

Illegal liquor trade, sale rampant in Mayabunder region



ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/—The sale of liquor at illegal liquor shops in Mayabunder region has become rampant despite a liquor outlet run by ANIIDCO and many authorized bars. Women of the area blame the inaction by the Police against the illegal liquor trade. A group of women have submitted a representation to the Chief Secretary during his recent visit to Mayabunder. The Chief Secretary assured the women's group of investigating the matter followed by action

Women signatories of complaint representation submitted to CS alleges harassment by cops, Police claims false allegation

to check the illegal sale of liquor. Now the ex-PRI Member, Pokhadera in Mayabunder has come out leveling allegations of harassment against the Police of PS Mayabunder. The former PRI members have alleged that in the name of investigation, the Police is harassing the women who are signatories to the complaint & representation submitted to the Chief Secretary against the illegal sale of liquor in petty shops as well as houses of some people in this region.

(Contd. on page-6)

SITANAGAR GP MEETS

Vital issues concerning the villagers discussed, incorporated in annual plan



EOI CORRESPONDENT

DIGLIPUR, NOV 27/—A special meeting of the PRI members and officials of the line departments was held on Friday in the conference hall of the Sitanagar Gram Panchayat. Welcoming the members, the Panchayat Pradhan, Mr. Biplab Monadal elaborated the role of the 'Gram Panchayat facilitation team' in the development of the Panchayat. He said that keeping equitability in mind, the proposals are made ensuring benefits reaches to every section of the Panchayat without any discrimination.

(Contd. on page-6)

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Chakka Jam to protest bad condition of NH-4 roads at Bakultala junction



ASHIM

BAKULTALA, NOV 27/—The general public of Gram Panchayat Bakultala, Urmilapur and K/Nagar Panchayat, along with auto drivers and Jeep drivers has been staging protest the bad

condition of NH-4 roads in Middle Andaman. As part of the protest, at 7.00am on Sunday nection today 27/ 11/2022 at Bakultala junction, PRIs, along with the general public gathered and resorted to Chakka Jam. Later, the Assistant Commissioner, Rangat, along

Protest called off after assurance to complete roads within 10 days from AC (Rangat)

with the NHIDCL official visited the spot and gave written undertaking assuring that the construction of roads from K/ Nagar to Rangat will be completed within 10-days. After the assurance from the Assistant Commissioner (Rangat), villagers called off the protest.

ZONAL SCIENCE EXHIBITION HELD AT DIGLIPUR

Creativity of young rural brilliant minds applauded



effective manner. He had special words for the students of Government Senior Secondary School Swaraj Gram, who displayed Yoga Asanas with perfection. He congratulated the Yoga Teacher, students and the school saying, this practice and trend would inspire

other students also to adopt the philosophy and practices of Yoga in their lives. The beautiful cultural programme presented by the students of GSSS. Subhash gram and GSSS Diglipur, based on the theme of National Integration was admired much by the audience. The

Model illustrating the different dimensions of the constitution of India, put up at the hall by Government Secondary School Laxmipur was worth watching. The students also displayed some beautiful craft works which attracted the visitors.

(Contd. on page-6)



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Like antibodies keep check on bad cells, State's responsibility to check anti-national forces: BJP chief Nadda

VADODARA, NOV 27 /--/ BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said like "antibodies keep a check on bad cells", it is the government's responsibility to maintain vigil on anti-national forces, as he battled for an anti-radicalisation cell announced by his party in its Gujarat assembly polls manifesto.

Releasing the BJP manifesto for the polls, Nadda on Saturday had announced setting up the cell to identify and eliminate potential threats and sleeper cells of terrorist organisations and anti-India forces. In an interview with PTI, he said it is the State's responsibility to keep a check on forces working against the country and society. "Like antibodies in

the human body, keep a check on bad cells. It is the State's responsibility to keep a check on anti-national cells in the country. Then there are some cells that work underground so this anti-radicalisation cell is required to keep a check on such cells," said the chief of the BJP, which has been in power in Gujarat for nearly 25 years. On the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which the BJP has promised in several assembly polls, including for the recently held Himachal Pradesh elections and now for Gujarat, Nadda said it is a "national issue" for the party and it is committed to it. "The country's resources and its responsibilities are equal for all. Therefore, the UCC is a welcome step. We would like to implement the

UCC in as many states as possible," he said.

Asked about the BJP not fielding a Muslim candidate

India) with the BJP's support, then the (Narendra) Modi government at the Centre appointed Muslim



JP Nadda

in Gujarat, Nadda said his party believes in 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' (with all and development for all). "Late Dr. (APJ) Abdul Kalam became the President (of

governors as well. So, we follow the principle of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas', and tickets for elections are given purely based on winnability," he said. On the

BJP announcing several "freebies" in its manifesto for the Gujarat polls like its rivals did, Nadda said one should "distinguish between empowerment and allurements". "Both the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress know they are not coming to power in Gujarat. Therefore, they can announce freebies without accounting for the funds and budget needed for them," the BJP chief said. "While our programmes are welfare measures for empowering the poor and the needy. It is not like freebies, which are free for all, they are specifically meant for a segment of the population," he said. He said that the BJP's welfare programmes are for the "empowerment" of the poor

and the needy. This has resulted in them contributing to the economy, Nadda asserted.

Nadda, who has been holding election rallies and roadshows across Gujarat, is confident of a massive victory for the BJP in the state assembly polls. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi resides in the hearts of the people of Gujarat and they will again repose their faith in the BJP and the party will win another term," he asserted. The BJP is eyeing to win Gujarat for a record seventh time. Besides the Congress, the party has a new challenger in the form of the Aam Aadmi Party. The state will see two-phase assembly polls on December 1 and 5, while votes will be counted on December 8. (PTI)

Gehlot-Pilot tussle: Congress won't shy away from taking 'tough decisions' to strengthen organisation, says Ramesh

INDORE, NOV 27 /--/ Amid the power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said if needed, the party will not shy away from taking "tough decisions" to strengthen the organisation in that state.

For the Congress, its organisation in Rajasthan is most important, Ramesh, the party's general secretary in-charge of communications, told reporters in Indore during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Gehlot on Thursday told a TV channel that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) and cannot replace him, drawing a sharp response from his former deputy who said such "mud-slinging" would not help, in an escalation of their rift days ahead of the entry of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' into the desert state. Gehlot also said Pilot had revolted against the Congress in 2020 and alleged that he tried to topple the state government. Pilot had hit back at Gehlot to say it was unbecoming of his stature to use the kind of language to attack him and make completely "false and baseless" allegations. Asked about the tussle between Gehlot and Pilot, Ramesh on Sunday said, "The organisation is most important for us. On the issue of Rajasthan, we will decide on a solution which will strengthen our organisation." "For this, if we have to take tough decisions, we will take. If a compromise has to be made (between the factions of Gehlot and Pilot), then it will be done," he said.

Ramesh also said the Congress leadership is considering a proper solution to the Rajasthan issue. "But, I cannot fix any time frame for this solution. Only the Congress leadership will decide the time frame for it," he said. Ramesh further said the Congress needs both Gehlot and Pilot. He also said the Rajasthan CM should not have used certain words in his interview. Speaking on the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, Ramesh said like other states, it would also be successful in Rajasthan.

The foot march, a mass contact initiative of the Congress, started from September 7 at Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. It is currently underway in Madhya Pradesh. On December 4, the yatra will enter Rajasthan, where the Assembly elections are due next year. On the Bharatiya Janata Party's promise of the implementation of Uniform Civil Code in its manifesto for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly polls, Ramesh said, "The debate on the UCC should continue inside and outside Parliament." "But, the BJP deliberately raises divisive issues during elections to polarise votes," he alleged. Ramesh said the BJP has raised the issue of UCC to gain in the Gujarat Assembly elections, scheduled on December 1 and 5. "They (BJP) will forget the issue after the elections," he claimed.

The main contest in Gujarat is between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress, Ramesh asserted and claimed the Aam Aadmi Party's "balloon" will burst after the results are declared. "The media has inflated this balloon. The AAP does not seem strong at the grassroot level in Gujarat," he further claimed. (PTI)

Adityanath visits Ayodhya, offers prayer at temples

LUCKNOW, NOV 27 /--/ Chief minister Yogi Adityanath visited Ayodhya on Sunday and offered prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi complex and Hanumangarhi temple. He also took stock of the ongoing works at the Supreme Court-mandated Ram temple. Adityanath also reached Tedhi Bazar and inspected various under-construction sites and multilevel parking. It was the BJP leader's fourth visit to the district in the last 40 days. On October 19, Adityanath reached Ayodhya to inspect the preparations for Deepotsav. On October 23, he visited the district with Prime Minister to attend the festival. He again visited both, the complex and the temple, on October 24. (PTI)

IIT Madras, Australian varsities to launch 'Australia-India Centre for Energy' to work on SDGs

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 /--/ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras is partnering with Australian Universities to launch "Australia-India Centre for Energy" to work on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to officials, the AICE aims to promote collaboration among universities, research institutes and industry from both countries in the energy domain. The virtual Centre will be launched during the two-day Energy Summit 2022 hosted by IIT Madras in December. IIT Madras and Deakin University in

Australia are taking the lead in coordinating and driving the engagement amongst the partners and with external stakeholders, to grow collaborations between government departments, funding agencies and individual researchers in both countries. Raghunathan Rengaswamy, Marti Mannariath Gurunath Institute Chair Professor and Dean (Global Engagement), explained that all partners will have an equal footing and the Australian Trade and Investment Commission will be a catalyst to foster

partnerships with industry in the sector from both countries to the Centre. "The Centre will bring together multi-disciplinary capabilities from Australian and Indian partners to work on translational research and build capabilities to address the global energy challenge," said K Baskaran, Pro Vice Chancellor International Research Partnerships, Deakin University, Australia.

"It will also be a catalyst to develop partnerships with other centres in South Asia and ASEAN regions to develop innovative and

sustainable solutions for the Global challenges," Baskaran said.

