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ANC CELEBRATES 22ND RAISING DAY

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8/--/ The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) celebrated its 22nd Raising Day on Saturday. The Command was established on 08 October 2001, as a 'Unified Command' under the Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar (CINCAN), towards building synergy and cohesion between the services whilst defending national interests in the far removed Andaman & Nicobar region.

On the occasion, Lt Gen Ajai Singh, 16th Commander-in-Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) reviewed a Joint Services Parade at INS Utkrosh. Addressing the parade, the CINCAN conveyed his heartfelt felicitations to all the personnel and families of Andaman and Nicobar Command and acknowledged their contributions towards the Operational Preparedness of the Command. He highlighted the fact that



since its inception in 2001, the Command has grown commitment to protect the territorial integrity and

"The Joint Services Command has been instrumental in effectively and efficiently safeguarding ANI, including its long coastline and vast EEZ", says CINCAN after reviewing the parade

manifold in operational efficiency, showing an indomitable spirit and security in its AOR. The command has also played a key role in Humanitarian

Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations (HADR) on numerous occasions.

ANC, the only Joint Services operational Command in India has been instrumental in effectively and efficiently safeguarding the Andaman and Nicobar Islands including its long coastline and the vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). He also acknowledged the efforts of the Defence Wives Welfare Association (DWAA), which has reached out to the community through various campaigns in a meaningful way, to improve the quality of the life of its personnel and families. The CINCAN appreciated the cohesion at all levels with the Civil Administration and security agencies towards synergising efforts towards providing overall security for the growth of the Andaman and Nicobar Islanders in particular and the country at large. (PIX ROOPA LALL)

REINING IN CYBERCRIMES

A&N Police conducts cyber awareness progs throughout isles

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8/--/ As part of the Cyber Jagrookta Diwas (CJD) celebrated on 6th October 2022, in A&N Islands, the Andaman and Nicobar Police has conducted awareness programmes in various places, across the islands in order to sensitize the public at large about safety precautions to avoid becoming victim of cyber fraud. Accordingly, awareness programmes were held at nine different places of South Andaman district, five different places of North & Middle Andaman district and three different places of Nicobar district by senior officers of A&N Police.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain, IGP/L&O and Smt. Monika Bhardwaj, Sr. Superintendent of Police held an awareness programme with Defence personnel at A&N Command, Brichgunj. Smt. Varsha Sharma, Superintendent of Police took a session for School teachers at PHQ. Ms. Niharika Bhatt held a session for Coast Guard personnel at Coast Guard HQ. Mr. Kalaivanan R, Superintendent of Police (District) South Andaman took interactive

sessions with Councilors, PRIs, and Community leaders at DHQ Conference Hall. In the same manner, Smt. Geetanjali Khandelwal, Superintendent of Police (District) N&M Andaman took the session with Defence personnel, Govt. servants, PRIs, School teacher at DHQ Mayabunder. Similarly, Mr. Manjeet, SP (District) Nicobar held an awareness camp with Defence Personnel, village Captains, local shopkeepers, Govt. Servants at Car Nicobar.

In addition to this, the senior Police officers of different islands/stations organized interactive cyber awareness programmes at Campbell Bay, Nancowrie, Hutbay, Swarajdweep, Diglipur and various other venues of Port Blair.

Further, pamphlets & IEC material prepared by staff of A&N Police disseminating the message of cyber safety and cyber hygiene such as Do's and Don'ts, Safe internet banking

practices, Online shopping fraud prevention, Social media safety precautions, Cyber Bullying etc. were also distributed amongst the



participants.

A&N Police has been in the forefront in organizing various cyber awareness programmes across A&N Islands and various programs organized during Cyber Jagrookta Diwas will definitely help in war against cyber criminals. CJD is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs to disseminate the message of cyber safety and cyber hygiene.

Encroachments evicted from Corbyn's Cove, Caddlegunj & Hut Bay

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8/--/ As part of zero tolerance towards encroachment on government land at South Andaman District Administration carried out encroachment eviction drive on Saturday at Corbyn's Cove, Caddlegunj village under Ferrargunj Tehsil and at Hutbay village under Little Andaman tehsil.

Accordingly, an encroachment eviction drive was carried out and an area measuring 100 sq mtrs approximately in the shape of finished at the roadside of Carbyn's Cove village has been removed and the land is restored to the Government.

In Ferrargunj Tehsil, the eviction drive carried at Caddlegunj village and the fresh encroachment committed in the shape of temporary structures were removed and restored an area of 500 sq mtrs into the Govt. khata.

Similarly, in Little Andaman Tehsil, eviction drive was carried out at Hutbay village and the fresh encroachment committed in the temporary fencing and coconut trees were removed and restored an area of 1 ha into the Govt. khata.

It is further submitted that the encroachment eviction drive will continue in coming weeks within all Tehsils of South Andaman District. The general public is once again cautioned



to refrain from encroaching Govt. land. In case of any inquiries or information regarding such illegal activities and encroachment, the general public can communicate with the District Control Room at the following nos. 03192-240127/1077.

Sailing of Swaraj Dweep cancelled

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8/--/ Due to insufficient booking of passenger tickets, the vessel MV Swaraj Dweep which was scheduled to sail for Chennai on 11TH October 2022 and her return voyage from Chennai to Port Blair on 18th October 2022 has been cancelled. Passengers who have purchased their tickets for the sailings have been asked to cancel their tickets and get full refund from STARS Ticketing Counters.

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Maharashtra: 12 dead, 43 injured as bus catches fire after hitting truck in Nashik

CM Shinde orders probe, survey to identify 'black spots' in state

NASHIK, OCT 8 /--/ Twelve passengers, including a two-year-old child, were killed and 43 others injured as a private bus travelling to Mumbai caught fire after hitting a trailer truck in Nashik city of Maharashtra early on Saturday, police officials said.

The accident took place at Nandur Naka on the Nashik-Aurangabad highway around 5.15 am when the sleeper bus was coming from Yavatmal in eastern Maharashtra, they said. PM Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the bus tragedy and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 each for the injured. Chief minister Eknath Shinde announced a financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the dead and said the medical expenses of the injured would be borne by the state government. The CM visited the spot and the District Civil Hospital, where most of the patients were admitted. He said a detailed inquiry into the accident will be carried out. "A luxury bus travelling to Mumbai from Yavatmal hit a trailer truck going to Pune at an intersection near Mirchi Hotel on Nashik-Aurangabad highway. Soon after ramming into the

truck, the bus caught fire in which 12 passengers died and 43 others suffered injuries," a police official said.



The deceased included a two-year-old child, he said, adding that the bus was completely destroyed in the incident. The injured persons were admitted to

the District Civil Hospital and some private medical facilities in Nashik, city Police Commissioner Jayant Naiknavare said.

Before catching fire, the bus also hit a mini cargo van, due to which the latter got overturned, he added. On being alerted, the police, fire brigade and other

agencies reached the spot and launched a rescue operation and the fire was doused.

However, the bus was completely gutted in the incident, the official said. In a tweet, PM Modi said, "Anguished by the bus tragedy in Nashik. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones in this mishap. May the injured recover at the earliest. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected."

During his visit to the spot around 1 pm, CM Shinde said, "A detailed inquiry into the accident will be conducted and

action will be taken based on its report." Shinde also said instructions had been given to authorities to conduct a survey to identify "accident black spots" in Nashik city and the rest of the state. The chief minister visited the spot of the accident at Nandur Naka on the Nashik-Aurangabad highway and later the district civil hospital, where most of the injured persons were admitted. He also interacted with the kin of the injured and the deceased persons. Shinde said strict action would be taken against the people responsible for the tragedy after the inquiry. (PTI)

Banners calling Arvind Kejriwal "anti-Hindu" and showing him wearing skull cap surface in Gujarat cities

AHMEDABAD, OCT 8 /--/ Banners terming Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal as "anti-Hindu" and showing him wearing a skull cap surfaced in several prominent cities in Gujarat on Saturday, the day the AAP leader is on a visit to the poll-bound state to campaign for his party ahead of the Assembly elections. Along with Kejriwal's pictures, some banners carried lines like "I consider Hindu religion as madness", while some others had "anti-Hindu Kejriwal go back" message. These banners cropped up in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara cities, a day after a controversy erupted over a video clip showing Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at a "religious conversion" event where hundreds could be heard taking an oath denouncing Hindu deities. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has slammed the minister and accused the AAP of hurting the sentiments of Hindus. In Rajkot, the posters targeting the AAP and Kejriwal were destroyed by the party workers. Banners saying "anti-Hindu Kejriwal go back" were seen in Dahod town, where the Delhi CM and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann were to address a public gathering on Saturday. These two AAP leaders have started their two-day Gujarat visit from Saturday.

The banners carried different sentences, including, "I consider Hindu religion as madness", "I will not believe in Brahma, Vishnu, Ram and Krishna" and "I will not do 'shraddha pind daan' or any other Hindu ritual". However, all the banners had a common sentence - "These are the words and culture of AAP". The AAP has positioned itself as a main contender of the BJP in Gujarat, where Assembly elections are slated to be held soon. On Friday, the BJP said that people will teach AAP a lesson in the upcoming Assembly elections over its Delhi minister Gautam taking oath denouncing Hindu deities. State education minister Jitu Vaghani said the AAP minister insulted Hindu deities that are centres of devotion for the people of Gujarat, and asked Kejriwal to take strict action against him by sending him to jail. The political row erupted after a video clip of Gautam at a "religious conversion" event went viral in which hundreds can be heard taking an oath denouncing Hindu deities. Gautam is the social welfare minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government. During the programme, around 10,000 people reportedly took vows to convert to Buddhism to follow Lord Buddha's teachings and give up worship of Hindu deities. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been campaigning aggressively in Gujarat by making several promises. (PTI)

Media report claiming shortage of pneumococcal vaccines 'ill-informed', says Union health ministry

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ The Union health ministry on Saturday said a recent media report claiming there is a shortage of pneumococcal vaccines in the country is "ill-informed" and over 70.18 lakh doses are available with states and union territories. The report, which quoted health officials including Maharashtra's State Immunisation Officer, stated that a tendering delay has led to the disruption in pneumococcal vaccination schedules of tens of thousands of children across the country for over a month. "The news report is ill-informed and provides erroneous information," the ministry said in a statement. "As per data available till October 7, 2022, sufficient doses of PCV vaccine are available. A total of 70,18,817 (70.18 lakh) doses of PCV (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) are available with all States and UTs. This includes 3,01,794 (3.01 lakh) doses of PCV with Maharashtra," it said. According to Health Management Information System data, a total of 3,27,67,028 (3.27 crore) PCV doses were supplied to all states and union territories by the government between January and September this year, the ministry said. This includes 18,80,722 (18.80 lakh) doses of PCV utilised in Maharashtra, it added. The supplies against procurement of PCV for 2022-23 have also commenced to the states and UTs, it added. Pneumonia is one of the major causes of child mortality. (PTI)

