

THE ECHO OF INDIA

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KOLKATA, SILIGURI, GANGTOK, GUWAHATI and PORT BLAIR

VOL XV ISSUE NO 277 PAGES 8 PORT BLAIR • FRIDAY • JANUARY 20, 2023 Rs 3.00

UNFORGETTABLE SHOW ON JAN 23

PM to inaugurate model of memorial in honour of Netaji, rename 21 islands

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/--/ As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' iconic events week celebration in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a gala show will be



held at Netaji Stadium at 11.00 am on 23rd January 2023.

The show has been organized to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 126th birth anniversary. The Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate a model of the proposed Memorial dedicated in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to be set up

at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, A&N Islands on January 23 at 11 am. Thereafter, the Prime Minister will also announce the naming of 21 Islands of Andaman and Nicobar in the name of Param Veer Chakra Awardees. This event will be live screened in a function to be held in the Auditorium of DBRAIT, Port Blair. The Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will grace the function to be held at DBRAIT, Port Blair.

As part of the celebrations, the mega event at Port Blair also includes a cultural programme at the historic Netaji Stadium on January 23 at 5 pm.

Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Mr. Amit Shah will be the chief guest on the occasion. Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor, A&N Islands will also grace the occasion. The evening will be followed by a performance by renowned singer, Sukhwinder Singh with live band. The other highlights of the evening include presentation of a

dance ballet on the life of Netaji choreographed by eminent Choreographer Ms. Tanusree Shankar and various dance performances.



Prior to the main event on January 23, the A&N Administration has also planned events to pay tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. As part of it, a Kavi Sammelan by renowned poets will be organized at National Memorial Cellular Jail on January 21 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Noted poets from the mainland will present poems on patriotic themes. Naval Band will perform at Marina Park from 7 pm to 7.30 pm on January 21 followed by a cultural programme consisting of

dances of different States showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India from 7.30 pm to 9 pm at Marina Park. On January 22, noted

singer, songwriter, performer, Ms Neha Bhasin and her troupe will perform on patriotic songs from 4.15 pm to 6.15 pm at Marina Park.

Naval Band and MARCOS mock drill show will be held from 3 pm to 3.45 pm at Marina Park on January 22 followed by Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display from 3.45 pm to 4.15 pm. The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display will also be held on January 23 from 4 pm to 4.30 pm at Marina Park.

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I respect Mann but Punjab should not be run from Delhi: Rahul

PATHANKOT, JAN 19 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday again attacked the AAP government in Punjab, alleging that it was being run with a remote control as he sought to point towards AAP MP Raghav Chadha for calling the shots in the Bhagwant Mann-led dispensation in the state.

The Wayanad MP also accused the AamAadmi Party (AAP) of spending Punjab funds on advertisements during the Gujarat Assembly polls held last year. Addressing a rally here on the last day of Bharat JodoYatra's Punjab leg, Rahul further said he respects CM Mann but asked him that Punjab should be run from Punjab only, not from Delhi. Referring to his last public address in Hoshiarpur earlier this week, he said: "I told Bhagwant Mann ji, do not let Punjab be run from a remote control. I did not say an ordinary thing. "You sat with me in Lok Sabha (when Mann was an MP). There is a huge difference between you and ArvindKejriwalji. I respect you and I am saying this from the stage of the Congress party. But Punjab should not be run from Delhi," he said.

The former Congress president said during the yatra he asked a farmer about the new AAP government in Punjab. His reply was that it was a remote controlled government, Rahul claimed. "I did not like it. It is a different thing that the Congress will fight against the AAP," he said. "... When I asked the farmer the meaning of remote control, he said (AAP MP) Raghav Chadha. Then it is not a right thing," Rahul said. He alleged that public money of Punjab was used on advertisements during the Gujarat assembly polls last year. "It is wrong. It is the money of the people of Punjab. On January 16 in Hoshiarpur, Rahul had said that Mann should not become remote control of anyone and should run the state independently, drawing a sharp reaction from the Punjab chief minister.

Mann had told Rahul that he was made the chief minister by the public and reminded him of an "insult" inflicted on Amarinder Singh by unceremoniously removing him from the post of CM. Mann has been facing criticism from the opposition parties that his government was being "remote controlled" by AAP national convener and Delhi chief minister ArvindKejriwal. The Punjab leg of yatra will come to an end on Thursday as it will enter Jammu. The march, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar by January 30, with Gandhi hoisting the national flag in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. The yatra has so far covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. (PTI)

Urination incident: Air India imposes 4-month flying ban on Shankar Mishra

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 /--/ Air India has imposed a four-month flying ban on Shankar Mishra, who is accused of urinating on a woman co-passenger onboard a flight in November last year, a source said on Thursday. The incident happened on an Air India flight from New York to Delhi on November 26, 2022. Currently, Mishra is in jail and the case is before a Delhi court. He was allegedly in an inebriated state at the time of the incident. The source said the airline has imposed a flying ban on Mishra for four months. The flying ban was recommended by a three-member internal committee set up under DGCA norms. Specific details could not be immediately ascertained. On January 4, Air India said it had imposed a 30-day travel ban on Mishra but did not disclose the specific date from which the ban came into force.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), on January 5, issued notices to the officials and crew of the New York-Delhi flight, asking why action should not be taken against them for "dereliction" of duty while handling the November 26 'urination' incident. "The conduct of the concerned airline appears to be unprofessional and has led to a systemic failure," the regulator had said about the incident. DGCA has issued show cause notices to the accountable manager of Air India, its director in-flight services, all the pilots and cabin crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations. Under DGCA rules, the airline concerned is responsible for informing the regulator within 12 hours of landing of the aircraft in case of any incident of unruly passengers/ passenger rage/ misconduct reported in their flight, the statement said.

Besides, the airline concerned has to set up a three-member internal committee. It will have a retired district and sessions judge as chairman, a representative from a different scheduled airline as a member and a representative from a passengers' association or consumer association or retired officer of Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum as the third member. The committee can decide on the duration of flying ban on the unruly passenger within 30 days and there could be a lifetime ban. During the pendency of the decision by the committee, the airline concerned may ban such unruly passenger from flying for a period of up to 30 days, as per the rules. After the committee takes the decision, the airline should maintain a database of all such unruly passengers and inform the same to DGCA, which is the custodian for maintaining the 'no-fly list'.

The woman, who had accused Mishra of urinating on her on the flight, on January 13 rejected the claims made by him that she seems to have urinated on herself, saying these are "completely false and concocted and by their very nature are disparaging and derogatory". Mishra's counsel, while arguing against a police petition seeking revision of an order passed by a magisterial court refusing his custodial interrogation, on January 12 claimed that he did not commit the offence, and that she urinated on herself. On January 8, Tata Group chairman N Chandrasekaran admitted that Air India's response to the incident of the drunk passenger urinating on the woman should have been "much swifter". "We fell short of addressing this situation the way we should have," Chandrasekaran had said in a statement. (PTI)

Lack of dreams, direction in school children biggest challenge for country: Sisodia

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 /--/ Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday said lack of dreams and direction in school children is the biggest challenge for the future of the country.



Sisodia said the Kejriwal government is always focused on the holistic development of its students, though. He was addressing DeshKe Mentor Conclave, organised by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights to celebrate the journey of mentors registered under the programme from all over the country and the mentees. The deputy chief minister stressed the need for timely career guidance for students. "Lack of dreams and direction in school children is the biggest challenge for the future of the country. Mentors under the Delhi government's flagship initiative DeshKe Mentor' programme have worked towards giving direction to the future of hundreds of children studying in Delhi government schools," he added.

On the occasion, Sisodia felicitated the mentors under the programme for putting in the efforts to show the right path to the Delhi government school students who often do not receive timely support in making informed career choices from their surroundings. He also participated in a panel discussion with mentors from various professional backgrounds.

"For the education ministers across the country, most of the targets include getting teachers recruited on time, providing mid-day meals and books to all students and ensuring funds for the universities to run them better," Sisodia said. "But, under the leadership of CM Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi government is always focused on the holistic development of its students," he added. (PTI)

DMK rejects Guv clarification on 'Tamizhagam,' claims his intention was to project DMK as divisive party

CHENNAI, JAN 19 /--/ The ruling DMK here has rejected the Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi's clarification on "Tamizhagam" and claimed that his intention was to project it as a divisive party. Further, a person who occupied the gubernatorial position has no locus standi to comment on Tamil Nadu or its culture or language, the Dravidian major said on Thursday. Reacting sharply to the release from the Raj Bhavan here, DMK spokesperson TK S Elangovan said "I don't know if his (Governor) intention was to suggest a name change or not, but his intention was to project DMK

as a divisive party." He wanted to depict the DMK as a force fighting for a separate country, Elangovan alleged. "But this is not true. We have not demanded a separate nation but sought more powers to the State for administrative reasons," he told PTI. At an event on the Raj Bhavan premises on January 4, Ravi during a felicitation of volunteers of Kashi Tamil Sangamam, had referred to the word "Tamizhagam" triggering a controversy in the State. He was met with strong resistance from the DMK. "While dwelling upon the historical cultural connect between the two,

I referred to the word Tamizhagam.' In those days, there was no Tamil Nadu. Hence, in historical cultural context, I referred to the word Tamizhagam," as a more appropriate expression," the official communique from Raj Bhavan, quoting Ravi, stated on Wednesday. The month-long event celebrating the age-old cultural connect of Tamil people with Kashi had concluded recently. "An interpretation or inference that it was a suggestion to change the name of the Tamil Nadu is erroneous and far-fetched," the statement read. It had further said

PM gives BJP launchpad in poll-bound Karnataka, showcases progress, welfare schemes

YADGIRI/KALABURAGI, JAN 19 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday sought to woo voters in north Karnataka by showcasing development and social welfare programmes thereby giving the ruling BJP a launchpad in the run-up to the Assembly elections due in about three months.