The key mission of the Centre will be to enable deep collaborations between Australia and India in the energy sector through transformative research, technology development and deployment. The AICE will aim to become a leading bilateral platform on SDG 7 and other related SDGs for academics, industries and government agencies to engage in science, technology, economics, policy and governance. Sarah Kirlaw, Australian Consul-General for South

India, said, "Australia and India are comprehensive strategic partners, with close cooperation across areas of strategic importance, including critical minerals, clean technology, education and innovation. Our two countries are home to world-leading innovators and researchers". According to IIT Madras officials, the immediate focus of the AICE will be to develop joint educational programmes, online MTech courses and capacity building through certification programmes and diploma, extension

centres and training. "The founding members of the AICE will work on joint problem statements, use mobility grants, and develop joint proposals for bilateral funding support," a senior official said. "The Centre will work to promote seamless research and development by identifying sister labs, where complementary research potential and infrastructure exist and facilitate the movement of research scholars, faculty, Young International Fellows (YIF) and Global Research Fellows (GRF)," the official said. (PTI)

Cong chief Kharge lambasts Modi; calls him 'chieftain of liars', sympathy seeker

DEDIAPADA, NOV 27 /--/ Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "jhoathon ka sardar" (chieftain of liars), and said the latter tries to gain sympathy by calling himself poor and claiming that people abuse him. Addressing a public rally at Dediapada in tribal-dominated Narmada district of poll-bound Gujarat, Kharge said he himself comes from the "poorest of the poor and untouchable caste". "Modiji and (Union Home Minister Amit) Shah ask what Congress did in 70 years? Had we not done anything in 70 years, you would not have got democracy. And people like you who always claim to be poor: I am also poor: I am from the poorest of the poor: I come from the untouchable caste. At least people drink your tea. People do not even drink my tea," he said. "And then you say, I am poor; someone abused me, said something to me, asked what my status is. If you are trying to gain sympathy by saying such things, then (understand) people are now intelligent. They are not that foolish," he said. Asserting that people will listen if you lie once or twice, Kharge asked the PM, "How many times have you told a lie?"

He alleged Modi had indulged in telling "lie after lie" and was accusing the Congress of looting the country while himself standing with the rich. "How many times have you told a lie? Lie after lie. He is a chieftain of liars. And on top of it he says, these Congress people looted the country. You are also looting the land of the poor, not giving land to the Adivasis. Who is destroying land, water and forest? You and the rich people with whom you stand, they are looting us," he alleged. The Assembly polls in Gujarat will be held in two-phases - on December 1 and 5, while votes will be counted on December 8. (PTI)

NCP asks Centre to take action against Karnataka CM over statements on border dispute

MUMBAI, NOV 27 /--/ The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Sunday demanded that the Centre take immediate action against Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai for allegedly making statements that were disturbing peace in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Earlier this week, Bommai had claimed that 40 villages in Jat taluka of Sangli district in Maharashtra had passed a resolution in the past to merge with Karnataka, and said that Kannada-speaking areas of the state such as Solapur and Akkalkot should join Karnataka. Bommai also condemned the alleged incidents of painting of Karnataka buses with pro-Maharashtra slogans and appealed to the Eknath Shinde government to take immediate steps to stop this. NCP national spokesperson Clyde Crasto said, "Yes, action should be taken against people who caused problems to the buses. But in that case, action should also be taken against Bommai because his unwanted statements on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue seem to have influenced the minds of some people who are taking law into their hands and causing disturbance."

Crasto in a statement said the Karnataka chief minister should not have raked up a sub-judice matter and gone a step further by saying that he would claim other districts of Maharashtra as well. "His statements over the last few days are hurting the sentiments of people and making them express their feelings negatively," the NCP leader said. The Central government must take immediate action against Bommai for making statements that disturbed peace in both the states, he said. "Why is the BJP's central leadership not asking Bommai to refrain from making such statements? Do they agree with what he said?" Crasto said. The Maharashtra government has appointed cabinet members Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai as nodal ministers to coordinate with the legal team regarding the court case on the border dispute with Karnataka.

Maharashtra, since its inception in 1960, has been locked in a dispute with Karnataka over the status of Belgaum (also called Belagavi) district and 80 other Marathi-speaking villages, which are part of the southern state. Maharashtra has staked claim over the Marathi-speaking areas and the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. (PTI)

Fire in Chandni Chowk's Bhagirath market continues to rage for 4th day

NEW DELHI, NOV 27 /--/ The fire at the Bhagirath Palace market in Chandni Chowk continued to rage for the fourth consecutive day on Sunday even after the engagement of more than 150 fire tenders since its outbreak, officials said.

Nine fire tenders are still present at the spot. More than 200 shops have been damaged in the massive fire that broke out in the wholesale market for electrical appliances on Thursday night, the officials said. "Around 150 fire tenders have been engaged till now, nine of them are still at the spot. Around 200 shops have been affected and while five building have been completely or partially burnt, three have collapsed," a senior fire department official said. A case under IPC sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) and 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) has been registered against unknown people, the official said. The fire was brought under control by Friday morning but while the cooling process was still underway, the blaze reignited again and turned massive by the evening. The area's narrow lanes and shortage of water posed a major challenge for the firefighters. While traders suspect short-circuit as the cause of the fire, officials said the reason is yet to be ascertained.

On Saturday, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena visited the market and said a multi-disciplinary committee had been constituted to look into ways to effectively address issues like hanging wires and overloaded circuits. He sought the active involvement of residents and other stakeholders in areas like Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar and Paharganj, among others. He has also sought a report within 30 days. According to the fire department, due to the lack of water supply, a remote-controlled machine that was being used in the firefighting operation proved to be less effective. "The narrow bylanes of congested Chandni Chowk made it difficult for the fire tenders to enter the spot. At some places, firefighters were forced to break the barriers which were put up for beautifying the area," said Atul Garg, the director of Delhi Fire Service. (PTI)

Rogues are preferable to imbeciles because they sometimes take a rest

Alexandre Dumas

Gujarat polls: BJP manifesto eyes farmers

The BJP manifesto for next month's Gujarat Assembly elections has a special focus on the agriculture sector, to keep farmers in good humour and get their votes. Learning from experience, the saffron party has laid special emphasis on issues relating to farmers in poll-bound Gujarat this time round. The ruling party has promised Rs.10,000 crore fund for agri-marketing infrastructure and a whopping Rs.25,000 crore for expansion of irrigation facilities in South Gujarat, besides setting up two sea food parks in Saurashtra, the blue economy industries corridor. Agrarian distress, especially in Saurashtra region, among other factors, had led to a drop in the BJP seat tally from 115 in 2012, to a double-digit figure of 99 in the 2017 state assembly elections. There are 182 seats in the Gujarat Assembly. The BJP, when re-elected, will provide Rs 10,000 crore under Gujarat Krishi Infrastructure Kosh to develop Khedut Mandis, modern Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC), sorting and grading units, cold chains, warehouses, primary processing centres. It will expand the existing irrigation network through projects such as Sujalam Sufalam, SAUNI, lift irrigation projects, micro irrigation, drip irrigation. With the additional budget of Rs 500 crore, the party will strengthen the Gaushalas here and set up 1,000 additional Mobile Veterinary Units. The widespread losses to the dairy sector due to the lumpy skin disease has added to the party's worries as the state has lost an estimated 5,800 cattle. Earlier this year, farmers in the state protested against inadequate power supply, rallied against low remuneration for certain products and demanded a minimum support price for salt. The BJP also promised to build seafood parks in South Gujarat and Saurashtra, build the country's first Blue Economy Industrial Corridor and strengthen the fishing-related infrastructures.

In the run up to next month's assembly elections in Gujarat, the BJP intensified its campaign to ensure that farmers get the full benefits of state and central schemes for the agricultural sector. It is being done to ensure the party does not lose out on support from the farming community like it did in the previous election. The BJP is relying on initiatives such as the Na Mo Kisan Panchayat launched by party president JP Nadda last month to create awareness about schemes for farmers, besides incentives and financial aid to adopt technology such as drones to meet challenges of labour shortages. In 2017, when the party's tally dropped to 99 from 115 in 2012, the loss was attributed to several factors. The Patidar agitation and the anger against the implementation of Goods and Services Tax were cited as some of the reasons. But, farm distress, particularly in the Saurashtra region was the most significant. The condition of farmers in the region had worsened by rainfall deficit and drought that the state faced in 2016 and 2017. There was also some anger against the government for not being able to implement minimum support price for cotton and groundnut produce that time. Though those issues have now been resolved, problems like water and power shortages still persist in certain areas, coupled with low returns from certain items such as salt, which have the potential to upset the ruling party's apple cart. Gujarat Assembly polls will be held in two phases -- December 1 and 5. Counting of votes will be taken up on December 8.

Domestic and sexual violence against women has reached new peak

REFLEX ACTION

Prakash Karat

court system and social pressures on the survivors of violence to compromise. Cultures that normalise domestic violence have got new life under the present regime with the promotion of notions of the ideal woman as one who adjusts to violence by her husband or his relatives as part of the way a good woman behaves. The refusal of the government to recognise marital rape as a criminal offence on grounds that it would be disruptive of the family, is a reflection of that mentality. This manuwadi culture is a big barrier to democratise family relations and to protect women's equality.

Even more dangerous is the communalisation of every rape case depending on the religious affiliation of the victim and the accused. In The Bilkis Bano case the affidavit of the Gujarat government in the petition opposing the release of the gang rapists and killers, specifically mentions that before their release sanction was given by the union home ministry. In other words, home minister Amit Shah is directly involved in the release of these killers and rapists in a most heinous crime based on their religion, their political affiliation. It is no coincidence that it is when Muslims are the accused that the ruling party and its sanghcohorts, remember the need for justice for women.

This was exemplified by the recent and highly condemnable statement of the Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, in reference to the Shraddha Walkar case. He said that you need to vote for Modi, "a

strong man, " to prevent Aftabs in every city." That the horrific crime of murdering and dismembering the body of Shraddha was perpetrated by her Muslim partner, is used for the most vicious communal propaganda and claims of love jihad. Around the time this terrible crime was detected in Delhi, in Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, a young woman was killed and cut into six parts by her ex-boyfriend. Another woman in Sitapur district was killed by her husband and her body hacked into pieces and dumped in a field.

Not a single word was uttered by the BJP leaders in both these cases as the accused and the victims belonged to the Hindu community. When dalit girls are raped or killed by upper caste men, not a word is said. This communalisation of violence against women in India is a highly dangerous weapon which will further subvert the judicial process and rendering of justice. It is clear that capitalism and its social structures have supported and helped patriarchal notions and practices to grow across the world, based on a social and cultural system which promotes the subordinate status of women to exploit cheap female labour. It is on this fundamental basis that women across the capitalist world face discrimination and violence, some more than others. In India, the misogyny and patriarchal values that prevail are being reinforced by the open advocacy of manasmriti and caste hierarchies by the right-wing Hindutva forces. This in turn strengthens the forces in the minority communities who enforce further subordination of women.

The struggle to defend the rights of women guaranteed in the constitution and to enforce the laws against violence on women must be waged with renewed vigour. The Left and democratic forces must make this an important part of their ongoing platform of action. (IPA)



A vendor sells 'Kangri' the traditional Kashmiri firepots in Srinagar

Conventional Crossword						
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ACROSS						
1	Tracking system					
5	Seeks charity					
8	Entertained					
9	Sports					
10	Cadence					
11	Cosy retreats					
12	Rounded vase					
15	Weeps convulsively					
18	Rends					
21	Meshed fabric					
22	Implement					
24	Wading bird					
25	Mature person					
28	Against					
29	Untruths					
30	Pays attention					

DOWN						
1	Highly seasoned					
2	Water storage					
3	Prayer ending					
4	Trick					
5	Girdles					
6	American inventor					
7	Become firm					
13	In the case of					
14	Indigenous					
16	Have reality					
17	Social standing					
19	Flowers					
20	As stated					
23	Scourge					
24	Sick					
26	Owing					
27	Employ					

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Yesterday's Solution 3708								
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1717								
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A Pan-Indian Law against ‘forced’ conversions should respect right to privacy

FOCUS

Mihir Nigam

The restrictions provided under Article 25 were used by the court and it was observed that because “forced conversions” have an adverse impact on public order, any right to convert to a different religion is prohibited by Article 25.

