

## G20 INDIA BRIEFING

### Diplomats discuss a host of vital global issues

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, 26/--/ A special G20 India Briefing session was held at a private resort at SwarajDweep at about 1.00 pm on Saturday. According to sources, G20 Sherpa, Mr. Amitabh Kant briefed delegates, including diplomats from all missions of the participating countries. Earlier, about 40 delegates from various countries were taken to Kala Patthar beach where a yoga session was held. Kalapather beach is located about 12-13 km away from the private resort where the G20 delegations are staying. Sources informed that during the special session, a host of issues, including culture & tourism, climate financing, circular economy, global food security, energy security, green hydrogen, disaster risk reduction and resilience, developmental cooperation, education, commerce, skill-mapping, fight against economic crime and multilateral reforms were reportedly discussed.

Later in the afternoon, delegates visited Radhanagar beach to view the sunset. The G20 group is an inter governmental forum of the world's major developed and



developing economies. Meanwhile, local residents of SwarajDweep are excited that their abode was selected for

hosting such a global level event. The visit of such high profile diplomats to their place will not only bring

SwarajDweep to the global stage, but will help faster development of this place, said a resident.

### MP seeks vehicle ferry vessels between Yeretta Jetty-Long Island on a daily basis

PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary to operate vehicle ferry vessel on daily basis between Yeretta Jetty and Long Island so that people willing to visit Long Island can easily take their four or two wheelers to Long Island and explore the Island easily and return back in the same vehicle ferry with their vehicle. In a letter, Mr. Sharma mentioned that Long Island has immense potential for tourism due to its natural beauty and three famous beaches but the Island

has failed to attract tourists mainly because of lack of connectivity. Reaching Long Island is still a challenge for many and hence people of the Island could not reap the benefit of Tourism, he noted. Mr. Sharma added that during his recent visit to Long Island, he has interacted with local residents, who are anxiously waiting for some concrete steps from the side of Administration to make Long Island easily accessible for other Islanders as well as tourists.

(Contd. on page-6)



## GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL YOUTH TO GET JOBS

### Australian High Commissioner to India inaugurates Career Connect progs

PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/ Great opportunity for the youth of the islands to get a job in multinational companies. The Government of Australia through Vibha & Yuvajaya Foundation is organizing 'Career Connect' - a 3-month training programme for job readiness. Vibha & Yuvajaya Foundation is hosted by Smt R. Dimple, W/o Mr. John Robert, eminent citizen of the islands. The Career Connect programme inaugurated by the Australian High Commissioner to India will be held at Junglighat.

In order to participate in the Career Connect program, some of the top delegates who are in the islands to participate in the G20 Summit Curtain Raiser meeting attended the inaugural programme at Junglighat hosted by Smt R. Dimple, who is being appointed to host Mr. Barry O Farrell, Australian High Commissioner & Consul General South India, Ms. Sarah Kirlow, along with other Australian delegates also participated in the programme in VIP road.

(Contd. on page-6)



## OBITUARY

We deeply mourn the sudden and untimely demise of B. Pravin, son of B. Srinu at Medichiralapalem, Malkipuram Mandalam, East Godavari District, Andhrapradesh on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

"Your life was blessing Your memory a treasure Your love beyond words and Missed beyond measure"

We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray the Almighty to give strength to the members of the family to bear the irreparable loss. May his soul rest in peace.

**Deeply mourned by:** N. Peddiraju, N. Venkateshwar Rao, K. Bobby, K. Lazar, Nageshwar Rao, K. Vasu, K. Bhagwan Narayan, R. Sunny, R. Abhimanyudu, R. Sita, D. Dharma Rao, K. Sundar Rao, D. Nageshwar Rao and all family members, relatives.



Students of Yeshuva Training Academy, Port Blair participating in the inaugural function of 'Career Connect' programme held at VIP Road, Junglighat. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Barry O Farrell, Australian High Commissioner to India on Friday.

### Badminton tourney by ABC, RCS Group in association with ANIBA

PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/ A Badminton Tournament was organised by Andaman Badminton Club, RCS Group in collaboration with Andaman Nicobar Islands Badminton Association (ANIBA) at Chidambaram Colony, Prothrapur, South Andaman.

(Contd. on page-6)



### Roadside encroachments rampant

### Citizen appreciates eviction drive carried out at Haddo to free revenue land



Andaman has requested the general public to refrain from encroachment on government land. In case of any information/

complaints regarding such illegal activities, the general public can inform the same to the District Control Room at the

following numbers 03192-240127/238881/1070. The identity of the person providing the information will be kept anonymous.



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6.	PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
8.	SANITARY INSPECTOR	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
9.	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	2YEARS	12 <sup>TH</sup>
10.	OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT	2YEARS	12 <sup>TH</sup>
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PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/ In what could be described as an initiative that has been drawing appreciation from the citizens of the city, the Revenue department in South Andaman District has carried out a drive to evict encroachments from government land in the city. Officials of the Revenue department carried out the eviction drive against encroachments committed over government land at Haddo village under Port Blair Tehsil upon land bearing Survey No. 172 area 1441 Sqmtrs, which was set apart in favour of District Administration, South Andaman. During the drive temporary structures in the shape of ghunties, food stalls were removed and the land was restored to its original status.

Of late there has been a surge in the encroachment of roadside government land by setting up petty shops and gumties. People first set up their gumties on roadside pavement and start selling their products. By coming into an understanding with the area Municipal Councillors, they forced the PBMC to start collecting a small amount as tax. This encourages them to apply for electricity and water connection. And if they get power and water connection, it means no nobody can evict them from the spot. The Revenue department should conduct more such drive to evict roadside government land in the days ahead.

The District Administration, South

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# Gujarat polls: BJP manifesto promises Uniform Civil Code, anti-radicalisation cell, meals at Rs 5, temple circuits

**GANDHINAGAR, NOV 26** --/ The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday released its manifesto for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly polls and promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and also create an 'Anti-radicalisation Cell' to identify and eliminate potential threats as well as sleeper cells of terrorist organisations and anti-India forces.

The party's other promises include creation of "20 lakh employment opportunities" and take the state's economy to USD one trillion in the next five years.

The manifesto was released at the state BJP headquarters by party president J P Nadda in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state unit chief C R Paatil.

The annual cover under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat) being doubled per family from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, and girls getting free education from "KG to PG" (kindergarten to post-graduation) are among other promises in the manifesto.

"We will ensure complete implementation of UCC in Gujarat as per recommendations of a state government committee. We will also create an Anti-radicalisation Cell to identify and eliminate potential threats, and sleeper cells of terrorist organisations and anti-India forces," said Nadda. On October 29, the Gujarat government had announced that it would form a committee for the implementation of the UCC. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting that day.

The manifesto also promised enactment of the 'Gujarat Recovery of Damages of Public and Private Properties Act' to recover the cost of damage caused to public and private properties by anti-social elements during riots and protests.

Other key promises include setting up of two seafood parks in south Gujarat and Saurashtra region, free diagnostic service at health centres and approved laboratories for EWS households, setting up three civil hospitals or 'Medi Cities', two AIIMS-level institutions, and converting

20,000 government schools into 'Schools of Excellence'. The BJP also promised to establish four Gujarat Institute of Technology on the lines of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

Talking about farmers, Nadda said the BJP, if voted to power, will spend Rs 10,000 crore for the overall development of APMCs, mandis, sorting and grading units, cold chains, warehouses and processing centres, while Rs 25,000 crore will be spent to strengthen the irrigation network.

"We will build a Devbhumi Dwarka Corridor to establish it as western India's biggest spiritual centre. It will have the world's tallest Sri Krishna statue, ED immersive Bhagwat Gita zone and a viewing gallery for the lost city of Dwarka," the manifesto stated.

The state will see two-phase Assembly polls on December 1 and 5, while the votes will be counted on December 8. It is witnessing a three-cornered fight with the BJP, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the fray. (PTI)

## Contribution of women members of Constituent Assembly rarely discussed: Modi

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** --/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lamented that the contribution of women members in the Constituent Assembly is rarely discussed even as he stressed on the need to make the youth better understand the Constitution.

Addressing the Constitution Day event at Supreme Court in the presence of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and other judges, he said the future of India's Constitution and institutions rests on the shoulders of the youth. Modi said there were 15 women members in the Constituent Assembly with one of them being Dakshaayini Velayudhan -- a woman who had come out of the deprived society. She made important interventions on many topics related to Dalits and labourers, he noted. Durgabai Deshmukh, Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and many other women members had also contributed significantly on topics related to women. "Their contribution is rarely discussed," he underlined. He said there is another feature of the Constitution which has become even more relevant in today's times.

The Constitution makers gave us a document which is open, futuristic and known for its modern vision, which makes it youth-centric, the prime minister said. He said be it sports or startups, information technology or digital payments, youth power is making its mark in every aspect of India's development. He said in order to increase the understanding about the constitution among youth, it is necessary that they become a part of debates and discussions on constitutional subjects. This, Modi said, will further increase their interest in the constitution. This will create a vision among the youth to understand topics such as equality and empowerment. (PTI)

## Delhi Police yet to receive DNA test report in Mehrauli murder case

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** --/ Delhi Police is yet to receive the DNA test report in connection with the Shraddha Walkar murder case, an official said here on Saturday. According to police, the blood samples of the father and brother of Walkar have been collected for Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) matching with the body parts that have been recovered in the Mehrauli case till now. "The DNA test report has not been received by police," Special CP (Law and Order, Zone II) Sagar Preet Hooda, said. The accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala was sent to judicial custody for 13 days by a Delhi Court on Saturday. Police have initiated the legal process for the production of the accused for further proceedings in the polygraph test, Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order, Zone II) Sagar Preet Hooda said. Aaftab Poonawala allegedly strangled his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, 27, and sawed her body into 35 pieces, which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in south Delhi's Mehrauli before dumping them across the city over several days past midnight.

On Friday, the polygraph test on Poonawala went on for nearly three hours at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Rohini. Poonawala reached the laboratory for his third session of the polygraph test at 4 pm and left after 6.30 pm, they said. A senior FSL official said all sessions related to the test have been completed, including the pre, main and post-stages of the procedure. "Our forensic experts will analyse the recordings and make a report accordingly. He can be called again if the experts are not satisfied with the report. Based on the outcome of the report, a decision will be taken on conducting narco analysis which can be carried out even if he is sent to judicial custody," he added. The police are yet to find the victim's skull, her remaining body parts, as well as the weapon, used to dismember the body. (PTI)

## Constitutional values are facing serious threat, says Kerala CM

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 26** --/ Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday said constitutional values like secularism, democracy and federalism are facing serious challenges in the country and hurdles are being created in realising the true federal concept of complacent states, a strong Centre and dynamic local self-governments.

The fundamental democratic principle that the state governments, elected by the people of the respective states, should play an equal role with the central government in the development of the country is being forgotten, he said in his Constitution Day message. Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day. "India's Constitution, which encompasses the ideals of our anti-imperialist struggle, is facing a wide array of challenges on this 73rd anniversary of its adoption. It's time to join the fight to fend off such threats and defend its spirit and values on our #ConstitutionDay," Vijayan tweeted. Indirectly referring to the ongoing tussle between his government and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the CM said even those holding high Constitutional positions are being used to pressurise elected governments is one of the concerns on this Constitutional Day. "Today, the values of secularism, democracy and federalism in our country are facing serious challenges... The challenges being faced by our Constitution, even on the 73rd anniversary of its adoption, are not just trivial," he said.

