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**Thought for today**  
*To use foul language means that I am not intelligent enough to find other words.*

## Startup Mela date extended

Port Blair, Nov. 11: The Directorate of Industries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration is organizing 'Startup Mela' at a pavilion especially erected in the Parking Lot of the ANE-Sagarika of the Department at Middle Point, Port Blair from 9th November, 2022. Considering the overwhelming response from the visitors, the Mela has been extended for another two days i.e. upto Nov. 12 and will be held from 4 pm to 7 pm. The Startup Mela will promote the participating Startup to showcase & market their products/service & to obtain the views of the visitors for development, improvement and growth of their Startup.

- Source : ANES

# Commuters suffer as Rangat Bazaar bus stop lack shelter

Rangat, Nov 11: Absence of bus shelter at Rangat Bazaar has become a cause of concern for the commuters, availing daily bus services from the bus stop. Passengers have to stand in scorching sun and in rain during rainy days waiting for the bus which has become a common sight in the region. If it rains, passengers take shelter in the nearby shops and wait for the bus due to no bus shelter to protect them from sun burn or rain. Passengers from far off places like Bakultal and Kadamtala wait for a bus in the shops located near the Murgan temple at Rangat. Passengers travelling for the Mayabunder area have to wait near the Rangat Police Station as the



new bus terminus is about half km away from Rangat Bazaar. "Daily commuters at the Rangat Bazaar are being forced to wait for buses under the scorching sun, as the bus stop lacks shelter. The passengers travelling to Mayabunder as well as Kadamtala area also have to face problems due to absence of bus shelter", said a daily commuter.

# MP demands to repair the Dialysis machines of CHC Rangat

Port Blair, Nov. 11: The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration to repair the Dialysis machines of CHC Rangat as soon as possible so that

the dialysis patients may get their dialysis done in Rangat region, without facing much difficulties in travelling. In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary he mentioned that the Dialysis machines of CHC Rangat are out of order for which nearly 18 dialysis patients are

facing huge difficulties. He added that all these patients have to travel all the way to Mayabunder for Dialysis weekly twice or thrice for their dialysis, which is a painful task, considering the condition of Andaman Trunk Road (NH-4).

- Source : Media Cell, MP

# Year 2022 declared as ASEAN-India Friendship year

The year 2022 has been declared as the ASEAN-India Friendship year, as ASEAN and India commemorate 30 years of partnership. A series of events has been planned to celebrate the occasion throughout the year. As a part of this programme, Indian

media delegation is on a visit to Singapore and Cambodia under the ASEAN-INDIA Media exchange programme from 8th November to 13th November. On the first leg of the visit the delegation visited the Singapore-India Chambers of

Commerce and Industries (SICC) and had an exchange of thoughts on topics such as India-Singapore relations with a specific focus on business-friendly policies and the expectations of business community in Singapore from

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# Congress leaders express gratitude to Secretary of Education for resolving JNRM girls' hostellers issues

Port Blair, Nov. 11: Many girls hostellers of JNRM college had visited Congress Party office and express their grievances regarding the functioning of the hostel in front of Pradesh Congress Committee President Shri. Rangalal Halder, Campaign Committee Chairman Shri. TSG Bhaskar, National Students Union of India (NSUI) State President Mr. M.A. Sajid and City Congress Committee President Mohd. Zubair. The Congress President gave a patient hearing and instructed State President of

NSUI to Verify the factual Position. After Verifying the factual position the PCC President along with NSUI State President and City Congress Committee President met with Principal JNRM and raised the issues of the students. However the Principal was not responsive and failed to give any commitment, this forced the PCC President to organize a Dharna in front of the college. Under the leadership of Shri. M.A. Sajid State President of NSUI. Further to this, The Secretary Education

Smti. Veddika Reddy IAS had met with the Students Delegation along with The State President Of NSUI in her office and The Secretary Education immediate directions in solving the issues being faced by the Girls Hostellers of JNRM. The PCC President, Chairman Campaign Committee, NSUI State President and all the Girls Hostellers of JNRM would like to thank Smti. Veddika Reddy IAS for her express decision making. - Source : Media Cell, ANTCC

# Hon'ble Lt. Governor planting a sapling of sapodilla (Cheeku) at the premises of the Saw Mill

## LG visits various places in N&M Andaman

Port Blair, Nov. 11: Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency on the second day of his two-day tour to North & Middle Andaman District held a meeting and interacted with public, PRI members & Heads of Department at APWD Guest House, Mayabunder. The Lt. Governor informed the gathering regarding the developmental projects being executed by A&N Administration in Isles. The Adhyaksha, ZPNM

Andaman, Smt. Elizabeth put forth the issues of the people of North & Middle Andaman and the Lt. Governor after giving a patient hearing, assured to look into the grievances for its early redressal. The Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman, Shri Satyendra Singh Dursawat, PRI members and Heads of Department were present during the meeting. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Lt. Governor visited the Souvenir Shop at Betapur Saw Mill and

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# Govt amends Aadhaar rules, supporting documents need to be updated at least once in 10 years

The government has amended Aadhaar rules, specifying that supporting documents need to be updated at least once by Aadhaar holders on completion 10 years from enrolment date. According to gazette notification issued by Ministry of Electronics and IT, the updation would ensure continued accuracy of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository.

