

'Battered' roads adorn Dollygunj Industrial Estate

Entrepreneurs peeved at harrowing 'travel' experience



ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15/--/ The awfully poor road condition at Industrial Estate, Dollygunj is giving entrepreneurs a harrowing time. According to them, the road inside the estate is so bad that driving or even walking on it has become extremely difficult. The problem becomes all the more acute when there is even a slight shower.

Inordinate delay in repair and maintenance work of the road stretch is reportedly taking a serious toll on

entrepreneurs in the region. The battered and pothole laden road network has become a perpetual source of fret for them. While the potholes dissuades public transport services to commute on the stretch, private motor vehicle owners have been reeling under colossal damage to their vehicles after negotiating through the scoured road network, as per reports.

"We have been facing this situation for the past many months. The road is dreadful, to say the least. It is all the more difficult for our workers

to walk on the pothole riddled road. Those having two-wheelers often suffer during tyre punctures or breakdown

commuting on the stretch. We have been requesting the concerned authorities but all our prayers have fallen on

deaf ears," lamented an entrepreneur running a unit at Industrial Estate. While road mishaps reportedly are on the rise

here, the concerned government agency has failed to ensure good roads in the Industrial Estate.

DC(SA) inaugurates e-Patwarkhana in Shaheed Dweep

South Andaman District Administration achieves target of cent percent online services

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15/--/ The Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman) Mr. Suneel Anchipaka on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed e-Patwarkhana, situated at Neil Kendra village, Shaheed Dweep Island. The modern e-Patwarkhana consists of e-corner facilities to cater all online services through which the citizen can avail all online services directly. With the inauguration of e-Patwarkhana, the District Administration, South Andaman has achieved the target of cent percent online services throughout the district. The DC(SA) issued a few senior citizen certificates to the beneficiaries generated on the spot through the e-corner.

The DC(SA), along with Mr. Dilkhush Meena, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SA), Mr. Radhey Shyam Meena, DANICS, Director (RD & PRIs) and Tehsildar, Port Blair visited Shaheed Dweep Island on Saturday. The Pramukh, Port Blair Panchayat Samiti, Pradhan and Zilla Parishad Member, Neil Kendra also accompanied them on the occasion. During the visit, the DC (SA) also made field visits to the Bharatpur beach and Sitapur sunrise point along with PRIs to check the various issues raised by the PRIs and directed the concerned line department to resolve the issue at the earliest. The DC (SA) inspected the road towards the Sitapur sunrise point and it

was informed by the EE, APWD that the estimate for the road has already been submitted. The PRI members requested DC(SA) to take up the matter with the forest department for construction of eco-friendly huts and also a Police booth at Sitapur. During the visit to Bharatpur beach, DC(SA) requested the stakeholders to keep the beach neat and clean. He further informed private boat operators to shift the boat anchorage location from the beach area and requested the fisheries department to identify suitable locations for anchorage of private boats and the same will be resolved. At the Jetty area, the PRI members requested for construction of open canopy sheds and a Police Assistant Booth for the passengers as the frequent arrival of boats creates congestion at the Jetty. In order to resolve the issue DC(SA) directed the Tourism Officer to put up a proposal for a smooth schedule of the boats to reduce the congestion at the Jetty area. DC(SA) also inspected the internal road connecting from Bharatpur beach to the Medical and subsequently to the Jetty. Since the road belongs to Zilla Parishad, DC(SA) requested the Zilla Parishad Member to put up the proposal for the road and directed the CEO (ZP) to expedite the work.

(Contd. on page-6)

PRI delegation discuss issues concerning their region with CS



PORT BLAIR, OCT 15/--/ A PRI delegation consisting of Mr. Mohd Saif, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Mithakhari, Panchayat Samiti Member, Mr. T. Mohd Rafiq, Mr. Mohd Jalal Up-Pradhan, Mr.

chamber at Secretariat on Friday.

Interacting with the Chief Secretary, the Pradhan and the PRI members raised a slew of issues concerning their region. Notable issues raised by the PRI members include setting up a Power Substation at Mithakhari village for uninterrupted power supply region. The issue of extending earlier approval to the Ogra braj Bada Nallah Project was also raised in order to ensure regular water supply to the residents of this region.

(Contd. on page-6)

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Kashmiri Pandit shot dead by militants in J&K's Shopian

L-G, political parties condemn attack

SRINAGAR, OCT 15 /--/ A Kashmiri Pandit was shot dead allegedly by militants in the Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. Deputy Inspector General of Police Sujit Kumar said the Kashmir Freedom Fighter (KFF) group, the proxy name of a militant outfit, has claimed responsibility for the attack.PuranKrishanBhat was attacked near his residence in the ChowdharyGund area of the south Kashmir district. He was rushed to Shopian hospital where doctors declared him dead, they said. Officials said the area has been cordoned off and a hunt has been launched to nab the assailants.

"Terrorists fired upon a civilian (minority) PuranKrishanBhat while he was on his way to an orchard in ChowdariGund, Shopian. He was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment where he succumbed. Area cordoned off. Search in progress,"the Kashmir Zone Police wrote on Twitter. DIG Sujit Kumar said the initial investigation has revealed that one militant fired upon Bhat. "There was security, our guard, for this cluster. We are looking at the reason (for the lapse). He had gone out on a scooter and just returned to his home," he added. Kumar said in case of any lapse, action will be taken against the security guards and the in-charge officials in the

area. Investigations are underway and more details will be made public once things become clear, the police officer said. Deputy commissioner of Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, said Bhat's body will be taken to Jammu where the last rites will be performed. "All arrangements are being made. We are extending help to the family." Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political leaders condemned the killing. "Attack on PuranKrishanBhat by terrorists in Shopian is a dastardly act of cowardice. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. I assure the people that the perpetrators and those

aiding and abetting terrorists will be severely punished," Sinha tweeted. The National Conference condemned the "brazen and cowardly attack" and expressed "heartfelt commiserations" withBhat's family. The party's vice president Omar Abdullah termed the attack reprehensibly. "I unequivocally condemn this attack in which PooranKrishanBhat has lost his life. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family. May PooranJi's soul rests in peace," he said in a tweet.The PDP said while the Kashmiri pandits have been protesting for the last five months demanding their relocation after Rahul Bhat was shot dead in May,

the "LG administration in their hubris kept turning a blind eye to their plight". "Today yet another Kashmiri Pandit, PuranKrishan, was shot dead in Shopian. Thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family," the party said. CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami said the government must ensure foolproof security for the minorities in the Kashmir Valley. "Pained beyond words by the despicable attack which snuffed out the life of PuranKrishanBhat. There does not seem any letup in the killing of innocent people. The government must ensure foolproof security to the minorities," he tweeted. BJP General Secretary

(organisation) Ashok Koul also condemned the "barbaric" killing and offered his condolences to the family. In a statement, he said that "these anti-national elements will never be successful. These things will not be tolerated anymore as these attacks are aimed to disturb the peace in the region." Apni Party president Syed Mohammad AltafBukhari said, "Unequivocally condemn the attack on PooranKrishanBhat in Shopian. My heartfelt condolences to his family. This is a dastardly act of cowardice. May his soul rest in peace." The Peoples Conference said there can never be a justification for attacks like these. (PTI)

SC suspends Bombay HC order acquitting Saibaba, others in Maoist-links case, convicts to remain in jail

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 /--/ The Supreme Court on Saturday suspended the Bombay High Court order acquitting former Delhi University (DU) professor G N Saibaba and others in a Maoist-links case.

The top court rejected Saibaba's request to order his release from jail due to his disability and health conditions and put him under house arrest after the Maharashtra government opposed the prayer, saying nowadays, there is a new tendency of "urban naxals" to seek house arrest. The high court acquitted Saibaba and others in the case on Friday.

An apex court bench of justices M R Shah and Bela M Trivedi, which sat on a non-working day to hear the matter, rejected Saibaba's request for putting him under house arrest in view of his physical disability and health conditions. "We are of the opinion that it is a fit case for exercise of power under section 390, CrPC (Code of



G N Saibaba

Criminal Procedure) and suspend the impugned order of the high court," the bench said. It stayed the release of all the accused in the case, including Saibaba, from jail, as directed by the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court.

It sought responses from Saibaba and the other accused by December 8 on a plea moved by the Maharashtra government against the high court order. The top court said a detailed scrutiny is required with regard to the impugned judgment since the high court did not consider the merits of the case, including the gravity of the offence alleged against the convicts. "The accused were convicted after detailed appreciation of evidence. Offences are very serious, which are against the interest of the society, sovereignty and integrity of India. The high court has not gone into all these aspects and passed the order based on sanction under UAPA," the bench said, while suspending the October 14 verdict of the high court.

Appearing for Saibaba, senior advocate R Basant said his client is paraplegic with 90-95 per cent disability and wheelchair-bound with almost zero per cent mobility. "He has a 23-year-old daughter and a wife. His bones are touching his lungs, which is further complicating the things.

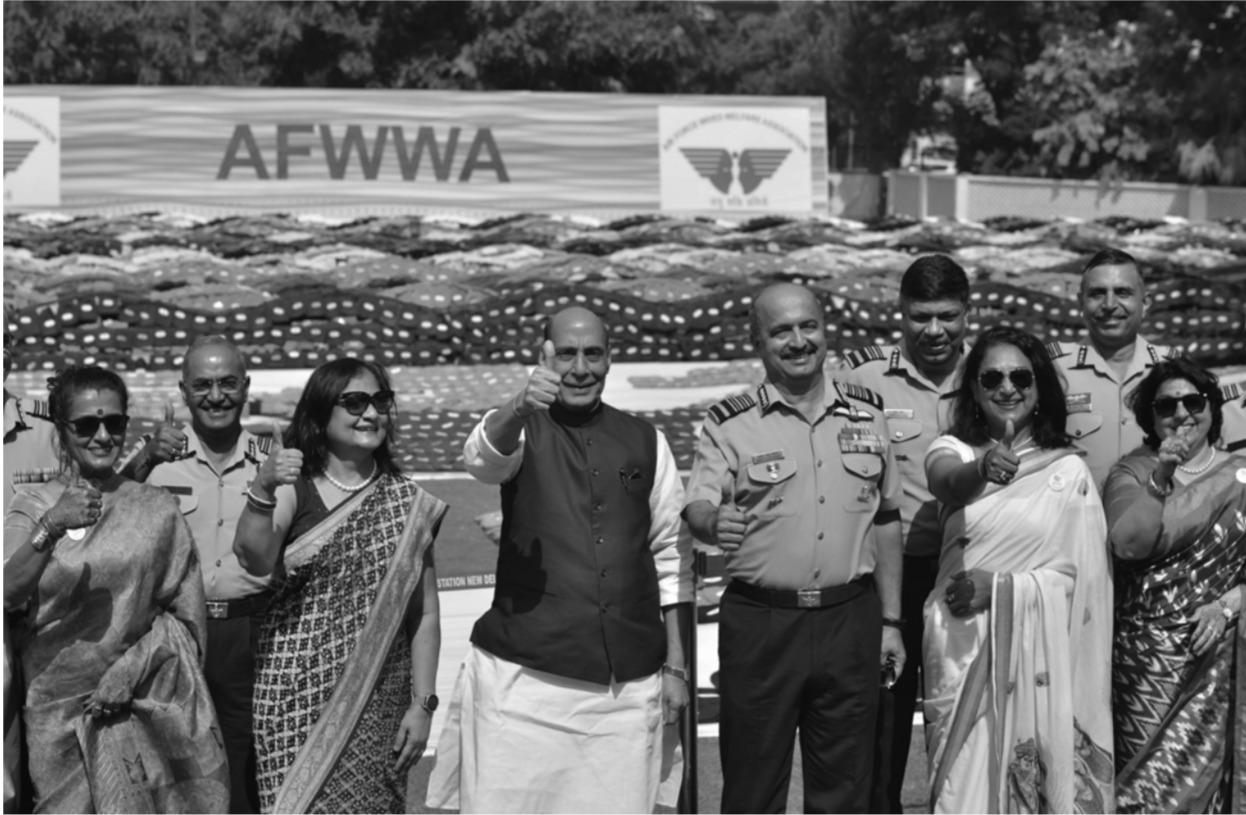
Looking at these aspects, please do not drag him back into jail. Please release him from jail and put him under house arrest and he will abide by any conditions which the court would impose," Basant said. Opposing the prayer for house arrest, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "Nowadays, there is a tendency of urban naxals that seek house arrest, but everything can be done from home. This house arrest cannot be an option."