Public order, morality, and health are constraints on the right granted by this article, and therefore “it cannot be predicted that freedom of religion can have no bearing what-so-ever on the maintenance of public order or that a law creating an offence relating to religion cannot under any circumstances be said to have been enacted in the interests of public order.”

Therefore, the validity of both the acts was upheld by the court and the competence of legislature to pass such laws was accepted and upheld as a legal exercise of legislative authority under the exception of public order to Article 25 of the Constitution, stating that the right to convert others is not included under the ambit of this article and that forcible conversions may incite communal enmities that lead to a breach of the public order.

The petition filed by Upadhyay seeks directions of the court against the prevailing forced conversions and the gap in criminal legal system to persecute the perpetrators of the crime of forceful conversion. It says that a special law must be enacted against forced conversion, or the act should be made an offence under the Indian

Penal Code. Acknowledging the gravity of the issue, a Justice M.R. Shah-led division bench of the Supreme Court asked the Union Government to step in.

The issue of forced conversion needs enough deliberation on part of the Union Government, as the issue encompasses many issues and the right of individuals is at stake, which cannot be constrained without reasonable grounds and enough discussions.

The common view advanced by intellectuals in this regard is that the forced conversions would invariably fall under the purview of the Indian Penal Code, and that an anti-conversion law would only serve to impede voluntary conversions, particularly those made by lower caste individuals.

The main criticism that these anti-conversion laws attract is that they breach the right to privacy of an individual. A person changing their religion would like to make public their conversion on their own terms or when they think it is the right time to make public the same. However, almost all the states have enacted anti-conversion

laws requiring a person converting to give notice to the competent authority and public of the same.

Section 5 of Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantrya Adhiniyam states that intimation is to be given to District Magistrate with respect to conversion. The section provides that: “Whoever converts any person from one religious faith to another either by performing himself the ceremony necessary for such conversion as a religious priest or by taking part directly or indirectly in such ceremony shall, within such period after the ceremony as may be prescribed, send an intimation to the District Magistrate of the district in which the ceremony has taken place of the fact of such conversion in such form as may be prescribed.” (emphasis supplied).

Just like Madhya Pradesh, Himachal, Jharkhand, Gujrat, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand have also incorporated such provisions under their respective anti-conversion laws, which require converts to give notice/intimation to the authority before/after a prescribed time-period. The Himachal Pradesh High Court, in

Evangelical Fellowship of India and Anr.versus State of Himachal Pradesh (2012), declared a provision of the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2006 as unconstitutional because it required the citizens to notify the authorities of their desire to convert to other religion.

Recently, in an order regarding Section 10 of the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021, the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in Rev. Suresh Carleton &Ors. versus The State of Madhya Pradesh, has supplied emphasis to an observation of the Supreme Court in Paragraph 298 of its judgment in K.S. Puttaswamy case that the Constitutional right to the freedom of religion under Article 25 has implicit within it the ability to choose a faith and the freedom to express or not express those choices to the world. Therefore, even if the Union Government goes ahead with formulating a special law on the subject of ‘forced conversion,’ all the problems and issues regarding the state-enacted anti-conversion laws must be taken into consideration.

The special law should be coherent with the fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution and should not be based on vagaries. The law should not appear to be arbitrary or targeting a particular community in furtherance of political motives or ideologies. (IPA)



Director Sashi Kiran Tikka, Actor Sesh Adivi along with the cast and crew of the Indian Panorama feature film 'Major' on the red carpet at the 53rd International Film Festival of India, in Goa

Three, including RAC constable shot dead in Rajasthan

JAIPUR, NOV 27 /--/ Three brothers including a police constable were shot dead when their neighbour along with some others allegedly opened fire at them in their house in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, police said on Sunday.

The incident occurred in Sikrora village and the police was informed early Sunday. Constable Gajendra Singh, his two brothers Samandar Singh and Ishwar Singh were killed while Gajendra's wife, son and his daughter in law were injured and are being treated at the SMS hospital in Jaipur, police said. Gajendra Singh was a constable posted in Rajasthan Armed Constabulary (RAC). SHO Kumher Himanshu Singh said that Gajendra Singh's

son Tenpal had a verbal spat with his neighbour Lakhan a few days back and Tenpal had slapped Lakhan too. The elderly people in the village had intervened and the issue was resolved at that time but Lakhan wanted revenge, the SHO said. He said that Lakhan along with 8-10 others barged into the house of Gajendra late last night and started shouting. They opened fire in the air. When Gajendra Singh came out of the room, they shot him dead. Hearing gunshots and cries, his two brothers who live in a separate house in the neighbourhood came out and rushed to Gajendra Singh's house and they were also shot dead.

In the meantime, the accused also opened fire at the family members of

Gajendra in which his son Tenpal, his wife and daughter in law were injured, police said. Police were informed about the firing at around 1.30 am. The bodies were shifted to the mortuary of the nearby hospital and the injured were referred to Jaipur in critical condition. After the incident, the relatives and family members started a dharna outside the hospital in Kumher town demanding the arrest of the accused. Someone from the mob also damaged window glass of a few vehicles. Tourism minister Vishvendra Singh, who is from Bharatpur, reached Kumher along with Inspector General (IG) Gaurav Srivastava, Superintendent of Police Shyam Singh and other officials and pacified the

relatives. He assured them that the accused will be arrested as soon as possible following which the dharna was called off and postmortem of the bodies started.

Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Meena said additional policemen have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order and different teams have been formed to locate and arrest the accused involved in the triple murder.

In October also, a man and his two sons including a constable were killed in a group clash in Bhusawar area of Bharatpur. The reason behind the murders was also a petty issue. Minister Vishvendra Singh said that it is an alarming thing that people are losing patience on small issues. (PTI)

Amitabh Bachchan pays tribute to Vikram Gokhale, Tabassum: Artists of huge merit leave us day by day

MUMBAI, NOV 27 /--/ Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Sunday said the stage is desolated by the absence of artists of huge merit like Vikram Gokhale and Tabassum.

Gokhale, known for several Marathi and Hindi films including the Bachchan-starrer "Agneepath" (1990), passed away on Saturday due to multi-organ failure at a Pune-based hospital where he was undergoing treatment. He was 77. Tabassum, known for her work as a child artiste in several Hindi classics such as "Baiju Bawra" and "Mughal-e-Azam", and also as host of popular Doordarshan talk show "Phool Khile Hain Gulshan Gulshan", died last week following cardiac arrest. She was 78. Bachchan took to his blog to remember Gokhale and Tabassum. "The days are lined with sadness.. friends and colleagues.. artists of huge merit, leave us day by day.. and we listen, see and pray.. Tabassum .. Vikram Gokhle and some dear ones that are close and known .. They came to us in our lives.. they played their parts and left the stage empty forlorn and desolate by their absence.. (sic)," the veteran star wrote on his blog. (PTI)

Man's resolve to recharge groundwater pays off, 3,500 water bodies dug in 7 months

DEHRADUN, NOV 27 /--/ In May, Dwarika Prasad Semwal started going door to door in Chamkot village in Uttarakhand, convincing people to dig pits near their homes to store rainwater.

Seven months on, his perseverance has paid off. A total of 3,500 water bodies have come up over an area of 3 sqm in the village as a result of Semwal's persistent efforts. However, involving people in the campaign called 'Kal Ke Liye Jal' (Water for tomorrow) was not easy. "They seemed attentive as I urged them to make a small but significant contribution to save water, recharge the receding water table underground and offer birds and animals a means to quench thirst by digging ponds. "But the response initially was rather lukewarm. It got me thinking what I could do to lure them to the campaign in larger numbers," said Semwal, who also heads the Himalayan Paryavaran Jadibooti Agro Sansthan.

Soon an idea dawned upon him. Semwal began asking people to dig water bodies in memory of a near and dear one or to mark an important occasion in the family like a marriage anniversary or a birthday. "I dug two water pits in memory of my two nephews to show the way and people followed. If

some did so to celebrate their children's birthdays, others did it to immortalise memory of their ancestors," Semwal said. On Semwal's request, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami allowed him to dig a pond on his birthday in September this year in the forest of Dudhli in Dehradun. Connecting the campaign with filial sentiments struck a chord with people as they began to join the campaign in larger numbers, Semwal said.

"I am satisfied that our efforts are bearing fruit. As many as 3,500 ponds or water pits have come up already in Chamkot village and the process continues. "We now plan to dig 1,000 such ponds in Dehradun too as its receding groundwater levels are causing concern among experts," he said.

At least 70 women volunteers from the 'Ganga Sakhi Sangathan' have joined the campaign. "We are happy to join this campaign for saving water. Together, we have created 3,500 ponds. We feel enthused to extend our activities to new areas," the president of Ganga Sakhi Sangathan, Mahendri Chamoli, said.

Ram Kumar Chamoli, a member of the organisation, said, "We feel blessed to be a part of a

save water campaign like this in the memory of our ancestors." Parvati Devi, a resident of Chamkot village, said she dug two ponds in the name of her family deity and ancestors. "This initiative has given us a chance to honour our forefathers and fulfil a duty to society."

Each of the participants is not just digging pits but also contributing Rs 50 per month to fund the campaign, Semwal said. The average size of such ponds or water pits is supposed to be three to five feet wide and 1.5 feet deep. "But we have kept it flexible and it depends on the availability of space. If the participants lift a spade and a shovel to dig a pit that's enough," he said. Not just recharging the water table, if ponds are dug deep in the forests, water will be available for wild animals in their natural habitats, reducing chances of man-animal conflicts, Semwal said.

Such water bodies can help in controlling forest fires and increase the green cover, he said. However, since permission from authorities is needed to dig such water bodies in forest areas, laws may have to be relaxed so that this initiative can be extended across the state, Semwal added. (PTI)

Pre-historic rock art in Aravali hills puts Rajasthan village on tourist map

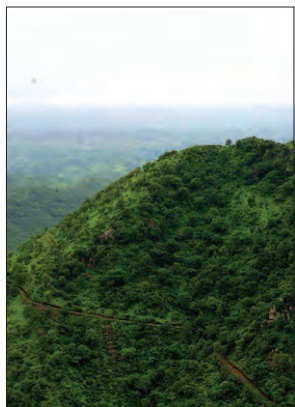
JAIPUR, NOV 27 /--/ Nestled in the Aravali Ranges, the sleepy Hajipur Dadikar village in Rajasthan's Alwar district is now buzzing with activity as historians and tourists flock to take a look at the pre-historic rock paintings in its hills depicting scenes of dance, hunting and animal figures.

