

## PBMC, REVENUE LAND USURPED BY LOCAL RESIDENT

### Even after 10 years, Civic Body, Revenue dept unable to get back their land

ROOPA LALL

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/-/** An area of about 127 sq meters of land belonging to the Port Blair Municipal Council (Old Port Blair Municipal Board) and Govt Revenue land has been encroached by one Dr. R. ThulasiDasan, resident of Atlanta Point and a residential building has been constructed which is used for commercial purpose. Despite complaints by many citizens to the appropriate authorities in PBMC, no action has been taken by the Civic Body to get the prime land back from the occupant. As per records, the Executive Engineer (Works), Port Blair

Municipal Council (PBMC) filed a complaint stating that Dr.R. Tulasidasan, former employee of Health department had constructed a RCC building adjacent to the land on which Municipal Workshop was standing at Atlanta Point. Port Blair.

As per records, the House Site bearing Sy.No. 19/2 area 200 Sq.Mtrs. situated at Aberdeen village in provisional block No 30 stands recorded in favour of Dr.R.Tulasidasan. The PBMC issued a notice on 15th February 2012 to Dr.R.Tulasidan to stay the ongoing construction activities on the land till demarcation is done. Accordingly, the disputed land was demarcated on

24th March 2012, and it reveals that the land bearing Sy No 2159/1 area 3905 Sq. Mtrs situated at Aberdeen village stands recorded as Govt. Revenue. However, the land has been under active occupation of the Municipal Board since its inception, which is reflected in the Khasra Register of 1961 Survey. It was clear from the demarcation that the Dr. Tulasidasan is under occupation of 50 Sq.Mtr of PBMC land and 76.75 SqMirs, of Govt. Revenue Land. The then Tehsildar under Section 202 of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Land Revenue & Land Reforms Regulation, 1966 has issued a notice to Mr. Tulasidasan in 2012 to evict

the unauthorized occupation over Govt. land. The notice further said that Dr.R. Tulasidasan shall vacate the unauthorized occupation within 15 days from the date of receipt of the Order failing which the

same shall be removed using Govt. Machinery without further notice. However, even after 10 years, neither PBMC nor the Revenue department has been able to get the prime land back. The unauthorized

occupation is still continuing and PBMC as well as the Revenue department has almost ignored the matter or initiate action to get their land back from the private individual.



### MP seeks construction of 15,00,000litres overhead water tank at Dairy Farm

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/-/** During a recent meeting, the Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, has requested the Lt. Governor for construction of an overhead water tank with a storage capacity of 15,00,000 Litres (Fifteen lakhs Litres) at Dairy Farm Ward No-15 in Port Blair from Port Blair Smart City Project fund for proper water supply to the residents of Dairy Farm and its adjoining areas. He informed the Lt. Governor that even after making all possible efforts by the A&N Administration to ensure providing proper water supply to the residents, many people in the thickly populated Dairy Farm area are facing acute shortage of water due to non-availability of sufficient water storage and pumping at Dairy farm. He said that



water is one of the basic needs for human consumption and the people residing in the area are fully dependent on the water being supplied by the Port Blair Municipal Council. The Member of Parliament added that owing to increase of population, houses, commercial activities etc, the residents of Dairy farm and its adjoining areas i.e. Ranchi Basthi, Junglighat, School Line etc are facing acute shortage of water due to lack of water storage and pumping facilities. He added that an overhead water tank with a storage capacity of 15,00,000Litres would facilitate the PBMC for storage and subsequent supply of water to the residents of Dairy Farm and its adjoining areas.

### Special broadcast by AIR Port Blair on Republic Day

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/-/** On the eve of Republic Day, the President of India, Smti. Draupadi Murmu will address the Nation at 1900 hrs on 25th January 2023. Thereafter a 'sarvblasha kavi sammelan' will be broadcast from Delhi from 10 pm to 12 pm.

(Contd. on page-6)

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# Making IB, RAW reports public a matter of grave concern: Rijiju on SC collegium resolutions

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 /--/ Union law minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday said it was a "matter of grave concern" that certain portions of sensitive reports of the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) were put in public domain by the Supreme Court collegium.

Rijiju said intelligence agency officials work in a secret manner for the nation, and they would "think twice" in future if their reports are made public. "It will have an implication," he said. The minister was responding to questions on some recent Supreme Court collegium resolutions, which contained portions of the IB and RAW reports on certain names reiterated by the top court for appointment as high court judges, being made public last week. This is for the first time the government has reacted to portions of these reports put in public domain by the SC collegium. The collegium had reiterated the names to the government earlier this month while rejecting the intelligence inputs. "Putting

the sensitive or secret reports of RAW and IB in public domain is a matter of grave concern on which I will react at an appropriate

Asked whether he would 'sensitise' Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud in this regard, the law minister said he

government and the judiciary so we have to work together. You cannot work in isolation," he said. The SC collegium had

of advocate R John Sathyan as a judge in the Madras High Court. It had also referred to inputs by the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) with regard to its recommendation to appoint advocate Saurabh Kirpal as a judge of the Delhi High Court. The collegium had reiterated its recommendation to elevate Kirpal as a judge.

"From letters of the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) dated 11 April, 2019 and 18 March, 2021, it appears that there are two objections to the recommendation which was made by the Collegium of this Court on 11 November, 2021 approving the name of Shri Saurabh Kirpal namely: (i) the partner of Shri Saurabh Kirpal is a Swiss National, and (ii) he is in an intimate relationship and is open about his sexual orientation," the resolution had noted. Rijiju also referred to certain statements and tweets by politicians and lawyers slamming him for lowering the dignity of the top court by commenting on the collegium -- the

memorandum of procedure to appoint judges -- and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act which was struck down by the apex court. He said while appointments are an administrative issue, judicial pronouncements are "totally different".

"I am not commenting, or nobody should make any kind of comment when it is a judicial order. Some people may say that certain remarks are made which compromise the independence of the judiciary. So let us be very clear. "When we are talking about the appointment process -- this is an administrative matter. This has nothing to do with judicial order or pronouncement," the law minister said. Rijiju had recently described the collegium system as being something "alien" to the Indian Constitution. This week, he had shared portions of an interview of a retired High Court judge who had claimed that the apex court "hijacked" the Constitution by deciding to appoint judges itself. (PTI)

## Navy undertaking mega exercise in Indian Ocean Region

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 /--/ The Indian Navy is carrying out a mega war game involving almost all its operational assets like warships, submarines and aircraft in the Indian Ocean Region to check the force's combat readiness amid China's growing military forays into the region.

The biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) is aimed at "validating and refining" the Navy's concept of "operations" as well as to test overall combat capabilities, officials said on Tuesday. The TROPEX is being conducted over a duration of three months from January to March and assets of the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard are being deployed for the mega drills. "As part of the exercise, all surface combatants of the Indian Navy including destroyers, frigates, corvettes as well as submarines and aircraft are put through complex maritime operational deployments to validate and refine the Navy's concept of operations including operational logistics and interoperability with other services," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

According to the Navy spokesperson, the exercise is being conducted in different phases, both in harbour and at sea, encompassing various facets of combat operations including live weapon firings. "Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise provides an opportunity to test the combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment," the official said. "The maritime exercise also facilitates operational level interaction with the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Coast Guard, which will further strengthen interoperability and joint operations in a complex environment," he said. Separately, the Navy also conducted the biennial tri-services amphibious exercise (AMPHEX) 2023 at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh from January 17 to 22.

The exercise was focused on joint training of elements of all three services in various facets of amphibious operations to enhance interoperability and synergy. "The AMPHEX is the first time that the exercise was undertaken at Kakinada, and was the largest ever such exercise conducted till date," Commander Madhwal said. The participating forces undertook complex exercises in all domains of amphibious operations over five days. The exercise witnessed the participation of a number of amphibious ships consisting of large platform dock, landing ships and landing crafts, marine commandos (MARCOS), helicopters and aircraft from the Indian Navy.

The Indian Army participated in the exercise with over 900 troops which included special forces, artillery and armoured vehicles. Jaguar fighter jets and C 130 aircraft from the IAF also participated in the exercise. "AMPHEX 2023 successfully demonstrated the amphibious capabilities and validated the excellent coordination that exists between the three services to undertake the full spectrum of amphibious operations," Commander Madhwal said. (PTI)

## Clear stand on national security: BJP to Rahul on snub to Digvijaya

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 /--/ Why did Rahul Gandhi take so long to publicly declare his respect for the armed forces, the BJP asked on Tuesday, slamming the former Congress chief for dismissing Digvijaya Singh's controversial comments on surgical strikes as his "personal opinion".

It also asked the Congress to make its stand clear on the issues of terrorism and national security. As Rahul snubbed his party colleague Singh for raising questions on surgical strikes as the BJP seized the row to corner the opposition party, BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Congress has a habit of projecting uncomfortable views of its leaders as their personal views and asked if there is any limit to such opinion. "The question is what is the standard of these leaders when it comes to respecting our armed forces. Indians do not seek proof of their heroics but salute them," Prasad told reporters, noting that Singh has a history of taking controversial stands, be it visiting families of suspected terrorists killed in the Batla House encounter or praising radical Islamic preacher Zakir Naik.

Attacking Rahul for his "vacillating" stand on armed forces, he also cited some of his previous remarks, including a recent comment in Dausa during the Bharat Jodo Yatra questioning the government's handling of the border standoff with China and claim that the Chinese were "beating up" Indian soldiers.

He had used the "khoon ki dalali" barb after the 2016 surgical strikes to attack the Modi government and gone to the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) to extend moral support to "tukde tukde gang", Prasad told reporters. Why it took him so many years to say publicly that he respects armed forces, the BJP leader asked. He should have also said "sorry" for what he had said earlier, the former Union minister added. Prasad also took a dig at Congress leader Jairam Ramesh for physically preventing a journalist from asking questions to Singh on his statement about the surgical strikes and the 2019 Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Rahul on Tuesday said he and the Congress do not agree with Singh's comments on surgical strikes and that the armed forces do not need to give any proof. It is ridiculous, he said on the remarks. "I don't agree with the statement of Digvijaya Singh. It is crystal clear that we disagree with it. It is the official position of the Congress," the Congress leader told reporters in Jammu and Kashmir. (PTI)

## India can have its own disaster response model: Mandaviya

NEW DELHI, JAN 23 /--/ Being a vast country with diverse terrains, India can have its own disaster response model which can be emulated by other countries, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday.