Basant said the court may order for the cutting of Saibaba's phone lines. During the hearing, Mehta said there were certain disturbing facts in the case and Saibaba was involved in various activities, including an armed separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir, waging war against the democratic setup of the country and arranging meetings of Maoist commanders. "He was their brain and used to propagate their ideology," Mehta said.

Referring to Mehta's submission, Basant said Saibaba may have some inclination towards the Maoist ideology, but he was certainly not their brain. The bench said, "We are not referring to this case but in general. The brain is the most dangerous thing. For terrorists or Maoists, the brain is everything."

It framed several questions to be decided by the apex court and noted that Saibaba never raised the issue of absence of the mandatory sanction to prosecute under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) during the trial stage and did so only at the appellate stage in the high court. The bench also agreed with Mehta's submission that the high court did not pass an acquittal order but a discharge order and no finding of the trial court was reversed.

Justice Trivedi said it is a settled law that an acquittal order cannot be passed by an appellate court without reversing the findings of the trial court's conviction order. More than eight years after his arrest, the Bombay High Court acquitted Saibaba on Friday and ordered his release from jail, noting that the sanction order issued to prosecute the accused in the case under the stringent provisions of the UAPA was "bad in law and invalid". It allowed Saibaba's appeal, challenging a 2017 order of the trial court that convicted him in the case and sentenced him to life imprisonment. (PTI)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA) President Neeta Chaudhari and other officials during a programme to mark the culmination Knittathon, on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the AFWWA, in New Delhi

Poll pitch: Be messengers of BJP, PM in villages, Shah tells non-resident Gujaratis

AHMEDABAD, OCT 15 /--/ Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Non Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) have played a big role in the repeated victory of the BharatiyaJanataParty (BJP) in Gujarat and appealed to them to become messengers to spread the message of the party and Prime Minister NarendraModi in the state's villages. Virtually addressing a gathering of NRGs at the launch of the three-day 'Pravasi Gujarati Parv 2022', Shah said wherever Gujaratis have settled they have made those nations proud and have contributed to the development of not just the country but the entire world. "From 1990, whenever elections were held, the people of Gujarat have made BJP win. NRGs have played a big role in this victory. I know your message is of great importance in your village," Shah said in his video message. "The BJP government has worked to

develop Gujarat, and Narendrabhai has given global identity to Gujarat. Let us all continue this journey. In the 2022 election, I appeal to you to spread the message of BJP and Narendrabhai and the development of the country to the villages by becoming the ambassadors of the BJP," Shah said. Shah said Modi as Gujarat chief minister gave a new direction to development and worked to raise the trust that electoral politics was possible without the evils of dynasty, casteism and appeasement.

Modi showed how to convert crisis into opportunity, how to improve law and order and make the state curfew-free with zero tolerance towards terrorism and showcase our cultural heritage before the world without reluctance. "When Modi became chief minister of Gujarat, a large part of the country had lost trust in the democratic system. Many areas remained underdeveloped, and many

felt the democratic system was not for them. Modi realised the dream of the welfare state of the makers of our Constitution," he said.

Shah said Modi understood the state should be for the welfare of everyone, especially the poorest of the poor and worked towards it, adding that the PM's achievements included ensuring vaccination for all and provision of free grains to the poor during the Covid-19 pandemic. "He introduced the politics of performance. Those who will perform will be elected by the public. Today all dynastic parties are getting defeated by the BJP. Casteism was also removed and it was evident from the victory of BJP for the second time in Uttar Pradesh," Shah claimed. Hailing Gujarat as the biggest example of zero tolerance towards terrorism, Shah also attacked the Congress and other "so-called secular parties" for not showcasing the state's cultural

heritage. "Modi gifted the Gita to world leaders who came to meet him. He also ensured the Ram Jannabhoomi dispute was resolved peacefully, constitutionally and without any violence. Before 2024, we will all see a towering Ram Mandir," the Union minister asserted. He hailed the PM for India becoming the fifth largest economy in the world, in the process "becoming a bigger economy than those who ruled us (United Kingdom)". Under the prime minister, the country was doing robustly in foreign direct investment (FDI), exports, start-ups, opening bank accounts for direct benefit transfer to the poor, which had made India the favourite spot for investors. India was now moving ahead to become the manufacturing hub of the world, whereas the United Progressive Alliance government of Congress' Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh was afflicted with policy paralysis, Shah claimed. (PTI)

Rahul says Karnataka BJP regime "anti-SC-ST", alleges it is a "commission" govt

BALLARI, OCT 15 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at the BJP-led regime in Karnataka as against the Scheduled castes and tribes and alleged that it is a "40 per cent commission" government.

The BJP government in Karnataka is "anti-SC and ST," and there is a 50 per cent rise in atrocities against these oppressed people, Rahul Gandhi alleged addressing a public meeting here, which is part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by him. A large number of party workers and people gathered at the municipal ground here as the Congress party celebrated the foot march led by Rahul completing the 1,000 km milestone. The BJP-led regime in the state is called a "40 per cent commission" government as any work could be done by paying it, he alleged. The ruling BJP

and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai have dismissed such bribery allegations as 'unfounded' and 'baseless.' Rahul Gandhi's bribery barb comes against the backdrop of his party's sustained campaign in Karnataka against the Saffron party government over corruption allegations. The Congress has made corruption a poll-plank in the state after a contractor, Santosh Patil died by suicide accusing the then Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K Eshwarappa of demanding a 40 per cent kickback. Following the contractor's death, Eshwarappa resigned from his post. Congress ran a 'PayCM' campaign as well. The former Congress president alleged that funds allocated for the development of the SC and ST communities have been diverted. "Rs 8,000 crore of

your money has been diverted," Gandhi claimed. If you have to become a police sub-inspector then you can get it by paying Rs 80 lakh. If you have money you can buy a government job here but if you don't have money, you can never get a job in your life. The Congress leader was



referring to the recent police sub-inspector recruitment scam in which many people have been arrested.

It includes an additional director general of police

Amrit Paul, some deputy superintendents, inspectors, sub-inspectors, constables, BJP leader Divya Hagargi and the gunman of a Congress MLA besides some candidates. The exam has been annulled after the scam broke out. Candidates who were arrested reportedly told police they paid Rs 70 lakh to Rs 80 lakh to get a job. This is the reason that Karnataka government is called as the 40 per cent commission government. If you have to get any work done, you can do it by paying a commission of 40 per cent. Gandhi alleged a scam in the cooperative banks and in appointment of assistant professors as well. The Wayanad MP demanded to know why the BJP regime was not implementing the Justice Nagamohan Das commission recommendation to increase

My family has long relationship with poll-bound Karnataka: Rahul Gandhi

BALLARI, OCT 15 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday tried to strike an emotional chord with people of poll-bound Karnataka by recalling his family's association with the State.

He made reference to Ballari from where his mother and Congress president Sonia Gandhi successfully contested the Lok Sabha election in 1999. The leader pointed out that his grandmother and late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had contested and won from Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha constituency in 1978. We have a long relationship between my family and Ballari. My mother fought her election from here and got elected due to the wholehearted support of the people of Ballari, Gandhi recalled while addressing a public meeting here as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra. My grandmother Indira Gandhi fought from Chikkamagaluru. So, I cannot forget that, he pointed out.

Gandhi addressed a public meeting here to celebrate the completion of 1,000 km by walk. Senior Congress functionaries, including Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, former chief ministers Siddaramaiah, Veerappa Moily, Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh, Congress' presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretary and party's Karnataka in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, Pradesh Congress Committee presidents from all the States, Karnataka MLAs, MPs and former ministers attended the event. The former Congress leader, who started his march on September 7 from Kanyakumari has planned to conclude his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu on January 30, 2023 covering over 3,500 km by walk. (PTI)

NHRC issues notices to Kerala govt, seeking report on 'human sacrifice' incident

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 /--/ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Kerala government, seeking an action-taken report in connection with a "human sacrifice" incident in the southern state.

The panel said it has taken suomotu cognizance of a media report that two women, reported missing to police by their families, became victims of human sacrifice in a bizarre ritual orchestrated by a self-styled voodoo practitioner, professing to bring luck to a couple facing financial problems.

The victims were bound by a common profession of selling lottery tickets, it added. Observing that such incidents cannot be expected in a civilised society, where a human being is killed in the name of a ritual without any fear of law, the NHRC said the right to life of the victims has been grossly violated.

"The state, being the guardian of its citizens, is responsible for their safety and cannot escape its liability to protect them from such evil practices," it said. The rights panel has issued notices to the chief secretary and the director general of police of Kerala, calling for a report in the matter in four weeks, including the status of the investigation and compensation, if any, paid to the victims' families.

According to the media report, police were informed that one of the victims was missing on June 6, while the other was reported missing on September 26. (PTI)

K Vijay Kumar resigns as security advisor of MHA, cites personal reasons

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 /--/ Decorated police officer K Vijay Kumar, who was credited for eliminating forest brigand Veerappan, has resigned as the senior security advisor in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Kumar, who put in his papers sometimes ago due to personal reasons, has vacated his accommodation in Delhi and relocated to Chennai. "I am now based in Chennai after I decided to end my stint with the MHA due to personal reasons," he told PTI over the phone. Kumar expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, MHA officials and the chiefs of police forces of all the states for extending cooperation throughout his tenure. Kumar was mostly advising the government on issues of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), besides on Jammu and Kashmir.

The 1975-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was appointed as the senior security officer of the MHA after his superannuation from service in 2012 as the director general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He served as the advisor to the governor of Jammu and Kashmir before being re-appointed as the senior security advisor in the MHA in 2019.

Kumar has also served as the chief of the Special Task Force (STF), Tamil Nadu, which was tasked with hunting down Veerappan, the commissioner of the Chennai Police and the inspector general of the Border Security Force (BSF) in Kashmir. Veerappan was killed in 2004 in a meticulously planned operation led by Kumar in Tamil Nadu. (PTI)

the reservation for scheduled caste from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and for scheduled tribes from three per cent to seven per cent.

The BJP never wished to give special status to the erstwhile Hyderabad-Karnataka region, now known as Kalyana Karnataka. His party-led government gave special status to the region under the 371-J of the Constitution, which helped youth get jobs and admission in engineering, medical and other professional colleges. On the one hand, there is unemployment while on the other there is price rise. People are squeezed in between the two, Gandhi said. He slammed the BJP and RSS for the ideology of "hatred" that is weakening the country. Congress leader Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot in his address said the nation is facing

challenges from "fascist" forces. Condemning what he called the "communal forces," Gehlot claimed that people are suffering due to unemployment and price rise.

Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah blamed the BJP and RSS for "disturbing peace" in the country by indulging in "communal" politics. Congress presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge joined Gandhi and other leaders today in the ongoing yatra in the district. Leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi has so far covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and made an entry into Andhra Pradesh as well. The foot march began on September 7 from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and it is set to culminate in Jammu and Kashmir, after covering about 3,500 km. (PTI)

Decriminalising Adultery or Desertion in Army Will Ruin Militaristic

BHOPINDER SINGH

Publius Flavius Vegetius Renatus, who wrote about the Roman military institutions and especially the critique of the much weakened Later Roman Empire as compared to the Earlier Roman Empire, notes philosophically, “In war, discipline is superior to strength; but if that discipline is neglected there is no longer any difference between the soldier and the peasant”. This is a shared belief handed down by generations within the profession-of-arms onto the unforgiving Drill Instructors or ‘Ustaads’ in Military Training Academies.