# Seminar on "Role of Teachers in Nation Building" by ACTA in JNRM

Port Blair, Nov. 11: The Andaman College Teachers Association (ACTA), has organised a Seminar on "Role of Teachers in Nation Building" on 10th November 2022 in the Seminar Room, JNRM. The Chief Guest Shri D. Bhanudas Ji, All India General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari has informed that patriotism be inculcated in our action and be a living example through which students can imbibe the best qualities from the teachers for the nation building. While describing the students teachers relationship, Shri D.



Bhanudas Ji, has cited the example of Ramakrishana Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda and the role of teacher like Ramakrishna Paramhansa in transforming Narendra to Vivekananda. The

nation which includes culture, knowledge, tradition and wisdom which must symbolise through our action to make great place to live with harmony. Dr. H.K. Sharma, Principal, JNRM spoke role of teachers in shaping the lives of

students to serve the nation and also urged the faculty members to guide them in order to achieve their goals. Smt. Pearl Devdas, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Geography spoke

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# Indian Army launches single window facility 'Veerangana Sewa Kendra'

Indian Army has launched a single window facility - Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK) for welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris.

Taking yet another step in leveraging technology, the Indian Army with a motto of "Taking Care of Our Own, No Matter What" launched this facility. The project was inaugurated by President Army Wives Welfare Association yesterday at the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans premises

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# Department Related Parliamentary Committee on Industry visit Swaraj Dweep

Port Blair, Nov. 11: The Department Related Parliamentary Committee on Industry headed by its Chairman, Shri Tiruchi Siva (Rajya Sabha) arrived on a two-day visit to A&N Islands yesterday. The other Members of the Committee include Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya (Rajya Sabha), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Rajya Sabha), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Rajya Sabha), Ravindra Kushwaha (Lok Sabha), Bidyu Baran Mahab (Lok Sabha) and Sunil Datta Ray Talkare (Lok Sabha). On arrival, the Committee members were received by the Officers of



the A&N Administration at the Airport. Soon after arrival, the Committee proceeded to Swaraj Dweep and visited

Radhanagar Beach. today (Nov. 11), the Committee Members will hold meeting with

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# Centre ropes in Indian missions abroad for branding and publicity of millets

The Centre has formulated an action plan to promote exports of millet. The government has planned to facilitate participation of exporters, farmers, and traders in 16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meet for exports and promotion of Indian millets across the globe.

According to the action plan, Indian



missions abroad would be roped in branding and publicity of Indian millets. This include, identification of potential buyers such as departmental stores, supermarkets, and hypermarkets for organizing business-to-business meetings and direct tie-ups. As part of the promotion of Indian millets, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has planned to showcase millets and its value-added product on various global platforms. The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International

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# Candidates lit for admission to TGCE

Port Blair, Nov. 11: The category-wise and subject-wise provisional list of candidates applied for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Programme for the session 2022-23 in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair has been published online on 11th November 2022 and is available at <http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in> under "Announcements" for inspection and verification. Claims/objections/submission of documents, if any including those candidates who have submitted incomplete application forms can be done in person or through email @tagoremail2481@gmail.com up to 3:00 p.m. on 15th November 2022 (including Saturday and Sunday). No claims and objections will be attended thereafter. After attending claims and objections, final merit list will be published on 16th November

2022 at 3:00 p.m. and will be available online at <http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in> under "Announcements". Counseling for admission to these courses will be held on 18th November 2022 from 9:30 a.m. onwards at Tagore Auditorium. The candidates who are provisionally selected for admission to these courses will have to submit all the original certificates along with a set of photostatic copies and requisite amount of fees on the day of admission failing which they will not be considered for admission. Those who fail to attend the counselling session on the date and time mentioned above, will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate in the merit list will be considered for admission. Regular classes for these courses will begin from 21st November 2022. - Source : TGCE

# Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram congratulates Neeraj Ram for his selection in MBBS course in ANIIMS

