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TIME FLEW 5 DECADES

Black top road remains a distant dream evading residents of 40 Acre village at GP Chainpur



KARTIK

MAYBAUNDER, JAN 21/-- / Settled in the 40 Acre village of Pudumadurai village, Ward No-1 under Gram Panchayat, Chainpur, Mayabunder Tehsil in the year 1960, residents of this region even after 50 years of settlement are still deprived of a rural road to reach their village. The foundation stone of the 2.5 kms roads for the settlement area 40 Acre, Pudumadurai-Ward 1, to be constructed by the Zilla Parishad, N&M Andaman,

was laid during February 2009, by Smt. KiranTigga, Adhyaksha, N&M Andaman. A portion of this road measuring about 01 km was taken up by APWD and black top road was constructed during 2015-16. Later on another foundation stone for the rest of the road measuring 1.5 kms was laid by Mr. K.Srinivasan, Adhyaksh, ZillaParishad during 2017. Assurance was given by the ZP Adhyaksh that the road work will be completed within the stipulated time period.

However, the road work was never taken up again. After the residents raised the issue with the Lt Governor, earth cutting work was completed and the road work was left incomplete all these years. After 50 years of settlement, this village road was sanctioned in the year 2009 which has brought a lot of hope and happiness to the villagers.

But the villagers were betrayed and till date no progress in the road work is visible. The villagers are facing a lot of hardship due to the absence of this road. During medical emergencies or fire accidents, help cannot reach the people of this village. A kaccha road connecting this village to the main road does exist,

but public transport, loaded trucks, ambulances or fire service vehicles cannot reach this village due to the kaccha road. School going children as well as the general public of this village have to walk through the unsafe kaccha road in the middle of the jungle on muddy terrain to reach their destinations.

(Contd. on page06)

Sailing of MV SwarajDweep

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/-- / The vessel MV SwarajDweep will sail for Port Blair to Chennai on 24th Jan 2023 at 1000 Hrs. Excess baggage will be loaded from 1400 Hrs to 1600 Hrs on 23.01.2023 i.e. one day prior to sailing of the vessel. Embarkation of passengers will commence from 0800 Hrs to 0900 Hrs on 24.01.2023.

MP draws shortage of desks & benches in Schools in LG notice

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/-- / The Member of Parliament, Mr. KuldeepRai Sharma has requested the Lt. Governor to direct the Education department to procure a sufficient number of desks and benches for all the government run schools of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. During a recent meeting, the Member of Parliament mentioned that during his visit to many schools of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, he has observed that there is severe shortage of desks and benches for students. Because of this, he said that the students are facing a lot of difficulties in many schools.

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IRBn presents thrilling show on the eve of A&N Police Week



PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/-- / As part of celebration of A&N Police Week from 16 to 22 Jan 2023, the India Reserve Battalion, A&N Police presented a mesmerizing variety program on 19th Jan 2023 at Flag Point, a historically significant spot. The IRBn personnel sung various patriotic songs, presented an awareness skit on drug abuse and an enthralling heart-touching martial arts demonstration by Sub-Inspector M.S. Murugan of IRBn and his team.

The event was aimed to bring awareness on drug abuse especially among youngsters, and encourage them to learn self-defense techniques and fire prevention. The program was enthusiastically witnessed by a large gathering of the general public.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain, Inspector General of Police (L&O) was the chief guest on the occasion, who appealed to the gathering to learn self-defense and fire prevention techniques for safety of oneself and to the society as a whole and refrain from the menace of drug addiction. He also congratulated the teams for conducting such a wonderful and informative event in public domain. The entire show was visualized by Smti. Monika Bhardwaj, IPS, DIGP/Commandant, IRBn and conducted under her guidance and supervision.

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Twin blasts leave 9 injured in Jammu 2 days ahead of Rahul-led Bharat Jodo Yatra's arrival

JAMMU, JAN 21 /--/ Just two days before Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to reach Jammu, two back-to-back explosions rocked a busy locality on the outskirts of the city on Saturday, leaving nine people injured, officials said.

Police suspect that IEDs were used to carry out the twin explosions in an SUV parked in a repair shop and in a vehicle at a nearby junkyard at Transport Nagar area of Narwal. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha strongly condemned the incident and called for urgent steps to take action against those responsible. "A blast occurred in an old, parked Bolero (Sports Utility Vehicle) around 11 am resulting in injuries to five people who were standing nearby. They were evacuated to hospital and their condition is stable," Additional Director General of Police, Mukesh Singh told reporters near the scene of the explosion.

Singh said the whole area was immediately cleared of the people but in the meantime another blast occurred 50 metres away, causing minor injuries to one

more person who was also shifted to hospital. "Further investigation is on," the officer said. However, a total of nine persons were brought with splinter injuries to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital following the blasts. "We have received nine patients with one having abdominal injuries and two others fractured legs. The condition of all of them is stable," a doctor at the hospital said. The blasts were triggered by suspected terrorists at a time when security agencies in the region are on high alert in the wake of the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress and the upcoming Republic Day celebrations.

The Yatra entered J&K's Kathua district on Thursday evening via Punjab and is camping in Chadwal, about 70 km from here. After a day's break on Saturday, the yatra, which commenced from Kanyakumari on September 7, is scheduled to resume from Hiranagar on Sunday and reach Jammu on January 23 after starting from Vijaypur in Samba district. An official identified the injured as Suhail Iqbal, Vishav Partap, Vinod Kumar, Arjun Kumar,

Amit Kumar, Rajesh Kumar and Aneesh all residents of Jammu- and Sushil Kumar of Doda. The officials said the whole area was cordoned off by joint teams of police and CRPF immediately after the first explosion which was followed by another blast 15 minutes later.

A thorough sanitisation operation was carried out and forensic experts, bomb disposal squad and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service to look for clues, they said. Jaswinder Singh, an eyewitness, said the first blast occurred in a vehicle that was at a workshop for repair. About 15 minutes later, another explosion took place in the area littered with damaged parts and garbage, said Singh, president of the Motor Spare Parts Association. Raj Kumar said he was working on another vehicle when the blast ripped apart another parked vehicle. "We initially thought that the petrol tank of some vehicle exploded but the blast was so powerful that it blew up the vehicle," he said. An official spokesman said senior police officials briefed the Lt Governor. "Such dastardly acts highlight the desperation and cowardice of those responsible. Take immediate and firm action. No efforts should be spared to bring the perpetrators to justice," the Lt Governor said.

Sinha also announced assistance of Rs 50,000 to the injured. The Lt Governor said that the administration would ensure the best possible treatment and extend every help required by the families. Congress MP and AICC in-charge J-K Rajani Patil strongly condemned the twin blasts. Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir AAP state coordination committee Harsh Dev Singh accused the BJP of complete failure in improving the security situation in the Union Territory. "The day the BJP government took over, the situation in J&K is getting from bad to worse. Terrorism is increasing with each passing day and is returning to 1990s," Singh alleged. "They were stating that not a bird was killed after the abrogation of Article 370 but the reality is that innocent men, women and children are getting killed. The BJP has to give answers not only to J-K but to the entire nation," he told reporters. (PTI)



Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh visiting NCC Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantt on Saturday

In notice to police over drunk driving, DCW seeks to know steps taken to curb menace

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ The Delhi Commission for Women on Saturday issued a notice to the city traffic police on the issue of drunk driving, seeking to know the steps taken by it to curb the menace.

The panel has asked the police to respond to its queries by Tuesday. The DCW notice mentioned the Kanjhawala accident in which a woman was killed after being dragged by a car for 12 kilometres and said that it was learnt that the accused were heavily drunk. It also referred to the panel's chairperson Swati Maliwal being harassed and allegedly dragged by a car driven by a man in an inebriated state. In the notice, the commission stated that drunk driving is not only one of the most common causes of accidents but also poses a huge threat to women's safety. "This menace needs to be stopped urgently. The commission also raised the issue of Delhi Police stopping usage of breath analysers for identifying drunk drivers during the Covid-19 pandemic," it stated. To examine the steps taken by the Delhi Police to counter drunk driving, the DCW has launched an enquiry into the issue and has sought the police's response.

In the notice, the commission asked whether the use of breath analysers has been resumed and if not then why. The Delhi Commission for Women has also asked the police to furnish the number of functional breath analyser machines available with it. The DCW also sought to know the number of challans issued by the Delhi Police for drunk driving since 2017 and especially the number of such challans issued on December 31, 2022, between 6 pm to 9 am. The panel's chief Swati Maliwal said: "One of the major findings of my night vigil the other day was that the brazenness with which people in Delhi are drinking and driving, raising serious security concerns for women." "This needs to be checked urgently. I have issued a notice to Delhi Traffic Police to ascertain the steps they have taken to check this menace, especially after Anjali's murder on the roads of Delhi by five drunk men," she said. (PTI)

Delhi BJP seeks Maliwal's removal for impartial probe of her molestation charge

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ The Delhi BJP on Saturday sharpened its attack on Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal demanding her suspension by the Lieutenant Governor for a fair police probe of her alleged molestation charges.

In a letter to Lt Governor V K Saxena, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor requested him to suspend Maliwal till the completion of the police inquiry into the incident of alleged molestation with her on January 19. Kapoor said reports indicate the man accused of molesting the DCW chief was an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) worker. The alleged incident occurred near AIIMS in the early hours of January 19 when Maliwal on a spot check of women's safety measures in the city was approached by a car driver allegedly in an inebriated condition. Everyone condemned the incident and it was satisfying to note that Delhi Police acted swiftly after the incident was reported and arrested the accused within an hour, Kapoor said. "...But social



Swati Maliwal

media reports on this, as well as media reports, indicate that the eve teaser involved Harish Chandra Suryavanshi is an active worker of Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party from Sangam Vihar," the BJP spokesperson said. There are photographs of Harish Chandra Suryavanshi campaigning with an AAP MLA, he added. "This development revealing eve teaser's connection with Aam Aadmi Party has exposed Swati Maliwal and she will try her best to influence the police inquiry in the matter by using her constitutional office," Kapoor alleged. He urged the LG to suspend

Maliwal from the post of DCW chairperson till the inquiry of the alleged molestation incident is completed so that she cannot "misuse her position" to "influence" it, Kapoor wrote in his letter.

The BJP had on Friday also raised questions over DCW chief Maliwal's molestation claims, alleging that the person she accused is an AAP member and her "drama" was part of a conspiracy that was "exposed". Maliwal had alleged that she was molested by a drunk man while on an inspection at night and dragged for 10-15 metres by his car outside AIIMS with her hand stuck in the vehicle's window. Delhi BJP working president Virendra Sachdeva had said Suryavanshi, accused of harassing Maliwal, is actually a prominent activist of the AAP in Sangam Vihar. Sachdeva had shared a photo in which the accused was seen campaigning with AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal. (PTI)

Centre blocks access to BBC documentary on 2002 Gujarat riots

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ The Centre has issued directions for blocking multiple YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the BBC documentary "India: The Modi Question", sources said. The directions were reportedly issued by Apurva Chandra, secretary, ministry of information and broadcasting on Friday using the emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021. Sources said senior officials of several ministries, including external affairs, home affairs, and information and broadcasting, examined the documentary and found it to be an attempt to cast aspersions on the authority and credibility of the Supreme Court, sow divisions among various Indian communities, and make unsubstantiated allegations regarding actions of foreign governments in India.