The backbone of Military discipline, these Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO’s) have instilled the steel, perfection and ramrod posture of physical and behavioural standards that would remain in place, long after the proverbial sword has been put to scabbard and sheathed, post-retirement. Even now, the fiery Ustaad screaming, “GC aisa foot maarega ki aasman me dhuane aur zamin pe chingari uteghaa....aur Mussoorie main honeymoon walon ko pata chale ki Indian Military Academy mein loha ban raha hai” (Gentleman cadet, ram the foot so hard that clouds in the sky and fireworks from the ground better jut out....those honeymooning in Mussoorie must get to know that we are minting iron in the Academy), still sends shivers down the spine.

Yes, it is the physical, mental, and psychological transformation to an almost inhuman level and construct that gets minted in these Military Academies that routinely guarantees

the ‘impossible’, whilst in combat. This outcome is not romantic brouhaha about the Indian fauji, but a reality seeped with sweat and blood in a Haji Pir, Longewala, Asal Uttar to a Uri.

Even as many mighty ‘superpowers’ have come a cropper in recent times, be it in the swathes of Afghanistan or the tundra of Ukraine – the reality of disgraceful abandonment and retreat from battlefield by these ‘superpower’ armies is undeniable, as opposed to the ‘last man standing’ posture of the Indian Army with a Shaitan Singh and his daredevil Kumounis in 1962, or a Col Babu with his indefatigable Biharis in Galwan, just a couple of years back.

Independent and professional Military historians who analyse and study battles, marvel at the unmatched heroics against unbelievable odds in Kargil that completely defied all known Militaristic assumptions, combat ratios and topographical barometers.

Unlike all other comparable governmental or private institutions, the Indian Armed Forces have never failed to deliver when invoked, whatever be the odds.

Unlike the private/commercial/political space, it willy-nilly works with a self-adopted (not mandated) principle of ‘unlimited liability’ that ensures that it is led from the front (India Army has the highest officer-to-soldier casualty ratio, amongst all modern armies) – and this is not a post-modernist virtue or an evolutionary culture, but one that has been regimented, distilled and institutionalised in its DNA with means, methods and traditions that could be

seen to be antiquated (even colonial) or ‘unevolved’ from a societal perspective. The standards within the cantonments are high (often back-breaking) and commanding officers often warn with a wry sense of humour that may offend the Wokes, “To err is human and to forgive divine – sadly, neither of which is our regimental policy!”.

Behind the balderdash of dark humour is the reality of moral spine that ensures that the regiment is prepared for all exigencies, especially the asymmetric ones, that are increasingly become the norm. Sadly, the ‘battlefield’ does not come with reciprocal rules-of-engagement or understanding of things like the Geneva Convention by the ‘enemy’ in front – the Indian combatant must demonstrate surreal preparedness, fidelity and ironclad conduct that cannot naturally accrue, unless schooled in an environment that has zero tolerance for leniency and weaknesses.

Little wonder that ‘Fidelity’ in all possible extrapolations and nuances is at the heart of the institution’s leitmotif i.e., ‘Naam, Namak & Nishan’ (Name, Loyalty and Symbols).

Thankfully, the Indian Soldier has not ‘evolved’ to such sanctified practicalities, and therefore it is the Indian combatant behind the weapon (often sub-optimal one), that delivers repeatedly and does not cut-and-run! The civilians think it is the weaponry,

wares and numbers (yes, these are important too), but the ‘Uniformed’ soldiers know that it is the mental and moral conditioning and unflinching

belief-system within the Indian combatant, that is far more important. However, the unversed (usually partisan politicians, idealist activists or uninitiated academicians) invariably forget the old American saying, ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it’, and this has led to winds of unprecedented religiosity, politics, ‘reforms’ and blatant interferences via this sort of ‘opening-up’ that may appeal to some blind partisan cadres or woke activists (perhaps even well-meaning ones), but it dulls the glint and sharpness of the metaphorical bayonet. One of the favourite punching bags has been the admittedly dated language of ‘Stealing the affections of a brother officer’s wife’ – which is semantically sexist, Victorian and tad bit patronising in its tone and phraseology.

But while the issue is certainly with the language used, it is NOT so with the underlying principle of ‘Fidelity’ that ought to be the bedrock of a disciplined combatant, in all its professional and personal space (actually, there is no room for differentiating two otherwise distinct spaces i.e., Professional or Personal, for a combatant). This differentiation is simply not sustainable in the real world of a combatant without diluting his/her



behavioural standards in war or peace, which also demands the highest display of professional restraint, compliance, and willingness to undertake any task (even at the possible risk of losing a limb or life)!

So grave is the perception on ‘Fidelity’, that it is perhaps just a shade below the ultimate disgrace in the ‘Uniform’ i.e., cowardice or desertion from battle. Both are simply unpardonable in the Armed Forces.

Importantly, both the Adultery Laws i.e., Section 45 (‘conduct unbecoming of officer’) and Section 63 (violation of good order and discipline) are gender-neutral – though it could be credibly argued that the applicability has scope to improve in terms of parity across genders. However, now imagine the consequences of decriminalizing acts like desertion or adultery (as is the case for civilian society) on an institution that essentially runs on the sacred covenant of fidelity, faith and trust onto each other?

An Indian Military combatant’s service conditions and expectations are not the same as those in the civilian realm and attempts to treat it as the same would lead to similar diminishment of standards, efficacy and discipline, as it exists outside the rarefied world of barracks.

Everybody is ultimately dependent on the family as a unit of society. The integrity of society is based on the faithfulness of one spouse to another” and added, “This (Adultery) is going to shake the discipline in the Armed Forces. Armed Forces must have some kind of assurance that they will take action.

How can you cite Joseph Shine

(judgement) and say it cannot be”. The so-called ‘progressive’ decriminalizing of adultery in 2018 (filed by a NRI, Joseph Shine, in the Supreme Court), has effectively been given a rightful push-back.

However, this is not to say that there is no space for further reforms and evolutionary changes to enhance the professionalism and elan of the Indian Armed Forces – indeed, there are huge corrections pending in terms of Service conditions, parity with other forces, induction of weaponry, banning political/partisan appropriations, restructuring into theatres with inter-service jointsmanship, revising doctrines, debarring misuse of Military for Non-Military tasks, banning puritanical religiosity etc., that needs to be addressed by the powers that be.

To be harping on cosmetics of ‘nationalising’ symbols of traditions, heritage or even tinkering with service rules like those on adultery or AFSPA (wherever necessary) is to pander to petty politics and not to national security. For once, the service realities have triumphed over woke-comeuppance or distractive ‘nationalism’, and the institution would be served better for it, than having to face incomparable equivalence of work conditions, inside of the ‘Uniform’ and the world outside of it. It is an extreme organisation having to deal with extreme situations, and therefore and only because of this fact, it must sustain those elements that allow it to withstand such extremities. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

CIPMC distributes IPM Kits in Dasarathpur FFS on rice

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15/--/ Keeping in view of pest & disease attack on paddy, CIPMC conducted Farmers' Field School-Kharif 2022-23 to sensitize and spread awareness



about IPM technology at Dasarathpur of Rangat, N & M Andaman by involving 30 Rice farmers (10 Women Farmers) and 5 AEOs. Addressing the programme, Mr. Shiva Kumar H. D., APPO

(WS), CIPMC Port Blair welcomed all the farmers and elaborated the ill-effects of indiscriminate use of chemical on environment and human health and requested to use bio pesticide as far as possible and spread Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies learnt during FFS programme among other farmers. Smt. S. C. Rekha, Assistant Director, Dept. of Agriculture, Rangat shared her views on IPM Methods, Natural enemies, Cultural, Mechanical methods, Neem based Bio-pesticide, Traps & vermicomposting and suggested to prepare low cost bio-pesticides on the own farms to reduce the cost of cultivation and dependency of the Govt supply. At the same time she also assured the supply of quality seed and inputs to the farmers in the subsidized rates from Agri Dept. Mr. Azmat Qadir, SCFA, Rangat Sub Depot, explained the use of Pheromone traps, Sticky traps and seed treatment for prevention of pest incidence in paddy fields and about various departmental schemes for the benefits of the farmers and assured continuous support from the Agri Dept. IPM Kits were distributed to all the farmers in presence of Assistant Director, Pradhan and Members, Gram Panchayat, Dasarathpur. Programme was concluded by co-ordinator of FFS programme, Mr. Shiva Kumar H. D. with vote of thanks.

CS distributes prizes to winners of various competitions held during Hindi Pakhwada-2022

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15/--/The prize distribution ceremony for various competitions organized as part of Hindi Pakhwada-2022 organized by the Official Language Department of A&N Administration was held at TGCE auditorium on Friday. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Keshav Chandra was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary said that Hindi acts as the link language for people of different linguistic background residing in A&N Islands. This shows that Hindi is a strong and predominant language, which has been widely acknowledged by the people of the Islands, the Chief Secretary remarked.

Appreciating the large scale participation in the competitions organized during the observance of ‘Hindi Pakhwada’, the Chief Secretary stated that this shows the love and passion for the Hindi language and its propagation. He also congratulated the Official Language Department for successfully conducting the Hindi Pakhwadaby organizing different competitions involving students and employees.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary distributed prizes to the winners of the various competitions held during the ‘Hindi

Pakhwada’. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary (Home), Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jha stated that during the Freedom Struggle of



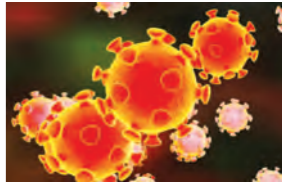
India, Hindi was used as link language and in A&N Islands also Hindi was used as the communicating language by the freedom fighters. Opining that the Islanders have accepted Hindi as a medium of communication, he said, Hindi is a scientific language which is written the way it is pronounced.

Earlier, the Secretary, Official Language, Mr. Vishwendra welcomed the chief guest and others present on the occasion and also presented a report about the ‘Hindi Pakhwada-2022’ observed by the Department.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Assistant Secretary (OL), Mr. Rajendra Indwar.

COVID-19 status in ANI

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15/--/ One COVID positive case has been detected today in A&N Islands from incoming flight passengers who arrived here yesterday. Today, 15 flights with 1946 passengers arrived, out of which, 1778 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was conducted on 114 passengers and the reports are awaited.



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Life improves slowly and goes wrong fast, and only catastrophe is clearly visible
Edward Teller

Saibaba’s acquittal short lived as SC applies brake

The acquittal of former Delhi University (DU) professor G N Saibaba and others in a Maoist-links case has proved to be short lived. The Supreme Court on Saturday suspended the Bombay High Court order acquitting Saibaba and others just a day ago. An apex court bench of justices M R Shah and Bela M Trivedi, which sat on a non-working day to hear the matter, also rejected 52-year-old Saibaba's request for putting him under house arrest in view of his physical disability and health conditions. It stayed the release of all the accused in the case, including Saibaba, from jail, as directed by the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court. It sought responses from Saibaba and the other accused on a plea moved by the Maharashtra government against the high court order. By acquitting Saibaba and five others given life terms on charges of membership of the banned CPI(Maoist) and “aiding and abetting” its activities, the Bombay High Court had sought to send a loud message on the sanctity of due process and procedural safeguards. The 90% physically disabled and wheelchair-bound Saibaba was jailed in 2014 and convicted in 2017. The high court noted that two key safeguards under Section 45 of the UAPA to prevent wrongful implication of innocents by the police were violated. A division bench of justices Rohit Deo and Anil Pansare acquitted accused Mahesh Tirki, Pandu Pora Narote, Hem Keshwadata Mishra, Prashant Rahi, Vijay Nan Tirki and Saibaba. Pandu Narote, 33, also lodged at Nagpur Central Jail, died on August 26 due to swine flu. The judgment holds the sessions court order of conviction null and void and set it aside in the absence of valid sanction under the UAPA. "Empirical evidence suggests that departure from the due process of law fosters an ecosystem in which terrorism burgeons and provides fodder to vested interests whose singular agenda is to propagate false narrative," the judgment says. On March 7, 2017, the Sessions Court at Gadchiroli sentenced Professor Saibaba to life imprisonment under the UAPA for his alleged links with the banned organisation Communist Party of India (Maoist). His appeal against the judgment was pending before the High Court for the last five years. UAPA judges must await prosecution sanction before taking cognisance of charge sheets. This prosecution sanction, in turn, must be considered and granted by government only after an independent authority conducts a “review of the evidence gathered in the course of investigation and makes a recommendation”. But the trial court framed charges against Saibaba before prosecution sanction arrived. The Director of Prosecution reviewing the charge sheet recommended prosecuting the accused without giving any reasoning. The HC wondered how a few “laconic” sentences helped the prosecution sanctioning authority make informed decisions. The conviction was struck down, citing a constitution bench ruling that a trial proceeding without valid sanction would stand vitiated. The judges exhorted the state to fight terrorism with “unwavering resolve” but said the rule of law must tower over loud refrains that “the end justifies the means, and that the procedural safeguards are subservient to the overwhelming need to ensure that the accused is prosecuted and punished”. They signed off by warning that “empirical evidence suggests departures from the due process of law foster an ecosystem in which terrorism burgeons and provides fodder to vested interests whose singular agenda is to propagate false narratives.”