Mandaviya said India's model can learn from the best global practices and could go beyond the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) to become flexible and agile to deal with exigencies on the ground. "While it is important to learn from global best practices and follow SOPs, let us learn from the national examples of emergency and disaster response in the past few decades and enrich our model from learning and insights from these," the minister said while addressing the consultative workshop on 'National Emergency Medical Team, India'. "The multi-



Mansukh Mandaviya

sectoral and multi-layered learning need to be incorporated in the training and capacity building modules of the national architecture of emergency response and management," Mandaviya said. The purpose of the two-day workshop is to bring together all stakeholders of the NEMT initiative to deliberate on the policy, strategy, roles and responsibilities of the initiative and prepare a roadmap for integrating the needs of the country for disaster preparedness aligning with the health needs during such situations, a statement said.

Prevention of health emergencies, preparedness and responses form one of the priority areas under the G20 Health Track agenda and this is the first meeting after the G20 Health Working Group meeting in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram which took place from 18-20. Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan emphasized the importance of collaboration between the NDMA, NDRF, state agencies, emergencies service providers, trauma centres etc and stressed the need for synergizing efforts between them to ensure agility, rapid and effective response. The National Emergency Medical Team (NEMT) initiative aims to revamp the traditional responsive mode of healthcare manpower deployment in response to disasters and public health emergencies. EMT is defined as a group of healthcare professionals providing direct clinical care to populations affected by outbreaks and emergencies, a health ministry statement said.

During any emergency/disaster, the core capacities required to prepare for and mitigate the impact of any public health emergency remain largely the same. For the deployed teams to be effective, they are required to be formally trained and equipped not only in terms of clinical skills but also in terms of on-field coordination with other stakeholders on-field, the statement stated. (PTI)

## Himachal CM Sukhu calls on PM

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 /--/ Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday. Sukhu termed the meeting a courtesy call.

Sukhu discussed various development projects under implementation in the state and requested the prime minister for liberal assistance from the centre for giving a fillip to the ongoing development works. The chief minister assured the Prime Minister that the state government will effectively implement centrally launched schemes Pradhanmantri Gati Shakti Yojna, aimed at revolutionising infrastructure, and Parvatmala Yojna for the construction of ropeways, according to a state government statement.

Sukhu said both the schemes would immensely benefit the people of the state, adding that connectivity and infrastructure development were one of the main focus areas of the present government besides generating employment avenues for people. The chief minister honoured the Prime Minister with a memento, a Himachali shawl and a Cap. Modi congratulated Sukhu on becoming the chief minister and assured all possible support to the state. (PTI)

## GM Mustard: It's risk factor which concerns us more, observes SC

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 /--/ The Supreme Court observed on Tuesday it is more concerned about the risk factors than anything else when it comes to the conditional approval granted by the Centre for environmental release of genetically modified (GM) Mustard.

On October 25 last year, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Union environment ministry had approved the environmental release of transgenic mustard hybrid DMH-11 and the parental lines containing barnase, barstar and bar genes so they can be used for developing new hybrids. The apex court is hearing separate pleas by activist Aruna Rodrigues and NGO 'Gene Campaign' seeking a moratorium on the release of any genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment pending a comprehensive, transparent and rigorous bio-safety protocol in the public domain conducted by agencies of independent expert bodies the results of which are made public.

The matter came up for

hearing on Tuesday before a bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and B V Nagarathna. Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, referred to the timeline of conditional approval for environmental release of transgenic mustard hybrid DMH-11 and said all relevant aspects were deliberated upon and considered. "Infact, it is the risk factors which concerns us more, the bench observed during the hearing which will continue next week.

In its additional affidavit filed in the apex court in November last year, the Centre had said this conditional approval has been made after a "long and exhaustive regulatory review process" which had commenced in 2010. The affidavit said the Centre has taken the decision on environmental release after "in-depth" consideration of all aspects of bio-safety and health hazards.

During the arguments in the matter last month, the apex court had asked the Centre whether there was any compelling reason for the

environmental release of GM Mustard failing which the country will be doomed. The Centre had told the top court that the opposition by activists, experts and scientists to GM crops is "ideological" rather than based on scientific rationale. The Centre had said the government has followed all regulatory processes as per the framework recommended by the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) appointed by the court. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Rodrigues, had submitted that the seeds of GM mustard have started germinating after their environmental release and before the plants start flowering in a few weeks they must be uprooted to prevent the environment from getting irreversibly contaminated.

At a meeting on October 18 last year, the GEAC, the country's regulator for genetically modified organisms, recommended the environmental release of mustard hybrid DMH-11 for seed production and testing "as per the existing ICAR guidelines and other extant rules/regulations before commercial release". (PTI)

## Mumbai ex-CP Pandey was given target' to arrest me: Fadnavis

MUMBAI, JAN 24 /--/ Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said that former Mumbai Police chief Sanjay Pandey had been given a "target" to arrest him but the police officer could not succeed as he had done nothing wrong.

Fadnavis was speaking at an event organised here by regional news channel ABP Majha. "The Mahavikas Aghadi government had given a target to then Mumbai police commissioner Sanjay Pandey to put me in jail. The MVA government had given orders to frame me or slap some criminal charges (on me) anyhow," said the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader. Fadnavis returned as

the deputy chief minister last year after a revolt by Eknath Shinde split the Shiv Sena and led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government that also comprised the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party. "It is the truth and now you can ask any police official. They will also tell about it," the former Maharashtra chief minister said adding, "However, I had done nothing that would help them put me in jail, and thus they failed."

Fadnavis also said that he does not hold any personal animosity against Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, who was the chief minister with the support of the Congress and

NCP. "Uddhav Thackeray completely stopped answering my phone calls. If he did not want to form an alliance (with BJP after 2019 state polls), he should have told me so," he said. "At a function recently, I met wahini' (Uddhav's wife Rashmi Thackeray) and told her to convey my regards to Uddhav Thackeray. This is the culture of Maharashtra and I cannot disregard it," he said.

Soon after the fall of the MVA government, Pandey, a 1986-batch retired Indian Police Officer, was arrested in connection with a money laundering case linked to the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees. He is currently out on bail. (PTI)

# Karnataka govt fixes around Rs 60 lakh as fee per day for legal team fighting border row case in SC

BENGALURU, JAN 24 /--/ The Karnataka government has fixed a professional fee of Rs 59.9 lakh a day for the team of senior lawyers, including Mukul Rohatgi to fight the case pertaining to border row with Maharashtra in Supreme Court.

A Law department order said it has fixed the terms and conditions and professional fee to the legal team to represent Karnataka before the Supreme Court in

an original suit (number 4/ 2004) filed by the government of Maharashtra against Karnataka on the border dispute. As per the January 18 order, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi will be paid Rs 22 lakh per day for appearing before the apex court and Rs 5.5 lakh per day for conference and other works. Another lawyer Shyam Divan will be paid Rs six lakh a day for appearing before the court, Rs 1.5 lakh per day for

preparation of the case and other works and Rs 10 lakh for outstation visits per day. The government will bear the expenses on hotel facilities and business class air travel.

The Advocate General of Karnataka will be paid Rs three lakh a day for appearing in the SC, Rs 1.25 lakh per day for preparing cases and other works, Rs two lakh on outstation visits apart from bearing the hotel and business class air travel

expenditures. The state government has also hired senior lawyer Uday Holla, a former advocate general of Karnataka, who will be paid Rs two lakh per day for appearing in the apex court, Rs 75,000 per day for preparation of the case, Rs 1.5 lakh per day for settlement of pleadings and other works, and Rs 1.5 lakh per day for outstation visits apart from hotel and travel expenses. The boundary row had intensified late last

year, with vehicles from either side being targeted, leaders from both the States weighing in, and pro-Kannada and Marathi activists being detained by police amid a tense atmosphere in Belagavi.

The border issue dates back to 1957 after the reorganisation of States on linguistic lines. Maharashtra laid claim to Belagavi, which was part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency, as it has a sizeable Marathi-speaking

population. It also laid claim to over 800 Marathi-speaking villages which are currently part of Karnataka. Karnataka maintains the demarcation done on linguistic lines as per the States Reorganisation Act and the 1967 Mahajan Commission Report as final. And, as an assertion that Belagavi is an integral part of the State, Karnataka has built the 'Suvarna Vidhana Soudha', modelled on the 'Vidhana Soudha' here. (PTI)

## Rahul fighting hatred by spreading message of harmony: Deve Gowda

BENGALURU, JAN 24 /--/ Conveying his "best wishes" to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Tuesday complimented him for fighting hatred and violence by spreading the message of harmony among people.

The JD-S supreme has also expressed his inability to participate in the concluding function of the Yatra in Srinagar on January 30. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of several like-minded parties to join the concluding function in Srinagar. In a letter to Kharge, thanking for the invitation, Gowda said: "It is appropriate that the function is being organised on the day the father of the nation (Mahatma Gandhi) attained martyrdom."

"I may not be able to attend the function in person, but my best wishes are with Rahul Gandhi.