Port Blair, Nov. 11: A brilliant student Master Neeraj Ram, S/o Shri Manoj Ram, R/o Ramnagar, Bakultala, Middle Andaman from a poor financial background belongs to Chotanagpur Ranchi Hindu Community secured 82% in NEET and selected in MBBS course in ANIIMS, Port Blair. This news made cheerful to every Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Karyakartas because of the hard work of Neeraj Ram pays off and the efforts of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram became fruitful. Neeraj Ram resides near Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Bakultala and Ms. Jyoti Shetye, Karyakarta of Kalyan Ashram helped him for studies, when she has seen his dedication towards studies. He has pursued his studies from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Panchawati, Middle Andaman

and thereafter from Govt Senior Secondary School, Rangat, Middle Andaman he has completed his Matriculation with securing 96% marks and during his IXth Standard he was called for "Young Scientist Programme-2019" by ISRO Trivandrum, Kerala. Seeing this Ms. Jyoti Shetye worker of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Bakultala has decided and taken initiative to assist him for further higher studies and sent him Gita Niketan Awasiya Vidyalaya, Vidya Bharti, Kurukshetra, Haryana with the recommendations of Shri Atul Jog, National Organising Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (ABVKA). From there he completed his XIIth standard with 93% marks and later cleared NEET and now admitted in MBBS course in



ANIIMS. This achievement of Neeraj Ram has set a motivational message for other students and especially the students of Ranchi Community for their better career. Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram conveys its heartfelt congratulations and assures him all sort of assistance for his future endeavors. (Source: Reporter Muralidharan Pillai)

# Seven deceased in Male fire incident were Indian nationals, confirms Maldivian authorities

Maldivian authorities have confirmed that 7 of the deceased in the Male fire incident were Indian nationals. Indian High Commission in Maldives said that identity of one person is still being confirmed. The High Commission said, they are in contact with the families.

Earlier, the External Affairs Ministry said, Indian High Commission in Maldives is extending all possible assistance to the affected Indians and their families in the Male fire incident. Replying to a media query on the incident, Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Maldivian

authorities confirmed loss of ten lives. He called it a very unfortunate development. Mr. Bagchi added that initial reports indicate a fire in the building and Maldivian government has announced a thorough investigation on the matter. - Source: Newsonair



# EDITORIAL

## The Andaman EXPRESS

12 November 2022

### Fight but govern

Old rivals BJP and Congress square off tomorrow in the Himachal Pradesh assembly elections after a spirited campaign. An incumbent government hasn't been re-elected in the state since 1990. But that alone is no predictor of voter behaviour. In recent years, states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and neighbouring Uttarakhand that would usually boot out governments have preferred incumbents to the opposition. BJP can lay claim to a lot of infrastructure improvements in Himachal but the presence of a large number of rebels in the fray could upset either side's electoral calculations.

CM Jai Ram Thakur is bolstered by Congress's failure to project a CM candidate as well as by Modi's steadfast support for him. It is notable that he served out his term, in contrast to BJP's midterm reshuffles in Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. But Himachal is also Congress's best opportunity to reverse its losing streak in assembly elections since 2018. Congress has had to contend with fewer rebels than BJP. But the absence of a tall state-level leader was telling, forcing the central leadership to dispatch Priyanka Gandhi and Bhupesh Baghel to prop up worker morale. But beyond the politics there's something more impressive. Himachal is an outlier among north India's predominantly poor human development indices. It is only one of two states in the north to cross the Rs 2 lakh GSDP per capita threshold and is now a pharmaceutical manufacturing powerhouse. Himachal is among states that have very low poverty levels, it has the second highest percentage of women with education till or beyond Class 12, and was the first state to finish Covid vaccination for all adults. That these impressive performances have coexisted with very competitive local politics speaks well of the governance abilities of both BJP and Congress in the state.

Year 2022 declared as...

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India. The delegation also called on the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore Mr. P. Kumaran and got a detailed understanding about how the strategic partnership between India and Singapore has shown its resilience and both sides look forward to further strengthening this important relationship.

The delegation interacted with the officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Communication & Information of Singapore to understand the media landscape in Singapore and the kind of challenges Singapore government faces in timely communicating the correct

perspective of people friendly policies to their citizens. After the first leg of visit, the delegation has reached Cambodia.

As a precursor to the visit of the Vice President of India to Cambodia for the ASEAN Summit, the delegation visited the Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm temple complexes and witnessed the prominent role played by the Government of India and the Archeological Survey of India in restoring these UNESCO World Heritage sites there. Vice President would be inaugurating the newly restored portions of the Ta Prohm temple complex during the visit. - Source : Newsonair

Hon'ble Lt. Governor planting...

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interacted with the artisans. He also appreciated the efforts of Forest Department for setting up Souvenir Shop by making artifact from waste wood. He also planted a sapling of sapodilla (Cheeku) at the premises of the

Saw Mill. To assess the ground condition of NH-4, the Hon'ble Lt Governor drove all the way from Mayabunder to Baratang. On completion of visit, the Lt Governor returned to Port Blair yesterday.

Seminar on "Role of...

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on the teaching learning process and the importance of teachers and their role for igniting the young minds. Earlier Shri N. Balakrishnan, President, ACTA has thrown light on the activities of ACTA by giving brief introduction and action plan.