This is Modi's second visit to Karnataka in less than 10 days after his trip to Hubballi on January 12 where he inaugurated a national youth festival and staged a massive road-show. The visit gains significance, as the ruling BJP prepares for Assembly polls and has set a target of winning a minimum of 150 out of total 224 seats. Though today's events were government programmes, Modi's push for BJP's developmental agenda in his speeches, while targeting the opposition parties, without naming any, and accusing them of votebank politics, had political connotations attached to this visit. Modi's visit and BJP government's string of developmental projects and schemes in the two districts of the Kalyana Karnataka region, earlier Hyderabad Karnataka region which is considered to be the backyard of Congress's national president Mallikarjun Kharge (with Kalaburagi his home town and former constituency), are seen with political significance.

The BJP aims to improve its tally in the region, where the Congress is a force to reckon with. In the 2013 polls, Congress bagged 22 seats and BJP shared second place with JD(S) with just 5 seats. While B S Yediyurappa's KJP (Karnataka Janata Paksha), which he later merged with BJP, got 3 and others won in 5. In the 2008 Assembly polls too, when "resourceful" mining barons-Reddy brothers- of Ballari held sway, Congress managed to bag 19 seats, leaving 15 for the BJP and 5 for the JD-S, and others 1. At Kodekal village in Yadgiri district, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various developmental projects for irrigation, drinking water, and national highway

Later in the afternoon, he launched the 'Hakku Patra' (land title deed) distribution drive to over 52,000 nomadic Lambani (Banjara) tribes at Malkhed in Kalaburagi district. Without naming the Congress, he blamed the party's "votebank" politics for the backwardness of certain regions of the State. "Earlier governments had declared several districts, including Yadgiri as backward, and had shirked their responsibilities. The reason for this region lagging behind in development is the previous governments here did not spare time on thinking about how to get rid of backwardness from here, leave aside putting in efforts towards



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento at a function organised to lay the foundation stone and dedicates development projects in Yadgiri, Karnataka

it (development)," he said. Yadagiri is part of the 'Kalyana Karnataka' or the Hyderabad Karnataka region as it was earlier known. These districts that were under the erstwhile rule of Nizams of Hyderabad are among the backward regions of the State. The region, comprising Bidar, Ballari, Vijayanagara, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur, and Yadgir, enjoys special status under the Constitution (Article 371J) owing to its backwardness. Referring to the positive aspect of having a BJP government at both the State and Centre, he said double engine government means double benefit, double welfare and double fast-paced development, and Karnataka is the best example for this.

The Prime Minister complimented the Basavaraj Bommai government for the fast-paced development of north Karnataka region. At Malkhed, once the capital city of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, he said: "It's a big day for the people of Banjara (Lambani nomadic) community as over 50,000 people will get their own roof by way of

Hakku Patra," as he distributed five 'Hakku Patra' to five nomadic couples on the occasion. This Hakku Patra would secure the future of thousands of people living in the "Thandas" (Lambani habitats) in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgiri, Raichur and Vijayapura districts, he said, adding that it's big step taken by the State government towards social justice.

It is said Karnataka has the second highest population of Lambanis (Banjaras) in the country, who are considered among 101 sub-castes that have been recognised as Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State.

The community, earlier by and large with the Congress, now seems to have veered towards the BJP, which the party wants to keep intact and wants to build upon, party sources said. The community has considerable presence in Kalyana Karnataka region. Kharge lost the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, his first-ever electoral defeat in his long political career, to Umesh Jadhav, a Banjara community leader, fielded by the BJP. (PTI)

Centre to allocate Rs 12,600 cr to Gujarat for construction of roads, Bridges, logistic parks: Gadkari

AHMEDABAD, JAN 19 /--/ Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday announced that the Central government will allocate an additional fund of Rs 12,600 crore to Gujarat for



construction of roads, bridges and logistic parks in the state. This fund will include Rs 6,000 crore for development of multi-modal logistic parks in the state and Rs 1,000 crore to construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) or Road Under Bridges (RUBs) on roads other than national highways in the state, Gadkari said. The minister for road transport and highways was talking to reporters at Kavitha village near Ahmedabad after inspecting the ongoing works for the upcoming Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway. He was in Gujarat to review the progress of various highway projects being implemented by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in the state.

On Wednesday, Gadkari had held a high-level meeting with Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar about the ongoing highway projects in the state. "Under the annual plan, we will give an additional fund of Rs 2,600 crore to Gujarat. Another Rs 3,000 crore will be allotted for constructing state highways, district roads and roads inside municipal areas. Under the Setu Bandhan scheme, we will provide Rs 1,000 crore to build ROBs and RUBs on state roads," the minister said.

"For multi-modal logistic parks, we will allocate Rs 6,000 crore. In all, we will give Rs 12,600 crore to Gujarat. I have told this to Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel during a review meeting on Wednesday in Gandhinagar," Gadkari said. According to the Union minister, efforts are being made to finish the 109-km long Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway, which will connect Ahmedabad with the upcoming Special Investment Region and Dholera Smart City, by January 2024. An official release said the highway project commenced in 2021 and so far nearly 21 per cent work has been completed.

Gadkari told reporters that nearly 20 lakh metric tonnes of solid waste generated in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation limits and 25 lakh metric tonnes of ash produced by thermal power plants are being used for preparing the base of the highway. "Since we need a huge amount of clay to construct highways, I have given a proposal to the Gujarat CM that we will dig the canals, lakes and ponds in the state for free and use that clay for our highways," he added. Before undertaking the highway inspection work, Gadkari visited "Spash Mahotsav", an event organised by the Jain Community at GMDC ground in Ahmedabad. (PTI)

PBGKR extends financial help to Isles' girl to participate in National Championship

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/-/ A local girl, Miss Rupa Shree, R/o Prem Nagar approached team Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi seeking financial support so that she can participate in the national games later this month. SmtGurmeet Singh, Gen Secretary, Sports, PBGKR handed over a cheque of Rs 25,000/- as financial aid. In the year 2021 in Rajasthan, MsRupa clinched gold medal in Group Khawankay event, silver medal in Mix Khawankay event and bronze medal in Loba. In the 22nd National Sqay Championship 2021-22 at Goa, she bagged gold medal in Loba, gold

medal in group Aerosky. In the 8th National Tang Soo Do Championship 2021- 22 held at New Delhi, she won gold medal in weapon event, gold medal in forms (phumse) event and also at the 9th National Tang Soo Do Championship 2022-23 held at Delhi. She again bagged the gold medal in forms (phumse) event. Rupa Shree is a super talented girl and deserves a fair chance to compete in Nationals sports. Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi extended her support to her and appealed to all islanders to help such a shining star so that she can perform well and bring laurels to the



Andaman & Nicobar islands, MrMandeepGrewal, President, PBGKR has appealed to the islanders.

Vishal condoles demise

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/-/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member of BJP has condoled the sad demise of Mr. MadanLall, S/o Late PanditLaxmi Narayan, R/o Austinabad, aged 71 yrs who expired today at Chennai. Mr. Jolly has prayed to the Almighty to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

Condolence Message

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/-/ The Organisr, President and all Committee members' of Akhila Bharatha Ayyappa Seva Sangam, A & N Islands express deepest condolence on the demise of Shri. P K Kuttan, age 71, Guruswamy of Ram Temple, Pahadgaon. We pray to Narayan to give peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family.



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Gertrude Stein

UK inflation drop boosts confidence that cost-of-living crisis has peaked

Consumer prices rose 10.5 per cent in the year through December, down from 10.7 per cent the previous month. Inflation peaked at a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in October. While the drop is welcome, inflation is still running at levels last seen in the early 1980s. UK prices are also rising faster than in other major industrialised nations. Inflation slowed to 6.5 per cent last month in the US and 9.2 per cent in the 20 countries that use the euro. Inflation soared after Russia's invasion of Ukraine fuelled sharp increases in food and energy prices, eroding savings and living standards. That has triggered a wave of strikes across Britain as nurses, train drivers, border guards and teachers demand pay increases and the government tries to prevent higher wages from triggering a second round of domestically driven inflation that could be more difficult to reverse.

The squeeze on living standards has seen workers across Britain including nurses, teachers and public transport staff stage a series of strikes. High inflation is a nightmare for family budgets, destroys business investment and leads to strike action, so however tough, the plan should be to bring it down, UK Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt said. While any fall in inflation is welcome, the should have a plan to go further and halve inflation this year, reduce debt and grow the economy. But it is vital that difficult decisions are taken as per requirement. Meeting that goal became easier after mild weather in Europe reduced demand for energy and cut prices for consumers and industry. Wholesale natural gas prices, which soared 10-fold during the first six months of the war in Ukraine, have fallen more than 60 per cent from their August peak. With inflation beginning to slow, attention is now shifting to how quickly it will return to the Bank of England's 2 per cent target. Fresh figures from the Office for National Statistics showed wage growth ticked up again in the quarter to November. Average earnings excluding bonuses were 6.4% higher than a year previously - the biggest increase since record began in 2001. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee is expected to deliver its 10th consecutive interest rate hike, up from 3.5% to 4% at its next meeting in February. Sterling rose slightly against the U.S. dollar after the data. The BoE forecast in November that headline CPI would drop to around 5% by the end of 2023 as energy prices stabilised, but policymakers have warned of ongoing upward pressure on inflation from a tight job market and other factors.

Economists are particularly focused on the cost of food and services as businesses pass on their costs to consumers. Deutsche Bank expects the UK inflation rate to drop by 50 per cent this year and reach the central bank's target around the middle of 2024. But inflation persistence will, we think, be the key theme for the year as central banks across the world tilt their focus more fully to core inflation, and in particular services prices, the bank said before the December inflation figure was released.

Re-thinking on social protection for old is urgent in India

REFLEX ACTION

Dr. Gyan Pathak

The World Social Report 2023 has called for concrete measures to support the greying population of the world amidst escalating pension and healthcare costs. It is urgent, since the number of people aged 65 and above are projected to more than double by middle of the current century.