Discovered in 2001, the paintings are spread over an area of 10-12 sq km. District Tourism Officer Tina Yadav said rock paintings in the hills of Hajipur Dadikar have been

included in the list of tourist places in the district. "Dadikar has emerged as a new tourist point in recent years. Tourists from more than 50 countries have visited this place," Tejpal Gurjar, a local tourist guide said. He said the rock paintings depict swastika, lion, elephant, sword, peacock, fish, sun, shepherd grazing goats, fighting animals, animal skins and other wild animals. Tractor-trolleys are used to take the tourists to the last motorable point and from there the trekking starts.

"The site is now getting popular. Several tourists who come to Alwar, which is famous for the Sariska tiger reserve and other sites like Silisedh, reach Dadikar for trekking and for the rock paintings," he told PTI.

According to the guide, tourists from Australia, America, Mexico, England, France, Thailand, Poland, Ireland, Norway, Germany, Denmark, Bangladesh, Turkey, Indonesia, Italy, Canada, Spain, Sri Lanka, Japan etc. have undertaken trips to the hills to see the rock paintings. Nirvana



Bodhisattva, the founder of Nirvanavan Foundation, who has been living in Dadikar for nearly 30

35th National U-9 Boys & Girls Chess Championships to start from 25 Dec to 2nd Jan

PORT BLAIR, NOV 26 /--/ The MPL 35th National Under 09 Boys & Girls Chess Championships-2022 will be held from 25 December to 2nd January 2023, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Each affiliated State Association is entitled to send two entries each from Boys & Girls for the Championship. The players who are born on or after 1.1.2013 are eligible to participate in the Championship. Interested chess players who wish to participate in the upcoming National Under 09 Chess Championship 2022 may submit their entries on or before 02.12.2022 through

500 hearing impaired children to get cochlear implant: Karnataka minister

BENGALURU, NOV 27 /--/ As many as 500 children who were born with congenital hearing loss will get cochlear implant, Karnataka health minister K Sudhakar said on Sunday.

Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai had announced the creation of 'Hearing Impairment Free Karnataka' in the 2022-23 state budget. In the current financial year, 1,939 children below the age of six years have been identified with hearing impairment, Sudhakar said. "The Karnataka government will gift to 500 children below the age of six who were

born with congenital hearing loss by providing them with free Cochlear Implants," the minister said in a statement. He added that the state health department is working on a mission mode with a slogan 'Health for All' to cover every aspect of health and well-being and a new initiative has been planned to make Karnataka free from hearing impairments. Special attention has been given to eliminating hearing loss in children under six years of age, Sudhakar further said. Most of them have suffered from congenital deafness and

the main reason for this is the mother's consumption of medicine, viral infection, suffocation and shock during the prenatal period, the minister said.

According to Sudhakar, a cochlear implant is a small electronic device that helps children with severe and profound hearing loss hear sounds.

The implant is inserted into the cochlear of the inner ear. "The processor of the device is placed behind the ear and the hearing mechanism of the human body that had been dormant starts working again and

transmits the audio signals to the brain," the minister explained. He also said that an honorarium of Rs 250 will be given to each ASHA worker who has helped in identifying such children and have aided in the entire process.

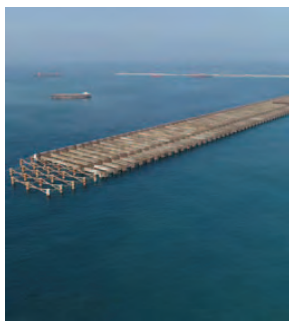
Sudhakar said 20 hospitals including KC General Hospital, Indira Gandhi Children's Institute, Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, Bangalore Medical College BMCRI, KIMS Hubli have been identified to perform the procedure as they are well equipped for surgery. (PTI)

Vizhinjam port agitation: Kerala police register 9 cases against protesters

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 27 /--/ Kerala police have registered at least nine cases after Saturday's anti-seaport protests at Vizhinjam here turned violent.

Going against the assurances given to the Kerala High Court, the protesters agitating in front of the under-construction Vizhinjam seaport had on Saturday blocked the trucks carrying construction materials to the site. The protesters, led by the Latin Catholic church, had on November 22 assured the high court that they would not block any vehicles coming to the Vizhinjam seaport.

During the blockade, a section of locals who are in support of the project came out opposing the protesters leading to a minor scuffle. "During the protest, there was a minor scuffle too. Now, we have registered nine cases against the protesters and those who oppose the protest at Vizhinjam," a senior police official of the district told PTI. Police said the case was registered against a few church priests also.



Meanwhile, Fr Eugene Perera said the government was not ready to properly rehabilitate the coastal community. "The government which is not ready to properly rehabilitate us are not threatening us with police cases. We will not back down. Tomorrow, the government will move against us in the court," Perera told the media.

He said the protesters will file an appeal against the court's order on various matters related to the Vizhinjam protest. Earlier on Thursday, the government had scheduled a meeting with the protesters but they failed to turn up. The high court had on November 22 warned the protesters that stern

action will be taken against them if they failed to remove the obstructions. The port, a Kerala government initiative, is currently being developed in a landlord model with a Public Private Partnership component on a design, build, finance, operate and transfer ('DBFOT') basis. The private partner, Adani Vizhinjam Port Private limited, commenced the construction on December 5, 2015 at a cost of Rs 7,525 crore. The Vizhinjam International Transhipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport authorities had said that 70 per cent of the work has now been completed.

Earlier, the state government had made it clear that almost all the demands of the protesters were met except halting the construction work at the port.

The high court has multiple times asked the protesters not to block the road to the seaport premises and have asked the government to remove the shed erected by the agitators as part of their protests. (PTI)

Maharashtra: Excessive rainfall-affected farmers upset over getting paltry amounts as crop insurance

MUMBAI, NOV 27 /--/ A number of farmers in Maharashtra whose crops were damaged due to excessive rains claimed to have received very low compensation amounts, with one cultivator getting only Rs 90 for his crop losses.

When contacted, state Agriculture Minister Abdul Sattar said some farmers had received very low amounts, but the government will try to widen the insurance coverage and also make the claims settlement system dynamic.

An official from the state relief and rehabilitation department said 7.48 lakh farmers from Aurangabad district availed the government's crop insurance scheme in the 2022 kharif season, but despite the widespread excessive rains before Diwali festival, claims of only 1.84 lakh farmers have been approved by the

insurance company. The state government data also revealed that out of 1.03 lakh farmers who submitted their claims for crop damage due to excess showers in Ahmednagar, only 20,226 claims have been approved so far and Rs 9.78 crore has been disbursed. A farmer from Balapur tehsil in Akola district of Vidarbha, on condition of anonymity, said, "I paid more than Rs 2,000 for insuring my cotton crop against any natural calamity.

The excess rains badly affected the cotton plantation over two acres, but I have been paid only Rs 90 against it." Another farmer from Kinwat tehsil in Nanded district, who also did not wish to be named, said he has been paid Rs 356 by the crop insurance company as compensation. Gopal Rahane, a farmer from Khamangaon tehsil in Buldhana district,

received Rs 1,147 while he had paid a premium of Rs 2,819 for his cotton crop spread over nearly one hectare of land.

His total sum assured under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana stands at Rs 56,384. But, despite a significant loss of his cotton plantation, Rahane said has been paid only Rs 1,147. Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Ajit Pawar recently asked the state government to streamline the crop insurance scheme and its payment system. "Do not force the farmers to go to court to seek action against the state government. Farmers have lost the crops in large numbers and they should be duly compensated," Pawar had said while talking to reporters in Mumbai.

However, Agriculture Minister Sattar assured to address the issue of farmers' insurance claims soon. "It is true that some farmers received very low amounts, but we will try to widen the insurance coverage and make the claims settlement system dynamic," he said. (PTI)

with nets, animal figures like bulls, lions, elephants, goats, nilgai etc.

Principal of the Government Higher Secondary School Bhaveda, Alwar, Dr Komal Kant Sharma said information about the rock shelters and rock paintings of the Hajipur Dadikar area was given to archaeologist Premalata Pokrana by a bank worker, which was based on the information given by shepherds. Extensive research work was then carried out in this area. (PTI)

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Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name
277605000488	S Santhil	277605000560	B Kanakiah
2776050000492	S Santhil	Branch Name: Port Blair	
2776050000544	S Santhil	2144050000689	Palan Kumar

Date : 28.11.2022
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Congress and like-minded parties view terrorism as shortcut to achieve success, remain silent on big terror attacks: PM Modi

