under the revised GRAP, curbs can be imposed on polluting activities for up to three days in advance based on forecasts.Earlier, the authorities would implement the measures only after the concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 touched a particular threshold.

This time, restrictions will be based on Air Quality Index (AQI) values rather than PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations.Rai said an anti-dust campaign will also be launched in Delhi from October 6 and surprise inspections will be conducted at construction sites to check dust pollution.He said construction sites bigger than 5,000 sqm will have to deploy one anti-smog gun, those bigger than 10,000 sqm should have two such guns and sites bigger than 20,000 sqm will have to engage four anti-smog guns to combat dust pollution."If these measures are not followed by companies at construction sites, then strict action will be taken against them under the anti-dust campaign," Rai said. (PTI)




Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya at the 'National Voluntary Blood Donation Day', as part of countrywide Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, in New Delhi

Kharge resigns as LOP in RS; Digvijaya, Chidambaram in race to replace him

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Senior Congress leader MallikarjunKharge has resigned as the Leader of Opposition in RajyaSabha, sources said on Saturday, a day after he filed his nomination papers for the AICC president's election.

Kharge's resignation, which the 80-year-old leader sent to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, is in line with the party's declared 'One person, One post' principle that was announced at the Udaipur 'ChintanShivir' in May. The resignation letter was sent by Kharge last night, the sources said. Senior leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh are learnt to be the front-runners



MallikarjunKharge

to take on the mantle of Leader of Opposition in RajyaSabha. The stage was set on Friday for a contest between Kharge and ShashiTharoor for the Congress president's post. Kharge, a Dalit leader from Karnataka has emerged as the clear favourite.

The third candidate in the fray, K N Tripathi, a former Jharkhand minister, is considered a lightweight for the contest. Kharge, Tharoor and Tripathi filed nominations on the last day of the process which saw the AICC headquarters come back to life after a long time, with workers swarming the complex. Kharge, flanked by top Congress leaders, has filed 14 sets of nomination papers with the proposers including Ashok Gehlot, Digvijaya Singh, A K Antony, AmbikaSoni, MukulWasnik and members from the G-23 ginger group comprising Anand Sharma, BhupinderHooda, PrithvirajChavan and Manish Tewari. (PTI)

Delhi HC dismisses minister Satyendar Jain's plea challenging transfer of PMLA case

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ The Delhi High Court on Saturday dismissed a plea by minister Satyendar Jain challenging a lower court order to transfer the money laundering case against him to another court.

Justice Yogesh Khanna said all facts were duly considered by the Principal District and Sessions Judge while transferring the case, which is being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and it cannot be held that the decision suffered from any illegality or needed interference. The judge noted that in view of certain circumstances, the ED had an apprehension that justice may not be done and was of the opinion that such an apprehension was to be seen from the party's point of view and not that of the judge. "The question is not of integrity or uprightness of the judge but is of an apprehension in the mind of a party," it said.

The court also said the apprehensions raised by the agency were not at a "belated stage" and "the facts show that the department did not merely harbour such apprehension but rather had acted upon it by rushing to this court (at an earlier occasion) ... hence it cannot be said to be flimsy or not reasonable". "The petition is, therefore, dismissed," the court said in its order. Jain had moved the high court last month challenging the September 23 order of Principal District and Sessions Judge Vinay Kumar Gupta transferring the money laundering case to Special Judge VikasDhull from Special Judge GeetanjaliGoel, who was hearing his bail plea.

The district judge's order was passed on an application for transfer moved by the investigating agency. The agency, in its transfer application before the district judge, had argued that while there was no complaint against the judge hearing the matter, it was "a case of probable bias" in favour of the Delhi minister and there was an apprehension that it might not get an independent and impartial hearing. The AAP leader argued before the high court that the ED cannot be allowed to "brow beat" a judge and seek transfer of the money laundering case citing "bias" without any basis.

Senior advocate KapilSibal, appearing for Jain, contended that not interfering with the ED's conduct would bring anarchy and asserted that "bias suddenly dawned" on the agency after the special

court judge "did not agree" at that stage with its request for constituting an independent board for Jain's medical examination. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, argued that the district court order warrants no interference as in spite of "sufficiently demonstrating" that the jail officials as well as doctors of LokNayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital were "managed" and were assisting the minister in "feigning" sickness for the purpose of granting interim bail, and the special judge "looked the other way".

Raju, however, clarified that the agency was not casting any aspersions on the judge as it was "nobody's case that bias has been proved". The senior lawyer stated the transfer was sought after a "cumulative assessment" and justice should not only be done but also seem to have been done. The ED had arrested Jain and two others in the money laundering case based on a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR lodged against the AAP leader in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Jain is accused of having laundered money through four companies linked to him. (PTI)

Rising pollution has become major concern for entire humanity: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH, OCT 1 /--/ Haryana Chief Minister ManoharLalKhattaronFriday said rising pollutionlevel has become a major concern for the entire humanity. Khattar also said some wild animal species are on the verge of extinction, and emphasised on efforts to save them. He said conserving water is the need of the hour. "Increasing pollution levels have become an issue of major concern for the entire humanity....Considering the environment as a circular economy, plans should be made to save the environment," the Chief Minister said in his speech as the chief guest at the annual conference on the implementation of the 'DistrictEnvironmentPlan' at Panchkula. "TheEnvironment and Climate Change Department along with other departments will also have to put collaborative efforts into making such plans," he said.

National Green Tribunal (NGT) chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also attended the function as a special guest, according to an official statement. Khattar said a call for green revolution was given when the country was facing the crisis of food grains and today "we have not only become self-sufficient in food grains production but have also started exporting food grains". The CM said the 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat Yojana' has been implemented in Haryana so that the coming generations get cultivable land. He said there are about 18,000 ponds in Haryana, out of which 8,000 overflowing ponds are in rural areas. After treating water of such ponds, it can be used for irrigation, and enabling schemes for micro-irrigation are being prepared, he said. The use of treated wastewater from the pond will be made mandatory for micro-irrigation in the area near the pond, he said, adding a blueprint is being prepared. Addressing the function, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the Manohar Lal-led government has taken many significant initiatives to protect the environment. "Today, the chief minister's image has become of someone who believes in finding permanent solutions to any problem, said the NGT chairperson, according to the government statement. (PTI)

Ankita Bhandari murder case: 3 key accused remanded in SIT custody

DEHRADUN, OCT 1 /--/ The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the Ankita Bhandari murder case has taken the three main accused on police remand, an official said on Saturday. Accused Pulkit Arya, owner of the resort where Bhandari was working as a receptionist, and his two accomplices -- resort manager Saurabh Bhaskar and assistant manager Ankit Gupta -- were arrested on September 23 for allegedly killing her after she refused to give 'extra service' to a VIP customer who is yet to be identified. The trio may also be taken to the crime scene to establish the sequence of events, the official said on the condition of anonymity. Revenue police sub-inspector Vaibhav Pratap Singh, who is under suspension for dereliction of duty for allegedly not registering an FIR in the case despite being approached, is also being interrogated. Further, the investigating team has recorded the statement of Ankita's friend with whom she had a chat on the day of her murder. The SIT has constituted five teams to speed up investigation into the case, which has triggered a massive public outrage in the state. It has also recovered a mobile phone from the Chilla canal into which Ankita had allegedly been thrown. The phone has been handed over to the forensic team, the official said. (PTI)

Heath profile of every citizen of Telangana being created: CM

WARANGAL, OCT 1 /--/ The health profile of every citizen of Telangana will be prepared soon and the initiative launched on a pilot basis in Siricilla and Mulugu assembly constituencies has already concluded, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao said on Saturday. Speaking after the inauguration of Prathima Cancer Hospital and a Medical College here, he said Telangana will have over 10,000 seats once all the medical colleges, envisaged by his government, are set up. He said the aim is to have at least one college in each of the 33 districts in the state. "We have taken up a great endeavour of creating the health profile of Telangana. On an experimental basis we have taken up Siricilla constituency and Mulugu constituency and created a 100 per cent health profile. Details such as blood group and other parameters of every person were computerized," Rao said.

The Chief Minister also noted that once the project was completed at the state level, access to health profile of any citizen will just be a click away. According to him, the number of MBBS seats in the state has reached 6,800 from 2,800 in 2014. There were only five government medical colleges in the state when the state was formed in 2014. The number has gone to 17 now. "Though the Centre did not allot any medical college to the state, we are aiming to establish medical colleges in all 33 districts," he said.

The Chief Minister took a pot shot at the Union Ministers, saying that they criticise the TRS government when they visit the state, but give away awards of excellence in New Delhi. Rao said some forces are trying to plant the seeds of poison in people's minds, which is not good for the society. The cultivable land in America is 29 per cent, China is 16 per cent while India has 43 crore acres blessed with favourable climatic conditions and 70,000 TMC of river waters, he noted. (PTI)

Shah to visit J&K for 2 days from Oct 4

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir for two days beginning October 4, during which he will review the security situation there, address two rallies and offer prayers at Vaishno Devi temple.

On the first day of the visit, Shah will address a public meeting at Rajouri, launch development projects and also lay foundation stones for various projects in Jammu after visiting the Vaishno Devi temple in the morning. On October 5, he will review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at a meeting to be held at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the army, paramilitary forces, state police and civil administration will take part in the high-level meeting. Shah will also address a public meeting at Baramulla before launching and laying foundation stones for various development projects in Srinagar. (PTI)

Avalanche near Kedarnath temple leaves pilgrims worried, officials allay fears

DEHRADUN, OCT 1 /--/ An avalanche near the Kedarnath temple this morning left pilgrims scared even as officials said those planning to visit the shrine need not worry. "At around 6.30 am, a huge chunk broke off a glacier between Kedar Dome and Swargarohini and fell near the Chorabari lake located behind the temple. Plumes of snow were seen hanging over the lake for three to four minutes," Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) chairman Ajendra Ajay said. The avalanche right behind the temple scared devotees, who were reminded of the massive 2013 Kedarnath deluge, which had killed thousands. However, Ajay said the broken glacier did not lead to a rise in the water levels in Mandakini and Saraswati rivers and there was no need to panic.

As a precautionary measure, the local administration and teams from Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd, BKTC and the State Disaster Response Force are keeping a constant watch on the water levels, Ajay said. "The incident occurred far away from the temple in the Himalayan region, where such incidents are common. It has had no effect on Kedarpuri, the the township around the temple. Those arriving on the Kedarnath Dham Yatra need not worry," he added. (PTI)

Rahul seeks fair compensation for families of Covid victims

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called for fair compensation for families of COVID-19 victims and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, "why are you denying them their right".

Rahul on Friday interacted with family members of some coronavirus patients who died due to oxygen shortage, at Gurdupet in Karnataka during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Sharing a video from that interaction, the former Congress chief on Saturday tweeted, "Prime Minister, do listen to Pratiksha, who lost her father due to BJP govt's COVID mismanagement." She pleads for government support to pursue her



education and meet her family's needs, Rahul said. "Don't families of COVID

victims deserve fair compensation? Why are you denying them their right," he asked.