He is fighting hatred and violence and has walked 3,500 kms from Kanyakumari to Kashmir spreading the message of harmony among people. Please convey my deep appreciation to him," the 89-year-old leader said. (PTI)



# GP Basantipur celebrates 126th birth anniversary of Netaji



MAYABUNDER, JAN 24/- Subhash Chandra Bose was celebrated by the Gram PanchayatBasantipur at

## Preparations for Republic Day celebration in full swing

PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/--/ Full swing preparations are on to celebrate '74th Republic Day-2023' in a befitting manner in these Islands together with the rest of the country on January 26. The Republic Day is celebrated with grandeur every year with ceremonious Parade. This year, in A&N Islands, the main function for the Republic Day will be held at Marina Park road stretch on Jan. 26. As per the minute to minute programme chalked out for the Republic Day-2023, Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency, will unfurl the National Tricolor at 8.35 am followed by fly past by MI-17 helicopter carrying National Flag. Thereafter, there will be presentation of medals, gallantry awards & distribution of Commendation Certificates by Hon'ble Lt Governor. Soon after the presentation of awards, Hon'ble Lt Governor will address the Islanders. Before arriving at the main function, Hon'ble Lt Governor will visit National Memorial Cellular Jail and place wreath at the 'Martyr's Column' there. Meanwhile, as part of the preparation, a full dress rehearsal for the 'Republic Day' was held at Marina Park road stretch here today. The main attraction of the Republic Day is the march past in which the contingents of Defence Forces, Police, NCC, School (Boys & Girls) will participate. Cultural programme by school children will add grandeur to the Republic Day function at Marina Park road which will conclude with the National Anthem.

## MESSAGE

Today is National Voters' Day. January 25this observed every year as National Voters' Day in order to encourage, facilitate and maximize enrolment of new voters for a stronger and more vibrant democracy. It encourages youth to participate in the electoral process while helping uphold India's commitment to Universal Adult Franchise. This is the 13thNational Voters' Day. On this day, I call upon every single citizen of these Islands, who has attained the age of 18 as on 1stJanuary 2023 to enroll themselves for a voter ID card and any citizen attaining the age of 18 years by April 1, July 1 and October 1 of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter. I also call upon them to exercise their right to vote at the appropriate time. I am pleased to know that through consistent efforts, A&N Islands have achieved an electoral roll 3.08 lakh voters following the revision recently published; out of which 1.47 lakh are women voters.

The theme of this year's National Voters' Day is 'Nothing like voting, I vote for sure' and special focus has been placed on all segments including women, youth, Person with Disabilities (PwDs), Senior Citizens, Service Voters, Overseas Indians as well as other marginalized sections of the society. I am confident that residents of these Islands will heed this call and ensure that this theme is realized in this UT, thus helping to ensure that India continues to be a strong vibrant and inclusive democracy. Right to vote is an important right in any democracy and every vote counts. Warm greetings on the occasion of National Voters' Day to all.

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

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Roy, Pradhan, GP Basantipur&PRI members of that Panchayatorganised a cultural programme which was presented by the school student of GSS School Gobindapur& VKZPV school Basantipur, Mr. Suresh Mazumder (DEO ), Mayabunder was the chief guest. Mr.ShankarMondal, Zilla Parishad member, Harinagar Constituency was the guest of Honour. They garlanded the portrait of NetajiSubash Chandra Bose. The function concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Vibhuti Ranjan Biswas, Up-Pradhan Basantipur Panchayat.

## APPEAL

It gives me immense pleasure to inform the general public that the 13thNational Voters' Day (NVD) is being celebrated throughout Andaman & Nicobar Islands at all levels i.e. Booth Level, Tehsil Level and District Level, today, the 25th January, 2023 along with the rest of the country with the theme of "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure". Our aim is to maximize voter enrolment by building awareness amongst all sections of our society.

Under the guidance of Election Commission of India, our Administration has organized series of activities to mark the 13thNational Voters' Day celebration including pledge taking by all Offices on 25th January, 2023, drawing, skit, essay, debate etc. competitions on the theme of NVD in Schools/ Colleges and awareness activities through All India Radio, Doordarshan, Print Advertisement, Social Media etc.

The Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Roll 2023 has been carried out and the total electors as per final roll published on 05.01.2023 with reference to 01.01.2023 as the qualifying date is 3,08,206 out of which 1,61,449 are male and 1,46,748 are female while the number of transgender is 9.

In order to ensure hassle free assistance with regard to electoral activities for the general public, a Toll Free No.1950 has been set up at State Contact Centre & District Contact Centre, which will function on all working days during office hours.

The voters can also search their particulars through online by downloading Voter Helpline App (VHA) or through ECI's website <https://voterportal.cci.gov.in> or <https://www.nvsp.in> and <https://www.ceoandaman.nic.in>. I, therefore, appeal to all the eligible voters, especially the youth in the age group of 18-19 years to register as an elector to take part in the electoral process for stronger democracy and to fulfill the theme of the Commission "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure". I also request all political parties and media to extend their full support and cooperation in this regard. I extend my sincere greetings to all Islanders on theNational Voters' Day.

Sd/-  
(BinayBhushan)  
Chief Electoral Officer,  
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

## OBITUARY



**Naw Lissy Titus**

DOB : 24/05/1981  
DOD : 23/01/2023

You left us with beautiful memories to the heavenly abode. You will be always remembered in our hearts and thoughts.

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Husband Titus Daniel & Children  
Ph: 9531909039

## Traffic arrangements for Republic Day function

PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/--/ Traffic arrangements have been made in connection with Republic Day Function on 26th January 2023 (Thursday).

1. The carcade of Hon'ble Lt. Governor and the cars of other higher officials, holding the 'P' (Green & Pink) parking card shall alight at the alighting point on the road inside Marina Park. After dropping the officials/ dignitaries at the alighting point the vehicles shall proceed for parking near Swimming Pool by taking the route Girls School Junction- Scout Hut Junction - Netaji Stadium - 'P' Parking.

2. The holders of 'P' car parking label except the Hon'ble LG's carcade, may use the routes:

a. Clock Tower - Y-Narayan Junction - Dharamsala Junction - Marina Park gate (Children's Traffic Park).

b. APWD Junction - Fire Brigade Junction - Scout Hut Junction - Netaji Stadium - Y-Narayan Junction - Dharamsala Junction - Marina Park gate (Children's Traffic Park).

3. The holders of 'P-1' car parking label to use the routes of Clock Tower-Y Narayan Junction-Netaji Stadium-Parking near Sports Hostel and inside the Netaji Stadium towards SAI Hostel side.

4. The holders of 'P-1' car parking label shall be seated to the right side (Swimming Pool end) opposite to the main dias of the Chief

Guest. The holders 'P-1' cards are requested to reach the place of function through the way beside swimming pool latest by 0745 hrs.

5. After the departure of VIP from the place of function, the vehicles bearing car parking label 'P' shall proceed towards the alighting point inside Marina Park and will take exit towards Girls School side & then take the route through Girls School Jn. - Scout Hut Jn. - Vikas Bhavan (ANI DCO Office) - Fire Brigade - APWD Crossing to their destinations.

6. After the departure of VIP from the place of function, the vehicles bearing car parking label 'P-1' shall proceed from Parking near Sports Hostel-Netaji Stadium-Y Narayan junction-Clock tower to their destinations.

7. All other vehicles without any parking label including two and four wheelers shall be parked inside the Netaji Stadium Near Multipurpose Hall and shall be seated to the left side (towards Velodrome side) opposite to the main dias of the Chief Guest. After completion of the function the vehicles of general public shall be diverted from Netaji Stadium parking towards Y- Narayan junction/Clock Tower.

8. The vehicles intending to proceed to South Point from Aberdeen Bazar and vice versa shall be diverted towards Model School Crossing- APWD Crossing- Murugan Temple - Siddiqui Jn. - Shadipur Jn. from 0800 to 1030 hrs.

## IGNOU BSCG programme practical classes scheduled from 30th January

PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/--/ The Practicals and its exam for BSCG Programme in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Geography is being scheduled from 30th January, 2023 onwards. The Practicals will be conducted at the IGNOU, Study Centre-0201, Jawahar Lal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya, Port Blair. The schedules of practicals are placed in the notice board of the Study Centre, JNRM, Port Blair. Eligible learners are advised to visit the Study Centre-0201, JNRM. For more details, visit IGNOU Study Centre-0201, JNRM college, Port Blair or contact IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair over Phone: 03192-242888, 03192-230111 or Email: [rreportblair@ignou.ac.in](mailto:rreportblair@ignou.ac.in).

## Training on Coconut Handicraft at ICAR-CIARI

PORT BLAIR, JAN 24/--/ ICAR- Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair has proposed to conduct six-days training on 'Coconut Handicraft' making in collaboration with KVK, Sippighat with support from Coconut Development Board, Kochi. The training is tentatively scheduled during the second week of February, 2023 with an objective to train and promote unemployed youth for making attractive handicraft items from coconut plant parts. ICAR-CIARI invites the interested candidates to register their name along with a copy of Aadhar card and other details at KVK, Sippighat on or before 31.01.2023. The suitable candidates will be selected on First cum basis.

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*I hate life. I hate death and everything in between just doesn't interest me*

**Chris Rapier**

### Japan facing severe security environment

Japan faces severe security environment in the region since the end of World War II. This has prompted Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to push a military buildup under a newly adopted security strategy over the next five years and beyond, as well as tackle rapidly declining births so that the country can sustain national strength. The Kishida government in December adopted key security and defence reforms, including a counterstrike capability that makes a break from the country's exclusively self-defence-only postwar principle. Japan says the current deployment of missile interceptors is insufficient to defend it from rapid weapons advancement in China and North Korea. In his policy speech opening this year's parliamentary session, Kishida said active diplomacy should be prioritised, but it requires "defence power to back it up". Japan's new security strategy is based on a realistic simulation as the country faces the most severe and complex security environment since the end of World War II and a question if people's lives can be protected in an emergency. The strategy seeks to keep in check China's increasingly assertive territorial ambitions, but it's also a sensitive issue for many countries in Asia that were victims of Japanese wartime aggression. It's a "drastic turnaround" of Japan's security policy, but still remains within the limitations of its pacifist constitution and international law. There will not be even a slightest change from Japan's non-nuclear and self-defence-only principles and our footsteps as a peace-loving country, Kishida has asserted.

This month, Kishida took a five-nation tour, including the United States, to explain Japan's new defence plan and further develop defence ties with its ally the US. Japan plans to nearly double its defence budget within five years to 43 trillion yen (USD 332 billion) and improve cyberspace and intelligence capabilities. While three-quarters of an annual defence budget increase can be squeezed out through spending and fiscal reforms, the remainder needs to come from a possible tax increase, and Kishida has already faced growing criticism from opposition lawmakers and even from his governing party. Kishida, who also faces a critical question of population growth, says Japan cannot waste any time on the policies for children and childrearing support and focus on establishing a children-first economic society and turn around the birthrate. Japan's population of more than 125 million has been declining for 14 years and is projected to fall to 86.7 million by 2060. A shrinking and aging population has huge implications for the economy and national security. Kishida has pledged to bolster financial support for families with children, including more scholarships, and said he would compile a plan by June.