The study published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has said that the rights and well-being of older persons must be prioritized in efforts to achieve a sustainable future. Countries can reap the benefits by giving everyone the chance to grow older in good health by promoting equal opportunities from birth. It should also be recalled that WHO had declared the present decade as the Decade of Healthy Ageing, but world needs to step up efforts to achieve the goal by 2030. India needs to take this report seriously because the share of the elderly in India is also growing fast and according to the National Commission on Population it could reach 18 per cent by 2036 which was only 9 per cent as per the Census 2011. Moreover, only 24 per cent of the workforce is now covered with one of the social security measures, and old age pension is too little to take care of the needs of the old age. India is also going to be the world's most populated country housing highest number of poor households in the world.

Older persons rely more on assets in low-income countries where public transfer systems are poorly developed than on private or family transfers. The report point out that in India, asset-based reallocations fund about 95 per cent of the old-age deficit. It shows the enormity of work to be done in India on urgent basis. The report titled "Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World" says that in 2021, 761 million people worldwide were aged 65 and older, which will rise to 1.6 billion by 2050. The number of people aged 80 years or older is growing even faster. Globally, a child born in 2021 can expect to live, on average, to age 71, with women living longer than men. This is

nearly 25 years more than a baby born in 1950. Northern Africa, Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, are on track to experience the fastest growth in the number of older people over the next 30 years. Today, Europe and Northern America combined, have the highest share of this population. However, it must be noted, that India though the country would have less share in percentage term would have very large number of older people which would require considerable improvement in health care services and financial social security, such as enough pension.

The report says that it should be widely understood as more than just a set of discrete concerns mainly for one group of people who have advanced beyond a given age. In fact, ageing touches all parts of economies and education to employment and taxation. Each state of life can contribute to or detract from well-being at older ages. In this regard, the report points to inequalities in our ageing world, because not everyone has benefited equally from the improvements in health and education that are driving this transformation. While many older people are in excellent health or "economically active", others live with ailments or in poverty.

In more developed regions, pensions and other public transfer systems, provide over two thirds of the consumption by older persons. Their counterparts in less developed regions tend to work longer and rely more on accumulated assets or family assistance. Furthermore, an ageing global population also means a rise in the need for long-term care, a weakness exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, public spending in most countries has



A fibre statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose under construction before his 126 th birth anniversary at Kumartuli on Thursday--Arijit Ganguly

Meghalaya: Ruling NPP decides to contest solo

In Meghalaya, where State Assembly elections are due next month, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a constituent in the outgoing ruling coalition led by the National Peoples' Party (NPP), is facing tough times. State BJP leaders find themselves beyond their depth as they struggle to counter strongly negative vibes among large segments of voters, mostly generated by the functioning of their assertive BJP colleagues in neighbouring Assam.

The BJP known for its strong stand against beef eating, is yet to find significant political support in a state with 80% -plus Christian population. State party leaders have spoken to local media persons about their problems-- in particular, their thankless task of occasionally justifying/explaining the implications of pronouncements made by senior party leaders in neighbouring Assam.

Meghalaya voters are no less critical of the BJP's proposal to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the upgrading of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). In 2018, the BJP had won only 2 out of 60 seats, but later increased its strength to 6 by encouraging defections from other parties. However, in the Northeastern states, defection being a politically acceptable phenomenon, the actual strength of a party may not necessarily be reflected in the number of seats at any given time. Starting virtually from scratch to establish a foothold in the state, - in 2018, the BJP in Meghalaya finds it increasingly hard to work out a convincing pre-poll campaign. State BJP leaders have reported at length their pre-campaign agonies because of issues and controversies created in

other states, especially Assam, in their interactions with their central leaders. There has been little change in the ground situation, though. For one thing, the BJP has its strongest NE base in Assam, followed by Tripura. The party has long term plans to expand from Assam into other states in the region.

Assam Chief Minister Mr, Himanta Biswa Sarma, whose aggressive pro Hindutva political campaigning has helped the BJP to grow in the region, is the sole NE representative in the BJP's apex policy-making level. He heads the party's overall campaign strategy and planning for the NE region as a whole. Given this background, observers think the chances of Meghalaya BJP leaders securing much relief/help from central leaders vis-a-vis their problems with Assam are slim.

Nor is it only a question of beef and related issues. Relations between the two states have been unusually frosty of late because of the killing of six Khasi tribespeople by Assam policemen during a clash over territorial jurisdiction some time ago. The intervention between the two concerned Chief Ministers at the highest level prevented a worse breakdown of law and order, close to the sensitive, disputed, interstate border --- but only just. The Christian church lost no time in condemning Assam for the unwarranted loss of human lives, along with criticizing Mr

Sarma for what it perceived as his 'shifting statements'.

These difficulties have somewhat damaged the BJP's poll prospects in Meghalaya. A sure indication that to go with the BJP politically could be 'bad news' at present was available in the recent , unexpected decision taken by the National People's Party led by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, to fight the 2023 elections on its own.

The unceremonious 'ditching' from the major partner in the erstwhile ruling coalition in which the BJP was a minor ally, has left the saffron party rudderless. The state party is in a drift, not knowing how to proceed in this situation. One example of its present confusion is the present level of its unpreparedness.

The NPP has already announced a list of 58 candidates, while the Indian National Congress has so far put up 40. New entrant Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced a list of 52 candidates. Its leader, former Chief Minister Mr Mukul Sangma will be contesting from two seats. Most of the smaller regional parties/outfits too have announced their nominees. The sole exception (up to now!) is the BJP! Unofficial reports suggest that the party cannot find too many people willing to fight on its symbol. State leaders have been reduced to look for defectors from other camps to fill the void. This is not to suggest that the party has abandoned battle stations. State leaders stress that

the BJP's prospects are better in the Garo hills, in Tura and adjacent areas, which account for 24 seats. The BJP's limited success in the 2018 polls, too happened in these areas. This time Mr Nurul Momin, the Deputy Speaker of the Assam Assembly, has been camping here conducting the pre-poll offensive.

His objective: to counter what he describes as the baseless, motivated anti BJP campaign among Christians and other minorities , suggesting that the consumption of beef will be totally banned in the state and later in the region, if the pro-Hindutva forces become stronger ! He has reportedly instructed local leaders to highlight the wide range of developmental activities and schemes carried out with generous financial assistance by the central party leadership since 2018. Despite being plagued by occasional defections, the TMC is putting up a serious campaign. West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to visit Meghalaya on Jan 18 and to address a public rally the same day. Other leaders including her nephew MP Abhishek Banerjee, MP Mr Derek O'Brien and Dr Manas Bhuyan, a Minister of West Bengal, will accompany her. As for Congress, its youth leaders have been upset over what they a feel to be a sidelining of the aspiring younger generation in the nomination of candidates. They have protested to their central leaders, urging upon them not to bypass sincere party supporters and workers who have stayed loyal to the party during its present difficult times.

Party leaders feel that the Bharat Jodo march led by Mr Rahul Gandhi has made a positive impact in the Northeast region and the country as a whole. (IPA)

not been sufficient to cover the growing demand. Life expectancy is strongly influenced by factors such as income, education, gender, ethnicity and place of residence. "Some combinations of these factors have too often led to systemic disadvantage that begins early in life," the authors noted. They warned that without policies to prevent them, these systemic disadvantages reinforce one another throughout peoples' lives, leading to gaping disparities in old age.

As a result, progress towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could be at risk, expressly SDG 10 on Reducing Inequalities. The report recommends that countries rethink long-held policies and practices associated with livelihoods and work. Many governments are already introducing opportunities for life-long learning, as well as strengthening and taking full advantage of intergenerational workforces. They are also introducing flexible retirement ages to accommodate a broad range of personal situations and preferences. Authorities must also rethink social protection systems, including pension provision. "One major challenge is maintaining the fiscal sustainability of public pension systems while ensuring income security for all older persons, including workers in informal employment," the authors said. Other crucial elements involve expanding decent work opportunities for women and other groups traditionally excluded from the formal job market. The aim is to secure their well-being when older; and to expand the productive capacity of the economy. The informal care sector's considerable contribution to the formal economy also should be properly recognized af factored in, the analysis suggests.

"Together, we can address today's inequalities for the benefit of tomorrow's generations, managing the challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities that population ageing brings," said Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword															
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ACROSS								DOWN							
1	Target							1	Microbe						
5	Small, circular container							2	United						
9	Locomotive							3	Things to be done						
10	Top card							4	Find pleasing						
11	Emit fumes							5	Conducted oneself						
12	Abode of the dead							6	Sorrowful						
14	Himalayan kingdom							7	Frozen formation						
16	Affirm with confidence							8	Cosy retreats						
19	Land measure							13	Drink						
21	Said further							15	Forgives						
24	Speed and rhythm							17	Lower in price						
27	Christmas							18	Top room						
29	Anger							20	Headwear						
30	Family members							22	Facial features						
31	Walking-sticks							23	Untidy state						
32	Becomes firm							25	Period of time						
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution1769															
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DISCLAIMER
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Badminton tournament at Billiground begins



MAYABUNDER, JAN 19/- / The Jaipur Youth Club under the Harinagar Panchayat, Billyground, North & Middle Andaman organized a Badminton tournament on 18th January 2023, at Koranghnallah (Jaipur, Near Murugan Temple). The event was organized to encourage sports among the youth of this region. Mr. Manojit Halder, Pradhan Harinagar Panchayat was the chief guest and Mr. Shankar Mandal, Zilla Parishad Member was the guest of honour. Mr. Dilip Kumar Das, PSM and Smti. Deepika Das (PRI, HN) were also present on the occasion. About 16 teams are participating in the badminton tournament.