According to a statement issued by the Congress, during an interaction with Gandhi, the family members of the victims, expressed their anger against the BJP government that it did not even acknowledge the deaths of their loved ones. "Words of small girl child Pratiksha, made everyone teary eyed in the hall. She was stating the apathy witnessed by her mother, who is jobless after the death of her father," the statement said. (PTI)

Cong govt to complete full term in Rajasthan: Gehlot

JAIPUR, OCT 1 /--/ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday said the Congress government will complete its five years and that the next budget will be dedicated to students and the youth. Gehlot also said the Congress will not let the BJP succeed in its plan to topple the government. "We will complete five years and I have said the next budget



Ashok Gehlot

will be presented for students and the youth," the Chief Minister told reporters while replying to a question whether he will present the fifth budget of the incumbent government in the state. Gehlot is on a tour of Bikaner division to attend various events related to rural youth olympics. Attacking the BJP, he said: "They keep making efforts to ensure that our

government does not complete five years. Earlier, too, the BJP tried horse trading but our MLAs were united and they did not budge. You can see the government was saved last time and it is still going strong." Gehlot appealed to the youth, students and the public in general to send their suggestions directly to him so the government can come up with better

schemes. Responding to the allegation that the Congress was not able to deliver a strong Opposition in the country, Gehlot said Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' had left the BJP government shocked and that it was left with no issue to attack the grand old party. Further, he said the election to choose the Congress president was sending across a message to

the people of the country. "When Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nadda became the BJP presidents, no one knew. In the Congress, election is being conducted in a democratic manner. This election has given a message to the people of the country that the Congress is still in the position of giving a strong Opposition," Gehlot said. (PTI)

Durand faultlines on cricket pitch

BHOPINDER SINGH

When the former Pakistani speedster and motor-mouth Shoaib Akhtar railed against the ostensible behaviour of Afghan players and fans in the recent Asia Cup match, the subliminal sense of Pakistani clientelism was unmistakable. Shoaib's patronising tone following the heated exchange by players in the cliffhanger reeked of one-sided entitlement, "Aap hai ki hamare bhai hai, sah mulk hain, hum apse laad bhi karte hai, khyal bhi rakhte hai, and aap kya batameezi bhi karte ho. (Here you are, we consider you our brothers, you are our neighbouring nation, we love and take care of, and here you are showing your brazenness) this is not acceptable yaar." That Shoaib's view was selectively berating, condescending and mocking is one thing- but it was also layered by unsavory societal faultlines, "Isiliye allah ne aapko Saza di, isiliye aalah ne ek pathan ko duusre pathan se chakka marwake zaleel kiya, aur rote

hui gayi Afghanistan team (That is why the almighty punished you, where the almighty made a Pathan (Pakistani player) hit a six against you, and you were humiliated and Afghanistan team went out crying!). The subtext of a Pakistani Pathan versus Afghan Pathan was loaded, as it militates against the sense of Pashtunistan or common homeland/identity of Pathans across both sides of the Durand Line, separating Pakistan and Afghanistan. The visibilised animosity besetting the Pakistan-Afghanistan realm is palpable and deep, and the cricket pitch only reflects the same. It is starker and more intense as compared to the outpourings in India-Pakistan matches, today. The historically wounded sentiment along the 2670-kilometer-long border dividing Afghanistan-Pakistan or the Durand Line (vehemently unrecognised by Afghanistan), has metastasized over the years with the perception of constant Pakistani patronage of terror and mayhem in Afghanistan. Islamabad

has pandered to Pan-Islamic terror groups like the dreaded Taliban, puritanical Haqqani faction, brutal Hekmatyar faction, etc., to suppress and undercut Pashtun nationalism- all this has led to simmering hate in the minds of average Afghan on the street who justifiably blame Pakistan for decades of bloodshed and violence. Treating Afghanistan as its backyard or 'Strategic Depth' is an institutionalised aspiration in Pakistan and even the revisionist Taliban regime finds itself uncomfortable defending Pakistani interferences, beyond a point. A few months back, the Taliban Foreign Ministry was forced to call the Pakistani Ambassador in Kabul to condemn airstrikes on Afghan soil. Taliban spokesperson had warned, 'not

to test that patience of Afghans' and that, 'same mistakes again.... will have bad consequences! Even with its own propped Taliban regime in Kabul, the Pakistanis are getting the rough end of the stick, as the blame for the larger Afghan socio-economic misery is attributed squarely of the Pakistanis, and especially to its shadowy agency, ISI. No amount of rote Pakistani spiel of 'coreligiosity cuts ice in Afghanistan. It's not just 'Taliban Khan' or the former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan who is the poster boy of Pakistani misadventures, but even the coalition of PPP and PML-N are similarly despised in the unforgiving memories of the Pathans. Afghan elders remember Nawaz Sharif's electoral bluster to then rivals PPP in 1993, 'You

gave up Dhaka, but we took Kabul' with dismay and hate. Across the political canvass of Pakistani democracy and Military rules, the Pakistanis have sought indebtedness of the Afghans for the harbouring of Pashtun refugees- only the Afghans have found that expectation extremely humiliating, simplistic, and condescending. So, while the war-torn Afghanistan Cricket Team has kept defying the odds with individual performances and heroics of resilience, and heroics, it has sadly lost more matches than it has won. This Asia Cup was no different (win against the much higher-ranked Bangladesh notwithstanding), except that when it came to the Afghanistan-Pakistan match, a lot more was at stake and Afghan emotions were raw. Beyond the on-field fracas amongst players, after the match, the Afghan fans let their fury on Pakistani fans and had them scurrying for safety. The pent-up frustration against the Pakistanis was a lot more than what can be attributed to a simple case of winning or losing a

cricket match. The irrepressible Winston Churchill once noted about the Pathans, 'Every family cultivates its vendetta; every clan, its feud. Today the proud Pathans (who form the majority of Afghanistan) are reeling under unprecedented misery and there is no doubt as to which direction their ire is pointed. Official politics may not be on the side of the average Afghan belief, as its incumbent government is still essentially dependent on Pakistani support for legitimacy, but it is a groundswell of angst that this filling up fast and may tip over the Taliban patience, too. It was ultimately left to the former Afghan captain, Shafiq Stanikzai, to have the last word when he coldly warned Shoaib, 'baat ko nation pe Mat lena' (do not extrapolate your comments to the nation)— implicit in the Stanikzai's warning was the larger sentiment and augury of the future. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

EOI IMPACT

Pinakinagar-Pareshnagar road work begins on DC's order

MAYABUNDER, OCT 1/--/ Acting on a news report published recently on bad condition of Pinakinagar to Pareshnagar roads in North & Middle Andaman, the Deputy Commissioner, N&M Andaman, Dr.Satyendra Singh Dursawat has directed the Project Manager, NH-4, M/S VasistaMantena for immediately taking up repair work to make this road motorable. Accordingly, the Contractor has started the repair work of this road.

The Pinakinagar to Pareshnagar in North & Middle Andaman is in a very bad shape, totally damaged and un-motorable. Due to flooding in the nearby nallah, a portion of the road was washed away while flooding destroyed the entire stretch of Pinakinagar to Pareshnagar roads.

Public transport vehicles like autos, buses and private jeeps deny ferrying commuters on this stretch for fear of breakdowns. Private vehicle owners, who commute on the stretch, suffer frequent tyre rips and punctures and burn holes in their pockets for costly repairs. Many have also suffered injuries negotiating the tattered stretch.

Due to this un-motorable road commuters have to take alternate routes to reach their village by traveling upto 12 kms extra while the same distance can be covered by travelling just one km if this road is repaired. Local residents prefer to use the village road rather than the NH-4 road as the ATR road is in a very bad shape in the entire region.

KARTIK

International Day for Older persons, elderly voters felicitated

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ 1st October is celebrated as International Day for Older Persons, across the world. As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, the occasion is celebrated by recognizing the contribution of Senior Citizens/Voters towards strengthening Indian Democracy. As part of occasion, a personalized addressed letter of Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India has been handed over to Senior Citizens (80+ age group) and centenarian voters by respective BLOs/AEROs for their continuous contribution in the Electoral process.

On the occasion, the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer of Ferrargunj& Little

Andaman alongwith Booth Level Officers felicitated the Centenarian voters by visiting their home.



Further, in order to ensure maximum participation of senior citizens (80+ age group), and Voters with Disabilities (40% and more disability), ECI has bought out many new facilitations like wheel chairs, ramps, volunteers, free 'to and fro' transport facilities and queue less voting are a few of the facilities available to every Senior Citizens(80+ age group).

The CEO has expressed gratitude to all senior citizens of A&N Islands for their continuous participating in the democratic process and thereby strengthening Indian democracy.

Training-cum-seminar for Construction Cooperative Societies

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ A day-long training-cum-seminar for Construction Cooperative Societies of Port Blair and Ferrargunj Tehsils was organized by the Cooperative Societies (PACS). The aim for organizing such seminars is to understand the root cause of the problems/ issues being faced by the Cooperative Societies so that the same can be resolved. The Secretary (Coop)-cum-RCS giving reference to best functioning Cooperative Societies of mainland advised to work unitedly for the upliftment of the Cooperative Societies.



The Secretary (Coop)-cum-RCS assured the members of the construction cooperative societies that the problems/issued being faced by them will be looked into for early settlement.

NABARD imparted information on employment generations through Cooperatives and also gave information on the schemes available with NABARD. The representative from the A & N State Coop Union, Teylerabad provided information on adoption of viable projects for sustainability. A session on book keeping and maintenance of accounts of the Cooperatives was conducted by the faculty of JNRM College to equip the Board of Directors and members of the said Construction Cooperative Societies with the knowledge on maintenance of records / books of the cooperative society.

4 Covid positive cases

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ Four COVID positive cases have been detected today in A&N Islands, of which, 3 were from incoming flight passengers who arrived here yesterday. Today, 15 flights with 2593 passengers arrived, out of which, 2269 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 294 passengers and the reports are awaited.

During RAT conducted on 57 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj, no positive case has been detected. At Phoenix Bay Jetty, 31 passengers were tested with RAT, no positive case has been detected. RAT was conducted on 27 passengers at Mohanpura Bus Terminus and no positive case has been detected.

Shyam N Shyam

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GREETINGS

On the auspicious occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti' on 2nd October, I extend my heartiest greetings and warm wishes to all the residents of A&N Islands.

Mahatma Gandhi was a great "Yug Purush" who always followed peace and harmony by not accepting apartheid and caste distinction. His philosophy has attracted the whole world. Taking inspirations from the great thoughts of Gandhiji, we can further strengthen the spirit of love and brotherhood among the Islanders. I would like to appeal to the Islanders to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti while adhering to COVID appropriate behavior.

On this occasion, I wish that the lives of our peace loving Islanders be filled with happiness and prosperity and our Islands move ahead continuously on the path of progress.

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

MESSAGE

The Wildlife Week is celebrated every year from 02nd to 08th of October across the country coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji, the Father of our Nation, with a view to sensitize people about the importance of Wildlife, to inculcate a culture of tolerance, compassion among the people for wildlife as well as to instill a sense of responsibility on every citizen to protect and conserve the wildlife and its habitats. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands is an internationally acknowledged tropical hotspot of biodiversity exhibiting a wide range of floral and faunal diversity. It is also bestowed with high degree of endemism, in terms of wildlife inhabiting our dense tropical forests, luxuriant mangroves, extensive sea grass meadows and fringing coral reefs. These forests and wildlife offer a variety of tangible and intangible benefits to the islanders particularly by attracting lot of tourists to these Islands, thus providing livelihood opportunities to many local people through tourism and allied activities. Therefore, protecting these life support system is essential for our own existence and ensuring our constitutional duties as enshrined at Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution of India. On the occasion of this 68th Wildlife Week 2022, let us redeem our resolve to protect and conserve our wildlife and their habitats to maintain the ecological security of our Islands. I would also like to appeal to all people to supplement the efforts of the Administration in preserving the wildlife of our Islands.