Japan is the world's third biggest economy but living costs are high and wage increases have been slow. The conservative government has lagged behind on making society more inclusive for children, women and minorities. So far, efforts to encourage people to have more babies have had limited impact despite payments of subsidies for pregnancy, childbirth and child care. Some experts say government subsidies still tend to target parents who already have children rather than removing difficulties that are discouraging young people from having families.

# Indian Foreign Minister sticks to economic agenda on Sri Lanka visit

## REFLEX ACTION

**Arun Kumar Shrivastav**

of economic crisis," Namal tweeted along with two pictures of the meeting.

Among the first to react to India's support for the \$2.9 billion IMF bailout for Sri Lanka was the American Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Julie Chung. "Pleased to see India confirm strong support for SL's prospective EFF program & commit to providing financing/debt relief transparently & in coordination w Paris Club. The US stands ready to assist SL to unlock IMF assistance when all creditors agree to fair & equitable treatment," she tweeted on January 19, the day the Indian foreign minister arrived in Sri Lanka. Chung has been one of the few diplomats in Colombo whose presence has been felt throughout the current crisis. She has been meeting people and going out on field visits, taking note of every small step being taken toward mitigating the economic crisis and hardships it has brought for the common people. Wearing a bright lemon-yellow suit, Chung tweets for a "free and open Indo-Pacific" the next day.

The interests of India and the US converge on Sri Lanka is not hard to understand. Sri Lanka with its strategic location in the Indian Ocean holds much more significance than it might reflect. A foreign military base in Sri Lanka can have far-reaching ramifications for international supply chain stability, a key concern in the post-Covid world, which is further aggravated by restrictions on the movement

Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar was on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka on January 19-20. It follows a letter by India to the IMF that it supports Sri Lanka's efforts to restructure bilateral debt. The multilateral financial institution has offered a \$2.9 billion bailout to Sri Lanka but the actual disbursement of funds has not started as yet. It depends on several conditions, and restructuring bilateral debts is one of them. Besides India, Sri Lanka has to muster similar support from China and Japan before it can access to the IMF bailout fund.

During his stay in the island nation, the Indian foreign minister met Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Foreign Minister Ali Sabry. Among other notable Sri Lankan leaders, his meeting with former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his son Namal Rajapaksa, a Member of Parliament representing Hambantota, is significant. Namal is the eldest son of Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has served both as President and Prime Minister of the country. Namal was the Minister for Youth and Sports in the last government, which was overthrown by the people's movement. Incidentally, Namal resigned from his post in the early stages of the movement that saw his father's home vandalized and burnt down, along with Namal's fleet of luxury cars. While in the meeting Mahinda Rajapaksa was present, the information was shared by Namal on his official twitter account, hinting that Mahinda Rajapaksa is still lying low.

"Was an honour to meet Dr. @Dr S Jaishankar and discuss wide ranging issues. IN&LK have been long standing friends & Sri Lanka is truly grateful for the Indian govt's prompt financial assistance amounting to \$4bn dollars in 2022 to mitigate the adverse effects



Glimpses of the first day of two day Military Tattoo & Tribal Dance Festival 'Aadi Shaurya - Parv Parakram ka' being held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in New Delhi

# Indian imports help Russia ride out EU-enforced price cap on crude exports

## FOCUS

**K Raveendran**

Thanks to more crude imports by India, Russia has managed to beat the European Union embargo and the G-7 price cap on the Russian crude. In fact, there has been a strong increase in Russian seaborne crude exports, mainly from ports in the country's west, according to industry sources.

More crude is flowing to Asia with India increasing imports to 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in December compared to 0.95 million bpd in November. The urals blend crude from western ports currently sells at a discount of about \$40 per barrel to the Brent price, in the range of \$40 to \$45 per barrel. The western oil embargo had floundered on the defiance of the Biden administration-sponsored call by India and China. Now after a month and half of the EU enforcing a price cap on Russian crude, it is clear that the export of Russian crude has in reality gone up from previous levels.

According to Rystad Energy, which is closely monitoring crude oil movements across the world, Russian crude oil exports by sea, excluding CPC Blend and KEBCO, rose to 3.2 million bpd in the second week of January and

reached a 10-week high. The four-week average rose from 2.55 million bpd in the first week of 2023 to 2.91 million bpd in the second week.

In terms of geography, the main factor is the increase in shipments from ports in Russia's western region, which rose 0.4 million bpd week-on-week to a 10-week high of 2.3 million bpd. This could mean that Russia has begun to redirect lost export volumes via the Druzhba pipeline through its western ports. Current estimates for the period between 1 and 15 January average 3.1 million bpd of shipments, meaning that flows have rebounded to October-November 2022 levels after dropping to 2.6 million bpd in December. But Rystad adds a word of caution that that it may be too early to draw any definitive conclusion.

The current January trend is slightly better than Rystad's own estimate of 2.9 million bpd, however the

agency says it is not revising the forecast upward at this point until there is confirmation that the current increase in flows is not a temporary blip.

The resilience shown by Russian seaborne exports is believed to be a result of the build-up of a fleet of tankers by Russia. According to current data, the share of tankers operating with Russian oil and depending on Western services and insurance has dropped from 60 percent during the Northern Hemisphere summer of 2022 to 30 percent after 5 December.

Rystad says identifying the final destinations of Russian oil remains a difficult task, although it remains uncontested that India and mainland China remain key buyers of Russian crude. According to available data, about a quarter of the flows remain unidentified. For instance, in weeks 51 and 52 of 2022, the recipients of about

300,000 bpd of Russian oil remain unknown. According to published accounts, Russian crude which amounted to hardly 1 percent of India's import basket pre-Ukraine action has now increased to over 20 percent, more than what it used to import from Saudi Arabia and similar to imports from Iraq.

Higher imports by India and China helped Russia ride out the western sanctions quiet remarkably in the initial phase. This more than made up for the disruptions in the Europe-bound oftakes, with the result that oil earnings had actually gone up.

In terms of prices, the price cap has had a significant effect on oil prices from Russia's western ports, namely Urals, which currently accounts for about 45 percent of all Russian exports, including pipeline shipments. Urals from western ports currently sells at a discount of about \$40 per barrel to the Brent price.

At the same time, eastern Russian delivery prices remain above the price cap, with ESPO traded in the range of \$65 to \$70 per barrel in December-January. Together with Sakhalin oil exports, these flows amount to almost 2 million bpd. (IPA)

of cargo in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. Recently, a Chinese spy ship, Yuan Wang 5, docked in Sri Lanka despite stiff opposition from India, which has emerged as an important ally of the island nation, thanks to its \$4 billion worth of assistance since the economic crisis spiralled out of control in January last year. Indian Foreign Minister's arrival in Colombo coincided with a joint military exercise between the US Navy and Sri Lankan Navy and Sri Lankan Air Force in the waters of Colombo, Trincomalee, and Mullikullam. Recently, a joint military exercise between the US and the Indian forces at about 100 km from the India-China border at Auli in the Indian state of Uttarakhand elicited sharp comments from China and India.

Given this backdrop, the crisis in Sri Lanka is not limited to the economy and politics. It invariably indicates the involvement of powerful international players.

Indian foreign minister in his public statements kept the focus on the economy and how India proactively followed up on its hyped neighbourhood-first policy in prioritizing support for Sri Lanka in its moments of crisis.

"We felt strongly that Sri Lanka's creditors must take proactive steps to facilitate its recovery. India decided not to wait for others but to do what we believe is right. We extended financing assurances to IMF to clear the way for Sri Lanka to move forward," he said in a statement. He also delivered a personal invitation from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe for an India visit. It means the Sri Lankan President is likely to be in India sometime this year. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword

1		2		3		4		5
				6		7		
8						9		10
						11		
12	13		14					
				15		16		17
18		19						
20					21			
		22						
23				24				

- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 1 Of sound waves

4 Band's engagement

6 Augury

8 Hatred

9 Rules of conduct

11 American State

12 Kind of wheat

15 Postpone

18 Dry

20 Yield

21 Courage

22 Single occasion

23 Slippery fish

24 Oozes
- 1 Blemishes

2 Clamour

3 Heavenly body

4 Insect

5 Long, deep cut

7 Escape artfully

10 Undulate

13 Skin opening

14 Burdened

15 Low sand hills

16 Ridiculous sham

17 Stagger

18 Prolonged pain

19 Worshipped image

SUDOKU: 3766

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

Yesterday's Solution 3765

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1774

F	I	A	T		C	A	D	E	T
A	C	T		R		N	A	V	E
M	E	T	R	E		G	L	E	N
E		I		N		L	E	N	T
		C	R	E	P	E			H
S			A	W	A	R	D		
T	E	N	T		G		R		N
O	M	I	T		A	B	A	S	E
W	I	L	L		N		M	I	X
S	T	E	E	L		W	A	R	T

**DISCLAIMER**

The views in the articles published here are absolutely the views of the author and The Echo of India does not stand liable for them.



## Manipal Hospitals collaborates with FUJIFILM India to provide digitised solutions

**BENGALURU, JAN 24** /--/ Manipal Hospitals has entered into an agreement with FUJIFILM India to leverage the latter's digital technology for storing sensitive medical documents and images.

Under the long-term agreement, Manipal Hospitals said in a statement on Tuesday it would be provided with a large-scale Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS), powered by FUJIFILM India. "The PACS eliminates the need for manually storing, retrieving, and sending sensitive information, films, and reports," it said. In addition, the next-generation system will enable the storage of medical documents and images in secure off-site servers while the PACS software will ensure that such sensitive medical data can be accessed via mobile devices and workstations from anywhere in the world, the statement said. The deployment will cover 23 hospitals and 45 Teleradiology facilities under the umbrella of Manipal Health Enterprises across the country, it was stated. (PTI)

## Seventh edition of UP Bird and Nature Festival to begin from Feb 1

**NEW DELHI, JAN 24** /--/ The Uttar Pradesh forest department along with its eco-tourism division on Tuesday announced the seventh edition of the 'UP Bird and Nature Festival', starting February 1.