Traffic diversions

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/- / Various cultural programmes will be organised at National Memorial Cellular Jail and Marina Park near Girls School on Jan. 21 & 22. In order to avoid inconvenience to the general public, the District Administration has made the following arrangements for traffic diversions/parking of vehicles on Jan. 21 & 22, 2023. Diversions/parking arrangements in connection with various programmes to held on 21/01/23 & 22/01/23

Event	Venue	Date	Timing	Diversion	Parking
Kavi Sammelan	Cellular Jail	21.01.23	1600 to 1930 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All vehicles except emergency vehicles restricted from GB Pant towards Cellular Jail, it will be diverted from the back gate of the GB Pant Hospital towards water sports tri-junction.Buses shall be diverted from Old Ayush Hospital towards Y-Narayan Junction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Four wheelers: Old Ayush Hospital parking and Swimming pool parking near Netaji StadiumTwo wheelers: Infront of old CRPF Barrack
Classical Dance	Girls School road	21.01.23	1630 to 2130 hrs	Vehicles restricted towards RK Mission from Flag Point/ Machi Line and towards Girls School from Scout Hut and Dharamsala	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Four Wheelers: JNRM Campus and JNRM Football ground near Swami Vivekananda StatueTwo Wheelers: On the right side from Co operative Bank ATM, JNRM to Govt. Press
Navy Shows / Music Show	Girls School road	22.01.23	1245 to 1900 hrs	Vehicles restricted towards RK Mission from Flag Point/ Machi Line and towards Girls School from Scout Hut and Dharamsala	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Four Wheelers: JNRM Campus and JNRM Football ground near Swami Vivekananda StatueTwo Wheelers: On the right side from Co operative Bank ATM, JNRM to Govt. Press

Diversion of Tourist vessels for RD celebration

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/- / In view of the Republic Day Celebration on 26.01.2023, the movement of all Island Tourist Vessels operating from Aberdeen Jetty (RGWSC) to various tourist spot will be diverted as per details below:

DATE	PROGRAMME	SCHEDULE
24.01.2023	Full Dress Rehearsal for Republic Day Programme on 26.01.2023	All vessels to be shifted to Junglighat on 23.01.2023 by 1700 hrs and operate from Junglighat to North Bay.
26.01.2023	Republic Day Celebration of 26.01.2023	All vessels to be shifted to Junglighat on 25.01.2023 by 1700 hrs and operate from Junglighat to North Bay.
27.01.2023	Full Dress Rehearsal for Beating the Retreat.	
29.01.2023	Beating the Retreat programme	All vessel to be shifted to Junglighat on 28.01.2023 by 1700 hrs and operate from Junglighat to North Bay.

However, operation of IV Tourist boats from Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports complex to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Island and North Bay shall be permitted on 25th & 28th upto 1600 hrs and thereafter normal operation will be restored from 30.01.2023. All owners of Jetski have also been directed to park their Jetskis at their designated place on the above date and time as no water sports activity will be permitted from RGWSC as per schedule above due to security consideration.

NEET aspirant in Kota attempts self-immolation over pressure for studies

KOTA, JAN 19 /- / A 20-year-old NEET aspirant from Bihar attempted self-immolation here over pressure for studies, police said on Thursday. Mayank Kumar set himself ablaze in his paying guest (PG) room in Talwandi area under Jawahar Nagar police station on Wednesday afternoon, they said. The youth, a resident of Bihar's west Champaran, had been pursuing self-studies for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for the last two months in Kota, they said. The NEET aspirant allegedly took the step after his father repeatedly asked him to focus on his studies, they said. Mayank sustained at least 60 per cent burn injuries over the upper portion of his body and face, said Dr Neeraj Devanda from MBS hospital (burn unit), adding he was brought to the hospital by the PG caretaker. He was later referred to a higher medical health centre for further treatment on Thursday morning, he said. The caretaker informed Mayank's father, who was on his way back to Bihar after meeting him, about the incident who reportedly took him to Bihar for further treatment, police said. "I was at Kota Railway station to board a train for Bihar when the caretaker called and informed about the accident," said the NEET aspirant's father Sanjay Kumar. Mayank has come to Kota to pursue studies, however, he did not enrol himself in any of the coaching institutes here and was doing self-studies, he further said. According to Sanjay, during a conversation with his son on Wednesday morning, he asked him to focus on his studies and goal. (PTI)

ASI inaugurates huts of Nicobarese, Jarawa & Shompen tribes



PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/- / The Anthropological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair organized an inauguration programme of the traditional huts of Nicobarese tribe, Jarawa tribe and Shompen tribe on 19 January, 2023 at 04.00 pm in the museum premises. Under the special campaign 2.0, of the Swachhata Abhiyan special drive initiated by Govt. of India towards utilization of unused museum campus, lying as dump yard for years has been initiated and converted into cultural landscape after clearing the bushy, non-timber plants, wild grasses. Three traditional dwelling unit/huts of three tribes has been raised with the natural materials available from the habitat of the tribe to maintain the indigeneity and with the involvement of tribal and other local people in order to create a visitors friendly ambience of Zonal Anthropological museum. Mr. Arvind Kumar, Director, Ministry of Culture has inaugurated the traditional hut of Nicobarese tribe, and Shompen Huts. Dr. M Sasikumar, Joint Director Anthropological Survey of India inaugurated the traditional hut of the Jarawa Tribe with presence of Representative of Tribal Welfare Department, AAJVS and tourists/museum visitors. As the tourists to Andaman are restricted to travel to Nicobar group of Islands (as the A & N Administration declared the

whole Nicobar Archipelago as tribal reserve area due to its tribal dominated locale) the display of traditional Nicobarese hut will be a place of tourist's attraction. Moreover, our museum in Port Blair is an important tourist centre and situated in the heart of the town this live size Nicobarese hut will add value to the Museum as well as the Port Blair town. In the year 2004, due to catastrophic natural disaster caused by Tsunami, most of the traditional beehive dwellings had submerged due to high sea waves. As a part of reviving such traditional hut and for showcasing to the public, ANRC, Port Blair is initiating the work for installation with the active participation of the community members

Experis opens offshore delivery centre in Bengaluru

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 /- / Leading IT professional resourcing and managed services provider Experis has opened an offshore delivery centre in Bengaluru, that will focus on sourcing and recruiting permanent and temporary assignments, and project delivery services for global clients. Currently, 500 recruitment professionals will be operational, with a scalable capacity of 2,000-plus employees over the next two years, a release said. The Offshore Delivery Center will be the flagship location for Experis' borderless talent and recruiting teams and will provide consistent support for recruiter and consultant hiring across the organisation as well as project delivery support, serving global clients 24x7. "Our connected global capabilities across our Experis brand are further strengthening our efforts to create a cohesive service network and capabilities for the North American market. "Our Offshore Delivery Center is critical at this juncture where workplace transformation and digital adoption is leading the world of

work," Sandeep Gulati, Group Managing Director, ManpowerGroup (India & Middle East), said. "With this expansion, we look forward to augmenting our offerings for our clients as well as our candidates and employees globally while creating meaningful jobs here in Bengaluru," he added. The team of recruiters bridges the gap between companies and the talent supply in the US, and the project delivery consultants deliver a range of expertise and capabilities including development, testing, service desk, and product support. "We are committed to leveraging the best talent for our clients regardless of location and we know with such talent scarcity, especially in the technology sector, we need to both create and curate tech talent. "That's why we are excited to be kicking off the next phase of our Tech Talent strategy so that we can tap into the highly skilled local talent here in India to meet the demand of our clients across borders," said Experis US Senior Vice President Ger Doyle. (PTI)

Arms holders told to deposit arms, ammunition

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/- / In view of the upcoming VVIP visit and Republic Day 2023, all the Arms License Holder(s) under the jurisdiction of South Andaman District have been directed to deposit their Arms & Ammunition to the concerned Police Station with immediate effect from 20/01/2023 as per Section 21(1) of the Arms Act, 1962. Action as per law will be taken, in case of non-compliance / violation, a press release from DM (SA) said.

National LokAdalat in District Court complex

PORT BLAIR, JAN 19/- / The District Legal Services Authority, Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be holding National LokAdalat in the District Court Complex at Port Blair and Sub-Divisional Court Complex at Mayabunder and Circuit Court at Diglipur on Feb.11 by adopting all COVID SOP issued by the MHA from time to time. Besides the compoundable nature of cases pending in different courts, disputes at the pre-litigation stage will also be entertained by the National LokAdalat for disposal upon consensual settlement between the parties. Pre-litigation disputes include NI Act cases u/s 138, money recovery cases, labour dispute cases, electricity and water bills cases (excluding non-compoundable), maintenance cases Civil disputes and disputes under the Consumer Protection Act. The general public having any such dispute at the pre-litigation stage or post-litigation stage are at liberty to submit their disputes in writing to the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Port Blair before 30.01.2023, so that their disputes may be processed and made ready for hearing before the National LokAdalat on 11.02.2023.

Animal Welfare Fortnight celebrated



SUBRATA

RANGAT, JAN 19/- / The Animal Welfare Fortnight is being celebrated in the Islands from 14th Jan to 30th Jan 2023. To mark the occasion various programmes related to animal welfare are being conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AHVS) at the Veterinary Hospital Rangat in association with the Forest department. Bird friendly trees were planted in the department campus at Veterinary Hospital Rangat. An awareness programme on Veterinary first aid practices was demonstrated at Middle School, Laxmanpur wherein children were sensitized on veterinary first aid practices for pets and animals. As part of the fortnight celebration, a Veterinary Health Camp was organized at Yeratta village. Animal birth control programme was also conducted at Veterinary hospital rangat during the fortnight celebration.

AFFIDAVIT

1. I, MINOTI DAS Mother of No. 10535497F Rank HAV Name SAMIR CHANDRA DAS presently residing at Laxmipur Village, Post Laxmipur, Diglipur Tehsil, North & Middle Andaman, Pin- 744202, A & N Islands do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

(a) That my actual and correct Date of Birth is 20.04.1966 as per recorded in my Aadhar Card, but my date of birth has been erroneously entered as 23.10.1960 in the service records of my son at the time of publication.

(b) That, I am producing this Affidavit for the purpose to change my date of birth in the service records of my son.

(c) That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge, information and belief. Noting material has been concealed there from.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent Above named, do hereby solemnly declare and verify that the contents of the above Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed or suppressed there form.

Deponent

AFFIDAVIT

1. I, MINOTI DAS Mother of No. 10535497F Rank HAV Name SAMIR CHANDRA DAS presently residing at Laxmipur Village, Post Laxmipur, Diglipur Tehsil, North & Middle Andaman, Pin- 744202, A & N Islands do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

(a) That my actual and correct name is MINOTI DAS as per recorded in my Aadhar Card, but my name has been erroneously entered as MONITA DAS in the service records of my son at the time of publication.