JAI HIND

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

Free entry to Nature park, Interpretation centre& Biological park

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1/--/ As a part of 68th Wildlife Week Celebration, 2022, the entry to Nature Park and Interpretation Centre, Haddo (NPIC) and Biological Park, Chidiyatapu (BPCT) shall remain free during the Wildlife Week w.e.f Oct. 2 to 8, 2022.

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*Be not afraid of greatness:
some men are born great,
some achieve greatness and
some have greatness thrust
upon them*
William Shakespeare

RBI decision on expected lines, more hike in offing

The Reserve Bank’s decision to hike the interest rate by half a percentage point is on expected lines. The RBI raised the policy rate by 50 bps as expected, aligning itself to aggressive monetary tightening globally. Experts say another increase by 50-60 basis points is likely this fiscal due to sticky inflation. Given the global adverse conditions, the pressure on the rupee is likely to persist and hence the need for continued rate hikes. Inflation worries are also likely to continue from a seasonal food price shock and demand conditions gathering momentum. Thus a rate hike of another 50-60 bps in the current cycle seems feasible. While raising the key short-term lending rate (repo), the Reserve Bank said the consumer price index (CPI) based inflation would remain at around 6 per cent in the second half of the current financial year. The central bank has raised the key interest rate by 190 basis points since May this year, taking the repo rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent. In an off-cycle policy, the RBI had raised the repo rate by 40 basis points in April and then effected a 50 basis point increase each in the scheduled monetary policy reviews in June, August and September (the latest).

The rupee has depreciated by 7.4 per cent against the US dollar in the current fiscal amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and slowdown in several major economies. In a scenario such as this, the cost of borrowing will increase, therefore pushing banks and other financial institutions to increase their lending rates, making EMIs costlier than before. With the rate hike, home loan rates will increase. Experts advised people opting for home loans to be very cautious and calculative in times such as these and asked borrowers to prepay a part of their loan outstanding with surplus funds or increase their EMIs so as to cushion the overall interest outflow. Interestingly, the demand in the housing market continues to remain robust despite subsequent rate hikes. In fact, in many cities, it is improving. This, there may not be any major impact in the scenario even after today’s RBI decision. However, with home rates hovering between 8-9 per cent, further tightening, if any, will start to impact the sector and thereby the overall economy. Consumer loan rates on all home, car, personal, and education loans on floating rates will become more expensive. New borrowers will have to take loans at a higher price compared to last week. At a time like this, it is advisable to prepay in any shape and form to control interest outflow. With pre-payment, borrowers may feel the pinch in the short term, but they will be better off once the rate cycle reverses.

The overall impression is that the RBI move will help tame the increased inflationary pressure and improve foreign capital inflow to arrest the declining value of the rupee against the US dollar. The recent correction in global commodity prices including crude oil, if sustained, may ease some cost pressure in the coming months.

Pakistani Taliban is a volcano waiting to erupt

REFLEX ACTION

Manish Rai

Afghan Taliban and TTP goes deeper. As both the Afghan Taliban and TTP are Pashtun. It is thus alarming that at the same time the Afghan Taliban continues to challenge Pakistani territorial integrity by rejecting the Durand Line. The TTP is concurrently pressing for a reversal to the merger of the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Together, these efforts could bring the idea of a mostly Pashtun-inhabited tribal borderland with a potential associated separatist movement into the mainstream.

Another source of the TTP’s aggressive stance is the perceived weakness of its opponent, i.e., the Pakistani State, which has been experiencing high levels of socioeconomic and political instability. Mired in their own set of domestic problems, the Pakistani government and military officials come across as beleaguered, desperate for a peace deal to curtail violence. This perception is evident from the tones taken by the TTP’s chief, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, and spokesperson Muhammad Khurasani in their public statements since last October when these negotiations became public. For example, the TTP attributes the country’s problems of inflation and taxes, rising ethnic division, and government mismanagement of natural calamities to the “State cruel policies”, the corrupt practices of its civil and military leaders, and a lack of Sharia implementation.

The TTP’s links with transnational jihadi networks plus its demands to retain control of its weapons and demerge FATA from KP strongly suggests that the group intends to use the peace process to gain control of its old stronghold not only as a sanctuary for its allies but also as a launch base for its new war on the state. In the past Afghan Taliban leaders like Mullah Umar and Sirajuddin Haqqani

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in June this year declared an indefinite ceasefire to facilitate peace talks being brokered by the Afghan Taliban. But there have been regular clashes between TTP and Pakistan security forces since then despite both sides confirming the truce is still on. Recently, questions were raised over the fate of peace talks after some media publications reported that armed militants had returned to their former stronghold in Swat, Dir, and parts of the tribal districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

Also, recently the Pakistan army said that five soldiers and at least four fighters died in a gun battle when security forces raided a hideout in Boyya, North Waziristan. TTP confirmed the clash and accused the government of bad faith, saying troops had attacked them in six districts recently, including Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Whether or not the negotiations progress, an imminent escalation of violence appears most likely. It has the potential of spreading from the frontier into the urban areas, particularly given the fragile political and economic situation in the country.

Also, in the long term, there are not many bright prospects for peace talks. The main sticking points are demands by the TTP to reverse FATA’s merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Imposition of Sharia law in the area, and the withdrawal of Pakistan’s military forces from the border region. These main demands of TTP are next to impossible to be fulfilled by the Pakistani deep state. Not only has the Taliban’s victory in Afghanistan emboldened the TTP, once one of the world’s most deadly terror groups, to intensify its insurgency against Islamabad, but it has also given it the confidence to expect a more deferential treatment from Islamabad that parallels that of the US toward the Afghan Taliban.

Hence its highly unlikely that TTP will negotiate on any of its core demands. The Pakistani Taliban is trying to portray itself politically on the same lines as that of the Afghan Taliban but is essentially anti-Pakistan in its stance. The outfit has repeatedly refused to acknowledge the Durand Line in this they are getting tacit support from the Afghan Taliban. The alignment of interests between the



Durga puja revellers at a community Durga puja pandal, in Kolkata

Neo-Fascist Meloni’s win a bad omen for Europe

FOCUS

C.J. Atkins

Tally another victory for the neo-fascist, anti-immigrant right wing in Europe. Giorgia Meloni, leader of the Brothers of Italy party—the successor to the post-World War II Italian Social Movement—is set to be the next prime minister of that country following Sunday’s national election.

Almost exactly a hundred years after fascist leader Benito Mussolini made himself dictator of Italy with his notorious October 1922 “March on Rome,” his political heirs are marching back into power. Meloni will be the nation’s first far-right leader since Il Duce was overthrown and executed by Communist partisans in 1945.

Her right-wing bloc won a decisive 44% plurality in the country’s multi-party elections, with the Brothers of Italy alone taking more than a quarter of the vote. The center-left coalition led by the Democratic Party, successor to the old Italian Communist Party, scored only 26%. Speaking at a rally early Monday morning, Meloni hailed her party’s win as the expression of the will of the Italian people. “If we are called to govern this nation, we will do it.... Italy chose us. We will not betray it.”

While the result clearly represents a dramatic shift to the right, it is not necessarily a signal that voters are swinging in line behind the neo-fascists. Overall turnout was only 64%, a historic low by Italian standards. Some poll results suggested droves of voters simply stayed home in protest, expressing their dissatisfaction with the anti-democratic backroom deals that put the previous three governments into office—including the outgoing administration of Premier Mario Draghi. The outgoing premier also remained slavishly committed to the

European Union’s strict fiscal austerity measures, which would require extensive and unpopular cuts to social spending in exchange for COVID recovery funds. While Europe’s leaders remain tight-fisted when it comes to COVID recovery cash, Italy’s real problem may not be reckless government spending, but rather Italian capitalism’s persistent failure to compete with the powerful economies of Germany and France. Since the adoption of the common currency in 1999, annual per capita economic growth has been stuck at zero. Even when accounting for the generally slower productivity growth of late capitalist economies and the recessions of recent years, competitors like Spain, France, and Germany still managed to notch growth rates of 1% or higher. Following the defeat of Italy and Germany by the Allied powers, the neo-fascists of the MSI reorganized themselves, but only managed to poll in the single digits from the 1950s to the 1980s. But its survival kept the nationalist and authoritarian alternative on the table for the lower middle class, the economically discontented, and big business—if it ever felt compelled to call on it again.

As Italy’s economic fortunes worsened, the MSI saw an uptick in its support, almost winning the mayor’s office in Rome in 1993. To shed some of its most blatant fascist baggage, the party was renamed the National Alliance. Meloni, raised in a working-class Rome neighborhood by a

single mom, joined the movement around this time, eventually becoming head of the party’s youth league. She helped found the Brothers of Italy in 2012, merging together a number of like-minded neo-fascist and right-wing groups.

Meloni says the Brothers of Italy is “a new party for an old tradition.” And like previous MSI and National Alliance leaders, some of her kind words for the former dictator and his “old tradition” have come back to haunt her. She’s tried to publicly disavow the brutality of the fascist period, but also walks a tightrope trying to appeal to the voting base that yearns for a return to the days of Mussolini. Meloni declares the Italian right has left fascism behind in the history books and condemns the old regime and its “suppression of democracy” and “ignominious anti-Jewish laws.”

But at the same time, she rails against immigrants, LGBTQ people, and “Islamic violence.” And in an unmistakable signal to the movement’s old-timers, she has kept the MSI’s original fascist red-white-green flame logo on the Brothers party flag. Regardless of all the history acrobatics, it was probably Meloni’s repeated condemnation of EU officials and their fiscal warfare on Italian workers that gained her the most support. Staking out clear opposition to the financial blackmail of the EU and the continent’s big banks provided a stark contrast to the weak and ambiguous positions taken by social democratic and center-left

politicians. The inaction of the left provided an opening for the extreme right, which Meloni seized. As with right-wing leaders around the world who say they’re for the workers when running for office but then govern for the bosses after winning, Meloni has already begun to make moves that go in the direction opposite her populist pledges. As voting day neared, she toned down her anti-EU rhetoric, portending a turn once she assumes power.

Meloni’s shift toward fiscal austerity will probably mean little will change in economic policy; she will likely follow the dictates of the EU’s financial masters and even throw in extra anti-labor policies for good measure. No changes should be expected in Italy’s foreign policy either, despite the anti-war and pro-Putin positions taken by some of her coalition allies, like former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and former Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini. Meloni is the strongest figure in the alliance, and she is in lock-step with NATO when it comes to continued weapons shipments to Ukraine. The same position may have cost Draghi support, but Meloni is almost guaranteed to stick to his policies when it comes to the war. The Brothers of Italy victory is the latest and most dramatic in a string of right-wing gains in Europe.