Targetting the Centre, he said there are moves to make citizenship in accordance with one's religion and the public sector undertakings (PSUs) are being sold off one by one in the country. The Marxist veteran further charged that employees' rights were being stripped off and the Constitutional principles of secularism were being subverted in the higher education sector. All of these are being challenged legally and through protests in the public sphere and this "objection is the voice for the protection of the Constitution", he added. The Constitutional Day is also an occasion to renew our pledge to counter such challenges and to preserve and protect constitutional values and principles. (PTI)

## Woman ragpicker shares her woes with Rahul Gandhi in MP town during his Bharat Jodo Yatra

**BARWAHA, NOV 26** --/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacted with a woman ragpicker as his Bharat Jodo Yatra passed through a town in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, during which she told him about the issues she and her family faced, including lack of basic amenities like electricity and water.

The foot march led by Gandhi entered the fourth day of its Madhya Pradesh leg on Saturday. After an overnight halt, the yatra began from Mortakka in Khandwa district in the morning. When it was passing through Barwaha town in Khargone, Gandhi met 45-year-old ragpicker Shannu and her family members, who were part of the crowd standing along the road. "We are poor and make a living through ragpicking at different places. We live in a hut, which doesn't even have

## J&K's final electoral rolls: Political parties say studying details of new voters, want elections now

**SRINAGAR, NOV 26** --/ A day after the final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published, political parties in Kashmir on Saturday said while they were studying the details about the addition of new voters, the Election Commission should now announce assembly polls for the union territory.

The final electoral roll of Jammu and Kashmir was published on Friday with the highest-ever net addition of more than 7.72 lakh voters, officials said. It has a total of 83,59,771 electors -- 42,91,687 males, 40,67,900 females and 184 third gender -- Joint Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir Anil Salgotra had said. National Conference (NC) spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said around seven lakh voters have been added and the party will have to see as to how many of them were those voters who have turned 18 from the last revision till now. "We are studying the details of it, constituency-wise," he told PTI. Sadiq, however, said, now that the whole process is over, the party expects the Election Commission (EC) to come out and talk about assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. "How long should the people of Jammu and Kashmir be deprived of a representative, responsive government? So, this is the first and foremost that the EC should come out and state about how soon will they hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir," he said. With the

release of the final electoral roll, Sadiq also expressed hope that now the confusion and resulting apprehensions about addition of 25 lakh new voters, as the then CEO of Jammu and Kashmir Hridesh Kumar had said in a press conference in August, will be put to rest. "We also expect the whole confusion and the apprehensions of the people are addressed," he added.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) said it would be important to wait and see who these new voters are. "How many of them are the people who were otherwise the state subjects and how many are those who acquired domicile certificates. These details are yet to come out. It will be very important to see that breakup," party chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari said. On the question of assembly elections, Suhail Bukhari said the present dispensation has "snatched all rights" from the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their democratic rights were not an exception. "We really do not expect things from them, because they have been giving statements which are contradictory on one hand saying the security situation has improved and is great, but, on the other saying, that once the situation improves, elections will be held, and then the statehood (will be restored)," he said. Peoples Conference spokesman Adnan Ashraf Mir said as the final rolls were published only on Friday, "it will take us some time to study it before commenting over it". "We need to see whether the increased number is only of the people from Jammu and Kashmir who have attained the age of 18 years or is there any percentage of non-locals as well," he said.

Mir said the party stands vindicated as it had said that the then CEO's statement was factually incorrect and that it was not possible to add 25 lakh new voters. "The CEO was only sort of trying to help the narrative of a particular party," Mir said in an apparent reference to CEO Kumar. Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said the final rolls were according to expectations. "When hue and cry was raised that 25 lakh new voters will be added, I had said the government should come clear on it and it had issued a clarification. So, an increase of 10 per cent is not much of an addition and it is a matter of satisfaction that no outsider has been added," Altaf Bukhari said. He said the addition of young voters was a good thing because the youth have fresh thinking and will have a huge role in voting. The former minister, however, said the final electoral rolls would have shut the mouths of those parties "who wait like vultures to evoke some controversies here so that the people worry and some incident takes place with them". On the assembly elections, he said while the party expects the polls to be conducted now, "we do not know what the government thinks". (PTI)

## Mumbai: Tributes paid to martyrs on 14th anniversary of 26/11 terror attacks

**MUMBAI, NOV 26** --/ Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday paid floral tributes to the martyrs who laid down their lives while fighting terrorists who had attacked the metropolis on this day 14 years ago.

They paid tributes at the martyrs' memorial in the premises of the Police Commissioner Office in south Mumbai, where Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, minister Deepak Kesarkar, Chief Secretary Manu Kumar Srivastava, state Director General of Police (DGP) Rajnish Seth, Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and other officials were present. Family members of the policemen, who lost their lives during the November 2008 attacks, also paid tributes to the martyrs. On November 26, 2008, 10 Pakistani terrorists arrived by sea route and opened fire indiscriminately at people killing 166, including 18 security personnel, and injuring several others, besides damaging property worth crores. The then Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare, Army Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Mumbai's Additional Police Commissioner Ashok Kamte and Senior Police Inspector Vijay Salaskar were among those killed in the attack.

The attack had begun on 26 November and lasted until 29 November. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Oberoi Trident, the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, Leopold Cafe, Cama Hospital, the Nariman House Jewish community centre were some of the places targeted by the terrorists. Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive. He was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012. (PTI)

## 'Sheer hypocrisy': Cong attacks PM on Constitution Day

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** --/ Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "hypocrisy", the Congress on Saturday alleged that the "ideological fountainheads" of the BJP had nothing to do in the making of the Constitution and he decided to mark November 26 as Constitution Day as he "desperately" wanted to show respect to the document.

The Opposition party's attack came hours after Prime Minister Modi addressed Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court. "The draft Constitution was adopted by Constituent Assembly on 26.11.1949. Constituent Assembly decided it would come into force from 26.01.1950 which is since celebrated as Republic Day," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet. Ideological fountainheads of BJP had nothing whatsoever to do in making the Constitution, he said in a series of tweets. "In fact the RSS was opposed to the Constitution of India. Desperately wanting to show that he respects the Constitution while he subverts it daily in letter and spirit the prime minister decided to celebrate November 26 as Constitution Day. This is sheer hypocrisy," Ramesh said.

Babasaheb Ambedkar made one of the greatest speeches of the twentieth century on November 25, 1949, while piloting the final draft of the Constitution, Ramesh said. "It's a speech worth reading over and over again. I wish to remind the prime minister and his drum beaters of just two paras from that speech," the Congress leader said sharing screen shots of portions from the speech. "The task of the drafting committee would have been a very difficult one if this Constituent Assembly has been merely a motley crowd, a tessellated pavement without cement, a black stone here and a white stone there in which each member or each group was a law unto itself. There would have been nothing but chaos," Ambedkar had said. "This possibility of chaos was reduced to nil by the existence of the Congress Party inside the Assembly which brought into its proceedings a sense of order and discipline," he had said. "It is because of the discipline of the Congress Party that the Drafting Committee was able to pilot the Constitution in the Assembly with the sure knowledge as to the fate of each article and each amendment. The Congress Party is, therefore, entitled to all the credit for the smooth sailing of the Draft Constitution in the Assembly," Ambedkar had said. (PTI)

## Conversion of Supreme Court into small causal court must stop: R Venkataramani

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** --/ Attorney General for India R Venkataramani on Saturday stressed on the need to decongest the Supreme Court and said it is important that the government stops overloading it with endless statutory appeals and huge flow of cases from high courts. Addressing a gathering at the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Venkataramani said there is a need to have a litigation policy for the government so that every matter does not become a matter of litigation. Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day. "It is important that the government stops overloading the Supreme Court with endless statutory appeals alongside seamless and huge flow of cases from high courts. The conversion of the Supreme Court into a small causal court



R Venkataramani

must stop," he said, adding that the high court should also be decongested. Venkataramani said every department must have a resolution wing with competent and independent legal equipment to resolve facts based issues. "Only complex matters with legal issues which cannot be resolved must go for institutional resolution. I am confident the government will give an ear to an earnest attorney general to draw a quick roadmap," Venkataramani said at the event also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud. (PTI)



# Choosing the next Pakistan army chief

**BHOPINDER SINGH**

Officially, the Pakistani Military has taken over national leadership of Pakistan thrice (1958-71, 1978-88, 1999-2008). Unofficially, it has been under the Khakhi coloured Dock Marten boots since 1958, barring the post-71 phase of Pakistan's 'worst hour' till the return of the 'establishment' (read, Pakistani Military) with General Zia-ul-Haq in 1978.

Each of three times that the surly and burly Generals took over the Pakistani leadership, they had double-crossed the same political power that was responsible for their ascendancy to Generalship. Biting the same hand that feeds, is a consistently repeated phenomenon. The trend started with the then Defence Secretary Iskandar Mirza lobbying for the junior-most Maj Gen Ayub

Khan to become the first native Commander-in-Chief of Pakistani Army (despite Ayub's name not even figuring in the nomination list). Later as President, Iskandar Mirza, abrogated the constitution and declared Martial Law with General Ayub Khan as the Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA) – within 20 days of the move, General Ayub bumped Iskandar Mirza and banished him to England! Decades later, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto superseded seven senior Generals to appoint the junior-most Lt Gen in seniority, Zia-ul-Haq, as the Army Chief. Despite his junior-most status, Zia also had a dodgy track record, creepy nature and above all, and reputation of being overtly obsequious and beholden to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto – in less than a year of becoming the Army Chief, General Zia declared

Martial Law and a couple of years thereafter, sent his initial benefactor to the gallows! A couple of decades later, General Zia's political protégé Nawaz Sharif, too sprung a similar surprise when he appointed an ostensible 'safe' Pakistani Army Chief in General Pervez Musharraf, superseding two seniors. History was to repeat for the third time with General Pervez Musharraf deposing the man who made him the COAS and banished the hapless Nawaz to Saudi Arabia!

Interestingly each of the three civilian governments that were dethroned in the coup d'états represented the 3 varied persuasions of Pakistani politics – Musharraf had removed PML-N dispensation, Zia had removed the PPP dispensation and Ayub had removed an illiberal-authoritarian strain (closest

in instinct to Imran Khan's PTI) in bumping-off Iskander Mirza. Also, each of these Military usurpers were from the so-called 'minority/safe' ethnic denominations as Ayub was a Hazara from Haripur (and not a Pathan as popularly postured), while both Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf were Mohajirs (immigrants from India). These ultra-ambitious Generals were not from the traditional Punjabi (Rajput/Jat) or Pathan ethnicity that makes the bulk of Pakistani soldering stock, yet their institutionalised bearing allowed them to roughshod the well-entrenched politicians.

However even when the civilian politicians

ostensibly ruled the roost, the decisive imprint of the 'Army House' in overruling the politicians, who were in fact responsible for their appointment as Chief of Pakistan Army, is consistent. Nawaz Sharif has the dubious record of having rocky relations and getting outwitted by all six Chiefs that he had 'handpicked' – first Gen Waheed Kakar forced Nawaz to resign, next was Gen Jehangir Karamat who was forced into premature retirement, third was Gen Pervez Musharraf whose revenge needs no reiteration, fourth was Gen Pervez Kayani who unilaterally gave himself a



second term, fifth was Gen Raheel Sharif who gave Nawaz sleepless nights with his popularity and talks of an extension (though didn't take) and the sixth, is the current Gen Qamar Bajwa who in 2018 was singularly responsible for dumping Nawaz and 'selecting' Imran Khan as Prime Minister!