The three-day festival, to be held at Vijaysagar bird sanctuary in Mahoba district, will witness participation of national and international experts in the fields of birding, nature conservation, and wildlife tourism and photography. It was previously known as the 'UP Bird Fair'. It aims to inspire and accelerate nature-based ecotourism and appreciation of biodiverse-rich wildlife reserves and sanctuaries of UP. "We believe that a holistic and collaborative approach to nature-based ecotourism and cultural tourism is essential for sustainable progress as they are both undeniably co-dependent. While efforts have been ongoing to promote these circuits, we are now taking more active measures to develop an awareness of these possibilities to the world of travellers," Mamta Sanjeev Dubey, principal chief conservator of forest, told a press conference. Beginning with an opening ceremony on February 1, the festival will include field excursions, panel sessions, photo exhibits, book launches and more. The prime focus of the festival's seventh edition is 'Ecotourism for nature conservation'.

With an aim to raise awareness among the youth towards conservation and appreciation for nature and wildlife, the event will also see an inflow of students from educational institutions in the surrounding areas. The festival, according to the organisers, for its 2023 edition will also introduce new destination offerings, enhance cultural and wildlife exploration possibilities and strengthen the Bundelkhand tourism circuit narrative to key players and decision makers of India's tourism. (PTI)

## FIR lodged against Swami Prasad Maurya over Ramcharitmanas remarks

**LUCKNOW, JAN 24** /--/ An FIR was registered against Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Tuesday over his controversial remarks on 'Ramcharitmanas', police said. "A case has been registered against Swami Prasad Maurya at the Hazratganj police station for allegedly outraging religious feelings with his recent remarks on Ramcharitmanas," a police officer said. The FIR was registered following a complaint by Shivendra Mishra, a resident of Aishbagh locality in Bazar Khala area of Uttar Pradesh, he said. The case was lodged under relevant sections of IPC, including 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 298 (deliberate intention of wounding religious feelings), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 153 A (wanton vilification or attacks upon the religion, race, place of birth, residence etc), police said. Meanwhile, Lette Hanuman Temple, where the statue of Lord Hanuman is in a lying position, in the state capital has banned the entry of the Samajwadi Party leader.

A banner saying "Adharmi Swami Prasad Maurya ka mandir me pravesh varjit" (entry of Swami Prasad Maurya inside temple is banned) has been put up outside the temple. Maurya kicked up a controversy by alleging that certain verses of the Ramcharitmanas promoted social discrimination. Maurya, who is considered a prominent OBC leader in Uttar Pradesh, said certain portions of the Ramcharitmanas "insult" a large section of society on the basis of caste and demanded that these be "banned". Ramcharitmanas, an epic poem in Awadhi language, is based on the Ramayana and has been composed by 16th-century Indian bhakti poet Tulsidas. (PTI)

## Man damages idol in Kerala temple, detained

**THRISSUR, JAN 24** /--/ A man, suspected to be mentally-challenged, entered into a small temple and damaged the idol in this district early on Tuesday, police said. The shrine is located few meters away from the famed Sree Kurumba Bhagavathy Temple at Kodungallur, police said. The accused, identified as Ramachandran, a native of Parassala near Thiruvananthapuram, was taken into custody later, they said. The man damaged the stone idol with an iron rod after trespassing into the temple compound at around 5.30 am. Local people informed the police about the incident following which he was chased and nabbed. The accused will be produced before a magistrate soon, police added. Hindu Aikya Vedi, a right wing outfit, observed hartal in the region in protest against the temple attack. (PTI)

# Delhi HC live streaming, recording rules notified for transparency, fostering access to justice

**NEW DELHI, JAN 24** /--/ The Delhi High Court has notified the rules for live streaming and recording proceedings to imbue greater transparency and inclusivity and foster access to justice.

Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings Rules of the High Court of Delhi, 2022', framed by the High Court with the prior approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, have come into force from January 13 when they were published in the Gazette. As per the rules, live-stream/ live-streamed/ livestreaming means a live television link, webcast, audio-video transmissions via electronic means or other arrangements whereby any person can view the proceedings as permitted under these rules. The rules, which will apply to the Delhi High Court and to the courts and tribunals over which it has supervisory jurisdiction, said recording means audio and video data of proceedings stored in electronic format, whether it is live streamed or not. It said all proceedings will be live streamed by the court excluding matrimonial matters, child adoption and child custody, cases concerning sexual offences, gender-based violence against

women, matters registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. Several other categories of cases have also been excluded from being live streamed.

The rules said if any party has any objection to live streaming of its case, the issue can be raised by filing of a prescribed form and the final decision shall be of the bench concerned. "The final decision as to whether to allow the live streaming of the proceedings or any portion thereof will be of the bench. However, the decision of the bench will be guided by the principle of an open and transparent judicial process. The decision of the bench shall not be justiciable, provided that, in case of difference of opinion, the matter can be referred to a larger bench for a final decision," it said. It added that in case the judge concerned on the bench is desirous of opting out of live streaming while dictating the order/oral judgment, live streaming will be paused during

that period and the computer monitors will display a message order-dictation in progress'. The archived data should ordinarily be retained by the court for at least six months, subject to special directions issued by the



bench concerned in a particular case and the chief justice may issue practice directions regarding the cases and the period for which archived data will be preserved.

The rules said there shall be a delay of 10 minutes in streaming, which may be changed as per the direction of the court and it shall be carried out from the designated venue as decided by the bench. Regarding the prohibitions and restrictions on usage of the recording or live stream, the rules stated that no person or entity (including print and electronic media, and social media platforms) other than an authorised person or entity shall

## Gujarat: VHP withdraws protest against Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' after removal of 'objectionable' content

**AHMEDABAD, JAN 24** /--/ The Gujarat unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday withdrew its protest against Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Pathaan', a day before its release, expressing satisfaction over the removal of "objectionable" contents from the film.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has revised the "obscene song" and "lewd words" in the film and hence the right-wing groups will no longer protest against its release, the Gujarat VHP's secretary Ashok Raval said in a statement. "Pathaan" has been facing backlash for featuring actor Deepika Padukone in a saffron bikini in the song Besharam Rang'. Several leaders, including from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, had sought a ban on the film, which is scheduled to release on Wednesday. Talking to PTI, Raval claimed that in its recent circular, the censor board has made 40 to 45 corrections regarding songs, colour and clothes, which resolve the issues and hence, they no longer need to protest. This was a victory of the Hindu community, he claimed.

The VHP leader in a statement said, "Following the Bajrang Dal's protests against 'Pathaan', the Censor Board has revised the obscene song and unsavoury words in the film, which is good news. I congratulate all the activists and the entire Hindu community who fought this successful struggle for the protection of religion and culture." It is now up to the enlightened citizens to decide whether to watch the film, he said. The right-wing groups had earlier threatened to stop the release of the film in Gujarat, while the state government had assured police protection to theatres following a representation made by multiplex owners. Representatives of the Multiplex Association of Gujarat had last week met Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi in Gandhinagar concerned about the threat they had received from various groups. (PTI)

**Government of India**  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment  
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 **CBC 30117/11/0052/2223**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, MRS.BHAGYA LAXMI W/o, of I.MOHAMMED HANIFA, Presently residing at Burmanallah village aged about 31 years, under Port Blair Tehsil, South Andaman District, Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as Under:

1. That I am permanent resident of these Islands.
2. That my actual name as per my Ration Card, OBC certificate, Bank Account Name and other documents "BHAGYA LAXMI" but in my School documents my name entered "BAKYA LAKSHMI"
3. That I say "BHAGYA LAXMI" and "BAKYA LAKSHMI" are one and same person.

That the abovesaid statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and information.

Date: 07-10-2014

Place: BURMANALLAH **DEPONENT**

## Min temp remains below freezing point at many places across Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, JAN 24** /--/ The minimum temperature stayed several degrees below the freezing point across Kashmir, with Gulmarg recording a bone-chilling minus 9 degrees Celsius, officials said on Tuesday. In Srinagar, the minimum temperature settled at a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius. Qazigund, the gateway to the Valley, registered a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, officials said.

Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature in Kupwara settled at minus 3.4 degrees, the officials said.

The minimum temperature in Gulmarg in Baramulla district was minus 9.5 degrees Celsius. The famous ski-resort was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir. Pahalgam, which serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius, plunging four degrees as compared to the previous night. The MeT office said there are chances of light rain or snow at scattered places in the Union Territory over the next five days except on Friday.