Just days ago, the Sweden Democrats, a party with neo-Nazi roots, made their governmental debut in Scandinavia. Marine Le Pen, daughter of Holocaust denier Marie Le Pen, took her party to second place in France’s presidential election in April. And right-wing authoritarians Viktor Orban and Andrzej Duda already rule in Hungary and Poland, respectively. In other countries, parties with similar ideologies also continue to gain ground. (IPA)

had repeatedly attempted to convince the TTP to focus on the Afghan Jihad and not to attack Pakistan. But these initiatives had always been futile because waging of the Jihad against Pakistan forms the basis for TTP’s separate identity.

These negotiations are most likely to be unproductive because the core of TTP has shown no indication of wanting to seek a peaceful resolution or of renouncing violence. The difficulties of negotiating a settlement with the TTP include not only its chequered history of violating previous agreements, such as the Malakand accord but also its fragmented nature.

Peace negotiations often fail to work with a fragmented organization, because competing factions within the group will feel threatened if any political deal empowers their rivals. The TTP is not internally cohesive like the Afghan Taliban. And power struggles within different factions can result in heightened and prolonged violence as they will engage in outbidding and fratricidal violence. Internal competition can also result in defections, and in the TTP’s case, Islamic State Khorasan (ISK) has been and may continue to be an attractive alternative.

As a matter of fact, Tehreek-I-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is the largest militant organization in Pakistan. They may not be able to control large swaths of territory in tribal areas as they used to do till 2014. But certainly, it can launch a new wave of terrorist attacks across Pakistan if not checked in time.

The real operational strengths of the Pakistan Taliban are its affiliates and support networks, which still exist and are thriving inside Pakistan. The TTP, unlike the Afghan Taliban, has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the US. The TTP is closer to the global jihadist agenda of targeting the far enemy. Pakistan needs to realize that to address the threat emerging from TTP a multidimensional approach is required that goes beyond kinetic operations. In addition to building up military pressure on the TTP. Much effort and many resources need to be poured into countering violent extremism (CVE) measures, deradicalization programmes, and the potential reintegration of combatants in TTP-affected regions. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword												
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17				18						19		
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27							28					

ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Fragment					1	Precious metal				
4	Neat					2	Prayer ending				
7	Threat					3	Nuisance				
8	Old stringed instruments					4	Loiter				
10	Tear					5	Frozen formation				
11	Bury					6	Refusal				
12	Tree					9	Duration				
14	Period of time					13	Smooth even style (mus)				
17	Strong unpleasant smell					15	Direction				
19	Drink					16	Give up				
20	Worshipped images					18	Flying toys				
23	Unightly growth					21	Prophetic sign				
25	Muffled sound					22	Bait				
26	Seesaw					24	Colour				
27	Bricks troughs										
28	At no time										

SUDOKU:3657												
						5	2			8		
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Yesterday's Solution 3656												
6	1	7	2	4	5	3	8	9				
4	2	9	8	3	6	7	5	1				
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9	7	2	6	1	4	8	3	5				
5	4	1	3	7	8	6	9	2				
2	3	6	4	8	9	5	1	7				
7	8	4	5	2	1	9	6	3				
1	9	5	7	6	3	4	2	8				

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1665												
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L	I	F	T	E	D		R		U			
A	T	E		R		G	O	A	L			
S		T		E	V	I	N	C	E			
H	E	E	D	S		N	E	E	D			

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Startup pitching session and open forum discussion held

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1 /--/The Directorate of Industries, A&N Administration organized a 'Startup Pitching Session and Open Forum Discussion' on Friday in the conference hall of Directorate of Industries. The event saw an



overwhelming response from the students of various colleges of these Islands wherein, the students pitched their ideas and innovations. The young entrepreneurs came up with unique solutions and business models in the open pitching sessions from all sectors that included agriculture, IT, handicrafts etc.

The afternoon session further advanced into the convening of an Open Forum Discussion in which all major stakeholder Departments of the Administration viz. Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, APWD, PBMC, ANIDCO Ltd., Banks, IP&T, ACCI and ICAR-CIARI were invited and the DPIIT recognized startups pitched their products and ideas before the Administration. The Open Forum discussion witnessed a space where startups shared constructive criticism and praise alike.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest, SmtiVeditha Reddy, Secretary (Industries), A&N Administration stated that it was heartwarming to witness so many startups in various sectors emerging in the Islands and urged the representatives of various Departments to address the issues faced by startups and provide a handholding support. She further stressed upon the need for conducting a series of events for the Startups viz. sector based, problem solving, marketing and Investment events, etc. The Secretary (Industries) appreciated the efforts of the startups despite the hardships faced in recent times.

In his address, Mr. HariKallikkat, Special Secretary (Industries), A&N Administration expressed his pleasure at the ideas and innovations that were being showcased by the Startups and informed that this is a first step towards a series of programmes and workshops that is being conceived for the promotion and strengthening of Startup EcoSystem in these Islands. He also assured support for the growth and nurture of startups.

MrAbhishekBhukal, Director of Industries thanked all the dignitaries, representatives of various Departments and Startups for making the event a success and stated that effective steps will be taken by the Industries Department along with Line Departments for conducting similar programs for promotion of startups in these Islands.

Merit list uploaded

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1 /--/The provisional category wise merit list of candidates for admission to UG Courses in Andaman College viz. B.Com. B.Com (CS), BBA, B.Sc (Psychology), B. A (English), B.A (Economics) B.A Sociology and B.P.A (Hindustani Vocal and Instrumental) for the academic year 2022-2023 has been uploaded online in the Common College Admission Portal website (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in>) today. Candidates have been requested to examine the provisional merit list for verification their claims and objections. If any claims or objection, the grievances may be mailed to the Andaman College email address andamancollege@gmail.com or submit a grievance letter addressed to the Principal, ANCOL during office hours. The claims and objection will be accepted from Oct. 2 to 4, 2022.

Covid-19 tests at nearest health institutions

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1 /--/The Covid-19 sampling centre at NagarpallikaVidyalaya and Covid-19 vaccination centre at JNRM will be closed with effect from Oct.1, 2022. Those who are intending to undertake Covid-19 test have been requested to visit ITF ground to give their samples.

Further, due to closure of Covid-19 vaccination centre at JNRM, the beneficiaries may visit their nearest health institution for getting the vaccine administered. The vaccination in the health institution will be administered only when sufficient numbers of beneficiaries are accumulated.

Mahatma Gandhi makes special appearance at UN, shares message on education

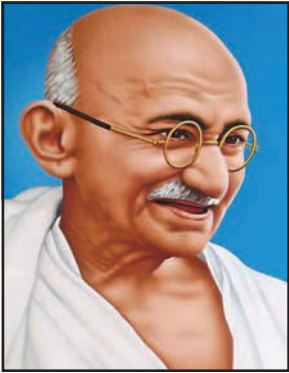
UNITED NATIONS, OCT 1 /--/ In a first, Mahatma Gandhi made a special appearance at the United Nations, sharing his message on education at the world organisation as it commemorated the International Day of Non-Violence on the occasion of the Indian leader's birth anniversary.

A special life-size hologram of Gandhi was projected during a panel discussion organised on Friday by India's Permanent Mission to the UN and UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) at the UN headquarters here to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence. The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Gandhi. According to the General Assembly resolution of June 2007, which established the commemoration, the day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".

The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence". The panel discussion featured India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj; CEO of The King Centre, Atlanta

Bernice King; and youth representative and digital education transformation champion Princess Hayu of Indonesia.

The discussion, moderated by UNESCO MGIEP Director Anantha Duraipappah, was focussed on 'Education for Human Flourishing'. It was part of the Ahinsa Lecture Series and kickstarted the 10-year celebration of UNESCO MGIEP. It was for the first time at the UN that a life-size hologram of Mahatma Gandhi led the panel discussion, a statement said. A voice-over accompanying the Gandhi hologram shared the iconic leader's thoughts on education. Literacy is not the end of education or even the beginning. By education, I mean an all-around drawing out of the best in the child and the man, body, mind and spirit. By spiritual training, I mean education of the heart, Gandhi said. Ahead of the panel discussion, a message by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was read out. In his message, Guterres said Gandhi's life and example reveal a timeless pathway to a more peaceful and tolerant world, as the UN chief called on the international



community to walk this path together, in solidarity, as one human family.

Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Digital Museum in Hyderabad Birad Yajnik told the event's audience that the hologram was the second edition of the Gandhi hologram in 4k. He recalled that the making of the hologram was a process that started in 2018 when Ambassador Kamboj was in South Africa. In 2019, in association with the MGIEP, a dialogue with a hologram of Gandhi

envisioned. Ananda and his team researched the collected works of Gandhi and his thoughts on education. At our end, digitally graphic files were further sculpted, merged with motion graphics to produce a high-definition hologram that narrated the script, Yajnik said, adding that this version led the panel discussion at UNESCO in Paris and later in New Delhi. The future of this hologram is to enable it with AI (Artificial Intelligence) voice engine that can engage the people of the world. The message of Mahatma Gandhi is a message of peace and love, a message that the world desperately needs today. And

Commissioner-cum-Secretary stated that they are doing a commendable job. The Old Age Home is not just an institution, it should be maintained as a home where they can lead a peaceful and not secluded life, she said. She also mentioned that women



guest. The function was attended by elderly womenfolk, Zilla Parishad, Adhyaksha, South Andaman, Smti. Pramila Kumari, Secretary (GA), Shri Binay Bhushan, IAS, Secretary-cum-Director (Social Welfare), Ms. Ranjana Deswal, field functionaries of Social Welfare Department - Anganwadi Workers and Officers / Staff of the Department.

Soon after the inauguration, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary inspected the facilities provided in this Old Age Home which includes spacious bedroom, toilets, recreation hall etc and has a capacity to house 15 beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest remarked that it's a praiseworthy initiative by the Social Welfare Department in providing such a facility which will provide a perfect ambience for the elderly women to lead a dignified life. Social Welfare Department is close to my heart and I have seen the commitment of the workers in reaching out to the last mile population, she said. Describing Anganwadi workers as an important pillar of Social Welfare Department in reaching out to the masses and identifying the beneficiaries, the

The Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad stated that the social workers are doing a praiseworthy job whether during elections, COVID period and in identifying the beneficiaries for the umpteen number of schemes being implemented by Social Welfare Department. She expressed the hope that the Home will help in uplifting life of the elderly women.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-cum-Director, Social Welfare, said that the Department is committed to provide care and protection for destitute and the elderly citizens. This facility has been created within a short span of time and establishing it near Ballika Niketan will help the children and the elderly women interact with each other and spend memorable moments. Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Probation Officer, Social Welfare, Shri A.K. Biswas stated that this is the first Old Age Home for Women established by the Department of Social Welfare and the beneficiaries are identified based on enquiries by the Department. The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Smti. Uma Devi, Mukhya Sevika.

Disaster Management dept conducts 12-days 'Up-scaling AapdaMitra Scheme' of NDMA

PORT BLAIR, OCT 1 /--/ The Directorate of Disaster Management of the A&N Administration in coordination with District Administration, South Andaman conducted 12-days 'Up-scaling AapdaMitra Scheme' of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in South Andaman District from 19th September 2022, at Govt. Girls Sr. Sec. School which was concluded on 1st Oct, 2022. The A&N Administration is implementing Up-scaling of AapdaMitra Scheme in three districts of A&N Islands targeting to train 300 community volunteers under the scheme. The first batch of Community Volunteer of South Andaman District's training was conducted by the Directorate of Disaster Management in coordination with Indian Coast Guard (A&N) and National Disaster Response Force, 4th Btl. Arakkonam Tamil Nadu stationed at Port Blair.