(b) That, I am producing this Affidavit for the purpose to change my name in the service records of my son.

(c) That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge, information and belief. Noting material has been concealed there from.

Deponent

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent Above named, do hereby solemnly declare and verify that the contents of the above Affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed or suppressed there form.

Deponent



KENDRIYA HINDI SANSTHAN, AGRA

(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Hindi Sansthan Marg, Agra - 282005

Centre : Delhi, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Shillong, Mysore, Dimapur, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad

ADMISSION NOTICE SESSION 2023-25

Only for Non-Hindi States

Applications are invited for the following Two Year courses :

(1) Hindi Shikshan Nishnat (M. Ed. Equivalent) Total Seats - 44

Qualification: B.Ed./L.T. with recognized university with Hindi Method or Hindi Shikshan Parangat with 50% marks.

(2) Hindi Shikshan Parangat (B.Ed. Equivalent) Total Seats - 44

Qualification: 1. B.A. with Hindi and/or M.A. with Hindi from recognized university with 50% marks.

Or

Graduation and/or Post Graduation in any subject with 50% marks from recognized university along with Intermediate with Hindi from a recognized Board & B.A. Level diploma in Hindi from any institute recognized by Govt. of India (Vidwan, Ratna, Shastri etc.)

2. At Graduation level, one of the subjects of Social Study-History (Landmark in Indian History), Geography, Civics (Indian Polity, Political Science), Sociology (Indian Society and Culture), Economics (Indian Economy, Business Economics) is compulsory.

(3) Hindi Shikshan Praveen (D.El.Ed. Equivalent) Total Seats - 44

Qualification: 1. Intermediate (Higher Secondary pre-university) Hindi from recognized board with 50% marks.

Or

Intermediate (Higher Secondary, Pre-university) in any subject with 50% marks from recognized board along with High School with Hindi from a recognized Board & Intermediate level certificate in Hindi from any Institute recognized by Govt. of India (Kovid, Bhushan etc.)

2. At Intermediate level, one of the subjects of Social Study-History (Landmark in Indian History), Geography, Civics (Indian Polity, Political Science), Sociology (Indian Society and Culture), Economics (Indian Economy, Business Economics) is compulsory.

Entrance Exam Online/Offline for Pre-Service Applicant to the above course will be held on **28 May, 2023** at Hyderabad, Guwahati and Mysore. Forthcoming session would start on July, 2023. **Reservation of seats as per Government of India Rules.**

Application form can be filled on Sansthan website www.khsindia.org and the hard copy can be submitted along with all required enclosures. Opening Date for filling online application is **01.02.2023** and closing date is **28.02.2023**. Last Date for submission of application form's hard copy is **15.03.2023**. Details are available on Sansthan website www.khsindia.org

- Dr. Chandra Kant Tripathi Registrar



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at an administrative review meeting at Alipurduar——Photo : EOI

Want neighbourly ties with Pak but atmosphere free from terror needed: India

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 /--/ Days after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered to hold bilateral talks, India on Thursday said it always wanted normal neighbourly ties with Pakistan but there should be an atmosphere free from terror and violence for such a relationship. The comments by external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi came when asked at a media briefing about Sharif's offer last week to hold talks between the two countries to resolve outstanding issues such as Kashmir. "We have said that we have always wanted normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. But there should be a conducive atmosphere in which there is no terror, hostility or violence. That remains our position," Bagchi said. In an interview with UAE-based Al Arabiya news channel last week, Sharif said that Pakistan has learnt its lesson after three wars with India and now it wants to live in peace with India, if "we are able to resolve our genuine problems". "We have three wars with India and it only brought more misery, poverty and unemployment to the people," Sharif said. "My message to the Indian leadership and Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) is that let's sit down at the table and have serious and sincere talks to resolve our burning issues like Kashmir, where flagrant violations of human rights are taking place day in and day out," he said. However, the Pakistan's Prime Minister's Office later said negotiations are not possible without India revoking its 2019 actions on Kashmir. India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement. The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. (PTI)

Delhi women's panel chief dragged by car for 10-15 metres near AIIMS, man arrested

NEW DELHI, JAN 19 /--/ Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal on Thursday alleged she was molested by an inebriated man and dragged by his car for 10-15 metres outside AIIMS with her hand stuck in the vehicle's window as he drove on.

A 47-year-old man living in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar has been arrested following the incident which took place in the early hours of the day. The DCW chief said she was out in the night to inspect the state of women security in Delhi along with her team, in the wake of the Kanjhawla hit-and-drag incident in which a 20-year-old woman was dragged to death while trapped under a car in the national capital. Maliwal's team was with her during the inspection, although it was stationed at some distance. "Last night, I was inspecting the situation of women safety in Delhi. A car driver, in an inebriated condition, harassed me and when I caught hold of him, he rolled up the window pane on my hand and dragged me along. God saved my life. If the chairperson of the women's commission is not safe in Delhi, one can then imagine the situation," she tweeted about the incident in Hindi.

"While on the inspection, a man molested me and dragged me with his car. If the DCW chief isn't safe in Delhi, one can imagine how unsafe Delhi is for women," Maliwal said. Later, the DCW issued a statement saying Maliwal was standing at a bus stop on Ring Road opposite AIIMS when the car approached her. "The driver rolled down the window and asked her to sit in the car but she



File photo of Swati Maliwal, Chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women

refused. The man stared at her for sometime and left the spot but again approached her after a while. He again asked her to sit in his car but she again refused. He started making lewd gestures towards her," it said. "When she approached him to reprimand him, he made a vulgar gesture towards her. When she tried to catch hold of him, he rolled up the window due to which Maliwal's hand got stuck in it. He then pressed the accelerator to drag her for several metres with the car. She somehow managed to escape," the statement added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chandan Chowdhary said a patrol vehicle spotted her on the pavement opposite AIIMS around 3.05 am and enquired if she was in distress. After Maliwal narrated her ordeal, the

police tracked the car down and arrested its driver Harish Chandra. Chowdhary said a case was registered under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act at Kotla Mubarak Pur based on a complaint from the DCW chief. In the statement, the Delhi women's panel said Maliwal visited several places near Kanjhawla, Munirka, Mundka and Hauz Khas following the Kanjhawla case, where she observed dark spots and deployment of police personnel. She also stopped at several bus stops at night and observed the safety situation, it added.

The case refers to the death of Anjali Singh, who was killed in the early hours of New Year day after her scooter was hit by a car, which dragged her for more than 12 kilometres from Sultanpuri to Kanjhawla. Maliwal also said that during her night inspections, she observed several dark spots in different areas and will be issuing notices to the authorities concerned. The National Commission for Women has sought a report from the Delhi Police on the matter. "@NCWIndia has taken cognizance of the matter. The Commission is seeking report from @DelhiPolice and writing to take strict action against the accused," it said in a tweet. NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma tweeted: "Shocking incident. NCW is seeking report from Delhi Police and writing for strict action against the perpetrator." (PTI)

Land subsidence in Joshimath shatters many business dreams

JOSHIMATH, JAN 19 /--/ The hotel owner, the shopkeeper, the laundry owner, the roadside vendor... Hundreds of people watch in dismay as rapidly deepening cracks write the epitaph of their businesses and homes in a sinking town that was bustling till just a few weeks ago.

Their dreams for the future shattered, small businesspersons in the Himalayan town of Joshimath wonder how their lives could have been upended so completely - and so fast. Suraj Kapruwan, a hotel management graduate who left his well-paying job in Mumbai and returned to Joshimath a few years ago to set up a laundry business, remembers the exact moment his plans for the future crumbled. It was January 2 when land subsidence led to hairline wall fissures widening with a distant rumbling noise heard in some places, leading to gaping cracks in houses, streets and other establishments of the town of nearly 23,000 people. "The disaster shattered my dreams. Tourists have stopped coming here, and bookings have been cancelled. I had to let go of my staff of nine people," an emotional Kapruwan told PTI. He set up a laundry to cash in on the booming tourist business of the town, which acts as a gateway to several Himalayan mountain climbing expeditions, trekking trails, and pilgrim centres such as Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib, and also the Valley of

Flowers, a UNESCO world heritage site. "We are mountain people. In the absence of opportunities, many people leave Joshimath for the plains. I thought if I come back, I might be able to help a few more people to stay back and work towards the upliftment of the town," he said, ruling perhaps his decision to return home. The 38-year-old said he spent about Rs 35 lakh to set up his laundry, a major chunk going into buying IFB machines worth Rs 20 lakh. "The setup has developed a wide crack in its basement and has been included in the danger zone," said Kapruwan. "Whatever I tried to stitch together in the last few years has been torn to shreds," he

said. According to Naini Singh Bhandari, chairperson of the Vyapar Mandal Sangh, Joshimath has around 600 business owners, including those who own homestays, hotels, clothing shops and restaurants. Of these, 50 establishments are already in the Red Zone category and off limits. "These businesses are totally dependent on tourism. We are being told to vacate the damaged shops but where will we go with all the equipment and goods? Overall, business has suffered drastically," he told PTI. "We are demanding proper compensation for our goods and a rehabilitation package for traders so they can start



Workers use heavy machinery to demolish a building which has been marked unsafe at a land subsidence affected area, in Joshimath

New India has big dreams and courage to realise them, Modi says in Mumbai

PM inaugurates Rs 38k infra projects in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, JAN 19 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that for the first time since Independence, "New India" has big dreams and the courage to realise them.

Speaking at a public meeting in Mumbai after launching Rs 38,000 crore infrastructure projects, Modi said there was a "long period" of the last century that was lost discussing poverty and seeking help from foreigners. Many cities across India are going to power the growth story of the country, he said. "Therefore, making Mumbai future-ready is one of the commitments of the double-engine government," he added. Mumbai will be transformed in the next few years, the Prime Minister said. While the world's biggest economies are in turmoil, India continues to provide free rations to 80 crore people, Modi said. Amid the global slowdown, India continues to invest in infrastructure which shows its commitment towards being a developed nation, the PM said.