They said the documentary was found to be undermining the sovereignty and integrity of India, and having the potential to adversely impact friendly relations with foreign states as also public order within the country. Orders have also been issued to Twitter for blocking of over 50 tweets containing links of the YouTube videos concerned, they said, adding that social media platforms have complied with the directions. Earlier, the ministry of external affairs had described the BBC documentary as a "propaganda piece" that lacked objectivity and reflected a colonial mindset. The two-part BBC documentary claims it investigated certain aspects relating to the 2002 Gujarat riots when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief minister of the state. "Let me just make it very clear that we think this is a propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, the lack of objectivity, and frankly a continuing colonial mindset, are blatantly visible," external affairs ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi had said on Thursday responding to questions on the documentary. On comments made by former British foreign secretary Jack Straw on the riots, Bagchi said he seemed to be referring to some internal report of the UK government. "How do I have access to that? It is a 20-year-old report. Why would I just jump on it now? Just because Jack Straw says it, how do they lend it that much legitimacy," the MEA spokesperson wondered. (PTI)

First G20 environment meeting Under India's presidency to be held in Bengaluru from Feb 9-11

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ The first G20 environment meeting under India's presidency will be held in Bengaluru from February 9 to February 11 with focus on restoration of degraded lands and ecosystems, biodiversity enhancement, strengthening of the circular economy, and promotion of blue economy along with coastal sustainability. India took over the G20 presidency on December 1st year and will hold it till November 30. The forum will bring together the G20 member countries, guest countries, and several international organisations invited by India. Through the Sherpa Track, 13 working groups and two initiatives will meet to discuss priorities and give recommendations. Environment, Climate & Sustainability is one of the working groups under the Sherpa Track. The Union environment ministry is scheduled to host four meetings of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG). The discussions will focus on 'promotion of blue economy along with coastal sustainability', 'restoration of degraded lands and ecosystems', 'enhancement of biodiversity' and 'strengthening of circular economy', a statement said. At a meeting on Saturday, Leena Nandan, secretary, environment ministry, and Vandita Sharma, chief secretary, Karnataka, discussed aspects pertaining to branding, security, venue management, cultural events, and other logistic arrangements. (PTI)

Rahul Gandhi's letter with the message of the yatra to every household. The charge sheet released by the two leaders dubbed the BJP 'Bhrasht Jumla Party' and alleged that its mantra was "Kuch ka saath, khud ka vikas, sabke saath vishwasghaat" (For the benefit of few, development for self and betrayal of everyone)".

The Opposition party also said that Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, will hoist the national flag at the Pradesh Congress Committee office in Srinagar's Lal Chowk area followed by a public meeting at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium which will mark the culmination of the Kanyakumari to Kashmir

march. At a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh and general secretary in-charge organisation K C Venugopal also unveiled the logo of the party's follow-up programme to the yatra -- Haath Se Haath Jodo Abhiyan'. The logo is similar to that of the Bharat Jodo Yatra but the only difference is that it has the Congress' hand symbol on it signifying that it would be a 100 per cent political campaign which cannot be said of the cross-country march, Ramesh said. Venugopal said as part of the Congress' campaign starting January 26, the party would take the 'charge sheet' and

select businessmen, 10 per cent of the wealthy owning 64 per cent of India's wealth and ports and airports being "gifted" to the Prime Minister's "close friends". In the 'khud ka vikas' (development for self) segment, the Congress accused the BJP of spending crores on propaganda and indulging in nepotism.

In the third segment, the party raised multiple issues such as unemployment, food security, women's security, the plight of farmers, hate speeches, the "toppling" of elected governments and India's ranking in international indices in various sectors. Venugopal said that along with this 'chargesheet', respective state units of the party will prepare

"charge sheets" against state governments as well. "This is a 100 per cent political campaign. That can't be said about yatra. It is also the second phase of the yatra. We endeavour to reach 10 lakh polling booths, six lakh villages and 2.5 lakh gram panchayats," Ramesh said. Asked why Rahul was not hoisting the tricolour at Lal Chowk, Ramesh said this was not being reported correctly as the state Congress office is in Lal Chowk and it is natural that the former party chief and the lead figure of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi, hoists the national flag at the party office. Venugopal said there was a consideration of having a "permanent structure" for future generations to

witness and therefore Congress' own property was chosen. He said the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is in its final phase, will be in the Kashmir Valley on January 27, 28 and 29. "The march part will be over on January 29. On January 30, at 10 am, Rahul Gandhi will hoist the national flag in the Pradesh Congress Committee office. At 11 am, a public meeting would take place at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar," Venugopal said, adding that several Opposition leaders have been invited for the meeting. He said at the time Gandhi hoists the national flag, all district Congress chiefs will also hoist the tricolour in their respective offices. (PTI)

Sharad Pawar's contribution to cooperative sector cannot be ignored: Maharashtra CM

PUNE, JAN 21 /--/ Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday praised Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar, saying his contribution to the cooperative sector cannot be ignored. Shinde was speaking at the 46th annual general meeting of the Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) in Pune, where Pawar shared the dais with him. Pawar is the chairman of the VSI. "Pawar is an experienced leader at the state and national level. His contribution to the cooperative sector is huge and cannot be ignored," the chief minister said. In the interest of the people and welfare of the state, Pawar is always available for guidance and suggestions to whoever is in power, he said. "He often calls me over the telephone to make



Sharad Pawar

Eknath Shinde

suggestions and give advice," Shinde said. Notably, Shinde and his supporting MLAs had rebelled against Shiv Sena leadership and questioned party chief Uddhav Thackeray's decision of joining hands with the NCP and Congress to form a government in the state.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation headed by Thackeray collapsed following the rebellion and Shinde became the chief minister on June 30 last year. CM Shinde said the cooperative sector has played an important role in the country's development and realising its importance, the Centre has set up a separate ministry for the sector. "The Central government has assured full support to the cooperative sector in Maharashtra," he said. Shinde also lauded the cooperative sector for following its social responsibility even during the time of crisis and not just focusing on profit or loss.

The chief minister said his government was committed to protecting the interests of the cooperative sector. A total of 2.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation in the next few years, he said. Speaking on the occasion, Pawar said the need of the hour is to focus on the production of products other than sugar to strengthen sugar factories and make them economically strong. "Additional sugar should be used for ethanol production," he felt. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Shinde said the state government will provide good infrastructure and subsidies to investors seeking to set up industries in the state. (PTI)

Cong releases 'charge sheet' against Modi govt, calls BJP 'Bhrasht Jumla Party'

India-China Dispute: As the WorldAdoptsAnti-Xi Strategy, Can Modi Follow Suit?

BHOPINDER SINGH

Chinese sayings (yanyu) have deep resonance in the political discourse and belief systems of its citizenry, and especially for President Xi Jinping who invokes them regularly to contextualise his thinking.

But the usually thoughtful Xi might as well ponder on the priceless wisdom in the Chinese saying, "A little impatience will spoil a great plan" (Xiao bu ren ze luan da mou) – as the grandiose neologism of the 21st Century as the ‘Chinese Century’ (Zhongguo shiji) to suggest Chinese global dominance via initiatives like Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), sovereign bailouts, ‘Xiconomics’, ‘world’s factory’ & epicenter of global supply chains, territorial expansionism, militaristic muscle-flexing etc – did lead to credible portents of emerging Sinosphere.

But did the proverbially carnivorous and fire-breathing Dragon eat a lot more than it should have, and too soon? Was the Dragon’s seemingly unsatiable appetite and unstoppable juggernaut too impatient?

It would certainly seem so, as for once there is a massive pushback beyond words, and the counter-pushback is effectively weaponised.

In the last five years or so, China went on the offensive with a no-holds-barred trade war with the United States, ensnared economically desperate

‘third world’ countries, lured and coerced simultaneously with its ‘military-industrial complex’ and wounded territorial integrity of neighbours like India, Bhutan, Nepal and recklessly teased and intimidated Taiwan, Japan and other countries along the restive South China Seas.

The ‘Free World’ was still twiddling its thumbs with inconsistent and unaligned reactions and conceptualisation of the QUAD (Quadrilateral with United States, Japan, India, and Australia) and mulling over possible responses.

Basically, all talk and little walk. The humiliating retreat of US troops from Afghanistan and the dare of Xi’s self-confessed ‘best friend’ Vladimir Putin in Ukrainian misadventures did not help optics, and something had to give way.

Ironically, even the Covid-19 pandemic was posited as a leveler and it had ostensibly inflicted equitable misery onto world economies, and surprisingly China seemed to have handled it better, at least officially.

Suddenly, the cookie crumbled, and the last six months have seen a decidedly concerted and aligned counteraction instead of just vacuous words and conceptualisation – the language, engagement, tenor and decisions from the Sino-wary ‘bloc’ seems to have acquired an acute sense of purpose and dovetailing. The guns as it

were, are now pointed at the Chinese mainland.

It seems the ‘Free World’ has had enough and are working in tandem to ‘spoil a great (Chinese) plan’, as the wise Chinese saying goes.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s fiery one-on-one exchange with Xi Jinping (post accusing China of interference) on the sidelines of G-20 summit led Trudeau to plain-facedly tell Xi, “In Canada, we believe in free and open and frank dialogue and that is what we will continue to have.”

At around the same time, the Canadian Police had arrested a worker for Chinese ethnicity at Hydro-Quebec on charges of espionage and claimed that he had, ‘obtained trade secrets to benefit the People’s Republic of China, to the detriment of Canada’s economic interests.’

Xi Jinping was not amused, and Trudeau had shown a rare spine and refused to buckle under Chinese bullying.

The traditionally stiff-upper-lipped and cautious approach of Brit diplomacy was given a pass, as the Desi-born Rishi Sunak confirmed the end of ‘golden era’ of bilateral relations with China.

Sunak went on to openly slam China as a “systemic challenge to our values and interests” and warned its citizenry that in needed to take a “longer-term view on China”.

With the signing of the trilateral security pact AUKUS (United Kingdom,

Australia and United States) dedicated towards the Indo-Pacific region and its decision to help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines is sure walking the talk (more decisively than QUAD).

This is over and above the Five Eyes (an intelligence alliance comprising UK, Canada, Australia, United States and New Zealand).

Aussies signed an updated Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation with Japan with, “accelerating the consideration of.....future rotational deployment of Japan’s fighters including F-35s in Australia.”

Further, the Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) agreed upon, “rotations of air, land, and se forces to Australia”, and further agreed to “invite Japan to integrate into our force posture initiatives in Australia”.

The plan for eight nuclear submarines for a country like Australia, is plain surreal. Such a weaponised posture can only be directed at China.

Even beyond signing up on AUKUS and QUAD, the reconsideration of giving lease to Chinese company for Port of Darwin, following a securitised approach to trade (including for lithium) etc, demonstrates a multidimensional approach to checkmate the Chinese footprint.

Taipei is doing everything possible to make the cost of its threatened invasion



extremely prohibitive for Beijing.

It has passed a double-digit increase in defense budget (USD 19 billion for 2023) with focus on building asymmetric capabilities (surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship weaponry etc, after learning lessons from Ukraine, of inflicting unsustainable costs on a larger invader) as part of its prickly ‘porcupine strategy’.

More than once, US President Joe Biden has shed the traditional ‘strategic ambiguity’ when it came to promising to defend Taiwan in case of an invasion.

And the news coming out of Ukraine, seems to bolster Taiwanese resolve and confidence in preparing itself with its revised strategy as President Tsai Ing-wen says presciently, “Xi has to weigh the costs. He has to think twice”

Tokyo more than anyone else has weaponised its thinking, strategy and arsenal – a fundamental break from self-imposed pacifism is giving way to

unprecedented ‘counterstrike’ capabilities. It has openly called China the ‘greatest strategic challenge’ and upped its defense budgeting dramatically.