Today, ironically it is the same Gen Qamar Bajwa who has done a complete 360 degree turn by flirting with Imran's PTI (till Imran got too big for his own boots) and then returned to the coalition of PML-N and PPP. The Pakistani 'establishment' or Military has always been its own entity with no permanent loyalty to any political leader, partisan flag or ideology – it has sided tactically with PML-N, PPP or even PTI as it deemed topically necessary, but

never subscribed or rooted itself into any partisan preference, for long.

With this backdrop, topicality suggests that the next Chief (as confirmed by Gen Qamar Bajwa in Washington DC, hence believable) will certainly not be from Imran's preference e.g., Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (previous DG-ISI, believed to be close to Imran).

It is also clear that the Sharif brothers, though in a coalition with PPP may not take to kindly to a perceived PPP loyalist like Lt Gen Mohammad Amir (once the Military Secretary to Asif Zardari). It will also stay away from appointing anyone with known religious conservatism as the 'establishment' fears a redux to Zia's 'shariaization'. Even suggestions of manipulating the system to accommodate

any contender would be avoided, and that may cost Lt Gen Asim Munir to be left out. The law of elimination leaves the field to the likes of Lt Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Lt Gen Azhar Abbas and Lt Gen Nauman Mehmood to fill the posts of the Chief of Army Staff and the nominally more senior, Chief Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

All three are supposedly experienced professionals with no known partisan loyalty or overt religiosity – thus affording farcical optics of the 'final word' to the civilian politicians in Islamabad, whilst having the institutionalised clearance from the 'establishment' in Rawalpindi GHQ. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## Constitution Day celebrations in Schools in Diglipur



**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/–/** Constitution Day was celebrated in different schools at Diglipur on Saturday. To mark the occasion, befitting functions were organized in the schools in which the Preamble was read by the students, taking pledge to hold the sanctity of the constitution in their lives. —EOIC

## Constitution Day celebration at Andaman Law College

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/–/** The Andaman Law College under the able leadership and guidance of Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Hr. Edn.)/ Vice-Chairman, ANILES, Ms. Veditha Reddy, Secretary (Hr. Edn.) and Mr. Aditya Kumar Jha, Director (Hr. Edn.), A & N Administration celebrated Constitution Day in a grand manner. The entire event was spread over two days i.e.



25th & 26th November 2022, by conducting various programmes, competitions and a Constitution Day Rally with the participation of more than 150 students.

The Constitution Day function was held on Friday and was presided over and inaugurated by Mr. Subhankar Sen, Secretary (Law & Jail), A & N Administration as the chief guest and Mr. Rizwanullah, Deputy Secretary (Law & Jail), A & N Administration as the guest of honour. The chief guest in his Constitution Day address highlighted the principles and values cherished in our Constitution. He also stressed upon the fact that the Constitution of India is not a mechanical document and its constructive criticism from time to time is necessary to keep it in synchronization with the present needs of the society. The Guest of Honour expressed in his keynote speech that from Kashmir to Kanyakumari the common thread that binds us all is our Constitution. ALC students spoke on the importance of Constitution Day and performed a cultural dance depicting the cultural diversity of our Nation. Earlier on the occasion, Shri Prashant Bhadu, Principal (i/c), Andaman Law College delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks was proposed by Shri. Suyash Verma, Assistant Professor (Law), Andaman Law College.

On Saturday, a Constitution Day rally was organized by the students, faculties and staff of Andaman Law College to spread awareness about the pertinence of Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) among the general public. The rally was flagged off from the Netaji Stadium by Prof. (Dr). C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-E & Officer-in-Charge, Zoological Survey of India, Port Blair who underlined the significance of adopting the principles of Constitution in our daily lives. The rally concluded in the campus of Andaman Law College and was followed by three competitions namely Essay writing, Elocution and Poster making competition. The students of ALC participated enthusiastically in all the events and competitions.

## Vishal condoles demise

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 27/–/** Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member has deeply mourned the sad demise of Smt. Leela Majumdar, R/o Machhi Line, aged 59 yrs at G.B. Pant Hospital on Saturday. In his message, Mr. Jolly prayed to the Almighty to give peace to her eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to her bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

## Bairagi, State BJP leaders condole demise


**PORT BLAIR, NOV 27/–/** Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State BJP President, along with other office bearers has condoled the demise of Leela Majumdar, aged 59 years, R/o Machi Line, Port Blair who breathed her last on Saturday at GB Pant Hospital. The final journey of the deceased will start from their residence at Machi Line tomorrow at 11.00 am Smti Leela Majumdar was mother of Mr. Rajesh Majumdar, Prabhari, BJYM, South Andaman. The leaders pray to the almighty god to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.




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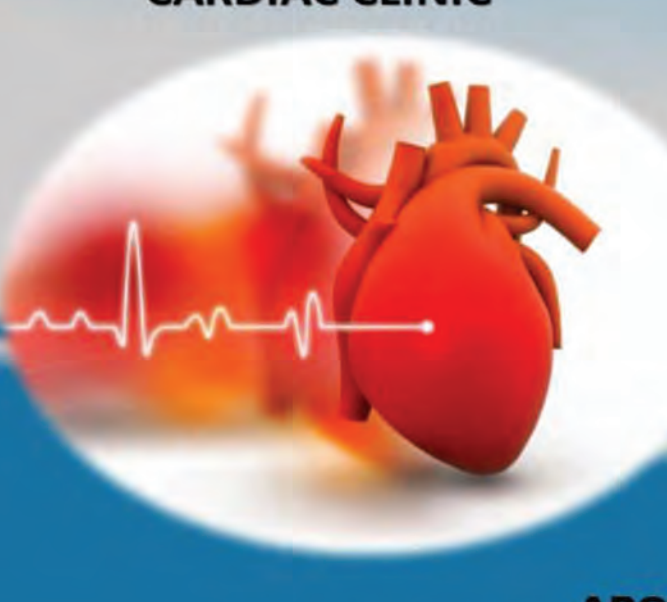
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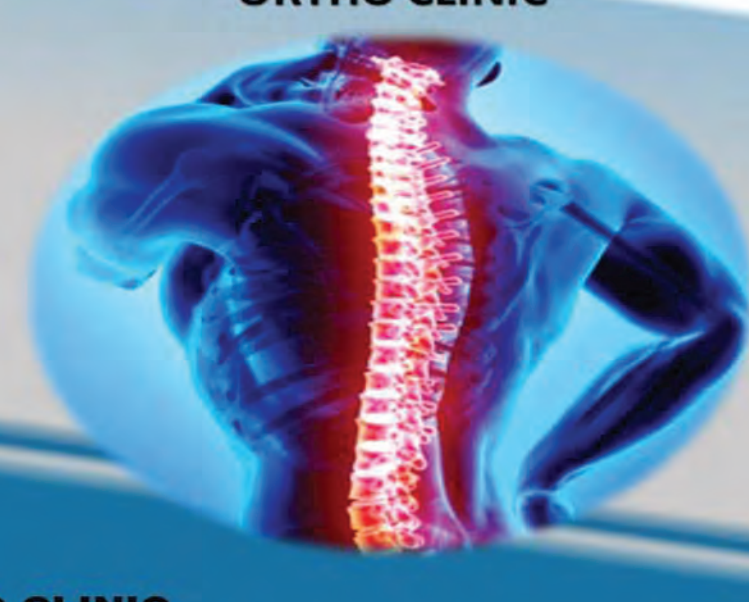
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How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct  
Benjamin Disraeli

## From prisoner to PM: A roller-coaster political journey for Anwar

More than two decades after his dramatic ouster from government and imprisonment, Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim finally had his day. Becoming Malaysia's 10th prime minister caps Anwar's roller-coaster political journey, from a former deputy prime minister whose sacking and imprisonment in the 1990s led to massive street protests and a reform movement that rose into a major political force. It is a second victory for his reformist bloc, which won 2018 polls but lost power after 22 months due to a power struggle that has led to continuous political turmoil. Last Saturday's election, which was supposed to end the instability that had led to three prime ministers since 2018, instead produced new uncertainty after no party won a clear mandate. Anwar's multi-ethnic Alliance of Hope, led with 82 seats, short of the 112 needed for a majority. Muhyiddin's right leaning National Alliance won 72 seats, with its ally Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party emerging as the biggest single party with 49 seats. Anwar emerged victorious after smaller blocs agreed to back him to form a unity government. Still, he faces a tall task in bridging racial divides that deepened after Saturday's poll and reviving an economy struggling with rising inflation and a currency that has fallen to its weakest point. Malays are two-thirds of Malaysia's 33 million people, which include large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

Anwar's political struggle is of a comparable level as South Africa's Nelson Mandela, as both went through many persecutions in the process of democratising their countries. It is hoped that with Anwar in charge, Malaysia could revert to a more open and inclusive society and economy that would hopefully restore its prestige on the world stage. Anwar, 75, had been on the cusp of power twice. A firebrand youth leader, Anwar founded an Islamic youth movement before he was recruited into the then-ruling United Malays National Organisation. He enjoyed a meteoric rise to become deputy prime minister-cum-finance minister in the 1990s and was groomed to take over from then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad but a bitter fallout over Malaysia's response to the Asian economic crisis saw Anwar sacked in September 1998, detained without trial and then charged with sodomy and corruption. Tens of thousands took to the streets to protest Anwar's treatment. When Anwar was brought to court with a black eye nine days after his arrest "due to an assault in custody by the country's then police chief" it quickly became a symbol for his new People's Justice Party and its vows for reforms. He was jailed six years for sodomy in 1999 and a year later, another nine years for corruption – charges Anwar said were a political conspiracy by Mahathir to end his career. His case drew international criticism, with Amnesty International calling Anwar a prisoner of conscience. Anwar was freed in 2004 after Malaysia's top court overturned his sodomy conviction, a year after Mahathir stepped down as prime minister after 22 years in power. But Anwar was imprisoned a second time for sodomy in 2015, in a case he said was aimed at crushing his alliance which was making gains against the UMNO-led government. Yet, he didn't give up. The rest is history.

# SC warning to NIA is an eye opener

## REFLEX ACTION

Dr. Gyan Pathak

The National Investigating Agency (NIA) under Union Home Minister Amit Shah as Union Minister of Home Affairs has now gained enough notoriety in the public as violators of rule of law and even the order of the courts of justice. NIA's attitude towards the human rights defenders have even been heavily censured by UN human rights body for victimisation of those who cooperate with their investigation. Now the Supreme Court of India has to warn the super power investigating agency for defying its orders.

All these are giving more credence to the old allegations that the NIA has been misused under Modi regime to hound the human rights activists, and the agency officials have been ignoring all rules of law and even directions given by the Supreme Court of India. This allegation labelled on NIA is similar to other allegations on almost all central investigating agencies like CBI, Enforcement Directorate, and Income Tax Department etc that are said to be misused to victimise political opponents. NIA has even been caught in the act of defying rules of law and court orders by a Supreme Court bench comprising Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy. The bench had passed an order on November 10 permitting the transfer of Bhima Koregaon case accused Gautam Navlakha from Talaja jail to house arrest, however, the order was not carried out until November 18. Not only that, in their audacity, NIA moved an application to the bench seeking to vacate the Court's order.