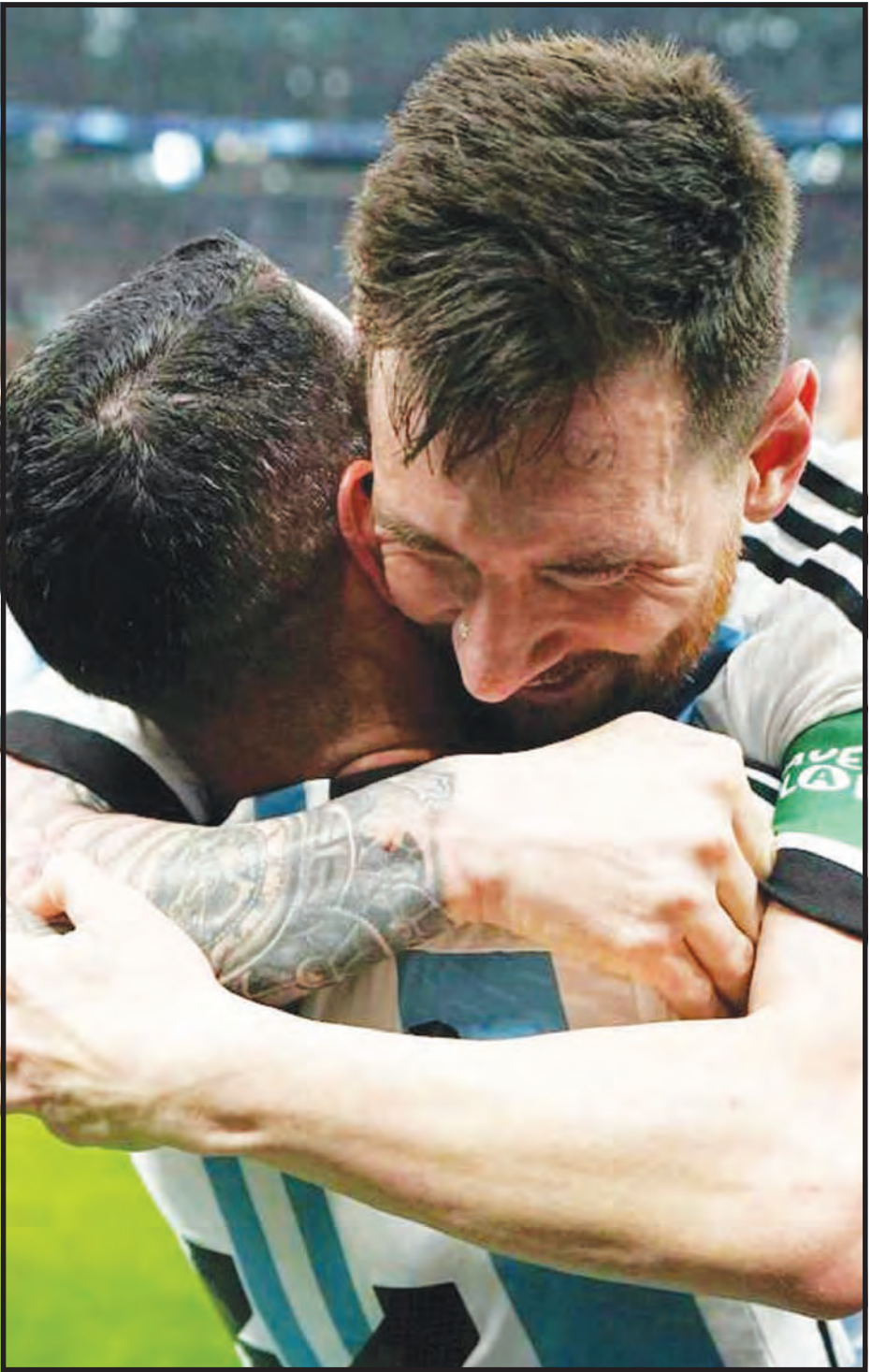


Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters at a BJP rally in Kheda district of Gujarat

KHEDA, NOV 27/--/Remembering the 26/11 Mumbai terror strike, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Gujarat and the country need to be "alert" about Congress and like-minded parties which keep mum on "big terrorist attacks" to not offend their vote bank. Addressing a rally in Kheda district in Gujarat where Assembly elections are scheduled for December 1 and 5, the prime minister said Congress and many like-minded parties view terrorism as a shortcut to achieving success.

"Terrorism is not over yet and the politics of the Congress has not also changed. The fear of terrorism will remain till appeasement politics continues. "Congress views terrorism from the prism of vote bank. Not only Congress but many like-minded parties have come up now who view terrorism as a shortcut to achieve success and this small party's hunger for power is even bigger," he said without naming the "small party". The prime minister said the mouths of these parties remain "locked when big terrorist attacks take place so that their vote bank is not offended. They even go to courts from the back door to save terrorists". "When Batla House encounter took place, a Congress leader cried for terrorists. Gujarat and the country should remain alert from such parties," he added. The 2008 encounter near Delhi resulted in the deaths of two terrorists hiding in a flat in the Batla House area in Okhla and a police officer. "Your one vote in 2014 (Lok Sabha elections) strengthened the fight against terrorism. Now forget about terror attacks in our cities, they (India's enemies) think 100 times before even conducting such attacks on our borders," the PM said, adding they know India will hit by entering their homes ("ghar main ghus ke marege"). In an apparent reference to Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the PM said Congress and like-minded parties had raised doubts about surgical strikes and the ability of our armed forces. "Those countries which took terrorism lightly are in clutches of terrorism. Terrorism is not over yet. The politics of the Congress party has also not changed, while small parties are also indulging in vote bank politics," he said. The PM said, "till the vote bank politics remains the fear of a resurgence of terrorism is also real". "We have to save Gujarat from those playing the dirty game of terrorism. This is a long fight and we need your support," Modi said. He said the 2008 Mumbai terror attack was the "epitome of terrorist attacks in the country". "I pray for the departed souls," the PM said, a day after tributes were paid to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the 26/11 strike unleashed by 10 Pakistani terrorists in which 166 people were killed and several injured. "Gujarat also faced serial blasts in Ahmedabad and Surat and many people had lost their lives," he said. "In Gujarat, we kept track of terrorist sleeper cells and arrested terrorists," the PM said referring to the action taken by the BJP government when he was the chief minister. "But instead of targeting terrorists, the (erstwhile) Congress government (UPA) was interested only in targeting Narendra Modi only," he said. Attacking Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge who is campaigning in Gujarat on Sunday, Modi said Kharge had said he will show "Modi his aukat (status)". "Today Congress president is in Gujarat. He has been sent here by Soniabehn (Sonia Gandhi). He came here and said he will show Modi his aukat. I have no status, I was born as a common man. Let us see how he shows me my aukat," the prime minister added. (PTI)



Argentina's Lionel Messi (R) celebrates with his teammate Angel Di Maria after scoring his side's opening goal during the World Cup group C soccer match between Argentina and Mexico, at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail

Creativity of young rural brilliant minds applauded

From page-1
Earlier welcoming the Guests the Deputy Education Officer, Mr. R.P Pandey informed that there are total 67 schools in the zone, which come under five cluster resource centres in the one block set up. The Exhibitions are being conducted under the 'Rashtreeya Avishkar Abhiyan', aiming to extend opportunities to the students to showcase their talent in the field of science. After conducting the exhibitions at school and cluster levels the block level was organised, involving the best selected models from CRC level, he said. The overall incharge of the Exhibition, the principal of the Government Senior Secondary School Subhash Gram, Mr. M. Nehru proposed the vote of thanks.

Illegal liquor trade, sale rampant in Mayabunder region

From page-1
After CS's instructions for enquiry, the PS Mayabunder have started an enquiry on this issue. The women alleged that the Police have been collecting the mobile number of the signatories, calling the women in the Police Station at odd hours and forcing them to sit in the station for several hours. The method of Police conducting investigations from the women has created a fear among them. Questioning the Police, women of the area blame that the illegal liquor trade is flourishing because of the deep nexus between the liquor traders with the Mayabunder Police. They say while the liquor outlet run by ANIIDCO opens at 9.00 am and bars at 11.00 am, their husbands go out to consume alcohol as early as 4.30 am in the morning. This means that liquor is openly available in illegal liquor belts operating in the region. This also points out that Mayabunder Police is not keen to take action against illegal sale of liquor in this region.

Our Mayabunder Correspondent adds that illegal sale of liquor through 'belt shops' has been mushrooming in this region of the islands. Tipplers are buying their booze from the belt shops that

operate in the garb of pan/cigarette/tea shops. Belt shops operate through a syndicate that involves suppliers, sellers and consumers. As per reports, illegal liquor activities have witnessed a surge in Mayabunder region in North Andaman. Besides illegal sale of IMFL, bootleggers, taking advantage of the situation have started distilling activities for spurious liquor in the dense forest at Mayabunder. The situation in terms of illegal sale of liquor has become so alarming that the Assistant Commissioner(Mayabunder) on complaints by few citizens conducted surprise raids about two months ago against illegal liquor trade. Meanwhile, on being asked about Police calling women individually to the Police Station and harnessing them for submitting complaints to the Chief Secretary, the SHO, PSMayabunder described the allegation is false. He clarified that no women were individually called to the Police Station for enquiry. The fact of the matter is since this Police Station has been asked to investigate the matter, women Police staff have visited one or two women in their homes to enquire more details and facts about sale of liquor in illegal shops in this region so that action can be taken against such people.

Bharat Jodo Yatra reaches Indore in MP; Rahul Gandhi seen helping wheelchair-bound man

INDORE, NOV 27/--/The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reached Indore on Sunday on the fifth day of its Madhya Pradesh leg. People from different sections of society including a differently-abled man, Manohar, also joined the foot march and Gandhi was seen pushing his wheelchair to some distance. The man said he told Gandhi that the country now needs a change. After a night halt at Mhow, the birthplace of Dr B R Ambedkar, the yatra participants resumed the march on Sunday morning. The yatra passed through the suburban area of Rau and reached Indore. A red carpet was rolled out to welcome when the march reached Rau.

Indore Commissioner of Police H C Mishra said 1,400 personnel have been deployed in the city to provide security to the yatra and barricades have been put up at various places. Twelve dilapidated houses in the densely populated Rajwada area with narrow streets have been temporarily evacuated to avoid the possibility of any untoward incident during the march, he said. Earlier, a sweet shop in Juni area of Indore received an anonymous letter by post on November 17, threatening bomb blasts in Indore city during the yatra. The letter, which referred to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, had also threatened assassinations of Rahul Gandhi and MP Congress chief Kamal Nath. The police had arrested a person in this connection. The Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass contact initiative, will take a night halt at Chimanbagh Ground in the city, officials said. As per the initial plan of the Congress, Gandhi and other yatra participants were to be accommodated at the city's Khalsa Stadium. But the plan could not materialise following a controversy. A row had erupted after Kamal Nath, facing allegations in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, was felicitated by organisers at a Sikh religious event held at Khalsa College in Indore on November 8. After Nath left the venue, famous kirtan singer Manpreet Singh Kanpuri had lashed out at the organisers for inviting the Congress leader. (PTI)

AT A GLANCE West Bengal Guv calls on VP Dhankhar

NEW DELHI, NOV 26/--/West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose called on Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar here on Saturday, days after being sworn-in. Bose had on Wednesday taken oath as the new governor of West Bengal in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Speaker Biman Banerjee at a programme in Raj Bhavan in Kolkata. "Dr C V Ananda Bose Ji, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, called on the Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas today," a tweet by the vice president's office said. Bose, a retired Kerala cadre IAS officer of the 1977 batch, was named the new governor of West Bengal on November 17. He replaced La Ganesan as the state's constitutional head. Vice President Dhankhar is a former governor of West Bengal. (PTI)

Vital issues concerning the villagers discussed, incorporated in annual plan

From page-1
In the formal discussion, many ward members raised the issue like low voltage power supply, saying that this has been causing difficulties to carry out works. Some members drew the attention towards the dilapidated conditions of many rural roads. They said the roads need immediate repair so that the lives of the villagers could be at ease to some extent. Many residents of the villagers expressed their inability in making the payment through the online billing system

implemented by the Electricity department. To the query of the villagers, the Junior Engineer of APWD, said that the Sitanagar village doesn't have any water body resources, hence it is advisable to think about the overhead water tank asan alternative to cater to the needs of water. Some members demanded construction of a Public Toilet near the Health and wellness sub centre. Expressing concerns over the safety of the Girl students residing in the Zonal Girls Hostel at

sitanagar, one lady member demanded the services of professional security guards. She also asked the planning committee to put up the proposal for the renovation of the existing warden's quarter to make it worth living. The officials of the Health department requested to develop a shed in front of the Health sub centre, as the patients have to stand in the queue in an open area during scorching hot weather and rain in the absence of the shed. Replying to the questions related to the Education field, the Pradhan informed

that he has already written letters to the authorities demanding to create a play field near boys hostel, and hopefully the concerned department would initiate steps.