From a ninth biggest spender on military, it will become the third biggest (after US and China), and everything from a sixth-generation fighter plane, and missiles to the increased deployment of US marines is par for course.

As a US Ambassador to Japan says, “They’re helping us put a capital D in deterrence”!

Serendipitously, Indian Air Forces SU-30 fighters along with other planes are pursuing Veer Guardian 2023 exercises and building interoperability capabilities on Japanese soil!

Meanwhile, back in China, the chickens are coming home to roost as it continues grappling with the backbreaking consequences of its ‘zero covid’ policy as the global outlook on the same does not look so bleak. Sizeable investments in BRI have yet to fructify and are seemingly stalled eg, Gwadar (in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor – a BRI arterial imperative) storyline is not exactly rosy and with allies like North Korea and Russia having their own existential crisis, the Chinese seem to have sowed a lot more than what they have been able to harvest.

The Partnership for Global Infrastructure, a G-7

initiative widely seen as a USD 600 billion counter to China’s BRI will only add to China’s suffocation, when it rolls out.

From Hambantota port to Maldives, the growing perceptions of Chinese ‘debt-traps’ has not added to its sovereign credibility as a viable alternative to the ‘Free World’ model, despite the Chinese whispers about all its purported inefficiencies and inequities.

So, is it case for Chinese burnout? Perhaps not yet, as it still has solid levers and leverages that it can still flex but its impatience is all too obvious.

Despite the inexplicable and regrettable silence on the explicit mention of China by the highest offices of the land, Delhi is indeed burying its heels to defend itself, but not with the same strategic clarity and commitment demonstrated by Japan or even a distant Australia.

India’s traditional problem of lacking a ‘strategic culture’ ensures that there is no equivalent ‘long-term’ thinking on national security.

The more visibilised and thunderous statements by the External Minister and knee-jerk acquisitions of weapon systems doing the media rounds may enthral and galvanise the partisan cadres but that is not a substitute for strategic thinking, global jointmanship and actioning.

A rote combination of constant partisan one-upmanship, flagellation of

the ‘past’ and electorally driven ‘muscularity’ is disallowing from articulating a more calibrated (politics-agnostic) and long-term security planning.

The previous Chief of Indian Army joined the chorus for the formulation of a National Security Strategy. India has certainly inked deals on critical imports of technology and weaponry (‘Made in India’ hype notwithstanding) and partaken military exercises with allies, but it is still more of the same and is essentially reactive and very mealy-mouthed (remaining either silent or ambiguous eg, ‘transgressions’).

This is seemingly odd for it is not Taiwan, Japan, Australia, United States, United Kingdom or Canada which drew blood with the Chinese forces in recent times, but India.

There are clear countermeasures and strategic posturing by the ‘Free World’ against China and the orchestrated alignments are dovetailing into each other as force-multipliers.

India needs to join these efforts in a more strategic and long-term way, by explicitly naming, aligning and committing itself onto a strategic roadmap and imperatives.

(The author is a Former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are his personal)

Heritage (Bharat EkDharohar) exhibition at MGIS

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ Mahatma Gandhi International School has organized a ‘Project Day’ on the theme Heritage “Bharat EkDharohar” on 21st January 2023. The exhibition was inaugurated by Smti. KavithaUdhay Kumar, Chairperson, PBMC who was the chief guest of the ceremony. She shared her opinions on the thoughtful ideas and presentations given by the students in the exhibition.



handiwork of the students which were made from indigenous products. There were corners in the exhibition attributed to art, jewellery, painting, best out of waste. The Principal Ms. Ch.

Swapna, applauded the students for their innovative and creative ideas.

She encouraged the students to set higher aims in life and remarked that such exhibitions motivated and instilled the confidence in the young minds to think as artists, designers, and innovators. She also appreciated all the participants for working diligently in preparing for this mega event.

The exhibition “HERITAGE” ended with beautiful memories to be cherished forever.

Bike Rally by NSUI to mark BharatJodoYatra



PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ The State Unit of the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI), A&N Islands organized a bike rally here on 20th January 2023 to mark the Bharat JodoYatra in support of Congress leader Mr. Rahul Gandhi.

The rally commenced at 4 pm from Flag Point and passed through major parts of the city, including RGT Road, Middle Point, Junglighat, Dairy Farm, Phoenix Bay and Aberdeen Bazaar. Hundreds of college students and youths with their motorbikes participated in this rally.

The Pradesh Congress Committee President, along with Congress leaders took part in this rally and marched on roads by raising voice against the BJP Government at Centre. The bike rally was followed by a public meeting in front of Gandhi Bhawan.

The students came up with creative and unique way to exhibit each topics like Ocean, The Sky and Weather, Landforms, Northern India, NH27, NH44, Ancient Agriculture, Medieval Agriculture and Modern & Advanced Agriculture. The students were all excited to explain and illustrate their Innovative ideas.

There were large number of parents and visitors who appreciated their work of art and Creativity. They praised and encouraged the students & Teachers for their hard work.

The objective of the exhibition was to bring forth the innate skills and hone the creative genius of the students. The exhibition provided the right platform for the primary wing students to display the varied and beautiful articles prepared by them throughout this academic year. All the items on display were the

Sindhu to arrive today

PORT BLAIR, JAN 20/--/ The vessel Sindhu sailed from Vizag is expected to arrive at Port Blair on 22nd January 2023 at 1900 Hrs. She has onboard 361 passengers. On arrival the vessel will be berthed at Haddo Wharf and Passengers will be disembarked immediately.

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I haven't the slightest idea how to change people, but I still keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out

David Sedaris

Cashew processing industry to see 15 pc revenue rise

The cashew processing industry is poised to witness 15 per cent revenue growth in this and the next financial years due to higher realisation and rising domestic demand, whii will lift the revenue of the Indian cashew processing industry beyond Rs30,000 crore next fiscal, the highest-ever, driven by 15 per cent year-on-year growth in revenue this fiscal and the next. India remains the world's largest consumer of cashews, processing almost half of the global cashew kernels and consuming 40 per cent of the global output. The United States is a distant second, accounting for 10-15 per cent of global consumption. India exports only 10 per cent of its output, which is down from 35 per cent in pre-pandemic times following an overwhelming rise in domestic demand. Availability of cashew kernels at competitive prices from Vietnam, which accounts for around half of the annual global output, has allowed export destinations to replace their purchases.

A Crisil report says that cashew kernel prices are expected to increase by 5 per cent to Rs615-625 per kg this fiscal on increasing domestic demand, fuelled by the opening up of hotels, restaurants and cafes after the pandemic, changing food preferences, and increased affordability among consumers. On the other hand, increased acreage leading to higher raw cashew nuts (RCN) production is pulling down RCN prices, while continued end-user demand creates the reverse pull-on prices. Hence, RCN prices are seen stable at Rs 95-100 per kg for this financial year and the next, the report said, adding that the spread between kernel and RCN prices is expected at Rs 230-250 per kg this fiscal (Rs 210-230 per kg last fiscal) and is likely to remain at similar levels next fiscal as well. Cashew processors are currently operating at near-full capacity. With demand increasing, we anticipate they will increase capacity by a fifth over the medium term. But, there will be low reliance on debt to fund this as well as the increased working capital requirement, because cash flows are robust. However, delays in crop arrival from Africa or lower RCN output due to unanticipated rains and pest attacks pose downside risks to the growth estimates.

The Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPC) was established by the Government of India in 1955 with the active cooperation of the cashew industry with the object of promoting exports of cashew kernels and cashewnut shell liquid from India. By its very set up, the Council provides the necessary institutional frame-work for performing the different functions that serve to intensify and promote exports of cashew kernels and cashewnut shell liquid. The Council provides the necessary liaison for bringing together foreign importers with member exporters of cashew kernels. The enquiries received from the foreign importers are circulated amongst Council members. The Council also extends its good offices in settling complaints amicably in the matter of exports/imports either on account of quality and /or variation in fulfillment of contractual obligations. Cashews are a wonderful source of healthy fats, including mono-unsaturated and polyunsaturated varieties. These nuts are also a modest source of protein. Cashews are also an excellent source of Magnesium, Manganese, Phosphorus, Zinc, Vitamin B6 and Vitamin K. These nuts are amazing as healthy snacking options. Cashew nuts are thus nutrition-packed and a great source of heart-healthy fats and plant based protein.

Indian workers suffering from work-life balance mismatch

REFLEX ACTION

Dr. Gyan Pathak

Indian workers are suffering much from work-life balance mismatch and the South Asian workers are the longest working compared to any other region of the world. It has been revealed in the first ever report on "Working Time and Work-life Balance Around the World" released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Working hours for workers in developing countries including India have been longer since 1950s, the decade before which data are lacking. In India, the working hours have been on the increase since 1970s. Average number of work hours in Southern Asia is highest in the world at 49 hours a week, as against world average of 43.9. Working hours for men in this reason is even higher at 51.5 as against world average of 46.2.

For women of Southern Asia, the working hour is 40.8, as against world average of 40.5. From a global sectoral perspective, the sectors with the longest weekly hours of work in 2019 were wholesale and retail trade which was 49.1 hours. Working hours for transport and communications was 48.2 h, and manufacturing 47.6 h. The sectors with the shortest weekly hours of work were agriculture (37.9 hours), education (39.3 hours) and health services (39.8 hours), although it seems likely that the extreme demands on the health services sector arising from the COVID-19 pandemic would have substantially increased average hours of work in that sector.

The objective mismatch rate in India is 26.3 per cent as per national definition as against 32.5 per cent as per ILO definition. As per national definition, underemployment is 9.8 per cent and overemployment is 16.5 per cent as against 18.1 and 14.4 per cent respectively as per ILO definition. The combined average underemployment rate is 14 per cent for the country. As per the subjective measure of underemployment and overemployment, ie when measured by the question of wanting to work more hours for more income, rates of underemployment are generally far higher in all countries and areas. Countries or areas with higher time-related underemployment include South Africa, Georgia, Mexico and Lithuania, at more than 60 per cent, and the Russian Federation and Suriname followed by India and Croatia, at more than 50 per cent workers in those

countries seek more hours to increase their earnings. The total subjective working-time mismatch rates are highest in Mexico, South Africa, Georgia, Philippines, the Russian Federation, Suriname and Lithuania. They are also slightly elevated in India, Croatia and Slovakia, where the mismatch rate is still more than 50 per cent of the workforce, the study has revealed. Such high rates are attributable to relatively higher underemployment. Total subjective mismatch in India is 57 per cent, for underemployed it is 54.3 and for overemployed it is 2.7.

The strongest relative preferences for more money (versus time) are apparent in the lower-to-middle-income and emerging economies, especially in South Africa, Mexico, Suriname, India, and Philippines, as well as in the former communist countries or areas, particularly Georgia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Croatia and Slovakia, and to some extent in Poland, Estonia and Hungary as well. However, subjective underemployment is also notably above average in France and to some extent in the United States.

The report suggests that both underemployment and overemployment are somewhat exacerbated by being a non-employee or self-employed worker, that is they are tempered by being an employee rather than a non-employee. There are generally higher mismatch rates for self-employed workers relative to employees. It is a surprising phenomenon since we tend to believe that self-employed had greater control over their working hours. Globally, 31.1 per cent of employees regularly work more than 48 hours per week, but the proportion is much higher for self-employed workers, at 44.4 per cent. This general pattern holds across all the major geographic regions of the world, with the sole exception of Africa, where a higher proportion of employees (33.4 per cent) work long hours than self-



Goddess Saraswati idols being given final touches at Kumartuli on Friday--Arijit Ganguly

Rijiju's letter to CJI is part of RSS design to have a pliant Judiciary

FOCUS

Arun Srivastava

Before the Lok Sabha elections in April/ May 2024, the RSS and Narendra Modi government have launched the most ruthless operation to saffronise the judiciary, turn it subservient to the Modi government and rob its independent identity and authority.