Ukraine averting negotiations as more NATO supplies arrive

REFLEX ACTION

John Wojcik

News reports this week continued to say Ukrainian forces were advancing in the Kherson area in the south of Ukraine, but there were no specifics beyond those general statements or assessments about whether they would soon retake the city. Kherson fell to the Russians early in the war, and the Ukrainian government has put much of the blame for that on what it says were initial poor responses to the Russian invasion by Ukrainian armed forces commanders in the area. There have been accusations by the Ukrainian government that some local leaders actually sold out to the Russians, and they have been removed by Kiev. Kherson has a large majority Russian-speaking population, and large numbers of them did not actively resist the Russian troops when they first arrived. While news reports say Ukrainian troops are making gains as they advance toward Kherson, in Moscow the Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, officially voted to annex Kherson along with three other territories that Russia says it has liberated from Ukraine. The lower house of the Duma voted to incorporate two regions which split from Ukraine in 2014—Donetsk and Lugansk—and two that have been the site of fierce fighting since this year's invasion, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. The votes follow referendums staged in the territories by Russian officials. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov suggested on Monday that Moscow was “open to dialogue on the exact borders” of the areas annexed, particularly Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. “We will leave it open for possible discussion of borders with the residents of those regions,” he said after the annexation votes in the Duma. The idea is that Russia might be willing to give up the two areas of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in exchange for Ukraine's acceptance of the status quo for Donetsk and Lugansk. The latter two regions have not actually been under Ukrainian control since fighting erupted between them and the government in Kiev in 2014. There were indications before and during the early stages of the invasion that began seven months ago that the status of those two areas was something Ukraine was willing to discuss. Ukraine now insists, however, it will not surrender any of the territories and responded to the referendums by signing application papers to fast track its membership in NATO. This can, of course, also be seen as an attempt by Ukraine to strengthen its hand in any coming talks. Western media continue to report on the “significant” Ukrainian success on the battlefield, especially in the village of Lyman, and even Russian state-linked news outlets have begun describing the last few days of fighting as a “tough situation” for Russia's forces. The New York Times reported Tuesday, however, that Ukrainian soldiers are expressing concern that the rapid advances they're making are thinning out their forces, opening up the possibility of successful Russian counter-attacks. “From one day to the next we don't know where we are going,” a Ukrainian soldier told the Times. Those reports lend credence to the notion that some of the reports of Ukrainian victory may be aimed at holding on to support in the West for the continued funneling of weapons to Ukraine. Meanwhile, the Times today confirmed the importance to Ukraine of holding onto U.S. support by actually quoting a U.S. “volunteer” who is in command of Ukrainian forces fighting along the battlefield. The 26-year-old commander of the Ukrainian unit gave his name as “Rob Roy.” It is the first time the “paper of record” admitted that a U.S. citizen is leading Ukrainians directly on the battlefield in that country. When evaluating reports of possible willingness to negotiate, it must be remembered that a commitment to Ukraine remaining outside NATO was one of Russia's primary and original war demands.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky actually appeared ready to accept that demand before the war and during the early weeks of the Russian invasion. He said at that time that realism required acceptance of the fact that Ukraine was not going to join NATO. The U.S. then inflamed the situation and, at the very least, helped derail possible negotiations by saying talks would go nowhere and by encouraging Ukrainian refusal to compromise by pledging and delivering billions of dollars in military aid and weapons. The combination of pressure from his right and the promise and delivery of unlimited U.S. and NATO military aid helped move Zelensky to a position of opposing any negotiations. It is not just the right wing in Ukraine that was pleased. Gas companies, oil companies, and arms dealers in the U.S. ended up celebrating a war that has become a huge cash cow for them. Pressure from forces to their right is something both Zelensky and Putin contend with. In Russia, the extreme right actually attacks Putin for not waging the war fiercely enough. It supports tough laws that punish any open opposition to the war and encourages the military to show no restraint in Ukraine. Ramzan Kadyrov, the strongman leader of the Chechnya in southern Russia, reflects the openness of that pressure. He has urged Putin to take more brutal military action and openly attacked the Russian military for not being fierce enough. In an online post over the weekend, Kadyrov said the incompetence of the Russian general in the battle of Lyman was being “covered up for by higher-up leaders in the General Staff,” and called for “more drastic measures” to be taken. In Ukraine also, the right wing is very powerful and has pressured for and won government support for repressive measures, including enactment of rules that weaken unions, banning of all political opposition parties, and elimination of and seizure of all the assets of the Communist Party, which was long the second-most powerful party in post-Soviet Ukraine. (IPA)



A sculptor adds finishing touches to Goddess Kali idols--Arijit Ganguly

Sangh Parivar still treating Muslims as second class citizens

It is a known fact that the Hindus believing in RSS philosophy has been primarily responsible for denigrating the minorities and Dalits and denying them the basic rights. One of the significant remarks that Bhagwat made was about empowering women. But it is a deplorable narrative that the women are the most ill-treated section in the states ruled by BJP, the political arm of RSS. In fact Uttar Pradesh tops the list of repression against women in the country. People are yet to forget the gruesome incidents of killing of women in Hathras, Ujjain and Lakhimpur. He also laid emphasis on women's empowerment and said a society cannot progress without women. But this was simply an attempt to whitewash the misdeeds of the Modi government. A clean chit from RSS will help Modi refurbish the image of his government. He did not name the places where women were burnt, killed and raped, but he did not forget to mention “horrific and grisly incidents” occurred in Udaipur and some other places. He said what happened in Udaipur and other places had stunned the society and made most of the people sad and angry. He was far from the truth when he said “The Hindu society in general assertively expressed their protests

and strong reactions after such incidents even if the accused be Hindu persons”. The people who supported RSS and BJP in a shameful manner remained tight lipped. Even the BJP government did not take deterrent actions. On the contrary he advised the Muslims to voice protest. He said “This manner of protest should not be an isolated phenomenon within the Muslim society rather it should become the nature of their large sections”. It would not be an exaggeration to say that his speech was meant to terrorise and confuse the minorities and Muslims about the real intent of the RSS. Instead of talking about the pluralist character of India, he emphasised; “Now, when the Sangh is receiving the affection and confidence of people and also has become strong, the concept of Hindu Rashtra is being taken seriously”. In an oblique manner he tried to convey the message that Muslims do not belong to India. Bhagwat said “We are of Bharat, came from Bhartiya ancestors and its eternal

culture, we are one as a society and in our nationality, this is the only protective shield, the mantra for us all”. He also said “scare-mongering is done among the so-called minorities that there is a danger to them because of us or organised Hindus. This has not happened in the past, nor will it happen in future. This is neither the nature of the Sangh nor of the Hindus, history bears this out.” What came as real shock was his call to the people to assist the government's and administration's efforts to control and bring such forces to its heels. Bhagwat said “the devotion to Bharat, the shining ideals of our ancestors and the great Sanskriti of our country, these are the three pillars which light up and pave our path on which we have to travel together with love and affection. This is our selfhood and Rashtra Dharma”. He once against distanced from Muslims by saying “Sangh organises all who subscribe to this thought - that is “organising the Hindu society for protecting the Hindu

dharma, sanskriti, samaj, and an all-round development of the Hindu Rashtra”. The most astonishing part of his speech was his observation “Our economy is returning to normalcy post-Covid and world economists are predicting that it will grow further. In sports also, our players make the country proud. Change is the rule of the world, but one should be firm on Sanatan Dharma.” It appears that his emphasis was on sticking to Sanatan Dharma which has been panacea to all the malaises. He said it was unfortunate that the persons who are opposed to Sanatan Dharma were in fact enemies of Bharat's unity and progress. “They spread Fake Narratives, encourage anarchy, engage in criminal acts, and foment terror, conflict and social unrest,” he said. There is no denying that he articulated the sanghparivar's Hindu supremacist viewpoint with the assertion that “sanatan Hindu culture and its magnanimous Hindu society” can accept all, and can “alone be the saviour of the world from the catastrophic grip of radicalism, intolerance, terrorism, conflict, animosity and exploitation.” (IPA/Concluded)

Conventional Crossword																																	
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ACROSS										DOWN									
1	Chopped cabbage with dressing									1	Distress call								
4	Storms									2	Talisman								
8	Evil intent									3	Twist out of shape								
9	Goadling device									4	Brazilian seaport (abb)								
11	Aquatic furred mammal									5	Thespian								
12	High mountains									6	Obtain								
14	Drink									7	Small branches								
15	Insect									10	Wan								
19	Preferable									13	Observe								
21	Donkey									14	Counting frame								
22	Shopping complex									16	Limb								
24	Quotes									17	Billfold								
27	Excuse									18	Island								
29	Meal course									20	Tendency								
30	Shabby									23	Copies								
31	Slender support									25	Golf mound								
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Putin describes India and China as ‘close allies and partners’

Says they always talked about resolving Ukraine conflict peacefully

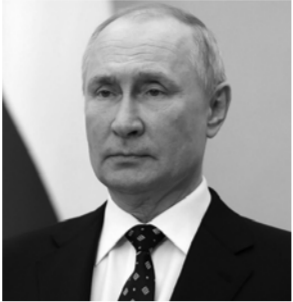
ASTANA, OCT 15 --/ Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday described India and China as "close allies and partners" and said that the two Asian giants always talked about the need to initiate a dialogue and resolve the Ukraine conflict peacefully, nearly a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told him during a summit that today's era is not of war.

Putin made the remarks during a press conference in Kazakhstan's capital Astana, where he was on a visit to attend the first Russia Central Asia Summit during which the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan discussed efforts to expand interaction among them in various spheres. Talking about the potential mediatory role of China and India at negotiations with Ukraine, Putin said that Beijing and New Delhi always talked about the need to build a dialogue and solve the conflict peacefully, state-owned Tass news agency reported. "We know their position. These are our close allies and partners and we respect their position, Putin stressed. India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that

the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

In a bilateral meeting with President Putin on the



sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Samarkand last month, Prime Minister

Modi underlined the importance of "democracy, dialogue and diplomacy" while calling for an early cessation of hostilities in Ukraine. "I know today's era is not of war. We discussed this issue with you on phone several times, that democracy, diplomacy and dialogue touch the entire world. We will have the opportunity to talk today about how we can move forward on the road of peace in the coming days," Modi said in his first in-person meeting with Putin since the Ukraine conflict began in February. On the sidelines of the SCO Summit, Putin also met Chinese President Xi Jinping, who raised

"questions and concerns" over the Ukraine conflict. This was perhaps for the first time in over six months of Russia's Ukraine war, China, which remained a steadfast ally of Moscow and declined to condemn the invasion, aired its concerns over Putin's move. "We highly value the balanced position of our Chinese friends when it comes to the Ukraine crisis. We understand your questions and concerns about this, Putin was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong based South China Morning Post.