Witness statement, including cross-examination, be recorded either on same or following day: SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ The Supreme Court has held that statement of a witness, including cross-examination, has to be recorded either on the same or the following day and there should not be any ground for adjournment on this. The apex court, which was hearing two pleas seeking quashing of bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to two persons in a murder case, was informed that it took almost

three months to conclude recording of statement of one of the prosecution witnesses. "The mandate of law itself postulate that examination-in-chief followed with cross-examination is to be recorded either on the same day or on the day following," a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and C T Ravikumar said. "In other words, there should not be any ground for adjournment in recording the

examination-in-chief/cross-examination of the prosecution witness, as the case may be," the top court said in its order passed on September 30. The high court, in its two separate orders passed in February and March, had granted bail to the two persons in connection with the case lodged at Bhadohi district in Uttar Pradesh for the alleged offences including that of murder. During the hearing before the apex

court, the bench was informed that there are three eye-witnesses according to the list of witnesses and charge sheet has been filed in the case. The bench was also told that statement of one of the prosecution witnesses has been recorded and it took almost three months to conclude. It was apprised that so far as statement of another prosecution witness is concerned, part of the examination-in-chief was

recorded on September 21 and despite request been made, the mandate of section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was not being followed which has been considered by the apex court in a judgment delivered in 2014. Section 309 of the CrPC deals with power to postpone or adjourn proceedings. In its order, the apex court noted that it would like to observe that the trial judge may take a note of the top

court's judgment in reference to section 309 of the CrPC. It noted that the trial judge may not only expedite the trial but the examination-in-chief or cross-examination of a witness is to be recorded either on the same day or on the day following but no long adjournment should be granted while recording the statement of prosecution witnesses. The bench has posted the matter for hearing after six weeks. (PTI)

Land-for-railway jobs scam: CBI files charge sheet against Lalu, Rabri

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ The CBI filed a charge sheet Friday against former railway minister Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi and 14 others in connection with alleged appointments made in Railways in return for land parcels gifted or sold to his family, officials said.

In the charge sheet filed before a special CBI court here, the agency has also named Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti, former general manager of Central Railways Sowmya Raghvan, former CPO Railways Kamal Deep Mainrai, seven aspirants appointed as substitutes and four private individuals. "During investigation, it has been found that the accused in conspiracy with the then GM, Central Railways, and CPO, Central Railways, engaged persons as substitutes in lieu of land either in their name or in the name of their close relatives," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. The agency has kept the investigation open with respect to other transactions, they said. "This land was acquired at prices lower than the prevailing circle rate and much lower than the market rate. It was also alleged that the candidates have used false TC and submitted false attested documents to the Ministry of Railways," the spokesperson said.

During the probe, the agency claimed to have found a hard disc from 10 Circular Road, Patna, the then camp office of Prasad when he was the Union railway minister. The CBI said it had a list of 1,458 candidates engaged in the Railways during his tenure. The agency has alleged that residents of Patna were appointed as 'substitutes' in group D posts in different zones of the Railways who were regularised during 2004-09. In exchange, the beneficiaries themselves or their family members allegedly transferred land parcels in the name of family members of Prasad and a company called AK Infosystems Private Limited, the agency has alleged. The company was subsequently taken over by Prasad's family members, it said. The payments for the parcels of land were mostly shown to be made in cash, while there were also instances of transfer of land through gift deeds, it is alleged. (PTI)

Brain dead ex-BSF jawan donates organs at AIIMS Delhi, saves 3 lives

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ The family of a 52-year-old ex-BSF jawan who was declared brain dead at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here donated his organs, offering a new lease of life to three people.

While Rakesh Kumar's one kidney was used at the AIIMS Delhi itself, the other was sent for a patient at the Safdarjung hospital. His heart was transplanted in a patient at the Army's Research and Referral (RR) Hospital. Kumar, a native of Firozabad, had suffered a fall while carrying out some electricity repairs at his home on October 3. He was rushed to a local trauma centre which referred him to the AIIMS, a doctor said. Kumar was admitted to AIIMS Trauma Centre early on October 4 and was operated upon. He was declared brain dead on October 6, the doctor added. His family was counselled for donating the organs and they agreed. "His heart was transplanted in a patient at the Army RR Hospital on Friday. His one kidney went to a patient at Safdarjung hospital while his other kidney was used at AIIMS. Both his corneas have been preserved for transplant in the coming weeks," the doctor said, adding the liver was not found to be suitable for transplantation. The organ procurement services at AIIMS Trauma Centre is led by Professor of Neurosurgery, Dr Deepak Gupta. Nearly one person dies in road traffic accident every three minutes in India currently (1,50,000 deaths per year) but only 700 organ donations happen each year. Awareness about organ donation is the need of hour, he said. (PTI)

Uttarkashi avalanche triggers debate, experts differ over cause

DEHRADUN, OCT 8 /--/ The recent avalanche near Draupadi Ka Danda-II peak that killed at least 26 mountaineers in Uttarkashi district has triggered a debate among scientists and experts about the contributing factors. While there is no unanimous view on the possible reasons, most of them feel attributing the avalanche to a mild earthquake that rocked Uttarkashi two days earlier was incorrect. The tremor, measuring 2.5 on the Richter scale, hit Uttarkashi on October 2. It was too mild and its epicentre too far from the avalanche site, said a scientist at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology here. "The mild-intensity earthquake occurred two days before the avalanche and its epicentre was in a village whose aerial distance from the peak is around 25 km," Manish Mehta, a scientist at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology here said. "So it is least likely that the avalanche was caused by the earthquake."

One expert attributed the avalanche to higher snowfall in the region. Snowfall in the upper Himalayan region has been more frequent this time and, due to fluctuation of temperature, fresh snow accumulated on the slopes may be sliding down in the form of avalanches before it can settle. As many as three avalanches hit the neighbouring Kedarnath valley over 11 days since September 22. Of the three, the latest avalanche occurred just 5 km away from Kedarnath temple at Chorabari glacier on October 1. But no one was harmed in these avalanches. "Fresh snow avalanches can be caused even by high-speed winds. Hence, no one can pinpoint one single reason for the avalanche that hit the mountaineers in Uttarkashi," said Uttarakhand Space Application Centre Director MPS Bisht. Avalanches cannot be prevented but precautions and safeguards can be taken while trekking or mountaineering in the upper Himalayan region, he added. Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) Registrar Vishal Ranjan said the injured trainees who were part of the team said it was a slab avalanche. They said a portion of the ice slab towards which the team was trekking was the first to cave in, he said. (PTI)

Tharoor's appeal goes beyond party, Cong needs urgent reformist thinking: Karti Chidambaram

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ Voicing strong support for Shashi Tharoor in the Congress presidential poll, party MP Karti Chidambaram on Saturday said the former diplomat's pragmatic modernism coupled with his appeal beyond the party is crucial to fight against the BJP's "divisive politics". Chidambaram also asserted that business as usual will not help the Congress and there is an urgent need for reformist thinking in the party. "I support Shashi Tharoor for Congress President. His pragmatic modernism coupled with his appeal beyond the party, is crucial to fight BJP's divisive politics," the MP from Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga said. "Status quo and business as usual won't help our party. There's an urgent need for reformist thinking in our party," said Chidambaram, who was among those who signed Tharoor's nomination forms for the Congress presidential polls as proposers. Responding to a social media user who claimed that Tharoor is everything that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) propagates as "English-enabled privileged elitism", Chidambaram asked since when was proficiency in a language considered to be a disadvantage and a liability. "Shashi Tharoor appeals to an audience well beyond the party faithful. (PTI)



Newly appointed state president of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee Brijlal Khabari is being welcomed by senior leaders and former state president Ajay Kumar Lallu at a function at party office, in Lucknow

Checks and Balances

BHOPINDER SINGH

The monumental ‘Jaipur Column’ that juts out magnificently in the middle of Rashtrapati Bhavan’s courtyard, affords optics as the unofficial sanctum sanctorum of our sovereign. The predominantly cream sandstone structure with red sandstone base has a timeless and priceless inscription attributed to Lord Irwin-- ‘In thought faith, In word wisdom, In deed courage, In life service, So may India be great.’

Perched in the sire line of sight of the ‘Viceroy of India’ then, and to the Rashtrapati of India now – these have been fine words of instructive wisdom for the occupants of the 340-room splendor, housing the ‘conscience-keeper’ of India, ever since.

Aside from the incumbent Bharat ke Rashtrapati (President of India) tenanting their respective terms, these forecourts have hosted visiting Kings, Queens, Presidents, Dictators to Despots of all hues and persuasions, each representing a courtesy call onto the one who is Constitutionally mandated under Article 60 to ‘...preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law...’

Many of whom have upheld that solemn affirmation with utmost dignity, sincerity and apolitical courage that can only be personal to the conscience of the

individual concerned, whereas many, could have done a lot more.

The challenge on the various incumbents was to disallow the slide from a constitutional democracy to a diminishment thereof (as it happened, infamously in 1975), and even to a populist one could also have a majoritarian acceptance – the political passions and compulsions of the ‘executive-of-the-day’ must always remain subordinate to the canons of Constitutional propriety and spirit, as envisaged originally.

This natural conflict or challenge is, at the heart of the litmus test of apolitical conduct, sagacity and ability to remain unbeholden to forces that may have helped the incumbent to become the ‘First Citizen’, in the first place.

Amongst the most assertive, yet constitutionally sensitive Rashtrapati was KR Narayanan who often scripted his own speeches punctuated with facts that forced the dispensation of the day to act or retract on a stated line.

Presidentship for KR Narayanan, did not tantamount to a mere titular head, or worse, ‘rubber stamp’. While addressing the nation on the Golden Jubilee of Indian Republic on 26 Jan 2000, instead of parroting the usual generalities that the dispensation would have shared, he chose to breakaway and express his concerns on the growing



societal disparities, socio-economic inequities, rural or agrarian stress, spoke against the elites – clear departure from the rosier picture that the government may have liked to project.

KR Narayanan was not happy to rest on the symbolic laurels of ‘First Dalit President’ rather, he wanted to exercise Presidential discretion, assert Presidential responsibility and to be a ‘working President’ who worked, ‘within four corners of the Constitution’.

It is frightening to see how increasingly, people use the word ‘ceremonial’ along with the post of ‘Rashtrapati’, as the definitive adjective. It need not, should not, be so.

We now have the 15th Rashtrapati, who like KR Narayanan’s ‘First Dalit’, has been prefixed with a political espousal tag of

‘First Tribal’. It is factually true, as she herself reiterated in her maiden speech, ‘I belong to a tribal society. I have got the opportunity to rise from serving as a ward councillor to becoming the President of India. This is the greatness of India, the ‘mother of democracy’. Indeed, a matter of recognition, but should this be the only calling card?

In fact, KR Narayanan never harped on his Dalit identity or on the caste discrimination he faced growing up, as he consistently sought to emphasize on the positives of societal emancipation of all those who were discriminated against, especially women.