The 'intention to victimise', whether it was of the NIA officials or of someone in the Union Government, has always been suspected in the Bhima Koregaon case. In Navlakha's case when the order was passed by the Supreme Court on November 10, NIA became super active to find ways and means for not carrying out the orders. The Agency moved NIA Special Court at Mumbai and just objected the location chosen by Navlakha to be kept in house arrest. On NIA's

objection, the Special Court on Wednesday refused to pass order to execute the house arrest of Navlakha. This prompted Navlakha to go again to the Supreme Court bench where he told the court that implementation of the November 10 order granting him house arrest was being delayed. The bench heard his petition on November 18, and had to caution NIA when it found that the agency was looking for ways to defy the Court's orders. The bench then gave the agency 24 hour time to carry out the order for Navlakha's house arrest while dismissing the NIA's application seeking to vacate the Court's order of November 10. Everybody known how the parties in litigation find loopholes in laws and orders to violate and defy them. In the present case Additional Solicitor General SV Raju had also submitted that every time the NIA pointed out a loophole, the petitioners said that they would close it. "What if it turns out to be a gaping hole."

Justice K M Joseph then remarked, "We can take it another way, if you are taking loopholes to defy our orders, then we will take a serious view."

NIA in their application had cited that the medical report of Juslok Hospital which examined Navlakha was 'biased' and that he had suppressed certain material facts before the Court. On this came the Justice Roy's comment that reveals the level of NIA's performance. "If with the entire police force you cannot keep a watch on a 70 year old ailing man, they think about the weakness ... please do not say such things. With all the might of the State, you are not able to keep a 70 year old ailing man in house confinement,"

commented Justice Roy. NIA had also contended that the petitioner had tried to mislead the court with regard to the location of his house arrest. It said that the petitioner was currently residing at the top floor of a public library under the Communist Party. NIA and the Government's political bias and attitude of victimisation was further revealed in their submission that "it is inconceivable how the house arrest of a person who is accused of Maoist activities be carried out in building which is a public library/Bhawan registered in the name of a political party, ie the Communist Party."

When this aspect was brought to light by SG Tushar Mehta before the bench, Justice Joseph asked, "What is this political party argument? ... Is the Communist Party not a recognised party?"

How much political bias was there was revealed further in the statement of SG Mehta who said, "If that does not shock this court, I will leave it at that. ... A person accused of indulging in a serious terrorist act being a Maoist is staying at some political party's office? What is this institution being driven to?"

It was replied by the Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan appearing on behalf of the petitioner, "The Communist party itself condemns Maoists. Anybody with basic understanding of contemporary politics will know that Communist party is a recognised party."

Bombay High court's comment that came out today regarding performance of NIA is even more shocking, as regards to 2018 Elgar Parishad (Bhima Koregaon) case. The court while granting bail to Anand Teltumbde (73) said that on the basis of case record it cannot be concluded that he indulged in terrorist act. The bail is a first on merit in the case. The court found lack of corroboration in NIA case and prima facie inadmissible "hearsay evidence". NIA case prima facie inspires no confidence, said the High Court. (IPA)



With the onset of winter, palm jaggery hits the market to please the Bengali palate, at a shop in Bowbazar on Saturday--Arijit Ganguly

## A Pan-Indian Law against 'forced' conversions should respect right to privacy

Religious conversion is a topic that has remained central to the country's politics. It also gained significant attention in many recent intellectual debates and discussions on freedom of religion. Article 25 of the Constitution grants "freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion" to the non-citizens and citizens of the country. The questions like what is the scope of the article and whether it also includes "freedom to convert to other religion" have always posed difficulties for those who interpreted the provision.

Many politicians claim that increasing religious conversions across the country and the so called "love jihad" made it an absolute necessity for the legislators to formulate anti-conversion laws and implement them stringently across the State. However, the blatant imposition of these laws not only deters the 'forced conversions' but also acts as an impassable wall for the rightful conversions.

The first state to enact an anti-conversion law was the government of Odisha (then Orissa). The Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 was enacted by the state government to deal with the forced conversions. Section 3 of the Act provided that, "no person shall convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith to another by the use of force or by inducement or by

any fraudulent means nor shall any person abet such conversion." (emphasis supplied)

The following year, Madhya Pradesh also came up with the Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantra Adhiniyam of 1968, which was almost parallel to the act passed by Odisha. Instead of going with the term 'inducement,' the legislators used the term 'allurement' which was defined under Section 2(a) as an "offer of any temptation in the form of any gift or gratification, either in cash or kind; (ii) grant of any material benefit, either monetary or otherwise."

According to the rules under the Act, anyone who aspires to switch to another faith must first declare their intention to do so to a Magistrate. The District Magistrate must be notified fifteen days in advance by the priest who will officiate the event. The Superintendent of Police, who is responsible for relaying the information to the relevant police station, is then informed by the District Magistrate. The next step is for the officer-in-charge to find out if there are any objections to the proposed conversion. Both Acts made the offences committed under the act

cognisable and imposed a penalty of up to one year in prison and a fine of INR 5,000. In case a minor, woman or a member of scheduled caste or scheduled tribe, imprisonment could be extended up to two years imprisonment, and a fine of INR 10,000.

Naturally, legislation like these which impose such restrictions on the rights of individuals would be subjected to the scrutiny of the courts. Accordingly, both state laws were challenged in the high court of their respective states.

The Orissa Freedom of Religion Act was challenged before the High Court of Orrisa in the case of Mrs. Yulitha Hyde and Ors. vs State of Orissa and Ors. (1972). In this case, while declaring the act void and ultra vires of the constitutional values, the court held that the term "inducement" is ambiguous and many proselytising activities may fall within its scope. Further, the court observed that conversion to religion must be included in the right as far as a Christian citizen is concerned. This is because the true scope of the right guaranteed under Article 25(1) must be considered to broaden the ambit of the propagation

of religion. It was also held that the legislature of state lacked the requisite jurisdiction or competence to make the law on the topic of "religion."

As a result, the court acknowledged for the first time that the right to conversion is a fundamental right under Article 25 because it is a necessary corollary for Christians for their religion to be propagated.

The act, along with the Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantra Adhiniyam, was further scrutinised by the Supreme Court in the case of Rev. Stainislaus vs State of Madhya Pradesh (1977). Here, the court disagreed with the stance taken by the High Court of Orissa and observed that: "the word 'propagate' has been used in Article 25 (1), for what the Article grants is not the right to convert another person to one's own religion, but to transmit or spread one's religion by an exposition of its tenets." (emphasis supplied)

The court was of the view that it is important to keep in mind that Article 25(1) guarantees 'freedom of conscience' to all citizens, not just to those who adhere to a particular religion.

This implies that there is no fundamental right to convert someone to one's own religion because doing so would violate the 'freedom of conscience,' as it would be different from the effort of a person to transmit or spread the tenets of their religion. (IPA/ To be continued)

## FOCUS

Mihir Nigam

### Conventional Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8				
9	10			11		
	12		13			
14			15	16		17 18
19		20			21	
			22	23		
24	25		26	27		28
		29				
30				31		

**ACROSS**  
1 Farm animal  
4 Indian social class  
8 Ripe  
9 Dejected  
11 Happen again  
12 High mountains  
14 First woman  
15 Giving relief to  
19 Second of two  
21 Fish eggs  
22 Coagulated blood  
24 Assumed an attitude  
27 Over again  
29 King's son  
30 Sudden convulsion  
31 Irritable

**DOWN**  
1 Joke  
2 Talisman  
3 Stop up  
4 Worthless dog  
5 Regions  
6 Dry, of champagne  
7 Anger  
10 Molten rock  
13 Bishop's territory  
14 Runs away to marry  
16 Part of a circle  
17 Pressed clothes  
18 Musical sound  
20 Ranks  
23 Netlike fabric  
25 Mineral spring  
26 Not bright  
28 Distorted

### SUDOKU: 3708

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

### Yesterday's Solution 3707

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

### Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1716

A	S	T	U	T	E		G	A	S
T	E	R	R	A		T	O	N	E
T	A	U	N	T			A	G	E
I		C		S	U	L	L	E	N
C	R	E	W			O	L		
	E		A			B	A	S	S
S	A	B	R	E	S		B	P	
O	R	E			A	R	O	S	E
L	E	N	T		L	E	V	E	L
O	D	D		R	E	P	E	N	T

### DISCLAIMER

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



## Inter-School Band competition



**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/** In order to inculcate the spirit of patriotism and unity among school students, the Department of School Education and Literacy, MoE, GOI is organizing Inter-School

Band Competition (ISBC) throughout India. As part of this, the State Level Inter School Band Competition was organised by SamagraShiksha, UT Mission A & N Islands today at Govt. Boys' Sr. Sec.

School to select the best school band both under Boys and Girls categories. Altogether 4 teams in Boys and 3 teams in Girls categories have participated in the competition. The

competition was judged by eminent Band masters from Navy, Army and Police Departments. In the boys band troop, Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya Port Blair stood first and Govt. Boys Sr. Sec. School

Port Blair and Nir mala Sr. Secondary School stood second and third respectively. In the Girls band troop, Govt. Girls Sr. Secondary School Port Blair stood first and Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School Port Blair and VKZPV Port Mout stood second and third respectively.

The Deputy Education Officer, Wimberlygunj, Mr. Gyan sheel Dubeyas chief guest appreciated the artistic endeavours of the students and congratulated the winners of the competition and extended best wishes to the winners to do their best in future so that the UT can represent in Zonal Level competitions. He gave away the winning trophies along with a cash prize.

Earlier, Shri R K Singh, State Project Officer, SamagraShiksha briefed about the State Level Inter School Band Competition.

## Revenue dept carries out eviction drive at Haddo



**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/** As part of its initiative to evict encroachment from government land, the Revenue department of South Andaman District has carried out eviction drive against encroachments committed over government land at Haddo village under Port Blair Tehsil upon land bearing Survey No. 172

area 1441 Sqmtrs, which was set apart in favour of District Administration, South Andaman. During the drive temporary structures in the shape of ghunties, food stalls were removed and the land was restored to its original status. The District Administration, South Andaman has requested the general public to

refrain from encroachment on government land. In case of any information/ complaints regarding such illegal activities, the general public can inform the same to the District Control Room at the following numbers 03192-240127/238881/1070. The identity of the person providing the information will be kept anonymous.

## Counseling for admission to B.Ed. Degree prog in TGCE on 29th Nov

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/** Since Pondicherry University has published results of all the remaining subjects, the counseling for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree programme for all the remaining subjects and categories in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair will be held on 29th November, 2022 at 9.30 a.m. in Tagore Auditorium.

Candidates who are yet to submit their results are requested to submit their pending results in person by 28th November, 2022 by 3 p.m. to the Admission Cell of the college. No Mark sheets/ results will be received thereafter.

Final merit lists for all the remaining subjects and categories like EWS, PwD will be published on the same day i.e., on 28th November, 2022 at 5 PM and counseling for these subjects and categories will be held on 29th November, 2022 at 9.30 a.m. Candidates selected for admission during counselling scheduled on 29th November 2022 shall be given admission on the same day. The selected candidates should deposit the fees and all required original certificates on the day of admission failing which their cases for admission will not be considered. Those who fail to attend the counselling session, in time, will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate in the merit list will be considered for admission.

## Outdated Covid travel advisories, conflicting norms causing inconvenience to people

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26 /--/** Flying to Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands or Leh in Ladakh? Make sure that you are carrying your RT-PCR test in case you are not fully vaccinated.

While majority of states and union territories have relaxed Covid restrictions, a few still want unvaccinated travellers to mandatorily have either an RT-PCR test report within 48 to 96 hours before starting their journey or undergo a test on arrival at their respective airports. South Andaman Deputy Commissioner Suneel Anchipaka told PTI that the Union Territory follows the instructions of its health department for mandatory RT-PCR test report for unvaccinated travellers arriving at the Port Blair airport.