Xi and Putin maintained close personal relations in the 10-year tenure of the

Chinese leader and Beijing effectively stood by Moscow declining to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, even though it officially asserts that it maintains a neutral stance on the Ukraine issue. Last month, Putin in a televised address to the nation said that Russia will use all the means at its disposal to protect its territory, warning the West that this is not a bluff.

Since early September, Ukraine forces have swiftly recaptured large swaths of land in Ukraine's Kharkiv region that Russian troops took over in early weeks of the war which began on February 24. (PTI)

Finance Minister Sitharaman urges World Bank to avoid unidimensional view of subsidies

WASHINGTON, OCT 15 --/ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the World Bank to avoid a "unidimensional" view of the subsidies provided by the Indian government and asserted that it is important to differentiate between "distortive subsidies" and "targeted support" to the vulnerable households.

Speaking at an intervention of the World Bank Development Committee's meeting on Friday, Sitharaman said that subsidies have made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on



several key parameters of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

We urge the Bank to avoid a unidimensional view of subsidies. It is important to differentiate between distortive subsidies and targeted support to the vulnerable households, Sitharaman said. As an illustration, she said that by providing free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna over the last six years, the Indian Government has ensured that access to clean cooking methods has achieved near saturation for women in India.

This has made a definitive contribution in improving India's performance on several key parameters of SDG, she said. During her intervention, she told the Development Committee members that while the quest for energy and food security necessitates non exclusion of fossil fuels from our energy mix, India has set up its first pure hydrogen producing plant as well as its first 2G bioethanol refinery this year. Going forward, she suggested three clear opportunities for the World Bank Group.

First, promoting behaviour change to increase energy efficiency and to reduce food losses. Programmes like the Lifestyle for the Environment launched by India on the World Environment Day this June, in which World Bank President David Malpass delivered a wonderful keynote address, can mainstream responsible consumption behaviour, she said.

Second is helping all client countries in arranging concessional financing and technology transfer in areas like renewable and green energy. And third is supporting regional integration not only through IDA but also through IBRD, the minister said. On financing climate and development goals, the World Bank is uniquely placed to bring together all stakeholders for developing an investment strategy for climate and development finance, she observed.

Yet, we must never lose focus on the internationally agreed basic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. This necessitates avoidance of a one-size fit-all approach, she told the Development Committee. Mitigation of risks is essential for crowding in private capital. While welcoming the launching of SCALE, we encourage the Bank to increase the share of grants from the current five per cent level and to work below the country level to support projects with huge climate impact beyond the national borders, Sitharaman said. (PTI)

Ukraine: Russia hits power site by Kyiv, guards seized land

KYIV, OCT 15 --/ A missile strike seriously damaged a key energy facility in Ukraine's capital region, the country's power system operator said on Saturday as the Russian military strove to cut water and electricity in populated areas. Kyiv region Gov Oleksiy Kuleba said the strike did not kill or wound anyone. Electricity transmission company Ukrenergo said repair crews were working to restore power but warned residents about possible outages. Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, urged Kyiv area residents and people in three neighbouring regions to reduce their energy consumption during evening hours of peak demand. After a truck bomb explosion a week ago damaged the bridge that links Russia to the annexed Crimean Peninsula, the Kremlin launched what is believed to be its largest coordinated missile attacks since the initial invasion of Ukraine. This week's wide-ranging retaliatory attack hit residential buildings, killing dozens of people, as well as civil infrastructure such as power stations near Kyiv and other cities far from the front lines of the war.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday

that Moscow did not see a need for additional massive strikes but his military would continue selective strikes. He said of 29 targets the Russian military planned to knock out in this week's attacks, seven weren't damaged and would be taken out gradually. The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, interpreted Putin's remarks as intended to counter criticism from pro-war Russian bloggers who largely praised the resumption of strikes against Ukrainian cities but warned that a short campaign would be ineffective. "Putin knew he would not be able to sustain high-intensity missile strikes for a long time due to a dwindling arsenal of high-precision missiles, the think tank said. Regions of southern Ukraine that Putin illegally designated as Russian territory last month remained a focus of fighting on Saturday.

Kirill Stremousov, a deputy head of the administration Moscow installed in the mostly Russian-occupied Kherson region, reminded residents they could evacuate to Crimea and cities in southwestern Russia as Ukrainian forces try to battle their way to the regional capital. After the region's worried Kremlin-

backed leaders asked civilians on Thursday to evacuate to ensure their safety and to give Russian troops more maneuverability. Moscow offered free accommodation to residents who agreed to leave. Ukrainian troops attempted to advance south along the banks of the Dnieper River but did gain any ground, according to Stremousov.

The defense lines worked, and the situation has remained under the full control of the Russian army, he wrote on his messaging app channel. In the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region, Gov Oleksandr Starukh said the Russian military carried out strikes with Iranian-made kamikaze drones and S-300 missiles. Some experts said the Russian military's use of the long-range missiles may reflect shortages of dedicated precision weapons for hitting ground targets. To the north and east of Kherson, Russian shelling killed two civilians in the Dnipropetrovsk region, Gov Valentyn Resnichenko said. He said the shelling of the city of Nikopol, which is located across the Dnieper from the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, damaged a dozen residential buildings, several stores and a transportation facility. (AP)

Pak with N-weapons without cohesion is 'one of the most dangerous nations in the world': US Prez

WASHINGTON, OCT 15 --/ US President Joe Biden has said Pakistan is one of the most dangerous nations in the world as it has nuclear weapons without cohesion. He made the remarks while addressing a Democratic Party congressional campaign committee reception on Thursday. And what I think is maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world: Pakistan. Nuclear weapons without any cohesion," Biden said. The US president's remarks at the reception of the governing party were made in the context of the changing geopolitical situation globally.

The West has expressed concern over the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons. Many in the West are worried that Pakistan's nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists or jihadi elements. "Ever since May 1998, when Pakistan first began testing nuclear weapons, claiming its national

security demanded it, American presidents have been haunted by the fear that Pakistan's stockpile of nukes would fall into the wrong hands. That fear now includes the possibility that jihadis in Pakistan, freshly inspired by the Taliban victory in Afghanistan, might try to



seize power at home," Marvin Kalb, a nonresident senior fellow with the Foreign Policy programme at Brookings wrote last year.

The top US general Mark Milley had warned that a rapid withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan would pose an

increased risk to the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. In his speech, Biden said the world was changing rapidly and countries were rethinking their alliances. And the truth of the matter is I genuinely believe this that the world is looking to us. Not a joke.

Even our enemies are looking to us to figure out how we figure this out, what we do. There was a lot at stake, Biden said, emphasising that the US had the capacity to lead the world to a place it had never been before. "Did any of you ever think you'd have a Russian leader, since the Cuban Missile Crisis, threatening the use of tactical nuclear weapons that would could only kill three, four thousand people and be limited to make a point?"

In a televised speech in September, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would certainly use all the means at our disposal to protect Russia and our people. He added that he was not bluffing. (PTI)

Decayed bodies found on hospital roof in Pak, probe ordered

LAHORE, OCT 15 --/ Several putrefied bodies have been found dumped on the rooftop of a public sector hospital in Pakistan's Punjab province that sparked outcry on social media over their desecration.

Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi on Friday took a strict notice of this and formed a high-powered committee to investigate the matter. The six-member committee headed by specialised healthcare secretary Muzamil Bashir has been given three days to complete the probe and fix the responsibility. Adviser to the chief minister Chaudhry Zaman Gujjar on Thursday visited the Nishtar Hospital in Multan, some 350 kms from Lahore, and found several "abandoned" bodies on the roof of the hospital's mortuary. The chief minister has ordered cremation of the abandoned bodies and directed the health authorities to take action against the employees involved in the matter. Nishtar Medical University's Prof Dr. Maryam Ashraf said in a statement on Friday that it received unclaimed, unidentified, and unknown dead bodies from the police department.

The process of decomposition has begun in such bodies and they were put on the roof of the dead house for different medical purposes. These bodies are used for medical experiments by students and this is done in accordance with rules laid down by the government, she said. This is not unusual as bones and skulls are extracted for further medical use, Ashraf said. Videos circulating on social media on Friday showed several bodies dumped on the roof in a bad condition, sparking rumors that the bodies were kept on the roof to be used as fodder for eagles and vultures. The Baloch separatists on social media are claiming that these could be the bodies of their missing persons. (PTI)

Admission to UG Courses in MGGC for academic year 2022-23

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15 --/ The provisional selection list of candidates for admission 2022-23 in various courses in M.G. Govt. College, Mayabunder has been published online. The provisional selection list- course wise along with corresponding merit list of other subject is available at url: collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in.

Since many candidates have applied for multiple courses, such candidates have been directed to take admission only in one course. The selected candidates are allowed to remit the fee in the prescribed bank account from Oct.20 to 25, 2022 on working days at the College Counter. Non-payment of Admission fees from selected candidates shall not be considered as admitted. Once the tuition fee/admission fee is remitted, it will not be refundable.

The Counseling for Admission in various UG Courses at MG Govt. College, Mayabunder will be held as per the scheduled date given below:

Sl No	Date and Time	Course
1.	20/10/2022, 9:30 to 11:30 am	B.Com. (General)
2.	20/10/2022, 11:30 to 12:30 pm	B.Com. (Co-operative Management)
3.	20/10/2022, 2:00 to 3:00 pm	B.Sc. (Geography)
4.	20/10/2022, 3:00 to 4:00 pm	B.A. (Economics)
5.	21/10/2022, 9:30 to 12:30 pm	B.A. (Political Science)
6.	21/10/2022, 9:30 to 12:30 pm	B.A. (History)

Candidates should attend the counseling on the date of admission counseling. If any candidate is unable to attend the counseling in person, his/her parents/guardian will be allowed to attend the counseling on behalf of candidate. If any seat is laying vacant after the Counseling process is over, the desirous candidates seeking admission will be admitted on first come, first serve basis from Oct. 22, 2022 onwards till Oct.31, 2022.

Candidates should bring their original documents at the time of Counseling for Admission viz. Transfer Certificate, 10th Pass Mark Statement, 12th Pass Mark Statement and Category Certificate (OBC/ST/PH/EWS).

Week-long celebration to commemorate anniversary of Azad Hind Fauj provisional govt

PORT BLAIR, OCT 15 --/ The Department of Art & Culture, A&N Administration will be conducting befitting programmes to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of Provisional Government of Azad Hind (PGI) in a weeklong programme from 17th to 23rd October, 2022. The aim of conducting these programmes is to create awareness among the general public especially among the young generation about the contribution of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the Indian Freedom struggle.

As part of the programme, drawing competition and patriotic songs will be organized in schools on 17th and 18th October, 2022 by Directorate of Education and College level elocation competition will be organized on 19th and 20th October, 2022. On 21st October, 2022, a felicitation programme will be conducted at Andaman Club to felicitate surviving members of INA / IIL personnel. Historians have been invited to highlight the role of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the Indian freedom struggle. During the week-long function, Quiz competition will be organized at GMS Homfraygunj. Nukkad Natak will be also presented at various locations by school children on 22nd October, 2022 on the theme 'Netaji's contribution in the freedom struggle'.