He knew, that as the Bharat ke Rashtrapati, he had a far larger, impactful and courageous duty to do, rather than bask in

symbolic nomenclatures.

The highest point on the Raisina Hill i.e., Rashtrapati Bhavan, overlooking India’s governance quarters of North/South block, Parliament and other Ministries must always retain its apolitical voice, necessary intervention, and unmistakable articulation, in defence of the Constitution.

It simply cannot go silent, purely ceremonial or obliging to the passions of partisan quarters littered across the Raisina Hill. The institutions of checks and balances like the uncaged, regulatory bodies like Enforcement Directorate(ED), Reserve Bank Of India(RBI), Comptroller and Auditor General of India(CAG) etc., free press, empowered judiciary and above all, the institution of the Rashtrapati, needs to be

safeguarded from partisan appropriations, suppressions and obligations. Many have unfortunately bowed to the partisan forces that were responsible for escalation of the said individual to the Rashtrapati post– whereas, many have admirably shed their political past and upheld the apolitical and constitutional covenant, sacredly and fearlessly, without fear or favour.

While the lead-up to the Rashtrapati elections a couple of months back was unusually quiet, unfought for and a bit of a foregone conclusion considering the backdrop of the electoral maths involved – the winning candidate barely made a compelling pitch, perhaps it wasn’t required at all. All perfunctory and platitudinous statements that followed, were also politely generic.

It must be said, that for the last few years the ‘Voice’ from the top of Raisina has only been ceremonial and rather muted – especially considering that the nation has been in the throes of extreme socio-economic pressures, polarisation and ‘divide’ that has been unprecedented. It is not as if every little ‘masterstroke’ of the dispensation of the day has landed at the right spot. With a fragmented and ineffectual opposition, the onus of calling a spade a spade is even more loaded onto the Rashtrapati. Will she deliver? Only time will tell.

She has been in the office for about 50 days, and the constitutionally mandated ‘Voice’ of checks and balances is keenly awaited – it must be within the ‘four corners of the constitution’ but remain, audible, apolitical and

fearless, as the cost of a weakened institution could be fatal, especially one that it at the top of sovereign’s identity and democratic mooring. Now, with the historic and martial-sounding Rajpath getting renamed as ‘Kartavya Path’, the onus is on the sole incumbent who resides at the beginning or end of that path having even more kartavya to ‘voice’ its duty. And that reminder at the forefront standing tall (without a change of name, as yet), will constantly remind the Rashtrapati with the simple and timeless goad, “In thought faith, In word wisdom, In deed courage, In life service, So may India be great.”

(The author is a Former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed above are the author’s own).

Artificial reef module installed to mark 68th Wildlife Week celebration



PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ As a part of the ongoing 68th Wildlife Week Celebration to enhance the coral growth in degraded patches of Phongibalu area and to facilitate eco-tourism activities therein, an artificial reef module was installed by the Department of Environment & Forests. Mr.Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration installed the reef module as the chief guest of the function by tying fragmented corals. MsNandiniPaliwal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Environment & Forests), the guest of honour also tied coral fragments and the structure was installed in the designated place by the Scuba Diving Unit of the Forest Department. The Chief Secretary also inspected the new interpretation facilities created at the Phongibalu Jetty which would facilitate appreciating diverse coral and allied marine life present in the area and appreciated the efforts of the Department. The programme was also graced by PCCF (ANI), senior officers of the Forest Department and PRI members.

DBRAIT to organise ‘Deeksharambh’ for newly admitted students

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ The induction programme “Deeksharambh” is being organized by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology (DBRAIT), as per AICTE guidelines, for the newly admitted Diploma students from 11th to 14th October 2022. The purpose of the student induction programme is to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution, help them build bonds with other students and faculty members, and expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self exploration.

The Student Induction Program engages with the new students as soon as they come into the institution; regular classes

start only after that. At the start of the induction, the incumbents learn about the institutional policies, processes, practices, culture and values, and their mentor groups are formed.

Later, the different activities in Induction program includes Registration with Self Assessment form, sessions on Yoga and art of living, Mentoring & Universal Human Values for holistic development, Physical Activities and games, Creative Arts and Culture, Visit to Dept./Branch, Basic Assessment Test (BAT) test, Proficiency Modules, Lectures by Eminent People, Visits to National memorial, Extra-Curricular Activities in College and Feedback and Report on the Program.

TSG Foundation to donate Mortuary Freezer box at Diglipur



PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ The Directors and Members of the TSG Foundation visited Diglipur in North and Middle Andaman and interacted with the general

public. They also enquired about their needs and difficulties they have been facing. On 4th October 2022, they participated in the Durga Puja festival

celebration in the Diglipur Bazaar and witnessed the Mahalaya event. During the event, the Director of TSG Foundation Mr. TSG .Bhasker had promised to

donate one Mortuary Freezer box for the Diglipur area. The Foundation also donated Rs.10, 000/- for the development of Arts & Culture in the Diglipur Islands.

This donation was given to the Rabi Tirtha Club in Diglipur area. The Director of the foundation promised for the help to the needy patients who are traveling to Port Blair and if needed traveling to the mainland. TSG Foundation is committed to the welfare and wellbeing of the Islanders and will continue to work in the field of medicine, in the field of sports and in the field of needy children and for the special children.

ANCA to conducts sub-junior boys & girls chess selection championship

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ The Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) will be conducting A & N State Sub Junior (U-15) Boys & Girls Chess Selection Championship-2022, on 16th October 2022, at Govt. Tagore College of Education Auditorium Port Blair. The championship will serve as a selection tournament for the upcoming MPL 47th National Sub-Junior (Under-15) & 38th National Sub-Junior Girls (Under-15) Chess Championships–2022 scheduled to be held from 28th November to 06th December, 2022 at New Delhi. The best four players in each from boys and girls will be selected for the Nationals. The selected players will be allowed 50% concession in the entry Fee and Free accommodation will be provided. Limited seats are available which will be registered on a first come-first served basis. AICF Registration for Year 2022-23 is compulsory. Interested players may register their names along with an entry fee of Rs. 350/- on or before 14th October 2022 5.00 pm at the office of the Andaman Nicobar Chess Association, Dairy Farm, Near Bikers Hub between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. For Registration and further details please contact B Neelaiah, General Secretary ANCA @ 9434293379 & 9679593366 or email @ anchessassociation@gmail.com or visit: www.anchessassociation.com.

Rozgarmela by ANIKVIB on Oct 13

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ The A&N Islands Khadi & Village Industries Board in collaboration with Industries Department and Employment Exchange, A&N Administration will be organizing a ‘RozgarMela’ under SvarozgarDwaraAatmaNirbharta (associating with like minded agencies implementing Govt. sponsored schemes for providing career guidance. The programme will be held on Oct.13, 2022 in the Community Hall of Gram Panchayat, Tushnabad from 10 am to 3 pm. The programme is being arranged for the benefits of participants from 6 different Panchayats including Tushnabad, Collinpur, Mithakhari, Ferrargunj, Chouldari and Namunaghar. The main objective of the programmes is to provide a platform for elucidating the unemployed / under-employed youths on career guidance and boost up self reliance, and setup their livelihood venture duly availing benefits of Govt. sponsored schemes. The participants would be able to witness separate information kiosks for each department where they would be elaborated on the formalities and benefits of the various schemes being implemented by the departments. The unemployed / under-employed youth have been requested to attend the programme and make optimum utilization of the services being provided by the Govt. Departments.

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Make it a rule of life never to regret and never to look back. Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only for wallowing in.
Katherine Mansfield

IAF gets new-age chopper

The induction of the first fleet of the indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) comes as a major demonstration of India's combat prowess, over two decades after the need for such a lethal platform for mountain warfare was felt following the Kargil conflict with Pakistan. Developed by state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the 5.8-tonne twin-engine chopper is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20-mm turret guns and rocket systems, and is capable of destroying enemy tanks, bunkers, drones and other assets in high-altitude regions. The helicopter possesses modern stealth characteristics, robust armour protection and formidable night-attack capability, and is fully capable of even operating in Siachen, the world's highest battlefield. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the induction of LCH 'Prachanda' as a "special moment for the collective resolve of 130 crore Indians to make our nation strong and self-reliant in the defence sector. Congratulations to every Indian!" The defence minister named the helicopter as "Prachand" (fierce). The IAF said the helicopter's name is a "testimony to its lethality and versatility". The induction of the LCH, with its tremendous power and versatility, not only enhances the combat capabilities of the IAF but is also a big step towards self-reliance in defence production. The all-terrain, day-and-night chopper perfectly meets the needs of the armed forces and is among the best in its class globally. The combat helicopter is a shot in the arm for the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector and reflects the country's capabilities in defence production.

The induction of the chopper comes at a time when India and China are locked in a military standoff at certain friction points in eastern Ladakh. Since the Kargil War in 1999, the need for the LCH was felt more and the chopper was a result of two decades of efforts in that direction. The four gunship choppers — armed with air-to-air missiles, 20-mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons — have been developed mainly for mountain warfare. The agility and manoeuvrability make the LCH an appropriate choice for mountain warfare as it can take off and land with a payload even at 16,000 feet. The helicopters are expected to bolster Indian Air Force's air power as they are capable of carrying out strikes on the enemy's infantry, tanks, bunkers and drones in high-altitude areas, besides being well equipped for counter-insurgency operations.

Previously, the IAF had to depend on foreign-origin attack helicopters not just for its own operations but also for UN peacekeeping missions abroad. The welcome addition of LCHs to the IAF inventory comes a month after the commissioning of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. In June, the Coast Guard had commissioned the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III's squadron. These are good tidings for India's defence industry, which is not only becoming less import-dependent but also making its presence felt in the international arena. The government claimed recently that defence exports had grown 334% in the past five years, with India now exporting to over 75 countries.

Kodiyeri's death: An irreparable loss to Kerala CPI(M)

It may sound clichéd. But it is true that the sad demise of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan marks the end of an era in CPI(M) politics in particular and Kerala politics in general. In other words, Kerala politics will never be the same with the exit of the gentle giant. It is an irreparable loss to the left movement in Kerala and the state itself.

The death of the communist colossus could not have come at a worse time. His absence will be badly missed by the party which is beset by a plethora of problems — political, economic and social. He was a crisis manager par excellence, the man to go to in a moment of crisis. It would not be an exaggeration to say that a crisis brought out the best in him. Kodiyeri had the great gift of untying even the most complicated political knots. He was also the smiling face of the CPI(M). The great leader played a key role during the transition phase in the State. Kodiyeri's contributions in ensuring a second consecutive term for the LDF Government are well known. A leader who is a synonym for commitment, courage and dedication, Kodiyeri never compromised on principles.