Besides Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh is another Union Territory where unvaccinated travellers have to undergo RT-PCR test at the Leh airport. Director of Health Services in Leh Dr. Motup Dorje said, "We are doing random RT-PCR testing on tourists." A section of

scientists have called it a futile exercise without any scientific rationale and argue that when it is scientifically confirmed that even a vaccinated person can transmit the virus, making RT-PCR test mandatory for unvaccinated people at airports does not make sense. Noted epidemiologist Jayaprakash Muliyl said, "It is not needed at all. Everyone has at least once had the Covid infection. Even if a section of people did not get infected from the original strain or the Delta variant, they contracted the highly immunogenic variant Omicron. It boosted the earlier immunity sky high." "The Omicron did us a great favour. Today, if people don't wear masks, they will have the benefits of a mild virus infecting and immunising them," he said.

Travellers too feel hassled as conflicting norms cause unnecessary inconvenience. "I went to Port Blair with six other family members and we had to pay for their RT-PCR test which was an

additional financial burden," Sanjay, 28, who recently flew to the island, claimed. Outdated travel advisories on the website of aviation companies are another issue causing confusion, he said. IndiGo, on its website, has mentioned protocols that different state governments have laid out for passengers arriving at their respective airports. Though it says that these norms have been updated as latest as on November 9, many state health officials told PTI that they have already withdrawn them long ago.

In the case of Nagaland, the protocol on the website, says, "All passengers aged 12 years and above travelling to Nagaland are advised to be in possession of RT-PCR /TrueNAT/ CBNAAT negative report not earlier than 72 hours from the arrival into the state or Final Vaccination certificate (two doses complete)."

"These are outdated norms. We don't ask for any RT-PCR test to any person irrespective of his or her vaccination status," State Nodal Officer, IDSP

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Nagaland, Dr. Nyan Kikon said, adding that no northeastern state has such norms in force at present.

SpiceJet, on its website, informs travellers who want to go to Srinagar that if they do not carry their vaccination certificate, they will have to either carry their negative RT-PCR test report or undergo a rapid antigen test on arrival. "This is not an updated status. Now we do not need any such certificate for anyone whether vaccinated or unvaccinated," Dr. Syed Manzoor Kadri, State Surveillance Officer, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), Kashmir, said. While aviation companies refused to comment, some states have admitted that airlines have not been updated their latest advisories.

"I think both state health departments and airlines should be on the same page so that tourists and people travelling from one state to another do not suffer," a senior officer from an aviation firm said. (PTI)

## Karnataka govt mulling implementation of uniform civil code: CM

**SHIVAMOGGA, NOV 26 /--/** Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that his government was strongly mulling implementation of the uniform civil code in the state to ensure equality. Addressing his party workers here on Friday, the CM pointed out that the preamble of the Constitution speaks of equality and fraternity. Reaffirming his commitment to implement the UCC, he said, "... we have been talking about uniform civil code from the time of Deendayal Upadhyay.

There is a serious thought going on in the country at the national and state level. There is also an intention to implement it when the right time comes." "... we are also discussing how to do (implementation) it in our state." Bommai also told the gathering that the state government will take all necessary measures to implement it.

"I would like to say very clearly that we not only expound things we believe in that can make people's

welfare possible and bring equality, but also will take all strong measures to implement it," the Chief Minister explained. On the anti-conversion law which the BJP government in Karnataka has introduced, Bommai said many people called it anti-constitutional, but now the Supreme Court has passed an order, saying that forced conversion is a crime. "Whenever we think of introducing reforms to bring equality in the society, most often it is wrongly interpreted," he said.

A few BJP-ruled states in the country like Assam and Uttarakhand have their expressed intent to implement the UCC. The Chief Minister also said his party has a strong belief that devotees should manage the temples. In the coming days, provisions will be made in that direction. Only the BJP can do value-based politics, he said adding that steps taken to increase reservation for the SC/ST was 'revolutionary'. (PTI)

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/**The Central Government has made Aadhaar mandatory to avail the benefits of all the welfare schemes implemented by the Government of India. For enrolment of all the eligible 0-5 years children, the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, along with other stakeholders is conducting special drives at Anganwadi Centers in South Andaman District for enrolling left out children in the age group of 0-5. The date, time and venue of the Aadhaar Camps are detailed below:-

Sl.No.	Date & Time	Name of the Anganwadi
1.	26/11/2022& 28/11/2022 to 02/12/2022 9 AM to 5 PM	Austinabad (1-2)
2.	26/11/2022& 28/11/2022 to 02/12/2022 9 AM to 5 PM	Calicut (1-3)

All have been urged to avail this facility and get their children enrolled at the respective Anganwadi.

## Vande Bhataram Nritya Utsav-2023 competition

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 26/--/** Vande Bharatam Nritya Utsav, an all-India dance competition is an initiative taken by the Ministry of Culture as part of Republic Day celebrations-2023 and under the aegis of 'Azadika Amrit Mahotsav' to work towards promoting the spirit of 'Jan Bhagidari', while also showcasing India's vibrancy thorough its dance.

EZCC has taken an integral step in promoting and administering 'Vande Bharatam - Nritya Utsav' in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

More than 1000 artistes from these states will participate in the State Level competitions. This is an unique opportunity for participants to showcase their talents in front of a

wide array of audiences from all walks of life.

The competition will take place at 3 levels, State Level, Zonal Level and Finals. Winners will have the opportunity of performing at the Republic

Day celebrations-2023. The competition of Vande Bharatam Nritya Utsav-2023 for Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be held 28th November 2022, from 6:00 pm at Andaman Club, Port Blair.

## Film Heritage Foundation announces Dilip Kumar film festival to celebrate his 100th birthday

**MUMBAI, NOV 26 /--/** Film Heritage Foundation on Saturday announced a film festival to celebrate late cinema legend Dilip Kumar's 100th birth anniversary.

The festival, titled Dilip Kumar Hero Of Heroes', will be held on December 10 and 11, the not-for-profit organisation, founded by filmmaker and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, said in a press release. During the film gala, organised in partnership with leading multiplex chain PVR Cinemas, Kumar's critically acclaimed movies, including "Aan" (1952), "Devdas" (1955), "Ram Aur Shyam" (1967) and "Shakti" (1982), will be screened in over 30 cinema halls and 20 cities across the country. Dungarpur said the festival is an incredible opportunity to bring back



"one of the greatest actors of Indian cinema on the big screen". Kumar died at the age of 98 in July 2021. "He truly is the 'Hero of Heroes' as even today he is an actor that the biggest stars look up to. Film Heritage Foundation could think of no better way to celebrate this milestone than a festival of his films back in theatres. "Even though some of these films were released nearly seventy years ago, the power

of Dilip Kumar's performances, his craft as a method actor and his charisma make him ageless," he added.

Dungarpur, who earlier curated a film festival to mark Amitabh Bachchan's 80th birthday, said it made him sad that many of Kumar's great films survived only in low-resolution formats that could not be projected on the big screen. "I cobbled together these films with great difficulty with many people asking me why some of their favourite Dilip Kumar films were not included... I hope this will be a wake-up call to filmmakers and producers to realise that time is running out and that they should look into preserving their films before it is too late," he said. Veteran actor Saira Banu said she is elated

that the Film Heritage Foundation is celebrating Dilip Sahab's 100th birthday with the festival. "They could not have chosen a more apt title to commemorate India's greatest actor -- 'Dilip Kumar Hero Of Heroes'. He was my favourite hero from the time I was 12 years old when I first saw him in 'Aan' in technicolor. It will be a joy to watch him back on the big screen, larger than life, like he has been in my life," she added.

Bachchan urged all film lovers and contemporary actors not to miss the incredible opportunity of watching Kumar's films on the big screen. His films will be a master class in acting, the veteran actor added. "Even today I am learning every time I watch his films. Dilip Kumar was and is my idol. I am still to meet an

actor who could match his faultless performance, his flawless diction and the intelligence and commitment he brought to his craft. "His every spoken word was poetry and when he appeared on the screen, everything else was a blur. I had the privilege of sharing the screen with him just once and the experience was one I will cherish," he added. Kamal Haasan said Kumar set an international bar for Indian actors to follow. "Erudite, eloquent and excellent in his chosen field. Cinema can make people believe that those who have departed are still alive. In that context to me Dilip Kumarji is one of the world's best actors alive. It's an incredible feat by the Film Heritage Foundation and I'm grateful to them for keeping my heritage alive," he said. (PTI)

# CENTRAL RAILWAY

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### INDICATIVE NOTIFICATION

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE No. RRC/CR/01/2022 Date: 26/11/2022**

Slot Opening Date and Time	28/11/2022 at 10.00 Hrs.
Slot Closing Date and Time	12/12/2022 at 18.00 Hrs.

Central Railway invites ONLINE applications from eligible Scouts and Guides Quota Candidates for filling up the following posts against Scouts & Guide Quota for the year 2022-23.

Sr. No.	Post	Level (As per Vllth PC)	Quota	Distribution
1	Level-2 (Gr. C)	19,900 - 63,200	02	Anywhere on Central Railway
2	Level-1 (erstwhile Gr. D)	18,000 - 56,900	10	02 posts each for BB, BSL, NGR, SUR & PA (*) Division

Note: (\*) BB - Mumbai, BSL - Bhusawal, NGR - Nagpur, SUR - Solapur, PA - Pune

➤ For detailed notification please visit RRC/CR's Website: [www.rccrc.com](http://www.rccrc.com), which will be available from 26/11/2022.

**Chairman RRC**

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## Fundamental duties should be first priority of citizens: PM

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said fulfilling fundamental duties should be the first priority of citizens to take the nation to greater heights as it marches ahead towards the centenary of its independence. Addressing Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Modi said the entire world is looking at India which is witnessing rapid development and economic growth. The Prime Minister said the country is set to assume the G-20 presidency next week and this is a big opportunity to present its contribution to the world. "We, as Team India, should work towards enhancing India's prestige on the world stage and highlight the country's contribution to the world. This is our collective responsibility," Modi said and added that "we have to strengthen India's identity as the mother of democracy".