Dr. K. Venkatesan, Secretary ACTA welcomed the gathering while Dr. Vivek Kumar Sahu, Treasurer, ACTA proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Kandimuthu, Assistant Professor of Economics moderated the entire programme. (Source: JNRM)

Indian Army launches...

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located at Delhi Cantt. The VSK will be available as a service to the Indian Army Veterans Portal [www.indianarmyveterans.gov.in](http://www.indianarmyveterans.gov.in)

The system caters to registering grievances with tracking, monitoring, and regular feedback to the applicant.

Department Related...

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the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration and M/o MSME on implementation of PMEGP scheme in A&N Islands at Taj Exotica. Thereafter, the Committee Members will hold meeting with representatives of SBI, Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, PNB, A&N State Co-operative Bank, M/o MSME, M/o Finance (DFS) and KVIC and review the performance of PMEGP scheme in A&N Islands. The Committee Members are also scheduled to hold meeting with

the representatives of Airports Authority of India, National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd, Engineers India Ltd., Indian Rare Earths Ltd., M/o MSME, M/o Civil Aviation, M/o Housing & Urban Affairs, M/o P&NG and Department of Atomic Energy on the implementation of 25% prescribed procurement from MSEs by PSEs under the public Procurement Policy and Review of release of payments to MSEs at the same venue on Nov. 11, 2022. - Source : MSME

Centre ropes in Indian...

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Year of Millets. India is one of the leading producers of millet in the world with an estimated share of around 41 percent in global production. The country recorded 27 percent growth in millet production in 2021-22 which stood at 15.92 million metric tonnes. The country's

top five millet-producing states are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. It is estimated that the millets market is set to grow to 12 billion US dollars by 2025 from the current 9 billion dollars. - Source : Newsonair

## CHINA OPERATES ITS SPY SHIP FLEET UNDER THE COVER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH VESSELS

A fleet of cutting-edge, hi-tech Chinese spy ships operating under the garb of research vessels and operating globally are leading the information-gathering hunt to fuel the seafaring expeditionary ambitions of an increasingly powerful China and a growing People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

Yuanwang-6 Foray

Very recently in the news in India due to the foray of China spy ship 'Yuanwang-6' into the waters of the Indian Ocean Region on November 4 that was linked to the planned ballistic missile tests by India on November 11 and 12, the spy ships may not have much to do with India's tests as China's advanced satellites are there to do the job.

Three months ago, ignoring

Indian protests, a sister spy ship, the 'Yuanwang-5', had dropped anchor for a week-long stay from August 16 to 22 at the Sri Lankan port of Hambantota.

Partly owned by Chinese state-owned companies, Hambantota is a deep sea port that is strategically located in the southern coast of the island nation.

Maritime aim

Apart from Hambantota, China has already established a base in Djibouti, and has enhanced access to military bases in Seychelles and Oman, besides a vital presence in port projects in Cambodia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The maritime realm already occupies primacy in China's military thinking. A 2015 official defence white paper brought out by Beijing says, 'The

traditional mentality that land outweighs sea must be abandoned, and great importance has to be attached to managing the seas and oceans and protecting maritime rights and interests.' In fact, top Chinese military thinkers predict that China's "most likely and most important prospective armed conflicts would take place in the maritime realm."

What the spy ships may actually be doing is mapping the ocean bed, scouting for undersea cables and exploring mining potential.

Oceans occupy 70 per cent of the earth's surface area, of which about 95 per cent of the deep ocean is unexplored.

The seabed is also a repository of poly-metallic nodules and hydrothermal deposits.

Largely porous, polymetallic nodules are small roundish lumps that are found on the sea bed at depths from 4,000-6,000 metres. These nodules contain manganese, iron, nickel, copper, cobalt, lead and rare earth elements and metals which are very vital for high-technology industries that make a range of products from computers and mobile phones to fighter jets.

What the spy ships could also be doing—under the garb of conducting ocean research—is detecting submarine fibre-optic cable networks that connect to the Indian subcontinent

from overseas.

India has two main landing stations of the international submarine fibre-optic cable network, located at Mumbai and Chennai.

Beginning more than 170 years ago, undersea cables were laid for telegraph, telephony and data communications, but nowadays, the fibre-optic cables carry digital data, which includes telephone, Internet and private data traffic.

Ninety-seven per cent of all intercontinental data is carried via such undersea cables.

Cable linkages are more preferred over satellite links because space communications are time-consuming and very expensive when compared to the fibre-optic submarine links that can transmit data at almost the speed of light.

In times of conflict, anyone with knowledge of the location of these undersea cable networks can deal a crippling blow by totally disrupting the communication network.