It can be said without fear of contradiction that the CPI(M) will take a long time to recover from the crippling blow his death has inflicted on the party. It was Kodiyeri who kept things under control when the VS Achuthanandan-Pinarayi Vijayan rift was at its peak. He functioned as the link who defused the tension with his deft and diplomatic handling of an extremely tough situation. It speaks volumes about the man's character that he managed to maintain an excellent rapport with both VS and Pinarayi. It was Kodiyeri again who effectively tackled factional issues that plagued the party. Kodiyeri was a picture of

REFLEX ACTION

P. Sreekumaran

patience and great dignity in moments of crisis. There is no denying that the controversies surrounding his sons had an adverse impact on his political life for a long time. But the man survived all that through sheer dint of his personality and character.

Born on November 16, 1953, Kodiyeri Balakrishnan became a member of the CPI(M) at the age of 17 and the secretary of the Students Federation of India (SFI) when he was only 20. The party entrusted the post to him because it had full faith in his legendary capacity for hard work and exceptional skill as an organization-builder. He remained in jail for 16 months during Emergency. Kodiyeri became the Kannur district secretary of the party in 1980. A five-time MLA from Thalasseri constituency, Kodiyeri was also known for excellent relations with leaders of the opposition parties. He was also a three time CPI(M) State Secretary. Their affection and regard for the 'smiling communist' is clear from the effusive and emotional tributes to him from the entire spectrum of opposition leaders.

His exit is a devastating personal loss to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Kodiyeri was Pinarayi's closest confidant. The duo shared an excellent rapport. The warmth that suffused their relationship came out eloquently in Pinarayi's moving tribute to his comrade. It may not be an exaggeration to say



Goddess Laxmi idols being prepared at Kumartuli--Arijit Ganguly

that Kodiyeri's passing away will create a big void in Pinarayi's political and personal life. Kodiyeri was, as Pinarayi himself described, not only the closest comrade but a loving brother who stood by him through thick and thin. An affable leader, Kodiyeri was also an efficient minister. His term as the Home Minister under VS saw the implementation of the novel concept of a "janamaitri" (people-friendly) police. His tenure as tourism minister also witnessed a big boost to rural tourism. His contributions to the communist movement and Kerala's development are second to none.

Kodiyeri also faced his illness with the same courage and resilience with which he fought his political battles. These qualities enabled him to survive the toughest period in his life, according to Dr. Boben Thomas who accompanied him to the Apollo hospital in Chennai.

Now that Kodiyeri is no more, the CPI(M) in particular and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in general will find it tough to navigate the choppy waters of Kerala politics.

The party and the Government will have to find a leader who can fill the void left by his exit. But it will not be easy. Both the CPI(M) and the LDF will miss the extremely popular mass leader, who was blessed with an awesome capacity for trouble-shooting and tension-defusion. He would turn things around even in the most difficult hour with his never-failing smile. Kerala politics is poorer for the death of the committed communist who endeared him to one and all with his healing touch. Kodiyeri belonged to that rare breed of leaders who practiced politics with great dignity and commitment. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9					10		
11				12	13		
	14		15				
			16		17		
18		19	20				23
			21		22		
24	25	26			27	28	
29							
31					32		

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Clenched hand	1	Commotion	2	Little devil	3	Sudden convulsions
5	Yellow alloy	2		4	Delicate colour	5	Penniless persons
9	Arbitrator	3		6	Top airman	7	Prosecute
10	Billiard rod	4		8	Become aware of	13	Corded fabric
11	Extend over	5		15	Corrected	17	Arm covering
12	Colour	6		18	Corrodes	20	Snakelike fish
14	Raised platform	7		22	Consumer	23	Musical group
16	Atlas contents	8		25	Headwear	26	Monkey
19	Prophet	13		28	Perfect score		
21	Result from	15					
24	Burn with hot liquid	17					
27	Stiff hair	18					
29	Faucet	20					
30	Cricket team	22					
31	Rate of progress	23					
32	Tear	25					

SUDOKU : 3660								
		1	9	8				
	2				4			
9			5				6	
2	3						8	
5		8				7		4
	4						1	2
	6				1			3
			7				2	
				5	9	4		

Yesterday's Solution 3659								
2	5	9	8	1	7	6	3	4
6	8	7	2	3	4	5	9	1
3	1	4	9	6	5	2	7	8
4	9	5	7	2	8	3	1	6
8	3	2	1	9	6	7	4	5
1	7	6	4	5	3	8	2	9
9	4	8	6	7	2	1	5	3
5	2	1	3	8	9	4	6	7
7	6	3	5	4	1	9	8	2

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1668								
O	R	N	A	T	E		C	O
M			G		W	H	I	N
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S	T	R	A	Y		N		
			T		V	I	V	I
	H	E	E	D		F	A	R
R	I	M		A	T	O	N	E
I	D	I	O	T		R		K
G	E	T		A	D	M	I	T

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Marxist scholar Ramkrishna Bhattacharya passes away

Dr. Ramkrishna Bhattacharya, a renowned Kolkata based Marxist scholar passed away in a city hospital on October 2. He was 74. An unrepentant old-fashioned Marxist, Ramkrishna Bhattacharya preferred, for the most part of his life, to work for the 'party in the broad historical sense', as envisaged by Marx in a letter (29 February 1860) to Ferdinand Freiligrath. Of course, during his student life Bhattacharya was involved in active party politics and even became the President of the Bengal Provincial Student Federation. However, he resigned from the post following the invasion of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic by the Warsaw Pact countries headed by the then USSR in 1968. Gradually Bhattacharya withdrew himself from active Left politics which he came to see as increasingly getting tied up with the electoral mechanism. His faith in Marxism as a radical philosophy was never shaken.

Marxism, for Bhattacharya, was primarily a worldview and its objective was to overthrow the capitalist system. He accepted that it has to be a long unabated struggle (by no means to be completed in one's lifetime) to spread ideas conducive to bring about a qualitative change in the prevalent socio-economic set-up. It was Bhattacharya's sincere belief that as agents of socio-economic change human beings must undergo a process of change themselves. It was with this intention that he, through his varied and copious writings, launched a relentless effort to create a scientific temperament among his readers necessary for establishing socialism.

He set for himself the task of a marathoner, not bothered about short-term electoral politics.

Bhattacharya always believed that Marxism is not merely a political programme. In fact, its philosophical basis of dialectical materialism taught him to view the past and the present as a continuous process of struggle against oppression, both economic and ideological. It is for this reason that Bhattacharya, inspired by the late and Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya, studied, researched and championed the Carvaka/Lokayata, the materialist school of Indian philosophy. Besides, Bhattacharya also understood the significance of the post-Renaissance European materialist philosophy as regards the emergence of Marxism. It is for this reason, he made critical investigations into the nineteenth-century Bengali rationalist and materialist thinkers, focusing particularly on the outlook of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar in the context of his lifelong fight against obscurantism and bigotry. Bhattacharya had always acknowledged the progressive role played by an individual in history while, at the same time, accepting his/her limitations imposed by time, place and circumstances. This dialectical approach and the long view of history have together been the guiding principle for Bhattacharya. Marxism, for

Bhattacharya, was a working principle, not a closed philosophy. He, therefore, appreciated the pioneering roles of D DKosambi, Bhupendranath Dutta and Rahul Sankrityayan, writing extensively on the creative application of Marxism in their respective fields of inquiry.

Bhattacharya believed that an individual, working even in unconducive times, can leave a lasting impact on the posterity. Not only he had a longer perspective on history but also an inveterate optimism about human civilisation. No doubt, this conviction stemmed out of Bhattacharya's hope for a socialist future. He advocated others who (at the same time he himself tried) lit a lamp, as per a Chinese proverb, instead of cursing darkness.

Ramkrishna Bhattacharya was, at the same time, at home with English and Bangla. But he wrote more in Bangla in both renowned and obscure little magazines and periodicals. In fact, it was his lifelong uncompromising attitude to avoid the corporate-sponsored big publishing houses (in spite of 'offers' from them) for publicity and/ or honorarium. Moreover, he was equally sincere about the form of his essays and articles. In fact, Bhattacharya can be considered as one of the important Bangla prose writers of the present age. His dedication for research methodology is also noteworthy. Bhattacharya has

FOCUS

Subhendu Sarkar

Dead body of 55 years old person recovered



PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ A person namely Baburaj (55yrs) old had committed suicide by hanging at Brichgunj Brookshabad ON 6TH October 2022. In this regard, an UDFIR has been registered at PS Pahargaon and the case is being investigated. During the course of investigation, neither any detail of the deceased person is revealed nor any family members have been traced. The dead body of the old age person is preserved for identification and claim in the cold Mortuary room of GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair. The description of the deceased body is as follows:

Name:	Baburaj
Age:	55yrs
Height:	5'0"
Build:	Thin
Complexion:	Black
Hair:	Black and curly
Wearing Apparel	1. Green coloured Lungi with Orange coloured flower prints. 2. One pair of blue and white coloured slipper.

The general public is requested to share information/ details pertaining to the deceased Baburaj at 112, 03192-232100 & 03192-233077.

Delhi hospitals see rise in typhoid, respiratory issues Unseasonal rains a trigger

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ Delhi hospitals are seeing an uptick in patients coming to OPDs with upper respiratory tract infections, typhoid, and gastroenteritis due to the unseasonal rains and weather changes.

According to doctors, the number of such cases has nearly doubled owing to an increased awareness about such infections necessitated by the pandemic. "These days, we are getting more than 20 patients every day in the OPD with complaints of upper respiratory tract infections, undiagnosed prolonged fever, typhoid, cases of swine flu, allergies, pneumonia and dengue, said Dr Bhagwan Mantri, consultant pulmonologist and critical care specialist at Moolchand Hospital. "Earlier, the number of such patients was less than 10 per day but we are seeing a spike now," he said. The infections are happening across all age groups but when respiratory tract infections happen among the elderly, they assume a severe form, he added. Experts say that the surge of infectious diseases is generally seen after monsoon every year. But unlike in previous years, some hospitals are also witnessing cases of scrub

typhus and leptospirosis in greater numbers. "Dengue which has become a regular burden this season is a regular ailment these days among OPD patients. Besides, we are getting typhoid fever, acute gastroenteritis, viral hepatitis, upper respiratory infections, some cases of swine flu, and occasional Covid cases," said Dr Manoj Sharma, Senior Consultant Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj. "This year we are getting cases of scrub typhus and leptospirosis as well, although numbers are not huge, they are definitely more than previous years," he said. Scrub typhus is an infectious disease caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi, a mite-borne bacterium. Chigger mites, the larval stage of mites, transmit the disease from animals like rats, squirrels, and rabbits to humans. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection transmitted through urine or excreta of rats and cattle. According to Dr SCL Gupta, Medical Director, Batra Hospital, the unseasonal rains and the sudden weather change could be a reason behind the spike in the cases. "Our hospital is seeing cases of upper respiratory tract infections among children, especially

among the seven to eight years old. The symptoms include fever, breathlessness, cough, and uneasiness," Gupta said. Mantri concurred with Gupta and said that the month of September saw unseasonal rains, which could have been the trigger for this. "Earlier, the illnesses would rear their head in July and August but now with the rains in September, the timing of emergence of these illnesses has also shifted to September," Manti said, adding that when Covid-19 was at its peak, a spike in such cases was not seen. Doctors advise people to wear masks since it not only protects against Covid-19 but other viruses too which get transmitted through the air. "Consult a doctor if you have a fever for more than 48 hours. Fever, if not treated well in time, can lead to complications," advised Mantri. The senior doctor also said that thanks to Covid-19, people have started taking respiratory infections seriously. "Whenever people experience breathlessness, they consult a doctor since there is still some fear of Covid. Even physicians refer patients of respiratory illnesses to pulmonologists," he added. (PTI)

Chandrayaan-2 spectrometer maps abundance of sodium on moon for 1st time

BENGALURU, OCT 8 /--/ The X-ray spectrometer 'CLASS' on the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter has mapped an abundance of sodium on the moon for the first time, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation.