The veil of chastity which wrapped the plan unfolded only a few days back by the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar was lifted on January 16 by the union law minister Kiren Rijiju. He did not hide the censorious intentions of the Modi government in his letter to the CJI DY Chandrachud that the government would constitute a search cum evaluation committee to select the judges as it was not satisfied with the selection process of the Collegium. Modi and his colleagues might have nursed the view that this letter would make the judiciary fall in line, but this coercive mechanism has boomeranged. The Supreme Court is learnt to have made it clear to the authorities that it will not tolerate any "political" interference in the appointments of apex court and high court judges. Rijiju has forced the collegium to harden its posture. It has told; "Once a five-judge constitution bench has quashed (in 2015) the NJAC as unconstitutional, there is no question of the Supreme Court taking any administrative action to undo the judicial verdict."

With this, the battle line has been distinctly drawn. It is absolutely correct that the letter is nothing new but a

reiteration of the central government's view that the MoP (memorandum of procedure governing judicial appointments and transfers) should be modified to give the executive a say. Similar letters were written in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 asserting that the government have a "representative" in a joint "search committee" formed and supervised by the CJI. The only difference is earlier letters were by Rijiju's predecessor, Ravi Shankar Prasad. Rijiju has added formation of such committee at the High Court level. This will facilitate full control of the Modi government on the judiciary.

Quite interesting Rijiju sent his letter on January 6, the day the apex court was to hear a contempt petition against the Union law secretary over the Centre's failure to clear several recommendations despite multiple iterations by the collegiums.

On January 6, the bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and A.S. Oka had questioned attorney-general R. Venkataramani on the delays in clearing recommendations as well as the Centre's unprecedented move of sending its own

recommendations for judicial appointments. "Speeches made by the high constitutional functionaries in public, making comments on the Supreme Court collegium, are not very well taken. You have to advise them," the court had told solicitor-general Tushar Mehta.

Though he did not concede that he was reclaiming the NJAC, which had the similar provision, he through his letter made it abundantly clear that the judiciary has no independent identity and authority and would have to work under the thumb of the government. The government would set up the search committee at the SC and High Court levels. In SC the committee would have a central government nominee and at HC level it would have state and central government nominees.

There is enough ambiguity about these government nominees; whether they will be from lawyer fraternity, or a bureaucrat or as seasoned politician. Yet another aspect is what power and authority they would have. Can they veto any decision of the collegium, or object to the name of the selected judges. In case he dissents to any name, and when the matter ultimately goes

to the government for approval, the law ministry will not approve the name as its representative has opposed the name of the person.

For making the judiciary to accede to the coercive tactics, Rijiju also mentioned that the finalisation of the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) regarding appointment of judges is still "pending". The search committee will provide inputs on "suitable candidates" to the appointment panel or the collegium. Undeniably Rijiju has cast aspersions on the judges presiding at the SC and HC. In a way he has expressed suspicion on the credibility of the judges.

Rijiju in his pursuit to keep his political master happy has smeared the face and image of the judiciary and judges not only in India but across the global fraternity. He sent the message that Indian judges and judiciary are unreliable. Nothing could be worse than it. No doubt the collegium system started functioning after 1993, no political party, not even the BJP late prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee questioned introduction of this system. What made Modi to redraw the entire process?

The letter unravels that the search-cum-evaluation committee would consolidate the data on advocates — including inputs on their performance as lawyers — and if there are any complaints pending against them, and forward it to the collegium, which will then take a final call on appointments. (IPS/ To be continued)

employed workers (27.7 per cent). The difference in long hours of work between the two groups appears more muted in regions in which long hours of work are prevalent, such as Asia and the Pacific, where 45.4 per cent of employees have long hours of work compared with 52.8 per cent of self-employed workers. The pattern even reverses itself in some cases, most notably in Southern Asia, where a much larger proportion of employees (70.3 per cent) than self-employed workers (54.2 per cent) regularly work long hours. Overemployment is expected to be higher among employees, who might have less ability to adjust their own hours downwards than non-employees. This is indeed the case in countries such as India, Austria, Denmark and the United States.

Overall, there is some evidence from certain countries or areas that supports the notion that generated mismatches can be solved by self-employment, but there is even stronger evidence that employee status allows better matching of actual houses of work with preferred hours of work than does self-employment. As for flexible working hour, the evidence suggest that there are lot of works to be done. In India, as per a survey, only nearly one out of ten enterprises have used flexible working hours in order to cope with the impact of the pandemic. The report has recommended greater flexible time for a work-life balance for greater productivity and decent working conditions. There is a need to stick to less than a standard eight-hour day or 40 hour working week, at a time when about one-third of the global workforce are regularly working more than that. However, while implementing flexible working hours, it cautions that the benefits of some of these flexible working arrangement, such as better family life, may be accompanied by costs including greater gender imbalances and health risks.

The report has also recommended that countries should make use of the experiences they developed with working-time reduction and flexibility during the COVID-19 crisis. Inclusive short-time work schemes with the highest possible allowances not only maintain employment but also sustain purchasing power and create the possibility of cushioning the effects of economic crises, it said. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword													
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29							30						

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Petty quarrels	1	Ribbon				
4	Needy	2	Seemingly mocked by fate				
7	Land measure	3	Measures of length				
8	Fish	4	Mild explosions				
9	Writers of verse	5	Lyrical poem				
12	Church seating	6	Coarse files				
13	Tempts	10	Helpful hint				
15	School of whales	11	Range				
16	Donkey	14	Draw forth				
18	Perform	17	Country				
19	Play on words	18	Make suitable				
21	Cook book contents	20	No score				
24	Church recess	21	Bring up				
26	Omit in pronunciation	22	Hollow cylinder				
27	Kitchen utensil	23	Transmitted				
28	Female swan	25	Mineral spring				
29	Lacerate						
30	Representative						

SUDOKU : 3763													
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Yesterday's Solution 3762													
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3	1	6	8	4	7	2	9	5					
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4	2	9	5	8	1	6	7	3					
6	3	5	7	9	2	8	1	4					
8	9	3	4	1	5	7	2	6					
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1771													
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R	U	N		C	O	R	E						
S		M	E	L	O	N		V					
Z	E	R	O		A	B	A	S	E				
R	O	O	S	T		T	I	N					
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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.

RARE OPPORTUNITY: Surya Kiran aerobatic team to display on Jan. 22 & 23 at Marina Park

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ During the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav Iconic Events Week celebration, an array of activities will



be organized in A&N Islands. To add color to the mega event at Port Blair, the Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team will exhibit the air show in the skies of Marina Park. The aim of the aerobatic display is to showcase the

professionalism and skill of the Indian Air Force pilots as well as to instill a sense of patriotism in the youth of the country. The

SKAT display will be held on January 22 from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm at Marina Park and on January 23 from 4 pm to 4:30 pm at the Netaji Stadium.

Surya Kiran is an aerobatics demonstration team of the Indian Air Force formed in 1996. The team enthralled spectators in India and abroad till winding down in 2011. In 2015 the team was resurrected on Hawk MK 132 and has steadily built up to four to six to nine aircrafts formation and has reclaimed its position as one of the best nine aircraft display teams in the world, and the only 9 aircraft team in Asia.

Restriction on carrying items in public functions

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ The Union Home and Minister of Cooperation is scheduled to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands and will be attending public functions. From security point of view, the invitees/general public have been advised not to carry items such as Garland, Bouquet, Power Bank, Battery operated Toys, Coins, Pagers, Cameras, Binocular, Cigarette, Lighters, Match Box, Hand bags, Umbrella, Water Bottle, Packets, Briefcase, Transmitter, Tiffin Box, Glass items, Sharp objects like Screw Driver etc. at the places of function which is to be attended by the VVIP.

EOI

Firing by Coast Guard at Brichgunj on Jan. 25

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ Firing will be carried out by Coast Guard at Chinte Long Range, Brichgunj on Jan. 25 from 9.30 am to 5 pm. All concerned have been informed to keep themselves and livestock away from the firing range during the above mentioned date and time, a press release from Coast Guard said.

Tourist vessels operating from Aberdeen Jetty diverted to Junglighat Jetty

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ As part of Republic Day celebration 2023, the Naval Ships will be anchored near Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island (NSCB Island). Therefore, the services/movement of inland tourist vessels operating from Aberdeen jetty to various tourist spots have been diverted to Junglighat jetty instead of operating from Aberdeen jetty on 24th, 26th, 27th & 29th January, 2023.

Pak court sentences 2 TTP members to 34 years in prison

LAHORE, JAN 21 /--/A Pakistani court has handed down over 30 years of rigorous imprisonment to two members of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) group for carrying out terrorist activities in the country's Punjab province, an official said on Saturday. The TTP, also known as the Pakistan Taliban, is believed to have close links to the al-Qaeda terror group. Set up as an umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007, its main aim is to impose its strict brand of Islam across Pakistan. "An anti-terrorism court (ATC) of Sahiwal on Friday awarded 34 years rigorous imprisonment to two TTP terrorists - Imran Razik and Saddam Hussein Musa - for their alleged involvement in terror activities in the Punjab province," a court official told PTI. He said ATC judge Zahid Gaznavi handed down the sentence after the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) presented evidence in the court. The official further said the CTD arrested the convicts in May 2022 from Pakpattan city, about 200 kilometres from Lahore, and recovered weapons, explosives and suicide vests from their possession. (PTI)

India's Modi can play key role in facilitating talks between Ukraine, Russia: French journalist

WASHINGTON, JAN 21 /--/ There is a need for someone who can bring Ukraine and Russia to the table for talks and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi can play a key role in facilitating the negotiations between the two warring neighbours, a veteran French journalist said.

However, at this moment it looks "extremely difficult" because Ukraine does not want to hold discussions and wants the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to judge Russian President Vladimir Putin, Laura Haim said on Friday. Haim, who is currently working with LCI news channel, said she was surprised to see that people in the US are not talking about the Russia-Ukraine war. "The war in Ukraine is going to be extremely long. Coming from Europe, I am speechless to see what's happening in America. People are talking about the president, the document and Donald Trump. And when you are in Europe, we are just talking about the

war and what is going on," Haim told PTI in an interview. She said nobody knows what is going to happen in Ukraine. "Russia is probably going to try to do a new mobilisation, maybe to strike more... Kyiv, maybe to launch multiple offensives. The Ukrainians are extremely courageous. They are asking the West to help them," she said. "The Ukrainians need weapons. The American people are going to give Ukraine some more help with no boots on the ground," she added.

The United States on Thursday announced another military assistance package of USD 2.5 billion for Ukraine to fight against Russian aggression, taking the total US military assistance to USD 27.5 billion. This assistance package will provide Ukraine with hundreds of additional armoured vehicles, including Stryker armoured personnel carriers, Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and High Mobility

Multipurpose Wheeled vehicles, according to an official statement. The package also includes critical additional air defence support for Ukraine, including more Avenger air defence systems, and surface-to-air missiles, as well as additional munitions for NASAMS that the US has previously provided.