This flotilla of 'dual-use' ships that specialise not only in research and exploration but also in spying activities with military implications include the four 'Yuanwang' series ships—the Yuanwang-3, Yuanwang-5, Yuanwang-6, and Yuanwang-7—that are all operated by the People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force (PLASSF) of the PLA.

Then there are six more sophisticated electronic reconnaissance vessels operated by the PLA Navy (PLAN), viz the 'Neptune' (Haiwangxing), 'Polaris' (Beijixing), 'Uranus' (Tianwangxing), 'Sirius' (Tianlangxing), 'Mizar' (Kaiyangxing) and a sixth one which is known only by its hull code of 855.

All these six vessels are capable of conducting "continuous all-weather reconnaissance of various targets within a certain range" and have the ability to collect information of air, water and underwater assets.

Set up in 2015, the PLASSF incorporates the PLA's signals intelligence (SIGINT) and electronic intelligence (ELINT) verticals besides the computer network operations, satellite imagery satellites and UAVs.

With tracking, telemetry, and command stations in Namibia, Pakistan, and Argentina besides China, PLASSF aims to centralise the PLA's strategic space, cyber, electronic, information, communications, and psychological warfare missions and capabilities.

Numerically, PLAN is the largest navy in the world with a battle force of about 355 ships and submarines, including approximately more than 145 major surface combatants. The aim is to increase its strength to 420 ships by 2025 and 460 ships by 2030.

- Source : Theweek

## 'Unacceptable, completely erroneous': Congress responds to SC decision to release Rajiv Gandhi's killers

The Congress on Friday termed "totally unacceptable and completely erroneous" the Supreme Court order directing the premature release of six convicts

convicts, including Nalini Sriharan and R P Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the case. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna said the judgment of

said the decision of the Supreme Court to free the remaining killers of the former prime minister is "totally unacceptable and completely erroneous".

"The Congress party criticises it clearly and finds it wholly untenable. It is most unfortunate that the Supreme Court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue," he said.

Nalini Sriharan and Ravichandran had moved the top court seeking premature release.

Both of them had challenged a June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected their pleas for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict Perarivalan.

Nalini, Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Perarivalan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar were sentenced to life terms in the case.

Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally.

- Source : Theweek



serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, and said the apex court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue.

The Supreme Court directed the premature release of six

the top court in the case of A G Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the case, is equally applicable in their matter.

In a statement, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh

## Twitter's grey 'official' labels return for some accounts

Twitter is once again adding grey official labels to some prominent accounts. The company, in its second chaotic week after billionaire Elon Musk took over, had rolled out the labels earlier this week, only to kill them a few hours later.

But on Thursday night they were back again, at least for some accounts including Twitter's own, as well as big companies like Amazon, Nike and Coca-Cola.

Some media companies,

such as The New York Times and The New Yorker also had the labels as of 9pm Pacific time, while others, like The Wall Street Journal and The Los Angeles Times, did not.

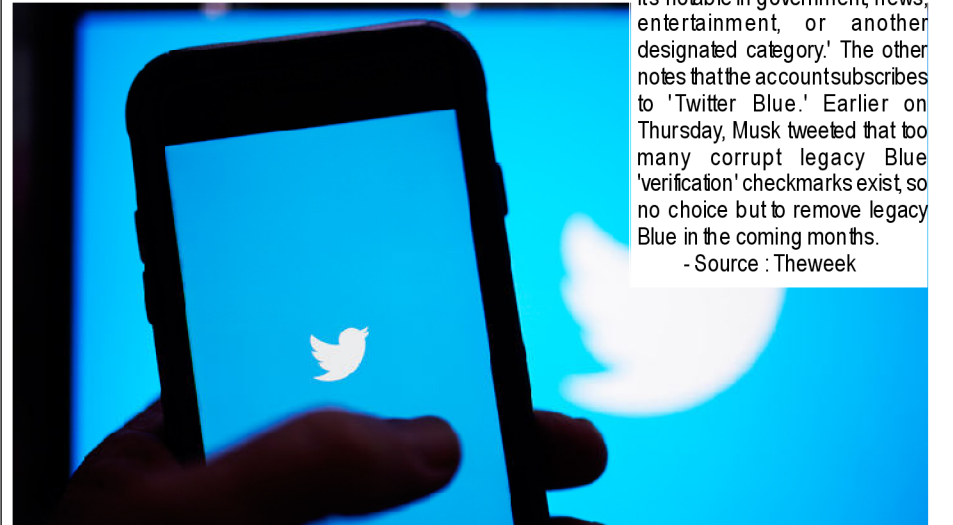
Celebrities, some of whom have been impersonated this week since Musk began overhauling Twitter's blue check verification system, also did not appear to be getting the official label.

Twitter began offering a

subscription service this week that for \$8 a month, gets anyone who wants, without actual verification, the blue check mark, that previously was given to prominent accounts to prevent impersonation.