Chandrayaan-1 X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (CIXS) detected sodium from its characteristic line in X-rays which opened up the possibility of mapping the amount of sodium on the moon, ISRO said. In a recent work published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', Chandrayaan-2 mapped the abundance of sodium on the Moon for the very first time using CLASS (Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer), the national space agency said in a statement on Friday. "Built at the U R Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in Bengaluru, CLASS provides



clean signatures of the sodium line thanks to its high sensitivity and performance," the statement said. The study finds that a part of the signal could be arising from a thin veneer of sodium atoms weakly bound to the lunar grains. These sodium atoms can be nudged out of the surface by solar wind or ultraviolet radiation more easily than if they were part of the lunar minerals. Also shown is a diurnal variation of the surface sodium that would

explain the continuous supply of atoms to the exosphere, sustaining it, the statement said. An interesting aspect that widens the interest in this alkali element is its presence in the wispy atmosphere of the moon, a region so thin that the atoms there rarely meet. This region, termed an 'exosphere', begins at the surface of the moon and extends several thousand kilometres merging into the interplanetary space, the statement noted. "The new findings from Chandrayaan-2 provide an avenue to study surface-exosphere interaction on the moon which would aid the development of similar models for mercury and other airless bodies in our solar system and beyond," the ISRO said. (PTI)

Heroin worth Rs 350 crore seized from Pakistani boat off Gujarat coast

AHMEDABAD, OCT 8 /--/ The Coast Guard and Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad have seized heroin worth Rs 350 crore from a Pakistani boat off the state coast and apprehended its six crew members, officials said on Saturday. The ICG and ATS personnel seized the boat Al Sakar, which had 50 kg heroin on board, in the Arabian Sea. The operation was conducted during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, they said. The boat with six crew members on board was brought to the state's Jakhau port for further investigation, they added. A release issued by the ICG said the joint operation was carried out during the intervening night of October 7 and 8, when a Pakistani boat was observed moving suspiciously in Indian waters, five nautical miles inside notional International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and 40 nautical miles from Jakhau. "On being challenged, the

Pakistani boat started evasive manoeuvring. Two fast interceptor class of ships - C-429 and C-454 - deployed by the ICG for patrolling in areas close to the IMBL, intercepted the Pakistani boat and forced it to stop," it said. vBFollowing a search of the boat, 50 kg of narcotic was found concealed in five gunny bags. The market value of the seized drug is estimated to be Rs 350 crore, it said, adding that the boat was brought to Jakhau for a further joint investigation by all agencies along with the six crew members, who were apprehended. This is the sixth such joint operation by the ICG and state ATS in the last year and the second such operation in less than a month when 40 kg drugs was seized from a Pakistani boat on September 14. Such operations have been a result of effective coordination and synergy amongst security agencies, the ICG said in a release. (PTI)

explain the continuous supply of atoms to the exosphere, sustaining it, the statement said. An interesting aspect that widens the interest in this alkali element is its presence in the wispy atmosphere of the moon, a region so thin that the atoms there rarely meet. This region, termed an 'exosphere', begins at the surface of the moon and extends several thousand kilometres merging into the interplanetary space, the statement noted. "The new findings from Chandrayaan-2 provide an avenue to study surface-exosphere interaction on the moon which would aid the development of similar models for mercury and other airless bodies in our solar system and beyond," the ISRO said. (PTI)

Admission to various UG courses in ANCOL

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ Admission to various UG Courses in Andaman College (ANCOL) for the academic year 2022-2023 will be held as per the schedule given below. It is to inform all the candidates seeking admission in ANCOL to attend the counseling on time, date mentioned below without fail. If the candidates fail to attend the admission counseling according to merit called on the stipulated date and time his/ her candidature will not be considered in the next Counseling. The Admission Counseling Schedule for the academic year 2022-2023 are as under:

Sl. No	Date of Admission Counselling	Courses	No. of candidates called for admission as per merit list	Merit list called for counselling	Categories	Time of counselling
1	14.10.2022	B.Com (General)	200	1 to 200	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	9.30 am to 1.30 pm
		B.Com (Corporate secretary ship)	200	1 to 200	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	
2	14.10.2022	BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration)	400	1 to 400	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm
		B.Sc (Psychology)	400	1 to 400		
3	15.10.2022	B.A (English)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	9.30 am to 1.30 pm
		B.A (Economics)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	
4	15.10.2022	B.A (Sociology)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm
		B.P.A in Music (Hindustani vocal & Instrumental)	500	1 to 500	General, OBC, ST, Divyang and EWSs	2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Candidates have been advised to be present at ANCOL before 9am on the admission counseling day. Candidate have also been requested to bring all original certificates viz. X Pass Certificate, XII Pass Certificate and Mark Statement, Transfer Certificate, Category Certificate (OBC/ST/Divyang/EWSs), Copy of Aadhaar card, Copy of Local Certificate. & Copy of Bank Pass Book (First Page) for verification and one recent passport size photo and one set photostat copies of their certificates and candidate should pay the requisite admission fee on the day of counseling without fail. The candidates who are not attending the counseling according to the merit list on the specified date and time will not be considered for admission in the respective courses. It is advised to all candidates to download the final merit list from the Common College Admission Portal (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in/>). If any candidate fails to pay the admission fee, their provisional admission summarily cancelled in the respective course.

AIIMS director asks doctors, staff to report presence of unauthorised agents on hospital campus

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ Cracking the whip on unauthorised people from private establishments who exploit patients, the AIIMS administration has shared a WhatsApp number and urged the doctors and staff members to report the presence of such agents on the hospital premises.

According to a circular issued by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Director Dr M Srinivas on Friday, the security staff shall ensure that all such people are handed over to the police outpost at the hospital for trespassing and exploiting patients. The information may also be e-mailed to director@aiims.edu, the circular said. It mentioned that unidentified and unauthorised individuals belonging to certain private companies, hospitals, laboratories and radiology centres etc., are often seen roaming inside the AIIMS campus to seek monetary gain from the patients. It is also learnt that they facilitate the issuance of OPD cards and admissions. These agents also divert patients for laboratory or radiology investigations to private facilities. Some of them sell medicines, disposables, surgical items and implants, the circular said.

All such unidentified

individuals, vendors and agents are strictly barred from entering the hospital campus, according to the circular. "All the doctors, nurses and staff members are hereby instructed that, even on the slightest suspicion of the presence of any unauthorised and unidentified person in the campus or around the departments and areas of the campus, immediately report to the special WhatsApp number 9355023969," it stated. The identity of the person who reports about such unauthorised people will be kept confidential and appropriate action will be taken to stop the exploitation of the patients. Wearing the designated uniform and displaying identity cards is a simple method to enhance security on the hospital premises and this will enable the administration to identify any unauthorised individual. Hence, the circular asked all the staff members of the AIIMS to ensure that identity cards are worn within the campus. In addition, the staff working in the operation theatre shall have their names embroidered on their scrubs.

"Heads of the departments are also hereby requested to ensure that all the waiting lists are attended, which will prevent the patients from

falling into the trap of these agents and getting exploited financially. Administration shall provide necessary support to all the heads of the departments as and where necessary, which will enable them to complete the waiting lists," the circular said. If any such unauthorised person or agent is found anywhere on the campus, the respective area in-charges such as senior resident doctors, faculty members, nursing officers and other staff shall also be held responsible and deemed to be helping these agents and touts, and disciplinary action as deemed fit shall be taken against them.

"It is reiterated that all the doctors, nursing staff and other staff are hereby being informed to specifically report any such presence and movement of unauthorised agents at hospital premises," the circular said. (PTI)

Induction prog at DBRAIT

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ All candidates who have been admitted in Diploma and Trade Diploma Courses at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology for the session 2022-23 have been informed that induction programme will be held from Oct.11 to 14, 2022. All the students have been advised to assemble in the Conference Hall of Auditorium Building at 8.30 am to attend the programme.

3rd round of counseling at DBRAIT

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ The third round of counseling for the academic session 2022-23 in Diploma in Engineering, DHMCT, Food Production and Front Office courses of DBRAIT Port Blair will be held in the Institute's Auditorium on Oct.8, 2022 for those candidates who have applied earlier. The reporting time will be 8.30 am and candidates have been asked to bring all the original documents along with Xerox copies.

Merit list of candidates displayed in JNRM

PORT BLAIR, OCT 8 /--/ The category-wise provisional merit list of candidates who have applied for admission to various courses in JNRM, Port Blair for the academic session 2022-23 have been displayed in the Common College Admission portal website (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in/>).

The candidate may examine provisional merit list and submit their claims and objections, if any, to the Admission and Exam Wing of JNRM through the offline/online mode by addressing it to the Principal, JNRM or by email admissionjnrm5431@gmail.com from Oct.11 to 12, 2022 latest by 5pm.

The letter should contain documentary proof in support of their claims and objections. No case shall be entertained beyond the scheduled time period.

India adds 2,797 coronavirus infections, active cases drop below 30K after 122 days

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ India on Saturday logged 2,797 fresh Covid-19 infections that pushed its tally to 4,46,09,257, while the number of active cases dropped below 30,000 after 122 days, according to Union health ministry data.

The toll due to the viral disease climbed to 5,28,778 with 24 fatalities, including 12 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. There are 29,251 active Covid-19 cases in India which comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections. The national recovery rate has increased to 98.75 per cent, the ministry said. A decline of 1,111 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.05 per cent. The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.30 per cent, the ministry said. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,40,51,228, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent, it said. So far, 218.93 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered under the nationwide vaccination drive, according to the ministry. India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore cases on May 4 last year, three crore on June 23 and four crore on January 25 this year. The 12 fresh fatalities include five from Maharashtra and one each from Delhi, Gujarat and Karnataka, the ministry said. (PTI)



Indian Air Force personnel salute the guard of honour during the 90th Indian Air Force Day celebrations, in Chandigarh on Saturday

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9129/22



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Durga Puja Carnival venue at Red Road
----Photo: Subham Dutta

Bengal's biggest festival gets back its grand closing ceremony after a gap of 2 years

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, OCT 8 /--/ Durga Puja, the biggest festival in West Bengal finally ended on Saturday afternoon with a grand carnival of idols at the historic Red Road. The Durga Puja Carnival, which was introduced by the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal a few years back, was skipped by the government during the last two years due to Covid-19 pandemic. This year however, there was no kind of restrictions on the Durga Puja organisers as Covid cases witnessed a sharp decline across the country.