He said he has put his demands before the State transport services to provide school buses to the students coming to Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sitanagar from far-off areas of Kalighat and Ram Nagar, and these facilities would be provided soon, he hoped. The Pradhan assured the gathering that all the

proposals made in the meeting would be included in the action plan for the year 2023-24 as well as in the draft plan for the next three years. Expressing gratitude toward the present Government officials, he hoped that together the panchayat would be able to redress the grievances of the common villagers and long pending demands would be fulfilled. The Up-Pradhan, Mr. BirenSardar and the PanchayatSamity Member, Mr. Ram Krishna Bairagi also addressed the gathering.

Protests against COVID lockdowns intensify in China; Protestors shout anti-Xi Jinping slogans

BEIJING, NOV 27/--/China's rare public protests opposing stringent COVID lockdowns turned political on Sunday with protestors shouting slogans against President Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party, as the demonstrations spread to the university campuses in Beijing and Nanjing.

Shanghai, where thousands of protestors converged at the Wulumuqi Road - which is named after Xinjiang provincial capital Urumqi - on Saturday night, witnessed fresh demonstrations on Sunday despite the heavy presence of police. The protests, which began in the morning, intensified with the participation of hundreds of people by mid-afternoon, Thomas Hale, Correspondent of the Financial Times, who was present at the protest site, told BBC. According to videos posted on social media about the protests in Shanghai, people were heard openly shouting slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down", the BBC report said. Hale said the protests are extremely significant as the politics of COVID policies reflected wider political frustrations including the slowing down of the economy. Elsewhere protestors held blank white banners, while others lit candles and laid flowers for the

victims in Urumqi, where 10 people were killed in a fire at a building reportedly under Covid lockdown on Thursday. Observers say that the latest political protests appeared to be in continuation of "banner protest" in Beijing last month ahead of the CPC's once-in-a-five-year Congress which elected 69-year-old Xi for an unprecedented 3rd five-year term. The anti-lockdown protests appear to be posing a major challenge for Xi, just over a month into his third term in power. Political protests opposing the CPC and its leadership are very rare in China while the country witness sporadic agitations over various issues. As such criticism of the party and leadership could result in harsh penalties. Videos posted on social media showed police arresting several protestors in Shanghai amid protests against their detention from the angry crowd. Also, students' protests broke out in the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing as well as Communication University in Nanjing. Photos and videos posted online showed students holding vigils for the Urumqi fire victims and launching protests at universities in Beijing and Nanjing. Students said hundreds of people took part in one such demonstration in Tsinghua University where they held up blank sheets of paper - an act which has become a



Protestors in Chinese cities take to the streets

symbol of defiance against Chinese censorship. One protester in Shanghai told the BBC that he felt "shocked and a bit excited" to see people out on the streets, calling it the first time he'd seen such large-scale dissent in China. He said lockdowns made him feel "sad, angry and hopeless", and had left him unable to see his unwell mother, who was undergoing cancer treatment. A female demonstrator said that police officers when asked how they felt about the protests, and the answer was "the same as you". But, she said, "they wear their uniforms so they're doing their job." Shanghai, a city of over 25 million, endured weeks of COVID lockdowns in April sparking protests. With protests over lockdowns of dozens of apartment buildings intensifying, the government stepped back on Saturday from enforcing lockdowns in Urumqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang. During the weekend, Urumqi witnessed a huge demonstration in which many Han Chinese nationals took part along with Uygur Muslims. Urumqi authorities on Saturday said the city would lift coronavirus restrictions "in phases" after footage surfaced online showing rare protests against a three-month lockdown, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday. (PTI)

Members of Indian diaspora protest outside Pakistani Consulate in New York on 26/11

NEW YORK, NOV 27 /--/ Several members of the Indian diaspora protested outside the Pakistani Consulate here on the 14th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks, demanding that perpetrators of the dastardly attack be brought to justice.

Raising chants of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', the people held placards that read 'Mumbai 26/11. We Won't Forgive. We Won't Forget' and '#SanctionPakistan.' They also had a digital van parked outside the Consulate that flashed images of 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed and terrorist Ajmal Kasab as well as images of a burning Taj hotel in Mumbai when terrorists attacked the landmark building. The Mumbai terror attack which drew widespread global condemnation began on November 26 and lasted until November 29, 2008. A total of 166 people, including several other foreign nationals, were killed and more than 300 others wounded. Nine Pakistan-based LeT terrorists were killed by the Indian security forces.

Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive. He was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012. "We request all like-minded countries to come together and put sanctions on Pakistan until terrorists are brought to justice," said

Shashank Telkikar, who was among the diaspora members at the protest. Ravi Shankar, another protester, said that the Indian diaspora gathered in front of the Pakistan Consulate to protest against the dastardly acts of state sponsored terrorism, adding that "we will never forget or forgive." Vilas Reddy said all nations should come forward and unite to fight against terrorism and Pakistan should be put back on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) black list.

Srikant Venkat said "we honour the sacrifices" made during the 26/11 terror attacks by "our brave martyrs who laid down their lives" while protecting others. Last week, just days before the 14th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj had said "Terrorism continues to pose a grave threat to international peace and security, as ISIL and Al-Qaida affiliated and inspired terrorist groups, particularly in Asia and Africa continue to operate targeting civilians and security forces. Lest we forget, in November 2008, 10 terrorists entered the city of Mumbai through sea route from Pakistan, ravaging the city for 4 days, killing 166 people, including 26 foreign nationals." (PTI)

UK marks 26/11 Mumbai attacks anniversary with tributes, protests



LONDON, NOV 27 /--/ Sombre musical, floral tributes and anti-terrorism protests in the UK commemorated the 14th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks that claimed 166 lives in 12 coordinated strikes across the city.

The High Commission of India in London hosted a special homage on Saturday, replete with a photography exhibition and snapshots from November 26, 2008, a shrine to the victims and tributes attended by members of the Indian diaspora and senior parliamentarians. A film depicting the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, voices of many Mumbaiers and foreign tourists caught in the attacks, including at the city's iconic Taj Palace Hotel, was followed by a violin recital by musician Sunita Bhuyan. "These were real people, with real families with real hopes and aspirations, all of which were cut short," said Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, in his address to the gathering. "We salute the police personnel, the members of the National Security Guard (NSG) who lost their lives doing their

duties. Let us also remember the many who lost their lives doing what was daily for them. Every one of us remembers and commemorates on this day the courage, fortitude and resilience of Mumbai and every citizen of the world who has known terror and has had to see it in its face and has not blinked but has stared back," he said.

The theme of the commemoration was around "never forget, never forgive and never again" and also included messages from Britain's members of Parliament from across party lines. "There is one strong message that we must all take away: that terrorism will never win because we will always stand in the face of terrorism and perpetrators of terrorist activities. That is the one thing that unites us all," said Priti Patel, Indian-origin Conservative Party MP and former UK Home Secretary. "We must all pull together to defeat terrorism and today, together we say: never again," said Catherine West, Labour MP and Shadow Foreign Minister. "We can still feel the pain from that attack," added veteran Indian-origin Labour MP

Virendra Sharma. The commemoration was also attended by several visiting dignitaries from India, including sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his son Ayaan, and concluded with a floral tribute at a candle-lit shrine created in memory of the victims created outside India House.

The Taj Hotel at St. James' Court in London also held its own annual candle-light tribute in memory of the staff members and guests who lost their lives in the attack 14 years ago. Earlier on Saturday, Indian diaspora groups gathered outside the Pakistan High Commission in London to register their protest against cross-border terrorism and the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist organisation linked with the attacks. The Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage (REACH) India UK Chapter led protest involved members carrying placards that read "Stop Terrorism" and "United Against Terror". The Mumbai terror attack which drew widespread global condemnation began on November 26 and lasted until November 29, 2008. (PTI)

Indian student in Canada dies after being struck and dragged by pickup truck

TORONTO, NOV 27 /--/ A 20-year-old Indian student was killed after he was hit and dragged by a pickup truck while crossing a road on a cycle here, according to a media report.

Though the police have not yet identified the victim, news website cbc.ca in a report published on Friday quoted the victim's cousin Parveen Saini as saying that Kartik Saini came to Canada from India in August 2021. Parveen Saini spoke from Karnal, Haryana, where their family is from, the report said. The family is hoping that Kartik's body

will be sent to India as soon as possible for proper burial, Parveen said. Sheridan College has confirmed that Kartik was a student there, the report said. "Our community is deeply saddened by the sudden death of Kartik. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, peers and professors," the college said in an email on Friday.

According to police the fatal collision happened at the

intersection of Yonge Street and St Clair Avenue at about 4:30 pm on Wednesday evening. The cyclist

died after being struck and dragged by a pickup truck in midtown, it said in a press release on Thursday. Emergency services tried to free the cyclist and revive him, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. Constable Laura Brabant, spokesperson for the Toronto Police Service, said the investigation into the collision is



General Mirza takes charge as Pak's new CJCSC

RAWALPINDI, NOV 27 /--/ Pakistan Army General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Sunday took charge as the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) in a ceremony at the Joint Staff Headquarters here. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) military's media wing, a "smartly turned-out" joint services guard presented the salute to Gen Mirza after he arrived at the venue. He also reviewed the guard of honour and march-past. A large number of serving and retired officers from the tri-services as well as the former CJCSC also attended the ceremony, it added. Gen Mirza took charge after the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff committee, Gen (retd) Nadeem Raza, hung up his boots a day earlier. The CJCSC is the highest authority in the hierarchy of the armed forces but the key powers including mobilisation of troops, appointments and transfers lie with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) which makes the person holding the post the most powerful in the military.

On Thursday, President Arif Alvi promoted Lt Gen Syed Asim Munir to the rank of General with immediate effect and appointed him as Chief of Army Staff (COAS), ending intense speculation over the most powerful position in the coup-prone country, where the military wields considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. The President also promoted Lt Gen Mirza to the rank of General with immediate effect and appointed him as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) with effect from November 27. Gen Munir and Gen Mirza were the first and second on the seniority list, respectively. Therefore, both key slots

went to the most-senior generals. Lt Gen Mirza, who hails from the Sindh Regiment, has had an impressive career in the army, particularly in senior leadership positions during the past seven years.

He came to prominence as director-general military operations (DGMO) during the last two years of Gen Raheel Sharif, the COAS from 2013-16. In that role, he was part of Gen Sharif's core team at GHQ, which supervised the military operation against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militants in North Waziristan.

Further, he was closely involved in the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) that brokered intra-Afghan talks involving Pakistan, China, Afghanistan and the United States. Besides, he was also a member of the Sartaj Aziz-led committee on reforms for Gilgit-Baltistan. After his promotion to the three-star rank, he was appointed chief of general staff, effectively making him the second-most powerful person in the army after the COAS. In that role, he was closely engaged in crucial decision-making related to national security and foreign affairs. He also joined former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in strategic talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in 2021.