The Prime Minister said he is pleased to state that the country in the form of the mother of democracy is strengthening its ancient ideals and the spirit of the Constitution, and pro-people policies are empowering the poor and women of the country. "The first three words of the Preamble of the Constitution 'We the people' are a call, trust and oath. This spirit of the Constitution is the spirit of India that has been the mother of democracy in the world. In the modern time, the Constitution has embraced all the cultural and moral emotions of the nation," Modi said. The Prime Minister said that defying initial apprehensions about its stability, India is moving ahead with full force and taking pride in its diversity. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Modi said the fundamental rights are those responsibilities that should be fulfilled by citizens with utmost dedication and true integrity. He termed the Amrit Kaal, the journey of next 25 years to emerge as a developed nation, as 'Kartavya Kaal' - an era of fulfilling the fundamental duties. "The Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal is the time for duty towards the country. Be it people or institutions, our responsibilities are our first priority," the Prime Minister said. (PTI)



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan ———Photo : PIB**

## Constitution faces existential crisis, India no longer collaborative federal nation: Cong chief's dig at Centre

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** /--/ Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Saturday hit out at the government alleging the Constitution faces an existential crisis and India is no longer a collaborative federal nation. In a statement on Constitution Day, Kharge alleged ever since the BJP government came to power in 2014, the RSS has used it as a political vehicle to curtail freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. "Illegal has become legal because the fringe has now become mainstream. The foremost tangible spirit of our democracy is being distorted and disrespected by people who are using it as a means to push a completely contrasting agenda," the Congress leader said. In his statement titled 'The Looming Crisis of the Indian Constitution', Kharge said India's first president Rajendra Prasad had said: "If the people who are elected are capable men of character and integrity, they should be able to make the best of a defective constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country." Kharge claimed that "these words ring deafeningly true as we celebrate the 73rd year of the Constitution". A Constitution that has successfully stood the test of time for over seven decades, "today faces a fundamental crisis, indeed an existential crisis for the spirit behind its text", the Congress president claimed. "We have reached a point where there is a growing disharmony, not just among people but also between governments and states. Ours is no longer a collaborative federal nation," he said. The Congress chief claimed that "this crisis finds its roots in the RSS's ever-expanding reach within state institutions and the electoral (and by extension judicial) legitimacy of its ideology, with BJP in power". "The government has completely surrendered itself and its institutions to the diktats of the RSS, an organisation that pushes hateful propaganda under the garb of social service. In fact, it is no longer incorrect to use the terms RSS and BJP interchangeably," he noted. "We are witnessing the onset of what Baba saheb

(Bhimrao Ambedkar) would have referred to as 'lawless law', riddled with never-ending infringements on fundamental rights, systematically engineered by the BJP-RSS government since they have been in power," he also said. The Congress chief recalled B R Ambedkar's caution that "if the parties place creed above country, our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost forever. This eventuality we must all resolutely guard against". He said the Congress has embarked on the Bharat Jodo Yatra to unite the nation against forces of hatred and divisiveness. "Let us unitedly take ownership of bringing India back to its constitutional values and restoring the nation to a time when these values thrived. The only way to control this new hegemonic disposition is to counter it with ideological and moral strength," Kharge said. The Congress chief also alleged that within the system, the ruling party has restricted the Opposition's all avenues to express dissent. "Routine muting of microphones in Parliament whenever the BJP's (in)actions are questioned and spaces in the media that are accessible to us are shrinking every day," he said. Kharge also attacked the government over the "misuse" of agencies against the opposition, saying, any dissent is being "tackled by coercively misusing central investigative agencies" against them. "The functioning and independence of the Election Commission of India have been jeopardised. Opaque system of Electoral Bonds enforced as money bill has been brought to give undue advantage to the ruling party," he alleged. Kharge claimed that the law minister lectures the Executive and Judiciary by saying "'Aapas mein ladne ka koi fayda nahi hai (There's no point in infighting)". "The BJP/RSS and its messengers are dividing the country along religious, caste and communal lines. "There is moral surveillance in all public arenas. Privacy is being banished. Citizens and the civil society have been mercilessly attacked by the topmost echelons of power, for raising their voices," Kharge alleged. (PTI)

## Legislature, executive, judiciary need to have 'one thinking' for country and its people: Prez

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** /--/ President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said the legislature, the executive and the judiciary need to have "one thinking" for the country and its people.

In her valedictory address at the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Supreme Court here, she suggested decongesting jails by helping poor people languishing there for years for petty crimes. "It is said that jails are getting overcrowded and there is a need to set up more jails. Are we moving towards development? What is the need to set up more jails? We need to reduce their numbers," Murmu said in Hindi. The President said there is a need to do something for these poor people in prisons. "You need to do something for these people. Who are these people in jail? They do not know the fundamental rights, preamble or the

fundamental duties," the President said while addressing the event. Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju also attended the event. The President said: "The three wings of the government -- legislature, executive and judiciary -- there has to be one thinking somewhere for the country and its people (Sabka mann, sabki soch ek honi chahiye)." Checks and balance need to be there, but somewhere we need to work together, she said.

"Our job is to think about people (poor undertrials languishing in jails). We all have to think and come out with some way I am leaving it all on you," Murmu said amid huge rounds of applause. She said these people are in jails for slapping somebody or for similar minor offences, and they were slapped with legal provisions even as

some of these provisions do not apply in such cases. "I come from a very small village. Where I was born, people there considered three people as god -- teachers, doctors and lawyers," the President said.

People are even willing to give away all their money and property to doctors and lawyers to help them overcome their troubles, the President said. Murmu said people do not get their family members freed from jails as they feel their properties and utensils at home would have to be sold (in the process). On the other hand, there are some people who do many things, even kill others, but they are roaming free, she said. "It (cases of people landing up in prison after doing petty crimes) is a burden on the government I leave this to you (referring to judges and the law minister)," the President added. (PTI)

## Essential to make process of litigation citizen centric, technology must be augmented: CJI

**NEW DELHI, NOV 26** /--/ Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said technology must be augmented with institutional reforms to resolve issues of access to justice, and it is essential to simplify the litigation process and make it "citizen centric". The CJI also said the judiciary has been adopting technology to improve the working of courts and it is of "supreme importance" that courts are remodelled to reach out to people instead of them reaching out to courts in their quest for justice. Speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, the CJI said judges across the country must reflect upon the constitutional vision of securing justice, equality and liberty. He said it is important that representation of marginalised communities and women in the legal profession and judiciary is increased. Justice Chandrachud also spoke about the e-initiatives -- virtual justice clock, justIS mobile app 2.0, digital court and s3WaaS websites of district

courts -- that were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the function. In a nation as large and diverse as India, the "paramount challenge" the judiciary faces as an institution is to ensure that the justice delivery system is accessible to everyone, he said. "We have been adopting technology to improve the working of courts. It is of supreme importance and necessity that courts are remodelled to reach out to people instead of people reaching out to courts in their quest for justice," the CJI said. "To ensure that courts reach out to people, it is essential that the process of litigation is simplified and made citizen centric," he said. Justice Chandrachud said though the judiciary's engagement with technology gained prevalence during the Covid-19 pandemic, "we must not dismantle the infrastructure but built upon it". "I will earnestly request the chief justices of high courts to ensure that the technological infrastructure, on which public funds have been spent, is not dismantled but

strengthened further," he said. Justice Chandrachud said as the CJI, he is attempting to adopt technology based services in listing of cases and court hearings "so that institutional flaws such as delays in listing and hearing can be removed from our vocabulary". "While technology has ably aided us in ensuring functionality of the judiciary during the pandemic, technology must be augmented with institutional reforms to resolve the chief issue of access to justice," he said. The CJI said the first interface of people with the judicial system is the district judiciary and it is of paramount importance that it is strengthened and supported. "The district judiciary must be lifted from the mindset of being a subordinate judiciary," he said. Giving details of the e-initiatives launched by the prime minister, Justice Chandrachud said these initiatives reflect upon the commitment of judiciary towards providing access to justice. "Our endeavour is to enhance access to justice. (PTI)



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud during the Constitution Day celebrations in the Supreme Court, in New Delhi**

## At a glance

### Mamata appeals to people to protect Constitution

**KOLKATA, NOV 26** /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday urged people to protect the "ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity as enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution". Mamata also paid tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar, known as the chief architect of the Constitution. "I pay my respects to Dr Ambedkar & the Constituent Assembly on #ConstitutionDay for laying down the principles to take our Nation forward. Let us recommit to fiercely protect the ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality & Fraternity, as enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution," the chief minister said on Twitter. (PTI)

### Australian High Commissioner to India inaugurates Career Connect progs

**From page-1**  
The Australian Govt has been giving immense support through Vibha Foundation to make skill based employment available to the educated underprivileged youths of India. This initiative is now in A&N Islands creating a great opportunity for the local youth wherein they would undergo 3-months free skill based training to be employable in various Industries & MNC's in Bangalore & Chennai. The programme will commence from 8th December at Ms. R. Dimple's Office in VIP Road. Candidates interested to undergo the training programme can contact at mobile nos. 9474242222/9474241111

### MP seeks vehicle ferry vessels between Yeretta Jetty-Long Island on a daily basis

**From page-1**  
He mentioned that daily vehicle ferry service will make Long Island easily accessible for the public and slowly more and more people and tourists will reach Long Island and that will open new doors for tourism for the Island. Tourism will certainly boost the local economy and many local youths of Long Island will be able to get employment, he added.

### Badminton tourney by ABC, RCS Group in association with ANIBA

**From page-1**  
The badminton tourney is being held in different age categories of Boys & Girls as well as in Seniors category (Under-11, Under-15, opens). About 120 children/players are participating in the event and the final will be held at the same venue on 28th Nov 2022.

## Tributes paid to martyrs on 14th anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks

**MUMBAI, NOV 26** /--/ Divya Salaskar, the daughter of police officer Vijay Salaskar martyred in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, on Saturday said the marks left behind by the strike at various places rekindled her memories even as tributes poured in on the occasion of the 14th anniversary. Divya also said as a daughter, the vacuum created in her life after Salaskar fell to the bullets of terrorists can never be filled. Divya and other family members of the police personnel killed in the deadly terror strike on Saturday paid tributes to their loved ones to mark the 14th anniversary of 26/11. Maharashtra

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde laid wreaths at the martyrs' memorial in the premises of the Police Commissioner Office in south Mumbai, where Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, minister Deepak Kesarkar, Chief Secretary Manu Kumar Srivastava, state DGP Rajnish Seth, Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar and other officials were present. The then Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare, Army Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, Mumbai's Additional Police Commissioner Ashok Kamte and senior police inspector Vijay Salaskar were among the 166 people

killed in the attack when ten terrorists struck the financial capital. "I try not to remember that day but after seeing marks (of the attack) everywhere, memories come gushing down," said Divya. She and her mother paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial. "Even after 14 years, memories of the attack are still fresh in the minds of people. As family members of martyrs we get honoured which gives me and my mother the encouragement to move ahead in life," Divya said. She feels the absence of her father in every sphere of life. "A soldier or a police officer who sacrifices his life for the country is also the father, husband, brother, or son of somebody. His absence is felt by his family members while taking important decisions in life. I am experiencing the same," she said. Tributes were also paid at the places targeted by terrorists including Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Cama and Abless Hospital, Hotel Taj Mahal Palace, the Oberoi Trident, Nariman House, the Jewish community centre, and the memorial of ASI Tukaram Omble who was martyred while overpowering Ajmal Kasab, the only terrorist who was captured alive. 'Shahid Daud' or run was organised between Sangli city in western Maharashtra and Mumbai to pay respect to the martyred police officers and personnel. It culminated at Omble's memorial in Girgaum in Mumbai. (PTI)



**Children from various schools paying tribute at the martyrs' memorial at the premises of the Police Commissioner's Office in south Mumbai**



## Pak PM, Turkiye Prez jointly inaugurate new warship for Pakistani Navy

ISLAMABAD, NOV 26 /--/Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have jointly inaugurated a corvette warship built by Turkiye for the Pakistani Navy under a strategic cooperation project, a media report said on Saturday. Sharif, who along with a delegation of ministers and officials is on a two-day visit to Turkiye at the invitation of



Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Shehbaz Sharif

the Turkish President, during the inauguration on Friday said that the launch of PNS Khyber represents the deepening of defence cooperation between the two nations, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported. "It was high time that Pakistan and Turkiye transform their ties into a strategic partnership as the world was envious of the relationship between two brotherly countries," Sharif said during the inauguration of PNS Khyber at the Istanbul shipyard. He said that the launch of the ship manifested the deep bilateral engagement between the two countries in defence cooperation. PNS Khyber is third of the four corvette ships that has been built by Turkiye for the Pakistani Navy under a joint cooperation project. Under the project, Turkiye was tasked to build four corvette warships for the Pakistan Navy-- two in Istanbul and two in Karachi.