Haim, who was the spokesperson for international affairs for French President Emmanuel Macron's election campaign, said India and its Prime Minister Narendra Modi have some role to play in the peace process. "We need someone who is going to be able to bring Ukraine and Russia to the table (for negotiations)," she said. At this moment, it's extremely difficult because the two sides are refusing to speak to each other and blaming each other for the killings, she said. "The Ukrainians are saying they do not want to negotiate with Putin and they also want Crimea back. The Russians are bombing them all the time. We saw it again in the past month... Turkey

has a very important place. "A lot of people are now saying that Prime Minister Modi can also play a key (role) in facilitating at least the beginning of the negotiations. But again, at this moment, the Ukrainians do not want to discuss... So, for Indians to be the negotiator, it is possible... you have to be optimistic," Haim said in response to a question. Haim, who was made Chevalier de La Legion d'Honneur in 2015 for her serious journalism and work in the US, credited the United States for helping Ukraine in countering the Russian forces. "Now we have to acknowledge that at this moment there's an American war going on in Europe because the United States is giving the weapons to the Ukrainians. The United States is giving a lot of information to the Ukrainians. "Again, the Ukrainians are extremely courageous and they are fighting for democracy, but without the Americans, honestly, as a journalist, I don't know what would have happened to Ukraine," she said. (PTI)

Sound & Light Show at Cellular Jail to resume from Jan 22

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ The Sound & Light Show in Hindi at National Memorial Cellular Jail after up-gradation will resume from January 22, 2023 onwards for general public/tourists. The scheduled timing of the show is as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Show	Nos. of days	1 st show Timing	2 nd show Timing	3 rd show Timing
1.	Hindi Version	All 7 days	5.30 pm to 6.15 pm	6.30 pm to 7.15 pm	7.30 pm to 8.15 pm

Meanwhile, the English show will resume after up-gradation. The timing of the show is subject to change according to sunset.

UK police fines Rishi Sunak over seatbelt 'error'

LONDON, JAN 21 /--/The local police force where Rishi Sunak filmed a social media video in a moving car without a seatbelt on Friday fined the British Prime Minister for the legal breach. Lancashire Police, which had been "looking into" the matter, confirmed it had issued a fixed penalty notice to

Sunak, which involves a 100 pounds fine for not wearing a seatbelt in a moving car. (PTI)

Counselling for vacant seats of B.Sc (Agriculture) &B.Sc (Horticulture) courses on Jan. 24

PORT BLAIR, JAN 21/--/ Candidates who have applied for allotment of various Professional/Technical/Non-Technical courses reserved at mainland institutions for the academic session 2022-23 have been informed that the counselling for the vacant seats in B.Sc (Agriculture) - 2 seats and B.Sc (Horticulture) - 5 seats will be held on Jan.24, 2023 at 3.30 pm in the Conference Hall of Secretariat, Port Blair.

All the interested candidates whose names have appeared in the merit list of above courses have been directed to appear in person with all educational qualification certificates/testimonials in original along with 5 passport size photographs and 2 permanency certificates for sureties and other documents in support of their category for counseling on the date, time

and venue as specified above. If the seats still remain un-utilized from the respective category, the same may be allotted from Category-V as per merit.

It is further brought to the notice that if the seats still remain vacant, the same will be allotted to the fresh eligible candidates who will be present in the counselling as per their merit. Therefore, fresh eligible candidates those who are interested for allotment of the above seats are also requested to be present on the above date of counsellingalongwith all testimonials in original. No subsequent claim will be entertained or considered from any candidate, irrespective of his merit, if he/she fails to appear in person or does not produce necessary certificates in original at the time of counselling/selection.

e-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Forest Officer, Middle Andaman, Rangat invites on behalf of President of India, online Item Rate bid for below mentioned work from the approved and eligible Contractors of the Andaman PWD or all contractors irrespective of their enlistment in APWD or any other Govt. Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other GOI organizations in these islands and do not have any adverse remarks in any of the Govt. organization in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the following works:-

- (NIT No. MA/3(S)/28/41 dt 18/01/2023)
Maintenance & upgradation of Aamkunj Eco-tourism site under Rangat Range during 2022-23".
Sub Work: Upgradation of Park area AND Repair & Maintenance Existing Tree Top Hut & Toilet at Aamkunj Beach

Estimated Cost: Rs. 492136/-
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : 12303/-
Time of completion: 06 Months
Last date and time of submission of Bid on 31.01.2023 upto 12:00 AM
Date and opening of Bid on 31.01.2022 at 02:30 PM
Tender ID: 2023_DFOMA_8982_1
- (NIT No. MA/3(S)/29A/39 dt 18/01/2023)
C/o RCC Ring Well of 2.00 Mtr. dia at at Rampur near make shift unit under Rangat Range during 2022-23".

Estimated Cost: Rs. 387817/-
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : 9695/-
Time of completion: 06 Months
Last date and time of submission of Bid on 31.01.2022 at 10:00 AM
Date and opening of Bid on 31.01.2022 at 11:00 AM
Tender ID: 2023_DFOMA_8980_1
- (NIT No. MA/3(S)/32/40 dt 18.01.2023)
Maintenance & upgradation of Morice Dera Eco-tourism site under Rangat Range during 2022-23
Sub Work: Renovation of Steel Bridge AND Repair & Maintenance Existing Toilet at Morice Dera Eco-tourism site".

Estimated Cost: Rs. 499972/-
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) : 12500/-
Time of completion: 06 Months
Last date and time of submission of Bid on 31.01.2022 at 11:00 AM
Date and opening of Bid on 31.01.2022 at 12:00 PM
Tender ID: 2023_DFOMA_8981_1

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

-sd-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Middle Andaman,
Rangat

9604/23

RECRUITMENT OF CONSTABLE/DRIVER & CONSTABLE/DCPO (DRIVERS FOR FIRE SERVICE) IN CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE - 2022							
Online applications are invited from Male Indian citizens for filling up the following temporary posts of Constables/Driver and Constable/Driver-Cum-Pump-Operator (Driver for Fire Services) in Central Industrial Security Force in the pay Level-3 in pay Matrix (Rs.21,700-69,100/-) plus usual and admissible allowances to the Central Government employees from time to time.							
Name of post	Category						
	UR [A]	SC [B]	ST [C]	OBC [D]	EWS [E]	Total [F]	ESM 10% of [F]
Constable/Driver – Direct	76	27	13	49	18	183	18
Constable/(Driver -Cum -Pump -Operator) (i.e. Driver for fire services) -Direct	111	40	19	72	26	268	27
Total	187	67	32	121	44	451	45
Candidates fulfilling the following eligibility conditions while submission of online application form will be considered - Age (as on 22.02.2023) - Between 21 and 27 years. Relaxable upto: - (i) 5 years to SC/ST candidates, (ii) 3 years to OBC candidates (iii) For Govt. servants including CISF personnel – Up to 40 years for General and OBC candidates and up to 45 years for SC/ST candidates.							
Education and other Qualifications – (1) Matriculation or equivalent from a recognized board, (2) Valid driving license for-(a) Heavy Motor Vehicle or Transport Vehicle;(b) Light Motor Vehicle & (c) Motor Cycle with gear. (3) 03 years experience in driving Heavy Motor Vehicle or Transport Vehicle or Light Motor Vehicle & Motor Cycle as on the closing date of application. Experience will be counted from the date of issue of respective licenses.							
Physical Standards –							
a).	For General, SC and OBC	Height 167 Cms		Chest 80 Cms with minimum expansion of 05 Cms i.e. 80 – 85 Cms.			
b).	Relaxed standards :- i). For Garhwalis, Kumaonis, Gorkhas, Dogras, Marathas and persons hailing from the State of Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir subject to production of certificate in prescribed format.	160 Cms.		78 Cms with minimum expansion of 05 Cms i.e. 78 – 83 Cms.			
c).	All candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes	160 Cms.		76 Cms with minimum expansion of 05 Cms i.e. 76 – 81 Cms.			
d).	Ex-Servicemen candidates are eligible for total relaxation in Physical standards.						
How to apply:- The application must be submitted through ONLINE mode to the concerned RRCs. The facilities of submitting online application is available on CISF website www.cisfrectt.in . The detailed instructions for filling online application are available on the website. The candidate submitting their online applications should pay the fee of Rs.100/- (Rupees one hundred only) through net banking by using Credit or Debit card or Rupay Cards and UPI or through cash in SBI branch by generating SBI challan. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Ex-Servicemen are exempted from payment of application fee. For complete details of the notification, applicants should go through the advertisement /notification in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar dated 21-27th January 2023 and at CISF website i.e. https://cisfrectt.in. Applicants should read and understand all the information carefully before applying for the post. CLOSING DATE: Closing date of submission of online application is 22.02.2023 including the candidates of North East Region. CBC 19113/11/0011/2223							



Army personnel patrol in the snow-covered area of Chatroo ahead of Republic Day, in Kishtwar

Prez to address joint sitting of both Parliament Houses in existing building: LS Speaker

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has said the President will address the joint sitting of both houses of Parliament in the existing building, putting to rest speculations that it could be held in the new building. Amid reports that President Droupadi Murmu can address joint session of both Houses in new building, Birla in a tweet on Friday said the New Parliament Building is still under construction. "During Budget Session, the Hon'ble President will address Members of two Houses in the existing Parliament House Building," Birla tweeted. The Budget Session of Parliament commences on January 31 and the first leg will go on till February 13. The Parliament will reconvene on March 13 and go on till April 6. Meanwhile, citing security reasons, a couple of actual pictures of the new parliament building were removed from the dedicated website for the entire Central Vista redevelopment project on Friday. The new Parliament building is part of the redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation's power corridor. Revamping the three-km Rajpath from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate, constructing a common central secretariat, a new office and residence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave are also part of the project being executed by the CPWD, which comes under the Union housing and urban affairs ministry. In December 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament building which will have modern facilities. Tata Projects Ltd is constructing the new Parliament building which will have a grand constitution hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space. The original deadline to complete the project was November last year. (PTI)

CJI hints at using AI for translating judgements in all Indian languages

MUMBAI, JAN 21 /--/ Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday indicated the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in giving translated copies of judgements in all Indian languages as he underlined the importance of technology in removing the information barrier. In September 2022, the apex court, under the leadership of CJI Chandrachud, started to live-stream hearings of its Constitution bench. CJI Chandrachud was speaking at an event organised by the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa here. He underlined the benefit of live-streaming and said teachers of law and students can watch and discuss live issues before the court. "Then you realise the injustice that pervades our society when you discuss live issues," he added. "...There is a meritocracy barrier. We must have live streaming.... I do not have a cynical view... Yes a few people will begin theatrics, but that'll be far and few between," the CJI said. Stressing the importance of technology, the Chief Justice said his mission for technology is to reach out to those who don't have access and not to create a further gap in access. "The thought is that not every lawyer can afford private reporters, and through technology, the idea is to remove the barrier of access to information. The idea is to make information available to lawyers for free. "But then the niceties of English will not help rural lawyers. So the idea is to make information accessible to everyone," Justice Chandrachud added. The CJI said he had met with a professor of Madras who works in AI (Artificial Intelligence) "and the next step is to give translated copies of judgements in all Indian languages". Addressing a gathering which was attended by many young lawyers, CJI Chandrachud stressed creating opportunities for junior lawyers and ensuring that those from marginalised communities get the adequate opportunity. "We need not cover the crevices of what is wrong in the system. We must try and repair it. I will wish for you that you fly high, that you realise your dreams," the CJI told young lawyers. He concluded his address by reciting a couplet by famous 20th century poet Allama Iqbal: "Sitaron ke aage jahaan aur bhi hai, abhi Ishq ke imtihaan aur bhi hai, tu Shaheen hai parwaz hai, kaam Tera bhi aasman hai". (PTI)



Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud

Assembly polls: TMC manifesto in Meghalaya next week; Mamata to hold road show in Tripura on Feb 7