Now, there are two categories of 'blue checks', and the check marks look identical. One, which includes the accounts that were actually verified before Musk took helm, now note that 'This account is verified because it's notable in government, news, entertainment, or another designated category.' The other notes that the accounts subscribe to 'Twitter Blue.' Earlier on Thursday, Musk tweeted that too many corrupt legacy Blue 'verification' checkmarks exist, so no choice but to remove legacy Blue in the coming months.

- Source : Theweek



## Human cochlea surgically accessed for the first time

A team of scientists and surgeons has for the first time validated a safe surgical access to the central core of the human cochlea, a hollow, spiral-shaped bone found in the inner ear which plays a key role in the sense of hearing.

An international team of researchers from Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust in London, and the universities of Sheffield, Uppsala (Sweden), Nottingham, and Western University in Canada, has proven and confirmed a secure clinical pathway to the

cochlea in the inner ear, which will enable the application of a range of regenerative therapies to restore hearing.

The human cochlea lies in the base of the skull, encased by the hardest bone in the human body. This has hampered the progress of discovering new treatments for hearing loss, a release by the University of Sheffield said on Wednesday.

The study was funded by Rinri Therapeutics, a biotechnology company developing regenerative cell

therapies for sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL).

Using a detailed representation of the microanatomy of the peripheral auditory neural structure, surgeons have now been able to reach the human cochlea safely with a routine surgical approach.

Marcelo Rivolta, Professor of Sensory Stem Cell Biology at the University of Sheffield and Founder of Rinri Therapeutics, said, "Until now this region of the inner ear has been inaccessible in humans. This means

that the pioneering advanced therapies to repair the auditory nerve, which have already proved successful in animal models, have been hampered by limited anatomical knowledge and the lack of a safe access to Rosenthal's canal - the compartment that houses the auditory neurons within the central core of the cochlea.

"We believe these findings will have immediate impact on both our understanding of the microstructure of the inner ear and the first-in-human trials of new cell, gene and drug therapies to improve hearing loss and deafness."

Dr Simon Chandler, CEO of Rinri

Therapeutics, said, "We are delighted to have been able to collaborate with teams across the world to fund this ground-breaking research."

"People with severe hearing loss often suffer an enormous negative impact on their quality of life, withdrawing from their communities because their disability inhibits interactions with others."

"This research now paves the way for the successful delivery of our regenerative cell therapy for hearing loss, that will bring significant positive impacts to healthcare systems and economies across the globe."

Professor Dan Jiang, Director of the Hearing Implant Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, and Chief Investigator on the project, said, "This research provides intuitive knowledge to ear surgeons about the targets of the future cell, gene and drug therapies, and will allow them to reach those targets safely, as they have been trained to do."

Gerry O'Donoghue, Professor of Otolaryngology and Neurology at the University of Nottingham, and Clinical Advisor to Rinri Therapeutics, said, "The inaccessibility of the human cochlea has hampered the progress

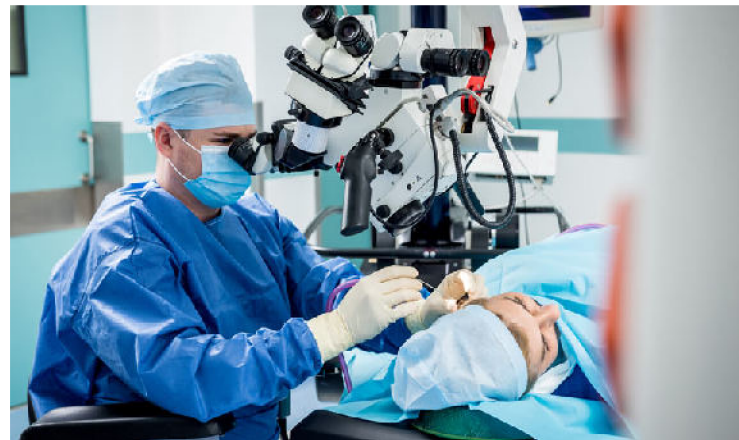
of curative treatments for SNHL to date.

"However, these findings will enable the safe delivery of regenerative therapeutics to their target structures within the relatively impenetrable human cochlea, de-risking future clinical interventions and paving the way for clinical trials."

Professor Sumit Agrawal, from Western University in Canada, said, "We are delighted that our data was able to contribute to such a vital piece of research, which will enable significant advancements in the clinical trials and treatment of sensorineural hearing loss."

The study, published in the latest issue of Scientific Reports, was funded by a grant from Rinri Therapeutics in collaboration with the Swedish Hearing Research Foundation.

Scientists at the University of Nottingham led the investigation with support from the universities of Sheffield and Uppsala in Sweden, who conducted all the modelling and imaging for the project. Surgical validation was led by surgeons at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London.