In October 2021, he was posted as Corps Commander Rawalpindi to enable him to acquire operational experience and become eligible to be considered for the top posts. The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. (PTI)

Venezuela's govt, Oppn resume talks; US eases sanction

MEXICO CITY, NOV 26 /--/ Venezuela's government and its opposition on Saturday agreed to create a U.N.-managed fund to finance health, food and education programs for the poor, while the Biden administration eased some oil sanctions on the country in an effort to boost the newly restarted talks between the sides. The agreement signed in Mexico City by representatives of President Nicol Maduro and the opposition, including the faction backed by the United States and led by Juan Guaid, marked the resumption of long-stalled negotiations meant to find a common path out of the South American country's complex crisis. The U.S. government, in response, agreed to allow oil giant Chevron to pump Venezuelan oil. The broad terms of the agreement for the United Nations-managed social fund were announced by the head of a group of Norwegian diplomats guiding the negotiations. Venezuelan resources held in the international financial system will be directed to the fund, though neither side in the talks nor Norway's facilitator, Dag Nylander, said whether the U.S. or European governments have agreed to allow frozen assets to be funneled to the new mechanism. "In line with UN norms and procedures, (the fund's) objective would be to support the implementation of social protection measures for the Venezuelan people," Nylander said. "The parties have identified a set of resources belonging to the Venezuelan state frozen in the international financial system to which it is possible to

progressively access, understanding the need to obtain the authorizations and approvals" from foreign institutions and organizations.

A U.N. report published earlier this year estimated humanitarian needs at 795 million to help about 5.2 million people in Venezuela through health, education, water and sanitation, food and other projects. Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. ramped up economic sanctions against Venezuela and granted Guaid authority to take control of bank accounts that Maduro's government has in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or any other U.S.-insured banks. Guaid declared himself Venezuela's interim president in January 2019, arguing that his capacity as then-president of the country's National Assembly allowed him to form a transitional government because Maduro had been re-elected in a sham vote in late 2018. Dozens of countries, including the U.S., Canada and Colombia, recognized him as Venezuela's legitimate leader. European banks also hold Venezuelan frozen assets. About 7 million people have left Venezuela amid a complex political and humanitarian crisis. Three-quarters of those who remain in the country live on less than 1.90 a day, an international measure for extreme poverty.

Maduro's delegates walked away from negotiations in October 2021 after businessman Alex Saab was extradited on money laundering charges from Cape Verde to the U.S. Maduro conditioned a resumption on the release of Saab. (AP)

Imran Khan claims 3 shooters tried to kill him in Wazirabad

ISLAMABAD, NOV 27 /--/ Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan has claimed that there were three shooters involved in the failed assassination attempt on him during a protest march in the eastern city of Wazirabad earlier this month.

The chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party suffered bullet injuries in the right leg when the gunmen fired at him in Punjab's Wazirabad area on November 3, where he was leading the march against the government to press for snap elections. Addressing a massive rally of his party on Saturday night in this garrison city, which houses the headquarters of the powerful Army, Khan said the two attackers previously identified were the one who fired at him and other PTI leaders and the second shooter fired at the container's front, while the third attacker was tasked to eliminate the first gunman. Khan, 70, claimed that this third shooter actually killed a person at the rally while trying to kill the would-be assassin. Addressing the nation from the Shaukat Khanum Hospital in Lahore a day after the attack, Khan had said he was hit by four bullets in his right leg by two shooters.

He said he was on a container when a "burst of bullets" was directed at him. "Then a second burst came, there were two people," he said. Khan, in his first in-person address to the party workers after the attack, also alleged that "three criminals", who were behind the failed assassination attempt, are waiting to target him again. He has repeatedly alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and ISI Counter Intelligence Wing head Maj-Gen Faisal Naseer were behind the attack on him. Khan also announced to continue his protest until new elections were announced. Elections are not due in Pakistan until the term of the current National Assembly gets over in August 2023. "The movement of Haqeeqi Azadi will continue until genuine freedom is achieved," he said, adding that the moment would come once new elections were held. Khan was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence vote in his leadership, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan. The US has denied the allegations. He is the only Pakistani prime minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament. The term of the current National Assembly will end in August 2023. (PTI)



Pockets of shelling across Ukraine as wintry warfare looms

KHERSON, NOV 27 /--/ Shelling by Russian forces struck several areas in eastern and southern Ukraine overnight as utility crews continued a scramble to restore power, water and heating following widespread strikes in recent weeks, officials said Sunday. With persistent snowfall blanketing the capital, Kyiv, Sunday, analysts predicted that wintry weather bringing with it frozen terrain and gruelling fighting conditions could have an increasing impact on the direction of the conflict that has raged since Russian forces invaded Ukraine more than nine months ago. But for the moment, both sides were bogged down by heavy rain and muddy battlefield conditions in some areas, experts said. After a blistering barrage of Russian artillery strikes on at least two occasions over the past two weeks, infrastructure teams in Ukraine were fanning out in around-the-clock deployments to restore key basic services as many Ukrainians dealt with only a few hours of electricity per day if any. Ukrenargo, the state power grid operator, said Sunday that electricity producers are now supplying about 80 per cent of demand. That's an improvement from Saturday's 75 per cent, the company says.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank that has been closely monitoring developments in Ukraine, said reporting from both sides indicated that heavy rain and mud have had an impact but wider freezing expected along the front lines in coming days could play a role. "It is unclear if either side is actively planning or preparing to resume major offensive or counter-offensive operations at that time, but the meteorological factors that have been hindering such operations will begin lifting," it said in a note published Saturday. ISW said Russian forces were digging in further east of the city of Kherson, from which they were expelled by Ukrainian forces more than two weeks ago, and continued "routine artillery fire" across the Dnipro River. In the eastern Donetsk region, five people were killed in shelling over the past day, according to governor Pavlo Kyrylenko. Overnight shelling was reported by regional leaders in the Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk areas to the west. Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said one person was killed and three wounded in the northeastern region. A day earlier, a long column of cars, vans and trucks caravanned away from the recently liberated city of Kherson after intense shelling in recent days and amid concerns more pummelling from the Russian forces nearby could loom again in coming days. "The day before yesterday, artillery hit our house. Four flats burned down. Windows shattered," said city resident Vitaliy Nadochyi, driving out with a terrier on his lap and a Ukrainian flag dangling from a sun visor. "We can't be there. There is no electricity, no water, heating. So we are leaving to go to my brother." (AP)

Counter-terrorism, reformed multilateralism India's key priorities during its UNSC presidency

UNITED NATIONS, NOV 27 /--/ Countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism will be among the key priorities for India as it assumes the monthly presidency of the UN Security Council from December 1, culminating its two-year tenure as non-permanent member of the 15-nation powerful body.

According to the UNSC rules of procedure, the Council presidency rotates between each of the 15 members of the UNSC, in alphabetical order. "For us, in the December Presidency, our priorities will be countering terrorism for which we have very successfully built a good narrative in these past few months as well as a focus on reformed multilateralism," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj told PTI in an exclusive interview here.

India assumes the monthly rotating presidency of the Security Council from December 1, the second time after August

2021 that the country will preside over the Council during its two year tenure as elected UNSC member. India's 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, with Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York sitting in the President's seat at the powerful horseshoe table for the month. India will also take over the year-long G20 presidency from December 1.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to New York to preside over "signature events" in the Security Council on renewed orientation for reformed multilateralism on December 14 and on countering terrorism on December 15. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly Csaba Korosi are also expected to brief the UNSC meeting on December 14. Kamboj said counter-terrorism was one of India's top priorities when it entered the Council on January 1, 2021. She underscored

that the country will preside over the Council during its two year tenure as elected UNSC member. India's 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, with Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York sitting in the President's seat at the powerful horseshoe table for the month. India will also take over the year-long G20 presidency from December 1.

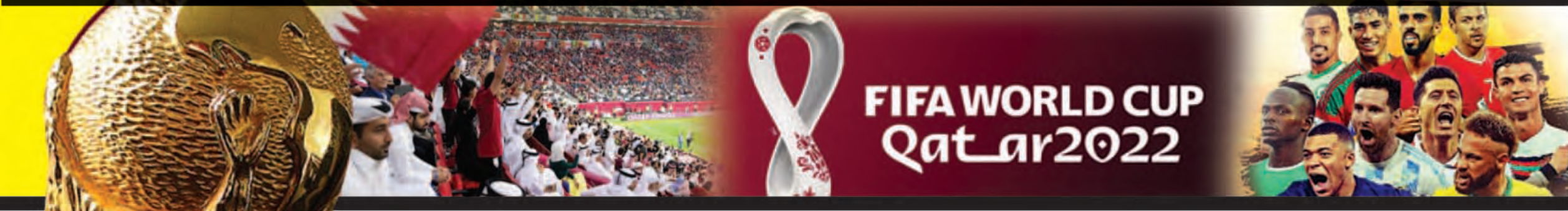
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Messi emotional after firing Argentina into lead against Mexico with vital World Cup goal



ABU DHABI, NOV 27/--/ Lionel Messi's dream of matching late great Diego Maradona's Argentina legacy lives on. The seven-time Ballon d'Or-winning forward pulled level with Maradona on eight World Cup goals and a record 21 appearances at the tournament for his country on Saturday. Messi's brilliant low strike from outside the box sparked a 2-0 win over Mexico to take them second in Group C, just as their hopes of victory were starting to fade and fear was setting in. Argentina's talisman is two goals short of their World Cup top-scorer Gabriel Batistuta's tally of 10 goals, but his winner should bring more opportunities to overtake "Batigol" in Qatar. The real dream is emulating Maradona's 1986 World Cup win, but Messi can content himself for now by levelling Maradona's World Cup appearance record and goal haul, two years and a day after 'El Pelusa' passed away. The curly-haired playmaker inspired Argentina to victory in Mexico in 1986, as well as playing in the 1982, 1990 and 1994 editions. Some insist Messi cannot be considered the greatest of all time unless he lifts the trophy, and in Argentina, Maradona's gleaming World Cup legacy often aids him in comparisons, his flawed genius winning out against Messi's near-perfection. Maradona scored five and