KOLKATA, JAN 21 /--/ With an aim at expanding the party's footprint in the North-East, chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee will hold a road show in poll-bound Tripura on February 7, a party leader said on Saturday. TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee will release the party's manifesto for the Meghalaya assembly polls on January 24, he said. "Mamata Banerjee will visit Tripura on February 6-7. On the first day of her visit to the poll-bound state, she will offer puja at Tripureshwari temple and will hold a road show in Agartala on February 7," the TMC leader said, requesting anonymity. This will be her third visit to the North-Eastern region in three months as she had held a public meeting in Meghalaya's North Garo Hills district on January 18 and addressed a TMC workers' convention last month in the state's capital Shillong. The Trinamool Congress is likely to contest the upcoming Assembly elections in Tripura alone, the party leader said. The party is yet to take a call on whether it will field candidates in all the 60 constituencies or only in those seats where it has a "strong presence", he said. Elections to the Tripura Assembly will be held on February 16. The TMC has been trying to strengthen its foothold in Meghalaya and Tripura along with Assam in the region. "Abhishek Banerjee will visit another poll-bound state Meghalaya on January 24 and release the TMC's manifesto there," the party leader said. Elections to the 60-member Meghalaya Assembly will be on February 27. In November 2021, 12 of the 17 MLAs of the Congress in Meghalaya had joined the TMC, making it the principal Opposition party in the Assembly of the hill state. (PTI)

First Indian intranasal Covid vaccine to be launched on Jan 26

BHOPAL, JAN 21 /--/ Homegrown vaccine maker Bharat Biotech will launch its intranasal Covid-19 vaccine inCOVACC, the first of its kind in India, on January 26, the company's chairman and managing director Krishna Ella said here on Saturday. Interacting with students at the India International Science Festival in Bhopal, Ella also said that the homegrown vaccine for the lumpy skin disease in cattle, Lumpi-ProVacInd, is likely to be launched next month. "Our nasal vaccine will be officially launched on January 26, on Republic Day," Ella said, participating in the 'Face-to-Face with New Frontiers in Science' segment of the IISF, organised at the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT). In December, Bharat Biotech had announced that it would sell the intranasal vaccine for Rs 325 per shot for procurement by the government and Rs 800 per shot for private vaccination centres. (PTI)

Govt ensuring no stone left unturned to equip nation to deal with challenges: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the Union government is making every possible effort that no stone is left unturned to equip the country to deal with challenges which may arise due to the "fast-evolving global security scenario".

During his address to a large number of cadets who are taking part in a Republic Day NCC Camp here, Singh described the country's foolproof security infrastructure as one of the best examples of teamwork, and asserted that "if there is ever a need to fight a war, the whole country will be behind our armed forces". "It is the result of teamwork that India has defeated its enemies in the past and won many wars," Singh said. The minister also asserted that while the armed forces are protecting the nation from all kinds of threats, scientists, engineers, civil officers and others are providing support by moving shoulder-to-shoulder with them. "If there is ever a need to fight a war, the whole country will be behind our armed forces. It is the result of teamwork that India has defeated its enemies in the past and won many wars," Singh said. During the address, the defence minister also called upon the youth to eliminate the concept of "use and throw", pointing out that directly or indirectly, society and the environment suffer the most due to this practice, according to a statement issued by the defence ministry. The Union minister also emphasised on the need to mould oneself according to the changing times. "No stone is being left unturned by the government to equip the nation to deal



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh interacting with NCC cadets during his visit to NCC Republic Day camp at Delhi Cantt on Saturday

RSS ideology and Netaji's ideals poles apart, don't coincide: Anita Bose Pfaff

KOLKATA, JAN 21 /--/ Amidst the fanfare over RSS' plans to celebrate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary in the city on January 23, his daughter Anita Bose-Pfaff has said that the organisation's ideology and the nationalist leader's ideas of secularism and inclusiveness are "poles apart and do not coincide". Bose-Pfaff agreed that the fanfare over the celebration of her father's birth anniversary is to "partially serve their (BJP, RSS) own interests". As far as ideology is concerned, the Congress has a lot more in common with Netaji than any other party in the country, she said. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will address a public programme at Shahid Minar ground in the city to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary. BJP and RSS do not reflect the idea of respecting all religions as preached by Netaji, who was a devout Hindu but believed in respecting other faiths. He was in favour of productive cooperation between members of different religions, Bose-Pfaff said. "The RSS and BJP do not necessarily reflect this attitude... If you want to put a simple label, they are rightists and Netaji was a leftist," Bose-Pfaff told PTI over phone from Germany where she lives. "From what I hear about the RSS ideology, I would agree that it and Netaji's ideology are poles apart. The two value systems do not coincide. It will certainly be good if the RSS felt it wanted to embrace Netaji's ideals and ideas. Many different groups want to celebrate Netaji's birthday in different ways and a number of them necessarily agree with his ideas," Bose-Pfaff said. Asked whether Netaji was a critic of the RSS, she said: "I don't know any quote (of Netaji) which I can give you. He may have made critical statements about RSS



members. I know what his (Netaji's) views are and about RSS. The two value systems do not coincide. RSS and Netaji's ideology of secularism do not coincide with each other," she said. Speaking on the recent pomp and fanfare over Netaji's birth anniversary celebrations, she lauded the BJP-led government at the Centre for taking a "lot of initiatives" to honour him. "This has two aspects. After Independence, the official Congress stand on Netaji was reserved and not shared by all Congressmen. It wanted to keep the narrative that it was only the civil disobedience movement that led to the country's freedom. But after Netaji files were declassified we came to know that Indian National Army (INA) played a very key role in it," she said. On the second aspect, Pfaff wondered whether BJP would have honoured Netaji if he had held divergent views from that of the present-day government. "The BJP has made a lot of effort to honour Netaji. With any politician, you have first to allow them to look at his/her interest. If Netaji was alive today and held a different view from that of the government, then the BJP would not have honoured him. So (in this case) it is their interest that is served," she said. The Narendra Modi government at the Centre released 100 files on him the next year. After Independence, the Centre had formed three inquiry commissions to unravel the mystery of Netaji's disappearance. Two of them -- the Shah Nawaz Commission and Khosla Commission were formed by the Congress governments and concluded that Bose died in an air crash on August 18, 1945, soon after taking off from Taihoku airport in Taiwan. The third one -- the Mukherjee Commission formed by the BJP-led NDA government said he did not. (PTI)

Police baton-charge ISF demonstrators in city, several injured

KOLKATA, JAN 21 /--/ Indian Secular Front (ISF) activists fought a pitched battle with the police at Esplanade area in central Kolkata on Saturday during a protest against alleged attacks on their workers by the ruling Trinamool Congress in South 24 Parganas district. The demonstration threw the traffic out of gear around the key Jawahar Lal Nehru Road crossing. The sole ISF MLA Naushad Siddique, who was leading the protest, was detained, as a number of police personnel and agitators were injured. A senior police official said the activists blocked an arterial road in the heart of the city, prompting the cops to request them to clear Jawahar Lal Nehru Road and allow traffic movement. However, the workers of the party, which was formed before the 2021 assembly election, refused to vacate the road demanding that the perpetrators behind the attacks on its activists at Bhangan be arrested first. As police baton-charged the workers and lobbed tear gas shells, the demonstrators numbering around 500 retreated but pelted the cops with stones from nearby lanes, injuring several police personnel. The protestors also damaged kiosks and guardrails of the police injuring several policemen, the official said. A strong police contingent, comprising RAF and armed policemen, was deployed in the area. Several top police officers rushed to the spot to control the mob. After about an hour, the police managed to clear the road and chased away the protestors but stray incidents of stone pelting continued for some time. Commuters, who were hiding in shops with their shutters down came out raising their hands. Siddique, before his detention, deplored police "inaction" at Bhangan and the "high-handedness" of the force in Esplanade by turning on "peaceful protestors". A day back, ISF party offices were burnt down in Bhangan allegedly by TMC workers. The ruling party in turn claimed that the ISF destabilised the situation in the area by bringing in armed men and attacking their supporters for the past few days. ISF is the only Opposition party other than BJP to have won a seat in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election. Its allies, the CPM-led Left Front and the Congress failed to bag any seat. The party was formed by Abbas Siddiqui, an influential Muslim cleric of Furfura Sharif in Hooghly district, in February of that year. (PTI)

Black top road remains a distant dream evading residents of 40 Acre village at GP Chainpur

From page-1 For villagers, taking up house repair or construction of a new house is almost not possible due to transportation difficulties. Construction materials are dumped on the main road and villagers have to hire labourers to carry them to their site of construction which is expensive for them. During the Chief Secretary visit to GP Chainpur on 21st September 2022, villagers as well as the Pradhan of GP Chainpur placed their grievances. After direction by the Chief Secretary, the authorities took up the road work immediately. Clearing of bushes and branches was carried out on the next day under the MGNREGA scheme. However, the work lasted just for two days and shortly the road work was stopped completely. Not even metalling was done on the road. Villagers have complained that they have learnt from inside sources that the rural road project has been converted into CC path in place of black top road. Residents say that if the project of black top road is replaced with CC path, it will not serve the needs of the people of this village. The residents of this village are poor and are mostly farmers or private workers and cannot afford personal vehicles. Therefore, they need a public transport system like passenger bus services upto their village. Residents of this village have sought handing over of the project to APWD from Zilla Parishad so that the road project can be completed at an early date and the long awaited dream of black top road in the village could be fulfilled.



Police resorting lathi charge on agitating activists of Indian Secular Front (ISF) at Esplanade in Kolkata on Saturday

Wrestling mess: Sports Ministry to announce names of oversight committee members today

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ The Sports Ministry will announce the names of its oversight committee members, who will probe the allegations of sexual harassment and corruption against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, on Sunday, ministry sources said.

The sources confirmed this after a meeting held on Saturday between Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi and SAI DG Sandip Pradhan on the matter. The tussle between the agitating grapplers and the WFI ended for the time being after the athletes called off their protest late on Friday night following assurances from the government, the first step of which was the temporary sidelining of Singh. After the end of the marathon meeting, Thakur said that the government decided to form an oversight committee to probe the charges levelled by some of the country's top wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya. The names of the committee members were supposed to be revealed on Saturday.

"Sports Ministry will announce the names of the three-member oversee/probe panel on Sunday," a source told PTI. According to sources in the ministry, there was a two-hour long meeting between Thakur, Chaturvedi and Pradhan. The committee will also oversee the day-to-day affairs of the federation. Earlier in the day, the WFI rejected all the allegations, including that of sexual harassment against its president, and claimed that the wrestlers' protest was motivated by a "hidden agenda to dislodge the current management".

The WFI denied all the charges in its response to the government's notice and asserted that "there is no scope for arbitrariness and mismanagement" in the federation. The Sports Ministry had



sought an explanation from WFI after the country's top wrestlers sat on a dharna and alleged that the federation chief sexually harassed women wrestlers and acts like a "dictator".

Before the aggrieved wrestlers agreed to end their protest, the Indian Olympic Association had on Friday formed a seven-member committee, headed by MC Mary Kom, to probe the charges against Sharan. The IOA panel was constituted even as the wrestlers' sit-in protest entered the third day. Besides legendary boxer Mary Kom and wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, the panel includes archer Dola Banerjee and Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) president and IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav.