Earlier, the money meant for the welfare of the poor used to be embezzled by middlemen, he said. "In the last eight years, we have



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, during a rally in Mumbai

removed this approach, and are moving with futuristic thinking by increasing spending on modern infrastructure," Modi said. Maharashtra's infrastructure development acquired speed after CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis assumed office, he

said. Modi inaugurated Mumbai Metro lines 2A and 7, comprising a 35-km long elevated corridor stretching from Andheri to Dahisar. He also inaugurated 20 Aapla Davakhana health clinics named after Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray. (PTI)

Ancestors belonged to this land, I feel like going back to my roots, says Rahul as yatra enters J&K

LAKHANPUR, JAN 19 /--/ Entering Jammu and Kashmir on the last leg of his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused the Centre of indulging in mass pickpocketing by diverting the attention of people and then looting them.

Addressing a rally here, the former Congress president said he had walked from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and talked to thousands of people. As dusk fell and temperatures dipped, hundreds of people walked alongside Gandhi. In a customary handover function, Punjab's Congress unit gave the party flag to a leader from the Jammu and Kashmir wing. "The BJP and RSS have spread hatred. I earlier thought it ran deep but it does not and is mainly seen on television," Rahul said in his first stop in Jammu and Kashmir, about 90 km from Jammu. The Congress leader listed hatred, violence, unemployment and price rise as the main issues confronting the country and blamed the media for not highlighting them. Criticising the media for not focusing on the right issues, he said it uses topics such as Bollywood stars Aishwarya Rai and Akshay Kumar to divert the attention of people. There was one more point about two India's in making - one for poor and one for the corporate world, he said. Injecting a personal note, Rahul said his ancestors belonged to this land and he felt he was returning home. "I am going back to my roots, I know the suffering of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and come to you



with a bowed head," he said. Rahul said he had been walking about seven hours a day, covering 25 km each day, but nobody was tired as some people had predicted. "I later felt we are not feeling tired because people are pushing us forward." "If someone falls, he is supported within seconds... nobody is asking anyone what is your religion," he said. The Congress leader started walking from Kanyakumari in September. The Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to conclude in Srinagar on January 30. The distance yet to be covered is over 360 km. Earlier welcoming him, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah drew a parallel between the Shankaracharya and Rahul Gandhi. "Many years ago, Shankaracharya had undertaken a yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. And today you are doing it," the MP said here. Abdullah said that today's India is not that of Ram's Bharat or Gandhi's Hindustan because people are divided on religion. "If we are together, we will be able to overcome the hatred of the present day," he said. Abdullah, who made his second appearance in the yatra, made an passionate wish saying "before I close my eyes, I want to see my secular Hindustan again where everyone is respected." Amid chants of "Nafrat Chodo Bharat Jodo" (Leave hatred and unite India), Rahul led Bharat Jodo Yatra yatra entered this Jammu and Kashmir via Pathankot-Punjab, marking the final phase of the 3500-km foot March by the Congress leader started from Kanyakumari in September. (PTI)

Spanish, French leaders meet to sign friendship treaty

BARCELONA, JAN 19 /--/ French President Emmanuel Macron is meeting Thursday with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro S nchez in Barcelona to strengthen relations between the European neighbours by signing a friendship treaty.

The one-day summit in Barcelona comes amid a day of widespread strikes and protests on the other side of the Pyrenees against Macron's bid to increase the minimum



Emmanuel Macron and Pedro S nchez

retirement age from 62 to 64. S nchez and Macron are to sign a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between their countries. Both governments consider this a diplomatic bond of the highest order. Spain only has a similar treaty with Portugal; France has them with Germany and Italy. The leaders are seeking stronger positions inside the European Union. Macron is profiling himself as the continent's leading politician to fill the void of former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, while S nchez wants Spain to have a more influential role in Brussels following the exit of Britain from the bloc. After years of cordial but sometimes distant relations between France and Spain, the two have grown closer recently. Spain, France and Portugal have agreed on a major undersea pipeline to transport hydrogen from the Iberian Peninsula to France and eventually the rest of Europe. The pipeline, dubbed H2Med, will run from Barcelona to Marseille. Macron and S nchez also both want the European energy market to be reformed to respond to the energy crisis provoked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The meeting is being held in Catalonia's National Art Museum perched atop the Montjuic hill that overlooks Barcelona. Several thousand Catalan separatists are rallying outside to try to energize their flagging movement to carve a new state out of this corner of northeast Spain that borders France. The sound of distant jeers could be heard from afar as Macron and S nchez reviewed Spanish soldiers before the national anthems were played on arrival. North of Barcelona, protesters disrupted traffic on a highway. S nchez has spent quite a bit of political capital in defusing the separatist movement, with pardons for imprisoned leaders of a failed 2017 secession bid and recent legal reforms. While that has succeeded in reducing tensions in Catalonia, there is still a hardcore group that refuses to go away. (AP)

EU assembly wants Iran's Revolutionary Guard on terror list

BRUSSELS, JAN 19 /--/The European Parliament on Thursday called for Iran's Revolutionary Guard to be put on the European Union's terrorist list and insisted that sanctions targeting Tehran had to be expanded after the violent suppression of protests.

In a nonbinding resolution, the legislature mustered a large majority to call on the EU's 27 member states for such punitive action to counter what it sees as a swift backsliding of human rights in Iran. Beyond the call to put the organisation on its terrorist blacklist, the European Parliament also wants the EU to ban any economic or financial activity that can linked to the Revolutionary Guard Corps. The United States has already designated the corps as a "foreign terrorist organisation", and subjected it to unprecedented sanctions. The European Parliament action came before Monday's meeting of EU foreign ministers where more sanctions against Tehran are expected to be approved. Thursday's resolution came after four months of anti-government protests in Iran sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was being held by the morality police for allegedly violating the country's strict Islamic dress code.

The protests quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of the theocracy and mark one of the biggest challenges it has faced in more than four decades. Iran has blamed the unrest on the US and other foreign powers, without providing evidence. The protesters say they are fed up with social and political repression, corruption and an economy weighed down by Western sanctions and mismanagement. The EU steadfastly condemned the violence used during the demonstrations. (AP)

King Charles to divert wind farm royal profits for `wider public good`

LONDON, JAN 19 /--/ King Charles wants proceeds from a new multi-million-pound wind farm deal struck by the Crown Estate, profits from which fund Britain's royal family, to be used for the "wider public good", according to a Buckingham Palace statement on Thursday.

The 74-year-old monarch, a keen proponent of renewable energy, wants any boost of profits expected from the agreements struck for six offshore wind projects not to be used to boost the taxpayer-funded Sovereign Grant which is made up of 25 per cent of the Crown Estate's annual profits to meet the expenses of the country's royal household. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt have been informed of the King's decision as they are responsible for formally setting the annual share of the Sovereign Grant. "In view of the offshore energy windfall, the keeper of the privy purse has written to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to share the King's wish that this windfall be directed for the wider public good,

rather than to the Sovereign Grant, through an appropriate reduction in the proportion of Crown Estate surplus that funds the Sovereign Grant," reads the B u c k i n g h a m Palace statement. The decision is seen as a sign of King Charles' intention to mark his own stamp on the British monarchy and focus attention on projects close to his heart. The Crown Estate announced the agreements for offshore wind energy on Thursday as a "landmark" move that could begin to generate green electricity by the end of the decade, with the potential to power seven million homes.

Three of the six projects are located off the North Wales, Cumbria, and Lancashire coast, and three are located in the North Sea off the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coast of England.



"The UK's offshore wind achievements to date are nothing short of remarkable, and this next generation of projects points to an even more exciting and dynamic future," said Dan

Labbad, CEO of the Crown Estate. "They demonstrate the far-reaching value that our world-class offshore wind sector can deliver for the nation: homegrown energy for all, jobs and investment for communities, revenue for the taxpayer, clean energy for the benefit of the environment and a considerate, sustainable approach which respects our rich biodiversity," he said. The latest set of agreements, worth around GBP 1 billion, is the culmination of the Crown Estate's Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 and follows three previous leasing rounds aimed at paving the way for the development of a world-class offshore wind market in the UK.

The Crown Estate said, alongside investment in cutting-edge data and evidence, it has now awarded rights totalling 41GW. UK Minister for Energy and Climate Graham Stuart said: "Britain's position as the European leader in offshore wind shows no signs of letting up. These six projects demonstrate how areas across the UK can contribute to ensuring Britain meets its world-leading ambition of deploying up to 50GW of offshore wind by 2030." "Offshore wind is at the heart of our goal to secure clean, affordable, and resilient energy supply for all in the UK while bringing major business, investment, and job opportunities along with it." With agreements signed, developers can now further progress their plans for the projects which are said to have the potential to make a major contribution to delivering sustainable, renewable energy, and meet the UK government's target of 50GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030. (PTI)

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Lanka for much-anticipated visit; to finalise plans on debt restructuring

COLOMBO, JAN 19 /--/External affairs minister SJaishankar on Thursday arrived here for a much-anticipated visit to Sri Lanka, where he will meet the cash-strapped country's top leadership to finalise a debt restructuring plan to help Colombo carve out a path from its worst economic crisis.

Jaishankar, who rounded off his official visit to the Maldives, was welcomed here by minister of state for foreign affairs Tharaka Balasuriya. Jaishankar is scheduled to have meetings later on Thursday with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ali Sabry and President Ranil Wickremesinghe, officials said. Debt restructuring will headline Jaishankar's talks with Sri Lanka's top leadership during his two-day official visit. Sri Lanka, which is trying to secure a much-needed USD 2.9 billion bridge loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has been trying to get financial assurances from its major creditors China, Japan and

India which is the requisite for Colombo to get the bailout package. The IMF bailout has been put on a halt as Sri Lanka pursues talks with creditors to meet the global lender's condition for the facility.

On Tuesday, P r e s i d e n t Wickremesinghe said his government has "successfully" completed its debt restructuring talks with India "I can tell this assembly that the talks are successful. Very soon we will have an answer," Wickremesinghe told the Parliament. On Tuesday, India's Additional Secretary of the finance ministry Rajat Kumar Mishra informed IMF chief Kristalina Georgiva that New Delhi has confirmed its support



to Sri Lanka on the issue of debt restructuring. Last week, Sri Lanka completed its debt restructuring talks with Japan.