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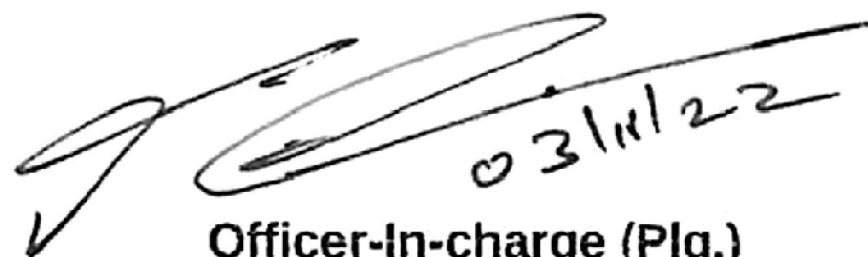
**TENDER NOTICE**

The Director of Shipping Services, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Port Blair on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender from the authorized Shipping Companies/ Ship Builders for " Construction and Supply of 02 (Two) Nos. High Speed Emergency Response Vessels" for A&N Administration" vide Admn's letter No.49-300/2020-TR dated 21.10.2022

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## IN CONVERSATION

## FERVENTLY HOPE A DEEP TRADE DEAL BETWEEN INDIA AND UK WILL BE DONE: WEST MIDLANDS MAYOR

India and the UK have been in dialogue to ink a free trade agreement for some time now. Andy Street, the mayor of the West Midlands region of the UK is hopeful that a deep free trade deal between the two countries will be done soon. The West Midlands region already has a large south Asian diaspora and many Indian companies have invested there, like Tata-owned Jaguar, Land Rover and Mahindra & Mahindra, which has opened a design centre there. Street, who was on an India visit with a delegation from West Midlands, spoke with THE WEEK on the potential areas of partnerships, and the importance of a trade deal among other things.

Q. What are your key priorities on this India visit?

The main priority is to identify the areas where either side—India or the West Midlands has something the other can benefit from that set. And so I want to stress right at the beginning, this is a two-way piece. And therefore, we're looking at the sectors where we have got a lot in common. So whether it be the electrification of vehicles, whether it be the life sciences, research and med-tech, or whether it be the whole clean growth piece, working towards net zero... different things where there are common things we can work on, and then share our activities. So for example, in Hyderabad, some of the companies (in healthcare, med-tech) there are working with our universities, looking at the research they're doing that can actually then be adapted into their programs here.

Q. If an Indian investor were to look at investing in the UK what is so unique

about West Midlands that the person should go there?

We are not coming and saying we can do every sector. It's about sectors. If we were talking about chemicals or agriculture, we would not be leading in that. So, the first is we've chosen certain areas where we are really very, very good. And that's what we are offering. The second thing is actually to say, look how this has already been very successful for a number of companies, which actually should give confidence to others. And the third thing that I think does make us distinct, actually, is the quality of the talent and the training, particularly from our universities in a number of our key areas. So we actually have more graduates, for example, in the engineering disciplines than anywhere outside London, and in some of the real specific niches within engineering, the most graduates. So it's the quality of the workforce in the key sectors.

Q. Post Brexit how have things changed and how are these deals and dialogues important?

Post-Brexit, of course, we are free to do our free trade deals anywhere around the world. I'm not going to get on to whether Brexit was a good or a bad thing. But that is obviously a change that we now have. We wouldn't have been able to be even enter into the free trade negotiation with India before. And so my fervent hope is that a very good deal will be done, a very deep deal. So obviously, we want to see the trade, the tariff barriers reduced, and they're quite punitive both ways at the moment, actually. The second thing that we want to

see is much more exchange between our universities, frankly, because there could be an opportunity indeed, for British universities to be setting up bases here. I could go on... But this is a new opportunity for us to explore that bilateral relationship.

Q. How will this trade deal improve investments and partnerships between India and UK?

Tariff barriers come down. There is always more business done between areas where there is less tariff barrier. I think that's in the university piece as well, the liberalization there. We talked to the politicians here and there is a real desire to tap into some of the expertise in some of our universities. Just a small example. You have a huge building of infrastructure here. It's incredible just to see what's going on. And we have faculties within our universities that are looking at real expertise, for example, in rail engineering, another area where the University of Wolverhampton is very, very strong. Cybersecurity is a huge area where you're developing a good leadership position. So I think the general thing I've taken is we've got some intellectual capital that would be valuable. And frankly, you've got applied expertise as well. So that is an opportunity there.

Q. How big is Indian investment currently in West Midlands?

It's huge. We've got the full figures for 2020, actually 57 per cent of inward investment into the UK, came to the West Midlands. And I think India was the second country as far as we were concerned, after the USA. So that just talks about how far this has already come. - Source : The week

## EA Sports predicts 2022 FIFA World Cup winner

With the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup only 10 days away, football fever is well and truly on. Flexes and banners have come up around the world, and fan battles are heating up both on social media and otherwise.