The IOA committee also has two advocates -- Talish Ray and Shlok Chandra -- besides former shuttler and IOA joint secretary Alaknanda Ashok, who is its vice chairperson. The decision was taken during the IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting, which was attended by the likes of Olympic champion shooter Abhinav Bindra, Olympic bronze medallist Yogeshwar, along with IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey. (PTI)

Pacers give India unassailable series lead as Raipur makes roaring international debut

RAIPUR, JAN 21 /--/ India's relentless pace attack ran through a fragile New Zealand batting lineup as the hosts cantered to an eight-wicket win in the second ODI to seal the three-match series here on Saturday.

The Mohammed Shami-led attack produced an incisive effort to bowl out New Zealand for a meagre 108 before India knocked off the runs in 20.1 overs. Rohit Sharma hit a sublime 50 off 51 balls while Shubman Gill remained unbeaten on 40 off 53 deliveries. It was an emphatic win but the sea of fans that had flocked the remotely located Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Stadium for Raipur's first international game was left wanting for more due to the early finish. Shami (3/18) and Mohammed Siraj (1/10) made life tough for the batters with their high-quality seam bowling reducing New Zealand to a dismal 15 for five after Rohit opted to bowl.

The odd ball stopping made the New Zealand batters' job tougher though the Indian openers made batting look easy in the evening. The third and final ODI will be played in Indore on Tuesday. New Zealand opener Finn Allen was the first to depart after missing a full ball that came back in late to clip the pads and shatter the stumps. Siraj then got one to seam



Mohammed Shami takes a return catch to dismiss Daryl Mitchell

away from good length inducing an outside edge from number three Henry Nicholls with Gill doing the rest in the slips. Two brilliant return catches from Shami and Hardik Pandya (2/16) put New Zealand in further trouble. Shami got one to shape away and Daryl Mitchell, in his attempt to flick it on the on-side, ended up mistiming it back to the bowler. Hardik's one-handed catch

to get rid of Devon Conway in the 10th over was sensational.

Shardul Thakur (1/26) got himself into the wicket column in the following over by drawing a thick edge from Tom Latham's bat. It was a loose shot from the New Zealand skipper, ending with an easy catch to Gill in the slips. New Zealand were in dire straits but all hope was not lost with last match's centurion

Michael Bracewell (22) and the equally dangerous Glenn Phillips (36) in the middle. Bracewell made his intent clear by stepping out to whack Shami over cover. After getting hit for consecutive fours in the 19th over, Shami bowled a sharp bouncer and Bracewell went for the pull only to edge it back to the keeper. Mitchell Santner (27), who scored a fifty in Hyderabad, joined Phillips and the duo

took the team past 100 with a 47-run stand for the seventh wicket. However, both were dismissed in a space of six balls to end New Zealand's hopes of a recovery. While Santner played a well-disguised slower ball from Hardik on to the stumps, Phillips gave a regulation catch to Suryakumar Yadav at deep midwicket off a long hop from Washington Sundar (2/7). Kuldeep Yadav (1/29) trapped number 11 Blair Tuckner in front to end the New Zealand innings in 34.3 overs. India were clinical in the run chase with Rohit enthralling the crowd with his trademark pull shots. One of them went for a six, the first maximum of the game, as he hooked Lockie Ferguson over fine-leg. Fresh from a double hundred in Hyderabad, Gill too came up with some exquisite strokes, including a cracking cover drive off Ferguson. The New Zealand pacers failed to get as much seam movement as their Indian counterparts, making the task easier for the batters. Rohit completed his fifty with a single in the 13th over before Shipley had him leg before wicket with a ball that kept low.

Virat Kohli received the loudest cheer from the crowd as usual but could only last nine balls as Santner got the better of him for the second time in as many games. (PTI)

Wrestlers call off protest after Sharan asked to step aside as WFI president

NEW DELHI, JAN 21 /--/ The tussle between the agitating grapplers and the Wrestling Federation of India ended for the time being after the athletes called off their protest following assurances from the government, the first step of which was temporary sidelining under-fire WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Ravi Dahiya, decided to end their three-day long sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar here after a breakthrough was achieved during a marathon second round of talks with Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur late on Friday night. The government decided to form an oversight committee which will investigate the allegations of sexual harassment of women wrestlers by the WFI president. The committee, members of which are yet to be named, will also oversee the day-to-day affairs of the federation. The ordeal ended with a late night joint press briefing by Thakur at his residence along with the aggrieved grapplers, where the minister announced the formation of the committee and said the panel will submit its report in a month's time.

"It has been decided that an oversight committee will be formed, names for which will be announced tomorrow (Saturday). The committee will complete its investigation within four weeks. It will thoroughly

probe all the allegations be it financial or sexual harassment that have been levelled against WFI and its chief," Thakur said after the meeting that lasted close to five hours.

"Till the investigation is over, he (Singh) will step aside and co-operate with the investigation and the oversight committee will run the day-to-day affairs of WFI," Thakur added. On behalf of the wrestlers, Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia said they never wanted to take the protest route but they were "pushed to the limit".

"The protest is over. We did not want to sit on dharna but 'paani sar se cooper chala gaya tha'. The government has assured us safety and security, we have been threatened by the WFI president in the past also," the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist said, adding that 2023 is a crucial year for them as the Asian Games and Olympic Qualifiers are approaching. Neither the sports minister nor the wrestlers took questions from the media. The wrestlers had earlier in the day said that they would lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief, but did not do so eventually. It can be termed a considerable, if not major, victory for the agitating wrestlers, who had said that they would continue their 'dharna' until the WFI president is sacked and the federation is disbanded. However, under the IOA constitution a National Sports Federation (NSF) can't be dissolved



Sports minister Anurag Thakur holds a press conference with India's top wrestlers who were protesting

unless it has violated the IOA rules and regulations, or has been de-recognised by the world body of the sport. It must be mentioned that the wrestlers have not yet provided strong evidence that suggests sexual harassment of women grapplers. Earlier in the day, the wrestlers reached out to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) demanding a probe. In their letter, addressed to IOA president PT Usha, the wrestlers alleged financial misappropriation (of funds) on the part of WFI and claimed that the coaches and sports science staff at the national camp are "absolutely incompetent".

The wrestlers also reiterated their demand that the WFI be disbanded and its president sacked.

"A new committee should be formed to run the

affairs of WFI in consultation with the wrestlers," they wrote in their fourth and last demand. Responding to it, the IOA formed a seven-member committee, headed by MC Mary Kom, to probe the charges. The IOA panel includes wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, archer Dola Banerjee and Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) president and IOA treasurer Sahdev Yadav. The committee also has two advocates -- Talish Ray and Shlok Chandra -- besides former shuttler and IOA joint secretary Alaknanda Ashok, who is its vice chairperson. The decision was taken during the IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting, which was attended by the likes of Olympic champion shooter Abhinav Bindra, Olympic

bronze medallist

Yogeshwar, along with IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey. Most of the committee members are affiliated to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. IOA Athletes Commission member Shiva Keshvan was a special invitee in the meeting. IOA president Usha has assured that a thorough investigation will be carried out by the panel to ensure justice.

"A detailed discussion was held on the letter received from the athletes and all the members including special invitees presented their views and suggestions," the IOA said in a statement.

"It was unanimously agreed that IOA must not get carried away by media trials. Further the EC unanimously decided that a Committee will be formed in

accordance with the prevention of sexual harassment of women act of 2013 and must hear both sides and submit a report to the IOA President.

"Instructions have been given to the committee to meet at the earliest.

"The EC also appreciates the action and initiatives taken by the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs and awaits its report on the matter," the country's apex sports body added. It is interesting that Yogeshwar is part of the committee as the protesting wrestlers claimed that he was "sitting on the lap of WFI".

In his UP bastion of Gonda earlier in the day, the WFI chief termed the protest "dharna of Shaheen Bagh" and said he won't quit from the post.

"The protest by wrestlers against me is the dharna of Shaheen Bagh," Singh, who is also a six-time Lok Sabha MP from UP's Kaisarganj constituency, told reporters in his native place. The government has given the WFI President 72 hours (till Saturday evening) to respond to the allegations. The WFI filed its reply to the ministry on Friday evening but Singh cancelled his scheduled press conference. It was conveyed that he will speak with the media on Sunday, after the WFI emergency Executive Council meeting. Beijing Olympics bronze medallist boxer and Congress leader Vijender Singh also visited the protest site at Jantar Mantar, showing solidarity with the wrestlers. (PTI)

Spain court orders Dani Alves remanded in custody on sex assault allegations

BARCELONA, JAN 21 /--/ A Spanish court on Friday ordered Brazil defender Dani Alves to be held in custody without bail after he was arrested in Barcelona on allegations he sexually assaulted a woman.

A Barcelona judge took the step after questioning the 39-year-old player regarding "events that allegedly took place at a nightclub," the court said in a statement. A source close to the dossier said the judge had taken the step -- which was requested by public prosecutors -- because the court considered there was a risk Alves would try to flee. His club, Mexico's Pumas, announced hours later that it had sacked the player because of what it called "just cause."

Alves, one of football's most successful players, was taken into custody earlier on Friday after being summoned to a Barcelona police station and was then sent before the judge. Catalan police said they received a complaint on January 2 from a woman who accused Alves of sexual assault. The charge of sexual assault in Spain can mean anything from unsolicited and unwanted sexual groping to rape. While police declined to give details on the case, a source close to the investigation told AFP that Alves is accused of rape. The woman reiterated her accusation before the judge on Friday, the source added. The alleged sexual assault took place at a popular



Barcelona nightclub overnight December 30-31, according to Spanish media reports. Daily newspaper ABC said Alves allegedly put his hands inside the underwear of a woman without her consent while she was dancing with friends and then followed her into a toilet. She is said to have informed security staff in the club, who activated Barcelona city council's protocol against assaults and sexual harassment. A Barcelona court said earlier this month it had opened a probe "into an alleged crime of sexual assault as a result of a complaint filed by a woman against a footballer".

Alves has confirmed he was at the nightclub at the time but has denied any wrongdoing, telling private Spanish channel Antena 3 earlier this month that he has "never seen" the woman before.

"I was there, at that place, with more people having fun. Everybody knows I love to dance. (AFP)

Hardik-less India seek better show from strikers in must-win match against NZ

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 21 /--/ A below-par show against debutants Wales denying them a direct quarterfinal berth, hosts India would look to address their attacking woes against a plucky New Zealand for a place in the last-eight stage of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here on Sunday.

India needed to beat Wales -- eight places below them in world rankings -- by a margin of eight goals to top Pool D and qualify directly for the quarterfinals but the home side could only notch up a 4-2 win on Thursday, as the forwards lacked in finishing. India are now up against New Zealand in the must-win crossover match. The Black Sticks finished third in Pool C with a win and two losses.

Currently ranked 12th in the world as against India's sixth position, New Zealand -- who have never reached the semifinals -- have also not done anything extraordinary in the tournament and the home side definitely would start as favourites in front of an expected jampacked Kalinga Stadium. India's key midfielder Hardik Singh has been ruled out of the remainder of the

tournament after he failed to recover from his hamstring injury sustained in the match against England on January 15. Hardik's absence will be a big setback for India as they have been struggling in the attacking department, and considering the fact that they are expected to run into defending champions Belgium in the quarterfinals if they beat New Zealand. Hardik, who scored a brilliant solo goal in India's 2-0 win over Spain in the opening match, will be replaced by alternate player Raj Kumar Pal. He did not play against Wales. Against a Wales team whom England and Spain had beaten 5-0 and 5-1, the Indians struggled to find goals as the forwards put up a poor show.