Extending a much-needed lifeline to a neighbour in need, India has handed financial assistance of nearly USD 4 billion to Colombo last year. In January 2022, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves as the financial crisis began to unfold. Later, it offered a USD 500 million credit line to Sri Lanka to fund the country's fuel

purchases.

The credit line was later expanded to USD 700 million due to the sheer gravity of

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pak in February: Senior PML-N leaders

LAHORE, JAN 19 /--/Pakistan's deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif is likely to return to the country next month to end his over three-year self-exile in the United Kingdom, some senior leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said on Thursday.

Punjab province Governor Baligur Rehman of PML-N said Nawaz's daughter and PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz will also return from London this month to look after



the party affairs. "Nawaz Sharif is returning to Pakistan within a month and I will go to the airport to receive him," he said. Prime Minister's Special Assistant Malik Ahmad Khan told PTI that the 73-year-old Nawaz is considering the party's request to return ahead of crucial elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces. Ousted prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) recently dissolved Punjab and KP assemblies to push the PML-N federal coalition to call for snap polls in the country. "The elections in Punjab and KP will be held after 90 days and the PML-N wants Nawaz to be in Pakistan to spearhead the campaign in both provinces," the Prime Minister's special assistant said. Asked if Sharif will be back in a month, Khan said: "Nawaz Sharif will be among his people in Pakistan very soon."

Federal Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, a close aide to Nawaz, said the three-time premier would return next month. "Nawaz will return in February to defeat Khan in the political arena," he told the media. Interior minister Rana Sanaullah said Nawaz will return once relief in the cases he is facing is ensured. "Nawaz will not go to jail on his return as he will manage to get bail (ahead of his return)." Interestingly, another federal minister Javed Latif had earlier given at least four different dates for the return of Nawaz. In recent party meetings with Nawaz, most participants urged him to return without any further delay as the party is facing the brunt of his long absence as it may see fissures if he does not return. In the face of the rising popularity of the cricketer-turned-politician, most of PML-N local leadership is unanimous that the party needs Nawaz to be in Pakistan ahead of the polls if it wants to counter Khan's juggernaut. An "ailing" Nawaz has been living in London for "medical treatment" after the high court allowed him a four-week reprieve. He was serving seven-year imprisonment in the Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore in the Al-Azizia corruption case before his departure to London on medical grounds.

Prior to his exit, his younger brother (prime minister) Shehbaz Sharif had submitted an undertaking to the Lahore High Court ensuring his elder brother would return "within four weeks" or on certification by doctors that he has regained his health and is fit to return to Pakistan". However, the return is repeatedly delayed due to health concerns. Nawaz Sharif's passport expired in February 2021. However, Shehbaz Sharif's government issued a fresh passport to the elder Sharif in April last year. In August 2021, Nawaz filed an appeal with the British Immigration Tribunal after the Home Department refused to extend his stay in the country on "medical grounds" any further. Sharif can legally remain in the UK till the tribunal issues its decision on his plea for his stay in the country. (PTI)

British Indian entrepreneur conferred Freedom of City of London honour

LONDON, JAN 19 /--/A British Indian entrepreneur and founder of an ethnic minority focussed marketing agency has been conferred the Freedom of the City of London honour for his contributions to the financial hub of the UK capital.

Manish Tiwari, founder of Here and Now 365, read the "Declaration of a Freeman" and signed the Freeman's Declaration Book recently, when he was presented with the Copy of the Freedom a parchment document inscribed by a calligrapher, along with a copy of the "Rules for the Conduct of Life" which date from the mid-eighteenth century. The honour is steeped in history and traditionally the recognition gave a "Freeman" the right to trade in the Square Mile or financial heart of London. "On the strength of its multi-cultural legacy, the City of London continues to grow and prosper. It remains at the forefront of global finance by leveraging its past and embracing change and I am honoured to be a part of this legacy,"

the situation. The Indian credit lines since early 2022 have been in use to import essentials and fuel after street protests erupted due to severe shortages of essentials. Sri Lanka began debt restructuring talks with its creditors in September last year as warranted by its agreement with the IMF for the USD 2.9 billion facility over four years. It began negotiating with the IMF for a bail-out after having announced its first-ever sovereign debt default in April last year. The IMF facility would enable the island nation to obtain bridging finance from markets and other lending institutions such as the ADB and the World Bank.

Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking political turmoil in the country which led to the ouster of the all-powerful Rajapaksa family. (PTI)

Teenage boy found beheaded by militants in Pak's restive northwest

PESHAWAR, JAN 19 /--/ A 19-year-old boy, accused of being a spy for the Pakistan Army and the c o u n t e r - t e r r o r i s m department by militants, was found beheaded in a remote area in the restive northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, the police said.

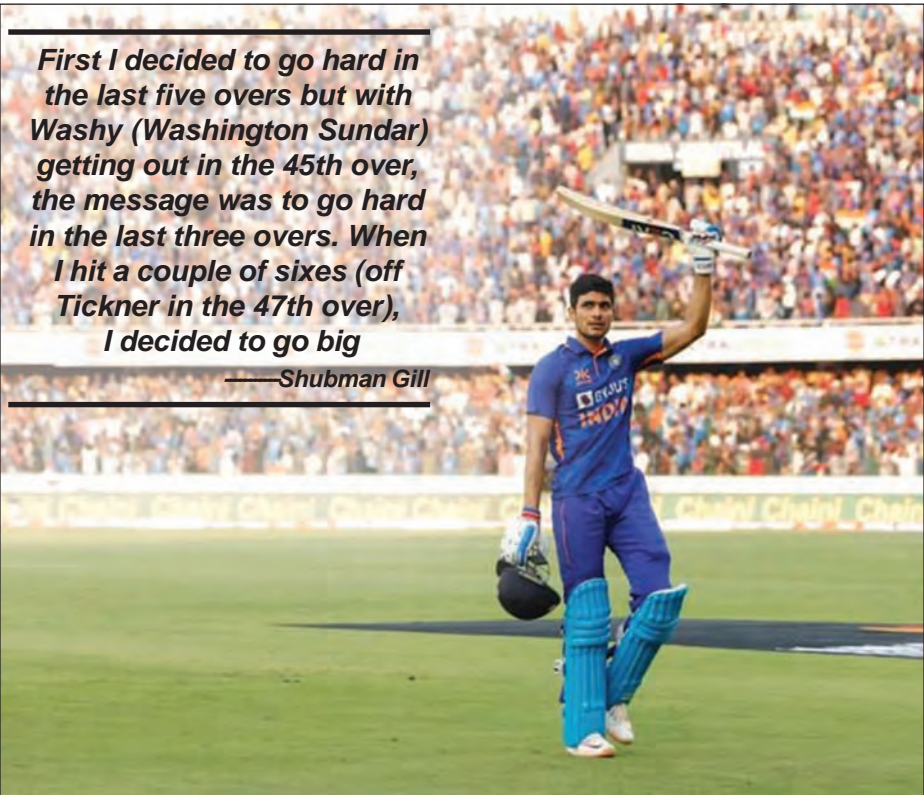
The teenager, identified as Raheedullah was found beheaded in Bargai village of Lakki Marwat on Wednesday. An official said that the militant group Ittehadul Mujahideen-i-Khurasan' had left a dagger and a handwritten chit in the Pashto language along the body, carrying a message that Raheedullah was found guilty of spying for the army and counter-terrorism department, the Dawn newspaper reported. The victim's uncle told the police that his nephew had gone to the fields on January 15 but did not return home, the report said. He also said that they later came to know that some armed men took him away along with his motorcycle. The police have said an autopsy will be performed on the victim and an investigation is underway to arrest the culprits. Pakistan's restive northwest bordering Afghanistan has seen a series of terror attacks in the past year, especially on police personnel and the army.

The attacks are mainly carried out by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as the Pakistani Taliban, who ended an indefinite ceasefire with the Pakistan government in November last year. In December last year, a militant group from Balochistan announced its allegiance to the outlawed TTP. Several other smaller splinter groups of militants have also joined the TTP including the deadly Jamaatul Ahrar. (PTI)

said Tiwari. As one of the oldest surviving traditional ceremonies of the British capital still in existence today, the tradition of conferring the title is believed to have started in 1237. The title of Freeman is more symbolic today and comes with certain corresponding duties associated with the Lord Mayor's office. Before 1996, the Freedom of the City was only open to British or Commonwealth Citizens and has since been extended globally and persons of any nationality may be admitted. Today, the honour is conferred upon individuals by the City of London Corporation to help celebrate a significant achievement, or to pay tribute to their outstanding contribution to London life or public life.