It predicted a much higher intensity of precipitation from till

Wednesday, with the possibility of moderate snow in the plains of Kashmir and moderate to heavy snow over the middle and higher reaches, and rain in Jammu. Light rain or snow could occur at isolated places on Saturday and Sunday, it further said. Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent. Chillai Kalan begins on December 21 and ends on January 30. The cold wave continues even after that with the 20-day 'Chillai Khurd' and the 10-day-long 'Chillai Bachha' following it. (PTI)

**75**  
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TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee releasing party's manifesto for upcoming Meghalaya Assembly election, in Shillong on Tuesday —Photo : EOI

## TMC manifesto in Meghalaya says it would revoke border pact with Assam if voted to power

SHILLONG, JAN 24 --/ Opposition TMC in Meghalaya on Tuesday said it would "revoke" the border pact signed with Assam if it comes to power in the state, asserting that fresh consultations will be initiated for a "sustainable" solution to the boundary dispute. Assembly polls in Meghalaya are scheduled to be held on February 27 and counting of votes will take place on March 2. Assam and Meghalaya had in March 2022 decided to end their five-decade-old border crisis in six of the 12 contested locations "To address the issue of unwarranted surrender of land to Assam and protect the residents in border villages, the Border MoU signed with the Government of Assam will be revoked, and a fresh set of consultations will be initiated to find a sustainable solution to the border crisis," the TMC manifesto, released by the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, said. "In addition, the security of residents of border villages will also be enhanced through the setting up of police check-posts in strategic locations, and prevent unwarranted firing of Mukroh-like incidents that led to the unfortunate death of innocent residents of Meghalaya," it said. The party also promised a "poverty-free" Meghalaya and assured a double-digit growth for the state in the next five years. The TMC bolstered its footing in the North-Eastern state after 12 out of 17 Congress MLAs joined the party in 2021. (PTI)

## Special broadcast by AIR Port Blair on Republic Day

From page-1  
Running commentary of State level function on Republic Day and address by Lt. Governor, Admiral (Retd) D.K.Joshi to the Islanders will be broadcast LIVE by AIR Port Blair on 26th January 2023 from 0830hrs onwards from Marina Park Road. Commentators will be Mr. Zakir Hussain, Miss. Deviki Domnica Lakra, Ms. Sonia Kumari and Mr. Dinesh Kumar Singh. AIR Delhi will broadcast the running commentary of the Republic Day parade and the cultural pageant 2023 from Kartavya Path and the function at National War Memorial New Delhi from 0940hrs which will be relayed by AIR Port Blair. Listeners can tune into MW 684 KHz to listen to these programmes on Radio. Listeners can also download 'newsonair' App from Google Play Store to listen to these programmes on Mobile App.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 24 --/ The controversial BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots when Prime Minister Narendra Modi helmed the western state was screened across Kerala on Tuesday by various political organisations including the pro-left Students Federation of India (SFI), as the BJP youth wing went up in arms protesting against the screening. BBC's 'India: The Modi Question' was screened in several parts of the state on Tuesday, prompting protest marches by the BJP's Yuva Morcha against the same. However, support came in for the BJP from unexpected quarters as senior Congress leader and former Kerala CM AK Antony's son, Anil, voiced displeasure against the documentary. Protest marches were taken out by Yuva Morcha to the Victoria College in Palakkad and Government Law College in Ernakulam where SFI followed through with its announcement to screen the documentary. In both places, police intervened to remove the protestors and prevent any conflict. DYFI, the youth wing of the ruling CPM in Kerala, said it will screen the documentary not just in the southern state, but across India. It has to be shown to the public irrespective of the attempts by the Union government to hide it, V K Sanoj, state secretary of the DYFI told reporters. He said there was nothing "anti-national" about screening the documentary as it has not been banned. DYFI has no interest in creating any

## PM interacts with Bal Puraskar awardees, children seek guidance from him on tackling challenges

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 --/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with winners of the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' and discussed issues such as tackling stigma around mental health and the problems faced by children. Modi interacted with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) awardees at his residence, 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, here. He suggested the awardees to start by solving small problems, gradually build capacity, enhance capability and develop confidence to tackle bigger problems as they go ahead in life, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. Discussing the issue of mental health and problems faced by children, the Prime Minister talked about tackling the stigma around the issue and the important role of family in tackling such matters. Several other topics were also taken up by Prime Minister Modi during the interaction, including the benefits of playing Chess, taking up art and culture as a career, research and innovation, spirituality, among others, the statement said. The Prime Minister also presented souvenirs to all the awardees and discussed their achievements on a one-to-one basis, which was followed by interaction with the entire group. He engaged in an open-hearted interaction in an informal setting, the statement said. The children asked him various questions about the challenges they face and sought his guidance on a variety of topics, it added. The Government of India has been conferring the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories namely innovation, social service, scholastic, sports, art and culture and bravery. This year, 11 children from across the country, under different categories of Bal Shakti Puraskar, have been selected for PMRBP. The awardees, belonging to 11 states and UTs, include six boys and five girls -- Aadithya Suresh, M Gauravi Reddy, Shreya Bhattacharjee, Sambhab Mishra, Rohan Ramchandra Bahir, Aditya Pratap Singh Chauhan, Rishi Shiv Prasanna, Anoushka Jolly, Hanaya Nisar, Kolagatla Alana Meenakshi and Shauryajit Ranjith Kumar Khaire. (PTI)

# Cong wants early restoration of statehood in J&K: Rahul

JAMMU, JAN 24 --/ Alleging that the BJP has created a wedge between the two regions of Jammu and Kashmir, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said his party wants early restoration of statehood and Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

Rahul said the Congress' position on Article 370 is the same as was declared by the Congress working committee after the constitutional provision was revoked by the BJP-led government in August 2019. Two days after the Centre's move, the Congress working committee had deplored the "unilateral, brazen and totally undemocratic" manner in which provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and the state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories. The Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, which started from Kanyakumari on September 7 last year, is currently in Jammu and Kashmir for its final phase. On not extending an invitation to Democratic Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad to join the yatra and former minister Lal Singh not being given a chair on the stage to mark the entry of the march into J&K, Rahul said: "Singh supported the yatra and we appreciate his sentiment. The people of Ghulam Nabi Azad's party were on our stage. Ninety per cent of them are already in the Congress. I think, there is only Ghulam Nabi Azad-ji on that side." "My respects to Ghulam Nabi-ji and I apologise for any hurt that we may have caused either to Lal Singh-ji or Ghulam Nabi Azad-ji," he added. Among various delegations that met him during the march, Gandhi said migrant Kashmiri Pandits clearly told him that they were being used politically and asked him to raise their issues in Parliament. "The Kashmiri Pandits told me that the BJP was using them as a political weapon and forcibly sending them to Kashmir where they face the threat of targeted killings. They

said whatever good had happened to them was done during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government," he said. The Congress leader said the main aim of the foot march was to listen to the people and amplify what was in their hearts. "We love all of you and respect you, and feel that J&K is going through a difficult phase. BJP has created a wedge which is harming both (Kashmir and Jammu regions) and this gap needs to be bridged. We want to open lakhs of shops selling love in J&K," he said. "We have come to listen and



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Bollywood actor Urmila Matondkar during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', at Nagrota in Jammu

## Lakhimpur Kheri case: SC to pronounce order on Ashish Mishra's bail plea today

NEW DELHI, JAN 24 --/ The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Wednesday its order on the bail plea of Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case. As per the cause list of January 25 uploaded on the apex court website, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and J K Maheshwari will pronounce the order. The bench had on January 19 reserved its order on Mishra's application. On October 3,

2021, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri district's Tikunia where violence had erupted when farmers were protesting the then Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. According to the Uttar Pradesh Police FIR, four farmers were mowed down by an SUV in which Ashish Mishra was seated. Following the incident, the driver of the SUV and two BJP workers were allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in the

violence. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had on July 26 last year rejected the bail plea of Ashish Mishra. He has challenged the high court's order in the apex court. During the hearing on January 19, the top court had observed that an accused should not be incarcerated for an indefinite period unless proven guilty of an offence. While reserving its order on the plea, the bench had said it is a case of balancing the rights of the parties.

Opposing the bail plea, Additional Advocate General for Uttar Pradesh Garima Prashad had said it was a grave and heinous crime and granting bail will send a wrong signal to society. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for those opposing the bail plea, had said enlarging Mishra on bail will send a terrible message to society. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ashish Mishra, had strongly opposed Dave's submission and said his

client has been in custody for more than a year and the way the trial is proceeding it will take seven to eight years to complete it. On December 6 last year, the trial court had framed charges against Ashish Mishra and 12 others for the alleged offences of murder, criminal conspiracy and other penal laws in the case of death of the four protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, paving the way for the start of the trial. (PTI)

## BBC docu on 2002 Gujarat riots screened in several parts of Kerala; BJP Yuva Morcha holds protests

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 24 --/ The controversial BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots when Prime Minister Narendra Modi helmed the western state was screened across Kerala on Tuesday by various political organisations including the pro-left Students Federation of India (SFI), as the BJP youth wing went up in arms protesting against the screening. BBC's 'India: The Modi Question' was screened in several parts of the state on Tuesday, prompting protest marches by the BJP's Yuva Morcha against the same. However, support came in for the BJP from unexpected quarters as senior Congress leader and former Kerala CM AK Antony's son, Anil, voiced displeasure against the documentary. Protest marches were taken out by Yuva Morcha to the Victoria College in Palakkad and Government Law College in Ernakulam where SFI followed through with its announcement to screen the documentary. In both places, police intervened to remove the protestors and prevent any conflict. DYFI, the youth wing of the ruling CPM in Kerala, said it will screen the documentary not just in the southern state, but across India. It has to be shown to the public irrespective of the attempts by the Union government to hide it, V K Sanoj, state secretary of the DYFI told reporters. He said there was nothing "anti-national" about screening the documentary as it has not been banned. DYFI has no interest in creating any



A group of students at Hyderabad Central University screening the BBC documentary inside the campus

atmosphere of conflict in the state or the country, Sanoj added. Meanwhile, former chief minister Antony's son Anil, in apparent support to BJP in the ongoing political storm in the state, said placing the views of the British broadcaster over Indian institutions would "undermine" the country's sovereignty. "Despite large differences with BJP, I think those (in India) placing views of BBC, a state sponsored channel with a long history of (alleged India) prejudices, and of Jack Straw, the brain behind the Iraq war, over (Indian) institutions is setting a dangerous precedence, will undermine our sovereignty," Anil Antony, who had handled the digital communications of the grand old party's Kerala unit till recently, tweeted. Straw was the then British foreign secretary in 2002. Earlier in the day, various political groups in Kerala announced they would screen the documentary, prompting the BJP to urge chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan to intervene and put a stop to such endeavours. CPM's youth wing, DYFI, kicked off the political storm in the state over the documentary by announcing on its Facebook page that it would be shown in the state. Subsequently, SFI -- a pro-left student organisation allied with the CPM -- and various wings of Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), including the Youth Congress, announced they would screen the documentary in the state. The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee's (KPCC) minority cell also said that the documentary would

be screened in all district headquarters of the state on Republic Day. BJP termed such move as "treasonous" and asked the Kerala CM to urgently intervene and nip such endeavours in the bud. BJP state president K Surendran filed a complaint with Vijayan demanding that permission be not given to screen the documentary in the state. In his complaint, Surendran said the screening of the documentary would tantamount to condoning foreign moves to endanger the country's unity and integrity. He also said that the re-living the unfortunate events of two decades ago was aimed at "fueling religious tensions". Union minister of state for external affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan also urged the chief minister not to allow screening of the documentary and sought his urgent intervention in the matter.