Predictions, too, have started coming in. One that has caught everyone's attention is by EA Sports, which develops FIFA video games, using simulated matches on FIFA 23.

EA Sports has simulated all 64 matches of Qatar 2022 and predicted that Argentina will win this year's World Cup. What makes the prediction interesting is that it had correctly predicted the winners in the last three editions – 2010 (Spain), 2014 (Germany) and 2018 (France) – using the same method.

According to the simulator, tournament favourites Brazil,

Argentina, France, and Germany all qualify for the Round of 16 as group winners.

In the round of 16, Argentina

beat Denmark to progress to the quarterfinal, where they edge the Netherlands 1-0, thanks to a goal by Lionel Messi.

France, Portugal and Brazil, too, make the semifinals.

In the first semifinal, the La Albiceleste manage to beat defending champions France 1-0 win. The second semifinal – between Brazil and Portugal – goes into penalties, where the Selecao prevail, to set up a final date between two of football's greatest rivals. It will be their first meeting in a FIFA World Cup since 1990, and the first time ever in a final.

In a repeat of the Copa America final last year, Argentina edge out its arch-rival 1-0. Messi, who scores the winner in the final, gets the Golden Boot for his eight goals.

It might sound like a fairytale finish for the Argentine legend, and his fans will be hoping that EA Sports get it right the fourth time, too. - Source : The week



## Lovlina, Parveen strike gold, Minakshi signs off with silver at Asian Championships

NEW DELHI: Lovlina Borghain looked at ease as she struck gold in her maiden appearance in the middleweight division while Parveen Hooda took home the 63kg Asian Championships title in Amman, Jordan on Friday.

While Olympic bronze medalist Lovlina, competing in her maiden tournament in the 75kg category, cruised to a 5-0 unanimous decision win over Ruzmetova Sokhiba of Uzbekistan, Parveen notched a facile victory by a similar margin over Japan's Kito Mai.

Minakshi, on the other hand, concluded her maiden Asian Championships campaign by clinching a silver medal in the flyweight division (52kg).

The win will be a big morale booster for the 25-year-old Lovlina who has struggled to find form since her bronze-winning exploits at the Tokyo Olympics. She made early exits in the World Championships and Commonwealth Games earlier



this year.

The Assam boxer has moved up from 69kg to 75kg division as her former weight class doesn't feature in the Paris Olympics. The two boxers started the proceedings on a tentative note, inviting the other to attack first but Lovlina, who has shown immense improvement during the course of the tournament, was able to use her long reach and land a few clean jabs. The two danced around the ring trying to avoid each other's attack but

Lovlina succeeded in landing jabs. One jab of her's was so powerful that the referee was forced to give Sokhiba the count. Earlier, world championships bronze medalist Parveen, who missed out on the Commonwealth Games, put up a dominant show to beat fourth seeded Mai via unanimous decision.

Both the boxers started on the offensive but the top-seeded Parveen was able to dominate the proceedings as she jabbed her opponent at will.

Having lost the opening round, Mai tried to up the ante but Parveen swiftly dodged all her attacks.

The Indian was especially impressive with her upper cuts in the third round. In the first Indian final of the day, Minakshi toiled hard but lost the gold medal bout to Kinoshita Rinka of Japan via 1-4 split verdict.

Minakshi was slow to start with the second seed Japanese taking full advantage of the Indian's sluggishness as four out of the five judges voted in her favour. In the second round as well, Minakshi looked lost. She was unable to land clear punches and resorted to clinching while the Japanese pugilist played more accurately and defended well. It was effectively the second round that cost Minakshi the tie as she made a stunning recovery in the final three minutes by using a combination of punches to take the round 4-1, but it was too late as the judges ruled in Rinka's favour. - Source : Times of India

## Divyansh wins gold, Kiran Jadhav silver in Asian Airgun Championship

NEW DELHI: Indian shooters began their 15th Asian Airgun Championship campaign on a positive note in Daegu,

Korea, picking up a gold, silver and bronze on Friday.

The gold came from Olympian Divyansh Singh

Panwar in the men's 10m air rifle junior event while Kiran Ankush Jadhav shot a silver in the corresponding senior competition.



Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar won a bronze in the junior men's air rifle.

Divyansh outgunned local favourite Bang Seungho 17-9 in the gold medal match after topping the ranking round with a score of 260.7. Sri Karthik shot 258.8 to finish behind Seungho and settle for bronze.

In the men's 10m air rifle, Kiran Ankush Jadhav reached the final after coming second in the ranking round with a score of 262.4.

Reigning world champion Rudranksh Patil finished fourth with 260.2, while Arjun Babuta finished seventh. In the gold medal clash, Kiran went down 10-16 to Korean Park Hajun. - Source : Times of India

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