During the concluding session, Mr ASPS Ravi Kumar, Secretary (DM) speaking as the chief guest appreciated the

dedicated participation of volunteers who have successfully completed the training and prepared themselves to fight with disaster situations as first responders at the community level. He explained that, after the enactment of Disaster Management Act-2005, the A&N Administration created statutory body of UT Disaster Management Authority, UT Disaster Management Executive Committee, District Disaster Management Authorities, State Emergency Operation Centre, Emergency Operation Centres and Control Rooms of line Departments in different Islands with state of art communication facilities towards disaster preparedness and management in ANI. He also explained that the A&N Administration in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority prepared the State Disaster Management Plan, District Disaster Management Plans in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Standard Operating Procedures

of each line department. He further stressed that the SEO and all the 06 EOCs are functioning round the clock. He urged all participants to implement what they have trained in their life for SAR Operations and CSSR in a calm manner for better response during hazardous situations and coordinate from community level of their respective district and to the state. He said a trained and prepared mind will only save lives professionally and effectively. Directorate of Disaster Management A&N Administration, Ph: Directorate of Disaster Management:: 242697 (Tel), 233311. (Tel Fax) PhNo :State Control Room : 238880 (Tel Fax), 1077, 234287 (Tel Fax)

On the occasion, Mr. TKS.Ajayan, Asst. Director (Ops) Directorate of Disaster Management briefed the training programme that had been imparted to the AapdaMitra Volunteers under AapdaMitra Scheme in a 12-days long training programme. He further explained that the scheme was aimed to

provide community volunteers with the basic skills required for responding to their community's immediate needs during and in the aftermath of a disaster. These trained volunteers can assist in saving lives using the basic techniques of disaster response, coordination and management.

Mr. Gyan Singh, Asst. Director (Logistics) expressed the gratitude to all esteemed guests and dignitaries, Officers of Administration, Indian Coast Guard (A&N) and NDRF who were present on this occasion as a part of the scheme towards successful implementation in this UT. He further explained his keenness in total participation and cooperation of all for successful completion of this Disaster Management Training which was imparted by Community Volunteer to build better capacity and their skill towards disaster preparedness and capacity building.

The team of Indian Coast Guard and National Disaster Response force has imparted training to Community

Volunteers as per the syllabus prescribed by the National Disaster Management Authority, GoI, MHA, New Delhi on basics of Disaster Management,

Vulnerability, Various Risks, Search & Rescue, Medical First Response and Improvising Rescue Equipment from the local available resources. While interactions with the Community Volunteers during the day session, Mr. Deen Mohammed, Safety Officer, DDM explained the Safety Procedures that are required to be adopted by each volunteer during SAR and CSSR Operations during hazardous situations. During the training, Lt. Col. Surya PrakashPandey, Jt Advisor, NDMA and Mr. BrijeshJaiswal, Coordinator, AapdaMitra Scheme visited to the Islands on 29th and 30th Sept 2022, and interacted with the Volunteers and appreciated their presence and dedication in participating 12 days long training programme.

The valedictory session was concluded by Mr. Janik Ram, Asst. Director (Admn), DDM with vote of thanks.

03-days training on Dakshata



PORT BLAIR, OCT 1 /--/Dakshata, an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India was launched on 26th September, 2022 in A&N Islands to improve the quality of Maternal and Newborn Care during the Intra and immediate Postpartum period.

In line with this, a three days training on Dakshata- training programme to improve maternal, newborn care for Nursing Officers (1st batch) was organised from Sept. 26 to 28, 2022 at Training Hall, NTEP, GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair. The training was inaugurated by Dr.

MunniSinghania, Director, Directorate of Health Services, as the chief guest. In her inaugural address, the Director exhorted the participants to take the training seriously in order to improve the quality of health care in labour rooms to reduce the maternal and infant mortality. Dr. SudhaPatil, Professor& HOD (Obs&Gyneac), Dr. Pragthesh HOD (Paediatrics), Ms. Ruby Varghese and Ms. Privina, Nursing Officers GB Pant Hospital were the resource persons. Altogether 15 Nursing Officers from various health institutions were trained.

TENTATIVE SAILING PROGRAMME OF MV SWARAJ DWEET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 2022.

SCHEDULE OF MV SWARAJ DWEET							
ARRIVAL	DAY	PORT	DEPARTURE	DAY	VOY. NO	TIME (in Hrs)	REMARKS
--	--	PORT BLAIR	11.10.2022	TUE	1012	1600	
14.10.2022	FRI	CHENNAI	18.10.2022	TUE	1013	1600	
21.10.2022	FRI	PORT BLAIR	26.10.2022	WED	1014	1000	
29.10.2022	SAT	VIZAG	30.10.2022	SUN	1015	1600	
02.11.2022	WED	PORT BLAIR	--	--	--		

This is a Tentative Sailing Programme subject to change at short notice. The Directorate of Shipping Services will not bear any responsibility what so ever loses (if any) due to any change in the programme.

Advance reservation of passenger tickets for the above sailings will commence at STARS Ticketing Counters as per the following dates mentioned below.

CHENNAI : 03.10.2022 (MONDAY)
VIZAG : 04.10.2022 (TUESDAY)

Deputy Director Shipping Services
A & N Admn.

CD-I/22-23/27

F.No. 37-DN/TB/CDI/PB/22-23/2296 dt. 27.09.2022
e-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-I, APWD, Port Blair, invites bids on EPC mode on behalf of President of India, for the work mentioned in table below through e-Procurement from eligible Contractors. The bid shall be submitted online in the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>. The bidder(s) should have necessary portal enrolment with their own Digital Signature Certificate:

- NIT No. :- 42/NIT/DB/CD-I/PB/22-23, Name of work: Construction of Working Women's Hostel at Port Blair under Smart city mission on EPC Mode under CD-I,A.P.W.D., Port Blair. **Estimated Cost** : Rs. 25,72,56,998/- **Earnest Money** : ₹. 35,72,570/- **Tender Fee** : ₹. 15,000/- **Time of completion:-** 18 [Eighteen] Months [Tender ID No. 2022_APWD_7469_1]

Tender should be filled on line upto 3.00 PM on or before 04.11.2022. The tender will be opened on the same day at 03.30 PM in presence of tenderers representative if any.

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
Construction Division-I
A.P.W.D., Port Blair

9111/22

Operative of ISI-backed terror module arrested

CHANDIGARH, OCT 1 /-- / The Punjab Police on Saturday said it has arrested another operative of the ISI-backed terror module that was jointly handled by Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and Pakistan-based gangster Harvinder Singh Rinda. Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab, Gaurav Yadav said the accused has been identified as Harpreet Singh alias Har Sarpanch of village Jogewal in Ferozepur. The arrest came eight days after the Counter Intelligence team led by Assistant Inspector General (Counter Intelligence) Jalandhar Navjot Singh Mahal had busted the module with the arrest of its two operatives - Baljit Singh Malhi and Gurbaksh Singh, both residents of Ferozepur. The police had also recovered one sophisticated AK-56 assault rifle along with two magazines, 90 live cartridges and two bullet shells from a location pinpointed by Gurbaksh Singh in his village. (PTI)

19 killed in Iran attack

DUBAI: An attack by armed separatists on a police station in a southeastern city killed 19 people, including four members of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday. The assailants in Friday's attack hid among worshippers near a mosque in the city of Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station, according to the report. IRNA quoted Hossein Modaresi, the provincial governor, as saying 19 people were killed. The outlet said 32 Guard members, including volunteer Basiji forces, were also wounded in the clashes. (AP)



Women trainees of Punjab Police cleaning the statue of Mahatma Gandhi ahead of Gandhi Jayanti in Patiala on Saturday

Bengal BJP to bring down curtains on its Durga Puja from next year

Internal debate reason behind decision, say party sources

TMC's Kunal Ghosh takes a dig at saffron party

KOLKATA, OCT 1 /--/ The BJP, which had become the first political party in West Bengal to organise its own Durga Puja two years back in the run-up to the state assembly elections, has decided to stop the practice from next year. The BJP officially said financial crunch was the reason behind the decision. However, party sources pointed to an internal debate over whether a political party should organise a Durga Puja and also that the party no longer needs to prove its "Bengaliness" in a state where it has been labelled

as an "outsider party" by the ruling Trinamool Congress. In a bid to make the final year memorable, the BJP has chosen 28-year-old Sujata Mondal, a non-Brahmin woman priest, to perform its Durga Puja. The West Bengal unit of the party started organising the puja at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) in Kolkata in 2020 months ahead of the 2021 assembly polls, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressing its inauguration programme. The second edition was held last year. "As per rituals, a Durga Puja must be organised for

at least three consecutive years. So, this will be the last year and we will not be organising it from next year due to financial crunch," Majumdar told PTI. BJP state general secretary Agnimitra Paul said that since the puja began, there have been two viewpoints within the party on whether it should organise a puja. "Maybe the view that the job of a political party is not to organise Durga Puja but conduct mass movements and political programmes gained traction," she said. The Mahila Morcha and the cultural cell of the BJP were instrumental in the

planning and execution of the Durga Puja. On a woman priest performing the puja this year, Paul said: "The BJP believes in women empowerment. If women can perform puja at home, why not in pandals? And, nowhere in Hindu scripts is mentioned that women can't perform pujas. Also, a person becomes Brahmin by deeds, not by birth." Unlike leaders of the Congress and TMC, who are associated with big-ticket Durga Pujas in independent capacities, those of the BJP have hardly been part of any major puja, barring a few who jumped the ship

from the TMC ahead of last year's Assembly elections. As per BJP sources, the state unit no longer needs to organise a Durga Puja to prove its "Bengali credentials" as this year, the party has received more than 300 invites from various clubs inviting either Majumdar or Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari to inaugurate their community pujas. Apart from Adhikari and Majumdar, actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty is also a sought-after personality for inaugurating Durga Pujas organised by clubs aligned with the saffron camp. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi cutting the ribbon to inaugurate 6th edition of India Mobile Congress, in New Delhi on Saturday

Launch of 5G will help in implementation of 'digital university' being envisioned by MoE: Pradhan

HYDERABAD, OCT 1 /--/ Education would be one of the sectors benefitting in a big way from the rollout of 5G technology in the country, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday. The launch of 5G telecom services will greatly help in the implementation of 'digital university' being envisioned by the Ministry of Education, Pradhan said. "Education will be one among the major beneficiary sectors of this 5G rollout," the Union minister said. "Because, now we are envisioning a digital university. We are going for virtual labs. We are going for virtual teachers. In all the areas, if we develop quality content and presentable content, how

do we send them to the nook and corner of the country? 5G will be the major vehicle to reach out to the unreachable," Pradhan told reporters here. The Union minister was replying to a query about the education ministry over the rollout of 5G services in the country by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. With the launch of 5G services, India is joining the "premier league" and the common man will immensely benefit from it, Pradhan said. Digital economy, healthcare, education and other sectors would see the benefit of 5G, he said. "...the new 5G network is going to create a sea change in the entire scenario. I see the poor man will be the major beneficiary of this 5G rollout," he said.