In a Facebook post, Muraleedharan said that re-introduction of allegations rejected by the Supreme Court questions the credibility of the highest court of the country. Both Muraleedharan and Surendran have dubbed the screening of the documentary as "treason". SFI, in a Facebook post earlier in the day, said the documentary would be screened in various college campuses in the state. State Youth Congress president Shafi Parambil, in a social media post, said the reminders of betrayal and genocide cannot be hidden by power and the BBC documentary will be screened in Kerala. (PTI)



Not familiar with BBC documentary, very familiar with shared democratic values' with India: US state department

WASHINGTON, JAN 24 /--/The US has distanced itself from the BBC's controversial series on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying it's not familiar with the documentary, but very familiar with the shared values that connects Washington and New Delhi as two thriving, vibrant democracies.

The controversial two-part BBC series, titled "India: The Modi Question" has claimed that it investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Prime Minister Modi was the chief minister of the state. Responding to questions raised by a Pakistani journalist, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price on Monday told reporters that Washington shares an "exceptionally deep partnership" with New Delhi based on values that are common to both the US and Indian democracies. When the Pakistani journalist pressed further on the BBC documentary, Price said: "I'm not familiar with the (BBC) documentary (on 2002 Gujarat riots) you're referring to. I am very familiar with the shared values that connect the United States and India as two thriving, vibrant democracies." "When we have concerns about actions that are taken in India, we've voiced those. We've had an occasion to do that. But we want first and foremost to reinforce those values that are at the heart of our relationship," Price said, with the Biden Administration, like the British Government, distancing itself from such a documentary.

Price said there are several elements that bolster Washington's global strategic partnership with New Delhi, which include political, economic and through people-to-people ties. "What I will say broadly is that there are a number of elements that undergird the global strategic partnership that we have with our Indian partners. There are close political ties. There are economic ties. There are exceptionally deep people-to-people ties between the US and India," he added. "But one of those additional elements are the values that we share, the values that are common to American democracy and to Indian democracy. India, of course, is the world's largest democracy. It's a vibrant democracy. And again, we look to everything that ties us together, and we look to reinforce all of those elements that tie us together," Price told reporters at his daily news conference.

The Indian government has condemned the BBC's controversial documentary, which has not been screened in India, as a "propaganda piece" with a questionable agenda behind it. "We think that this is a propaganda piece, designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said last week. Last week, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended Prime Minister Modi over the BBC documentary, asserting that he "didn't agree with the characterisation" of his Indian counterpart. Several members of the Indian diaspora in the UK have sent complaints to the BBC over the characterisation of the Indian leader in the series. (PTI)

Senior Ukrainian officials depart amid corruption crackdown

KYIV, JAN 24 /--/The deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office quit Tuesday, after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pledged to launch a staff shake-up amid high-level corruption allegations during the war with Russia.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko asked to be relieved of his duties, according to an online copy of a decree signed by Zelenskyy and Tymoshenko's own social media posts. Neither gave a reason for the resignation. Deputy defence minister Viacheslav Shapovalov also resigned, local media reported, alleging his departure was linked to a scandal involving the purchase of food for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Deputy prosecutor general Oleksiy Symonenko also quit. Tymoshenko joined the presidential office in 2019, after working on Zelenskyy's media and creative content strategy during his presidential campaign. Zelenskyy had promised personnel changes in the government, regional administrations and security forces following corruption allegations that emerged after Russia's invasion last February.

Tymoshenko last year was under investigation relating to his personal use of luxury cars. He was also among officials linked last September to the embezzlement of humanitarian aid worth more than USD 7 million earmarked for the southern Zaporizhzhia region. He has denied all the allegations. Zelenskyy vowed to drive out corrupt officials in comments on Sunday, when a deputy minister was dismissed for being part of a network embezzling budget funds. Ukraine's infrastructure ministry later identified the dismissed official as Vasyly Lozynsky, a deputy minister there. (AP)

Covid infection could damage foetuses of pregnant women: Study

LONDON, JAN 24 /--/Foetuses and placentas of pregnant women, especially those infected with Covid-19 at earlier points in the pandemic, were found to bear a greater risk of experiencing growth impairment or vascular lesions in organs and brain, according to a new research.

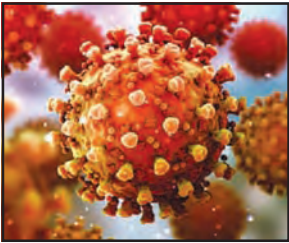
According to the research, results demonstrate that the different strains of the virus that emerged during the pandemic led to varying degrees of damage, which was especially higher by those involving pre-Omicron variants. The detected placental lesions could potentially harm both development and health in some of the affected unborn children, the study said. Using prenatal magnetic resonance imaging, a group of Medical University of Vienna, Austria, researchers examined the placentas and foetuses of women who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 during pregnancy, the study said. The research was published in the journal The Lancet Regional Health – Europe. While such damage occurs more infrequently

and is less severe with the currently circulating Omicron sub-lineages, the study authors still advocate early detection measures for pregnant women who test positive for coronavirus. Contrary to previous studies, in which SARS-CoV-2 related abnormalities were only identified postnatally and/or through histopathological procedures, the research team focused on prenatal imaging findings, the study said.

Using prenatal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), 76 scans of placentas and foetuses of pregnant women were performed in the study: 38 following a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection (pre-Omicron or Omicron variants) and 38 in healthy control cases, the study said. The study found that the placentas in both the pre-Omicron and the Omicron groups revealed abnormalities. "Infections with pre-Omicron variants, such as Delta, led to

significantly greater damage in the form of vascular events such as blood clots or bleeding than with the Omicron subvariants

currently circulating through the population," noted lead author Patric Kienast, outlining a key finding of the study. The researchers attribute the varying extent of damage to the



placenta caused by different virus strains to the fact that Omicron sub-lineages are less likely than their predecessors to result in severe cases, and to higher vaccination rates as the pandemic has progressed, the study said.

"In any case, our results showed that the two non-vaccinated study participants developed placental abnormalities following infection with SARS-CoV-2 Omicron, compared with just one out of six of the women who had received three doses of the vaccine," confirmed senior author Gregor Kasprian. Oxygen, nutrients and

metabolic products are exchanged between mother and child in the placenta. Attached to the uterine wall, this organ forms such a strong barrier against the coronavirus that only 3 per cent or fewer of foetuses whose mothers test positive for SARS-CoV-2 are also infected, the study said. But as the study shows, the placenta itself is not spared from complications caused by Covid-19. Subsequently, some unborn babies experience stunted growth or bleeding in the brain, the study said.

"This is why the placentas of pregnant women who have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 should be examined as soon as possible after testing positive using prenatal imaging techniques," advised Daniela Prayer from Medical University of Vienna, citing the importance of scanning, particularly in the case of possible future coronavirus variants with mechanisms similar to Delta, for example. By doing so, there is a chance to take measures to safeguard the health of the foetus in a worst case scenario, the study said. (PTI)

law, or Sharia. "You all are informed to immediately implement the mentioned order of suspending education of females until further notice," according to a letter issued to all government and private universities, signed by Minister for Higher Education Neda Mohammad Nadeem. According to Khaama Press, a high-level UN delegation travelled to Afghanistan this week and met with high-ranking Taliban officials to ensure the protection of women and girls' rights amid the growing concern over their alienation.

As of earlier this month, about 83 per cent of organisations operating in Afghanistan have suspended or reduced their operations because they came to the conclusion that they could not do their work under these new edicts, Price lamented. "This is unacceptable to us, but more importantly to the international community because it imperils some 28 million Afghans who need this humanitarian assistance to survive, and especially women and children, those who are especially vulnerable," he added.

The Taliban were ousted in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harbouring Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. They, however, returned to power following America's chaotic departure in August 2021. (PTI)

Shootout at Oakland gas station kills 1, wounds 8 people

OAKLAND, JAN 24 /--/A shootout at an Oakland gas station killed one person and wounded seven others in the second shooting Monday night in the San Francisco Bay Area, police said. Officers were sent to the scene on Macarthur Boulevard just after 6 p.m. and learned there had been a shooting between several people, a police statement said. The officers found shell casings at the Valero gas station but no victims. However, dispatchers learned several victims had taken themselves to local hospitals for treatment of gunshot wounds. One person died and the others were in stable condition, police said. No

arrests were made and other details weren't immediately released. At least 19 shots were fired, according to a photo of the shell casings that appeared in the East Bay Times. The shootout took place only a few hours after a gunman killed seven people at two locations on the outskirts of Half Moon Bay. Officers arrested a suspect, 67-year-old Chunli Zhao, after they found him in his car in the parking lot of a sheriff's substation, San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus said. Half Moon Bay is 24 miles (38 kilometers) southwest of Oakland and about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of San Francisco. (AP)

Two Indians drown in New Zealand's Piha beach

WELLINGTON, JAN 24 /--/Two Indian men, who were roommates in New Zealand, drowned when a rogue wave hit them while trying to swim in one of the most dangerous spots at Piha Beach, according to media reports.

The deceased, identified as Saurin Nayankumar Patel, 28, and Anshul Shah, 31, spent only 30 minutes at the beach in North Island last week before tragedy struck, The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported. They were described as "non-swimmers" by their families. The two hailed from Ahmedabad in Gujarat and

Netaji birth anniversary marked with tributes, exhibition in UK

LONDON, JAN 24 /--/ The 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Parakram Diwas, was marked with tributes and a special diaspora portrait exhibition at the Indian High Commission in London.