The first corvette warship for the Pakistan Navy known as PNS Babar was launched in Istanbul in August 2021 while the foundation stone for the second ship PNS Badr was laid in Karachi in May 2022, another report on the inauguration ceremony by the Dawn newspaper said. The warships have been built by ASFAT inc, a Turkish state-owned defence contractor firm. Sharif during the inauguration informed that the fourth warship would be delivered in February 2025. Sharif on the occasion called for the need to enhance trade between Pakistan and Turkiye. He also made a pitch to Turkish entrepreneurs to invest in a 10,000-megawatt solar power project for Pakistan, the report said. (PTI)

## Pricy sculpture for UK PM Rishi Sunak's garden attacked as "extravagant"

LONDON, NOV 26 /--/A bronze sculpture by a celebrated English artist has come under fire as "extravagant" after the UK government spent GBP 1.3 million of taxpayer's money to acquire it and then send it on for British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's 10 Downing Street garden.

According to The Sun newspaper, Henry Moore's "Working Model for Seated Woman" an abstract 1980 sculpture is believed to have been sold at a Christie's auction and acquired by the taxpayer-funded Government Art Collection last month. It has sparked a cost-of-living row at a time when the country is struggling through soaring inflation, mounting household bills, and cost-cutting measures across public funding. "It is a fine piece and an important example of Moore's collection of seated



women sculptures," an expert told the newspaper. "However, it may be considered an extravagant use of public funds, particularly given the economic climate," the expert said. Downing Street said no politicians were involved in the decision to acquire the artwork after the partially-covered sculpture was seen being wheeled into No. 10 on Thursday. It "conveys a strong sense of maternity and pregnancy", according to Christie's website. It lauds "the gentle watchfulness of the woman's face and her guarded posture to the protective nature of her arms and the architectural shelter she offers between her lap and shoulders", the website adds. There has been a Moore piece in 10 Downing Street garden for the past 40 years, with works regularly rotated at the request of the late sculptor's charitable foundation.

The UK's Government Art Collection owns more than 14,000 such valuable art pieces in buildings across the political establishment at Whitehall in London and around the world. Henry Spencer Moore, who died in 1986, is considered one of the most important British artists of the 20th century and arguably the most internationally celebrated sculptor of the period. He is renowned for his semi-abstract monumental bronzes seen all over the world, including in India. (PTI)

## Mother-of-5 from Kerala takes solo trip to watch Messi in action at FIFA World Cup in Qatar

DUBAI, NOV 26 /--/A woman from Kerala, who hails 'Messi' as her hero, has set out on a solo trip in her customised SUV to Qatar to watch her favourite team-- Argentina, play in the ongoing FIFA World Cup.

Naaji Noushi, mother-of-five started her trip to the Gulf countries on October 15 from Kerala, and arrived in the UAE, the Khaleej Times newspaper reported. Although heartbroken at Argentina's loss against Saudi Arabia, the 33-year-old still

showed high hopes for her favourite team in the next match. Earlier this week, Argentina lost to Saudi Arabia and is now set to play against Mexico on Sunday. "I just want to see my hero Lionel Messi play.

The loss to Saudi Arabia was heartbreaking for me but I am sure it is only a small hiccup on their way to lifting the cup," the newspaper quoted her as saying. Noushi who is travelling through the Gulf countries in her SUV, got

it shipped to Oman from Mumbai which is incidentally the first Indian-registered right-hand vehicle to be shipped into the country.

She began her journey from Muscat and travelled to the UAE in her SUV via the Hatta border and stopped by to see the world's tallest tower in Dubai, Burj Khalifa. Sharing her experience of visiting the Burj Khalifa for the first time, she said, "It was one of the things on my bucket list when I set out on

this journey to take a photo in front of the Burj Khalifa." Her SUV which she has nicknamed 'oolu' has a built-in kitchen and a tent attached to its roof which allows her to cook on the go. "Oolu" is a Malayalam slang word meaning "She". She also has stocked rice, water, flour, spices, and other dry goods in her car. "I tried to cook as much as I could. It obviously saves money and also minimises the risk of food poisoning," she told the newspaper. (PTI)

# Mumbai terror attack led to forging of strong bond between Israel and India: Top Israeli diplomat

JERUSALEM, NOV 26 /--/ Lauding the courage of India and the people of Mumbai, Israel has said that the enormous loss on that "horrible day" in November 2008 has forged a strong bond between the two countries.

The remark was made in context to the 26/11 Mumbai attack that continues to be an emotional moment for a lot of Israelis who feel that the 26/11 terror strike "is a shared pain" that binds India and Israel together. "I remember vividly the courage of India and of the people of Mumbai and there is not one minute in which we do not benefit from the strategic partnership that was forged between us, among

other things, on that horrible day," Israeli foreign ministry's Director General, Alon Ushpiz, wrote on Twitter:

"Tomorrow (Saturday) marks 14 years since the bloody terrorist attack in Mumbai which targeted 5 locations including the Chabad House in which Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg, Rabbi Gavriel Taitelbaum, Mrs. Norma Rabinovich, Rabbi Ben Zion Kurman and Mrs. Yocheved

Orpaz were murdered," Ushpiz, who has in the past served as

diplomat also called India's Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, to convey his "deepest condolences" for this enormous loss of innocent civilians that day, among them six Israelis. "May the memory of the victims be a blessing," he said.

Several events are planned across Israel on Friday and Saturday (after Shabbat) to pay respects to the victims of the attack in which six Jews were also



Israel's Ambassador in India, wrote on Friday. Israel's top



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (L, front) and visiting French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne (R, front) inspect a guard of honour at the German Chancellery in Berlin, capital of Germany

## Landslide leaves up to a dozen missing on Italian island

MILAN, NOV 26 /--/ Heavy rainfall triggered landslides early on Saturday on the southern Italian island of Ischia that collapsed buildings and left as many as 12 people missing.

Italy's interior minister said no deaths had yet been confirmed, appearing to contradict an early announcement by another senior politician. "At the moment there are no confirmed deaths," said Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi, speaking from the firefighters emergency coordination centre. Italian

Vice Premier Matteo Salvini, who is also the infrastructure minister, earlier had said that eight deaths had been confirmed, speaking to reporters at the opening of a subway extension in Milan. The prefecture for the Naples region, which includes Ischia, said at least 12 people were missing. Video from the island shows paths that the landslides had cut down slopes, leaving behind traces of mud. Streets were impassable and mayors on the island urged people to stay at home. At least 100

people were reported stranded. The news agency ANSA reported that at least 10 buildings had collapsed. One family with a newborn that was previously reported missing had been located and was receiving medical care, according to the Naples prefect, Claudio Palomba. Firefighters were working on rescue efforts. Reinforcements were being sent from nearby Naples, but were encountering difficulties in reaching the island either by motorboat or helicopter due to the weather. (AP)

## Lanka Tamil parties to press for autonomy in a new Constitution

COLOMBO, NOV 26 /--/ Sri Lanka's Tamil minority parties who had an intra-party discussion following president Ranil Wickremesinghe's invitation to talks have agreed to put forward a three-point formula, including their push for federalism, a Tamil National Alliance (TNA) source said on Saturday.

The island nation's all Tamil political parties based in the East and the North on Friday met at the residence of 89-year-old TNA leader Rajavaroatham Sampanthan to push for federalism ahead of Wickremesinghe's proposed all-party meeting next month to address the long-held demand for political autonomy for the minority community in the country. The formula decided in the intra-party meeting on Friday includes the proposal to hold the stalled provincial council elections, including devolution to the Tamil regions in formulating a brand new Constitution, and put a stop to what they call the grabbing of lands belonging to the Tamils by the State. "The parties will meet again before meeting the president," the TNA source said on condition of anonymity.

Wickremesinghe on Wednesday invited all political parties for talks aimed at ending the Tamil ethnic issue by February 4 next

year -- Sri Lanka's 75th anniversary of independence from Britain. Wickremesinghe told Parliament that he was willing to hold the meeting after December 11. He said it was important to build trust between the majority Sinhalese and the Tamils to resolve the long-standing conflict. The TNA -- an alliance of parties who represent Tamils from the north and east regions -- responded to Wickremesinghe's call. However, at least one Sinhala majority hardline parliamentarian objected to the proposal. Wickremesinghe as prime minister in 2015 had started a reconciliation process with the veteran TNA leader Sampanthan.

Many attempts since the 1950s to resolve the Tamil demand for autonomy were thwarted by the hardline Sinhala majority, leading to a violent armed campaign for separatism by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on behalf of the Tamils. An Indian effort in 1987, which created the system of a joint provincial council for the Tamil-dominated North and East, faltered as the minority community claimed it fell short of full autonomy. C V Vigneswaran was elected as the first-ever Tamil chief minister for the North in 2013. The elections since 2018 have been on hold for a technicality connected to electoral reforms. (PTI)

## Former Pak PM arrives in Rawalpindi to address mega rally

RAWALPINDI, NOV 26 /--/ Imran Khan arrived in a helicopter in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on Saturday, accompanied by a team of doctors to address a mega rally organised by his party, the first since the former prime minister was wounded during an assassination bid. Khan, 70, who is recovering from bullet wounds suffered during a gun attack on him on November 3, will address his supporters in Rawalpindi to demand for fresh general elections, and reiterated that the protest would be "completely peaceful."

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, landed at the Barani University helipad here, from where he will make his way towards the rally venue. PTI leader Faisal Javed said Khan reached Rawalpindi and will be on stage to address the party's supporters shortly, according to the Dawn newspaper. He made the announcement while addressing the crowd gathered in Rawalpindi. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi Police have written to the top leadership of PTI, urging them to ensure implementation of the directives for VIP security provision for the former premier, Geo TV reported on Saturday. Khan has also been advised to wear a bulletproof jacket, should not exit the vehicle on the way to the rally's venue and keep his movement secret, the letter read. Khan left his Zaman Park residence in Lahore around 1 pm local time in a bullet-proof vehicle, which was sent to his place. Meanwhile, convoys of PTI leaders, workers and supporters are making their way to Rawalpindi for the Haqeeqi



Azadi march, the Express Tribune report said. PTI Secretary General Asad Umar said the gathering would be "historic". Khan's supporters are on the move from all corners of the country to reach Rawalpindi, the twin sister city of Islamabad, where a stage has been prepared on the Sixth Road Flyover in the middle of historic Murree Road. Some avid supporters, who have already landed in the city, were housed in a temporary tent structure set up in the Allama Iqbal Park near the venue of the rally. PTI Senator Azam Khan Swati said the "haqeeqi

azadi" movement was on course to reach its destination. In a video message shared by PTI on its official Twitter account, Swati said: "all characters of the regime change will be humiliated by God and this caravan of the freedom movement is not going to stop anyway." The Rawalpindi administration has issued a notification that said that the England cricket team would soon arrive in Rawalpindi, therefore the venue should be completely vacated after the rally was over. The former cricketer-turned-politician said on Friday that despite being injured he is determined to head to Rawalpindi for the sake of the nation. Khan in his message said that he was fighting for the real independence of the country and that the struggle would continue until fresh elections were announced. "We are fighting a war for the Haqeeqi Azadi. The one-point agenda is elections," he said, as he accused the current government of destroying the economy and running away from elections due to fear of defeat. (PTI)



## Ukraine works to restore water, power after Russian strikes

KYIV, NOV 26 /--/Ukrainian authorities endeavoured on Saturday to restore electricity and water services after recent pummelling by Russian military strikes that vastly damaged infrastructure, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying millions have seen their power restored since blackouts swept the war-battered country days earlier.