The Indians simply failed to get their strategy right against Wales, who defended in numbers inside their own circle. The Indian defence, which had a clean sheet till then, conceded two goals against Wales, who are ranked 14th in the world. Captain Harmanpreet Singh scored his and the team's first goal from penalty corners, while the experienced Akashdeep Singh saved India by scoring twice after Wales made it 2-2 at the end of the third quarter. In

the absence of Hardik, the performance of senior players like Mandeep Singh and Akashdeep will be key for the hosts. India, no doubt, would start as favourites against New Zealand, but the Black Sticks will not be an easy side to beat. India had beaten them twice (4-3 and 7-4) in October-November last year during the FIH Pro League at the same stadium here but New Zealand are no pushovers in world hockey.

"It will not be an easy match against New Zealand. It was a very tough match in the first game (in FIH Pro League) though the second one was a bit easier. We have to play our best," Reid had said. Historically, the two sides had played 44 matches against each other and India had won 24 of them while losing 15. Five games were drawn.

The last time New Zealand beat India was a 2-1 win in 2019. New Zealand would be smarting after their 2-3 loss to Malaysia in their final Pool C match on Thursday. They had beaten tournament debutants Chile 3-1 in their opening game before expectedly losing to Netherlands 0-4. New Zealand have some genuinely world class players in their ranks and the Indians



Indian hockey players during a practice session at the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, at Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar

will have to play their best. Defender Blair Tarrant, defensive midfielder Nick Ross and veteran striker Simon Child are New Zealand's key players. Penalty corner expert Kane Russell is yet to sound the board so far and would be gunning for goals.

Sam Lana and Sam Hiha have scored two goals each in the tournament and they would look to add more. (PTI)

The Squads (from): India: Harmanpreet Singh (captain), Abhishek, Surender Kumar, Manpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Upadhyay, Krishan Pathak, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, PR Sreejesh, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Varun Kumar, Akashdeep Singh, Amit Rohidas, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Sukhjeet Singh.
New Zealand: Nic Woods (captain), Dom Dixon, Dane Lett, Simon Child, Nick Ross, Sam Hiha, Kim Kingston, Jake Smith, Sam Lane, Simon Yorston, Aidan Sarikaya, Joe Morrison, Leon Hayward, Kane Russell, Blair Tarrant, Sean Findlay, Hayden Phillips, Charlie Morrison. Match Starts at 7pm IST.

Meyebela: ‘Embracing the essence of womanhood’

Every one of us grew up with a preconceived notion that women are the biggest enemy of the other women around them. There is an underlying perception prevalent in society which states that women are continuously competing against each other. They purposely defame each other to feel better about themselves. This atrocious relationship becomes more intense when the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law are concerned. Breaking away from the shackles of these invisible stereotypes of mother – daughter, mother-in-law & daughter-in-law and in between every woman living under one roof, Star Jalsha is launching Meyebela which glorifies the genuine friendship and celebrates the emotional and psychological dependence between the women of the house.

This show will also witness the comeback of the veteran actor Rupa Ganguly in television screen. Rupa Ganguly won millions of hearts with her role as Draupadi in Mahabharat and has also played versatile roles in



films like Antarmahal, AbarAranye, and Bariwali. Rupa Ganguly plays the character of Bithika in this show, who was a versatile woman in her younger days but was unable to follow her passions after her marriage. She is now

played by Arpan Ghoshal. The storyline progresses as Bithika's daughter-in-law resonates with her pain instead of turning bitter towards her. Mohona played by Swikriti Majumder and Nirjhar

her father passed away when she was a child. Fate pairs her up with Bithika, who also experienced great suffering. Despite all the obstacles, Mohona is determined to win over her mother-in-law. The story progresses as both

become acquainted while living under one roof as mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. Meyebela is Produced by Surinder Films, which has created iconic shows like Kiranmala, Mahapeeth Tarapeeth, Ekhane Akash Neel, Nazari, Bhakter Bhagaban Shri Krishna, Srikrishnabhakto Meera in the past. Speaking on this occasion, the channel spokesperson said, "We are extremely proud to present Meyebela where Rupa Ganguly is making her comeback. We promise our audience for an emotional roller coaster ride as the storyline will change the perspective of the audience and they will witness the blooming relationship of a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. The show will place a voice of reasons before the viewers. It will also make an argument for perspectives and will encourage the viewers to try and put themselves in the other person's shoes and think." Watch Meyebela from 23rd January onwards, Mon-Sun at 7:30 pm only on Star Jalsha SD and Star Jalsha HD.

Evening Bites: CAFE OFFBEAT UP THERE



Situated off E. M. Bypass, CAFE OFFBEAT UP THERE has successfully created a niche in the F&B landscape of Kolkata with their charming hospitality, great tasting food from their innovative and lavish menu, and an easy relaxed ambience, away from the hustle and bustle, while remaining at the very heart of the city. This January, the café has put together a special menu, comprising of several delectable treats and tidbits, titled – "Evening Bites", for your dining pleasure.

What's in the 'Evening Bites' Menu?

The newly conceived appetizer menu by Chef Paul Jonas Augustine, showcases preparations like the NACHOS GRANDE – An assortment of crisp corn tortillas topped with refried beans, chopped tomatoes, bell peppers, cheese & jalapeno served with sour-cream & salsa dip; GA-LAY-GOK (veg/chicken) – Often referred to as the 'Chinese Samosa', this is a deep-fried snack prepared with vegetables/chicken and noodles filling; **SPANISH SPINACH CROQUETTES** – A Spanish style appetizer with a very crisp surface coating, hiding within it an ultra-creamy filling of cheese & spinach;

The 'Evening Bites' Menu also features dishes like the EXOTIC VEGGIES BRUSCHETTA – A bed of garlic bread, decorated with an assortment of exotic veggies, mozzarella cheese, and olives, then baked to perfection; BRUSCHETTA ZINGER – A bed of garlic bread, decorated with an assortment of chicken salami, chicken sausage, chicken pieces, olives, and Mozzarella cheese, then baked to

perfection; QUESADILLAS – A delicious vegetarian quesadilla loaded with crunchy vegetables, beans & mouth melting cheese. And the SINCRONIZADA WITH SALSA –



A simple twist on the quesadilla recipe, with Chicken Salami, melty Mozzarella cheese & refried beans between crispy flour Tortillas.

"The 'Evening Bites' Menu is part of our constant endeavour to reinvent and offer something new to our patrons. We invite everyone to dig into this assortment of delectable new appetisers, along with one of our house special beverages, while basking in the warmth of the winter sun", beamed Chef Paul, himself basking with satisfaction at a job, clearly well done.

What: Evening Bites @ Café Offbeat Up There, Where: 36/F Topsia Rd, Off E.M. Bypass, Kolkata 700039 When: 15th January 2023 onwards Cost for 2: Rs. 800 + taxes (approx.)

Aminia with winter-special delicacies

Aminia has come up with its winter delicacies crafted to treat your taste buds. Aminia's NalliNehari with Taftan hands down tops the list of must-have foods this winter season. Slow-cooked Mutton gravy dish served with Taftan, a leavened flour bread, NalliNehari provides great nourishment to the body and gives you the immunity to beat the chilly winter. Only the Rajarhat outlet of Aminia serves this dish. Additionally, Aminia has added two new starters to their winter menu, namely Tandoori Chicken Wings and Mutton Seekh Lucknowi. Aminia's signature winter treat, Gajar Ka Halwa, is a must-have dessert to cap off the meal properly. Made with the goodness of carrot and milk, this yummy dessert is loaded with nutrients that make it a perfect dessert for winter. "At Aminia, we have always wanted to create authentic Mughlai cuisines to delight the palates of our patrons. This year too, we have come up with our signature dish, NalliNehari served with Taftan, that is sure to give our patrons a warm and cosy feeling one looks for in the sweater weather. Additionally, we have the starters Tandoori Chicken Wings and Mutton Seekh Lucknowi to pique your appetite. Lastly, we have our signature dessert Gajar Ka Halwa, which is the best way to end your meal," quoted Azra Asher Ather, the director of sales.

What: Aminia's Winter Delicacies Where: New Market, Rajarhat, Jessore Road, Shyam Bazar, Golpark, Behala, Barrackpore, Serampore and Sodepur. Price: Rs. 700/- for two people (approx) Timing: 11:30 am - 10:45 pm



R-Day: 99 With Tempting Food and Beverages



Celebrate this Republic Day at 99, a popular pocket friendly eatery nestled up at Southern Avenue. From delicious biryanis to mouth-watering munchies and variety of pizzas to awesome noodles to shakes and, priced at Rs 99/- onwards. Usher in the 74th Republic Day with your closed ones at 99.

What: Republic Day Celebration At 99

Where: 99, 122B, Southern Avenue, Kolkata - 700029 (Opposite Nazrul Mancha Main Gate)

When: 26th January, 2023

Timings: 12 pm to 10 pm

Republic Day Specials: Fried Fish & Chips, Grilled Chicken Mayonnaise Sandwich, Chicken/Veg Rice, Chilli Fish, Aloo Paratha, Chicken Aloo Kasha, Chicken Biryani, Egg Biryani, Corn And Sundried Tomato, Chilli Fish and Chhole Bhature, along with a multiple options of combo having Paratha, Aloo Kasha salad, Veg Fried Rice or Veg Chowmein with Chilli Chicken and Salad. There are Special Thalis on offer as well.

Chinese New Year at The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat

Chinese New Year also known as the Lunar New Year is the most fortunate day of the year. This year it's the 'Year of the Rabbit'. In Chinese culture, the rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity. To usher in this Chinese New Year, The Westin Kolkata Rajarhat will craft authentic culinary delights for the patrons to soak in the festive spirit with their loved ones. To herald the Year of Rabbit, the Westin Kolkata Rajarhat is all set with its Spring-themed decor, special treats and Dragon dance to offer an unforgettable experience for the guests. The patrons can choose from a variety of options from the special brunch menu which offer, 'Tang bao', 'Kao Fu', 'Chinese Broccoli Slaw', 'Poached Spinach and Peanut Salad dressing', 'Cantonese Spring Rolls', 'Mushrooms in zhang sauce', 'Hot and spicy tofu', 'Vegetable ghotie', 'Veg Crystal Dumpling', 'San bai Chicken', 'Grilled Fish With spicy oyster sauce' on 22nd of January 2023, at Seasonal Taste and Nori. The property will also showcase a 'Traditional Beijing Duck' live station for all the food connoisseurs to experience the grandeur of the festival. Additionally, Nori will host a week-long gastronomic affair with a lavish spread of delectables including 'Sticky Baked Chinese Chicken Wings', 'Jiao yan you yu', 'Salt-and-Pepper Squid', 'Spicy Salted Duck', 'Braised smoked pork', 'Chengdu Dan dan mian' from 23rd January to 29th of January 2023.



REPUBLIC DAY: JhoreJoleJongoleat Sunderban



Drive down to JhoreJoleJongole this Republic Day with your family and loved ones and experience the serenity of the jungle, nature at mangroves of Bengal. Attractive packages to celebrate Republic Day will be available from 23rd to 27th January, 2023 which includes stay, safari and a specially curated Bengali Menu to savour from.

What: Republic Day at JhoreJoleJongole

Where: JhoreJoleJongole, Jharkhali, Sundarbans

When: 23rd - 27th January 2023

Republic Day Specials: Luchi, Basanti Pulao, Aloor Dom, Haser Dimer Devil, Kasha Mangsho, Chingri Malai Curry, Rasmalai & Nalen Gurer Rosogolla

Special Attraction: Jungle Safari in the famous mangrove forest of Sundarbans, a tour to the Jharkhali Tiger Rescue Centre and Baul music programme in the evening.

Pocket Pinch: Rs 5000/- plus taxes for two (For Boarding & Lodging)

Rs 1200/- plus taxes for two (Lunch or Dinner)

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