The special event, hosted by the Indian High Commission in London on Monday evening, brought together community leaders and members of the British Bengali diaspora to pay homage to Netaji. Sangram', an exhibition made up of portraits of revolutionaries who fought in the Indian freedom struggle drawn by members of the Indian diaspora from around the world, was displayed by Heritage Bengal Global (HGB) to mark the occasion. "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his many feats of military and political courage live on," Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami said in his address, following floral tributes to a portrait of Netaji in the Gandhi Hall of India House. "The museum in his memory in Calcutta is well worth visiting to see the courage, daring and enterprise that he displayed in escaping from custody in house arrest, his extraordinary journey through India, his efforts to mobilise an army including prisoners of war all of this is the stuff of legend," he said.

The Indian envoy highlighted the legendary freedom fighter's selflessness, shunning a life of privilege and luxury in favour of the hard road to fight for the independence of his country. "His message essentially was to reject the idea that had been imposed upon us since 1857, that the people of our subcontinent were largely not a martial race, that Indians couldn't actually fight...Netaji showed that was not true," he said, highlighting his forward thinking reflected in the diverse makeup of the Indian National Army (INA) which also had a women's wing. "Netaji's senior commanders represented all the faiths of India," he added.

The commemorative event involved patriotic music by the Bengal Heritage Foundation, including the moving INA battle anthem of Kadam, Kadam' and concluding with the Indian National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana'. A lecture by journalist and historian, Dr Vijay Rana, took the audience through the key moments in Netaji's military campaign for India's independence. As part of the birth anniversary celebrations, Heritage Bengal Global has also launched a diaspora-led petition calling for direct flight connections between London and Kolkata. It was formally flagged off at the organisation's annual Saraswati Puja in west London on Sunday. (PTI)

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The deceased, identified as Saurin Nayankumar Patel, 28, and Anshul Shah, 31, spent only 30 minutes at the beach in North Island last week before tragedy struck, The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported. They were described as "non-swimmers" by their families. The two hailed from Ahmedabad in Gujarat and

were roommates in Auckland. A friend of the two dead men, Hiren Patel, said another friend, Apurv Modi, was also in the water when a rogue wave pulled the trio apart. Modi reached for Patel's hand but couldn't hold on as he "screamed and shouted" for help, Hiren said. "It is with God's grace that Apurv Modi survived. He managed to come to shore but he lost his friends," Hiren said.

Patel was an electrical engineer who arrived in New Zealand in August last year, while Shah worked as a cashier at a gas station and came here in November, the report said. A lifeguard spotted the duo swimming in a dangerous spot as the guards were going off patrol on January 21, United North Piha Surf Lifesaving Club president Robert Ferguson said. A rescue call was launched, but by the time the lifeguards got into position, the two were missing. According to Ferguson, the rescue boat found the first victim but efforts to resuscitate him failed. The second victim was spotted by the police helicopter, but he too, could not be revived. "Where they went in, I wouldn't have gone in," Ferguson said. Indian High Commission's second secretary Durga Dass confirmed the identities of the deceased and said, "It is a massive tragedy for the Indian community, the loss of these two men, and our thoughts go out to their families," according to the report. The Indian High Commission in Wellington was in touch with the two victims' families. (PTI)

constructive relations with Pakistan over the course of successive governments. As we have said in different contexts, we judge governments by the policies they pursue. It would ultimately be a question of the type of policy that any future government of Pakistan might pursue," Price said.

Khan, who was removed from power through a no-trust vote in April last year, had alleged that the no-confidence vote was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan. The US has denied the allegations. (PTI)

Pak PM apologises to Nation for power outage

ISLAMABAD, JAN 24 /--/ Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday apologised to the Nation for the inconvenience caused by the countrywide power



outage that plunged millions of people into darkness and vowed to fix responsibility for the second major breakdown in nearly four months.

Pakistan faced a major power breakdown on Monday due to a voltage fluctuation in the national grid, disrupting normal life and leaving major parts of the country, including capital Islamabad and financial hub Karachi, without electricity. Taking to Twitter, the premier wrote: "On behalf of my government, I would like to express my sincere regrets for the inconvenience our citizens suffered due to power outage yesterday." "On my orders an inquiry is underway to determine reasons of the power failure. Responsibility will be fixed," he tweeted. Power supply was mostly restored in Pakistan, though some parts of the country still experienced blackouts on Tuesday.

Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir said on Tuesday that electricity has been fully restored at grid stations across the country. "Power at all 1,112 stations of the national grid has been restored," Dastgir tweeted. Prime Minister Sharif ordered the constitution of a high-level three-member committee to probe the reason behind the breakdown.

It is not the first time that the country has faced such a crisis. Last year in October, Pakistan witnessed a 12-hour power outage due to technical glitches in the electricity distribution system.

Pakistan is grappling with one of the country's worst economic crises in recent years amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves. The crisis forced the government earlier this month to order shopping malls and markets to close by 8:30 pm for energy conservation purposes.

The sorry state of the country's power sector is emblematic of its ailing economy. The power outages occur frequently due to lack of funds to upgrade aging infrastructure. (PTI)





भारत निर्वाचन आयोग  
Election Commission of India

Election Commission of India  
wishes all Voters on the occassion of

# 13<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY

25<sup>th</sup> January, 2023



NOTHING LIKE VOTING  
I VOTE FOR SURE  
NVD 2023

Theme :

## Nothing like Voting, I Vote for sure



Chief Guest

### Smt. Droupadi Murmu

Hon'ble President of India

Guest of Honour

### Shri Kiren Rijiju

Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice

## Highlights of the Event

Awards  
Best Electoral Practices

Distribution  
EPIC to First Time Voters

Release of ECI Song  
*Main Bharat hoon, hum Bharat ke Matdata hain*

Presenting to the Hon'ble President of India  
'Electing the First Citizen- An Illustrated Chronicle of India's Presidential Elections'

Technology enabling Free and Fair Electoral Process



Voter Helpline App



Saksham ECI App



Know Your Candidate App



C-Vigil App



Voter Turnout App



Booth App



Garuda App



Encore



Observer App



EVM Management System



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1950 Voter Helpline

# India beat New Zealand 3-0 to go No. 1 in ODIs

■ Rohit level with Ponting, Gill equals Babar ■ The best stats from India's 385 for 9 against New Zealand in Indore on Tuesday



INDORE, JAN 24/--/ India defeated New Zealand by 90 runs in the third and final ODI match at Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore on Tuesday. With the victory, India clean swept the guests in the three-match series and also took the number one spot in ODI rankings, replacing England. Talking about the match, Rohit Sharma (101 off 85 balls) and Shubman Gill (112 off 78 balls) starred with their respective centuries as India posted 385 for 9 after New Zealand skipper Tom Latham had won the toss and opted to field. The duo of Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma stitched 212 runs for the opening wicket and it was all India's game from there. Despite wickets falling at regular intervals from thereon, India posted a mammoth total on the board. In reply, Devon Conway (138 off 100 balls) was the lone fighter as the guests were

- ### LIST OF BATTERS WITH MOST RUNS IN A BILATERAL 3-MATCH ODI SERIES

  - 360 Babar Azam vs WI 2016
  - 360 Shubman Gill vs NZ 2023
  - 349 Imrul Kayes vs Zim 2018
  - 342 Quinton de Kock vs Ind 2013
  - 330 Martin Guptill vs Eng 2013

bundled out for 295 runs. Kuldeep Yadav and Shardul Thakur took three wickets apiece.

India's batting sensation Shubman Gill continued his brilliant run of form scoring another century in ODI cricket in the 3rd match between India and New Zealand. The 23-year-old scored an explosive 112 runs off just 78 deliveries smashing 13 fours and 5 sixes. Gill's innings of 112 in the third match wrote his name in the history books of cricket as he equaled Babar Azam's record of scoring the most runs in a 3-match bilateral ODI series. Pakistan captain Babar had scored 360 runs against West Indies in 2016 to become the batter with most runs against the opposition in a 3-match ODI series. On Tuesday (January 24), Gill equaled

Babar's record of 360 runs in 3 games against the same opposition.

Ishan Kishan, who was out for 17 in the third ODI against New Zealand, appeared to give up his wicket for former skipper Virat Kohli. Kishan tapped the ball on the third delivery of the 35th over and immediately shouted for a run. Kohli sprinted out of his stance and approached the striker's end. Quickly grabbing the ball, cover fielder Henry Nicholls gave it to the wicketkeeper, who then ran out Kishan. Replays proved that Kishan gave up his wicket for Kohli. Kishan had little trouble returning to his crease. However, he let Kohli go to the other end. On his way back to the pavilion, the wicketkeeper-batsman expressed his disappointment to Kohli while clearly irritated. Kishan took 24

balls to score 17 runs, so he didn't quite have a flawless stay in the middle. After Kishan left, Kohli was given a lot of responsibility, but he only managed to score 9 more runs before being bowled out for 36 runs off of 27 balls. Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill had a fantastic day in the middle and scored hundreds, but other batsmen were finding it difficult to reach high totals. The first ODI century was scored by Rohit since January 2020, who slammed 101 off 85 balls. In ODI cricket, Gill, who is having a great run, got his third century of the year. He had hit the three-figure mark once more after beginning the series with a double-century. For the first wicket, 212 runs were accumulated by Rohit and Gill. Since then, India has lost 4 wickets for 72 runs.

Don't understand why Australia is not playing a tour game in India: Clarke

MELBOURNE, JAN 24 /--/ Former Australia captain Michael Clarke cannot fathom why Pat Cummins' side is not playing practice or tour games ahead of the Border-Gavaskar series, beginning in India on February 9. Australia will be touring India for the four-Test series, with the opening game scheduled at Nagpur, and Clarke opined that not playing a tour game could have a "significant"

impact on the outcome. "That's the part (not playing tour games) I don't understand," Clarke was quoted as saying by Big Sports Breakfast on Tuesday. "The no tour game before the first Test in India. I hope I'm proven wrong but I think that is going to be significant." Clarke, who played 115 Tests and scored more than 8,600 runs, added that playing 20-over or 50-over games in India was completely

different from competing in the longest format, especially while countering spin. "You need a completely different plan to what you have (been) playing in Australia, the way you start your innings against spin bowling, the way you play reverse swing, through the Australian summer we didn't see any reverse swing, the games were over in two, three days," he said. (PTI)