Idols of the top 95 community Durga Pujas in the city were showcased at a grand carnival in the heart of the city on Saturday afternoon. Members of the community puja committees

took part in a colourful parade on Red Road, showcasing the brilliant craftsmanship which was on display during the five-day festival before an audience led by chief minister Mamata Banerjee, representatives of UNESCO, diplomats of different countries and others. UNESCO has accorded Intangible Heritage status to the city's Kolkata Durga puja. The carnival started around 4.30 pm after the chief minister reached the venue.

With musical and dance performances, the puja committees gave a tough competition to each other throughout the event. However, the biggest moment of the carnival was the chief minister's participation in a dance performance. Mamata came down straight from the dais,

held the hands of tribal dancers and danced to the tunes of a tribal song. TMC MLA June Malliah also joined the performances of several puja committees. The carnival in Kolkata is being organised annually since 2016. This year, such carnivals were organised in every district of the state this year to mark the UNESCO honour.

However, no such programme was held in Jalpaiguri as the district mourned the deaths of eight people who were swept away by a flash flood in the Mal river during immersion of idols on Bijaya Dashami. Sreebhumi Sporting Club, Hatibagan Sarbojonin, Nabin Pally, Kashi Bose Lane, Thakurpukur SB Park, Chetla Agrani and Bhowanipore 75 Pally are some of the puja committees that took part in the carnival.

India takes strong note of comments made by foreign ministers of Germany, Pak on J&K

Says all conscientious nations have responsibility to call out international terrorism

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ India on Saturday took strong note of comments by foreign ministers of Germany and Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir and said all conscientious members of the global community have a responsibility to call out international terrorism, especially of a cross-border nature.

Without directly naming Pakistan, external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of a terrorist campaign for decades and it continues till now. Bagchi was responding to comments on Jammu and Kashmir by the Pakistani and German foreign ministers at a joint press conference in Berlin on Friday. "All serious and conscientious members of the global community have a role and responsibility to call out international



External affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

terrorism, especially of a cross-border nature," he said. "The Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of such a terrorist campaign for decades. This continues till now," the MEA spokesperson said. Bagchi said foreign nationals have been victims there, as also in other parts of India. "The UN Security Council and FATF are still pursuing Pakistan-based terrorists involved in the horrific 26/11 attacks," he said. "When

states do not recognise such dangers, either because of self-interest or indifference, they undermine the cause of peace, not promote it. They also do grave injustice to the victims of terrorism," Bagchi added. At the press conference in Berlin on Friday, Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said peace inside South Asia would not be possible without the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and taking into consideration the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

India has been strongly maintaining that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between New Delhi and Islamabad. German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock said she believed that every country in the world has a role and responsibility for solving conflicts and for ensuring that "we are living in a peaceful world". (PTI)

Both Cong prez poll contenders people of stature, neither can be remote-controlled: Rahul

Objective of Bharat Jodo Yatra is not 2024 polls, says party's former chief

TURUVEKERE, OCT 8 /--/ As Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor fight it out for the Congress chief's post, Rahul Gandhi on Saturday described both as people of stature and understanding, and asserted that it was insulting to suggest that either of them can be remote-controlled by the Gandhi family as party president.

Addressing a press conference here during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul said lakhs of people have joined the yatra as they are tired of the type of politics being done under the BJP and the prevailing unemployment, price rise and economic inequality. A day after Gautam Adani pledged huge investments in Rajasthan, the former Congress president, who has often accused the Modi government of favouring the industrialist, said the Congress government in the state has not given any preferential treatment to the businessman, and asserted that he is not against corporates but monopolies. Asked about criticism from certain quarters that the next Congress president could be remote-controlled by the Gandhi family, Rahul said: "Both the people who are standing (in the polls) have a position, have a perspective and are people of stature and people of understanding. I don't think either of them is going to be a remote control (chief) and frankly, this tone is insulting to both of them."

Asked why he did not contest the polls, he said his reasons are there in his resignation letter that he gave while quitting the party chief's post in 2019. Elections to the Congress president's post will take place on October 17 and results will be announced on October 19. Rahul said by nature he believes in 'tapasya' and wanted an element of suffering in this



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Tumkur on Saturday

communication to people through the Bharat Jodo Yatra which seeks to cover a distance of about 3,500 km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir on foot. He also said the party is opposing the new education policy as it is "an attack on the ethos of our country, it distorts our history, culture". "We are opposing the policy as it concentrates power in the hands of a few people and centralises the education system. We want a decentralised education system. We want an education system that reflects our history, tradition and languages," the Congress leader added.

Asked about reported infighting in the Congress unit in poll-bound Karnataka, with former chief minister Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar engaged in a tussle, Rahul said: "We are not a fascist party, we are a party that believes in conversation, we are a party that believes in discussion and we are perfectly happy to have different viewpoints in the party." "However, everyone in the party understands that in order to win the (Karnataka Assembly) election they have to work together, they have to work as a team and that is exactly what is happening, that is exactly what is going to happen," he said. Rahul said the yatra's objective was to bring India together and not the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "India is being divided, violence is being spread into our society, and this is damaging for our country," he said.

"The objective as I have stated is to bring India together. Objective from my perspective is not the 2024 elections, I am seeing that India is being divided, violence

"There's no effort in this; it's easy. I am by nature, I believe in tapasya. That has been my family's nature. I wanted an element of suffering in this communication for myself. I did not want it to be easy" ---Rahul Gandhi on Congress' Bharat Jodo yatra

is being spread in our society and this is damaging for our country," the former Congress chief said. He also said the yatra is aimed at raising three issues -- violence and hatred "the BJP-RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) are spreading"; the massive concentration of wealth being allowed which is destroying India's economy and resulting in unemployment; and massive and continuous increase in inflation.

Talking about his yatra experience and the image that has been built of him over the years, Rahul said he stands and has always stood for certain ideas and that disturbs the BJP and the RSS. "Thousands of crores of media money, media energy has been spent on trying to shape me in a way which is just untruthful and wrong. That machine is going to continue, that machine is well oiled and financially rich. My truth is different and has always been different and people who look carefully will see what I stand for and what my truth is," he said. "There is a political element to it (yatra) but

for me the main purpose of this yatra, I see in the political system a distance that has developed between the political class and our citizens. The idea for me was to go right on the road and go close physically to our people," Rahul said. This is different from going in a car, or plane, or even reaching out in a press conference through the media, he said.

"There's no effort in this; it's easy. I am by nature, I believe in tapasya. That has been my family's nature. I wanted an element of suffering in this communication for myself. I did not want it to be easy. So, I thought, while talking to my people, I can share their suffering. I find that to be a very powerful experience," Gandhi said. When one is walking on the road and speaking to people after having suffered a little, communication is better, he said.

"For me, its been a learning experience. But frankly, it hasn't even begun yet. It's been only 31 days. I can already see the advantages of this communication" Rahul stated. On the Centre recently banning the Popular Front of India, he said it doesn't matter who the person spreading hatred in India is and which community they come from. Spreading hatred and violence in India is an anti-national act and "we will fight anybody who spreads hatred and violence in this country", Gandhi asserted. The former Congress chief also expressed confidence about the party's victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections next year.

Asked about Adani's presence at a Rajasthan government event and the industrialist pledging investments in the state, Gandhi said: "Mr Adani has committed Rs 60,000 crore to Rajasthan. No chief minister can refuse such an offer. (PTI)

WHO alert on cough syrups 'alarming', there are missing links that need to be probed: Expert

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ The World Health Organisation's (WHO) recent alert linking cough syrups manufactured by an Indian pharmaceutical firm to the deaths of children in Gambia is "alarming" and there are some missing links that need to be "investigated", an expert said on Saturday.

The WHO on Wednesday issued an alert, saying four "contaminated" and "substandard" cough syrups produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited could be the reason for the deaths in the West African nation. The four products are Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup.

"The information from WHO that cough syrups manufactured by an Indian pharma company caused the death of 66 children due to the presence of ethylene glycol is alarming.

"There are, however, some missing links that need to be carefully ascertained and investigated," said Professor Y K Gupta, senior pharmacologist and vice chairman of the Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM).

Dr Gupta said the first death suspected to be due to the same reason was noted in July. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) received a communication from WHO on September 29 and the

Government of India and the drug regulator immediately swung into action. The letter was responded to instantly by seeking full details. Despite October 1 being a Sunday and October 2 being a national holiday, investigations were initiated, Dr Gupta explained.

"It is important to understand here that only new drug approval is granted by DCGI whereas license for manufacture and sale is given by state drug controller. "In this case, the license for manufacture and sale was given by the state drug controller. The company was licensed to export only to this one country and not in any other country or in the Indian domestic market," he told PTI. The other

missing link is that of the 23 samples which were tested by WHO, ethylene glycol was found only in four samples, Dr Gupta said adding, "This is perplexing and needs clarification."

"Also, the importing country gets it tested as per defined standards or their pharmacopeia. It seems this was somehow missed," he said. Indian regulations are very robust and have a zero tolerance policy in such matters. So one should not question the alertness of regulators, he said. The Indian pharma sector is producing drugs and vaccines which are used throughout the world and they are known for quality, and people trust them, the pharmacologist stated. (PTI)

BJP destroying lives of Delhiites via LG: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday hit out at the BJP and Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, saying the saffron party is destroying the lives of people of the national capital through LG.

Kejriwal's remarks came after Saxena in a letter accused Kejriwal and his ministers of running away from their constitutional duties and responsibility of governance in Delhi. Saxena has also accused the chief minister and his associates of levelling false allegations and spreading them through social media causing "irreparable loss" to the people they targeted. In a cheeky reply to Saxena's letter, Kejriwal in a tweet on Saturday said: "Another love letter has come." He also accused the LG of destroying the lives of people in Delhi. "BJP is hell bent on destroying the lives of the people of Delhi through LG. Every day these people make a fuss about something or the other. I assure Delhiites that as long as this son of yours is alive, don't worry. I won't let any harm come to you," the Delhi chief minister said in another tweet in Hindi.

Earlier too Kejriwal had taken a dig at the LG in a tweet saying he is scolded by Saxena more than he is scolded by his wife. Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia also reacted to the LG's letter, saying that it was being done due to Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party's growing popularity in Gujarat. "Every day AAP's support base in Gujarat gets stronger, and everyday a new fake investigation starts in Delhi. Everyone is aware of his (LG's) conspiracies to stop Arvind Kejriwal. They can do whatever they want but neither the work being done in the interest of the public in Delhi will stop, nor will the AAP wave in Gujarat, Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi. (PTI)



A woman buying Goddess Lakshmi idol from a roadside shop for worship on the eve of Lakshmi Puja, in Kolkata on Saturday

Won't call Dhawan-led Indian ODI side second string: Maharaj



South African Cricketers during practice session on the eve of second ODI Cricket Match between India – South Africa at Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) International Stadium, in Ranchi on Saturday

RANCHI, OCT 8 /--/ There may be no Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli as India regulars are in Australia for the upcoming T20 World Cup but the ODI side under Shikhar Dhawan is still world class, said South African left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj on Saturday. The Indian fringe players are in action in the ongoing three-match ODI series against South Africa.