Death toll rises to 28 in Turkey coal mine explosion

AMASRA, OCT 15 --/ The death toll from a coal mine explosion in northern Turkey rose to at least 28 people and rescue efforts continued as a fire burned in the mine, officials said Saturday. There were 110 miners working in the shaft when the explosion occurred Friday evening at the state-owned TTK Amasra Muesses Mudurlugu mine in the town of Amasra, in the Black Sea coastal province of Bartin. Energy minister Fatih Durmaz said rescue efforts continued for 15 people with a majority of them in the mine's gallery where a fire still burned. It's not a huge fire, but to get there safely, the fire and carbon monoxide gas must be eliminated," he told journalists at the site. Four or five other miners were trapped in cave-ins, Durmaz added. The minister earlier said that preliminary assessments indicated that the explosion was likely caused by firedamp, which is a reference to flammable gases found in coal mines. Health minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that 28 miners were dead and 11 rescued miners were hospitalised in Bartin and Istanbul. Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said 58 people had been rescued alive. (AP)

AFFIDAVIT

I, MOHD SAHIL, S/o. AMEEN SARIF, aged about 23 years, R/o. Mithakhari Village, under Ferrargunj Tehsil, South Andaman District, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am a permanent resident of these Islands and residing at above mentioned address.
2. That my father's actual and correct name is AMEEN SARIF as recorded in my Aadhaar Card (No. 8339 2041 2712), OBC Certificate No.(202210110B05459), Local Certificate No. (20221011LC11533) Voter Card No. (PRI3135423) and other records.
3. That my father's name has wrongly entered as AMIN SHARIF in my CBSE 10th Mark Sheet No. (SSE/2014/0927661), 12TH Mark Sheet No. (SSCE/2016/0922270), 12TH Pass Certificate No. (SSCE/2016/0700255) Islander Identity Card No. 10532805086104, D.El.Ed Certificate (Roll No.18224), PAN Card No. (HMHPS8380B) Birth Certificate No. (C37/98), and other records instead of my father's actual name AMEEN SARIF.

That I swearing this affidavit for the purpose to declare my actual and correct name, henceforth my name shall be treated as MOHD SAHIL, S/o. AMEEN SARIF for all official and non official purpose.

That the above statements made by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place: Port Blair
Date: 22.09.22
DEPONENT

British Sikh Polar Preet set for new record trek to Antarctica

LONDON, OCT 15 --/ A 33-year-old British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, who completed a trekking challenge to become the first Indian-origin woman to set the record of a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole, is all set for her second challenge, this time for the Antarctic. Captain Harpreet Chandi, known as Polar Preet with reference to her Polar record, returned from the South Pole in January which she saw as the first phase ahead

of the over 1,000-mile solo and unaided trek to Antarctica, Chandi, who recently won the Asian Achievers Award in the Uniformed and Civil Service category in London for her record-breaking efforts, will be pulling a sledge with all her kit and battling below freezing temperatures on her new adventure starting towards the end of this month. My aim is to complete a solo and unsupported crossing of Antarctica, says Chandi. This involves me travelling

over 1,000 miles, pulling a pulk [sledge] with all of my kit, battling temperatures of up to minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of up to 60mph. This journey will take approximately 75 days. This expedition will make me the first female to complete a solo and unsupported crossing of the continent, she said. It was around three years ago when she was learning about Antarctica that she decided she wanted to do a crossing of the continent. But she did not put in her

application into the Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions (ALE), which handles the permissions for such expeditions, immediately because she wanted to build up some experience. After a year of training and completing expeditions in Norway and Greenland, I put my application into ALE. A few weeks later, I received an email and my application had been rejected, I still did not have enough experience. To be honest, I felt deflated, she recalls. It is

never nice to have any kind of rejection. What could I do to gain the experience that was required? I created phase one an 1126.54 kms solo expedition to the South Pole, she said, a challenge she has completed since.

Her application was completed earlier this year and it has been all about preparing for this ultimate goal. Now, she will be setting off on her journey in less than two weeks to start her journey to Antarctica. There have been tough times to get here but I made

it this far. I don't always remember to look back and reflect. But I know for a fact my 15-year-old self would be amazed at where we are now, she writes this week on her blog, where she logs her trekking journey. I'm so proud of myself. It feels strange writing that because I don't say it very often but it is true. Take a minute and give yourself a pat on the back for your achievements. However tough it's gotten for you, you are reading this now and you made it through, she said. (PTI)

Delay in justice delivery big challenge, says PM; bats for use of regional languages in legal system

KEVADIA, OCT 15 --/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said delay in getting justice is one of the major challenges faced by the people of the country, and added that a sensitive judicial system is essential for a capable nation and a harmonious society.

Since obscurity of law creates complexity, new laws should be written in lucid manner and in regional languages to bring in "ease of justice" so that even the poor can easily understand them, Modi said, noting that legal language should not become a hurdle for citizens. In his video message aired at the inaugural session of the two-day 'All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries' at Ekta Nagar in Kevadia near the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat, Modi also said that in the last eight years, his government has scrapped more than 1,500 old, obsolete and irrelevant laws, many of which continued from the time of British rule. "Delay in getting justice is one of the major challenges being faced by the people of our country," Modi said.

"But our judiciary is seriously working towards resolving this issue. In this 'amrit kaal', we will have to work together to tackle this," the Prime Minister said.



PM Narendra Modi addressing the inaugural session of All India Conference of Law Ministers and Secretaries, via video conferencing, in New Delhi

Systems like alternative dispute resolution and Lok Adalats have helped reduce the burden on courts and the poor get justice easily, the prime minister added. Stressing the use of regional languages in the legal system, he said that they have to play a big role for the "ease of justice". "Obscurity of law creates complexity. If law is comprehensible to the common man, it will have a different impact," Modi said. In some countries, when a law is framed, it is decided in two ways. One is by giving a detailed explanation of its legal terms using technical terminology, and another is by writing it in the regional language so that the common man can understand it, he added. "Therefore, while framing a law, our focus should be such that even the poor could understand the new law," Modi said. Some countries have the provision of deciding during the framing of a law as to how long it will remain effective, he pointed out. "So in a way, the age and the expiry date of a law is determined when it

is being framed. When that (stipulated) date comes, the same law is reviewed in new circumstances. In India, too, we will have to go ahead with the same spirit," he said. The Prime Minister said he has been raising the issue of the use of local languages in the legal system before the judiciary. "The country is making many big efforts in this direction. We will need the support of logistics and infrastructure for the legal language not to become a hurdle for citizens, and for every state to work in this direction," he said.

Similarly, there is a need to create a legal academic system in mother tongue for the youth, Modi said. Work needs to be done to make law courses in mother tongue, for laws to be written in simple language, and for digital libraries of important cases of high courts and the Supreme Court to be made available in local language, he said. This will help increase the knowledge of law among common people and reduce the fear of heavy legal terminologies, Modi said. The Prime Minister added that the speciality of Indian society is that for thousands of years, while walking on the path of development it also carried out internal reforms. "Our society voluntarily got rid of obsolete laws, bad customs and traditions as we know that

if they become stereotypes, they pose a hindrance to progress," Modi said. The Prime Minister said his government has paid special attention to ease the burden of people by scrapping obsolete laws, and more than 1,500 old and irrelevant laws have been scrapped in the last eight years. Many of these laws were continuing since the time of British rule, he said.

"To remove the legal hurdles lying in the way of innovation and ease of living, more than 32,000 compliances have been reduced. These changes are for the convenience of people," he said. Many such laws from colonial times are still continuing in many states, and those should be removed and new laws framed, the Prime Minister added. "Apart from this, a review of the existing laws of the states with special focus on ease of living and ease of justice will also prove helpful," Modi said. Stressing the need for modern technology in legal system, he said that during the pandemic, it played an indispensable role in it. "e-Courts Mission is moving fast in the country. (PTI)

of time by all the concerned Departments. The DC (SA) gave a patient hearing to all their grievances, and assured them of its early disposal. He gave on the spot directions to the Tehsildar and officers of other line Departments to take up the issues concerning them and to dispose of them at the earliest. The applicants who had applied for various Tehsil services like OBC, Local, Resident certificate etc. were handed over the same during the programme. Besides this, specific instructions were also issued to the concerned revenue field functionaries in response to various petitions filed by the residents of the village. The PRI members and the general public thanked the District Administration for organizing 'PrashasanAapkeDwaar' camp at the grass root level and its effort to address the core issues. The DC (SA) also emphasized on the cleanliness of the island and appealed the PRIs and general public to carry out cleanliness drives on regular interval to enhance solid waste management and bringing about a behavioral change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices. The DC (SA) also directed the Revenue field staff and the officials of the line departments to follow up on all the matters that were placed before the camp. He assured the gathering that the District Administration is committed to the overall development of the Panchayat and urged the people to feel free to reach out to the District Administration for redressal of their grievances. Similar camps will also be organized in each Gram Panchayat in the coming weeks.

India ranks 107th in Global Hunger Index, Govt says report suffers from serious methodological issues

NEW DELHI, OCT 15 --/ India's ranking at 107 in the Global Hunger Index is part of a consistent effort to taint the country's image as "a nation that does not fulfil the food security and nutritional requirements of its population," the Centre said on Saturday and added the index suffers from serious methodological issues and is "erroneous measure of hunger".

The Union women and child development ministry, in a statement, said the matter was taken up with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) not to use such estimates based on FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) survey module data in July 2022 as the statistical output of the same will not be based on merit. "Though an assurance was forthcoming that there will be further engagement on this issue, the publication of the Global Hunger Index report irrespective of such factual considerations is regrettable, the ministry said. India ranked 107 out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index

2022 with its child wasting rate at 19.3 per cent, being the highest in the world. The ministry said: "A consistent effort is yet again visible to taint India's image as a nation that does not fulfil the food security and nutritional requirements of its population. Misinformation seems to be the hallmark of the annually released Global Hunger Index." "The Global Hunger Report 2022 released by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, Non-Government Organisations from Ireland and Germany respectively, has ranked

India at 107 among 121 countries. The index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues," the ministry said. The Centre said three out of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. "The fourth and most important indicator estimate of Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3000, it said. The

report is not only disconnected from ground reality but also chooses to deliberately ignore efforts made by the government to ensure food security for the population, especially during the Covid pandemic, the government said. Taking a one-dimensional view, the Centre said the report lowers India's rank based on the estimate of Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population for India at 16.3 per cent. The government said it is evident such questions do not search for facts based on relevant



A consistent effort is yet again visible to taint India's image as a nation that does not fulfil the food security and nutritional requirements of its population. Misinformation seems to be the hallmark of the annually released Global Hunger Index —WCD ministry

Modi govt made possible what had seemed impossible: Shah

SHIMLA, OCT 15 --/ Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 and the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Narendra Modi government made possible what had previously seemed impossible. Shah was addressing an election rally of the ruling BJP in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district ahead of the November 12 Assembly polls. He said the Modi government abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, on August 5, 2019. "Did you ever think that Article 370 would be abrogated," he asked the gathering.

"If you talk to Congress leaders and workers about Article 370, they remain mum as its provision was made by Jawaharlal Nehru," he said. On the construction of Ram temple, the home minister said, "Congress used to taunt us and say 'Mandir vahi banayenge, titi nahi batayenge'." Prime Minister Modi started the construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said. "Be it construction of Ram Mandir or abrogation of Article 370, the Modi government made possible what had earlier seemed impossible," Shah said. He said the Prime Minister has ended 'parivarvad' in politics. The

days of king and queen are gone and Prime Minister Modi changed the name of Rajpath in Delhi to Kartavya Path and installed a grand statue of Subhas Chandra Bose there, Shah said. The Union minister also reminded the gathering about the surgical strike carried out by the armed forces in response to terrorist attack. He said the



Modi government has brought the Indian economy to the fifth position in the world from number 11 in just eight years. Prime Minister Modi ended 55 years' struggle of the people of

Girpar area by providing tribal status to the Hatti community, which will benefit 1.60 lakh people, he said. The Hatti community will now get the benefit of reservation after getting the tribal status for which Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur had pressed the Centre strongly, he said.

But the Congress started instigating the Dalit community that their rights of reservation would be depleted after providing tribal status to the Hatti community. The home minister said he wanted to make it clear that Dalits of the area would keep on getting as much reservation as they were getting earlier. "It's time for the people of Himachal Pradesh to change the trend of voting parties to power alternately in every elections as the people of Uttarakhand had recently done," he said. Shah listed the achievements of the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state and urged the voters to reelect the BJP in the November 12 assembly polls.