Pradhan was speaking on the sidelines of the 22nd convocation of University of Hyderabad (UoH) here. Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, UoH Chancellor Justice L N Reddy, and Vice Chancellor B J Rao were present. Pradhan and other dignitaries presented degree certificates to the students. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi launched the 5G telephony services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones. The Prime Minister launched 5G services in select cities at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022 conference in Delhi. The services will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years. (PTI)

CEC writes to centenarian voters, thanks them for contribution in electoral process

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has written a personalised letter to over 2.5 lakh centenarian voters across the country expressing gratitude for their contribution in the electoral process. According to the poll panel, there are over 2.5 lakh voters aged 100 years and above, while there are

almost 1.8 crore voters aged 80 and above. "It is because of responsible elder voters like you that we, as a democracy, are flourishing and outshining the world," Kumar wrote. The letters were sent to every state's chief electoral officers, who in turn ensured that they were hand delivered to all the centenarian voters. Kumar said the elderly voters have set an example

for the youth through their continuous zeal to participate in the democratic process, which has helped strengthen democracy. "By casting your vote during various elections, you have proved the real meaning of the value of your vote in deciding the choice of your government over the period," he wrote. Kumar, along with

Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, also interacted with centenarian voters from various districts of Madhya Pradesh via video conferencing. The interaction was part of a felicitation programme for all the centenarian voters in Madhya Pradesh, organised by that state's chief electoral officer to mark the International Day of Older Persons. (PTI)

Kaziranga National Park to partially open for tourists from today

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 /--/ The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), famed for its one-horned rhinoceros, will formally open for tourists from October two for the season 2022-23, an official said on Saturday. The Park will be opened partially only for jeep safaris in the two ranges of Kaziranga or Kohora and Western or Bagori range, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Eastern Assam Wildlife Division Ramesh Gogoi said. The decision to partially open the Park for tourists has been taken in view of the present road conditions due to inclement weather, Gogoi said. The tourists will currently be allowed to travel up to Bimoli Tiniali via Donga tower under Western Range and from Mihimukh via Daflang tower to Vaichamari Junction under Kaziranga Range until further notification, Gogoi added. The Park was earlier declared open by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Isha Foundation's Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudeva on September 23 during the inaugural day of the state government organized 'Chintan Shivir' for ministers, legislators and bureaucrats. The Chief Minister and Sadhguru's visit to the Park had led to a controversy with two residents living in the vicinity of the Park filing a police complaint that the duo had violated rules by entering the UNESCO heritage site after dark. The Park was closed for tourists in May this year due to the onset of monsoon. (PTI)

Cong prez poll: It's Kharge vs Tharoor as Tripathi's nomination rejected

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Former Jharkhand minister KN Tripathi's nomination for the Congress presidential election was rejected on Saturday, leaving party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor in the fray. The three had filed nominations on Friday, the last day of the process. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8 and the final list of candidates will be out at 5 pm on the same day. Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters here, the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said the panel met for scrutiny of forms on Saturday. A total of 20 forms were received during the nomination process. Four of them were rejected as signatures were repeated or did not match, he said. While Kharge submitted 14 forms, Tharoor submitted five and Tripathi one. "Two candidates - Kharge and Tharoor - are in a direct contest now. One

form of another candidate from Jharkhand has been rejected," Mistry said. There is a seven-day window for withdrawal of forms till October 8 when the picture will be clearer, he said. If no one withdraws, the polling will be held, Mistry added. According to him, Tripathi's form was rejected as the signature of one of his proposers did not match and another proposer's signature was repeated. While one rejected form was of Tripathi, Mistry refused to divulge who had filed the other three forms that were rejected. Kharge has resigned as the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, sources said on Saturday, a day after he filed his nomination papers for the AICC president's election. Kharge's resignation, which the 80-year-old leader sent to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, is in line with the party's declared 'One person, One post' principle that was announced at the Udaipur 'Chintan Shivir' in May. The resignation letter

was sent by the enior leader on Friday night, the sources said. Senior leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh are learnt to be the front-runners to take on the mantle of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. Reacting to the development and sharing the list of valid nominations issued by the chief election authority, Tharoor tweeted: "Delighted to learn that, following scrutiny, Shri Kharge and I will be squaring off in the friendly contest for President of Congress. May the Party and all our colleagues benefit from this democratic process!" According to a notification issued by the party on Thursday, the process for filing nominations for the election was from September 24 to 30. The polling, if needed, will be held on October 17. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 19 and the results will be declared the same day. More than 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates will vote in the poll. (PTI)

Russia's war in Ukraine naked aggression; India, France working together to mitigate consequences: French envoy Lenain

NEW DELHI, OCT 1 /--/ Russia's war in Ukraine is a "naked aggression" without any provocation and France and India are working together to mitigate the consequences of the conflict including global food and energy security, French ambassador Emmanuel Lenain said. In an interview to PTI, Lenain said France strongly condemned Russia's illegal annexation of four Ukrainian regions and described it as a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sovereignty. Welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent call to Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict, the envoy said leaders of both India and France are working together to convince Moscow to return to the negotiating table. "We feel that Putin wants to return to the time of imperialism and that's exactly what we want to avoid in Europe and anywhere else in the world, especially in this region where I am talking," he said. "In the Indo-Pacific too, we do not want this, and I am sure India does not want any neighbour to encroach on borders by pure aggression," Lenain said. There has been fresh outrage in Europe over Putin's announcement on Friday of annexing into Russia four Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia which marked the largest forcible takeover of European territory since World War II. The ambassador said France "highly respects" India's autonomy of decision and complimented Modi's comments during a meeting with Putin in the Uzbek city of Samarkand last month that "today's era is not of war". (PTI) "I think it was a very welcome remark, as always, and you have seen that President Emmanuel Macron in his speech in New York to the UN General Assembly has mentioned and quoted Prime Minister Modi," the envoy said. "That's exactly the sort of statements we need, to call on Putin to stop this war of aggression and go back to the negotiating table," he added. On Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions, Lenain said France strongly condemns the illegal action. "It is a serious violation of both international law

and Ukraine's sovereignty. It illustrates what I said: Putin wants to return to the ear of imperialism and a world where might makes right. We will continue to stand by Ukraine," he said. Calling Russia's attack on Ukraine a violation of international law, the envoy said leaders of both India and France are working together to convince President Putin to end the war. "We are working very much together. What can we also do is obviously try to convince Putin to go back to diplomacy, to negotiate. One of the key actions by our leaders in the last few months has been -- however difficult it is -- to maintain a channel with Putin to try to pass this message," he said. France and India have been in touch with each other on the Ukraine crisis and the issue figured prominently during telephonic talks in recent months between Modi and Macron. "We feel it is a naked aggression by a country on another one, on a democracy, an aggression which was without any provocation and that it is not in keeping with the principles of international order," Lenain said. "It is very important that we stand with each other and defend these rules. That being said, on this subject as any others, we highly respect India's autonomy of decision," he added. India has been calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and resolution of the conflict through dialogue. "Our two countries are very close because we are highly independent. What can we do together? A lot. We are working on how to mitigate the consequences of the war on food security and energy security," the envoy said. "In a crisis like this, weaker countries pay the price. So, we want to take initiatives to alleviate. President Macron has proposed an initiative called FARM on food security and I know that India is very willing to take new initiatives in the run-up to its G20 presidency next year," he said. India is taking over the presidency of the G-20 at the grouping's annual summit in the Indonesian city of Bali next month. India has abstained from a UN Security Council resolution condemning Moscow's annexation of parts of Ukraine.



Labourers spread the harvested paddy crop for drying as the procurement process starts at Grain Market near Sirhind Road in Patiala on Saturday.

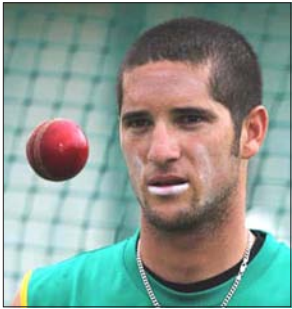
It's difficult to defend when Surya attacks bowlers: Parnell

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 --/ Suryakumar Yadav's incredibly strong and powerful batting has made him one of the most feared T20 batters at the moment and South African all-rounder Wayne Parnell says the bowlers will have to stay strong and focussed while tackling him. Surya slammed a 33-ball 50 in India's eight-wicket win over South Africa on a tricky track in the series-opener.

"Personally from what I've watched in the last couple of months, I think he's probably the best T20 batters at the moment. He scores 360-degree which is very difficult for bowlers to defend," he said on the eve of the second and penultimate T20I of the series.

"It's about being strong and focussed on each ball. He's allowed to play good shots, but the other day he was lucky as well. He's certainly a guy whom I enjoyed watching the last couple of months. He's certainly playing good cricket," Parnell said. Parnell insisted that their flop show in the first T20I was an aberration and there's no need to panic before the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"It's just one of those things. It wasn't a good T20 wicket and they bowled really well, but our batters have been world class in the last couple of years so there's nothing to panic about," he said. On their meek show in the powerplay when they were stuttering 9 for five, Parnell said, "It's a bit of a Catch-22 situation really.



Certainly experience tells you that new ball does swing so you have to have a look at the first one-two overs."

"We have to credit the Indian seamers who bowled really well. We will have to define ways to counter that in the second game."

Kagiso Rabada and Parnell hit the right lengths but the likes of Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi struggled badly in the first match as the visitors looked one seamer short.

"Competition is good for the spots. Every single fast bowlers is different and has different skill sets. It's a positive sign for us. It also means that when we are presented with any particular condition, we can play a certain set of fast bowlers so I think personally having the variety that we have is really exciting," he said. On World Cup preparation, he said: "It's been very good over the last few months. We were here in June, then went on a UK tour, coming back here again before going to Australia. Everyone is in really good spirits and looking forward to next couple of T20Is and the ODIs as well." (PTI)

HI names 33 probables for FIH Pro League matches

BENGALURU, OCT 1 --/ Hockey India on Saturday named a 33-member men's core probable group, including the likes of captain Manpreet Singh and veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, for the FIH Pro League season opening matches beginning on October 28.

The players will report to the SAI Center in Bengaluru on Monday for a national camp ahead of FIH Pro League matches against New Zealand and Spain at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 will give us insights into the areas that require work ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela.

"The matches against Spain and New Zealand are important for us and the players are excited about the upcoming months of hockey. We have chosen some fresh names in the core group who have shown great potential and are eager to perform when given a chance."

India play against New Zealand on October 28 and November 4. They face Germany on October 30 and November 6. The team will move to Bhubaneswar on October 21 after a three-week camp in SAI, Bengaluru. (PTI)

The Probables:
Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak, Pawan
Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surrender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Sanjay, Manjeet, Sumit
Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, M o i r a n g t h e m Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Pawan Rajbhar
Forwards: Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Maninder Singh, Mohd Raheel Mouseen, S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

Team India grapple with Bumrah riddle as it chases rare series win vs SA

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 --/ It may be unsettled after an unexpected injury to Jasprit Bumrah but the Indian team would aim to continue its winning run and complete a rare home-series win against South Africa when the two sides clash in the second T20 International, here Sunday.