"I would not call it a second string Indian side. India have so much talent that they can field four-five proper international sides," Maharaj said on the eve of the second and penultimate ODI here.

"Having said that, a lot of the guys have IPL and have international experience. There are world class performers out there."

India trail the series 0-1 after losing the first ODI by nine runs in Lucknow on Thursday. The Temba Bavuma-led visitors had lost the T20I leg of the tour 1-2.

"It's always nice to play well against India. Obviously, you want to prepare yourself. They have a world class batting lineup," Maharaj said. Tabraiz Shamsi, who was once the No 1 T20I bowler in the world,

looked out of sorts in the series opener as he was taken to the cleaners by the Indian batters. He returned with figures of 1/89 from his eight overs. But Maharaj backed Shamsi, saying the Lucknow match was a rare off day for the left-arm wrist spinner.

"I don't think he really had a poor outing. Figures don't exactly tell you the true reflection of the way someone bowled.

"The Indian batters had to take on someone and unfortunately it was him on the day. I thought he held his nerve really well at the back-end," Maharaj said.

"Obviously, picked up crucial wickets to open up. I don't think his form is a concern. It's only a matter of time till he bounces back. We know what he is capable of." Here in the hometown of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Maharaj said he would love to have a chat with the Indian great.

"I never got the opportunity to play with him. But I would love to have a chat with him. He's been a world class performer, more especially from the leadership point of view. Just his calmness on the field. There's a lot of things that people can learn from him," he said. (PTI)

India eye all-round improvement in must win ODI against South Africa

RANCHI, OCT 8 /--/ Deepak Chahar's unavailability due to an ankle injury will complicate selection matters with India looking for a much improved bowling performance in a must win second ODI against South Africa here on Sunday.

Never before a bilateral ODI series has looked so out of context with the T20 World Cup in Australia beginning later this month. All eyes are now on Rohit Sharma and Co who have already checked in Perth for their T20 World Cup warm-up matches. The three-match ODI series in India offers little incentive to the fringe players who have missed the flight to Australia. But with Chahar injuring his ankle ahead of the first ODI in Lucknow and his back troubling him again, it gives India plenty of soul-searching to do on Sunday.

Mohammad Siraj and Avesh Khan have so far failed to impress and that might open the door for uncapped Bengal pacer Mukesh Kumar. On the batting front, it will be important for Shreyas Iyer to score some runs under his belt as the top-order batter is among the reserve batters for the T20 World Cup. Iyer, who has been named vice-captain for the series, bailed



India out of a top-order collapse on Thursday. Known for his weakness against short balls and slow strike rate against the pacers, Iyer played a counter-attacking knock. But the biggest positive for India out of the second ODI was the performance of Sanju Samson, who has not been able to cement his place in the team seven years after his debut.

Samson's 63-ball 86 oozed maturity and offered a sense of calmness in the middle-order as he took calculated risks in India's narrow loss. The happy-go-lucky Shikhar Dhawan has already shown his leadership potential with a second stride in the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Dhawan will hope that he returns among runs to give the team a solid start,

while the talented Shubman Gill will also look to reaffirm his credentials as an ODI opener. Unlike India, the Temba Bavuma-led South Africa have much to play for with crucial Super League points on offer which will give an automatic qualification for them for the next year's ODI World Cup.

Personally, Bavuma is going through the worst

phase of his career with his scores in the series reading 0, 0, 3 (T20s) and 8 at Lucknow. With T20 World Cup in two weeks' time, the Proteas skipper will look to find his form in quick time. David Miller has proved to be the nemesis for India this series with an unbeaten century in Guwahati and 75 not out in the last match and the lefthander would look to continue his rich form.

The Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack, which copped criticism in the preceding T20 series, also looks to be back in business. (PTI)

Teams (from)
India: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammad Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Mukesh Kumar, Rajat Patidar, Shabbaz Ahmed and Rahul Tripathi.
South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Janneman Malan, Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Wayne Parnell, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Anrich Nortje and Phehlukwayo.
Match starts: 1.30pm IST.

Washington Sundar replaces Deepak Chahar in ODI squad

RANCHI, OCT 8 /--/ Washington Sundar on Saturday replaced injured Deepak Chahar in India's squad for the remaining two ODIs against South Africa. The second ODI will be played on Sunday here with the Proteas leading the three match series 1-0.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee named Washington Sundar as replacement for Deepak Chahar for the remainder of the ODI series against South Africa.

"Mr. Chahar had a stiffness in his back after the third and final T20I against South Africa in Indore and did not feature in India's Playing XI in the first ODI in Lucknow," said the BCCI in a statement.

"He will now head back to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and will be monitored by the Medical Team there." Chahar has been named in the reserves for the T20 World Cup. India have fielded a second string squad in the ODI series at home with the main team already in Australia ahead of the T20 World Cup. The 23-year-old Sundar, who has also had injuries issues in his young career, last played an ODI in February earlier this year. Sundar has played four Tests, four ODIs and 31 T20s for India. (PTI)

Women's Asia Cup: India ride on top-order show to beat Bangladesh by 59 runs

SYLHET, OCT 8 /--/ Shafali Verma once again showed her match-winning prowess with an attractive 55 off 44 balls as India out-batted Bangladesh by 59 runs to win their fourth match and clinch a semi-final spot in the Women's Asia Cup T20 here on Saturday.

After an indifferent batting show in the defeat against Pakistan, the 'Women In Blue' put up a much improved performance scoring 159 for 5, largely due to a 96-run opening stand between Shafali and stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana (47 off 38 balls). Credit should also go to Jemimah Rodrigues, whose 35 not out off just 24 balls helped the Indian team score nearly 160. Bangladesh managed 100 for 7 at the end of 20 overs and never looked like being in the hunt for a victory. With 8 points from five games, India are on top of the seven-team table with a match left in the round robin stage. Having never chased a total beyond 142 in their entire T20I history, Bangladesh did try their bit but could never force the momentum against a solid Indian bowling attack which kept things tight. After a shoddy fielding effort against Pakistan, it improved by a couple of notches on the day as there were no easy runs in store. The hosts couldn't even score 50 in the first 10 overs and scoring more than 110 runs in the back-10 was virtually impossible for them. None of the Indian bowlers were off target for the better part with Sneha Rana (1/17 in 3 overs) and Deepti Sharma (2/13



India celebrate after defeating Bangladesh

in 4 overs) being parsimonious as ever. Even Shafali's loopy leg-breaks (2/10 in 4 overs) seemed unplayable. The slowness of the track also meant that spinners could vary the pace and most of the balls were not coming onto the bat. The two openers Fargana Hogue (30 off 40 balls) and Murshida Khatun (21 off 25 balls) could add only 45 in the first nine overs and Bangladesh

actually were thrown out of the contest at that stage.

Earlier, Shafali showed why she is one of the most destructive batters in this format as she struck five fours and two huge sixes. En route her fourth half-century in T20Is, Shafali also completed 1000 runs in the format. With the elegant skipper Mandhana for company, the duo added 96 in just 12 overs.

Mandhana as usual peppered the field with six crisp boundaries.

Once both Mandhana and Shafali, who tried a reverse slog, were dismissed, Bangladesh could briefly put brakes on scoring but the in-form Jemimah used her cricketing smarts to find the gaps as she and Deepti Sharma added 29 in just 2.3 overs to set a challenging target. (PTI)

Skipper Babar Azam steers Pakistan to T20I tri-series win over New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH, OCT 8 /--/ aptain Babar Azam's half-century inspired Pakistan to its second win in the Twenty20 international tri-series in Christchurch on Saturday, coasting past New Zealand by six wickets.

Azam rode his luck in reaching 79 off 53 balls as his team took command of the series following its opening 21-run win over Bangladesh on Friday. All three sides are using the week-long tournament at Hagley Oval to prepare for the T20 World Cup in Australia. New Zealand's 147-8 after winning the toss looked inadequate and Azam's knock took away any prospect of victory, steering the tourist to 149-4 with 10 balls to spare. The host paid a heavy price for a straightforward dropped catch by Glenn Phillips at point off Tim Southee's bowling when Azam was on 27. The opener went on to post his 28th T20 international half-century, the second-most alongside Rohit Sharma, with both sitting behind another Indian, Virat Kohli (33). Southee snared the early wicket of Mohammad Rizwan -- who scored a match-winning unbeaten 78 against Bangladesh -- and the Pakistan middle order largely struggled aside from Shadab Khan's 34 off 22 balls. However, Azam's presence meant his team were always in control. The result was virtually sealed when he and Haider Ali took 21 runs off the final over of Blair Tuckner (2-42), the third-last of the innings. Azam said the rapid 61-run stand with Shadab for the third wicket gave an insight to a tactic they could employ at the World Cup, with the allrounder shifted up the order.

"Definitely, we have a plan to send Shadab up to charge the bowlers, to utilise his skills," Azam said.

"He played very well. We planned that I would go all the way and Shadab would take a chance." Earlier, it took late blows from middle-order batsman Mark Chapman to revive a muddled New Zealand effort with the bat. Chapman's 32 off 16 balls followed solid innings from opener Devon Conway (36 off 35) and captain Kane Williamson (31 off 30), although both struggled for timing during a 61-run stand for the second wicket. It was another frustrating outcome for the accomplished Williamson, who has passed 50 on just two occasions in all formats over the last 18 months, a period that has encompassed 29 innings. He was clean-bowled attempting a slog-sweep off spinner Mohammad Nawaz, while Chapman holed out to a slower ball from Pakistan's best bowler, pacerman Haris Rauf (3-28). (AFP)

Either Jeddah or Riyadh will host Santosh knockouts for 3 years: Chaubey

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ The All India Football Federation (AIFF) will host the knock-out stages of the Santosh Trophy in either Jeddah or Riyadh in Saudi Arabia for three years, AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said on Saturday. AIFF on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with their Saudi Arabian counterparts to "study the possibility to stage the final stages of the Santosh Trophy in the West Asian country in February 2023."

"The MoU that we signed with the Saudi Football Federation, one was for hosting Santosh Trophy in Jeddah and Riyadh," Chaubey told PTI during an interaction.

"Jeddah has more Indian population there, but Riyadh is the capital. And so the government there can club it together with art and culture. So these are the areas we will discuss and maybe by January we'll take a final call," said BJP leader Chaubey. The MoU was signed in Dammam.

"We will make it for three years. See it, is not that easy. One year, it may not be successful, because several unexpected challenges will come but that does not mean you stop this tournament," he said.