A previous Indian recipient of the honour is Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, and other prominent recipients include South African leader Nelson Mandela and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. (PTI)

Even when wickets were falling, my intent was to punish the bad balls: Shubman Gill



First I decided to go hard in the last five overs but with Washy (Washington Sundar) getting out in the 45th over, the message was to go hard in the last three overs. When I hit a couple of sixes (off Tickner in the 47th over), I decided to go big
—Shubman Gill

HYDERABAD, JAN 19 /--/ Shubman Gill feels his intent to look for boundaries despite wickets falling at the other end contributed immensely to his sensational double hundred in the first ODI against New Zealand. While the wickets were

falling regularly at the other end, opener Gill batted till the 50th over to script a knock for the ages. Thanks to Michael Bracewell's breathtaking 140 off 78 balls, New Zealand came dangerously close to chasing down 350 but the barrage of sixes that Gill hit in the

death overs made the difference. The gifted Gill was not getting support from the other end but he kept looking for the odd boundary in the middle overs before going ballistic in the death overs. He hammered six sixes in the last 10 balls he faced. "This knock means a lot to me. I could not convert in the first ODI and third game (against Sri Lanka), I was looking to get a big score but it didn't happen. Once I was set, the focus was to score as may runs as possible. "With the extra fielder inside the circle (in overs 11-40), we see the other teams pushing in the middle overs. Even when wickets were falling, I wanted to show intent to the bowlers because it's very easy to bowl dot balls if the batter is not showing intent. "So, that was my intent when the wickets were falling that 'I will hit you if you are going to bowl bad balls'," the 23-year-old spoke about his mindset during his sensational innings. What stood out was his ability hit straight sixes. He ended up tonking nine of them on Wednesday. With the batters getting dismissed at the other end, the message from the dressing room kept changing but it was the 47th over when Gill decided to go after every ball. "I think once in England I had hit six sixes in seven balls. I was itching to unleash myself but with wickets falling at regular intervals and the message from the dressing room was that I have to bat till the end. "So, that is why I had to play in a safe manner so that a set batter doesn't get out. If I had got out, it would have been difficult for the lower order batters to hit boundaries. "First I decided to go hard in the last five overs but

with Washy (Washington Sundar) getting out in the 45th over, the message was to go hard in the last three overs. When I hit a couple of sixes (off Tickner in the 47th over), I decided to go big." Gill is starting to show the consistency that is expected from a rare talent like him and he is glad about that. "Consistency is very important for me, it's the key to everything. As a batter that is what I strive for in any format. It feels good when things you are doing repeatedly are paying off," said Gill, whose father has been his primary coach since he took up the game. After a memorable double ton, he spoke about his father and mentor Yuvraj Singh. "Yuvi paaji has been a mentor to me, like a big brother. I keep discussing about my batting with him and my dad has been my primary coach since the beginning. I am glad I could make them proud." India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was adjudged bowled but replays suggested the ball did not hit the stumps. It could have been wicketkeeper Tom Latham's gloves that knocked the bails off but the third umpire ruled it in favour of the away team. However, Gill had his doubts on the dismissal. "As a non striker batter I did not think the ball hit the stumps when I was watching the replay. Sometimes there is a blind spot you can't really tell what happened. "With the bail falling towards the crease, it is a bit weird (and not falling towards the wicketkeeper). But these bails are different they are heavy bails and in the end you have to go with the third umpire decision," added Gill. (PTI)

A late entrant to international cricket, another product from Bracewell family making up for lost time

HYDERABAD, JAN 19 /--/ Cricket runs in the family for late bloomer Michael and he is making the Bracewells proud. After his jaw-dropping 140 off 78 balls in the first ODI against India on Wednesday, the 31-year-old New Zealander has made a strong case to be rated as the most feared number seven batter in the world. Chasing 350, his team was down and out at 131 for six but Michael stayed in the moment and slayed the Indian attack to all parts of the ground to single-handedly take his team on the brink of an improbable win before falling just 12 runs short. Such was his zone that he picked a spot and the ball followed, whether it was an audacious scoop off Mohammed Shami or an outrageous driver over cover off Kuldeep Yadav. Overall, as many as 10 sixes came from his blade. Having made his international debut in March last year, 10 years



after his maiden first-class appearance, Michael is surely making the opportunity count. It wasn't the first time he found himself in a hopeless situation. In only his fourth ODI, he had smashed an unbeaten 127 against Ireland to chase down 301 after New Zealand lost six wickets for 153 runs. He could not get his team over the line on Wednesday but won a lot of fans for his fearless display. His family, which includes three Test cricketers in John Bracewell (uncle), Brendon Bracewell (uncle) and Doug Bracewell (cousin), must be proud too. His father Mark, his coach since childhood, played first-class cricket in New Zealand. Speaking after his epic innings, Bracewell said years spent in domestic cricket is helping him massively at the highest level. "I would say most international cricketers are pretty motivated but the benefit that I have is that I was able to get experience in domestic cricket and understand the way that I want to play. "I came into international cricket sort of knowing this is how I am successful domestically and I am going to try and emulate that in international cricket. (PTI)

INDIA VS WALES, MEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2023

India beat Wales but end 2nd in pool D, to face NZ for QF spot

ROURKELA, JAN 19 /--/ India defeated Wales 4-2 in the Pool D match of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 at the Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela. Akashdeep Singh was the star for India as he scored two goals. Apart from him, Shamsher Singh and Harmanpreet Singh scored one goal each. For Wales, Gareth Furlong and Jacob Draper scored one goal each and gave a tough challenge to India but in the end the hosts had the last laugh. India will now be facing New Zealand in the crossover game on Sunday to fight for a spot in the quarterfinals.



Not having practice and four games could hurt Australia in India: Ian Healy

MELBOURNE, JAN 19 /--/ Former Australia wicket-keeper Ian Healy doesn't agree with prolific run-getter Usman Khawaja's opinion that practice matches are not required ahead of the four-Test Border-Gavaskar series in India beginning February 9. Australia will not be playing a single practice game in India before the opening Test in Nagpur, and Khawaja, a member of the touring side, recently said it won't harm the team's chances on spinning sub-

continent wickets. "Have you ever been pre-tour with us? They can be spinning wickets when we play but we go to the practice matches and they are green Gabba-like wickets out there so what's the point," Khawaja was quoted as saying recently by the Australian media. "I think we have finally learned. When I heard we weren't going to have a practice game I went up to (head coach) Andrew McDonald and said, 'good idea'." Healy, 58, on

Thursday, begs to differ and said that while someone like Khawaja, who is in peak form, might not require fine-tuning on Indian pitches, there would be many in the side who need to get used to sub-continent wickets. "That's an in-form natural batsman (Khawaja) talking," Healy told SEN Radio on Thursday. "I think the spinners would like a 'bowl-off' into it and so the non-natural players who need some repetition and to grind before getting back into it.

It's not for everyone practice matches, but it is for some," added Healy. The touring side under Pat Cummins is not scheduled to play any four games in between Tests, and Healy thinks that could hurt Australia's chances in the crucial series. "How do we get players back into form? There'll be no games in between the four Tests either. Someone who is going to be sitting on the bench for three matches might get dragged in, we've got to be careful." (PTI)

Wales agree equal pay for football internationals

LONDON, JAN 19 /--/ The Football Association of Wales (FAW) became the latest governing body to agree on equal pay deals for men's and women's internationals on Wednesday. The deal comes into place immediately and covers the period up to and including the 2026 men's World Cup and 2027 women's World Cup. A joint statement released by Wales men's and women's teams said: "Together Stronger has been the mantra across the Cymru national teams for us all, both on and off the pitch as we look to put Wales on the world stage." "As part of the FAW's strive towards equality, we are now proud to announce that together, our men's and women's teams have agreed to an equal pay structure for future international matches." World champions the United States, and European champions England, Spain and Norway are among nations who have introduced equal pay for male and female players for representing their countries. "We hope that this will allow future generations of boys and girls to see that there is equality across Welsh international football, which is important for society as a whole," added the players' statement. (AFP)

Only World Cup medal is missing from my cabinet, hope to win this time: Sreejesh

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 19 /--/ Star India men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has achieved almost everything in his 17-year-long illustrious career, except for a World Cup medal and he wants to fulfil his "dream" this time in the ongoing showpiece at home. The 34-year-old Sreejesh had played a major role in India's historic bronze win in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and the team is hoping to finish on the podium in the ongoing World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela after a hiatus 48 years. India had won their maiden World Cup medal, a gold, in the 1975 edition in Kuala Lumpur. "That (World Cup medal) is the only medal which is missing in my cabinet. The Indian team is working hard to finish on the podium and that is my dream," Sreejesh told PTI. "If we do that, I can also say that I have a medal from the Olympics as well as from the World Cup." Sreejesh, who has played 226 senior international matches since making his debut in 2006, has won medals in all prestigious tournaments, except for World Cup.

He has won gold in Asian Champions Trophy in 2011, 2016 and 2018. He is also a three-time Olympian and is currently playing in his fourth World Cup. Some of the members of the Tokyo Olympics bronze-winning team like Birendra Lakra and Rupinder Pal Singh have retired since then. Talking about them, Sreejesh said, "Every Olympic cycle, coaches try to change a lot of players because they (coaches) plan for the next four years. That is going to be more important, so that is why there has been a lot of changes in our team as well. "A lot of youngsters have replaced senior players. So, they will get a lot of experience and be ready to give their best for the country at the end of this (Olympic) cycle," said the shot stopper from Kerala. Sreejesh agreed with current Indian team goalkeeping coach Dennis van de Pol, who had said that young Krishan Pathak has matured enough and is ready to replace the veteran custodian when he decides to call time on his glorious career. "Pathak has been with the national team since 2016 when he played the Junior World Cup and he joined the senior team in 2017. He was with me for the 2018 World Cup and 2018 Asian Games. He has got enough experience to play for the team now. "Definitely, when you are the senior-most, you need to look



back and think about who can replace you and who can play better for the country because being in the Indian hockey team is not a permanent job for anybody," he said. "Some day you need to step out and someone will take your place and I think with experience and the way he is playing he (Pathak) is ready to perform for the country." Sreejesh felt happy that the world body, FIH, is concerned about the safety of players and was thinking of giving more reaction time to penalty corner defenders but doesn't see any reason to change rules in this regard. The FIH is doing a study on tweaking penalty corner hit rules to provide more safety to defending

players as the high speed ball travels in a crowded area. Asked about this, Sreejesh said, "In any sport, safety of players comes first. I am happy that the FIH is concerned about the safety of the players. But the thing is that we should not change anything in penalty corners because the PC is one of the beautiful things in hockey and it gives excitement to the game. "Definitely, the way out could be better quality of equipment and better use of them can prevent injuries." The current Indian team has done very well in defending penalty corners as it has not conceded a goal from set pieces in the two matches it has played so far in this World Cup. But Sreejesh refused to compare players of different generations and said the current lot is the best in this aspect of the game. "Every generation has its best PC defenders and you saw our current players doing really well in defending PCs. So, when the system or the technology improves, that helps in how to defend penalty corners. With experience also, we can defend penalty corners," he said. "In the match against England, Manpreet Singh was the first rusher and he is no longer a youngster. Amit Rohidas is also a very good first rusher. But you cannot compare players of different generations, be it PC takers or PC defenders." (PTI)

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