From the tranquility of Thiruvananthapuram, the Team India atmosphere, suddenly, wears a chaotic look -- much like the traffic of Guwahati, thrown out of gear in the midst of Durga Puja rush and construction of flyovers. Bumrah was expected to play a key role in Indian team's campaign in the Australian conditions but his "back stress fracture" has ruled him out of the ICC flagship event, starting in three weeks' time. The ongoing series was originally planned as the final tune-up for Rahul Dravid's team but Bumrah's absence from the remaining two T20Is has now thrown more questions than answers. Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Siraj have been added to the squad as injury replacements but they do not figure in the World Cup-bound squad, as of now. The burning question is, will the two remaining T20Is give the team management scope to test Bumrah's replacement. The seasoned Mohammad Shami, who is in the World Cup squad as stand-by, is not here for the South Africa series. Shami has recovered from COVID-19 and has more chances of making it to Australia because of his experience Down Under. If that's the case, he might end up having little game time before their World Cup warm-up fixture against the reigning champions on October 16. For the SA series, the team has a fit-again Deepak Chahar who also figures in the World Cup standby. Chahar (4-0-24-2) looked



Players of Indian Cricket team during the practice session ahead of the 2nd T20 cricket match between India and South Africa, at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Saturday

in fine mettle when he along with young left-arm pace gun Arshdeep Singh (4-0-32-3) reduced the Proteas to 9/5 inside the power on the Greenfield track as India took a 1-0 lead. But swing will be out of equation in conditions Down Under and Chahar is more in the mould of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who is in the World Cup XI along with Arshdeep.

Siraj, on the other hand, has struggled of late and has inspired very little confidence. It's a different debate altogether that Bhuvneshwar, who is short on experience -- three T20Is -- in Australia has started leaking runs and no longer holds the ace, as it was seen in their Asia Cup elimination last month. Ditto for World Cup-bound Harshal Patel as it remains to be seen how the

think-tank manages to arrange the jigsaw. In the past, they have overcome bigger hurdles, like when in 2020-21 they won a back-to-back series in Australia with their fifth or sixth choice bowlers. Thankfully, it's not the case in the spin department.

Axar Patel has been a revelation after Ravindra Jadeja's knee surgery finally cemented his spot. From struggling to find a spot, Patel, a like-for-like replacement for the ace Indian all-rounder, has ticked all the boxes. He was the top wickettaker -- eight wickets at an average of 7.87 -- in India's 2-1 win over the world T20I champions in their last series here. And against South Africa too he was at his miserly best -- 1/16 -- bowling in the middle-overs along with

Ravichandran Ashwin as it's a department that looks sorted. For someone who has a career strike-rate of 136-plus from 30 T20Is, it's his batting that has inspired confidence in skipper Rohit Sharma: "I would like to see him batting as well."

But India will head to Australia with their star-studded batting providing the big confidence. The top four, including their star batter Virat Kohli, look in their zone. That KL Rahul also returned among runs with a slow but steady fifty in the first T20I was a big confidence-booster. It's just that their middle-order with the likes of Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik seemingly looks short on game time. Pant, who is likely to be the X-factor in Australia, has not got

any batting opportunities at all since returning from the Asia Cup where he had a mixed campaign. Karthik, the designated Indian finisher, on the other hand has faced nine balls in last seven games as pushing them higher would not be a bad ploy. From the series' perspective, India will be chasing their first ever victory over the Proteas in the format at home soil and a win will seal it. It's a different thing that it would hold little significance in the bigger picture. That they have struggled in the world tournaments is not a secret and the 2007 champions, who last made the semifinal in 2016, would hope to avoid a repeat of 2021 UAE edition when they failed to make the knockouts. Boasting the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje, the South African bowling lacked the sting after the duo dismissed Rohit and Kohli cheaply.

Bavuma would hope that they put up a much-improved show and also the toss of the coin comes in his favour so as to test the Indian batting up front. (PTI)

Teams (from)
India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed and Mohammad Siraj.
South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Captain), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.
Match starts 7 PM IST.

Won't go deep in medical reports, will wait for official confirmation: Dravid on Bumrah

GUWAHATI, OCT 1 --/ Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is set to miss the T20 World Cup due to an injury but head coach Rahul Dravid on Saturday said he won't go deep into his medical reports and will wait for an official confirmation regarding his availability for the showpiece in Australia. India suffered a big setback when their pace spearhead Bumrah was ruled out of their final preparatory series against South Africa due to stress fracture in his lower back.

"We are awaiting the official confirmation on the next steps. As of now, he's officially ruled out of this (SA) series. But we will see what happens over the next few days," Dravid told reporters on the eve of the second T20I against South Africa. Usually a stress fracture in the back takes about six months to heal completely but Dravid said they are still "hopeful".

"Honestly, I've not gone deeply into the medical reports, I rely on the experts to tell me what it is. They ruled him out for this series and he's being assessed. We will know in due course what happens in the future," the 49-year-old said.

"Obviously till he's completely ruled out, and we get an official confirmation that he's ruled out, we will always be hopeful. We will always hope for the best just for us as a team and Jasprit as an individual." Bumrah, who has been out of action since the India tour of England in July, had recently made

a comeback during the home T20I series against Australia but the 28-year-old has been forced to head back to the National Cricket Academy for rehab again. Bumrah's spate of injuries, despite his workload being carefully looked after by the think-tank, has become a matter of debate. Bumrah played all the 14 IPL matches for his franchise Mumbai Indians and since then he only featured in six Internationals in four months. Doing rehab at the NCA, Bumrah made a comeback in the preceding Australia series where he played two matches and travelled with the team to Thiruvananthapuram for the 1st T20I against South Africa only to be ruled out ahead of the game.

"To a large extent we manage to get everything. Not everything will be perfect. It happens, it's part and parcel of the game, we are not the only team which suffers from injuries.

"Obviously if they happen closer to big tournaments they can upset your plans a little bit. Everyone is making good efforts to minimise the injuries as much as possible," Dravid defended their workload management. The former India skipper said it's normal to have injury issues and added they really work hard with their sports science team to manage the players' workloads.

"I don't think there is a team in the world which can say they don't



Indian cricket coach and former captain of the Indian national team Rahul Dravid addressing a press conference at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Saturday

have injuries at all. It's part of the game, you play the game a lot, you play it all the time, people will get injured, that's the nature of the sport," he said. There has been a lot of debate on who is going to replace Bumrah if he is officially ruled out as only two weeks are left for their World Cup warm-up fixture against Australia. But Dravid said they are in their comfort zone, having got all the skill sets for different conditions and rival sides in

Australia.

"We are quite comfortable that we have got all the skills that allow us to play different combinations and different kinds of XIs based on the wickets and oppositions. That's really important in a World Cup when you play in 4-5 different venues.

"You need to have that little bit of versatility and flexibility in your squad that allows you to change things.

"Over the last few series, we probably have not been able to play that squad due to a variety of reasons. But most of the guys in the 15 now have had a pretty decent amount of cricket in the last six months."

Dravid said they have absolute clarity on the roles assigned to each of the players in the World Cup-bound squad.

"Within the group, within the team, we have been pretty clear about the kind of combinations we want, the kind of players that we are likely to play in the XI. You can't pick an XI months in advance, you don't know the wicket, and what it's like.

"We have been pretty clear about the skills we want in the 15. For me, that is really important. The kind of squad we pick to the World Cup, barring injuries, what were the skills that we are looking for, different kinds of bowlers, certain batting skills, we have been very clear about." (PTI)

Diego Maradona 'Hand of God' shirt to go on display during World Cup 2022

DOHA, OCT 1 --/ The shirt that Diego Maradona wore when he scored his infamous 'Hand of God' goal against England in 1986 will go on display in Qatar during the World Cup just five months after it set a record price at auction, a top official said Saturday.

The shirt, which sold for \$9.3 million to a secret buyer, has been loaned to Qatar's 3-2-1 sports museum and will go on display from Sunday until 1 April. Qatar has not named the shirt's new owner, who paid a then-record price for any sports memorabilia object but negotiations are understood to have started just weeks after the May 4 auction. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, head of Qatar Museums and a member of the Gulf state's ruling family, said she was "excited" to have secured the shirt for a special World Cup exhibition.

"The jersey has been through quite a journey," she added in a statement to AFP.

"Starting with the moment when Nottingham Forest midfielder Steve Hodge swapped jerseys with Maradona after the

match, in what now seems an inspired move," Maradona scored both goals in the World Cup quarter-final 2-1 victory over England in Mexico City's Aztec Stadium in 1986. The game has become one of the most talked about in football history and embellished the legendary status of Maradona, who died from a heart attack in November 2020 at the age of 60. Wearing the number 10 shirt, Maradona punched the ball past England goalkeeper Peter Shilton for the first goal, saying later it had been "a little with the head of Maradona, a little with the hand of God."

Soon after, Maradona sped past five English defenders and Shilton to slot home a strike that was voted "Goal of the Century" in a 2002 FIFA poll. Hodge swapped shirts with Maradona and had loaned the shirt to a Manchester museum for 20 years before putting it up for sale where the anonymous buyer beat six other bidders including the Argentina Football Association. The final price was more than twice the value predicted by Sotheby's. (AFP)

Jemimah's career-best powers India to 41-run win over SL in women's Asia Cup

SYLHET, OCT 1 --/ Jemimah Rodrigues played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 76 in T20Is before the bowlers produced a clinical display to power India to a 41-run win against Sri Lanka in their women's Asia Cup opener here on Saturday. Rodrigues put up a boundary-hitting exhibition as she whacked 11 fours and a maximum in her counter-attacking 53-ball innings to help India post 150 for six on a wicket where batters struggled due to low bounce. The Indian bowlers then struck at regular intervals to bowl Sri Lanka out for 109 in 18.2 overs. The Indians were better than their Sri Lankan counterparts in all three departments.

India were not off to the best of starts after being asked to bat. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (10) was the first to be dismissed, while her fellow opener Shafali Verma's (6) batting woes continued as she became spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe's (3/32) first victim of the day. But Rodrigues, who is coming off a wrist injury, was in control from the beginning,

timing the ball to perfection. She kept sending the ball to the fence every over and punished the Sri Lankan bowling attack all over the field. Rodrigues raced to her half-century in 38 deliveries and together with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30) steered India over the 100-run mark. The two got 92 off 71 balls with Kaur also looking dangerous.

The skipper got a reprieve in the 15th over when she was dropped off Sugandika Kumari (1/26) but couldn't capitalise on it as Ranasinghe had her stumped in the next over. Sri Lankan bowlers then staged a comeback in the death overs with a flurry of wickets. While Rodrigues continued to score at a good pace, going past her previous career-best T20I score of 72, her fabulous innings soon came to an end off a Chamari Athapaththu (1/8) slow and low delivery as the Indian was bowled. Dayalan Hemalatha chipped in with an unbeaten 13 towards the end while Richa Ghosh (9) slammed a six. Spinners, led by Ranasinghe did the bulk of the work for Sri Lanka. Chasing 151, Sri Lanka were



Indian womens celebrate after defeat Sri Lanka by 41 runs in their campaign opener at the Women's Asia Cup 2022

off to a flyer, plundering 13 runs off the first over bowled by pacer Renuka Singh (0/20). But Sri Lanka couldn't continue the momentum as they lost wickets at regular intervals. (2/15) got the prized wicket of the experienced Chamari (5) with her slower ball. The Sri Lankan skipper looked to slog it over the on side only for Renuka to catch the ball at square leg. Sri Lankan's running between wickets was sloppy as a sharp India side capitalised on the errors. Deepthiranout Melsha Shehani (9) but opener Harshitha Samarawickrama (26) continued to play aggressively but she too was run out in the eighth over. With the required run rate increasing, the Sri Lankans wilted under pressure. Pooja Vastrakar (2/12) snared the wickets of Nilakshi de Silva (3) Kavisha Dilhari (1) off her successive overs as Sri Lanka were left tottering at 61/5.