"So it's a three years thing and I'm sure year-wise we will do well. We definitely have to see what is the pace of improvement, where are we improving, and whether it is 10% growth rate or a growth of 50%. So we have to monitor it properly," Chaubey said AIFF is planning to implement equal pay for men's and women's footballers in the country.

"I have realised as a former player unless you are paid a decent remuneration, you can't feel motivated so I feel it is important to honour the women footballers."

"We will speak to various stakeholders so that we can remove the disparity of men's and women's football. We will ensure that."



The 45-year-old from Kolkata said AIFF will come up with a regular calendar for women's football.

"As part of MoU, we will create exposure matches by organising three-nation tournaments twice in a year, so you get six matches to play,"

"Once it can be in Northeast or Bangalore in India when it is hot in the middle east and in winter time we can have it in the Gulf. It will be for u-17 and u-19, initially, it will be for boys and gradually it will be for women." "We will come up with a calendar where the women can play in the women's league... the way they are doing, we will soon be in a position to be Asian champions."

"This U-17 World Cup team is at a nascent stage. Once they get the confidence and if we can nurture this team, it can play the U-23 world cup and six years down the line, some of them will be known face in women's football in the world," he concluded. (PTI)

AL KHOBAR (SAUDI ARABIA), OCT 8 /--/ India registered a hat-trick of wins in their ongoing AFCU-17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers campaign, defeating Myanmar 4-1 at the Prince Saud Bin Jalawi Stadium here.

All four strikes for India came in the later part of the first half on Friday night with captain Vanlalpeka Guite and forward Thangalsoun Gangte scoring two goals apiece. The first half began as a battle of attrition with no major chances being created. Both the sides looked to build up from the back and control possession. The first shot on target came in the 21st minute through Koru Singh, who shot from the edge of the penalty area but lacked sufficient power. Six minutes later, the first breakthrough came as Guite's free-kick from long range beat everyone in the penalty box and flew past the goalkeeper into the net. The goal sparked the game into life as India proceeded to score three more goals in a 12-minute spell.

Lalpekhua was brought down in the penalty area in the 32nd minute and Gangte was on hand to slam home a powerful spot-kick. Two minutes later, Guite added his second as Korou



India players celebrate a goal against Myanmar

intercepted the Myanmar goalkeeper's pass and the Indian skipper latched on to the loose ball and finished tidily.

A teasing cross from the right found an unmarked Gangte inside the penalty area three minutes from the break, but his shot went over the crossbar. However, the forward registered his second goal of the evening in the 44th minute after finding the goalkeeper out of position and beat him with an instinctive finish from outside the box. India picked up from where they

left off in the second half, creating a flurry of attacks and posing questions to the opposing defence. At the hour mark, against the run of play, Myanmar pulled a goal back as Htoo Wai Yan's shot took a deflection and found the back of the net. In the 70th minute, substitute Bobby Singh squared the ball to Gangte, who finished with aplomb but the goal was ruled out as the winger was caught offside.

The match eventually drew to a close with the 4-1 scoreline in favour of the Indian side. (PTI)

ZEE5 brings Maa Durga to millions of households with their campaign #ZEE5SaradinerSangee

ZEE5, home-grown video streaming platform and multilingual storyteller for millions of entertainment seekers, celebrated Durga Pujo, with its viewers. This Durgotsav, the platform is bringing Maa Durga to millions of households across the globe, allowing viewers to experience all the pujo rituals remotely and witness the grandeur of over 40 renowned pandals virtually from the comfort of their homes. This endeavor saw ZEE5 livestream the pujo from the best and most popular pandals from Kolkata and other Indian cities.

Staying true to their promise of being entertainment inclusive, the exceptional experience was available for the audiences at absolutely zero cost. In addition to the virtual pandal hopping, viewers also experienced special rituals like Kola BouShnan, Pushpanjali, SondhiPujo, KumariPujo and Dashamir Devi Baran and SindhurKhela. Adding to the festivities, ZEE5 had also conceptualized a 360-degree campaign, #ZEE5SaradinerSangee, to not only celebrate the spirit of Durga Pujo with viewers across the globe, but also highlight the wide range of Bengali content on the platform. AbhirupDatta,

Head – AVOD Marketing, ZEE5 India said, “For ZEE5, East India is an important market, and we have a strong slate of catch-up TV content and exclusive shows for the audiences in this region. Our campaign, #ZEE5SaradinerSangee, intended to bring the joy, enthusiasm, and vigor of Durga Pujo to millions of audiences across the globe by live streaming the beauty and age-old traditions of the festival.”

Renowned actress of LokkhiKakima fame, known for her work in Bengali cinema as well as in Bollywood, AparajitaAuddy, said on the occasion, “Durga Pujo for me has always been about spending those four days immersed in the joy and festivities that Pujo always brings with it. Decked up in resplendent sarees on all four days, surrounded by loved ones, gorging on delicacies is Pujo for me and most of us I’d say. Back in the day I used to pandal hop but I don’t have that luxury now which is why I’m looking forward to ZEE5 streaming the Pujo live this year. It will be the perfect backdrop to the adda sessions at home with my favorite food and people. Wishing everyone happiness, peace, and love!”

Leading Bengali actress of AmaderEiPothe Jodi Na Shesh Hoy fame, AnweshHaazra said, “I don’t think any Bengali waits for any other occasion as eagerly as we all do for Durga Pujo. Pujo for me every year is a strictly family affair because of our bari-r pujo. These four days see me spend all my time at home surrounded by loved ones, reveling in shared festivities with the extended family. As a result, we don’t end up pandal hopping which is why ZEE5’s endeavor to live stream pujo is such a welcome initiative! We’re looking forward to witnessing the collective excitement of the city from home. I wish everyone a safe pujo and happy pujo.”

toothsi announces onboarding of ViratKohli&Anushka Sharma as brand ambassadors



toothsi, the smile makeover brand, has signed on Anushka and Virat as brand ambassadors to promote and encourage the adoption of new-age teeth straightening clear aligners.

The star power couple will work with the brand to build a connect with users across all key markets, sources informed.

“The talented duo Virat and Anushka personify youth and confidence with which our target audience can

easily identify. Daring and fiercely talented Anushka and Virat, with their gorgeous smiles and bold, spirited personality are the perfect fit for our brand. We believe together, we can take the brand to the next level and create awareness about new-age teeth straightening solutions,” said DrArpi Mehta Shah, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), toothsi.

Anushka Sharma said, “We teamed up with toothsi as it offers a simple yet accessible

solution for people who are looking to transform their smiles.”

ViratKohli added, “To me, trust and reliability are crucial for success not only in the game of cricket but in all aspects of my life. toothsi too has proven to be a dependable brand for people looking for smile makeovers and we are delighted to join the brand and partner with them in their wonderful mission to enable affordable smile makeovers for everyone.”

Merlin Group hosts 4th edition of “Merlin Er Sera Pujo 2022-Award”

Durga Puja, the Unesco tagged festival that cuts across all religions and cultures, has witnessed display of over enthusiasm, joy, exuberance and ecstasy across all housing complexes of Merlin Group. Merlin Er Sera Pujo 2022 that has stepped into fourth year has organized a Puja visit by celebrities and members of Merlin. The passion, the emotion, and the spirit that oozed out of all Puja organizers across Merlin housing complexes captivated celebrities and members of Merlin Group clad in traditional attire as they paid visits to over 16 apartments of Merlin.

Merlin Group organised a Puja Parikrama by actor AnindyoChattopadhyay and actress SayantaniGuhathakurta on Mahashasthi, MahaSaptami and Mahaashtami of Durga Puja to adjudge the fourth edition of “Merlin Er Sera Pujo 2022 Sera Pujo Award”. They roamed around 16 housing apartments.

Merlin Group, real estate conglomerate instituted “Merlin er Sera Pujo”, a recognition to inspire the puja organizing



committees across selected Housing apartments of Merlin in West Bengal in 2019. The aim was to add up to the spirit of celebration of Durga Puja in Housing apartments in an innovative way. This is the fourth year of the award. Merlin Warden Lakeview in Ultadanga, Merlin Uttara in Konnagar, Merlin Maximus in sodepur, Merlin Jabakusum in New Alipore, Merlin Iland in Picnic Garden, Merlin Legacy on Dr Suresh Sarkar road, Merlin Waterfront in

Shalimaar, Howrah, Merlin Sapphire at Parnashree, Behala, Merln Twins, Merlin Laurel Garden in Behala, Merlin Crest in Behala, Merlin Vasundhara in Behala, Merlin Emerald in Shibrampur, Merlin Crest in Behala Merlin Basundhara in Behala ,Merlin Aspire in Takdhari and Merlin 5th Avenue on Mahisbathan near Sector V participated in Merliner Sera Pujo award competition.

SaketMohta, Managing Director,

Merlin Group, said, “The Unesco award to Durga Puja, the first one in entire Asia added to the revelry and We take pride in being the part of Kolkata.

We also witnessed huge energy and joy among the residents of Merlin Housing complexes in organizing the Durga Puja across Kolkata, Howrah and Hooghly. We will continue holding the Merlin er Sera Pujo award in the years to come.”

Licious reinstates its commitment to regional consumers with the Durga Pujo Campaign

*Teams up with actor Parambrata Chattopadhyay for the 2nd year in a row



Licious, meats & seafood brand, is back with the 2nd edition of their Durga Pujo campaign. Popular actor, ParambrataChattopadhyay, who was the face of the campaign last year too, makes a comeback with his eloquent storytelling in a series of digital films.

There are few other things that bring the Bengali community closer together than Durga Pujo. The campaign sees its manifestation not only through the film but also a Kolkata Specials product range, limited edition

packaging, kiosks at popular pandals in Kolkata – all evoking that indelible emotion of “Aajhokkobjidubiyekhawa.”

Says, SantoshHegde, VP- Brand, Licious, “Bengalis form one of our largest consumer bases across the country. A curated Pujo offering is but an obvious move for the business. However, the true inspiration of this campaign lies far beyond just the numbers. Licious is a brand made by meat lovers, for meat lovers. We are in the business of cooking up the meatiest meals & the

heartiest memories & we find our strongest motivation amongst consumers who resonate with the same love for meat.

Our Bengali meats & fish cuts and the RTC dishes have been hugely popular amongst Bengalis & non-Bengalis alike. And what better time to refresh that love than now.

“With this campaign we have truly tried to re-create the multifaceted aspect of festivals-Kolkata special dishes, an extremely detailed packaging and nostalgic storytelling- it has all. And with Parambrata’s

charm at the helm, we are hoping this year’s Pujo offering will pass the customers’ taste test, he said.”

The brand also launched digital films across all brand platforms. Priced at INR 269 onwards, Licious Kolkata Specials will also be available across all key markets.

Customers can choose from the lip-smacking delicacies of Prawn Cutlet, Mach Bhabja or Fish Fry, Mutton Kosha, Chicken A La Kiev, Crispy Chicken Cutlet and Kolkata Chicken Biryani.

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