Earlier, Shah launched the BJP's election theme song, Himachal ki Pukar, Phir Bajpa Sarkar. Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur and BJP's former state president Rajeev Bindal addressed the gathering. (PTI)

Fireworks traders in Bengal seek single-window system for trade licence nod

KOLKATA, OCT 15 --/ Fireworks manufacturers and sellers urged the West Bengal government to facilitate the introduction of a single-window system for issuing trade licences to the eligible ones. According to Sara Bangla Atash Bazi Unnayan Samity (All Bengal Fireworks Development Association), at least one lakh manufacturers and sellers are waiting for their licences. Currently, the members have to seek no-objection certificates from different authorities, including the police, local municipalities or panchayats and the fire brigade. Babla Roy, the chairman of the association, told PTI, a delegation of manufacturers met senior officials at state secretariat Nabanna and informed them that members were being subjected to "harassment" by the police and administration officials under the garb of raids for confiscation of illegal crackers. "Over the past few years, our members have developed the expertise to manufacture low sound-producing fireworks which can compete at any point of time with those from Shivkasi. But as we could not attend the workshops of central agencies, like NEERI and PESO, due to lack of money, our fireworks are being seized by the teams of West Bengal Pollution Control Board and the environment department. The small and medium fireworks makers and dealers in the state are being denied their licences. We want the issue to be resolved at the earliest as it involves the livelihood of 31 lakh people," Roy said. A senior police officer, when approached, said measures and action were being taken as per instructions provided by authorities. The Calcutta High Court has allowed the use of green crackers bearing QR codes in West Bengal. Roy said foreign-made lantern (Phanush) and Chinese crackers are being sold at markets, "while the interests of local sellers, who are complying with all eco norms, get ignored". "We demand a ban on the entry of foreign-made products during Diwali," he stated. (PTI)



PRI delegation discuss...

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Another issue was starting the construction of all pending village road projects and PMGSY-I roads works. Further, as part of rural tourism development, PRI members demanded for setting up benches and huts in the Mithakhari Sea Shore area, starting Cable Car project from Mithakhari to Viper Island, setting up floating jetty and starting adventure water sports activities so that youth of this region can earn their livelihood. The PRI members also raised the issue of development of health infrastructure facilities at PHC Tushnabad as this PHC catered to the health-care needs of as many as four Panchayats such as Collinpur, Tushnabad, Mithakhari and Namunagar.

The PRI members also urged the Chief Secretary for plan a visit to these Panchayats. The Chief Secretary heard their issues and assured that efforts will be made to resolve these issues

information about the delivery of nutritional support and assurance of food security by the government. The per capita dietary energy supply in India, as estimated by FAO from the Food Balance Sheets, has been increasing year-on-year owing to enhanced production of major agricultural commodities in the country over the years and there is absolutely no reason why the country's undernourishment levels should increase, the Centre said.

The ministry said the three other indicators apart from PoU, included in Global Hunger Index relate primarily to children viz. stunting, wasting and under 5 mortality. "These indicators are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like drinking water, sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger, which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI. Calculating hunger based on mainly indicators relating to health indicators of children is neither scientific nor rational, it said. (PTI)

ATK Mohun Bagan face Kerala Blasters in ISL



KOCHI, OCT 15 /-- Kerala Blasters FC will look to build on their impressive start to the season when they take on hosts ATK Mohun Bagan in the Indian Super League here on Sunday.

Kerala Blasters eased past East Bengal FC on the opening day of the new season, while the Mariners fell prey to a late goal against Chennaiyin FC and are looking to get points on the board. Kerala will look to carry the momentum and secure their first-ever victory over ATK Mohun Bagan in the ISL. The Mariners are the only team against whom the Tuskers have failed to notch a win in four attempts. The Blasters will be glad to see Adrian Luna picking up where he left off. The Uruguayan scored an astonishing volley to score the first goal of the season. The Tuskers' attack-minded mentality was evident as none of their players had more touches on the ball than Luna (71). Substitutes also played a key role in the Blaster's victory. Two minutes after their introduction into the game, Bidyashagar Khangembam and Ivan Kalyuzhnyi combined to score the Tuskers' second goal of the evening. Eight minutes later, with his second shot, Kalyuzhnyi scored again. It will be interesting to see whether that performance earns the Ukrainian midfielder his

first start or whether head coach Ivan Vukomanovic will stick to the same starting eleven, knowing he has an ace up his sleeve. Recovering from the opening-day fumble, ATK Mohun Bagan will be looking to nab their 25th win of the tournament. The Mariners have a stellar head-to-head record against the Kerala Blasters but this will be the first time they face the yellow brigade in their own backyard. Striker Manvir Singh, who has been involved in all of ATK Mohun Bagan's ISL games since their inception, scored the opening goal last time around. The 26-year-old is their leading Indian goal-scorer and seems fully capable of scoring in two successive games. Liston Colaco was the name missing from the starting eleven in their last game. The attacker came on as a substitute in the second half, but the Mariners were starting to lose their grip on the game, and eventually ended up allowing CFC to score a late winner. No tweak to the formation is expected but head coach Juan Ferrando will definitely think about including Colaco in the starting eleven.

The backline is expected to be the same with Subhashish Bose, Brendan Hamill and Pritam Kotal in front of Vishal Kaith. (PTI)

Shami has shown positive signs in his recovery, we couldn't have risked playing Bumrah: Rohit

‘We understand importance of Indo-Pak contest’

MELBOURNE, OCT 15 /-- The Indian team could not have risked playing star pacer Jasprit Bumrah in the T20 World Cup with a dodgy back while his replacement Mohammad Shami is on his way to full recovery from COVID-19, said captain Rohit Sharma on Saturday. Speaking at the captains' media interaction ahead of the T20 World Cup, Rohit gave an update on Shami, who has been drafted into the squad despite having not played a competitive game since July.

"Shami had COVID two-three weeks ago. He was called to the NCA then, he worked hard for the last 10 days and he is in Brisbane. He will practice with us tomorrow," Rohit said.

"Whatever we have heard on his recovery is positive. He did three four bowling sessions with full intensity. We have made a lot of effort to do player management over the last 12 months but injuries happen. If you see, whoever has come into the squad, he has got matches under his belt." Bumrah was ruled out of the tournament with a back injury, leaving a big hole in the bowling department. While the batting has come a long way in the last one year, bowling remains the team's weak link.

"Bumrah is a quality bowler. We spoke to a lot of specialists about his (back) injury but the response was not very positive. World Cup is important but his



Team captains pose for a photo ahead of the Men's T20 World Cup

career is more important, he is only 27-28.

"We could not have risked playing him here, that is what the specialists also said. We will miss him," said Rohit. Injuries are unfortunate but inevitable and that is one of the main reasons why India focused on creating a bigger pool of players over the last 12 months, said the skipper. Be it in batting or bowling, India gave a lot of opportunities to youngsters after their early exit from the World Cup 12 months ago, besides drastically changing their playing style.

"Injuries are part and parcel of the sport. If you play so many matches,

injuries will happen. Our focus in the last one year has been on increasing our bench strength. You must have seen we played new guys whenever there was an opportunity," he said. Rohit said the team has to make the best use of available resources rather than thinking about the injured.

"There is no point being disappointed about it. What needs to be done is the important thing. It was a conscious effort to come here (Australia) early, we played two practice games and two more to go.

"We will be fully prepared before the first game (against Pakistan on October 23). There is no last minute decisions to be

made. All the concerned players have been informed in advance," he said referring to the India's playing eleven for the big game. He also has high expectations from Suryakumar Yadav in this tournament. Suryakumar has been India's number one T20 batter over the last 12 months.

"He is in good form, hope he continues in that fashion in the middle order. He is a very confident and fearless player and uses his skill sets really well," Rohit said. The most awaited World Cup clash is the India-Pakistan fixture at the MCG on October 23. While players from both teams share a cordial relationship

with each other and of late have looked rather relaxed before the big game, the fans on either side of the border contribute massively in building hype around the fixture. Both Rohit and his Pakistani counterpart Babar Azam too looked extremely relaxed at the captains' media interaction here. It was not a surprise that out of the 16 captains, most questions were reserved for Rohit and Babar. They were also asked about what they usually end up talking about when they meet during tournaments.

"We don't even talk about cricket," revealed Babar.

"Rohit bhai is elder than me. I try to learn about the

game from him. He has achieved a lot and I try to pick whatever I can from him," said the humble Pakistan skipper. With his response, Rohit lightened up the mood in the hall.

"Babar is absolutely right. We understand the importance of the game but there is no point talking about it and creating that pressure within yourself. Whenever we meet, we ask about each other's families. I have met all his teammates.

"Even our former players told us what all they talk. It is usually about 'how their families are, how their life is, what new car they have bought or going to buy'. It is mainly that," said Rohit drawing a smile from Babar. (PTI)

I've been trying to make some technical changes ahead of WC, says Finch

MELBOURNE, OCT 15 /-- Out-of-form Australian skipper Aaron Finch says he has been working on making some technical changes ahead of the T20



World Cup. Finch, who stepped down from ODI captaincy recently, has been enduring a rough patch for over a year. In the three T20Is against England at home, he managed just 25 runs.

"I think T20 cricket as an opening batter, that comes with some risk and reward at times when you're trying to be aggressive and get the team off to a quick start," Finch said at the captains' press conference.

"But it's not always going to go to plan. I'm okay with that. I think when you play T20 for long enough, you understand that you just ride the highs and lows a little bit.

"But I feel really good. There's some technical changes and stuff that I've been trying to make over the last little bit. Yeah, I feel ready to go for the World Cup," he added. Australia will begin the defence of their title against Trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand on October 22 in Sydney and the skipper feels the defending champions have a well-balanced side.

"You go into a World Cup knowing that the makeup of your 15 men is really important. It's not just 11 players that win you a World Cup, it's the contribution of all around.

"I feel as though we've got a really well balanced side. We've got some match winners all throughout the batting lineup and with the ball, as well."

Australia have lost two of their last three T20 series but Finch feels the main thing is to peak at the right moment.

"I think it's just about trying to peak at the right time. There's no point getting caught up with what we should be doing or shouldn't be doing in the lead-up to the tournament.

"It's important that everyone within the squad knows their roles and what role they're most likely to play throughout the tournament, and we can tweak things here and there, but there's a really good feeling in the squad," he added. (PTI)

India romp to seventh Women's Asia Cup title with easy win over Sri Lanka



Team India poses with the Asia Cup after winning their seventh title

SYLHET, OCT 15 /-- India maintained their dominance in the Women's Asia Cup with an eight-wicket demolition of a self-destructing Sri Lanka in the final here on Saturday for their seventh title in eight editions.

Sri Lanka, who were playing their first tournament final in 14 years, imploded after opting to bat on a slow and turning pitch. They could only manage 65 for nine which India knocked off in 8.3 overs. Smriti Mandhana struck a sublime 51 not out off 25 balls. It was a procession after Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu got run out in the third over following a mix up with Anushka Sanjeevani who too got run out six balls later. Renuka, who has been in top form since the Commonwealth Games in August, sent back Hasini Perera on the very first ball she faced. The left-hander checked her shot only to be caught at cover, leaving Sri Lanka at nine for

four. The Sri Lankans were in dire need of a partnership but Kavisha Dilhari's fall made it 16 for five as she was bowled while trying to play an incoming delivery from Renuka across the line. Rajeshwari Gayakwad got her first wicket after Nilakshi de Silva played on to her stumps while trying to cut a ball close to her body. At 32 for eight, being bowled out for a sub-50 total was very much on the cards, but Ranaweera saved them from that ignominy with an unbeaten 18 off 22 balls.

The Indians bowled with discipline but poor shot selection contributed more to Sri Lanka's steep slide. After a memorable win over Pakistan in the semifinals, it seemed the occasion got the better of Sri Lanka. India lost Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues cheaply in the run chase. However, both the batters did well in the tournament, with

Shafali getting back to form and Jemimah making a successful comeback from injury. The elegant Mandhana played some exquisite strokes on way to completing the formality alongside skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (11 not out off 14). Smriti's effort included three sixes and six boundaries. Fittingly, she sealed the win with a maximum off Oshadi Ranasinghe. The win is a shot in the arm for India's preparations for the T20 World Cup next year. They were able to test players for different roles during the competition, though that also contributed to their only loss in the tournament, against Pakistan in the league stage.