set up another five as Argentina waltzed to their second World Cup trophy 36 years ago in Mexico. Almost a year later Messi was born, but Argentina have not managed to lift the trophy in his lifetime. The Albiceleste captain managed to inspire the team to second place in 2014, with Argentina losing 1-0 in extra-time against Germany in the Rio de Janeiro final. The Paris Saint-Germain No 10, playing in his fifth World Cup, converted a penalty in Argentina's opener but they crashed to a shock defeat by Saudi Arabia. Against Mexico he sporadically burst into life but his team were largely suffocated by their energetic opponents. Early in the second half Messi sent a free-kick over the crossbar from a dangerous position, as Argentina's desperation grew. Eventually he broke the deadlock in the 64th minute, finishing exquisitely beyond the reach of Mexican cult hero Guillermo Ochoa, with Enzo Fernandez adding a brilliant second late on. Maradona scored only 15 goals for Argentina in 41 competitive appearances, compared to Messi's 49 in 115, but some led him to World Cup glory. After elimination in the second group stage in Spain 1982, Maradona returned with a vengeance four years later. He conjured the most talked-about display in football history

against England in the quarter-finals. The stocky attacker scored one of the great all-time goals with a magnificent solo dribble, after opening the scoring with the infamous "hand of god" punch over England goalkeeper Peter Shilton. Another brace followed against Belgium in the semis and Maradona provided an assist in the 3-2 final win over West Germany, perhaps the country's finest sporting moment. In 1990 Maradona guided Argentina to the final but they fell 1-0 against West Germany. A wild eye-bulging celebration after scoring in 1994 World Cup became an enduring image -- Maradona failed a drugs test and was sent home after two games. Messi, who became the first Argentinian to score at four World Cups this week, struck on his debut at the 2006 tournament against Serbia and Montenegro as a teenager. He was an unused substitute as Germany eliminated Argentina in the quarter-finals, then suffered another 4-0 thrashing by the same opponents at the same stage in 2010. Germany foiled Messi again at the final hurdle in 2014 and France beat them in the last 16 in 2018, the playmaker creating two goals in a 4-3 defeat. Messi has never scored in a World Cup knock-out tie and with two goals in two games this year, and strikes in each of Argentina's last six matches, this could be his time. (AFP)

Costa Rica beat Japan to hand Germany lifeline



DOHA, NOV 27 /--/ Costa Rica stunned Japan 1-0 thanks to a late goal at the World Cup on Sunday to blow Group E wide open and hand a potential lifeline to Germany. Japan, who shocked four-time champions Germany 2-1 in their opener in Qatar, could have taken a giant stride towards the last 16 with a win. Instead they laboured for large parts of the match against a Costa Rica side who were hammered 7-0 by Spain, then defender Keysher Fuller scored in the 81st minute with a deflected strike. It was Costa Rica's first shot on target at this World Cup and could be of huge benefit to the Germans. The result left Spain, Japan and Costa Rica all on three points. Spain face Germany later Sunday in another crucial contest. Japan made five changes to the team which shocked Germany in their opening match as coach Hajime Moriyasu made full use of his 26-man squad. In temperatures of 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit) at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, Japan immediately went on the attack and won a corner within 30 seconds to signal their intent. Costa Rica coach Luis Fernando Suarez had resisted making wholesale changes to the team thumped by Spain, dropping teenage winger Jewison Bennette and defender Carlos Martinez to the bench. Gerson Torres and 34-year-old centre-back Kendall Waston took their place in an ageing XI which featured four players from the 2014

World Cup quarter-finals. But Japan's early promise melted in the Doha sun and the first shot at goal -- a tame effort which sailed high and wide -- did not come until 10 minutes from half-time through Costa Rica's 30-year-old Joel Campbell. A dreary first half came to a close with "Los Ticos" having had more of the ball but neither side mustering a shot on target. Moriyasu had seen enough and made a double change at the break, one of them the introduction of Bundesliga-based striker Takuma Asano, who scored the winner against the Germans. The Blue Samurai were immediately more cutting and midfielder Hidemasa Morita drew the first proper save of the match within seconds of the restart with a powerful strike. Moriyasu threw on Brighton attacker Kaoru Mitoma for a defender just after the hour as Japan chased the victory that would put them on the cusp of the last 16. It was all Japan as the match ticked into the last 20 minutes in front of 41,000 spectators. Substitute Junya Ito looked to have wriggled free and was closing on goal, only for Costa Rica defender Francisco Calvo to cynically tug him back on the edge of the box, earning a yellow card that could easily have been red. Costa Rica had done nothing for most of the game as an attacking force, but nine minutes from normal time they stole it when Fuller's shot took a deflection and looped in. (AFP)

TODAY'S MATCH

Group G: Cameroon vs Serbia - 3:30 PM IST

Group H: South Korea vs Ghana - 6:30 PM IST

Group G: Brazil vs Switzerland - 9:30 PM IST

Group H: Portugal vs Uruguay - 12:30 AM IST

GAME NOTES

Cameroon, Serbia clash in must-win game for both

DOHA, NOV 27 /--/ After failing to score and losing their opening games, both Cameroon and Serbia need their strikers on target when they meet on Monday at the World Cup. "The highest level is unforgiving," Cameroon coach Rigobert Song said after his team's opening 1-0 loss to Switzerland. "We no longer have any room for error and we'll be going for broke." Serbia has a fine finisher in Juventus striker Dusan Vlahovic, but he has only just shaken off a groin injury. If he starts, coach Dragan Stokjovic would ideally pair him with Aleksandar Mitrovic. Mitrovic has 50 goals for Serbia and his last-minute header against Portugal in Lisbon last year sent the Serbs to Qatar and put the Portuguese into a playoff. He started the 2-0 loss to Brazil but looked jaded, as did Vlahovic when he came on. Stokjovic is hopeful Juventus left winger Filip Kostic will be fit to start. (AP)

Neymar plans comeback despite swollen ankle

DOHA, NOV 27 /--/ Neymar is planning a World Cup comeback despite posting a photo of his ankle still looking very swollen. Neymar is undergoing treatment for damaged ligaments in his right ankle after getting hurt in Brazil's 2-0 opening win over Serbia on Thursday. Team doctors said Neymar will miss Monday's match against Switzerland but did not elaborate on a timetable for his return -- or say whether he will be able to return at all. Neymar wrote on Instagram he was enduring "one of the most difficult moments" of his career, but seemed optimistic about his chances of returning. He showed two photos of his swollen ankle in an Instagram story. "I'm injured, yes, and it's a pain, and it will hurt," he said. "But I'm sure that I'll have the chance to return, because I'll do anything possible to help my country, my teammates and myself." He said he's been waiting too long for this World Cup to go out like this. "Nothing in my life was easy or given to me," Neymar said. (AP)



Morocco's Abdelhamid Sabiri celebrates his goal with teammates Zakaria Aboukhmal, left, and Yahya Jabrane, top, after scoring during the FIFA World Cup group F match between Belgium and Morocco, at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha

Morocco stun 2nd ranked side Belgium 2-0

DOHA, NOV 27 /--/ FIFA World Cup 2022, Belgium vs Morocco Highlights: Abdelhamid Sabiri and Zakaria Aboukhmal scored a goal each to help Morocco stun number 2 ranked team Belgium in a Group F match at the Al Thumama Stadium, Qatar on Sunday. Abdelhamid Sabiri and Zakaria Aboukhmal scored a goal each to help Morocco stun number 2 ranked team Belgium in a Group F match at the Al Thumama Stadium, Qatar on Sunday. Sabiri scored through a stunning free-kick to put Morocco in the driver's seat before Aboukhmal doubled the lead in the extra time of the second half. Earlier, VAR had denied Morocco an opening goal at the stroke of half-time due to offside. The win helps Morocco replace Belgium at the top spot in the Group F table, while the losing side has slipped to the second spot

France never feared the curse of the world cup holders, says coach Deschamps

DOHA, NOV 27 /--/ France coach Didier Deschamps insisted he was never worried his side might be the latest defending champions to be eliminated from the World Cup in the group stage after they became the first team through to the last 16. The holders followed their opening 4-1 win over Australia by beating Denmark 2-1 in Doha on Saturday thanks to a Kylian Mbappe brace, with the all-important second goal coming four minutes from time. That left France on six points after two games, and they now look set to win Group D as well, with just a draw in their last match against Tunisia all they need to guarantee the top spot. It is a far cry from the last three World Cups, in which the holders have gone out in the group stage on each occasion. That statistic had been mentioned to Deschamps prior to the tournament, especially as injuries ruled out key players including Karim Benzema and N'Golo Kante. "Soon I will have to thank everyone who spoke to me about that," said Deschamps. Italy were the holders when they went out at the first hurdle in 2010, with the same fate befalling Spain in 2014 and Germany four years later. "I am never worried, even if you know the atmosphere around the squad is not always calm," he added. (AFP)

After latest milestone, Ronaldo eyes WC glory

DOHA, NOV 27 /--/ Another game, another personal milestone. For all the turmoil that has surrounded Cristiano Ronaldo ahead of what is likely to be his final World Cup, the Portugal great continues make his mark. On Thursday, he became the first man to score in five World Cups. Earlier this season he registered the 700th club goal of his career. Not bad for a 37-year-old, who doesn't know where he will be playing beyond Qatar after having his Manchester United contract terminated in the wake of his incendiary interview criticizing manager Erik ten Hag and the club's owners. A win against Uruguay on Monday would secure Portugal's qualification from Group H to the knockout stages with a game to spare after its

opening 3-2 win against Ghana. "This is just the beginning," Ronaldo said in an Instagram post, adding that "there are no impossibilities." But if soccer's ultimate numbers man is to achieve his ambition of lifting the one major trophy that eludes him, he cannot do it by himself. That much was clear against Ghana, when Portugal also needed goals from Joao Felix and Rafael Leao to hold on for victory. Felix is the likeliest heir to Ronaldo's throne as Portugal's inspiration-in-chief -- and has even been linked with a potential move to United. If Qatar is Ronaldo's last World Cup dance, the moves are not quite as fluid as they once were. His goal against Ghana came from the penalty spot, rather than a moment of the type of individual brilliance



on which his career has been built. That being said, FIFA Technical Study Group member on Sunday Oliseh still described as "total genius" his ability to win a disputed foul from Mohammed Salisu that Ghana coach Otto Addo insisted should not have been awarded. Ronaldo's celebrations suggested he does not care where the goals come from, so long as they keep on coming. But Portugal cannot solely rely on such moments -- and amid the noise that surrounds its most celebrated player, it can be forgotten how much talent coach Fernando Santos has at his disposal. Not least Atletico Madrid forward Felix, United midfielder Bruno Fernandes and Bernardo Silva of Manchester City. "A selection with the quality of ours has to be favorite

in any game," said Portugal forward Goncalo Ramos ahead of Uruguay at the Lusail Stadium. "It's important to win the second game now." Uruguay drew 0-0 with South Korea in its first game of the tournament. Like Portugal, Uruguay is blending the old and the new. Ronaldo's long-time rival from their time at Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively, Luis Suarez, is in an attack that also features the country's new generation of talent in Darwin Nunez and Facundo Pellistri. At 35, Suarez is no longer the force he once was and he was substituted just after the hour against South Korea. Another 35-year-old in Edinson Cavani replaced him, but Uruguay still couldn't find a goal. (AP)