Skirmishes continued in the east and residents from the southern city of Kherson headed north and west to flee after punishing, deadly bombardments by Russian forces in recent days. The strikes have been seen as attempts at Russian retribution against Ukraine's beleaguered but defiant people after Ukrainian troops over two week ago liberated the city that had been in Russian hands for many months. "The key task of today, as well as other days of this week, is energy," Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address late on Friday. "From Wednesday to today we have managed to halve the number of people whose electricity is cut off, to stabilize the system." He said, however, that blackouts continued in most regions, including Kyiv, the capital. "In total, more than 6 million subscribers are affected. On Wednesday evening, almost 12 million subscribers were cut off," Zelenskyy added.

He allowed himself a rare show of pique about how Kyiv authorities were faring, alluding to "many complaints" with the rollouts of "points of invincibility" public centers where residents can stock up on food, water, battery power and other essentials in the capital. "Please pay attention: Kyiv residents need more protection," he said. "As of this evening, 600,000 subscribers have been disconnected in the city. Many Kyiv residents were without electricity for more than 20 or even 30 hours." "I expect quality work from the mayor's office," he said, alluding to the administration of Mayor Vitali Klitschko. The president and the

mayor have sporadically sparred since Zelenskyy took office in 2019.

Zelenskyy has accused Klitschko and officials around him of corruption, while Klitschko contends the president's office has put him under political pressure. Early Saturday, the Kyiv municipal administration said water connections had been restored throughout the city, but that about 130,000 residents remain without electricity. City authorities said on Saturday morning that all power, water, heating and communication services would be restored within 24 hours. The scramble to restore power came as Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo met on Saturday with Zelenskyy in Kyiv. De Croo tweeted that Belgium was "releasing new humanitarian and military aid," but gave no immediate details. Meanwhile, Ukrainians were marking the 90th anniversary of the start of the "Holodomor," or Great Famine, that killed more than 3 million people over two years as the Soviet government under Josef Stalin confiscated food and grain supplies and deported many Ukrainians.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz marked the commemoration by drawing parallels with the impact of the war on Ukraine a key supplier of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other foodstuffs on world markets. Exports from Ukraine have resumed under a UN-brokered deal but have still been far short of pre-war levels, driving up global prices. "Today, we stand united in stating that hunger must never again be used as a weapon," Scholz said in a video message. "That is why we cannot tolerate what we are witnessing: The worst global food crisis in years with abhorrent consequences for millions of people from Afghanistan to Madagascar, from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa." He said a World Food Program ship was in the process of delivering Ukrainian grain to Ethiopia, and Germany was adding another 10 million euros to efforts to help expedite grain shipments from Ukraine. (AP)





# Lewandowski finally powers on as Poland push past Saudis



**ABUDHABI:** Robert Lewandowski starred with a goal and an assist as Poland defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 in a Group C match at the Education City Stadium on Saturday. The Poland captain set up his team's opening goal which was converted by Piotr Zielinski in the first-half, before scoring his first-ever World Cup goal late in the second-half to give his team all three points. With the win, Poland moved to the top of Group C, with Mexico set to square off against Argentina later in the day.

**TODAY'S MATCH**  
Group E: Japan vs Costa Rica - 3:30 PM IST  
Group F: Belgium vs Morocco - 6:30 PM IST  
Group F: Croatia vs Canada - 9:30 PM IST  
Group E: Spain vs Germany - 12:30 AM IST

(Left to right) Szczesny made vital double save from penalty . Zielinski opened the scoring

## Australia beats Tunisia 1-0 to revive its campaign



**AL WAKRAH, Nov 26** --/ Australia only needed to avoid defeat to stay in the World Cup. The Socceroos did more than that in a 1-0 win over Tunisia on Saturday. Mitchell Duke gave Australia the lead midway through the first half with a header and Australia went on to register its first win at soccer's biggest event since a victory over Serbia back in 2010. The result means

Australia still has a chance to qualify for the round of 16, despite losing 4-1 to defending champion France in their opening match. France and Australia lead Group D with three points each, while Denmark and Tunisia have one point each. France was playing Denmark later. In the final round of group games on Wednesday, Tunisia plays France and Australia meets Denmark.

After a scrappy start from both sides, Australia went ahead with a play out of the back from its goalkeeper. Duke collected the goalkeeper's pass near mid-field and made a quick touch to set Craig Goodwin down the left flank. He then sprinted forward to nod Goodwin's deflected cross into the far corner. Duke celebrated by making a 'J' with his fingers in a tribute to his son, Jaxson, who was

in the stands. The goal quieted the large contingent of red-clad Tunisia fans among the crowd of 41,823 inside Al Janoub Stadium and sent the small pockets of Australian supporters dressed in yellow into delirium. Tunisia impressed when it held European Championship semifinalist Denmark to a 0-0 draw in its opener but only occasionally threatened against Australia until the Aussies sat back and defended toward the end. Australia had also gotten off to an early 1-0 lead over France in its opener but then was outplayed in a loss which it blamed on a series of defensive errors. There were fewer errors this time, and some timely interventions, too – none bigger than a last-gasp sliding clearance from centre-back Harry Souttar to block Mohamed Dräger's dangerous shot shortly before halftime. Tunisia is still seeking to advance from the group stage for the first time in its sixth World Cup appearance but now needs to beat France. During the second half, Tunisia fans held aloft a large Palestinian flag with the words, "Free Palestine" printed on it. (AP)

## Japan eyes knockouts with win in Costa Rica clash

**DOHA, NOV 26** --/ How big was Japan's 2-1 upset of Germany in the opening round of the World Cup? Newspapers in Japan used the term "Daikimboshi" from sumo wrestling to describe the magnitude of the surprise: when a low-ranked wrestler overpowers a grand champion. The victory has also been compared to Japan's 34-32 upset of powerful South Africa in the 2015 rugby World Cup in England. Japan was the underdog against four-time champion Germany, but it will be a strong favorite in its next Group E match against Costa Rica, where a victory could move Japan into the knockout stage with a game to spare. A loss by Costa Rica on Sunday would eliminate it from advancing. Costa Rica faces Germany in its final match and Japan goes against Spain. Costa Rica is reeling from a 7-0 thrashing against Spain in its opener, and it's anyone's guess how the Ticos will respond. With a population of just over 5 million, the tiny Central American country is appearing in its sixth World Cup. It reached the quarterfinals in 2014 in Brazil. Japan has never reached the quarterfinals at a World Cup, and that's the aim this time. This is Japan's seventh straight appearance, and it has reached the round of 16 on three occasions, including in Russia in 2018. (AP)



## 2nd ODI: Indian batting needs fresh approach to save series

**HAMILTON, NOV 26** --/ India would expect a better approach from skipper Shikhar Dhawan and young Shubman Gill in the Powerplay overs when the team clashes with New Zealand in the do-or-die second One-Day International here on Sunday. The Seddon Park is a three-way open ground but is known for being one of the batting friendliest tracks in New Zealand where willow wielders would get value for their shots. Dhawan (72 off 77) and Gill (50 off 65 balls) added 123 in their opening stand but on a small Eden Park ground, a score of 306 for 7 was at least 40 runs short of par score. The bowlers could be taken to task for conceding those runs in just over 47 overs, the buck actually stops at the main batters since if it was not for Washington Sundar's brilliant cameo, India would not have touched the 300-run mark. It was largely due to the safety-first approach of the Indian openers during the first 10 Powerplay over where the runs did not come at a desirable pace. Moeen Ali in a recent interview to PTI spoke how in earlier times, teams followed Australian template in white ball cricket and now it is the English way that is being aped by the teams. And that is where India is lagging behind as it could score only 40 runs in the first Powerplay overs in Auckland. Sample another piece of statistic which will give an idea that the problem lies in the general outlook of Indian top-order batters across limited overs formats (not just Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul or Virat Kohli). Dhawan hit 72 off 77 balls that had 13 fours. So effectively, he scored 52 runs in boundaries in 13 deliveries. He scored another 20 runs in 64 deliveries and out of which 44 were dot balls as he was unable to get going in the Powerplay. As the skipper struggled, at the other end, Gill didn't do his overall averages any harm by stacking up another half-century, but the pace of his innings was also a debatable one. His 50 was scored in 65 balls with three sixes and a boundary. This means 22 runs were scored from four deliveries. He scored the remaining 28 runs from 61 deliveries. (PTI)



**India:** Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Deepak Hooda, Shahbaz Ahmed, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Arshdeep Singh, Shardul Thakur and Umran Malik.  
**New Zealand:** Kane Williamson (captain), Finn Allen, Devin Conway, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Tim Southee, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson.

**MATCH STARTS: 7 AM IST.**

## Germany face Spain with spectre of early World Cup exit looming

**DOHA, NOV 26** --/ Just one match into the Qatar World Cup, Germany face what amounts to a must-win clash against Spain on Sunday, a team they have not beaten in a competitive fixture since 1988. Before Germany were stunned 2-1 by Japan in their opening match, the team faced heavy criticism for backtracking on a promise to wear a rainbow "OneLove" armband in support of diversity and human rights. Their response was powerful - a team photo before the Japan match in which all 11 players covered their mouths, suggesting they had been silenced by FIFA, who had threatened on-field sanctions for anyone wearing the armband. But after Japan scored two late goals to beat Hansi Flick's team, the Germans were hammered by some observers for losing focus on the football when they should be concentrating on

avoiding a second successive group stage exit in a World Cup. On Friday, Chelsea striker Kai Havertz said the players were holding onto their beliefs but knew the challenge ahead, especially against a Spain team that steamrollered Costa Rica 7-0 in their opening game. "Everyone knows our point of view and how we think," Havertz said in a pre-match press conference. "Really, our focus is 100 percent on football, nothing else. We just said what we think, what our point of view is, everyone knows that, and now it is about playing football." With supermarket chain Rewe pulling their sponsorship and with TV ratings for the Japan game the lowest in Germany for a World Cup in more than 30 years, Havertz recognised that the challenges were not just on the field, saying: "I know not everyone is behind us." Havertz

revealed the squad and Flick held a wide-ranging team meeting on Thursday, admitting "it was time to tell ourselves the truth". Havertz said "everyone left the meeting knowing what's going on". Sitting alongside Havertz, midfielder Julian Brandt said "we had a very good exchange. All of us left the conversation feeling like we had the determination to win the game." The importance of the Spain match at the Al Bayt Stadium cannot be underestimated -- national squad manager and 1996 Euros winner Oliver Bierhoff has asked what another early exit would mean for the future of football in Germany. Speaking with Germany TV network ARD on Friday, Bierhoff said losing "our first final" in Qatar would have widespread ramifications for the sport. "What does it mean for German football? For the further development?" Bierhoff asked. "And if you go a

little deeper: (what does it mean) for the investment we have to make to stay competitive (and) to have new players in eight or ten years?" Far from being haunted by the ghosts of their early exit in Russia however, Havertz said the match could represent "a turnaround" for the under-fire side, saying "we all dreamed of playing these games". "Now we are in a bad moment, but I think that can switch around quite fast -- if we win the game on Sunday." Captain Manuel Neuer on Friday said Sunday's match was "a huge chance", emphasising the side could learn from Russia "we blew it once and now we know how not to do it". Brandt agreed. "People keep talking about us being in a 'shitty situation', and yes, we are." "Spain come to the stadium on Sunday on the back of a 7-0 victory but it is a chance, on Sunday, a chance to change the atmosphere." (AFP)



Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, Ilkay Gundogan, Leroy Sane and Thomas Mueller attend a training session at Al Shamal Stadium in Al Shamal, north of Doha