The Indians took a lap of the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium and, in a fine gesture, got clicked with the entire groundstaff after their triumph, which was witnessed by a sizeable turnout. (PTI)

We should give credit to bowlers and fielders: Harmanpreet

SYLHET, OCT 15 /-- India captain Harmanpreet Kaur lauded her bowlers and the fielding unit after the team's triumphant campaign in the Women's Asia Cup, which ended with a lop-sided final against Sri Lanka here on Saturday. India maintained their dominance in the tournament with an eight-wicket demolition of a self-destructing Sri Lanka in the title clash for their seventh title in eight editions. Sri Lanka, who were playing their first tournament final in 14 years, imploded after opting to bat on pitch that was slow and offered turn. They could only manage 65 for nine which India knocked off in 8.3 overs. Smriti Mandhana struck a sublime 51 not out off 25 balls.

"We should credit our bowlers. Our fielding unit was good from ball one and we discussed that we should not give away easy runs. You have to read the wicket and accordingly place the fielders in right positions," Harmanpreet said at the presentation ceremony.

"We read the wicket well and positioned fielders accordingly. We were not looking at the scoreboard but only decided our five-over targets. We never thought about what is the total on the board and batted accordingly." Player of the Match Renuka Singh sent back Hasini Perera on the very first ball she faced. The pacer finished with excellent figures of 3/5 in the final.

"Very happy because the last few games I didn't bowl well. I practiced with my coach and the staff and they really helped me get back my rhythm.

"Just focussed on my basics and got success. My whole team supported me really well and credit should go to my captain, coach and the staff," Renuka said. All-rounder Deepti Sharma, who gave away just seven runs in her four overs, was declared the Player of the Series.

"Really happy with the way we performed as unit from the first game till today. We executed what was discussed in the meeting. I just back my strengths and those things helped me a lot in this tournament.

"The wickets were slow and before this tournament, I worked a lot on my batting and those sessions really helped me. This win gives us a lot of confidence going into the upcoming series as well," Deepti said. After an outing in which her team just didn't turn up, Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu expressed her disappointment, though she was happy with the bowlers.

"Tough day as a team, not a good batting display in the finals and I'm really upset today. Next we have T20 World Cup and we learned a lot of things in this tournament and as a batting unit, we have to stick with our plans. I'm really happy with my bowling unit.

"We have a couple of young players and hope they continue their performances as a batting unit. We do not have a lot of experienced players, but they are good players and think they will play a lot of cricket in the future," Chamari said. (PTI)

Focus for Saudi, Qatar players is already on World Cup

DOHA, OCT 15 /-- While the likes of Lionel Messi could come under pressure to play for European club teams leading right into the World Cup, players from Argentina's opening-game opponent Saudi Arabia will have much more time to focus on the global event.

The Saudi league finishes Sunday. On Monday, 32 players will head to Abu Dhabi to begin a World Cup training camp. Soccer's first mid-winter World Cup has squeezed European league schedules. The English Premier League finishes on Nov. 13 for six weeks, and the French league's season recess starts on the same weekend. The World Cup in Qatar runs from November 20 to December 18. Qatar and Saudi Arabia may not have superstars playing in the world's most prestigious leagues, but having rosters entirely of

domestic-based players does give coaches some benefits.

"Saudi Arabia is in a tough group with Mexico, Argentina and Poland," Sven Vandenbroeck, head coach of Saudi Professional League club Abha, told The Associated Press.

"It has one advantage though: a long 35-day camp to prepare and no other country has it."

The Saudis have never progressed past the group stage in five previous trips to the World Cup, starting in 1994. So they're throwing plenty of resources at the extended preparation this time for Group C competition which they start November 22 against Messi's Argentina. As well as three weeks of training in Abu Dhabi, there will be warm-up games against North Macedonia, Albania, Honduras, Iceland and



United States' Christian Pulisic, right, duels for the ball with Saudi Arabia's Abdulrahman Ali Alamri, center, during the international friendly soccer match between Saudi Arabia and United States in Murcia, Spain----File Photo

Panama. Since securing qualification for the World Cup, Saudi Arabia has played four times and has failed to score, losing against Colombia and Venezuela, and then drawing with Ecuador and the United States.

"The more time we can spend together before the World Cup, the better," Saudi Arabia coach Herve Renard said.

"It is a valuable opportunity for us all to be as ready as we can be." World Cup host Qatar is in an even better position.

The Qatar Stars League has also finished this week, however, most of the national team players have been in training camps since June. Qatar qualified automatically as host and is making its first appearance at the World Cup, opening the tournament Ecuador on Nov. 20 before group

games against Senegal and Netherlands. On Thursday, the team edged Nicaragua 2-1 as part of a training camp in Spain. The Qataris will play Guatemala in another warmup game on October 23.

"We are confident that we will perform at our best level during the World Cup," said Qatar coach Felix Sanchez, who led the team to victory in the 2019 Asian Cup.

"We will continue to work in the final phase, and it will be our final touch before the World Cup, which everyone is looking forward to."

Qatar has already played 17 warm-up games this year against a mixture of national and club teams. Performances have been mixed with a 2-1 win over fellow World Cup team Ghana in August followed by a 2-0 loss to Canada last month. (AP)



Zoya presents Beyond—A Boundless Journey

This season Zoya, the exquisite diamond boutique from the House of Tata, presents its most elevated expression of design, with its newest offering Beyond—A Boundless Journey. This magnificent collection captures the essence of a woman’s journey through the course of her existence, finding inspiration in the glory of the Indus. The narrative celebrates the feminine spirit as a force of nature drawing an analogy from

the passage of the rivers. Statement pieces are set apart by purity of form and graphic lines to create an imperial look with an exceptional combination of stones to present a contemporary collection of timeless classics. Beyond was introduced by celebrated designer Gauri Khan. She was joined by AjoyChawla, CEO Jewellery Division, Titan and Amanpreet Ahluwalia, Head of Business, Zoya.

*A Flush of Evergreen: This beautiful

piece takes on a larger challenge with the complexity of design crafted in tourmalines, emeralds, pear and round diamonds set in rose gold. This unique piece of craftsmanship is evocative of the might of the river that overcomes obstacles in its path and leaves behind a reservoir of nurturing

*Tranquil at Sunrise: This piece is inspired by the sun rising on the river and has beautiful round emeralds flanked by

baguette diamonds with a lovely central morganite.

*Sparkling Rapids: The formidable spirit of the river is reflected in this - statement ring with a tear drop emerald, glistening pink morganite and baguette diamonds.

*Emerald Riversong: Zoyahonours emeralds in their finest glory. Clean silhouettes combined with versatility, Beyond truly explores a wide range of emotions.

Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films presents ‘Baj Gai Seeti’



Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films today released its latest short film titled ‘BajGaiSeeti’, starring Bollywood’s veteran Badman Gulshan Grover in a new humourous avatar, critically acclaimed actor Manu Rishi Chadha and new generation actors from Kota Factory, Mayur More and Alam Khan and SonuKeTitu Ki Sweetie fame PriitammJaiswal. Directed by Dheeraj Jindal and produced by Sunday Films, the short film is a light-hearted entertainment narrating the tale of two gullible thieves portrayed by Gulshan Grover and Manu Rishi Chadha, who are planning to retire from thievery and plan to plot one last robbery to have enough money to live for the remainder of their lives. However, fate has something else planned for the duo when they are forced to give refuge to three engineering college students, played by Mayur More, Alam Khan and PriitammJaiswal, in the same house they are about to rob.

The movie revolves around the existential crisis the two thieves are facing as age catches up with them and they soon start planning one last retirement heist. Famously known as the ‘BawarchiGang’ owing to a peculiar habit of cooking a meal in the same house they are about to rob, it’s the very same ritual starts a series of events when the pressure cooker makes a loud whistle and invites three innocent college students, seeking

shelter to spend the night while running away from their own demons.

Actor Gulshan Grover said, “BajGaiSeeti is my first short film in India, and it is special to me for so many reasons. Working with younger actors, great technical team, a dedicated director and of course my first collaboration with Large Short Films! Large Shorts Films platform, dedication to showcase wonderful creative material and go all out to support it is worth applauding!”

Actor Manu Rishi Chadha said, “This is my second movie with Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films and post the success and reaction to my last film, it was an obvious choice from my end to associate with the platform again for ‘BajGaiSeeti’. I am looking forward to more such future associations with them. The best part of the film for me would be getting the opportunity to work with Gulshan Grover. He is an icon in the film industry and I hope this platform gives me the opportunity to work with him in the future on similar scripts.”

Director Dheeraj Jindal says “The story unfolds gradually and convinces the audience that the thieves have had a change of heart, keeping the viewer intrigued until the end. I believe that Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films is the perfect platform to celebrate such fresh scripts and the platform has truly been the catalyst for the evolution of short films in India.”

Barbeque Nation launches ‘Big Appetite, Bigger Hearts’ Campaign



Barbeque Nation today announced the launch of the Big Appetite, Bigger Hearts’ campaign as part of its association with ‘DAAN UTSAV’. This initiative will see Barbeque Nation serving meals to 40000 underprivileged children across all its restaurants in India, UAE, Malaysia, and Oman. Barbeque Nation has tied up with various non-profit organizations across India and abroad for the cause. Guests Dining at Barbeque Nation during this period will also be welcome to make their contributions for the cause and join in the campaign. Rahul Agarwal, CEO, Barbeque Nation Hospitality Limited, commented, “We are delighted to associate with DAAN UTSAV. The Big

Appetite, Bigger Hearts campaign is a month long activity, that will run across our network of restaurants which is expected to cross 200 restaurants by November. Through this campaign, we would like to reciprocate the love & support received from our patrons since 2006 by giving back to the community by serving the less privileged.” SujitMahapartra, a Volunteer of DaanUtsav, said “Giving food is a popular way of giving daan. Such an experience at such a size & scale has seldom been offered to children. This idea of spreading kindness through providing food is a tremendous act of generosity by Barbeque Nation”.

Karmyog: Festive decor and gifting destination

What: Shop for festive decor and gifting products from Karmyog this Diwali!

Where: Shop No.12B Russel Street, AJC Bose Rd, Near Bhatler, Park Street area, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071.

When: 12th to 30th October.

Timings: 11 am to 6 pm

On display: It’s that time of the year when friends and families get together to bring in the festivities. To add to the celebrations this year, Karmyog brings to its patrons a thoughtfully curated collection of festive decor and gifting products. Choose from a wide range of options such as bandhanwars, money bags, wine bags, potlis, gift bags, decorative diyas, festive trays and envelopes amongst many others. Also shop for intricately carved idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi along



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Masters of Marriott Bonvoy brings concept Indian eatery, The Crossing, to Kolkata

Masters of Marriott Bonvoy comes back to Kolkata with the second edition of the hotel’s initiative to showcase and celebrate culinary excellence in the world of food and beverage. The collaboration brings Dubai-based renowned restaurant, The Crossing. After a very successful event with the Indian Accent in September, the culinary affair with legendary Chef Sunil Datt Rai (Head of Gastronomy – LemonButter, the parent company of The Crossing) would mark the fourth instalment of Masters of Marriott Bonvoy for the year.

While in Kolkata, Chef Sunil will be curating his signature dishes inspired by a more offbeat side with food from the Rajput kitchens, hidden gems from North East India, and simple yet robust recipes from India’s massive coastline. The guests were offered these

cuisines at three exclusively hosted meals at the JW Marriott Kolkata. Launched in early 2019, Masters of Marriott Bonvoy is a pursuit of excellence in the field of gastronomy. Through this initiative, Marriott International Inc has hosted legendary chefs such as Massimo Bottura, Marco Pierre White and Julien Royer in India. In the coming months, the brand will continue to host such exclusive experiences for its guests, including ticketed events, masterclasses and meet-and-greets with globally renowned culinary experts.