However, Hasini Perera (30) provided some resistance as she partnered with wicketkeeper Anushka Sanjeevani (5) and Oshadi Ranasinghe (11) to breach the 100-run mark. (PTI)

Barbeque Nation launches “SharodiyaUtsav” Special Menu



BarbequeNation announced the launch of Durga Pooja Special Menu. This special Menu is available from 2nd October to 5th October. Barbeque Nation is glad to welcome guests with a wide range of delectable dishes that are authentic and hand-crafted by seasoned chefs. Guests can savour LuchiCholar Dal live counter on Ashtami Day. This festive menu is

available across Kolkata, Siliguri, and Durgapur outlets.

The eat-all-you-can buffet at Barbeque Nation offers a plethora of dishes in vegetarian and non-vegetarian spreads. Apart from the wide range of delicacies, Barbeque Nation offers over 11 exotic traditional dishes in the vegetarian and non-vegetarian spread. Guests

can indulge in some of the authentic dishes like Chingimalai Curry, SorseBhappallish, while vegetarians can indulge in Phool Gobi Tarkari, GheetBhaat, Sukto, Dhokar Dalna, AlooJhingaposto, ChotoAloo Dum, Veg Pulao and much more. The dessert section comprises MishtiDoi and Rasogolla. On the occasion, Subhrajit Saha,

Asst. Regional Manager, Barbeque Nation Hospitality Limited, said, “Our guests look forward to new reasons to visit our restaurants. We are glad to offer this festive special menu. We look forward to invoking the feeling of togetherness among guests and we are quite confident our guests will enjoy an array of delicacies along with their loved ones.”

PS 1 cast lets the cat out of the bag on the film's costumes



EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, SEPT 30/—In any film, its costumes add to the charm of the story and so is also the fact with Mani Ratnam's upcoming magnum opus, 'PS-1' (Ponniyin Selvan: I). Gracing The Kapil Sharma Show, the most loved comedy talk show on Sony Entertainment Television will be the star cast—Vikram, Jayam Ravi, Karthi, Trisha and Sobhita Dhulipala who will be seen making their debut on the show this Saturday i.e. 1st October 2022. The cast would be seen having a gala time, revealing some interesting anecdotes from the film.

In conversation with the host, Kapil Sharma, Trisha and Karthi would be talking about how they had to carry heavy

costumes and expensive jewellery on set, sources said. Trisha shared her experience saying, “We were clearly told that to bring out the grandeur and magnitude of the movie, we had to wear original jewellery and heavy leather costumes, ensuring that head to toe everything looked real.” She also quipped saying, “During the shoot of the movie my fellow cast members and I always had 4 bodyguards assigned to take care of the jewellery and not us.”

Vikram adds “Normally after shoot it's like if you like a costume, you are like this pant is good we will take it, hence they had these many body guards.”

“Tune into The Kapil Sharma Show this Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 pm on Sony Entertainment Television, sources also said.

Swiggy rolls out Durga Puja bonanza in West Bengal



Swiggy, on-demand convenience platform is celebrating the biggest Bengali festival of the year—Durga Puja across the state of West Bengal starting 1st October till 5th Oct 2022. Food plays a major role during Durga Puja celebrations and Swiggy users in Kolkata can relish popular sweets and dishes such as Roshogulla, GulabJamoon, Shondesh, varieties of Biryani and other festival delicacies delivered to their doorstep. Leading restaurants like Aarsalan, Oudh1590,

Dhaba, Hatari, and many others are participating in Swiggy's Durga Puja Bonanza. Swiggy users can avail exciting deals of up to 60% off on their favorite dishes during the festive period. Swiggy One members can enjoy free delivery from all their favorite restaurants up to 10 kms, sources informed.

Swiggy is promoting the top five cuisines such as Sweets, Biryani, Bengali, Chinese and North Indian during the five-day festive period as Durga Puja specials and featuring prominent restaurants on



the app. During the five-day celebrations, Swiggy is also running a unique initiative 'BhogEloGhore' for senior citizens who are unable to visit the pandals due to crowds and physical constraints. Swiggy has partnered with select pandals and bhog kitchens and will be delivering 'bhog' to senior citizens across select old age homes in the city helping them be a part of the celebrations, sources said. Commenting on

Swiggy's Durga Puja celebrations, Swapnil Bajpai, VP-Supply, Swiggy, said “Durga Puja is a very special occasion for Bengalis and a great opportunity for us to put a smile on our customers' faces by bringing their favorite sweets and dishes to their doorstep. We are excited to offer bestsellers and Puja specials by partnering with popular restaurants in Kolkata and elevate the festive spirit.”

KobitayKathalapUtsav concludes with joyous crescendo of Dhaak, Poetry & Music

KobitayKathalapUtsav, a two-day festival, being arranged to celebrate the decade long journey of KobitayKathalap concluded today amidst the joyous crescendo of Dhaaks alongside the special performances by AnindyaChatterjee&Srijato. The Second Day of the Utsav presented MehfilE Mausiqui, a musical tribute to the courtesans of India by Ivy Banerjee, Chandrima Roy, Brishilekha Nandini, Rupak Bhattacharya & Alirakha Kalabhanta. While Anindya Chatterjee, the highly acclaimed singer and filmmaker will be presenting Bondhujoner Gaan, Srijato, lyricist & poet will be reciting poems. EkkaDokka&BhubanDanga will also be reciting poems.

“KobitayKathalapUtsav is the celebration of glorious journey. Ten years back when I started, I could hardly even dream that one day I will be able to organize such a festival. This festival is aimed to engage the youth as the cultural character of a society majorly depends on them. The past two days have been absolutely gratifying.



The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat: Relish the classic pujo fervor



What: Relish the classic pujo fervor at The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat.

Where: The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat. When: 1st to 5th October 2022. Timing: 12:30 p.m onwards

Price: INR 2399 AIPer person onwards. Reservations: +91 9073323290/ +91 6292211299. On the menu: This pujo treat yourself with an extravagant palate at Seasonal Tastes. The offerings have an array of 'live stations', 'Kolkata Street Food', 'Bengali Delicacies', 'Premium Beverages' and many more. The Westin BhuriBhoj will be laid out at the Westin Ballroom on Sashthi, Saptami, Ashtami, Navami and Dashami (1st October -5th October). The menu has been crafted skilfully to blend the subtle flavours and create an amazing sojourn of both vegetarians and non-vegetarian dishes signifying the rich taste and tradition of the city. A Divine Asian Feast is curated at the Nori from Sashthi to Dashami (1st October -5th October). One can indulge in truly Asian flavours from a wide range of salads, Sushi, Dim Sum and other favourites. The offerings are 'Som Tam

Salad', 'Indonesian Rainbow Bakwan', 'Crispy Fish Salt and Pepper', 'Hakka Style Veg Chilli Garlic Basil Noodle', amongst others. The menu ends with a gourmet dessert buffet for all sweet lovers. Patrons can revel in a flavoursome Sky High Bhoj buffet with a blend of Indian and Continental delicacies at 32 Helipad Lounge. The flavourful Indian delicacies include 'Kosha Mangsho', 'Basanti Pulao', 'Kolkata Style Chicken Biryani', 'Aloo posto' and 'Chanan Dalna' amongst others. To elevate the dining experience, indulge in some decadent desserts like 'Balu Shahi', 'Kala Jamun', 'Sandesh', 'Chandrakala', 'Homemade Malpua' and so on. Satisfy your taste buds with the elaborate Continental spread ranging from 'Baked Vegetable Au gratin', 'Tuscan Baked pasta casserole', 'Chicken Shawarma' to viand sweet delights like 'Apricot and Blueberry Cake', 'Coconut Mango Dome', 'Mudpie' and 'Rich Chocolate brownie creamux'. The Banquet, will showcase all day food stalls at the lawns for all the food connoisseurs to experience the grandeur of the biggest festival. The food stalls include 'Kolkata Kathi Roll', 'Momos', 'Chaat', and several others to choose from.

ZEE5 announces 'ZEE5 TV Uncut'

* Gives a peek into your favourite celebrities' life

ZEE5, homegrown video on demand streaming platform, announced their weekly and free-to-stream series 'ZEE5 TV Uncut' today. Launched on September 24, the series boasts about a great line-up of celebrities from popular and renowned shows like Krishna Kaul and Mugdha Chaphekar from Kumkum Bhagya [Portrayed as Ranbir and Prachi respectively], Shagun Pandey and Ashi Singh from Meet, Rohit Suchanti (Rishi of Bhagya Lakshmi), Aishwarya Khare (Lakshmi of Bhagya Lakshmi), amongst others will grace the show as guests.

The audiences can watch their favourite celebrities up close and personal; from their love life to favourite food and what their day looks like to fun behind the scene moments, they can watch it all at the click of their finger! This series is part of ZEE5's initiative to give viewers a beyond TV experience by not only airing their favourite shows but also giving them a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes, a peek into their favourite celeb's lives, and a lot more. The audience will witness a new set of episodes every weekend. The first actor to have graced the show is Krishna Kaul from the serial Kumkum Bhagya. We saw the camera follow him through his home, gym and shoot routine while answering candid questions about his personal life. The next actor in line to entice you will be Shagun Pandey from Meet. And this is not it! The cherry on the cake is the set visit! Yes, you heard it right! The viewers will get a glimpse of the sets of popular TV shows like Kumkum Bhagya, Bhagya Lakshmi, Meet, amongst others. Commenting on the new initiative, Manish Kalra, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 India said, “ZEE5 is a consumer first brand, and we are constantly working towards putting forth diversified content for our audience.

With ZEE5 TV Uncut the aim is to give them a glimpse into the real lives of their favourite reel stars. This initiative will give viewers a beyond TV experience and get them a step closer to their favourite celebrities.” Talking about the new show on ZEE5, Krishna Kaul said, “I personally really like the concept of this series. As an actor the most precious moment is when audience recognizes you in the crowd and says that they are your biggest fan. If you receive this kind of praise, then it all feels worth it! When I was onboarded, I felt very happy knowing that this will bring the fans up close and personal with their favourite celebrity. I think a lot of people will like the series. So, go stream 'ZEE5 TV Uncut' right now to know a little more about me!”

Shagun Pandey further added, “I think as a fan, it's one's wish to know more about their favorite celebrity's life. It would be the same for me had I been in their place. And after all, this is the way the audience connect and understands you. And this series gives you exactly that, the reality! With this series, I hope to connect deeper and on a personal level with my fans.”

Ashi Singh said, “When we make a show, we silently always hope the audiences like it and shower love and respect upon us. We portray a character given to us; but they relate more to the character than us as individuals. With ZEE5 TV Uncut, we hope that audiences get to know the real side of us and our personality while showering the same amount of love that they have given to our characters.”

“It's been 7 years that I have been working in the television industry and have portrayed multiple characters on screen. I am lucky enough that people have showered immense love to me despite portraying different characters.

And now, with ZEE5 TV Uncut, people will see our individual personalities and get to know us up close and personal. Audiences will get a chance to know our daily routines, what do we do on sets and everything else,” Rohit Suchanti concluded.

